



Sarah & Jorge, Askham Hall - June 2014

Why did you look in to getting a wedding planner?

Living abroad was one main factor as we wanted to have someone on the ground and from the area that knew who to work with and how to get everything arranged. The main reason though was to allow us to relax on the day. We had attended other weddings and seen brides and grooms carrying the weight of the last minute details or arrangements. As many of our guests had travelled from many different countries to attend, we wanted to be sure we would have all our time to relax, and enjoy the day with them all, and not lose time worrying about things.

How did you find Weddings by Annabel and why did you decide to get in touch?

I found Weddings by Annabel online, I routed around for wedding planners in the Lake District and came across a few. I spoke to 2 others but Annabel had the best grasp of our international logistical wedding, she immediately had ideas on our theme, incorporating mexican and english styles, and she was really easy and approachable to chat to on Skype. It quite quickly felt confident she had my best interests at heart and good and similar taste to me on the details.

In the run up to your wedding, did you find having a planner helpful?

It was so useful to have Annabel to shoot across questions and help with recommendations for vendors. From abroad you can spend hours searching the internet and only find a few vendors with no understanding of their quality. Annabel would always offer me 2 or 3 vendors for each area, and offer some variation in price or styles for example. This made it much easier for me to select the vendors that fit with my wedding style and budget.

Did Annabel ever take control or sway you away from your ideas?

Annabel was helpful with the final moments when my ideas were going haywire and helped hone me in to make the final decisions. She was happy for me to follow my ideas, I hired a few vendors that she had never used, and she worked wonderfully on the day with them. Also for decorations she was very supportive in seeing through the ideas that I had, and helped bring them to life rather than changing or imposing other ideas.

Were the consultations and meetings worthwhile?

Yes very! We initially had a few Skype sessions from abroad during all my initial prep and planning. In the final month we had a face to face meeting where I handed over all my planing for Annabel to start coordinating, this was great! To have someone who knows how wedding days happen take the reins at this point was really good as I knew things would be arranged and taken care of. I had no idea how to do those final steps and make the arrangements for the day to run smoothly but Annabel took care of everything and all my last minute nerves were calmed by her experience and knowledge. I figured if Annabel feels things are organised, I can relax!

On the Day, did you feel relaxed because everything was taken care of by Annabel?

Absolutely! I never saw the decorated reception barn until I entered with my husband and all the guests were inside, I also had no idea when the cake or flowers would arrive, I didn't have to worry about anything being set out, I knew Annabel knew what was going on, and just relaxed and enjoyed the day. So many worries were taken off my mind, as I trusted Annabel had it taken care of. For example about 20 minutes before the ceremony, with guests outside I found my print outs of the readings, but sure enough Annabel had brought some spares and taken care of it already. The day ran wonderfully smoothly and I was so glad to have Annabel there, to take care and run the day while I just took it all in and enjoyed every minute.

Did having a planner involved effect the feel of the day for you both?

It only effected the day in so much as to relax us and allow us to know the day would run along, and not have to be consumed with or worry about every last detail. She coordinated the day wonderfully! Running around checking everything was arranged. Annabel was there coordinating, she was friendly and approachable to everyone, while keeping herself and all her hard work discrete.

Would you recommend Weddings by Annabel?

Absolutely! I'd recommend weddings by Annabel to anyone! Annabel knows some amazing local suppliers and vendors, and works effortlessly with those and new vendors I selected. Annabel took all the stress out of my day and the lead up to the day. Her organisation and understanding of how a wedding day functions (even if we were asking for things slightly out of the ordinary) were so important in keeping me calm, she would combine all the various vendors requests and questions into one easy to handle email for Jorge and I to respond to. To anyone who wants to enjoy their day stress free and find someone they can put their confidence in for their most important day, I would definitely recommend Weddings by Annabel!

Father of the Bride (Sarah's Father, Ron):

Did you have reservations when Sarah mentioned hiring a Wedding Planner?

Although we are from the North West of England, we now live overseas, with family members in several different countries, so without knowing local suppliers and venues it would have been very challenging to do everything we, collectively, needed to do make a great wedding happen. Having Annabel on the ground gave us the leads we needed to plan the day we all wanted. So we had no reservations about hiring a wedding planner.

Did you find Annabel helpful in the run up to the day?

Our daughter, the Bride, had very clear ideas on how she wanted their wedding to be, so it was great that Annabel tuned in to her plans and needs, and took over the coordination of the vendors we had selected close to the day to make sure everyone was coordinated, knew what they had to do and when, and on the day were directed to where they needed to be without us having to worry about it.

On the Wedding Day, was it beneficial to have someone taking the reins?

On the day you have a lot of things going on, but you also want to savour and enjoy the day, which we did, so having someone who is not so emotionally involved keeping things to plan and dealing with any little problems that arise is great. The best thing I can say is that if there were problems on the day we were not aware of them.

Would you recommend Weddings by Annabel to other parents of the Bride or Groom?

Every wedding is different, but if you don't know the area too well, don't know the possible suppliers, don't know who can conduct the wedding ceremony, don't know the venues, or you haven't planned a wedding for some time, then having Weddings by Annabel help you plan your special day in or around the English Lake District will help you find all the answers and things you need. Annabel is great with people, and experienced enough to handle the issues that inevitably arise tactfully and always with a smile.

Sarah and Jorge, the Bride and Groom, wanted a wedding which was a mixture of the traditional English wedding and the Latin American culture and flare of Jorge and his family and friends, not a standard package from a wedding venue. With a very international guest list. This was always going to be a challenge to organise in the Lake District when we live overseas, but equally hard if you just live outside the area. Sarah had clear ideas about the day and Annabel worked with her to realise her plans not to impose her own ideas. She introduced us to a range of suppliers and allowed us to make selections, but was then able to work with them to coördinate the day, including vendors she had not worked with before that Sarah found for herself to bring about the unique day she wanted. On the day Annabel went the extra mile to make sure things ran smoothly. We enjoyed working with Annabel, she is pleasant and professional, and I have no hesitation in recommending her to help with your family's special wedding day.

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