



15 Ideas To Make Your Wedding Ceremony Unique



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Ceremonies with Style



1. Make an Entrance

Arrive (or depart) on a horseback, horse-drawn carriage, sleigh, vintage car, ferry boat, bicycle, motorcycle, snowmobile or canoe!



2. Incorporate Your Interests

Are you both nature-lovers? Include a reading about love and nature. Do you both love to dance? Have your bridal party tango down the aisle to the altar. Roller-skate down the aisle together! Or both of you could dance up the aisle after the ceremony! Have your ceremony be a celebration of the two of you-together.



3. Be a Total Romantic

Walk down an aisle full of fresh rose petals. Have a candlelight service. Get married at sunrise. Get married where you first met. Or where he proposed. Serenade each other!





4. Include Pets in the Ceremony

If you have a very well behaved, beloved pooch, and your wedding site permits animals, have a dog ring bearer or a dog flower girl!



5. Alternative Locations

Church and chapel weddings aren't your only choice. How about a park, the beach, a museum, a bed and breakfast, a boat, or your own backyard?



6. Throw a Surprise Wedding

Invite guests to a luncheon or dinner, then announce they've been gathered to witness your wedding vows! A surprise wedding is a lot of fun, and minimizes much pre-wedding stress.





6. Plan a Theme

Pick a theme - beach, country-western, Dr. Seuss- something you love.

For a Medieval wedding ceremony, choose Celtic Music; have a harpist or live Minstrels playing and fresh flowers in your hair, arrive in a horse drawn carriage, and ask your guests to dress in Medieval clothing.

Or have them dress as characters from an opera, fairytale, book or movie.

Or choose a seasonal or holiday theme.

Winter wonderland and Christmas weddings are beautiful, and many venues are magically decorated at this season. Valentine's Day is a natural.

Or how about a New Year's Eve party with a countdown at midnight for your just-married first kiss? Theme weddings are fun to plan and fun to attend. People will talk about your wedding for years!



7. The Bride Wore ...

Express yourself with your dress, whether you prefer a traditional gown with a long, cathedral veil, a Medieval or Victorian costume, a blush pink gown or gown with color details, or a white eyelet sundress and bare feet.



8. Honor Special People

Have both of your parents walk you down the aisle, have your sister do a reading or sing a solo, hand roses to your mother and mother-in-law during a rose ceremony, ask a favorite uncle to offer your final blessing, include a prayer of thanks to your family, station someone to give flowers to every female as they walk in to be seated, or, after the vows and the kiss, have the minister invite the whole family up to join the wedding party as he presents you as husband and wife.



9. Have a Family Wedding

If you have children who are old enough to participate, then make them part of the ceremony.



10. Include Ethnic Traditions

Use readings, blessings or ceremony rituals that reflect your own heritage- or use ideas from other cultures that simply resonate with you. Scottish background? How about bagpipe music?



11. Use All 5 Senses In Your Plans

Include flowers with lovely scents, such as stephanotis, gardenias, jasmine, lavender, or apple blossoms. Ask your florist what would be available, or ask a gardening friend. If you have an ocean-side wedding, salt-water scents and sea sounds will forever remind you of your wedding day. Have wind-chimes for an outdoor wedding. Let your favorite color be your theme, and carry it out from your invitations to your wedding cake.



12. Have Fun With Your Big Kiss

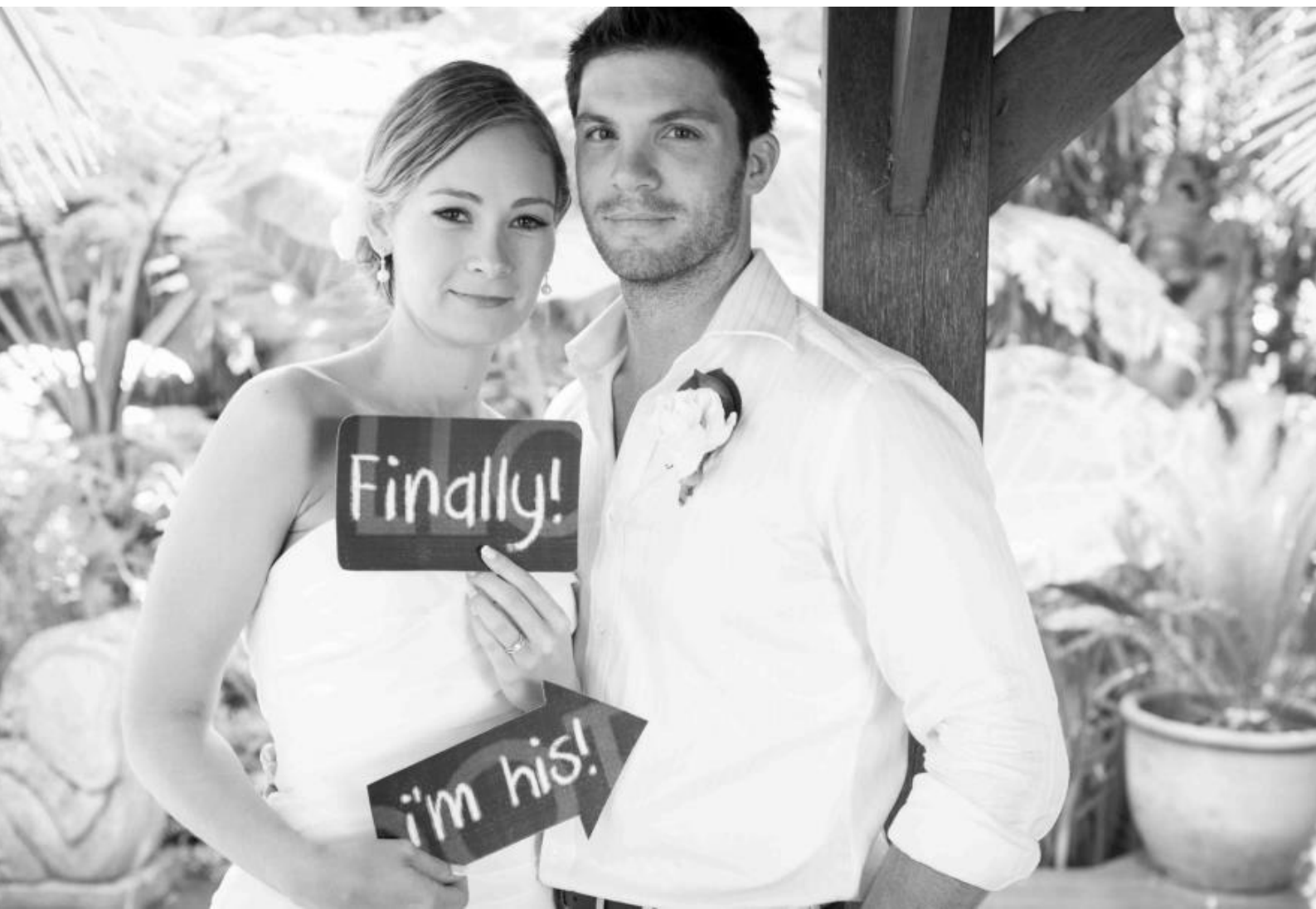
Have your attendants hold up rating cards!



13. A Happy Exit

On your way back down the aisle, stop and greet people and enjoy your guests! For an intimate and informal wedding, especially outdoors, skip the processional and recessional altogether, and just gather casually and hug and kiss everyone when it is over!





14. Celebrate!

End your wedding ceremony with streamers and noisemakers, confetti, rose petals, bubbles or bells! Bubble machines are very effective. Have a dove or balloon release. Celebrate with fireworks!



15. Have Fun

You don't need to have a cookie cutter wedding. This is a once-in-a-lifetime day, so do what you like and have a blast!



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