

REHEARSAL DINNER

CHOOSE THE VENUE

The rehearsal dinner is the traditional meal following the wedding ceremony rehearsal. You can have it at a fancy restaurant, club, hotel, banquet facility, or choose a low-key venue such as a casual bar restaurant or home-catered party. Pick a location that reflects you as a couple to celebrate with your closest family and wedding party. Make reservations early as hotels, restaurants and private clubs book well in advance.

GUESTS TO INVITE

Invite both sets of parents and grandparents, immediate family, close relatives, and the wedding party with their families. Out-of-town guests who have arrived early may also be included, along with the piano player and wedding ceremony officiant with their spouse. If there are too many out-of-towners, you may have to set limits. Invite them to the day after brunch and gift opening instead.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The rehearsal dinner is the perfect time to say thank you and to give gifts to family and friends who have participated in your planning process. Ideally, the couple should stand together, giving special thanks to both sets of parents. Your parents, best man and others may toast to you as a couple. You can return the toast if you wish as there are no set rules. This night allows your attendants and families time to relax, chat and get to know one another, if they don't already. Have fun and enjoy the evening, but don't linger too long, the wedding party needs plenty of rest before the big day. Be careful not to drink too much, you want to look and feel great on your big day!