



us. Before we met with Paola from Irish Weddings in Italy, we contacted many different agencies both in Ireland and Italy. Paola made us feel very special from the start, the service is more personal and her first mail to us was not just a generic response but was directed towards us as individuals. We love her work and enjoy her personality, the company is 100% Irish, and they are reputable and experienced. This is the level of service you should be looking for. It is a major sanity saver for us.

**What is the most important part for you about the entire wedding? (Apart from marrying each other!)**

*Marsia:* Definitely the church. Even now I get butterflies thinking of waiting on the other side of the door with my father and my bridesmaids about to walk down the aisle to Alan.

*Alan:* Marsia and the rest of my family and friends enjoying the wedding.

**What would you recommend as a must to couples planning a destination wedding?**

Pick a good planner and company to work with here in Ireland. Especially a company you trust and one that knows Italy. This definitely takes the stress out of a destination wedding.

**Is there anything which should be best avoided?**

*Marsia:* Stressing out, which is not easy to avoid. Having never planned a wedding, I realised I was completely unprepared for the practical realities of wedding planning. That's why having Paola, someone who has worked in the industry for 15 years and done over 400 weddings, is my saving grace!

*Alan:* Unsure as of yet of anything but instincts are telling me not to upset the bride...

**How important is it to have a planner to help with the process and how does this dynamic work? What is the couples input?**

*Marsia:* For us, it was a top priority. Paola and her team are Dublin based, have the experience and know the ins and outs of Irish and Italian weddings. Between all of us we have come up with amazing ideas for the wedding. We work effortlessly together.

*Alan:* The couples input is total. Paola Shanahan and her team work around our ideas and advise us if something needs to be reworked from their experiences. Paola is very open to concepts and the potential they have, Marsia and I were very impressed with them from the start.

**What qualities should a planner have?**

*Marsia:* Originality, knowledge of both Ireland and Italy, and someone you can trust.

*Alan:* Organized, patient, stubborn, excitable.

**Did hosting your wedding abroad affect your guest numbers?**

At the end of the day, once our immediate families are there, that's all that matters. The way we think of it, the most important people will make the effort. Filling a room is not a priority for us. Quality over quantity!

**How to you think an Irish wedding would differ from an Italian wedding, and why did you pick an Italian wedding?**

Food, we love Italian food, and nowhere in Ireland can compare to the authentic Italian food in Italy. It was an easy choice for us. Also the weather is a major plus!

**Do you feel there was more or less pressure having a wedding abroad?**

Definitely less pressure, my experience with Italy is that the living is so easy going. It's hard to worry about anything when you are in Italy! Maybe just your waistline, the food is too good. ☺

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