LIFE'S AN ADVENTURE. GO AND CAPTURE IT.

Wedding Photography Booking Guide

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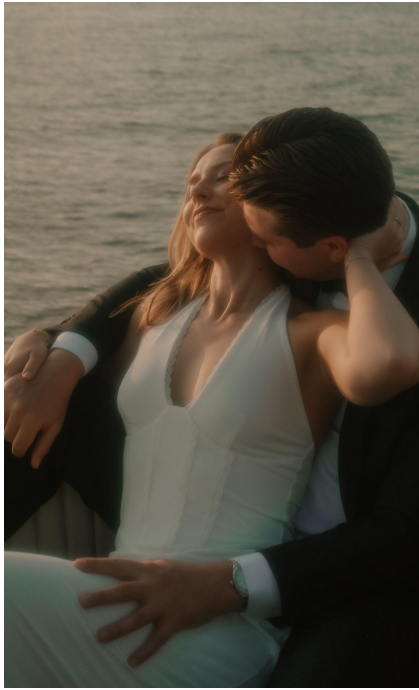
“I don’t even know which questions I should be asking”

A lot of couples tell me they don’t even know what to ask, which makes sense. For 90% of my couples this is their first time doing this.

I will cover both the wedding photography industry as well as the questions you *should* be asking any wedding photographer *including me*.



The Current Wedding Photography Industry

Unlike professions such as cosmetology, medicine, or carpentry, wedding photography has **no external credibility checks**. There's no license to earn, no apprenticeship required, no real barrier to entry.

This means the range of experience among photographers is *extremely* wide — from people who've shot 5 weddings… to people who've shot 300.

The only external credibility checks are…

(Matt's First Wedding)

(Matt's 300th Wedding)

Google Reviews

Real people telling real stories. This is the most important place to check. How have other couples felt the process was? Do they have many reviews?

madisondupe ABSOLUTELY STUNNING! WOW!!!
7w 3 likes Reply

dhoover100 HOLY FISHPASTE THESE ARE GORGEOUS
7w 3 likes Reply

kburton0214 😍These are absolutely stunning. I must say, I've been in a lot of weddings and you guys were on point. Incredible work.
7w 3 likes Reply •••

Venue/Vendor Lists

Is your photography and video team well-regarded in the industry? What are venues and vendors saying about them?

Matt Warren Photography

5.0 ★★★★★ 35 Google reviews

Word of Mouth

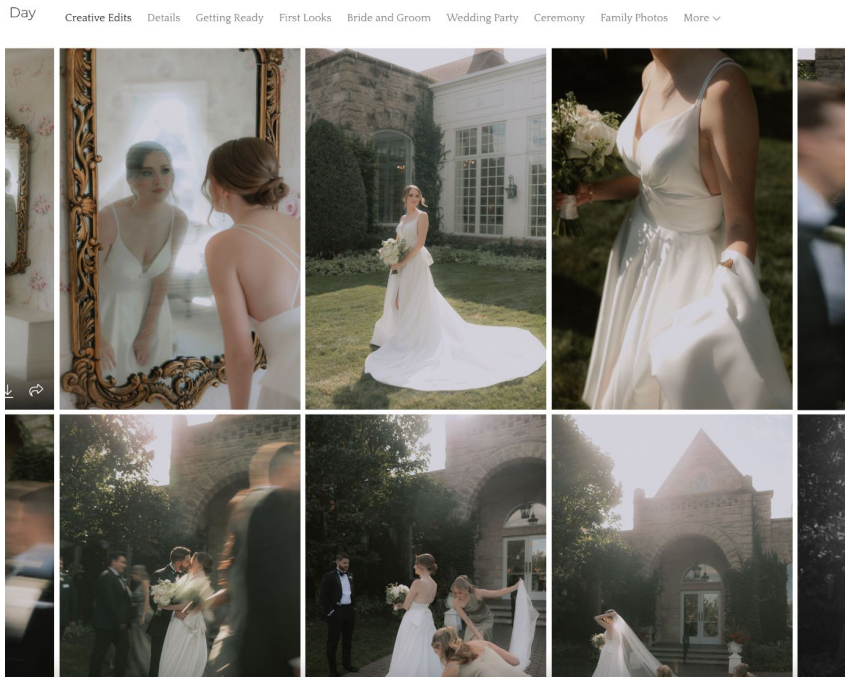
What did friends say about them if they stood up? What was their experience like?

The True Test:
Full Galleries vs. Highlight Photos

Every photographer should send **3-5 full galleries**

A website or Instagram feed shows around **1%** of a wedding day. What truly matters is how someone photographs the other 99% — the ceremony lighting, family photos, reception, indoors, outdoors, dim environments, harsh sun, etc.

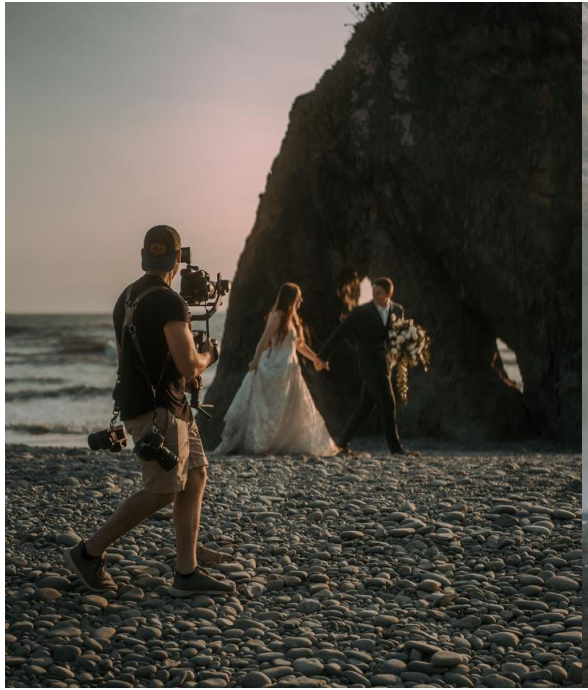
This is going to show you the most accurate product you will receive.



The Reality

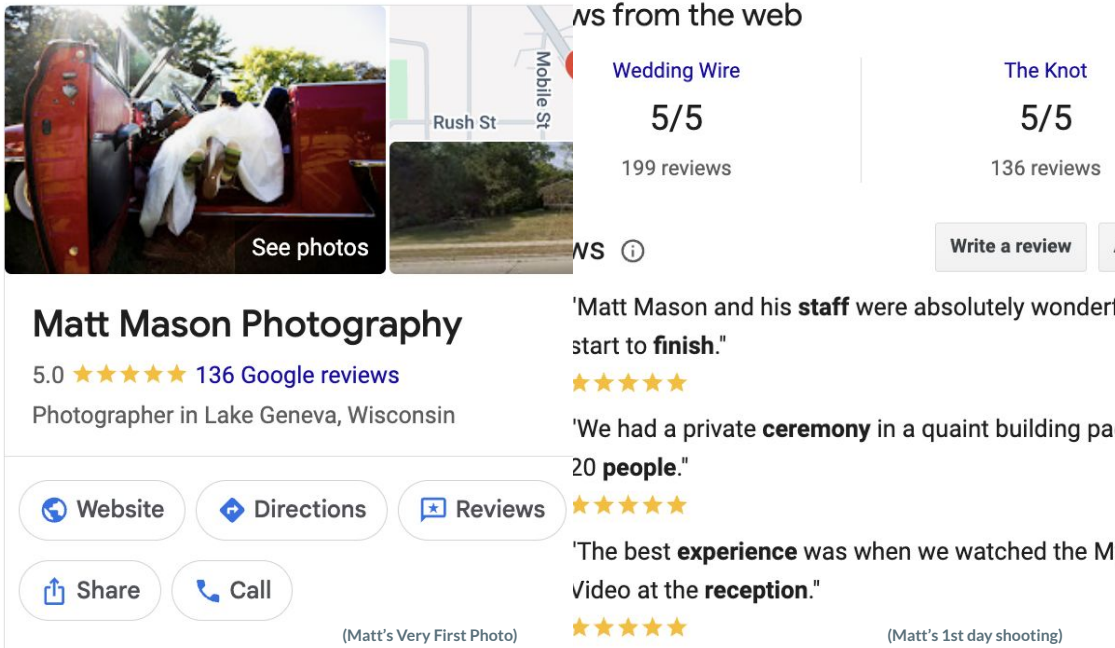
Most photographers are only in the industry for 3-5 years before burning out or moving to something else. This means that if they average 15-20 weddings over 3 years, that is **literally* **60 days** of actual time spent working weddings.

When you hire a photographer, you’re trusting them with a one-time, unrepeatable event — so their ability to navigate chaos matters just as much as their creativity.



Where Matt Started

1. In 2015 I bought a camera on Black Friday while living in Washington
2. At 20-years-old I was trained in weddings by a photo/video company in Lake Geneva- Matt Mason Photography
3. It was there that I learned “wedding service” while still dialing in my own style.



(Matt’s Very First Photo)

(Matt’s 1st day shooting)

Matt’s Work With Canon and McLaren

Behind The Scenes: Canon EOS R5 C and EOS C70 + The Outbound Life + McLaren North America

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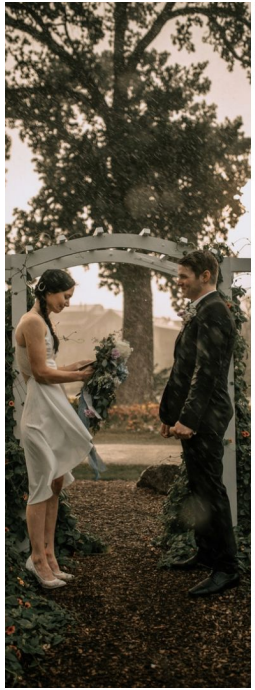
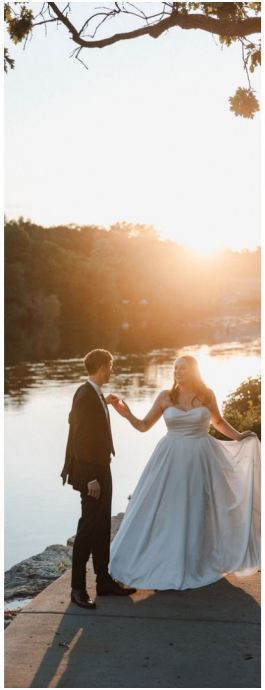
Matt has had the incredible opportunity to work for the brand that makes the camera he shoots with-Canon. He was tasked with capturing photos of McLarens for McLaren auto during their partnership advertisement with Canon. It is a dream to be hired to represent the brand people most consider when thinking of photography.

My Approach

Over the past 9 years, I've photographed more than **300 weddings**, averaging 40–50 per year doing both photo and video.

This means I've seen every type of lighting, weather, venue, and wedding dynamic you can imagine — which helps me anticipate issues ***before*** they happen so you don't even notice them.

My Approach

1. Tour guide for your wedding
2. Involvement with posing
3. Adaptability
4. Performing a service, not just an art
5. Team oriented
6. Having the awareness to let you enjoy your day without making it entirely about photos.
7. My own presets (filters)
8. Timeline planning and questionnaires for your day

(Matt's Wedding Team)

Photo and Video

Many wedding photography companies that offer both photo and video hire videographers without knowing how to do video themselves.

Matt acts as the director of your day when you do both photo and video. He is highly trained in both and therefore is taking in careful consideration for both products rather than fighting over the shot.

Matt will select an available videographer from his team to perform video services alongside Matt.

Please note that I offer two different video products which you will see below

1. **3-6 Minute Highlight Film Samples (Video for photo/video package)**
    - Providence Vineyard Film
    - Haley Mansion Film
    - The Drake Chicago Film
    - The Pavilion Film
    - The Brix on Fox Film
2. **Full Recording of Ceremony and Reception (available as an add-on):**
    - Full Recording of the Ceremony/Reception Example
3. **Full Wedding Photo Galleries:**
4. **Full Galleries:**
    a. **Chicago Weddings:**
        i. Chicago Wedding #1
        ii. Chicago Wedding #2
    b. **Full Wedding Galleries From Venues Where Matt is the Preferred Photographer/Videographer:**
        i. Brix on Fox #1
        ii. Brix on Fox #2
        iii. Providence Vineyard #1
        iv. Providence Vineyard #2
        v. Hotel Baker
        vi. Hotel Baker #2
        vii. Lincoln Farmstead
        viii. Meson Sabika
        ix. The Barn at Timber Pointe
5. **Photo Album Preview (available as an add-on):** Album Video Preview
6. **Download My Preferred Vendor PDF:** HERE

7. **Watch an uncut posing session:** HERE

Timelines

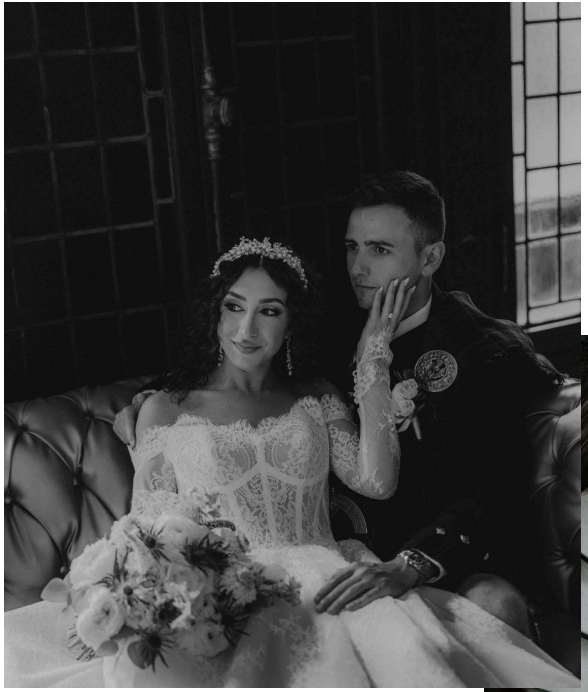
These timelines are based on weddings where all Events take place at the same space. Matt can provide further example timelines for all events that do not match the timeline below:

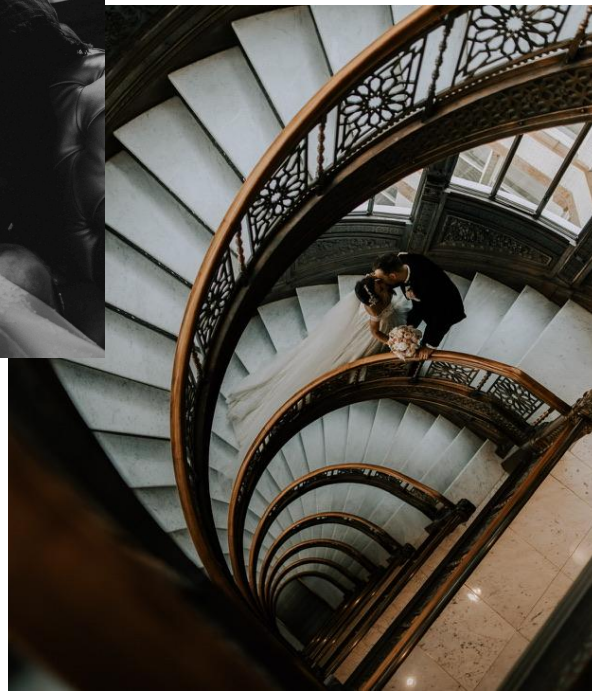
8 Hours (First Look):
1:00 MWP Starts with details of the dress, rings, invites, etc.
1:30 Shots of girls in Pj's/robes.
1:35 Photos of guys getting ready (at the venue- we can fake if need be)
1:45 Photos zipping up the dress
2:00 First look
2:10 Bridal party photos then Photos of Bride and groom
3:25 Family Photos (If extended family is possible lets do that. If not, then I have put that after the ceremony)
4:00 downtime before ceremony
4:30 Ceremony begins
5:00 Family Photos (Make an announcement of who will be in them and where to be)
6:15-6:30ish Grand entrance
9:00 MWP leaves

8 Hours (No First Look):
1:00 MWP Starts with details of the dress, rings, invites, etc.
1:30 Shots of girls in Pj's/robes.
2:00 Photos of guys getting ready (at the venue- we can fake if need be)
2:15 Photos zipping up the dress
2:30 Photos of Bride and Bridesmaids
3:00 Photos of Bride with Immediate Family
3:15 Photos of groom and Groomsmen
3:45 Photos of groom and family
4:00 downtime before ceremony
4:30 Ceremony begins
5:00 **Family Photos (Make an announcement of who will be in them and where to be)**
Bridal Party Photos, Photos of Bride and groom
6:15-6:30ish Grand entrance
9:00 MWP leaves

Booking

1. Signed Contract
2. 50% non-refundable deposit but can offer flexible payment plans offered through
    a. Zelle
    b. Check
    c. Cash
3. I will send over…
    a. Wedding Questionnaires
        i. You can send any inspiration you have-I am very open to requests.
    b. Family Photo Templates
    c. Example Timelines
4. Engagement session
    a. Offered on weekdays contingent upon availability. Some limitations may apply to Chicago, but still very willing and able to do sessions there.





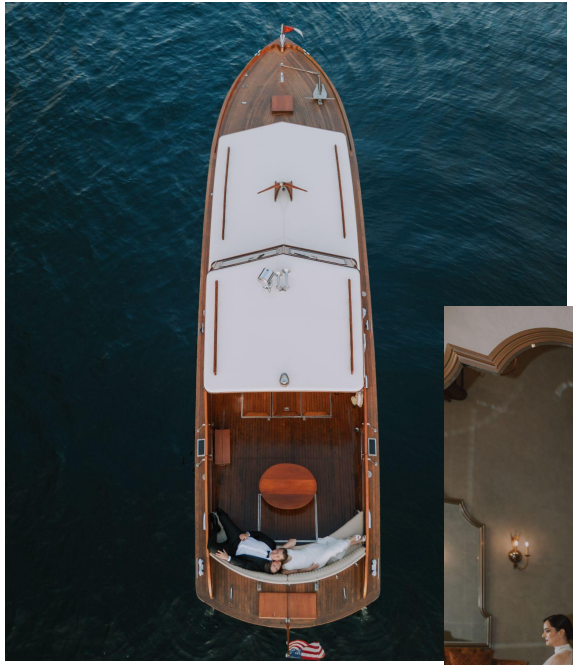
I Encourage You to Ask Every Photographer These Questions…

1. Can you send us **3–5 full galleries** from real weddings? (this shows consistency and transparency)
2. How many lead weddings have you photographed **start to finish**? (this reveals experience)
3. How many do you photograph per year? (this touches on how frequently they work the “wedding muscles”)
4. Do you have consistent reviews from real couples? (this shows how established they are and speaks to the experience)
5. What systems do you have in place if things run behind or conditions change? (this reveals adaptability and organization)
6. Do you have a backup plan if you get sick or can’t shoot? (this help show how connected they are with other photographers)

If a photographer hesitates with these questions, that’s usually telling you everything you need to know.

FAQs

1. Do you have general liability insurance?
    a. Yes!
2. Do you have a back up plan if you get sick?
    a. Yes, that is one of the major benefits of hiring a company who is team-oriented. I have lots of photographers and videographers on my team.
3. Will you help with posing?
    a. Yes! I am very directive. HERE is a completely uncut video of a posing session from a wedding
4. Do you have backup equipment?
    a. Yes! Matt has 9 cameras and 14 different lenses. He always brings backup equipment to weddings
5. Are you open to inspo we send over?
    a. Yes! Send it over!
6. Will you help me with timeline planning?
    a. Yes! I include timeline planning in all of my packages.
7. Do you offer RAW footage for video?
    a. Generally no. I offer The Full Recording of The Ceremony and Reception to supplement that product.
8. Do you offer RAW photos?
    a. Generally no. Unedited photos look much different than edited and I usually take 3,500-5,000+ photos on a wedding day, so there are LOTS of duplicates. If there is a specific circumstance, I am open to offering that.



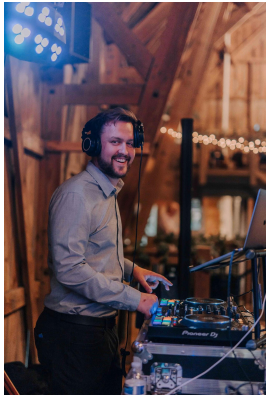
2025-2026

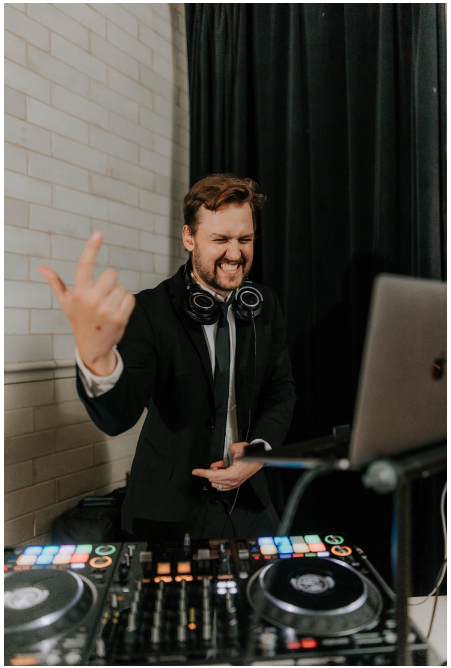
Matt Warren Photography:

Preferred Vendors

Wedding DJ

Name: Mike Bailey
Company: DJ Mike Bailey
Website: https://www.djmikebailey.com/
IG: https://www.instagram.com/dj_mikebailey/
Email: Mike@DJmikebailey.com





Wedding Planners

Company: BW Studio Events
Website: https://www.bwstudioevents.com/
IG: @bwstudio_events
https://www.instagram.com/bwstudio_events?igsh=YnYxdzN5NHZ3NzM5
Email: blair@bwstudioevents.com
Phone: 773.707.6464

Wedding Planners

Name: Jessa Dewberry
Company: Wedding Company 817
Website: https://www.weddingcompany817.com/
IG: https://www.instagram.com/weddingcompany817
Email: info@weddingcompany817.com

Hair & Makeup

Name: Daniela Kosta
Company: Daniela Kosta Beauty
Website: https://linktr.ee/Danielakostabeauty
IG: https://www.instagram.com/danielakostabeauty/
Email: danielakostastylist@gmail.com

Officiant

Name: Brad Hughes
Company: Love Story Weddings
Website: https://www.lovestoryweddings.org/ IG: https://instagram.com/rev.bradhughes?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
Email: Rev.BradHughes@gmail.com

BridalShops

Location: Glen Ellyn
Company: Here Comes The Bride
Website: https://www.herecomesthebrideinc.com/
IG: https://www.instagram.com/herecomesthebrideinc/
Email: info@herecomesthebrideinc.com

BridalShops

Location: Geneva
Company: The Crystal Bride
Website: https://www.crystalbride.com/
IG: https://www.instagram.com/CrystalBrideOfficial/
Email: info@crystalbride.com

Floral

Location: Wheaton
Company: Bloome
Website: https://www.thebloome.com/
IG: https://www.instagram.com/bloomefloral/
Email: On website

Floral

Location: Walworth
Company: Willow Design
Website: https://www.willowdesignlg.com/
Email: On website

MATT WARREN
EST. 2017
PHOTOGRAPHY

Thanks for your time!

I hope this helps with wedding planning!