



FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

*& Leisure Club*

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# Shortlisting Potential Wedding Venues

Choosing your wedding venue is the crucial first-step in your wedding planning process. To help you narrow down your wedding venue contenders, we would encourage couples to create a shortlist of potential venues to visit. This list will be largely determined by three key factors: Location, capacity and cost per-guest.

## Location, Location, Location...

Some couples immediately know the area in which they wish to host their wedding reception, but for others it takes a little more thought.

If both families along with most of your guests live in a certain place, it may make sense to choose a nearby venue. If your families live far apart a venue located somewhere half-way between both may make sense.

If you have friends and family scattered all across the place, you could make a list of your guests and their locations, and choose to marry in an area that would be convenient for the majority of guests.

Of course, you could disregard all of the above and simply choose a venue located in an area just because it has special significance for the two of you. Perhaps you met there, or had your first mini-break together there?

Once you have determined the area in which you wish to get married, make a list of all the possible wedding venues in that area. Weddings Online is a very useful tool for this: [www.weddingsonline.ie](http://www.weddingsonline.ie).

### For How Many Guests?

Making a rough guest list before you start looking for the perfect wedding venue is a sensible idea. You don't want to fall in love with a small and intimate venue only to find that their maximum capacity is for 30 guests – and your invitation list is currently sitting at 300.

You can always amend your guest list a little accordingly to the venue you choose, but it is wise to have your ideal number of guests in mind before compiling your shortlist.

Another thing to bear in mind is that guest lists have an average drop rate of around 15%. For example, if you invite a total of 200 guests it is likely that around 170 guests will accept the invitation.

### How Much Will It Cost Me?

There are always ways to reduce the cost of your wedding reception. For example, choosing an off-peak date or opting for a midweek (Sunday – Thursday) wedding.

However, most venues have a fairly rigid price per guest in addition to room hire costs (where applicable), so if that comes in way over your budget, even on a Wednesday in January, you should scratch that venue off your shortlist.

### Don't Forget About...

There are hundreds of brilliant wedding venues available throughout Ireland, but are they all capable of hosting your dream wedding celebration? We would encourage you to read reviews and testimonials of past weddings on all of your potential wedding venues to get a feel for what their past couples feel their value was following their own big days.

Since you initially enquired with the venues, how has their level of communication been with you? It's important to receive prompt and efficient correspondence from your venue, particularly when organising something as crucial as your wedding day!

Can the venue accommodate your guests should they wish to stay the night before, of and after your wedding? A lot of wedding guests make the conscious decision to prolong the celebrations by choosing to stay in your wedding venue overnight. Particularly if you have a lot of guests travelling to your reception, it's nice for them to have the option.

*Naturally, there may also be additional reasons that are unique to your preferences, so don't forget to factor those in too!*

Although shortlisting venues can be a difficult task, it is one that must be done. But, don't worry, answer the questions above and your dream day will be all the more dreamy at your perfect wedding venue!