Weddings 101: How to Make Your Property a Wedding Destination

HANDOUT: Decision Making Process—Establishing Your Wedding Brand

WEDDING LOGISTICS DETERMINE YOUR BRAND

CONSIDERATIONS	OPTIONS	HORSE STAMP INN
Property Capability	 * Indoor space up to(No of guests) * Outdoor space (open-air?) * Permanent Structure * Space for Tents * Weather Changes 	 * 16 Acres; Greenspace for very large and multiple tents * Gathering Room up to 20 guests * Event Barn up to 50 guests * Tent up to 500 guests
Parking Capability	* All parking on-site* Off-site parking with shuttle service	 Parking for up to 500 guests in two locations (front & back of guest house)
Guest Room Requirements	 No guest rooms required for wedding to occur Require guest room for wedding couple (or Bride to get ready in) All rooms required (Destination Wedding) 	 For weddings over 30 guests; all five guest rooms are rented Elopements include room for Wedding Couple
Wedding Events	 * Ceremony Only * Ceremony & Reception * Rehearsal Dinners * Post-wedding Gatherings * Sunday Brunch 	* Full wedding—2 full days includes Rehearsal, Rehearsal Dinner, Hair & Make-up, Bridal Lunch, Ceremony, Cocktail Hour, Reception, Post-party at Bon-fire or Pool
Ceremony Sites	* Indoor * Outdoor	* (8) Outdoor options* (2) Indoor options
Catering	 * Cater in-house with commercial kitchen * Exclusive Caterer w/ Packages (include your fee) * Preferred Caterer list * DIY—Allow any food to be brought in 	 Caterer list provided Full-Service Requirements for ALL receptions Rehearsal dinners with 30 guests & under may have catered drop-off
Planning/Coordinating	 No involvement on your part No requirements for professional planning/ coordinating Require professional day-of coordinator Require professional full-service planner Provide in-house planning and/or coordinating 	 Provide planning guide which includes timeline, vendors, checklists, etc. Send questionnaires to help determine set-up and timeline Conduct "day-of" coordinator services
Banquet Items & Set-up	 Rentals In-house inventory (tables, chairs, linens) Combination of both Allow parties to bring in their own 	 * Arrange all rentals * Have farm tables and limited chairs
Décor	 DIY (Bride brings everything) Planner/Floral handles everything (may involve rentals) In-house inventory of options 	 * Goal is to avoid DIY situations * Partner with Florists * Offer discounted floral program * Building inventory of décor
Partnership with Other Vendors	 No involvement (Bride can use whomever she chooses) Preferred vendor list (Have been vetted by you and they know property. They've signed vendor agreement form) Use exclusive vendors (You may add service charge to packages) 	 * Have preferred vendor list * Do not mark-up vendor packages * Do not yet have "exclusive vendors"

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Vendor Agreement & Insurance	No requirements Vendors sign an agreement form which outlines requirements of how they operate on property	 Vendors sign agreement ahead of wedding day; expires in one year If we hire vendor directly, we request liability insurance
Event Insurance	 Do not require insurance Require Liability Insurance Require Host Alcohol Liability 	 Weddings over 30 guests are required to list us as an insurance on an event liability certificate. Includes Host Alcohol Liability. Most brides use www.wedsafe.com Event Insurance is optional
Restrooms	 Use the public restroom available in the Inn Rent portable restroom stall with hand-washing station Rent electric bathroom trailer with running water and flushing toilets Build outdoor restrooms 	 For weddings over 30, portable restrooms are included in their package. Restroom Trailer available as an upgrade
Staffing a Wedding	 None Site Manager to oversee vendors Full Staff; Greeters, Parking assistance (valet), Housekeeping, Banquet Staff, Maintenance, Security 	* For every wedding over 30, we have at least 4 employees (including ourselves) Set-up takes place over two days
Special Amenities	 None Things to enhance the couple's experience Amenities to enhance the B&B guest's experience Amenities to enhance the guest's experience 	 Special turn-down for the wedding couple Beverage service (water or lemonade) for arriving guests at ceremony S'more package Coffee service Massage/Yoga services
Alcohol	 Not allowed Beer & Wine only—brought in by couple or caterer Open bar Kegs Served with glass or disposable Licensed bartenders (vendor or caterer) You provide everything (licensed required) 	 * We are able to have couples bring in their own liquor. We allow all kinds except kegs. * Licensed bartenders are required for every event over 30 guests.
Inclement Weather Back-up	 * Indoor options * Sided tents * Heaters * Air-conditioning * Misting fans 	 Ceremonies under tents Sides ordered for tents Heaters
Number of Weddings-vs- B&B Availability	* If doing Destination Weddings, how many week- ends do you not want available to B&B guests	 Our goal is to book as many weekends as possible. We release rooms 4-5 months before date if not booked with wedding.

SALES & MARKETING DETERMINE YOUR BRAND

CONSIDERATIONS	HORSE STAMP INN
What is your overall sales goal. What % of wedding revenue vs B&B revenue are you striving for	* At least 24 weddings per year
How will you utilize your current website:	 * Weddings / Elopement Section * Pictures * Videos
How will you obtain leads:	* RFP on website
What is your Lead Process:	 * Inquiry * Automatic Thank you screen * Automatic Thank you email with attachment * Personal Response with Requested Information * Follow-up three days after initial response * Follow-up six days after initial response
When/How will you do tours:	* Tours are scheduled and allotted for a two hour appointments
What organizations will you join	* ABC Wedding Planning (taking certification) *
How will you advertise	 * The KNOT * The Wedding Wire * The Wedding Spot
Will you attend Bridal Expos	* Have attended one in the past 18 months. Not sure of return.
How will you manage the sales process	* Checklists * Online invoicing and payments
How will you manage the planning process	 * Honeybook / Aisle Planner * Hard copy planning magazine (customized for Horse Stamp Inn brides) * Questionnaires * Set-up Documents with layouts * Timelines * On-site planning
What is your presence on Social Media	 Post wedding inspiration every other week on Facebook and Instagram