# Frequently Asked Questions

**Weddings at Fitzpatrick Family Vineyards**

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## The Venue & Booking

**When is your wedding season?**

Our wedding season runs from mid-May through mid August. As a working vineyard and winery, our wedding availability is limited by seasonal winery operations, weather, and harvest.

**How many guests can you accommodate?**

Our maximum capacity is 100 guests for a comfortable seated reception. This is the capacity of our tent and the maximum number of guests we can accommodate with our in-house resources. Additional guests may be accommodated at an additional cost to the client on a case-by-case basis.

**Can we host both our ceremony and reception at the vineyard?**

Absolutely! Our ceremony lawn, the Fitz Greens, offers stunning views of Okanagan Lake and the surrounding vineyards. Following your ceremony, guests can enjoy wine and canapés on the lawn before moving to our Bistro Patio and covered reception area for dinner, dancing, and an expanded beverage selection.

**What happens if it rains?**

Our reception space is covered by a 35' x 40' hexagonal event tent, providing protection from the elements. We also have contingency options for your ceremony in the event of inclement weather. Our team will work with you to determine the best arrangements based on the forecast and your guest count.

**How do we reserve our wedding date?**

Once we have found a suitable date and you have requested a contract, we will prepare and send your venue agreement via Adobe Sign. You will have five business days to review, sign, and provide payment information for the required deposit.

Your wedding date is officially secured once we have received both your signed venue contract and the required deposit. Dates are not guaranteed until both have been completed.

**Can we book a tour before making a decision?**

Of course! We encourage couples to visit the property and experience the venue firsthand. Tours are available by appointment, and we are also happy to arrange an initial consultation by phone or Zoom. To book, follow the scheduling link on our website at https://www.fitzwine.com/Visit/Events.

Please note that while we welcome tours and consultations before booking, wedding dates cannot be held without a signed contract and deposit.

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# Planning & Coordination

**Is a wedding planner included?**

While we don't offer full wedding planning services, our Events Manager provides guidance throughout the planning process, including advising on venue layouts, catering arrangements, use of in-house décor, event timelines, and coordination of venue services.

We also provide day-of coordination for our in-house operations and work with all hired vendors to ensure a smooth event.

For couples seeking additional assistance with décor, vendor management, or comprehensive wedding planning, we recommend engaging an independent wedding planning or decorating company from our preferred vendors list.

**What furniture and décor are included?**

Our venue provides and sets up ceremony chairs, reception tables and chairs, and other event furnishings. We also have decorative items available for use, including wine barrels, bud vases, candle cylinders, and table numbers. Your catering contract includes linen, place settings, glassware, and plateware.

Our team will provide an inventory of available items during the planning process.

**Can we bring our own decorations?**

Yes! We welcome personal touches that make your celebration unique. Some restrictions apply to protect the vineyard, facilities, and surrounding environment. All décor plans must be reviewed with our team in advance.

**Can we choose our own wedding vendors?**

Yes! You are welcome to select your own photographer, florist, DJ, officiant, and other wedding professionals. While we provide a preferred vendor list featuring professionals familiar with our property, our team is happy to work with whoever you choose.

**Can we have a wedding rehearsal?**

Yes. By default, we will host and coordinate the ceremony rehearsal the day before your wedding, at the same time as your ceremony is scheduled to start. Typically, arrival is at 3:30 PM. It will take approximately one hour, and we recommend that your officiant attend. Please reach out should you wish to adjust the time of your ceremony rehearsal to better suit your timeline.

If you are interested in hosting your rehearsal dinner with our on-site restaurant partner, 19 Bistro, please inquire so we can make arrangements and hold your date.

**Is the tent mandatory?**

By default, the 35' x 40' Hex Tent will be set up from mid-May through mid-August. We strongly recommend keeping the tent in place for your event. If you wish to have it removed and put back up after, this can be arranged at your expense through Avalon Event Rentals. Tent removal must be booked at least two weeks in advance, with full payment due directly to Avalon upon booking. Please inquire for more information and full stipulations.

## Guest Experience & Logistics

**Is transportation required?**

Yes. Shuttles are mandatory and must be booked to bring guests to and from the vineyard to ensure everyone gets home safely. Please refer to our preferred vendor list for transportation recommendations. Exceptions can be made for a select number of vehicles, and our team must be advised in advance of who is planning to drive.

**What time does the celebration end?**

Our last call is at 11:30 PM, with beverage service concluding shortly thereafter. Music must conclude by midnight, with guests departing shortly afterward.

**Do we need wedding insurance?**

Yes. Couples are required to obtain event liability insurance with a minimum of $5 million in coverage. Proof of insurance must be provided one month before the wedding. You can purchase this through your insurance company or reach out to our insurer, Westland Insurance, for recommendations.

**Where can we take wedding photos on the property?**

Our vineyard offers a variety of beautiful photo locations, including the ceremony lawn, vineyard surroundings, winery building, cellar, and lake views. These are largely available to you, but some areas may be impacted or restricted due to winery operations, agricultural activity, or safety considerations. Our team will advise and coordinate ahead of time with you and your photographers if anywhere is off limits.

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## Payments & Final Details

**When are payments due?**

A $5,500 venue deposit is required to secure your date, with the remaining venue balance of $9500 due by March of your wedding year. A 50% catering deposit is due separately to our catering partner, 19 Bistro @ Fitz, two weeks before your celebration, with the final balance reconciled in the days following your event.

Your respective venue and catering contracts will outline your specific payment schedules.

**When do we need to finalize our wedding details?**

We ask couples to submit their final planning information approximately one month before their wedding. This includes your event timeline, vendor details, floor plan, guests' menu selections, décor plans, and proof of insurance. Our team provides a selection of in-house planning templates and resources to help keep everything organized.

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# Catering & Beverage Service

**Do you provide in-house catering?**

Yes! All wedding catering is provided by our restaurant partner, 19 Bistro @ Fitz. Our culinary team creates seasonal menus showcasing locally sourced ingredients, with options to accommodate a variety of dietary preferences and restrictions.

**Can we bring our own caterer or alcohol?**

Food and beverage service is provided exclusively by our in-house teams. The catering menu provides options for canapé service, a plated two-course reception, and late-night snacks. Our beverage program features wines from Fitzpatrick Family Vineyards, alongside a selection of local beer, cider, highballs, signature beverages, and non-alcoholic beverages.

We make one exception, however, for dessert. Be it a classic wedding cake, a selection of your favourite sweets, or an ice cream truck, we welcome the experts to provide dessert. Please inquire about how our team can support your licensed vendor in providing dessert for your wedding.

**Can we customize our wedding menu?**

Absolutely. Couples will have the opportunity to attend a guided menu tasting during the planning process. Our wedding packages provide a starting point, and our catering team is happy to discuss menu selections, dietary accommodations, and opportunities for customization.

**What bar service options are available?**

We offer flexible beverage service options, including fully hosted bars, cash bars, and drink tickets. Our team can help you select the arrangement that best suits your celebration and budget.

**Are there additional service charges?**

A 19% service charge applies to food and beverage services, in addition to applicable taxes. There is an additional labour fee of $250 + GST for late-night food service provided after 9:00 PM.

Your catering proposal will outline the estimated costs to help you plan your budget.