



Finding

the perfect

WEDDING DJ

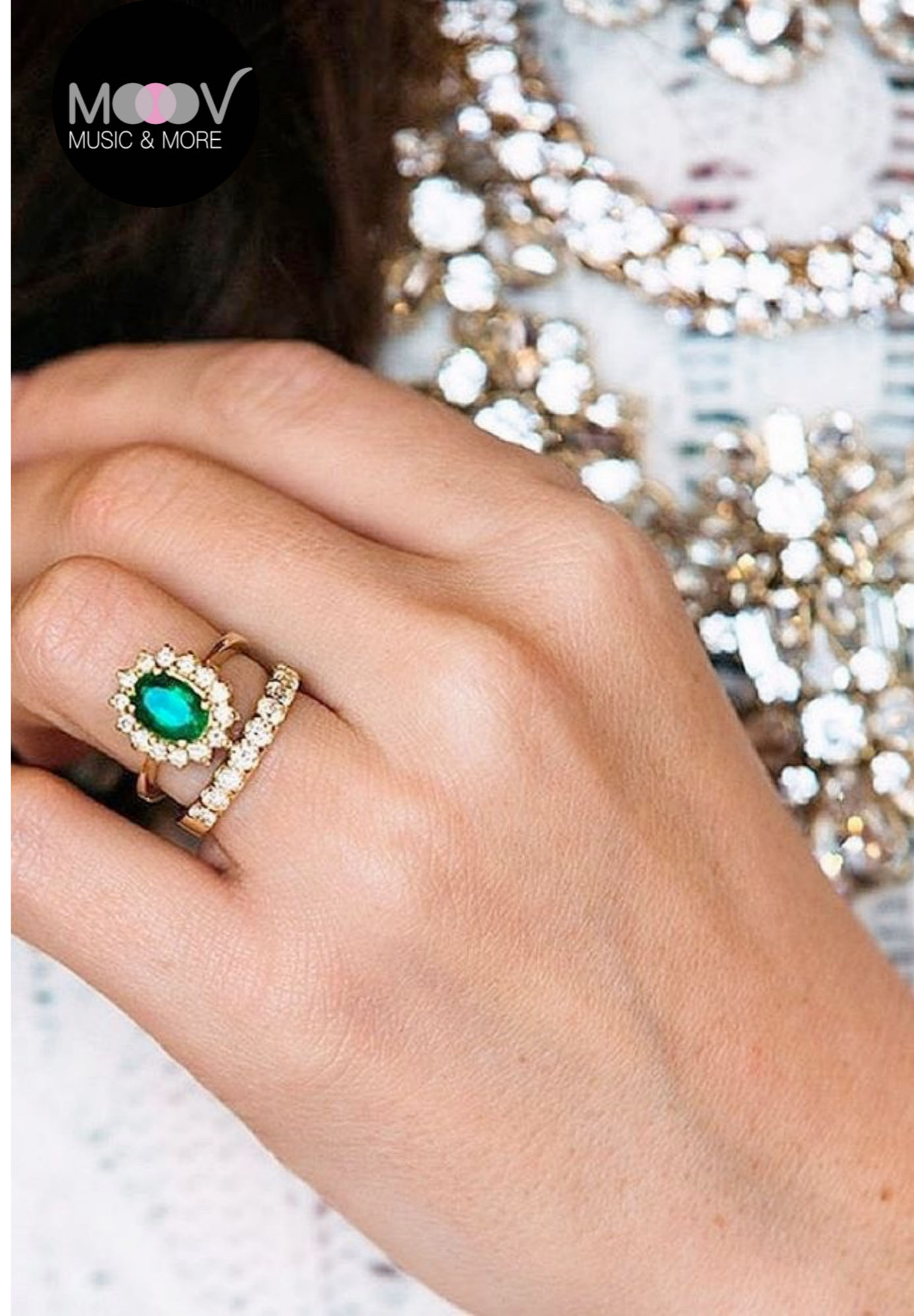
Alexander Wynen
MOOV Event Services

INTRODUCTION

The big question is popped and someone said YES! Congratulations! This marks the beginning of a huge new chapter in your lives, starting with an exciting and sometimes rather overwhelming route towards the BIG DAY.

Many decisions have to be made and many hard nuts must be cracked to get everything ready in time to celebrate the sacred alliance between you and your going-to-be husband or wife.

You will find many ways to get advice and directions to make this a smooth and fun ride. An internet full of helpful websites and a



world full of professionals to help you find the perfect rings, dress, cake, bouquet, invitation cards etcetera...

This booklet aims to help you to find the right DJ for your wedding party. If you choose for a DJ and not for a band, that is. But more on that later.

As a professional wedding DJ, I have spoken with hundreds of wedding couples about their perfect wedding party and I learned that there are some common misconceptions and general ignorances about the concept of hiring a wedding DJ.

Wouldn't it be a shame if, for whatever reason, the big finale of your wedding day turns out to be a big disappointment? After all, this day, full of symbolism and ceremony, ultimately cumulates into this climax of festive joy and excitement. This is when all the tension is released, the tight shoes are kicked off, the bow ties are untied and where memories are made!

How can you make sure that after many years, your beloved family and friends will still be speaking about your wedding as that beautiful day with that awesome party at the end?

The secret, as always, is in the preparation. And this booklet is trying to help you with just that. Because with the right information you can ask the right questions, resulting in a well prepared DJ and a mind at ease. So you can fully enjoy and celebrate YOUR party together with your loved ones!

Most of the information, advice and tips in this booklet apply for wedding parties in general, but since my company, MOOOV Event Services is based near Marbella in Andalucia we have a particular interest in those who have decided to celebrate their wedding here

in the sunny, passionate and warm-hearted south of Spain. So in the last chapter you will find some specific advice for destination weddings here at the Costa del Sol or inland Andalucia.

I wish you a smooth and relaxing planning period and the absolute best wedding party ever!

Alexander Wynen
MOOOV Event Services



PLANNING

Before diving into the details of finding the best possible DJ for your wedding party, we need to talk about planning first. You might think: 'How do you mean planning? Planning is all we're doing right now!'

Sure you are! And by now, you might have found out that there is a lot more to it than you've thought beforehand. My point is that it often happens that people only start to look for the entertainment part of the wedding somewhere halfway down the planning process. Only after they have decided on things like catering, flower arrangements and decorations.



In my opinion it is good to start planning on music and entertainment much earlier in the process and here's why:

Professional support

The entertainment, whether it is a DJ, a band, live musicians, background music or a combination of the above, is a very big part of your wedding day and it should be considered as such. Well-chosen music creates the perfect ambience and a relaxing flow throughout the event.

Having an entertainment specialist involved in the planning process at the right moment might save you a lot of stress, practical concerns and ultimately; money.

A professional DJ or entertainment company will think along with you and will check your ideas and wishes against the practical realities and financial limitations.

In my experience it happens a lot that during our first meeting, the bridal couple expresses a wealth of ideas with for instance string quartets for the ceremony, a Spanish guitarist during cocktail hour, a singer during diner and a sax player to play along with the DJ for the dance party. Apart from the cost (good musicians are not cheap), I would advice against such an overkill of live musicians for the simple reason that your guests will probably not even notice half of it as they are too busy chatting, catching up with relatives etc.

By choosing the right moments for live music and have the DJ play appropriate background music for the intermediate moments you will save tons of money without compromising on the end result.

The best ones are booked first

Another very important reason to start planning for your entertainment well in time is that if you don't, you might miss out on the good DJs and musicians. As those are the ones being booked first. Starting too late might leave you with the 'left overs'.

Of course, this all depends very much on your wedding date. The more popular your wedding date is (you might already have noticed the demand when booking the venue), the faster the good entertainers are likely to be booked.

So what is a good time to start preparing for the entertainment? As a rule of thumb, start about one year prior to the wedding day for dates in high demand and 10-8 months for the less popular dates.

Simply start by doing a web search for 'wedding DJ' in the region where your venue is located or ask your wedding planner or venue manager for recommendations.

Once you have been talking to a DJ and it feels like the right choice, ask if he is willing to hold the date for you. When the date is far enough ahead he/she will have no objection to do so.

Be ready to act fast when a DJ or artist tells you he's got another enquiry for the same date. He is just as eager as you are to get the deal secured, so don't keep it pending any longer than necessary.

A LIVE BAND OR A DJ?

We can not discuss wedding DJs before addressing the main question: Will we have a DJ or a band?

Traditionally live bands were hired to play at weddings. In the 80's and 90's the disk jockey evolved from a record playing persona on the radio and in night clubs, to a mobile DJ who travels the nightly roads with a van full of gear to play at parties and weddings. Over time this specific breed of DJ's became increasingly more professional and gained more and more market share on the expense of live bands and musicians. Today in Western Europe about 2/3 of all weddings have a DJ for the dance party.



But this is by no means because a DJ is the better choice. Both DJs and live bands have their own qualities and it is primarily a decision based on personal preferences.

There are however a few pros and cons you should consider in order to make an educated decision.

Live band

Pros:

- The 'live' sound. There is nothing that can replace it.
- The enticing effect of live artists performing on stage.

Cons:

- Songs and genres are limited to what the band can play.
- Most bands sound very loud in smaller rooms.
- Bands take breaks. It will be hard (if not impossible) to keep the energy up and the dance floor filled until the next set starts.
- When the band is finished, it's not always the time you want the party to end. What to do with the remaining time?
- Good bands are usually more expensive than good DJs.

DJ

Pros:

- A DJ can basically play anything you like, including the latest hits and is capable of adjusting the music instantly when required.

- A good DJ will always control the volume (or can be asked to play at a lower volume).
- DJs don't take breaks.
- A good DJ is usually less expensive than a good band.

Cons:

- A DJ can never match the energy of live music.

Best of both worlds

In recent years it has become customary to hire a DJ in combination with a live performer, like a saxophone player. This adds the desired live element to the party without losing on the versatility of the DJ. According to international wedding specialists (sources [here](#) and [here](#)), today's trend is to take this concept even a step further by combining a partial or complete band with a DJ. The effects are spectacular! The deep bass drums from a modern club track with the vocals of a live singer, the sound of an acoustic guitar and the rhythmic rolls of a percussionist create a sizzling atmosphere that will definitely get the dance floor filled. Basically anything is possible nowadays so if you don't want to choose between a band and a DJ and it fits within your budget, the sky is the limit!

At MOOOV Event Services we work in close relationship with many live musicians, singers and artists so we'd be happy to discuss the possibilities with you.

JUST FOR THE DANCE PARTY?

Without a doubt, when thinking about a DJ, you think of a dance floor filled with dancing people. But a wedding DJ can do so much more for your wedding than 'just' provide for a wonderful dance party. There are good reasons to have him involved in other parts of the day as well.

Unless you choose to be a little out-of-the-ordinary, a typical wedding day consists of the following elements:

- ceremony
- (cocktail) reception
- diner
- dance party / open bar



Music often plays an important role in all of these parts. For sure, you like to have a special song played when the bride walks down the aisle, either by live musicians or from a record.

Next to that, it is highly recommended to use a microphone for the speeches of the officiant and others. Especially when the ceremony takes place outdoors. It ensures that all of your guest will be able to hear every word being spoken and it helps the speakers to speak without having to raise their voice.

This creates an intimate atmosphere during the ceremony.

To accomplish this, you need the services of a dedicated professional to setup and operate the sound system during the ceremony. It is very well possible to hire a specialised company for the job, but wouldn't it be a lot easier and cost effective to have the DJ do this for you?

Also your wedding planner will be very happy with one supplier for all music, entertainment and technical care, as this makes his/her job a lot easier.

All day service

Many wedding DJs offer some kind of full-day service. At MOOOV Event Services we call it an All-Day Wedding DJ Package and it covers everything from music and sound support for the wedding ceremony, background music during reception and diner, and the party music and lighting effects until the very last dance.

We also arrange for live musicians to perform during any of these sections.



Pool party

Having a destination wedding at a lovely chalet, hacienda or other estate? Chances are you hired the venue for more than one day. Wouldn't it be great to have your DJ play at the pool party the day before or the day after the wedding?

Most likely you can get a good deal on it, as he has to setup the DJ gear anyway.

MEETING WITH YOUR DJ

In your quest to find the right DJ for your big wedding party you'll get to the point where you will actually meet your candidate DJs, either by phone or Skype or in person.

To get the most out of this meeting it helps to know exactly what to expect from your DJ to-be. Here are a few things to help you get yourselves organized and to ask the right questions:

14 Must-Ask Questions:

1. How many years of experience do you have working at weddings?
2. What kind of styles and genres do you master?
3. How do you present yourself? Do you have photos or videos of your DJ booth?
4. Are you comfortable to make announcements? Do you normally use the microphone a lot during the party?
5. Do you have a backup plan?
6. Do you have a public liability insurance?
7. Do you offer a written contract?
8. Are there any additional fees that could accrue that I am not taking into account, like travel expenses or charges for special musical requests?
9. What is your cancellation policy?



10. Can you get me in touch with bridal couples that you recently worked for to hear about their experiences?
11. Have you worked at our venue before?
12. Do you take requests?
13. Can we submit a "Do Not Play" list?
14. How much would you charge for overtime?

For a better understanding of some of these questions, here's some more background information:

Expertise and experience

Nothing defines a good DJ more than his level of expertise and his years of experience.

Expertise is not just the ability to smoothly mix one track into the next. On the contrary, technical skills are the least important when it comes to wedding DJs. His expertise is expressed by a profound knowledge of music from the last 50-60 years in most genres and even more so by knowing which songs will work well for which audience at what time of the night.

The latter is only achieved by performing countless hours in front of an audience. In other words; experience. Please note that there is a great number of DJs out there that have been DJing for many years in clubs and bars. This is however a completely different craft. The best club DJ might not be the best wedding DJ and vice versa.

Make sure your DJ has earned his kudo's on the dance floors of many weddings, and ask for reviews and video's from past weddings.

Define the kind of party you have in mind

Knowing what type of party you want is important to find the perfect DJ. There are many different types of party styles and here are a few examples to help you define yours:

Do you want a big old wedding party where everybody, including aunt Betty and those little bridesmaids are all having fun on the dance floor?

In that case you need an experienced all-round DJ who knows exactly what songs to play to get and to keep everyone engaged. Anyone presenting himself as a wedding DJ is basically an all-round DJ so in this case you're golden.

Or maybe you have a theme party in mind... like a 70's disco theme, an Indian theme or a Caribbean/tropical theme. In that case you want your DJ to be very familiar with the corresponding music.

Are your guests predominantly of your own age group and you like to go wild on the tracks that you all love so much, then what you need is a DJ that totally masters your style of music. It might be a little harder to find a DJ that knows exactly what you mean by 90's West Coast RnB or progressive Chicago house. But if this is what you want, you better make sure your DJ is up to the task.

Presentation

When you meet with your aspirant DJ he will present himself to you in a certain way. And although you may expect him to be dressed to the occasion when showing up at your wedding, there are tell tale signs that give you good indications of how he will present himself at your moment of glory.



With today's technology, DJs are no longer limited to vinyl records and record players. Nowadays they have a broad range of means at their disposal to satisfy even the most spoiled party goers.

First off, see how he introduces himself, Pay attention to his language and tone of voice. Is he well-mannered in general? Even clean (or dirty!) fingernails tell you something about the person you are dealing with.

If you like him to show up in suit and tie, ask him if he owns one.

Then about the gear... make sure he will bring everything needed for a full sound (and light) service. If you need him to provide sound and music for the ceremony or during dinner, does he bring a second, or third sound system and microphones for that? Or do you yourself or the venue manager have to take care of this?

Having a good party is not just about the music. It is also about ambience, lighting and effects. In most cases your DJ will come with some lighting effects and he will probably have some kind of DJ booth.

Make sure that you get the package you want. Try to imagine what the set will look like at the location you have in mind. Does the venue offer (build-in) ambient lighting? If not, the DJ might offer LED uplights to lit up walls, drapes or ornaments for extra colour effects.

The DJ as a Master of Ceremony

Depending on origin and cultural factors, people sometimes expect the DJ to double as a master of ceremony (MC).

In the US for instance, it is normal for a DJ to make the announcements for the several wedding dances and other ceremonial acts.

In some occasions the DJ makes frequent use of the microphone to enthuse the crowd while in other occasions he limits himself to do just the necessary announcements (“Ladies and gentlemen, it is time for our bride and groom to have their first dance as husband and wife. Please put your hands together for ...”).

Whatever your preferences are regarding the MC-ing of your DJ, make sure he understands what you expect from him and that he has the skills to execute it well.

A backup plan

It might not be the first thing that comes to mind when selecting your DJ but it can surely turn out to be the most important thing of all. What happens when something goes wrong?

Equipment fails, cars break down, people get sick. But your wedding still has to go

on...

So your DJ needs to have a backup plan, right? Ask him about it. Don't hold back on this one. Make sure he comes with the right answers.

By the way, this is one reason why professional DJs cost more than the less professional or amateur DJs. It simply costs a lot of money to have proper backup systems in place.

The fact of the matter is that not even the most professional, expensive supplier comes with spare parts for all of his gear. But for the most essential equipment, a wedding DJ should have a solution for when it decides to quit. It might not be the most convenient solution for him but as long as the show can go on, he can secure your party.

As an example; when a glass of beer ends up over the DJ's laptop and controller, there are relatively simple ways to hook up a tablet or spare PC with a broad selection of music and a DJ app to continue the party within minutes.

Next to a number of other precautionary measures, at MOOOV Event Services we deliberately use active speakers instead of a passive speakers/amplifier combo, as part

of our backup plan. So that when one of the speakers quits the other speaker can simply take over by simply adjusting the volume.

A word about age

As the trade of DJing grows older, so do the people that master this fine art.

At the same time, you, the bridal couple, remain roughly of the same age. At the moment the average age to get married in Europe is around the age of 30 ([source](#)).

Is it a bad thing if your DJ is older than yourselves?

On the contrary! Actually it can be a good thing! It just means that he has decades of experience. He does not only master the latest and hottest hits but will also know how to reach out to your older guests (remember aunt Betty?) by playing those ol' school classics.

Ultimately, all that matters is that all of your guests can celebrate your wedding together on the dance floor!

LET'S TALK MONEY...

Whatever your visions and dreams are about your wedding, at the end of the day you'll have to pay for them. So unless your resources are far above average, you will have to make all your dreams fit within your budget. Period.

Most likely, with every proposal from every supplier that you receive when preparing for your wedding, one of the first things you want to know is what it will cost.

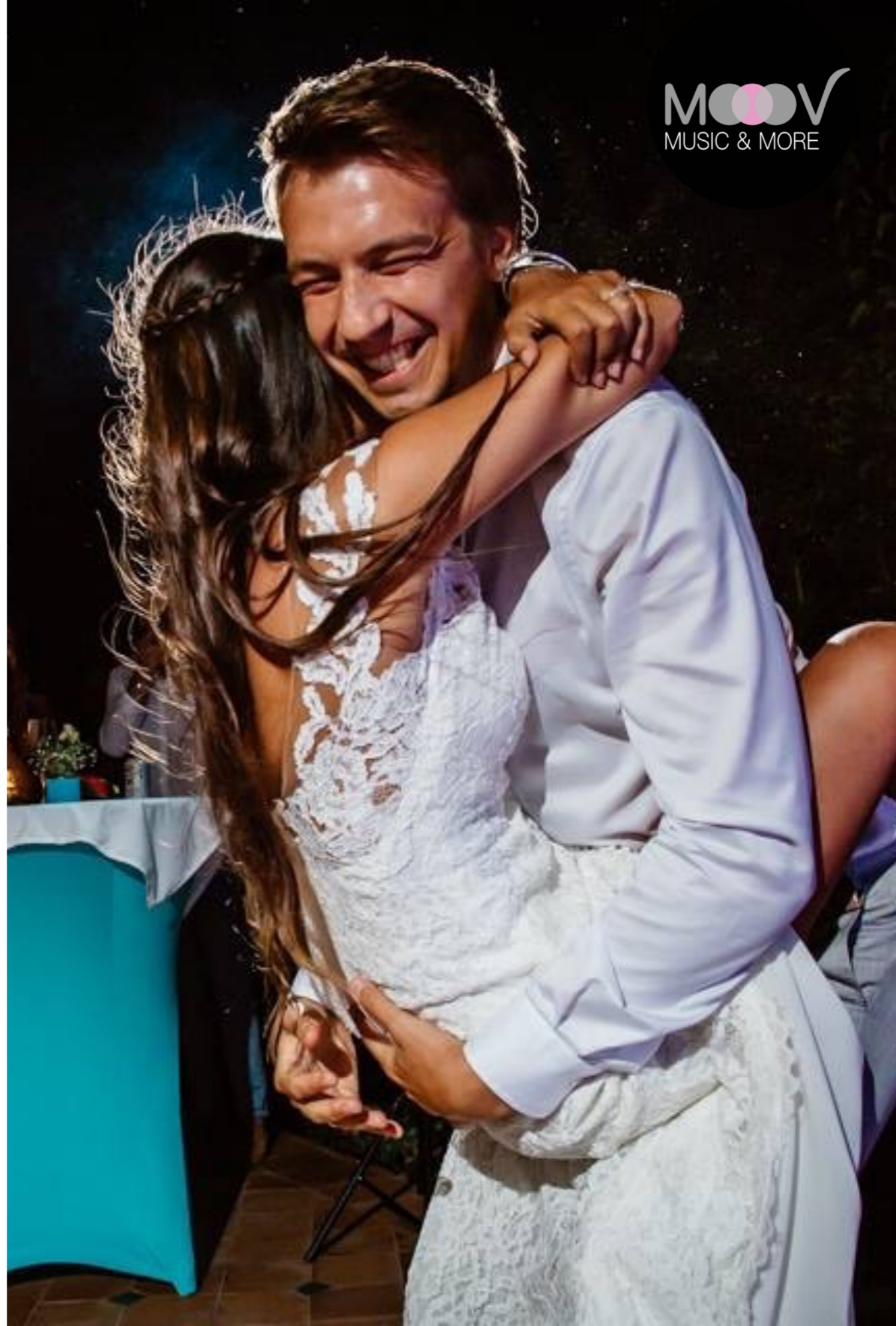
So how about DJs? What big of a chunk out of the wedding budget will your wedding DJ take?

Unfortunately, there is no simple answer to this question. But let me try to get as close to it as possible and give you some insights on this subject.

First off, as always, you get what you pay for. And although there are exceptions to the rule, in general a low cost DJ delivers a lesser service than a high cost DJ. He has less experience, has cheaper or limited gear or a combination of all. On the other end of the spectrum, a high cost DJ has, in general, more experience and expertise, has better, more reliable equipment and can offer you more services.

A wedding DJ is not your average DJ

A mistake often made is to assume that a wedding DJ will cost about the same as a regular DJ. This is not the case because, although both are playing music, the products they deliver are very different.



There are many factors that define the total cost of a professional wedding DJ:

- Preparing for a wedding takes a lot more time than for a regular gig. Spending more than 20 hours on meetings, planning, emailing, preparing playlists etc. is no exception.
- Investment in high quality equipment, both sound and lighting systems and backup systems easily adds up to more than 10.000 euro.
- Number of service hours. Especially when you have your DJ providing services during several parts of the wedding day the total number of hours starts to add up. It is quite normal for a wedding DJ to have a 20-hour working day when you include the travel time, set-up time and tear-down time.
- Travel expenses. Next to driving up and down to the venue on the day of your wedding, chances are that your DJ will at least once meet up with you and/or will pay a visit to the venue in order to be well prepared for the wedding.
- Fixed costs. A professional wedding DJ can only do a certain amount of weddings per year. All his operational costs must be paid out of the returns of these jobs. This includes storage, insurances, transportation, website and internet, phone, equipment renewals, promotion, training and last but not least the purchase of music.
- Ultimately he must be able to earn a sustainable income for himself and his family.

All these elements make up for the price you will be offered. You might be surprised that when taking all this in consideration, his services might not be that expensive after all.

What if things go wrong?

Apart from the budget you want to spend on music and entertainment, there is one very, very important issue you have consider: what happens when something goes wrong? As discussed before, things can go wrong. In many day-to-day situations it might not bother you too much. But this is your wedding day we're talking about. Can you afford to have delays in the schedule or in the worst case, to have no music at all because your DJ's gear failed and he is not able to solve it.

Bottom line: The better a DJ is prepared and organised, the more likely it is that he will be able to deal with unforeseen circumstances and to provide a smooth and joyful experience for you and your guests. And yes, in most cases you will pay a (slightly) higher bill for this assurance.

Pricing

It is impossible to come up with average prices as there are so much variations depending on location, competition and the required services.

Prices can go from a few hundred to a many thousands of euros but in most Western European countries you may expect to pay somewhere between 600 euro for a DJ playing only at the dance party and 2500 euro for a professional full-day wedding DJ service (2019).

ABOUT GETTING MARRIED IN SPAIN

The primary objective of this eBook is to provide bridal couples with a solid set of guidelines to choose the best possible DJ for their wedding day, wherever that wedding will take place. But as a Spain based company we like to provide those who plan on getting married in Spain with some extra advice, related to the specific situation here.

If you have hired a good weddingplanner, then he or she will be fully aware of the topics in this chapter. But even then it is useful to take notice of the following tips and topics so you can ask your planner for personal advice.

In case you have decided to do your own planning (you are the brave kind) then I firmly advice you to carefully read the points below in order to avoid serious disappointments.



Summer temperatures

Having a 'good weather guarantee' is probably one of the reasons you decided to choose Spain as your wedding destination. And you won't be disappointed. Having a rainy day during the summer months is highly unlikely.

The consequence of this is that temperatures often rise to a level that makes it uncomfortable to be outside in the sun for too long.

Keep this in mind while planning your day.

Here, most ceremonies only start after 5pm to avoid the most severe Spanish heat.

On a side note, sound equipment, needed for ceremonies and receptions, should be positioned out of direct sunlight to avoid overheating.

The relatively late starting-time of the ceremony consequently determines both your dinner time as well as the starting time of the dance party. On average the dance party in Spain starts between 11 and 12pm.

The best months for getting married in Spain are May, June, first half of July, September and the first half of October. In early spring and late fall the temperatures can be very pleasantly but the nights get cooler and these are also the most probable periods of the year to expect some precipitation.

Sound levels and permits

Having the dancing to start around midnight, brings us to the next consideration: the strict Spanish laws about nuisance. With many venues located in urban areas, there is constant friction between the

desire to have the wedding parties going on until deep into the night and the neighbor's desire to have a good night's sleep.

In general, in urban areas, one is allowed to play music outdoors to a maximum of 85 decibels until 11 or 12pm. After that time, no outdoor sound is allowed at all.

The local police is obligated to act on every complaint about nuisance and when they come at the door, they will order the music to stop. Permanently. There is no room for discussion, no 'Sorry mister police officer, we'll keep the volume down from now on'. The party will just be over. And it is good advice to never, ever start an argument with a Spanish police officer.

So, this makes you wonder, right? How on earth can you have your wedding party under the star lit Spanish skies if you're not allowed to play music outdoors?

Well, to be honest, this all depends on the location. Although many wedding venues are technically crossing the strict interpretation of the law, when having outdoor parties, they know by experience where the real limits are.

If you do your own planning of the wedding then it is highly recommended to discuss this topic with your venue, before booking.

Again, when you hired a wedding planner than he or she will give you proper advice to avoid disappointments.

Ultimately, if you like to have a good, worry-free party until the early morning light, then make sure to book a venue that is so isolated that no one will be annoyed when the bass is still pumpin' when the blue birds start to sing.

Or, alternatively, prepare to move the party inside after a certain time to get yourselves off the hook.

Power play

In most parts of Spain there is a distinction between what is called urban areas (e.g. cities and urbanisations) and rural areas. In urban areas facilities like electricity, water and internet are well maintained. Meaning that no matter how much electrical power is required for all the extra party necessities like the fridges for the caterer, the extra party lighting and the sound systems, you won't have to worry about snapping circuit breakers.

In rural areas however this is a different situation. In the Spanish 'campo' as this is called, the mains are often of inferior quality and not really trustworthy to say the least. So if the whole circus of wedding suppliers comes rolling in and puts additional strains on the system, chances are that at some point during the party there will be a blackout.

Don't trust anyone saying that this won't happen, because there is just no absolute guarantee. What should be done is to simply arrange for one or two diesel generators. Nowadays, these small machines run very quietly so no one will notice them.

Mañana, mañana

As much as I love the Spanish mentality and corresponding life style, I have to admit that the people from the southern parts of Spain, mainly Andalucia, tend to deal differently with engagements than most visitors are used to. Appointments, even when they are confirmed in written agreements are not as solid as we expect them

to be. This can cause a lot of stress when you depend on your Spanish suppliers.

This in itself is reason enough to hire a professional (local) wedding planner. He or she will deal with the suppliers, making sure all will be executed correctly.

A Spanish DJ

Is it a good idea to hire a Spanish DJ for your wedding party? Well, it could be. There are many very professional Spanish wedding DJs out there. There are a few things to consider:

- Most Spanish don't speak English (or any other languages for that matter) or only very limited, making it hard to communicate your



specific ideas and desires.

Also, during the party, your guests may find it difficult to get their requested songs across to the DJ.

- You will probably be offered a service agreement in Spanish or in poorly translated English. It might be good to ask your wedding planner to check on the content of the agreement before signing.
- You don't share the same musical history. The Spanish charts have always been populated with predominantly Latin based songs. In recent years more and more international dance music enters into the charts but the majority of the Spanish DJs is not as familiar with for instance the 80's and 90's dance classics as a DJ from northern Europe would be. This does not have to be a problem, it is just something you have to be aware of.

At MOOOV Event Services we are fully aware of the importance to get the DJ that is the most adequate for your specific wedding party.

We work with several international DJs from the UK, Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Argentina and of course from Spain itself.

In conclusion:

- Plan for a late start of the ceremony and arrange for covers/sunscreens for daytime outdoor activities.
- Check in advance what sound levels are allowed/advised during the night.
- Make sure there is sufficient and reliable power supply.
- Be prepared to deal with the Spanish mentality of your suppliers when you do your own planning.
- When hiring a Spanish DJ, make sure you can communicate well together.



ABOUT MOOOV EVENT SERVICES

Alexander is a DJ and entrepreneur of Dutch origin, living in Spain since 2015. He is the founder and owner of MOOOV Event Services, a premium DJ and entertainment service.

Being located near Marbella at the Costa del Sol in Andalucia, MOOOV Event Services is specialized in international destination weddings in Spain. With a broad network of wedding planners, venues, musicians, DJs and suppliers, MOOOV Event Services offers high-quality services to cater to any kind of wedding from small scale, budget weddings to high-end, exclusive weddings with hundreds of guests.

MOOOV Event Services is known for its iconic DJ shows. Our beautiful all-white DJ shows have a stylish, premium appearance. Perfect for weddings.

We offer live musicians and artists as well as many add-ons like starlit dance floors and lighting effects.



MOOOV Event Services works with protocols and professional planning tools to guarantee a worry-free preparation and execution of the wedding party.

We take pride in creating a high level of confidence between us and our clients and we go the extra mile to ensure that you will have a most satisfactory experience with us.

You can find more information about MOOOV Event Services at www.moov.es

Request for a non-committal quote

Are you planning a wedding in Spain? Then you might be interested in receiving a personal non-committal quotation? Just [click here](#) and you'll receive one within 24 hours.



Copyright © MOOOV Event Services.

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any matter whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations in a book review where full acknowledgement of intellectual property is provided.

MOOOV Event Services

Calle Almáchar 138b

Alhaurín de la Torre, Málaga

29130 Spain

