



WEDDING TIPS



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WEDDING MAVEN /// R.KRISTI MODERN HOSPITALITY

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R. Kristi

MODERN HOSPITALITY

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Tell me about yourself. Who is Racquel behind RKристи Modern Hospitality?

My father calls me "A ray of sunshine". I am very bubbly, positive, loving, loyal, compassionate person. I also have a solution orientated personality when I am faced with a problem. I tend to think "fix" the moment I hear of someone in turmoil or if I see that I can assist with resolving an issue. I am a free spirit, and love to enjoy this thing called Life. My favorite thing to say when people ask me what I am doing is "ahh, nothing much. Just doing that "life" thing and living it well". I feel people need to learn to enjoy each moment and to be present in each moment.... and do it with a smile.

How did you come up with your business name?

It took me 3 years to come up with the clever name R.Kристи! Sad to say it was definitely not my most creative moment; it is my first initial and middle name :). It did, however inspire me to begin developing R.Kристи to be a brand that is about family, understanding and the individual. I figured, if I am going to put my name on this company, it better represent what I am and what I am most proud of.

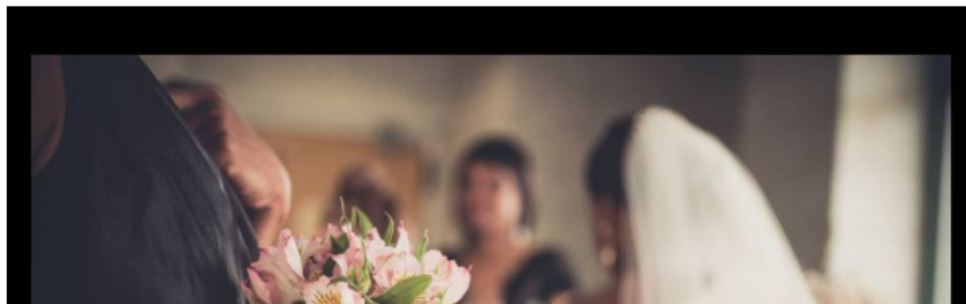
How did you get into the wedding industry?

I always envisioned myself owning my own company, but I really didn't know where I wanted to place my stamp until my mother threw me what I thought was an over the top sweet 16. These days, I realize that my party was nothing compared to this generation's "Super Sweet 16", however it was enough for me to go to college and immediately change from being an English pre-law major to studying hospitality management at Howard University instead.

For many years after college, I focused on trying to become an event planner to make this dream of mine come true. Through working in small clubs, restaurants, hotels, conference centers and décor companies; I slowly realized that my interest was mostly in the hospitality of creating memorable events for people. I started my path to event planning by acting as a liaison between vendors and clients. That path slowly morphed into requests for help to plan private events and ultimately my first RKrist Modern Hospitality event: My class reunion.

My class reunion was probably the biggest learning lesson to date. It was a crash course in "Event Planning as a small business owner with no staff, no money and your name on the line 101" Not only was it out of state, it was 3 days long, had 15 volunteers that dwindled down to 3 after 1 year of planning and had to sell tickets to a generation of participants that felt social media has taken the replacement of the need for a reunion. Very hard but great way to get your feet wet!

The greatest challenge I've encountered along the way is understanding the reality and the work that goes into making your dreams come true. Only the strong will survive and I have proven to be stronger than I have ever imagined. My company has been a labor of love but I wake up every day ready to take on new challenges, successes, plan "B's", and everything in between.





Outside of weddings, what makes you happy?

Funny commercials on TV, the witnessing of a young child, VACATIONS!, Dancing for no reason other than “because I want to”, eating my mother’s home cooking (it is so good!), being around all my family, being able to do something nice for someone without them expecting it, being able to forget the world around me when a good movie is on, being a potter as a hobby, and being a creative being!

Describe your approach to wedding planning.

We address the interest of the personalities behind the event and the deep interest before developing the service we offer them. I believe that people want you to pay attention to them, listen to them and understand them. Once you have been “hospitable” to their individual personalities; the rest of the job is easy and you have gained a long lasting relationship and maybe a friend within a client!

What three adjectives best describes you and your business?

Liberal, Imaginative, and Vitalize



What is your favorite part of a wedding day?

When the couple is dancing and they realize all the stress, planning and headaches didn't mean much at all. Just the moment when they only see each other in the room and look into each other's eyes with tear and smiles. I believe that is the moment they realize they are have just started a new journey together.

What keeps you passionate about weddings?

I think it's because every story, every person, and every reason to marry are so different. With all those differences, we've all thought about marriage at some point in our lives... weather good or bad, which is what we all have in common. So when that commonality comes into fruition, it strikes each person in a way that just naturally makes you happy for the couple or at the very least understand their union. It makes you remember your own feelings and thoughts. It pushes you to understand why that moment is so special to the couple who is marrying. It's a moment when you see a person as being vulnerable and human. Very special moment every time it is witnessed.

What is the one special thing you do for all your clients?

I take time getting to know my clients and understanding who they are as people. I listen and respond only when needed. Then on the wedding day, I do everything they thought I didn't hear them say or noticed they wanted. I gift each couple with a present that is truly meant from the heart of R.Kristi. Each gift is very personal and normally brings tears to their eyes. I love the tears! Makes me know I did my job well.

What is the most frequently asked question you get from brides?

"How much is it?!" . Most brides just don't know what to ask for so it naturally sounds like it should be the first order of business, but you must convert the conversation to be about value instead of price and explain the difference if not understood quickly.





What advice would you give engaged couples when they are selecting their wedding planner?

When you met your finance, you had to date and fall in love and you soon knew this was the person you should spend the rest of your life with. You committed! The same goes for selecting a wedding planner. Although the courtship is much shorter, you still need to date (more like speed dating), and fall in love then commit! This is a relationship you will value for the rest of your life so make sure you focus on the important aspects of what your planner has to offer you, not just price. Many brides feel that the price represents a better value on their budget but this is not always the truth. The value of your wedding far exceeds your budget. It is your memories, your sanity, the beginning of your new life!

For a day like this you need someone to be a problem solvers, memory makers, organizers, creativity donators, stress relievers, budget managers, sanity preservers, comforters, relationship and love cheerleaders, atmosphere creators, negotiators, and fantasy illustrators.....aka your wedding planners 😊

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Why will a couple love working with you?

I believe our approach to planning keeps our customers happy. We really make it a point in the process to get to know them as people and therefore can relate to them outside of just there event. For this reason, I believe they feel more comfortable with us, trust us and in turn we receive better feedback on what is needed to execute their vision. We are in the people pleasing business J

What wedding trends are you currently obsessed with?

I am totally in love with the lace beaded and shear beaded backs on bridal gowns. I think it is absolutely breathtaking, and has a great mix of old tradition with a modern twist. Ideal for the modest bride but can also be worn well by the risk taker! I also love the bridal shoulder jewelry. Hope this trend stays for the awhile. With the wedding décor, I love the new Gatsby, 20's style. I have always been in love with the 20's so it just speaks directly to my heart and personal interest, however the style gives events a very chic, opulent energy that is sometimes missed within events done differently.



What is your favorite love quote?

That Is Love

Love is a strange and beautiful thing,
It spans time and space, distance is no object to love.
You will wait forever for the one you love,
Travel wherever you need to be with them.
When you are in the arms of the one you love,
That love can make a moment last a lifetime,
Yet make a lifetime seem no more than a moment.
When love is distant it grows strong,
When it returns it flowers.
People crave it, strive for it, fight for it, and die for it,
And when they find it, they know they are complete.
For in the arms of the one we love is wholeness,
Belief, completeness, passion, and security.
The one we love is someone for whom we would do anything,
And never ask for anything in return.
It produces a love of all that person is and will ever be,
Regardless of what that may mean to me.
Love knows that when you are away,
That you are still loved, cherished, thought after, and missed
By the one you love,
And they know that you love them back.
That is Love.

by Nicolas Blackmore

What is your favorite love song?

Oh, this is a hard one. I have so many! Not sure if I can choose a favorite but the two that come to mind quickly and always cause me to take a moment to close my eyes and feel the melody and listen to the lyrics would be 1) A Song for your Lyrics by Donny

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