

budget

STICKER SHOCK

BY EMILY THOMPSON

If you saw the proposal coming, you've probably been dreaming up the details of your wedding for a while. But does your reception vision match up with your budget*?

TIME TO RECALCULATE

"The biggest thing is to prioritize," says Liz Antel, sales manager at Cameron Mitchell Premier Events. "Is the food the most important? Is the entertainment the most important?" Once you determine your must-haves, consider trimming in other areas. Antel recommends getting creative with the venue—like a park or a family farm—choosing an off-prime date (January, February or March) and buying decor off-season.

START

Are there more than 200 people on your guest list?

Just close friends and family

You bet. I'm inviting everyone I know!

When is the big day?

A Saturday night shindig during my favorite season

I'm open to a winter and/or weekday wedding.

How will dinner be served?

Guests can serve themselves at a buffet.

By white-gloved butlers

Will a full bar get the party started?

I'll stick with beer and wine only.

I'm thinking personalized cocktail list.

THE RISE OF THE WEEKDAY WEDDING

"What I've seen in the past year is weekday weddings are unpredictably high," says Mike Redcay, general manager for Cameron Mitchell Premier Events. "If you decided to have a wedding on a Tuesday, you're going to get a much better deal than getting married on Saturday."

Will a photographer and videographer be documenting?

Just a photographer is fine.

Yes! I need plenty of Instagram material.

Is cost a concern?

I have to stick to a budget.

Is a live band providing the tunes?

No, I'm going with a DJ.

Absolutely. There's nothing like the real deal.

Nope. I'm pulling out all the stops.

UNDER BUDGET

Your penny pinching has paid off! You'll have money to spare. Honeymoon upgrade, anyone?

ON TARGET

With just the right balance of nice but not over-the-top, your big day is sure to be a memorable one.

BIG SPENDER

Can we come to your wedding? It's looking like you'll be hosting the event of the season!

*BASED ON A BUDGET OF \$30,000, THE AVERAGE COST OF A WEDDING IN COLUMBUS