

Rave Reviews

for engage!13 :: montelucia

"The whole engage! experience exceeded my expectations in every way. You did a fabulous job with the presentation and styling, timeline and substance. I'm inspired and revived!"

Shaunna Nygren, Pacific Weddings Magazine

"engage!, or as I like to call it, "wedding camp".

Brian Worley, YourBASH

"engage! is the Maserati of wedding industry events and attending it makes you feel like you just graduated from Harvard with an MBA in Wedding! engage!13 was filled with great speakers, incredible networking, so much information you feel like your brain could explode at any given moment with all the hair brained crazy ideas floating thru your head! The event is limited to just 350 wedding professionals and it truly challenges its attendees to think outside the box and provide new and exciting ways to give value to your clients."

Stacie Shea, Stacie Shea Events

"What an amazing week!! SO FANTASTIC!!! Everyone I've talked to said it was one of the best yet. This engage! was so special for me for so many reasons, but mostly because of the people. The engage! family you've built just makes my life ten times better. Thanks a million, billion times for blowing my mind!"

Harmony Walton, The Bridal Bar, iHeartRadio & Jet Fete Blog

"I absolutely LOVED the entire event. I was a first timer but it definitely won't be my last. Specifically I felt like the conference delivers on it's promise to be: an informative networking event with the best of the best and oh yes, parties, details, swag— OH MY! I cannot wait to go back!"

ameron Clark, Cameron & Kelly Studios

"engage!13 was a highlight for me."

Jose Villa, Photographer

"Wow. What a great experience. It's like a roller coaster...I want to go again!!!"

Sam Jacobsen, Roche Harbor Resort

"I had an incredible experience and was beyond honored to have the opportunity to speak amongst so many of you who I hold in such high esteem. You did an astonishing job producing such a complex and dynamic conference - my hat is off to you both!"

Kristin Banta, Kristin Banta Events

"Another amazing, amazing experience!"

Ellen Black, Lehr & Black

"This was my third time attending this phenomenal event, and every time I attend, I am just blown away by the exceptionally talented Rebecca Grinnals and Kathryn Arce of Engaging Concepts who produce the summit and exceed expectations at every level."

Cynthia Martyn, Cynthia Martyn Events

"We were treated like royalty. We were force-fed amazing food during every break from hearing some of the most wildly successful wedding planners and vendors around the nation speak. I kind of felt like I was attending a combination of Oprah's Favorite Things and the most over-the-top wedding I've ever photographed as every time I turned around, I was given free cool stuff and the parties every night were styled to the hilt and ultra-fabulous."

Melissa Jill, Melissa Jill Photography

"It's truly stunning to see a group of such talent come together and share their visions in one place. Each engage! brings a little something different. You've transformed businesses and lives and touched an industry which seemed a bit disjointed before engage! was on the scene. engage! stands above and is the standard to which other events are measured by."

Jennifer Stein, Destination I Do Magazine

"Mid morning on day 2, I frantically emailed my boss to say, "Please make sure engage! is in our budget for 2014!" Thankfully, she responded with a "yes!""

Kerri Stegherr, Intercontinental Atlanta



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"Each and every time I attend engage! I get something new out of it...information, contacts, ideas, friends and an experience I won't forget. I feel it has truly shaped my business and who I am as a person today in so many ways."

Julie Sabatino, [The Stylish Dresser and The Styling Suite](#)

"I'm a huge fan of the work you both do for our industry."

Ceci Johnson, [Ceci New York](#)

"Twice a year I have the privilege of stepping out in the world to be welcomed with enthusiasm by some of the most exquisite resorts on earth. The Engage! Wedding Symposiums are my opportunity to get out and interact with my fellow wedding creatives. How else do we stay fresh and innovative for all our amazing couples? So take a moment today to see what happens when wedding creatives have the chance to...well, plan a party for themselves!"

Kristy Rice, [Momental Designs](#)

"It was an experience I will never forget and hopefully enjoy again soon. "

Jennifer Thye, [IMONI Events](#)

"Engage!13 it was beyond inspirational with the amazing panel of professionals and attendees! I can not thank you enough for putting on such an amazing conference!"

Tam Ashworth, [Isari Flower Studio](#)

"The week was AMAZING!"

Julie Hill, [Elysium Productions](#)

"Plum Pretty Sugar was selected as a sponsor of Engage 13's gifting lounge, where guests were provided with credit cards to receive their gifts from Vera Wang, Tieks, and Plum Pretty Sugar. Set up as a dressing room experience, the Plum Pretty Sugar suite gifted guests with a robe and coordinated a sash. Our participation at Engage 13 filled our hearts. We continue to be inspired by the discussions held and the friendships formed."

Charlotte Hale, [Plum Pretty Sugar](#)

"It's been hard to find the words to express what an amazing experience I had at engage!13. I can't begin to tell you what an impact the 3 days have had on our business. Being surrounded by such inspirational thought leaders with a genuine openness to empower their fellow professionals was so unexpected and unlike anything I have experienced in any other industry. This collaborative environment is a testament to the culture you have created and I am honored to have been a part of engage!13!"

Jess Founder of [Carats & Cake](#)

"Finally there is a meeting/conference that pertains to the topics I need and forum to be inspired by my peers. I've never seen anything like it."

Jessica Pickett Gillon, [Events by Design](#)

"What an amazing and insightful few days! After the past engages I've come back to NYC recharged, refreshed and excited for the things ahead in the wedding world."

Samantha Roberts, [Assistant Editor, The Knot](#)

"I treasure the relationships I have cultivated as a result of participating in Engage!. I always come away with a fresh perspective and a renewed sense of courage."

Michelle Rago, [Michelle Rago Destinations](#)

"I LOVED Engage13 Montelucia and it's been a catalyst for so many big business changes."

Cameron Clark, [Cameron + Kelly Studios](#)

"Rebecca Grinnals and Kathryn Arce have created something very, very special on so many levels. As well as a place to learn, gain insights and pull back the zoom on the Wedding Industry to get the big picture, it is exceptionally nurturing on a personal, emotional level. Seeing old friends again and making new connections in a dynamic, challenging and supportive environment was a real privilege."

Dominic Mitchell, [Co-founder, RAj Tents](#)



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Did I learn anything? Was it worth it? Will I go again? My answers are yes, yes, and yes!

Bess Wyrick, Celedon & Celery

"To all of the Celebrity Weddings Planners, Event Designers and Speakers – but most especially to Marcy Blum, Mindy Weiss, Ed Libby, Randy Fenoli, Michelle Rago, Sylvia Weinstock, and Kristen Banta – Individually, your work inspire us all. Together, you prove that there is something for everyone, that hard work and dedication make the world a more beautiful place, and that behind "the pretty" that we all love so much is a good amount of crazy, a little bit of wine, a whole lot of stress and the stuff that legendary stories are made of. You are the Harvard, the Yale, the Road Scholars and the Coaches of us all. Thanks for taking the time to show up."

Andrea Eppolito, Eppolito Events

"What an amazing engage!, I have so many new relationships!"

Anthony Luscia, Special Projects Editor, Martha Stewart Weddings

"It was four days and three nights of parties, planning and speaking engagements... completely over the top and tremendously amazing!"

Ngoc Nguyen Lay, Skybox Event Productions

engage! is a luxury wedding business summit that corrals some of the world's most renowned designers, planners, stationers, musicians, and business mentors- all with an acute focus on the luxury wedding industry. The Montelucia in Scottsdale hosted the 12th Engage!, and it was pretty amazing to see old friends and new friends come together. My first Engage! experience was an amazing one!"

Brandi Reiland, Soiree Weddings & Events

"engage! was a perfect ending to a very busy year for us. Like anything it's so easy to get caught up in how we always do things and engage! is such a great reminder to push for more. I personally left the experience with a feeling of renewal. Thank you again for exceeding our expectations."

Lauren Killian, Person + Killian

"I can't thank you enough for bringing a group of like-minded individuals together. The relationships that I have formed and the connections that I have made are truly invaluable."

Beth Chapman, The White Dress by the shore

"engage! was so wonderful"

Matthew Robbins, Matthew Robbins Design

"What an experience. Not only did I have an amazing time, learn a ton of things, pick up a lot of new business, but I made some wonderful new friends for which I am grateful!"

Josh Rosenthal, The Grand Bevy

"Beyond the parties, engage! is also an opportunity to listen to others in the industry give their insight on everything from design, planning, photography, the magazine world, catering, and the business of being successful! By day three and numerous speakers later, I am always inspired and ready to take on the world with new wealth and knowledge that I plan to incorporate into our success at YourBash!"

Brian Worley, YourBash

"That was such an engaging program and I had a great time, bringing back to the resort much enthusiasm and ideas for 2014!"

Rachel Shanding, Carmel Valley Ranch

"I left Engage!13 so inspired - its time to regroup."

Gail Johnson, Gail Johnson Weddings & Events

"engage! is pretty much like the wedding industry version of getting a Harvard MBA – great speakers, incredible networking, so much information you feel like you are drinking from a fire hose!"

Traci Domino, Traci Domino Events



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"It was an event for which I had high expectations. These expectations were met and exceeded, and my head is still spinning with ideas and information. I highly recommend the experience for any industry professional who wants to refine their business. Inspiring words, world class designs and details, genius branding and the best swag ever!"

Lynn Lee, Weddings Unveiled Canada

"Each time I attend the Engage! conference I am newly blown away by the attention to detail (no surprise since the creators are Disney Wedding alumna), the creativity and the WOW factor."

Michelle Schwartz, The Modern Jewish Wedding

"Such an impactful Engage! It was such a wonderful experience!"

Jocelyn Cates, Capstory

"Another amazing Engage! Like the first one I attended, I learned so much and can't wait to start implementing everything!"

Michael Coombs, DJ

"A spellbinding three days of engage! magic. It was such a treat, I savored every moment."

Maura Scarmack, Honey Darling Events

"AMAZING! Thank you again for everything. We both came back incredibly inspired. Life changing."

Meredith & Cesar Perez, Perez Photography

"Kudos to you both for another incredible Engage! conference. I am so inspired not only by the speakers, decor, branding, and industry connections at the events, but am most in awe of the two of you and your commitment to making our industry the best it can be."

Beth Bernstein, SQN Events

"Congrats on organising such an event.... Was fun, informative and memorable."

Mark Niemierko, London

"engage! was a game changing week for me and my business. My week at engage! allowed me to make amazing connections with my peers in the wedding industry, I reconnected with old friends, I made lots of new ones... and most importantly... I came home with big ideas for my business and my photography career going forward... not to mention - I had a blast!! And was completely spoiled rotten for a week!"

Jessica Haley, Jessica Haley Photography

"We had the pleasure of meeting industry greats like Jose Villa, Ceci Johnson, Randy Fenoli, Todd Events, and so many more. Every last detail was planned with perfection, letterpress, and color coordination."

Design House of Moira



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"I was basically peer pressured to go to the engage!13 Luxury Wedding Business Summit. I had heard about it since the first one by a past bride of mine that worked at the resort it was kicking off at. "You have to come, Cicely. It's going to be amazing and unlike anything in the industry."

At that time I was a smaller company and the investment to the conference was something that wasn't in my bank account not to mention the travel and accommodations, etc. Years passed and the Engage event repeated over and over and it's popularity skyrocketed. I followed, learned about my peers going and frankly was torn between jealousy and not wanting to "follow the crowd". I was resistant now and stubborn to going. Even a little bitter to be honest.

Then the news of engage! coming to Scottsdale came. Ugh. How could I miss it now? It was being hosted at one of my favorite resorts (that is the only one that requires a planner) so how could I not support them and go. Traci, who works at the Montelucia basically told me I was an idiot if I didn't go.

Well, again..I am no dummy.

So I signed up.

The cool thing is we were rubbing elbows and networking with every type of industry professional. From the uber rad to the small rad.

Anyhow, the experience had to come to an end and although I took pages of notes and walked away with a plethora of inspiration and advice I was able to truly get the meaning behind Engage for me.

It's not about fame.

It's not about fortune.

It's not about where you have gone.

Or where you are going.

It's about humans. It's about being real. It's all about checking your ego, breaking down and being a person. Being relatable.

After all...Everyone is a person first.

So, if you haven't gone before. Go. Don't fight yourself about it again. Yes, it's a lot of money to go but it's worth it. Is it a good return on investment? That's up to me and up to you. Take the people you have connected with and grow those connections. engage! is merely your matchmaker. Yenta. Yenta.

Thank you to those that MADE me go. Even as I kicked and screamed that I didn't want to.

Now, I am planning to go at least once a year. It's in our company's budget starting this year."

Cicely Rocha Miller, Life Design Event Planning



CONTACT

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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

