



JOSHUA GRASSO PHOTOGRAPHY

# ULTIMATE WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDE

THE ULTIMATE WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDE'S

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# WELCOME TO YOUR WEDDING



It's important to remember that this is your wedding day, and I believe my job as a photographer is to tell your story. I'm Joshua Grasso, and I am a Storyteller that believes moments matter most. My goal as a photographer is to make you cry when you relive your wedding day while looking through all of your photos. I was named one of the top 100 photographers in the world as well as a Fearless Photography Award winner in 2018, 2019 and 2020. I make sure to listen to your needs and wishes and it's my job to make everything work.

However, it's also helpful for you if I tell you a little about what to expect on your wedding day and how to get the best experience possible. So I put this guide together to give you an idea of what kinds of experiences might be a part of your day. This guide was put together for my clients that are working with me, but I also wanted to make it helpful for any bride & groom, so feel free to share with other planners, vendors, and other couples! On your day, there's nothing you should have to do or worry about. Your day is about you and my job is to tell your story.

Enjoy the guide and if you have any wedding questions feel free to reach out anytime!

To learn more about me, go to my website here [🔗](#). And you can also follow me on social media to be on top of all of our recent sneak peeks! [@joshuagrasso](#) and [i.make.people.cry](#) | [f joshuagrassophotography](#)

Sincerely,

*Joshua Grasso*  
Joshua Grasso Photography



A romantic moment between a bride and groom on a rooftop. The groom, a Black man with short dark hair, is wearing a white shirt and a dark tie. The bride, a white woman with long blonde hair, is wearing a white lace wedding dress and holding a bouquet of red and orange flowers. They are both smiling and looking down at each other. In the background, a city skyline with various skyscrapers is visible under a clear sky.

# BEFORE THE WEDDING

## WHAT SHOULD YOU BE DOING BEFORE THE WEDDING TO GET READY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY?

You can be as hands off or as hands on as you like. If you want me to just tell me to show up and capture the day and as a photojournalist- that's what I'll do. However, some couples like to have a little more input and preparation. The most important thing is to make sure you've gotten a chance to think about what's important to you personally regarding photography, and to let me know ahead of time.

Some things to start off with... Do you care about detail photos? Do you care more about portraits? Do you want portraits that are candid, traditional, creative, or a mix of all three types? Is there something special about the venue you want me to try to use in your photos? Once I get a feel for these things it is easier for me to capture your day appropriately for you. **Hopefully, this guide can help you prepare for the things that are the most important to you that you haven't thought of.**

Before your wedding, I'll send a basic logistics questionnaire and style questionnaire to get help gather some information to better prepare for your wedding day. We will also set up a phone or in person meeting to talk about your day one last time about a week beforehand to go over the timeline and your needs.

# SHOULD I GET AN ENGAGEMENT SESSION



## WHY HAVE ONE?

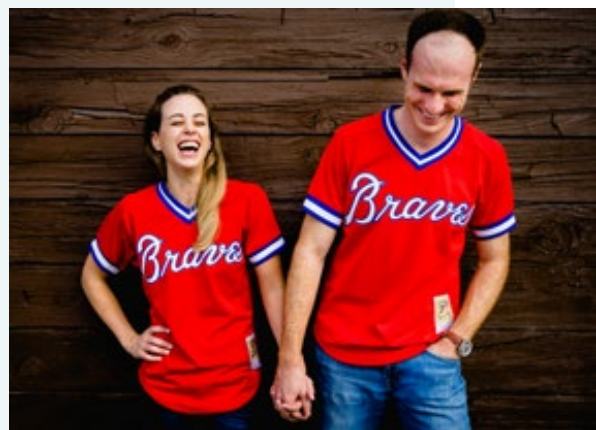
Have you wondered if you should have an engagement session or what you would do with the photos? You definitely don't need one, however, I have found over time that couples who have engagement sessions with me end up with better wedding photos.

How? First off, most people are afraid of photos and think they will be awkward *\*Ahhhh! What do I do with my hands?!*\* By having a session you get a chance to get over those first time jitters and learn to be comfortable with your photographer. So that on your wedding day it is easy to relax and enjoy the process on your day. Secondly, by spending time together with a session, it really helps me feel a connection with the couple and vice versa. Then on the wedding day it doesn't feel like your photographer is just a random vendor or a stranger, but your friend... with a camera, of course. Having that level of comfort goes a long way with allowing me to easily access all of those sweet intimate moments on the wedding day that other photographers might not.



# SHOULD I GET AN ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Honestly, having an engagement session makes for a fun date night with your fiancé! You also get to have some nice non-wedding photos of the two of you as well! Let's face it, most couples never get around to having photos together otherwise.



**TIP:** Make your session about your love story! How/where you met, celebrating your favorite sports team, or sharing your love of Star Wars! Let me know in advance if you have anything creative in mind and we can make it work!

# WHAT TO DO WITH THE ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS



There's a few things you can do with your engagement photos, most importantly, enjoy them! We offer options to print your favorites so you can decorate your new home together. And when it comes to the wedding, there are many different ways couples like to use their engagement photos. The most common way couples use them are for Save the Dates, sometimes couples like to print one on a canvas for the welcome table or gift table. However, one of my favorite uses is when couples order a guestbook album. For these albums, I'll design a layout that features all of the best images of you two alongside areas for guests to sign at your wedding.



# 5 QUICK TIPS & TRICKS



## CHOOSE A LOCATION

Choose a spot that means something to you two. Your favorite hangout, where you met, you both like ice cream? Let's go to an ice cream shop! Something that is unique to the two makes for the best photos.

## BEST TIME OF DAY

For the best light, aim for around Sunrise or 90 minutes before sunset. These time frames usually are less hot and will keep you comfortable during our session.



## DRESS UP!

Accessories are awesome! Hats? Scarfs? Herloom watches? Favorite teams jerseys? YES! Whatever shows your personality.

## OUTFITS

1-2 outfits are great. One casual, one dressy is a good go to. Sometimes even a third "themed" outfit like sports jerseys etc. is great too to spicy it up!



## PROPS & PETS

Who let the dogs out? We did, in our session! Bring those pups and props! Are you a Star Wars super fan? Bring your Darth Vader & Storm troopers masks, whatever makes you guys you!

A romantic silhouette of a couple kissing, set against a dramatic city skyline at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that silhouettes the couple and the buildings. The couple's profiles are in sharp silhouette, with the woman's hair styled in an updo. The city buildings in the background have multiple windows, some of which are lit up, adding to the urban atmosphere. The overall mood is intimate and celebratory.

# WEDDING OUTLINE

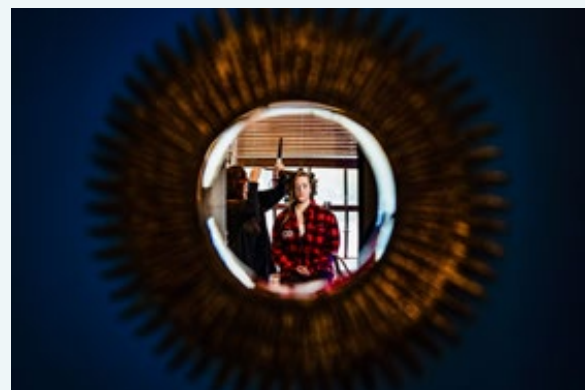
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Have you wondered what a wedding day all entails? In this guide I show some of the typical happenings so you know what to expect as well as show some of the optional events some couples choose to do. Hopefully, this way you are aware of what kinds of things are available to you to add to your wedding day. Remember, it's your day, so you do not need to do anything like anyone else.

# 1. BRIDAL PREP

Bridal prep is an interesting time because most brides think of all the cliché shots the photographers take of the bride getting her hair and makeup done. However, bridal prep is so much more for me as a photographer. Now of course, you do get your hair and makeup done, and I usually like to have fun and get a little creative with those. But the most important thing is that prep time sometimes has the best, most intimate moments between the bride and her VIP's. I like to catch moments of the bride and bridesmaids laughing together, sweet hugs with mom, the flower girl just admiring the dress and dreaming of her wedding day, etc. Those are the special moments you might not see happening that I love to capture for you.

You can keep it fully candid or if you have specific shots in mind we can set those up as well.



## 2. PRE-WEDDING DETAILS

So if there is something special you would like captured please bring it and let me know in advance. However, I will use what I have available to me, but feel free to leave it out if you'd like me to just focus on moments.



## 2. PRE-WEDDING DETAILS



### PHOTO EXAMPLES

- Fancy ring shot
- Glam shots
- Invitations & Guestbook
- Candids - Fun
- Bridesmaid gifts & robes
- Candids - Sweet
- In transit/Arriving to the location



### LETTERS & VOWS

Sometimes the bride and groom like to write letters to each other with well wishes and happy thoughts for the day. I've had couples either have separate personal vows just for this private reading or read a preview of the official ones just to get the emotion out of the way. **Either way having some kind of note to each other is a great way to heighten the experience and excitement for your ceremony.**

### GIFT EXCHANGES

Not every couple exchange gifts, some will do both - exchange a gift along with love letters during the prep time. Sometimes couples have sentimental gifts for their parents as well. If you do decide to do any of these, make sure the photographer is around to capture these special moments and to get the capture look on each others faces.



## 3. FUN WITH THE GIRLS

I try to keep the prep time mostly real and candid but sometimes the brides like to get something more unique to them! Some have gotten dress in matching robes, and some do a champagne toast with their bridesmaids.

Again nothing is required but feel free request a special bridesmaid photo or maybe even to have a little fun and do a popping champagne shot!



**TIP:** Do something fun like pop some champagne with your bridesmaids to get some fun expressions together!

## 4. GETTING READY

### BRIDE GETTING DRESSED

The bride getting dressed can make for a nice moment between a bride and her mother, sisters, or other VIP's. I always step out of the room while the bride gets covered but it's important to make sure someone calls the photographer back in the room before the dress is fully zipped up or buttoned. Some brides will ask us to stay to photograph the whole event to make sure we don't miss anything. Whatever your preference is, let me know otherwise my default will be to step out until you are ready.



**TIP:** Get dressed at the ceremony location so you don't have to worry about traveling in the dress and getting it ruffled and wrinkled.



## 5. BRIDAL PORTRAITS

After the bride is finished getting dressed, we usually like to capture a few quick portraits with your fresh makeup and hair, in case there is not time later. I can make something simple and classic happen in the room you got ready in. However if there is a particular place in the venue you would like to utilize we can set aside a few extra minutes to make sure we get the perfect bridal portrait!



**TIP:** Make sure your florist has your flowers ready and delivered by the time you get dressed so you can have them for your bridal and bridesmaid portraits.

## 6. FATHER + DAUGHTER FIRST LOOK

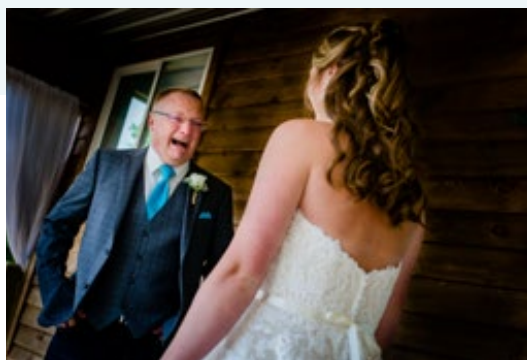


Not every couple will do a first look with each other, but some decide to have a reveal for the father of the bride. When the bride is ready we have the father come in to get a sneak peek. This allows for you to have a special and private moment with your father before anyone else sees you. We can either invite him into the getting ready room or find a location around the corner for the bride to come out and greet dad.

**Father Daughter first looks are one of my favorite moments in the day.**



**ADVICE:** This type of “first look” does not have to be with the Father of the Bride, it can be with anyone who is near and dear to you! Mother, Grandparent, child, best friend, pet - whoever! Whatever you choose, have tons of tissues!



## 7. BRIDESMAID PHOTOS

Once everyone is ready it's time to get some photos with the bride and her bridesmaids! First, we will get photos of the bride with each individual bridesmaid, then move into the full group photos. I like to capture a blend of more traditional smiling at the camera photo, as well as more candid sweet moments with the bride and bridesmaids hugging or laughing together. At this point, our goal is to make sure we capture the more traditional photos, but also capture your personalities and the love you and your bridesmaids share.



## 8. HANGIN WITH THE GUYS



The groom and his guys need some love too! Groom prep time is similar to the girls, but usually a little simpler and can require less time. If the groom has details that are important then make sure to have them ready and let me know you'd like them photographed. Otherwise, I focus on the guys hanging out and just catch what details I notice along the way. Sometimes we will get photos of his watch, shoes, groomsmen gifts, etc. In general it's good to have about an hour of time with the guys just hanging out so we can capture candid photos of the guys together while they are getting ready.

It would be best to have the groomsmen in their pants and under shirts before the photographer arrives so that we can focus on the finishing touches for their photos.



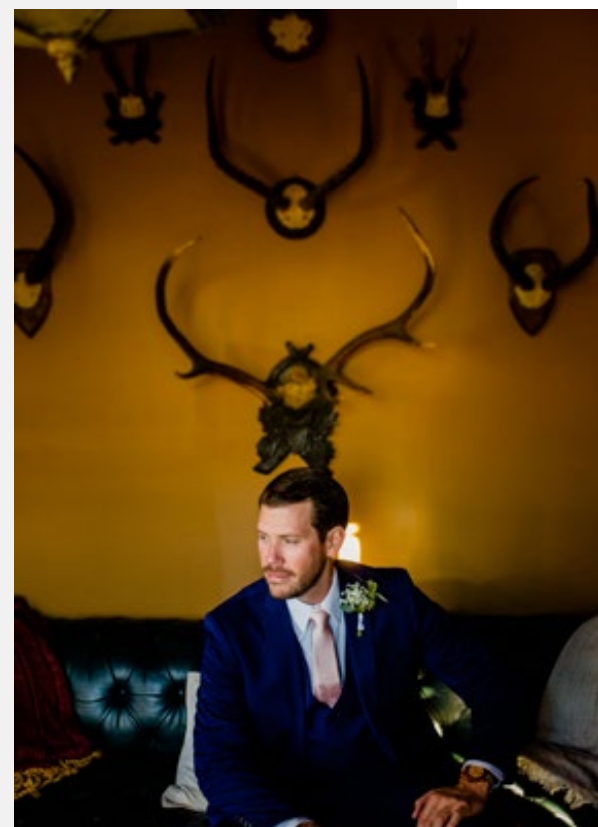
**TIP:** Have the bridesmaids & groomsmen get ready at the same location or as close as possible. (ex. same hotel-different room). If you rent a house or cottage get ones near each other.



WEDDING OUTLINE

## 9. GROOM PORTRAITS

After the groom is dressed, I usually take him aside to grab some portraits of him. We usually start off with the nice classic grooms shot, then try some creative ones to make him look cool. These photos are usually taken in the getting ready location, but we will take a few at the ceremony location as well.



# 10. GROOMSMEN PHOTOS

After the guys are all dressed, and we have finished the grooms portraits, we take a nice classic groomsmen portrait in the getting ready location. Then, if there is enough time, we will take them to another spot for some additional group portraits.



**TIP:** Let me know ahead of time if you want any unique photos, like a whiskey toast, matching socks or breaking out the cigars.

# 11. BRIDAL PARTY

If you are comfortable with your bridal party seeing you before the ceremony, we can do a full bridal party shot after the first look. If you are not planning on a first look, then the full bridal party pictures will happen after the ceremony. I like to have fun with these photos since you are surrounded by your closest friends and family, so I try to play off of everyone's personalities. So with that, I usually photograph the three main types of photos for bridal party photos.



## 1. TRADITIONAL

The first is a basic traditional portrait. Typically standing at the altar where we get all members looking at the camera in a traditional pose.



## 2. "VANITY FAIR"

The second kind is the stylized "vanity fair" shot. We layer the group & stylize each pose so we have a little more elegant of an option. If you really like this shot we can take an extra 10 minutes to set it up especially if we have somewhere for the location other than the altar.



## 3. FUN

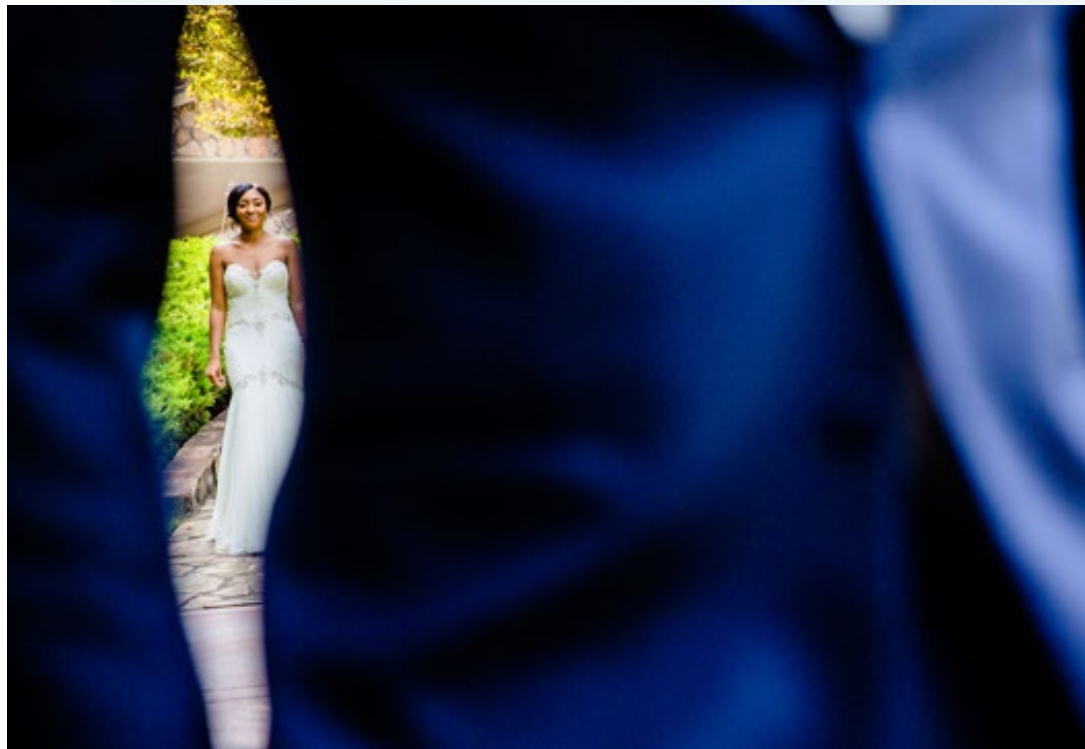
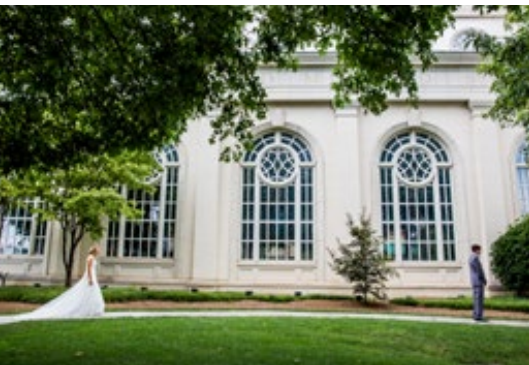
The last type of shot is the "fun" shot. We try to get a candid and casual shot of the bridal party goofing around together. It helps if the bridal party has its own crazy idea or way to show some personality. Not everyone goes for this but it's an option to keep in mind.



## HAVE A FIRST LOOK

# FIRST LOOK

One of the most common questions I'll hear is whether to do a first look or not. As a bride starts researching photography they will usually see it recommended everywhere. So I wanted to give some input on what all the hype was about and help you decide whether or not you wanted to do one. It's important you pick the choice that feels right to you.



## Have a first look – Yes or no?

**There are two main pluses for having a first look. Logistics and calming the nerves.** Many couples are anxious until the ceremony and having a private moment to see each other before anyone else does helps ease the tension and will get the emotions out of the way. When you first see each other it's a special moment and some couples enjoy having this as a quiet private time together instead of in front of a crowd. It also makes for a nice opportunity for the photographer to capture more sweet moments..

Logistically, first looks make the day so much smoother. After your ceremony most people are anxious to get to their reception and sometimes feel like the portrait time is rushed. By having a first look before the ceremony you can get all of your portraits out of the way so you can go directly to celebrating after the vows! With a first look you can relax and not rush through portraits of the two of you. If you have a scenic venue, it allows for a little more time to move to your favorite locations and utilize the time creative portraits. Another advantage, couples can join the cocktail hour with their guests! If you're not too worried about tradition, want a more relaxed day, or really care about the portraits, then first looks are the way to go.

## ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES TO A FIRST LOOK? YES!

Don't have one just because the photographer said it makes their job easier. Whatever is important to you is important to me as a photographer. If you really value the tradition of having the groom see the bride for the first time walking down the aisle, then keep it that way. I'll make the photography work with whatever your wants and needs are. Also in a few instances the first look is harder to pull off. If you have limited time at the venue before the ceremony it might be too difficult to fit in the first look and portraits beforehand. If you don't have time to take portraits after the first look then you kind of defeat the purpose of having one - other than getting the moment over with in private.



## ALTERNATIVE “BLIND” FIRST LOOKS

If you don't want to see each other there are still a few ways to get some nerves out of the way and have a sweet moment together. Some couples do what I call a “blind” first look. We find a door or corner where the couple can avoid seeing each other and then they can share some words together. The tradition started with couples who wanted to hold hands and pray before the ceremony. But you can also read each other love letters or talk about why you're excited to be getting married. These moments usually end up quite sweet and build the anticipation and emotion for the actual ceremony.

# WHY YOU SHOULD GET A SECOND PHOTOGRAPHER

A very common question I get asked a lot is whether or not you should have a second photographer. Of course it's always better to have one if possible but you can often get away without having one. If the couple is getting ready in two different locations and you want getting ready coverage for both then two photographers are necessary. Otherwise, here are some pro's and con's so you can decide.

## WHY TO HAVE ONE

The best reason is just basic insurance. If your photographer has a heart attack during the ceremony or a car accident on the way (worst case scenarios, I know) then you have another photographer there to keep photographing.

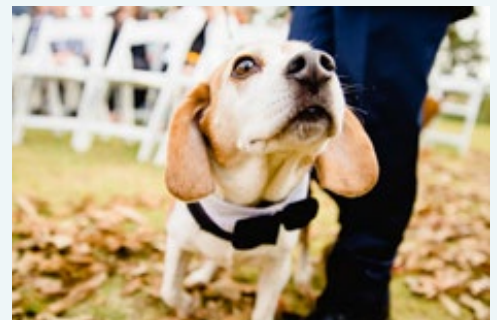
Secondly, having a second photographer can help to get more variety in coverage as well as more guest candids during the cocktail hour while the primary is off doing portraits.

Lastly, having an additional photographer there helps the main photographer go for bigger moments or more creative photos while they cover the safe shots.

## WHY TO NOT HAVE ONE

**Budget.** 100% it's better to get the 1 photographer you love versus settling for the cheaper, less experienced option and get 2.

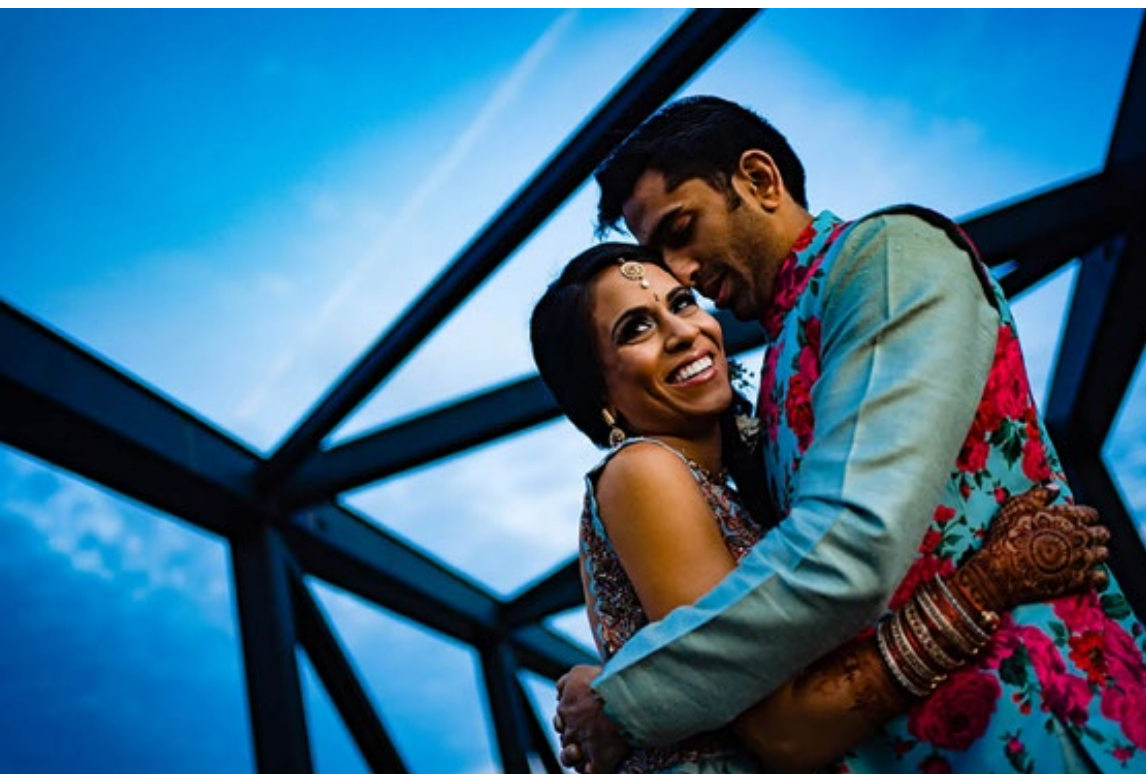
Most of the photos you will get are from the main photographer anyway. If you have a smaller simpler wedding you can get away with 1 photographer if they are comfortable.



# PORTRAITS



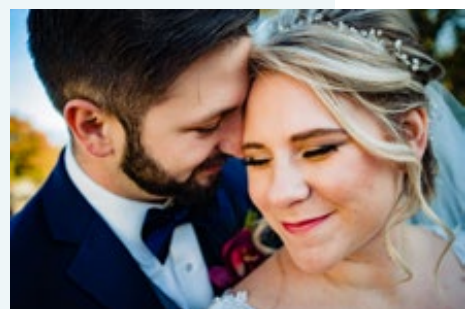
## BRIDE & GROOM PORTRAITS



### PORTRAIT TIME!

For some this is the best time of the wedding and others it's the scariest! *"AHH! What do I do with my hands!"*

My goal is to make you feel relaxed and let you enjoy the only quiet alone time you will have on your wedding day. The results of spending time away from everyone else makes for natural and candid feeling portraits.



## BRIDE & GROOM PORTRAITS

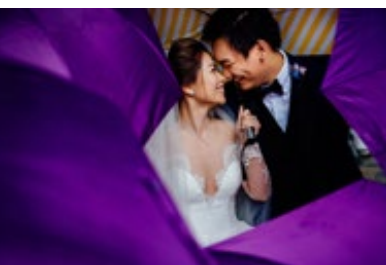


### REMEMBER:

- The time they take
- Vibe you want
- Multiple locations

### STYLES TO CONSIDER:

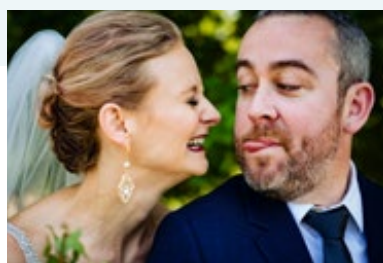
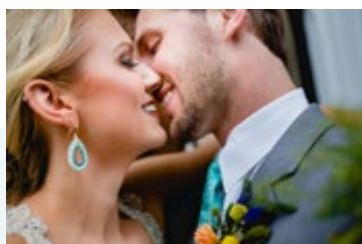
- Traditional & Simple
- Creative & Fun
- Natural & Dramatic
- Close & Sweet
- Candid & Environmental
- Exploring the space/  
storytelling/creative
- Cool light/shadows



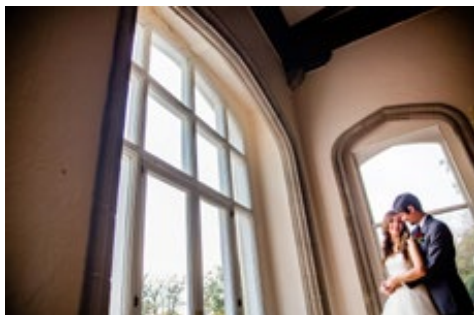
**ADVICE:** Having a variety in “locations” during this time takes additional time but is well worth it if you want a variety of portraits for your albums and photos.

## BRIDE & GROOM PORTRAITS

During this time, I will run through a set of each portrait type. If you love/hate one style then I can spend more or less time on those. Additional time always helps. I can do a lot of portraits quickly if needed, however more time allows for more variety or creativity.

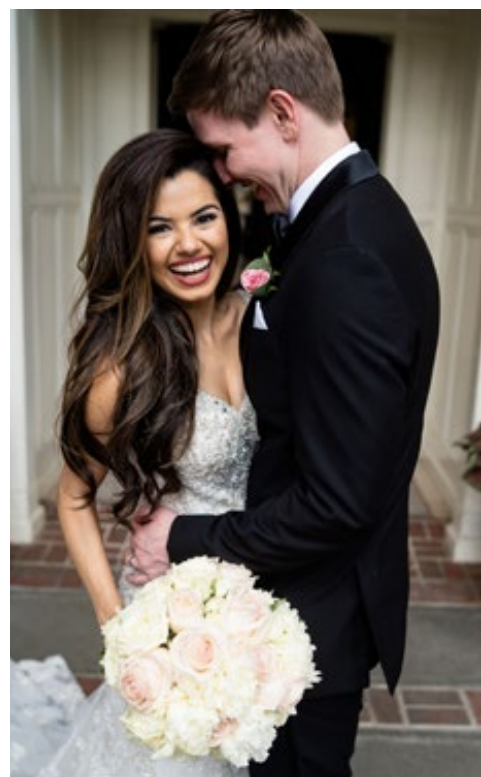


## BRIDE & GROOM PORTRAITS TIME



Couples portraits can take anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour. The amount of time depends on logistics and your preferences. If it's a smaller location and you just want a few portraits we can lean more towards the 15 minutes. If you want a variety of locations, need to move around a larger venue, or want more creative portraits we can move toward the hour.

**On average - 30 minutes is a good block for couples portraits.**



## BRIDE & GROOM PORTRAITS LOCATIONS



Typically, I try to take a few pictures at all of the locations at a venue. We start with a few traditional at the altar, immediately after we do the family formals. Then I utilize the ceremony venue, indoors & out. Lastly, I like to try to use the reception space. We will utilize one scene at each location or explore a little if the venue has a lot to work with and if there is time.

### OFFSITE LOCATIONS

We try to keep all photos at the venue for simplicity. However, if you have a first look & set aside extra time for portraits, you will have more freedom for an offsite location. For example, maybe you want to stop while traveling between the ceremony and reception for a cool skyline shot, or there's an amazing graffiti wall around the corner from the venue, those sort of locations make for some great photos, but it will need to be accounted for in the timeline.

# THE 6 TYPES OF PORTRAIT STYLES

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There are 6 different types of portraits I like to capture for couples on their wedding day. If a couple has one style that they like more than another, we can steer the portraits in that direction. Our goal is to get at least one shot of each portrait type and then we go with the flow and the couples vibe for the rest. the different styles I like to get are listed in the typical order I shoot below.



## 1. TRADITIONAL & CLASSIC

Timeless formal portraits which are very clean and have the couple looking at the camera. These are the most “posey” feeling portraits and are good to have as a warmup and to have a classic portrait in line with what your parents and grandparents would have. These often are at the altar or the first shot in our first location. My style is more candid and fun so we move on from these pretty quickly.

## 2. CANDID & NATURAL

After getting the Traditional photographs out of the way I try to get you guys to loosen up and interact with each other. The goal of these is to get you interacting, laughing, snuggling, and just looking natural. Candid portraits are my number 1 priority and will have the bulk of the shoot.





### 3. CLOSE & INTIMATE

An extension on the candid portraits are close and intimate portraits. These are bright and clean closeups of the couple having sweet intimate moments. I take the candid “snugglyness” up a notch and get your really close and try to get good expressions so you are really pulled in to feeling the love.

### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL

This is very similar to the candid and natural portraits except we make sure to feature the space. We like to get one or two good scenic shots of the couple and their venue.



### 5. FUN - PERSONALITY

This is the hardest to get but it can be the most rewarding. You don't have to overthink it or come up with something crazy to do, however if there's any way we can tie in your story or your personalities, then we'd love to make it happen. For example you could just be being playful and silly together, walk to the comic book store next to your venue, pose with your dog, or put on some shades. Anything that adds a little fun is fair game.

### 6. CREATIVE - EYE CANDY

I try to get 1 of these for every wedding. My goal here is to make something totally unique for the couple that is purely “eye candy” and a piece of art. I'll utilize something visually interesting about the venue, use some dramatic lighting, or something else from my bag of tricks to make something purely visual. Sometimes we like to do these during the reception to get a sunset or night shot.



THE BIG DAY

# HIDE AWAY & DETAILS

30 minutes before the start of the ceremony we always recommend the bride and groom hide away to get some additional alone time, and avoid getting mobbed by guests.

You will get a break from photos while I photograph the ceremony space details and capture some guest candids. However, if something is scheduled such as a family prayer or gift exchange make sure to let me know! I usually check in periodically and do not want to miss any sweet moments.



**NOTE:** The bride and groom can go into their separate rooms & do not have to spend this time together. However, if you have a second photographer, one photographer will go to each room.

## THE BIG DAY CEREMONY

Usually there is nothing you need to do to in order to prepare me for the ceremony other than to make sure I'm aware of anything unique to your ceremony. I try not to be obtrusive however, I'm not afraid to stealthily get up close to get intimate storytelling moments and reactions from the VIP's in the crowd.



## THE BIG DAY

# CEREMONY



If you're at a venue that has restrictions or if I have free reign, please let me know a head of time so we can prepare. Typically, I can capture more creative moments of your ceremony if I am able to move around the venue. Some venues only allow the photographer to stand in the back, your ceremony will still be "covered", but you won't get the same kind of dynamic storytelling images that I love to capture. One photo I'm dying to try to get is the first kiss from behind so you can see the audience's reaction. I've always gone for the safe shot before but if you're in, let me know and I'm game!



**TIP:** Giving me the green light to move around during the ceremony can really get exceptional storytelling images.

## THE BIG DAY

# FORMAL FAMILY PORTRAITS

This can go anywhere from 15 minutes to the whole hour depending on how much you prepare your family. I always emphasize to notify the required family members or friends prior to the wedding/ ceremony to stick around afterwards for pictures. Anyone you want photographed needs to stay. The biggest reason that makes the family formals take a while is if Dad runs off for a drink and Mom spends 20 minutes finding Aunt Gina. If everyone is ready, these photos can be knocked these out very quickly.

Typically, we will start with one giant photo of the Bride and Groom with all the grandparents and the extended family. Then we move on to the immediate family of the larger side releasing the extended family. If you are looking for a specific photo with an Aunt, or all the cousins individually, we can quickly do those as well. Next, we do the following variations of your immediate family:



- Grandparents + Parents
- Parents + Siblings
- + Siblings
- Just Parents
- Just Grandparents
- Just Siblings

If there's anything other than those "standard" 5 groupings, just let me know and we'll make it happen! Sometimes couples want a Dad's side and a Mom's side photo too. Also, if there's any "awkward" family situations like your parents are divorced and you do not want them to be in the same photo, let me know ahead of time I will provide you with a questionnaire ahead of time to prepare.



**TIP:** Typed up a detailed list of all family members & friends you want portraits with prior to the wedding, and have a designated member coral them.

## THE BIG DAY COCKTAIL HOUR

If you do not do a first look we will start your bride and groom portraits during the cocktail hour. When we are done, usually the bride and groom will then take a quick break, bustle the dress, have a drink and sometimes couples will have a quick quiet meal together. One advantage of a first look is you can have this time for that private meal or even join your guests for cocktail hour!

Meanwhile, the second photographer and I try to grab a few candid of guests during this time while you are relaxing before the reception.



## THE BIG DAY

# PRE-RECEPTION

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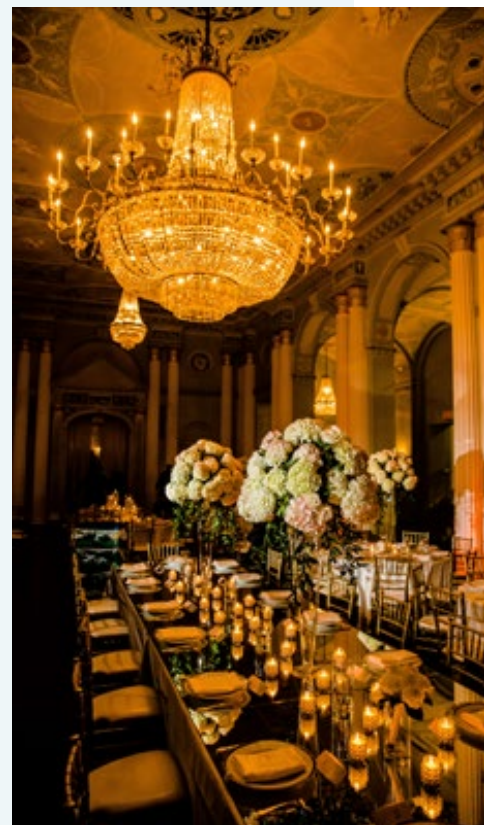
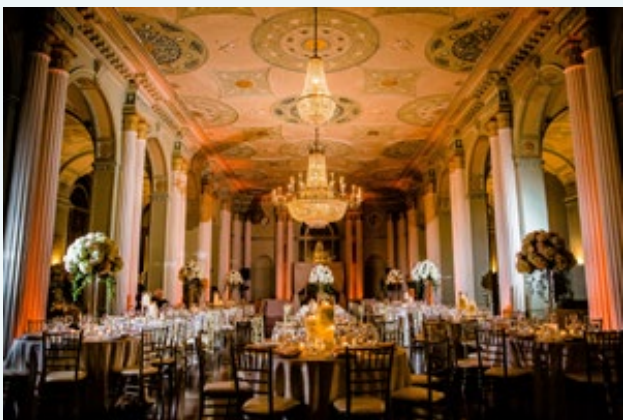


### RIDING TO THE RECEPTION

On the way to the reception, I usually like to hitch a ride with the bridal party so we can sneak some photos of the celebration in the limo.

### RECEPTION DETAILS

15 minutes before guests enter, I will need time to shoot the reception detail shots. If you have a planner, I like to coordinate with them to set aside a few minutes without guests to grab those shots.



# THE BIG DAY

## RECEPTION



### RECEPTION EVENTS

Now the party starts! At this point, there is nothing you really need to do photography wise except have fun and I'll capture it! If you have any unique events happening, please let me know what to prepare for. However, here are some of the typical things I'll see during the reception:

- First Dance
- Speeches
- Garter/Bouquet Toss
- Table Group Shots
- Photo Booths
- Games
- Dancing
- Cake Cutting



THE BIG DAY

# NIGHT PORTRAITS



Almost every reception space has a great opportunity for a beautiful night portrait. I like to scout out the venue to plan and setup the shot while you are enjoying yourselves during the reception so all that I have to do is just plug you in for 2 minutes. We get the shot and then you get back to party.

Some couples really enjoy this quiet break and really love the unique photos. My default is to be as fast as possible but if you want to take a little more time I'll try 2-3 setups instead. These photos usually only take 10-15 minutes max.



**TIP:** The best time to sneak in a night photos is right after the cake cutting so you do not miss out on the fun of the dance floor!



## THE BIG DAY EXITS

Not everyone has one, but it is a very popular trend. It's a fun way to end the night and also it makes sure everyone leaves on time so the venue does not charge you for staying late.

Sometimes, couples have an "exit" with everyone, and continue the party after all of the family/older guests leave so you can go back in for an extra hour or two of dancing with friends!

### EXAMPLES:

- Bubbles
- Glowsticks
- Sparklers (most popular)



### CAR PHOTOS

If you plan on having a cool car to drive you away after your wedding, we can coordinate a cool portrait with it 10 minutes prior to the exit. I will have the lights set up for a super quick shot so you can stay on schedule. If you'd love this let me know beforehand.



#### TIPS:

- Schedule an Uber
- Have a friend drive the car
- Rent a Car



### CRAZY FUN IDEAS

Usually we cover a wedding as is and capture a couples personality without anything too out of the ordinary. However, if you have a unique or fun idea don't be shy! We are down for anything. Crazy fun stuff makes the best most unique photos. Stop by a Burger King on the limo ride to the reception (like my wife and I did), have the bridal party spray champagne, bring lightsabers if your a Star Wars fan, jump in the pool to end the night etc. No crazy needed, but a little crazy can be crazy fun!

## PLAN YOUR DAY

# TIMELINES

One of the biggest variables is how long to take during bride and groom portraits. You will most likely want at bare minimum, 15 minutes. If you just want a few basic portraits and you do not need to move around much for portrait locations you can easily get a good variety of portraits within those 15 minutes. However, if you really value the portrait aspect of the day, or you want to utilize more than one location or different aspects of the venue, you may want to push more towards the 45 minutes or an hour mark of portrait time. **The more time you put into the portrait aspect the more I can utilize the venue and get more creative photos as well.** Either way is great. One of the advantages of the first look is it allows you to take more time before the ceremony for portraits as well. I have some sample timelines included here to help plan your timeline.



## IDEAL TIME ALLOCATIONS TO BUILD A TIMELINE

- Getting Ready Candid with Girls – **1-2 Hours**
- Start with Bridal details – **15 minutes**
- Guys Getting Ready Candid – **1 Hour**
- Bride Getting Dressed – **15 minutes**
- First Look with Dad/Bridesmaids – **10 minutes**
- Bridal Portrait – **10 minutes**
- Bridesmaid Portraits – **15 minutes**
- Groom Portrait – **10 minutes**
- Groomsmen Portraits – **15 minutes**
- First look with Couple – **15 minutes**
- Couples Portraits – **15-45 minutes**
- Couple hideaway & relax  
*pre-ceremony* – **30 minutes**
- Ceremony – **30 minutes average**
- Family Formals – **20 minutes**
- Bridal Party – **10-20 minutes**
- Bustle and get ready for Reception – **10 minutes**
- Sunset or night photo during  
Reception – **10 minutes**
- Exit Photos + Prep – **10 minutes**



**TIP:** Download these example allocations here, & bring this document when planning your wedding with your venue and/or planner.

# SAMPLE TIMELINES

## SAMPLE TRADITIONAL WEDDING TIMELINE

- 1:00 pm – Photographs of bridal details
- 1:15 pm – Bridesmaids getting ready candids
- 2:30 pm – Guys candids
- 3:30 pm – Bride gets dressed
- 3:45 pm – Dad First look
- 3:50 pm – Bridal portrait
- 4:00 pm – Bridesmaid photos
- 4:20 pm – Groomsmen photos
- 4:30 pm – Bride hides away, Guests arrive
- 5:00 pm – Ceremony
- 5:40 pm – Family portraits
- 6:00 pm – Bridal Party Portraits
- 6:15 pm – Bride and Groom portraits
- 6:45 pm – Bustle, Bridal Party line up
- 7:00 pm – Reception, Entrance & First dances
- 7:30 pm – Toasts, Cake Cutting
- 9:00 pm – Night portrait
- 10:00 pm – Sendoff/exit

## SAMPLE FIRST LOOK WEDDING TIMELINE

- 12:00 pm – Photographs of bridal details
- 12:15 pm – Bridesmaids getting ready candids
- 1:30 pm – Guys candids
- 2:00 pm – Bride gets dressed
- 2:30 pm – Dad First look
- 2:40 pm – Bridal portrait
- 2:50 pm – Groom portrait
- 2:55 pm – Couples first look
- 3:00 pm – Couples portraits
- 3:40 pm – Bridal party portraits
- 4:00 pm – Family Portraits
- 4:30 pm – Bride hides away, Guests arrive
- 5:00 pm – Ceremony
- 5:40 pm – Family portraits
- 6:00 pm – Cocktail Hour – Bride & Groom  
private moment/meal
- 6:15 pm – Bustle, Bride & Groom join  
cocktail hour
- 6:45 pm – Bridal Party line up
- 7:00 pm – Reception, Entrance & First dances
- 7:30 pm – Toasts, Cake Cutting
- 9:00 pm – Night portrait
- 10:00 pm – Sendoff/exit



THE BIG DAY

# AFTER THE WEDDING

So your wedding day is done and you are off to your honeymoon, now what? Enjoy your images of course! Here's some tips to make sure you and your friends and families get the most out of images.

First make sure to follow your photographer on social media to enjoy sneak peak images and then tag and share those images in order for your friends and family to enjoy. **I post photos on facebook and instagram at [joshuagrasso](#) and [i.make.people.cry](#) throughout the week after.**

Next, I then share a private sneak peak slideshow with the couple. I'll contact my couples to set up a reveal a few days after the wedding so make sure to set up a photo reveal date while your on your honeymoon!

After the private sneak peek is shared I will post a public preview on my blog and facebook. I always appreciate when couples share this link on their social so that their friends and family can enjoy them as well.



## WHEN WILL YOU SEE YOUR IMAGES?

I share a few favorites on instagram a day after and Beyond. Then a full sneak peak about a week or 10 days at the latest. The full gallery is delivered within 4-6 weeks.

## SHARING YOUR WEDDING GALLERY

If you would like help sharing your family with guests I can send you a link to it before you send out invitations and also bring business cards to help share on the day of.

AFTER THE BIG DAY

# PRODUCTS & ENJOYING IMAGES

I decided to include albums in my collections because I think your photos are meant to be enjoyed in print. It's a shame to invest in a good photographer and let your photos go unprinted, so I recommend getting an album or at the very least making your own and printing some of your favorites to enjoy everyday.



## **TIP: People get busy and don't order prints!**

If you don't get an album automatically from your photographer give yourself a deadline to make something for yourself. Maybe order some wall prints for your 1 month anniversary or make or order an album for your 1 year anniversary. What better gift than that!



## MORE ABOUT JOSHUA GRASSO

I'm Joshua, and my story is about marrying my highschool sweetheart, Sarah and falling in love with her again and again when she gave me my two daughters. The three of them are my everything. When I'm with them I just want to see them laugh and when I'm not I just want to make them proud by becoming great at what I do. I cherish the memories captured in print of my family especially the ones showing their joy.

**What makes me cry?** Daddy daughter dances, groom tears, and when my two daughters say they know I'll love them forever. I know you have a great story as well and I'd love to be the one to tell it.

If your still looking for a photographer I'd love you to check us out!

 [Joshuagrasso.com](http://Joshuagrasso.com) |  [joshuagrasso](https://www.instagram.com/joshuagrasso) and [i.make.people.cry](https://www.instagram.com/i.make.people.cry) |  [joshuagrassophotography](https://www.facebook.com/joshuagrassophotography)



## MY FAVORITE VENDORS



### PLANNERS

**Jennifer with Weddings by Epic:**

<https://www.weddingsbyeptic.com/>

**Emily with Marea Events:**

<https://www.mareaweddings.com/>

**Joyce with Showcase Your Style:**

<https://www.facebook.com/syseventplanning/>



### VENUES

**Yonah Mountain Vineyards** is my current #1 Venue:

<https://www.yonahmountainvineyards.com/>

More great venues here:

<https://joshuagrasso.com/atlanta-wedding-venues/>



### OTHER

**DJ:**

Spectrum Entertainment: <https://spectrum-ent.com/>

**Cakes:**

Diane Acuna with Acuna's Custom Cakes:

<http://www.acunascustomcakes.com/>

**Makeup Artist:**

Mimi Kuang: <https://mimikbridalmakeup.shutterfly.com/>

To see a full list of my favorite vendors in the atlanta area visit my website:

<https://joshuagrasso.com/featured-atlanta-wedding-vendors/>