

Your wedding has been...

Flexibility, intimate gatherings, and simplicity

An elite panel discussion comprising Sri Lankan vendors, moderated by wedding and event planner Magical Moments, also addressed what weddings in the coming year are likely to look like and what couples looking to get married later this year and in 2021 should expect.

The key takeaway from this webinar was that looking to the future, couples would need to be flexible with certain aspects of their weddings, such as dates and days of the week. Another big aspect that will require flexibility will be the guest count.

As noted previously, the option of having an intimate registration or religious ceremony now, followed by a larger reception later once the regulations are relaxed, is something many couples may need to consider. Another option that could see increased traction in the near future is intimate physical ceremonies that are live-streamed to a larger base of family and friends.

The wedding planning process will also change, with social distancing and minimising infection taking priority.

Sorting out bridals, for example, will become more of a virtual process, with designers and brides linking over Zoom or WhatsApp to discuss and finalise details while physical meetings are reserved for key activities like fittings.

The bride's process of getting ready on the day is also likely to change, with fewer people being involved in the process and extended family involvement being kept to a minimum to reduce potential infection.

In terms of decor, in addition to looking at sourcing locally, it will also be important to consider how hotel regulations and timings will affect the setup of weddings. More time may be required to set up flowers, thrones, poruwās, etc. while sticking to health and safety guidelines.

Simpler decor that can be prepared offsite and quickly assembled at the venue will also be a technique that comes to the forefront in the coming months.

Pre-wedding shoots are likely to become more important as these will likely be instances where masks can be done away. Videography may also play a greater part in the pre-wedding shoot to help couples capture important

memories. It will be a creative challenge working around the restrictions in place, but adversity breeds innovation, so it will be interesting how the post-pandemic environment affects weddings in the longer term.

When it comes to rescheduling weddings, it is important for couples to try as much as possible to keep the same vendors when rescheduling or see if they can refer vendors they will not be using to other people they know, who are also planning their weddings. Many wedding-related businesses are also small businesses looking to make it through troubled times.

Financially, it is also important to be clear with vendors and professionals on timelines, budgets, and constraints. With the entire economy taking a major hit, it is likely that budgets will decrease while the costs of goods and services will rise. In the planning stage, being mindful of this will enable vendors to provide couples with the best solutions possible and make weddings truly memorable.

"The purpose of a wedding is to be a public declaration of commitment and enduring love," shared 90F Weddings, and this will not change. The post-pandemic weddings will still hold these



PHOTO THE BANQUET COMPANY

values at its core while finding creative ways around the pandemic and its aftermath.

What about destination weddings?

Sri Lanka has been very popular as a destination wedding spot for couples the

world over, and the pandemic's travel and living restrictions leave you wondering if this particular aspect of tourism will bounce back. A recent survey conducted by the Destination Wedding Planners Congress found that 57% of wedding planners believe that couples will opt for destination weddings once the pandemic is over, painting a hopeful picture for the future of destination weddings.

The Banquet Company shared this positive outlook and has already started receiving inquiries for destination weddings, some for as early as the later months of 2020.

A key consideration for destination weddings, for both couples and planners, is what the travel restrictions are like as well as the protocol for managing tourists entering and leaving the country.

The low-down

A common theme among planners, vendors, and people in general is that weddings are an integral part of our lives and culture that is fairly immutable. While the pandemic has changed the face of weddings, it is most likely that this is an interim change with weddings adapting to meet travel and living restrictions, and that as restrictions loosen, weddings will also revert to the status quo.

A key piece of advice to couples from planners and vendors is not to underestimate the luxury of time. Book your vendors and service providers now so that you don't miss out on them by waiting too late. It appears that weddings, like most things in life, also require constant vigilance.

WHAT TO EXPECT & HOW TO PLAN YOUR WEDDING POST COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WEDDINGS IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19

IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, SOME OF THE LEADING VENDORS IN THE WEDDING INDUSTRY ARE COMING TOGETHER TO GUIDE YOU ON HOW TO GET ABOUT THE POSTPONEMENT OF WEDDINGS AND WORK THROUGH THE CHALLENGES.

PHOTOS MAGIC MOMENTS FACEBOOK PAGE

PANEL DISCUSSION ON ZOOM

14TH MAY 2020
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Charm De Silva
Magical Moments - Wedding Planner
Creative Director



Indi Yapa Abeywardena
IBRIDE by INDI - Bridal Designer
Creative Director



Anu Amarakoon
Amarante Lifestyle - Photographer
Co-Founder



Viran Jose Peter
Make up Artist



Anna Mohideen
Caked by Anna - Baker
Creative Director



Dino Corera
CEO-Layup
Moderator



Umanga Chandrasiri
Pors Weddings - Florist
Director



Dinu Wattegama
Siyat Seenu - Videographer
Creative Director



Lantra Perera
Band - Doctor
Leader

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