

Photography

MARTA MAY


THE MAYS

If you're planning your wedding, congratulations!

Hopefully what I'm about to say will help you get more clarity in terms of booking a professional photographer for your wedding. I'm sure there are lots of things you already know about 'wedding photography' but I want to focus on the things you don't know that you don't know.

Tip no 1: Focus on Meaningful Moments, not a 'Must Have' List

I'm sure you've heard about wedding photography lists - the lists of 'must have photos from your wedding day', like a picture of your shoes or your bouquet etc. Many couples give those lists to their photographers and this results in a frustrated and nervous photographer on your day. What do I mean by that? As a photographer I want to know what pictures you want to have, and we will definitely have a chat about it. But if you gave me the list of "must have photos" - that I take anyway in a natural way - I'd have to stay focused on that list and I would miss many real and meaningful moments as a result of that.

Sure if your photographer is only beginning to photograph weddings, you can give her/him the list just to be safe. But if your photographer is a professional (like us, shooting weddings since 2012), let him/her stay creative on the day. That way you will not only get the pictures from those typical 'must have the photo of this' lists, you will also get the story of your day told in a beautiful, creative way.

Tip no 2: Make Time for Golden Hour on the Day

You probably know by now that the golden hour (sunset) is the most magical light for your wedding pictures. Now try to apply that knowledge to your wedding day to actually get those pictures. And the key thing to do is to see what time the sun sets on your wedding day. The best time for pictures is 30 minutes before the sunset. You also have to see, depending on the time of the year, if there is anything blocking that light. It could be a tree, a hill - in which case the best light for your couple pictures might actually be a bit earlier. And the most important thing is - don't plan your wedding speeches around that time. You don't want to sit in the room listening to the speeches and at the same time seeing the most beautiful golden light that will be gone before the speeches end.

Tip no 3: Make a New Friend in the Planning

If your photographer allows it, stay in touch with him/her as often as you can. You don't want them to be complete strangers on your wedding day. What do I mean by that? The biggest compliment we get from wedding guests is that they very often ask us how we know the couple, where we met them. They assume we met somewhere else, not during the wedding planning process. They assume we're friends with them maybe from work or from uni and we're just shooting their wedding as their friends. We love that and this all is a result of a relationship we build with our couples. Because we don't want to be strangers, we want to be a part of their wedding day and document *their* story, not a typical wedding story. You have to remember that EVERY WEDDING IS UNIQUE - you are unique, so you want your pictures to reflect that, to capture what matters to you most, your most important people, most important moments. That's why you stay in touch with your photographer, meet up with them if possible, catch up. And you become friends, and the best part is - when your guests see that you're friends with the photographer, they relax too. As a result we can get closer to everyone and create pictures that FEEL amazing, not just pretty typical pictures that look nice.

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Tip no 4: Have the Chat about Food Plans

One of the most frequent questions we get during the planning process is 'do we feed the photographer'? It is a very necessary question. Some photographers have this in their contract and we don't. The reason we don't make it a compulsory thing is the fact that food is expensive and we don't want to add to your costs. But there is another thing to consider, and that is the length of photography coverage and the location of your wedding. If it is only a short coverage, a few hours, it doesn't make sense to feed your photographer. Well, this is what we think. We'd much rather spend that short time focusing on every moment of the time we have with you to get you the best pictures and we won't starve, will we? On the other hand, if you've booked a photographer for the full day, then have a think about feeding them at some point (especially when your venue is far from any restaurants, food shops etc.), usually when your guests are having the main course as well. Nobody likes being photographed when they are eating, so a photographer won't miss any pictures and he or she will also feel good. You really don't want a hungry and frustrated photographer shooting your best dance floor moves on an empty stomach. And if you really can't afford to feed your photographer, at least try to chat with them about it and let them know in advance, so they can buy their own sandwiches and snacks to survive the day.

Tip no 5: Be Kind to the Group & Your Cheeks - Planning Group Photos

Group pictures. Really have a think about the number of group pictures you're planning to have on your wedding day as this is something that quite often surprises our couples on their wedding day. We always suggest the short list of the most important key groups and if the list gets longer we suggest splitting it into two shoots throughout the day. Why? Because wedding guests want to have fun! And the last thing they want is to wait for their turn in a long list of group combinations whilst others have the best time enjoying the reception drinks. The other thing is - the more group pictures on your list, the more your cheeks will hurt because of smiling. So make sure you get the most important key pictures first and then enjoy the rest of the day. And if any pictures are missed or somebody wants a random group picture and your photographer is there with you for the full day, you can always grab that quick group picture later. Everybody will thank you for that!

Tip no 6: Your Photos Are your Memories - Choose the Right Style for you

How to choose the best photographer for you. First of all, think about the style of pictures you like. If you prefer posed, pretty, perfect images - look for a portrait wedding photographer with an editorial style. If you prefer pictures that evoke emotions and tell the story of the day - look for a reportage photographer. And if you look for something in between - many photographers, including us, also offer that. So it depends how you want your memories to look, because pictures are your memories. If you prefer to remember how your day LOOKED - go for perfect/portrait/editorial, if you prefer to remember how your day FELT - go for authentic/reportage/documentary. And if you prefer to remember both the beautiful side and how your wedding day actually felt, and how much fun your wedding guests actually had - have a look at our portfolio and see if this is how you'd want to remember your day. And then chat to your selected few and see how they make you feel during the initial chat, and pick the one that in your opinion ticks the biggest number of boxes FOR YOU.

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Tip no 7: Focus on how it will Feel...

There are so many things to think about when planning a wedding and choosing your photographer is one of the biggest decisions because these are your memories. This is how you're going to remember your wedding day. That's why it is important to select a photographer whose work you really like and who you feel comfortable with. Also remember - if somebody is trying to tell you to buy a certain pair of shoes or a certain dress design because that will make you look good on your wedding pictures - think twice. Many times I've seen brides changing into their comfortable shoes just after their group pictures were taken. I really don't believe you should suffer to get the best pictures. And if you don't feel comfortable in your shoes or your dress - you WON'T LOOK comfortable on your wedding pictures. So I want you to remember this - always think about how something makes you FEEL - because if you FEEL amazing and happy and comfortable - you will look amazing, happy and comfortable in your wedding pictures!

We've been shooting weddings since 2012, so we've probably seen it all and we hope that the above 7 tips will help you plan your wedding day and wedding photography!

Sending BIG HUGS your way - have the most amazing day!

Marta & Artur THE MAYS.

The Mays - Marta & Artur

martamayphotography.co.uk

[@martamayphotos](https://www.instagram.com/martamayphotos)

07447 112782