

faq | weddings

Q: What do your services include?

A: Our services include the following:

- Two photographers for the entire wedding day.
- The wedding photographed personally by the two of us.
- The photographs retouched by the actual artist.
- A personal, online site for the event.
- An artistic personalized slideshow, in video format, set to music, that can be shared on social media.
- An online gallery of all processed images (500+) in high resolution, within three weeks of the wedding.
- A method of easily downloading the photos from the gallery at no charge.
- An online link to Bay Photo where prints can be easily ordered at a low price because of the professional relationship we have with the company, which we pass on to you.
- Printing rights so you can use the photos for albums, prints, and sharing with friends.
- Submission for publication to wedding magazines and wedding blogs, if you choose.
- Photographs shared with the other artists and vendors who made the event special.
- The satisfaction of knowing that you have used a local, green business. We recently received the Green Business Certification Award from the County of Santa Cruz.

Q: What is your photography style?

A: This is your wedding, so our goal is to photograph it the way you want and not impose our style. We usually try to be as unobtrusive as possible while you are getting ready, capturing realistic moments. However, we also take artistic detail shots and will arrange some items in order to do this. Most of the day will be captured naturally, as it occurs; however, we also shoot traditional style for group and family portrait photos. Most couples want a combination of both styles. We will offer guidance and suggestions for posing in order to create the best photos possible. We photograph the ceremony respectfully, and the reception by capturing the events as they occur, and all the details and decorations.

Q: How many photographers will be provided for my wedding?

A: Both of us photograph each wedding ourselves and spend the entire day at the event, usually around 8 hours. We cover the wedding party getting ready, the first look, family portraits, the ceremony, the reception, and anything else the couple wants covered. We will often work separately to photograph the bride and groom getting ready, and this may be at different locations. Then we photograph the "first look" and the ceremony together, but from different perspectives. During family photos, one person photographs while the other person coordinates the photos. We usually work together to take photos of the reception area and the reception. We always dress to blend in with the guests at the wedding.

Q: How soon will I get my photos?

A: The slideshow and all the photos are usually posted to the online site within 3 weeks after your wedding day.

Q: How do I receive my photos?

A: We personally review every photo, make selections, retouch them to make everyone naturally look their best, and then post the retouched photos (usually about 500 images) to a gallery on a personal online site.

Q: What is the slideshow?

A: We select some of the best pictures and those which tell the story of the day, and create a unique slideshow of the wedding day, artistically arranged and set to music. This is a professional presentation that provides you with a beautiful way to share the photos. The slideshow is in video format and can be posted online and shared on social media. Many couples have found it be a contemporary version of a printed album.

Q: What is the personal online site?

A: We deliver the photographs by creating a personal, online site to present them. The site includes the slideshow, and a password protected gallery containing all processed images. The couple can easily share the site with their family and friends, allowing everyone to view the slideshow and download images at no charge, or purchase prints themselves, directly from the professional processing lab. The couple also has the choice of just sharing the slideshow, and not the entire gallery. The slideshow can be shared through email or posted on Facebook. The online site is a great way of sharing photos when you are busy doing other things – like enjoying your honeymoon.

Q: How do I get prints?

A: The photos can be downloaded and printed directly from the online gallery at no charge, but the gallery also allows you to conveniently order high quality prints from Bay Photo, a professional printing company, which we feel is the best in the business, and just happens to be located in Santa Cruz. The charges for prints are kept at a low price because of the professional relationship we have with the company, and we pass this advantage on to you. You receive printing rights from the photographer, which means that you may use other companies to print the photos as well, or use them for albums, Facebook, websites and sharing with friends.

Q: Is a retainer required to hold my wedding date?

A: Yes. A nonrefundable retainer is required when you book our services and sign the contract. We can accept payment in cash or check. Your final payment is due on or before your wedding day. Once we receive your retainer and signed contract, we will sign the contract and send you a copy. You will also receive a helpful list of common wedding day photos and tips, and a questionnaire to fill out to give us information about your wedding day. This will help you start thinking about the photographs you will want.

Q: How do I share photos with the wedding planner and all the other artists who provided services?

A: We always take a few photos with the other artists in mind to show their work in the best possible light, and we would be happy to deliver these to them, and give them permission to use them. If you provide us with a contact list before the wedding, we can easily deliver photos to all the other artists.

Q: How can I get my wedding published in a magazine or on a wedding blog?

A: Wedding magazines and blogs consider an event for publication when the photographs are submitted for review. Submission is a complicated process requiring particular kinds of photographs. We are familiar with the requirements of the most popular magazines and blogs and take photos with submission in mind. If you decide you would like to have your event featured, we will handle all the details for you.

Q: What kind of equipment do you use?

A: We both use professional quality Canon digital cameras (5D Mark II), Canon professional speedlights and the finest Cannon lenses (L-series). We also have back-ups for all our equipment (and back-ups for our back-ups). We use computer software for color correcting and retouching the photos. We try to take most of the photos with natural light, which gives us really beautiful color, but we have speedlights to add drama and light when necessary. We invest regularly to stay current on camera equipment, computer equipment/software and education to insure you receive very high quality photos.

Q: Is it OK if other people take photos at the wedding?

A: Yes, this is your wedding, and you can have anyone you want taking photos. We ask that we have control while we are taking family photos so we can take them quickly and allow everyone to get back to the celebration, but we have no objection to anyone taking photos.

Q: Do you photograph out-of-town weddings?

A: Yes. We are available for travel worldwide for our premium package weddings. There is no charge for travel within the San Francisco Bay area and the Santa Cruz and Monterey area. For weddings outside of this area, we can work with you to determine the appropriate fee to cover travel expenses.

Q: What do your services cost?

A: \$3,000.

Q: Is your wedding package flexible?

A: You can always ask, but we can be reasonable about our fee by offering fewer choices. Instead of several packages, we just include everything we think most couples want.