



# GOWNS

*Spanish flamenco anyone? Ruffles and texture are the look of the season, says Corston Couture's Coral Johnston*

## Latest trends

This year Corston Couture owner Coral Johnston is celebrating 20 years in the business of bridal gowns – and she's seen it all. 'After so long in the business we have seen so many changes come and go over the years and have noticed that bridal trends change very slowly,' she says.

That said, strong new looks catching her eye this season are Spanish flamenco-inspired ruffles and texture, as well as one-shoulder creations.

'An abundance of tulle and beautiful vintage-inspired beading and lacing is still very popular,' says Coral. 'However, after the fashion-forward styles of the '60s, '70s and '80s, many brides are now interested in a classic look – something they will still love in 30 years time.'

Of all her designs, Coral is still besotted with 'Bohemian Love'. 'It is timeless and so wonderfully elegant and soft,' she explains. The detail in the Parisian lace plays beautifully against the skin, as well as the contrast of the pleats and lace in the skirt. On the right girl, it is such a magical piece of artwork.'

## Expert tips

- Make sure your entire wedding budget allows enough for the gown of your dreams.
- Either go to a designer who will help you work through the choices, or try on a bit of everything – all styles and colours. You can definitely be surprised.
- Take one or two (not an army) of friends or relatives shopping with you. They should be people whose honesty, opinion and judgement you trust. Too many people will cloud your judgement and you may end up with a dress you don't love but one everyone else does!
- Don't try on dresses significantly over your budget. You want to love this dress in time to come, not wish you had spent another \$2000.
- Notice how you feel in the gown. If you find yourself smiling or swishing around, this could be the gown for you. (If your mother or friend cries, this could also be the gown for you!)
- Make sure you will be comfortable. You could be in this gown for 12 or more hours. Very tight waists or chests, too clingy dresses and very low necklines can spoil your enjoyment of the day. You really don't want to worry if anyone can see a nipple or a lump of cellulite!

## TO-DO TIMELINE

### ONE YEAR DONE

- Look through *Bride to Be's Your Day* (the year's best real-life weddings plus invaluable contacts) along with non-bridal magazines and make a scrapbook or 'mood board' of your favourite styles .....■
- Draw up a budget.....■

### NINE MONTHS

- Book private appointments with boutiques or dressmakers. Take along someone whose opinion you trust, such as your mum, sister or maid of honour.....■
- Found the perfect dress? Now look for accessories including the veil, headpiece, shoes, lingerie and jewellery – don't leave these till the last minute!.....■
- Place a deposit. Ask for an invoice listing gown size, style, inclusions, and delivery/pick-up details .....■

### SIX MONTHS

- Attend your first fitting. Take your accessories, veil and lingerie .....■
- Finalise your accessories. Make sure your veil and headpiece work with your gown and hairstyle ..... ■

### ONE MONTH

- Hold the final fitting. Make sure your lingerie doesn't show and the gown is comfortable .....■

### ONE WEEK

- Sandpaper the soles of your shoes to prevent slipping. Hang your gown from the highest point in the house, away from odours and cooking smells. Check with your dressmaker that your fabric won't stretch .....■

## Wed-site we love

### corston.com.au

In January, Corston Couture launched its new ready-to-wear collection, capturing the beauty and elegance every bride has come to expect.

\* For more information regarding gowns and designers, see [BRIDETOBE.COM.AU](http://BRIDETOBE.COM.AU)

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