

just between us

Chicago's top planners share their secrets.



THE PLANNER
Susan Cordogan
Big City Bride,
Chicago,
(773) 525-7526

YEARS IN THE BIZ
More than a decade

SECRET WEAPON
Lots of time. "Our flexible hours ranging from 9:00 a.m. to midnight will surely fit anyone's schedule."



THE PLANNERS
Jena Warren and
Audra Byrne
An Affair to
Remember, Downers
Grove, (708) 207-7650

YEARS IN THE BIZ
Five

SECRET WEAPON
Communication. "We are sisters! We work great together and enjoy every moment we spend with each and every couple."



THE PLANNER
Katie Kozlowski
Dettagli Weddings,
Chicago, (773) 698-8715

YEARS IN THE BIZ
Five

SECRET WEAPON
Personalization. "We get to know our couples incredibly well so we can make their wedding uniquely theirs."



disco vibe

"We loved a wedding we recently did in St. Charles at the Hotel Baker (630-584-2100, HotelBaker.com). The '70s disco floors and oval-shaped room added a unique touch to the dinner venue and photos. The cool thing is that the hotel was actually built back in the '20s, long before the disco era existed!" —Jena and Audra

modern and artsy

"We really loved the wedding we did at the Elmhurst Art Museum (630-834-0202, ElmhurstArtMuseum.org). The ceremony, cocktails, dinner and dancing were all on-site. We assisted with flipping the ceremony room into the dancing area while the guests were dining. The atmosphere was very chic and modern!" —Jena and Audra

revamped venue

"The beloved Ravinia Festival (847-266-5100, Ravinia.org), home to one of Chicagoland's greatest outdoor concert venues, is now available for weddings. Play up the concert theme and have playbills as your ceremony programs, send concert tickets as your save-the-dates and serve hot buttered popcorn during cocktail hour!" —Susan

rehearsal hot spot

"At The Chopping Block (773-472-6700, TheChoppingBlock.net), your guests will actually have a hand in preparing their feast. In addition to a demonstration and lesson from a professional chef, the menu can be tailored to your favorite foods. Plus, you can bring your favorite wine or beer to really get the party started!" —Susan

joy ride

"Some afternoon weddings include the 'Chicago Catholic Break' and have a two-plus hour intermission between the ceremony and the reception. Fill the time with a tour from Chicago Trolley & Double Decker Co. (773-648-5000, CoachUSA.com). The bus picks up guests outside the church and hands out Chicago-inspired party bags with drinks like Goose Island beer and snacks from Kraft Foods." —Katie



midnight munchies

"Late night snacks are a fun trend at weddings. Use this opportunity to bring in something specific to the city. From McDonald's cheeseburgers (whose headquarters are in Oak Brook) to Lou Malnati's pizza slices, there are tons of options." —Katie

