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## 5 Tips To Select The Best Wedding Reception Location

By Tim and Tammy Smith

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Being disc jockeys, we get the opportunity to evaluate many reception facilities while having little or no bias to "sell" one location over another. Most Brides and Grooms know where they will be holding the ceremony before they decide where to have the reception, so we have compiled five observations that can help you when selecting your venue.

**Distance** – If people have to drive a long way to get from the ceremony to the reception, some will get distracted or decide to do something else. Try to keep the reception within a 15 to 30 minute drive of your ceremony. If it is not possible to get a reception hall close to your ceremony, make a caravan. Have the Bride and Groom lead the parade, and people will follow you to your reception.

**Time** - Time is just like the distance issue. If your reception is several hours after the ceremony, people will get busy doing other things and not show up for the reception. Try to start the reception within an hour or two of the ceremony. If you don't want to start your wedding dance at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, have a Meet and Greet mixer before your reception. Serve some punch and get people to mingle. This will be one of the few times that both families will be together. Encourage family members to share stories about your childhoods.

**Size** – People like their personal space, and they have most likely spent an hour packed into a church for your ceremony. If you let them spread out, they will enjoy themselves more. Make sure your reception hall has plenty of room for your guests. The people renting the location might tell you it holds 200 people, but that doesn't necessarily mean it will hold 200 people comfortably! Make sure to visit the venue before booking.

**Climate Control** – Having a summer wedding? Is your reception hall air conditioned? If people sweat while just sitting, they won't dance. On the flip side, if they are cold they won't dance either (who wants to dance in a parka?). Also make sure you know who has control of the thermostat so the temperature can be adjusted if needed. Chances are your reception will be warm and stuffy while all the guest are there, but as they trickle out during the night the room will begin to cool down.

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Smoking – This is a hot button issue, but if your reception hall is non-smoking, you can fully expect smoker's to leave your reception for 15–30 minutes every hour. If enough of them leave the reception area, you may find a large percentage of your guest just hanging out in the smoking area. This can be a big problem if you have many smokers in your wedding party. You don't have to allow smoking, but it is something you should consider, especially if anyone has any health problems like asthma or allergies that could be triggered by smoke. If you decide not to allow smoking in the reception area, how close is the nearest place for a smoker to go? Is it close enough that you will be able to get needed wedding party members during events like the bouquet toss or garter auction?

Facility coordinators will no doubt bring up several other factors for you to consider when you interview them for your booking, but these are often missed items, especially if they don't favor the potential venue. If you keep the overall picture in mind and work with your wedding planner or event coordinator

on the decorating ideas, you will no doubt have an enjoyable and memorable wedding reception.

About the Authors: Tim & Tammy Smith operate By Request DJ & Karaoke Company (<http://www.byrequest.dj>), located in Fargo, North Dakota. They have been providing entertainment for wedding receptions since 1994 and belong to several professional disc jockey organizations.

### **Wedding Reception**

#### **By George Meszaros**

There are an infinite number of possibilities for your wedding reception site. Where you get married should represent your style; it should fit into the image you had envisioned yourself since the first day you started planning your wedding. As you look for your wedding reception venue, be sure it is fitting theme for your wedding. Does it fit the theme of your wedding? No one is expecting you to create a Broadway show production, but be sure the location accommodates the overall theme and fee of your wedding - whether it be a location, a flower. The location of you wedding reception needs to reflect the style and personality of the bride and groom. In addition, it needs to be an enjoyable, memorable experience for the wedding guests.

Selecting a reception site will depend on its availability, price, location to the wedding ceremony site and its capacity. Having your ceremony and reception in the same location can save you money and stress! One of the most important factors to consider is capacity. If you can't seat all you guest, it doesn't matter how much you want a location. Only visit sites that can accommodate the number of guest you plan to invite. You should also be flexible when determining your wedding date. Chances are the venue you like is already booked for your date, but you may be able to secure it for following week. If you really like the site, it may be worth the wait?

Find out how they charge for their services. Most hotels and restaurants charge per person where a flat fee is charged for each guest, including food, beverages, tables, chairs, linens, etc. Other venues such as clubhouses, parks charge you based on a period of time.

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Most importantly you should feel comfortable at your own reception. Follow family traditions if those are important to you, but not because you feel pressured by family or guest expectations.

George Meszaros



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