



A Calm Rush to the Altar

Master planning for a morning of bonding time with the ladies.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RACHEL THURSTON

GROOM ASIDE for a moment, let's talk about your BFF's. On your big day, how can you create a morning of girl bonding that is fun and productive? Kristin Spear of *Soirée Productions* knows how. She is the queen of the timeline, mastering schedules that can run as long as 15 pages depending on the scope of the wedding. "One of the reasons to hire a planner is so the couple can enjoy their day without having to worry about everything running smoothly," Spear says. "A timeline determines all the day-of decisions beforehand so there are no organizing decisions to be made that day." Even tiny details, such as what time to meet or who is driving, can become major problems if not planned out in advance.

Most importantly, a timeline ensures a relaxing day leading up to the ceremony. "A morning that runs smoothly builds the foundation for the rest of the wedding day," she says. "If you lose that sense of calm, it's difficult to get it back the rest of the day."

During Chelsea Krammes' June wedding in Park City, the morning duties of hair and makeup were just that: relaxed. Krammes' attributes this to planning ahead. "Do as much as possible before the big day," Krammes says. "This helped me to solely focus on getting ready and enjoying the day." She also suggests trusting your vendors, one of whom was Spear. "Relinquish control. While it wasn't easy for me at some points, the last thing I was



8:30 a.m.

Hair and makeup artists from *Enizio* arrive at the Waldorf Astoria bridal suite. Krammes says, "We erred on the side of caution—with seven bridesmaids, mother of the bride, mother of the groom and me—by starting hair and makeup very early."



9:30 a.m.

Florist *Artisan Bloom* delivers personal ladies' flowers to the bridal suite. "I usually put one or two bridesmaids in charge of taping off the bottoms of the bouquets before they are given out," says Spear. "I have already reminded them at the rehearsal dinner to keep their thumbs at their belly bottoms when carrying the bouquets down the aisle. When people get nervous, the bouquets tend to creep up to their chins, which looks bad in photos."



10:00 a.m.

Kristin Spear delivers brunch. "I deliver meals to the bridal suite. The food is planned out and ordered well in advance, so there's no organizing that day," says Spear. "For the men, I make a reservation at a restaurant like *High West* to kill nerves and give them time to relax."

PRELUDES | Bridesmaids

thinking about on my wedding day was the details of how things were coming together. This helped me to relax and live in the moment."

To help Krammes enjoy each moment of her morning with bridesmaids, sisters, mom and mother-in-law, Spear and her team stuck to a timeline to ensure the bride made it to the altar on time.

12 Noon

Photographer Rachel Thurston arrives at the bridal suite to take "getting ready" photos. "This is also my favorite time to photograph little mementos or keepsakes," Thurston says. "Keep the items you want photographed together so the photographer can get detail shots."



12:10 p.m.

Chelsea begins hair and makeup. "I did two trial runs of hair and makeup before the wedding," says the bride. "While this wasn't the most budget-conscious decision, the practice helped nail down the exact look I was trying to achieve."



1:00 p.m.

Hair and makeup is complete and the bride and bridesmaids begin dressing. "Make sure you don't wait until the very last second to get into your dress," says Thurston. "Leave enough time so your photographer can use the gorgeous window light [of a bridal suite] to shoot your pretty face." Spear recommends at least 30 minutes for the bride to get into her dress. "Brides are surprised to find that it takes that long, but it's best to plan so you don't cut into the photographer's schedule."



1:30 p.m.

Bride and bridesmaids depart Waldorf Astoria for Town Lift Bridge



2:00 p.m.

"First look" photos with groom at Town Lift Bridge



5:30 p.m.

Ceremony at Blue Sky Ranch, Wanship, Utah





R·E·A·L·W·E·D·D·I·N·G·S·

Mid-Mountain Couture

Nichole likes haute couture. Alex prefers mountain casual.
What better way to capture the two styles than with
a "glamping"-style wedding at 8,000 feet.

Nichole Burks & Alex Cate

July 28, 2012 Red Pine Lodge, Canyons, Park City

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PEPPER NIX



Nichole fashioned her haute style with bright red lipstick.
OPPOSITE: Red carpet ceremony.



Memorable Moments

"Seeing Alex's face when the music started and he realized he had to do a slightly choreographed dance in front of all the guests."

-Nichole



WHO THEY ARE

Nichole, who hails from Mustang, Okla., graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelors degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. That's where she met Alex at a back-to-school shindig. Salt Lake native Alex, who was a quarterback for the OSU football team, graduated from OSU with a Bachelors degree in economics. Currently, they live in Utah where Nichole is a diagnostic medical sonographer for Jordan Valley Hospital and Alex works as a business analyst for Lexington Law.

THE WEDDING

After a surprise proposal that took place in a hot air balloon above Park City, Nichole and Alex planned a summer wedding at Canyons. On July 28th, the Red Pine Gondola carried the bride, groom and their 250 guests up to Canyons' mid-mountain Red Pine Lodge. Guests stepped off the transport onto a pathway leading to the red-carpeted aisle. They married beneath a crystal chandelier that now hangs in the newlyweds' home.

THE MOOD

Guests were surprised to find French-inspired decorations placed throughout the rustic ski venue. "Alex really wanted to have the wedding in the mountains because he loves hiking and snowboarding," Nichole says. But she didn't envision a typical mountain-vibe wedding. "My style is more of a clean, crisp couture." Black and white carnival-type stripes enriched the cocktail table linens and flower chandeliers. To break up the décor's black and white palette, Nichole injected a jolt of vivid-colored flowers. Most unexpectedly, a 60-inch round "flower bomb" of Black Magic red roses topped the escort card table.

THE MENU

Passed appetizers, including tuna tartar and stuffed mushrooms, were served during the cocktail hour. Dinner was offered at assorted stations: soups, salads, meats, sushi and pasta all positioned throughout the dining room. For a late night snack, the Lodge served mini chocolate milk shakes, sliders and fries. Carrie's Cakes provided a four-tier champagne, Kahlua, almond and lemon cake. The groom's red velvet cake was adorned with a custom-made topper representing the newlyweds: Alex on a long board and Nichole in her wedding gown.

THE MUSIC

Michael Lucarelli played acoustic classical guitar during the ceremony. Party Train was the band at the reception. The couple's first dance was to Tyrene Wells' "Burning Around in my Dreams."



CLOCKWISE: Red Pine Lodge at dusk; the Red Pine Gondola carried 250 guests up to an elevation of 8,000 feet for the mountain glam wedding; slick shoes, socks and watch ready for the groom; Nichole sported a lovely, braided updo. **OPPOSITE:** A big and bold bouquet of garden roses teamed with cymbidium and dendrobium orchids, fern curls and hanging amaranthus.





•V•E•N•D•O•R•S•

Photography: Popper Nix, SLC, poppernix.com
 Wedding planner: Kristin Spear, Sonnie Productions, Park City, sonnieproductions.com
 Catering: Canyon Resort, Park City, canyonresort.com
 Ceremony and reception site: Red Pine Lodge at the Canyons, canyonresort.com
 Flowers: Decoration Inc., SLC, decorationinc.com
 Rentals: Diamond Rental, SLC, diamondrental.com
 Rings: D.C. Tanner Jewelers, SLC, dctannerjewelers.com
 Invitations: Nine Grain Design, nine-grain-design.com
 Gown: Badgley Mischka, Alta Moda, SLC, altamodabridal.com
 Suits: D. Grant Ltd, SLC, dgrantllc.com
 Groomsmen suits: Sonnie Productions, sonnieproductions.com
 Bridesmaids' dresses: J Crew, jcrew.com
 Entertainment: Party Train, SLC, partytrain.com
 Michael Lucarelli, SLC, michaellucarelli.com
 Videography: Override Films, SLC, overridefilms.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Four-tier cake; cake topper depicting Nichole and Alex; posing at Ösgöthorpe Barn; French-inspired chandelier; sliders snack; fleur-de-lis tattoo; bridesmaids wore shades of grey. **OPPOSITE:** Sixty-inch wide "flower bomb" graced the escort card table.



