

## THE GROOM'S GUIDE

# Getting Carried Away

WEDDING CARS ARE MORE THAN TRANSPORTATION, THEY ARE THE FIRST HINT OF THE STYLE OF THE WEDDING THAT IS TO UNFOLD.

GET ME TO THE CHURCH ON TIME BY ...
HELICOPTER
BOAT
MOTORBIKE
HORSEBACK
HORSE AND CARRIAGE
LIMOUSINE
AIRCRAFT
SCOOTER
HOT AIR BALLOON

What style of wedding do you have in mind? A Buick or Chevrolet would suit a retro wedding, a Mercedes Benz or BMW would be just right for an urban sophisticate, a vintage Rolls Royce or Jaguar would be right for a traditional theme. Maybe a horse? Yes, horse. What could be more romantic than riding across the paddocks with the groom, veil blowing in the wind; perfect country style; but that's another story. The wedding's theme drives the choice of transport.

Back to motor transport, by far the most popular choice; quotes will be determined by whether the wedding is in high season, the type of cars and how many hours you will need the transport. The number of people in the bridal party will affect the size of the fleet and the clock starts ticking from the pick-up and finishes at the reception.

Enquire about overtime rates if transport is required at end of night; the price quoted is firm and cannot be changed, that includes overtime. Allow extra time for photos with your wedding cars and be sure to state that requirement clearly in advance.

Check out what will be included in the package, details like champagne, nibbles and red carpet. Enquire if the cars in the fleet are all matching and available on the day. Inspect the vehicles in the showrooms to make sure you know what you are getting and that the entire bridal party will fit in air-conditioned comfort.

To ensure the cars you see on inspection are the cars you actually have on the day, write down registration numbers.

If using an older vintage car, check the hinges of the doors for grease or oil. Also, look to see if there is a covering over the wheels at the back so as grease and dirt will not get onto dresses. Carry a small container of talcum powder to absorb the grease if the worst happens, then brush off before you disembark the car.

Be sure that the operator is accredited. In most states, the Motor Transport Department issues an operator license to reputable companies and the cars themselves are licensed.

The vehicle should be insured and the company must carry Public Liability Insurance. Enquire if there is back-up and another car available if there is a breakdown.

Will you get an experienced driver who is keen to make your day special? Check him out. Provide him with sound direction and a map with collection points and exact times stated clearly. A running sheet will ensure your transport runs smoothly.

If you would like refreshments provided in your car, and the company does not provide them, ask a member of the bridal party to organise refreshments and nibbles, especially if the travelling time is longer than half an hour.

It is usually the groom's responsibility to organise transport for guests if the wedding venue is out of the city. In most cases, a bus is the most appropriate option. Guests meet at a certain place and return to the same place after the wedding. This way guests can enjoy their night out to the full. Be sure to book a bus with air-conditioning if the weather is warm.