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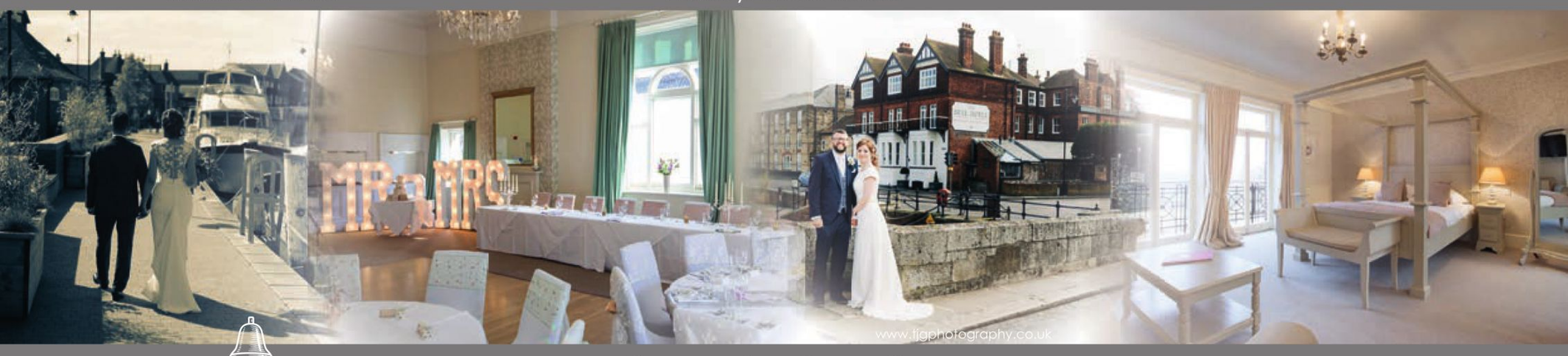
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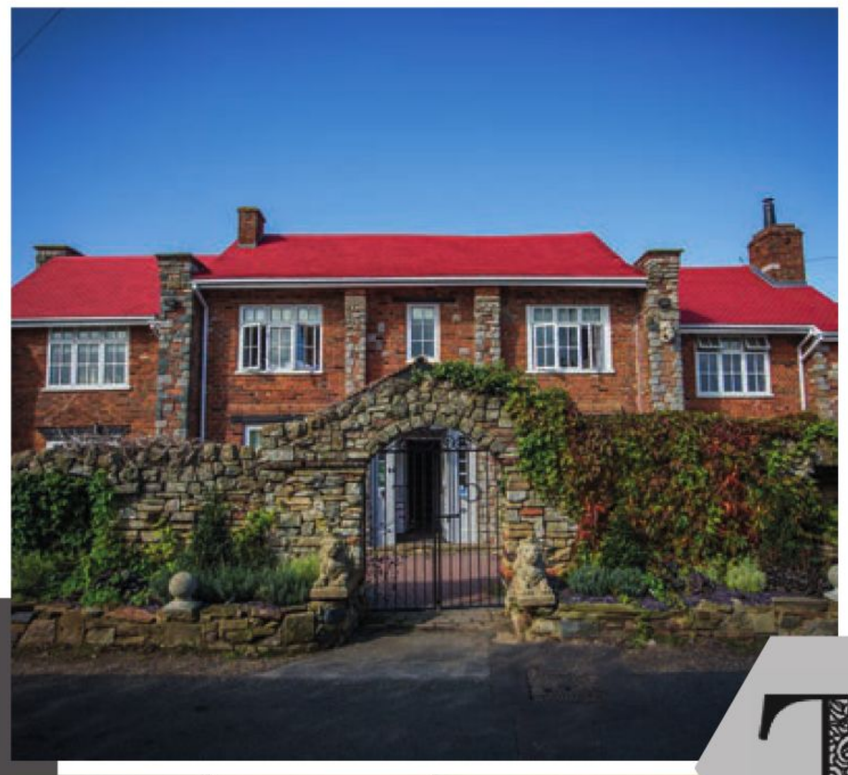


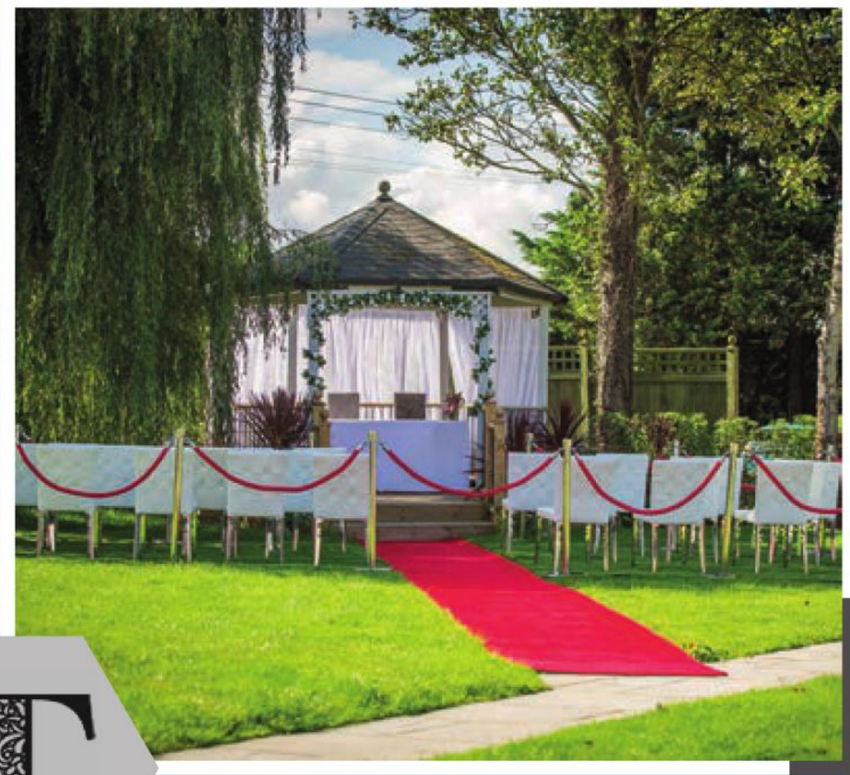
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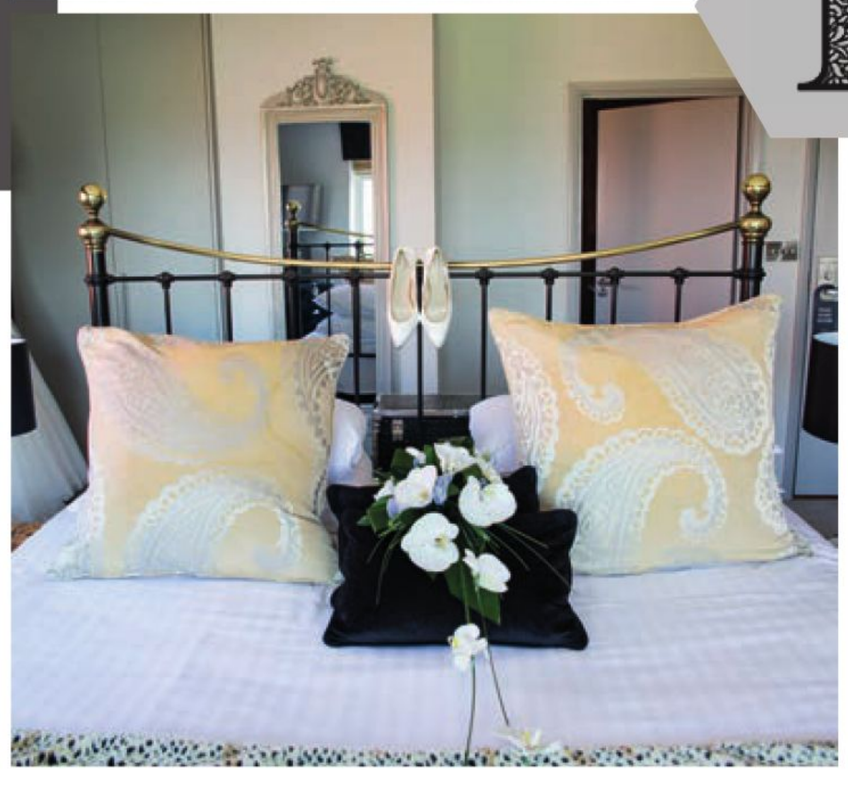
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kd EVENTS & PUBLISHING
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Dawn of a decade



We're well into 2020 now and the year's trends are starting to make themselves known. I'm already obsessed with 20th-century vintage and am delighted to see a growing wedding eco-consciousness. Some of Kent's top suppliers have been hard at work, bringing the newest looks to life. Just head over to pages 67, 72, 82, and 87 where these wedding wonders await for you all to enjoy.

With my mind never too far away from my stomach, one thing I was keen to get the latest take on was the big-day bake. Probably the biggest consideration for couples this year, and beyond, is how to personalise their wedding day, so we asked Kent's cake makers how to inject a healthy dose of character into the sweet centrepiece. Turn to page 77 to find out what they had to say.

As your self-appointed BFF for all things wedding, we've got everything you need to plan your big day with confidence and aplomb. So, if you're newly engaged and about to set out on the hunt for your perfect venue, help is at hand with our roundup of local stately home and manor house locations. Alternatively, if W-day is now on the horizon, you can find some fabulous bridal-look finishing touches in our bling-tastic jewellery feature on page 95, as well as my top beauty buy tips on page 118.

Happy planning one and all!

Psst! Don't forget: *if you've loved feeling inspired by our real wedding couples, and are keen to do the same for future readers, visit yourkent.wedding/get-involved-real-wedding to find out how.*

Kelly x

Kelly Andrews, editor



I'm a huge fan of this shoot's tropical theme, and what a showstopping bake by cobiandcoco.com this is! Totally edgy and gorgeous to boot.



I can't get enough of Laura's breathtaking blush wedding dress – *Yocelyn* by watters.com



How sweet are these dainty little wedding favour bags complete with a delicious looking macaron? The rustic-chic labels mean they double up as place names.





Shoot images: Stephanie Chapman Photography & Sarah Capon Photography

55



charlenewebbphotography.co.uk

The groomsmen's attire denoted their roles in Sandie and Matt's wedding party – a super-smart touch.



samanthajonesphotography.co.uk

Just sipping Champagne at the Hythe Imperial Hotel's Moet & Chandon bar, darling. It's the only one in Kent, don't you know?

67

I do love a statement hair accessory; it's the perfect solution for a dress that speaks for itself.

95



simonhawkinsweddings.co.uk

I visited The Old Kent Barn recently, and I'll never get tired of its stunning ceremony area. Our real wedding bride, Melanie, was one of the lucky ladies who got to make her entrance via the fairylit greenery-clad arch, before following the pergola-flanked aisle towards her the pretty wedding gazebo where her husband-to-be was patiently waiting.

Cuteness overload! As long as they stay on that side of the glass that is! Did you know you can spend the night alongside Port Lympne's newest feline arrivals at the Lion Lodge?



olegssamsonovsphotography.com

36



9







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Image by rosshurley.com

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AWARD SUCCESS

The team at Hever Castle is celebrating after a hat trick of wins at the Beautiful South Awards. The historic attraction and wedding venue scooped a gold award in the Large Visitor Attraction of the Year category, with fellow Kent venue Leeds Castle receiving silver. Hever Castle was also awarded a joint gold award alongside Blenheim Palace in the Wedding Venue of the Year category. Plus, its beautiful five-star bed and breakfast was given the bronze award for Small Hotel of the Year.

Duncan Leslie, CEO of Hever Castle says, "We're absolutely thrilled to have won these awards, it's a huge honour and is testament to the hard work and dedication of all our staff across all departments."

Check out hevercastle.co.uk



LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS!

Award-winning record shop and eatery, the Orpington, has launched a fabulous new Ladies Evening offer, including a free bottle of Vaporetto Prosecco with four main dish orders.

Perfect as a hen do with your #bridesquad, or just an excuse for a night out with the girls, the Orpington's new menu consists of a range of delicious dishes embracing its passion for wholesome food and fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

The offer will run from Tuesday-Saturday from 5pm, to Saturday 28th March 2020. Quote "the Orpington prosecco offer" when booking.

Check out theorpington.co.uk

Nearlywed NEWS

Catch up on all the latest from around the county

LOCAL LOVELY

Chislehurst's Bank House Wine Bar and Kitchen opened in September 2019, with husband and wife team Stuart and Cecilia Gillies at the helm. Housed in a former Victorian brownstone bank on Chislehurst High Street, this independent bar and kitchen specialises in serving a weekly-changing menu of modern European plates, beautifully complemented by a dynamic wine list. The space has been converted over two floors, with the upstairs able to play host to intimate wedding receptions for 50 guests.

I was lucky enough to be invited to sample the food and ambience at Bank House, and ducked through the doors on a chilly December evening, to be warmly welcomed by Stuart himself. The first thing I noticed as I was shown to my table was the lively atmosphere. It's a buzzing restaurant, with an informality that belies it's high-quality dining experience.

Making selections from the tapas-style menu was no easy task, as everything sounded so delicious. Head chef Bobby Brown uses artisan produce and locally sourced ingredients from surrounding farms to create his menus. Eventually, I opted for the goat's cheese, and toasted walnuts, with chestnut honey; baked crab gratin with crostini and parmesan; and 36-day aged fillet with shallots, thyme and red wine. Of course, I couldn't do without sampling the side orders too, so I added the mini roast potatoes with garlic mayo and chicken salt to my order.

The plates were delivered hot as and when they were ready so the meal felt like it had a nice leisurely pace to it. They were all well sized, so that you felt as though you were enjoying a good meal, whilst getting the chance to sample a good range of the delicious dishes on offer. Everything was a joy to demolish. Dessert was a flourless chocolate cake with Chantilly cream, which went down a treat with my sweet tooth.

So, if you're looking for your next date-night spot, or an intimate wedding reception venue, you'd do very well to check out Bank House Wine Bar and Kitchen. For further information and to book a table, head on over to bankhousechislehurst.com









SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Penshurst Place is reaching out to couples who have been married there over the past 25 years to help them mark a quarter of a century of nuptials at the impressive 14th-century country house. In April this year, it will be 25 years since new regulations came into force allowing marriages to take place in venues other than a church or registry office. Penshurst became licensed in July that year and continues to be a popular choice for weddings today, recently being crowned Wedding Venue of the Year for the third time at the Kent Wedding Awards, 2019.

Soon, you'll be able to find an online gallery of Penshurst weddings since they began, giving you an opportunity to see how fashions and approaches have changed over the years. Couples who tied the knot at the venue are being invited to share one of their own favourite photos from their day to be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets to an exclusive silver anniversary champagne afternoon tea event.

If you know any couples that were married at Penshurst Place, do let them know to contact lucy@penshurstplace.com to find out more about how they can get involved. And if you're on the lookout for the perfect location for your own special day, it's worth noting that the venue is offering a 25 per cent discount on summer season hire fees for all new wedding bookings made before the end of October 2020, valid for summer weddings hosted by October 2022.

Check out penshurstplace.com

Editor loves

Port Lympne Hotel and Reserve is a wonderful venue for back-to-nature weddings. Whether you're mingling with guests in the colourful gardens and Moroccan courtyard, admiring the panoramic views of the Kent countryside from the stunning terraces, or inside the charming Grade-II listed mansion, it's unforgettable.

We've also received news that three gorgeous lion cubs were born to first-time parents Adras and Oudrika last year. The trio was the first to be born at the animal reserve in over 10 years, and the best part is that you can spend a mini-moon alongside them at the Lion Lodge.

To find out more about weddings and mini-moon experiences at Port Lympne, check out aspinallfoundation.org





Bagpuss, dear Bagpuss

If you're looking for a wedding favour that gives back, charity pins are a great idea. Kent-based charity Hospices of Hope, has produced a series of three super-cute Bagpuss pins to raise funds, and support its work providing hospice care for seriously ill children.

The Bagpuss Children's Hospice Wing in Brasov, Romania, is so called because the series' creators Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin, supported the charity's work and gave it the right to use their beloved character, and his friends, to raise money for the cause.

Hospices of Hope's project manager, Liz Outten says, "The lapel pins will be a fun reminder of your special day, and giving a 'saggy old cloth cat' to your guests as wedding favours means you'll be helping children in need of hospice care."

Head over to hospicesofhope.co.uk for further information.

TAG, YOU'RE IT!

For anyone looking for an adrenalin-fuelled hen, stag or sten bash, Bewl Water, an 800-acre site, home to the largest reservoir in the South East, has expanded its Laser Tag Challenge to serve groups of all sizes. You can now conveniently book one-hour slots via the website, including same-day bookings, for the more spontaneous amongst you, for just £15 per person.

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Once you've worked up an appetite, you can enjoy a selection of light meals, fresh cakes, scones, a choice of snacks, ice cream, and hot and cold drinks at Bewl's dog-friendly Waterfront Café. For a more hearty meal, The Boat House Bistro, offers stunning panoramic views, and a weekly-changing market menu prepared by the head chef and his team using the finest local ingredients, often including freshly-caught trout from the reservoir.

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We've teamed up with this lovely local supplier to offer readers a fantastic 20% discount off of any handmade wedding favour boxes. To claim, simply order online at oasthousegifts.com and quote YKW20M.



BEHIND THE LENS

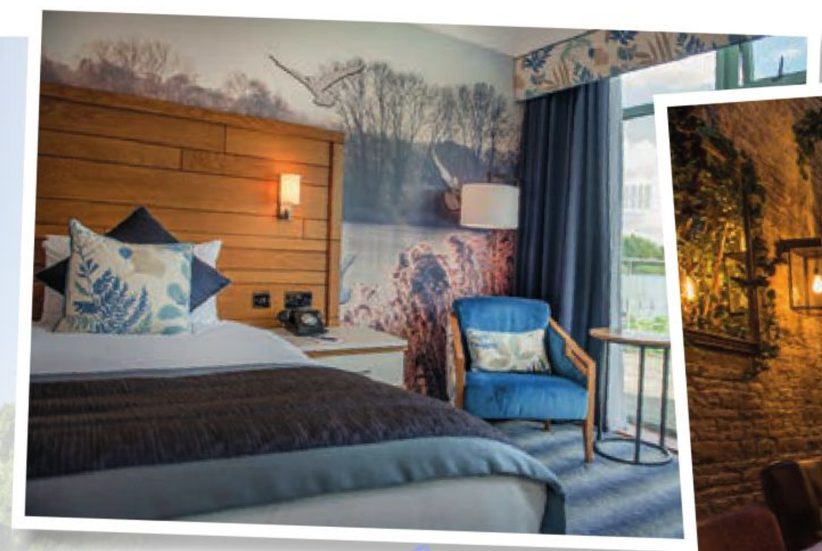
Sarah Relf is the fabulous wedding photographer behind Lawless Rose Photography. She takes a relaxed approach to traditional wedding photography, incorporating elements of documentary style. It's a balance that ensures you get the all-important posed shots you want for the album, as well as the unscripted and meaningful moments that immortalise the spirit of the day.

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ALL EVENTS 11AM - 3PM
unless otherwise stated



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ESSEX

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SUN 15 MAR



HEVER HOTEL
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SUN 19 APR



COLVILLE HALL
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SUN 19 APR



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SUN 29 MAR



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MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD

Brooklands Drive, Weybridge, KT13 0SL
SUN 15 MAR | 11AM - 4PM



WEMBLEY STADIUM

London, HA9 0WS
SUN 26 APR | 11AM - 4PM



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Kent Wedding Awards Winner 2020





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Nestled in 150 acres of Grade II listed Kentish parkland, Cobham Hall is one of England's finest historic country houses.

The stunning and impressive Gilt Hall will play host to your ceremony and reception. With its fabulous gilded ceiling, marble fireplace and original wood floors this former Music Room will amaze your guests with its grandeur and elegance.

The adjoining Vestibule and Library are available for welcome drinks as well as the formal elegance of the West Court Gardens. During the Summer months and for larger guest numbers from 130 to 500, a stunning marquee with wood floors, silk linings and crystal chandeliers can be erected in the West Lawn overlooking The Hall. In the summer months ceremonies can also take place in the elegant stone pergola in Lady Darnley's walled garden.

Only 28 miles from central London and within easy reach of the A2, M2, M20 and M25 Cobham Hall is perfectly situated close to all major road networks while enjoying a picturesque and tranquil setting.

Call our dedicated wedding team to find out how Cobham Hall can become the perfect setting for your amazing day.

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cobhamhallweddings

Spotlight on... BROMLEY, BEXLEY & DARTFORD

Tie the knot in a local hotspot



COBHAM HALL

01474 619 019 | @cobhamhallweddings

Nestled in 150 acres of Grade II listed parkland, Cobham Hall dates back to 1208 when the original manor was granted by the King to the De Cobham family. The Hall is home to a priceless collection of paintings and antiques as well as to the famous ashes of English cricket, which were gifted by the then English cricket captain and future 8th Earl of Darnley, Ivo Bligh, in 1883. Now operating as an independent day and boarding school for 200 girls, Cobham Hall is one of the country's finest historic country houses.

Only 28 miles from central London and within easy reach of the A2, M2, M20 and M25 the venue is conveniently situated, while enjoying a picturesque and tranquil setting. Offering a maximum of 20 wedding dates per year, Cobham Hall is a hidden gem that will amaze your guests with its history, grandeur and elegance, plus its dedicated wedding team will help you create a day designed exclusively for you.

What's more, on booking your wedding day at Cobham Hall, you'll be invited to a complimentary menu tasting and wine pairing. There's also a bridal dressing room and groom's lounge on site for use on the morning of your wedding.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- **Lady Darnley's Garden** features a Grade II listed Ionic temple, brought to Cobham Hall in 1820, which makes a super-romantic location for your "I dos."
- **The Gilt Hall** is the Hall's former music room and boasts a fabulous gilded ceiling, marble fireplace, floor-to-ceiling windows, central chandelier and original wooden floors (140 ceremony, 120 dining, 220 evening guests).
- **The Library** is a beautiful space for intimate ceremonies and welcome drinks, and is connected to the Gilt Hall along with the vestibule.
- **The West Court Gardens** offer stunning formal elegance. They're exclusively available for you and your guests for drinks and mingling. You can also host your reception in a marquee on the West Lawn overlooking the Hall (400 dining guests).









HALL PLACE & GARDENS

01322 526 574 | hallplace.org.uk

Hall Place is a Grade I listed Tudor house with a panelled Great Hall and beautiful Great Chamber with carved ceiling. Displaying the individual styles of its two historic periods, with the Tudor monastic stone walls and red Jacobean red brick, you have the opportunity to experience the best of both worlds.

Standing within award-winning registered landscaped gardens, the venue offers many a quaint space for your photos, and the perfect setting for reception drinks. With topiary shapes, rose gardens and magnolia walks – and the River Cray flowing through – the gardens exude a sense of serenity. In the wider parkland, you'll find herbaceous borders and wild flowers, encouraging a feel of wellbeing at every turn.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- ❤ **The Great Hall** is an impressive panelled room overlooking the North Courtyard (100 ceremony and dining, 140 evening guests).
- ❤ **The Tudor Kitchen** is a rustic space offering intimacy, and access to the North Courtyard (100 ceremony guests).
- ❤ **The Great Chamber**, on the first floor, is a light and airy spot overlooking the topiary lawns (50 ceremony guests).
- ❤ **The Parlour** is a smaller panelled room, offering a cosy feel amongst the history of the house (40 ceremony guests).
- ❤ **The North Courtyard** is a beautiful spot for reception drinks.





BROMLEY COURT HOTEL

020 8461 8600 | bromleycourthotel.co.uk

Bromley Court is a hotel steeped in history, with the atmosphere of a wonderful and intimate country house. Years of hospitality experience have gone into fine-tuning its beautiful rooms and event spaces, and things are kept wonderfully simple by ensuring everything you need for your big day is included as standard in all packages.

The stunning gardens are also rich in history with the Italianate gardens, which are bursting with vibrant flowers and complete with urns and terracing.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- ❤ **The Wellington Suite** is the hotel's largest event space, situated on the ground floor; it consists of two rooms with connecting doors and its own bar. They're lovely light spaces with large windows, affording fabulous views of the gardens. They also benefit from access to the patio area and gardens below (150 ceremony, 90 dining, 150 evening guests).
- ❤ **The Garden Restaurant** is a bright and elegant suite offering views across the landscaped garden and patio area, to which there is also direct access. It benefits from an adjoining bar and lounge area, with ornate fireplace and chandeliers. Plus, The Garden Suite has its own dancefloor with fitted disco and lighting (130 ceremony, 100-180 dining, 250 evening guests).
- ❤ **The Darwin Room** is ideal for smaller celebrations. It's tastefully decorated, with it's own stylish bar, and fitted dancefloor (60 dining, 65 evening guests).
- ❤ **Leona's Room** is an intimate space boasting a garden view, ideal for smaller gatherings (20 dining, 30 evening guests).
- ❤ **Amelia's Room** has lovely bay windows, and also suits intimate gatherings to a tee (40 dining, 50 evening guests).



HALL PLACE & GARDENS

Whether you are looking for a stunning venue for your ceremony or looking to host your whole day in one special place. Hall Place is the perfect wedding venue.

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HALL PLACE & GARDENS

www.hallplace.org.uk

THE BROMLEY COURT
HOTEL



WEDDING SHOWCASE
Thursday 26th November 2020, 7pm - 9pm

Why not join us at The Bromley Court Hotel to view our Function Rooms prepared for a Wedding Breakfast. We will give you lots of ideas and inspiration for the most important day of your life. Entry is free and you will be welcomed with a glass of Buck's Fizz and Canapés. Registrars and some of our recommended suppliers will also be joining us.

We look forward to welcoming you!

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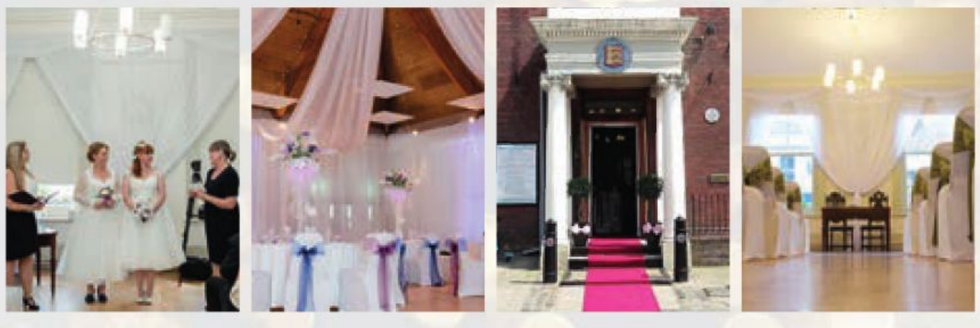
The Alexander Centre
Faversham

Step across the elegant Victorian threshold into this heritage building which was once the heart of high society in Faversham. It has now been restored by the Alexander Centre Community Interest Company to its former grandeur.

Ceremony and Reception rooms are available. The ceremony room, with its high ceilings and period details, can accommodate up to 50 guests, while the Gatefield Hall is a large versatile space that can comfortably accommodate up to 200 Guests.

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The Alexander Centre

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Weddings at Brenley

At Brenley we give you the freedom to design your own special day.





Set in the heart of the lush Kent countryside Brenley Farm has been carefully managed by the Berry family for many generations. The house and surrounding farm buildings are Grade II listed making it a beautiful setting to host your special day.

We offer a more informal approach to the wedding industry, providing a location where you are free to use your own suppliers or our recommended ones and tailor your day to meet your needs whether you have 20 guests or 150.

We have two licenced ceremony spaces and different reception choices enabling you to adapt the venue to suit your needs, taste and budget - and with onsite accommodation for thirty plus, there is no need for your guests to go far.

BRENLEY FARM HOUSE
Brenley Lane | Boughton | Faversham | Kent | ME13 9LY
weddings.brenley-farm.co.uk





BRANDSHATCH PLACE HOTEL & SPA

01474 875 000 | handpickedhotels.co.uk/brandshatchplace

Built for the Duke of Norfolk in 1806, this Georgian mansion has a charming red brick façade and romantic front porch. Positioned at the end of a long tree-lined drive, it's perfect for that special arrival and plenty of idyllic wedding photographs.

This charming hotel gives way to elegant painted oak panelling and decorative cornicing, nodding to its past as a famous country house, where entertainment was king. The function suites are enriched with contemporary touches such as modern spotlighting and decorative mirrors, creating a glamorous backdrop.

Steps down from the traditional covered porch lead you on to a perfectly manicured lawn to the front of the hotel, with the smaller lawn to the rear accessed from the Terrace Suite.

Guests staying overnight can enjoy one of the hotel's 38 bedrooms, including suites, feature rooms and more contemporary classic rooms, as well as enjoying access to the award-winning health club and spa, making for the perfect post-party wind-down.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- **The Terrace Suite** is the hotel's principal function space, and has access to a delightful private courtyard, with patio seating leading on to the rear lawn (110 ceremony, 110 dining, 150 evening guests)
- **The Oak Room** has beautifully painted panelled walls creating a lovely light space (80 ceremony, 40 dining guests).
- **The Boardroom**'s beautiful bay window overlooks the gardens, making it a romantic spot for your vows and celebrations (40 ceremony, 30 dining guests).
- **The Atrium Bar & Lounge** offers a different dimension, with exposed brickwork, a glass ceiling and plenty of dancefloor space (150 evening guests).





A little further afield...

THE ALEXANDER CENTRE

01795 591 691 | thealexandercentre.com

The Alexander Centre is an attractive Victorian building in the heart of Faversham, a picturesque Medieval market town situated within easy reach of the rest of Kent, and London. Its position in the town ensures that there are plenty of amenities nearby including hotels and B&Bs for your guests, all within easy walking distance.

Its impressive period façade makes a real statement amongst the town's architecture and features a grand portico, which makes a great feature for photographs. Plus, there's a private secluded garden located just off of the main hall for further snaps.

There are rooms available for pre-ceremony preparations, and you'll also have access on the evening before to dress your wedding space and make it your own. The venue's team takes great pride in offering you the flexibility to create the day you choose.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- **The Jubilee Room** is a light and airy heritage room with large windows, high ceilings, detailed cornicing and parquet flooring (50 ceremony guests).
- **The Gatefield Hall** is the venue's main hall and boasts a high vaulted ceiling. It can be dressed with drapes, providing a blank canvas that can be decorated to suit your theme. It opens out onto a small, private garden, which can accommodate gazebos, or even a bouncy castle. Alongside the hall is a separate bar and lounge area, also included in your venue hire (150 ceremony, 250 reception guests).

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CALLING ALL BRIDES-TO-BE LOOKING TO GET MARRIED IN 2020!

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All brides attending will receive a goody bag full of bridal tips, ideas, St. Augustine's special offers & some pampering free samples! Book your private guided tour by emailing info@staugustines.uk.com
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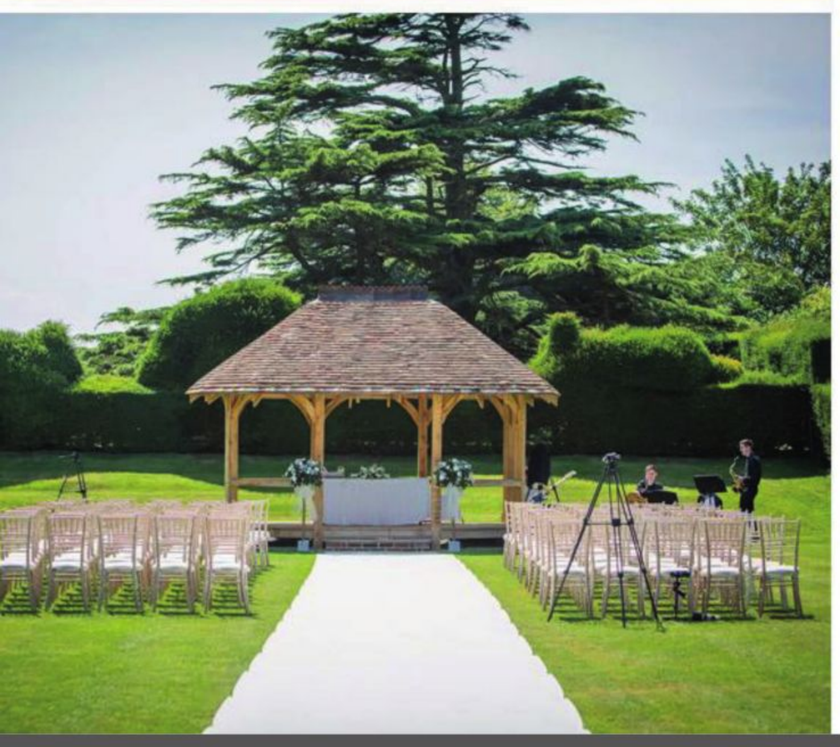
KNOWLTON COURT

Knowlton Court is a beautiful country estate located in the heart of Kent,
the garden of England.
It is an exceptional venue to enjoy for your wedding weekend.

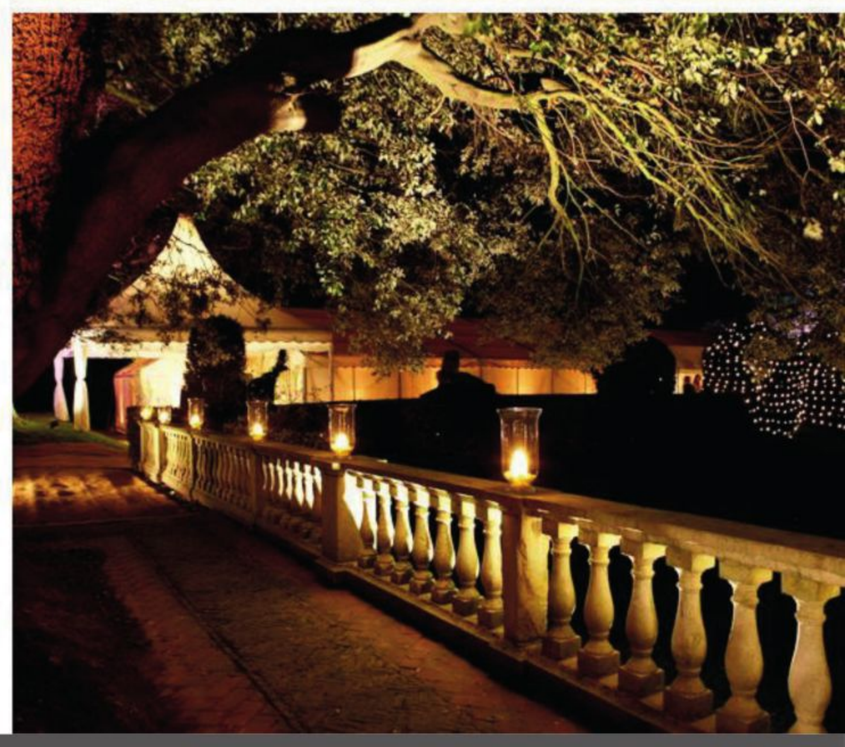












Knowlton Court, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT3 01304 842402 www.knowltoncourt.co.uk

TO THE MANOR BORN

Our roundup of the county's stately home and manor house venues





KNOWLTON COURT

01304 842 402 | knowltoncourt.co.uk

This quintessentially English house oozes calm and serenity in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. The house is beautiful, and the rooms are elegant, complete with fine artwork, huge stone fireplaces and fabulous features.

Sitting in 20,000 acres of private land, Knowlton Court is approached by an avenue of lime trees culminating in the circular lawn and walled garden. The house is surrounded by formal gardens, and you feel a sense of calm and tranquility wandering through them. The amusing topiary hedges are always a talking point, and the masses of climbing roses add fantastic colour and an unbelievable scent.

There are a number of properties within the estate, which can accommodate up to 64 overnight guests, including the 10-bedroom Dower House.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- **The Pavilion**, designed by the family and hand-crafted from the estate's oak, is situated on one of the sweeping lawns offering an intimate and enchanting place in which to exchange vows (unlimited guests).
- **Holy Cross Church Goodnestone and All Saint's Church, Chillenden** – Each of these local parish churches are but a short distance of the estate and available for your "I dos" (250 guests).
- **St Clement's** is the romantic private chapel at Knowlton and the team will happily arrange a blessing to follow a civil ceremony.
- **The Great Hall** is an elegant and sumptuous setting at the heart of this historic home featuring a stone fireplace, marble flooring and large sash windows flooding the room with natural light (100 ceremony, 86 dining).
- **The Great Marquee** overlooks the open countryside. It can be extended to suit providing a luxurious space in which to entertain your guests (150 dining, with an additional marquee for up to 500).





SPRIVERS MANSION

01892 723 722 | spriversmansion.co.uk

This elegant Georgian country house, built in 1759 and now owned by the National Trust, is blessed with beautiful ornate period features and décor. Amongst its historical features are fine Georgian fireplaces, ornate plasterwork, a sweeping oak Chippendale staircase, stunning original chandeliers, and a gold family coat of arms. The generous three-room bridal suite is decorated in the same style, and the three-storey guest accommodation, which dates from the 15th century, is situated in the original part of the house.

Set at the end of a long driveway that sweeps through the 100-acre estate, it's surrounded by formal gardens, which you can utilise for drinks, games and outdoor ceremonies.

Sprivers Mansion hosts only 12 exclusive-use weekend weddings each year, with only a handful of weekday ceremonies. Each wedding is bespoke, and you're welcome to set up the marquee in the preceding days. What's more, wedding parties of up to 10 guests can be accommodated for the night of the wedding on site, and can even opt to stay for up to three nights. During your stay, dinners, barbecues, and drinks parties can be arranged, as well as brunch in the marquee the morning after the wedding.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- **The Yellow Room** has French doors, which open out on to the lovely garden (60 ceremony guests).
- **The formal lawns** (180 ceremony guests).
- **The Georgian reception rooms** host the venue's drinks receptions, which can spill out onto the formal gardens.
- **The canvas pole marquee,** supplied by LPM Bohemia, is situated on the rear lawn, surrounded by orchards and meadows (180 dining, 200 evening guests).
- **The main house** can host more intimate wedding breakfasts (36 dining guests).





BILSINGTON PRIORY

01233 720 992 | bilsingtonpriory.co.uk

Steeped in history, the priory was built in 1253 for the canons regular of St Augustine's. This grand monastic building retains its Medieval structure, composed of Kentish ragstone, and alongside the marquee the remains of the old cloisters can be found. A Grade I listed heritage building, the Priory once provided hospitality for local travellers and pilgrims on their journey to Canterbury.

Set in seven acres of mature landscaped gardens, surrounded by a moat and the abbot's former fishponds, the Priory is a photographer's paradise. Its secluded rural position offers an exclusive setting, that's only 15 minutes from Ashford.

The west wing of the beautiful Edwardian manor is available for wedding party preparations. It comes complete with four-poster bed and gorgeous views to enjoy while you're sipping bubbly and having your make-up done. There are also four rooms available on a B&B basis for you and some guests to rest your weary heads at the end of the day.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- **The Grand Ceremony Room** is a cavernous stone and oak-beamed hall, once the refectory for the black canons (100 ceremony guests).
- **The conservatory** is connected to the Edwardian manor house and accessed via a private garden. Surrounded by the moat it overlooks ancient woodlands with stunning views over Romney Marsh (50 ceremony guests).
- **The garden's** open-air ceremony space is centred around a chess board gazebo, surrounded by mature trees and shrubs (120 ceremony guests).
- **The marquee.** The 12 x 12 lined marquee has an exposed wall displaying the historic stonework of the Priory, and boasts a stunning Louis XV-styled chandelier (150 dining guests).
- **The Chapter Room** is adjacent to the marquee and hosts evening entertainment complete with bar and dancefloor (150 guests).

Charlton Park

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SPRIVERS MANSION

www.spriversmansion.com enquiries@spriversmansion.co.uk

@SpriversMansionWeddingVenue @sprivers_mansion



Nestled in beautiful National Trust parkland, this secluded Georgian country-house venue offers a limited number of exclusive-use bespoke weddings.

Licensed for indoor and outdoor civil ceremonies, with on-site accommodation for 10 guests and offering a luxury on-site marquee in a tranquil 100 acre private estate.

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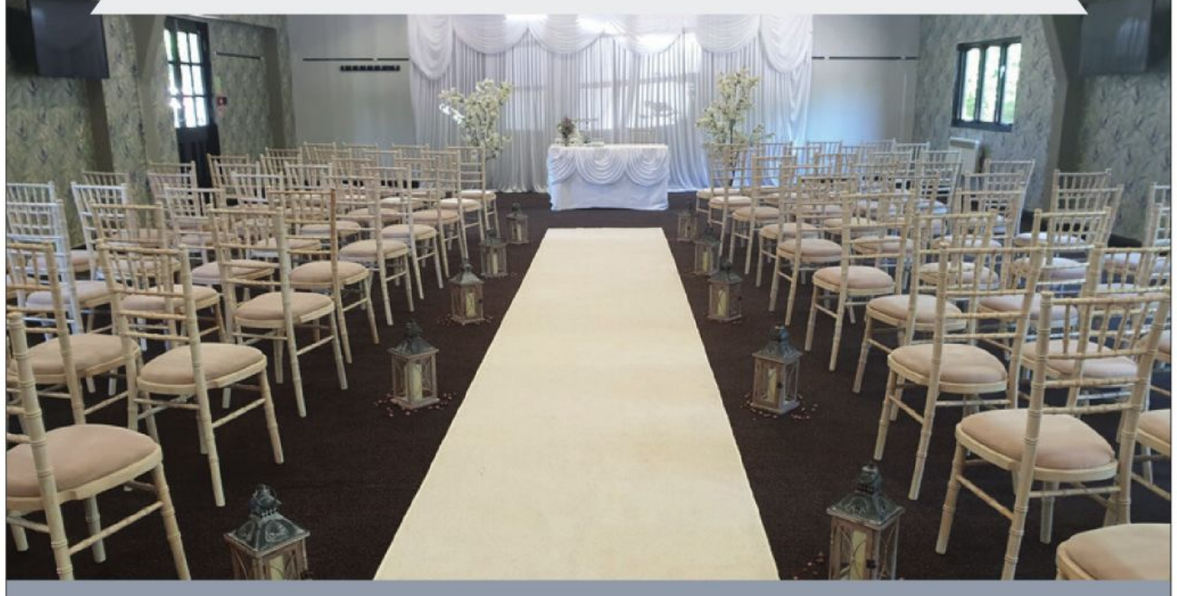
Hever Hotel

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www.bilsingtonpriory.co.uk

Kent Wedding Awards Winner 2019

Bilsington Priory, Priory Road, Bilsington, Nr Ashford Kent TN25 7AU





EASTWELL MANOR

01233 213 000 | eastwellmanor.co.uk

With its oak-panelled spaces, open stone fireplaces, quirky original features, grand staircase, ornate windows and doors, and stylish early Art Deco interior design, Eastwell Manor exudes charm. Built more than 450 years ago, the grey stone exterior of this Neo-Elizabethan manor house is covered in beautiful ivy that changes colour with the seasons.

Set in 3,000 acres of landscaped gardens, this idyllic spot provides a stunning backdrop for your nuptials. Situated at the end of a long tree-lined drive it boasts 72 elegantly styled bedrooms and suites.

All wedding packages include a deluxe suite for the newlyweds and nine bedrooms, with bed and breakfast. The venue also offers exclusive hire of the manor house, including all 23 of its bedrooms.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- **The Maids Garden** features a gorgeous Italian gazebo, an oh-so romantic bridge crossing a lily pond, and views of the North Downs (200 ceremony guests).
- **The Rose Garden Room** boasts ornate bay windows allowing plenty of daylight to flood in on your "I dos" (135 ceremony, 84 dining guests).
- **The Bishop of Bayeux Room** features a charming stone fireplace (84 ceremony, 40 dining guests).
- **The marquee** is located amongst the beautiful grounds (250 guests).





NETTLESTEAD PLACE

01622 328 328 | nettlestead-place.co.uk

As you arrive at Nettlestead Place via the beautiful 14th-century gatehouse, the Grade I listed manor comes into view. It's still a private family home and has, over the centuries, hosted many a lavish event and celebration. This lovely historical building, along with its stunning surroundings, offers a quintessentially English setting for your big day.

The venue has 10 acres of award-winning gardens with its own picture-perfect sunken pond and beautiful far-reaching views across the River Medway. With its stone walls, archways, secret gardens, and winding pathways, Nettlestead Place offers a wealth of incredible photo opportunities. What's more, you're offered a complimentary menu and wine-tasting experience when you book your wedding date here.

SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- **The 13th-century undercroft** is characterised by its three Medieval pillars and vaulted ceiling, a memorable place to exchange your vows.
- **The Rose Garden** plays host to outdoor ceremonies, and contains a wooden gazebo beneath the 300-year-old lime tree. It's seclusion and sweet fragrance from the surrounding blooms makes it a truly romantic setting.
- **The marquee** is positioned to make the most of the views. With wooden floors, dividing walls and a private bridal preparation room, it offers a blank canvas for you to decorate in your own style (150 dining, 200 evening guests).

the Gardens

WEDDING
OPEN DAY
Sunday 19th
April 2020
10am to 3pm

Kent Wedding Awards
Finalist 2020

Set in 12 acres of beautiful land on the edge of Yalding in Kent, the landscape of The Gardens creates a magnificent setting to host your wedding.

The contemporary barn has been beautifully restored with two bespoke interlinked tipis, providing a unique space that brings the outside inside.





If you would like to know more, we would love you to come and take a look around and discuss what would make the perfect package just for you. Please contact our team to arrange an appointment.

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team@thegardens.sonas.email **01622 814650**

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We always endeavour to work to your budget with no hiring or hidden charges and sole use of the premises. Licensed to hold ceremonies on the premises or in the Gazebo, situated in the walled rose garden.

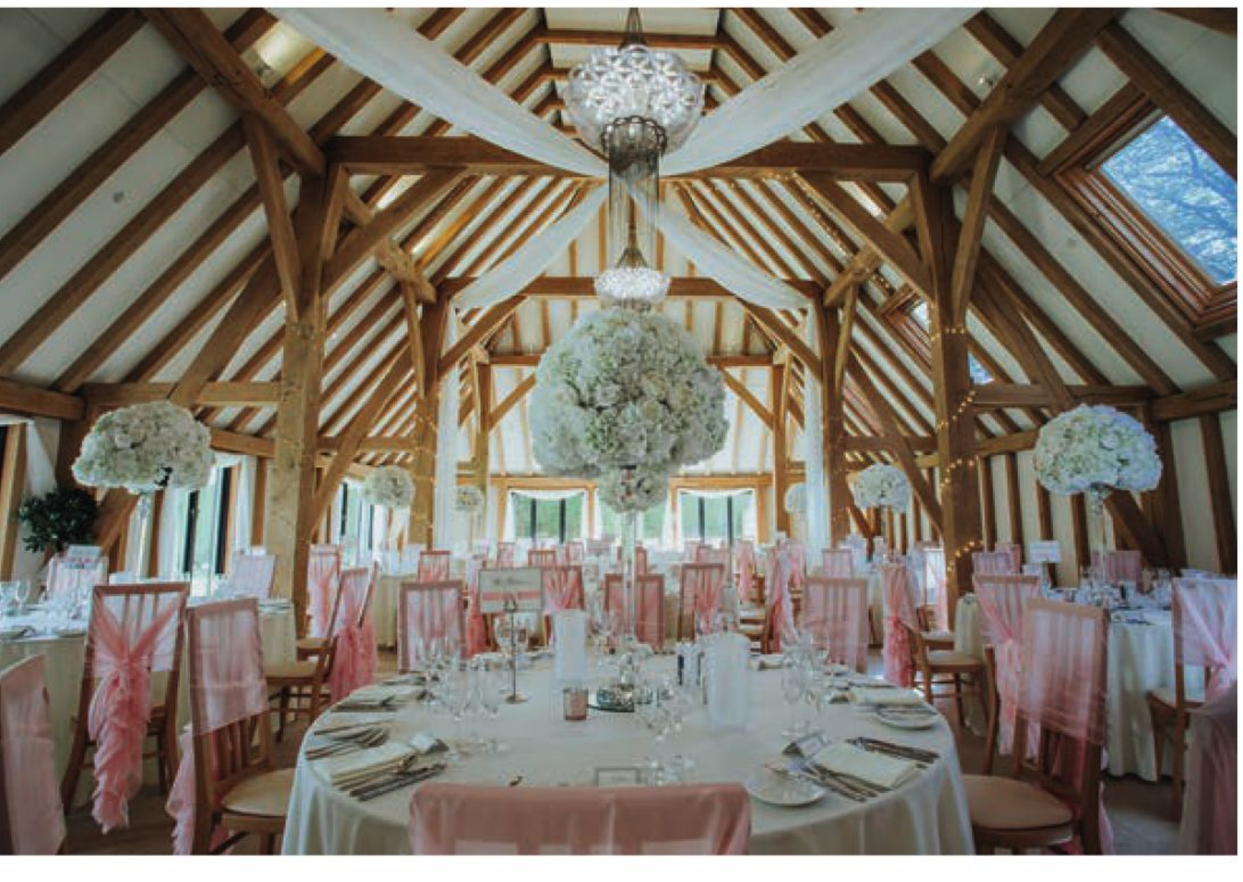
Enjoy our charming Victorian Gardens, wild flower meadow, and ornamental lake situated in one of the finest and historically interesting venues in Kent.

School Lane, Higham, Rochester, Kent ME3 7HP | 01474 822262 | knowlecountryhouse.co.uk

Beauty and THE BARN

Melanie and Adam styled their day at The Old Kent barn in pink and white, with a touch of Vegas glitz

Images courtesy of Olegs Samsonovs Photography







Just picture the scene: Salzburg, Austria, 3rd December 2017, it's snowing and the view from the top of the Hohensalzburg Fortress is spectacular. What an incredibly romantic location for a proposal, and it so happens, the spot where Adam asked Melanie to be his wife. "It was a complete surprise to me; we'd booked the trip to visit the Christmas market, as it's one of my favourite times of the year," Melanie remembers.

When the time came to look for wedding venues, the pair visited many, all over Kent. Melanie explains, "The place that had the most immediate impact on us was The Old Kent Barn. It definitely has the wow-factor and the staff were so friendly. Nothing was too much trouble."

We caught up with the bride to find out more about the couple's springtime W-day, 26th April 2019…

SETTING THE SCENE

The chosen theme was traditional, painted in a pastel palette of pink and white, with a touch of glam. The all-important floral arrangements were dominated by pale pink and white peonies, blush pink and white roses, and gypsophila. For the centrepieces stunning silk blooms were displayed on tall crystal pillars as pure white domes, with tea lights around the base. The three-tier blush-rose bake was also decorated in theme-fitting flowers.

The elegant table plan boasted a white hydrangea surround with silver lanterns arranged around the base. The place and table names both reflected this glamour adorned with silver glitter and pink ribbon. The couple had selected a secondary Las Vegas-inspired theme, and named all of their tables after hotels on the strip. The favours were scratch cards in honour of the city.

The beautiful Old Kent Barn was certainly dressed to impress in ivory ceiling drapes, blush sweet pink chair hood ruffles, and vase and pillar candles, all of which created a wistful, romantic atmosphere.

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

The newlyweds and their guests enjoyed a selection of canapés during the drinks reception, including sausage bites (as a side note, I've tried these, they're amazing), thai prawns, devilled whitebait, parmesan arancini, mozzarella balls, and ham hock tartlets.

If your mouth isn't watering yet, the menu continues: starter was a tartlet of leek, cheddar and smoked pancetta with a soft herb salad, or carrot, smoky cumin and coriander soup. This was followed by a main course, which included the option of the delicious-sounding perfectly roasted rump of lamb accompanied by Mediterranean ratatouille and a basil, olive and rosemary tapenade. Dessert options included lemon posset with mixed berries, topped with Chantilly cream; or Kentish apple, blackberry and stem ginger crumble served with cream.

In the evening everyone feasted on humble bacon rolls and chip butties. This sounds like the best day ever!

LOOKING THE PART

Melanie wore a beautiful Ronald Joyce gown – *Norma*. "I tried on a lot of dresses, but knew instantly when I'd found *the one*," she says, "plus the reaction from my nan and mum confirmed it, it was a very special moment." She put the finishing touches to the look with a pearl tiara and veil.

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The groomsmen were dressed in air force blue suits with matching waistcoats, whereas the groom was set apart with a grey version. They each accessorised with a pale pink pocket square and tie. Adam also had a pocket watch.

The beautiful bridesmaids wore pale pink, one shoulder, floor-length dresses.

TIME TO CELEBRATE

Magician Paul Fowler entertained guests throughout the afternoon. Melanie remembers, "He was brilliant as he got guests talking and laughing, making sure everyone was involved. Even to this day, we're all still baffled by the tricks he performed, and would highly recommend him."

Apollo Funk got the party started in the evening with a DJ set. "We chose a playlist, which got everyone up on the LED-lit dancefloor." They added to the fun with confetti canons, let off after the newlyweds' first dance.

We think there's no better way to end the day than with a sparkler guard of honour to send off the happy couple, and that's just what Melanie and Adam did. "It made for some effective photographs," the bride recalls.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

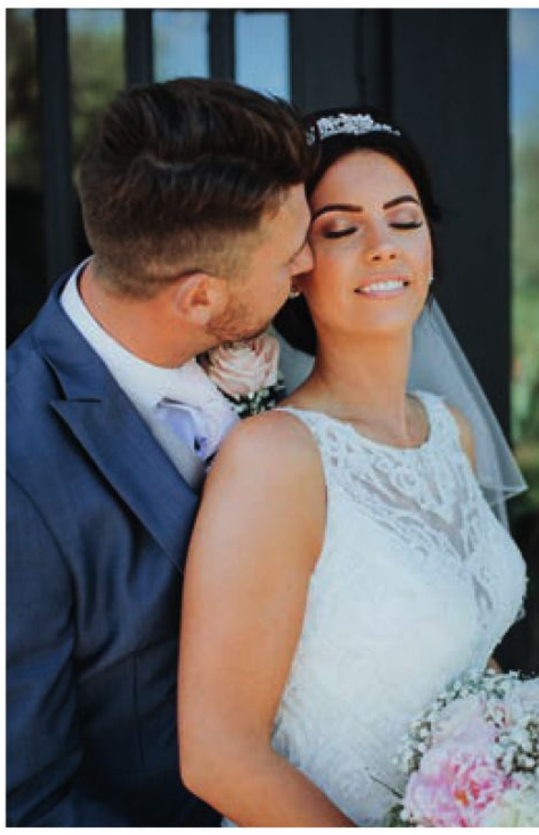
For Adam, the highlight of the day was turning around at the altar to see Melanie for the very first time, as she walked down the aisle towards him on her father's arm. "We were both so excited, but so nervous," Melanie reveals.

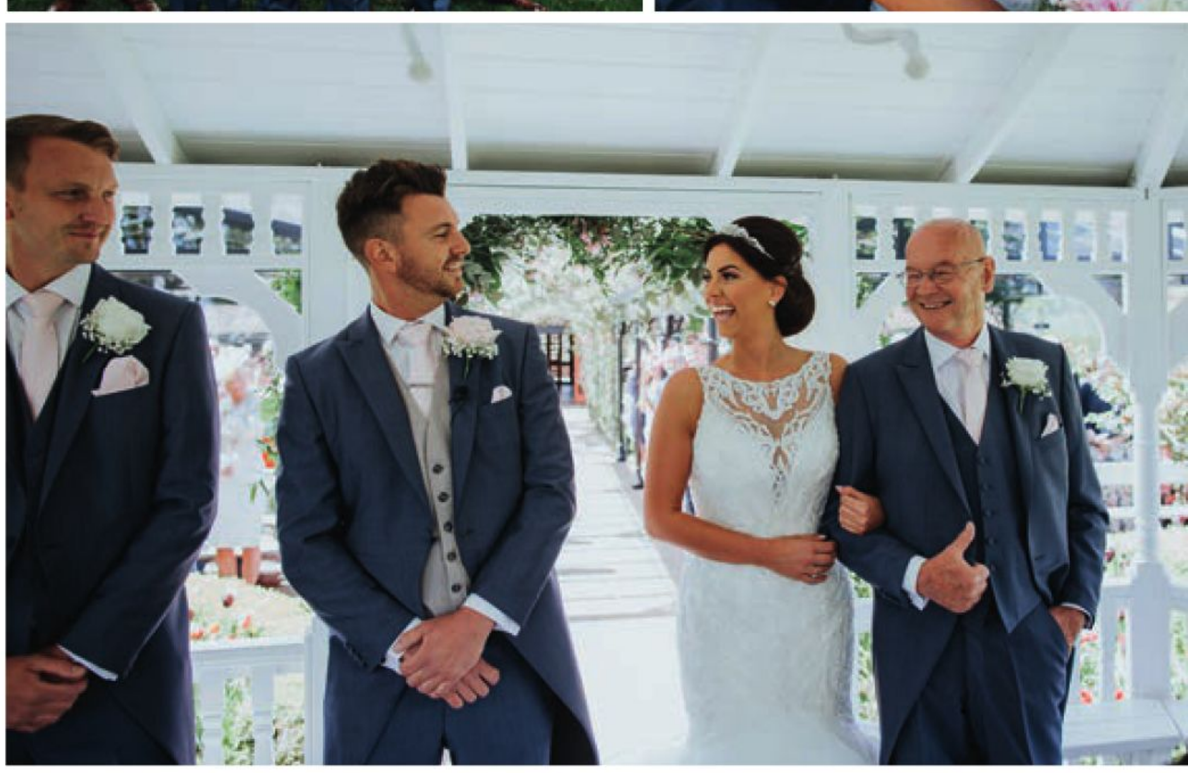
The bride was over the moon at how blessed they'd been with such a beautiful spring day. "The sunshine and blue skies meant we could get married outside in the beautiful gazebo area," which was one of the venue's features that initially attracted them to it.

MELANIE'S TOP TIP

"We'd highly recommend using an experienced, and expert, toastmaster. John Oakley took firm control of proceedings throughout the day, to ensure that everyone was in the right place at the right time, which was particularly important for organising the photographs. Plus, he was thoroughly professional in making all the necessary introductions and announcements."







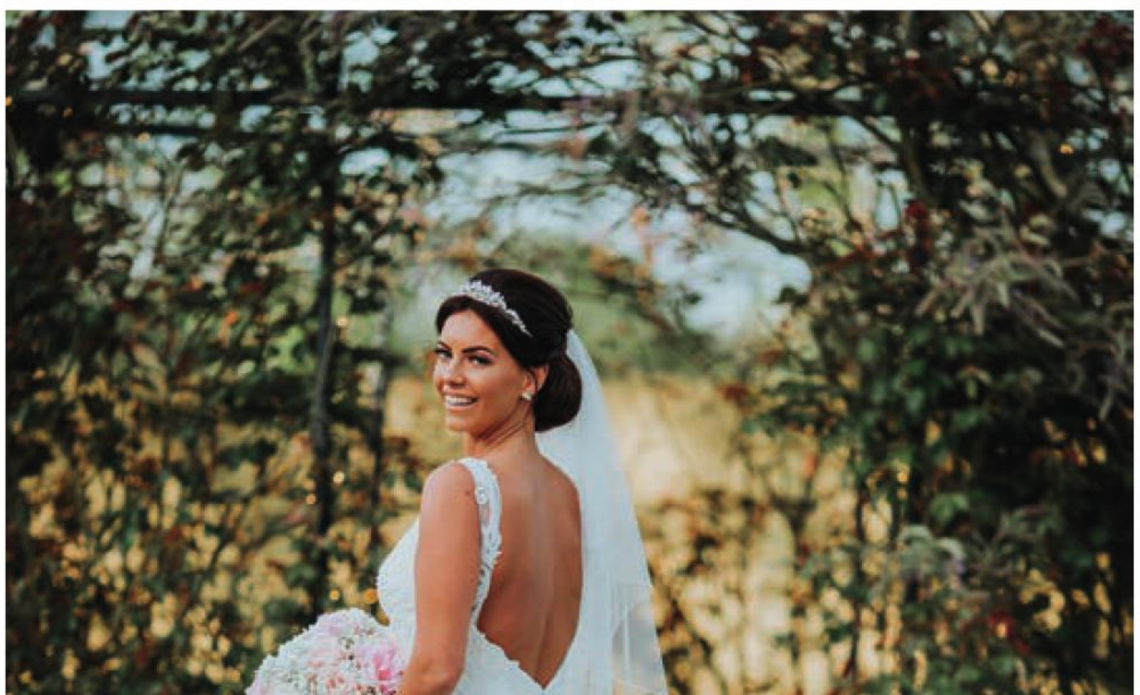
















MELANIE AND ADAM'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue and catering, The Old Kent Barn, theoldkentbarn.co.uk | **Photographer**, Olegs Samsonovs Photography, olegssamsonovsphotography.com | **Bride's dress and accessories**, Christina K Bridal Boutique, christinak.co.uk | **Hair stylist**, Alter Ego, alterego-beauty.com | **Make-up artist**, Glamour Junkiez, glamourjunkiez.co.uk | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, Matchimony, matchimony.co.uk **Groom's suit**, Lapel Mens Hire, wedding-suits.co.uk | **Cake**, Marks and Spencer, marksandspencer.com | **Flowers**, Chic Weddings, chicweddings.co.uk | **Stationery**, Designed by Brownings, designedbybrownings.com | **Entertainment**, Apollo Funk Entertainments, apollofunk.com | **Magician**, Paul Fowler, paulfowlermagic.co.uk | **Toastmaster**, John Oakley, toastmasterskent.co.uk | **Topiary letters**, Big Day Prop Hire, bigdayprophire.co.uk | **Videography**, Videography Services UK, videographyservicesuk.co.uk

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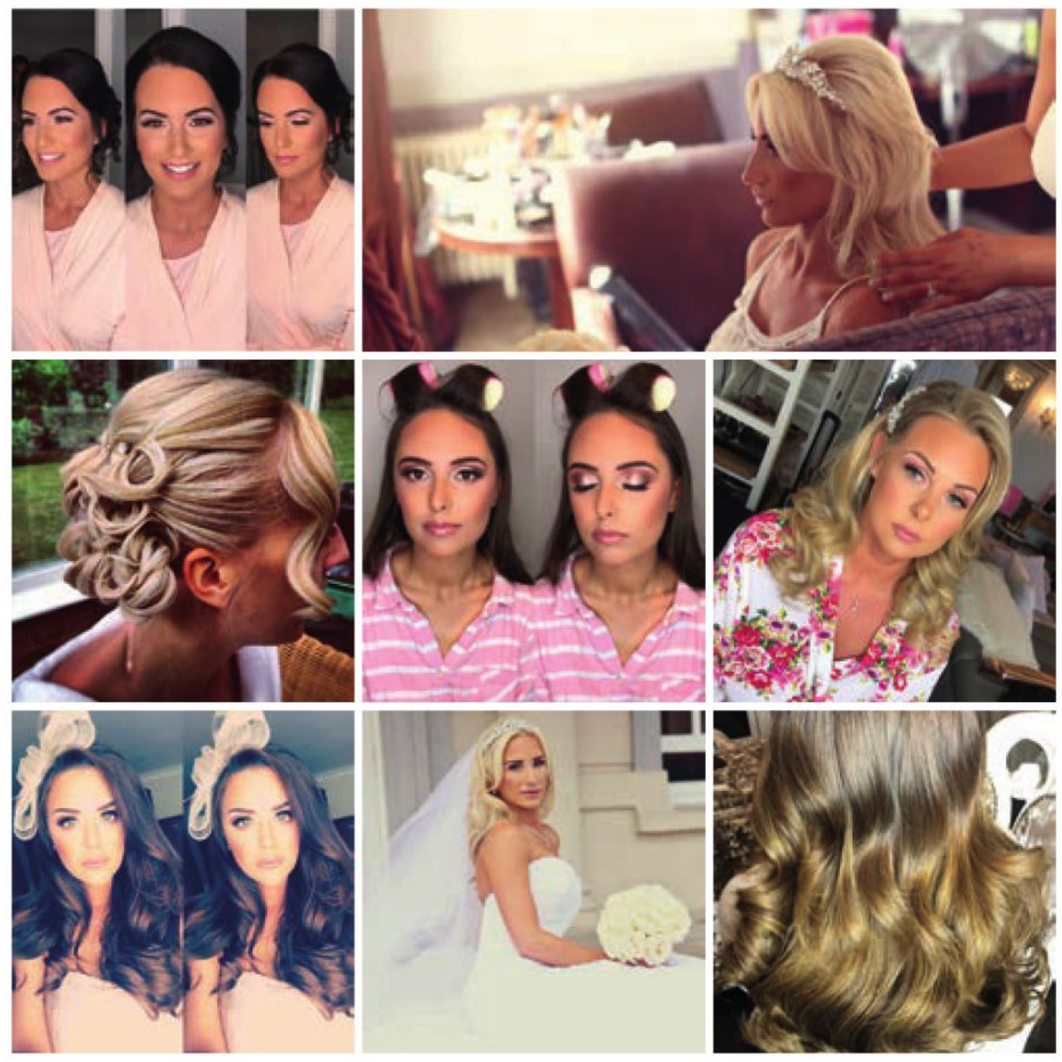
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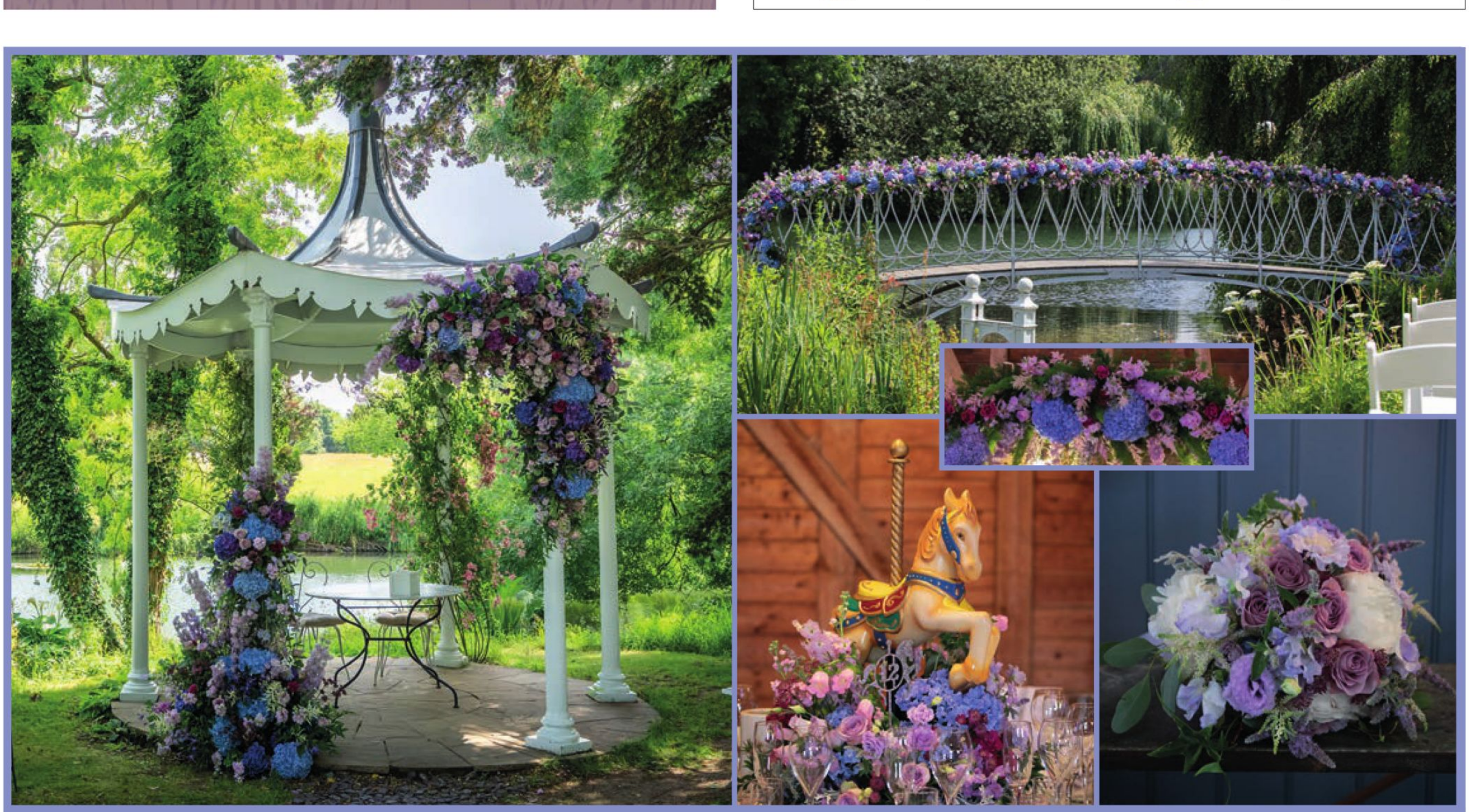


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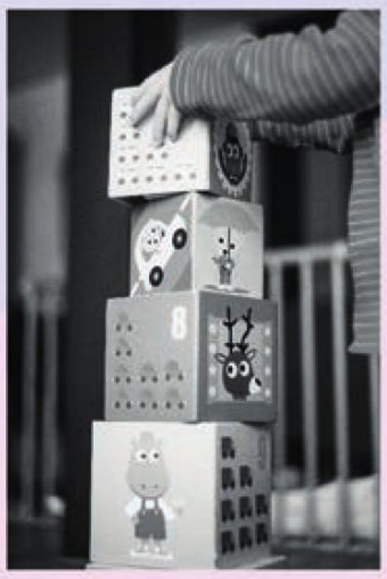
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Lady OF THE Lake

The Inn on the Lake saw its very own Laura exchange vows with the love of her life, Stephen, on 20th April, 2019

Images courtesy of Rebecca Douglas Photography

Laura and Stephen both spent time working in New York bars after university, and eventually their paths crossed at the Pig 'n' Whistle in 2013. "He served me up a beer and a date," Laura laughs.

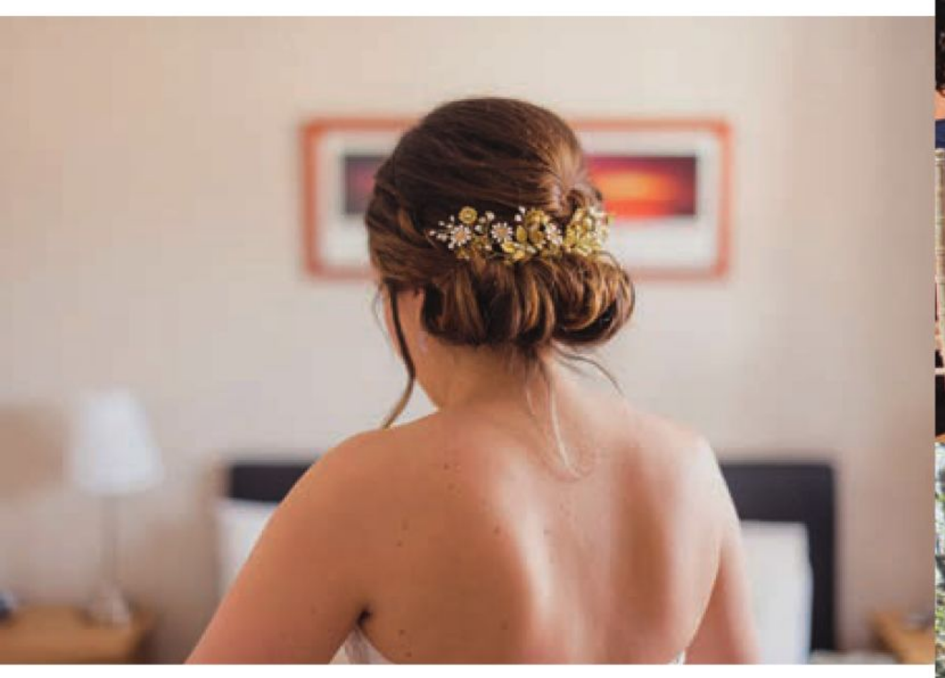
The couple went to the Big Apple again five years later and revisited the bar where they'd met, but what Laura didn't know was that Stephen had something very special up his sleeve. He'd plotted his proposal with his former manager, who had a bottle of champagne on ice and a playlist of their favourite songs from their time in the city ready to go. Laura remembers, "He got down on one knee when I wasn't looking, and popped the question. The rest of the night was a blur!"

Selecting a venue for the big day couldn't have been easier for the pair: "As I work at the beautiful Inn on the Lake, I already knew the team and felt sure of the fantastic support I'd have in the organisation of my dream wedding. I knew there was nowhere better."

Join us as we get the lowdown from the bride on their beautiful wedding day…



I wore a Watters design, *Yocelyn*, which I found at a trunk show. I was looking for something different, with colour, and this dress was perfect. It had a blush pink underlay with floral embroidery and horseshoe layers. Apparently, I was the first person to buy the dress in the UK.



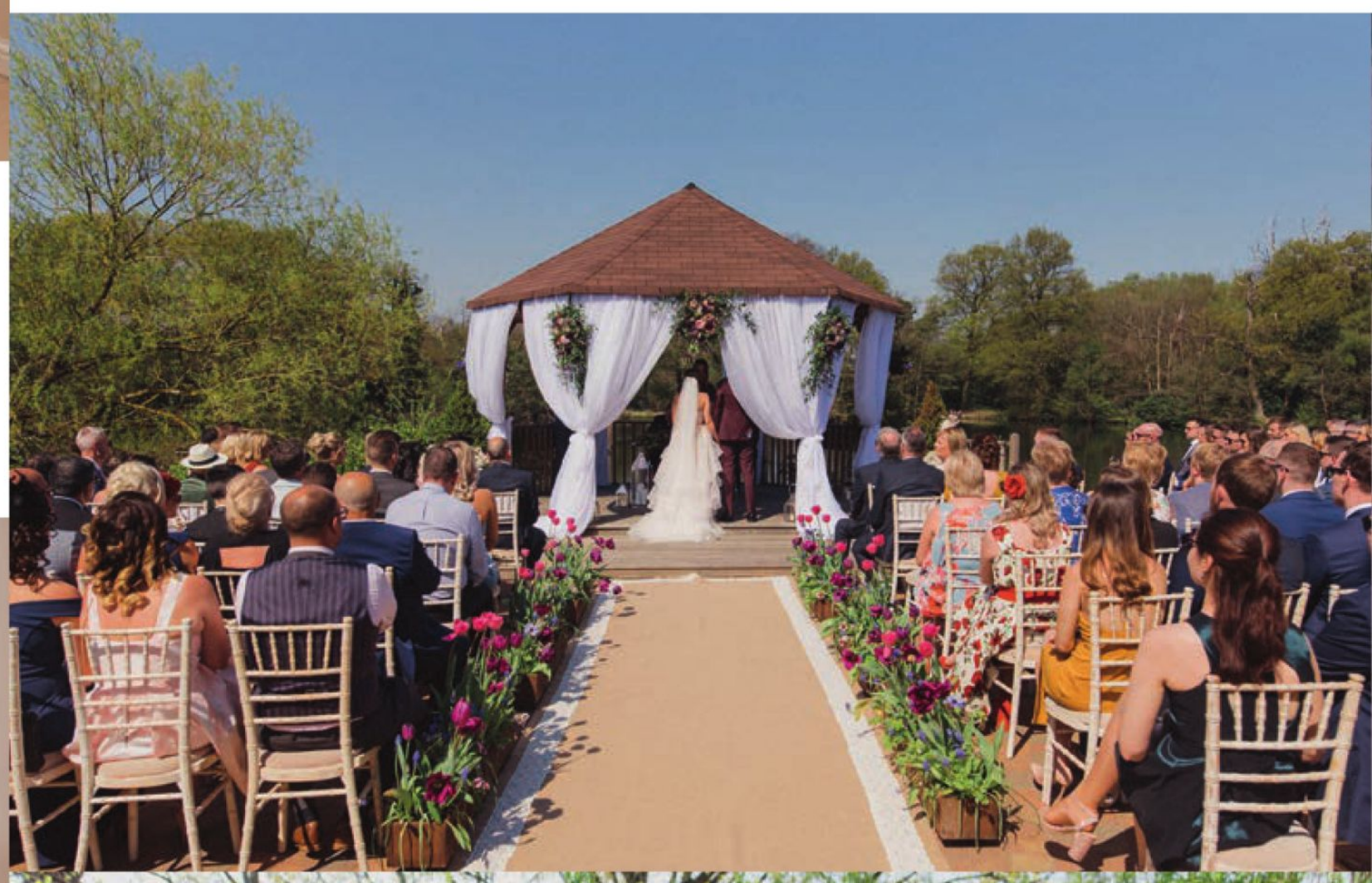
I accessorised with a custom-made hair vine, cathedral-length veil and bright Louboutin shoes.



Stephen's aim was to stand out more than me. He wore a bespoke burgundy suit from Tailor Made. It had a safari-themed lining, which was his favourite part.



Our floral arrangements contained almost 20 varieties including clematis, anemone, stephanotis, roses, hellebore, lisianthus, tulips, hyacinth, and waxflower.





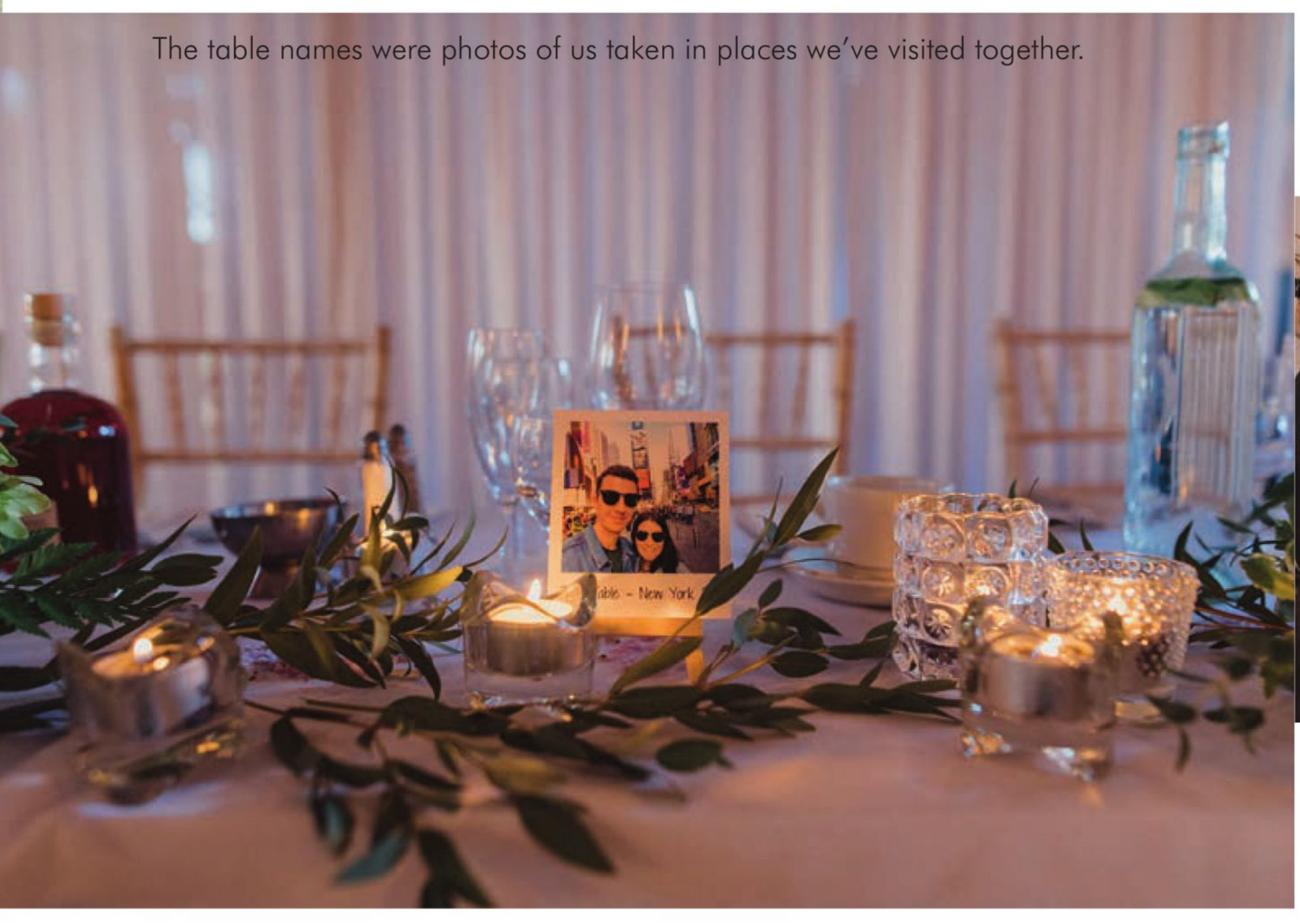
The groomsmen were dressed in navy suits with blush pink ties to complement the bridesmaids' dresses.



We upcycled a wooden pallet to create our table plan, and used photo frames to list each table's guests. We used these again later to gift to relatives with a wedding photo inside.



Guests' names were written on leaves collected from the garden. These were later dried into confetti.



The table names were photos of us taken in places we've visited together.



Our flowers were the highlight of the tables – an array of blooms in different hues of purple with varying levels of pillar candles. We used biodegradable oasis and the flowers have since been dried and reused as confetti.



The day was all about the entertainment for us. We had a surprise guest straight after the ceremony – Derek Sandy who later appeared on Britain's Got Talent. He performed a reggae set whilst we mingled and had our photos taken.



Much to my mother's disappointment, we chose not to have a cake. We did surprise her with a miniature one as a thank you gift during the speeches though.



An amazing band called Ultra 90s performed two sets at the evening reception – the first was a Motown set and the second was a two-hour 90s dance set. The place turned into a rave with a glitter bar, glow sticks and a packed dancefloor.

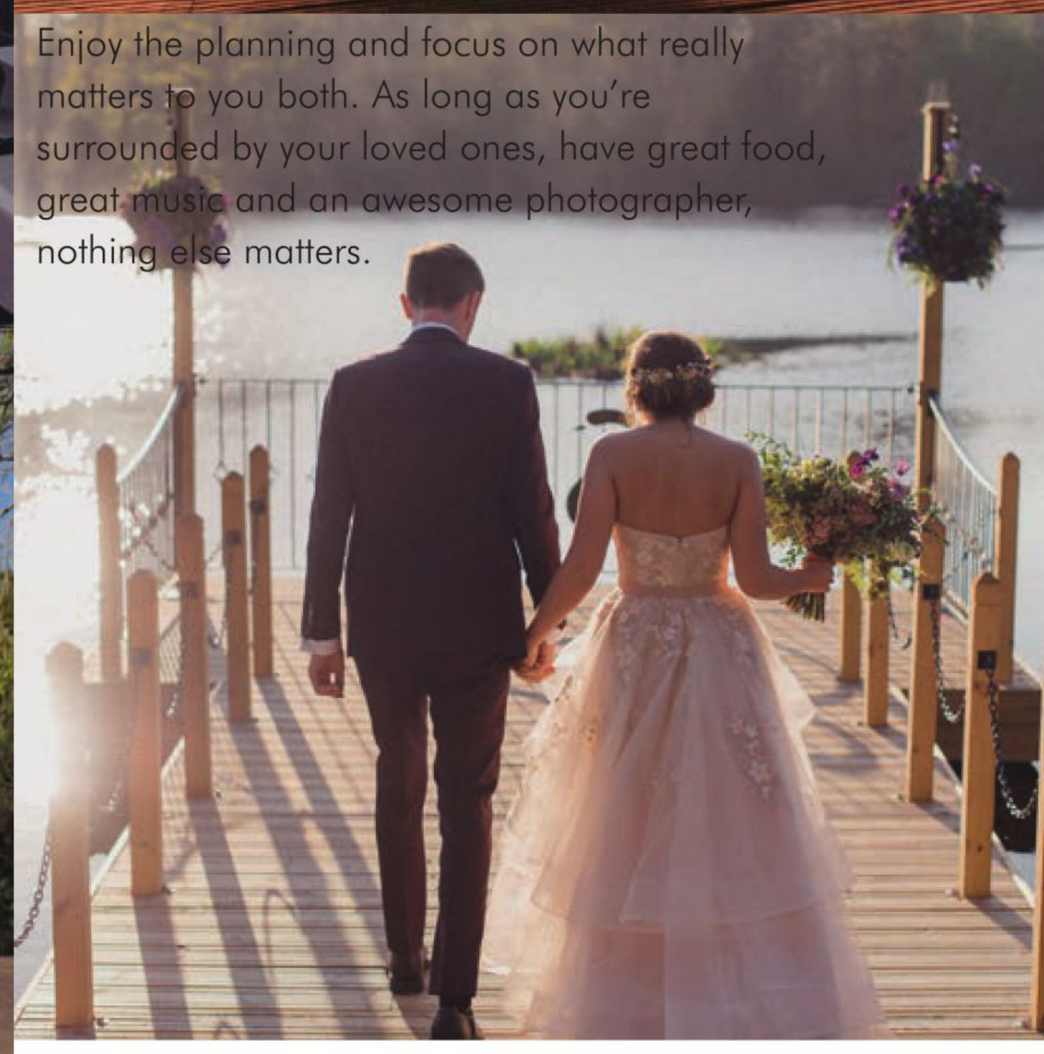
My father-daughter dance was a big surprise to everyone. We performed an old choreographed dance from my dad's school days to *Wig Wam Bam*. It turned into the song of the weekend.

Our honeymoon was a three-week safari trip, planned by my parents. We knew we were going to Africa, but they were tight-lipped about the details until we got to the airport. We visited Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and Mauritius.

As I work in the wedding industry, I was lucky enough to pick the most amazing team of people, who made us feel completely comfortable. Special thanks go to our photographer Rebecca Douglas, Inn on the Lake's wedding planner Fiona Bridger, and Lesley Watson from Toastmasters Kent.



We finished the night with an incredible firework display.

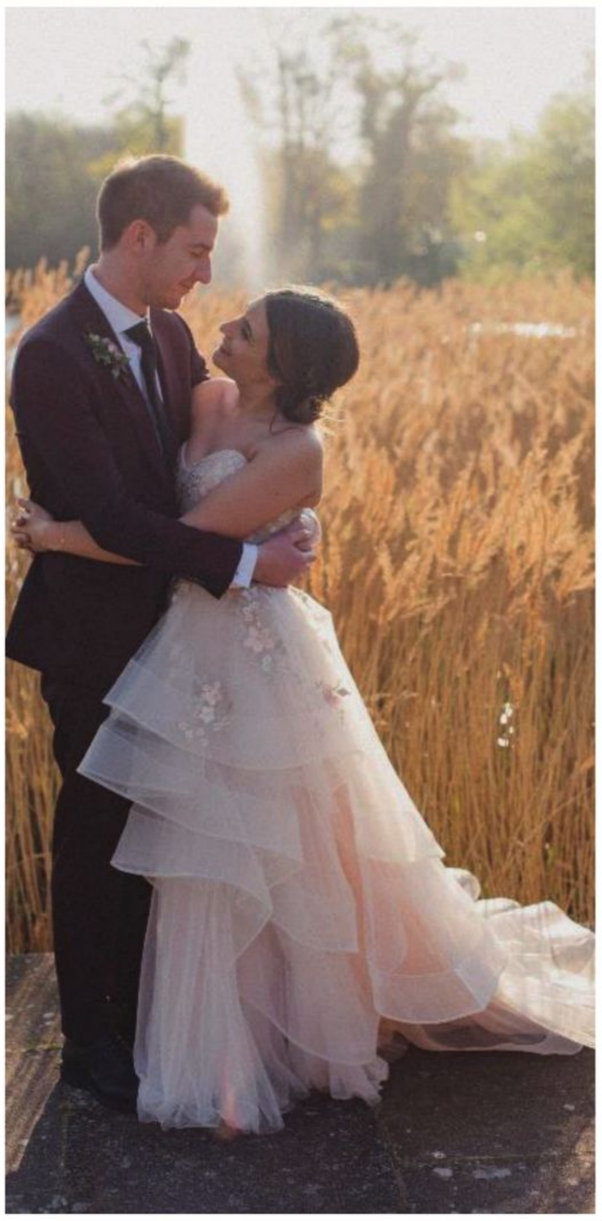


Enjoy the planning and focus on what really matters to you both. As long as you're surrounded by your loved ones, have great food, great music and an awesome photographer, nothing else matters.

LAURA AND STEPHEN'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

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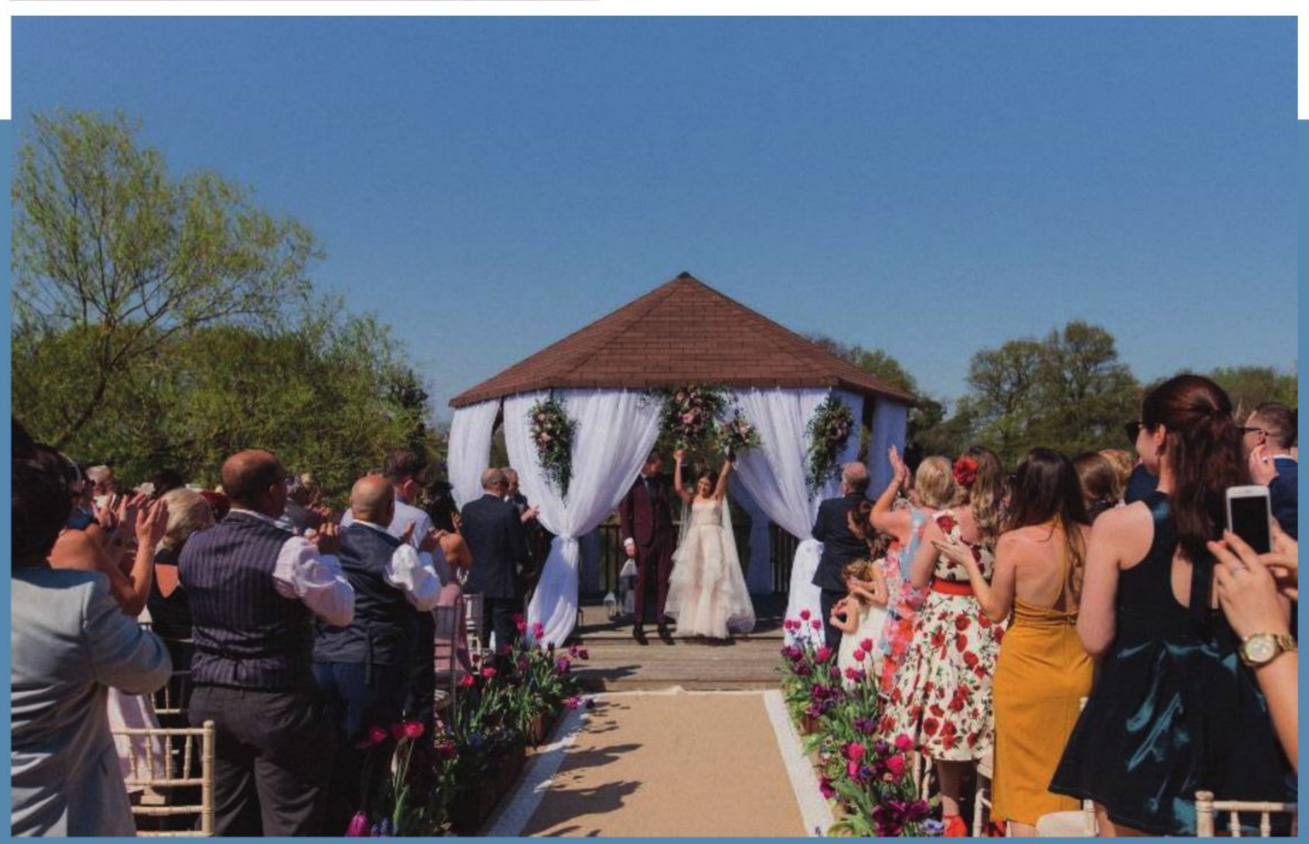
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LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Our Signature Wedding Shows are held in some of the most recognised sporting and event venues in the UK. Brides- and grooms-to-be will be in awe of the sleek and stylish setting of Mercedes-Benz World, Surrey, sited on the famous Brooklands race circuit – you can even have an on-the-day driving experience should you wish!

Follow in the footsteps of royalty at Ascot Racecourse, Berkshire, situated on Crown Estate, it's the Royal Racecourse frequently visited by the Queen and hosts some of the biggest meets in the racing calendar; and, from one world-renowned location to another, why not attend our wedding show at Wembley Stadium, London, for a truly spectacular setting – from England to Brazil, all the greats have played here.

Finally, regular reality TV watchers will be familiar with The Brentwood Centre, Essex, a regular feature in Sam and Billie Faiers' *The Mummy Diaries* and the home of our very first Signature Wedding Show.

ON THE DAY DELIGHTS

When attending one of our Signature Wedding Shows couples and their entourages are in for a treat. Each event will boast up to 150 exhibitors comprising a huge range of specialists who will be on hand to talk through your planning ideas and requirements; venues, bridal boutiques, photographers, florists, cake makers and more, there's everything you could need under one roof.

On the day, visitors can enjoy fashion catwalks of the latest bridal, groom and mother-of-the-bride collections, partake in styling demonstrations and watch live entertainment, all whilst enjoying samples and tasters from our exhibitors. Refreshments are also available to purchase from each of the venue's on-site restaurants, bars and cafés.

What's more, by attending our exhibitions couples will benefit from free entry, will receive a goody bag including a copy of a County Wedding Magazine as well as be entered into a competition to win a honeymoon to a luxurious destination.

From sampling cocktails to tasting ice cream, listening to live musicians and watching the fashion shows, it's an exciting day for all who attend.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our Signature Wedding Shows!

Sarah x

Sarah Ellis, Sales and Events Director County Wedding Events.

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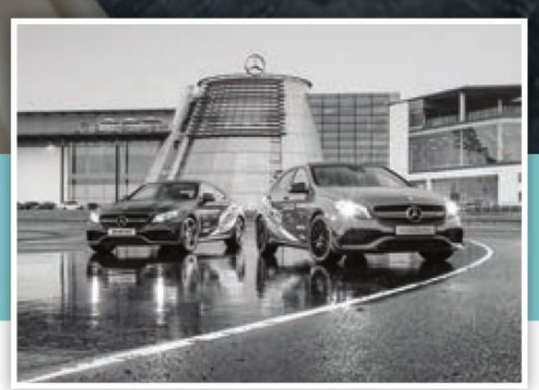
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ASCOT Racecourse

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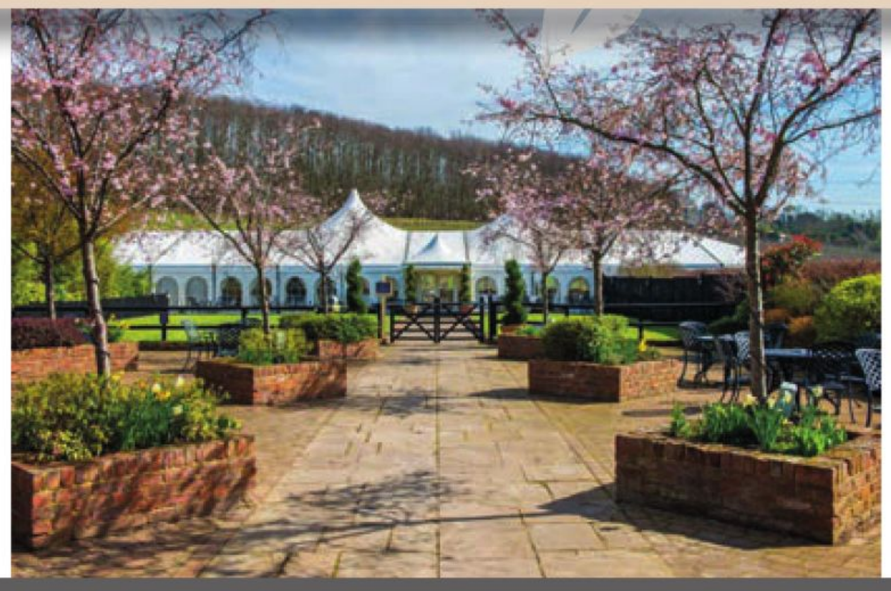
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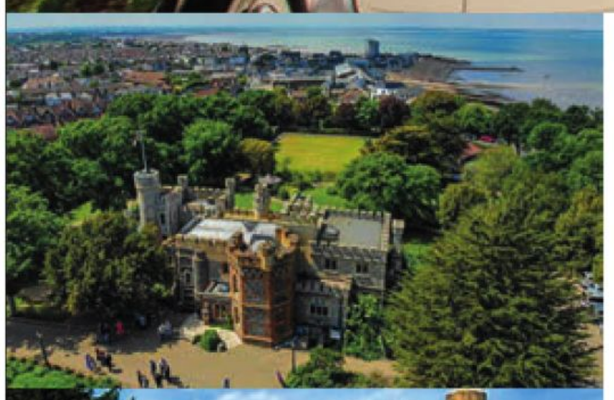
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THE STORY OF *us*

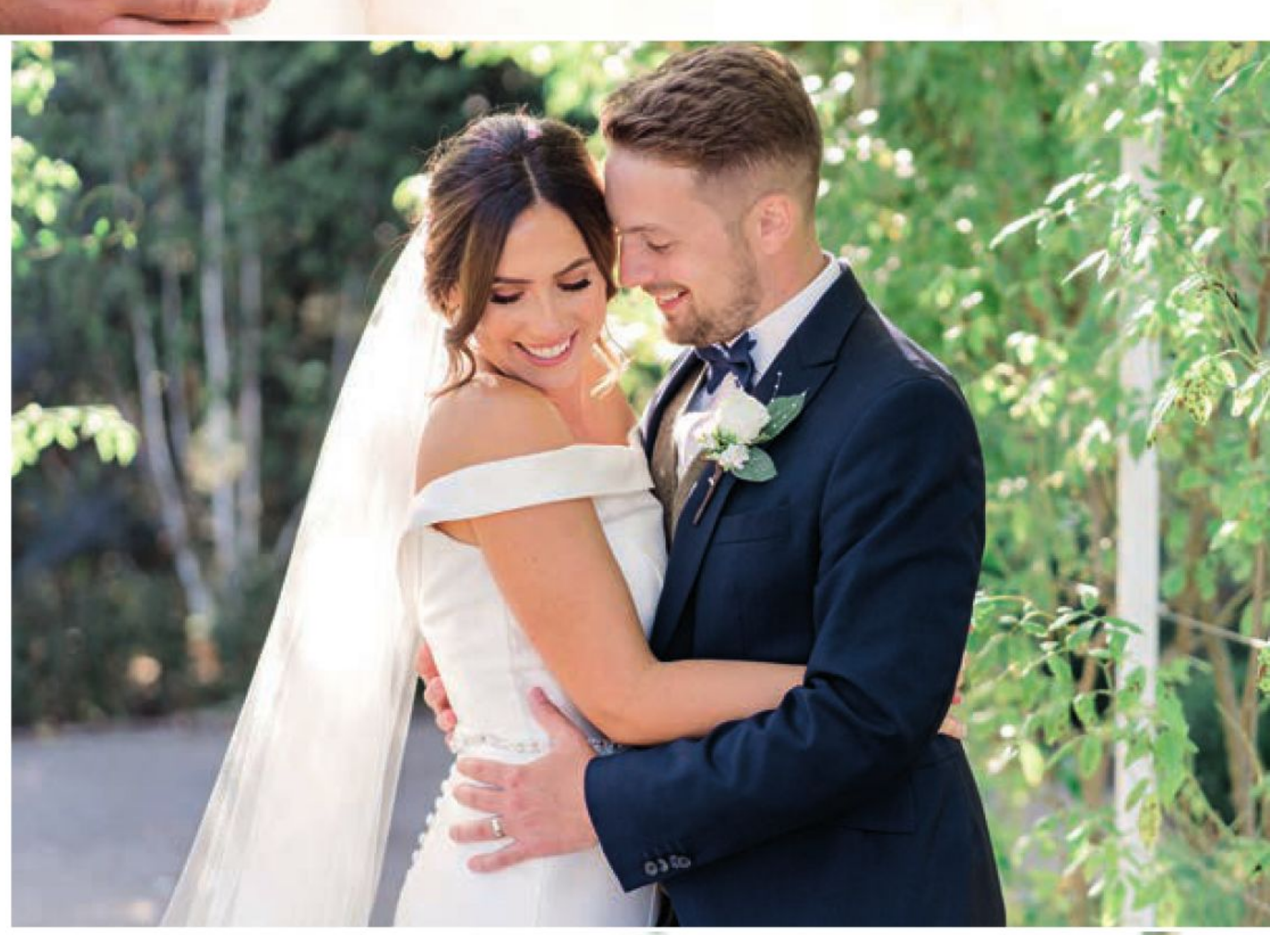
Sandie and Matthew's wedding day at The Ferry House Inn, Sheerness, oozed rustic-glam chic

Images courtesy of Charlene Webb Photography

Sandie and Matt had been together for eight years when Matt popped the question on a family holiday in Turkey. "It was a complete surprise, I didn't think he'd ever get down on one knee," Sandie says. They'd met as teenagers when working part-time in a shop while they were studying. Matt had arranged for a walkway of candles to be lit, with a bottle champagne at the ready. Their friends and family were excitedly watching on from a distance: "It was perfect having them there to celebrate with us straight after," Sandie remembers.

The couple had their hearts set on a particular date for their wedding day: 19th September 2019, their 10-year anniversary. They had dreamed of a barn wedding, so when they found out The Ferry House Inn was available, it seemed it was meant to be.

Read on as bride Sandie shares her memories of their beautiful wedding day…













Matt was dressed in a navy tail suit, which set him apart from the groomsmen. He paired this with a brown tweed waistcoat and bow tie.

The four groomsmen wore navy suits, also with tweed waistcoats, but their jackets were a standard design, rather than tails. They accessorised with navy wool ties, while the two best men wore bow ties, and the father-of-the-bride had a normal tie, so you could easily identify their different roles.



I wore a simple ivory fitted dress with a Bardot neckline by Phoenix Gowns. I felt the style would be timeless and it suited my figure. It was only the second dress I tried on. I visited several other boutiques afterwards, but this was the only one I couldn't stop thinking about. I accessorised with a delicate belt, sewn around the waist.

The bridesmaids looked beautiful in their rose gold and dusky pink dresses. The tops were adorned in sequins to complement the glam theme.







I chose flowers in natural tones, as bright colours wouldn't have suited the day's rustic style.



The ceremony was the highlight of the day, exchanging our vows was so important to us.



I made fudge and put them in jars with hessian rope for the wedding favours.



The table plan was decorated with a greenery design and was held by a rustic wooden frame. We bought copper lanterns to add a touch of glam, but kept it rustic with wooden slices and table number holders.



Both the cake and place names featured glamorous rose gold writing.



The barn looked perfect, it was just how we imagined it.





The men and the mother-of-the-groom arrived at the venue on a tractor.



We set up some garden games for everyone to enjoy during the day, along with a kid's corner with colouring and reading books to keep them occupied. Our friends and family are all so friendly and chatty, they were more than happy to spend the day mingling and socialising.

SANDIE AND MATTHEW'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue and catering, The Ferry House Inn, theferryhouseinn.co.uk
Photographer, Charlene Webb Photography, charlenewebbphotography.co.uk
Bride's dress and flowergirl's dress, Dressed To Wed, dressedtowed.co.uk
Bride's accessories, Jodi Bridal Boutique, jodibridal.co.uk
Hair stylist, Lottie's Locks, facebook.com/lottieslocks
Make-up artist, Jade Ewen MUA, facebook.com/jadeewenmua
Bridesmaids' dresses, Next, next.co.uk
Pageboy outfit, Roco Clothing, rococlothing.co.uk
Groom's suit, The Kent Wedding Centre, thekentweddingcentre.com
Cake, Rebakers Cakes, rebakerscakes.com
Flowers, Boosey Blooms, instagram.com/booseyblooms
Stationery, ByBlossom, byblossomweddingstationery.co.uk
Chair hoods, Idyllic Days, idyllicdays.com
Toastmaster, Guy Wade, guywade.com



We had family there on the day who had travelled all the way from New Zealand and the U.S. to be with us. Plus, the weather was absolutely perfect.



Our parents booked us a night in a hotel for the Saturday after the big day, as a wedding present. We have two children; so it was nice to reflect and spend time together, just the two of us.



SANDIE'S TOP TIPS...

Stick together when you mingle, otherwise you'll barely get to see each other. Also, having a toastmaster makes a massive difference. They don't just make announcements, they keep the big day organised and stress-free.

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SUMMER *lovin'*

Rachel and Alastair said "I do" at St. Helen's Church, Cliffe and celebrated their nuptials in the heart of the Kentish countryside

Images courtesy of Alexa Kelly Photography

Peter Andre played a significant part in Rachel and Alastair's love story, as no sooner had they met at a party, than they were singing a duet of *Mysterious Girl* on the karaoke! "It wasn't our singing that attracted us to each other though," Rachel laughs.

Rachel confessed to us that she was actually expecting a proposal to come the entire time the pair were away in Bruges celebrating her 30th birthday. So, it was slightly torturous of Alastair to leave it until the very last day! She says, "He was hoping to propose on the Bridge of Love in a park around the corner from our self-catering apartment, but he left it so late that the park gates were closed, and he ended up proposing in the kitchen."

Having a church ceremony was something that meant a lot to the couple, so they chose the one in Rachel's home town, where she was christened, to exchange their vows. The celebrations needed a rustic-vibe, so they were drawn to a characterful barn on a local working farm. "It was a challenge to turn it into a romantic reception venue, but we had a lot of fun decorating it exactly as we wanted it in the week prior to the big day," the bride says.

Read on as Rachel shares her account of the big day...



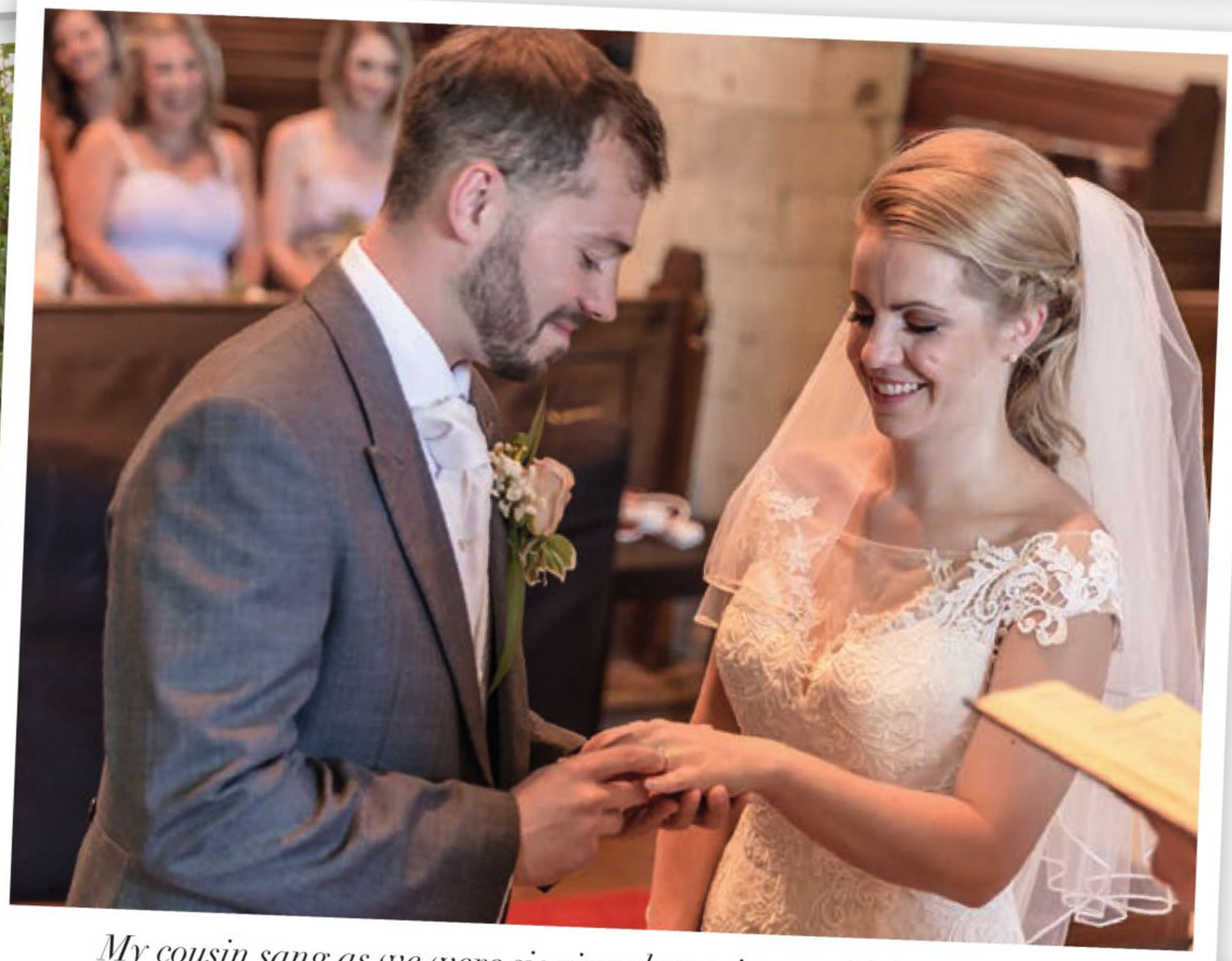
I wore a Justin Alexander dress, which was very different to my original thoughts on the silhouette I'd go for. The fit and flare style seemed to suit me best, and I felt so elegant in it. I wore it with a simple cathedral-length veil – no other accessories were necessary as the dress alone was so beautiful.



Alastair was dressed in a traditional grey, three-piece, tail suit. He wore it with an ivory waistcoat and cravat to stand out from the groomsmen who wore grey waistcoats with blue cravats.



The bridesmaids' dresses were a floaty, floor-length design in pastel blue.



My cousin sang as we were signing the register, which meant a lot to us both.



We decided to give our guests Belgian chocolates as wedding favours as a nod to where we got engaged. Unfortunately though, it was such a hot day, they melted.



I'd seen a table plan idea on Pinterest where someone had pinned their table layouts to flowerpots. We recreated this with pots of eucalyptus to complement the bouquets and centrepieces, and placed them on a stepladder to suit the farm feel.



Odd's Car Hire provided the beautiful 1920s Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, which was such a joy to ride in. I used to go on bike rides, which took me past the owner's house when I was little, and often saw him polishing the wedding cars. I never dreamed I'd arrive in my own wedding in one.



Our colour palette featured neutral pastels so we chose pale roses with eucalyptus and astilbe. The barn also had ivy and gypsophila trailing around the perimeter and it looked completely different from the shell we first viewed. It looked incredibly romantic and very elegant.



My mum made a four-tiered cake with a different flavour for each – white chocolate and lime, chocolate, vanilla, and a fruitcake. There was something for everyone. Each tier tied into the theme of the wedding with a rustic bark effect, matching edible flowers, and lace. She did a fab job!



We couldn't decide on names for the tables as we both wanted different things. So we settled for numbers in the end. I hand made all of the place names.



We made our own welcome signs, and hired a large rustic illuminated LOVE sign, which added a nice ambience to the evening celebrations. We also hung fairylights and white tissue pompoms across the beams.



The blooms in my bouquet inspired our centrepieces. We wanted the barn to be full of fresh flowers, so we placed the arrangements on wood slices that my dad made for us, along with lanterns and candles.



Everything we ate including canapés and three-course sit-down wedding breakfast, as well as sausages and chips in the evening, was incredible. The food was a big talking point with our guests.



We also hired a bar from The Dawdling Duck, who served the drinks from a horsebox, which went really well with our venue and theme.



Being teachers, we had a quiz at the table during dinner, which we then had to mark. In the evening, we hired a band called Pop Rocks who played all sorts of genres to keep our guests entertained. They even staged a dance-off!



As we were sat enjoying the wedding breakfast, we both looked at each other, and couldn't believe it was actually our wedding day. It was nice to be able to sit back and take in the moment, as it all goes by so quickly. Our final memory of the big day was seeing all of our guests lined up in the dark, waving us off with sparklers as we drove away. It's something that will stay with us forever.





RACHEL AND ALASTAIR'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Photographer, Alexa Kelly Photography, alexakellyphotography.smugmug.com
Bride's dress, Perfection Bridal & Menswear, perfectionbridalmaidstone.co.uk
Hair and make-up, Kelly Jenner Makeup, facebook.com/kellyjennermakeup
Bridesmaids' dresses, Debenhams, debenhams.co.uk
Groom's suit, Moss Bros, moss.co.uk
Flowers, Sue Davies Flowers & Garden, suedaviesflowers.com
Church flowers, Petal Creations, petalcreations.co.uk
Transport, Odds Car Hire, oddscarhire.co.uk
Entertainment, Pop Rocks, tailored-entertainment.com
Bar, The Dawdling Duck, thedawdlingduck.co.uk
Marquee, Brooks Marquees, brooksmarquees.com
Illuminated letters, Light it Up UK, lightitupuk.co.uk

The Castle Westenhanger

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Images courtesy of: David Fenwick Photography







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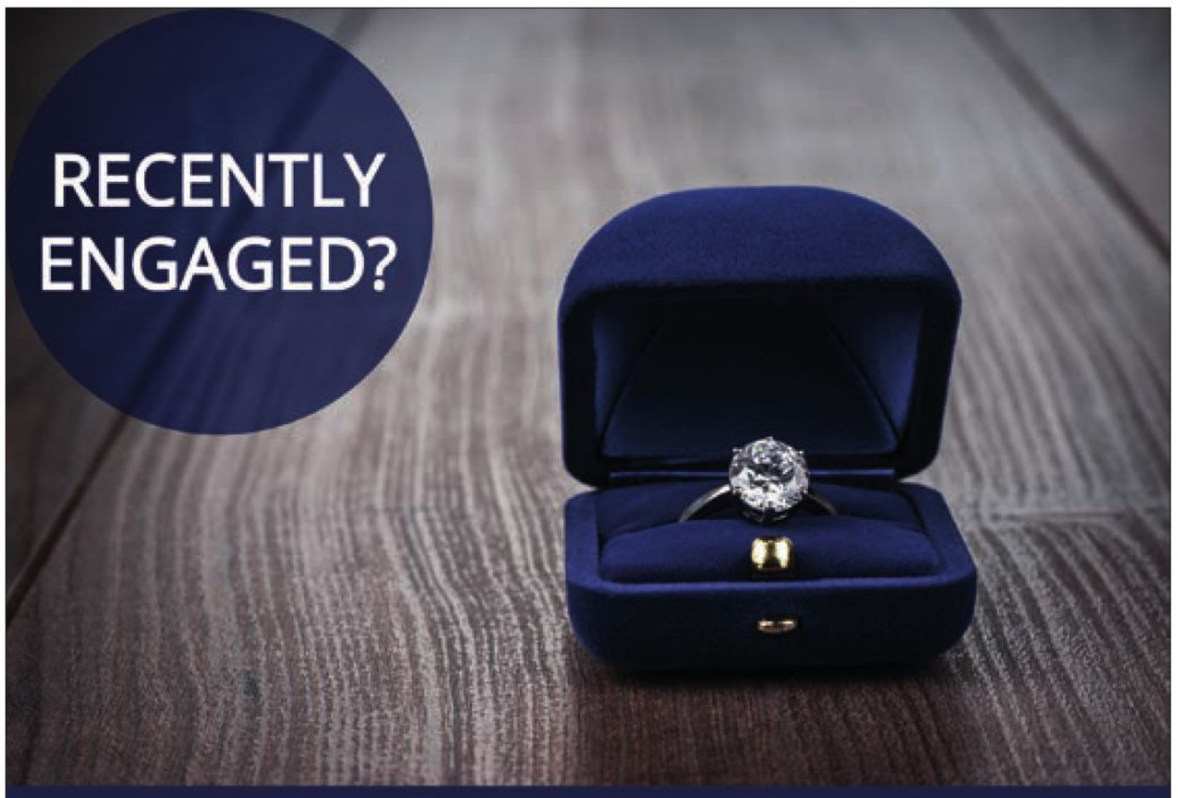
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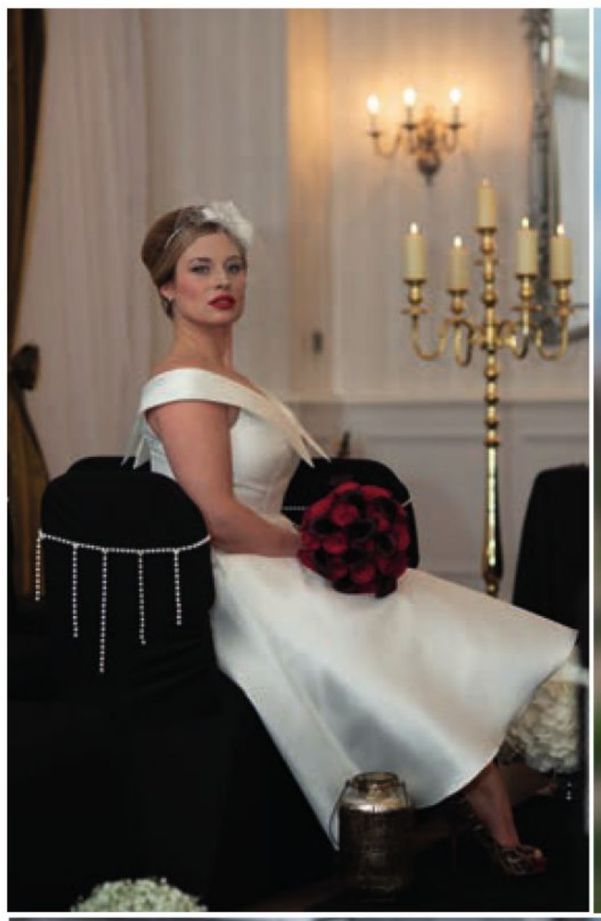
BE-*you*-TIFUL

Two historical eras meet in this display of individuality and personal flair

Images courtesy of Samantha Jones Photography

The Hythe Imperial Hotel immediately sprung to mind when hair stylist and make-up artist Ellen Dalton was looking for the dream location to suit her vision. "The glamour of the Art Deco era and the oh-so hip 1950s look simply had to be shot at a venue that screamed opulence, and The Hythe Imperial with its ballroom and Moët & Chandon Champagne bar was perfect." She continues, "We ensured the hair, make-up and accessories were in keeping with the time periods we chose, and went full-on glam with the venue styling, flowers and cake."

We love how these images show the character of both brides, as they wear their signature styles in a complementary and personality-filled way. With the ever-increasing trend in weddings that are as individual as the pair they're designed to celebrate, this shoot shows us how to do it with flair and panache.



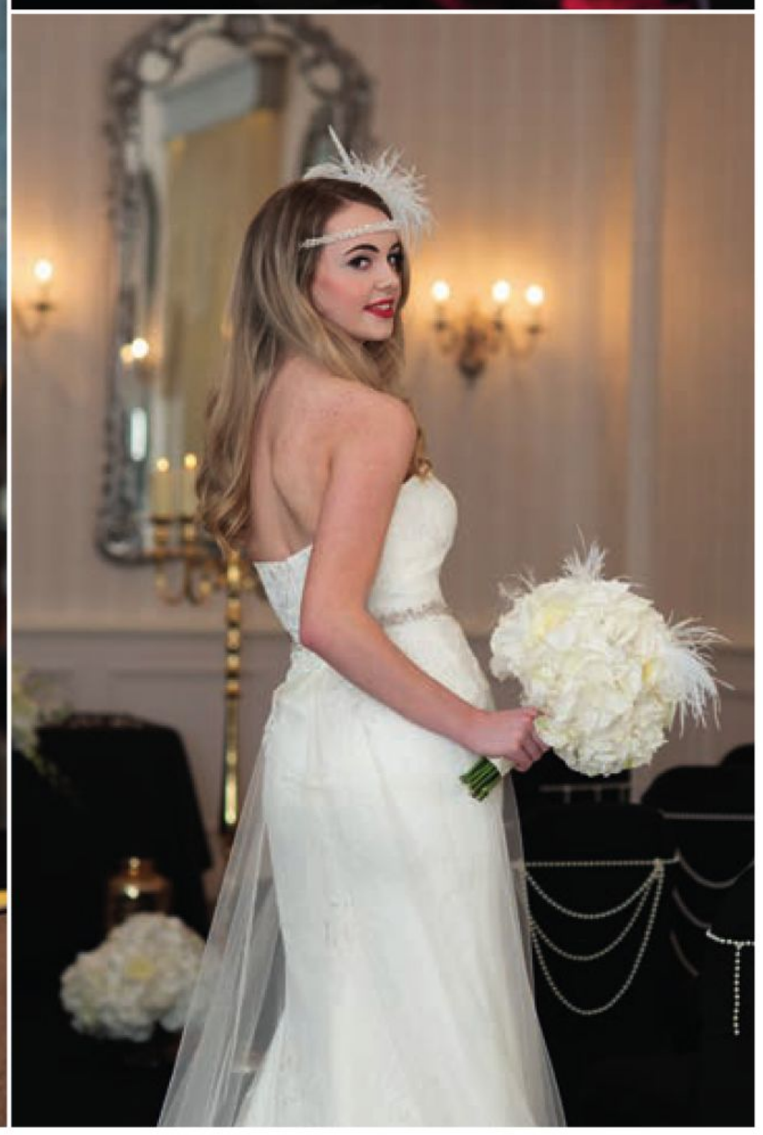


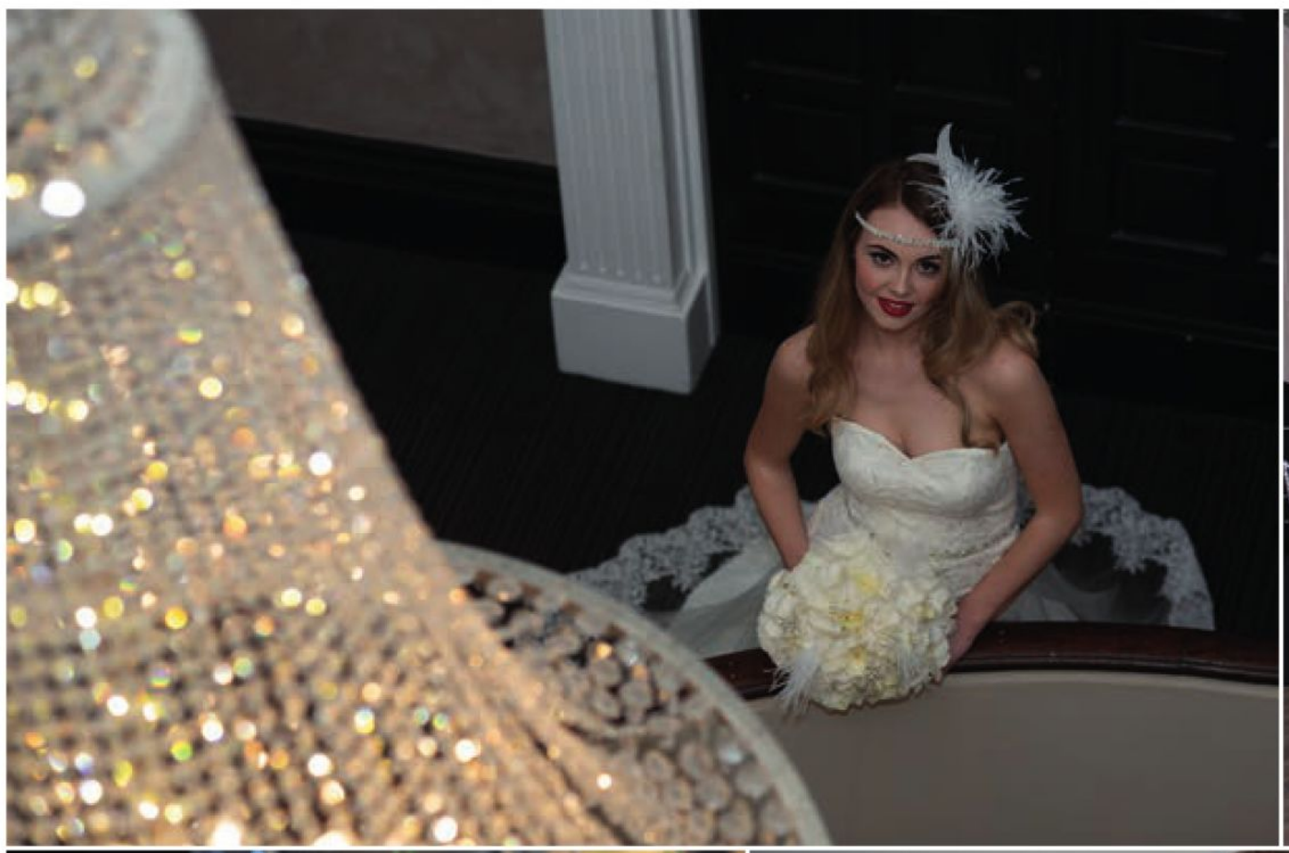







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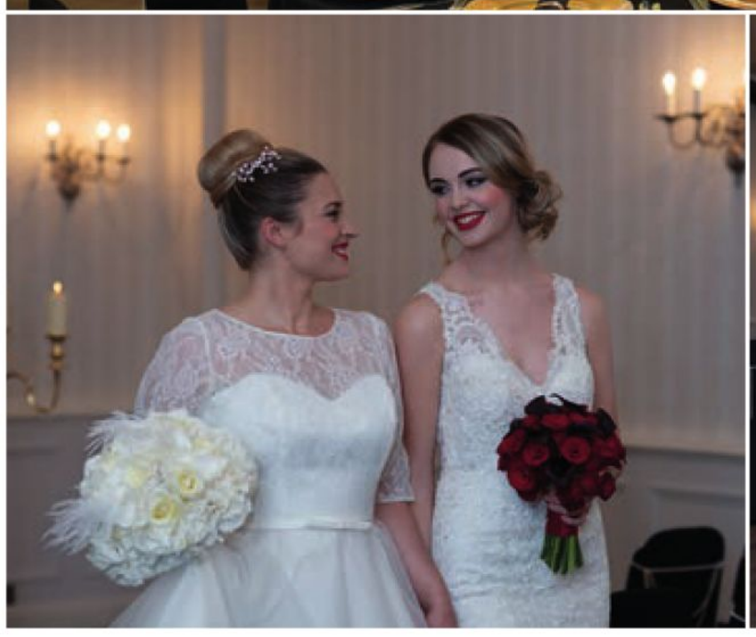
















THE DREAM TEAM

Venue, The Hythe Imperial Hotel, hytheimperial.co.uk | **Photographer**, Samantha Jones Photography, samanthajonesphotography.co.uk | **Venue styling**, KC Weddings and Events, kcweddingsandevents.co.uk | **Dresses**, Country Brides of Faversham, countrybrides.uk.com | **Accessories**, Lorna Green Boutique Bridal Accessories, greentiara.co.uk | **Hair, make-up and shoot coordinator**, Ellen Dalton Hair & Make up, ellendalton.co.uk | **Hair and make-up**, Perfect Wedding Hair and Makeup Company, perfect-wedding-hair.co.uk | **Cake**, Chelsea Buns Cake Design, chelseabuns.co.uk | **Flowers**, Victoria Charlotte Floral Design, victoriacharlotte.co.uk | **Videographer**, Cut the Cake Films, cutthecakefilms.co.uk

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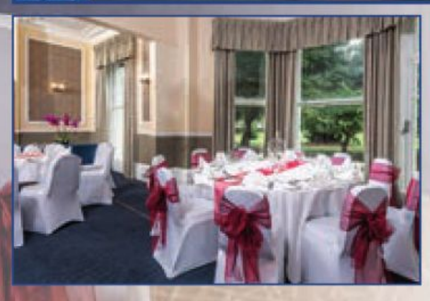


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Photo credit: Louisa Dettmer Wedding Photography



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Kent Wedding Awards Finalist 2020

In full bloom

A palette of soft and muted tones, with hints of gold and lilac was used to complement the venue's glorious wisteria

Images courtesy of Stephanie Chapman Photography and Sarah Capon Photography

The stunning Grade II listed Victorian conservatory at St Julians is the only one in Kent. So naturally, it appeared right at the top of the list when shoot coordinator Terri Gilham of Kent Bridal Hair, and photographer Stephanie Chapman, began looking for a stand-out spot for this project. "We couldn't resist the stunning wisteria that drapes across the ceiling," Terri explains.

The pair gathered together a band of trusted wedding suppliers, and jointly agreed that their theme should reflect the elegance of the 1920s in homage to the surroundings, with a nod to 2020's trends. Terri says, "Collectively, we all found it a great challenge to bring a modern twist to a classic and elegant theme, while making sure our work stood out creatively. I think everyone brought this together beautifully." We agree. Enjoy!







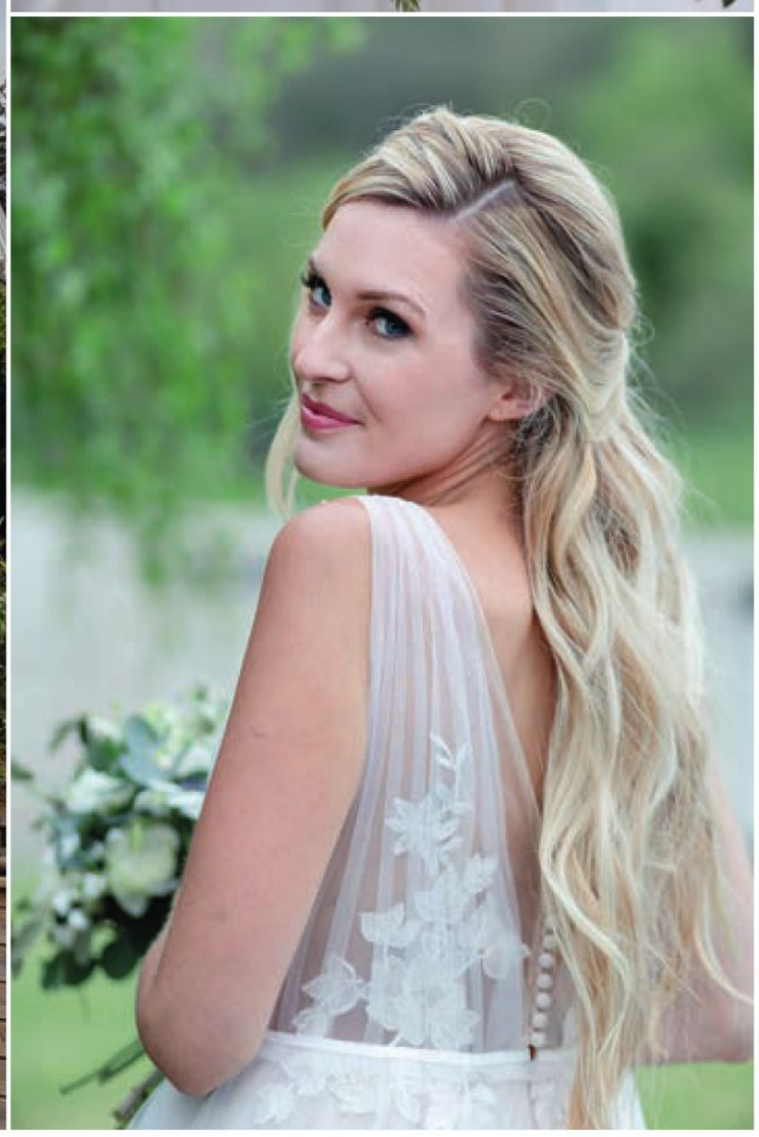



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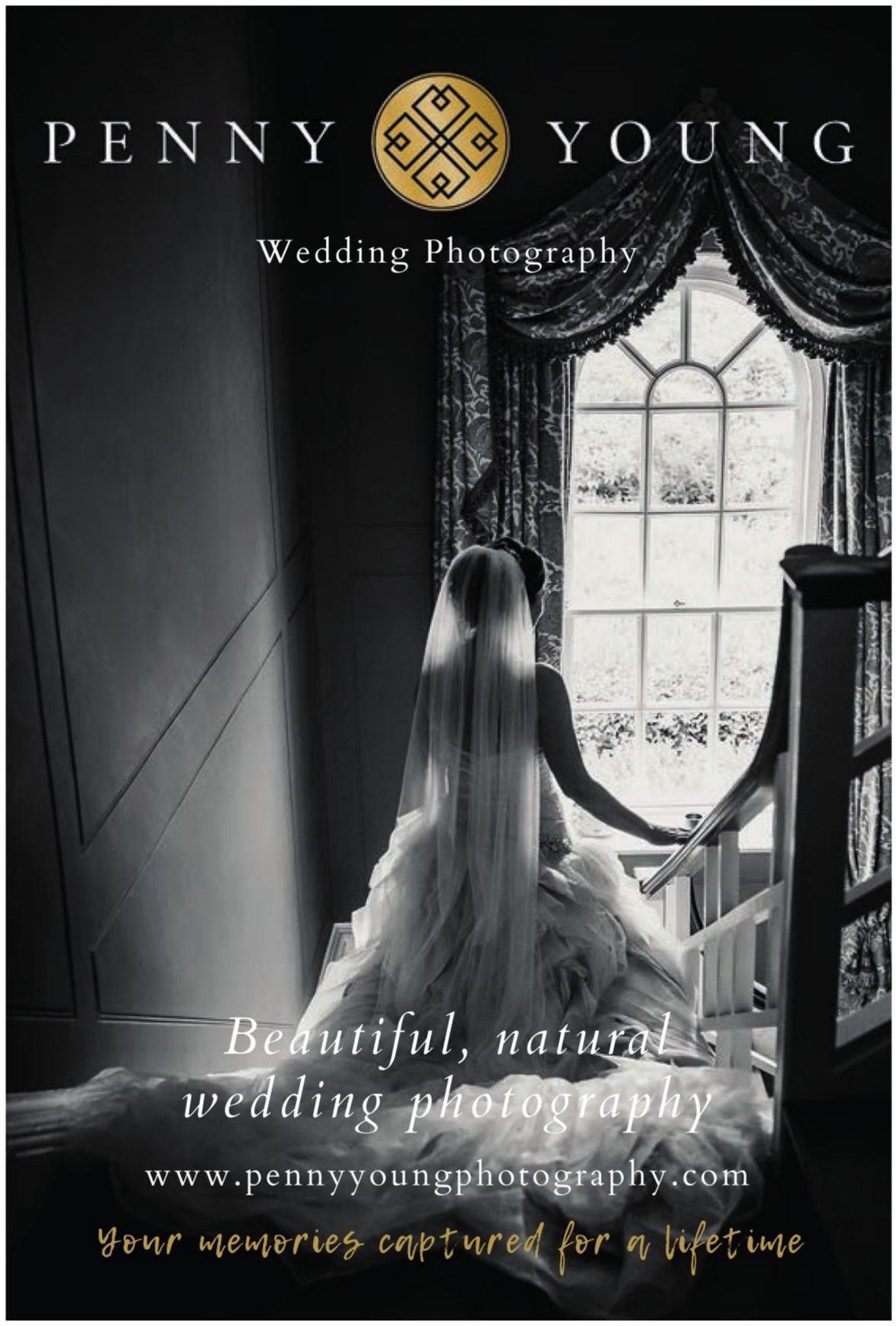






THE DREAM TEAM

Venue and catering, St Julians Club, stjulians.co.uk | **Photographer**, Stephanie Chapman Photography, stephaniechapmanphotography.co.uk | Sarah Capon Photography, sarahcaponphotography.co.uk | **Dresses**, The One Bridal **Accessories**, Maison Archives, maisonarchives.com | **Hair stylist and shoot coordinator**, Kent Bridal Hair, kentbridalhair.com **Make-up artist**, Kent Bridal Make-up, kentbridalmakeup.co.uk | **Cake**, Cake Me By Surprise, cakemebysurprise.com | **Flowers**, Distinctly Floral, distinctlyfloral.co.uk | **Stationery**, Heather Corthine Design, heathercorthinedesign.com | **Model**, Steph Redmond



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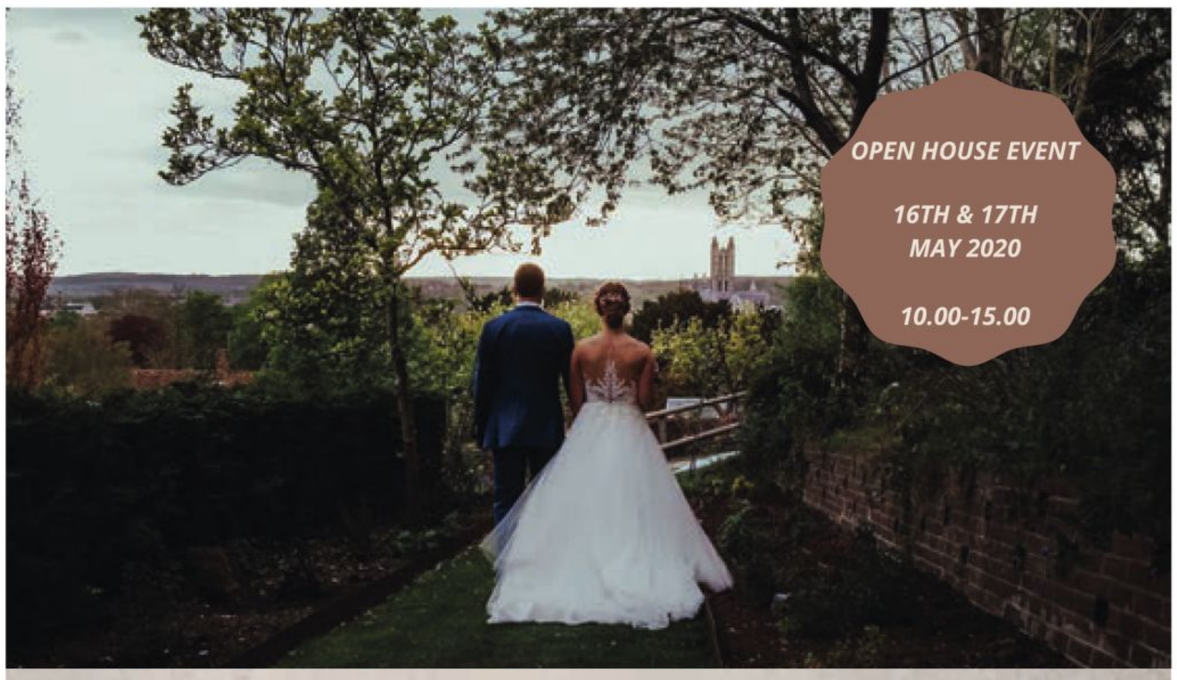
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Oh, CRUMBS!

We find out how to tie your theme into the big-day bake



baketothefuture.net

The buzzword when it comes to a 2020s wedding is without doubt "personality." Couples are seeking to reflect their characters in every inch of their wedding day, making it a unique experience for them and their guests, as well as an all out celebration of their own special love. And rightly so!

One aspect you can use to achieve this with aplomb is your cake. In fact, today's big-day bakes are works of art – showstopping centrepieces. You get to have a say on everything from the flavour to the topper, so have fun and go wild! We talked to the county's experts to get you started on your journey to sweet success.

Lou Finn of Bake to the Future says: "When you want to make your cake truly personal start by thinking about your passions and hobbies. A great cake designer will be able to take your individual interests and bring them together to create a totally epic, bespoke bake. There's no end to the ways you can make your wedding cake a testament to your individuality, it can be as subtle or as over-the-top as you choose."



baketothefuture.net



bluebirdsbakehouse.co.uk

Katherine Moloney of Bluebirds Bakehouse says: "Hand-painted details allow couples to incorporate personalised elements into the wedding cake, such as beautiful ombre effects using the day's colour palette."



rebeccacarpenterphotography.com for chelseabuns.co.uk

◀ ***Chelsea of Chelsea Buns Cake Design says:*** "From subtle personalisation in the form of monograms or design elements that represent the couples' lives and loves, the wedding cake is the perfect centrepiece to bring together all aspects of the big day."



bluebirdsbakehouse.co.uk

Tracy Gregory of Monumental Cakes says: ▶ "My passion is matching the bridal flowers in sugar. It gives a great impact and I often find guests tentatively touching them to see if they're real!"



ColinBPhotography for monumentalcakes.co.uk



bluebirdsbakehouse.co.uk



jackcorthine.com for chelseabuns.co.uk

Lou says:
"Why not take inspiration from your colour palette, flowers, or even from the fabric of your wedding-day attire? All of these elements can be translated into an edible masterpiece."

baketothefuture.net

yourcarriage.co.uk

bluebirdsbakehouse.co.uk

Asha Pankhania of Oh So Delicious says:
"We believe that 2020 trends will continue to focus on geometric shapes and metallics. Botanical styles using edible flowers that are delicately pressed and crystallised are also growing in demand."

bluebirdsbakehouse.co.uk

Katherine says: "More and more dietary requirements are now needing to be catered for, so I believe vegan cakes, or at least vegan tiers will become more popular."

baketothefuture.net

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◀ ***Chelsea says:*** "I think the boho trend will continue to grow with the use of wildflowers, pampas and pops of colour translating into some exciting cake designs reflecting couples' personal style."

▲***Tracy says:*** "A great way to personalise the big-day bake is with a character topper. It could be representative of a hobby, or even the place you first met, or became engaged. Using specialist modeling paste to match a hairstyle or mimic a bridal outfit can produce something that will be a lasting keepsake of your special day, guaranteed to make everyone smile."

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▲ ***Lou says:*** "Half and half reveal cakes are very popular. They're a great way to maintain the look of a traditional wedding cake, while still injecting your own personalities into it. Plus, they're a great compromise for couples who each want very different designs."



yourcarriage.co.uk

Asha says: "The style of your wedding day can be incorporated, as well as the colour palette. Think lace, florals and brooches that are used in your venue décor. They can also be added to the cake for visual consistency."



lucymohrstudio.com for
bluebirdsbakehouse.co.uk

Katherine says: "I've had a lot more couples asking to frame their cakes to really make them into a feature."



monumentalcakes.co.uk



zohalbali.co.uk for
ohsodelicious.co.uk



Chelsea says: "There are plenty of personal touches you can add to a dessert table, and edible favours are hugely popular with guests. My cookie placecards go down a treat."

rebeccacarpenterphotography.com
for chelseabuns.co.uk

Tracy says: "2020 cakes will be bigger and more extravagant fitting in with themes and colours, with multiple flavours. This year will be all about the flavours for me: toffee cake with salted caramel buttercream, black forest gateau, and lemon and elderflower are just some of the ones I'll be offering."



chelseabuns.co.uk



ohsodelicious.co.uk

CONTACT OUR EXPERTS

Bake To The Future, baketothefuture.net
Bluebirds Bakehouse, bluebirdsbakehouse.co.uk
Chelsea Buns Cake Design, chelseabuns.co.uk
Monumental Cakes, monumentalcakes.co.uk
Oh So Delicious, ohsodelicious.co.uk
Your Carriage Awaits, yourcarriage.co.uk

Woodland FAIRY TALE

Join us on this whimsical walk through the woods

Images courtesy of Matilda Delves Wedding Photography

Shoot coordinators Kim Webb of My Little Tea Party, and Poppy Greenhalgh of The Glitzy Balloon Company fell in love with the magical Longton Wood, the setting for these glorious images. "It had such an enchanted fairytale feel, and we wanted to encapsulate this with the styling. The aim was to inspire couples seeking a bit of woodland luxe – a relaxed, informal vibe with stylish touches," Poppy explains.

They opted for an oh-so chic colour palette of blush hues, peach tones, creams and whites, with hints of gold and copper, to create the desired look everywhere from the natural ceremony area to the wedding breakfast and chill-out area. The very embodiment of effortless beauty with a soft, natural, dewy make-up look, the model wears dresses by two independent British designers, Kindling Bridal and Amy Mair Couture. She holds a stunningly wild and whimsical bridal bouquet, which features avalanche roses, lisianthus, peonies, hypericum berries, spirea, hellebores, and mixed foliage including grey eucalyptus.



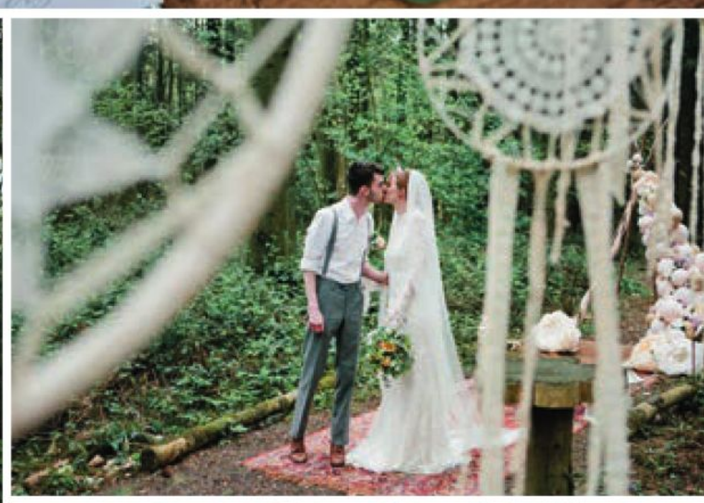

















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SHOOT CONTRIBUTORS

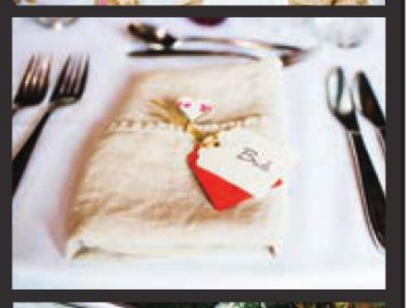
Venue, Longton Wood, longtonwood.co.uk/weddings | **Photographer**, Matilda Delves Wedding Photography, matildadelvesweddingphotography.com | **Vision, production and styling**, My Little Tea Party, mylittleteaparty.co.uk | **Production and balloon styling**, The Glitzy Balloon Company, theglitzyballooncompany.co.uk | **Videographer**, Emma Hill Film and Photography, emmahillfilmphotography.co.uk | **Prop hire**, Locate to Create, locatetocreate.com | **Bride's dresses**, Story of My Dress, storyofmydress.com | **Hair stylist**, Sinsational Lox, facebook.com/sinsationallox | **Make-up artist**, Kerry-Ann Makeup Artist, kerryannmakeup.com | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, Melie's Tutus, facebook.com/MeliesTutus | **Cake**, Cakeybake, cakeybake.co.uk **Flowers**, Fleurista, fleurista.uk | **Paper flowers**, Designs by Stella, facebook.com/DesignsbyStella1 | **Cushions and blankets**, Brolly Bucket, brollybucket.co.uk | **Crockery, cutlery and glassware**, Harriet's Table, harrietstable.co.uk | **Bell tent**, The Hip Hooray Company, facebook.com/thehiphooraycompany | **Favour bags**, Make It Friday, makeitfriday.co.uk | **Bar**, The Little Bar Company, littlebarco.com | **Floral crowns**, Mrs Beasley's Bows, mrsbeasleysbows.co.uk | **Macarons**, The Crow Kitchen, thecrowkitchen.co.uk **Leather jacket**, Scritto, scritto.co.uk | **Children's stationery**, Orange Party Duck, etsy.com/uk/shop/OrangePartyDuck | **Silk ribbons**, C Fleurs Design, etsy.com/uk/shop/Cfleursdesign | **Stationery**, Lilac and White, lilacandwhite.com | **Grazing table,** The Curated Kitchen, thecuratedkitchen.co.uk | **Models**, Happy Feet Management, happyfeetmanagement.com | Jacob Wiley | Danielle Freeman

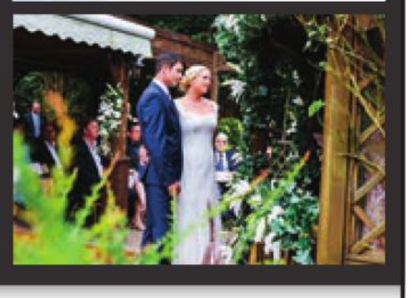
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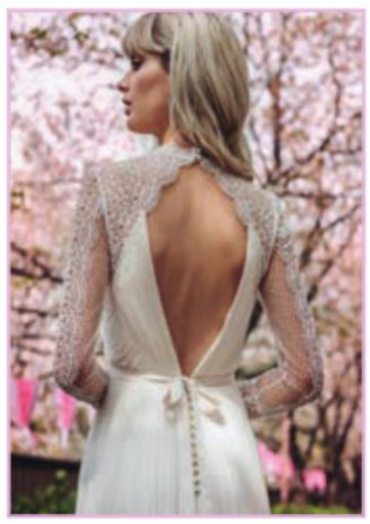
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This ultra-talented local dream team brings you a taste of paradise

Images courtesy of Olegs Samsanovs Photography

This is one heck of an edgy and eclectic shoot, and we absolutely live for it! A marriage of styles old and new, kitsch and classy, antique and contemporary, serious and playful, this tropical-inspired look is truly unifying.

A mix of bright colours, splashes of gold, with contrasting floral patterns and textures flow throughout, creating an eye-catching and luxury feel. All flowers used were either dried or artificial for an eco-conscious twist, and you can't beat a bit of colourful sparkle with a biodegradable glitter bar.

The bride's hair and make-up was kept relaxed to complement Rembo Styling's *Honey Bear* dress, with the groom's blue suit stepping out of the traditional and into the alternative, complete with floral print tie and pineapple pin. Applying this super-hot style to your wedding day will make you feel as though the sun's shining even if it's not!

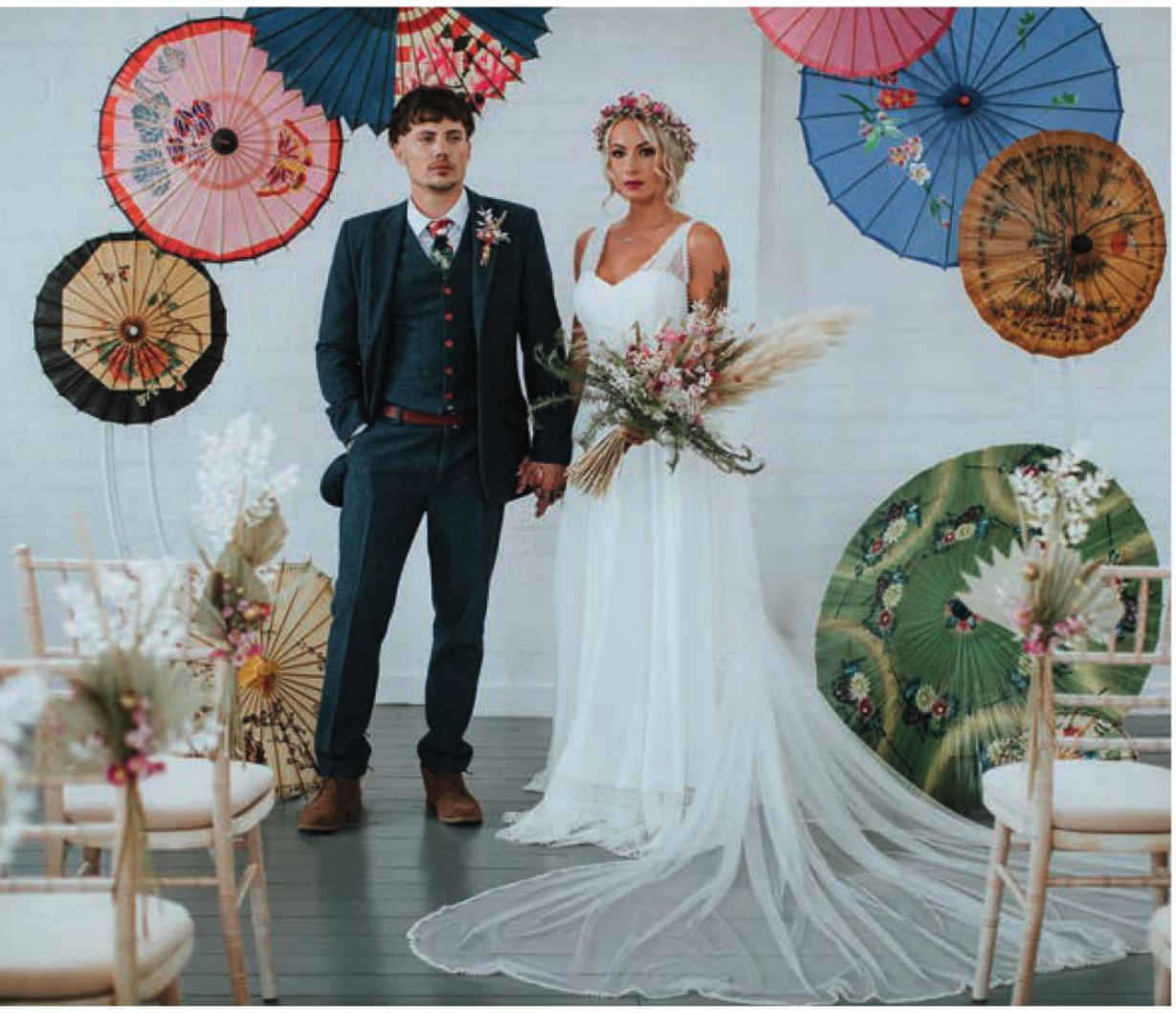

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24.08.19














Order of the day
24·08·19
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2:30pm cocktail hour
4:00pm dinner + Speeches
7:00pm cake cutting · first dance
7:15pm the party starts!
12:00pm lights out!....


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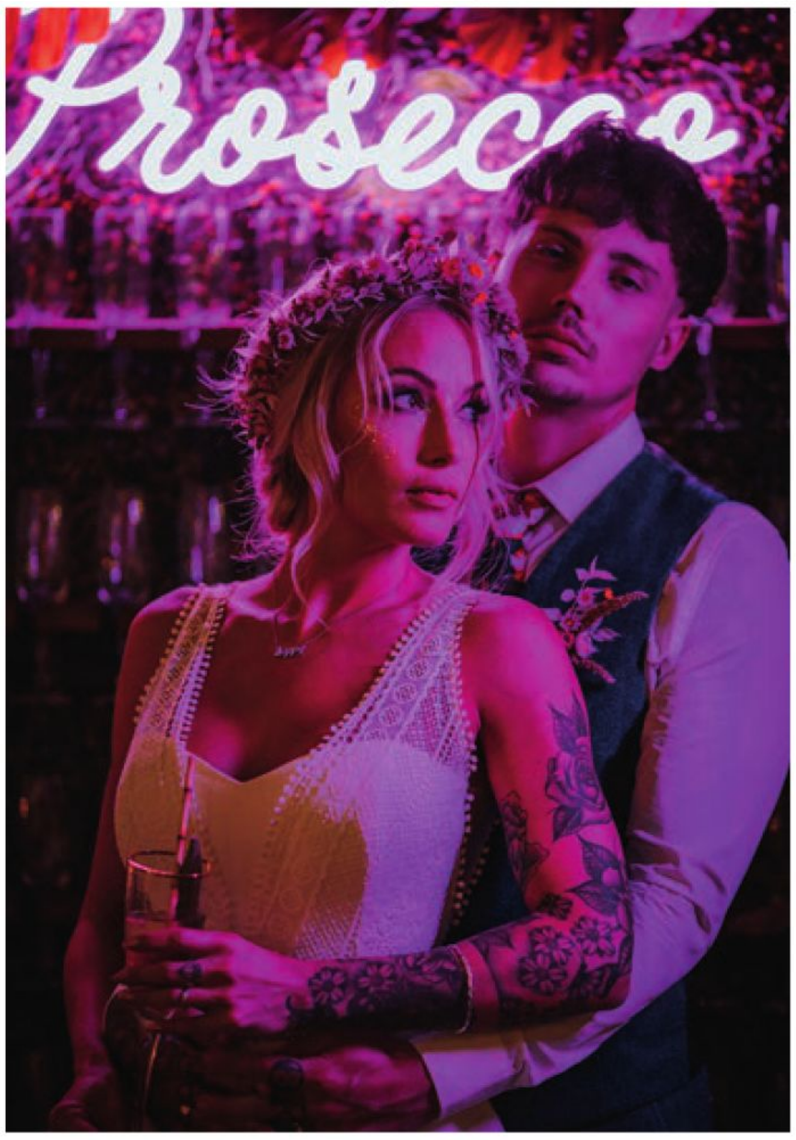
















SHOOT CONTRIBUTORS

Concept, organiser and hair stylist, Claire Hartley Stylist, clairehartleystylist.co.uk | **Venue**, The Winding House, thewindinghouseweddings.com | **Photographer**, Olegs Samsonovs Photography, olegssamsonovsphotography.com | **Dress**, The Bridal Boutique of Jules, boutiqueofjules.co.uk | **Groom's suit**, The Vintage Suit Company, vintagesuithire.co.uk | **Flowers**, Bohotanical, bohotanical.co.uk | **Make-up artist**, Sharon Owens Bridal Makeup, sharonowensbridalmakeup.com | **Videographer**, Russell Kent Nicholls Cinematic Videography, russellkentnicholls.com | **Cake**, Cobi & Coco Cakes, cobiandcoco.com | **Stationery**, Polka Dot Daisy, polkadotdaisy.co.uk | **Prop hire**, Coastal Wedding Event Hire, coastal-wedding-event-hire.co.uk | Boho & Bloom Prop Hire, bohoandbloomprophire.weebly.com | **Signage**, Boards by Jess, instagram.com/boardsbyjess | **Grazing table**, Grazing Social, grazingsocial.co.uk | **Favours**, Seedball, seedball.co.uk | **Glitter bar**, EcoGlitterFun, ecoglitterfun.com | **Transport**, Retro Rides 4 Brides, retrorides4brides.co.uk | **Rings**, Lawley Design, lawleydesign.co.uk | **Lounge area**, Visual Roars, visualroarsinteriors.co.uk | **Models**, Anita Jones, instagram.com/little_ms_fit_anita | Elliot, instagram.com/25minerals

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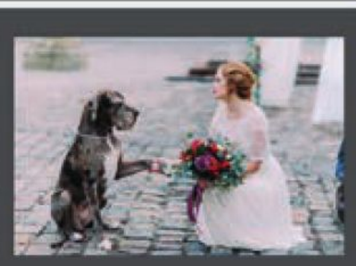
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Our experts offer some stellar advice on planning your dream wedding

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From greeting ceremony guests, to walking down the aisle as dog-of-honour, or conducting ring-bearing duties, everything is possible for your four-legged friend on your wedding day.

The easiest option is for your dog to attend the official photos. They normally take place straight after the ceremony and pet chaperoning companies, like Tail Tales, will take care of your furry guest beforehand, as well as making sure they are photo-ready by the time you say "I do." In fact, we're often to be found behind the photographer holding treats and squeaky toys to make sure you get the pawfect picture! This option is ideal for dogs who aren't keen on large groups of people, while still enabling you to enjoy quality, hassle-free time with them on this most important of days.

Your dog will have been fed, exercised, rested and genuinely happy to see and interact with you, and your guests. Then, before the wedding breakfast, we'll take them back home allowing you to continue celebrations without any worries.

Ioana James, tailtales.co.uk



emmamigdenphotography.com

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Whether you choose a traditional classical, or totally personal aisle song for your entrance, having a musician perform it can make your day even more memorable. We love working with our couples to find the perfect piece, particularly when it involves composing a song especially for the occasion. It's a very personal journey, and leads to a meaningful and intimate wedding ceremony.

Adel and Karina, 2ofharps.com



TWO OF A KIND

We're not really interested in a traditional wedding! How can we create a day that's different and reflects our personalities?

The best way to achieve this is not to be influenced by those around you. A wedding is an exciting time and everyone and their sister wants to get involved, but auntie's idea of a perfect wedding day is sure to be different from yours. I always ask my couples at the very beginning of their journey to list a few things they both love, then work out how to incorporate them into their day. So what if these little personal touches don't fit in with the overall theme? The biggest theme at your wedding is you! The little things you enjoy together, the little jokes you share, and the geek culture you enjoy – that's what makes you work as a pair. Make your day about celebrating you as a couple, and how you fell in love.

Try not to drown yourself in Pinterest boards that only show the colour scheme you have in mind. If you find as many ways as possible to incorporate "you" into your day, your wedding will be truly unique.

Lily Jones, lilyjonesevents.co.uk



LITTLE ANGELS

Help! Many of our friends have young children. We'd love them all to come and enjoy our wedding day without our reception descending into chaos. What can we do?

Weddings can be a long, tiring and overwhelming experience for everyone, especially young people. So, it's important to set up a safe space for guests under 10 years where they can let off steam. This also gives their parents or guardians time to enjoy the wonder of your special day with you.

Why not let a crèche company look after the childcare at your wedding? All that's needed is an adequate child-safe room or space – they'll carry out a risk assessment ahead of the day. You'll find your worries are lifted with the extra pair of hands provided to keep the little ones out of mischief, and let them burn off that energy right alongside your wedding's proceedings.

At Carousel Crèche Company, we can cater for children from 0-10 years old with age appropriate toys and activities, including arts and crafts, dolls house, baby area, trains and much more.

Carole Cassidy, carouselcreche.co.uk



GONE WITH THE WIND

March is significant to us, and we'd like to choose this month to say our vows, but last year in particular the weather was awful. How would we get around that when it comes to our photos?

You can't control the weather, but you can plan for it. For example, I approach every wedding with "plan A – the perfect scenario," and "plan B – the worst case scenario." In plan B, where the weather is less than ideal, I will have made sure that I've scouted the venue, making notes on the alternative locations and features.

Your photographer should make sure that you're comfortable having photos taken outdoors as well as indoors. I'll always make sure that I have two sets of umbrellas with me – two transparent and two white. These can be used as quirky props.

If shooting outdoors really isn't possible, there will be features of your venue that can serve as inspiration for some wonderful interior photos utilising characterful doorways, windows and staircases.

Remember, planning always pays off. It gives you time to be creative no matter what comes your way.

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VINTAGE GLAMOUR

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Photographer mattheathphotography.com



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BOHEMIAN DREAM

This style was massive last year, and doesn't look to be going anywhere soon. Think hair vines, feathers and textures.



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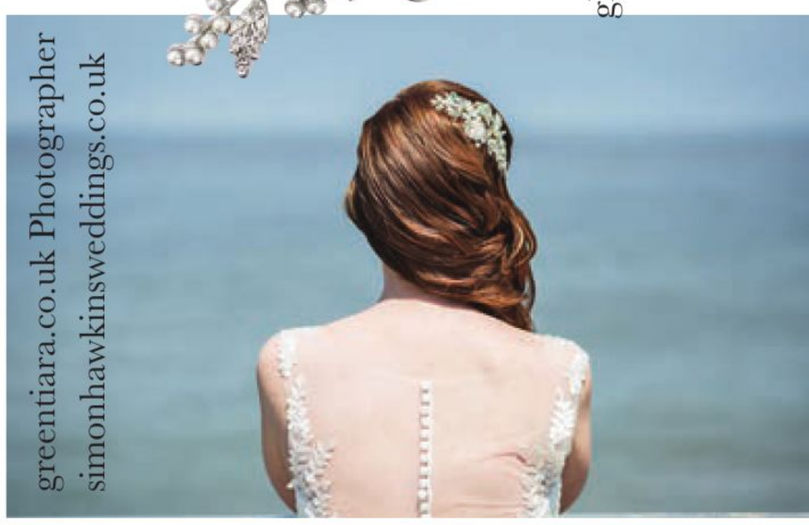
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Pravins, Bluewater | pravins.co.uk



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

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

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

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





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



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

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

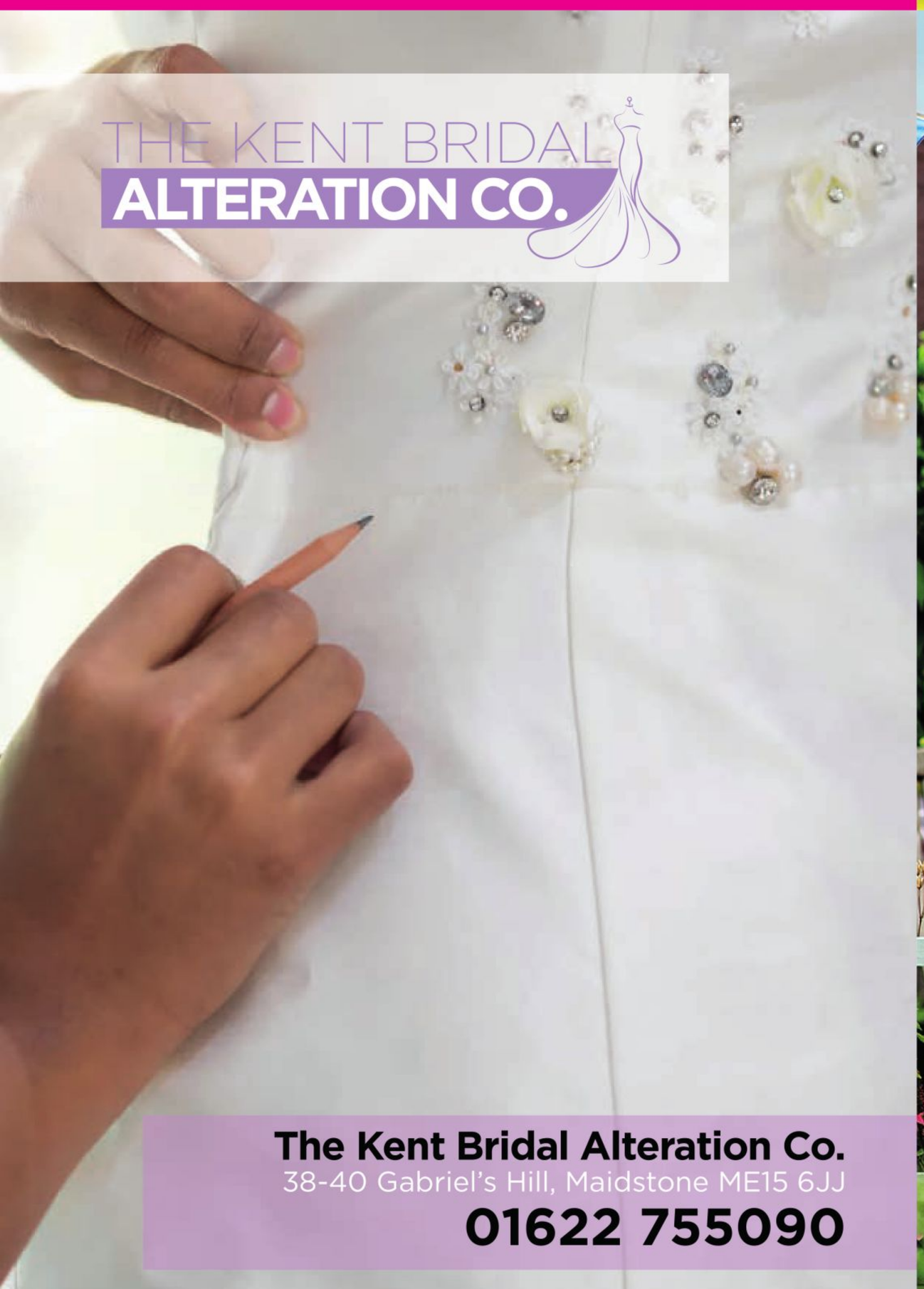




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Fun and frivolous

These flirty styles are setting the trends for 2020

Halterneck

catherineparrybridal.com

Long sleeves

adriannapapell.com

Oversized bow

alanhannah.co.uk

Short and sassy

justinalexander.com

Embellished back detail

clairepettibone.com

Vintage-inspired sleeves

kitristudio.com

Short sleeves

elbethgillis.com

Bib-front

katyakatya.co.uk

Slip dress

warehouse.co.uk

Shirt-style jumpsuit

kitristudio.com

Feathers

demetrios.com

Plunge neckline

jesuspeiro.com

Chic jumpsuit

charlottebalbier.com



Fringing

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Elegant cape

jennypackham.com

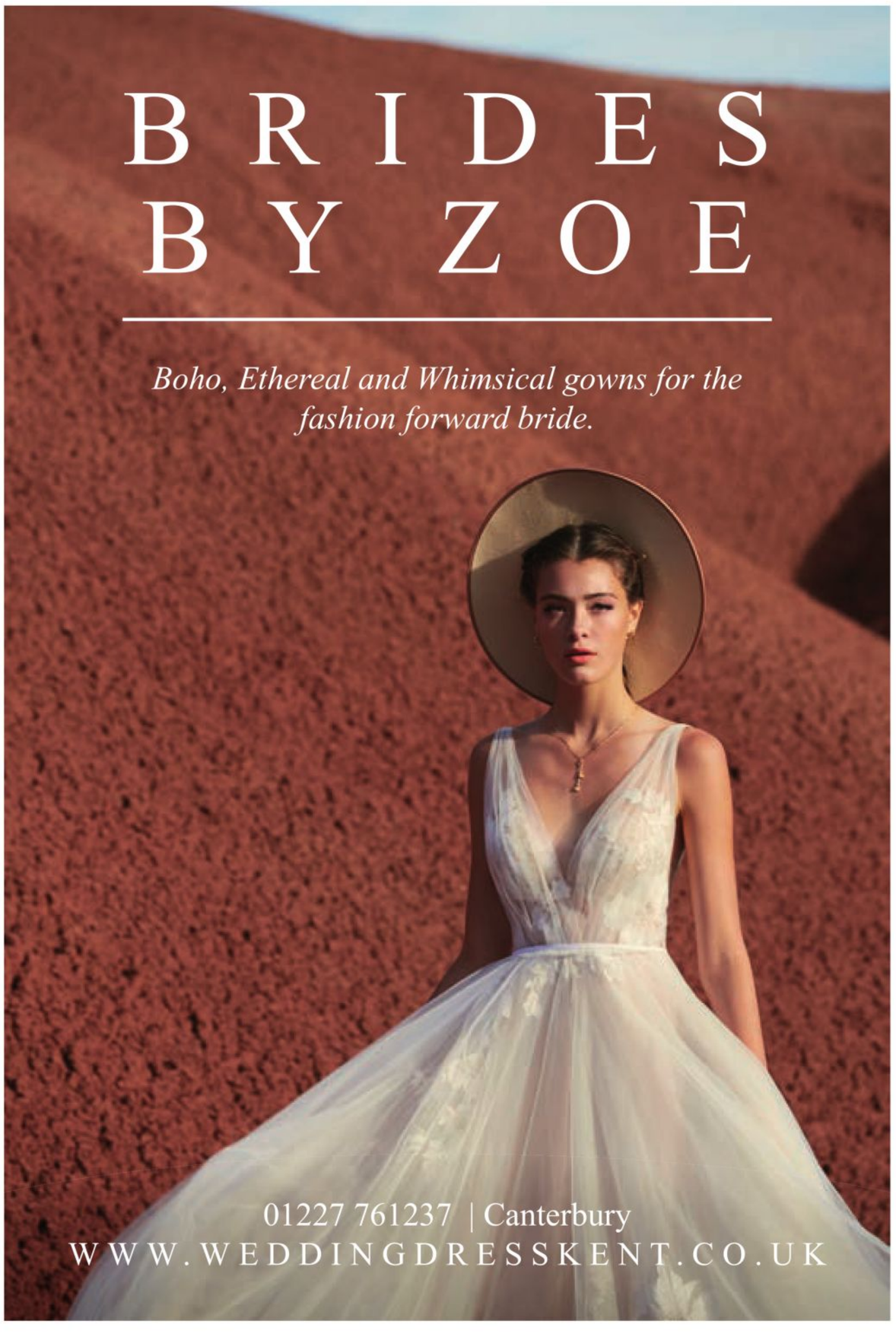


Tulle detail

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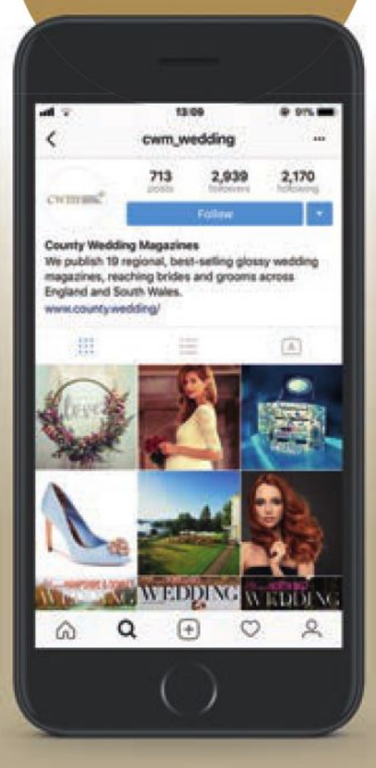
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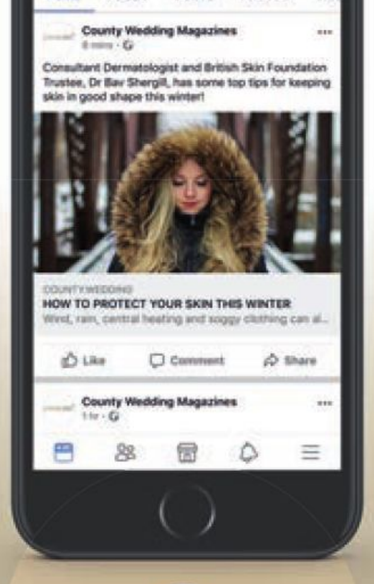
For further wed-spiration and to keep up to date with the latest news and trends check out our *County Wedding Magazines'* Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages

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County Wedding Magazines

What's more, our editors are on hand to help brides-to-be with all their planning problems:

- Ask us anything, whether you're on the hunt for a local venue or simply looking for ideas and advice
- Find local suppliers
- Top planning tips from the pros
- Tell us about your big day for your chance to appear in the magazine
- Special subscription offers
- Win wedding essentials with our exclusive giveaways and competitions

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

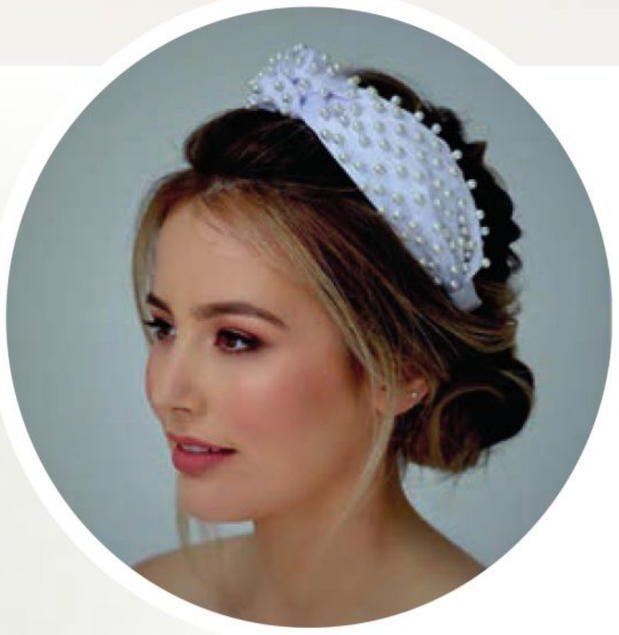


Headdress, from a selection, mervebayindir.com

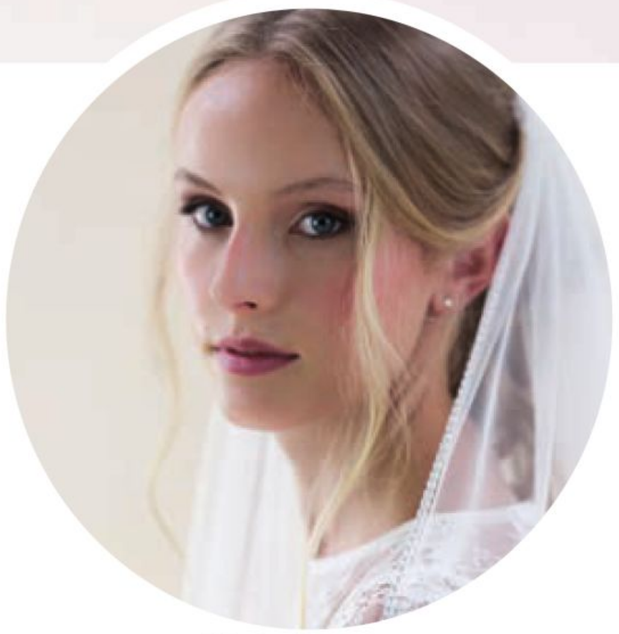


Tiaras and veils spotted at demetrios.com. For similar, try richard-designs.com





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





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





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



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



Cream knot headband, £4.99, newlook.com

Planning a wedding?

I'd love to help you on your
journey to perfect floral arrangements





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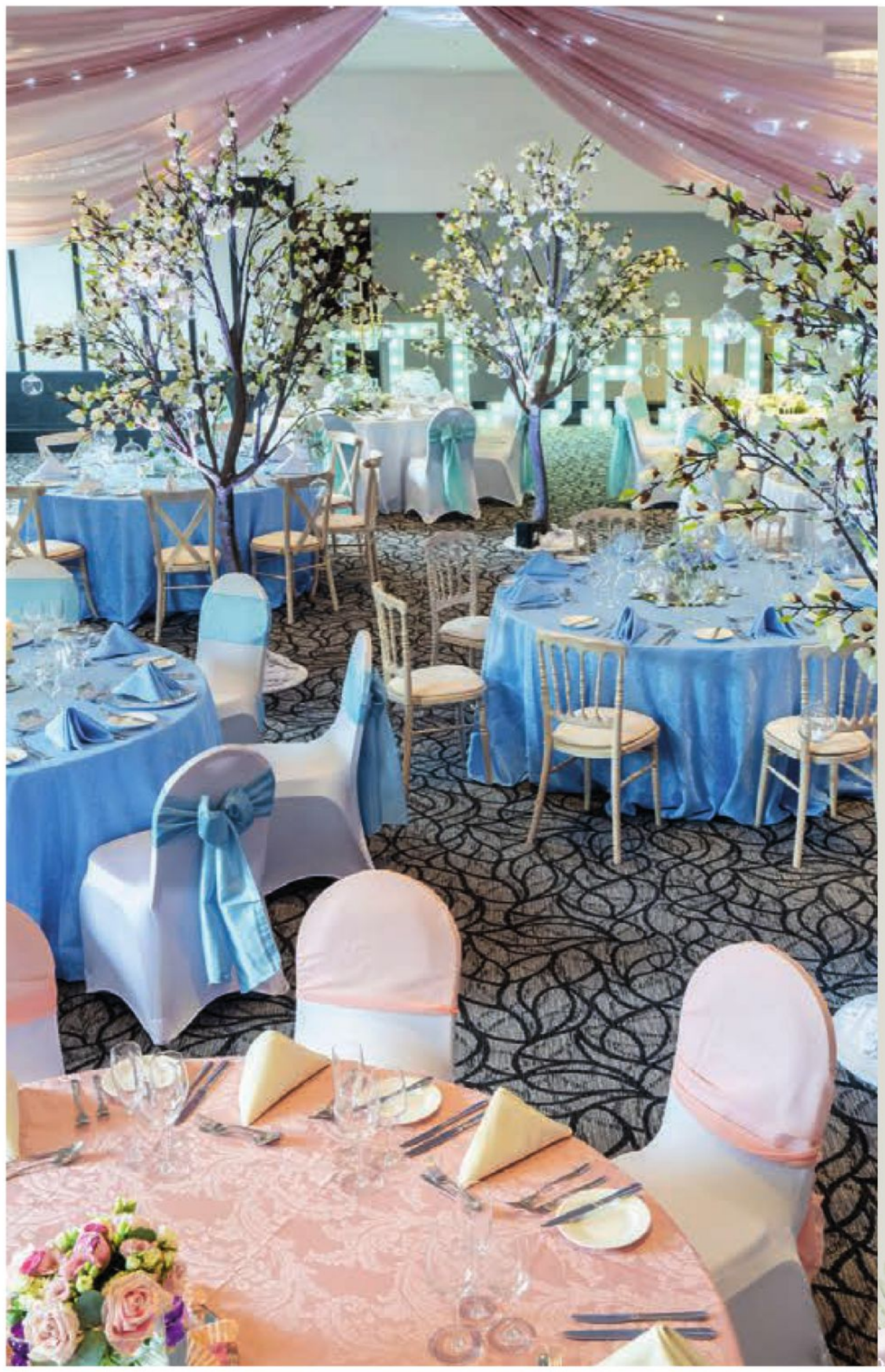


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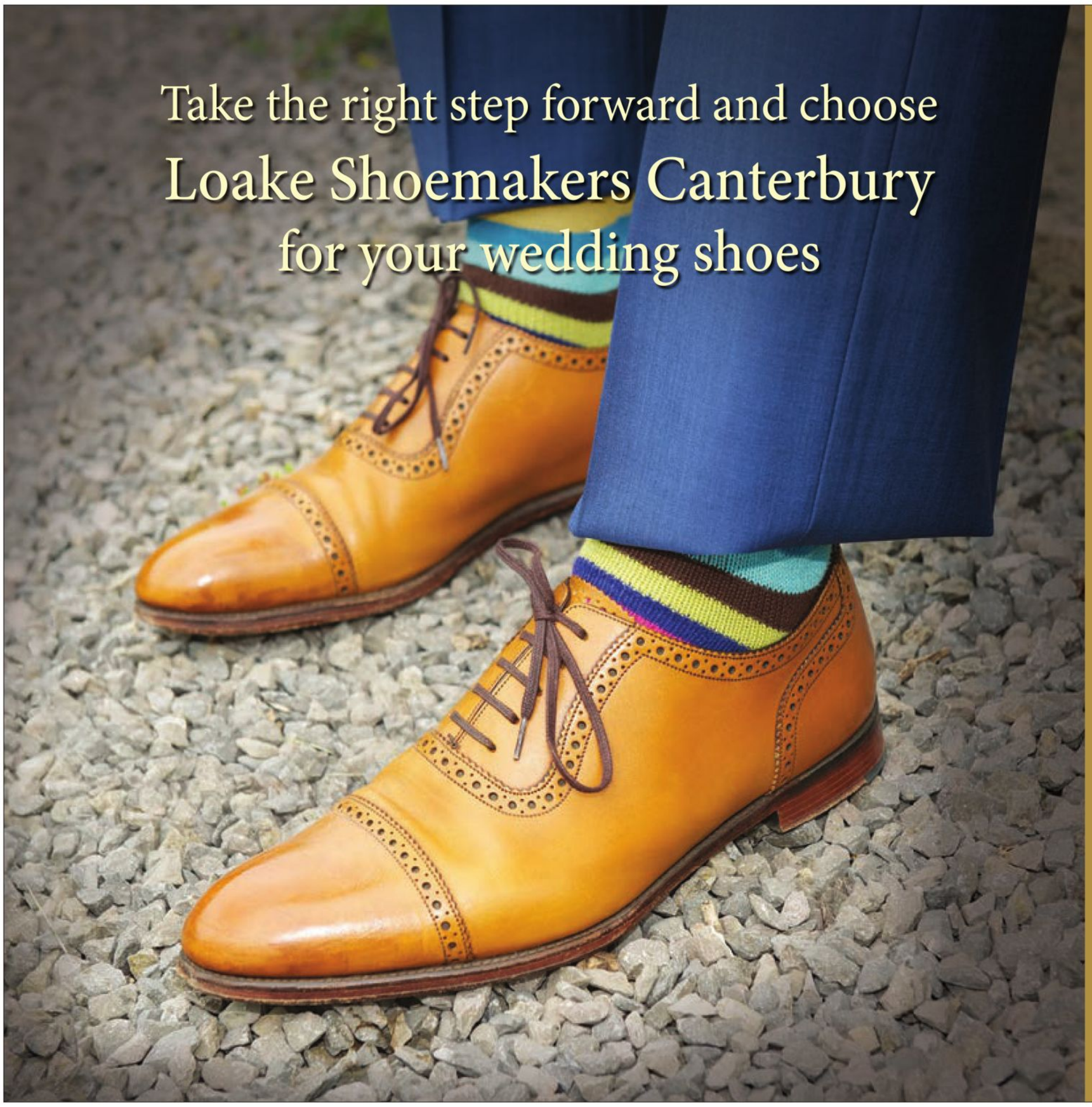


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ONLY TIME WILL TELL

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



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



Read all ABOUT IT!

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



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.

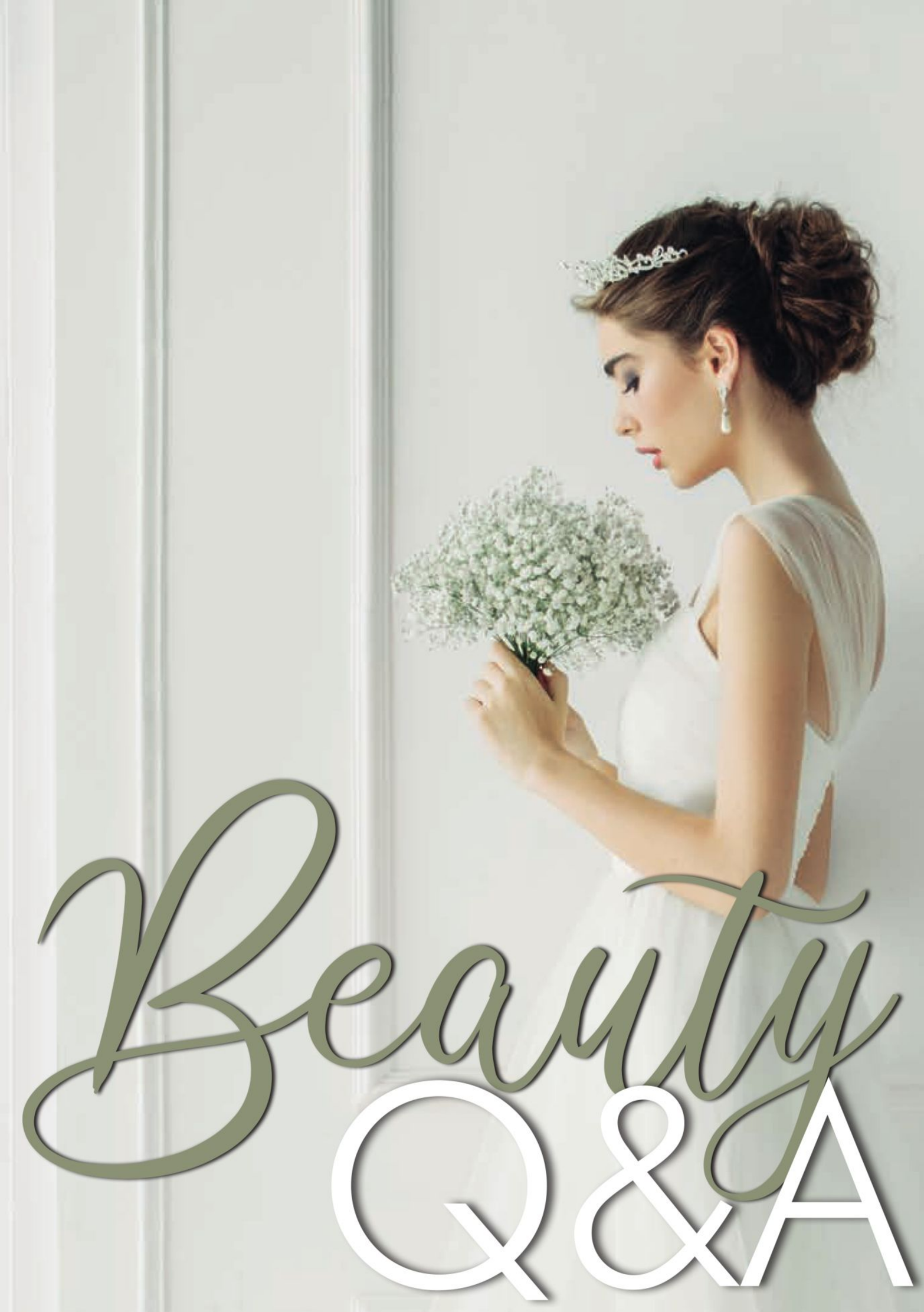


Oh-so handsome

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



Beauty Q&A

Local professionals offer advice on looking your big-day best

THE PERFECT COMPLEMENT

Should my bridesmaids' make-up look be the same as mine, or would you recommend a complete contrast?

Ruth says: The bride should always be the focal point, so it's not a great idea to have your bridesmaids' make-up match yours, although your bride tribe could have the same style of application. For example, perhaps you'd like a simple wash of colour on the lids, or a smoky eye. In this case, the colour should be different to yours, but in a complementary shade. If you do want them to have the same colour as you though, I'd recommend they at least wear a varying depth of shade.

Whilst you don't want the make-up to match exactly, you should keep the overall look the same. For instance, if your bridesmaids are going for all-out glam, the bride shouldn't opt for a natural vibe. This way you'll all complement each other beautifully, while making sure you're the belle of the ball.

BRONZED GODDESS

What's the secret to using bronzer and highlighter to best effect?

Lara says: Bronzer is used to contour your face. Be sure to choose one that suits your skin tone – it should be two shades darker than your natural complexion. Using a brush, lightly apply as though you're tracing a number three on both sides of your face, and blend well using a circular motion to avoid emphasising uneven skin texture. This shape ensures the bronzer targets your hairline, temples, below the cheekbone, and below the jawline. Soften any sharp edges with a damp sponge or beauty blender.

Powder bronzers are best for beginners as they give you the most control. Those with shimmer are great for illuminating the skin, and giving off that fresh sun-kissed glow, but not so much for contouring and shadowing.

Applied well, highlighter can really enhance and awaken your complexion. I find the most flattering way to use it is to create skin lights mimicking how fresh and healthy your face would naturally look when the sunlight bounces off it. Remember though, highlighter is so-called for a reason – it will light up whatever it hits, so if there's a feature that you don't want to accentuate don't apply it there!

Take the colour cue from your natural skin colour. Pale to medium skin tones suit champagne and apricot hues, whereas complexions with a hint of sallowness should look for more pink undertones, olive and dark tones, on the other hand, look beautiful with more bronzy, golden highlights.

Be wary of anything with too much glitter or sparkle though, as this can be too overpowering, and it's far more likely to settle in pores or over uneven skin texture – not the look you're after on your wedding day!

I love to use highlighter on the cheekbones. It's most flattering to keep it to the bone and not stray too close to the eyes; otherwise, you may inadvertently end up highlighting fine lines too. I also add to inner corners of eyes to add brightness, a tiny bit to the cupids bow above the lips to make them look fuller, and onto the bridge of the nose.

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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 asorb 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



WELL LIT

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 BUZZ

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



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.

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 llio.love





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

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



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

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





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





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A CALMING *influence*

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

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**



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**



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**



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**



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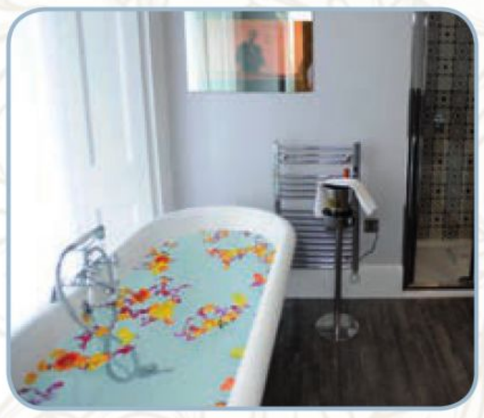
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PICTURE-PERFECT PARADISE

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 aspinallfoundation.org

HONEYMOON News



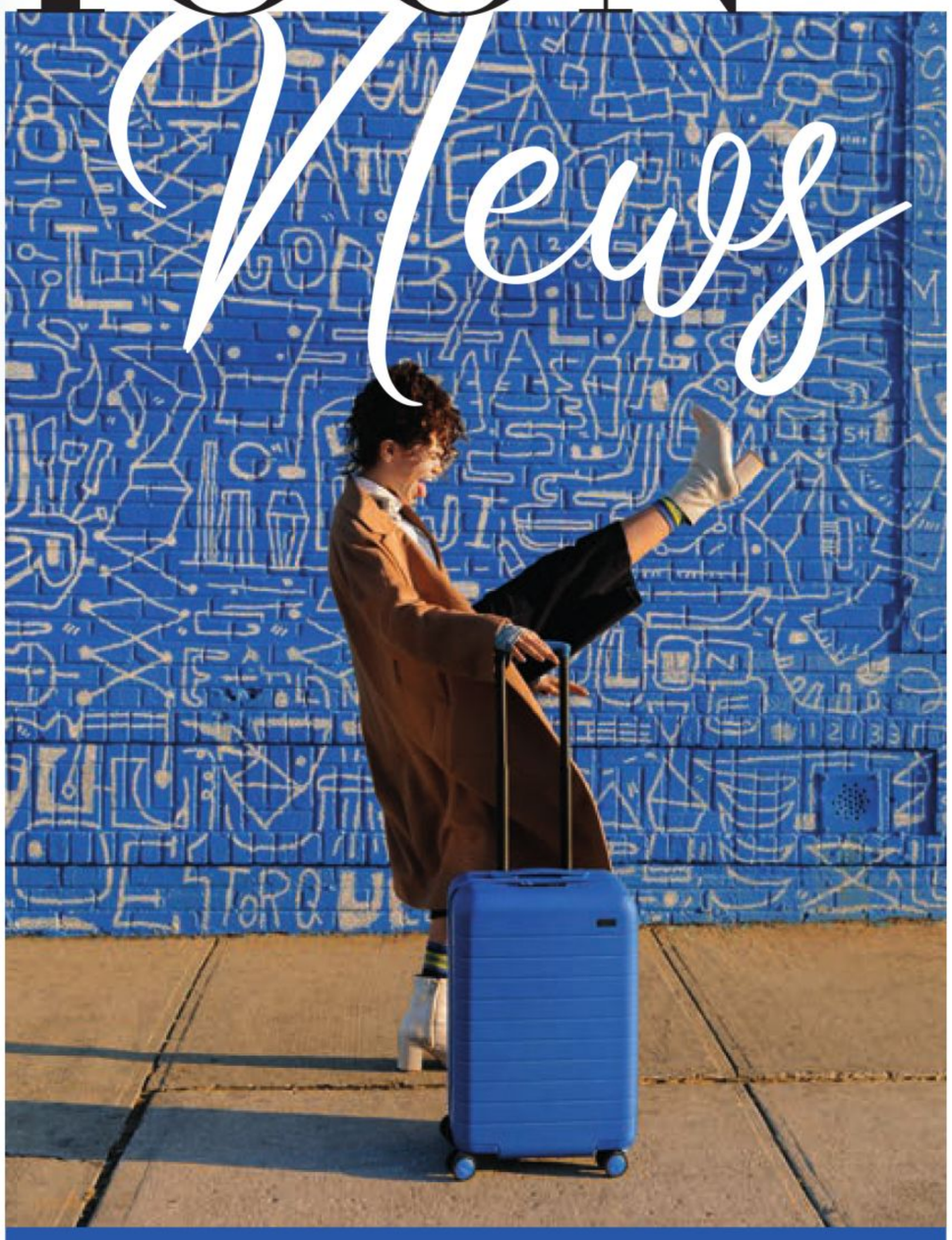
Travel editor Hannah Faulder reveals her top honeymoon destination picks and travel essentials

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.

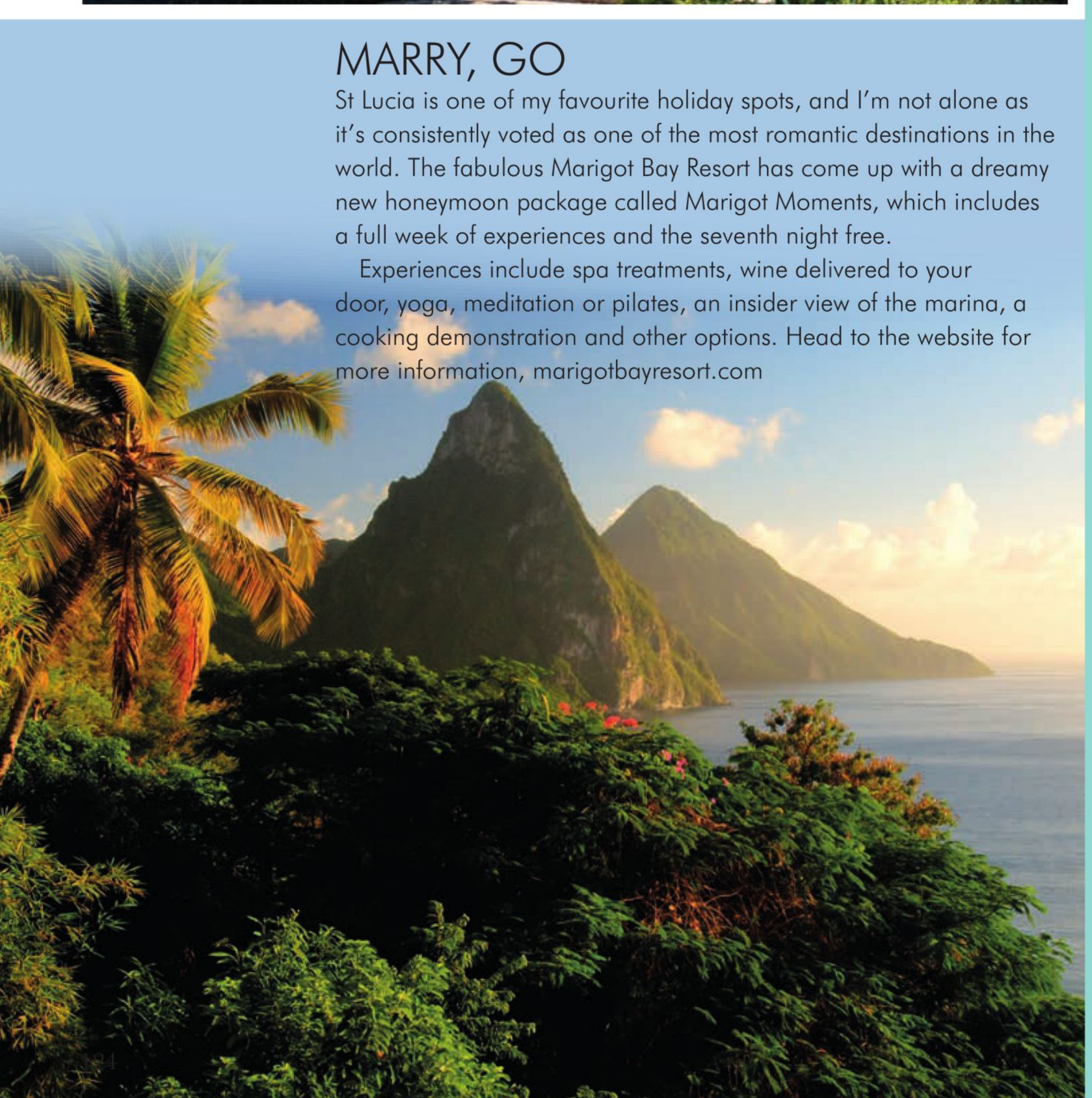
The property is dedicated to conserving its natural biodiversity and guests have the opportunity to become a part of the landscape that cultivates the exquisite produce found in its restaurants and wine cellar. To find out more, visit boschendal.com



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





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

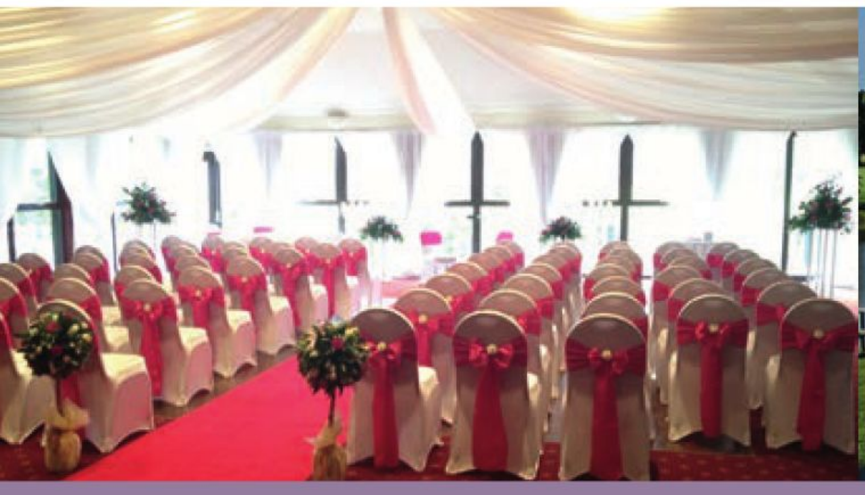
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A TASTE OF PARADISE

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





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

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 Anguillan 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.



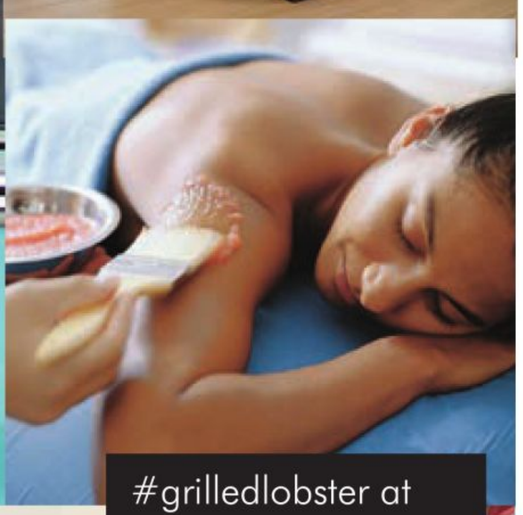
Admiring the #seaviews and #infinitypool at Zemi Beach House Hotel & Spa and CuisinArt (left)



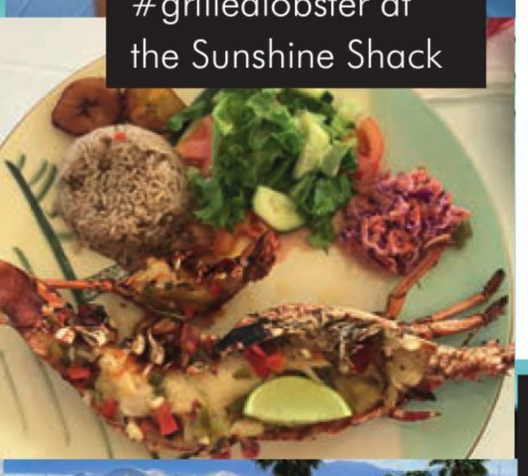




#donotdisturb in the #stylishrooms and #spa at CuisinArt (below)



#grilledlobster at the Sunshine Shack





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 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 ♥

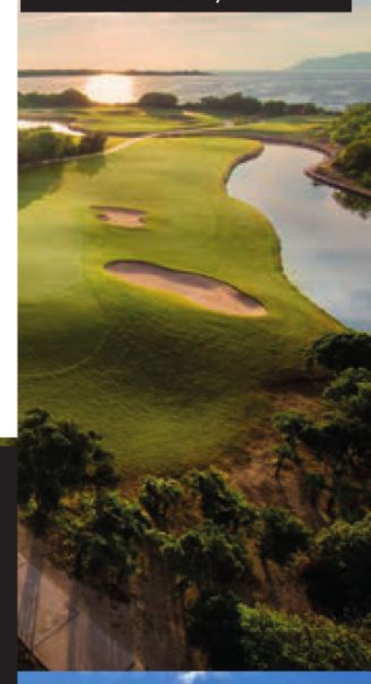


#freshseafood and a #romantic ambience at Café Celeste (above and below)





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



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

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

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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.







Salalah Rotana Resort

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ELEGANT EXCLUSIVITY – BIJOU WEDDING VENUES

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bijou



SOUTH EAST COUNTRYSIDE VENUE OF THE YEAR
THE WEDDING INDUSTRY AWARDS 2020





EVENTS TEAM OF THE YEAR - KENT WEDDING AWARDS 2020

The Old Kent Barn is one of the most beautiful and romantic wedding venues in Kent. No expense was spared in its design and creation. From the beautiful gazebo where spring and summer ceremonies are held, to the chandeliers, state-of-the-art bar and starlight ceiling in its magnificent new oak-framed barn, this truly is the perfect setting for ceremonies and receptions all year round.

We are a family run business and pride ourselves on the quality and warmth of the service we offer. We work tirelessly to ensure that your wedding is perfect in every way for you, your family and your guests.

- **Use of the venue and grounds on the day of your wedding**
- **Complimentary night in the Newlywed Suite of our 200-year-old oak-framed barn**
- **Glamorous dressing room available from the morning of your wedding**
- **Gazebo or New Barn for ceremony**
- **Wedding co-ordination service**
- **Master of Ceremonies**
- **New Barn with starlight ceiling, dance floor, tables, chairs, linen, glassware**
- **Fully serviced bar**
- **Venue capacity day: 150**
- **Venue capacity evening: 250**
- **Landscaped gardens**
- **Ample guest parking**

THE 2020 WEDDING INDUSTRY AWARDS REGIONAL WINNER

NATIONAL WINNER THE 2019 WEDDING INDUSTRY AWARDS

WINNER

Kent Wedding Awards Winner 2020

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