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**Quinceanera.com™**  
**Guide**

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# QUINCEAÑERA GUIDE

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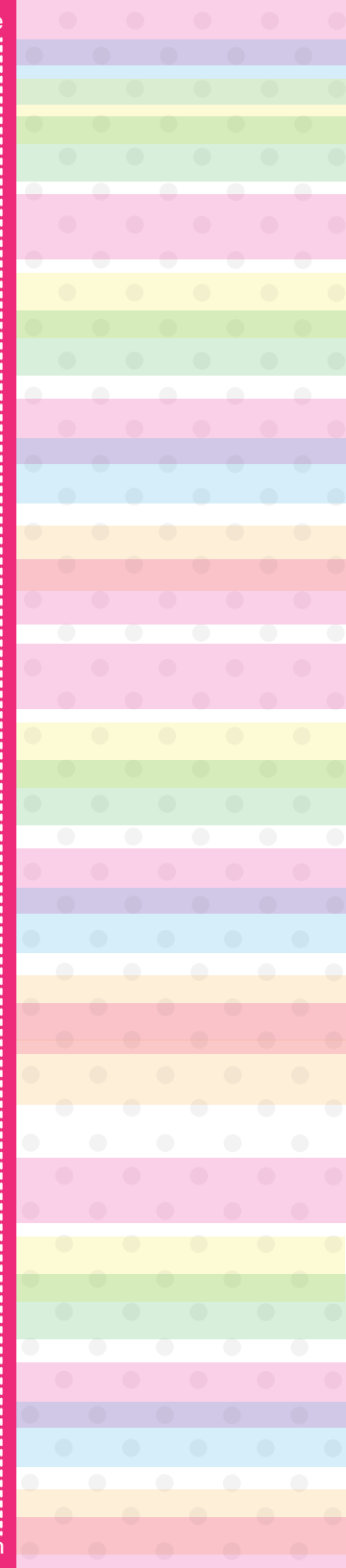
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# Budget

## 7 Tips To a Fabulous Quince on a Dime

**With a little creativity, you can save money on the cake, food, reception hall, and even the music, without sacrificing much of their quality.**

The following are simple and easy tips that can help you make the most affordable choices:

### **1\_Find some padrinos.**

Don't let your parents pay for the whole thing. Ask your aunts and uncles, godparents, friends or any other close relatives to pitch in for the reception hall, cake, dress, etc.

### **2\_Have a backyard Quince.**

If you're having trouble finding a reception hall, then find a friend or relative who has a big backyard or patio and ask them to let you have your Quince bash there.



### **3\_Avoid Saturdays.**

If you have decided to rent a reception hall, then do so on a Friday or Sunday. You will save from 10 to 20 percent of what you would spend if you rent on a Saturday.

### **4\_Save on decoration.**

If you're going to use fresh flowers to decorate the reception hall, then opt for seasonal flowers, since they are less expensive. If you want to save even more, then use artificial decorations such as bows and balloons.

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### **6\_Control the use of alcoholic beverages.**

Some reception halls include a free bar, but at a higher price. Instead, you can use a ticket system, in which every adult receives 2 or 3 tickets, one per drink, for free drinks. After that, they must pay for each additional drink.

### **7\_No party without music.**

Choosing a DJ to play music for you party is better than having a group perform live. You can save money by choosing a basic package that leaves out special effects and lasers, which can increase the price considerably.



# Menu

## Plan your party's menu

Many people believe that the success of a party depends on the menu, which is why you must take your time with the planning in order to provide your guests with plenty of great food.

Consider your income, number of guests, and the amount of time you have to choose from the following:

- 1 **Hire a professional** in the field of culinary arts (also known as catering services).
- 2 **Buy a package** that includes both food and drinks.
- 3 **Prepare the menu at home.** By going with this option, you will save money, but don't forget that it requires organization



and demands extra work the day of the celebration. You will also have to decide between a formal dinner, in which you still serve each guest individually, or a more casual one with a self-service buffet.

*Drinks* This party is mainly for young people; alcohol must be controlled and restricted by and for adults. You can provide teenagers with sodas, carbonated drinks, juice, and plenty of water.

### Essential tips

- 4 Try the menu before hiring any service.
- 5 If you decide to prepare the menu at home and serve your guests individually, make sure to include the following:

- **an hors d'oeuvre**, which can be a salad or a snack, an **entrée**, which can be some kind of meat, fish, or chicken with a side, **dessert**, and **coffee**.

6 You don't necessarily have to serve a **traditional dish** from your country, keep in mind that **you must satisfy all of your guests**.

7 **Be careful with buffets.** Some foods, such as prepared meats, seafood, cheese and sauces that contain dairy products, need to be refrigerated. Remember that any kind of food can remain without refrigeration for approximately two hours. Lastly, remember not leave out any detail and to find trustworthy references before hiring any service.

# Dress

Find the Perfect Style for your Quinceañera Dress

Choosing your Quinceañera dress can be one of your first big decisions as a woman.

A quinceañera can be the perfect time for you to star in your very own fairy tale. So if you want to have a happily-ever-after ending, your dress should not only be elegant, but make you feel good inside as well as out.

If you're not sure about what style suits you best, **we recommend that you search in fashion magazines and surf the Internet for ideas.** Once you have found several models that you like, you will be ready to go shopping. You should invite your mom or a friend who knows what you like. However, avoid taking

your entire family because too many opinions can be confusing.

If you can't find any existing model that you like, **you can always have one tailored to your size and taste.** It may sound surprising, but sometimes this option can be more economical than buying an existing model. Also, there are tailor shops that provide an intermediate service. In other words, they can create your dress from different models that you like. As you can see, the possibilities are endless. **Anyway, don't make a decision before trying on a few**

**dresses.** What looks great on a magazine or the Internet may not quite flatter your figure, and conversely, a dress that you might not like at first glance may actually fit you perfectly. If you are unsure, it's always a good idea to consult a professional who can give you advice, such as what color compliments your skin tone or the designs that are perfect for your figure.

**Finally, we advise you to trust your feminine instinct.** A quinceañera celebrates the beginning of womanhood and the best way to honor this tradition is by making your own decisions.

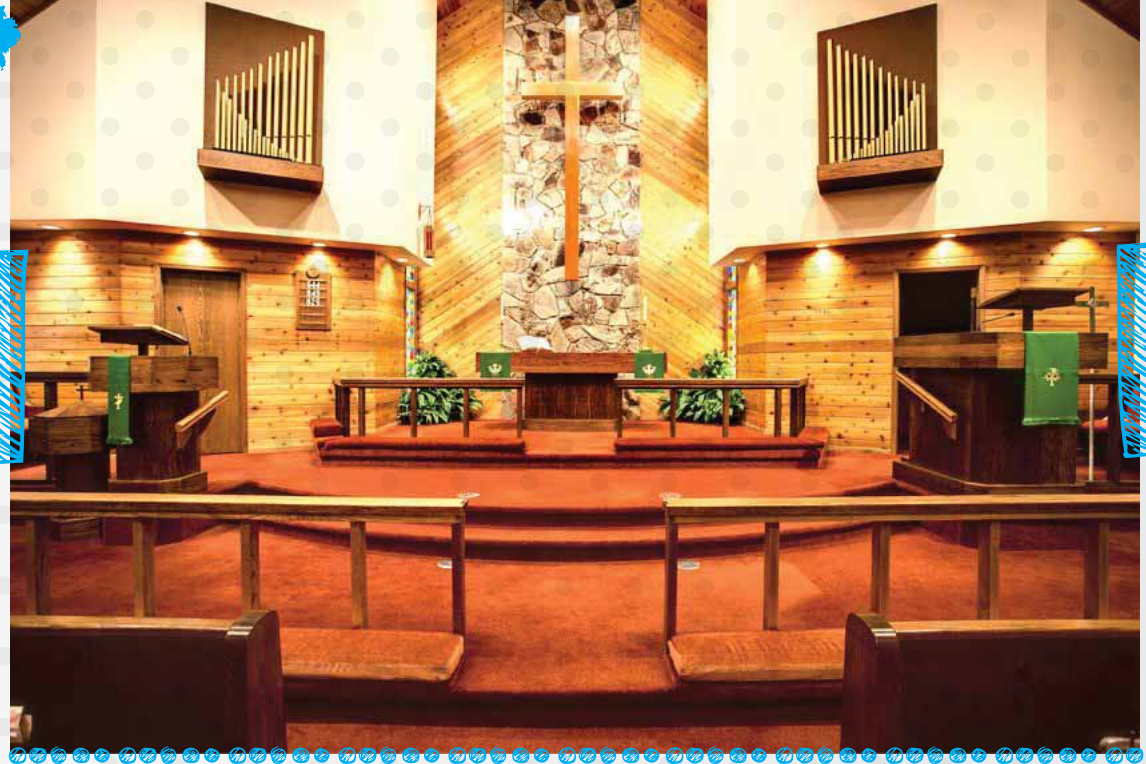




# Mass

Questions to ask when booking your Quinceañera mass

**The most spiritually important aspect of a Quinceañera ceremony can go sour rather quickly if you don't inform yourself of the guidelines that a potential church has in ordinance.**



**Do you need to take a Quinceañera preparatory class?**

It is common for parishes to require that you be a member of that church and that you take preparatory classes similar to first communion courses, in order for them to host your mass. Clarify this with your church representative and ask if any fees are applicable for the mass.

**“Can I provide my own music?”**

**Will it be a private or shared with other Quinceañeras?**

**Are there any restrictions regarding ceremony attire, such as bare shoulders?**

**Can the wording of the ceremony can be changed at all?**

**Will we be allowed to take pictures on the church grounds and with the priest?**

**What are the rules regarding decorations such as the amount of time that is allowed for set up and break down, and if confetti, rose petals or bubbles?**

If you're also looking for a venue, you may want to ask if the parish offers a facility for a reception as well. **Most churches will offer their banquet hall at a fraction of a regular venue cost if you have your mass at their church as well.**

# Photography

5 ways to snag the best photographer



**Meeting the person beforehand, being familiar with their work as well as having excellent references are key elements for everything to turn out great during your celebration. Getting the dress, booking catering services and choosing the flowers, music and venue comes easy however snagging the right photographer is a task indeed.**

The objective of hiring a professional photographer and videographer is to capture such an important event in both picture and film. Here is some advice that will help you make the right choice:

- 1\_** Look and compare not only his website but actual albums. Make sure the lighting is adequate and whether or not the photograph captures the essence of the moment.
- 2\_** Most Quinceaneras ask for a mix between classic photos along with some more spontaneous and natural poses without looking straight into the camera. Make sure the photographer understands what

you want so he is able to cover your whole celebration capturing your best moments.

**3\_** Some studios book several parties on the very same day, plan ahead of time due to their availability and take time to meet face to face with the photographer who will be working the event.

**4\_** It is fundamental for the photographer to dress for the occasion.

**5\_** Keep in mind that a low rate may be attractive at first; however it is better to know what exactly it includes to avoid ugly surprises the day of the event.



# Invitations

## Considering Text for Quinceañera Invitations

Other than the wording and design, the marital status of the birthday girl's parents is an important element to consider especially if she was raised by a single parent or guardian, by divorced parents, or if one of her parents is deceased.

### Traditional template following a nuclear family structure:

"Mr. and Mrs. Jose Fernandez  
invite you to..."

*That information is then followed by the name of the Quinceañera, the date, year, time and location of the event.*



### Template when one parent is deceased:

Johanna-Isela  
daughter of  
Jose Fernandez and  
the late Graciela Fernandez  
request the honor of your presence  
at her Quinceañera

### Template when parents are divorced:

Mrs. Graciela Gutierrez  
and  
Mr. Jose Fernandez  
request the honor of your presence

### Template with single parent/guardian:

Mrs. Graciela Gutierrez  
and family  
request the honor of your presence

# Music

Don't stop the music!

**The success of a Quinceanera greatly depends on how the music flows throughout the celebration. When in doubt, let your gut guide you. If you do not have a party planner keep in mind choosing the music takes time. You need it during the ceremony, when you do the waltz, for your surprise dance and to keep your guests in party mode.**

## Religious ceremony:

Choose a choir if you wish to be formal or a mariachi trio if you want to keep it casual.

## Reception:

■ Instrumental music is ideal as a background, from classical to jazz, switching to Latin songs such as boleros or piano versions of salsas and cumbias.



## Entrance:

■ The entrance to the venue can be announced with soft music; avoid loud noises such as tamborazo or rock.

## Father - Daughter Dance:

■ You can choose from plenty of romantic songs for the dance with your dad such as Joe Cocker's "You Are So Beautiful", Natalie Cole's "Unforgettable" or Mariah Carey's "Hero".

## Waltz:

■ For the waltz, classics such as "Danubio Azul", Chayanne's "Tiempo de Vals" or Julio Iglesias' "De niña a mujer" never fail.

## Suprise Dance:

■ As far as your surprise dance, a great option is to pick your favorite song, preferably one filled with rhythm.

## For the rest of your party:

■ Choosing regional music like banda, cumbia, ranchera, corrido or tex mex is a great way to keep the adults entertained and Top 40, disco, hip-hop, house, R&B are excellent genres for the younger guests.

**Salsa and merengue** seem to be the genres people of any generation like, therefore you can use these as transition songs between the traditional and modern jams.



# Venúe

5 questions you must ask when booking a venue

**The most important element when planning a Quinceanera is the venue, hence the importance of visiting various places and comparing prices and services.**



Three general aspects to keep in mind when choosing a venue are closeness, convenience and price. But the most important thing is to know beforehand the details one tends to forget. These questions will help you find the right venue:

## **1\_What does the price include?**

Ask if the price you were given includes any services other than space such as security guards, decoration, music and food. Venues usually offer options.

**2\_Is it a set price?** Once you book the venue make sure the contract specifies the price you were told. Do not jeopardize your deposit.

**3\_How much is the deposit?** The deposit varies with each venue. Some are between \$500 and \$1,000 with the option of paying monthly fees. One must generally pay the total two weeks before the party.

**4\_What about sound check?** Can I see the DJ perform at? Many venues include music within the package, however

this does not assure their DJ is good. You can speak directly with the DJ in order to check out the equipment and arrange the music genre you would like to play at your party.

## **5\_What is the parking capacity?**

You must be aware of the number of cars the parking lot holds. Ask where the rest of your guests could park in case the parking lot reaches its capacity.

These answers will help you choose the most convenient venue.



# Plan

## Months before

### 12 Months Before

- Select potential godparents (contributing sponsors)
- Plan on number of guests
- Collect magazines and catalogs for ideas
- Choose theme and colors
- Contact church priest (Determine parish requirements, book date)
- Ask for referrals for photographers, caterers, DJ's, invitation printers, flower shops and bakeries
- Research possible event sites for availability and security measures they offer

### 11 Months Before

- Discuss budget plans with your godparents
- Visit event sites
- Meet with caterers for tasting
- Select style of invitation
- Decide whether you will purchase your dress or have it custom-made.

### 10 Months Before

- Select your Quince court (the number in the court is your decision, 7 couples are recommended)
- Select and book the following:
    - Bakery/cake ■ Caterer ■ Florist
    - Music provider (live band or DJ)
    - Photographer and video
    - Reserve event hall
  - Verify that church is available on event date and reserve
  - Order invitations

¿WHO?

¿WHERE?

DAY AFTER CELEBRATION

Send out thank-you notes

- Select fashion designer if the dress will be custom-made
- If you decided instead to purchase your dress, begin your search

### 9 Months Before

- Visit fashion designer for formal dress selection
- Meet with your entire court to discuss their physical attire (after selecting yours)
- Select shoes ■ Purchase party favors

### 6 Months Before

- Select and purchase "Last Doll"
- Select and purchase the Bible
- Reserve limousine

### 3 Months Before

- Pick up invitations ■ Address invitations
- Arrange rehearsal with court
- Hair/makeup test-run

### 2 Months Before

- Send out invitations ■ D.J. and song list
- Hair/Makeup ■ Final fitting for gown
- Remind guests who have not responded

### 1 Month Before

- For a formal reception create seating chart
- Verify final details with:
  - Florist ■ Bakery ■ Photographer ■ Priest

### 2 Weeks Before

- Pick up gown
- Perform hair/makeup test-runs
- Verify that you are not missing anything from your planning list

### Day of the Celebration

- Eat a good breakfast
- Hair and makeup appointment(s)