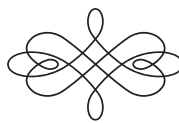




# One Salon AND BRIDAL COMPANY

*Providing a one-stop shopping for perfect wedding*



*By Diane Krieger Spivak*

*Photos Provided*

**A**mi Christianson's motto is, "I love what I do — making people feel and look beautiful." The owner of One Salon and Bridal Company in St. Charles has garnered some prestigious awards to prove her commitment, including The Knot Hall of Fame, The Best of Wedding Wire, and a rating as a Top Wedding Vendor in the USA.

Christianson's full-service salon has recently transitioned more to the bridal side, with the addition of a bridal gown designer on the top floor. Caroline DeVillo, formerly of Nordstrom's couture line, designs and cuts the gowns, which are assembled in Chicago. "Caroline has a unique, timeless style," says Christianson. "That's exciting. We want to make everything for the bride a one-stop shopping experience."

To that end, One Salon and Bridal Company offers hair, makeup, lashes, hair extensions, spray tanning, and more for the bride, even collaborating with vendors such as florists and event planners. "Our clients can take bits and pieces, and aren't committed to all we have to offer," says Christianson. "It helps them that they're able to entrust someone to refer them to other businesses. I get to know the bride, their style and budget, and I connect them."

Using the latest in makeup, skincare and haircare, Christianson is passionate about selecting organic products from Europe and Canada, where stringent laws control ingredients. "I've been in the industry 34 years," says Christianson. "I don't want to get sick and I don't want anybody else to get sick. I want my clients and staff to be healthy."

#### Planning Insights

Christianson suggests that brides begin the planning process at least six months to a year before their wedding date. Brides need to come in for their bridal

trial, to assure that hair, makeup and the wedding gown are perfect. "We repeat (the process) on the wedding day, so everything is organized," says Christianson, who offers this advice: "It's always helpful when the bride brings pictures and ideas of what they'd like for their hair coloring and makeup."

According to Christianson, once a contract and numbers are in place, her job is to take care of everything, leaving nothing to stress or worry about. "We travel wherever the bride wants us to be on her wedding day. If they want, we make it a private party. Nine out of ten times we go to a venue, home or hotel to get them ready and they love that."

The salon prides itself on continuing education for its employees, and its awards are proof. "People tell me they're proud of the fact that they're taken care of, they feel connected. It's our job to build that relationship. It's beyond just hair and makeup," says Christianson, who has repeat clients who have enlisted her services over the years from first communion to homecoming, wedding, magazine shoots and more.

"There's no limit to it," says Christianson.

On March 22, One Salon and Bridal Company will host an exclusive bridal event, featuring preferred industry vendors, including florists, an event planner, wine, chocolate, photo booth, jewelers and more. "We will have prizes, drawings, raffles on other things," notes Christianson. Brides can register on the site at [www.onebridalcompany.com](http://www.onebridalcompany.com).

#### ■ THE ONE SALON & BRIDAL COMPANY

930 W. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174

(630) 587-0111

[www.onebridalcompany.com](http://www.onebridalcompany.com)