



WINTER WEDDING IDEA BOOK



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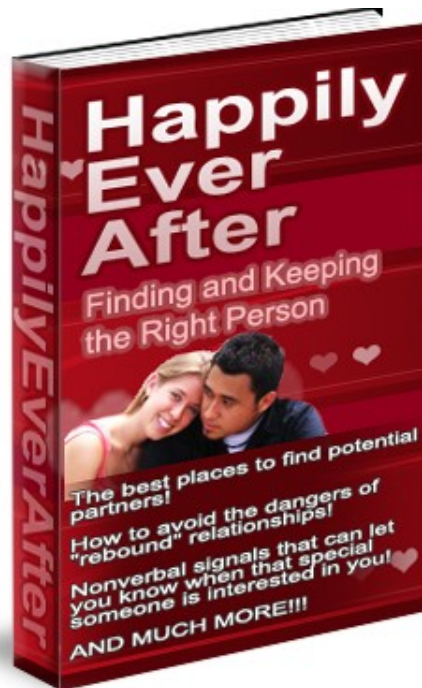


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INTRODUCTION

Planning a wedding is one of the most exciting and nerve-wracking things for women. Women dream about the perfect wedding from the time they are little girls. Every woman wants her ideal wedding day, and most women put months into the planning of a wedding, carefully going over every detail.

There are thousands of choices for almost every aspect of planning a wedding, which can make planning a wedding an exhausting experience. Some women choose to hire wedding planners to help them arrange all the details of the wedding. If you are planning on having a large wedding and have the extra money, a wedding planner can be a great help when planning a large wedding.

If you are trying to cut costs, get a group of trustworthy girlfriends together and ask them to help with the planning. Just remember when you're planning your wedding that it's your special day, and you should pick what makes you happy.



WHY CHOOSE A WINTER WEDDING?

When most people think of planning a wedding, they plan a spring or summer wedding. June is the most popular month for weddings because of the traditionally nice weather and lots of sunshine. But there is a growing trend of brides choosing autumn or winter weddings instead of summer weddings.

Winter weddings can be very beautiful and intimate, and certainly will stand out from the many summer weddings that are held each year. A winter wedding can be very romantic, intimate, and cozy.


While there are some disadvantages to having a winter wedding, there are some significant advantages. If you want a wedding that will be beautiful and truly unique, there are lots of different winter themes for weddings that are distinctive and can only be held in the winter months that will make your wedding very personal and very special.

Women who like to do things differently may really like the different themes and style choices available for winter weddings that aren't available for spring or summer weddings. When deciding whether or not a winter wedding is the right choice for you, talk over the advantages and disadvantages of having a winter wedding with your fiancée before deciding if this is right for you.

The Advantages of a Winter Wedding

There are many significant advantages to having a winter wedding instead of a traditional spring or summer wedding. When thinking about whether or not to have a winter wedding, here are some of the many advantages to consider.

You can save a lot of money. Since winter is considered an “off” season for weddings you can save a substantial amount of money on everything from your gown to the attendant's shoes, the hall, the reception, the music, the



photographer, the flowers, and the transportation. Who wouldn't like to save some money on their wedding, right?


By holding it in the winter you can save up to half the cost of a traditional summer wedding and get more for your money. Usually, during the winter, wedding planners, caterers, florists, bands, DJs, and other support staff needed to have a great wedding are far less busy, so they will charge less money than they would at the height of the summer wedding season.

You can get exactly what you want. Since the winter season isn't filled with weddings the way that spring and summer are, it's more likely that you will be able to get the hall, restaurant, church, or other location of your choice. Especially if it's a popular wedding location chances are good that it's already been booked years in advance for spring and summer weddings.

But since not that many people get married in the winter, the same popular locations are usually available during the winter, sometimes at a reduced cost. The same thing goes for the religious clergy or judge that you would like to officiate at the ceremony, the reception hall, the caterer, and so on.

More of your loved ones may be able to attend. During the busy spring and summer wedding seasons, family and friends can be stretched thin with weddings, vacations, graduations, and other events that require their attendance and usually gifts.

If your wedding is just one more event they are invited to they may not be able to make it, or may be too exhausted from making the rounds of summer events and might send their regrets. By holding your wedding in the winter it's more likely that family and friends will have fewer social commitments and thus will be free to attend your wedding.



Winter weddings are different. Do you want the story of your wedding to be another in a long line of stories about the “perfect” summer wedding? If not, and you want your wedding to stand out and be memorable, a winter wedding can be a great way to do something new and different for your wedding.

Come up with a fun theme and you’ll have a unique and interesting story to tell about your winter wedding for the rest of your lives. It will be memorable for your guests too, and they will remember your wedding when they forget others because it was held in the winter instead of spring or summer.

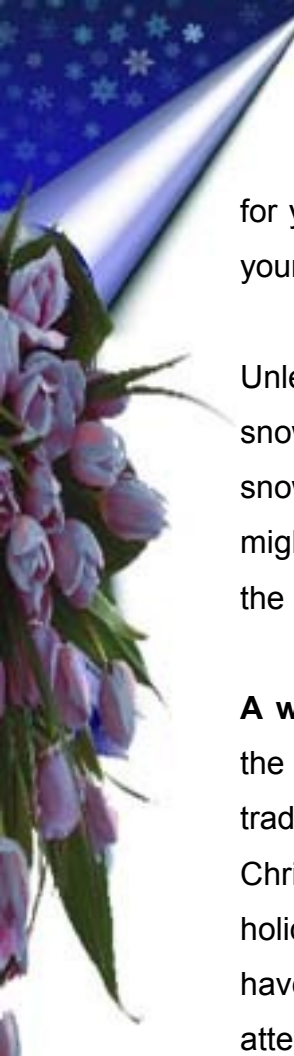
The Disadvantages of a Winter Wedding

While there are a lot of great reasons to have a winter wedding, there are, of course, some downsides to having a winter wedding that should be considered before definitely choosing to have winter wedding. There are ways to overcome these issues, but it’s up to each bride to decide if a winter wedding is right for her.

The weather might not be what you expect. Obviously, in northern climates you’d expect it to be cold and snowy. If it is, it might be too cold or too snowy. Think about trying to take pictures when it’s -20 degrees outside, or staying warm in a drafty church in the middle of a snowstorm. If there is a blizzard, will your guests still be able to come?

Bad weather could mean that family and friends wouldn’t be able to make it to the ceremony. If you do choose to go ahead with a winter wedding, make sure that you have alternate plans in case the weather turns nasty and guests or even a member of the bridal party can’t make it due to the weather.

The weather might not be terrible – it usually isn’t; but it might be too mild, which can also ruin wedding plans. If you are envisioning a beautiful snowy landscape



for your wedding, or arriving in a horse drawn sleigh, and there is no snow then your wedding plans could fall flat fast.

Unless you live or are holding the wedding in a place that will definitely have snow, like at a ski resort, you need to plan out what you will do if there is no snow. Brides planning spring or summer weddings need to plan for weather that might not be what is expected, and brides planning winter weddings need to do the same thing.

A winter wedding might cause holiday complications. While you might love the idea of a Christmas theme wedding full of red and green and gold and traditional Christmas elements, your family and friends might not want to spend Christmas Eve or Christmas Day at a wedding. Some families have traditional holiday plans to spend holidays at a relative's house, and some families may have complicated child custody arrangements on the holidays that would make attending a wedding difficult.

Also, holidays are a prime travel time and it might be expensive and time consuming for friends and relatives who need to travel to make it to the wedding. Some people plan family vacations for Christmas and the other winter holidays.

Considering all of this, if you think that a lot of your family and friends might not be able to attend a Christmas wedding but you really want to have a Christmas theme you should think about having the wedding a week or two before Christmas to make it easier for all your loved ones to attend.

Having holiday weddings can be tricky, but remember that it's possible to plan a winter wedding that won't interfere with any of the traditional winter holidays.

WINTER WEDDING THEMES

So you've decided that you want to have a winter wedding and now you need to choose a theme. Choosing a theme for your winter wedding is fun!


There are so many interesting and unique themes that brides can choose for winter weddings. While the only limit for a winter wedding theme is your imagination, and maybe your budget, here are some fun and interesting winter wedding themes that you can consider.

A Christmas Theme Wedding

Having a Christmas or Holiday themed winter wedding is a great way to celebrate the peace and joy of the winter holidays and make your wedding memorable. While in the past it was not considered proper to schedule a wedding to coincide with the winter holidays, these days it is becoming increasingly acceptable, even fashionable, to hold your wedding during the winter holidays.

When most people think of a winter wedding they immediately envision a Christmas or holiday wedding. There are several different ways to approach a Christmas wedding without looking campy or over the top.

Choose an elegant Christmas wedding. A beautiful option for a Christmas wedding is to make everything very formal and elegant. Think black tie and evening dress and all of the elegance of a grand ball.



You could decorate the church with white lights and white satin bunting and you could also trim the pews with gold ribbons. Pin a few sprigs of holly or even mistletoe to the gold ribbons for a pretty effect.

Dress your attendants in elegant evening wear and wear a glamorous vintage style gown to go with the elegant theme. Make sure to include some sort of wrap, like an elegant white pashmina wool wrap, for your attendants or for yourself to make sure that you aren't freezing during the ceremony.

At the reception, have a large natural Christmas tree in the corner of the room decorated with ropes of white lights and pretty little gold bows. Decorate the tables with large bowls containing gold floating candles and white rose petals.

As a wedding favor, give guests a small gold Christmas ornament inscribed with the date of the wedding and your names. Many gift stores have inexpensive Christmas ornaments that are lovely and they will often engrave them for a reasonable cost. That way, guests will have a lovely keepsake reminder from your wedding.

Box up all the ornaments, one for each guest, in a white box with a gold ribbon, and pile them under the Christmas tree. At the end of the reception invite each guest to pick their own "present" from under the tree. If you want to take the time to put each guests name on a box it would add a personal touch, but it's just as easy to let people to pick any box from under the tree.

An elegant Christmas wedding with simple, tasteful decorations in white and gold doesn't have to be expensive. If you are creative you can have a gorgeous and elegant Christmas wedding even if you're on a tight budget.

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