

A WEDDING AT LA CHIESA DI SANTO STEFANO

We appreciate that every couple needs to have an idea of the costs that they are likely to incur for their wedding. However, it is very difficult to give precise prices, because each couple's needs are different.

This document therefore aims to give an idea of the sort of costs you might incur, and suggests a range of services that you need to take into consideration when planning your wedding.

ACCOMMODATION

Weddings at La Chiesa di Santo Stefano are only available in conjunction with a minimum of one week's accommodation.

Santo Stefano will sleep 16 people. There are 5 double rooms, 1 room which can optionally be either single or double, and 2 rooms with twin beds. One of these rooms is quite small, and is either suited to two children, or one single bed is removed to create a comfortable single room – providing accommodation for a total of 15 guests. There are 9 bath or shower rooms in total – 7 ensuite, with the small single / twin using one of the house bathrooms.

There are two fully equipped kitchens – thus making Santo Stefano a perfect location for more than one family to enjoy time together but with their own facilities – plus two large living rooms, a dining room, and a small but well stocked library.

The property has been designed to cater for the exclusive market, and is furnished to a very high standard including many antique pieces. With daily cleaning (except Sunday), bed linen changed twice weekly, all bathroom toiletries provided, a seemingly endless supply of pool towels and many other features which differentiate Santo Stefano from other locations, we believe it offers the perfect venue for family and friends to gather in the days before or after the wedding.

Your wedding budget should therefore include one week's rental of Santo Stefano for up to 16 people. The price is determined by the season, and ranges **from £5500 in the low season to £7100 in the high season months of July and August** (2010 prices).

VENUE, PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION CHARGES

A successful wedding relies on a number of ingredients – the right venue, excellent planning and a happy couple to name but three. We can make sure that the venue is perfect for the day of your wedding, and that all the arrangements go without a hitch. This should ensure that the couple are free to enjoy their day without any stress or concerns.

VENUE

The majority of venue charges are covered by the rental fee, but an additional venue charge is added to cover the following range of items :

- ❖ Preparation of the house and grounds to an appropriate standard for a wedding
- ❖ Preparation of the kitchen for the chef
- ❖ Wear and tear on the property as a result of hosting a wedding (guests, caterers, etc)
- ❖ Additional services used

- ❖ Organisation of suppliers – caterers, gazebo company, florists, etc: all may arrive the day before to deliver, and return a day or so later to remove their property.
- ❖ Attendance on the wedding day – usually a minimum of 15 hours – from arrival of the first services to the departure of the last guest.
- ❖ Planning and preparation time – liaising with the wedding planner
- ❖ Included lighting options – tea lights for lanterns, fairy lights in the olive tree and around the rose arches, etc.
- ❖ Preparation and hire of the chapel – including hire of audio equipment, chairs, candles, carpet, etc.
- ❖ Insurance (although couples are advised to take their own specific wedding insurance, including 3rd party liability)
- ❖ General cleaning and reorganising after the wedding
- ❖ Thank you ‘gift’ to the mayor (the mayor doesn’t charge for his services at Santo Stefano – and he is under no obligation to perform the service. For this reason, we always provide him with a case of wine!).
- ❖ Optional one night of free accommodation at Santo Stefano for the couple during the planning phase – this is immensely useful for us and for you, and inevitably reduces the amount of emails and phone calls during the planning phase.

The venue charge only covers the day of the wedding. If additional parties are required where the number of guests is likely to exceed the number of people staying at the villa, please ask us for a quotation. This will depend largely on numbers and the type of event.

The venue charge for the day of the wedding may be adjusted according to the number of guests, but will normally be between **£1000 and £1500**.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Each wedding is different. It’s very difficult to come up with a formula that allows people to choose certain services and create a price based on those selected, because although one group might say “I’m doing my own stationery”, they may have complex catering requirements. None of this is a problem, but it does make it impossible to simply offer a list of services with fixed prices.

The number of guests is not normally a factor, as the same amount of administration and planning is generally required for all weddings, irrelevant of their size (accommodation being the only variable). Basically, therefore, we have to make a judgement based on our assessment of the requirements of the couple. The only exception is where the couple speak fluent Italian and are prepared to organise all the legal requirements, catering, florists, music, etc themselves.

The planning and administration services may include some, or all, of the following :

- ❖ Legal assistance : explanation of the UK legal requirements, with timings; liaison with the British Consulate in Florence to obtain the necessary permissions; liaison with the local comune (council) for the wedding ceremony and associated documentation, including translation. The cost of the Nulla Osta and hire of rooms in the town hall is additional.
- ❖ All interpreting services : including ceremonies, liaison with services, etc.

- ❖ Liaison with : florist, caterer, photographer, videographer, musicians, stationers, beauticians, hairdressers, gazebo suppliers – plus additional services as required. Please note that each wedding normally requires a minimum of two to three visits to the major service providers, such as the florist and the caterer, as we need to put together ideas, get quotes, get back to the couple, and then either confirm or make changes with the service provider. Liaison with the caterer may including attending a tasting session with the couple.
- ❖ Ongoing research into all of the above services to ensure that the best supplier is selected at an appropriate cost.
- ❖ Theme : working with the couple to establish a theme for their wedding, and co-ordinating all services to deliver this theme
- ❖ Liaising with the couple via email, telephone and – where possible – during a visit to the venue, and maintaining comprehensive documentation for the bride and groom, showing actions needed, decisions taken, payments due.
- ❖ On the day co-ordination of events – normally a minimum of 16 hours.
- ❖ Transport and expenses

The fees for administration and planning services start at **£2000**, but may be higher if the requirements are complex. If either couple speaks fluent Italian, and is happy to liaise with some services themselves, this fee would be reduced.

Where required, we can also offer an additional service to assist with the planning of accommodation and transport of your guests – using local transport hire companies, hotels, bed and breakfasts, etc. The price for this service will vary according to the number of bookings required and the complexity of the arrangements.

WEDDING DINNER

This is obviously a very flexible part of the budget, and much depends on personal preferences. Wedding dinners in Italy are very elaborate affairs, with menus that take several hours to eat your way through. At the top end, therefore, we have the typical Italian wedding dinner, with canapés immediately following the ceremony in the formal garden at the front of the house. This is served with Prosecco or Champagne (at additional cost).

The antipasti course is usually served on the pool terrace, with guests able to choose for themselves from a vast array of choices of cold meats, fish, vegetables and salads. This part of the meal is normally eaten informally at tables around the grounds, swimming pool and lawns.

Dinner is served about two hours after the ceremony ends (in the height of summer, the best time for the ceremony is late afternoon / early evening), and is served at beautifully laid tables on the main terrace at the back of the property. This is a far more formal part of the meal, with silver service throughout. There are often at least another four courses during this part of the meal.

The cost for a meal such as the one described above would be **around £90-120 per head, all wine included**. This partly depends on the number of guests and the chef that you choose, but of course it also depends on the number and complexity of the courses, and the type of ingredients you favour. If you require any particular wines, or French Champagne (as opposed to Prosecco or a good Italian style champagne), there would be an extra charge.

The above price is for the ultimate wedding dinner, and there are lots of alternative and cheaper options that we can discuss. For example, dinner could be a much simpler and less formal meal with fewer courses for **around £75** per head, or could be a buffet, a barbecue or a simple pasta meal. There are no hidden costs in the quote, and prices include all table settings, waiter service, etc.

ENTERTAINMENT

You may be interested in music during the ceremony, during dinner, or to dance to later in the evening. Again, there are numerous choices to be made. In terms of examples, you should budget around **£1000** if you would like a string quartet to play during the ceremony and dinner, and a further **£800** for evening entertainment with a live band. A disco would be less expensive, and some people prefer to record all their favourite tracks onto an i-pod or CD which can simply be connected to speakers.

FLOWERS

Flowers will normally be needed for the church and for table decorations, plus any bouquets for the bride and bridesmaids, buttonholes for the groom, best man, ushers etc. Depending on the choice of flowers and the number of bouquets and buttonholes, a budget of around **£600-£1000** would be sufficient. We have had wedding flowers at both higher and lower budgets than these guidelines, and it clearly depends on the type of flowers required, the number of table decorations, etc.

PHOTOGRAPHER

This covers such a wide range of options that it is difficult to give an accurate cost here. There is an excellent local photographer, who creates lovely and unusual albums. Depending on your requirements, he would cost from **£1000**. Of course, it depends whether you want the photographer for the whole day or just for the ceremony, the style and type of photographs that you will require after the wedding, including album and enlargements etc. It also depends whether a video is required. With so many options to choose from it is better that we discuss this with you first, and then offer a range of prices. We can also arrange for a photographer to come from England, although this obviously impacts on cost.

GAZEBO

The weather in Italy during the summer months is usually pretty reliable. However, it does normally rain once or twice a month even in the hottest months of the year. If you are having quite a large party of people, we would recommend getting a gazebo – a type of open sided marquee (although the sides can be closed in the unlikely event of the weather being particularly bad). The gazebos are quite elegant, and not at all like the English version with the frilly pink drapes. This truly adds to the atmosphere of the day, and when lit by candlelight it provides a wonderfully romantic ambiance.

A gazebo costs around €15 (euro) per square metre and normally the minimum size would be around 64 square metres (8 x 8), which is fine for up to 40 people, but a gazebo that will seat 100 people can also be accommodated (10 x10). If there are fewer people than this, we can set up alternative eating locations within the house in the unlikely event of bad weather.

LIGHTING OPTIONS

Effective lighting is a crucial factor in creating the right mood for your wedding – and we have a separate document available also from the Downloads section of the website which shows some of the available options.

OTHER SERVICES

There may be other services that you require, such as a beautician, hairdresser, printing of orders of service, place names, favours, Champagne breakfast on the day of the wedding, etc. A list of things to consider is included in our questionnaire. However, we hope that the above outline helps you to identify an approximate budget, and make some of the many decisions involved in planning your perfect wedding.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

If some of your guests are staying at local hotels, you may want to consider arranging transport to and from the wedding. Although we have ample space for parking, many people prefer not to drive! Taxis and small minibuses can be arranged. If they do wish to find accommodation at hotels, prices vary but are still very reasonable. You should allow about £60 per couple per night for a local small hotel, to around £100 per couple per night for somewhere with more facilities.

Similarly, some of your guests who are staying at Santo Stefano may not wish to hire a car, and transport will need to be arranged from the airport. We can organise taxis from any airport – but it does become expensive if people are arriving at destinations other than Ancona. Transport from Ancona airport via taxi is currently about £90 per trip with 3-4 passengers. The taxi company does have a larger vehicle which will seat 8 plus driver. The cost is around £10 extra for this vehicle.

If you would like to have dinner on the eve of the wedding, a good local restaurant can be booked, or dinner could be arranged here at Santo Stefano. Costs vary considerably (from pizzas to a gourmet meal) but you should allow anything from £15 to £50 per head – depending on the choice of event.

During dinner, drinks will be provided. If, however, you want additional drinks to be available after dinner, or for the early arrival of guests before the wedding, you will need to consider the cost of these drinks. We are not able to have a paid bar, but we can provide the drinks and people to serve them to your guests. In this instance, we will just charge for the cost of the drinks, plus two staff to serve and clear away the glasses at the end of the night. The cost for this service is around £180 for service until 2 am. For weddings that are likely to finish earlier, the costs will of course be reduced.

EXCHANGE RATE

The majority of the above prices are quoted in Sterling as we have converted them from the Euro equivalent. However, current fluctuations in the exchange rate may have some impact on the prices quoted. When we issue a formal quotation, we will calculate the exchange rate at that time in order to give you the most up to date price, and will also quote in Euros for your information.