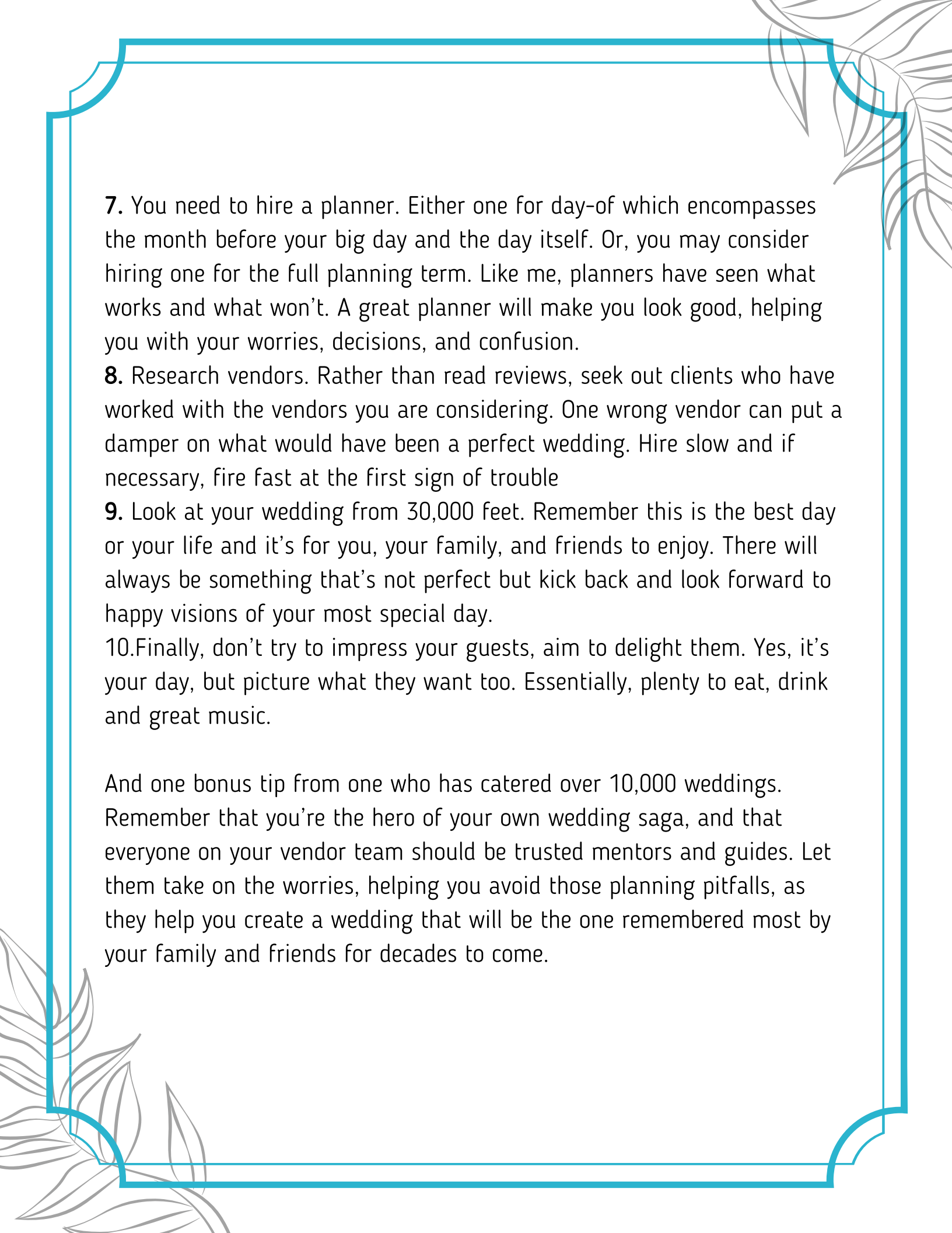


"As the CEO of a large catering company, I've seen the good, the bad, and the ugly from my couples over the years"
- **Bill Hansen** CEO Bill Hansen Catering and Event Production.

Here are my Top 10 Tips (plus One Bonus Tip)

Yes, the pressure is on to plan your perfect wedding, but there's no need to turn into a bridezilla in the process by turning deciding every detail into an agonizing, excruciating experience. Too many couples go overboard in this department, turning a pleasant experience into a nightmare.

1. Schedule your times for planning, and do not let it take over your life. You still have a family, a job, or perhaps studies. Keep things in perspective and on schedule.
2. Share your frustrations with friends, family, or your planner. Rather than stew internally, talk about it.
3. Exercise. There's nothing like a run, bike ride, a swim, yoga, or the gym to burn away your worries as well as calories to get you in shape for your magical day.
4. Use a software planning tool to keep yourself organized. You can't plan when your home and office look like a warzone. Stay organized.
5. Remember to get away for a long weekend, or more with your partner. Erase your planning worries from your head and decompress. Don't answer calls, read emails, or look at the planning sites on the Internet.
6. My success as a CEO for 40 years has been largely due to knowing what, when, and to whom to delegate. I can't do it all myself, and neither should you try. Let others handle the little things like envelope stuffing, etc. And allow them to help with the decision making so that they feel part of your wedding.



7. You need to hire a planner. Either one for day-of which encompasses the month before your big day and the day itself. Or, you may consider hiring one for the full planning term. Like me, planners have seen what works and what won't. A great planner will make you look good, helping you with your worries, decisions, and confusion.

8. Research vendors. Rather than read reviews, seek out clients who have worked with the vendors you are considering. One wrong vendor can put a damper on what would have been a perfect wedding. Hire slow and if necessary, fire fast at the first sign of trouble

9. Look at your wedding from 30,000 feet. Remember this is the best day of your life and it's for you, your family, and friends to enjoy. There will always be something that's not perfect but kick back and look forward to happy visions of your most special day.

10. Finally, don't try to impress your guests, aim to delight them. Yes, it's your day, but picture what they want too. Essentially, plenty to eat, drink and great music.

And one bonus tip from one who has catered over 10,000 weddings. Remember that you're the hero of your own wedding saga, and that everyone on your vendor team should be trusted mentors and guides. Let them take on the worries, helping you avoid those planning pitfalls, as they help you create a wedding that will be the one remembered most by your family and friends for decades to come.