

Your French Wedding Countdown



12 MONTHS BEFORE

- Announce your engagement to family and friends and plan an engagement party if you wish to.
- Work on the budget and approximate number of guests.
- Choose a wedding date or period – select a few options in case your first choice is booked.
- Book the venue.
- Decide on who you'd like to have as your guests, including your maid of honour and best man.
- Begin shopping for your wedding gown/dress.
- Attend a local bridal show or two and jot down notes about any ideas you really like.
- Send your save-the-date.
- Start preparing the text of the invites: print out directions to the venue, and hotel(s) for guests, compile a list of area information and things to do for the guests.
- Start thinking about the theme/feel of your wedding.

6-11 MONTHS

- Book your caterer.
- Book the pastor/priest/celebrant.
- Book DJ, photographer, videographer, florist, musicians and wedding band.
- Determine more precisely the feel you want to give to your event and create a Pinterest account to gain inspiration.
- Decide on your wedding invitations, invitation envelopes and thank-you cards.
- Send your invitation and hire a calligrapher if desired.
- Research and choose one or more bridal gift registry.
- Create a wedding web site if you wish to.
- Order your wedding dress.
- Order other bridal accessories – shoes, gloves and veil.
- Contact a rental company for tables, chairs and marquee(s) if necessary.
- Choose your bridesmaids and ushers.
- Begin shopping for bridesmaids dresses.

4-6 MONTHS

- Select and purchase wedding favours.
- Purchase any desired ceremony and reception decorations – candles, vases, aisle runner, signs, bunting, etc.
- Start researching wedding cake pictures and local bakeries for ideas.
- Book your honeymoon and verify that you have any necessary travel documents including passports and visas.
- Book hotel rooms or arrange other accommodations for out-of-town guests.
- Reserve transportation for you and your wedding party.
- Find out what the requirements are to get legally married in your home country.

REMEMBER THAT YOU CANNOT GET LEGALLY MARRIED IN FRANCE UNLESS YOU LIVE THERE 40 DAYS BEFORE.

2-4 MONTHS

- Order outfits for the groom and ushers.
- Meet with your caterer to decide exactly on the menu and decide on your alcohol.
- Meet with your celebrant to discuss ceremony details, wording and wedding vows.
- Select wedding readings.
- Order your wedding cake.
- Arrange an appointment with the hair/make-up artist for a trial
- Buy thank-you gifts for your guests, flower girl and ring bearer.
- Shop for a gift for your new spouse/husband-to-be.
- Contact a florist and decide on the bouquets and centre pieces.
- Select and purchase wedding rings, and have them engraved if desired.
- Book any other specialty services – ice sculptures, photo booths, fireworks etc.
- Order/renew passports if necessary, leaving ample time for them to be sent back to you.

1-2 MONTHS

- Have ceremony programs printed.
- Purchase a guest book, pen and other wedding accessories including cake knife, cake topper, ring pillow, etc.
- Keep your wedding web site updated with directions and event details.
- Book appointments to have your hair, make-up and nails done on the day of the wedding.
- Create a seating chart for the reception and make table numbers and place cards (or have your calligrapher work on these).

1 WEEK - 1 MONTH

- Contact your caterer with a final guest count.
- Create a timeline of events for your wedding party.
- Confirm your arrangements with all the suppliers.
- Confirm lodging reservations for out-of-town guests.

- Plan a bridal luncheon or dinner with your bridesmaids.
- Pick up wedding bands and make sure the fit is good.
- Schedule a final wedding dress fitting.
- Make sure the ushers know their tasks.
- Treat yourself to a spa day – you deserve it!

THE WEDDING DAY!!!

- Wake up early and do some easy exercise, or just go for a peaceful walk outdoors and try to soak up the beauty of the day.
- Set aside some time before the festivities to share gifts with your bridesmaids or close family members.
- Eat a healthy breakfast – you'll need your energy for the big day ahead!
- Enjoy it...it's finally here and everything will be wonderful... Congratulations!



BEE-SPOKE EVENTS IN FRANCE