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Bride wants on her Big Day.  
She has seen trends change  
over the years but overall the  
Bridal Gowns are pretty  
much traditional - slimline  
elegant dresses are still very  
much in -and Mary insists  
that the white wedding dress  
looks good with every  
colouring.

Priority should be given to  
the Wedding Gown and  
should be ordered at least 6  
months before the wedding  
to allow for alterations later  
and to avoid any pitfalls  
coming up to the Wedding  
Day.

Mary can be contacted on  
091-567366.

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# Weddings on a budget

By: Christina McDonald Legg

Weddings are expensive, there's just no getting around it. But having your dream wedding doesn't have to mean going into debt for the first half of your married life. Whether you plan to have a big or small wedding, there are a number of ways to cut costs on your magical day. Even if you're not artistic or creative, there are numerous tips for cutting the cost of a big budget wedding in half.

Make a list of everything you will need to buy for your wedding and budget an amount that you can afford to spend, then stick to this list and try not to go over your allotted budget.

Plan and organise your own

wedding. Wedding planners are expensive and sometimes not needed. If you feel you are in over your head, use an event coordinator for ideas and to get help with some things but do the rest on your own.

Choosing a theme can keep you focused on precisely what you want and help you avoid buying frivolous things that you might not necessarily need.

Buy a simple white dress, then buy the extras at a fabric shop and have a qualified friend add the extras with simple stitches. This can change a €500 dress into a €5,000 dress. You can also look at discount shops or sales for less expensive gowns. Same goes for buying or renting the tux or suit.

Making the wedding a little less formal, such as a Spring wedding, can decrease the cost as well.

Keep your invite list relatively small, mainly invite family and close friends, these are the ones who really want to be there for your special day.

Increase your flowers for the table décor and bouquets with greenery and place mirrors under the flowers on the table to increase their appearance. Have bridesmaids carry one long stemmed flower with long, flowing ribbons for their bouquets. Using in season flowers will also decrease their costs.

Practice doing your own makeup and hair before the big day and do it on the morn-

ing of your wedding. Alternatively, find a friend who is good at this and ask for a favour.

Keep an eye out for wine sales before the wedding day. Additionally, keep an eye for sales on anything that could be useful to the wedding, i.e. invitations, flowers, favours, fabric, etc.

Having your wedding day mid-week or even on a Friday will cut the cost of your location fees.

Have the photographer show up for formal shots and have a qualified friend take the

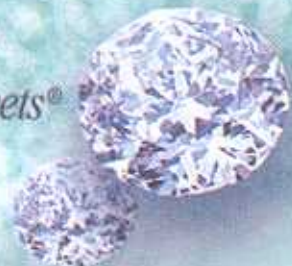
rest of the photos on a good quality camera. Photographers often charge by the hour so if you keep them there for the formal shots it will cost you a bundle less.

Book honeymoon tickets and accommodations well in advance and fly on off days, such as Monday's through Friday's rather than weekends.

A wedding is a special part in your life, but it doesn't have to put you in debt or make you have to mortgage your house. This is a magical day, not one to start worrying about.

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