

CARTAGENA WEDDING DREAMS • WEDDING FORUM

Cartagena Becomes the International Wedding Capital with Wedding Dreams + Wedding Forum 2025

The gathering will feature industry experts and leaders arriving in Cartagena, the host city of this event that positions Colombia as a key player in the global destination wedding market.

Cartagena de Indias, August 2025 – From September 22 to 24, one of the most anticipated events for the Weddings and Events sector in Colombia and Latin America will take place: **Cartagena Wedding Dreams + Wedding Forum 2025**, consolidating its position as the leading platform for professional development, inspiration, and networking for industry professionals in Colombia and across the region.

The region's most relevant wedding-focused event confirms the participation of renowned international speakers and wedding experts, while offering a comprehensive experience that includes specialized workshops, a high-level trade show, spaces for strategic networking, fashion runways showcasing the latest trends, and gastronomic experiences designed exclusively for the occasion. All of this in a setting that blends the historic charm and Caribbean flair of Cartagena—Latin America's preferred destination for luxury weddings and unforgettable celebrations.

Cartagena Wedding Dreams + Wedding Forum 2025 is a city-wide event supported by: the Mayor's Office of Cartagena, the Government of Bolívar, the Tourism Secretariat, Corpoturismo, Cotelco, Asotelca, ProColombia, the Convention Bureau, Acodres, Fenalco, the Cartagena Chamber of Commerce, Anato, Agentucol, Hotel Las Américas, and Hotel Sofitel Legend Santa Clara. These key institutions in tourism and hospitality have joined forces to deliver a world-class event that highlights Cartagena's potential as the ideal destination for dream weddings.

THE EXPERTS

As previously announced, one of the biggest highlights of this third edition is the presence of renowned Mexican wedding planner **Mauricio Kirschner**, who has conquered the luxury event world with a unique and highly personalized approach. Mauricio will be part of the Academic Agenda, held at the Las Américas Convention Center, where he will share his expertise and creative vision in planning high-end weddings, along with insights into the latest industry trends.

From Puerto Rico, **Emilio Olabarrieta**, founder of Emilio Olabarrieta Event Atelier, will share his perspective on comprehensive event production and logistics, backed by a career that includes collaborations with luxury brands such as Cartier and iconic hotels like The Ritz-Carlton, as well as productions for artists such as Marc Anthony. He will be joined by his fellow Puerto Rican **Yizette Cifredo**, renowned communicator, author, and speaker, who will address the role of hospitality as a transformative human experience, drawing from more than 25 years of social impact through her work.

The stage will also feature internationally renowned figures such as Turkish wedding planner **Meltem Bayazit Tepeler**, founder of KM Events, recognized as one of the world's most influential wedding planners with over two decades of experience in luxury destination weddings. From the United

States, **Chris J. Evans**, photographer and international speaker, will showcase his artistic and emotional approach to capturing destination weddings.

In addition, **Arun Bablani**, a global leader based in Dubai and founder of Vivaah Weddings, will share his expertise in expanding into new markets and the internationalization of personalized, high-end celebrations. Adding to this global vision is **Sabina de Szyszlo**, Peruvian pastry chef and CEO of La Dulciteca, who has transformed pastry-making into a narrative art form that elevates the culinary experience at weddings. Finally, Chilean eco-journalist **Cata Droguett Parra**, founder of *Mujer Sustentable*, will provide an essential perspective on sustainability and responsibility in the industry; topics for which she has been recognized by WWF, TEDx, and international media.

Ana de Agosto, one of the most respected figures in the Puerto Rican wedding industry, will serve as the host of the academic agenda for **Cartagena Wedding Dreams & Wedding Forum 2025**. An industrial psychologist and Ph.D. in education with a focus on leadership, Ana has built a solid career as a wedding planner, educator, and international speaker.

DREAMS EXPERIENCE

This year's fair introduces the **Dreams Experience**, an open-to-the-public space with free admission, where attendees can enjoy different activities and informal talks with prominent personalities. Among them will be Colombian **Kika Rocha**, one of Latin America's most influential fashion and style figures, with more than two decades of experience in the editorial world and a recurring presence on the most prestigious red carpets.

Also featured will be **María Paola Mejía**, journalist and founder of *La Mesa de María P*, one of Latin America's most influential platforms on table styling, etiquette, protocol, and décor. Joining her in this space will be renowned journalist and anchor **Jessica de la Peña**, along with lifestyle influencers such as **Estefanía Borge**, **Kimberly Reyes**, and **Siad Char**, who will showcase their work in an approachable, personal way while also sharing tips with attendees on how to achieve their best style.

POP ART

One of the major highlights will be the launch of **POP ART**, a showcase dedicated to entrepreneurial talent. Around 15 emerging brands will present innovative proposals in accessories, makeup, apparel, and other wedding-related services.

This platform aims to spotlight new players in the industry, foster creativity, and provide attendees with a comprehensive experience that connects the latest trends with the promotion of local and national entrepreneurship.

THE EVENT

Activities will kick off on **Monday, September 22**, with a spectacular fashion show at the **Castillo San Felipe de Barajas**, one of Cartagena's most iconic landmarks, presenting the latest trends by Colombian designer **Andrés Pajón**.

On **Tuesday, September 23**, a full day of programming will take place, including the official opening of the fair at the *Gran Pavillon Hall* of the *Centro de Convenciones de Las Américas*, masterclasses with experts, a networking lunch, and a commercial showcase featuring the country's top vendors. In the evening, a welcome cocktail will be held at the **Sofitel Legend Santa Clara Hotel**.

On **Wednesday, September 24**, the academic agenda will continue, followed by the closing night on the beach at **Hotel Las Américas**, providing the perfect setting to wrap up three days of inspiration, knowledge, and key connections for the industry.

BEHIND THE EVENT

The organizing committee of **Cartagena Wedding Dreams + Wedding Forum 2025** is composed of a group of experts and leading institutions in Cartagena's wedding and events sector, all committed to consolidating this project as a high-level platform for the industry.

Committee members include:

Carmen Otero, Director of Sales & Marketing, Sofitel Legend Santa Clara Hotel;
Mary Cueter, CEO, Mary Cueter Bodas & Eventos;
Juan Pablo Estrada, Director of Food & Beverage and Wedding Planner, Sofitel Legend Santa Clara;
Tatiana Tarón, CEO, Tatiana Tarón Bodas y Eventos;
Silvia Zúñiga, Creative Director, Cartagena Mágica;
Eddy Martínez, Founder & Director, Casamar;
Claudia Carrillo, Creative Director, Bodas Única;

Each of them contributes their expertise, creativity, and commitment to building a strong project that enhances Cartagena's standing as a world-class wedding destination.

Thus, **Cartagena Wedding Dreams + Wedding Forum 2025** is positioned as a must-attend event for those seeking to stay at the forefront, professionalize their craft, and play an active role in strengthening Cartagena as an international reference point for romance tourism.

Contacts & Media

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