



Ask the Expert



We have all been swooning over Bridgerton-esque romances for the past couple of years, and to be honest, a big part of that, is due to the unsaid etiquettes that ruled that period of time. Some of these unsaid rules, that were abided to back then, are still respected today but without us really understanding why. So, here are my top 5 Wedding Etiquette Tips to still follow and why.

1. THE MOTHER OF THE BRIDE SHOULD BE THE LAST GUEST TO ENTER THE CHURCH.

Just before the bride arrives, the mother of the bride should be accompanied to her seat on the arm of the best man. This stems back to when brides would be able to ask their mothers one last piece of advice before marrying, obviously back then, women were much younger than they are nowadays and would have been filled with so many unanswered questions about married life. Nowadays, I find it's a sweet nod to a mother-daughter relationship, whereby

the mother is the last person to give her daughter a kiss before she walks down the aisle to get married. A special, intimate moment that is often full of emotion.

2. THE BRIDE SHOULD STAND TO THE LEFT OF THE GROOM DURING THE CEREMONY.

This specific placement stems back to when men wore swords. This way it would leave the groom's right sword hand free in case it was necessary. Obviously, today very few grooms wear a sword whilst getting married, but the tradition has remained. Many couples even apply this side rule to the guests seated in the ceremony – bride's side and groom's side. What I love at the end of the ceremony, when this is the case, is that everyone then blends to signify the merging of the family.

3. THE IN-LAWS SWITCH PARTNERS AFTER THE CEREMONY.

The father of the bride should escort the groom's mother out of the church at the end of the ceremony, and the bride's mother will then be escorted by the groom's father. This still is very normal in many catholic countries in southern Europe where the parents have a witness role during the ceremony. It's a lovely gesture which again blends both families together fully. I also always prefer when the dances are with switched in-laws – it's always a very poignant moment for the couple.

4. WEDDING GUESTS CAN ONLY REMOVE THEIR HATS AFTER THE MOTHER OF THE BRIDE HAS DONE SO.

If wearing formal headwear, any female wedding guest should wait until the mother of the bride has removed hers before following suit. As the most important female figure at the event (simply because the bride would not wear a hat, so it falls to her mother), she sets the tone for the relaxation of the dress code.

5. WEDDING GUESTS CAN ONLY REMOVE THEIR TIE OR JACKET ONCE THE GROOM HAS.

The groom is the most important male figure at the wedding. He, therefore, sets the tone for the relaxation of the dress code. If a groom is very fashion-conscious and does not want to relax his attire, he can advise his party to do so without following his lead. If the groom doesn't mind the others relaxing, one can go around and tell the others to feel free to loosen ties, remove jackets, etc. **WH**

For more advice, visit la-fete.com