

How To Choose The Right Wedding Photographer

Choosing a photographer for your wedding is different than choosing your other wedding vendors like music, cake, flowers, or suppliers...

It's important to make the right decision when picking your photographer because the only things you will have left when it's all finished are your memories and photographs, the last thing you want is to be left disappointed.

From hundreds of different local and abroad photographers, it can become very stressful and hard to make the correct decision.

Every photographer has different perspectives, styles, editing skills, and quality of delivery.

You simply can't and won't be able to check what your photographs are going to come out like beforehand, however with careful due diligence and a few of my tips you will be on the right track to pick the perfect photographer for your wedding day.

Can I see your CV, please?

Seeing your photographers' [portfolio](#) is essential. I can almost guarantee that a lot of photographers' websites and social media will only showcase the best highlights from thousands of weddings.

You need to check for consistency in their work, true talent can be detected in a full wedding album instead of three or four photos that they show on their website.

When reviewing the albums it's important to be very critical, at the end of the day, you're putting all trust into your photographer and their ability.

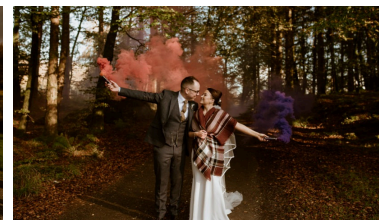
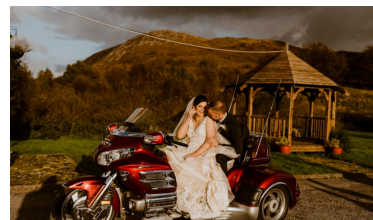
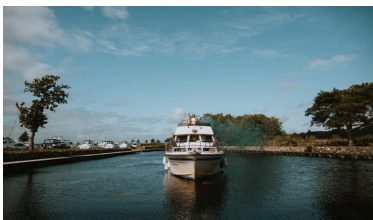
It's better to be safe than sorry, one little detail could ruin your whole album, be sure you're impressed and excited by what you see.



It would be a worrying sign if a wedding photographer refused to send you some of their FULL wedding albums he's done previously.

Professional photographers would include full wedding albums on their websites anyway, so if you have to dig these out this could also be a bad sign.

[You can check out some of my most recent work here.](#)



Style

A good place to start your research is to decide on the type of photography style you really like. Many couples love a more classic approach (+plenty of posed photographs of the bridal party), where others love a candid, documentary style.

1. Reportage Photography - This style of photography also goes by documentary or photojournalistic.

Your photographer will usually stand around you and your guests capturing all types of candid and spontaneous shots.

This is all about reactions and emotions, it's the most authentic form of photography, there would be no posing.

2. Traditional Photography - This is one of the classic posed styles you see everywhere.

It used to be the most popular style and it involved a lot of direction from the photographer.

It's very time consuming and might cost you in losing out on some of the action of the day.

3. Contemporary Photography - These shots usually incorporate current trends when it comes to poses, settings, and special effects.

The couple would usually allocate a bit of time away from the ceremony, along with the photographer, to go away and capture magical and creative moments.

You don't have to be a lover of just one style in particular as many photographers can do a blend of posed and photojournalistic-style images.

Do Your Homework!

It's important that you carry out your own research when looking for photographers, everyone has a different taste and style.

A photographer who might have been amazing in your friend's eyes might just not cut it for you.

You may think that asking for recommendations is a great idea, however, it may just increase your search by an extra hundred new photographers...

When searching for photographers I would only consider professionals because of the importance of the day, don't let your neighbours sons' first photoshoot be your wedding day...

Look on google for keywords like, 'wedding photography in Ireland', 'documentary wedding photography in Ireland' etc, and start searching through the highest-ranked photographers.

I would be cautious if your photographer is not well ranked, or doesn't even have a website.

Reviews and Testimonials

Take a look at reviews/opinions from other married couples. Review potential photographers' websites and blogs to check out testimonials, photos of other weddings they've shot, all that will give you an idea of their approach and style.

Do they capture the moments that would be important to you in the manner you like?

Check out their social media platforms (FB, Instagram, etc.), if possible.

The design of the website may also tell you something about the photographer's personality and taste.

[Check out some of my testimonials here.](#)

“Our wedding photos are incredible. Just amazing!! Thank you so much, Wojciech. You were so professional on our wedding day. You put us at ease. You were terrific at capturing every minute of the day! The photos are more than we could ever have dreamt of! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!”

Roisin & David

Castle Dargan

”We cannot thank Wojciech enough for the amazing job he did on our wedding day. We felt that the photos captured the amazing atmosphere on the day from getting ready in the morning to the ceremony all the way to the first dance. This was also the case with our engagement session at Strandhill. It is obvious that he takes great pride in his art and genuinely cares about every single detail. He conveys this in a very relaxed manner which was very important for us and our guests. This shines through in the fabulous photojournalistic style of his work. We honestly cannot recommend him highly enough.”

Emily & Daniel

Markree Castle

Budget

I believe photography is the best investment you make for your wedding day, this is because wedding photographs can only GAIN value over time...

After everything is said and done, these memories and photographs are the only things you have left after the wedding.

Did you know that 60% of brides regret their choice of the photographer?

This is why I try to show the importance of choosing the correct photographer for your wedding day throughout this blog.

I don't think it's a good idea to book a cheaper wedding photographer when you consider how much money you spend organizing your perfect wedding day as a whole. It's a once in a lifetime decision and day.

A lot of the 60% is down to couples choosing to save an extra €300 - €500.

You can save money on other stuff like decorations for the table or flowers in the church.

We've got a [complete guide to wedding photography](#) prices to give you a good idea of what you can get for your money however the average price for a wedding photographer is €2000 - €4000.

Post Production

More than likely it takes from 1 up to 3 months to get all photographs back from your photographer.

Why does it take so long?

It's because photographers are shooting RAW files far bigger than typical, common JPG.

It gives them a greater ability to correct the photo, but it also takes a longer time to upload, process, and edit all those files (in order to correct colour levels and so on).

Most photographers spend an additional 30-60 hours editing images from a single wedding, depending on how many photos they give to a client.

It varies, but it can take up to 6 weeks (or longer, depending on the photographer and how busy they are) to get photos back...

You don't want to choose photographers who say they will return your photos to you especially quickly. This could be a sign that they are un-experienced and your photos will be rushed and not taken care of.

Ask questions!

Arrange a meeting with your photographer, most photographers will speak with you in person however when it's not available I've seen most do skype calls, etc.

Photographers are not mind readers, the only aim of the photographer is to create magical photography so if you have any questions or ideas, be sure to tell them.

Here are some questions you should ask your photographer before you book:

"What style do you specialize in?"

"How many weddings have you shot?"

"Will the photos be retouched and colour balanced?"

"What exactly is included in your packages?"

"How many hours of coverage do I get?"

"What is the charge for overtime?"

"What is the deposit, total fee and when is it due?"

"Will you be my actual photographer or will it be an associate?"

An experienced photographer will go out of their way to tell you these things themselves.

Whenever I start working with a new couple I send them a little questionnaire so that I can get to know them better and also get on the same page with them.

Does a Wedding Photographer Need To Have Insurance?

Cheap wedding photographers choose to not buy insurance just so they can make that extra buck, they don't value their couples and that can actually cause you big problems if they get banned from your venue due to not being prepared.

If you're planning on getting married in Fota Ireland, Altamont Gardens, or The Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin, for example, they require that your wedding photographer has an insurance policy up to 6.5 million euros.

Even if you only want to take photos in these places you're still required to provide a permit from the OPW and your photographers' insurance.

Do They Know Your Venue?

Of course, if I found a great photographer and they were not familiar with my venue it wouldn't be the end of the world because they should be able to adapt to any scenario.

However, it does always help if your photographer has shot at your venue before.

It means that they'll have experience of the best locations and know the lighting conditions.

Usually, the venue will be happy to provide a list of recommended photographers who will have blogs featuring their real weddings at the venues.

Engagement Shoot

This is not essential at all, however, if you're planning on having an engagement shoot this could be huge!

Engagement shoots with the same photographer that will do your wedding will allow you to see beforehand what their personality is like, if they irritate you or if they're off-putting.

You'll know when you've found the right photographer if they show you respect, know how to blend in the crowd, but also be able to seek out any shot they need.

They should ask you a lot of questions and be very excited about your wedding day.

Even if you paid the deposit, if you think that they are not the right photographer for you, it's within your rights to be able to cancel the agreement (however if you followed all our tips, this should never be the case).

The Right Photographer

Checking all the things above will definitely help you choose your perfect wedding photographer.

Obviously, that person also has to be available for the date of your wedding and have the packages that are suitable for you.

What if your ideal photographer is already booked?

Ask if he/she can recommend someone who does similar work for a similar price.

If he has no one to recommend or that person is already booked - don't worry as there are many great photographers out there and I bet you will find the one right just for you!

If you have more questions be sure to check out my Brides Guide for all my other blogs on creating a perfect wedding day.