Soul

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No.
05

The Wedding Guest Edit

What to wear to any wedding, decoded: dress codes, formulas and the weekend plan.

Built by Camille

FIELD GUIDE · WEDDING PLANNER · DRESS-CODE CARDS · PRINTABLES

Hi, I'm Camille.

This edit is for the moment the invitation arrives and the first thing you think is: what on earth does "dressy casual" mean?

A wedding outfit has more jobs than most: it has to respect the couple, suit the venue and the weather, survive a long day of photos, dancing and food, and, ideally, not cost a fortune for one wear.

We decode the invitation, choose a formula for your dress code and season, and plan the whole weekend, down to the emergency kit in your clutch.



your host, Camille

HOW THIS EDIT WORKS

The dress-code guide, formulas and planners were written by the SOUL team. Customs differ between families, faiths and countries; when in doubt, ask the couple. The photos show the mood; they are not customer results.

— Camille

Everything in your kit.

Read the guide first, then use the tools that suit you. You don't need them all.

1

The field guide

Every dress code decoded, the rules that still matter, cultural and religious weddings, sixteen outfit formulas, venue and weather, accessories and the weekend plan.

2

The wedding planner

A fillable brief for each wedding, outfit options, a countdown, a packing list and a budget. US Letter and A4.

3

Dress-code cards

Eight cut-out cards, one per dress code, with exactly what to wear.

4

Door cards

The day-of emergency kit and the countdown, to tape inside your wardrobe door.



CAMILLE'S RULE

Read the invitation twice: once for the date, once for the clues. The time, the venue and the paper itself tell you almost as much as the dress code.

Camille

Your first fifteen minutes.

Take the invitation and the couple's wedding website, if there is one. That's all you need.

1. **Find the five clues**

   Dress code, start time, venue, season and your role (guest, family or wedding party). Write them on the planner brief.

2. **Look up the code**

   Find it in chapter 1. No code written? Use the time and venue clues later in chapter 1.

3. **Check for colors and customs**

   Has the couple asked for colors, or for guests to avoid any? Is it a religious or cultural ceremony? Read chapter 2.

4. **Pick your formula**

   Choose one formula from chapter 3 and see what you already own that fits it before you shop.

✦ TODAY'S FINISH LINE

A written brief and one outfit formula. Shopping can wait until you know exactly what you're looking for.

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Every dress code, decoded.

From most to least formal. If a code isn't here, it usually sits between two of these.

DRESS CODE	WHAT IT MEANS	LENGTH
White tie	The most formal: state dinners and grand ballrooms.	Floor
Black tie	Formal evening. Gowns are expected.	Floor, or a very dressy midi
Black tie optional / Formal	Gowns welcome; elegant cocktail looks fine.	Floor or midi
Cocktail	Dressy but not long.	Knee to midi
Semi-formal / Dressy casual	Polished, a step down from cocktail.	Knee to midi
Garden / Daytime	Outdoor and lighter; think grass and sun.	Midi or maxi
Beach	Light fabrics, practical shoes.	Midi or maxi
Casual	Relaxed, but still a celebration.	Any
Festive / Themed	Follow the theme; ask if unsure.	Any

Cultural and religious weddings.

General guidance only: customs vary by family and community. When you're not sure, ask the couple or a family member.

WEDDING	GUESTS OFTEN...
Church or chapel	Cover shoulders for the ceremony (a wrap or jacket works) and avoid very short or low-cut styles.
South Asian (Hindu, Sikh, Muslim)	Wear bright, rich colors; avoid white and black; avoid bridal red. Cover shoulders and legs for religious ceremonies. Cover your head in a Sikh gurdwara.
Chinese	Avoid all white and all black. Red is often the bride's color; other bright colors are welcome.
Muslim (mosque ceremony)	Cover arms, legs and hair inside the mosque; bring a scarf.
Orthodox Jewish	Dress modestly: covered elbows and knees, a higher neckline; a head covering may be expected for married women.
Nigerian, Ghanaian and other West African	The couple may share an aso ebi or coordinating fabric for guests. Ask, and wear it if offered.

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The clutch checklist.

Small bag, big day. These fit in almost any clutch.

- [ ] Phone, a card and some cash for tips or the bar.
- [ ] Lipstick or balm, and a small powder or blotting papers.
- [ ] Tissues: weddings make people cry.
- [ ] Plasters (bandages) for new shoes.
- [ ] Two hair grips or a hair tie.
- [ ] Pain reliever and any medicine you need.
- [ ] A mint or gum.



CAMILLE'S RULE

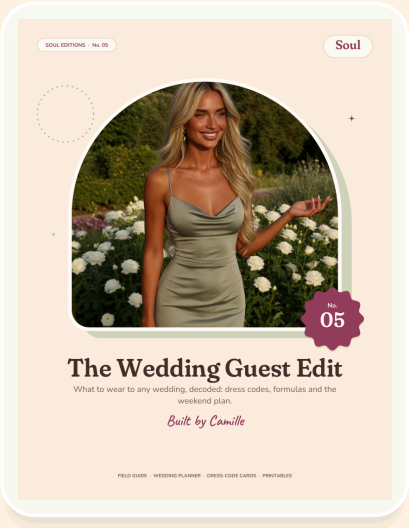
Break in new shoes at home for three evenings before the wedding. Wear them with the socks or tights you'll actually wear.

Camille

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You've read 7 of 32 pages.

The rest of The Wedding Guest Edit is one tap away.



IN THE FULL EDIT

- ◯ The field guide
- ◯ The wedding planner
- ◯ Dress-code cards
- ◯ Door cards

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