

WEST TEXAS WEDDING

The Ultimate Guide to Plan Your Wedding



PREPARED BY

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HOLA

BEFORE YOU BOOK ANYTHING.

I'm Auden. I photograph and film weddings in Midland, Odessa and across West Texas. I'm there from the first button of the dress until the send-off. So I see how every plan plays out: what runs late and what couples wish they had booked sooner.

Here it all is in one place: when to book each vendor, what your parish and the county clerk ask for, and who does what in each tradition. Plus what's new for 2027, and how wind and heat change plans out here.

The pages with lines are meant to be used. Print them, or open this PDF on your phone or computer and type right into them. For the day itself, my free itinerary builder at AudenCabello.com/itinerary puts your schedule together in two minutes.

Congratulations. Let's plan it.

Auden

On the cover: Robert & Sarah. Inside: Arnaldo & Maria, Sabastine & Jennie, Robert & Sarah and Jacob & Jaydn. Thank you, couples.

6 cameras

FIVE ON VIDEO, ONE ON PHOTOS, AT
EVERY CEREMONY AND EVERY DANCE

Getting ready to send-off

FROM THE FIRST BUTTON UNTIL THE
LAST SONG

Since 2015

BEHIND THE CAMERA, NOW IN MIDLAND,
ODESSA AND WEST TEXAS

INSIDE

01 THE PLAN *El plan*

Pick your date	05	When to book *	06
Your budget	08	Budget worksheet *	09
Vendor tracker *	10	Padrinos & madrinas *	12
Wedding party *	13		

02 THE CEREMONY *La ceremonia*

Church wedding	15	Marriage license	16
Ceremony planner *	17	Family photo list *	18
The traditions	19		

03 THE LOOK *El look*

The dress	22	Suits & details	23
Hair & makeup	24		

04 THE RECEPTION *La recepción*

The venue	27	Venue comparison *	28
Décor	29	Food & cake	31
Music	32	Song list *	33
The dances	34	Invitations	36
Guest list *	37		

05 THE DAY *El gran día*

Photo & video	39	Your itinerary *	40
Day-of kit *	41		

* Pages to fill in: type in the PDF or print them.





01 THE PLAN

El plan

PICK YOUR DATE
WHEN TO BOOK
YOUR BUDGET
VENDOR TRACKER
PADRINOS
WEDDING PARTY

WEST TEXAS, MONTH BY MONTH

Your date decides the weather, the light and who else is booking that weekend. Here's what each month looks like in Midland and Odessa.

MONTH	HIGH / LOW	SUNSET	WHAT TO KNOW
JAN	59° / 33°	6:06	Coldest nights of the year. A wrap for outdoor photos and the send-off.
FEB	64° / 37°	6:34	Lent starts Feb 10. Wind and dust season begins. Valentine's weekend books early.
MAR	72° / 44°	7:56	Wind and dust. Spring break Mar 8-12. No weddings on Good Friday (Mar 26) or Holy Saturday.
APR	81° / 52°	8:17	Still windy, and hail season starts. Mild evenings for engagement sessions.
MAY	89° / 62°	8:38	The month with the most hail. Graduations late May, Memorial Day May 31.
JUN	95° / 70°	8:55	Highs near 95°, and still about 91° at 7 PM. The latest sunsets.
JUL	96° / 73°	8:55	Hottest month, with about a week of 100° days. Strong AC and shade for guests.
AUG	95° / 72°	8:32	Hot. School starts mid-August. Football Fridays begin late in the month.
SEP	88° / 65°	7:54	Labor Day Sept 6. Some storms. Fall Saturdays fill early.
OCT	79° / 54°	7:15	Mild days, one of the best months for outdoor photos. Oil Show in Odessa, Oct 19-21.
NOV	67° / 42°	5:48	First freeze usually mid-month. Thanksgiving Nov 25, Advent starts Nov 28.
DEC	59° / 34°	5:45	Advent and Christmas. Guadalupe falls on Sunday, Dec 12, a busy weekend for parishes.

Average highs and lows: NOAA 1991-2020 normals, Midland International Air & Space Port. Sunset: Midland, the 15th of each month (Odessa is about a minute later). Catholic dates for 2027: Ash Wednesday Feb 10, Easter March 28.

PICK A BACKUP DATE

Call your church or officiant and your top venue with two dates. The one where both say yes is your date.

FROM MY CAMERA

From May to August the sun sets after most receptions have started. For golden-hour portraits, plan 20 minutes outside during the reception, or save that light for your engagement session.

YOUR COUNTDOWN

Lock in the church or officiant and the venue first, because every other vendor needs your date and your address. Then book the ones who can only be in one place per day: photo and video, the band, the DJ.

12+ MONTHS

BEFORE

- ☐ Catholic wedding? Call your parish first, before the venue and the photographer: the diocese asks for 6 to 9 months or more.
- ☐ Choose a date and a backup date. Reserve the church or officiant.
- ☐ Set your budget and a first guest count.
- ☐ Ask your padrinos and madrinas.
- ☐ Book the venue.
- ☐ Book photo and video. Most of my couples book me about a year out.
- ☐ Book your band, mariachi or DJ.

9–12 MONTHS

BEFORE

- ☐ Choose your colors and style.
- ☐ Start dress shopping.
- ☐ Ask your wedding party.
- ☐ Book the caterer, décor and florist.
- ☐ Book hair and makeup.
- ☐ Have your engagement session.

6–9 MONTHS

BEFORE

- ☐ Order the dress. Ask the shop how long it takes to arrive.
- ☐ Send save-the-dates.
- ☐ Start marriage preparation: FOCCUS or PREPARE at least 6 months out.
- ☐ Book rentals, transportation and the bartender.
- ☐ Taste and order the cake.
- ☐ Start a wedding website or RSVP page.

4–6 MONTHS

BEFORE

- ☐ Choose suits or tuxes for the groom and groomsmen.
- ☐ Order bridesmaid dresses.
- ☐ Plan the ceremony: readings, music, padrinos for each symbol.
- ☐ Design the invitations.



THE LAST STRETCH

2–3 MONTHS

BEFORE

- ☐ Mail or send the invitations, 6 to 8 weeks before.
- ☐ Hair and makeup trial.
- ☐ First dress fitting. Bring the shoes you'll wear.
- ☐ Buy the rings. Get the lazo, arras and Bible ready.
- ☐ Send your song list to the DJ and the band (page 33).

1 MONTH

BEFORE

- ☐ RSVPs due. Final count to the caterer and the venue.
- ☐ Final fitting.
- ☐ Get your marriage license: at least 72 hours before, at most 90 days (page 16).
- ☐ Build your itinerary (page 40).
- ☐ Seating chart, and the padrinos list for the DJ.

2 WEEKS

BEFORE

- ☐ Send the itinerary to every vendor.
- ☐ Final payments. Most vendors want the balance before the day.
- ☐ Break in your shoes at home.
- ☐ Pack the day-of kit (page 41).

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Rehearsal at the church or venue, then the rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ Give the license to the parish or officiant before the rehearsal.
- ☐ Set out the details for the morning photos.
- ☐ Sleep.



YOUR BUDGET

Two numbers decide most of your budget: what the two of you (and your families) can spend without borrowing, and how many guests you invite. Food, venue size, rentals and invitations all grow with the list.

START WITH THE GUEST COUNT

Write down your number before you call a single vendor. Divide your budget by it. That amount per guest tells you right away which venues and menus fit.

CHOOSE THREE PRIORITIES

Pick the three things that matter most to the two of you, like the food, the music, or photo and video. Spend there and keep the rest simple.

PADRINOS HELP

Many families ask padrinos and madrinass to sponsor parts of the day: the lazo, the arras, the cake, the mariachi. Tell each one exactly what they're covering, write it on page 12 and thank them in public.

WRITE DOWN EVERY DUE DATE

Most vendors take a deposit to hold your date and want the balance before the day. Track it on page 11. Keep about 10% aside for alterations, overtime, delivery and tips.

WHERE THE MONEY USUALLY GOES

The Knot's 2025 numbers: venue and rentals 29%, food, cake and drinks 24%, photo and video 10%, flowers and décor 9%, music 6%, attire and beauty 6%, rings 5%. Padrinos who cover single items change your own split. Use it as a rough start, not a rule.

WEST TEXAS

A Friday, a Sunday or a winter month can open up dates that are taken on spring and fall Saturdays. Ask every vendor if their price changes too.



BUDGET WORKSHEET

TOTAL BUDGET \$ _____ GUESTS _____ PER GUEST \$ _____

CATEGORY	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PADRINO COVERS	PAID
Ceremony church or officiant				☐
Marriage license				☐
Venue & rentals				☐
Food				☐
Bar & bartender				☐
Cake & desserts				☐
Flowers & décor				☐
DJ				☐
Band or mariachi				☐
Photo & video				☐
Dress & alterations				☐
Suits or tuxes				☐
Rings				☐
Hair & makeup				☐
Invitations				☐
Wedding party gifts				☐
Transportation				☐
Security				☐
Cushion about 10%				☐
				☐
Total				

VENDOR TRACKER

Who and how to reach them

SERVICE	BUSINESS	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE	EMAIL	INSTAGRAM / FACEBOOK
Church / officiant					
Venue					
Photo & video					
DJ					
Band / mariachi					
Catering					
Bartender					
Cake & desserts					
Décor					
Florist					
Dress shop					
Suits / tuxes					
Hair					
Makeup					
Invitations					
Rentals					
Transportation					
Security					

VENDOR PAYMENTS

What it costs and when it's due

SERVICE	TOTAL \$	DEPOSIT \$	PAID ON	BALANCE \$	DUE BY	SIGNED	PAID
Church / officiant						☐	☐
Venue						☐	☐
Photo & video						☐	☐
DJ						☐	☐
Band / mariachi						☐	☐
Catering						☐	☐
Bartender						☐	☐
Cake & desserts						☐	☐
Décor						☐	☐
Florist						☐	☐
Dress shop						☐	☐
Suits / tuxes						☐	☐
Hair						☐	☐
Makeup						☐	☐
Invitations						☐	☐
Rentals						☐	☐
Transportation						☐	☐
Security						☐	☐
						☐	☐
						☐	☐

PADRINOS & MADRINAS

Who is sponsoring what, how to reach them, and a box to check once they've been thanked. Give a copy to your officiant for the ceremony and to your DJ so every padrino is named at the reception.

PADRINOS OF...	NAME(S)	PHONE	COVERING / AMOUNT	THANKED
Velación				☐
Lazo				☐
Arras				☐
Rings				☐
Bible & rosary				☐
Kneeling pillows				☐
Flowers for the Virgin				☐
Mass				☐
Cake				☐
Toast glasses				☐
Mariachi / music				☐
Guest book				☐
Favors				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐
				☐

HOW MANY

WHO PAYS FOR WHAT

THEIR JOBS

WEDDING PARTY LIST

WEST TEXAS WEDDING · 2027



02 THE CEREMONY

La ceremonia

CHURCH WEDDING
MARRIAGE LICENSE
CEREMONY PLANNER
FAMILY PHOTO LIST
THE TRADITIONS

A CHURCH WEDDING

Two of the weddings in this guide were a full Mass: Arnaldo & Maria at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Odessa, Sabastine & Jennie at St. Ann's in Midland. Robert & Sarah married under a floral arch at their venue.

CALL YOUR PARISH FIRST

The diocese asks couples to call as soon as they're engaged, at least 6 to 9 months out, and before booking the reception site or the photographer. The two of you call, and the first meeting is in person with the priest or deacon.

PREPARATION

A couples questionnaire (FOCCUS or PREPARE) at least 6 months before. Then a program you choose with the priest: an Engaged Encounter weekend in San Angelo, a sponsor couple, or parish Pre-Cana, in English or Spanish. Engaged Encounter also gives you a Twogether in Texas certificate (page 16).

DOCUMENTS

- A baptismal certificate issued within the last 6 months
- Proof of freedom to marry
- Your Texas marriage license: no Catholic wedding without it
- Baptized in Mexico? Request it early

WEST TEXAS

Midland and Odessa are in the Diocese of San Angelo. Its rules: weddings are in a church, and one outside needs the bishop's permission, which is rare. Lazo, arras and the veil are part of the rite. Rice, bubbles and tossed petals are discouraged. No weddings on Good Friday or Holy Saturday (March 26 and 27, 2027).

FROM MY CAMERA

A wedding Mass runs about an hour. Ask for 1 or 2 PM so the morning isn't rushed. I arrive 20 minutes early to set up six cameras and microphones. Ask your parish where the photographer may stand: each one sets its own rules.



YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE

In Texas the license comes from a county clerk. The fee is small, but the timing trips up more couples than anything else.

WHERE AND HOW MUCH

Any Texas county clerk can issue it. Midland County charges \$81, or \$21 with a Twogether certificate, weekdays 8:30 to 4 in person. Ector County lists \$82, or \$22, cash only: call ahead to confirm. Add \$100 if neither of you lives in Texas.

THE TIMING

You can't marry in the first 72 hours after it's issued, and it expires on day 90. Get it two to eight weeks before. Active military and couples with a Twogether certificate skip the wait.

WHAT TO BRING

Both of you, in person, with a photo ID (driver's license, passport or matrícula consular) and your Social Security numbers. If one of you can't come, the other can apply with a notarized affidavit.

TWOGETHER IN TEXAS

A state premarital course of at least 8 hours, in English or Spanish, online or in person. The certificate is good for a year, cuts \$60 from the fee and waives the wait.

AFTER THE WEDDING

Your officiant returns the signed license to the same county within 30 days. Then order certified copies (\$7 each in Midland, \$21 in Ector) for Social Security, DPS and the bank.



YOUR LICENSE DATES

DATE

Applied at (county)

Issued on

Wait ends (72 h)

Expires (day 90)

Returned by officiant

Certified copies ordered

CEREMONY PLANNER

CHURCH OR PLACE

PRIEST / OFFICIANT

PHONE / EMAIL

DATE & TIME

MARRIAGE PREP
STARTS

REHEARSAL

CHURCH CHARGES \$

PHOTO TIME AFTER

DOCUMENTS

☐ Baptismal certificate (last 6 months)☐ Freedom-to-marry statements☐ FOCCUS / PREPARE done☐ Preparation program certificate☐ Texas marriage license☐ Other:

WHO BRINGS EACH SYMBOL

SYMBOL	PADRINOS	READY
Rings		☐
Arras		☐
Lazo		☐
Velación veil or cord		☐
Bible & rosary		☐
Flowers for the Virgin		☐
Unity candle		☐

READINGS & MUSIC

FIRST READING

CHOIR /
MARIACHI

PSALM

PROCESSIONAL

SECOND
READINGSONG FOR THE
VIRGIN

GOSPEL

RECESSIONAL

FAMILY PHOTO LIST

After a church wedding, the parish usually gives you 30 to 45 minutes before the next service. We go in this order, most important first. Write the names, and give this page to one relative from each side who can call each group up.

#	GROUP	NAMES	DONE
1	With the officiant		☐
2	Both families together		☐
3	Bride's parents		☐
4	Groom's parents		☐
5	Bride's siblings		☐
6	Groom's siblings		☐
7	Grandparents		☐
8	All the padrinos		☐
9	Wedding party		☐
10	Aunts, uncles & cousins		☐
11			☐

CALLING THE GROUPS

THEIR PHONE

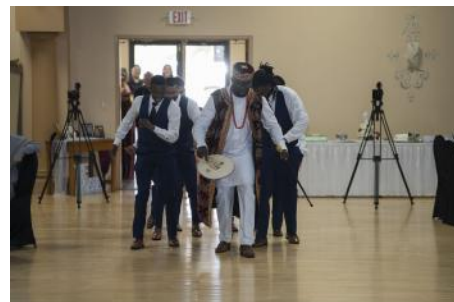
FROM MY CAMERA

The officiant goes first because he usually has to leave. If grandparents can't stand for long, tell me, and I'll take their photos right after the parents'.



THE TRADITIONS

Pick the ones your families want, decide who carries out each one, and write them on page 17. Then give the same list to your officiant, your DJ and your photographer.



PADRINOS & MADRINAS

Sponsor couples, often your godparents, who present an item or help pay for part of the day. Choose as many as you like. The Church only requires two witnesses. Padrinos are a family custom on top of that.

LAS ARRAS

Blessed right after the rings, then given to each other as a pledge of God's blessing and of sharing everything. The 13 coins are often said to stand for Jesus and the apostles. Traditionally the groom gives them. Today many couples exchange them.

EL LAZO

A cord, rosary or garland laid in a figure eight over your shoulders by the lazo padrinos, before the Nuptial Blessing. Some couples use a veil instead. Arnaldo & Maria knelt with theirs on.

PADRINOS DE VELACIÓN

Often a long-married couple who walk with you as an example. Ask your families what they expect from them.

FLOWERS FOR THE VIRGIN

After Communion, the bride lays a bouquet at Mary's image, often Our Lady of Guadalupe. Maria did. Order a second bouquet so you keep yours.

UNITY CANDLE

Allowed at the pastor's discretion, but not on the altar. Robert & Sarah lit theirs at the venue.

AT THE RECEPTION

The money dance (baile del billete): guests pin bills on you or drop them in a basket for a short dance. La víbora de la mar: you stand on chairs, joined by the veil, while the guests' snake tries to knock you off. At the weddings I film, both happen around 10 or 11 PM.

TIP

The bouquet toss happened at 24% of 2025 weddings, and the garter toss is fading. Keep the ones your family loves.



ARNALDO & MARIA, SABASTINE & JENNIE, ROBERT & SARAH · 2026



03 THE LOOK

El look

THE DRESS
SUITS & DETAILS
HAIR & MAKEUP

THE DRESS

WHAT'S IN FOR 2027

- Strapless is back, with shaped necklines: sweetheart, scalloped, cat-eye.
- Corsets with visible boning, and draping in heavy mikado.
- Soft color instead of white: blush, light blue, lilac, butter yellow.
- Mantilla veils, the lace-edged Spanish style.
- A second look for the reception, more and more.

WHEN TO SHOP

Start about a year out and order by 6 to 9 months before, because many gowns are made to order. Get the arrival date in writing. Fittings: one when it arrives, a final one about two weeks before.

FOR A CHURCH WEDDING

Some parishes ask for covered shoulders. A lace jacket or a sheer cape covers them for the ceremony and comes off for the reception.

WHERE

Shops in Midland and Odessa, or Lubbock as a day trip (about two hours). El Paso and Dallas are about five hours each way, and every fitting is another trip.

FROM MY CAMERA

A long veil and a cathedral train make the walk out of the church. Maria's train filled the aisle at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Pick one bridesmaid to spread it before every photo.

WEST TEXAS

From March to June the wind lifts veils and trains, most of all in the afternoon, and light hems pick up dust. For outdoor portraits, bring clips and a sheet to stand on, and plan for the evening.



SUITS, BOOTS & DETAILS

THE GROOM

Order suits or book tux rentals 3 to 4 months out, for the groom and groomsmen together. Arnaldo wore a white tuxedo jacket, a black hat and gator boots. Sabastine wore a navy suit with a burgundy boutonniere.

BOOTS & HATS

Out here a hat and boots are part of the suit. Break the boots in, and decide where the hats go during the ceremony.

PERSONAL TOUCHES

A letter to each other before the ceremony. Sabastine & Jennie prayed hand in hand around a wall without seeing each other. Robert & Sarah read letters before the first look.

THE DETAILS BOX

- ☐ Rings
- ☐ Lazo and arras
- ☐ Bible and rosary
- ☐ Invitation, for the detail photo
- ☐ Shoes and boots
- ☐ Veil and jewelry
- ☐ Perfume and cologne
- ☐ Cufflinks and watch
- ☐ Boutonnieres
- ☐ Guest book and pens
- ☐ Toast glasses
- ☐ Cake knife
- ☐ Letters to each other



GLAM

HAIR & MAKEUP

WHAT'S IN FOR 2027

- Soft glam: glowing skin, light coverage, warm nudes, glossy lips.
- Hair: soft waves, textured low buns and relaxed half-up styles.

BOOK EARLY, TRY IT ONCE

Book early for a spring or fall date. Do the trial one to three months before, once the dress is chosen. Wear your veil and a top with a neckline like your gown's, and photograph the result in daylight.

PLAN THE TIME

Count about 45 minutes to an hour per person for hair and makeup, and add the moms and bridesmaids. The bride goes second to last, so her makeup is fresh for the photos.

FROM MY CAMERA

Sit facing a big window, with a clean wall behind you if you can. That's the light I want for the getting-ready photos. On the day, skip foundation and powder with SPF: they can flash white in photos.

WEST TEXAS

Dry air and heat: ask about long-wear products and a setting spray. If you'll be outside in spring, a stronger hold and extra pins keep the veil in place in the wind.



THE MORNING OF

Letters, buttons, happy tears



ARNALDO & MARIA, SABASTINE & JENNIE · 2026



04 THE RECEPTION

La recepción

THE VENUE
DÉCOR
FOOD & CAKE
MUSIC
THE DANCES
INVITATIONS & GUESTS

EL SALÓN · THE VENUE

THE VENUE

Event halls, barns, ranches, hotel ballrooms and church halls. Visit at the hour your reception will happen, and bring this list.

ASK BEFORE YOU SIGN

- How many guests fit seated, with a dance floor and a stage?
- Which hours are included, and what does overtime cost?
- When can the decorator set up, and when must everything be out?
- Outside catering and cake, or in-house only?
- Alcohol: who may serve it, and do you require security?
- Is there enough power and AC for a band, lights and a full room in July?
- Can we hold the ceremony here too? Is there a rain plan?
- Are cold sparks, fog and a send-off allowed?
- Deposit, payment dates and cancellation policy?

FROM MY CAMERA

Light comes from the stage, so I film from the stage toward you, your families and the décor. Ask your decorator to set the sweetheart table and the family tables facing the stage. When a room is set the other way, the background of every dance is speakers and equipment.

WEST TEXAS

In Texas, alcohol is for guests 21 and over. Many halls require a TABC-certified bartender and off-duty officers when alcohol is served. Midland PD asks for 14 days' notice and at least two officers. Midland and Ector counties are wet, but some neighboring counties aren't, so ask a ranch venue.



COMPARE THREE VENUES

VENUE 1

VENUE 2

VENUE 3

Name & contact

Date available

Price & hours

Overtime

Seated guests

Ceremony on site?

Setup / out by

Catering rules

Alcohol & security

AC & power

Stage & lights

Sparks / fog OK?

Tables, chairs, linens

Parking

Deposit & due dates

Cancellation

Notes

DÉCOR & COLORS

WHAT'S IN FOR 2027

- Greens from sage to moss, soft blues, merlot and blush.
- Single-flower installations, and bouquets of one or two blooms.
- Silver instead of gold: candelabras, flatware, trays.
- Lace and vintage touches on tables and stationery.
- A monogram or crest: 22% of 2025 weddings had one.

WHAT I SAW IN 2026

Arnaldo & Maria went with sage drapes, white florals and a gold-trimmed sweetheart table. Robert & Sarah chose white and dusty blue with a floral arch for the ceremony. Sabastine & Jennie's mirror read Cheers to the Nwosus.

MAKE IT YOURS

Pick two or three colors and repeat them everywhere: linens, flowers, the wedding party, the cake. Then add one thing that is only you.

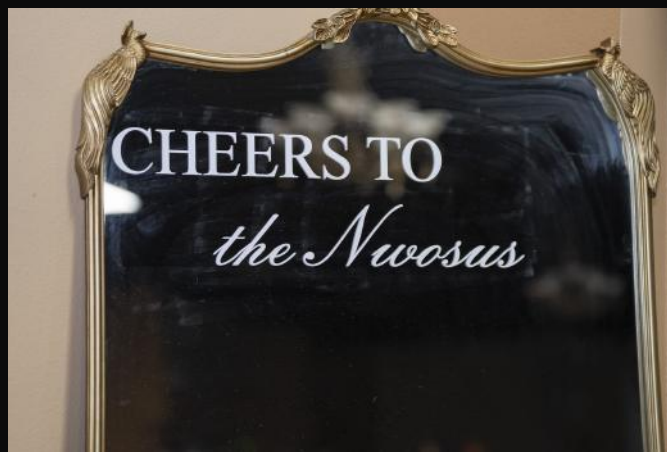
TIP

Send your decorator the venue's setup hours and ask for the décor and cake to be finished before the guests arrive. That way they show up complete in the photos and the film.



THREE ROOMS, THREE STORIES

Décor from my 2026 weddings



ARNALDO & MARIA, ROBERT & SARAH, SABASTINE & JENNIE

FOOD & CAKE

HOW TO SERVE IT

In 2025, 60% of couples served a buffet or stations and 30% a plated dinner. Taquiza and family style work too. A buffet moves faster with two sides. Ask the caterer how long it takes to serve your count.

COUNT EVERYONE

Include the wedding party, the padrinos and your vendors. The band, the DJ and the photo and video team work eight hours or more. Ask each one if they need a meal.

CAKE & DESSERTS

- 76% of 2025 couples hired a baker, and 53% added a dessert bar. Cookies and cupcakes lead.
- Couture cakes with ruffles, pleats or lace, or a small sculptural one.
- Lambeth piping, the vintage style.

AT THE TASTING

- How many servings does each tier give?
- Delivery, setup and pickup: times and fees?
- Will it hold up in a warm room? Ask about fillings for summer.
- Who cuts and serves it?

FROM MY CAMERA

Arnaldo & Maria took a paleta break after their entrance. Tell your DJ and your photographer when the cake and the toasts happen, so nobody is outside when you cut it.



MUSIC

Arnaldo & Maria had a mariachi at the church and at the reception. Robert & Sarah had one too. Sabastine & Jennie danced to Nigerian highlife in their second look.

CEREMONY MUSIC

For a church wedding, ask the parish what it allows: the choir, a mariachi, your own musicians. A mariachi can also play las mañanitas while the bride gets ready.

THE DJ

Often the DJ is also your MC: announces the wedding party, your entrance, the padrinos and each moment. Many also bring the lights, fog and cold sparks. Ask to see a full wedding they've done.

LIVE NORTEÑO, CONJUNTO OR BANDA

Local groups fill Saturdays early, so book them once your date and venue are set. Ask how long each set runs and what plays during the breaks.

TRENDING NOW

- 71% of 2025 couples hired a DJ, 12% a live band (The Knot).
- Spanish first-dance ideas: Contigo aprendí, Mi bendición, Si nos dejan.
- With dad: El privilegio de amar, Tu sangre en mi cuerpo, My Girl.

TIP

Give the DJ and the band the same song list (page 33) and the same itinerary. Then name one person, not either of you, to answer their questions during the reception.



SONG LIST

One list for the church, the DJ, the band and your photographer. Note who plays each song.

MOMENT	SONG	ARTIST	WHO PLAYS
Ceremony processional			
Ceremony bride's entrance			
Ceremony flowers for the Virgin			
Ceremony recessional			
Wedding party entrance			
Your entrance			
First dance			
Father & daughter			
Mother & son			
Money dance			
Cake			
Bouquet / garter			
Vibora de la mar			
Last song			
Send-off			
Morning las mañanitas			

THE DANCES & THE PARTY



THE FIRST DANCE

Pick a song and practice it at home in your shoes. A minute and a half to two minutes keeps everyone watching. Arnaldo & Maria danced in fog to their knees, with cold sparks on both sides.

DAD & MOM

The father-daughter and mother-son dances usually follow. Sabastine danced with his mother to "Sweet Mother". Jennie and her dad laughed through most of their song.

TRENDING NOW

- The first dance is the most kept tradition: 87% of 2025 weddings had one.
- Keep it to about 90 seconds.
- Half of 2025 couples did a first look, and 30% planned a grand exit.

FROM MY CAMERA

Fog and cold sparks look best when the DJ keeps a light on you. Tell me if there's a surprise, like a lift or a change of outfit, so I'm on the right side of the floor.

TIP

A send-off with sparklers, bubbles or lights needs the venue's OK and someone to hand them out. Plan it 10 minutes before the last song so the guests are still there.

THE PARTY

Fog, sparks, dads, a flying groom



ARNALDO & MARIA, SABASTINE & JENNIE · 2026

INVITATIONS

WHEN TO SEND

- Save-the-dates: 6 to 8 months before, more for out-of-town guests.
- Invitations: 6 to 8 weeks before.
- RSVP deadline: 3 to 4 weeks before, so you can give the caterer a final count.

PRINTED, DIGITAL OR BOTH

90% of 2025 couples made a wedding website, and 59% put a QR code on their invitations. With digital RSVPs, six weeks is enough. With paper RSVPs, mail them at eight.

WHAT TO INCLUDE

- Your names, and your parents' if they're hosting
- Padrinos, if your families list them
- Ceremony: church or place, address, time
- Reception: venue, address, time
- RSVP: by when, to whom, how
- Dress code, if there is one

TIP

Your engagement session doubles as your save-the-date photo. Jacob & Jaydn's came from the barn doors at their ranch session.



ARNALDO & MARIA'S INVITATION, 2026

WORDING TO START FROM

FROM BOTH FAMILIES

Together with their parents

Name & Name

and

Name & Name

request the honor of your
presence
at their wedding

FROM THE COUPLE

Name

and

Name

invite you to celebrate
the day they say I do

WITH GOD'S BLESSING

With God's blessing
and the love of our families

Name & Name

invite you to join us
as we become one

HOUSEHOLD	SIDE	INVITED	SAVE THE DATE	INVITATION	COMING	TABLE	NOTES
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Total							



05 THE DAY

El gran día

PHOTO & VIDEO
YOUR ITINERARY
DAY-OF KIT

PHOTO & VIDEO

This is the part I know best, so here is what I'd tell any couple before they book photo and video, with me or anyone else.

BOOK BOTH

Photos give you the frames for your walls. Video keeps what a photo can't: the vows in your own voices, your dad's toast, your first dance. Only about a third of couples hire a videographer (37% in 2025), and skipping one is among the most common regrets (19% in The Knot's 2023 study).

ONE TEAM, ONE BUNDLE

A studio that does photo and video usually offers them as a bundle for less than two separate vendors. One team also means one contract and nobody standing in the other's shot.

THE WHOLE DAY, NOT BY THE HOUR

Hourly coverage looks cheaper until the ceremony starts late or the send-off moves to 11. Hire for the whole day, from getting ready to the last song, so nobody packs up before the best part. That's how I cover every wedding: one team for photo and video, all day.

ASK BEFORE YOU BOOK

- Can I see a full gallery and a full film from one wedding, not only highlights?
- How many cameras cover the ceremony and the dances? I use six.
- Is an engagement session included?
- What do we get, and when: gallery, highlight film, full film?
- Do you keep backup copies of every file?

TIP

A photographer and a videographer can only cover one wedding per day, and most of my couples book about a year out. Once your church and venue are set, check your date:

[AudenCabello.com/weddings](https://audencabello.com/weddings)



YOUR ITINERARY

A sample day with a 1:00 PM church ceremony and a 7:00 PM entrance, using the timings I work with. Write your own times, or let the free builder do it for you.

SAMPLE	MOMENT	YOUR TIME	WHO'S IN CHARGE
8:50 AM	Hair & makeup Bride, moms and bridesmaids. Two to three hours.		
11:20 AM	The dress Mom already done and dressed.		
11:50 AM	First look with dad, siblings or bridesmaids		
12:05 PM	Family photos before you leave		
12:25 PM	Leave for the ceremony I arrive 20 minutes early to set up.		
1:00 PM	Ceremony A wedding Mass runs about an hour.		
2:00 PM	Photos at the church 30 to 45 minutes, in the order on page 18.		
2:40 PM	Couple portraits, then rest I pack up (about 30 minutes) and head to the venue.		
5:30 PM	Décor & cake ready Before the guests arrive.		
6:00 PM	Guests arrive Cocktail hour.		
7:00 PM	Grand entrance		
7:05 PM	First dance		
7:15 PM	Dances with mom and dad		
7:30 PM	Dinner & toasts		
8:15 PM	Cake Or later in the night: tell the DJ.		
8:55 PM	Sunset (mid-June) Golden hour from about 8:20 PM.		
10:30 PM	Money dance & víbora de la mar Usually between 10 and 11 PM.		
11:50 PM	Send-off		
12:00 AM	Last song I stay until the party ends.		



BUILD YOURS IN TWO MINUTES

Type your ceremony time and your entrance, and the builder works out the rest, with the sunset for your date. Change any line, print it, or send it on WhatsApp. Free, no sign-up.

AudenCabello.com/itinerary

DAY-OF KIT

Pack it two days before and hand it to one person who stays with you all day.

FOR THE TWO OF YOU

☐ Bobby pins & clips

☐ Hairspray

☐ Safety pins

☐ Mini sewing kit

☐ Fashion tape

☐ Stain pen

☐ Blister bandages

☐ Comfortable shoes

☐ Deodorant

☐ Lip color

☐ Blotting papers & powder

☐ Eye drops (wind & dust)

☐ Lotion & lip balm

☐ Tissues

☐ Water & straws

☐ Snacks

☐ Phone chargers

☐ Pain reliever

☐ Pads or tampons

☐ Small fan

FOR THE DAY

☐ Marriage license and IDs

☐ Rings, lazo, arras, Bible

☐ Flowers for the Virgin

☐ Toast glasses & cake knife

☐ Vendor payments & tips, in labeled envelopes

☐ Printed itineraries

☐ Padrinos list for the DJ

☐ Letters to each other

KIT KEEPER _____

PHONE _____

AFTER THE WEDDING

☐ Officiant returns the signed license

☐ Order certified copies

☐ Name change: Social Security first

☐ Return rentals

☐ Thank-you notes to padrinos

☐ Dress cleaned and stored

☐ Back up your gallery and films




AUDEN B. CABELLO

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

Getting married in 2027? Let's check your date.

CALL / TEXT (830) 422-9153
EMAIL cabello.auden@gmail.com
INSTAGRAM [@cabello.auden](https://www.instagram.com/cabello.auden)
TIKTOK [@audencabello](https://www.tiktok.com/@audencabello)
FACEBOOK [/AudenBCabello](https://www.facebook.com/AudenBCabello)
WEB AudenCabello.com



Check your date

AudenCabello.com/weddings

More free guides: POSE (posing) and LUGARES (photo spots in West Texas) at AudenCabello.com/guides.
Facts checked October 2026. Parishes, clerks and venues set their own rules, so always confirm with them.

