IRELAND PHOTOS: PHILLIP VAN NOSTRAND

The grand Adare Manor & Golf Resort in Limerick, Ireland, is a five-star destination that won Best Hotel in the World (in 2018) by Virtuoso Best of the Best Awards. This property is recommended by Christina Currie Events as a larger, corporate owned hotel with several amenities and enough rooms for a large wedding.

A couple stands on the terrace at Villa La Vedetta in Florence.

The five-star Grand Hotel Cocumella is the oldest hotel on the Sorrento peninsula. It is a modern Italian venue located on the Amalfi Coast, and is recommended by Christina Currie Events for its centralized location.

Dream Destination Weddings

TODAY, ONE OUT OF FOUR WEDDINGS takes place at a destination of the couple's choice. For second marriages, one-third of the couples opt for a destination, citing climate, tradition, and in some cases adventure as the inspiration. Guests spend three or more days at a destination wedding location, and the bride and groom are recommended to arrive one week prior to the wedding. Half of all destination weddings are planned with the help of an event or wedding planner.

We asked Christina Currie, owner of Christina Currie Events, how much lead time a couple needs to have before their wedding to hire an event planner. Now celebrating her firm's 15th anniversary in business, Currie has planned weddings in various cities in the U.S. In the last few years, international destinations have become more frequent, including the Bahamas, Mexico, Tuscany, and the Amalfi Coast and she recently scouted properties in Ireland and Scotland. Currie suggests six months advance notice for domestic weddings, and nine to 12 months lead time for international weddings. She recently gained a client who lives in Denver, from a referral from one of her Barrington clients who was attending a conference there and met a bride-to-be. Currie and her long-distance client talk by Facetime or phone, and recently met in Chicago to begin planning.

Destination weddings often keep guests busy with activities. For her client in Denver, the destination this fall is Villa La Vedetta. The couple took a trip to Florence and got engaged there. They decided to return for their wedding, which will be followed by a reception back home for those who could not attend. The schedule for their guests includes arriving on day one, a wine tour on day two, making Italian pizza on day three, and the wedding on day four. Currie handles all the transportation between venues.

Part of her service includes creating inspiration boards of what to wear each day for the bride, groom, and guests. Her team also creates personalized design boards to communicate aesthetic vision and organize visual elements. The boards are used throughout the planning process to assure a beautiful outcome for a couple's dream destination wedding.

Collaborating with vendors for destination events can be tricky and time consuming. Language barriers, time zones and overall communication can present its challenges, and hiring an event planner can alleviate these stressors. The journey of planning your big day can be just as thrilling and enjoyable as the event itself with the help of the right event professional.

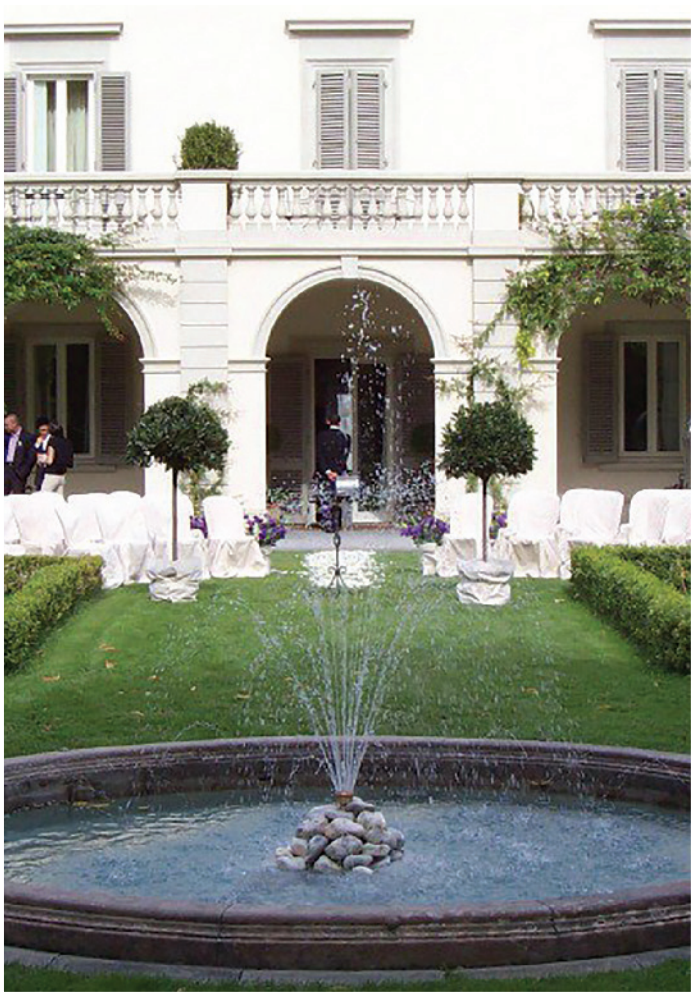
A traditional Master of Fox Hounds leads a procession of guests to lunch.

Christina Currie and Masumi Jadia arrive at Adare Manor, greeted with welcome bags filled with gifts.

A pub near Adare Manor welcomes guests.

TUSCANY PHOTOS: FACIBENI FOTOGRAFIA

The spectacular Villa La Vedetta at night. Above, the view of Florence from the hotel.



The Villa La Vedetta has 18 rooms, is intimate, and appropriate for a smaller wedding.