

CRIÚ

HOSPITALITY PROFESSIONALS

6 solutions for wedding staffing

The common mistakes to avoid before your wedding day



Event and wedding staffing

San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties

criuhospitality.com

A NOTE BEFORE WE BEGIN

The detail that is easy to overlook

You’ve spent months planning every detail of your wedding. The florals, the music, the menu, the dress. But there’s one piece of the puzzle that many couples, and even experienced event planners, overlook until it’s too late.

Staffing.

Not because they don’t care. Because they assumed someone else had it covered. The rental company. The caterer. A few helpful relatives. A cousin who “knows how to bartend.”

We’ve seen what happens when those assumptions don’t hold. And we’ve seen what a well staffed event looks like, where guests are cared for and the couple gets to enjoy their day.

Here are six common staffing mistakes we see and how to avoid them.

The six mistakes

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Start with your vendor agreements. Confirm who is responsible for each part of the day before assuming it is covered.

MISTAKE 1 OF 6

The rental company will handle setup

This is one of the most common assumptions we hear. Rental companies deliver tables, chairs, linens and equipment, but setup and breakdown may not be included. Check exactly what your agreement covers.

Who actually sets it up? That question is often unanswered until the morning of the wedding. Setting up chairs and tables, arranging linens and placing centerpieces according to your floor plan takes a trained, dedicated team.

And breakdown? At the end of the night, someone has to break it all down and have it ready for pickup. That job should not fall to your family.



The Criú solution

Criú's Muscle Team handles setup and breakdown so your venue is ready for guests on time. Agree on the floor plan, timing and responsibilities before the wedding.

MISTAKE 2 OF 6

The caterer handles all the service

Some caterers include full service staffing. Many do not. And the difference isn't always clear until the week of the wedding.

A caterer's team is focused on the food: preparation, plating and execution. Table setting, decor placement, ongoing service, bussing and cleanup may be outside their scope, or come with an additional fee you didn't budget for.

The gap looks like this: food arrives beautifully, but dirty plates pile up, glasses go unfilled and the cake table sits unattended. Guests wonder if something went wrong.



The Criú solution

Criú's Waitstaff works alongside your caterer, not instead of them. We handle service from table setting to cleanup, with responsibilities agreed on before the event.

MISTAKE 3 OF 6

Friends and family can help out

This comes from a loving place, but it can create stress for everyone involved.

Your loved ones are guests. They want to celebrate, take photos and be present with you. When they are responsible for service, they miss part of the celebration. You may find yourself worrying about them working in their nice clothes.

Practically speaking, untrained help may not know the timeline, the floor plan or the venue's rules. Things get missed. People may not be available when you need them most.



The Criú solution

Our team arrives briefed and ready to work. Your family gets to be your family. Your friends get to celebrate with you.

MISTAKE 4 OF 6

My cousin can bartend

We understand the impulse. It feels personal and can seem like a way to save money. But making a good cocktail and running a wedding bar are different jobs. Confirm the venue's alcohol service rules and any certification or insurance requirements before choosing who will serve.

A professional bartender manages pace, recognizes when a guest has had too much, handles setup and breakdown, and keeps the line moving. A bar that runs smoothly lets your guests get back to celebrating.



The Criú solution

Criú's certified bartenders have experience with beer, wine, cocktails, mocktails and other drinks without alcohol. They handle the bar from setup to last call.

MISTAKE 5 OF 6

The invisible tasks nobody assigned

Some wedding tasks are easy to miss because they do not clearly belong to one vendor. Ask yourself who is handling each of these.

- Cutting and plating the wedding cake
- Setting up and managing coffee service
- Restroom checks and supply restocking
- Trash monitoring and removal
- Gift organization and security
- Returning personal belongings to the bridal suite
- Packing up leftover food

If you can't name a specific person for each task, it still needs to be assigned.



The Criú solution

Talk through these details with Criú before the event so the team's responsibilities are clear. Confirm any special requests rather than leaving them for the wedding day.

MISTAKE 6 OF 6

We'll figure it out on the day

Weddings don't leave much room for figuring things out. Everything is interconnected. When staffing is improvised, setup can run late, the ceremony can be delayed, photos get rushed and cocktail hour is shortened.

A coordinator plans the day. A staffing team carries out its assigned work. The roles are different, and both need to be clear before the morning of the wedding.



The Criú solution

We work directly with your planner, venue and vendors before the event so our team arrives fully briefed. Criú provides staffing support; your planner or coordinator remains responsible for the overall wedding timeline.

YOUR WEDDING WITH CRIÚ

Make room to enjoy your day

Criú Hospitality Professionals helps take care of the setup, service and finishing details, so you can spend your wedding day with the people you love.



Muscle Team

Setup and breakdown

Waitstaff and certified bartenders

Attentive service throughout your event

Light Concierge

Help with the finishing touches

Get in touch to discuss your wedding

criuhospitality.com

MEET YOUR TEAM LEAD

Leading with love

Pati Coelho

Founder and Lead

Criú Hospitality Professionals



The Criú team

It all started with a busy Wine Fest weekend at my previous winery job. I found myself short of staff with no backup team to call, and I wasn't the only one. That gap became the open door that led to Criú.

What I quickly discovered was that the need was even greater in the wedding world. Couples spend months, sometimes years, planning their day, only to realize that nobody assigned the setup, the service, the bar or the many small tasks that keep a reception running smoothly. That's where Criú comes in.

Today, weddings are at the heart of everything we do. We provide experienced and insured staff to couples, planners, venues and caterers across San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties: a Muscle Team for setup and breakdown, professional Waitstaff, certified Bartenders and Light Concierge services for those finishing touches.

With over 25 years of hospitality management experience, I built Criú on a simple belief: every client deserves to enjoy their event without having to manage the service themselves. That's our job, and we take it seriously.

My husband and I live in Templeton, California, with our two goldendoodles, Max and Abbey. I adore my family, my friends and the beautiful weddings and events I get to be part of here on the Central Coast.