



**GETTING MARRIED IN ISTANBUL:
THE INSIDER'S GUIDE**

Curated venues, planning tips, and photography
secrets for your dream destination wedding

DESIGNING A DAY AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOUR LOVE STORY

Planning an Istanbul wedding is thrilling, but choosing the right team can feel overwhelming. Over the years, I have documented weddings across this magnificent city, and I've learned a secret: the best photographs happen when you are entirely relaxed, trusting the professionals around you.

As a visual storyteller, light and atmosphere are everything to me. I've created this guide to share my absolute favorite venues that photograph beautifully, along with the incredibly talented planners, stylists, and artists I trust to make your day flawless.

Consider this your insider's guide to an unforgettable, aesthetic Istanbul wedding.



Curated Venues: The European Side



- Aslı Tunca Hotel: A hidden gem. This boutique space offers a chic, intimate, and highly aesthetic backdrop for a sophisticated celebration. A massive bonus: it is incredibly suitable for small, intimate groups (which is notoriously hard to find in Istanbul!).
- Six Senses Kocataş Mansions: Luxurious, spacious, and stunningly restored. The sweeping views and immaculate grounds provide endless opportunities for beautiful portraits. Despite its grandeur, it also offers beautiful, tailored spaces if you are planning a smaller, more intimate guest list.
- The Marmara Esmâ Sultan: Iconic and breathtaking. The contrast of the historic brick ruins with the glass interior right on the edge of the Bosphorus is an absolute dream to photograph.
- Feriye Palace: Classic Bosphorus elegance. It offers spectacular light and iconic views, perfect for a grand but modern Istanbul celebration.
- Pera Palace Hotel: Perfect for a moody, nostalgic, and incredibly elegant affair. The historic architecture and classic interiors feel like stepping back in time.

Curated Venues: Asian Side, Islands & Getaways

- Kuzguncuk Yanık Mektep: My top choice for a bohemian, intimate garden wedding. It feels historic, cozy, and wonderfully relaxed. Like Aslı Tunca, this is one of those rare, perfect spots if you have a smaller guest list.
- Splendid Palace Hotel (Büyükkada): If you want a Wes Anderson aesthetic with silver domes and red shutters, this nostalgic island hotel is pure photographic magic.
- Çubuklu 29: Luxurious and modern with a spectacular, sweeping view of the water from the Asian shore.

Close But Out of Istanbul (Nature Escapes):

- Casa Lavanda: A lush, boutique nature retreat in Şile. Known for its incredible gastronomy and beautiful stone architecture, it's the ultimate choice for an elegant, high-end rustic wedding away from the city crowds.
- Grandma's Wonderland (Silivri): A rustic, farm-chic paradise. Perfect for couples who want an outdoor, nature-filled wedding under the stars with incredible food.
- Barbare Bağları (Tekirdağ): A slice of Tuscany just outside the city. Vineyard weddings here offer the most incredible golden hour light and a deeply romantic atmosphere.



VENDORS I LOVE & TRUST

The aesthetic of your day is brought to life by the artists behind the scenes. These are the professionals who not only deliver incredible results but also bring a calming, wonderful energy to your wedding morning.

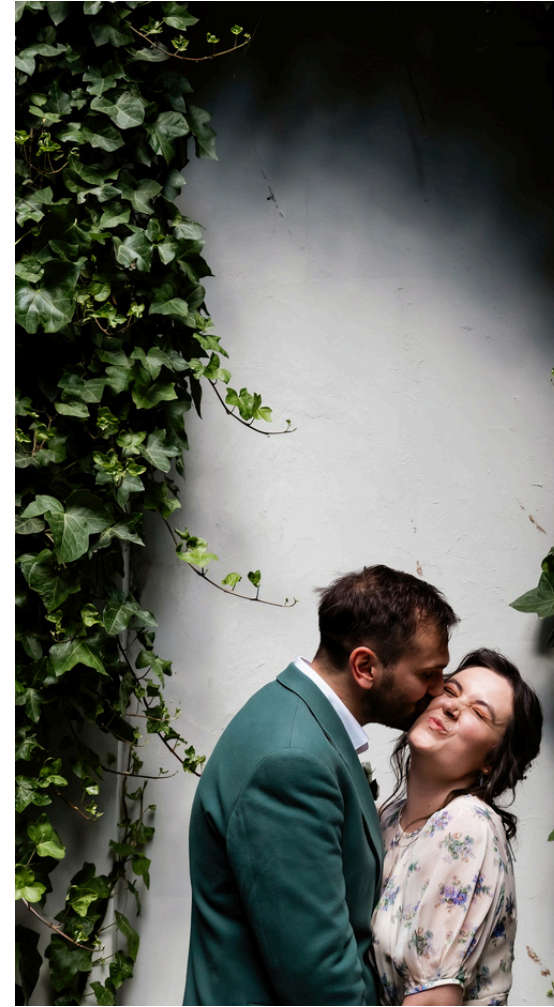


- **Hair & Makeup Artists:**
 - **The Unite:** An amazing team known for modern, chic, and elegant hair and makeup styling that translates perfectly on camera.
 - **Vedat Özkul:** A master at creating flawless, radiant looks that feel incredibly natural and last beautifully through the night.
- **Wedding Planner:** * **Ayşegül Kavaklı:** I absolutely love working with Ayşegül because her philosophy mirrors my own. She doesn't just offer cookie-cutter packages; she listens deeply and works according to your specific needs, finding the absolute best solutions for your budget. She is a true powerhouse who takes care of everything—from helping you track down the perfect wedding dress to managing the final aesthetic touches on the night. Because she is so well-connected, she can often secure exclusive discounts at your dream venues and always brings in the absolute best vendors for music and lighting. With her on your team, you actually get to relax and enjoy your day.
- **Decoration & Florals:** * **Mahlas Wedding:** Their eye for design is unmatched. They create atmospheric, deeply personalized tablescapes and floral designs that elevate every single photograph.



A Visual Storyteller's Dream

When a documentary film director and a photographer get married, the priority is always authenticity and light. We began Asli and Mert's day at their home, capturing intimate moments with their cats and a relaxed dance rehearsal before heading to the Bosphorus by boat with their closest friends. The atmosphere at The Marmara Esmâ Sultan was the perfect blend of historic soul and minimalist elegance, providing a breathtaking backdrop for their ceremony. After a beautiful outdoor exchange of vows overlooking the water, the celebration moved into the iconic stone mansion for a grand reception with over 350 guests. Despite the scale of the event, the focus remained on genuine connection and the joy of their community. The highlight was the high-energy after-party, where the mansion's soaring ceilings and dramatic lighting created a cinematic end to the night. It was an honor to document such a visually stunning day for two people who truly value the art of the captured moment.



A Boutique British Celebration

Casey and Fred's destination wedding in Istanbul perfectly proved that you don't need a huge guest list to throw an unforgettable party. This lovely British couple celebrated with just 14.5 of their closest family members (including one adorable baby!), starting the morning with the guys experiencing a traditional Turkish barber while the girls got ready in the stunning rooms of the Aslı Tunca Hotel. The joy on Casey's face was radiant as her father walked her down to the courtyard where Fred was waiting, kicking off a ceremony filled entirely with laughter. Following the "I dos," guests moved to the balcony for an elegant cocktail hour and an incredibly emotional speech from the groom's father. The evening flowed into a beautiful, intimate dinner party full of shared memories, and the night truly came alive when a traditional Turkish music ensemble arrived to get everyone dancing. It was an absolute honor to document such a fun, high-energy, and deeply personal celebration in one of the city's best boutique venues

HOPE TO WORK WITH YOU Soon

I'm Nilufer Nalbantoglu, and I am so passionate about capturing love in the city I call home.

My style is natural, story-driven, and relaxed. I want you to look back at your wedding photos and not just see how beautiful your venue looked, but remember exactly how you felt surrounded by your favorite people.

If you love these venues and value an aesthetic, documentary approach to your wedding day, I would love to be your photographer.

Ready to chat about your date?

+905389896061

nilufer@nilufernalbantoglu.com

www.nilufernalbantoglu.com

[@nilufernalbantogluft](https://www.instagram.com/nilufernalbantogluft)

