

## PLANNING SECRETS

# in southern california

TheKnot.com/socal



**THE PLANNER**  
**Jodi Cohen and Sarah Lowy**  
JOWY Productions,  
Beverly Hills,  
(310) 246-9201

**YEARS IN THE BIZ**  
More than 19 years of combined event design experience

**SECRET WEAPON**  
Timing. "Each wedding has a minute-by-minute schedule to keep things on track."



**THE PLANNER**  
**Carolyn Chen**  
The Special Day,  
Orange County and Los Angeles,  
(714) 526-2436

**YEARS IN THE BIZ**  
More than nine

**SECRET WEAPON**  
Versatility. "We love adapting to the diverse styles and cultures of all our couples."



**THE PLANNER**  
**Courtney Toney**  
Joyful Weddings & Events, San Diego,  
(949) 690-1922

**YEARS IN THE BIZ**  
Six

**SECRET WEAPON**  
"The ability to stay calm and handle anything thrown at me with a smile."

### party in style

"Call Coastal Concierge (805-265-6065, **SBCoastalConcierge.com**) for a bachelorette party—VIP style. They have personal relationships with winemakers and can arrange vineyard tours and tastings. Plus, they'll put together the whole itinerary (including transportation) for you." —*Jodi and Sarah*

### freeze it

"We've done some unique dessert options lately. The new thing is a frozen yogurt bar. Fiji Yogurt (**FijiYogurt.com**) is a great company in San Diego that caters fully set-up (and yummy) frozen yogurt bars. It's perfect as an end-of-the-night snack or can replace traditional wedding cake for the non-cake lovers out there." —*Courtney*



### light it up

"The right lighting makes an event. We don't do an event without Images by Lighting (310-641-2500, **ImagesByLighting.com**). They're brilliant and know all the tricks, like setting all the lighting on dimmers, so they can be easily adjusted throughout the night." —*Jodi and Sarah*



### pick paper

"My go-to for wedding invitations and paper goods is Posh-Paperie in San Diego (619-504-6506, **Posh-Paperie.com**). These ladies understand your needs and have the cutest paper goods. Plus, they're the sweetest to work with." —*Courtney*

### take a stand

"Can't find a cake stand you love? Design your own couture one with Raise the Cake (949-362-9000, **RaisetheCake.com**)."

—*Carolyn*

### liven up

"Ceremony music can be a little... predictable. So if you want to mix things up, bring out Strings by Reiko (**StringsByReiko.com**) with Reiko Nakano's electronic violin." —*Carolyn* >>

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## go away

"Temecula and Palm Springs are great options for not-so-far-away destination nuptials. Temecula (about an hour from San Diego) has a host of vineyards available for weddings. Palm Springs has amazing hotels that are perfect for a small wedding getaway. My absolute favorite is the Parker Palm Springs (760-770-5000, [TheParkerPalmSprings.com](http://TheParkerPalmSprings.com))."—Courtney

## say cheese

"Beach photos are pretty and everything, but try something different and visit an orchard in Julian ([PickYourOwn.org](http://PickYourOwn.org)) to take adorable, stand-out engagement photos with the apple farm in the backdrop. It's just a short drive inland from San Diego." —Courtney

## visit italy

"You've never tried meatballs like Mollie's at Trattoria Mollie (805-565-9381, [TMollie.com](http://TMollie.com)) in Montecito. The restaurant is great for a rehearsal dinner." —Jodi and Sarah



## film it

"Move over, photo booths—the Shoutoutbooth (888-407-7093, [Shoutoutbooth.com](http://Shoutoutbooth.com)) is the popular kid in town. Have your guests record their well wishes with this combo of video messaging and a traditional photo booth. The best part: The company drapes the booths with fabric to fit in with the wedding's décor." —Carolyn

## go downtown

"Instead of shopping for linens, tap into downtown LA's great finds (and great prices) on fabric and have table runners, napkins or furniture covers custom made. Our favorites are Dv8 Fabric on Maple Avenue (213-488-9886) and Ben Textile on East Ninth Street (213-624-3143) for interesting, cutting-edge design." —Jodi and Sarah

## flower power

"We love Blue Magnolia Floral & Event Design (805-969-4999, [BlueMagnoliaEvents.com](http://BlueMagnoliaEvents.com)), which opened its first storefront last spring in Summerland. They do great work, and brides can shop the lovely store after they order flowers." —Jodi and Sarah >>



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### get bronzed

"Here's a new party theme. Throw a spray-tan party for you and your bridesmaids before the wedding! Island Spray Tan is a mobile spray-tanning service that comes to you and uses organic ingredients (858-876-2166, [IslandSprayTan.com](http://IslandSprayTan.com))."

—Carolyn

### eat local

"One of the coolest local restaurants is Stone Brewing Co. in Escondido (760-471-4999, [StoneBrew.com](http://StoneBrew.com)). But don't just go for dinner. Have your party get there before the reservation to walk about the beautiful gardens and take a tour of the brewery."

—Courtney



### happy trucking

"Thought you couldn't get celeb chefs to cater your wedding? Think again. Treat your guests to yummy late-night snacks like tacos, quesadillas and tamales from Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger's Border Grill truck (213-542-1102, ext. 31, [BorderGrill.com](http://BorderGrill.com))."

—Jodi and Sarah

### smell pretty

"Skip boring shower games and have a scent-making station. Ka-mil-yin (949-246-0823, [Kamilyin.com](http://Kamilyin.com)) will set one up for everyone to create a signature fragrance. And it doubles as a favor!"

—Carolyn



### get on base

"Searching for a venue? Here's something you probably never thought of. San Diego has many military-base venues, and the prices are unbeatable. Two great ones are the Admiral Kidd Club in San Diego (619-524-6287) and Breakers Beach in Coronado (619-545-9199)."

—Courtney

### favor your guests

"Order custom favors—I recommend the blondies and sweet potato cookies—from Batch from Scratch (323-934-5089, [BatchFromScratch.com](http://BatchFromScratch.com)). They'll also come to your reception and create a beautiful dessert display."

—Carolyn