

brandee gaar

Blush by Brandee Gaar
Orlando
BlushBBG.com

plan your wedding date carefully

Decide what elements of your wedding are nonnegotiable and choose a season or month that will best fit those needs. If you're set on having an all-outdoor wedding, you may want to stay away from the summer months in Florida, as the weather is so unpredictable. If you simply *have* to have peonies as your main flower, you may want to choose the spring, when they're in-season (and at a lower cost than the rest of the year!).

give specific style direction

When my brides put together their planning and inspiration binders, I have them not only save photos they love, but also ones they loathe. That's the real trick in the initial planning stages: having a clear vision of not only what you want to direct your vendors to do, but also what you want to tell them to absolutely avoid.

trust your instincts

There are so very many cool ideas for weddings now, and it's easy to get distracted from what is truly unique to you and your groom. Just because a piece of inspiration attracts you doesn't necessarily mean it's something that will speak to your personal style. Go with your gut, and if you don't love an idea a vendor suggests, it's okay to speak up. The most important thing is that you stay true to who you are as a couple and what you want for your day.

give guests a taste of the area

If you have out-of-town visitors coming in for the wedding, greet them with fun local treats. Central Florida is definitely known for its citrus, warm climate and fun in the sun, so I often like to welcome everyone to the host hotel with goodie bags filled with fresh citrus fruits, Key lime cookies, sunscreen, bottled water and a note with suggestions of local attractions, amusement parks and even outlets to check out over the weekend. If you want to take it a step further, a bottle of wine from Lakeridge Winery (LakeridgeWinery.com), a popular local vineyard, is a nice little addition as well!



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Punch up your bouquet with a bejeweled wrap; bold-colored menu cards get full attention opposite clean place settings; consider sleek wooden folding chairs for an alternative to chiavaris; asymmetrical bands add interest to an otherwise simple, round cake.

