

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO



# How to Hire **Vendors** For Your Destination Wedding

# Welcome to The Ultimate Guide to Hiring **Vendors** for Your Destination Wedding in Portugal

Planning a destination wedding in Portugal is an exciting adventure, blending stunning landscapes, rich culture, and delectable cuisine to create a memorable celebration. However, sourcing and hiring the right vendors can be a daunting and time consuming task.

This guide will walk you through the process of hiring vendors for your destination wedding in Portugal, with useful tips that apply to every vendor category, and explain how our Vendor Directory can streamline your planning process.



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# How to Use the Vendor **Directory**?

## INTRODUCTION

Hello Portugal Vendor Directory is designed to inspire you, to provide you with transparency and a framework to make the best decisions for your wedding day. These important choices should align with your vision, wishes, and—certainly not least—your budget.

Portugal boasts many talented, skilled, and experienced wedding vendors across various price segments. Whether you're seeking a top-notch premium photographer or a budget-friendly solution, the Vendor Directory puts vetted Portuguese vendors at your fingertips. By using our Directory, you can efficiently explore and evaluate vendors, ensuring you find the perfect match for your destination wedding in Portugal.

# SEARCH FILTERS

## Vendor Categories

Even though we are constantly updating our vendor database, you can discover vendors in the following categories:

- Wedding Planners
- Celebrants
- Photographers
- Videographers
- Caterers
- Sound & Light and DJ
- Live Music
- Beauticians (Hair and/or Makeup)
- Florists
- Rentals
- Stationery
- Transport
- Cake Design

## Location Options

Apart from sorting by vendor category, you can also narrow down your search by location. While most vendors operate nationwide in Portugal, this feature helps you plan for potential travel expenses that might impact your budget.



# COMPREHENSIVE VENDOR PROFILES

Whether you apply filters to your search or browse through all the options, clicking on a vendor tile will redirect you to an individual vendor page with detailed information about that specific vendor.

For each vendor in our Directory, you can find the following information:

- **Location:** While most vendors are available throughout Portugal, knowing where they are based helps you anticipate whether travel fees may apply.
- **Price Category:** Many vendors offer packages tailored to different budgets. We roughly define the following price categories.

- 1.Low: Budget < €25K
- 2.Mid: Budget €26-40K
- 3.Mid/High: Budget €41-60K
- 4.High: €61-100K
- 5.Exclusive: Budget > 100K

- **Years of Experience:** understand the level of experience, so you know what you can expect.
- **Travel Fee:** sometimes travel expenses are included, but often they are quoted and charged separately.
- **Inquiry / Contact button:** reach out to vendors directly through the Directory, making the initial contact process seamless
- **About:** get to know the people behind the service
- **Link to website & Instagram**
- **Small gallery:** to get a sense of their work





# Align Expectations & Budget

## DEFINE YOUR BUDGET & ALLOCATE FUNDS

To keep your wedding expenses in check and prevent going over your budget during the planning process, follow these three steps for a successful start to your journey and efficient budget management:

- 1** What does impact your budget most drastically?  
RIGHT, the number of guests that will attend your wedding. Make sure you define a guest number that you can afford and include a small margin. Bear in mind that a difference of 30 guests will significantly impact your budget.
- 2** Define your budget by adding up your funds and 'other funds'- if any. There is life after a wedding, so make sure you can afford whatever you are willing to spend.
- 3** By allocating funds you will create the roadmap for your journey and you will be able to control your expenses along the way.

## SOURCE VENDORS YOU CAN AFFORD

Avoid start sourcing vendors with a budget that leaves no room for flexibility. Allow a margin for potential "hidden costs" such as travel expenses, accommodation for vendors - if required, and extra hours of service. These additional expenses can ultimately cause you to exceed your budget. Don't underestimate the impact of small charges.

Additionally, remember that it's not the vendor's responsibility to meet your budget constraints. Negotiation is not a common practice.



## HIDDEN COSTS

Hidden costs aren't truly hidden—they're simply unknown.

However, being unaware of these potential additional expenses can lead to overspending. To avoid this, read [this article](#) to uncover all the possible costs involved.

Our Directory indicates whether vendors charge extra for travel, helping you to make informed decisions



# Vendor Contact & Follow up

## INITIAL CONTACT

When inquiring for more information about a service, make sure that you provide the following information in your initial communication, so that a vendor can efficiently respond to your inquiry:

- Your Wedding Date: a no-brainer, yet often forgotten. There is no point for you to lose time on researching a vendor when he/she isn't available, so make sure you mention your wedding date or at least preferred date/month and year:
- Number of guests: so that the vendor can estimate what kind of service you require:
- Be transparent about your budget so a vendor can either try to meet your requirements, or avoid that you both lose time on researching a service you can't afford.

**TIP: CLEARLY DEFINE YOUR WEDDING VISION & BUDGET BEFORE REACHING OUT TO VENDORS**



## CONSULTATION

Most Vendors offer a first complimentary consultation, so you can ask all your questions and get to know each other.

The consultation should provide you with clarity about their services and your requirements, so that the vendor can provide you with a tailored proposal for their services. It is also an opportunity to gauge the vendor's professionalism and reliability. By the end of the meeting, you should feel confident about the vendor's ability to bring your wedding vision to life and understand the next steps in the planning process.



## FOLLOW UP

After the consultation, the vendor may provide additional information or a tailored proposal, offering another opportunity to demonstrate their professionalism and punctuality. **Your feedback on this is always greatly appreciated. Even if you decide not to hire the vendor, expressing your gratitude for their time and attention is courteous and respectful.**



# Negotiation & Contracts

## NEGOTIATION EXPLAINED

It is often thought that negotiating with wedding vendors is a standard aspect of wedding planning in order to get the best deals and often couples expect substantial discounts.

However, in Portugal it is not very common to negotiate prices. Therefor we highly recommend you to source vendors that are matching your budget. [In this article](#) we will explain why most vendors in Portugal are unlikely to reduce their prices and we will explore alternative approaches

[CLICK HERE](#)

## CONTRACTS, WHERE TO PAY ATTENTION TO?

We highly recommend to get everything in writing to avoid misunderstandings later.

Ensure the contract includes all agreed services, pricing, payment schedules, cancellation policies and any additional fees.

## DEPOSITS

Be prepared to pay deposits to secure your vendors.

Depending on the kind of service, vendors usually require a downpayment between 20% to 50% of the total amount of services. Most payment plans consist of 2 instalments.

For non-European couples we highly recommend to open a **Wise account**. It's a great tool for sending money internationally with low fees - much cheaper than using your local bank. You can also use their debit card to pay and withdraw money from ATMs when you travel.

Follow the link\* below to open your Wise account today.

[CLICK HERE](#)



\*) This is an affiliate link. This means that when you click on this link we will earn a small commission at absolutely no extra cost to you

## CONTRACTS & DEPOSITS



# Hello! Love



We're thrilled to welcome you to our world of enchanting destination weddings in Portugal!

Whether you're seeking inspiration or have already started your exciting wedding planning journey, our mission is to provide you with the right tools and guidance to maximise your enjoyment every step of the way.

We believe that enjoying the journey is just as important as savouring the destination. After all, you're investing a lot of energy, love, and—let's be honest—money to celebrate this special moment in your lives. So, it's only fair that you have the best time of your lives while planning and preparing for your memorable day. With the right tools and expert guidance, wedding planning stress and overwhelm can be completely avoided.

We also believe that everyone, regardless of budget, deserves access to these resources to ensure a joyful and stress-free planning experience.

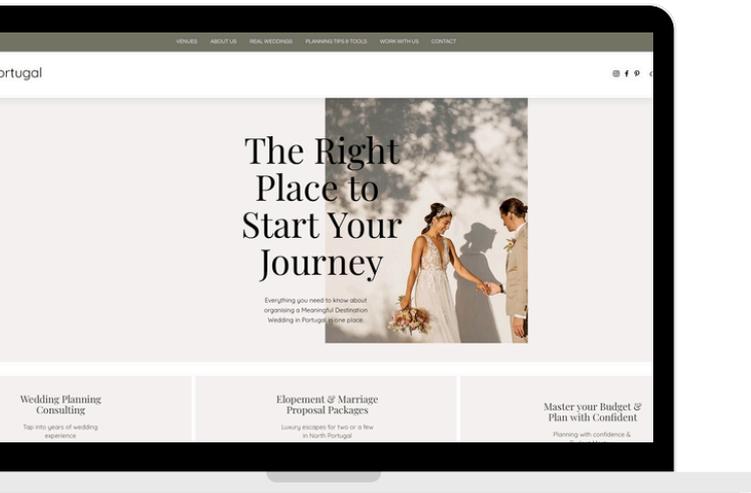
If you're navigating this journey without the help of a wedding planner, we have something special to support you along the way. With our personalised Office Hours we offer one-on-one guidance tailored to your unique needs, helping you with everything from venue selection to understanding local customs and logistics.

In the next pages, you'll find more information about these offerings. Whether you need them now or later in your planning process, we're here to help you make your wedding dreams a reality.

Warmest wishes,

*Manfeen*

# Need a Little More Help?



## WE CAN HELP YOU WITH:

- You can pick our brain on any question or concern you have regarding the organisation of your wedding in Portugal. Think about:
  - How to organise the catering;
  - How to organise the logistics for the day;
  - How to assure vendors will work with your exact vision;
  - A Civil wedding in Portugal;
  - Your timeline;
  - Pricing & negotiation
- Guest Accommodation Suggestions
- Roomblock management
- Ensuring you will move forward with the planning of your wedding with confidence, and a roadmap of headings to ensure that nothing is missing.

Take the worry out of your wedding and book Clarity Call with us

Ideal if you are organising your celebration or destination wedding in Portugal on your own, but can use some assistance along the way.

We will meet you wherever you are in the Wedding Planning journey and we will provide you with a clear roadmap so that you can move forward with confidence.

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO BOOK YOUR CLARITY CALL NOW.

€ 350,- / 2 hours

[CONTACT US](#)



# Client Testimonial

## Caroline & Antonio

New York, United States

When planning our destination wedding, we knew we needed to be realistic with our budget. In looking at the essentials vs. non-essentials, we knew that a wedding planner was of high priority, however we were concerned the costs would be prohibitive. We also wanted to be as much in control of the planning process as possible and feared that a planner would prevent us from working with vendors of our choosing and derailing us from the visions we had in mind for our special day.

Marleen offered the perfect level of service through her consultation package. She was supportive, enthusiastic, and respectful of our plans and the work we had put into planning.

She was also reasonably priced and went above and beyond what was expected. While we had secured our venue and had an idea of the other vendors we wanted to work with, Marleen provided us the confidence to move forward with booking.

She was unbiased and took time to review quotes to help support us with the budgeting process. The budget simulation she created for us was extremely helpful and gave us a roadmap to follow.



She also put together a draft timeline for the day which relieved the stress of planning the schedule.

Marleen's approach was a highlight of the service. She is highly personable with a warm spirit and passion for her craft. She was a wonderful listener and provided us with invaluable advice so we could move past blockers in our planning process. She validated our ideas, provided inspiration for other ideas, and gave us renewed confidence in the way our special day was shaping up!

Without hesitation we recommend the Wedding Consultation Service! Working with Marleen brought a sense of peace to our planning process that we very much needed. She is highly skilled, well connected, and has beautiful visions for creating your perfect event. She will go above and beyond what is expected to provide you with the best service. Her communication is clear, consistent, and collaborative. We would happily work with Marleen to help plan any event!

