

Wedding Drinks Planner

How much beer, wine, bubbles and spirits to buy for your reception

A six-hour reception, 60% white and 40% red, with bubbles for the toast and a spirits bar.
Beer is 330ml bottles or cans. Wine, bubbles and spirits are 750ml bottles.

GUESTS	BEER	WHITE	RED	BUBBLES	SPIRITS	MIXERS
40	7 doz	12	8	10	5	22 L
50	9 doz	14	10	12	6	27 L
60	10 doz	17	12	14	7	32 L
80	14 doz	23	15	19	10	45 L
100	17 doz	29	19	24	12	54 L
120	20 doz	35	23	29	14	63 L
150	25 doz	43	29	36	18	81 L
200	34 doz	58	38	48	24	108 L

HOW THE NUMBERS WORK

Per guest, over six hours

Beer 2 bottles. Wine 0.48 bottles. Bubbles 0.24 bottles.
Spirits 0.12 bottles.

Shorter reception?

Beer, wine and spirits scale with time. A four-hour bar needs about two thirds of these amounts. Bubbles do not scale, because a toast is a toast.

Mixers

Allow 4.5 litres per bottle of spirits, spread across soda, tonic, dry ginger, cola, lemonade and juices.

Wine only?

If wine is the only drink on offer, roughly double the wine figures and drop the beer and spirits entirely.

DON'T FORGET

Ice

About 1kg per guest for a summer wedding. The most commonly forgotten item on the list.

Sale or return

Most bottle stores will take back unopened cases if you arrange it up front. Ask before you buy, then round up without the risk.

Licensing

Selling alcohol at your reception, including a cash bar, needs a special licence from your council. Apply well in advance.

Kegs

A 50 litre keg is roughly 150 servings of 330ml.

Want the exact numbers for your wedding?

ido.nz/cheers

Free calculator — set your own guest count, hours and wine split.