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58

REGULARS

6 EDITOR'S LETTER

Olivia Gibson shares top picks from this issue

9 NEARLYWED NEWS

Catch up on news from around the region

13 FREEBIES & OFFERS

Great giveaways and discounts up for grabs

80 HOT TOPIC

Local experts offer stellar advice on wedding dilemmas

87 COMPETITION

Win a honeymoon in Oman worth £3,000



53

VENUES

15 GOING LOCAL

Where to say 'I do' in Tyneside

23 GLORIOUS GARDENS

Discover dream settings surrounded by nature



On the cover

This issue's cover is courtesy of Joss Guest Photography, check out jossguestphotography.co.uk

FEATURES

49 WAVES OF HAPPINESS

Local suppliers got together to create this stunning shoot

53 LOOKING YOUR BEST

Find the one at bridal boutiques near you

58 READY, SET, BAKE!

Our local specialists share top designs from bold to elegant cakes



49



69

FASHION & BEAUTY

63 FASHION FOCUS

Fashion editor Claire Ridley reveals her latest bridal fashion news, buys and launches

64 FUN AND FRIVOLOUS

These flirty styles are setting the trends for 2020

69 CHIC AND STRAPLESS

These elegant styles can be worn as they are, or teamed with pretty shrugs or statement chokers for maximum impact

72 HEADLINERS

Hair clips, bands and accessories were spotted at the recent bridal catwalk shows – get the look with our Insta-worthy selection

74 BEAUTY BUZZ

Beauty editor Kelly Andrews reveals all the latest must-haves for the bride-to-be

77 A CALMING INFLUENCE

We put these soothing saviours to the test, perfect for beating wedmin stress

78 FASHION & BEAUTY Q&A

Our local pros solve your problems



30

REAL WEDDINGS

30 CHECK MATE

Laura and Matthew were surrounded by loved ones on their big day

37 A DAY TO REMEMBER

Catherine and Dave's Mediterranean-style wedding was located at Le Petit Château

43 ROSE GOLD ROMANCE

Love was all around at Amie and Keith's nuptials



83

GROOMS

83 GROOMS' NEWS

The lowdown on all things groom from Melissa Barker

84 STEP INTO SPRING

We've rounded up our favourite products to help you create the ultimate seasonal look

86 TIME'S TICKING

Add the finishing touch to your big-day attire



43

HONEYMOONS

88 HONEYMOON NEWS

Travel editor Hannah Faulder reveals the latest travel news, destination hotspots and top buys for your post-wedding getaway

90 A TOUCH OF PARADISE

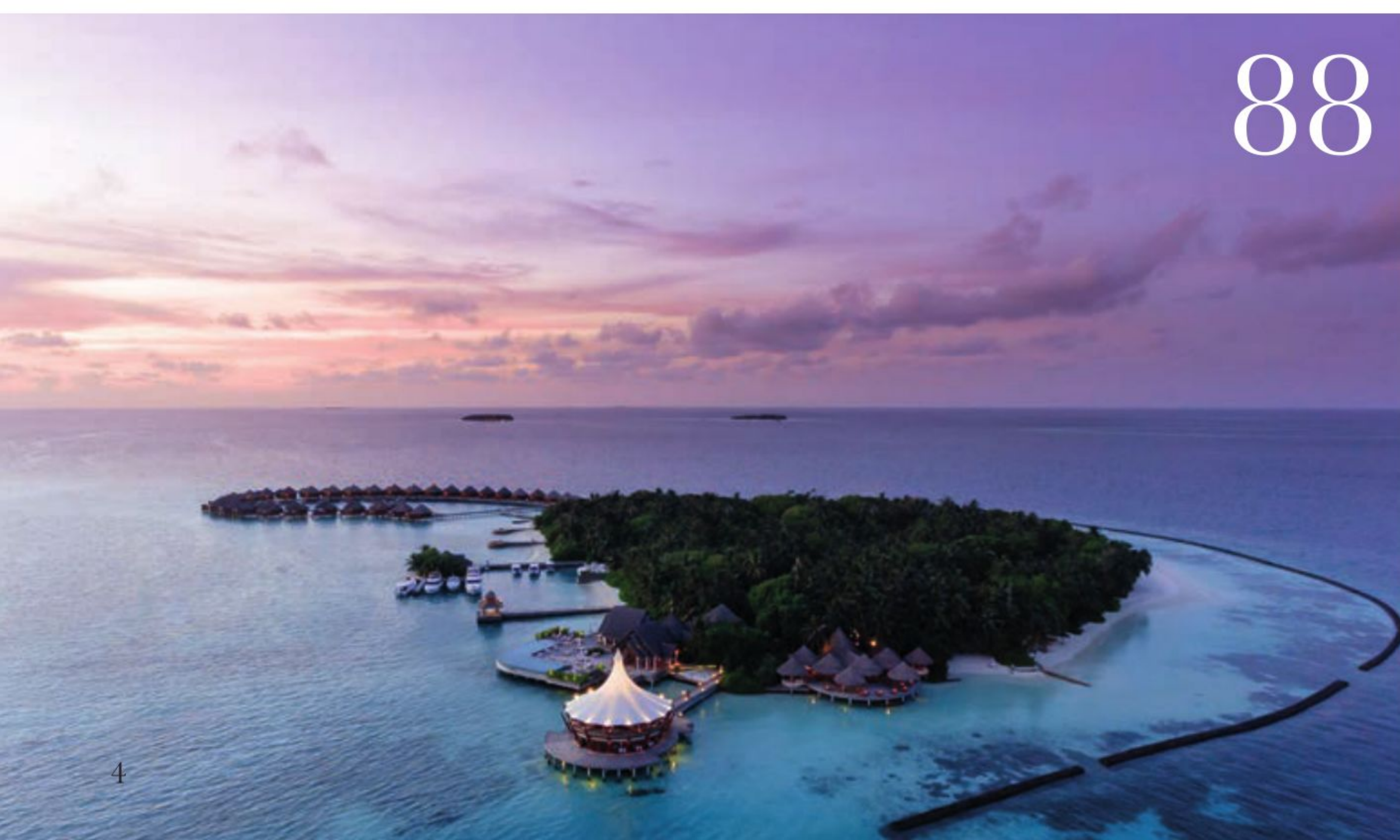
Editor Claire Ridley travelled to the paradise island of Anguilla in the Caribbean to discover what this popular honeymoon destination has to offer

92 MOROCCAN MAGIC

Golf Resort in Morocco

95 ROMANTIC GETAWAY

Olivia Gibson reviews The Castle Hotel Windsor



88



90



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kd EVENTS & PUBLISHING

cwe
COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

Say 'I do' this spring



We're well and truly into 2020 now and I hope your year is off to a wonderful start! Spring is hands down my favourite time of year – maybe it's because of the sunshine, the beautiful flowers in bloom or the longer evenings – either way, I'm so excited!

This issue is full of perfect inspiration that will make the planning of your big day much easier, if you're having any wedding worries then definitely check out our hot topic feature where you'll find expert advice. We're always on the lookout for any changes to the world of weddings and if you want to keep up-to-date with all the goings on from around the region, then our newlywed news feature is only a few page turns away.

We have also scouted the area for some of the best venues throughout the North East and your dream venue could be waiting!

Or, check out our bridal boutique pages where you can discover local stores near you and find out everything you'll need to know from price ranges, sizes and designers stocked.

That's all from me, now sit back, relax and celebrate anything and everything wedding!

Olivia x

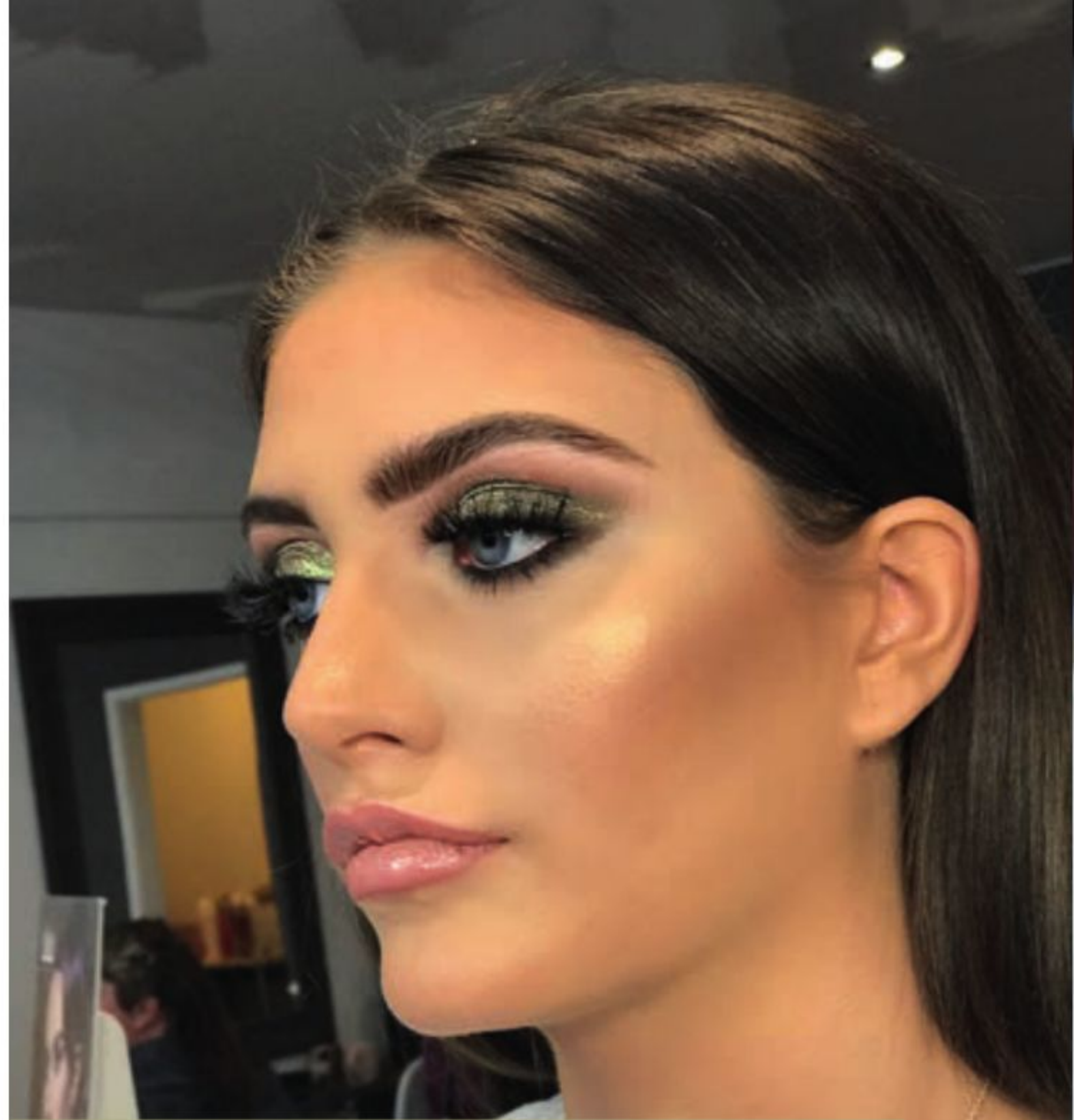
Olivia Gibson
Editor

WIN!
A HONEYMOON
IN OMAN,
WORTH £3,000



neverendingstories.co.uk

Read all about Amie and Keith's perfect day on page 43.



This make-up look from All Dolled Up is gorgeous, from the brows and eyeshadow to the flawless skin. Turn to page 78 to read expert advice when it comes to apply false eyelashes.

Check out page 58 to find plenty of inspiration when it comes to cakes from elegant designs to bold and beautiful.





erikatanithphotography.co.uk

These flowers look incredible at Laura and Matthew's special day, view more details of their nuptials on page 30.



victoriaspongephotography.co.uk

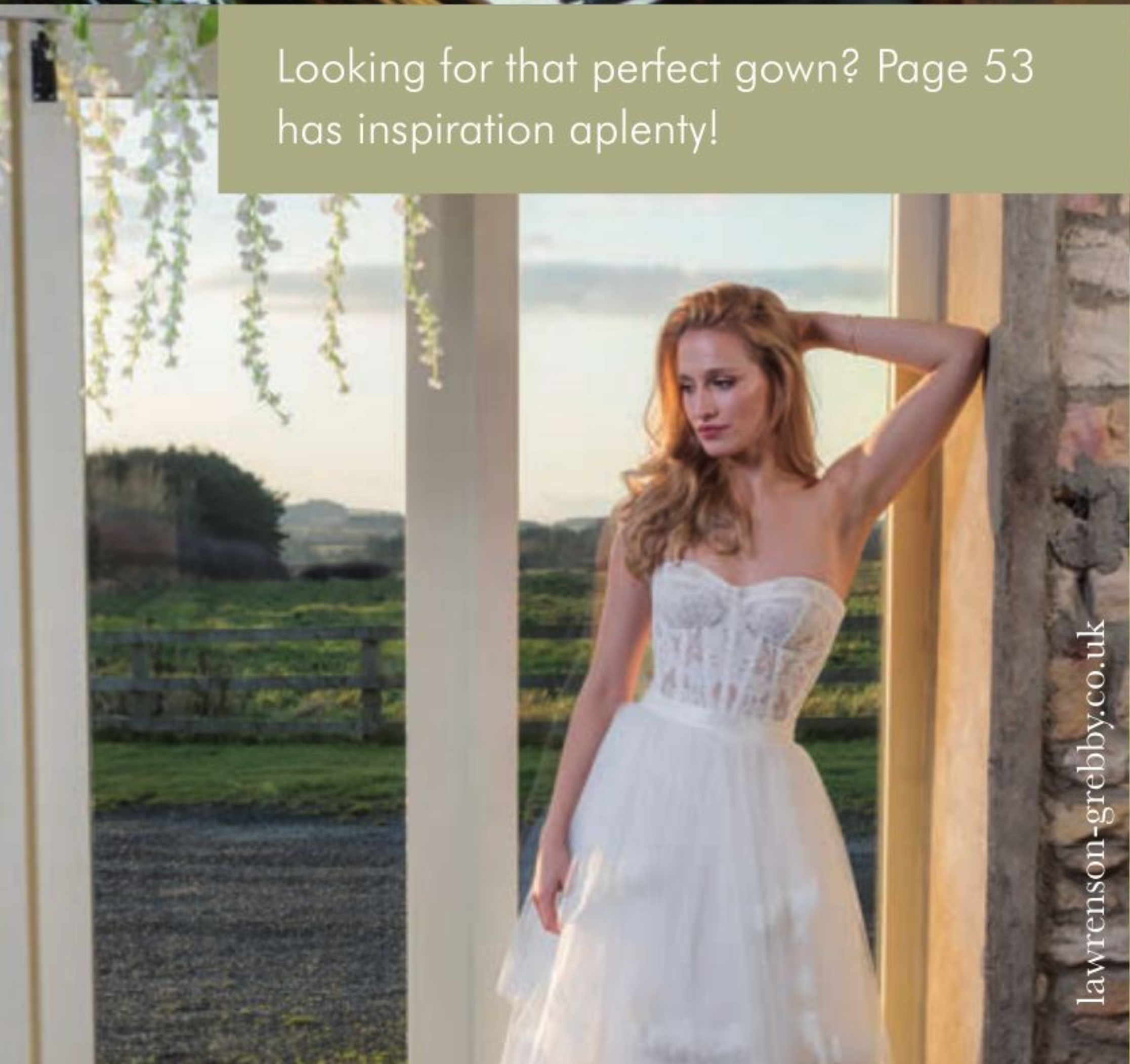
I love this model's hair by Very You Hair, which is perfect for a beach wedding. See more beautiful images on page 49.

Discover freebies and offers on page 13.



kimberleywaterson.com

Looking for that perfect gown? Page 53 has inspiration aplenty!



lawrenson-grebbby.co.uk

EDITOR'S LETTER



indigophotography.co.uk

Our beautiful glorious gardens feature showcases perfect venues on page 23.



Read all the latest news on page 9.

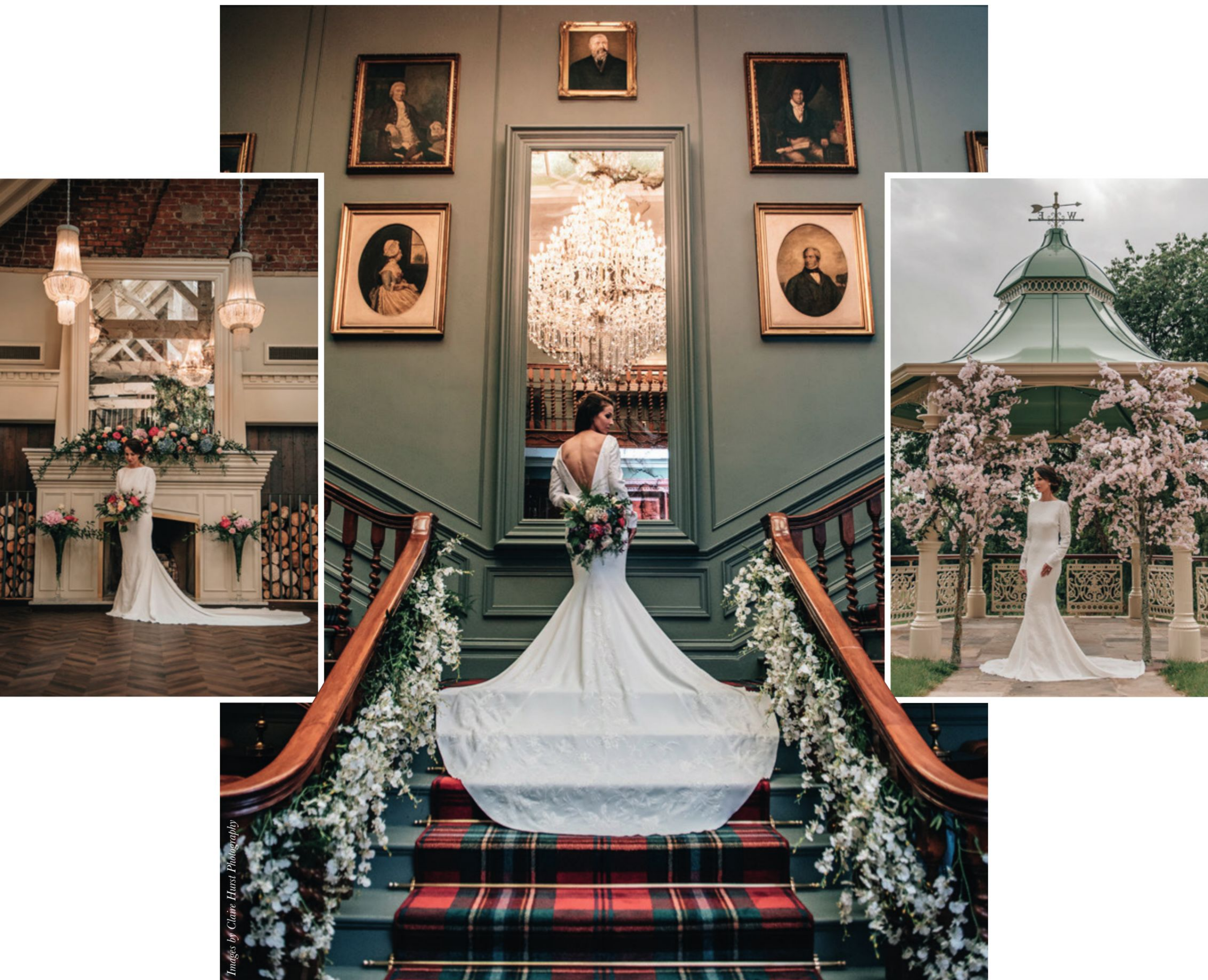


jossquestphotography.co.uk

The bride and groom look so happy on their big day – turn to page 37 for more!

THE Blackwell Grange HOTEL

★★★★



From the moment you catch a glimpse of the wonderful 1693 Georgian façade, you know you are somewhere special.

The Blackwell Grange Hotel is a stunning 17th Century mansion, which enjoys an enviable setting in the beautiful County Durham countryside.

The perfect setting for intimate gatherings or larger groups of guests up to two hundred.

- ✦ Celebrate the style elegance and beauty of a day like no other at The Blackwell Grange Hotel.
- ✦ Newly refurbished wedding suites.
- ✦ Blackwell Grange has recently become a four-star hotel.
- ✦ One wedding per day.
- ✦ Outdoor ceremonies available.

LATE AVAILABILITY, UP TO 20% DISCOUNT FOR REMAINING 2020 DATES

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The Blackwell Grange Hotel, Grange Road, Darlington, County Durham, DL3 8QH
0330 102 7238 | weddings.blackwell@bruhennyhotels.co.uk | www.blackwellgrangehotel.com

PICTURE PERFECT

Founded in 2013, Imogen Kate Photography captures beautiful weddings and multiple special events.

This year, the company's excited to announce that a BA Hons photography student will be joining the team and have the chance to grow their portfolio and experience within the industry.

Chloe Simpson is a 21-year-old student from Morpeth who's in her final year at Cumbria University. For any future weddings, she will be assisting the team and her knowledge and skills will bring even more talent to the growing business.

For couples getting married this year, there will sometimes be up-to three photographers capturing the special day.

Owner of Imogen Kate Photography, Deb Parker says, "Chloe's thrilled with the opportunity, she wants to start up her own events photography company and possibly expand into travel photography too."

Find out more at: imogenkate.co.uk



Nearlywed NEWS

The latest news from around the region



YOUR DAY YOUR WAY

Glenwright Celebrancy is honoured to have reached regional finals in The Wedding Industry Awards, which was voted for by couples. After a successful year of helping couples on such an important day, the company's over-the-moon with this achievement.

With the use of a celebrant, lovebirds can have a truly special and more personal experience with a bespoke ceremony including symbolic and cultural elements if desired. The choice of venues is endless as celebrants are not confined to licensed premises.

The legal aspect of any marriage can be completed in the registry office – it takes around 15 minutes with two witnesses – then couples will be able to use an independent celebrant.

Find out more:
glenwrightcelebrancy.com



Get the party started

Established in 1970, Black Knight Disco is celebrating its 50th anniversary of entertaining guests at weddings and parties. With this much experience, couples can be assured the music will be chosen appropriately and the sound quality will be fantastic. A playlist can be created by couples and the company will try and play as many requests as possible.

This family-run business has a new addition to the company as the owner, David Wilkinson's daughter joins the team. He says: "Nikki Noo Noo specialises in children's entertainment, while I provide quality entertainment. When the function's a wedding, couples need to be sure their choice of entertainer is right and we will bring a professional approach to be certain we match your expectations."

The business is perfect for any budget, including small systems or with up-lighting and mood lighting, projected effects, star screens and more.

Find out more about the company here: disco-party.co.uk



littlemissboyco.co.uk

SAY 'I DO'

Jesmond Dene House is a grand yet cosy 19th-century manor nestled in idyllic surrounds that boasts beautiful waterfalls, an old water mill and quaint bridges, which are perfect for photo opportunities.

Throughout the year, the venue has multiple wedding showcases, which not only allow couples to see the venue but meet recommended suppliers such as photographers, entertainers, venue stylists and more. Upon arrival, attendees can enjoy a welcoming drink and canapés.

Jesmond Dene House offers weddings both indoors or outside to suit all types of celebrations – relaxed or formal – all year round. On the special day, newlyweds can choose to have a three-course banquet, afternoon tea or a barbecue feast all redesigned by head chef Danny Parker, finalist on BBC2's *MasterChef the Professionals* and BBC *Great British Menu*. After dancing the night away, guests can retreat to one of the 40 individually designed bedrooms.

The team at the independently-owned boutique hotel are flexible and happy to plan any wedding for newlyweds.

Find out more about the company here: jesmonddenehouse.co.uk



Bridal beauty

It's going to be an exciting year for make-up artist Claire Alexandra, who's not just launching a blog but a new website too. The very core of the business is providing beautiful looks by using cruelty-free and environmentally conscious products.

The company focuses on professional hair styling and make-up for a bride-to-be and the wedding party by using responsible products that deliver exceptional long-lasting results. This includes products from LimeLife by Alcone, which launched in the UK back in 2018 and is partnered with Claire Alexandra.

Find out more about the company here: claire-alexandra.co.uk

Wedding Showcase dates:

- ♥ Summer – Sunday 31st May
- ♥ Autumn – Sunday 27th September
- ♥ Winter – Sunday 22nd November



THE WOW FACTOR

Based near Whitley Bay, On Cloud Wine Bar is a new bespoke mobile bar that operates in the North East.

Owners Mark and Joanne recently purchased the bespoke 1976 Citroen HY van called Walter, which originated from France and was found rotting in a field in Provence. After being lovingly restored, the quirky, fully functioning mobile bar is perfect for any occasion.

Prosecco, frizzante, premium lager, cider and a range of different spirits are served to add glitz and glamour as well as a range of soft drinks for guests under the age of 18.

The bar can be customised with wedding flowers or bunting and has a large blackboard to the inside, which customers can choose to write messages on to add a lovely personal touch.

Couples can find a range of wedding packages that can be tailored to meet any individual tastes and includes two bartenders who will cater to every guest's need. Glassware or plasticware is also included in the packages.

Find out more about the company here: oncloudwinebar.co.uk



25 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Classic Wedding Cars is celebrating its 25-year anniversary!

Providing classic, contemporary and vintage bridal cars in a range of styles to complement any wedding.

The team's proud to offer an extra personal service, tailored to meet any specific needs and requirements. Whether lovebirds are looking for something subtle and classy, nostalgic or utterly eye-catching, Classic Wedding Cars can guide them towards the right car. The vehicles are immaculately presented with coloured ribbons of choice and driven by a uniformed chauffeur.

The most popular vehicles used includes Beaufords, Daimlers, Jaguars and a whole host of other stylish cars from some truly golden eras in automotive history.

Find out more about the company here: classic-wedding-cars.co.uk

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THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

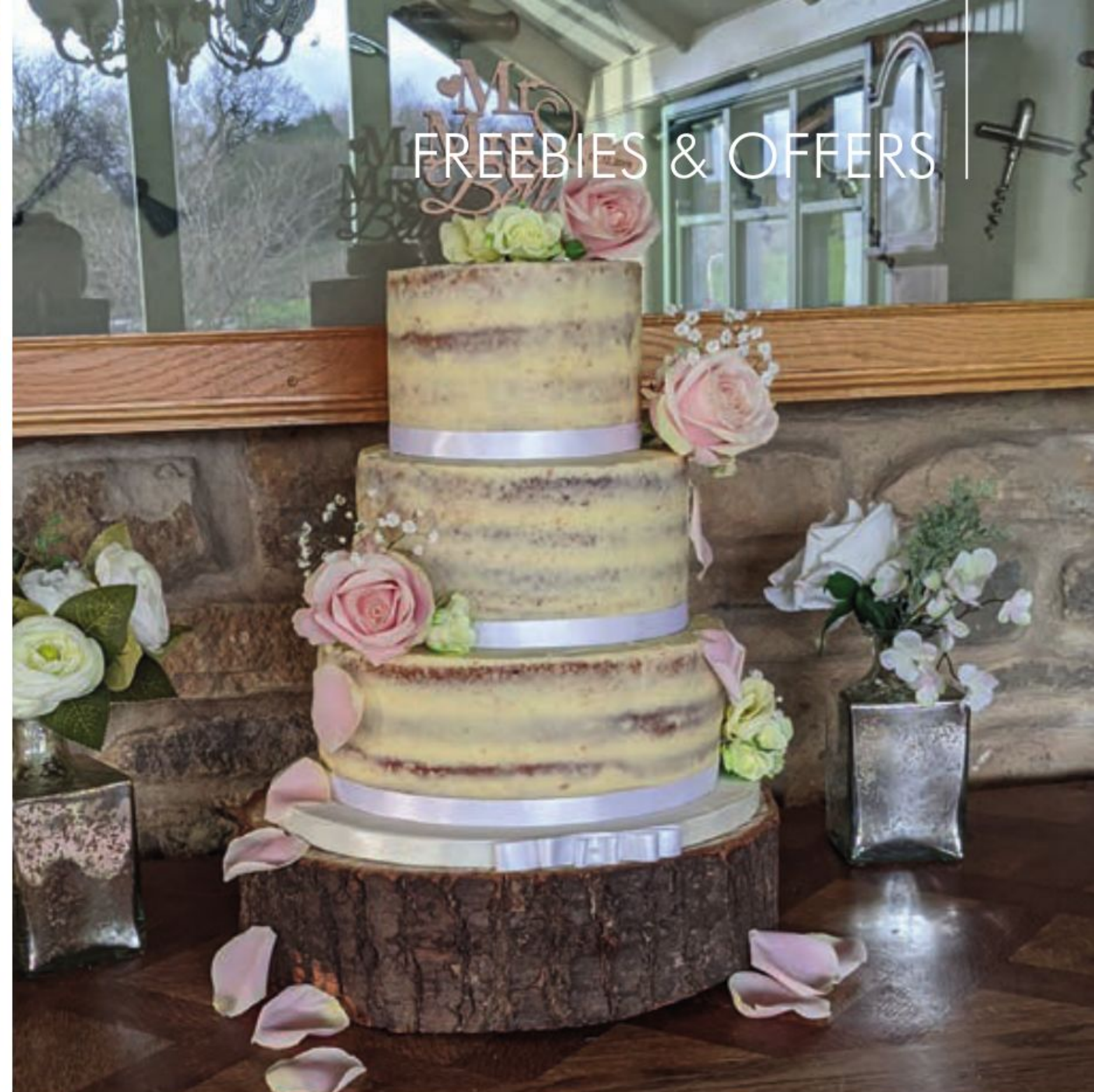
Add a touch of elegance to your big day by hiring a live musician to create a fabulous atmosphere, from a romantic processional song to an upbeat celebratory recessional song. Angela Hall Wedding Pianist is an experienced pianist who's available for bookings throughout the North East. Personalise the special day with a customised programme of music, whatever your musical taste – from classical to pop and everything in between.

The company's pleased to offer a 10 per cent discount on any wedding packages when couples quote 'Your North East Wedding'. All packages range from £150 for a ceremony or drinks reception, through to the full day at £350, with a range of options in between. Please note, this offer's available until the 7th of May 2020.

For more information contact angelahallweddingpianist@simdif.com

Freebies & OFFERS

Take advantage of these gorgeous giveaways and fab offers



TIERS OF JOY

Based in Newcastle upon Tyne, Infinity Cakes provides fresh wedding cakes and cupcakes with virtually no design off limit and a full range of flavours for both the cake and buttercream available. There's even the possibility of personalised flavours for all tastes and dietary restrictions.

The company's offering 10 per cent off wedding orders or couples can receive 24 free cupcakes – this must be placed and the deposit paid by the 7th of May 2020.

Consultations are accessible now at a cost of only £20 and can be redeemed against an order if the booking is confirmed.

For more information visit: infinitycakes.co.uk



STAY IN *luxury*

De Vere Hotels is a group of exquisite properties throughout the UK offering an unforgettable experience for even the most discerning of traveller.

From the finest London venues like the lavish De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms, to historic 18th-century mansion houses such as De Vere Beaumont Estate, just south of Windsor, there's ample choices no matter your preference; be it a pre-wedding break with your loved one, or a group get-together to celebrate your nuptials, there's a host of properties with facilities



such as spas and golf courses to enjoy a relaxing stay.

County Wedding Magazines has teamed up with De Vere Hotels to offer our chosen winner an overnight stay with breakfast at any De Vere hotel in the UK. What's more, for those unlucky in winning this lovely prize, our CWM readers can save 10% when you book direct with De Vere by joining its loyalty scheme, Applause, devere.co.uk/applause/

For your chance to win, enter via our websites. Terms and conditions apply.

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Closing date is 5th June, 2020, unless stated otherwise.

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GOING *local*

LOCAL VENUES

Where to say 'I do' in Tyneside



davidwestphotography.co.uk

NORTHSIDE FARM

07901 119 327 | northsidefarm.co.uk

Northside Farm is an exclusive-use venue nestled in the heart of the Northumbrian countryside comprising a converted barn, a gin gang ceremony room surrounded by 70 acres of land, lakes and woodland. The luxurious glamping site has 10 timber glamping pods each with a firepit, four whimsical fairytale-style cottages, fully functioning luxury amenities and pitches for an additional tent or wigwam.

The barn has a fully licensed wooden bar area adjoining to the floor-to-ceiling glass-fronted main reception and ceremony room with flagstone flooring, exposed beams and brick walls. The venue is fully heated and is charming as it stands with its quirky touches of décor or can be a great canvas to dress it as desired.

Outside, couples can discover manicured lawns used for the drinks reception in the summer or garden games, and a part-covered comfortable courtyard at the rear with a firepit for toasting marshmallows or having a barbecue buffet. There's even room for marquees if requested, additional camping accommodation and Northside Farm offers a no restriction policy (as long as it is legal) for activities such as fireworks.

Ceremonies can take place outside on the lawn, inside the barn or in the circular gin gang, while the reception is located in the barn with a capacity for 150 seated guests and opens up for more for an evening reception. It has a fully licensed bar to the side and an outside part-covered courtyard with a comfortable seating area.

The new addition of the four fairytale cottages (which sleep two), offers that extra magic to a perfect day. The children's park includes a zip wire and the grounds are animal and wheelchair friendly.

Northside Farm offers exclusive use for up to three nights to give couples a more relaxed experience and more time to spend with friends and family.



davidwestphotography.co.uk



dianamakepeacephotography.com



paulnelsonphotography.co.uk



sarahjaneethan.co.uk

LIFE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

01912 438 216 | meetingsandevents.life.org.uk

Located only two minutes' walk from Newcastle central station in the heart of the city centre, Life Meetings and Events is perfectly situated for all guests, travelling locally or from afar, and just a hop and a skip away from the magnificent Newcastle Gateshead quayside. With its impressive curved outline and vibrant coloured walls, the venue promises to be a memorable backdrop to any day – and perfect for exceptional photographs!

Couples will receive access to the exhibitions in the Life Science Centre for special photo opportunities. In the past, couples have posed with dinosaurs, enormous floating moons and *Doctor Who* characters – the list is endless!

This modern and quirky space is expected from a science centre. The planetarium is a breathtaking setting for a ceremony with a 360-degree digital domed ceiling with plush velvet reclining seats and a variety of set images to choose from, whether it be the Northern Lights, a sunny beach or Hadrian's Wall with 70 guests to witness this moment.

Another ceremony space is the Blaydon and Gibbs Suite, which can provide partners the privacy desired to enjoy their special day with 40 nearest and dearest. Full blackout capacity and controllable lighting ensure the right atmosphere will be created. Or why not opt for the Scotswood Suite? Ideal for larger ceremonies of up to 200, it benefits from being able to split into two smaller rooms. Couples can hold their entire wedding day in the Scotswood Suite including the evening reception. The company's wedding packages for receptions include a DJ, drinks reception and food. When nearlyweds book the property, they'll be offered a free menu tasting session before the wedding and guarantee that the wedding will be the only one that day.



NEWCASTLE GATESHEAD MARRIOTT HOTEL METROCENTRE

01914 932 233 | memoriesmademarriott.co.uk/newcastlemetrocentre/weddings

It's the day couples have dreamed of and at the Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel MetroCentre, every moment is unforgettable. Any type of wedding can be accommodated for such as civil ceremonies, partnerships and vow renewals, from small intimate gatherings to large extravagant receptions for family and friends. Throughout this hotel, there are multiple photographic opportunities including the secret garden which is every photographer's dream.

This venue creates an idyllic backdrop to exchange vows and the nearlyweds every wish will be handled by the personal wedding team called Memory Makers. This team are on hand to meticulously plan and bring any wedding dreams to life – they're even experts at arranging décor and catering for Asian weddings.

The European Suite is a flexible event space as it can be subdivided into separate rooms catering to the size of a celebration from 50 up to 250. Enjoy arrival drinks in the foyer area with private bar before dancing the night away on the amazing large dancefloor.

For a more intimate occasion the London suite provides the ideal space hosting from 15 up to 40 guests with its own private bar, and this space can be subdivided into two smaller rooms to suit any requirements.

Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel MetroCentre has customisable packages designed and tailored for any wedding. Looking for an experience to wow guests? The inspirational Wish List transforms the event from the ordinary to the extraordinary. Ask the Memory Makers about including a donutwall, bubbly bar or flowerwall. With an on-site spa, beauty treatments and hairdressers, couples can prepare for the special day all within the comforts of the hotel.

Newlyweds-to-be will receive a free menu tasting and complimentary room on the wedding day.

Dance TOAST LOVE



CELEBRATE YOUR SPECIAL DAY AT THE NEWCASTLE GATESHEAD MARRIOTT HOTEL METROCENTRE

It's the day you've been dreaming of. Make every moment unforgettable with the perfect backdrop, delicious handcrafted food and your every wish meticulously coordinated by your personal wedding team.

Bespoke wedding packages from £32pp.

At Newcastle Gateshead Marriott Hotel MetroCentre we don't just host events, we make memories.

MemoriesMadeMarriott.co.uk/NewcastleMetroCentre



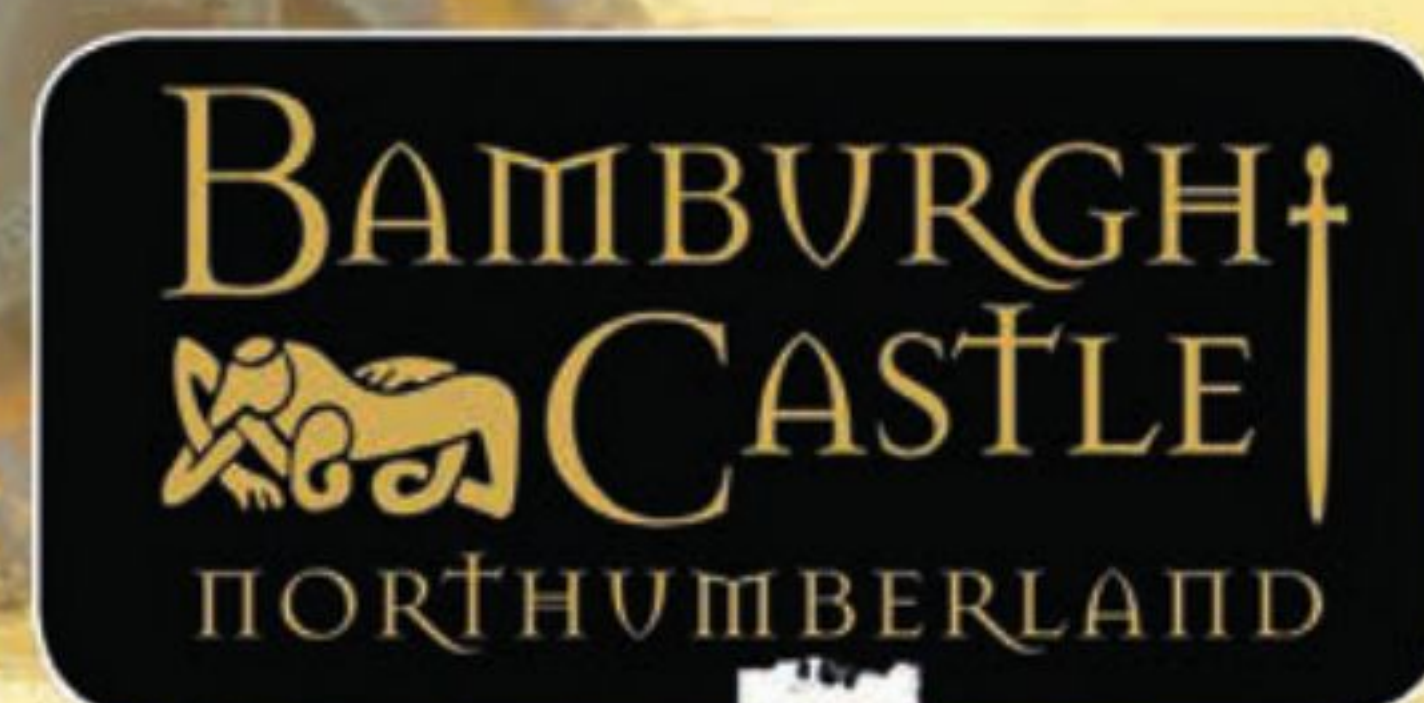
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newcastlemetrocentre.events@marriotthotels.co.uk
Marconi Way, MetroCentre, Gateshead, Newcastle NE11 9XF


MARRIOTT
NEWCASTLE GATESHEAD
METROCENTRE

forever [yours]

This magnificent castle stands proudly on a rocky outcrop with breathtaking views out across the beaches to The Farne Islands and Lindisfarne in the distance.

With a history going back 10,000 years it provides a prestigious venue in which to celebrate a lifelong commitment.



Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland NE69 7DF Tel 01668 214208 Email weddings@bamburghcastle.com www.bamburghcastle.com

Thinking about getting married, forming a civil partnership, renewing your vows or having a naming ceremony for your children? Then look no further than picturesque Northumberland as the perfect setting for your special day!

Northumberland boasts an extensive selection of licensed venues for your civil ceremony. Whether you're looking for an idyllic castle on the spectacular coastline or a stately home in the tranquility of the countryside... Northumberland really does have it all.

Not only does Northumberland have over 70 licensed venues, we also have some fantastic Register Offices and Council owned venues. Including; the historic Hexham House with its luxury self-catering holiday apartments, the newly refurbished Northumberland Hall which is available for ceremonies and receptions and the impressive Town Hall of Morpeth which can hold up to 80 guests.

Visit our website to view all of our venues and find out about upcoming wedding fayres in the area.



Here at Northumberland Registration Service, we pride ourselves on delivering a unique and personal service to every couple who chooses our stunning County for their special day.



NORTHUMBERLAND REGISTRATION SERVICE

01665 602870 | alnwickreg@northumberland.gov.uk | mynorthumberlandwedding.co.uk

 Northumberland
County Council



THE PARLOUR AT BLAGDON

01670 789 935 | theparlouratblagdon.co.uk

The Parlour at Blagdon is a beautiful Grade II listed converted smithy, which features stonewalls, stunning wooden beams and shabby chic décor. This secluded oasis has beautiful landscaped gardens and patio area to enjoy a drinks reception along with the thousands of fairy lights making the evening part of the day, perfect for photo opportunities.

Ceremonies take place in two areas at this venue, inside the Poppies Room or in the beautiful gardens and patio area. Both locations can hold a maximum of 90 guests. For the reception, the Willow Room holds a maximum of 90 guests, with its minimalist-style, which is perfect for any colour or wedding theme.

All lovebirds are offered the chance to come for a free menu tasting session where they can also chat with the events team to see which suits their taste.



leegibbinsphotography.com

GRAND HOTEL, TYNEMOUTH

01912 936 666 | grandhoteltynemouth.co.uk

Dowsed in history and style, the award-winning Grand Hotel was built in 1872 as a summer residence for the Duchess of Northumberland. Situated on a clifftop, the hotel's traditionally Victorian with a modern twist with three private function suites, three elegant bridal suites, and photographic opportunities.

The venue's perfectly situated overlooking one of the most picturesque locations in the North, Longsands Beach and Tynemouth Priory plus St. Marys Lighthouse are all a short distance from the hotel.

The rooftop terrace is a hidden gem at the hotel, the secret area is a beautiful outdoor space where guests can enjoy their drinks whilst taking in the sea view.

The Pearl Room offers an intimate and romantic setting for a ceremony for up to 100 guests, the grand fireplace makes the perfect backdrop for couples to say their 'I dos' in front of.

For those with a larger guest list, the Orchid Suite is beautiful and this function suite can accommodate up to 140 guests for a ceremony and has panoramic views of the Northumberland coastline and high Victorian ceilings. Enjoy the wedding breakfast whilst admiring the view with 150 guests.

For those who wish to have a more intimate wedding breakfast, the Pearl Room can accommodate up to 60 guests. Or why not opt for The Grand Chambers? Which is where the party starts! As an alternative option for the evening reception, this suite can accommodate up to 200 guests.

The venue has many striking features such as the prestigious Victorian imposing staircase with magnificent windows. There's also three expertly renovated bridal suites, each one consists of a jacuzzi bathtub and views overlooking Longsands Beach. Friends and family even receive a booking discount on their accommodation. A complimentary wedding taster is offered to the couple who choose the wedding breakfast package, cooked by the executive chef.

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THE BOWES MUSEUM

01833 690 606 | bowesmuseum.org.uk

The Bowes Museum is a hidden treasure in the heart of Teesdale. The Grade I listed French chateau-style building was built from local stone, which opened to the public back in 1892 and now holds all sorts of weddings in any season from traditional to quirky, formal and informal.

Set in acres of parkland with Grade II listed gardens, the museum offers plenty of stunning photo opportunities especially from the terrace which leads to a formal parterre garden below. There's even a selection of beautiful, elegant and opulent rooms with stunning panoramic views and an inspiring world-class collection of art. A stone entrance hall and sweeping staircase leads guests to

the ceremony spaces. The Atmospheric Music Room can hold a maximum capacity of 64 guests with a collection of musical instruments and paintings while the Jubilee Room can fit 100 people with panoramic views. Or why not opt for the magnificent 19th-century Picture Gallery for 200 partygoers? Receptions at this venue take place in the Entrance Hall and Café Bowes with a maximum of 120 guests.

The company's wedding coordinators understand that it's an honour and a pleasure to host someone's wedding, which is why there's only one wedding per day. When couples book this venue for the special day, they'll receive a complimentary admission for brides and grooms from the date of booking all the way until their first wedding anniversary.



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BROOKWOOD OUTDOORS

07930 583 247 | [@brookwoodoutdoorsevents](https://www.brookwoodoutdoorsevents.co.uk)

Located on a private farm surrounded by woodland and fields, Brookwood Outdoors is an exclusive, idyllic and spacious venue for any couples' big day. This exclusive premises allows for an outdoor fairytale-themed wedding with twinkle lights in the trees, fires with marshmallows and games outside.

The magical woodland is a beautiful place to exchange vows with 100 loved ones while the adjacent fields are perfect for a marquee and offer stunning views of the rolling countryside.

The bride and groom can have a wine and food tasting prior to the event. Please note, the venue doesn't have a ceremony licence yet.



WHITWORTH HALL HOTEL & DEER PARK

01388 811 772 | whitworthhall.co.uk

Nestled in the heart of the Durham countryside within its own deer park near the town of Spennymoor, sits Whitworth Hall Hotel.

The venue's surrounded by lush greenery with well-established trees while the front of the hall has a small terrace looking out across the grounds. The rear of the hall boasts a gorgeous courtyard perfect for a drink's reception and wedding photos.

This Grade II listed building has a beautiful interior which still maintains most of its original features including open fires, spacious receptions rooms, sweeping oak staircase and painted ceilings – perfect for any wedding day.

Whitworth Parish Church is located within the estate and offers

a warm and romantic atmosphere in which to exchange vows surrounded by friends and family. Not many venues can claim to have a gorgeous 12th-century church within the grounds, which makes Whitworth Hall Hotel & Deer Park truly special.

Afterwards, guests will make a short picturesque walk to the main hall where the Duncombe Suite is able to accommodate up to 80 guests for a wedding breakfast or civil ceremony if preferred.

In the evening, the capacity increases to 120 loved ones for the reception and the celebrations can begin. With its high-ceilings, large fireplace and extensive windows looking out over the deer park, this bright and spacious room also allows easy access to the extensive grounds and adjoining bar.

Couples are offered complimentary accommodation on their wedding night when they book this venue.

HULNE ABBEY

01665 511 086 | alnwickcastle.com

Nestled on a hillside in the private parklands of the Duke of Northumberland, Hulne Abbey is an idyllic venue with stone arches, hidden alcoves and concealing rustic ruinous walls dotted with wildflowers and foliage.

Surrounded by Medieval walls and founded in the 13th-century as a Carmelite monastery, the outdoor venue can transform into a modern space for any type of wedding. Ceremonies and receptions take place in the semi-ruined monastery for 500 guests and please note a marquee or tipi is required.

The layout of Hulne Abbey is flexible, allowing celebrations to be as intimate or extensive as desired and lovebirds can have every element of their day tailored perfectly to them.





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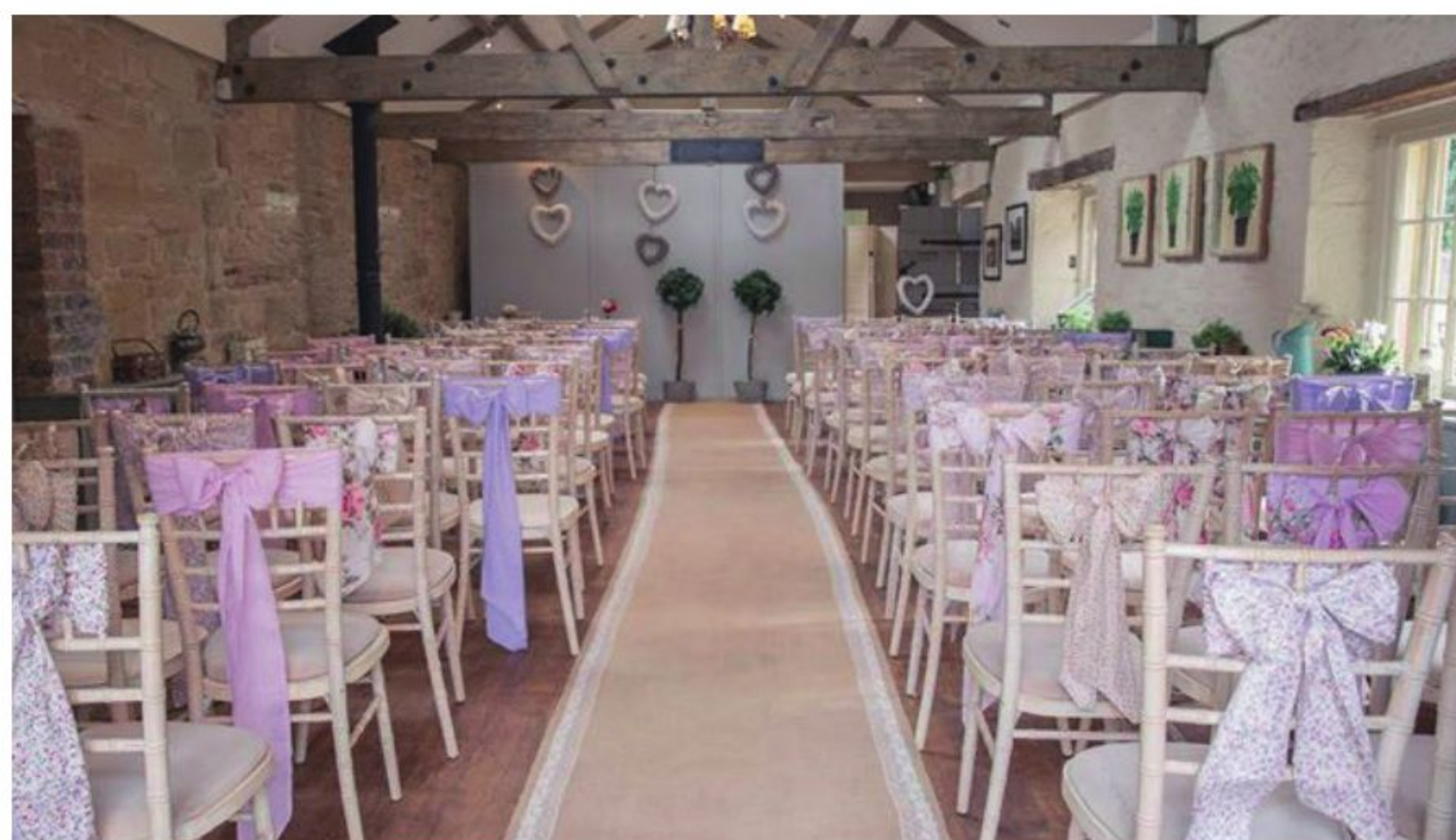
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ACKLAM HALL

01642 822 000 | acklamhall.co.uk

With more than 300 years of character and charm, Acklam Hall is a beautifully restored wedding venue which exudes glamour and luxury with modern interiors that keep that classic aesthetic beauty.

From the private-use garden to the pond and the avenue of trees leading up to the grounds, there's plenty of nature surrounding the historic building. Two of the main features of this hall are the grand staircase with original carvings and the ornate ceilings that adorn rooms throughout venue.

Ceremonies take place in multiple spaces in the building including

a small intimate room called The Boudoir, ideal for up to 12 loved ones. Or, why not opt for The Parlour, which is a lovely bright room for ceremonies up to 35 guests? The largest room to say 'I do' is The Drawing Room with the capacity of 120 attendees, this incredible space is also perfect for an evening reception surrounded by 140 nearest and dearest.

When couples book Acklam Hall, they'll receive a complimentary wedding tasting for the special day.



carlawhittingham.co.uk



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LANGLEY CASTLE

01434 688 888 | langleycastle.co.uk

Langley Castle is the ultimate English wedding venue, which delivers a wow factor as the castle comes into view from the driveway. Couples can choose the wedding they desire, ranging from fairy-tale, grand, bespoke or the increasingly popular *Game of Thrones*-themed wedding. The exclusive-use venue's 14th-century magnificence is unsurpassed with authentic features, four-poster beds, dramatic leaded and drape-framed drawing room windows, and amazing battlements offering Rapunzel-style photography options in a tower and first-kiss moments set against a backdrop of sky and ancient castle stone.

Say 'I do' in The Josephine Restaurant, which is full of rich décor, gilded paintings and burgundy velvet hues. This space can accommodate 40 to 120 guests for an ambience-filled ceremony, whilst a more intimate option is the stunning drawing room, with its chandeliers and amazing feature window for up to 40 people.

For the reception, the pair can choose the contemporary Pavilion (capacity 30), with views of woodland, wildlife and castle walls, or the Stuart Suite that features a bar, dancefloor and access to the battlements for dramatic wedding photography.

If couples fall in love with the venue, a free tasting session for the bride and groom is offered as well as a complimentary bridal suite (if all castle rooms are taken). The exclusive-use option allows the couple to charge out rooms to chosen guests if they wish, reducing the cost for the happy couple.



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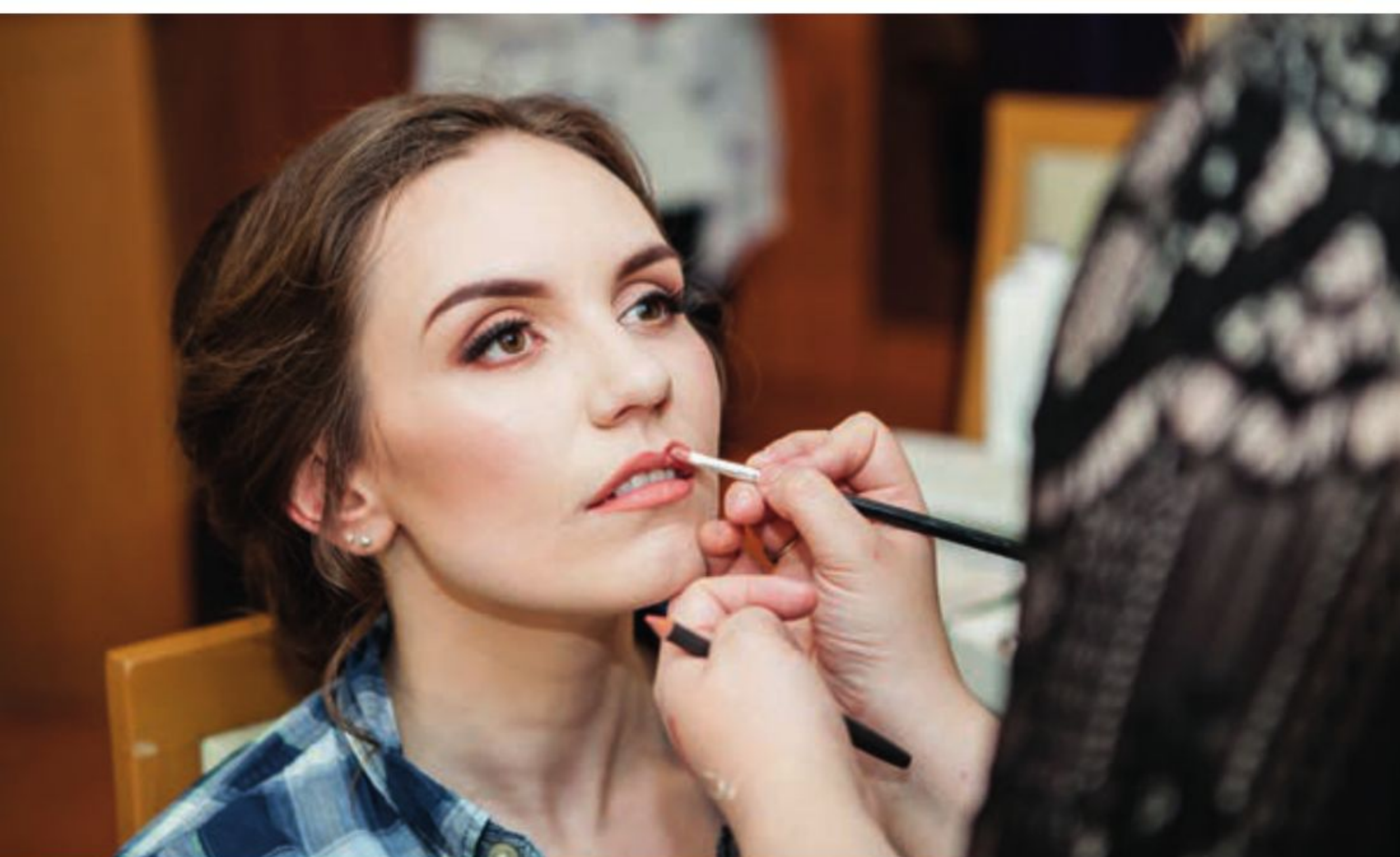


MACDONALD
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CHECK *Mate*

Laura and Matthew were surrounded by loved ones on their beautiful day
Images courtesy of Erika Tanith Photography





Laura and Matthew's paths first crossed during the last year of University after they picked the same modules while studying history. The pair were instantly drawn to each other from day one. Laura says, "I was instantly attracted to Matt's amazing sense of humour and gorgeous dark eyes; he's outgoing, friendly and ambitious – he's the perfect man for me." For Matthew, it was Laura's beautiful smile that caught his attention.

From that moment, the pair started their journey together facing life side by side. On the 29th September 2018, Matthew planned a trip to York where he asked Laura to marry him during a romantic walk. Laura recalls the moment, saying: "Matt isn't great at keeping secrets, I was convinced I would know if he was going to propose as I regularly told my friends and family. But I have to be honest and say that he outfoxed me and managed to organise the ring and get me to York without me having a clue of his intentions."

SETTING THE SCENE

The lovebirds fell in love with Laing Art Gallery, which provided the perfect backdrop for their special day. Wanting a wow factor setting, there was no disappointment with the staircase, stained glass and incredible artwork. Laura says: "We knew as soon as we viewed Laing Art Gallery that it was the right one. Many of our guests had never visited Newcastle before and we wanted to give them superb views of the city from the top floor of the building." She adds: "We also loved how much we were able to personalise the venue – it gave us a blank canvas to decorate it however we desired."

The decorative touches throughout were perfect and highlighted the theme of board games. For favours, chocolate dice and poker chips were given to all the guests to enjoy and each table was allocated a game. Laura says: "We cut down the boards and stuck things onto them to make it look as though the game was being played, such as dice, playing pieces and cards."

Scrabble tiles were used as table names, which created a lovely touch and a vase of artificial flowers were used for the centrepiece.

A personalised game was created by their brother-in-law which documented major milestones through the pair's relationship.

The flowers on the special day were beautiful and the bride wanted a spectacular cascade-shaped bouquet. Laura says: "I felt that because my dress was plain, I could choose some flowers that would take centre stage. We opted for a mixture of purple shades and lots of different types of blooms, which reflected in the buttonholes and corsages too."

The couple picked a two-tiered sponge cake with white





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icing that tasted delicious. They'd seen the company's incredible work on social media and knew the cake would be exactly what they wanted.

Talking about their transport, Laura said: "Matt and I had originally decided we weren't going to have a wedding car to save money but my lovely parents persuaded me otherwise and thank goodness we did – it made for lovely photos and gave us a short amount of time alone immediately after the ceremony.

"We put on a coach for guests to take them from the ceremony to the evening venue."

All the guests enjoyed an amazing three-course meal at the SIX restaurants at the Baltic. Many of the guests commented to the couple saying it was 'the best wedding food they had ever had'.

LOOKING THE PART

The bride wore an Enzonai gown called *Janine*, which was mostly plain with detailing around the shoulder and beautiful buttons on the back. Laura says: "The very talented owner of the shop, Heather, actually selected this dress for me and I knew straight away that it was the right one. I felt it was very flattering and a timeless design." The groom decided on a grey waistcoat with purple tie and pocket square to match the bridesmaids' dresses.

TIME TO CELEBRATE

There was an amazing DJ who kept everyone on their feet to dance the night away – he created a mash-up for their first dance and was extremely accommodating. The couple also opted to have a photo booth.

On the day, Laura felt extremely nervous. She says: "I've never felt like this in my entire life! My dad had to deal with my wobbly legs and shaking hands in the wedding car. But the minute I got to the top of the aisle and saw Matt, it melted away."

The day was perfect and filled with so many incredible moments. Laura recalls: "My dad wrote a poem about me growing up and meeting Matt, which was beautiful and hilarious! Our first dance was one of my favourite parts. We had a mash-up of Ellie Goulding *How Long Will I Love You* and House of Pain *Jump Around*."

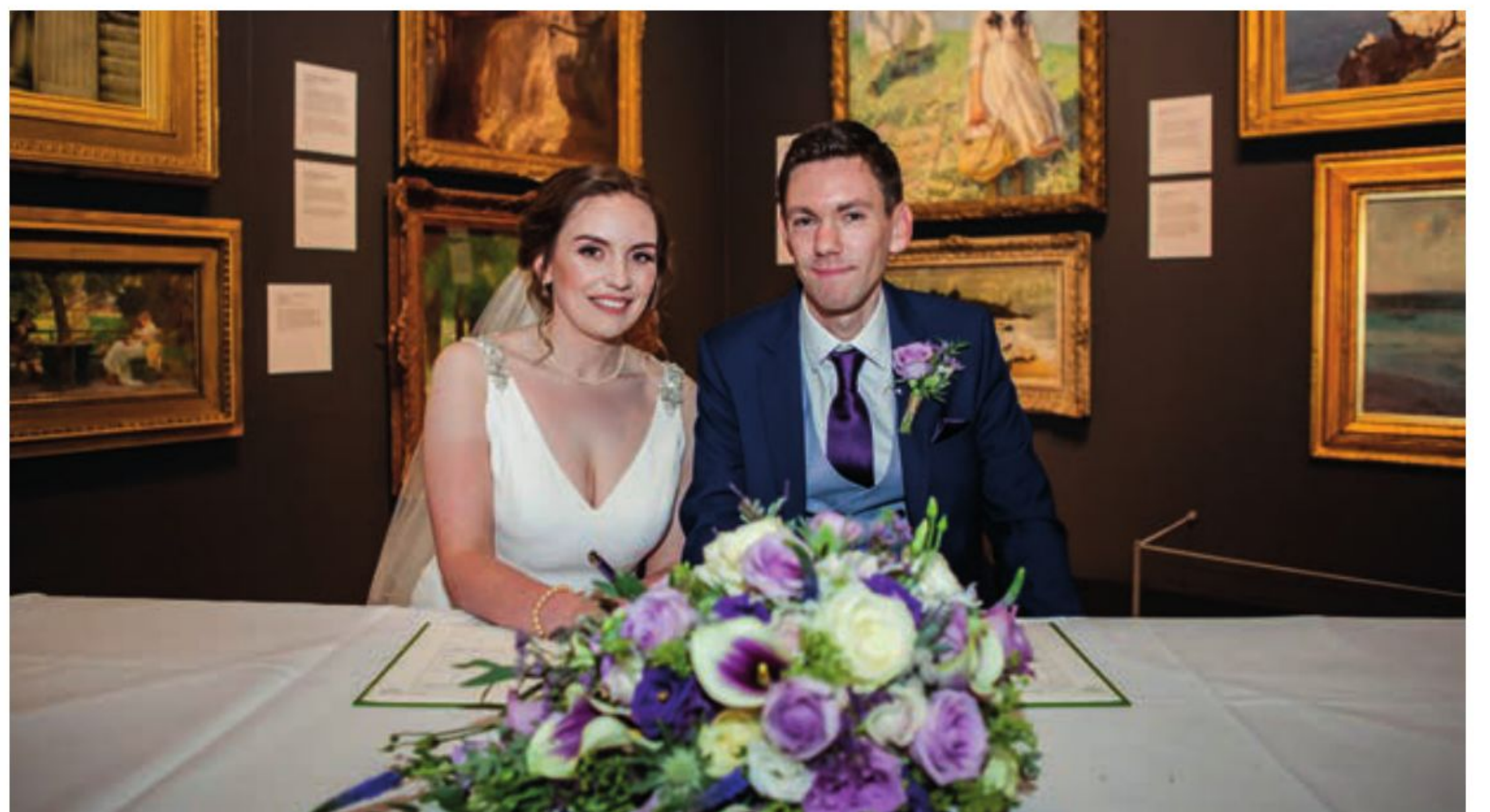
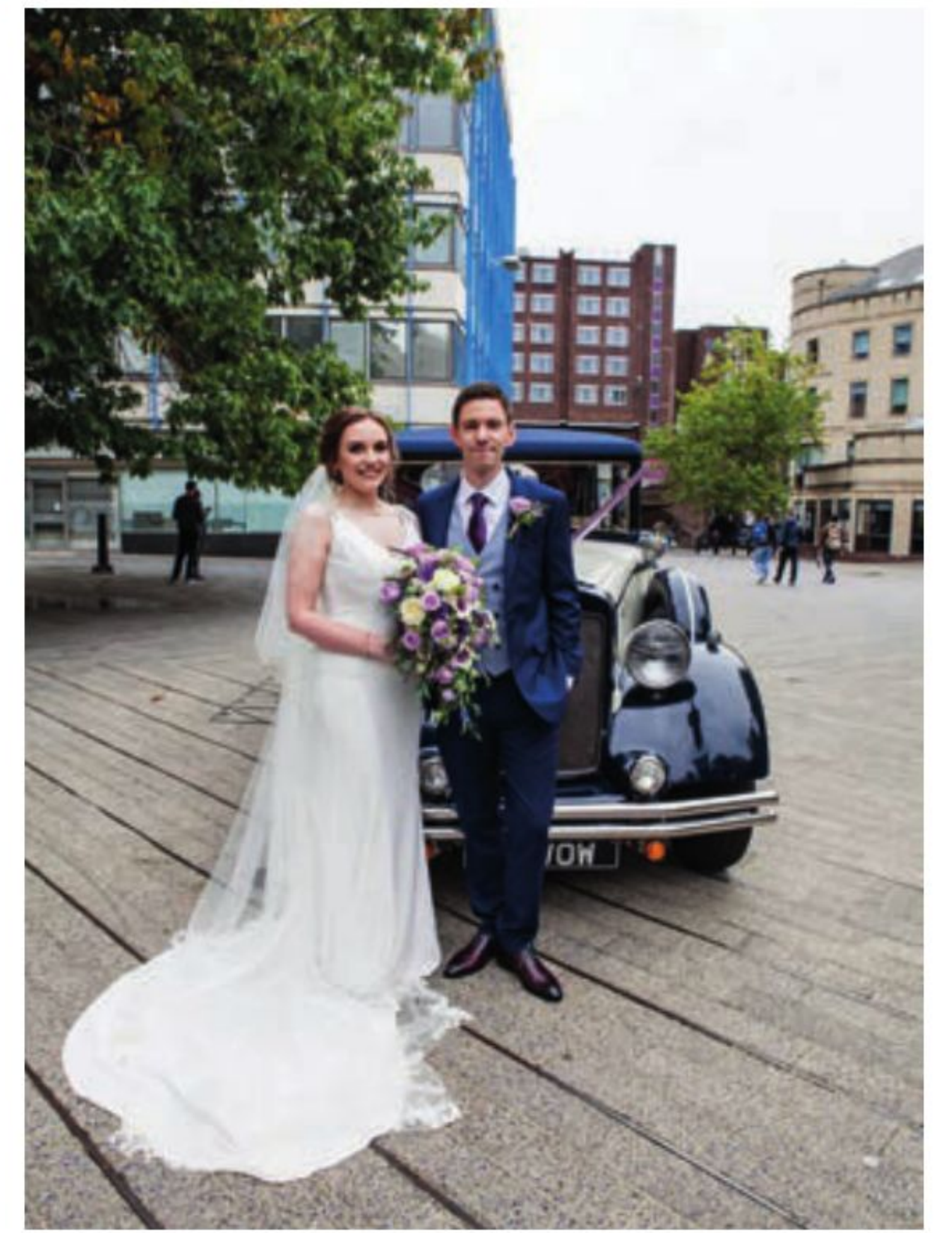
The dancefloor was full of friends and family, even the men were all together singing Spice Girls and a conga line was formed.

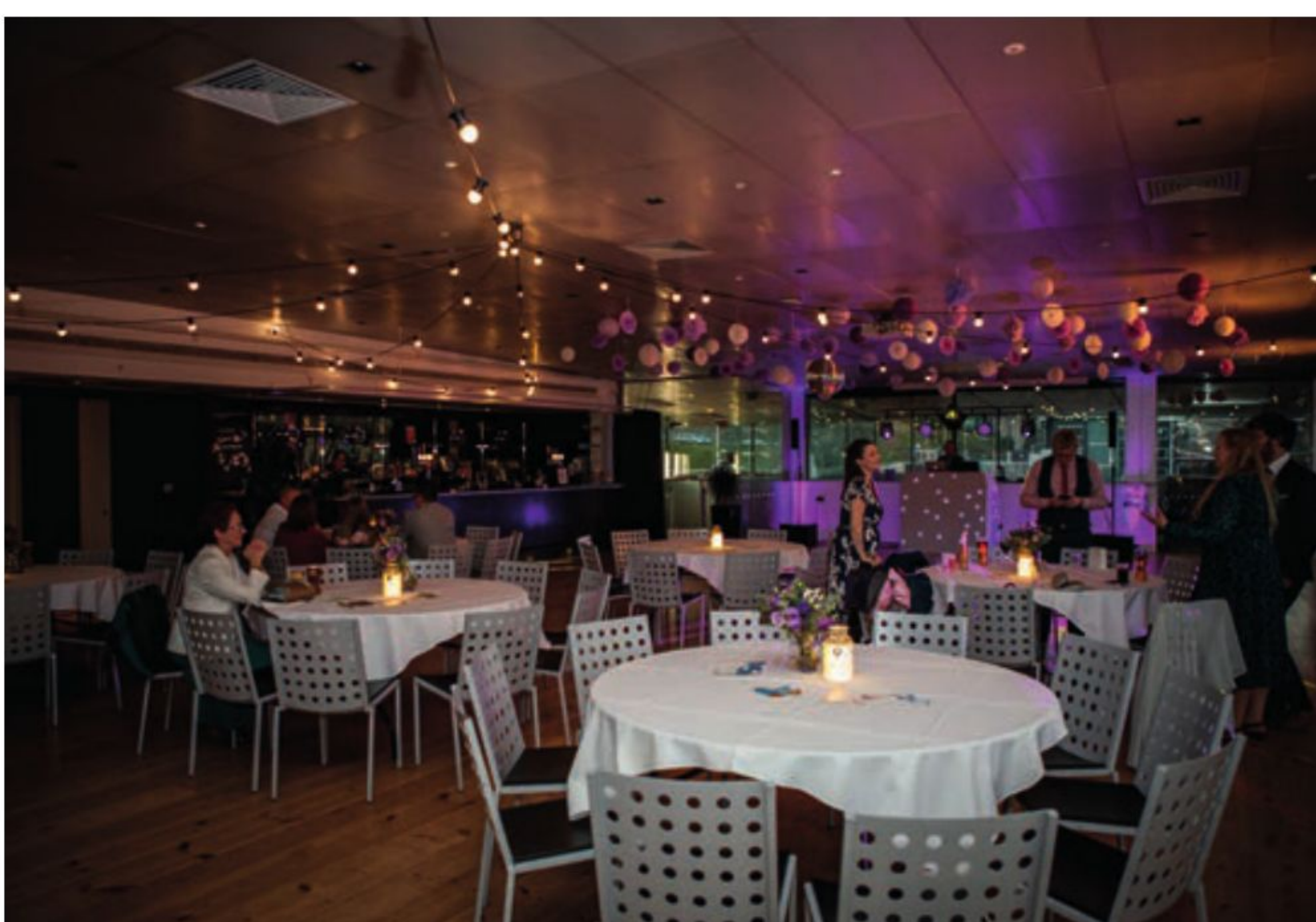
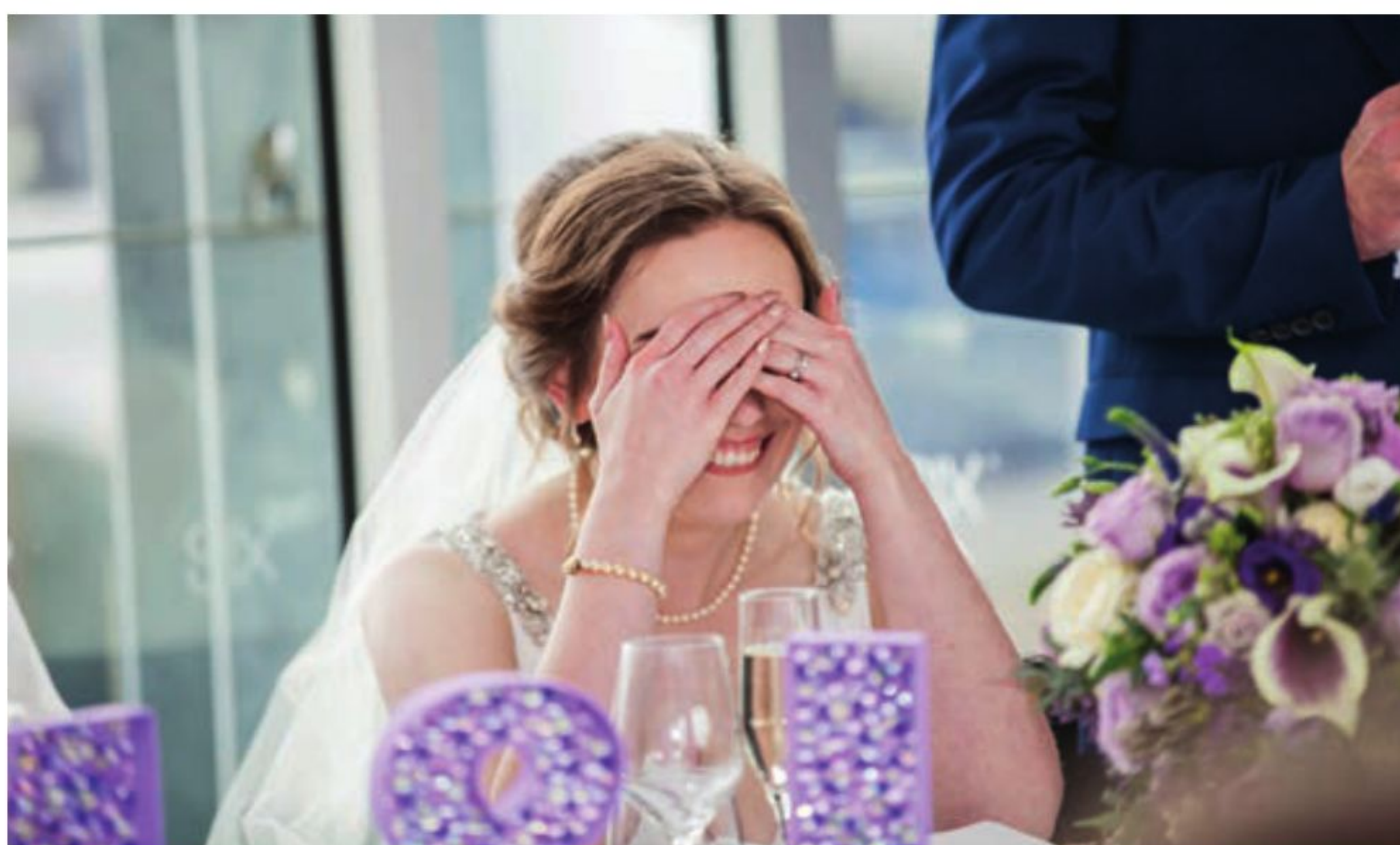
Laura comments on two people that made their day extra special, she says: "Our DJ sent us a video and a Facebook album of images from the night. It was a surprise, but so enormously appreciated." She adds: "Joey, our best man was incredible from start to finish, every detail was covered, and he was so supportive."

HONEYMOON

After their magical day, the pair enjoyed a mini-break in the Lake District where they stayed in a cottage and enjoyed discovering the local area. It was the perfect location to have some downtime together as newlyweds.

The couple shares their top tip while planning saying: "Don't let the wedding consume everything – still set time aside for date nights, meeting with friends and just chilling out. It's really easy to let it take over!"





LAURA AND MATTHEW'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue, laingartgallery.org.uk, baltic.art | **Photographer**, erikatanithphotography.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, aliceelizabeth.co.uk | **Hair**, veryyouhair.co.uk | **Make-up**, kirstenbmakeupartist.com | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, dorothyperkins.com | **Groom's suit**, burton.co.uk | **Cake**, mrsbeebakes.co.uk | **Flowers**, moiraj.co.uk | **Transport**, brooklandsweddingcars.com | **Entertainment**, icon-entertainments.co.uk | **Cake topper**, [@cannylittlecaketoppers](https://www.instagram.com/cannylittlecaketoppers) | **Videographer**, Mark Dowie

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A day to remember

Catherine and Dave's
Mediterranean-style wedding
was held at Le Petit Château
Images courtesy of Joss Guest Photography

Catherine and Dave met at work. According to Catherine, "I always looked forward to seeing Dave and loved his cheeky charm and sense of humour. I remember he had to work away for a few months – I missed him so much, which made me realise it was more than just a friendship." As soon as they met Dave knew Catherine was the one. So, one day in Rome when the sun was setting, Dave asked Catherine to pose for a photo, then dropped to his knee and popped the question. Catherine says: "He'd already asked my dad for my hand in marriage. It then made sense as to why he'd seemed so quiet and anxious during the flight there – he had the ring in his pocket the whole time. The months of planning and effort paid off and, of course, I said yes!"

Here Catherine shares details from their big day...



As we'd fallen in love with Italy, the big plan was to get married there but after lots of deliberation, we agreed it wouldn't be realistic for some of our guests to travel. We still loved the idea of a Mediterranean-style wedding and discovered Le Petit Château, which is a hidden gem in the heart of Northumberland.



For centrepieces we wanted to bring the outdoors inside! Therefore Dave made artificial blossom trees that each stood as a feature on the tables during the day and were then used to decorate the floor space for the evening reception.



For the cake, Dave picked a Harry Potter design, which was fun but still very elegant with grey, white and gold metallic foil. We had three flavours all together including passionfruit, lemon and raspberry and white chocolate – it was not only impressive to look at but tasted delicious too!



In order to create a loose bouquet, I chose garden roses, hydrangea and peonies with lots of foliage and herbs for texture and scent.



I made a simple design on Kraft card for our place names with hand-written calligraphy dressed with a fresh sprig of rosemary. The tables were all named after Italian destinations we've visited together with a vintage postcard on mini-easels.



I wore Rachel Simpson shoes that were extremely comfortable and added metallic rosebuds for a special touch that matched the dress perfectly.



The groomsmen wore the same suit but with a darker blue tie and pocket square.



I loved the illuminated initial letters and heart.



I wore an off-the-shoulder A-line gown called Nashville by Ian Stuart in dark ivory, which was complemented by a beautiful lace cathedral-length veil. The dress was simple but still had the wow factor with an elegant cut and luxurious fabric.



Dave wore a three-piece Mark Darcy suit, which was light tweed with a blue check print. He also wore a light blue paisley tie with a metallic thread and matching pocket square.



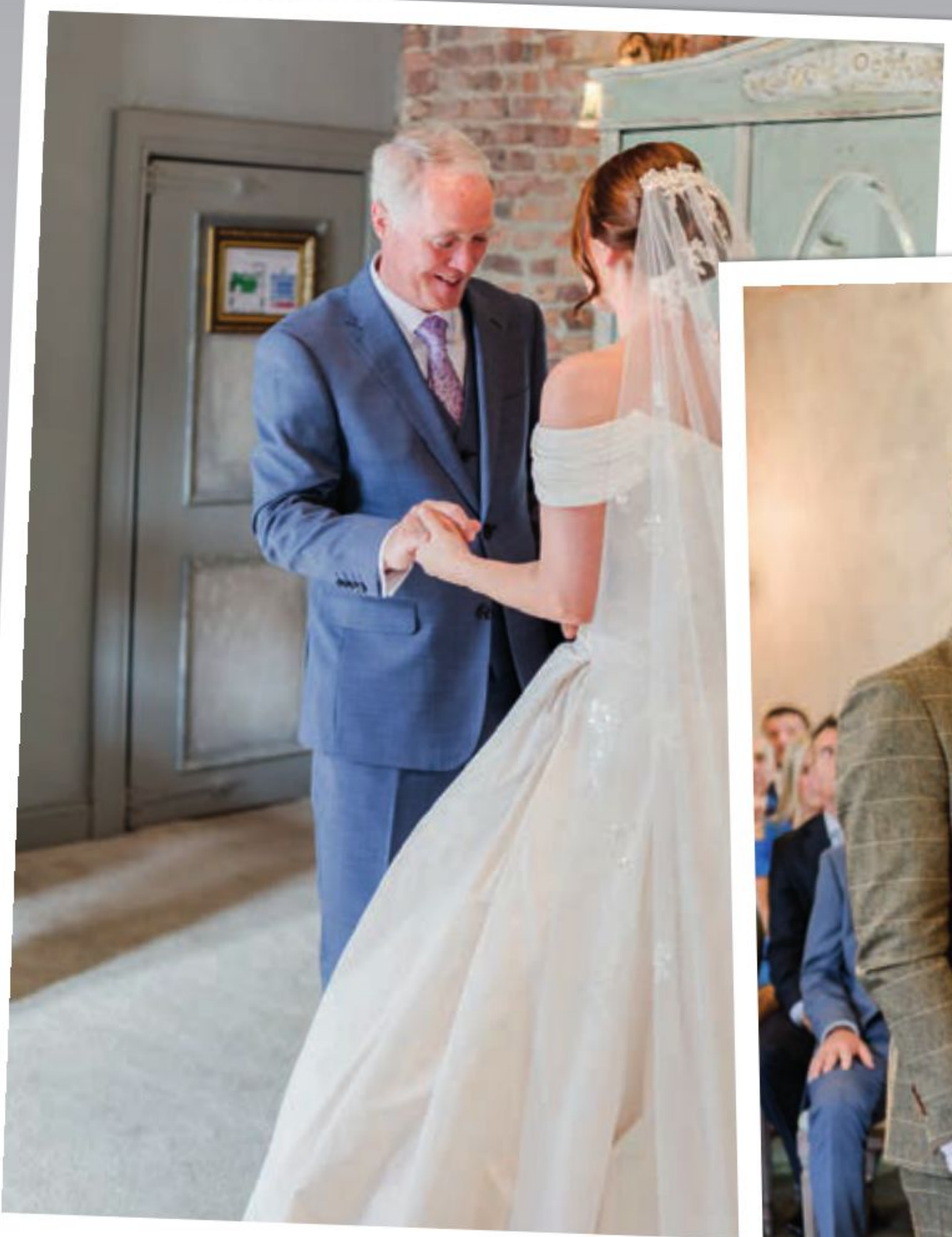
I loved my dad walking me down the aisle – I was squeezing his arm tight as I was so nervous. Seeing Dave's reaction was just amazing.



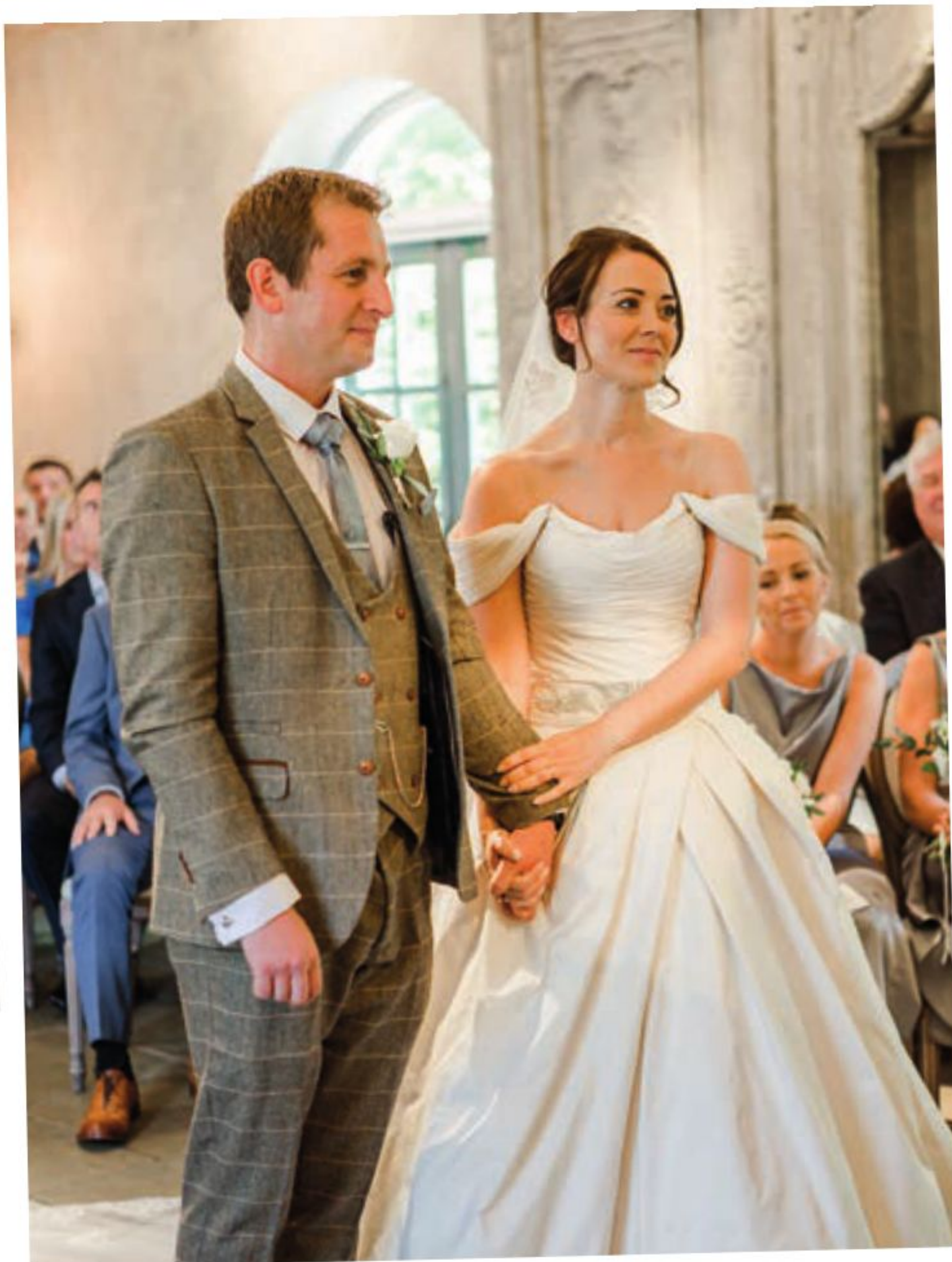
A harpist played throughout the ceremony, as the guests took their seats, and as I walked down the aisle. She then played outside to entertain the guests during the drinks reception, which created a lovely atmosphere – so many of the guests commented on this special touch.



The adult bridesmaids wore grey satin midi-dresses with a lace cowl back from Reiss. The length suited their petite height and figures perfectly – I wanted them to have a dress they could wear again. The junior bridesmaid wore a sage-green chiffon maxi-dress and the flowergirl had an ivory and white chiffon gown.



A special moment was when my dad saw me in my dress for the first time and we spent lovely moments together before the ceremony.



On the day Dave felt excited and nervous because after 18 months of planning, our day had finally arrived and he wanted it to go as planned.



We also had a caricaturist to entertain the guests during the drinks reception – guests queued to be next in line for their sketch.



The photographer and videographer made our day extra special, they complemented each other perfectly and captured not only our memories but also our emotions during the day. They were so fun and easy to work with.



From beginning to end I couldn't stop smiling; I remember feeling pure joy and completely elated – it was the best day ever.



A tip to remember is not to worry about your guests, they can take care of themselves and they're there for you. Enjoy every minute and take some time for each other as the day will fly by!

CATHERINE AND DAVE'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue, le-petit-chateau.com | **Photographer,** jossguestphotography.co.uk | **Bride's dress and accessories,** yapbridal.co.uk | **Hair and make-up,** lisajoneshairandmakeup.co.uk | **Bridesmaids' dresses,** reiss.com | **Groom's suit,** masterdebonair.com | **Cake,** mrsboucake.com | **Flowers,** moiraj.co.uk | **Entertainment,** lastanthem.co.uk | **Wedding day dresser,** ohhsewbeautiful.com | **Videography,** tynedigital.co.uk | **Harpist,** maxinemolinrose.co.uk

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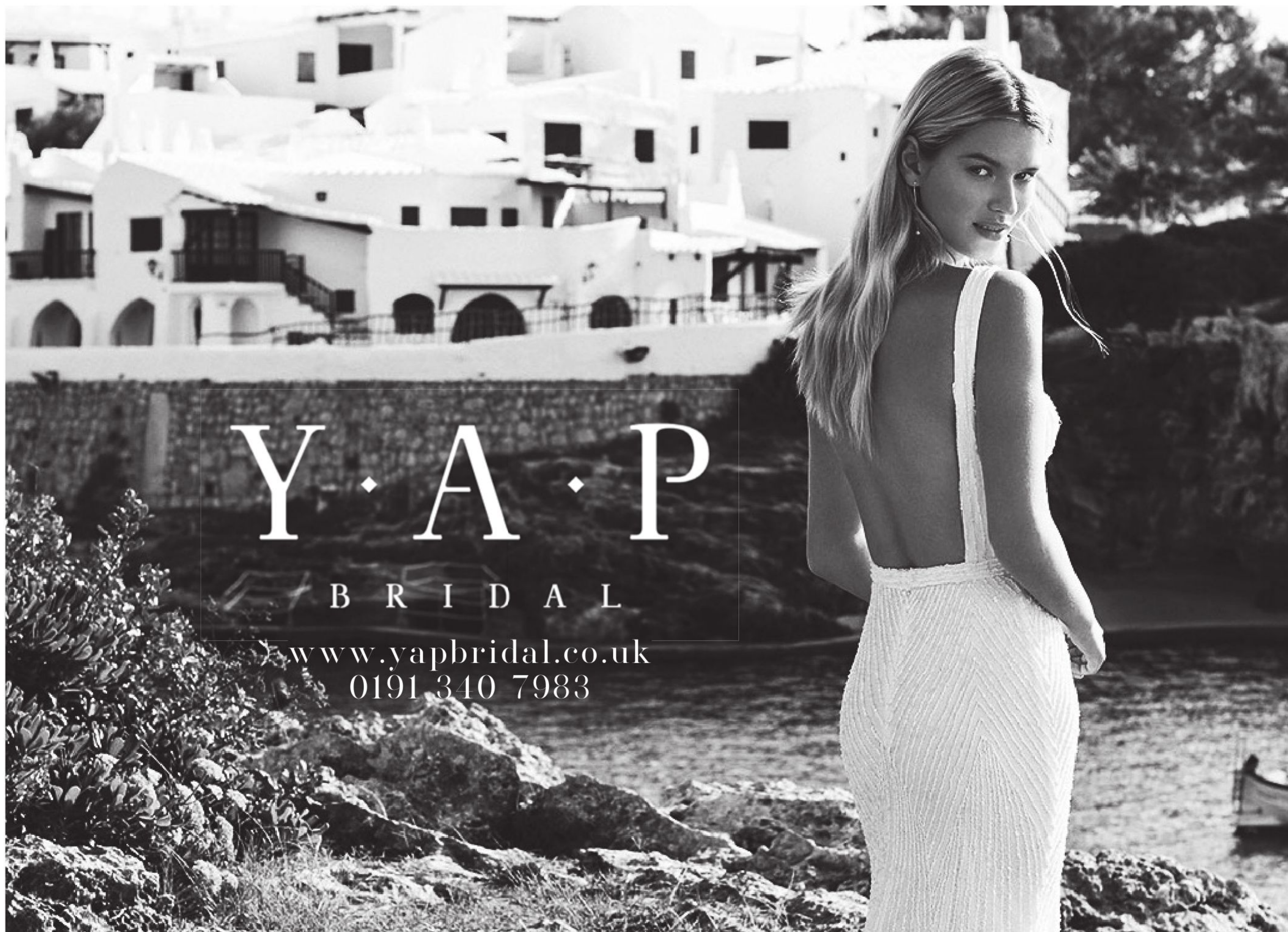


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A full-page photograph of a wedding couple standing in a lush green field under a cloudy sky. The groom, on the left, is seen from behind, wearing a dark blue suit with his hands clasped behind his back. The bride, on the right, is also seen from behind, wearing a white lace wedding dress with a large backless detail and a tattoo of a bird on her upper back. She is holding a bouquet of dried flowers. A small white dog with brown patches is standing in the foreground between the couple's feet.

ROSE GOLD *Romance*

Love was all around at Amie and Keith's perfect day
Images courtesy of Never Ending Stories

Love can enter our hearts at any moment, you could be walking down the street, rekindle an old friendship, out with loved ones or meet online, just like Amie and Keith did. At the time, the pair both worked in schools and bonded over their love of holidays in Scotland. Amie says, "I'm the type of person that enjoys my own company and come across as an introvert unless I'm around people I'm really close to. Keith is like the male version of me and brings out my goofy and quirky side."

From that moment, the couple's relationship blossomed into something truly beautiful, which led to Keith popping the question. Amie says: "We sat down near the Eiffel Tower where he mumbled through a little speech. He then said, 'C'mon, let's go buy you a ring, unless this one will do?' and pulled a ring out of his pocket. I was so surprised as I packed all of our luggage and knew every item we took. It turns out he cut a hole through the middle pages in one of his books and hid it in there!"

Here Amie tells us details of their special day...



The Comb came up whilst I searched for wedding venues, I loved the rustic feel and there was lovely accommodation available with 10 en suite bedrooms with the use of large public rooms surrounded by forest and Northumberland National Park.



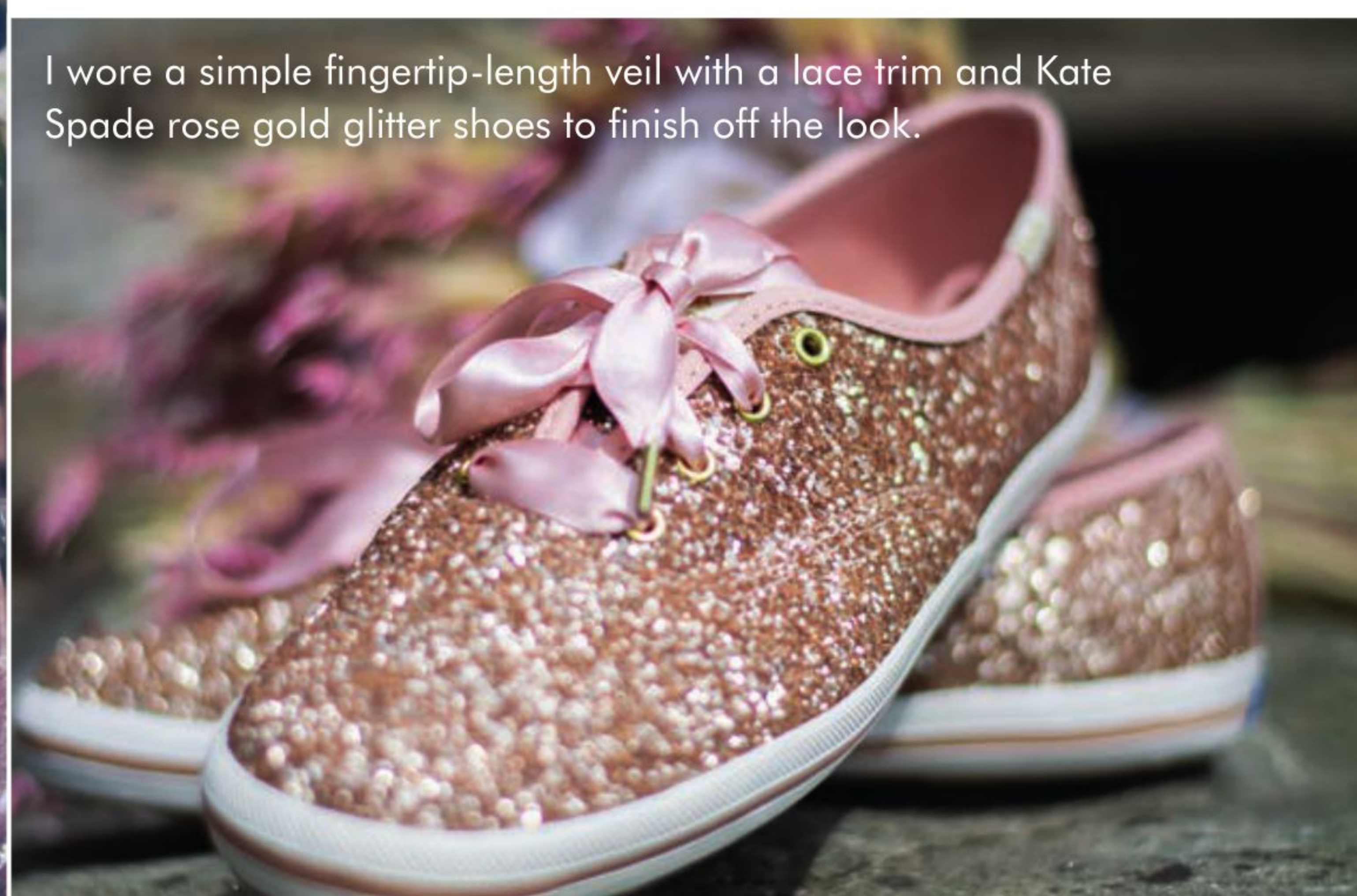
I made a flowerwall and based most of my decorations around it. My whole business is about making DIY props for weddings so everything was handmade by me including the love lights, doughnut wall, selfie frame, centerpieces, signs and prosecco wall.



Our centrepieces were spray painted wine bottles and for our place settings I used baby or embarrassing photos of the guests and had them printed onto polaroid's.



We had a tasty pink champagne cake and my sister also made cupcakes in various flavours to go with it.



I wore a simple fingertip-length veil with a lace trim and Kate Spade rose gold glitter shoes to finish off the look.



Our dog is such an important part of our lives and we knew he had to be included. Upon receiving our photos I was brought to tears by how he was captured on the day.



I was very excited when I heard Butterflies Bridal Outlet was having a sale. I loved the dress I found as it's fitted, quite simple but delicate and elegant at the same time.



On the morning of the wedding, Keith and his groomsmen went clay pigeon shooting, which was offered in the next field to the venue. They all really enjoyed it and it was a great way for the nervous groom to blow off some steam!



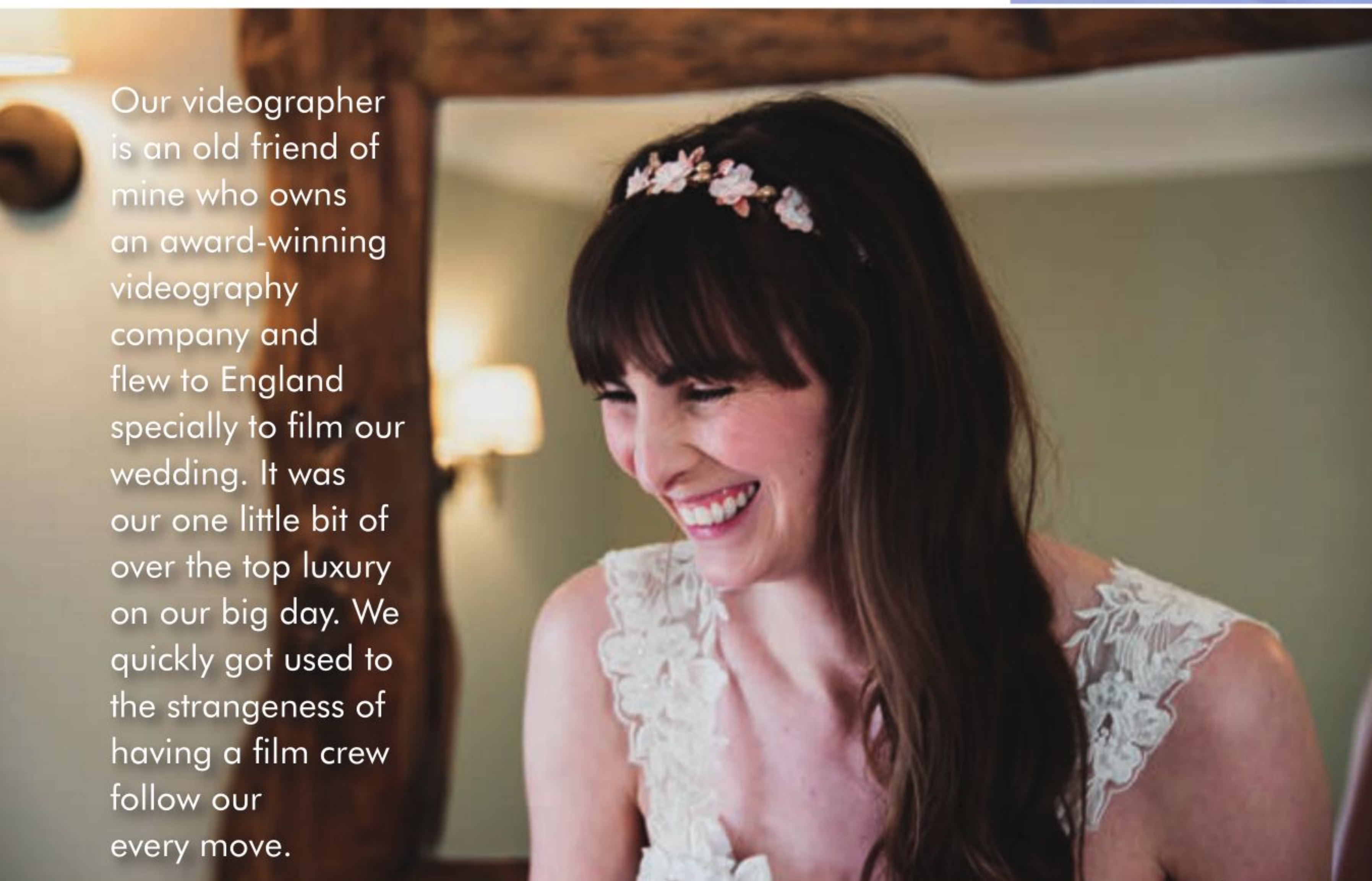
Keith wore a navy Ben Sherman suit with a blush pink tie.





The bridesmaids' dresses matched the groomsmens' ties and had similar lace appliqués and buttoned back that my gown had.

While Keith and I were off getting some photos taken, our guests were entertained by Mike Giblin who is the most amazing caricaturist. Everyone felt a mix of being in awe of his talent but also finding the ways he captures people in his drawings hilarious.



Our videographer is an old friend of mine who owns an award-winning videography company and flew to England specially to film our wedding. It was our one little bit of over the top luxury on our big day. We quickly got used to the strangeness of having a film crew follow our every move.



I found our photographer on Gumtree who does pet and wedding photography. Combined, this was the perfect photographer for us!

I saw alpacas at weddings, which I didn't know was a thing but after a quick Google search I found companies that offer it in the North East! Fleecy Beastlies were top of my list as the company offered to let me come and see the alpacas on a gorgeous farm, which wasn't too far from the venue. They provided the opportunity for wedding photos with a difference and I kept it a surprise for the guests who were blown away when they arrived.



The day is over so quick, so you don't want to be wasting time worrying about how much it has cost or how tired you are from setting it up.

AMIE AND KEITH'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue, combreivers.com | **Photographer**, neverendingstories.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, butterfliesbridal.co.uk | **Decoration**, diy-a-wedding.wixsite.com/mysite | **Hair and make-up**, hmbymeia.com | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, jjshouse.com | **Entertainment**, mikegiblinillustration.com | **Catering**, catering-northeast.co.uk | **Alpacas**, fleecybeastlies.co.uk | **Videographer**, 24framesfilms.com.cn



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WAVES OF *Happiness*

Local suppliers got together to create this stunning shoot

Images courtesy of Victoria Sponge Photography

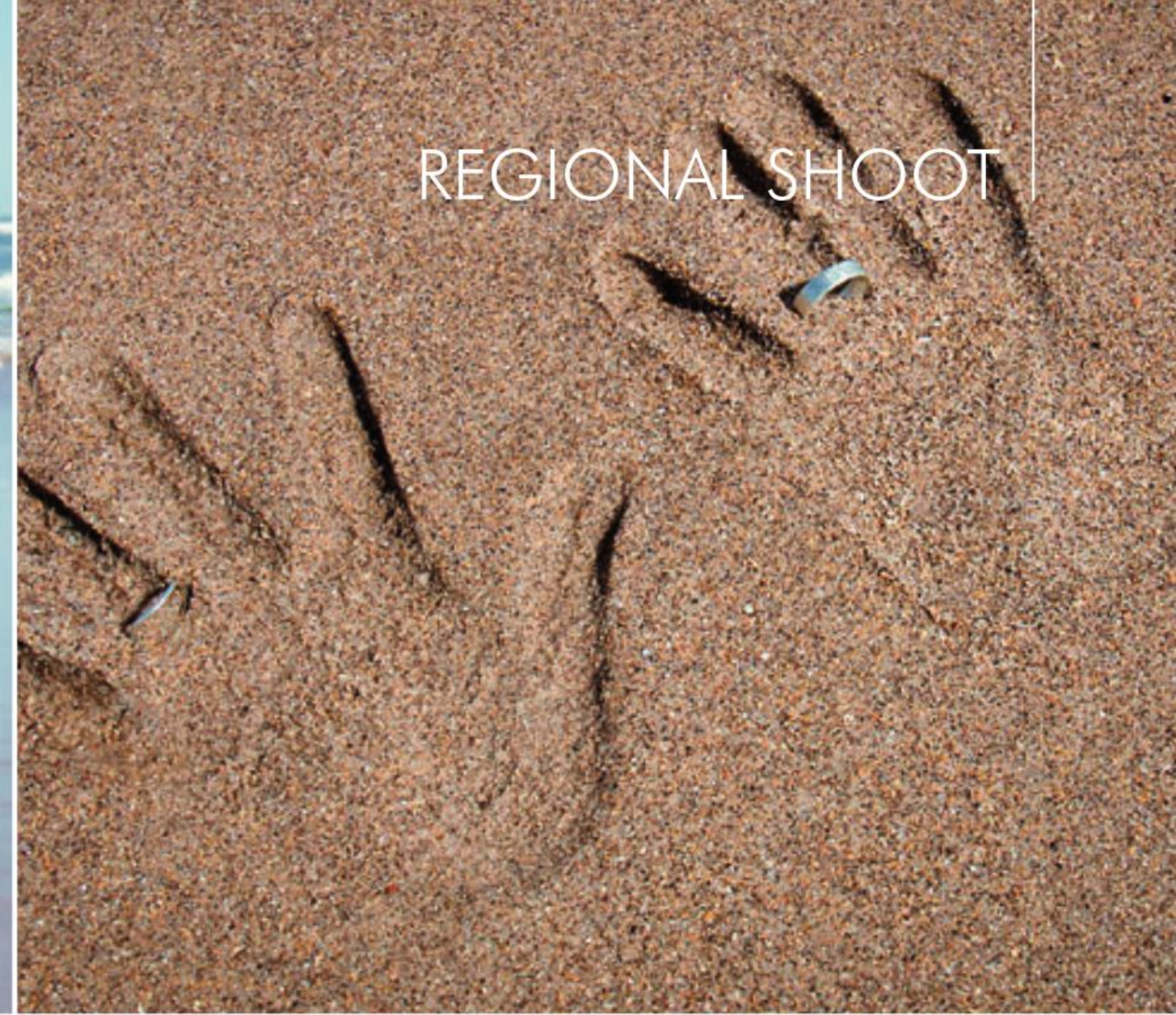


Here at Your North East Wedding we're obsessed with this stunning shoot at The Barn on The Bay, with the concept to celebrate the local environment and the natural beauty of the beach. Wedding stylist and shoot coordinator Jane Flatman says: "We decided to pull together a group of women local to the beach and thankfully the day was full of clear blue skies – we never dreamt that the weather would make it feel so tropical, which was very helpful for the last few shots where most of us got wet!"

"It was important to us all that the shoot should show what a couple getting married on the beach could have as part of their day, so we thought very carefully about what we used as furniture and props to enhance the beauty of the location rather than overpowering it."

We hope you enjoy the images as much as we do!



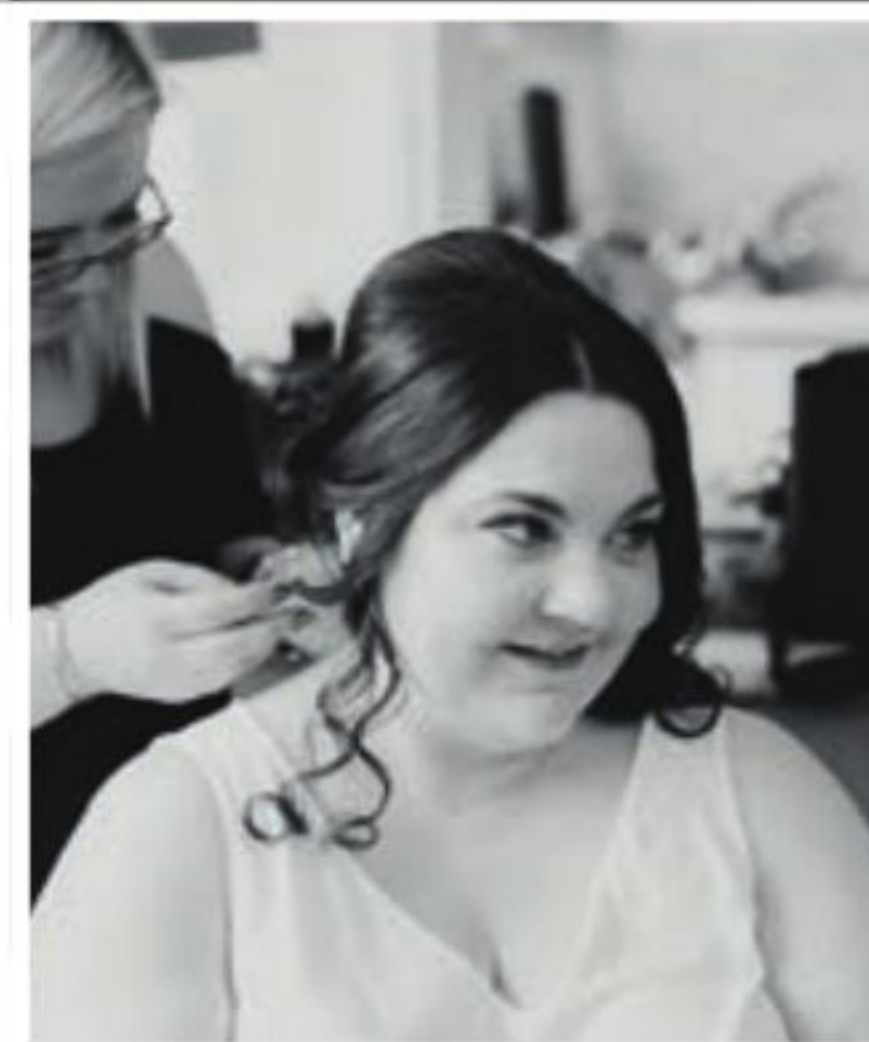
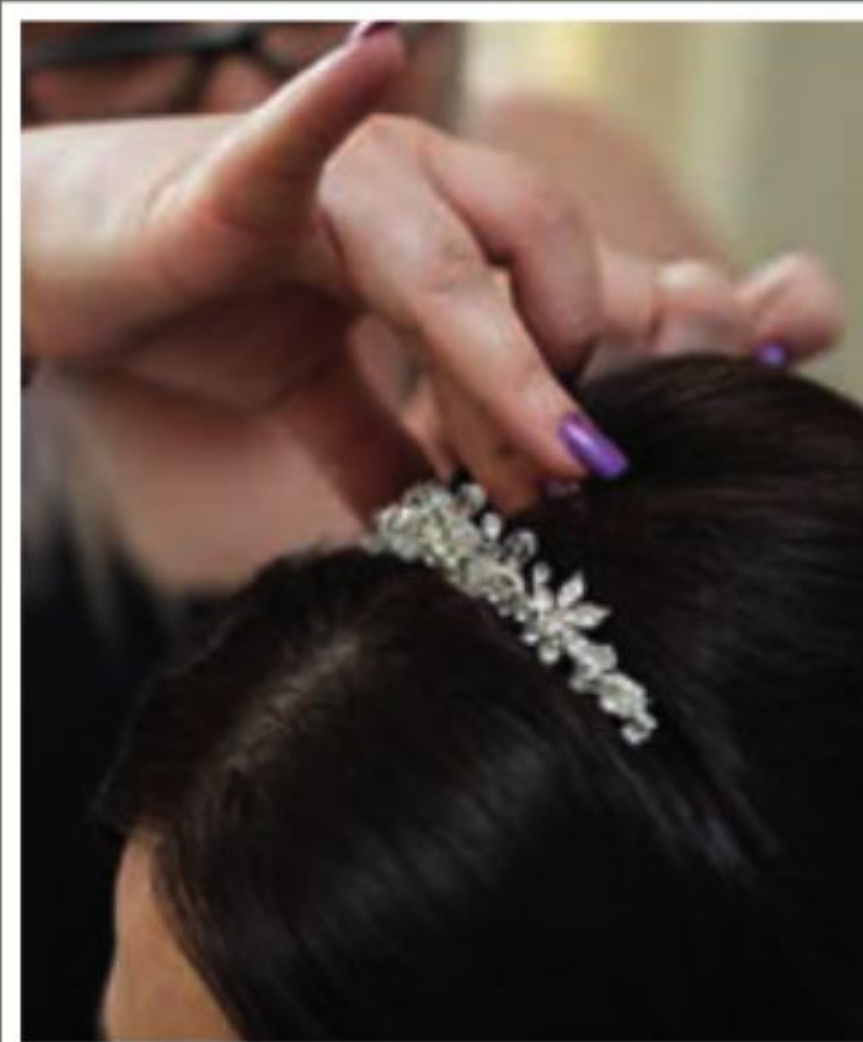


SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOT

Venue, barnonthebay.com | **Photographer,** victoriaspongephotography.co.uk | **Dresses,** @lovejeanbridal
Wedding rings, tamaragomez.com | **Necklace,** seawavesjewellery.co.uk | **Hair,** veryyouhair.co.uk | **Make-up,** @kirstenbmakupartist
Flowers, moiraj.co.uk | **Stationery,** Wish Upon A Print, etsy.com | **Furniture, props and styling,** birdcagesanddragonflies.com

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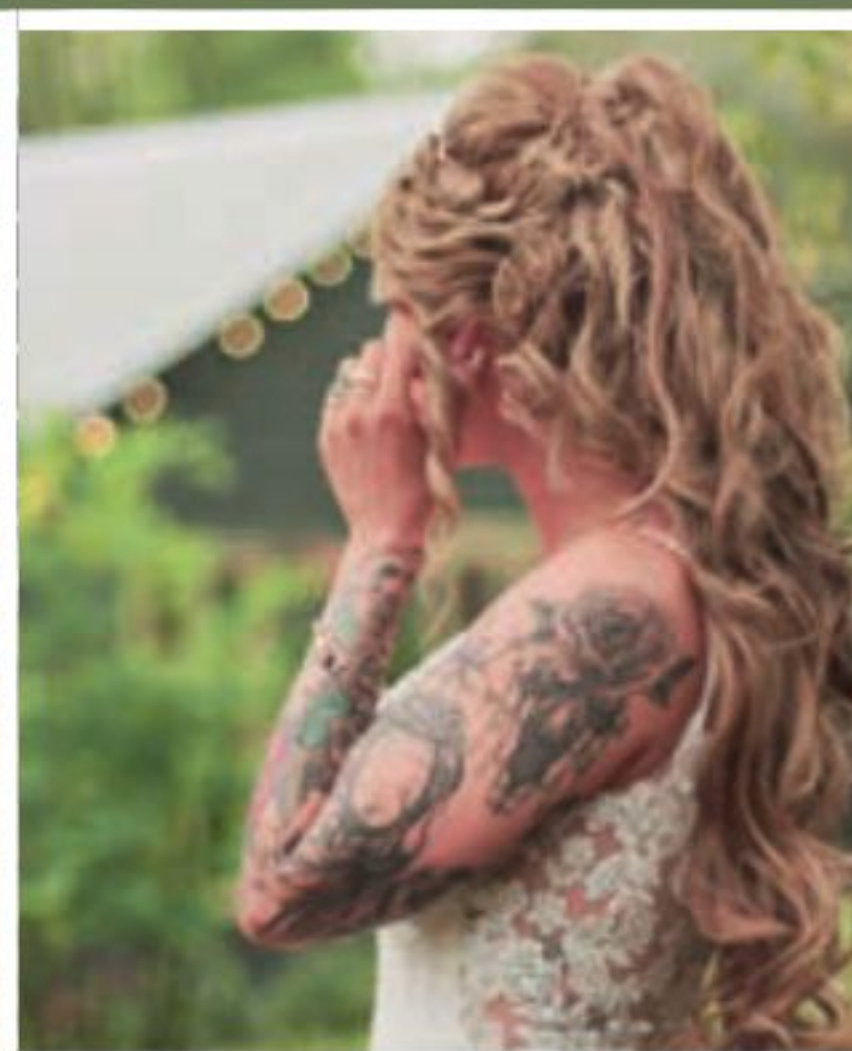
www.victoriaspongephotography.co.uk
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The Barn on The Bay



IMAGE CREDIT 14 PHOTOGRAPHERS

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Y.A.P BRIDAL

Located in Tyne and Wear, Y.A.P Bridal is a luxurious boutique that offers a wonderful range of styles from some of the best and the most exclusive designers in the world. The shop's studio rails carry iconic ranges by Savin London, Aire Barcelona, Rosa Clare, Maggie Sottero, Rebecca Ingram, Morilee and it's latest addition is Madi Lane Bridal.

By providing a personal service and with the customers best interests at heart, brides-to-be can expect a beautiful Y.A.P welcome into a little bit of bridal haven. A knowledgeable and personal stylist will help guide the process of finding the perfect dream gown.

The name of the shop stands for 'you are precious', which meant a lot to the founder of the business, whose parents wrote this message to each other for almost 60 years of marriage. The studio opened in their memory on 26th August 2010, which would have been their diamond wedding anniversary. The designer ranges are available to order in UK sizes two to 34 and sample sizes to try on range from 10 to 24 and can be pinned to suit different body shapes perfectly.

Prices for made-to-order range from £700 to £3,000 and for brides on a budget, a gorgeous range of sample sale dresses are available to buy off the peg for only £250 to £1,000. To keep things simple, brides pay a 50 per cent deposit to order the gown and the rest when the dress arrives.

For more information visit yapbridal.co.uk

Danni Hesketh at Y.A.P Bridal says,

"When you're looking for a dress be open-minded! Your wedding dress is one of the most self-expressive garments you'll ever wear so it's important to feel comfortable and confident."



ameliajacobphotography.co.uk

Susanne says:

“My top tip for any bride would be not to come fixed to a certain idea. So many ladies come in with an idea but leave with something completely different once they try out different styles.”



ameliajacobphotography.co.uk

▲ ROSA BRIDAL BOUTIQUE

Rosa Bridal Boutique is located in Newcastle Upon Tyne and stocks a wide range of designers such as Essence of Australia, Stella York, Mori Lee, Ronald Joyce and many others.

After opening its doors back in September 2019 following a full renovation, the company offers beautiful styles and lovely ranges which includes tea-length and vintage-inspired dresses.

All garments are a mixture of high-end and more affordable designers to create the perfect experience for all customers. Owner, Susanne Shah says: “I strongly believe that brides should be able to find a gorgeous dress to make them feel amazing without spending thousands of pounds. This is why our dresses start at around £200 and go up to £1,700 – all available in sizes six to 24.”

To ensure all customers receive a personal experience, the shop works by appointment-only, which means brides get one-to-one attention with an honest guiding hand in a lovely, comfortable and relaxed environment.

Brides will have a positive dress shopping experience, regardless of budget, size or style. All dresses are available off the peg. Payment plans are available and will be discussed and agreed directly with each bride.

Susanne adds: “The favourite part of my job is helping the bride who isn’t feeling great about themselves; I love to be able to build other people up. We need to celebrate what we have, whether it’s a super-slim figure, sporty athletic shape or womanly curves!”

For more information visit rosabridalboutique.co.uk

THE BLUE BOW BRIDAL COMPANY

Situated in Durham, The Blue Bow Bridal Company has dresses for every bride with designers ranging from Stella York, Eternity Bridal, Jessica Grace by Tiffanys, Ronald Joyce, Enzoani and an exciting new label coming soon.

Every bride’s shape and size is different and the company feel it’s important to cover all sizes – in-store dresses can be found in a size eight to 28 but the gowns can be ordered in more sizes. Each member of the team is extremely knowledgeable in all things bridal, as women of different shapes and sizes they know all too well about emotions and body hang-ups brides deal with daily.

The moment a bride-to-be walks through the door, they can expect a warm friendly smile, a welcoming reception and, of course, the most amazing selection of dresses. Corners won’t be cut as the business offers the very best service and products available with honesty and integrity as the key.

At the store, experienced seamstresses are on hand to make brides happy. The shop recommends this service but brides are free to source alternative options should they wish.

With extremely competitive prices, stunning gowns are available on a low to mid-budget costing between £400 to £1,800 with most sitting somewhere in the middle.

A payment plan can be created as The Blue Bow Bridal Company ultimately wants a bride to walk down the aisle in their dream dress.

A big achievement this year is being voted as the boutique of the year for the North East, and for the north of England and Yorkshire at the English Wedding Awards held in Manchester. For more information visit bluebowbridal.co.uk



enzoani.com



Owner Cheryl Ashford says:

“My top tip for brides would be not to overthink anything – if it feels right, it’s the one. It may be completely nothing like you thought you would go for, but it’s good to be different on your wedding day and give everyone that wow moment!”

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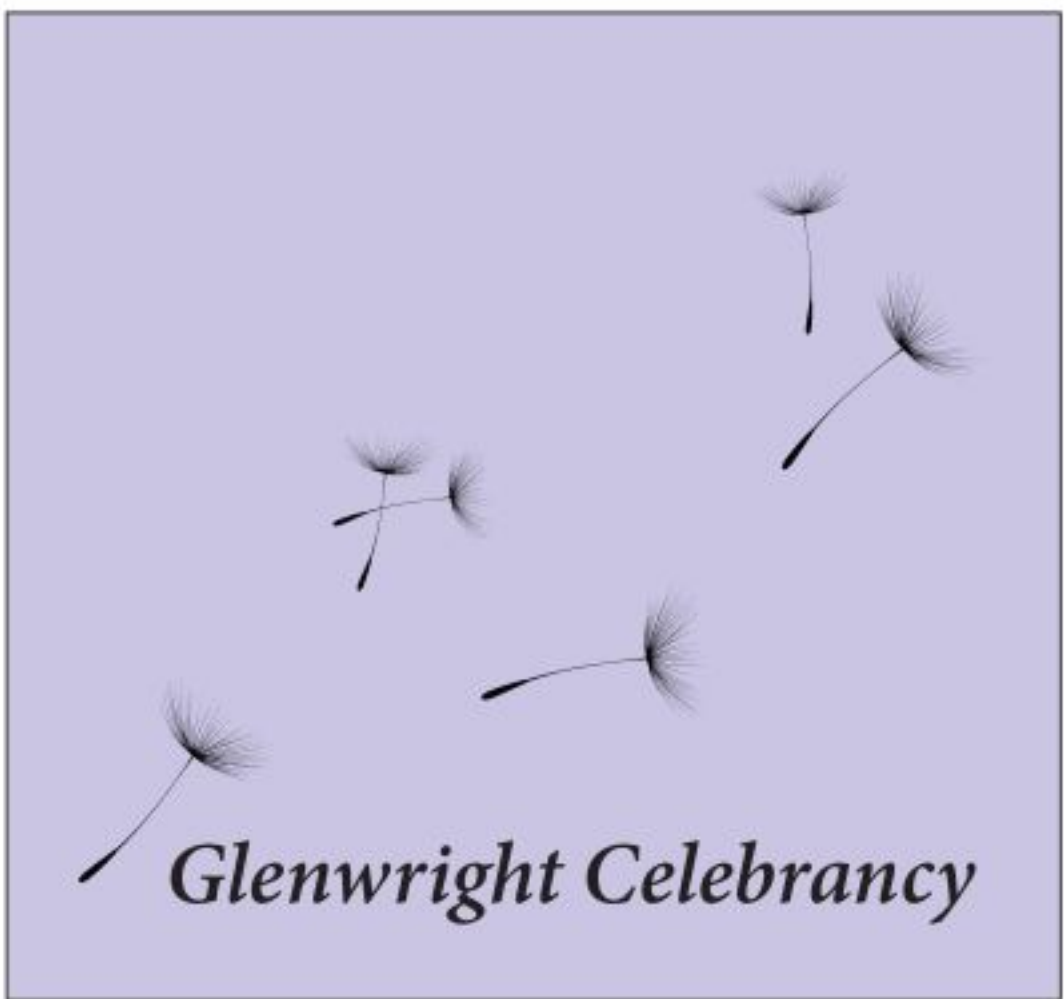
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Image courtesy of Sean Elliot

Leigh says:

“We encourage brides not to be influenced by family and friends that they bring along with them on their try on days, after all, it’s your big day.”

I DO WEDDING SPECIALISTS LIMITED

From a young age, most brides have dreamed about their wedding dress and at I Do Wedding Specialists Limited, that dream can become a reality. Amazing designers are stocked including Sottero & Midgley, Rebecca Ingram, Romantica, Eternity, Cosmobella and House of Nicholas.

The family-run business started back in 2007 and now endeavours to make the bridal experience, relaxing, fun and memorable. Whoever walks through the door can expect a warm welcome from a dedicated and knowledgeable bridal consultant and the team have highly recommended seamstress who they’ve worked with for 12 years and is qualified in all bridal alterations.

All dresses are available to order from size 0 to 32 and store sample dresses are available to try from size 10 to 32 – all dresses range between £699 to £1,800. This boutique asks brides-to-be to pay a 50 per cent and the remaining balance to be paid in full within 21 days of the dress arriving in store.

For more information visit idouk.com

Owner Dawn Moffitt says:

“We believe we offer an exceptional one-to-one customer service, backed up by our customer five-star reviews, which reinforce the commitment to our brides, maids and proms. Our staff have years of experience and are passionate about what they do.”

LEIGH HETHERINGTON BRIDAL WEAR

Leigh Hetherington Bridal Wear believes in offering great customer service in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere while sharing experience and knowledge with brides to steer them in the right direction.

Located in Newcastle Upon Tyne, this bridal boutique stocks multiple designers including B by Leigh Hetherington, Wtoo by Watters, Rembo-Styling and Ellis Bridals plus it’s own couture bespoke wedding dresses and outfits for the mother-of-the-bride and groom. All dresses range between £895 to £4,000 in sizes six to 36, with the shop samples come in between 10 to 36.

Owner Leigh Lawrenson says: “We love welcoming brides into our boutique and we have an array of dresses in all different styles and fabrics. As we are a design house, we have an in-house designer and a creative sewing team who can design, customise and alter your dress ensuring each brides dress is in safe hands.”

Beautiful hand-made headpieces and accessories are offered to complement the gowns and for those special finishing touches, the company offer a hand-embroidery service for embellishing the veils with the bride and groom’s initials and wedding date.

The team pride themselves on being able to offer knowledgeable staff who are kept up-to-date with styles, fabrics and trends. They regularly visit wedding trade exhibitions to keep focused on the evolving world of weddings.

The company's currently creating a mother-of-the-bride and groom collection as Leigh Hetherington Bridal Wear is finding that many of its clients are no longer looking for the traditional dress and jacket combination but for something more modern, stylish and comfortable. This collection will include sleeved dresses, jumpsuits and trouser and top fusions.

For more information visit leighhetherington.co.uk





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Infinity Cakes, infinitycakes.co.uk



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Shoes by Dune London, pink dress by Phase Eight and ivory dress by Warehouse.



HIGH STREET HOT LIST

Fashion favourites Warehouse has announced the launch of an exclusive bridal edit for the new season. The 19-piece collection offers a range of silhouettes in soft chiffon and satin fabrics using a muted colour palette of baby pink, navy, and ivory. They feature simple yet chic details, with vintage-inspired dresses, floral prints, fluted sleeves and back details. Prices range from £79 to £89. To shop, visit warehouse.co.uk

[warehouseuk](https://www.instagram.com/warehouseuk)

Phase Eight has revealed a new capsule bridal collection consisting of luxury designs with affordable price tags all under £500. There's a nod to the glamorous era of the 1920s with an ivory fringed dress, and this pretty blush tulle style, plus coordinating hats and fascinators. To shop, visit phase-eight.com

[phaseeight](https://www.instagram.com/phaseeight)

Shoe experts Dune London unveil the new 20-piece footwear collection alongside an exclusive range of matching clutch bags. Brides will love the jewel trims, ribbon ankle ties and sparkling details. Prices start from £130 for shoes and from £60 for bags. To shop, visit dunelondon.com

[dune_london](https://www.instagram.com/dune_london)

SAY 'YES' TO THE DRESS

Contemporary fashion brand KITRI has launched its debut bridal collection, a nine-piece selection of fun, feminine dresses and jumpsuits. Prices start from £195 for this *Fontana* style, and range up to £245. The pieces feature draped hems, exaggerated sleeves and cascading ruffles. There's choices for an engagement party or pre-wedding dinner too, and bridesmaids will also love the fashionable styles. Designer, founder and creative director of the brand Haeni Kim says, "We received requests for playful, wearable and affordable bridalwear from our customers since the launch of the brand so I'm very excited about our capsule bridal collection. We have designed a selection of dresses and jumpsuits that will be perfect for many occasions surrounding a modern wedding. It's such an honour to be a part of someone's wedding and we can't wait to see how our customers will wear them."

To shop, visit kitristudio.com

[kitristudio](https://www.instagram.com/kitristudio)



FASHION

focus

Fashion editor Claire Ridley reveals the latest bridal news, buys and launches

EDITOR'S PICK

This dusky pink ribbon and lace bodysuit is from the new Muse by Coco de Mer collection and is the perfect pick for your wedding night and honeymoon. Prices range from £20 for a thong to £120 for a slip, and pieces are available in sizes 30D-F to 36B-F. To shop, visit coco-de-mer.com

[cocodemeruk](https://www.instagram.com/cocodemeruk)



Editor's choice

Dress your little ones in the latest styles from French designer childrenswear brand Marie-Chantal.

This blue floral printed dress called Eve is the perfect pick for a spring wedding, and others include pretty pastels in gingham and tweed.

To shop, visit mariechantal.co.uk

[mariechantalchildren](https://www.instagram.com/mariechantalchildren)



Sisterhood

Kate Halfpenny, the talented designer behind the luxury Halfpenny London bridal brand has launched Sister, a bridesmaid collection with prices ranging from £70 to £295. Multiple styles are available in soft fabrics and three colourways – pink, pewter and navy. Kate says, "The Sister collection has something for everyone – from my signature separates to dresses and even a jumpsuit. They've all been designed to wear again and again, styled in your own way." To shop, visit halfpennylondon.com

[halfpennylondon](https://www.instagram.com/halfpennylondon)



One-shoulder
suzanneneville.com



Fun and frivolous

These flirty styles are setting the trends for 2020



Long sleeves

adriannapapell.com

Halterneck

catherineparrybridal.com



Oversized bow

alanhannah.co.uk



Short and sassy

justinaalexander.com

*Embellished
back detail*

clairepettibone.com

*Vintage-inspired
sleeves*

kitristudio.com

Short sleeves

elbethgillis.com

Bib-front

katyakatya.co.uk

Shirt-style jumpsuit
kitrystudio.com

Slip dress
warehouse.co.uk



Plunge neckline
jesuspeiro.com



Feathers
demetrios.com

Chic jumpsuit
charlottebalbier.com



Fringing
phase-eight.com



Elegant cape
jennypackham.com



Tulle detail
kelseyroose.co.uk



These elegant styles can be worn as they are, or teamed with pretty shrugs or statement chokers for maximum impact

Madelyn dress with collar by elbethgillis.com

CHIC AND *strapless*

Aerial by charlottebalbier.com



Anais by clairepettibone.com



Style no 014 by demetrios.com



Margot by Kelly Faetanini at elliesanderson.co.uk

Bianca by jennypackham.com



Fern by alanhannah.co.uk



Style no 058 by jesuspeiro.com



Rose by whistles.com

HEADLINERS

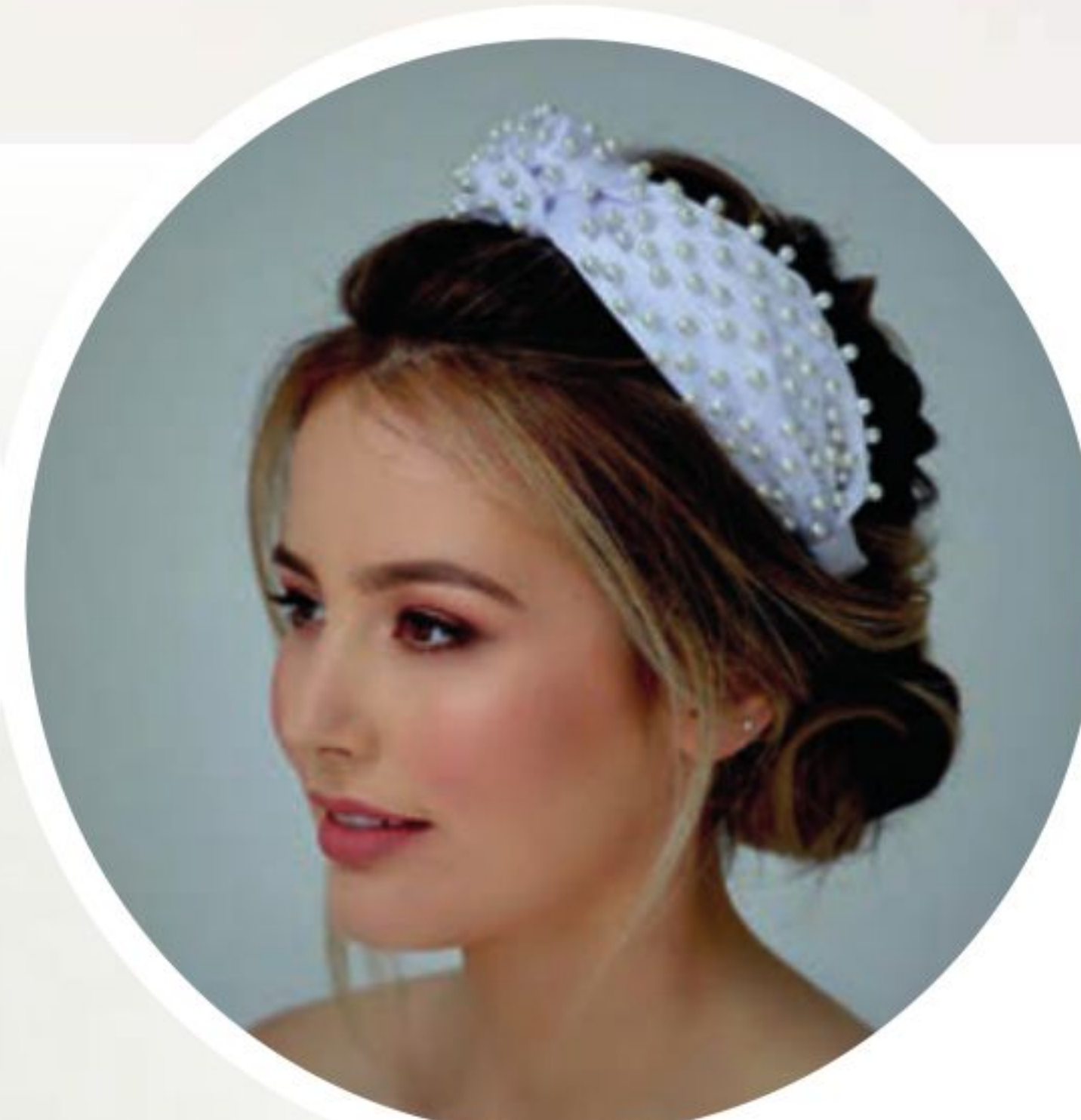
Hair clips, bands and accessories were spotted at the recent bridal catwalk shows. Get the look with our Insta-worthy selection



Headdress, from a selection, mervebayindir.com



Tiaras and veils spotted at demetrios.com. For similar, try richard-designs.com



White silk pearl headband, £59, alicandblair.co.uk



Veil, £175, rainbowclub.co.uk



Pearl-encrusted headband, £23, chichiclothing.com



Fascinator with ivory flowers, £35, phase-eight.com



Hair slides, from £19 for set of four, alicandblair.co.uk



Set of three hair slides, £15, oliverbonas.com



Headband featuring large flower, from a selection, uk.accessorize.com



Cream knot headband, £4.99, newlook.com



Pearl-effect beaded hair clips, £12 for set of two, crown-love.com





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IN PURSUIT OF WELLNESS

STILL London, the non-toxic, cruelty-free, vegan and environmentally friendly nail studio, has now launched a regenerating and protecting hand balm. With marine algae extract, lupine peptides, olive oil derived squalane, shea butter, cocoa butter and soya wax this potent formula regenerates, protects, moisturises and firms the skin.

There's also a new cuticle oil available where grape seed and evening primrose oil work seamlessly with a Norwegian algae extract, vitamin E and tea tree to absorb quickly and heal the skin naturally.

The hand balm is priced at £23 and the cuticle oil at £18. Both are available from still-london.com



Glow-givers

Blending natural extracts and cutting-edge science, Scientia Skincare utilises no less than 23 oils sourced from all around the world, including morning seed oil from Uganda, and wild carrot oil from France, which deliver maximum skin health while boosting wellbeing. The first exciting products to launch from this brand are the Dawn and Dusk Elixirs, formulated to give you your daily and nightly dose of radiance.

Priced at £32 each from scientiabeauty.com

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This highly-pigmented, three-in-one highlighter creates a perfectly radiant glow that will take you from ceremony to celebrations. This super-versatile micro-fine powder is easy to apply to cheeks, brow bones and décolletage for a quick all-over radiance. You can play it safe with a natural shimmer or make a statement by creating a multi-dimensional strobing effect.

This convenient make-up bag hero in Sahara is actually an ombre of Kevyn Aucoin's three best-selling highlighters, Candlelight, Starlight, and Sunlight. In this case, three is most definitely not a crowd!

Available from spacenk.com, priced at £30.



Beauty editor Kelly Andrews shares her latest beauty must-haves for the bride-to-be

Beauty BUZZ

Crystal clear

If hours of traipsing around wedding shows and agonising over budgets has left you in need of a bit of R&R, this will come as music to your ears. LLIO's Crystoil helps with those little moments in life where you can finally enjoy some you-time, aiding sleep, boosting energy and enhancing the mood. You can invoke Crystoil's power in two ways: shake the bottle and add a few droplets to a bath, or massage all over before stepping into a warm bath or shower. The lush passionflower, apricot and rosehip oils make for deliciously soft nourished skin.

LLIO will be donating £1 of every sale to Winston's Wish, a charity giving hope to grieving children. Priced at £45, check out llo.love



A ROSY GLOW

Looking to achieve that natural dewy flush of colour for your wedding day? The folk at Beautaniq Beauty have just the thing. Introducing the Butter Cheek & Lip Balm. This cream blusher blends seamlessly into cheeks using nothing more than the warmth of your fingertips, and doubles up as an effortless lip colour. Crafted with 90% natural plant-based oils to nourish, condition and hydrate the skin, it simultaneously bestows a gorgeous, creamy radiance.

Available at beautaniqbeauty.com it's priced at £12.50.



Sustainability, solved

Disposable face wipes are a thing of the past with the sustainable, vegan-friendly and cruelty-free Face Halo. These microfibre pads remove your make-up and lightly exfoliate the skin in just seconds. Face Halo works with water helping the clever HaloTech fibres, which are 100 times finer than human hair, to get to work on removing even the most stubborn make-up. Reusable, the Face Halo can be machine washed up to 200 times, meaning it's a cost-effective way of looking after your skin and it helps the environment. Around these parts we call that a win-win!

The Face Halo Original is priced at £17.99 and is available from Beauty Bay, Boots, Selfridges and Harrods. Check out facehalo.com



COLOUR WITH CARE

Founded by French sisters, and beauty experts, Hamida and Yasmine Smatti, L'Atelier Green is a breathable and bio-sourced polish that cares for your nails. After helping countless beauty fans to repair nails damaged by acrylics, gel manicures and toxin-filled varnishes, they saw first-hand the need for a product that not only gave the desired colour, shine and long-lasting effect, but that also nurtured nails and cuticles.

The debut Naked Nails collection boasts breathable properties, which help to bring your nails back to full health. Enriched with high-performance, organic and active ingredients, the lacquers stimulate nail growth and repair damage without sacrificing glossiness and longevity.

Priced from £15.99, see the website lateliergreen.com



FAREWELL SPLIT ENDS!

Let's be honest, a dry and damaged barnet is not the look for your wedding day, so, now's the time to banish split ends for good. Check out BondiBoost's Rapid Repair range. Start your haircare routine with Rapid Repair Shampoo (£22.50). Formulated to repair split ends, reduce breakage and seal cuticles, it delivers a boost of essential oils rich in antioxidants, vitamins and amino acids. Follow with Rapid Repair Conditioner (£22.50), which improves signs of damage. Then, finish by applying 1-2 pumps of the Rapid Repair Serum (£22.50) for softness and shine. Hey presto – damaged hair is a thing of the past. Easy. Available at boots.com

Step it up

If you simply don't have time for a complicated multi-step skincare regime, help is at hand. Designed to streamline your routine in a fast-moving world, Frances Prescott's multitasking natural skincare will have your complexion big-day ready in no time. With the Tri-Balm (£46) and Tri-Spritz (£45) all you need are two simple three-in-one steps.

The luxurious facial balm cleanses, exfoliates and moisturises in one solid stick bursting with botanical oils. Meanwhile, the spritz works to aid cellular repair, protect against pollution and set make-up.

For further information see francesprescott.com



BEAUTY SLEEP

The must-have beauty accessory for flawless skin and hair is a pillowcase, but not just any. The Gingerlily Beauty Box contains a 100% silk pillowcase for the ultimate in luxury that allows you to reap beauty benefits while you sleep. Soft and seamless, the A-grade mulberry silk adjusts to the temperature of your body and is naturally hypoallergenic, ideal if you suffer with allergies or have sensitive skin. Thanks to its high protein content, this fabric doesn't absorb moisture, so it helps to prevent wrinkles, while keeping skin hydrated and hair glossy.

Available in silver grey, nude, ivory and white, they're priced at £59 each and available from gingerlily.co.uk



BEAUTY NEWS

STRESSED SKIN SOLUTION

Cannabooster Detox from French holistic skincare brand Ho Karan (meaning "I love you" in Breton) is a clarifying, brightening and energising serum – a real skin saviour. Rich in potent terpenes, it helps to detoxify, clarify and create a formidable shield against the harmful effects of pollution. It's gentle on stressed skin, hydrating, nourishing and protecting.

As its name implies it contains the trending plant extract CBD, which has calming, anti-inflammatory and sebum balancing effects. So unsurprisingly this wonder-ingredient is being championed as the latest wellness hero.

Find out more at hokaran.com



TYING THE KNOT?



Casablanca
wedding photography



The
Little Haven Hotel
S O U T H S H I E L D S

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Sanda Aromatherapy Eye Pillow, £22, sandafeelgood.com

"I'm in love! The eye pillow is simple, yet so versatile, and great to have on hand for times when you feel like you need to stop and take a few moments. I put it through its paces and tried it warm first of all. Just 30 seconds in the microwave is plenty. The heat releases the amazing aroma (mine is rose and cardamom), which enhances the whole experience. I popped on a five-minute mindfulness meditation and shut out the world."

"The next night I tested the cold experience – 20 minutes or so in the freezer does the trick. After a tense day it calmed my head and soothed my tired, contact lense-wearing eyes. I can't wait to try it in the summer when itchy hayfever eyes kick in."

– Kelly Andrews



A CALMING influence

We put these soothing saviours to the test, perfect for beating wedmin stress



Amphora Aromatics Relaxing Bath Oil 100ml, £6, amphora-aromatics.com

"I love a bath. Any excuse to get me in the tub, I'm there, and I have to say, I've tried a lot of bath oils. So, I was eager to dive right in with this Relaxing Bath Oil from Amphora Aromatics."

"I truly believe this is the best bath oil I've ever tried. It has exactly the right combination of a heavenly aroma that's not too overpowering, and nourishment, without being greasy. My skin felt instantly balmy and fragrant, which lasted throughout the following day to boot."

– Danielle Harvey

Sanatio Naturalis Frankincense Essential Oil 10ml, £26, sanationaturalis.com

"I had to dig deep at the back of the cupboard to find my essential oil diffuser to test out Sanatio Naturalis' Frankincense Essential Oil, but I'm glad I did! Distilled from wild-growing tree resin in Somalia, it has an exotic, spicy scent. Without being overbearing, it filled my room with a deliciously heady fragrance that was the perfect backdrop to some me-time. The strong smell is brilliant for focusing the mind and it's been shown that inhaling frankincense reduces your heart rate and blood pressure – so if you're feeling the stress of wedmin, it's definitely worth a whirl."

– Hannah Faulder



Kyushi Jasmine, Lavender & Cedarwood Face Oil 30ml, £39, kyushi.co.uk

"The first thing I noticed about this face oil was the earthy smell that filled the room. Kyushi recommend placing three drops into the palms of your hands, gently rubbing them together and cupping over your nose and mouth before taking some deep breaths, as the mindful application is as important as the product itself. I did find it had a calming effect, and it smelled divine. It also made my skin feel incredibly soft and hydrated. I recommend using it before you go to bed for a long, restful sleep."

– Melissa Barker

Tisserand Aromatherapy Total De-Stress MoodFix Mist 100ml, £9.45, tisserand.com

"I can't promise this handy spray will work miracles when it comes to tackling a hectic lifestyle, but what it does do is allow you to stop, if only for a minute, and just breathe. A quick squirt provides a comforting mist of calm when the going gets tough and the blend of geranium, orange and nutmeg natural pure essential oils smells great too!"

– Sarah Reeve





Fashion and beauty Q&A

Local experts offer advice on how to look your big-day best

BRIDAL BLISS

Q: I'm a curvy girl and would love to show off my figure on my wedding day, what styles would best suit my hourglass shape?

I love it when brides come into the boutique and want to accentuate their amazing womanly curves. Often ladies feel that they want to hide under a larger, fuller gown but this just doesn't make the best of what you have!

A dress that has a fitted bodice would be great as it creates a feminine and flirty silhouette, which then flares around the knees to give the perfect balance for a fuller figure.

I'd recommend a mermaid-style dress, with a corset back. This style will accentuate an hourglass figure while hugging your chest, waist and hips. The corset back allows the dress to pull you in and accentuate your waist, whilst showing off your curves. I call this the Jessica Rabbit look, beautifully feminine womanly curves, which is the reason your partner loves you!

Susanne Shah | Rosa Bridal Boutique |
rosabridalboutique.co.uk

FLUTTERING LASHES

Q: For my wedding, I would love to use false eyelashes to make my own look longer but I struggle to put them on. Do you have any tips on how to apply them?

False eyelashes are a great addition to give an extra dimension to any eye make-up look. There are lots of brands and styles on the market to suit all eye shapes, from natural lightweight lashes to fuller dramatic-styles. I always advise measuring them against your lashline first and trimming them to length from the outer edge only. Apply a thin layer of lash glue and leave until the glue starts to go tacky. Next, you will need to look down whilst applying the lashes aiming to fix the centre first and then the inner and outer corners. You want the band to sit as close to your natural lashes as possible. Once in place, push on the lashes gently to ensure the band's set against the lid. If you struggle using your fingers, tweezers or lash applicators can be used instead. The beauty with strip lashes is they can be peeled off at the end of the day and many brands can be re-used multiple times.

Melissa Carlile | All Dolled Up |
make-upbymelissa.com





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Classic Wedding Cars provide a car hire service for weddings in Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire. We have a range of classic, contemporary and vintage bridal wedding cars in a range of styles that will complement any wedding.

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classic-wedding-cars.co.uk



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www.gateshead.gov.uk/stmarysheritagecentre





HOT TOPIC

Have the perfect spring wedding with our expert advice

FLOWER POWER

Q: For our spring wedding we want bold flowers to reflect the time of year. What would you suggest?

First of all, I love spring weddings! They ooze colour and I adore it when couples get brave as it makes wedding flowers so interesting and fun. Spring is very popular for weddings and rightly so as it's a beautiful time of year.

There are so many options to choose from but if I had to choose a favourite 'wow' selection, then I'd include a sweet William. The texture it brings to any bouquet or arrangement is stunningly different, it comes in a mixture of colours but the dark red burgundy is very pretty.

To go with this I'd put ranunculus peach, acacia yellow, veronica pink, callisterphus deep purple, limonium scar, lavender, cornflower blue, craspedia and thaspi. This will give a bright, wild and just picked-style to suit the season perfectly. I do have a couple going for this look in May and I'm very excited to see the outcome!

Sarah Garrod | Bees and Butterflies Flowers | beesandbutterfliesflowers.com

chocolate-chip.co.uk



WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Q: We're opting for a boho-themed big day and wanted to know how we could make the most of it at our venue. What tips do you have for us?

We're so excited that boho weddings are still a key trend going into 2020 because as far as festival weddings and boho vibes go, we've got you covered!

We love a festival-style celebration but be prepared for the British weather! Our top tip for outdoor weddings is to make sure there's a seamless rain plan in place. At The Barn on The Bay, we can bring those music festival vibes to our converted barn. Couples can get married on the dunes overlooking the beautiful Druridge Bay coastline, or under a star tent in our paddock.

Bands can be brought inside to get the barn rocking to the sound of live music as well as catering vans to give guests a less formal meal and decorations can be used to bring your personality to the barn.

Phil Hornsey | The Barn on The Bay | barnonthebay.com

PICTURE PERFECT

Q: We love nature, which is why we're getting married in spring as everything is so beautiful this time of year. How can we incorporate spring in our photos?

There are so many ways to bring a fresh spring feel to your wedding, regardless of whether you're blessed with clear blue skies or find yourself under brollies in April showers!

My first idea would be flowers – you're spoilt for choice when it comes to spring bloom. Bring the outside in with wildflowers or sprinkle pastel colours through your bouquets and buttonholes, I love photography soaked in colour and gorgeous details I can carry through the story of your day. I'd always suggest talking to your florist and working closely with them.

If its nature you adore, find a venue that makes the most of its surroundings and is filled with daylight! As a photographer, I love natural light and spring is fab for this as the days become longer. We're gifted more time with natural light, which is always more flattering than flash. If British weather permits, I'll always encourage my couples to be outside in the elements, walking through wheat fields, climbing trees or walking in the sea. Embrace the beautiful scenery and plan a mini adventure with your photographer. The wedding album will be filled with your personalities and bespoke moments.

Vicky Shaw

Victoria Sponge Photography
victoriaspongephotography.co.uk





PERFECT FIT

Q: I've lost weight for our spring wedding but I now need alterations as my dress is far too big. What can I do to sort the situation?

Once your weight has stabilised, don't delay in having your wedding dress re-fitted. The process could take a little time as you may need to book several fittings, and your seamstress may have other clients to work around. When going for alterations, you'll need to have the underwear you intend to use, and your shoes, or at least shoes of the correct height, as both items make a difference to your posture. It's a good idea to send photographs to your seamstress so that she can be planning possible ways to tackle problems before your fitting.

Where the fullness will be taken from your dress is dependent on its style, in particular, whether you have lost much of your bust. Shaped cups may no longer fit or be in the correct position! Bodices with a lace-up back may now have a reduced V insert, so will still need something taken off the side seams to retain the appearance of a laced back. However, this can be the easiest style option for a bride whose weight is likely to fluctuate right up to their big day. The most difficult styles to accommodate weight loss can be low-backed, soft construction, figure-skimming, lacey boho or beaded styles.

Norma Arthur | Amble Bridal and Prom at Amble Pin Cushion | amblepincushion.co.uk

THE FINISHING TOUCH

Q: I'm trying to pick jewellery for our big day. What advice and tips would you give me when trying to find what to wear?

I'd always recommend matching the colour of the metal to the wedding and engagement rings, this helps create a set when worn together. Pick something simple and elegant as you wouldn't want to take away from the main features, which will be the wedding and engagement ring set. There are many style factors to consider; if you're wearing your hair down, I'd go for studs while for short hair you can go for drop earrings. Stud earrings are a great way to add subtle sparkle, while drop earrings can add a lot of glamour. If the wedding dress is close to the neckline avoid wearing them all together, wear them with a V-neck or strapless dress. Single stone pendants are a great way to complement a dress or, if there's space, a longer elegant design to create a feature. Long sleeves are a big no for bracelets but three-quarter-length and above are perfectly fine. As it's close to the hands, keep it delicate and simple to not take away from the rings. Also, consider if wearing the jewellery will damage the dress or hairstyle.

Jemma McFarlane | Dytham Jewellery Designers LTD | dythamjewellery.co.uk



EXPERT ADVICE



Arrive in style

Q: We're getting married in the spring and are having an al fresco, garden-themed wedding. What tips and advice would you give when it comes to picking the perfect vehicle?

When it comes to finding that perfect wedding vehicle there are a few key things to remember, which would make all the difference. Firstly, book well in advance because a lot of companies get booked up very quickly and you'll avoid any disappointment.

It's extremely important to consider timing on a special day; make sure you know when and where you want to be and take into consideration traffic and photographic opportunities.

If you're looking for an easy way to incorporate colours and that spring-theme then I'd suggest using bright coloured ribbon to decorate the car and flowers.

Having transport planned will take so many worries off your plate and allows you both to have some alone time – plus, it will look great in photos!

Here at AB Wedding Cars, we offer a range of vintage-style and classic cars, which each maintains the highest standards of service to add the wow factor to your day.

Alan Best | AB Wedding Cars | abweddingcars.com



A person's wedding day is by far, one of the most memorable experiences in life and Master Debonair believe that every part of the journey leading up to your special day, should be just as momentous as the day itself.

Choosing the perfect attire for yourself and your wedding party should be an experience shared between friends and family that isn't easily forgotten, considering these memories will form the stories you tell your family for years to come.

At Master Debonair, they help you form these memories by offering a bespoke fitting experience, built around attention to detail and the mutual understanding of how important it is to look the part on this unforgettable day.

When visiting either the Chesterfield or Boldon showroom, the in-house team will guide you and your party, through a relaxed yet

thorough styling experience, sampling our wide range of wedding suits. Their seasonal stock offers an impressive abundance of styles to suit all shapes, sizes and tastes, including children's suits and larger sizes for the bigger guys.

The Master Debonair bespoke wedding experience is further enhanced by an in-house tailoring service, where they can alter and customise your fit to suit your taste and style. The Boldon store also boasts an incredible, fully stocked bar area for your whole party to hang out and fully immerse themselves in the Master Debonair experience, but more importantly into your wedding experience as a whole.

Master Debonair is currently offering substantial discounts of 5% when you buy five or more suits and 10% when you buy ten or more suits. So if you're planning your big day going into 2020, book your Master Debonair experience for yourself and your wedding party by calling the customer service team on 01916911616 or dropping an email to customerservice@masterdebonair.com

ONLY TIME WILL TELL

BOSS Watches has launched three new products. The Vela Collection includes statement-making timepieces that were inspired by open skies, urban streets and broad horizons.

Each watch seamlessly combines aesthetics with performance and signature features such as water resistance, glow-in-the-dark markers and engraved backs. Designed to accompany grooms-to-be on the biggest day of their lives, each one has a stainless steel chronograph with a masculine bracelet.

To find out more, visit bosswatches.co.uk



Read all ABOUT IT!

Grooms editor Melissa Barker shares the latest best buys and product launches

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Chester Barrie has launched a new range of men's formalwear. The AW19 Collection features old classics and new and improved accessories, including bow ties, evening suits, shirts and handkerchiefs. The semi-bespoke gentleman's tailor is located in London and offers both ready-to-wear and made-to-measure options.

To see more, visit chesterbarrie.co.uk



GOING GREEN

London-based company, Bluebuck has released a new collection of sports trunks and briefs manufactured using Seaqual – an eco-fabric made from recycled plastic waste.

The collection combines the brand's eco-sustainability mission with green fashion. The range has a sleek, sportive cut, and is designed for more adventurous men who want a durable undergarment without compromising on comfort.

Priced from £22–£29 from bluebuck.net

Grand plans

Award-winning suit company, Master Debonair has unveiled plans to open six new stores across the UK in 2020.

The fashion firm currently has boutiques in Bolton, London and Chesterfield and a separate showroom in Tyneside. It's become a favourite with grooms-to-be looking for stylish yet affordable suits and accessories.

Check out masterdebonair.com for more.



Oh-so handsome

We love Murdock London's latest range of gift sets. Ideal for grooms-to-be, each collection is made in England using the finest products. The range is designed to offer quality and effective daily essentials that encapsulates the heritage of Great British grooming, along with the sought-after style of the modern gentlemen.

Our favourite is the Bailey set, priced at £50, it comes with a beard shampoo, moisturiser, oil and luxurious comb.

To see more, visit murdocklondon.com





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£35, foxandchave.com



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£99.99, tkmaxx.com



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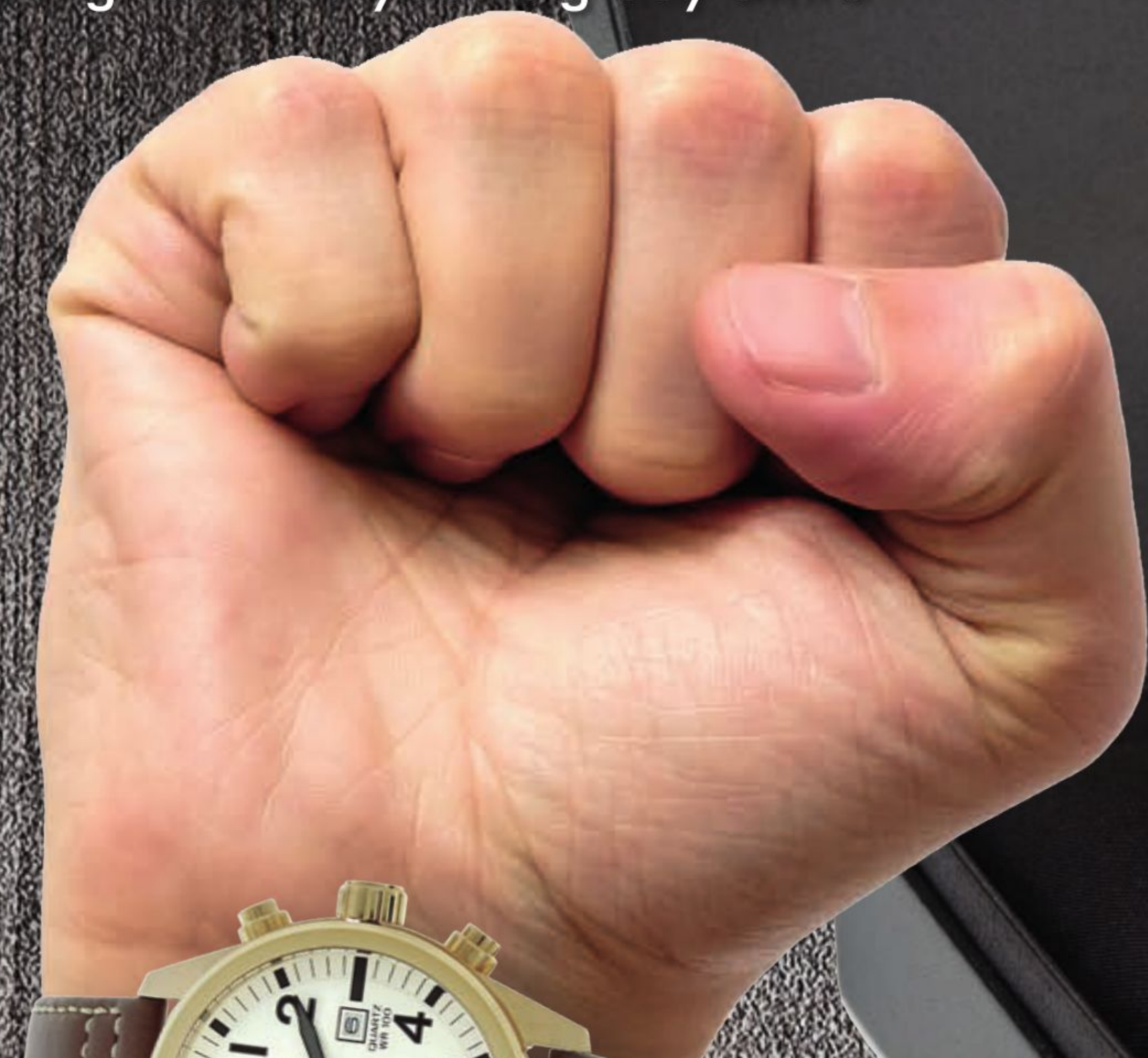
£24.99, gettingpersonal.co.uk



£110, dunelondon.com

TIME'S TICKING

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1. £59.99, gettingpersonal.co.uk
2. £89.99, tkmaxx.com
3. £30, riverisland.com
4. £250, newgateworld.com
5. £240, thewatchhut.co.uk
6. £449, hugoboss.com
7. £690, mauricelacroix.com
8. £224.99, timex.co.uk

WIN!

A LUXURIOUS FIVE-NIGHT HONEYMOON TO OMAN

Enter now for your chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the incredible Salalah Rotana Resort in Oman

Rotana Hotels & Resorts has partnered with County Wedding Magazines to offer one lucky couple a luxurious five-night honeymoon at Salalah Rotana Resort in Oman.

Set against a beautiful backdrop of lush vegetation, rolling mountains, golden sands and crystal-clear waters of the Indian Ocean, the five-star resort provides a tranquil setting that's ideal for those looking to unwind.

Whilst staying in one of the resort's Deluxe Ocean View rooms, the lucky couple can wake up with spectacular views across the water and enjoy coffee in the sun from their very own private terrace or balcony. Complimentary half-board dining will ensure the winners are spoilt for choice at both breakfast and dinner at Saffron restaurant.

As well as relaxing on the private golden beach, the newlyweds will also be treated to a couple's spa massage at Zen the Spa, the

perfect way to unwind after a hard day spent in the sun.

Salalah Rotana Resort is ideally located in the Salalah Beach destination – one of the most breath-taking natural settings in the Sultanate, between spectacular mountains, freshwater springs and tropical scenery, where wildlife and frankincense trees can be marveled.

The waterfront resort's 422 rooms and suites are built around waterways, whisking guests away to a coastal utopia. The resort prides itself on providing five-star opulence synonymous with the Rotana brand, infused with traditional Omani hospitality. With four restaurants, the resort offers the perfect mélange of East-meets-West hospitality.

With its state-of-the-art facilities, couples can keep fit at Bodylines Fitness & Wellness Club, take a dip in the swimming pool or relax and rejuvenate at Zen the spa at Rotana.

WORTH £3,000



Salalah
Rotana
Resort

THE PRIZE

- ♥ Five-night stay
- ♥ Half-board basis
- ♥ One couple's spa massage
- ♥ Return airport transfers in Oman

HOW TO ENTER

Which ocean does the Salalah Rotana Hotel overlook?
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The closing date is 5th June, 2020. Terms and conditions apply. Please see our website for details.



PICTURE-PERFECT PARADISE

The private Maldivian-owned boutique island resort of Baros has won the title of World's Most Romantic Resort for the seventh consecutive time at the annual World Travel Awards. Voted for by industry professionals and travellers from across the globe, it certifies its places as one of the top honeymoon destinations. General manager Ibrahim Shijah says, "This award maintains Baros' status as a Maldivian legend and furthers the significant impact of the resort within the international luxury market around the world."

To highlight its romantic offerings, the resort has launched its Romantic Moments package. Including a private candlelit beach dinner, a couple's massage and a spectacular sunset cruise, it makes the ultimate honeymoon retreat. Visit baros.com



A WILD MINI-MOON

You can journey across South America, Asia and Africa at Kent's authentic safari park Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve. We love that guests can now enjoy some peace and tranquility under the stars in The Bubble, a 180-degree panoramic lodge with stunning views across the 600-acre reserve. Couples can also take their romance to new heights with a once-in-a-lifetime hot-air balloon ride over Port Lympne and the surrounding countryside. After a day exploring the reserve, why not enjoy a romantic dinner at its Moroccan Courtyard or Bear Lodge Restaurant before heading back to your quirky accommodation. For more information, head to aspinnallfoundation.org

HONEYMOON

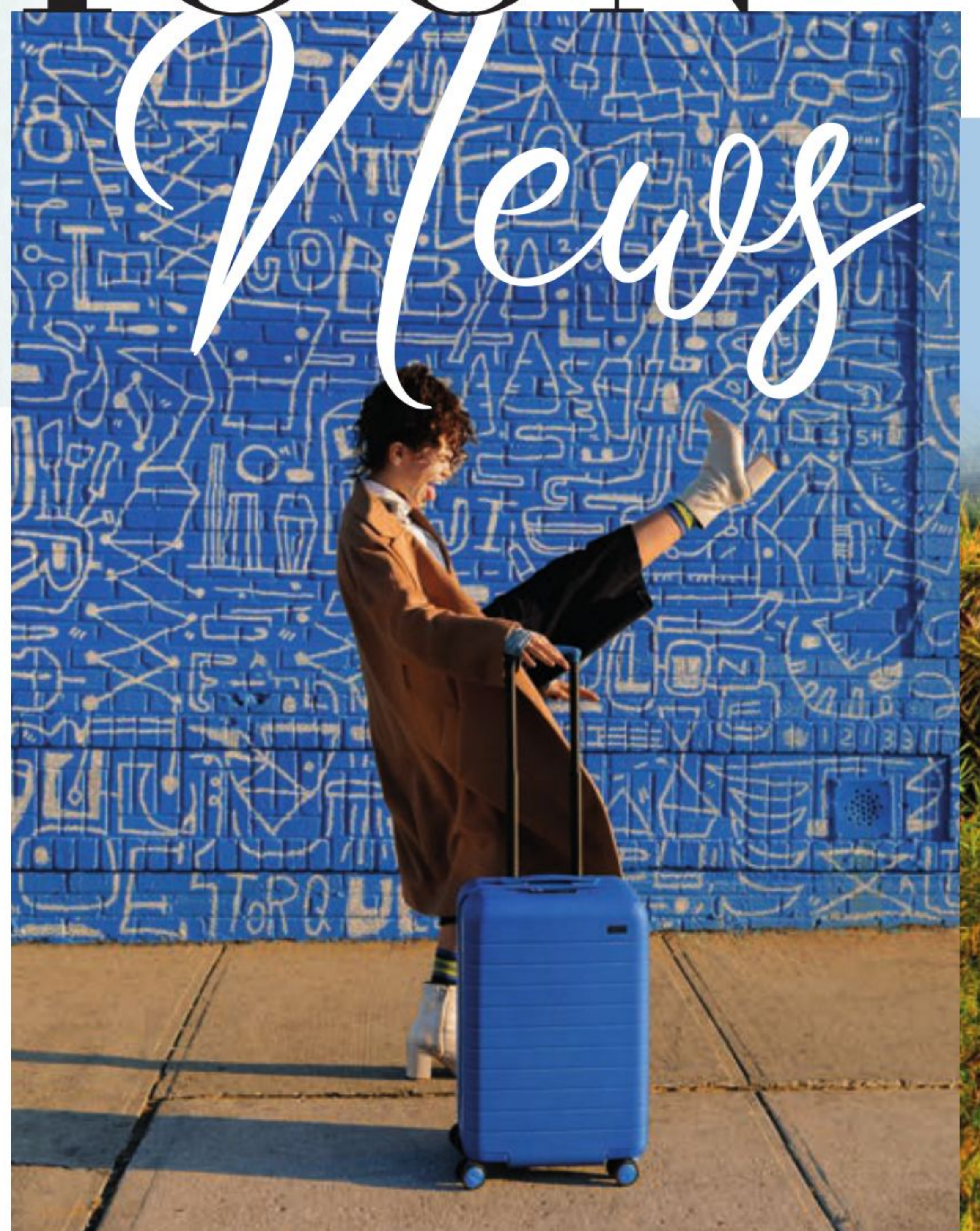


Travel editor Hannah Faulder reveals her top honeymoon destination picks and travel essentials

HOT HOTEL OPENING FOR 2020

I love a short-haul flight, so MarBella Collection's MarBella Elix on mainland Greece is a 2020 hotel opening I'm very excited about. The third hotel to join the portfolio and the first outside of Corfu, it will be perched above the beautiful Karavostasi Beach in the Parga region, looking west towards Corfu and Paxos. Couples arriving after the June 2020 launch will be able to marvel at the outstanding natural beauty, the inviting golden coastline and crystal-clear waters.

Within an hour's drive of Preveza Airport, the hotel can also arrange boat transfers from Corfu, which is ideal for those looking to twin with the MarBella Collection's two properties on the Ionian island. Book your honeymoon here, and you can expect luxurious accommodation, incredible scenery, exhilarating activities and delicious dining. Check out marbellacollection.gr



A classic case

Anyone else loving the 2020 Pantone Colour of the Year Classic Blue? It's evocative of vast skies and deep blue waters so it's ideal for travelling, and Away have hit the nail on the head with its limited edition Colour of the Year Collection. See the range at awaytravel.com

WINE TIME

Legacy wine estate Boschendal in South Africa's Cape Winelands introduced the country's first tented wine experience in March 2020. Wine-loving honeymooners can stay in one of seven luxury serviced tents in the heart of the 4,500-acre working estate and vineyard, offering a one-of-a-kind perspective on its staggering landscape.

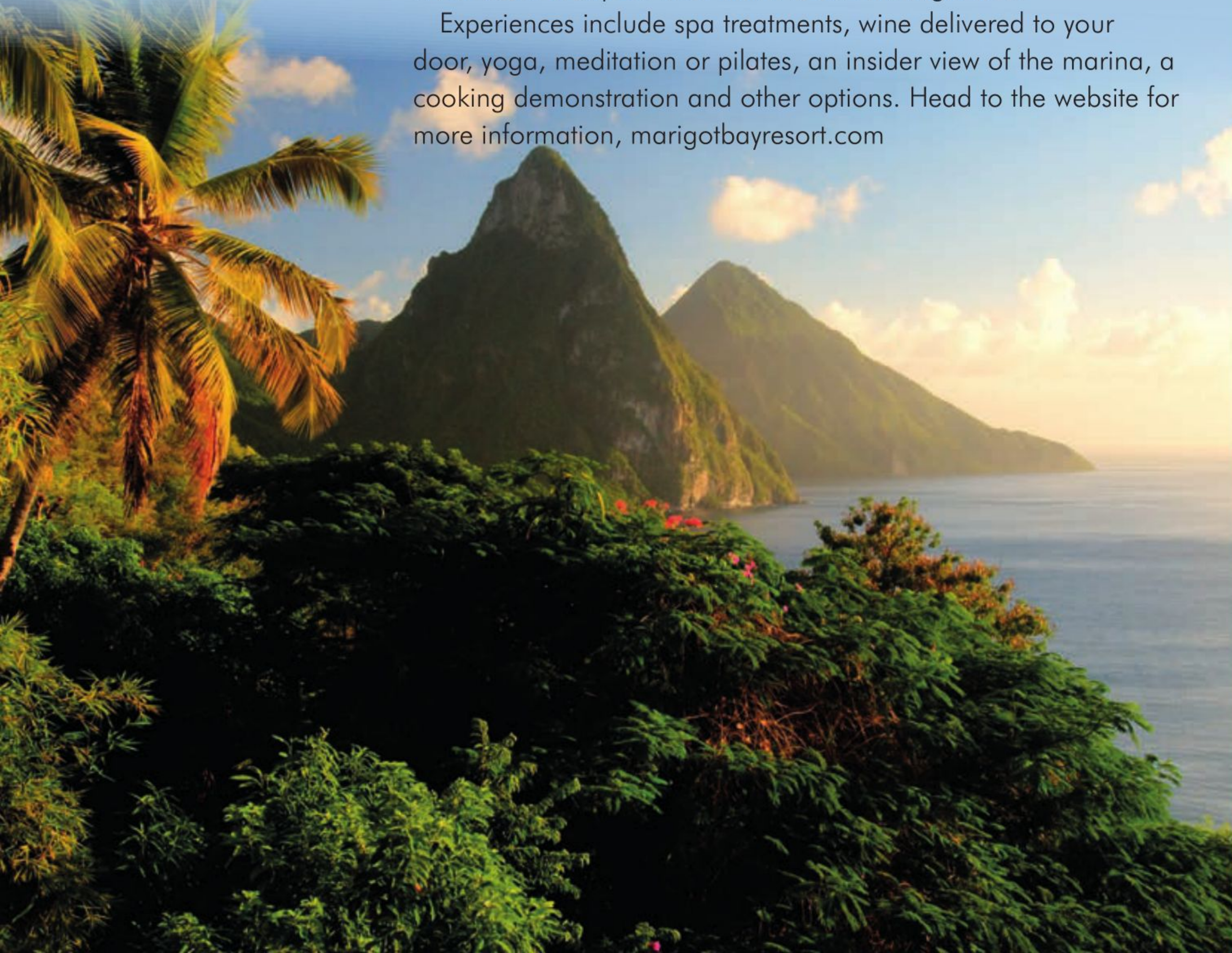
The property is dedicated to conserving its natural biodiversity and guests have the opportunity to become a part of the landscape that cultivates the exquisite produce found in its restaurants and wine cellar. To find out more, visit boschendal.com



MARRY, GO

St Lucia is one of my favourite holiday spots, and I'm not alone as it's consistently voted as one of the most romantic destinations in the world. The fabulous Marigot Bay Resort has come up with a dreamy new honeymoon package called Marigot Moments, which includes a full week of experiences and the seventh night free.

Experiences include spa treatments, wine delivered to your door, yoga, meditation or pilates, an insider view of the marina, a cooking demonstration and other options. Head to the website for more information, marigotbayresort.com



HONEYMOON NEWS

KEEP ON MOVING

With the Olympics just around the corner, you might be getting in the sporty mood. If you and your partner are more likely to be running on the beach than snoozing on it, then these active honeymoon picks are for you...

- ♥ Mountain biking in Mauritius. The Mauritius Tour Beachcomber 2020 is held 30th April to 2nd May and consists of four stages over a total distance of 195km. The challenging route allows cyclists to soak in their stunning surroundings. Book at beachcombertours.uk
- ♥ Running in Victoria Falls. The Victoria Falls Marathon in Zimbabwe is definitely a bucket-list event. Taking place in July, participants will be running alongside incredible scenery, amazing wildlife and one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Book at africaalbidatourism.com
- ♥ Diving in Fiji. Sign up for the THIRDHOME Adventure's Jean-Michel Cousteau's Fiji Island Hideaway Adventure in September to spend a week on a private island with guided diving and snorkelling alongside the world-famous oceanographic explorer and his expert marine biologist. Book at adventures.thirdhome.com
- ♥ Wild swimming in the Seychelles. Eager to try the wild swimming trend but the cold UK water's not for you? Dip your toes in at the five-star Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort & Spa and swim or snorkel along the 650-metre coral trail. Book at seychelles.hilton.com
- ♥ Stay active at sea. The launch of Blue World Voyages in 2021 will see the world's first active lifestyle cruise take to the Mediterranean with two decks dedicated to fitness, sports and wellness. There will also be a seawater pool, which will be lowered into the ocean so guests can swim alongside the ship. Book at blueworldvoyages.com

A TASTE OF PARADISE

Editor Claire Ridley travelled to the island of Anguilla in the Caribbean to discover what this popular honeymoon destination has to offer

When the opportunity arose to experience what's new for 2020 on this luxurious island in the Eastern Caribbean, I packed my passport and bikini and was ready to fly! The lure of its 33 pristine beaches with powder-white sand and clear turquoise sea – regularly voted some of the best in the region – along with the promise of some winter sun had me jumping on board the Virgin Atlantic flight from London Gatwick bound for the British West Indies.

It's a good idea to break the journey with a one-night stopover in Antigua. Curtain Bluff is a spectacular all-inclusive resort set against the backdrop of not one but two palm-fringed beaches – Bay Beach and Surf Beach. I stayed in a stunning one-bedroom, split-level Bluff Suite boasting panoramic sea views from the terrace.

Honeymooners can while away the day in a hammock or snorkel around the reef to discover a rich variety of sea life. For active types, there's scuba diving, waterskiing and basketball, all included in the room rate, while those wanting something more relaxing will love the spa treatments available in the private couple's treatment room.

The Seagrape restaurant offers beachfront dining, while the plantation-style Tamarind Restaurant is located in a more secluded setting, both served by the most extensive wine cellar in the area – be sure to ask for a private tasting.

Wish you were here

Boarding the inter-island Trans Anguilla Airways flight (prepare for a very small plane!), I was excited to touch down on this small yet perfectly formed jewel of the Caribbean where I was greeted by Colwayne from the Anguilla Tourist Board and whisked off to visit the Valley Street Festival, a vibrant introduction to the local arts and crafts scene. A 20-minute massage here from Big Joe really helped me to recover from the flight and relax into island life where, as the locals say, you should 'make time to lime' (hang out!)

Next up was a scenic tour of this honeymoon hotspot pointing out areas of interest including The Valley (the capital city) and Crocus Hill (the highest point). Lunch at the Bayside Grill beach bar at

da'Vida Restaurant & Spa was my first introduction to Johnny cakes – a doughnut-like savoury snack – and the local mahi-mahi fish giving me some much-needed energy for a two-hour afternoon kayaking tour from Crocus Bay to Little Bay with Liquid Glow. Through the clear-bottom kayaks I spotted tropical fish and even a turtle as we paddled along the sapphire shores, stopping for a snorkel around the cliff edge at the secluded Little Bay. Honeymooners will love the romantic night kayaking tour they offer, where you get the chance to see turtles sleeping at the bottom of the ocean.

It was soon time to check into the redesigned, award-winning CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa located on Rendezvous Bay that was to be my home for the next three nights. It's a glamorous white building with azure blue touches and a Mediterranean feel mixed with Caribbean flair (think of the architecture in Santorini and you get the idea). KazBar, the lounge area in the lobby, is a Moroccan-inspired space furnished with pops of bright colour, ideal for relaxing with rum and tapas while enjoying the live music. All 91 suites (including the Beachfront Junior Suite where I stayed), seven villas and two penthouses have been recently renovated and boast a bright coastal feel.

This super-stylish resort promises a gourmet-dining scene where guests can enjoy tastes from around the globe, including authentic Anguillian food created by new executive chef Juan Bochenski. He uses local ingredients and sustainable practices, and dishes include sushi and sashimi at the award-winning Japanese restaurant Tokyo Bay.

After a dip in the pool and some much-needed sunbathing time in a private cabana, it was time to get ready for dinner at Maundays Club located at dreamy resort Belmond Cap Juluca. Here, I sampled the tasty Peruvian menu including the mouth-watering Caribbean fish ceviche.

This romantic hideaway nestled on Maundays Bay offers Insta-worthy snaps at every turn and by day, the resort's turquoise VW Campervans and vintage-style bicycles allow for easy viewing of the grounds. A horse ride along the beach at Meads Bay on Tosh, proudly led by owner Zambezi, was a highlight and is suitable for riders of all levels. Check out the sunset excursions; great for honeymooners.

Enjoying #qualitytime at Curtain Bluff #curtainpics

Drinking a #coconutcocktail at da'Vida Restaurant (left), and the #infinityedgepool and #cutecampervans at Belmond Cap Juluca (right) #anguilla #beyondextraordinary

#horseriding on the #beach #meadsbay #belmondcapjuluca



Admiring the #seaviews
and #infinitypool at Zemi
Beach House Hotel &
Spa and CuisinArt (left)

Beyond the beach



Breakfast at Mosaic at CuisinArt certainly didn't disappoint, with the banana bread, coconut muffins and reviving smoothies so delicious I just had to order seconds. The restaurant features an open kitchen and wrap-around bar and is also open for dinner. After a swim in the ocean and enjoying the soft sand between my toes, it was time to be transported to the jaw-droppingly beautiful Shoal Bay East. (The easiest way to travel around the island is with Premier Taxi and Tours). This stunning stretch of sand is home to the Zemi Beach House Hotel & Spa boasting infinity pools and picturesque vistas. To say I ate well here was an understatement, with mahi-mahi tacos and hand-crafted coconut mocktails on the menu at the Zemi Beach Club. This was followed by a therapeutic massage at the zen-like Zemi Thai House Spa before enjoying the spectacular sunset that this island is well known for.



That evening, I headed for dinner at Café Celeste inside the colonial-style Malliouhana resort simply oozing with glamour and Caribbean charm, perched on the stunning Meads Bay. Highlights on the menu include red snapper, conch curry served with coconut dumplings and yummy plantain fritters.

Another day in paradise



Fully immersed in island life, I enjoyed an early morning yoga and meditation session followed by a refreshing dip in the healing waters pool in the Spa by CuisinArt. This tranquil spot is home to 16 treatment rooms, including a couple's suite featuring an outdoor Jacuzzi, where a heated bamboo massage and aqua massage are on the menu. The Scrub Blend Bar experience isn't to be missed, giving guests the option to make their own spa product to take home with them, and other more adventurous activities include aquatic kickboxing, stand-up paddleboard yoga and tennis (with lessons available). There's also a fun cookery class to learn how to make Portuguese petiscos and a rum and cocktail-making lesson.

Golf enthusiasts will love the 18-hole Greg

Book it



Tropic Breeze offer holidays to Antigua to stay at the Curtain Bluff resort, 01752 880 880, tropicbreeze.co.uk, @ tropicbreezeholidays curtainbluff.com @ curtainbluffresort



HONEYMOONS

#freshseafood
and a #romantic
ambience at Café
Celeste (above
and below)

Norman Signature Design Championship course, the only one on the island, situated close by on the resort's sister property, The Reef by CuisinArt. This oceanfront boutique hotel boasts 80 rooms and suites built across four beachfront buildings and an open-air lobby. Foodies will love The Yacht Club Restaurant, opening on to the feature pool, serving breakfast and dinner while Breezes Beachfront Restaurant & Bar offers a lounge-style atmosphere for lunch and dinner. Sundowners are a must-try at Santorini at the Clubhouse, also open for lunch.

There's a cool party vibe at this hotel with regular live DJ sets around the pool and poolside treatments available to book through Spa to You.



Next up was a visit to the colourful Arts & Crafts Center in the West End, a treasure trove of island trinkets including conch shells to take home. From here, I headed to the Sunshine Shack beach bar and grill perched on Rendezvous Bay, a short stroll along the beach from CuisinArt, where I tucked into the delicious grilled lobster accompanied by the local Carib lager. It's well worth the walk and you're encouraged to scribble a message with your name on the shack before you leave.



Coming to the end of my magical trip, as the sun went down, the wonderful team at CuisinArt arranged for me to experience some private dining at the water's edge at the Beach Bar & Grill where I enjoyed an amazing array of food and live music. I departed Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport with a smile on my face that lasted the entire way home – this tropical paradise, one of the best-kept secrets in the Caribbean, will always hold a special place in my heart ❤️

Virgin Holidays offer holidays to Anguilla to stay at CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa, 0344 739 6909, virginholidays.co.uk

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Practising #yoga
and #golf at
CuisinArt (above
and below)



#grilledlobster at
the Sunshine Shack

MOROCCAN *magic*



Hannah Faulder discovers that whatever you want from your honeymoon, you can find it at Mazagan Beach and Golf Resort in Morocco

If, like me and my husband, you want to spend your holiday ticking off activities but your partner wants to lounge by the pool, then Mazagan Beach and Golf Resort in Morocco might just be your ideal honeymoon destination. Year-round sun: tick. Action-packed activities: tick. Fun with the kids: tick. Luxury: tick – there's not much this place doesn't offer. And it's not by accident. Everything is meticulously planned and designed to cater to your every need within its 250 hectares of paradise.

A snappy three-hour flight, plus a one-hour transfer from Casablanca Airport, and you'll find yourself winding down Mazagan's grand driveway and seeing the resort emerging from its lush grounds in all of its decadent Moorish glory. As the only destination of its kind in Morocco, you might just find yourself rubbing shoulders with royalty and celebrities – I'm basically BFFs with Dougie from McFly now.

You can expect to find traditional Moroccan influences alongside contemporary luxe – think ornately carved doors, colourful lanterns, textured rugs and mosaic tiles. There are 13 restaurants and bars, a huge spa, the most glamorous gym imaginable, an 18-hole golf course and North Africa's biggest casino.

STAY

It's always a little disorienting arriving somewhere after dark, and the stylish but seemingly endless corridors of Mazagan heightened the confusion. I didn't need to worry; within a couple of minutes, a friendly chap with a walkie-talkie (who had clearly been sent to find the lost Englishwoman with too much luggage) was guiding me to my room. This was the level of service I came to expect here. Once inside, I was met with the most enormous marshmallowy bed, a spacious bathroom and floor-to-ceiling windows – in





HONEYMOON

the morning, these revealed incredible views across gardens and the secluded 9km beach beyond. I was told that if you're awake early enough (I wasn't), you can watch the resort's herd of rescue horses take their morning gallop across the deserted sands. Beautiful (I imagine).

Within the walls of Mazagan, you feel untouched by the outside world. The feeling of serenity is in every corner of the resort, which is especially incredible considering there are 500 rooms here. Sometimes I could walk around for 10 minutes and not bump into another soul.

EXPERIENCE

This place goes all out when it comes to experiences and activities. I'll confess that I'm a total wuss, so looking at my itinerary and seeing quad-biking, zip-lining and horse-riding did send me into a mild panic. However, I'm pleased to report I stepped out of my comfort zone – and I'm so glad I did! First up, I was introduced to the sassy Caramel, my noble steed for the hour. We rode along the practically deserted beach in the sunshine with the sound of the waves lapping on to the shore – what an incredible moment and an absolute must-do for honeymooners.

Next up, we jumped on some quad bikes and whizzed along the beach in hot pursuit of our guide, who took us to see an incredible shipwreck protruding from the water. He was also our personal photographer, getting snaps that made my group look like the most badass girl band of all time! After this, I had caught the action bug, and flinging myself down a zip line at high speed through the trees was the next logical step.

Bringing things back to my normal pace, we wandered through the

idyllic grounds to the spa, where, in a moment of madness, I decided against the planned full-body massage and instead opted for the hammam. The authentic Moroccan bathing ritual was certainly an experience! First off, you sit in an incredibly hot steam room where a lady washes you down with eucalyptus oil. Next, she showers you and lays you on a huge marble plinth and scrubs your skin with a mitt, which is akin to sandpaper. Then you're showered again, smothered in a mud mask, wrapped in a towel and left to bake on the plinth. The end result: seriously smooth skin! I felt like a newborn baby, and I've been recommending a – frankly bizarre – hammam to anyone who'll listen.

EAT

Foodies will love the choice of 13 restaurants and bars here. There are two huge buffets offering everything you could possibly want alongside high-end eateries that specialise in different cuisines. For breakfast, it's worth heading to Olives and sitting by the pool, where fresh food, soft music and elaborately served mint tea all add to the chilled-out vibe.

One evening, we opted for the elegant Sel de Mer, which serves the finest seafood. Fellow veggies, don't despair! They whipped me up a yummy quinoa stack and vegetable pasta. I'd also recommend the rustic charm of La Cave for warming French fare.

LOVE

The final evening was spent looking out at the setting sun, cocktail in hand, watching the golden rays twinkle across the waves. It was a perfectly romantic time to reflect on a trip that offered everything honeymooners could want: adventure, luxury and unadulterated romance in equal measure.



For more information, and to book your stay, visit mazaganbeachresort.com



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Olivia Gibson reviews the Castle Hotel Windsor

I didn't quite realise how incredible my stay would be at the Castle Hotel Windsor, throughout the trip my partner and I created amazing memories full of happiness, laughter and relaxation. Maybe it was the charming décor, impeccable service or the fact that Windsor Castle is nestled right opposite the hotel – creating the perfect backdrop.

When the chance to visit the establishment first arose, I immediately jumped at the opportunity. For a while, it's been on my bucket list to visit the UK town but something would always come up. But not this time, the stars aligned and next thing I know, my bags are packed and I'm on my way.

The hotel was first built in 1528 and was previously known as The Mermaid Inn serving as a bar for the town's 1,000 residents and is now one of the oldest buildings in the area. After being lovingly restored, the hotel still boasts elegance of its rich and fascinating history left behind.

Throughout the hotel, many features highlight the venue's story such as the Pennington Penny which was an in-house token issued by George Pennington back in 1656. I loved how the authentic essence of the venue has been kept and highlighted with some original features, when you look closely stories start to come alive.

PURE INDULGENCE

When stepping through the doors for the first time – and thinking how amazing everything looked – friendly staff quickly greeted us and took their time to explain the local area with the best places to see – they couldn't have been more helpful!

With 108 rooms available ranging from suites, superior and the classic rooms, there's something for everyone. Inside our room we found a 40-inch flat-screen TV, White Company toiletries, minibar and iron. After a long week, I was very excited to try out the queen size bed

which was covered with Egyptian cotton. It was so comfortable that I ended up having a nap! Once I had awoken from my slumber, we headed off for a romantic walk around the area and discovered plenty of independent boutiques, clothes shops and cafes – we walked around in comfortable silence just enjoying each others' company. As we visited in winter, the night drew in early leaving the dark streets beautifully lit.

TO DINE FOR

We couldn't fault our dining experience at The Marco Pierre White restaurant located in the hotel and I must say, it's one of the best meals I've ever had – and I'm not exaggerating! The service was faultless and I have told everyone about it. For starter I had Mr White's Scotch Egg which tasted divine, the egg inside was cooked to perfection. For main I opted for The Governor's Fried Haddock and Triple Cooked Chips, a simple dish which is my personal favourite and I wasn't disappointed.

After dinner we headed off to the bar where we enjoyed plenty of cocktails, my favourite was the classic daiquiri and spent our time relaxing on the comfortable chairs, it was so lovely to be able to spend time together without any distractions.

After having a lovely rest, we started our day with a great breakfast. It was a buffet-style set-up with choices of hot foods or continental. My partner says the blueberry muffin was his favourite, I would have loved to try some but I was so full-up!

While eating, guests could watch the changing of the guards right outside the window, it was impressive and there was an excited buzz all around – it was like a movie scene!

It was sadly time to leave; we both loved this hotel so much and will be booking our next trip back later this year!

Discover more about the venue here: castlehotelwindsor.com

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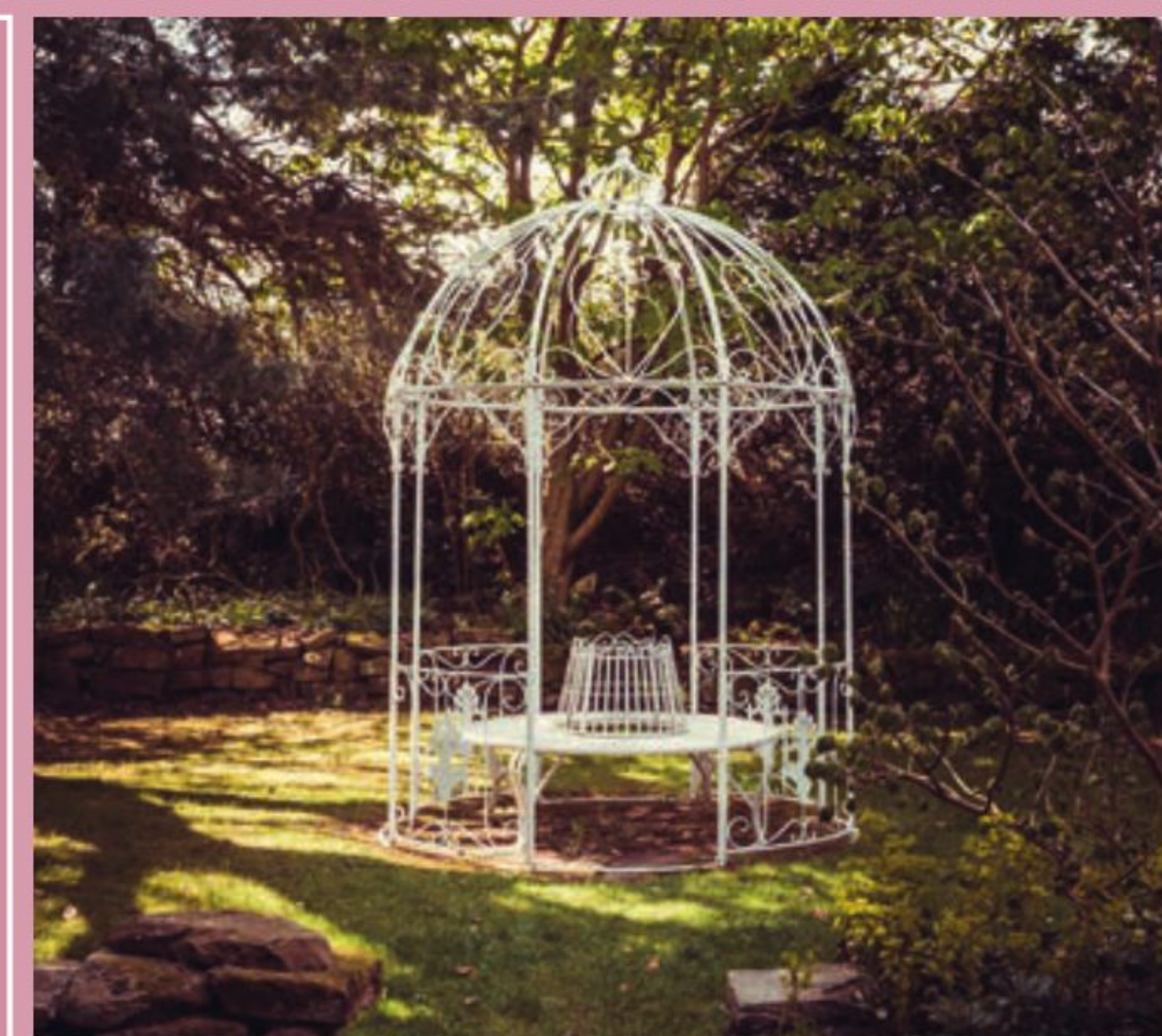
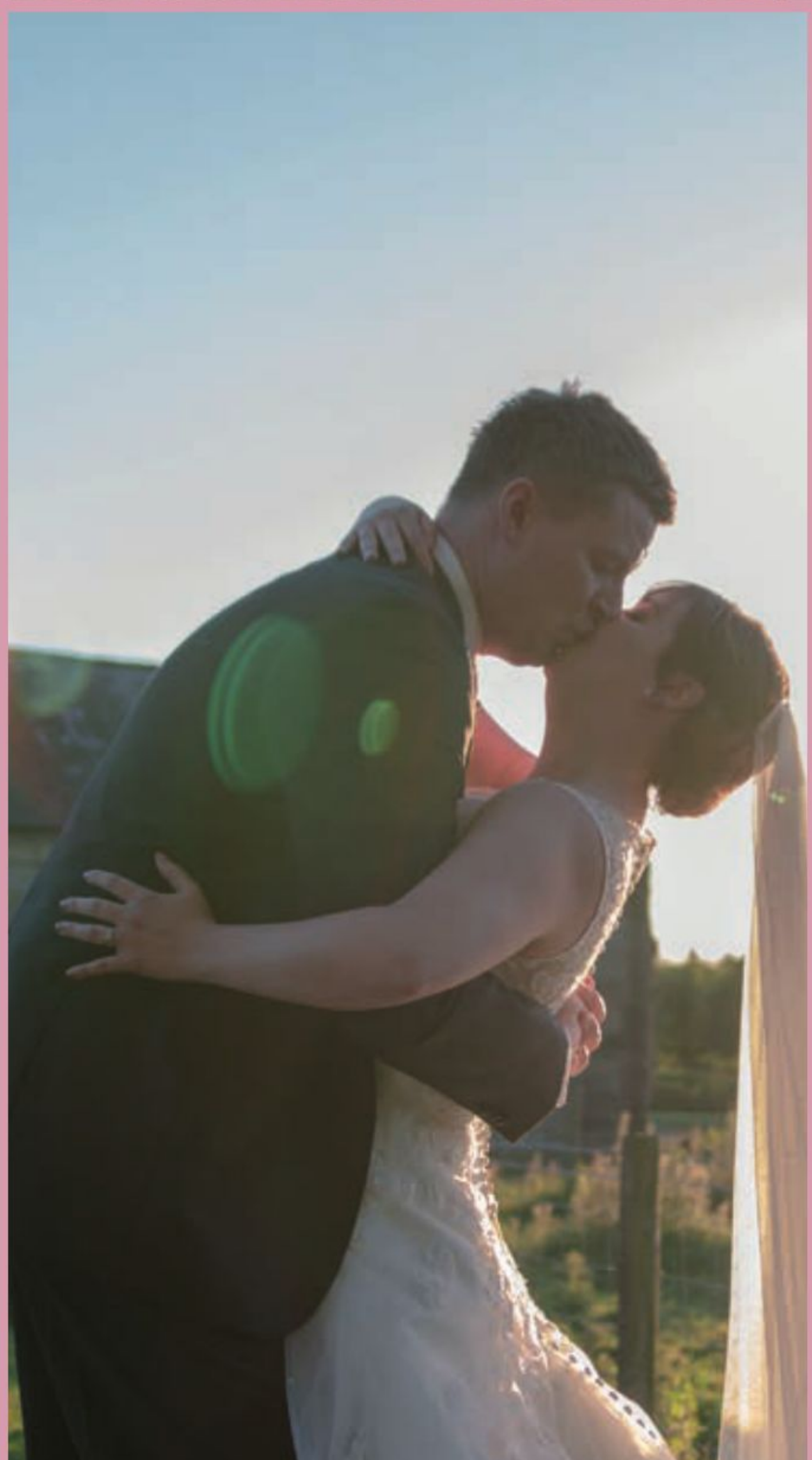
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