

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE BRIDE

WHO WANTS THE WORLD

ASIAN BRIDE

www.asianwomarmag.com

SPRING 2012 ISSUE 33 £4.50

Beauty SECRETS

Look flawless on your special day

TREND FOCUS
Bollywood couture you can afford!

2012

UK VENUE FINDER

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR SUPPLIERS

THEME SPIRIT

Crystal, nautical, princess, nature, ethnic & filmstar

Inspired

Breathtaking style ideas for spring

BRAND NEW
LOOK



50 ways to cut WEDDING COSTS

COUNT THE PENNIES AS WELL AS YOUR BLESSINGS, SAYS LISA SABIN, TO STAY RICHER NOT POORER



- 1 **first rule: keep your budget realistic.** Overspending is easy, repairing your credit rating isn't. There's no point painting the town red with your celebrations if you have to start married life also in the red...
- 2 **Shop around for quotes from several different suppliers before selecting the one that offers the best price and best fits your requirements**
- 3 **Ask married friends to recommend suppliers that provided value for money at their wedding**
- 4 **Negotiate and don't be tempted to accept the first quote suppliers offer.** There's always room for flexibility
- 5 **Sound confident and knowledgeable when talking to suppliers – they will be more inclined to play by your rules if you stick to your guns**
- 6 **If obtaining quotes early, ask the supplier if there is likely to be a price increase by the time of your wedding**
- 7 **A wedding planner can negotiate discounts with leading suppliers they've worked closely with before**
- 8 **Invite only those you really want to share the day with – fewer guests means less expense**
- 9 **Ask for help from friends and relatives who may have connections with suppliers and can help you to save money along the way**
- 10 **Ask suppliers if they'll offer a discount or throw something in for free if you use their services for a number of items or pay in cash**
- 11 **Consider getting married out of season between November and March when venue prices are lower**
- 12 **Consider getting married on a weekday as venue prices are considerably lower**
- 13 **Agree on a fixed price for the mandap as there are often hidden costs (delivery, set-up and so on)**
- 14 **Let your mandap supplier know your budget from the outset so they source the flowers, materials and other items to work within this price**
- 15 **Book your mandap as far in advance as possible so that the suppliers aren't sourcing items at the last minute**
- 16 **Stick to flowers that are common and in season. Imported flowers can cost a lot more.**
- 17 **Use plenty of foliage, leaves and bulky heads in your floral centrepieces to create large floral displays at a cheaper cost**
- 18 **Opt for a more affordable combination of tall and low vases for the floral centrepieces**
- 19 **Consider using lots of tea lights on the tables instead of large floral centrepieces**
- 20 **Save money on alcohol by opting not to serve it at the Sangeet – people don't expect it and it can save you hundreds of pounds**

21 Put some money behind the bar and offer free drinks for a limited period only. When the tab runs dry, guests then pay for their own drinks.

22 Venue costs are the most expensive part of a wedding. Don't fixate on 5-star hotels; consider other venues such as stately homes or even converted barns which can be less expensive.

23 Be aware of hidden costs; ask the venue if they charge a corkage or cake-cutting fee

24 Guests don't expect favours so give everyone a free after-dinner cocktail instead. It will be cheaper and more welcome than an expensive favour which guests may never use.

25 Rather than splashing out on Save the Dates, send your guests an email informing them of the wedding date – it's cheaper and more environmentally friendly

26 Everyone loves bespoke invites, but many of the top stationers now offer beautiful collections which can be slightly tailored to a client's wishes – less expensive but still personal

27 Ask the invitation supplier if they can offer a discount if you use them for orders of service and menus also

28 Design a menu yourself on the computer, print onto a luxury card and place on tables

29 Speak to a fashion college to see if any of the students specialise in Asian wedding outfits and have it made to measure – most students will jump at the chance

30 Hiring suits for the groom and groomsmen is a cost-effective alternative to buying them

31 Instead of a separate dessert following the wedding breakfast, serve wedding cake instead

32 Book a DJ – they will play for longer and generally cost less than a band

33 Keep a schedule of payments so that you know when monies are due. This will avoid missing a payment and having to pay a late fee.



34 Instead of having a traditional seated wedding breakfast, consider a buffet to cut back on waiting staff costs

35 Rather than spending lots on entertainment during the drinks reception, speak to a local performing arts school to see if any of their students would like to perform

36 Shop around and see which photographer will offer you the best deal in terms of number of prints, free engagement sessions, and albums

37 Rather than hiring a videographer, set up a video booth at your venue and encourage guests to go in and record a message for you both

38 When choosing invitations, consider their weight so as to avoid hefty postal costs

39 Know someone with exquisite jewellery? It will keep costs down and help with 'something borrowed'

40 Speak to friends and use their talents to help you pull together your big day

41 Buy your flowers from the wholesalers and invite your friends and family to help you make the arrangements instead of paying a florist

42 Speak to a mehndi academy to see if one of their students would do your mehndi for a reduced rate

43 When selecting the menu, opt for the cheaper options such as chicken and vegetarian dishes

44 Consider using balloons in your colour scheme to decorate the room

45 Choose a venue which doesn't require much decoration and has lots of original features which you can incorporate naturally into your day

46 Ask someone you know who has a stylish car if they would mind chauffeuring you on your wedding day

47 An iPod loaded with songs that you both love is a great alternative to an expensive DJ and/or band

48 Hiring items for your wedding day can save you lots of money – from pedestals and lanterns to linen and napkins

49 Have a makeup lesson and do your own makeup on your wedding day to save the cost of paying for a professional

50 Don't spend money on a honeymoon. Instead, ask friends and family to contribute to a honeymoon fund so you can then book your trip following your wedding day.

• Lisa Sabin runs *Just Bespoke Wedding Planning Consultancy* (just-bespoke.com)