

Getting married in the castle area of the Spiez Castle

Information about your church or free wedding ceremony with aperitif

Contact

Mrs Ariane Klein coordinates and organises the wedding together with the bridal couple.

Email: anlaesse@schloss-spiez.ch / Telephone: +41 (0)33 654 15 06

Availability:

- Monday: 9 am to 5 pm (evening appointments possible)
- Tuesday: 9 am to 5 pm (evening appointments possible)
- Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm (evening appointments possible)
- Every other Friday: 9 am to 5 pm (evening appointments possible)
- Saturday: by arrangement

Viewing appointments / arrangements

The castle is closed from November until April and the castle team works in limited numbers. Appointments should be made by telephone or email.

Please calculate approximately 1 hour for the appointment (church, process, aperitif venues, explanations, questions). The first appointment on site is free of charge. For every additional appointment on site we charge CHF 50.-.

Parking

On the «Schlossstrasse» (castle road, entrance to the castle) there are 28 public parking fields. They belong to the city of Spiez and cannot be reserved. It costs CHF 2.- per hour, from 7 am to 7 pm. Parking directly in front of the castle arch / entrance is not permitted. This area has to be kept free, because it is used as an emergency exit.

On the “Seestrasse” (lake road, way to the lake and the road parallel to the castle road) there is a parking garage and a deck for buses to unload passengers (max. 15 minutes).

The actual parking places for buses are located on the “Industriestrasse” (industry road) next to the highway exit Spiez.

Buses cannot turn around on the “Schlossstrasse” (road to the castle).

By the village church (reformed church), the schooling centre “Laengenstein” and the Spiez library (Spiezbergstrasse 8) there are further public parking spaces available. The walk from there to the castle takes about 10-15 minutes. A map showing the public parking spaces is available.

Access to the castle

Driving on the castle grounds is not allowed.

Exceptions can be made for deliveries of materials to the church as well as dropping off and picking up the bridal couple with the wedding car, but only after discussion and pre-arrangement with Ms. Ariane Klein. This has to be coordinated and consideration has to be given to other guests and events.

SCHLOSS SPIEZ

Information / questionnaire

Ms. Klein will send you a **questionnaire** about your wedding and reception (aperitif), which you can fill in and send back via email **up to 4 weeks** prior to your wedding.

You can also request the questionnaire via email.

Your information is very helpful to ensure that the entire day is well organized and coordinated.

Outdoor ceremony

An outdoor reception is discussed and coordinated individually with the bridal couple. It can be held only if the weather is good. The final decision is made 3 days prior to the event.

Before the wedding

Arrivals of the bridal couple and the guests

The church is available 1 hour before the wedding. So is the sexton, who will assist, support and coordinate between the bridal couple, the bridal guides, the pastor, the music and the service team of the Spiez castle.

The sexton takes care of all important matters, the entering of the church, the ceremony and leaving the church.

It is possible to use our waiting facilities. These rooms are located either in the New Castle (block 1 and block 2 if the weather is good) or in the old castle (block 2 if the weather is bad). You will receive the location of your waiting room with our detailed confirmation, which will be sent to you via email.

Church entrance / entering the church

The church bells ring every hour on the hour. This is the moment for the bride or the bridal couple to enter the church. The entering of the church is accompanied by the hand-ringed bell of the church. This requires an arrival on time. Bridal couples who arrive too late would have to manage without the hand-ringed wedding bell.

Wedding

Church wedding

The castle church is a free, private church and you can plan your ceremony according to your own wishes and ideas. The church does not have a pastor.

Contacts for organ players, pastors, ceremony leaders and entertainment can be obtained from Ms. Klein.

It is important to know that the wedding should **not last longer than 60 minutes**. The church is fully cleaned and freshly prepared after every wedding. Weddings which last less than 60 minutes, can start right away with the aperitif or use the spare time for group pictures.

On the **questionnaire** you will find all the questions and details, which we need to know for your wedding.

SCHLOSS SPIEZ

Information about the church

- a maximum of 140 guests can fit in the church
- church organ: built in 1831, completely restored in 2017, mostly still in original condition. 1 manual, and pedal (extended to normal scope), fully mechanical
- any technical equipment has to be brought by the bridal couple
- several power outlets are found inside, on the church pillars and above the stairs
- **for all MAY weddings:** during May there might be a pinao standing on the choir stage above the stairs. It can be used for an additional fee. Please inquire Ms. Klein.
- the use of candles is not allowed in the church (exceptions are made for ceremonial purposes, after prior discussion with Ms. Klein)
- personal decorations are not allowed
- temperatures in the church: the church does not have heating. During Spring and Autumn, depending on the weather, it can be very cold in the church. A limited supply of blankets is available.
- the church is not (yet) free of barriers

Collection

Allow others to take part in your most beautiful day by considering a non-profit institution or a special project.

Recommendations: with a contribution to the Schloss Spiez Foundation you are supporting a national cultural treasure of great importance. Your contribution helps the Schloss Spiez Foundation to maintain the castle church and the castle grounds.

Others: SOLINA (residential and nursing home for adults) or the Foundation Bubenberg in Spiez (apartments and ateliers for adults with physical or mental challenges).

The collection is handed to the pastor or the bridal guides.

Leaving the church

Kindly inform your bridal guides that all ideas, surprises and plans to stand trellis have to be discussed with Ms. Klein. The bridal guides mean well and have great ideas, but not all are possible on our church grounds.

Cars are not allowed on the church and castle grounds (but we did already have ambulances, fire trucks, heavy-duty vehicles etc.).

Also the spreading / throwing of rice or rose petals is not allowed, because we are unable to clean up any colour marks and the small rice grains. If our rules are ignored we have to charge a fee of CHF 300.-. The bridal couple will be held responsible.

Aperitif

Ordering the aperitif

The details of the drinks and appetisers packages are chosen 4 weeks prior to the wedding. An approximate number of guests is then possible. Up to 5 days prior to the wedding the definitive number of guests is confirmed and you will then be billed.

Time frame for aperitif

In general, the aperitif lasts 1.5 hours. Extensions are possible after pre-arrangement and all details are discussed prior to the event. Spontaneous extensions are only possible if the time frame allows and if the Service Manager agrees. Please inform the bridal guides of your time table. The service team will start with the clean-up and re-setting after the reserved aperitif time. Therefore we ask that you kindly leave the area at the agreed time.

Process

The guests will want to congratulate the couple after the church ceremony. Often, this is cause for queues. Our service team will be ready with service trays to welcome your guests. Every guest can grab a glass right away. We recommend that guests, who have finished their congratulations, help themselves at the appetiser buffet.

Calculation of costs

The exact price of the aperitif can be calculated ahead of the wedding. No additional charges will be added.

- number of guests x drinks package
- number of guests x appetiser package
- number of guests x quantity surcharge CHF 2.- (if less than 40 guests)
- CHF 80.- delivery charge for appetisers (per caterer)
- number of guests x package for service & infrastructure

Example with 100 guests, 1,5 hours aperitif

100 x CHF 14.50- drinks package / CHF 1450.-

100 x CHF 15.- appetiser package / CHF 1500.-

CHF 80.- delivery

100 x CHF 10.- service & infrastructure / CHF 1000.- (for less than 70 guests the package is CHF 12.- per person)

Total: CHF 4030.-

Amount of appetisers

The appetisers are not meant as a full meal. They accompany the wine. With weddings around noon we recommend that the larger portions (+ 30%) are ordered. Our experience shows that guests are more hungry in the early afternoon than later in the day. In addition you can order "salty & crunchy" or simply add "Zopf" (special Swiss white bread).

Service charges & infrastructure

The service & infrastructure package includes everything for before, during and after the aperitif. No additional charges will be made, e.g. for room rentals, cleaning, insurance, utilities, usage of dishes and furniture, decorations etc.

The actual hours for service, preparation and cleaning up on site are already included.

SCHLOSS SPIEZ

Location for aperitif

We always try to fulfil the wishes of the bridal couple. However, we decide on the exact location according to availability and weather.

Recommendations

- we recommend that you inform your guests of limited parking spaces
- your guests should not arrive more than 30 minutes before the church wedding
- we recommend that the bridal couple does not open/start the buffet. This can cause a queue.
- we recommend that the group pictures are taken either before or after the aperitif. Group pictures taken during the aperitif can often destroy the mood, because the guests might have just taken a plate of food (less food is wasted) or are in the middle of a discussion.
- we recommend that you inform your bridal guides of the castle & church rules.

Other

Bridal guides

In order for the bride and groom to fully enjoy their wedding day, we are grateful to have the contact information of the bridal guides. The actions and decisions on site are usually made by the bridal guides. We would also like to send them the detailed time schedule, planned processes and confirmation of your wedding.

Communication

The more informed the guests are, the more relaxing will the celebration be for the bridal couple. A great opportunity to inform the guests is for the bridal guides to hold a small speech in the church right after the ceremony. Your guests should know:

- time frame (beginning and end of aperitif)
- what will happen after the aperitif
- when the group picture(s) will be taken
- whether to serve themselves at the buffet right away or whether the buffet will be opened/started by the bridal couple
- process of presents & congratulations

2 wedding parties on the same day

On most Saturdays we have a maximum of 2 wedding parties with aperitif. The time frames are calculated in a way that allows for enough time between the 2 parties and a smooth flow of the events. However, we still ask that consideration is given also to the others. The time frames are as follows (exceptions are made on some Saturdays):

TIME TABLE 1

Wedding 1

12.00 – 13.00 castle church

13.00 – 14.30 aperitif

Extension possible until 15.00

SCHLOSS SPIEZ

Wedding 2

15.00 – 16.00 castle church

16.00 – 17.30 aperitif

Extension possible

TIME TABLE 2

Wedding 1

13.00 – 14.00 castle church

14.00 – 15.30 aperitif

Extension possible until 16.00

Wedding 2

16.00 – 17.00 castle church

17.00 – 18.30 aperitif

Extension possible

Wedding shoots / drones

Please let us know if you wish to take photographs on the castle grounds with the bridal couple before the wedding. Ideal for this is the Park West on the right side before the castle entrance. If the weather is bad, the bridal couple and bridal guides can use the ballroom in the old castle (museum) from 10.00 until 17.00.

Would you like to take a group photograph with all the guests? This is possible. Ideal for this is the lawn in front of the castle tower. (The photographer takes the picture from the tower). Please note that the tower is open only until 17.00, in July and August until 18.00.

Group pictures can also be taken on the "Barock"-terrace or other places after previous discussion. There are no options for a picture of the whole wedding party, if the weather is bad.

We recommend that the group picture is taken before or after the aperitif.

Please note that drones are not allowed on the castle grounds. We received complaints from other guests, who felt that their privacy was disturbed.

Wedding car

Carriages and wedding cars can drive up to the castle entrance (castle arch). They are not permitted inside the castle park.

Balloons

It is not allowed to fly any balloons. We want to protect our environment. Often balloons land on the lake or disturb wildlife. We have learned this from the locals living in the area. In addition the balloons can get stuck in trees and on roofs.

Bills

You will receive the bill of CHF 790.00 for the reserved church, inclusive of the standard flower decoration, right after your definitive booking. We also require a down payment for the aperitif of CHF 1000.-. This will be deducted from the final bill. The final bill for the aperitif as well as any additional charges for extras (if desired) will be sent after the wedding.