

THE REPLAY STUDIO GUIDE



VOLUME II

The *Big Day*

*Your wedding day in Switzerland, hour by hour —
from morning to the day after, without letting stress
steal the spotlight from your memories.*

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR COUPLES IN SWITZERLAND



BY ANDREI · REPLAY STUDIO

— FOREWORD —

Approaching your wedding day as a *low-stress* logistics chain.

A wedding that runs smoothly is almost never a matter of luck — nor of a bigger budget. It's the result of *logistics thought through in advance*, where the unexpected has been anticipated, decisions delegated, and where the couple can finally focus on simply being present. Insights from weddings in Switzerland and across Europe point to the same conclusion. It isn't the big surprises that ruin the day — it's the accumulation of small slippages: hair taking longer than planned, the procession running late, speeches stretching on, seating taking ten extra minutes. Without safety margins, these minutes

pile up and end up pushing back the ceremony, shortening the Apéro, and stressing everyone out. This guide distills what I've observed across dozens of weddings I've filmed. You'll find a complete hour-by-hour schedule, several variants depending on your ceremony style, a risk matrix with the right reflexes, ideas for entertainment sorted by budget, and a plan for the day after. The goal is simple: to give you a robust framework, adaptable to your vision, that protects what *matters most* — actually experiencing your day rather than managing it.

— THE FIVE PRINCIPLES —

01

ONE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT

From morning onwards, all logistical calls go through one designated person. You stay reachable only for emotional or creative decisions.

02

BUFFERS OF 15 TO 30 MINUTES

Between each key block, plan an invisible buffer. If everything goes well, it's quiet time. If something slips, it absorbs the shock.

03

LIMIT LOCATION CHANGES

Every transfer between venues increases the risk of delay. Ideally, one single location for ceremony, Apéro and dinner. Otherwise, plan generous transport times.

04

NO DECISIONS AFTER 9 A.M.

All financial, logistical or contractual decisions are made beforehand. On the day, the answer to any hiccup is never « let me ask the couple ».

05

THE GUEST EXPERIENCE

Clear welcome, simple signage, visible water, coherent rain Plan B. A readable day is always better than an overloaded one.

— CEREMONY 3:00 P.M. · CLASSIC SWISS FORMAT —

An ideal schedule, *from morning to the day after.*

The most robust scenario for Switzerland: morning preparations, mid-afternoon ceremony, 60–90 min Apéro, 2.5h dinner, party until 1 a.m., short brunch the next day.

MORNING *The preparations* 07:00 — 13:00

- 07:00 Calm wake-up, hydration, simple breakfast. *Avoid coffee on an empty stomach and salty foods that cause bloating.*
- 08:00 Hair and makeup begin with the person whose prep takes longest. The other gets ready in parallel.
- 10:00 Decor setup at the venue by vendors. Photographer arrives for detail shots (outfit, rings, stationery).
- 12:00 Getting dressed, veil or boutonnière. Witnesses handle the logistics calls: DJ, caterer, transport, officiant. The couple no longer picks up the phone.
- 13:00 Optional first look or short break together. *A private moment recommended for couples who want to find calm before the ceremony.*

AFTERNOON *Ceremony & Apéro* 14:00 — 18:00

- 14:00 Departure to the ceremony. Witnesses on-site 20 minutes early to handle the welcome and arrivals.
- 14:30 Guests are advised to arrive 30 minutes early. Visible water, seating, signage.
- 15:00 Ceremony (25–60 minutes depending on format: civil, religious or non-denominational).
- 15:45 Recessional, congratulations, family photos following a pre-written list. *One person gathers the groups — not the couple.*
- 16:00 Apéro begins. Toasts, guestbook, gentle entertainment. Canapés and drinks circulating.
- 17:00 Couple portraits — 20 to 30 minutes maximum. *Any longer and the Apéro loses momentum, with guests wondering where you are.*

EVENING *Dinner & dancing* 18:00 — 01:00

- 18:00 Moving to the table. Clear announcement, transition music. Seating chart at the entrance to the room.
- 18:30 Couple's entrance into the room, first course served.
- 19:30 Main course. *Maximum one block of speeches per course — too many speeches kill the rhythm.*
- 21:00 Optional golden hour break (10–15 min, couple photos if the light is beautiful). Dessert prepared during this time.
- 22:00 First dance, party opens. The wedding party opens the dance floor, the DJ builds the energy progressively.
- 00:00 Late-night snack (mini-burgers, fries, onion soup). *First wave of departures for guests who are leaving.*
- 01:00 Gradual close. Last song, couple's departure or discreet retreat. One designated person stays for the key handover.

— ADAPTING THE SCHEDULE —

Four *variants* depending on your ceremony.

The ideal schedule depends less on Pinterest aesthetics than on ceremony time, number of locations and ritual type. Here are the four most common scenarios in Switzerland.

CEREMONY 11:00

Civil + lunch

Morning ceremony, photos around 11:45, lunch at 13:00, ends between 18:00 and 20:00. Less expensive, simpler for families with children or older guests.

INTIMATE

BUDGET-FRIENDLY

CEREMONY 14:30–15:30

Classic Swiss

The format I recommend by default. Apéro 16:00, dinner 18:30. Excellent balance of light, comfort and party time. Requires a real lunch during preparations.

BALANCED

RECOMMENDED

CEREMONY 17:00–18:00

Golden hour

Late-afternoon ceremony, short cocktail, later dinner. Beautiful light, lounge vibe. Caution: late night, older guests will tire faster.

CINEMATIC

SUMMER

TWO SEPARATE DATES

Wedding in two acts

Short civil ceremony mid-week in a small circle, then the main symbolic celebration on Saturday. Very common in Switzerland. Reduces the legal pressure on the main day and adds flexibility.

SWISS

FLEXIBLE

WEDDING DAY EMERGENCY KIT

Entrust to your logistics coordinator

BEAUTY

Mattifying powder, lipstick, mini hairspray, comb, hair pins, clear elastics, hair clips.

SEWING

Sewing kit, scissors, safety pins, double-sided tape, stain-remover pen, black and white thread.

HEALTH

Plasters, blister patches, painkillers, antihistamine, disinfectant wipes, tissues.

COMFORT

Water bottle, salty snacks, dried fruit, drinking straws (to preserve lipstick), mini deodorant, lip balm.

TECH

Chargers, power bank, power strip, copy of the schedule, list of vendor contacts on paper.

WEATHER & MISC.

Plain umbrellas, backup shoes, discreet gaffer tape, marker pen, comfort insoles, fan if hot weather.

— THE CONTACT TREE —

You should *never* be the control tower.

The secret to a smooth day fits in one sentence: delegate each area to a dedicated person, with a backup. Everything flows through them. You only pick up the phone for genuine emergencies.

THE SEVEN KEY ROLES TO ASSIGN

OPERATIONAL LEAD	Wedding planner, master of ceremonies or lead witness. Handles all logistics and the unexpected. <i>Calls you only for major decisions.</i>
VENUE	Person in charge of the venue. Manages access, furniture, meal timing, handover.
CEREMONY	Officiant, master of ceremonies or witness. Handles the order of entry, microphones, signatures.
TRANSPORT	Dedicated friend. Handles shuttles, taxis, parking, late-night departures. <i>Critical if multiple venues.</i>
FAMILY	Calm relative or witness. Looks after older guests, children, family emotions.
PAYMENTS	Ultra-reliable person. Manages envelopes, receipts, tips. <i>Never the couple in person.</i>
HEALTH & SAFETY	Pragmatic person. First-aid kit, medical contacts, minor incidents. Alerts you only in case of genuine emergency.

SIX ANTI-STRESS REFLEXES FOR THE COUPLE

— EAT AND STAY HYDRATED

A light breakfast in the morning and a real snack between prep and ceremony. Stress thrives on an empty stomach.

— TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS

Phone on airplane mode or handed to a witness from 8 a.m. Logistical questions go to the designated roles, not to you.

— CARVE OUT A MOMENT FOR JUST THE TWO OF YOU

Ten minutes before the ceremony, or a private *first look*. Remember why you're here.

— BREATHE IN CARDIAC COHERENCE

If emotions rise: 5 seconds inhale, 5 seconds exhale, for one minute. Immediate effect.

— ACCEPT THAT NOTHING WILL BE PERFECT

Something will go off-script — statistically guaranteed. Your guests probably won't notice. And in your memories, it won't weigh anything.

— ACTIVELY ENJOY THE APÉRO

It's often the only moment you truly get to see your guests. Cap couple portraits at 25 minutes so you can return to them.

— KEEPING GUESTS ENGAGED —

The best entertainment is the kind that *doesn't interrupt* the flow.

Sorted from least to most expensive. A golden rule: if an activity requires a long announcement, freezes everyone in place, or delays the meal, it usually costs more in comfort than it gains.

Wish or advice cards on each table

VERY LOW

Each guest fills out a card with a piece of advice for the couple. No host needed, no announcement required.

APÉRO · COFFEE

Crowd-sourced playlist via QR code

VERY LOW

Guests submit their song picks before the wedding via a shared link. The DJ weaves a selection into the evening.

BEFORE THE WEDDING · EVENING

Outdoor wooden games (pétanque, Mòlkky, croquet)

LOW

Ideal with a large outdoor space. Breaks the ice between guests who don't know each other, works for all ages.

APÉRO · BRUNCH

Children's kit (colouring, mini-games, mascot)

LOW

Relieves parents, keeps the little ones busy during dinner. The most effective bet for long cocktail hours.

CEREMONY · DINNER

Photobooth (connected photo station)

MEDIUM

Generates spontaneous content without monopolising the couple. The 2024–2025 versions display the shots live on a big screen.

LATE APÉRO · EVENING

Audio or video guestbook

MEDIUM

Booth or vintage phone converted to record short messages. A far more moving keepsake than a paper guestbook.

APÉRO · EVENING

Close-up magician

HIGH

A professional moving from group to group during the Apéro. Highly effective for breaking the ice, particularly appreciated by guests.

APÉRO

Live band or acoustic duo

VERY HIGH

Instantly raises the perceived quality. Ideal for ceremony, Apéro or opening the evening. Heavier technical logistics to plan for.

CEREMONY · APÉRO · EVENING

Fireworks or drone light show

VERY HIGH

Reserved for venues with the appropriate municipal permits. Guaranteed wow effect at the end of the evening. Check local regulations.

END OF EVENING

Children

DEDICATED CORNER

Babysitter as needed, mascot, colouring, suitable snacks, mini escape-game for older kids.

REPLAY Studio · replaystudio.ch

Older guests

COMFORT FIRST

Front row, shade or heating depending on season, easy WC access, early departures without stigma.

Accessibility

ON THE GROUND

Check ramp access, accessible WC, nearby seating, audible audio. Not just « accessible on paper ».

06

— ANTICIPATING SURPRISES —

A useful Plan B always has a *trigger* and a *deadline*.

The best Plan B isn't the one that « exists in a folder », it's the one with a clear trigger, a named owner and a decision deadline.

RISK	TRIGGER	DECIDES	IMMEDIATE RESPONSE
<i>Rain / storm</i>	Strong forecast or actual rain	Planner + venue	Switch indoors, update signage, message key guests.
<i>Strong wind</i>	Arch or drapery unstable	Venue + florist	Lighten the decor, remove light structures, secure tablecloths.
<i>Heat > 28°C</i>	Weather confirmed 24h before	Planner + caterer	Visible water everywhere, parasols, shorten sun exposure, blankets for the evening.
<i>Vendor running late</i>	No call or uncertain arrival time	Logistics lead	Activate the backup, resequence the order. <i>Do not alert the couple.</i>
<i>DJ or music no-show</i>	Absent at sound check (T-2h)	Logistics lead	Backup playlist + portable speaker + handheld mic ready in advance.
<i>Witness or document missing</i>	At the moment of the civil ceremony	Couple + civil registry office	Call the civil registry office immediately. Solutions are often available.
<i>Noise complaint from neighbours</i>	Complaint or curfew reached	Venue + DJ	End the outdoor portion, move inside, lower sound levels.
<i>Medical incident</i>	Faintness or injury	Health lead	First-aid kit, call 144 if needed. Discreet isolation.

THE GOLDEN RULE OF PAYMENTS

If a vendor asks for an unplanned financial decision during the evening, the answer is never an instant « yes » or « no ». The payments lead refers to the quote and terms. The couple should never be asked to settle a bar surcharge at 11:47 p.m.

WEDDING DAY PAYMENTS CHECKLIST

VENDOR FINAL BALANCES

Ideally paid by bank transfer D-3 to D-1, never in cash at the last minute.

ON-SITE PAYMENTS

Named envelopes prepared and handed exclusively to the payments lead.

TIPS

Optional. Given discreetly at the end of service or by bank transfer D+1.

DEPOSITS & INVENTORIES

Handover protocol signed, photos in case of damage. Refund according to contract.

— THE DAY AFTER —

Closing the celebration without turning it into *a second big day*.

The goal of the day after is simple: thank your loved ones, collect the items, hand back the venue and allow for a stress-free departure. Not a second wedding.

- 09:00 Opening of the venue
Initial state after the party, cleaning checklist started by the planner or logistics lead.
- 10:00 Collecting the items
Gifts, cards, outfits, personal belongings. Everything loaded into one identified vehicle.
- 10:30 Simple brunch, 90 minutes max
No new programme, just a moment to thank close family.
- 12:00 Rental inventory
Furniture, decor, dishware, sound and lighting equipment. Signed list, photos if any damage.
- 13:00 Final handover of the venue
Key return, signed handover protocol. The couple can be absent — a trusted person is enough.
- 14:00 Departure for the honeymoon or return to quiet
If an immediate flight: plan a 4-hour margin. Otherwise, leaving on D+2 significantly reduces stress.

HONEYMOON DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Prepare a week before the wedding, not after the brunch.

DOCUMENTS

Passports, tickets, reservations, visas if required, travel insurance, separate digital copy.

HEALTH & TECH

Personal medication, mini travel first-aid kit, chargers, adaptors, power bank.

FINANCES

Cards, local currency, international payment options, notify your bank for use abroad.

HOME

Pet and plant care, mail on hold, alarms, fridge emptied, windows and thermostat.

A successful big day isn't the one that looks like Pinterest.

*It's the one where you sit down to dinner with ease,
enjoy your Apéro, dance without watching the clock,
and fall asleep knowing that someone other than you
took care of every detail.*

ANDREI · REPLAY STUDIO