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## **EMAIL STRATEGY**

Email is one of the most effective and cost-efficient marketing channels for communication. A welldesigned email program will:

- Create awareness to your business, offerings and promotions 1.
- 2. Drive traffic to your store or website
- 3. Increase conversion (purchases)

You have the best chance of reaping these benefits if you are as targeted as possible with your email strategy – the goal is to send relevant information to your brides when they want to receive it.

We know that it is overwhelming to consider all of these factors when designing an email strategy, so we have put together a guideline to help you succeed. There are five major steps to develop a successful email program:

- 1. DEVELOP AN EMAIL SERIES AND TIMELINE FOR YOUR EMAILS
- 2. DEFINE A KEY MESSAGE FOR EACH EMAIL
- 3. DESIGN EFFECTIVE CREATIVE CONTENT
- 4. WRITE A POWERFUL SUBJECT LINE AND PRE-HEADER
- 5. UNDERSTAND PERFORMANCE OF YOUR EMAILS

In the following pages, we will describe each step in more detail for you

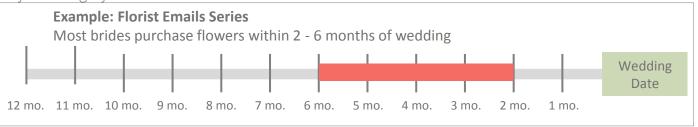


## DEVELOP AN EMAIL SERIES AND TIMELINE

Defining the cadence and the timing of your emails will be very critical to ensure you make the most out of these emails. Here are a few recommendations for you to consider when developing your email series:

#### A. IDENTIFY A FIVE MONTH PERIOD WHEN SHE IS MOST LIKELY TO PURCHASE YOUR PRODUCT

We have done extensive research across most wedding categories to determine the period when she is most likely to make a purchase for each service. Below you will see an example timeline for flower services. (see "Appendix A – Email Timeline by Service category" for recommendations across other categories) We recommend sending one email to the Newly Registered brides, then one to each of the 5 target segments for your category.



Florist		2 – 6 mo.	
	Cake	2 – 6mo.	
	Entertainment	5 – 9 <b>mo</b> .	

Photo / Video	6 – 10 mo.	
Honeymoon	2-6 mo.	
Reception	8 – 12 mo.	

Catering & Restaurant	5 – 9 mo.	
Beauty	1 – 5 mo.	

#### B. SEND 1 EMAIL EACH MONTH

Define the right cadence of emails to ensure you stay top of mind but, at the same time, do not overwhelm her with too many emails. In our program, we offer the opportunity to send up to 6 emails to each bride. Sending one email each month will allow you to cover the Newly Registered segment plus the five month period recommended to "talk" to her.

#### C. CREATE UNIQUE CONTENT FOR EACH EMAIL

Consider different content, visuals and messages for each email in your series.

- Brides like newness. Sending the same email may increase the chances she will not open your email. It could be valuable for her to think she is getting a different email every time in order to create curiosity and increase engagement.
- Brides tend to engage differently according to different content. One bride may respond to a
  more promotional email, while another bride may like emails with more pictures. Others may
  like a more detailed description of your service. You can balance the content of your emails to
  make sure you address the needs of different groups.



## DEFINE A KEY MESSAGE

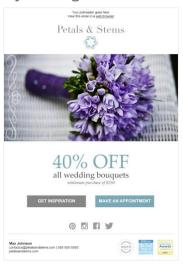
Every email should have a clearly defined objective to drive an action from the bride – either drive her to your website by clicking a link in the email, encourage her to call your store, or simply contact you directly.

In order to accomplish your goal, you should define the primary message of your email that will drive her to an action before designing the content of your email.

As we mentioned previously, consider balancing the messages to ensure you address the needs of the different groups of brides. Over time, you will learn which message resonates best with her so you can better focus the messages of your emails.

Below are a few key messages that you can consider and examples of how we designed emails to support these messages:

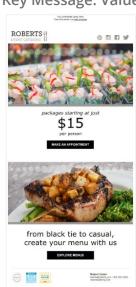
#### Key Message: Promotional



#### Key Message: Inspirational



#### Key Message: Value



#### Key Message: Educational





## DEFINE EFFECTIVE CREATIVE CONTENT

Once the recipient opens your email, the creative content determines her level of engagement with your company. If she likes what she sees, then she has a much higher chance of clicking into your email. See below critical elements to develop effective content.





#### A. PHOTOS

- Emails with photos typically perform better than all-text emails
- Brides love to envision their special day, so try to choose photos that can serve as inspiration and/or include photos of brides and her wedding party
- Always link photos to your website to increase her chance of clicking through

#### **B. SERVICE DESCRIPTION**

- Highlight key points of your service to introduce who you are and what you offer
- Try not to share all information in the email content - she should be able to find details online or in store
- Assume recipient is reading email quickly on a mobile device - be direct and concise
- Use large font 20 pts at minimum

#### C. CALL TO ACTION (CTA)

- Provide direction for what she should do next (e.g. "View Gallery", "Get Savings")
- Clearly differentiate CTA from content text so that she knows where to click (e.g. larger font, set-up like button)
- Try to locate CTA towards top of email so that she doesn't have to scroll too much

#### D. COUPON / DFAL

Give her a reason to work with you! Since she opened your email she is already engaged with your brand



# WRITE A POWERFUL SUBJECT LINE AND PREHEADER

The subject line is the first thing the bride sees when she receives your email. The preheader is also becoming very important as over 60% of the brides open their emails in a mobile device.



Since the subject line and preheader make the first impression on the recipient, they often determine whether or not she will open or delete your email. It is helpful to think back to the primary message of each email as you develop your subject line and preheader so that you can appropriately preview the content in the email. Below we provide some tips to help you get it right!

#### SUBJECT LINE TIPS

1. **KEEP THE SUBJECT LINE SHORT AND DIRECT** – goal should be 6-10 words or less than 50 characters

2. PERSONALIZE THE SUBJECT LINE - include name, city, time to wedding, season of wedding

To Do	Fall Wedding? Poppies are Perfect for your Bouquet
-------	--

3. RELATE BACK TO EMAIL MESSAGE – if message is promotional, mention promotion on subject line

To Do	\$20 off Bouquets for the Entire Bridal Party
-------	---

**NOTE:** Test various subject line strategies to see what resonates most with brides. Ideas include: Statements, Intriguing questions, Value-oriented messages

Additional
Examples
(To Do)

- Linda, Special Savings on Flowers Just For You
- Poppies? Hydrangeas? We Have What You Want!
  - Beautiful Wedding Flowers Under \$100

#### **PRE-HEADER TIPS:**

- 1. Do not say the same thing as what was in the subject line
- 2. Pre-Headers are not as impactful as subject line, so do not rely on preheader for main message

S L	Wow! \$100 off Wedding Flowers	
P	Limited Time. Ends on	
H	Oct 10 <sup>th</sup> .	

S L	Wedding Flowers at Beautiful Prices
P H	100's of Bouquets Under \$100

S	Beautiful Wedding
L	Flowers Under \$100
P	And Special Savings Just
H	For You

SL = subject line *PH = preheader* 



## UNDERSTAND PERFORMANCE OF YOUR EMAILS

One of the best parts about using email as a marketing tool is the ability to accurately monitor results and make changes quickly based on what is working or not working.

A report of your email performance will be sent monthly so you can review the metrics of each email at a point when most brides will have had time to react.

See below for the two most important metrics that you should understand and track. These metrics will help you understand what is working or not working so that you can course correct your strategy if necessary. We also provide below targets for you to define what is good or poor performance.

Metric	Definition	Target
Open Rate	% Brides who opened your email	10 – 12%
Click to Open Rate	Out of the brides who opened your email, % Brides who clicked on a link	10 – 15%

#### **OPEN RATE**

The key driver to maximizing open rates is getting the Subject Line of your email right. The Subject Line is the first thing the bride will see and will play a critical role in driving her to open your email. So if your open rate is below the target, consider testing variations of your subject line as described in section #4.

#### **CLICK TO OPEN RATE**

This metric helps you to determine how good the content of your email is. This metric determines how many brides who opened your email clicked on any link in your email. So if your click to open rate is below target, consider reviewing the content of your email. Follow recommendations on section #3 to improve the content of your email.



## RECOMMENDED EMAIL CADENCES BY CATEGORY

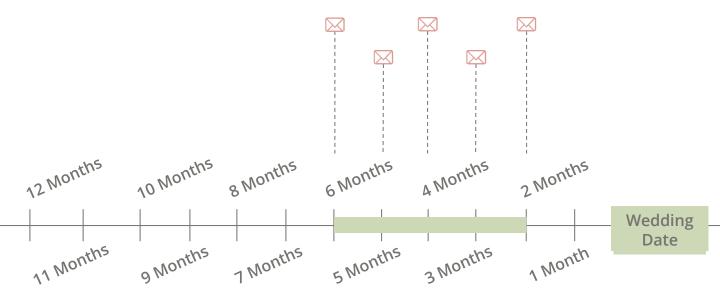
The following email cadences are recommendations on how you could send your emails.

NOTE: These timelines are based on David's Bridal customer survey data for when brides start considering and subsequently book local vendors for their weddings.

The following should be used as a guideline, since timing varies by market. We always recommend testing to find the best time to communicate with the brides in your market.



## FLORIST CADENCE



## KEY FACTS/FINDINGS/TRENDS

#### **INSPIRE BRIDES**

with ideas to complete her wedding day vision Top floral choices for arrangements

WHITE ROSES WHITE HYDRANGEAS **RED ROSES** 

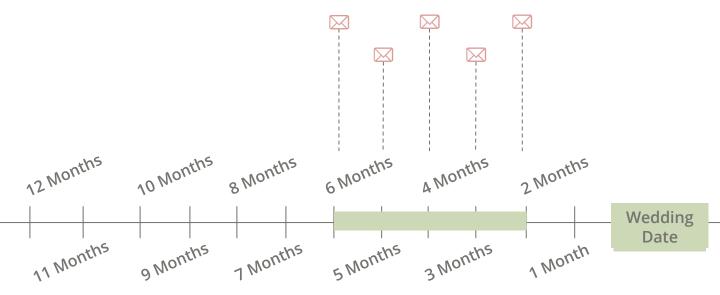
**SEARCH BY COLOR** and **IMAGE GALLERIES** prompt brides to engage with your brand

Majority of brides spend between \$250-\$2,000

72 PERCENT of all brides book a florist



## CAKE CADENCE



## KEY FACTS/FINDINGS/TRENDS

Majority of brides spend **UNDER \$500** 

59% OF BRIDES hire a professional baker separate from their reception location or caterer

**FLAVOR OF CAKE** is driven by season of wedding

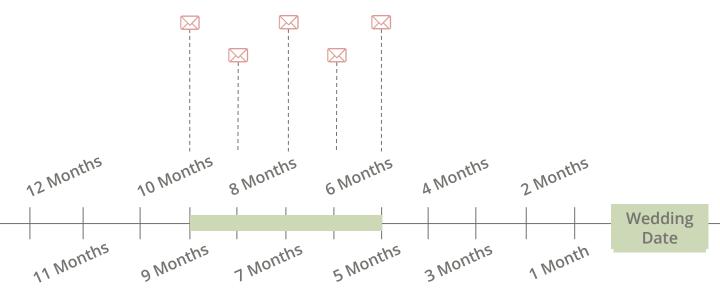
Budget-friendly ideas to offer

SIMPLER CAKE DESIGNS and MULTIPLE, SMALL **CAKES** 

A COMPLIMENTARY **TASTING** is a great way to get the bride engaged



## ENTERTAINMENT CADENCE



## KEY FACTS/FINDINGS/TRENDS

Focus on the **GUEST EXPERIENCE** is very important when selecting entertainment

Majority of brides spend \$500-\$999

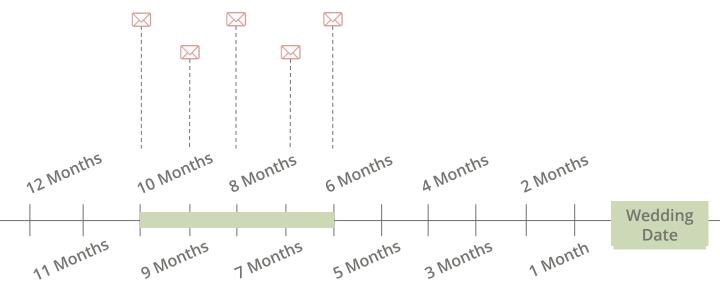
Brides prefer a **PACKAGE DEAL** over al la carte options

**DOLLAR OFF DISCOUNTS** convert better than percentage off discounts

A PHOTOBOOTH can be a fun addition, as well as a keepsake of the big day



## PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY CADENCE



## KEY FACTS/FINDINGS/TRENDS

### **IMAGERY OF A BRIDE** AND GROOM

attracts more engagement with a brand compared to any other wedding imagery

In addition to photo albums, brides are most interested in PROOFS, A CD, or DIGITAL FILES

Majority of brides expect to spend between \$1,000-\$3,000 for quality photography services

Top reasons for choosing a photographer or videographer

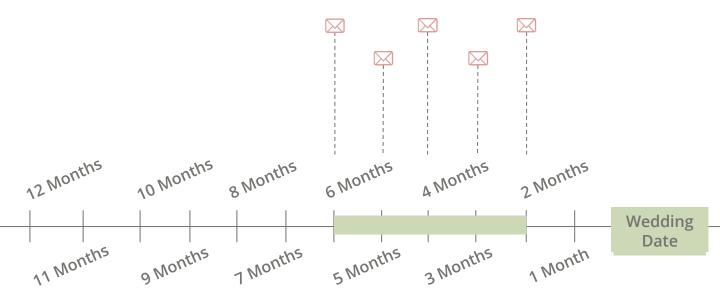
> **QUALITY** and **PHOTOGRAPHY**

## **ALMOST 50%**

of brides think video is important to capture the emotion of their wedding day



## HONEYMOON CADENCE



## KEY FACTS/FINDINGS/TRENDS

## 3 OUT 4

couples take a honeymoon

#### Brides choose LOCATION FIRST:

east coast brides typically visit the Caribbean, west coast brides typically visit Mexico

## **ALMOST 50%**

of couples think the best thing to splurge on during their honeymoon are **ACTIVITIES AND TOURS** 

## Copy about **DEALS**

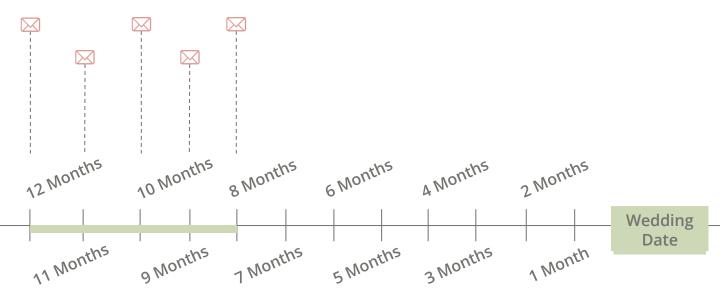
attracts the most interest from brides

#### **ABOUT 25%**

of couples create a registry for their honeymoons



## RECEPTION LOCATION CADENCE



## KEY FACTS/FINDINGS/TRENDS

Brides are drawn to **PERSONALIZED STATIONS** relating to the couple or location

Offerings and copy focused around **PACKAGES** 

is a strong way to grab interest

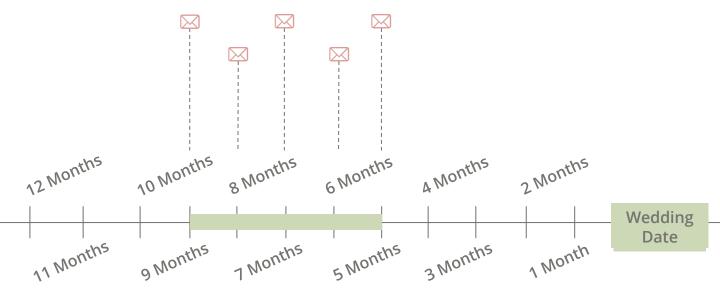
NATURAL BEAUTY ranks **HIGH IN IMPORTANCE** when considering reception location options

**UNIQUE** and ONE LOCATION

weddings are in high demand The average number of guests 138



## CATERING & RESTAURANT CADENCE



## KEY FACTS/FINDINGS/TRENDS

Brides are focused on **ENHANCING THE GUESTS' EXPERIENCE** with food

Offerings and copy focused around **PACKAGES** 

is a strong way to grab interest

Popular choices for food offerings -

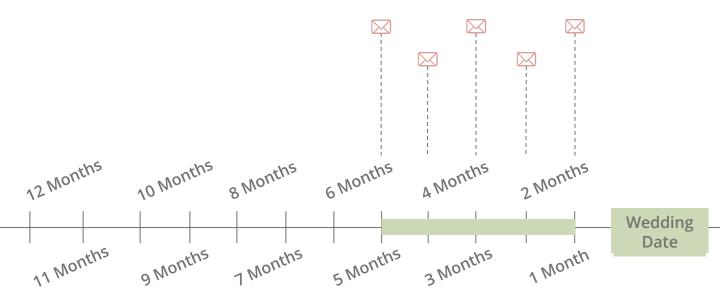
COCKTAIL PARTY **FOODS** and **CREATIVE STATIONS** 

**UNIQUE** and ONE LOCATION

weddings are in high demand The average number of guests 138



## BEAUTY CADENCE



## KEY FACTS/FINDINGS/TRENDS

#### **NEARLY 50%**

of brides use a new make-up brand for their wedding day

**30%** of those brides continue to use that brand after the wedding

Brides schedule their hair and make-up trial 2-3 MONTHS before their wedding

#### **IMAGERY OF BRIDAL** LOOKS

attract the most engagement with a brand so the bride can visualize herself on her wedding day

#### **MAKE-UP TRENDS**

- Bold Brows
- Barely-There Look
- Perfect, Glowing Skin
- Pretty Pink Lips
- Long, Sculpted Lashes

## **OVER 50%**

of brides paid UNDER \$250 for their beauty services



## SAMPLE EMAILS

Browse our email examples to get inspired.

Your preheader goes here View this email in a web browser

## Petals & Stems





# 40% OFF all wedding bouquets

**GET INSPIRATION** 

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT









#### Max Johnson

contactus@petalsandstems.com | 555-555-5555 petalsandstems.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Petals & Stems, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

reference Sample Email 1 or use Template A to replicate design layout





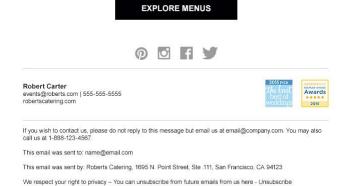
packages starting at just

\$15 per person

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT



## from black tie to casual, create your menu with us



reference Sample Email 2 or use Template A to replicate design layout













for every two bridesmaids to get makeup on your wedding day, you get the third one free

INQUIRE ABOUT OFFER





# look your best when all eyes are on you

- · Professional airbrush makeup
- · False lash application
- · Personalized makeup trial
- · Tattoo coverage & corrective makeup

**SEE PRICES & PACKAGES** 



A professionally trained makeup artist, Sarah has been transforming women into the most beautiful versions of themselves for over 10 years. Serving the San Francisco area.









#### Sarah Peele

sarah@makeupbysarah.com | 555-555-5555 makeupbysarah.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Makeup by Sarah, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

reference Sample Email 3 or use Template B to replicate design layout





## create your dream wedding cake with us







SEE FLAVORS















sally@pieceofcake.com | 555-555-5555 pieceofcake.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Piece of Cake, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste :111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

reference Sample Email 4 or use Template C to replicate design layout



serving the San Francisco area for over 10 years



EXCLUSIVE, LIMITED TIME OFFER

try 3 classes

and receive 25% off your membership

strengthen your core, tone your body and skyrocket your cardio through energized kettlebell workout routines

#### SEE SCHEDULE











## **Ashley Thompson**

cindy@purekbtraining.com | 555-555-5555 purekbtraining.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Pure Kettlebell Training, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

reference Sample Email 5 or use Template D to replicate design layout

Your preheader goes here View this email in a web browser





# your wedding, beautifully captured

Blush Photography has captured over 1,000 weddings...let us capture yours.

All Photography Packages Include:

- FREE Engagement Session
- Second shooter
- Images on a CD
- One 16 x 20 print



#### FIND MY PACKAGE









#### John Smith

john@blushphotography.com | 555-555-5555 blushphotography.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Blush Photography, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

reference Sample Email 6 or use Template E to replicate design layout

Your preheader goes here View this email in a web browser



## MARCH DATES STILL AVAILABLE

## reserve your wedding date today!

Walk through the doors of an old factory and enter into an enchanting world of exquisite dining, service, and memories.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT











#### Hilary Campbell

hilary@adamsonfactory.com | 555-555-5555 adamsonfactory.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Adamson Factory, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

reference Sample Email 7 or use Template A to replicate design layout





#### **GET WHAT YOU WANT**

All of our packages include:

- Set-Up & Breakdown
- Props
- Photo Booth Specialist
- Custom Messaging on Printouts
- Online Photo Album

SEE PACKAGES









#### Bill Turner bturner@smilesnap.com | 555-555-5555 smilesnap.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Smile Snap Photo Booth, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

reference Sample Email 8 or use Template E to replicate design layout

Your preheader goes here View this email in a web browser

# CINDY MORGAN - photography -

## your love story should be inspiring





**ENGAGEMENT** 

**GETTING READY** 





THE DETAILS

THE COUPLE









#### Cindy Morgan

cindy@cindymorganphotography.com | 555-555-5555 cindymorganphotography.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Cindy Morgan Photography, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

reference Sample Email 9 or use Template B to replicate design layout

## TRAVEL THE WORLD TRAVEL AGENCY

## Your Honeymoon, in Paradise... You Just Choose Where



## Limited Time Offers...Hurry Before They're Gone

Riviera Maya	from \$98/night	BOOK NOW
Dominican Republic	from \$67/night	BOOK NOW
Bahamas	from \$54/night	BOOK NOW
Playa del Carmen	from \$73/night	BOOK NOW









Exclusive deals, special perks, time saved for you! Jane Roberts

jane@traveltheworld.com | 555-555-5555 | traveltheworld.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Travel the World Travel Agency, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

use Template A to replicate design layout

Your preheader goes here View this email in a web browser

## inspired and beautifully yours SAN FRANCISCO-BASED WEDDING PLANNERS



#### **SERVICES**

We work with you to create an event that truly represents your unique sense of taste and style, and matches your dreams for your special day.



#### GALLERY

We bring all of our know-how to the table and combine design, vision and execution, in order to make the events come alive. Check out our work



#### TESTIMONIALS

"I must admit I was blown away by what a difference her knowledge and expertise made...All of my guests agreed this party really stood out...



Madison Kelly is dedicated to providing superior service and exciting ideas with grace and style. Her original imagination, and superior organizational skills define her as one of the most requested event coordinators in and out of San Francisco.

events@madisonkelly.com | 555-555-5555









#### Madison Kelly

events@madisonkelly.com | 555-555-5555 madisonkelly.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Madison Kelly Wedding Planning, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

use Template A to replicate design layout





## TRENDING Unique Details

Add unlikely touches to capture your personalities and for some cute photos

**READ MORE** 





10 Tips for Making Your Perfect Shot List

READ MORE

INSPIRATION
Groom Photos That Are
Just Too Handsome

READ MORE









April Wyatt april@42photos.com | 555-555-5555 42photos.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: 42 Photos Wedding Photography, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

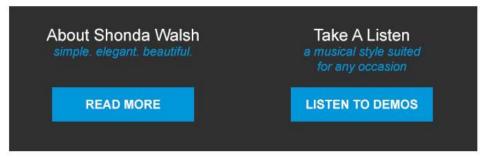
We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

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# Shonda Walsh















#### Shonda Walsh

swalsh@gmail.com | 555-555-5555 shondawalsh.com





If you wish to contact us, please do not reply to this message but email us at email@company.com. You may also call us at 1-888-123-4567.

This email was sent to: name@email.com

This email was sent by: Shonda Walsh, 1695 N. Point Street, Ste .111, San Francisco, CA 94123

We respect your right to privacy - You can unsubscribe from future emails from us here - Unsubscribe

use Template B to replicate design layout