

Rave Reviews

for engage!13 :: biltmore estate

"There is not a better luxury event in this business than engage!."

Cindy Novotny, Master Connection Associates

"As a professional speaker and writer, I've been a part of many conferences and business events, engage! is hands down the best and has redefined what a conference can look like, not just for the wedding industry but in the corporate world as well. To paraphrase my colleague, Sean Low: just like Apple, you don't need to be first to make a real impact. engage! was not the first business conference for wedding professionals, but it was the one that redefined everything. What Kathryn Arce and Rebecca Grinnals have created has not just made their attendees' companies better, but pushed the business-to-business side of the industry as a whole to be better. If the writers of Blue Ocean Strategy ever publish a revised edition of their book, engage! could be included as a clear cut case study of how to take an outdated model and create something new that no one else can compete with."

Liene Stevens, Think Splendid

"'Perfection' is how I would describe the entire event!"

Angela Desveaux, Founder & Editor, WedLuxe

"engage!13 at The Biltmore was a beautiful, inspiring, compelling, and well-executed event -- as usual! Kudos!"

Carley Roney, Founder of The Knot, XO Group

"An unforgettable experience. We have dreamt of attending engage! for years and to having been able to finally make it was such a thrill!! I am rejuvenated, determined, inspired and full of new ideas and positive energy thanks to the wonderful people we met and engaged with. We have so much respect, admiration and love for everyone. The experience has more than exceeded our expectations!"

Zainab Alsalihi, Carousel Weddings, Dubai - UAE

"What is engage!?... you might be asking. It's what happens when 275 like minded luxury wedding professionals from 25 countries and 45 states get together for 3 days, share ideals, inspire and most of all ENGAGE! It is a bowl of all the big fish. The best of

the best inspiring and pushing one another." The most amazing event from the most amazing creative partners I have seen in a long while. I now have enough inspiration fuel to last me another 6 months!"

Parker J Pfister, Parker J Photo

"Clever ideas for event gifts, catering, decor, and entertainment abounded at engage!13 Biltmore Estate, the popular conference for luxury-wedding industry professionals."

Lauren Matthews, BIZBASH

"engage! is all about inspiring, encouraging, and supporting wedding professionals who are and seek to be the trend-setters in the industry who provide the absolute best in client experience."

Alison Howard, Alison Howard Events

"engage! has given me such inspiration and I came back to New Orleans with a whole new sense of excitement for my job and clients."

Jack Kane, Sapphire Events, New Orleans

"What a perfectly sensational event."

Ellen Black, Lehr & Black

"engage! was an amazing conference! I can imagine how intimidating it is to impress the top event planners in the world but you guys left no detail unturned and everything was so organized and flawless. It was so nice to get to enjoy the welcome party and Gala like we were all guests at our own events!"

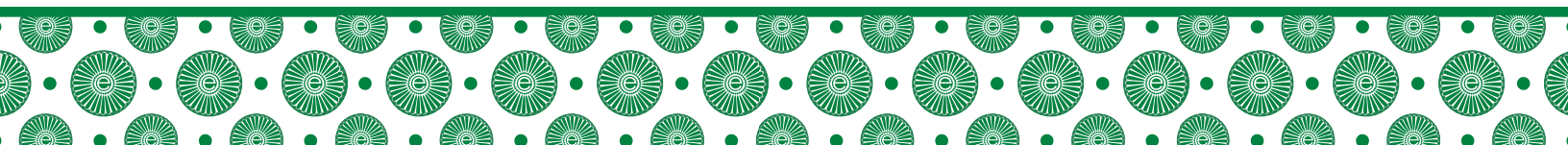
Paige Blatt, Geller Events

"Absolutely flawless!"

Syd Sexton, The Ritz-Carlton, Denver

"You changed my life again, one cannot afford to miss your conference."

JoAnn Gregoli, Elegant Occasions



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"engage! has been a catalyst for my career and it is an honor and privilege to be part of this wonderful family."

Anne Chertoff, Anne Chertoff Media

"I am incredibly happy that I took the time to come to engage!13, my only regret is that I didn't do this years ago!! Thank you for creating such a great opportunity for all types of vendors to come together, share their experiences and be able to network in the most comfortable surroundings. I came home and told my husband that Engage! was one of the three most important moments of my career. It gives me the opportunity to meet and form relationships with the people who's work I respect most in our industry. Living in Montana is wonderful, but incredibly isolating in regards to work. For years I have tried to find an avenue to be in touch with people who's work inspires me. You have created the perfect environment for people from every aspect of the industry to come together and start to collaborate."

Melanie Nashan, Nashan Photographers

"It was an incredible three days, just extraordinary and blew everyone away. I still kick myself that I was going to Engage events sooner but I will be back!"

Julie Goldman, The Original Runner Company

"Thank you for creating such an exquisite conference! Your hearts for quality, excellence, collaboration and creativity are so evident - Engage is an event that has made an indelible memory. Thank you x 10000 for the incredible work you do that is a gift to all of us!"

Melanie Mauer, Photography by Melanie Mauer

"So much more than I ever imagined....brings tears to my eyes....lately that's nothing new because of Engage!13"

Beth Poslusny, Director of Food & Beverage, Biltmore Estate

"An incredible experience."

Ceci Johnson, Ceci New York

"It was great to be surrounded by so many people that genuinely care about giving their best and being passionate."

Clint Wiley, Wiley Entertainment

"engage has helped me beyond anything I ever thought it would and more importantly it has created such beautiful bonds with so many amazing people and friendships that I am so grateful for!"

Aimee Monihan, Tropical and Mountain Occasions

"I know our entire food and beverage team joins me in recognizing the amazing opportunity we were given, and one we would jump at the chance to host again."

Maura Scarmack, Biltmore Estate

"engage! was a breathtaking and beautiful experience."

Rick Aguilar, Rick Aguilar Studios

"The phrase, Bird's of a Feather Flock Together is defined as, people of similar character, background, or taste tending to congregate or associate with one another. But in truth, I haven't actually found that to be necessarily true of the bridal industry...until my participation in the luxury wedding summit called engage! Rebecca Grinnals and Kathryn Arce have truly created the industries premier luxury wedding summit. "

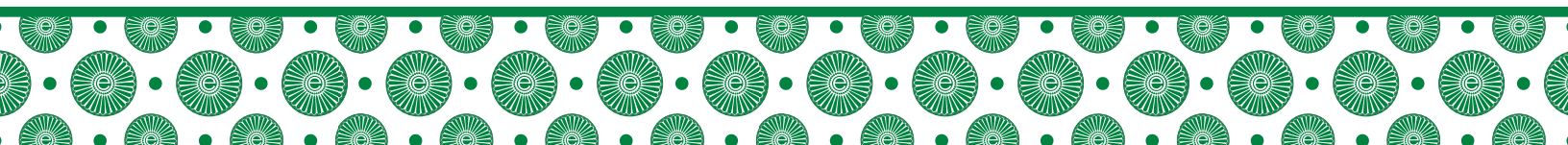
Michelle Rago, Michelle Rago Destinations

"What an amazing engage! experience. It was just magical!"

Ali Phillips, Engaging Events by Ali

"My goodness! I swear, that one was the best one I've ever been too and I didn't think it was possible to beat the others! Well, there's no really beating one or the other - each is special and unique in its own way! It was seriously magical and I can't stop talking about it or thinking of it!"

Amanda Allen, Newlywish



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"It's really amazing what a life changing/enhancing experience engage! is!!"

Ed Libby, Ed Libby Events

"To say my experience was incredible would be a lie. Because in full truth, any words I write seem astonishingly underwhelming in comparison to the real life fairytale I lived that week. engage!13 was an unbelievable event that outshone anything I've ever experienced and exceeded every expectation I had hope for."

Kailey Michelle Veenstra, Kailey Michelle Events

"engage! conferences are such a great time for my team and me to be inspired and energized about the upcoming wedding season!"

Dora Manuel, Viva Bella Events

"Each Engage! conference I attend floods my senses not only with color and styling to make any designer drool a little, but also enough wisdom and powerful takeaways to keep the head spinning for weeks!"

Kristy Rice, Momental Designs

"Don't know if it was the setting, the mix of speakers and attendees, or my personal vulnerability at that time but this experience honestly changed me. For the better, I hope! The speakers each had something meaningful, powerful, and relatable to say. I was moved by everyone. I have also come away with incredible focus, new and deepened relationships, and a true sense that I belong in this industry."

Beth Bernstein, SQN Events

"engage! is definitely the inspiration for the industry, you should take a huge bow!"

Pauline Parry, Good Gracious! Events

"What has brought me back to engage! every time are the relationships. Despite the fact that many there are in direct competition for clients, the spirit of collaboration and friendship abounds."

Jeremie Barlow, Photographer

"engage! is truly an innovative experience that has had serious repercussions throughout the international wedding industry. Rebecca and Kathryn have created a safe, intimate environment where all playing fields have been leveled for an authentic exchange of ideas and education. engage! has opened up many doors for entrepreneurs in the industry, including me!"

Sade Awe, The Bridal Circle

"We were thrilled of your success and the exposure AllSeated received. It was a true honor to be part of such an exclusive group of such talented professionals."

Sandy Hammer, CEO, AllSeated.com

"If you are a wedding planner, photographer, or somehow involved in the wedding industry, engage! is the premiere event to attend."

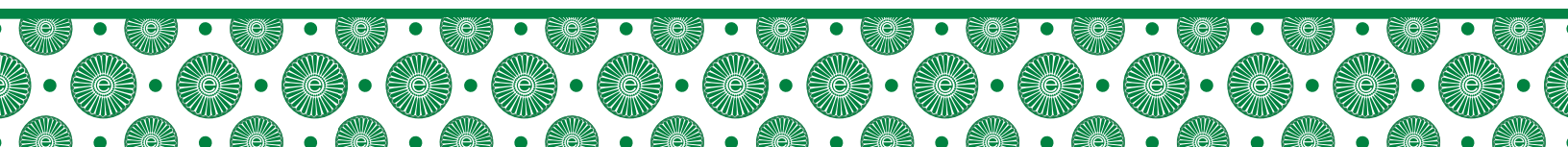
Brian Worley, yourBASH!

"There truly are no words to describe how amazing this summit was. Everything from the food, branding, guest speakers, decor, activities, parties etc. was beyond impressive! We had the privilege of meeting some of the event planning industry's biggest players and we walked away with such a powerful feeling of purpose and inspiration. We definitely plan to attend a future Engage event and look forward to reconnecting with our newest friends."

Jenny Orsini Jenny Orsini Events

"If we had to sum up this engage! experience in one word it would simply be WOW! To be a part of this luxury summit was exactly the inspiration and time we needed. Every single minute that we were a part of this group we were fully immersed in opulence, decadence and awe inspiring ideas."

Mary Fisk Taylor & Jamie Hays, Hays & Fisk Photography



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"Sometimes working at Southern Weddings affords me experiences that are literally out of a dream, and I fall in love with my job (and weddings) all over again. Such was the case with Engage13. We enjoyed three days of learning, meeting new friends, and details to make any wedding lover weak in the knees. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Emily Ayer Thomas, Southern Weddings

"From panels and small group experiences to fantastic parties, engage! creates the opportunity for you to rub elbows with some of the industry's finest professionals and Weddings Unveiled was beyond thrilled to be a part of such an amazing event!!"

Brooke Thomas, Editorial Director, Weddings Unveiled Magazine

engage! is THE luxury wedding summit to attend. It's held twice a year at luxurious locations and brings together the best of the best this industry has to offer. Between sessions, we not only get to mingle with our peers, but also to the people that some of us look up to. This, to me, is the true meaning of engage!. It's wonderful to be able to sit, listen and learn from the speakers during sessions, but the networking and lasting friendships are priceless. I've met some of my best friends at engage!; people I can call on for ideas or advice any time of day or night!"

Cassandra Snyder, Cassandra Snyder Events

"We have produced several conferences, attend many conferences and speak at a ton of conferences, as well. Some really & truly stand out from the crowd. We have our favourites, and engage! is definitely one of ours. I really found that I took away a ton of information that I will be using now, today and from here on out. Honestly, I took 10 pages of notes! There were humble and heartfelt seminars from some admirable people in the wedding industry who provided tips, growth experiences (through set backs and accomplishments), and ways to improve our businesses that most of us could relate to. I also found that we really were encouraged to step outside of our comfort zones and network, network, network."

Tracey Manailescu, The Wedding Planners Institute of Canada

"We had a magical time at engage!13 and are happy to back much smarter, a little bit heavier (darn that NC comfort food) and very inspired to do even better work for our clients."

Becky Brock, BZ Events

"Every time I have the opportunity to attend engage!, I feel so darn blessed. Being surrounded by esteemed industry peers is a highlight and I love every minute of it."

Jasmine Star, Jasmine Star Photography

"engage!13 was an experience of a lifetime! I'll never forget it!"

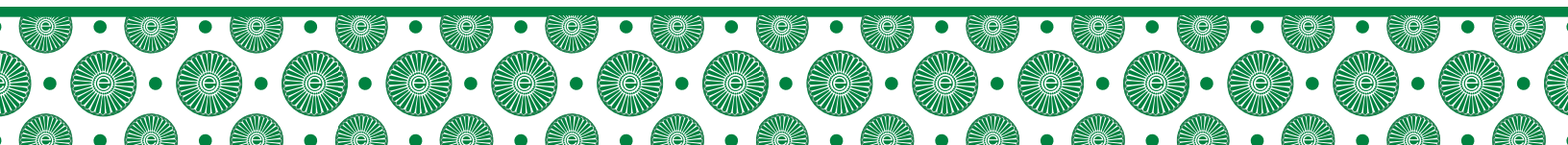
Nancy Ray, Nancy Ray Photography

"As a first-timer to this event, I wasn't sure of what to expect (even my local wedding pro friends who had attended didn't reveal too much other than "You will have THE BEST time!"). I'd followed the social media buzz surrounding the event for some time (the first summit was 5 years ago), so I knew it was going to be great, but after experiencing it myself, I can attest that this event is personally and professionally life-changing! I was more than impressed by the genius branding that was carried across every last detail, inspired and touched by the presentations by the crème de la crème of wedding icons and experts who not only shared their stories, business tips and trends – but really kept it real and showed us a glance into their very souls! engage!13 was an amazing experience and place for ideas to be exchanged and organic inspiration to grow! The wedding industry continues to push the envelope because of this event."

Jenna Parks Olender, Southern Bride & Groom Magazine

"engage! summits are simply incredible from the exquisite venues, to knowledgeable leaders speaking, to the amazing group of talented wedding industry professionals. We spent three packed days enjoying the gorgeous grounds of the Biltmore Estate while listening to passionate speakers providing motivation and advice."

Whitney Carillon, Tres Chic Southern Weddings



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"After hosting three of these conferences in the Cayman Islands in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and attending 9 of them, every year engage! just gets bigger and better! To say that engage!13 Biltmore Estate was amazing is an understatement. Every year the Engaging Concepts team never fails to raise the bar! It has totally rocked my world and has given me a new foundation of inspiration and motivation. Trying to sum up the extraordinary experience that engage!13 was is tantamount to impossible. The whole experience is simply beyond words."

Jo-Anne Brown, Celebrations Ltd.

"I am so grateful to Rebecca and Kathryn for their dedication to helping wedding vendors have a forum to continue to raise the bar and inspire others to do great things in the wedding industry."

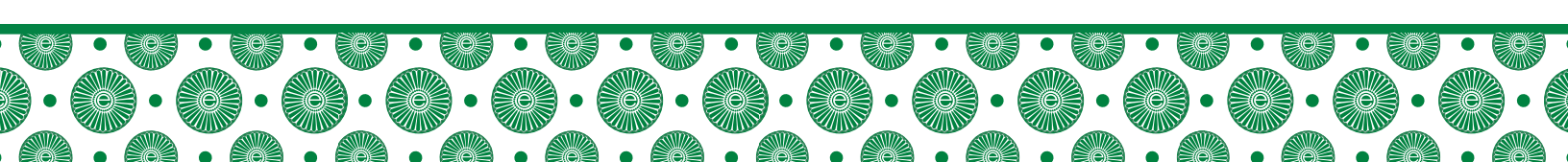
Valerie Gernhauser, Sapphire Events, NOLA

"engage! just keeps getting better."

Sean Low, The Business of Being Creative (and 12 time speaker/attendee)

"I am proud to say that engage! is my alma mater. It is the place where twice a year I learn, I listen, I teach. It nourishes my psyche and bolsters my spirits. Thank you to all my friends old and new for your constant support and guidance. I am already taking notes for the next time around!"

Michelle Rago, Michelle Rago Destinations



CONTACT

engaging • concepts

STRATEGIC CONSULTING TO THE WEDDING INDUSTRY

ring 407.566.2298

email rebecca@engagingconcepts.com
kathryn@engagingconcepts.com

websites engagingconcepts.com
engagesummits.com

blog theweddex.com

follow twitter.com/WEDDEX
twitter.com/kathrynarce