

DESTINATION Wedding 101



BY DAVID LAHUTA



You can try to plan your wedding yourself," says Carmen Phillips, co-owner of Destination Wedding Bermuda, "but why would you want to?" The bubbly Bermudian has a valid point, especially considering the hurdles brides and grooms must jump in order to host their big day on a powdery pink sand beach. Or in a romantic dimly lit cave. Or even on standup paddleboards floating on a turquoise bay.

Transportation needs to be arranged, entertainment booked, hotels reserved—even an advertisement in the local newspaper needs to be placed a minimum of two weeks before your wedding date in order to legally tie the knot. If this all sounds dizzying, then let the pros handle the headache. "It's what we do best," says Phillips.

She should know: With nearly forty years of experience in the local flower industry and four as co-owner of award-winning Demco Florist—Destination Wedding Bermuda's parent company—she and her partners Marguerite Clark and Katie Trimmingham have helped countless couples prepare to celebrate their special day in paradise.

"Your wedding day is arguably the most important day of your life," says Phillips. "We're in the business of making dreams come true."

Carmen Phillips offers some pointers for brides and grooms thinking of tying the knot in Bermuda:



Plan Ahead

The most popular months to get married in Bermuda are April, May, June and October, when the humidity drops and average high temperatures are in the mid-70s. Saturdays fill up fast, so once a date is set, work with Destination Wedding Bermuda to reserve a photographer. Popular shooter Gavin Howarth suggests booking services a year in advance.



It's the Law

Bermuda law requires that a notice of intended marriage must be published in the local newspaper and submitted no sooner than three months—but no later than two weeks—prior to the wedding. It's also important to know that in order to get married in or on a public park or beach you must obtain a Parks Department permit.



Location, Location, Location

Just because you're getting married in Bermuda doesn't mean you have to get married on a pink sand beach. Underground caves and lush gardens are popular locales, as is Bermuda's most unique venue: the Unfinished Church. Located in St. George's, the never-completed, massive stone cathedral dates back to 1874.



Get around Town

You cannot rent a car in Bermuda, so the only way you and your guests can get around the island is by bus, taxi, private coach or by renting a scooter. If this sounds like a confusing road to navigate, let a professional from Destination Wedding Bermuda arrange reliable transportation to get you and your guests to the church on time.