

BAR HARBOR CATERING COMPANY

DREAM TEAM

With so many details to cover for your wedding, you'll need a dream team to help pull it all off. Here's a list of all the various vendors you may need to help bring your dream wedding to life.

WEDDING PLANNER

You may be asking yourself, do I need a wedding planner? If you're a DIY kind of bride, with a lot of know-how, probably not. If you're planning a logistically complicated event, you probably should. Are you happy to speak directly with each vendor? You probably don't need a planner. If you're too busy to think of centerpieces and answer all the questions each vendor may have, you probably should. It's tough to say whether you should or shouldn't, but there's no doubt that a wedding planner will make your life a whole lot easier in the planning process. And also remember that many of them offer a la carte services like design and coordination in case you don't want to work with them in a comprehensive way.

DAY-OF COORDINATOR

If you're not hiring a planner, you may be thinking about hiring a day-of coordinator (ask about our Month Of Planning Package!). This individual will be responsible for making sure your day-of timeline flows smoothly, the processional is cued accurately, and will help Uncle George in he has has a little too much to drink and needs a cab called early. Simply put, they're there on the day-of to make sure you don't have to think of anything else other than getting married and celebrating. The biggest difference here is that you will be on your own for planning, and they will pick up where you leave off and make sure it goes off without a hitch.

CATERER

We may be a bit partial, but we think that food is truly at the heart of every celebration. It's important to make sure that your menu represents you as a couple, and is willing to go that extra mile to make that happen. Schedule a meeting to

discuss your vision, try to make it to a tasting if you can, and don't forget to ask for testimonials and references from past events. Catering is one of the biggest investments in your wedding budget and you want to make sure you have a team that respects that decision-making process. Also, remember that your caterers will be your front-line during your reception, so pay attention to how they treat you from the very beginning, as it's a good indicator of how they'll treat you and your guests on the day-of.

PRO TIP: *Don't be afraid to ask for recommendations. Good vendors are a little picky about who they work with because they know a great team makes everyone shine brighter.*

OFFICIANT

More and more often we see family and friends becoming ordained to officiate at weddings, but if not, there are professional officiants who can serve as a great resource for everything from processions to seating.

FLORIST

Are organic flowers important to you, do you want something avant-garde, or are you looking to bulk purchase flowers and have your mother do the centerpieces? All these questions will help guide you to the right florist and make sure that they aesthetically line up with what you're interested in doing. Don't be shy about asking to see a portfolio of their work or photos from past events, they're artists at heart and love to share their work!

PHOTOGRAPHER

This is all about aesthetics and your decision should heavily lean on the photographer's past work. These images will last your entire lifetime and you want to make sure that whoever you pick will capture those memories in such a way that will bring them to life for years to come. Not only will your pictures last, but this is the vendor you'll be interacting with the most on the day of the wedding itself. Make sure you feel comfortable and at ease around them -- meeting with your photographer before booking is a great way to do this, or even try them on during an engagement photo session before committing to the full wedding portfolio.

TRANSPORTATION

If you're planning on serving alcohol, we **STRONGLY** recommend hiring a transportation or bus service. Not only does it cover everyone for liability reasons, but it's a courteous and appreciative way to encourage your guests to relax and enjoy themselves while staying safe. When looking at companies to hire, reputation and reliability are your two primary qualifiers. Make sure you're

working with a company familiar with the area you're getting married in (so they don't get lost), make sure that they know your schedule (so they're not late), make sure that you know their fee structure (to avoid overage fees), and make sure that they are well established and licensed (so you know they're for real). If you have a planner or day-of coordinator, they'll be able to handle the direct day-of timekeeping, and don't hesitate to ask for recommendations.

SALON SERVICES

Do you want a full-on spa experience leading up to your event, or do you want someone to come to your home or venue to pamper you and your wedding party just beforehand? Either way, it's important to make sure that you're on the same page with what you want. Get a makeup and hair test done with them early on, and take pictures that you can bring with you next time as a reminder.

PRO TIP: *One thing to remember above all else when picking each vendor is to make sure you feel comfortable communicating with them. It is their responsibility to help bring your vision to life, and if they don't listen, it's probably not a good match.*

MUSIC

Maybe you want to march to a cello playing Pachelbel Canon but you want to fist pump into the wee hours of the morning to EDM -- no matter what you're looking for, book your musicians well in advance and have a firm plan in mind. No matter if you're looking for a band or a DJ, they will help guide the flow of your event, so make sure you communicate your vision and timeline with them. They can help make recommendations for breaks for first dances, toasts, and cake cuttings too, which you can then share with your other vendors as well.

LOCAL SERVICES & RESOURCES

Make sure you investigate the various procedures for marriage licenses in the town that you're getting married in. Or, if you're planning on having your ceremony somewhere like Acadia National Park, make sure you have the correct permits required for this through their administrative offices.

NEED MORE GUIDANCE & RECOMMENDATIONS?
CONTACT BHCC & WE'D BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU FIND
THE BEST VENDORS FOR YOUR DREAM TEAM!
