

Las Bodas Hispanas

Las bodas

In Spanish-speaking countries, *las bodas* are a very important event. Sometimes as many as 200 people may be invited to a traditional wedding.

Time

Las bodas often begin in the evening around 7 or 8 pm. and go very late into the night.

Attire

"*La novia*", or the bride, wears "*un traje de novia*", a wedding gown that is normally white. She may also wear "*una mantilla*" which is a traditional lace headdress. *La mantilla* is flows several feet behind *la novia* as she walks down the aisle. Nowadays, many brides are trading in their "*mantillas*" for more modern veils or "*velos nupciales*".



Los anillos

In the United States, rings or "*anillos*", are worn on the left hand ring finger, but in Spain *los anillos* is worn on ring finger of the right hand.

In Chile, *los anillos* are worn by both the bride and groom on their right hands until *la boda*. Then, they switch their rings to their left hands.

Las arras

"*El novio*" (the groom) gives su "*novia*" (his bride) 13 coins called "*arras*" which represent his promise to support her financially.



El nudo

In Guatemala and Mexico, "*el sacerdote*" otherwise known as the priest may perform a ritual where he places a gold or silver rope called "*un nudo*" around the shoulders of the couple in a figure eight. This symbolizes the couple's everlasting union.

Groomsmen/Bridesmaids

Unlike many weddings you may have attended, it is rare for there to be groomsmen and bridesmaids in Spanish weddings. Only the bride and groom stand at the altar with the priest.

Los padres y los padrinos

Los padres de los novios are a very important part of the wedding. A groom's mother walks him down the aisle and the bride's father walks her down the aisle. At "*el banquete de boda*" the newlyweds and their parents sit at the head table.

"*Los padrinos*" or the godparents help to sponsor the wedding and may also sit at the head table during *el banquete de boda*.

El baquete de bodas



Los novios walk around to each table and hand out wedding favors called "*detalles*" to each one of their guests to thank them for coming. Guests may then give their "*regalo*" to the couple which can be a card or envelope with money inside. Sometimes, "*la pareja*" sends the number of their bank account along with their invitation so that their guests can deposit money before they arrive!