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On the cover

This issue's front cover shot by Hampshire's Ann Aveyard Photography has us yearning for days by the waterside and all the spring and summer weddings to come. Part of a stunning shoot at New Forest gem Gins Barn, turn to page 62 and drift off on a raft of inspiration.

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Say I Do

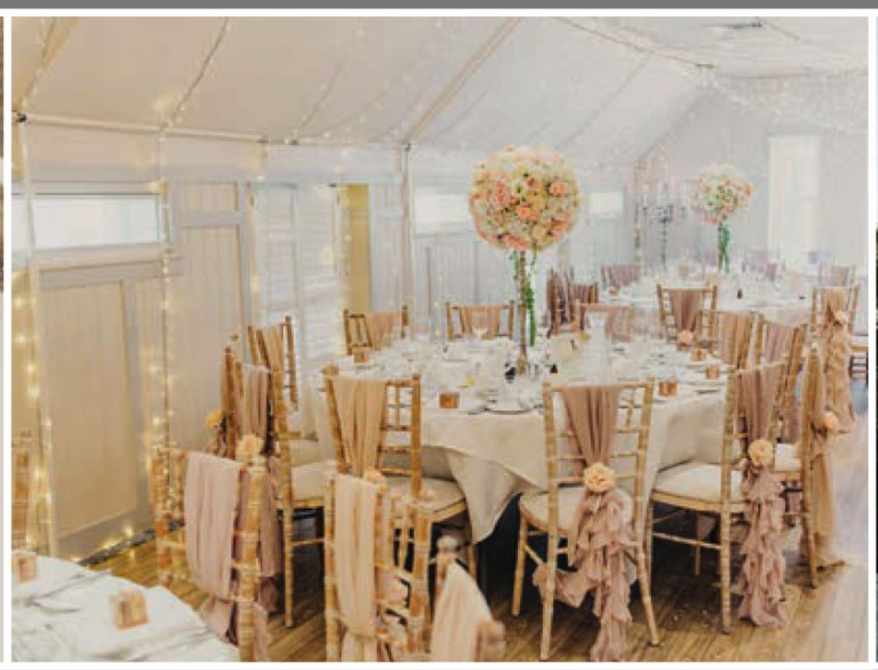
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EDITORIAL
01376 535 611
Sarah Reeve| **Editor**
sarahr@county.wedding
Danielle Harvey | **Managing Editor**
danielleh@county.wedding
Melissa Barker | **Grooms Editor**
Hannah Faulder | **Honeymoon Editor**
Claire Ridley | **Fashion Editor**
Kelly Andrews | **Beauty Editor**

DESIGN
01376 535 616 |
artwork@county.wedding
Graphic Designers
Sarah Hill | Stephanie Hodder
Vicky O'Connor | Sarah Young
Production Assistant | Lorna Butcher
Digital Marketing Coordinator
Katie Laley

Web Development Manager
Stuart Weatherley

ADVERTISING
Sales & Events Director
Sarah Ellis | 01376 538 490
sarahm@county.wedding
Account Manager
Ruth Swallow | 01376 514 000
ruths@county.wedding

Subscriptions
01376 514 000
subscriptions@county.wedding

ACCOUNTS
01376 535 616
accounts@county.wedding
Accounting Manager | Derrick James

@CountyWeddingMagazines
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Green shoots



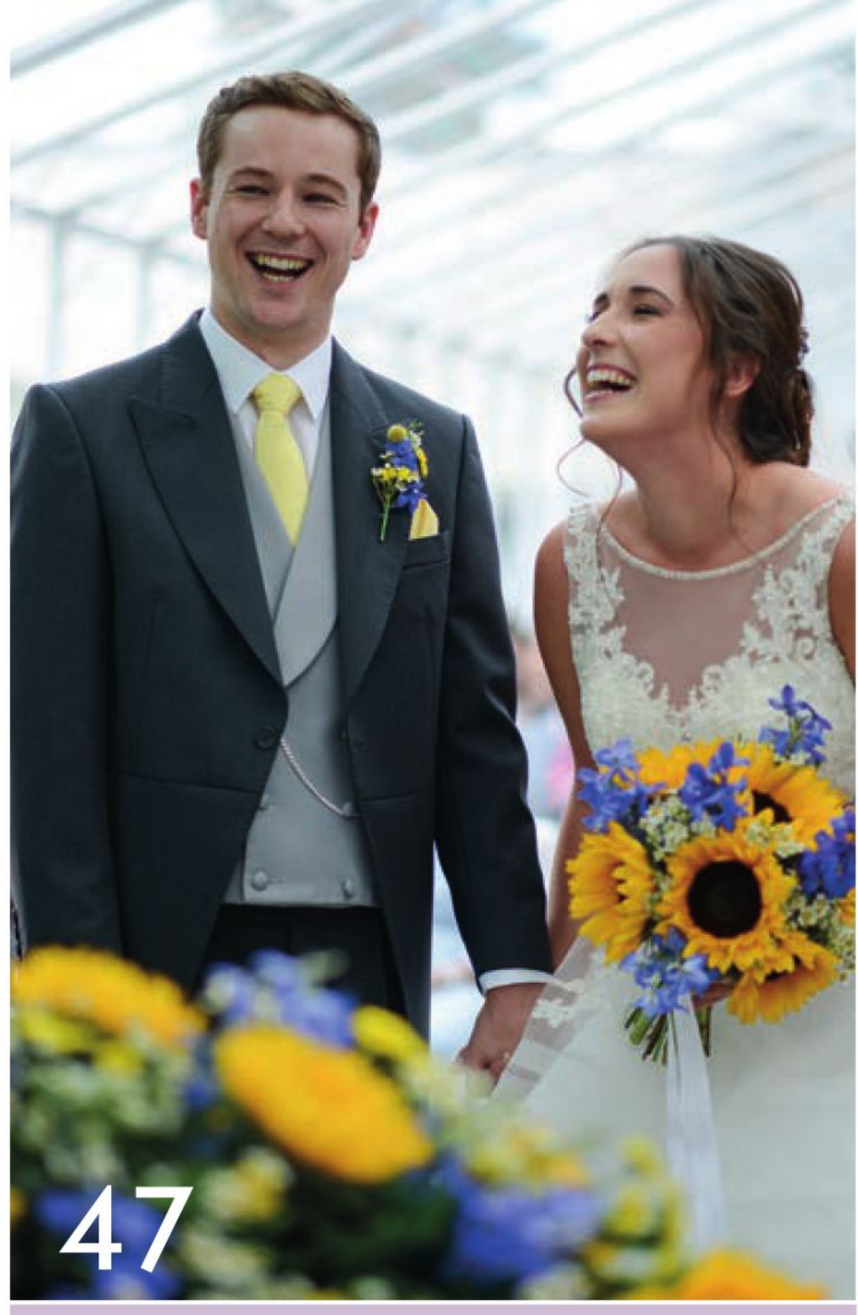
Spring will soon be in full bloom with the promise of lighter nights and warmer weather on the way. Although I'm not prepared to ditch my winter woollies just yet, things are already hotting up here at County Weddings HQ. With Valentine's Day delivering a fresh stream of couples embarking on their big-day journey; love is in the air and there's a buzz of expectation. The first green shoots are pushing through and we're excited for all the wonderful spring and summer nuptials to come. The peak wedding season will soon be kicking off in earnest and, as always, we're here to help with advice from local experts and a whole host of fresh ideas. We're keeping our finger firmly on the pulse to report back to you with all the latest trends, bridal must-haves, regional venues, fashion and more. Covering everything from a gallery of floral inspiration for all seasons on page 65 to what's big in wedding catering on page 57, we're on the case, helping you create your dream day.

Local creatives from around the region have been busy showcasing their talents ahead of the peak wedding season to bring you themes, colour schemes and dreams covering everything from the traditional and romantic to the cool and unconventional, including an exotic Japanese-inspired spread on page 53.

Enjoy!

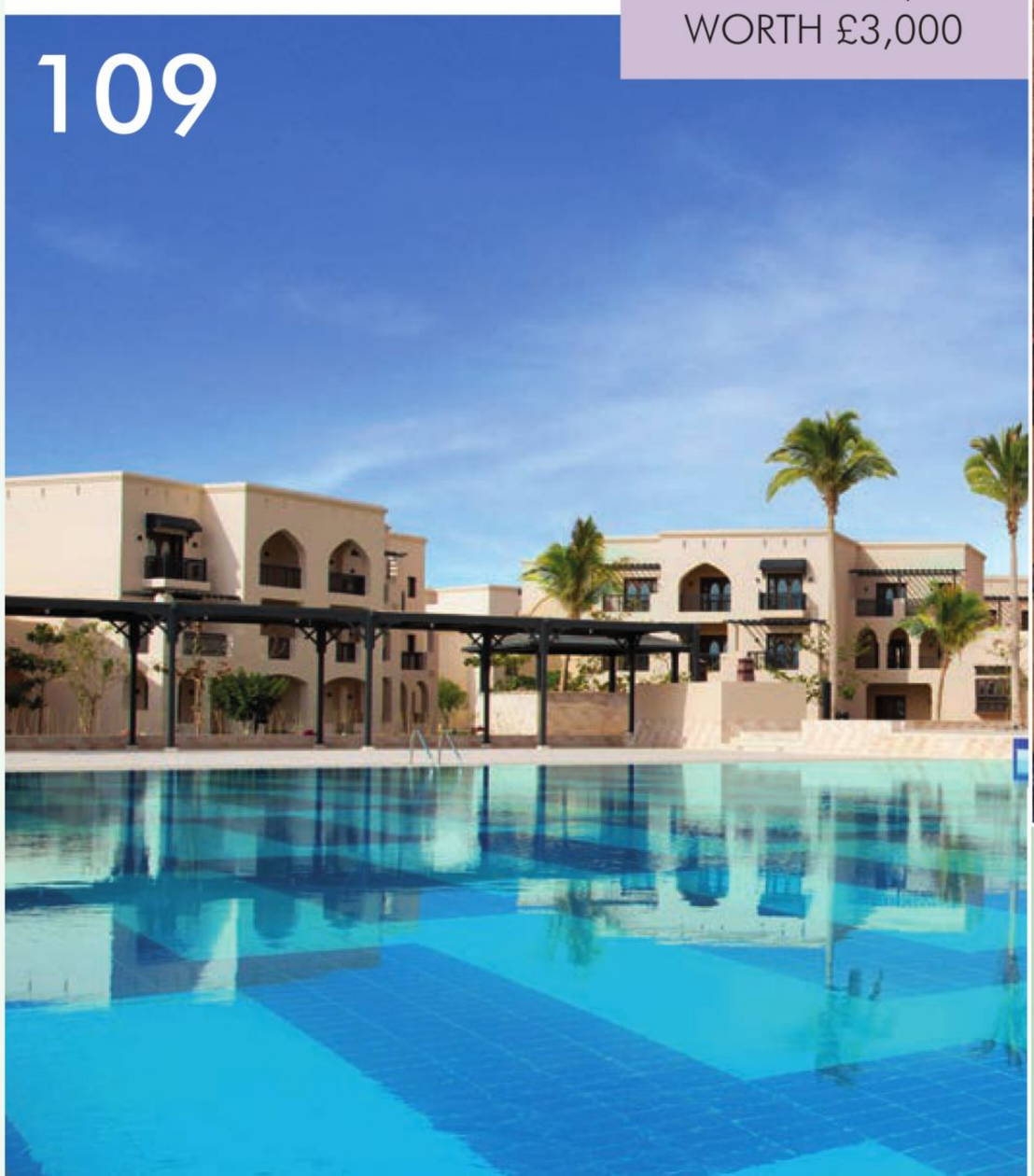
Sarah x

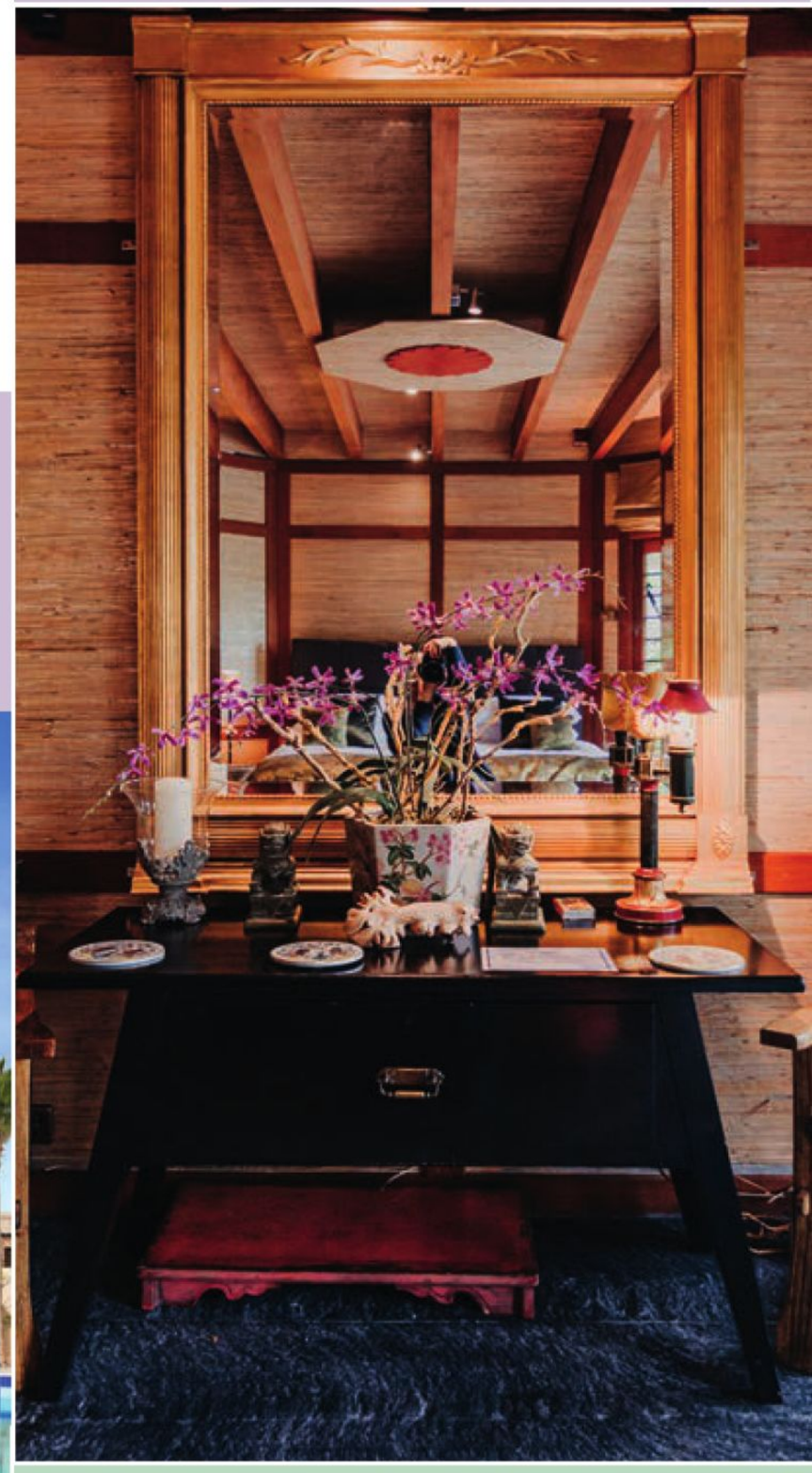
Sarah Reeve, editor



Nothing quite says 'summer' quite like a bright burst of yellow sunflowers. For a sunny Vitamin D boost, turn to page 47 to find out all about Hannah and Pete's cheery garden party celebration.

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





The bridal suite in the Japanese Water Garden at the Larmer Tree wedding venue perfectly complemented the glorious photo shoot featured on page 53.

98



34

Classic Blue is the Pantone Colour of the Year for 2020, so expect to see plenty of complementary shades around to highlight your day.



This dreamy tablescape screams spring with soft lilac-coloured table accents to complement the drooping clusters of wisteria blooms at Hampshire's Hale Park. To view more, see page 71.

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This stunning tableplan was the perfect fit for the waterside shoot at Gins Barn in the New Forest.

87



Hairbands are all the rage right now; great as the finishing touch to your bridal look.

23



Venue: vineyard-weddings.co.uk
Image: lauramarthaphotography.com

Bring on the sunshine and lots of lovely al fresco weddings to come!



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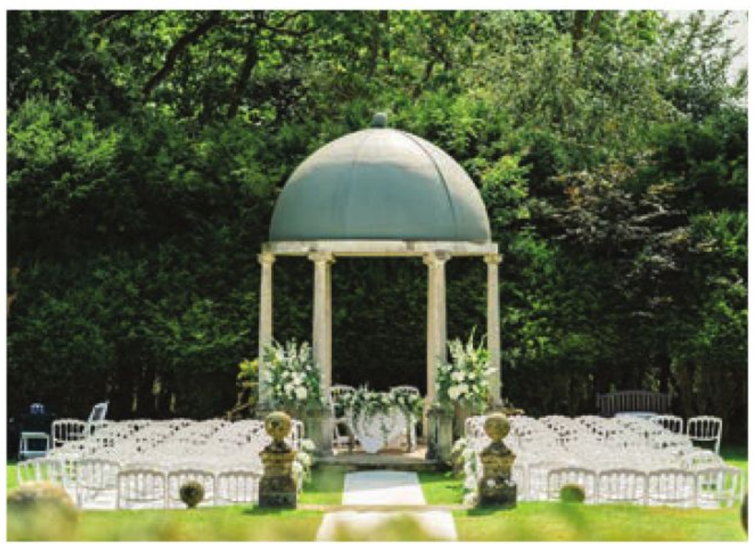
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Lemon Tree Photography



COLOUR POP

Calling all mothers-of-the-bride and -groom! If you're looking for vibrant colours for a summer wedding then take a look at the brand new Linea Raffaelli 2020 collection, one of the latest arrivals in-store at Fab Frocks in Westbourne, Dorset. Knee-length dresses in beautiful fabrics boast stunning on-trend floral prints matched with bold bolero jackets. With Linea Raffaelli it's all about the detail, jackets with bell sleeves add a modern look while chic tailored dresses cinch in the waist. Visit fabfrocks.co.uk

Linea Raffaelli S2020 Set 276

Nearlywed NEWS

Check out the news that's local to you

AL FRESCO STYLE

Grand stately home Hampshire wedding venue Avington Park is now offering open-air ceremonies.

Set within the Itchen Valley in its own parkland with sweeping lawns, the stunning venue boasts a lake and a choice of elegant rooms, providing an idyllic big-day backdrop. From small intimate gatherings to large celebrations, the Georgian private home was built for entertaining. Available for exclusive use only, it can be all yours for the day, allowing you to combine the amazing rooms and secluded parkland to create your dream wedding.

Five rooms inside the house are licensed for ceremonies and The Orangery is the latest open-air addition. With a colonnade of pillars flanked by two elegant conservatories facing the south lawn it offers a private romantic setting with a backdrop of magnolia and climbing hydrangeas to add to the magic.

Now you can marry outdoors with the added benefit of a stately home to hold your wedding breakfast. And if the weather forecast isn't on your side, the Library, Hall and magnificent Ballroom are all stunning alternatives. Visit avingtonpark.co.uk



angelawardbrown.com



EDITOR LOVES

This Hogwarts fantasy bouquet not only looks amazing, it's a lasting keepsake too. Made from origami flowers with *Harry Potter* text, pins and brooches, it's a great personal touch for lovers of all things magical and wizardly. Check out paperbouquets.co.uk to discover more original creations.



adriennephotography.co.uk

DON'T MISS

If you're on the hunt for big-day inspiration check out the wedding fair at Hampshire's Holiday Inn Winchester on 29th March. Open from 11am to 3pm a range of wedding suppliers will be on hand to help and advise you. It's the ideal opportunity to take a peek at the venue too and what's more there's currently a special offer of 20 per cent off wedding packages for last-minute 2020 dates (subject to availability). Visit the website hiwinchester.co.uk and turn to page 13 for your chance to win a fabulous afternoon tea and fizz spa package for two at the new ANA spa on site.



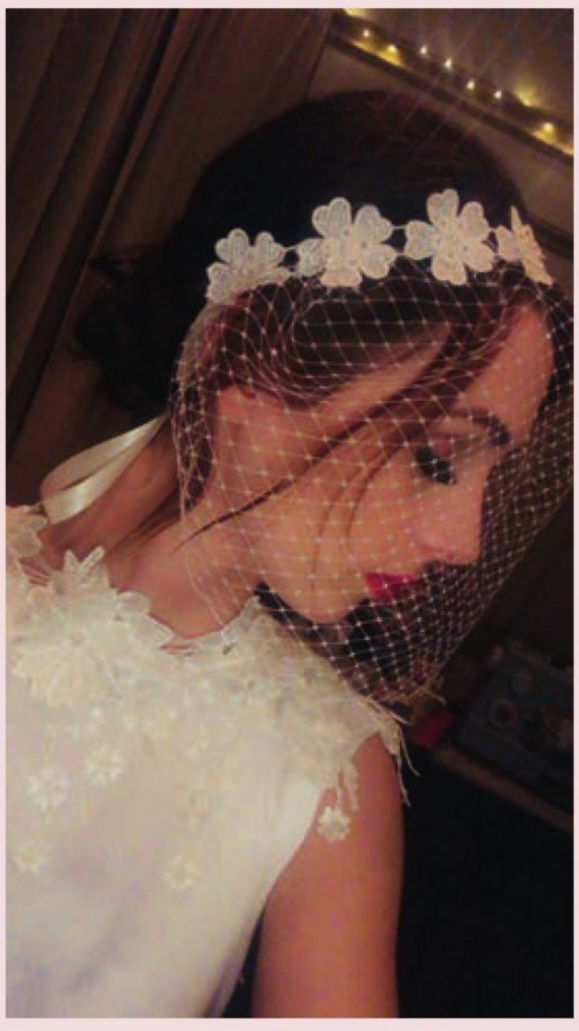
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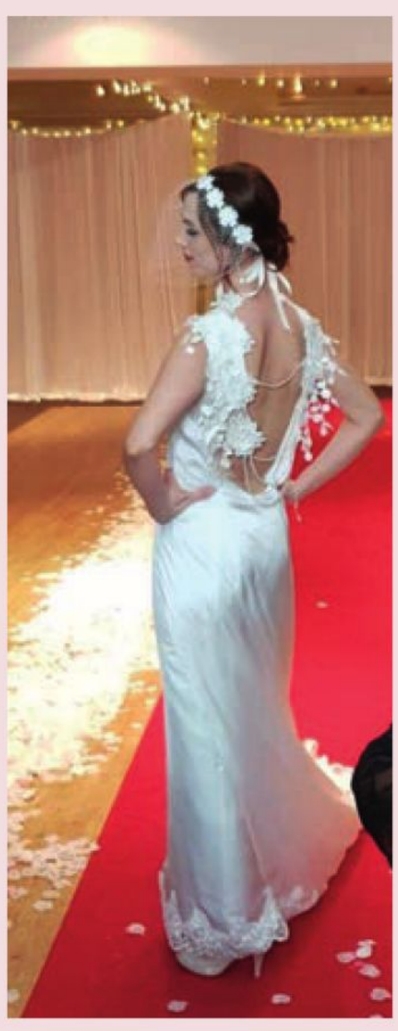
WINNING WAYS

A whole bevy of local wedding suppliers have started out the year with award wins to add to their tally of industry accolades. Among them Hampshire florist Jo Hicks, The Wedding Industry Awards (TWIA) South Central regional winner, was also recognised for the third time in a row in the Hampshire Wedding Supplier Awards.

Sally Malcolm of Blushing Brides in Bournemouth has been shortlisted in the Bridal Hair and Make-up Specialist of the Year category for the The 9th English Hair and Beauty Awards 2020 and is due to find out if she's been crowned the winner at a black-tie event at The Leonardo Royal Grand Harbour Hotel in Southampton on Sunday March 15th. Sally who celebrated 10 years in business last year said, "I'm absolutely thrilled to be a finalist in these prestigious awards. It makes me very proud to be part of such a thriving industry and to win this award would certainly be the icing on the cake!" We wish Sally the best of luck and a big high five to all the other recent worthy award winners from around the region.







NEW BUSINESS ALERT

A warm welcome to Aurora Jacques, a newcomer to the local wedding scene, recently launched by friends of more than 20 years, Jacqueline and Dawn. The former nurses teamed up to follow their dreams after discovering a shared love of designing and creating beautiful bridal and evening gowns. "It's something we've both wanted to do for a long time and felt that if we didn't try making a go of it we would always regret it. Now feels like a great opportunity to put our designs and ideas together and create those dream dresses," says Jacqueline.

The pair create bespoke dresses and accessories, including veils, necklaces and bracelets from their studio in North Dorset. Their debut collection, showcased at their launch evening in January was inspired by 1940's Hollywood glamour incorporating beautiful tulle, satin, lace and silk fabrics, along with Swarovski crystal and pearl embellishments on the dresses and accessories.

"We believe it's important to design the perfect dress with our brides, including them in every step of the process to ensure that the dress fits like a glove and is everything they've dreamed of. We're both excited for the future and are already drawing up ideas for our second collection," adds Jacqueline. Visit aurorajacques.co.uk





Images: facebook.com/williamsphotographyprints

BRIDAL GLAM

Bridal Treasures boutique on the Isle of Wight has kicked off 2020 in a sparkly new home.

After seven years in business owner Nikki Spurrell is looking forward to welcoming brides-to-be and helping them find *the one*. "At the new premises we can offer private and exclusive consultations in luxurious surroundings with no time restrictions and one-to-one knowledgable advice."

Located in an oak-beamed Grade II listed building, the boutique is in a picturesque rural setting surrounded by the downs,with the hills of Whitwell as the backdrop. With private parking in the large gravelled courtyard it has a welcoming special-occasion feel. Complete with a stylish lounge, chandelier and lush velvet sofas, as well as fizz and comfy slippers for the bride and her entourage on arrival, the aim is to make the dress shopping truly memorable. Plans in the pipeline include adding to their range of bridal designer dress labels, shoes and accessories. To find out more visit facebook.com/bridaltreasures.nikki





Image by DM Photography

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AFTERNOON TEA AND SPA

Take time out from the wedding planning for a relaxing spa day at the Holiday Inn Winchester. Fresh from a £2.5million refurbishment, the hotel is not only a destination hotspot for the big day, but a haven for pre- or post-wedding pampering too. Relax in the contemporary surroundings, chill with your best girls in the ANA Spa and indulge in afternoon tea or a glass of bubbly.

The Fizz with Friends package, for groups of four or more, is perfect for the hen do and there's a range of other great options available too. An oasis of calm, the facilities include a hydrotherapy pool, sauna, steam room, foot spas and relaxation room. What's more the team at the spa also do wedding make-up; perfect for the whole bridal gang. To find out more visit hiwinchester.co.uk

The venue has teamed up with *Your Hampshire & Dorset Wedding* to offer readers the chance to win an indulgent afternoon tea and spa experience for two, to be taken from 2pm to 6pm.

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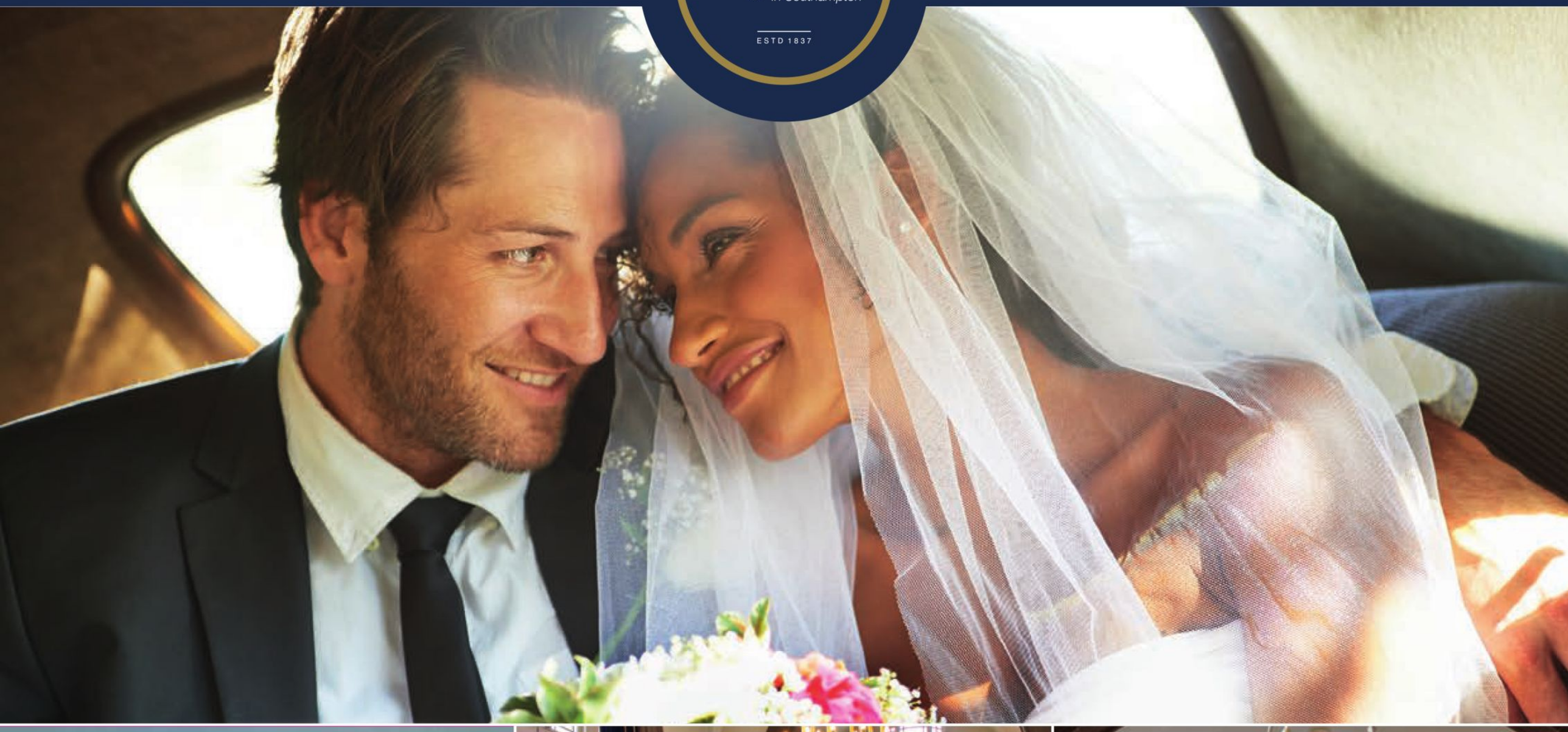
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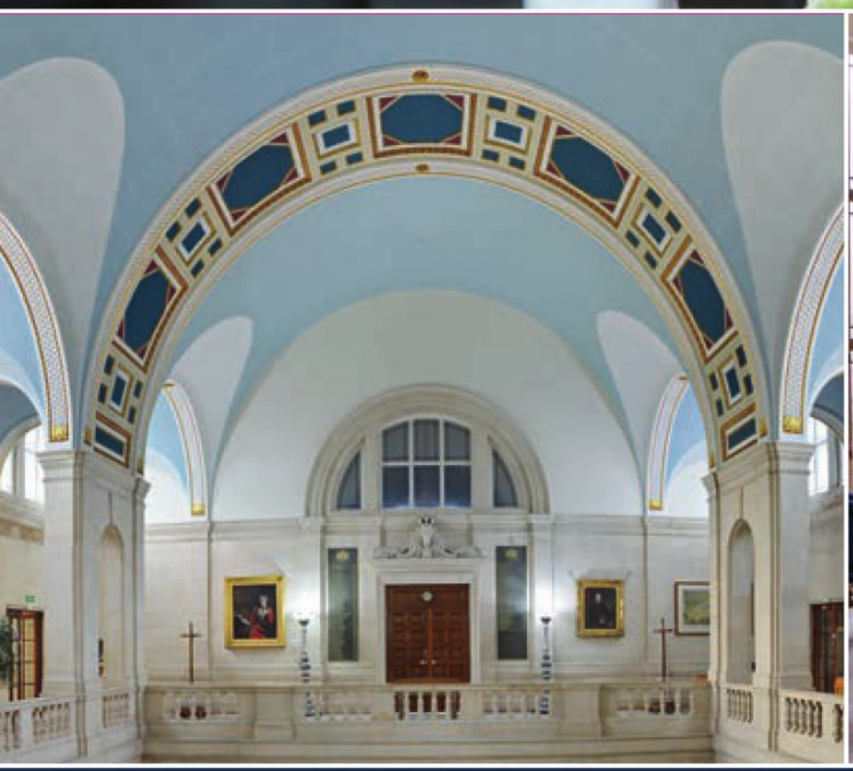
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Spotlight on SOUTHAMPTON

Where to wed in and around this port city

WESTGATE HALL, SO14 2AY

02380 915 327 | southampton.gov.uk/ceremonies

If classic, historic and vintage style are on your wedding wish list, this waterfront treasure is sure to fit the bill. With vaulted ceilings and exposed beams, the recently restored Westgate Hall is a ceremony venue with a difference. Tucked away within the Medieval walls of Southampton, the 15th-century timber-framed building has a magical atmosphere. Dressed with roses tumbling from the beams, the first-floor ceremony room can accommodate up to 74 seated guests to watch you say 'I do'. Post-vows, the ancient walls overlooking the water are a popular spot for standout photos.

Did you know? Westgate Hall was once situated in St Michael's Square when it was the town's fish market and cloth hall. Dismantled in 1634, the timbers were used to construct the beautiful building that stands today.



THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, SO14 7LY

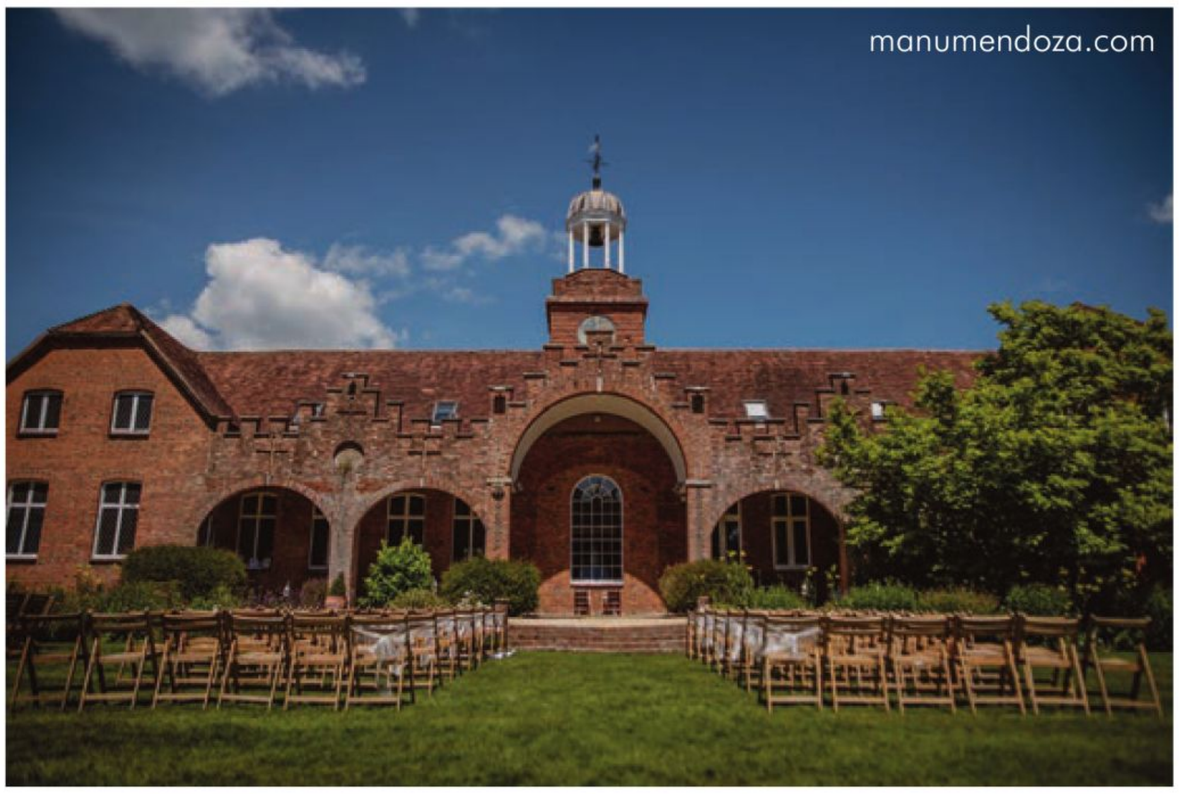
02380 915 327 | southampton.gov.uk/ceremonies

Tie the knot here and you'll be right in the heart of the city in one of Southampton's most iconic buildings. Located in the Civic Centre, this local landmark is sure to impress with its large clock tower, tall ceilings, polished wood floors and historic artefacts. A truly spectacular setting for weddings, the room's theatre-style layout boasts a long aisle and tall windows that flood the room with light. A sweeping staircase leads up to the ceremony room and the Mayor's Balcony; perfect for those all-important photos. Ceremonies take place on Saturdays, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays and it can seat up to 50 guests.

We love... that there's a wealth of great restaurants and hotels nearby for the celebrations post-vows.









ROWNHAMS HOUSE & GARDENS, SO16 8LS

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This hidden Georgian gem is a must-see if you're on the hunt for a magical setting for your big day.

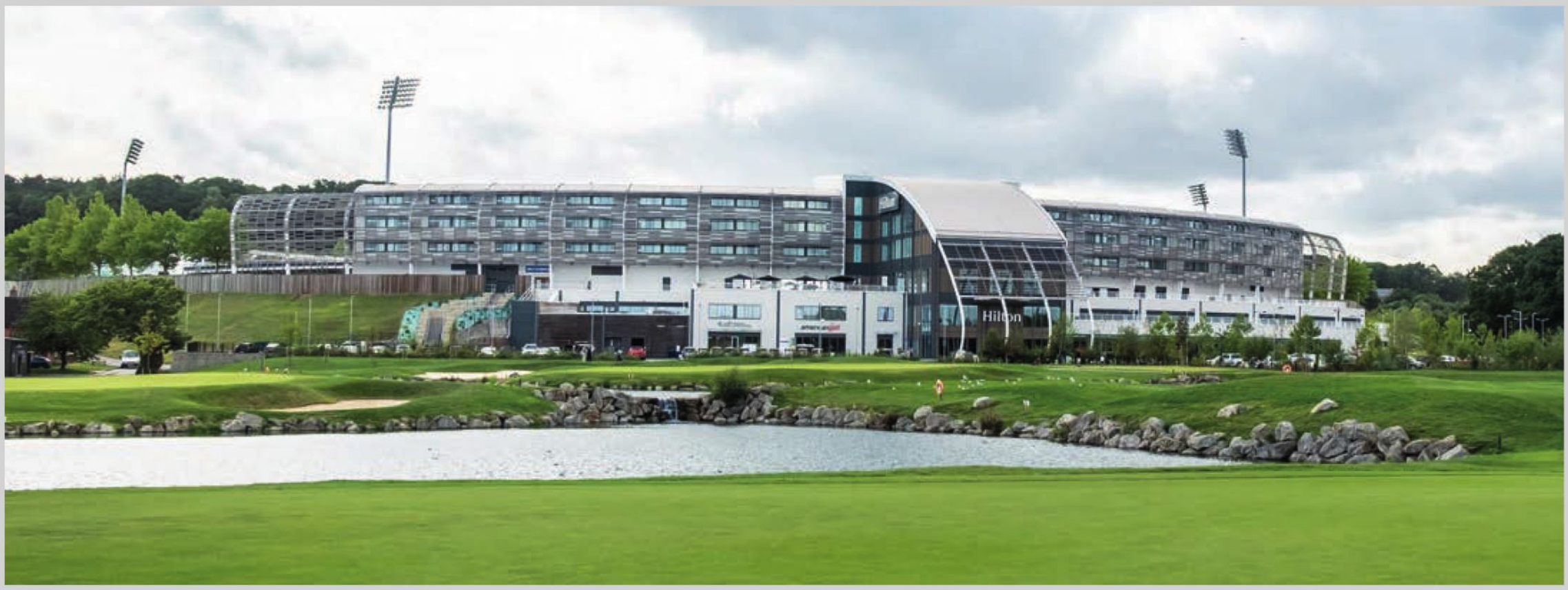
Tucked away behind trees, woodlands and an ancient garden wall it's like a secret world with an atmosphere all of its own.

The elegant house oozes romance and character, with striking architectural design. Set in 12 acres of grounds with its own magical lake, Gothic-style coach house and Grade II listed ice house, it's a photographer's dream. Steeped in history, the impressive manor house was built by Sir Issac Newton's nephew in 1792.

You can tie the knot in the Grand Library, with its ornate plastered ceilings and walls, and enjoy a sit-down meal afterwards with up to 120 guests. The sash windows allow the light to flood in and the adjoining Billiard and Morning Rooms are handy for the drinks reception if the weather's bad. The venue boasts a wealth of licensed ceremony spaces inside and out to suit weddings large or small, including the Coach House which has a number of rooms, ideal for more intimate affairs. With its ancient features and tall clock tower it provides a stunning backdrop for al fresco ceremonies under the arch, alternatively you can tie the knot by the lake or in the woods.

The Coach House is the perfect setting for the evening reception too and can host up to 150 loved ones. There's a spacious main entrance hall for the evening food, reception room and a separate dancefloor area for the DJ or band as well as a quirky dedicated bar in the adjoining Knights Hall.

We love... the glorious grounds, outdoor seating and lawn; perfect for croquet and garden games.



HILTON AT THE AGEAS BOWL, SO30 3XH

02382 027 096 | hiltonageasbowl.com

The Hilton at Ageas Bowl Southampton is a one-of-a-kind, contemporary wedding venue. The hotel boasts chic and original architectural design and is incorporated into the Ageas Bowl Cricket Stadium, the picture-perfect home of Hampshire County Cricket.

The luxury surroundings, stunning views, spacious and stylish facilities make it the perfect setting for weddings. The grand, elegant Ageas Ballroom is one of the largest in the area and can accommodate up to 450 guests for the wedding celebrations complete with private reception area and bar. The versatile space can be split to accommodate weddings large or small.

The Ageas Media Centre is ideal for the ceremony with floor-to-ceiling windows looking out over the iconic ground; a picture-perfect backdrop that's sure to wow your guests as they arrive. Surrounded by countryside, there's no shortage of great opportunities for those all-important photographs. What's more there's plenty of accommodation for guests to stay over to make a weekend of it including beautiful bedrooms overlooking the cricket pitch with their own balcony.

We love... the personal service with your own wedding planner on hand to help and guide you throughout the lead-up and on the big day itself.

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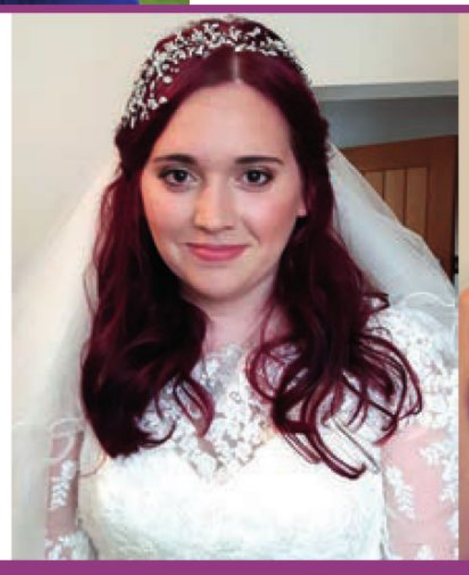
Mobile Make-up Artist & Hairstylist for Special Occasions

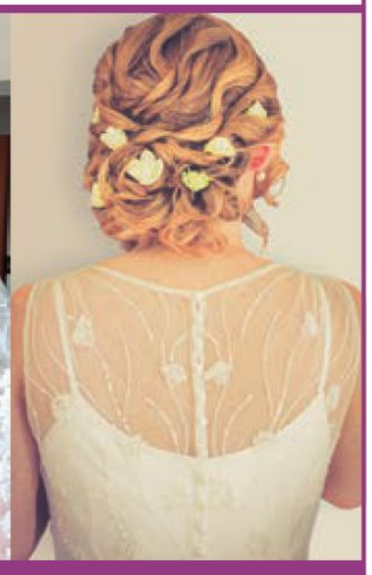


Melinda offers the combined package of Hair Design and Flattering Make-up for the Bride and Bridal Party at your home or wedding venue within Hampshire. Plan well ahead with a Free Consultation at Melinda's Makeover Studio in Hedge End Southampton where she also offers selected Beauty Treatments and Health and Wellness consultations to help you prepare for the 'big day'.

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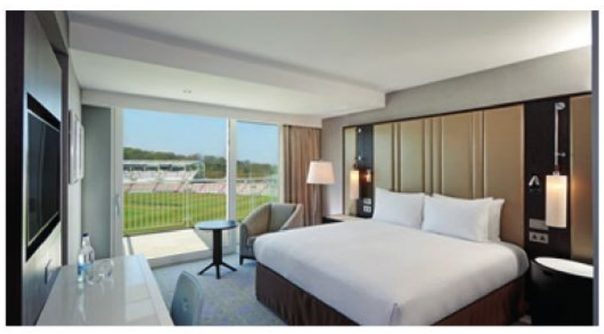


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DOUBLETREE BY HILTON SOUTHAMPTON, SO16 3RB

02380 702 700 | doubletreesouthampton.com

Step into the refurbished lobby, relax in the comfy lounge and soak up the atmosphere at this sumptuous hotel. Following a £4million investment, the venue provides a red-carpet welcome and chic big-day setting. Offering the best of both worlds, it's conveniently located just 10 minutes from Southampton city centre, and is set into the hillside surrounded by picturesque woodland, so the views are great and there's plenty of photo opportunities too.

The wood panelled Library Suite is a versatile function space and can host up to 150 guests for the ceremony and wedding breakfast. With an adjoining lobby and access to a private bar, it can cater for 180 loved ones for the evening celebration. What's more there's a dedicated wedding coordinator on hand to help plan your day to perfection.

We love... that the Southampton Cruise Terminal and International Airport are both nearby if you're planning to dash off on honeymoon.



THE CROMWELL ARMS, SO51 8HG

01794 519 515 | thecromwellarms.com

Host a celebration to remember at this country location. Set in the picturesque town of Romsey, The Cromwell Arms boasts a fabulous marquee; perfect for a chilled summer wedding reception. Newly refurbished, it can accommodate up to 200 guests and there's plenty of room to party afterwards with space for a dancefloor and entertainment. What's more if you want to stay over, you can book one of their beautiful bedrooms on site. Available April until October, the marquee provides a blank canvas so you can add your own personal stamp to suit the style and theme of your day.

We love... the enclosed private garden, complete with traditional bench seating and external bar available for hire.

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WEDDINGS IN THE WOOD, LYNDHURST

07976 394 663 | weddingsinthewood.co.uk

If you go down to the woods, be prepared for a big surprise. Discover Weddings In The Woods, a magical al fresco venue nestled within the glorious New Forest National Park. It's an idyllic place to celebrate, with the freedom to create your day, your way. As well as a large expanse of grass and woods, there's a spacious indoor area, so you don't have to worry about the unpredictable British weather. Big enough for up to 150 guests during the day and more for the evening do, you can marry here and dance the night away without fear of being disturbed.

The rustic Carpenters Barn is licensed for ceremonies and comes complete with a large slow-burning wood stove and brick chimney, to keep everyone toasty. Oak beams span the roof and the neutral décor provides the ideal canvas to add your own personal touches. Alternatively, the romantic Bridal Hut is an intimate place to say 'I do' before a blessing in the woods in front of all your loved ones. The marquee is an impressive focal point, great for the wedding breakfast and everything in between. When the weather's hot, the side panels can be opened up bringing the outside in so you can make the most of the magical woodland surroundings. And if you don't want the party to end, the Bridal Hut provides a cosy retreat for your wedding night, plus there are nine bespoke shepherd huts on site for your guests to stay over too.

We love... the hand-crafted bar serving up a selection of different drinks including hearty ales and artisan gins.



GORWELL FARM, ABBOTSBURY

gorwellfarm.co.uk | 01305 871 401

Escape to the country for your big day and host your celebration in a rustic venue. Gorwell Farm is set in a beautiful valley close to the Dorset coast and has a spacious 17th-century stone barn, large enough to seat up to 130 guests with room for dancing, there's underfloor heating, a bar and kitchen and it offers the freedom to plan your day, your way. The outside area can be used for the drinks reception, a marquee or party tent to provide extra space. Licensed for ceremonies you can have your own bespoke wedding in a beautiful setting and there's accommodation on site for at least 18 people.

We love... that the venue's environmental policy is to be as sustainable as possible.


lauramarthaphotography.com

THREE CHOIRS VINEYARDS, SHEDFIELD

01329 834 700 | vineyard-weddings.co.uk

Set in the Hampshire countryside between the rolling hills of the Meon Valley and Wickham, outdoor lovers are sure to be wowed by this original venue. A stunning place to hold a wedding, inside or out, it can can cater for weddings all year round.

The vineyard provides an ever-changing backdrop in tune with the seasons and offers two outdoor spaces licensed for ceremonies. You can marry in the Gazebo with the vines in the background and up to 100 loved ones looking on, or the Byre in the courtyard; ideal for outdoor ceremonies no matter what the weather brings. Alternatively, tie the knot in the renovated Vine Room with its neutral colour scheme, painted beams and scenic views. The Old Winery, beautifully converted into a rustic barn, is the perfect space for the wedding breakfast and evening reception. Guests can spill out on to the adjoining courtyard, enjoy a chilled drinks reception and as night falls, relax on comfy sofas under the fairylights and watch the sunset.

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robingoodlad.com

WILKSWOOD, ISLE OF PURBECK

01202 533 014 | wilkswood.co.uk

If breathtaking views are top of your wish list, this chilled wedding venue could be just what you're looking for. Overlooking the rolling Purbeck hills, the bright and seamless clear span marquee allows you to make the most of the panoramic vistas. Complete with pleated ivory linings, a stage for the evening entertainment, a solid wooden dancefloor, chandelier lighting and more, you can celebrate with up to 350 guests. There's plenty of space for al fresco drinks and outdoor games with street food and catering trucks for the evening celebration and at the end of the night, you can glamp out under the stars. Although the venue's not licensed for ceremonies, it's the perfect spot for an outdoor service with your own bespoke vows.

We love... that the happy couple have a complimentary bell tent fully kitted out for the wedding night.


chrissuch.co.uk

OLD THORNS HOTEL, LIPHOOK

01428 738 510 | oldthorns.com

If lush greenery is a must for your big day, Old Thorns Hotel ticks the box. Set on a golf course, there's plenty of great backdrops for photos and chance to enjoy the wide open spaces. The terrace areas are great sun traps in the summer and provide the ideal setting for al fresco drinks, while the walled area surrounding the outside gazebo is another hidden gem.

The Chapel provides an intimate setting for your 'I dos', or the Hampshire Suite, complete with panoramic views of the golf course, oak flooring and beamed ceiling echoing the venue's rustic countryside character.

Celebrate in the Grand Ballroom which its glittering crystal chandeliers, mahogany bar and large sunken dancefloor. The largest function suite at Old Thorns it can cater for up to 500 guests.

The light and decadent Art Deco-inspired Gatsby Ballroom is a popular choice for wedding breakfasts and evening receptions too and even has its own private terrace with views over the grounds.

We love... the new outdoor wedding gazebo; fully licensed for ceremonies you can marry here with up to 150 loved ones.



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CALIFORNIA BARN, SWANAGE

01929 425 049 | californiabarn.co.uk

This coastal hotspot is ideal for outdoor lovers and free-spirited types. Just minutes from dramatic cliffs with stunning sea views across to the Isle of Wight and surrounded by beautiful Dorset countryside, it's an idyllic location for an extended celebration. Set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and part of the UNESCO World Heritage Jurassic coast it's teeming with wildlife and natural species. With the award-winning Durlston Country Park and castle next door and other popular National Trust properties nearby, as well as Swanage town centre just a mile away, there's plenty to do and see.

The cottage garden with its sweeping views of the sea can accommodate 60 or so people for the ceremony and you can celebrate afterwards with a marquee party for up to 150 family and friends.

For those looking to stay over, there's a campsite in the meadows and the barn accommodation is due to be available later this year with space for up to 10 to 11 people and a further four to six with the adjoining studio.

We love... the original old converted shepherd's hut with views out to sea; perfect for a romantic wedding night stay.



Also check out...

HAPPY GLAMPERS DORSET

07711 198 548

happyglampersdorset.co.uk

For a full-on festival vibe, a wedding bell tent village is a great idea. Family-run Happy Glampers Dorset supplies comfy and spacious bell tents styled and set up for guests including an extra special one for the happy couple; ideal for a romantic wedding night under the stars.

WEDDING SHOWCASE
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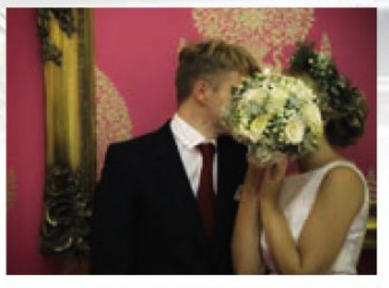


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For more details, contact our wedding planner on **01202 405010** or email **events@quantumhotelgroup.co.uk**.

thecottonwoodboutique.co.uk






PORT HOUSE







The Port House , Marina Keep , Port Solent PO6 4TH has just finished a major refurbishment which has seen the venue transformed into a beautiful waterside venue with contemporary furnishing and delicious bespoke Hampshire food and produce , the on site caterers are vanilla catering and Events. Vanilla's key ethics are attention to customer service and the use of top quality local ingredients. These result in bright, modern, food styles, presented with attention to detail in an unfussy yet friendly manner. They are members of county food group Hampshire Fare and are thus committed to using as much locally sourced produce for their menus as possible.
www.hampshirefare.co.uk

On booking your wedding at the Port House you are appointed with a wedding planner who will advise on everything from timings to table plans. This is a complimentary service supplied to all couples There is a fully licensed bar on site which has been manufactured from reclaimed railway sleepers making it a wonderful focal point at the venue. Parking is complimentary and plentiful.

The Port House is licensed for civil ceremonies and can be hired for exclusive use for you wedding day. In its flexible, purpose designed space, it is capable of accommodating small numbers for intimate private fine-dining through to weddings for 180 guests.

PORT HOUSE

www.theporthouse.org | 02392385389
www.vanillacatering.co.uk | 01489589275

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SUN 15 MAR | 11AM - 4PM

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Spring Shows

ALL EVENTS 11AM - 3PM
unless otherwise stated



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Godalming GU8 4AY
SUN 29 MAR



LONDON

GUNNERSBURY PARK
Gunnersbury Park,
London W3 8LQ
SUN 8 MAR



SUSSEX

CASTLE GORING
Arundel Road,
Worthing BN13 3UN
SUN 5 APR



GHYLL MANOR
High Street,
Horsham RH12 4PX
SUN 5 APR



KENT

WEST HEATH
Ashgrove Road,
Sevenoaks TN13 1SR
SUN 29 MAR

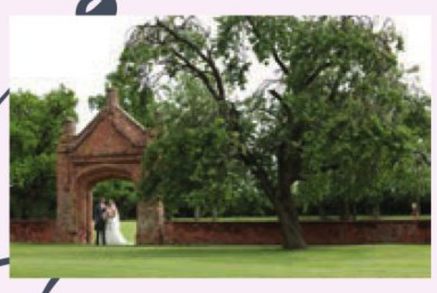


HEVER HOTEL
Hever Road,
Edenbridge TN8 7NP
SUN 19 APR



ESSEX

CRESSING TEMPLE
Witham Road,
Braintree CM77 8PD
SUN 15 MAR



COLVILLE HALL
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White Roding CM6 1RQ
SUN 19 APR



HERTS & BEDS

THE BARN AT ALSWICK
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Buntingford SA9 0AA
SUN 5 APR (12 - 4PM)



EAST ANGLIA

RAVENWOOD HALL
Bury St. Edmunds,
Suffolk IP30 9JA
SUN 29 MAR



BERKS, BUCKS & OXON

CASTLE HOTEL - WINDSOR
18 High Street,
Windsor SL4 1LJ
SUN 29 MAR



BRESSINGHAM HALL
& HIGH BARN,
Norfolk, IP22 2AA
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If you would like more information about either holding a wedding show at your venue or exhibiting at any of our shows, please contact us at info@countyweddingevents.com, call 01376 514000 or visit countyweddingevents.com.

Summer BLUSH

Personal touches and delicate shades of pink set the tone for Ella and Tom's chilled wedding

Images courtesy of Charlotte Razzell Photography











A lunch date blossomed into romance for Ella and Tom. After meeting online in 2010, they arranged to meet up in for a meal in London and got on so well they spent the whole day together sight-seeing, ending with their first kiss at Waterloo station. "That night Tom sent me a text to say he was very taken with me and we had our second date just two days later," recalls Ella.

Tom eventually popped the question in August 2018 in Mexico, one of Ella's favourite places. "He made me wait quite a long time," she laughs. "I was chilling out on the terrace after a day of sunbathing and he was inside, claiming he'd had enough of the heat. Little did I know he was setting up a camera to record the proposal." He set everything up with the ring on the bed surrounded by rose petals before asking her to marry him. He even timed it perfectly to make sure it wasn't too late to call home and share the news. As a final surprise he also arranged a private candlelight dinner on the beach to celebrate.

THE TIME AND PLACE

They booked the wedding for 9th August, 2019 at Sopley Mill near Christchurch. Ella had her heart set on the venue from the get go. "I knew it was where I wanted to get married. It's so different and I loved the idea of having parts of the day on each floor. It's beautiful without decoration and even more so when you put your own stamp on it," she explains. They stayed nearby the night before and Ella and her dad travelled to the venue in a vintage VW Beetle while the bridesmaids, Tom and his groomsmen arrived in a Campervan.

LOOKING THE PART

On the wedding morning, Ella stayed cool and collected, chilling with her bridal party. "I felt really calm, which unnerved everyone else," she jokes. "I had such a great time with my girls, mum and make-up artist that I didn't really get the jitters."

Her lace and tulle Essence of Australia dress complemented the venue and wedding theme. "I loved the Bardot-style neckline and I knew it was *the one* as soon as I tried it on." She added a pair of sparkly Jimmy Choo heels and carried a bouquet of David Austin roses with a flower crown to match and a pink denim jacket, hand-painted with 'Mrs' on the back, for the evening. Tom sported a check Ted Baker suit with a pink waistcoat which tied in with their blush colour scheme. The groomsmen and Ella's dad wore the same and the bridesmaids completed the picture in lace and tulle soft pink dresses.

THE DECORATIVE DETAILS

Ella left no stone unturned when it came to the personal touches to make the day their own; even down to a 'Mr and Mrs Ringer' stencil for the coffees served from a barista bike in the evening. "My bridesmaids laughed at me as they said I'd thought of everything from the coffee topper to personalised hangover kits for our hotel guests!"

The wedding favours were sachets of Tajin seasoning, in a nod to Ella's love of Mexico and their engagment. "As I'm a Spanish teacher too I wanted to reflect it in the wedding and share a little bit of Mexico with our guests," she explains. Inspired by their love of travel, the tables were named after favourite places they'd been to together, with photos of them in each country.

Ella made personalised menus which doubled up as place names and included guests' individual meal choices. Pink napkins and gold charger plates added an extra pop of colour.

The venue was filled with flowers, including jam jars of blush roses and foliage dotted around and used as centrepieces for guests to take home at the end of the night. "I still dream about our flowers, they were so beautiful," Ella recalls. "My friend made huge paper flowers for inside the mill and we had photos of us from our nine years together hanging up downstairs. We also had a flower wall inside as a photo backdrop for selfies and giant floral LOVE

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letters outside that people posed with all day.

"My uncle's sister and her husband made us the most incredible cake decorated with macarons and flowers. It had champagne and strawberry, raspberry and white chocolate and lemon and lime flavoured tiers and we had a handmade box to display it."

TIME TO CELEBRATE

"We got married at 12.30 so we wanted to provide lots of entertainment to keep our guests amused. We hired a caricaturist who was amazing and everyone loved getting involved. We also had a coconut shy and buzz wire on the lawn," says Ella. "My mum and dad, along with our amazing wedding coordinator Anna, also arranged our singing waiters. The guys were there all day serving drinks and food and after the dessert they gave a surprise performance. At first, I had no idea what was happening; it was amazing, the whole place came alive!"

After the meal Sangria was served, they had a traditional ice cream van too and a burger bar with all the trimmings for the evening along with the barista bike serving coffee and cake. The DJ kept the party buzzing and included a Spice Girls mega-mix from the hen party which the bride tribe performed for everyone. "I loved hitting the dancefloor with all my friends, my dad even did a surprise DJ set," Ella adds.

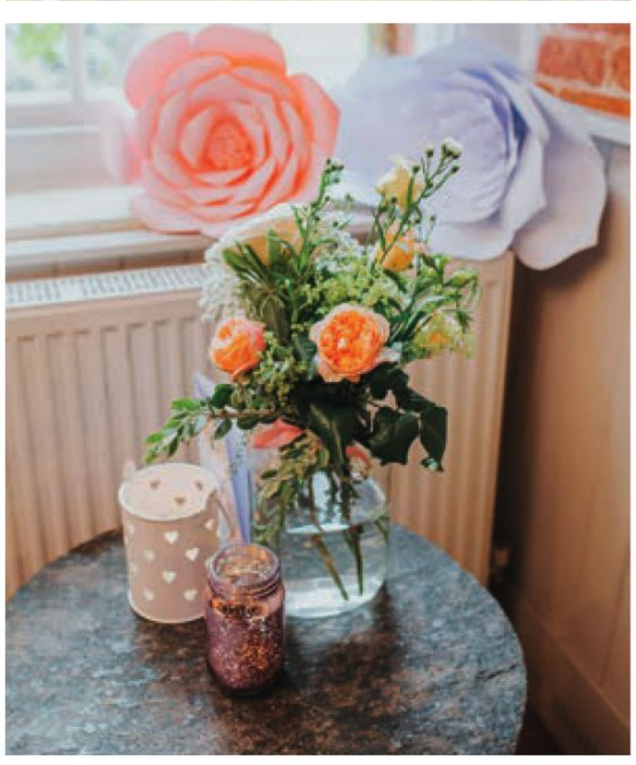






















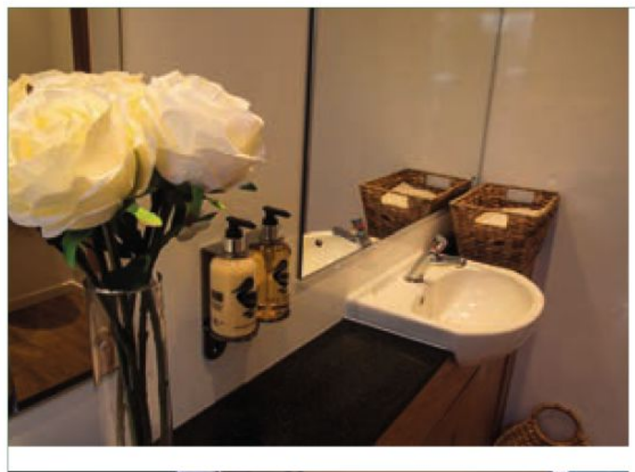






ELLA AND TOM'S SUPPLIER LIST

Photography | Charlotte Razzell Photography | charlotterazzellphotography.com
Venue | Sopley Mill |sopleymill.co.uk
Videography | Bright Production House | brightproductionhouse.co.uk/weddings
Wedding coordinator | Along Came Anna | alongcameanna.com
Bride's dress | Isabella Grace Bridal Boutique | isabellagracebridal.com
Jacket | Bespoke Chalk & Print | etsy.com/uk/shop/BespokeChalkandPrint
Hair | Grace Bailey Bespoke Bridal Hair | gracebaileybridalhair.com
Make-up | Tasha Parker | tashaparkermakeupartist.co.uk
Bridesmaids' dresses | AX Paris | axparis.com
Groom's suit | Moss Bros. | moss.co.uk
Cake | Sorrels Caterers | sorrelscaterers.co.uk
Personalised cake box | The Ivy Cottage | theivycottage.co.uk
Flowers | Ditton Flowers | instagram.com/ditton.flowers
Lights and welcome bike | Simply Flower | simplyflower.co.uk
Transport | Dorset Dubhire | dorsetdubhire.com
Stationery | Poppleberry | etsy.com/uk/shop/Poppleberry
Entertainment | The Singing Waiters | singing-waiters.co.uk
Caricaturist | David Groves | grovescartoons.co.uk
DJ | We Perform | weperform.co.uk
Catering, ice-cream van and bar | Red Cherry Catering | redcherrycatering.com
Seamstress | Miss Kay | misskayseamstress.co.uk
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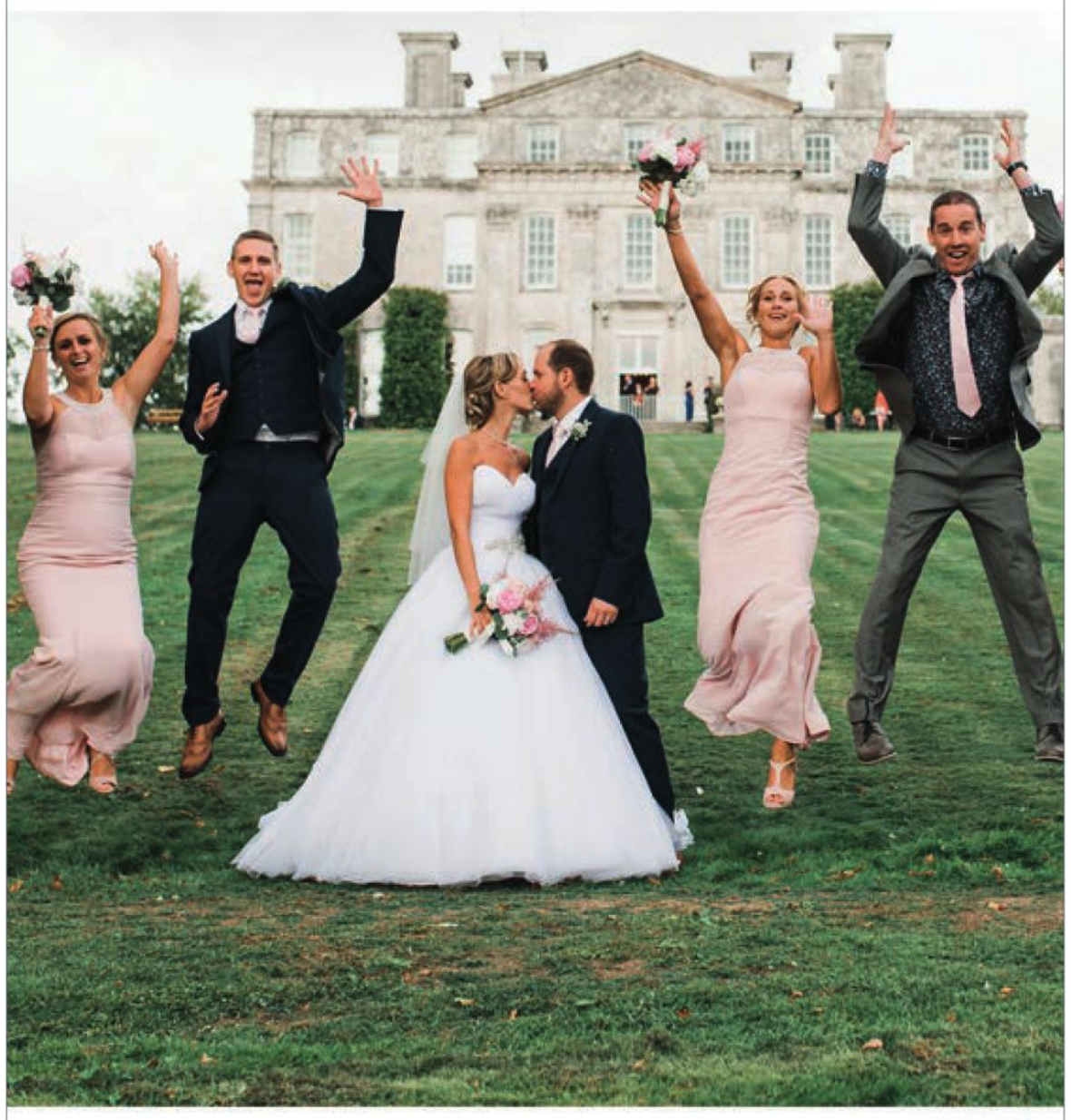
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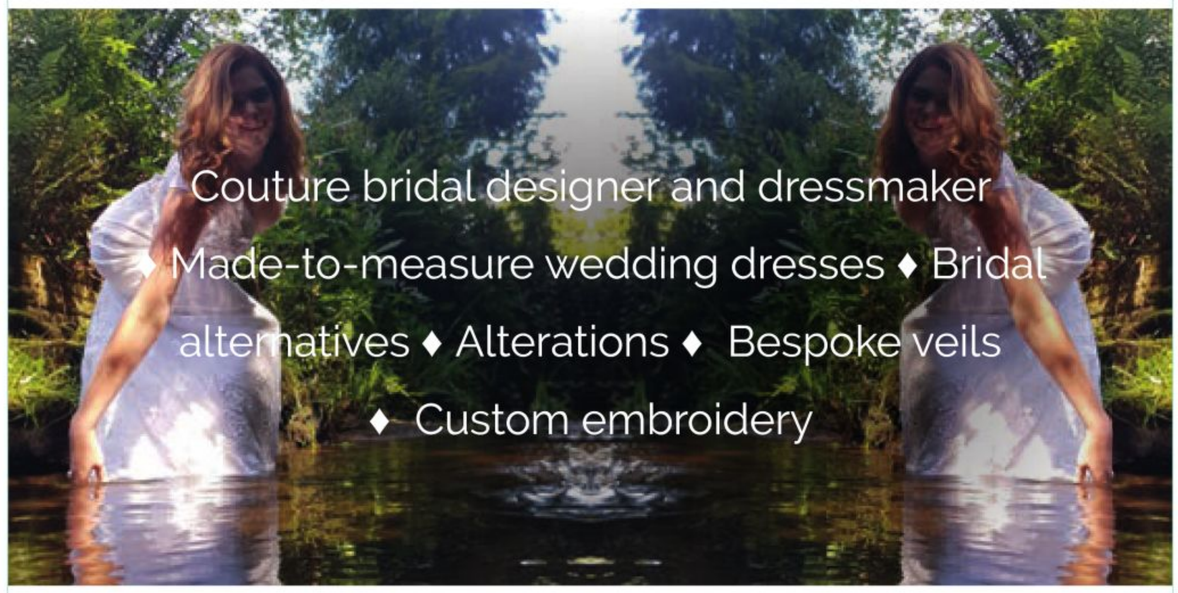
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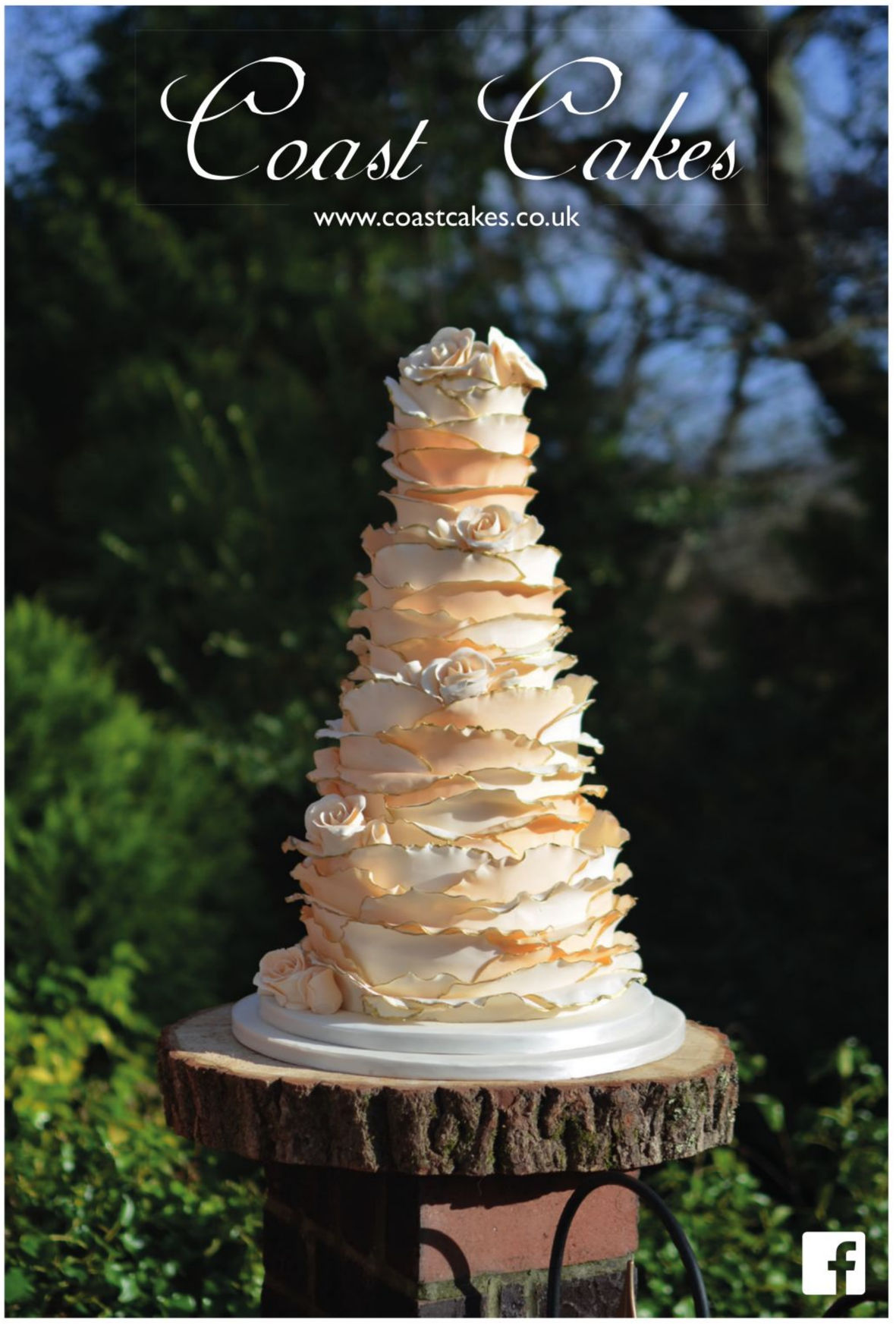




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A FAMILY *affair*

Abbie and Ryan pulled off their big day in only 28 days

Images courtesy of Kimberley Garrod Photography

Abbie and Ryan went to the same school but didn't get together until later. "Ryan was one of my brother's friends and we met up again at my niece's first birthday," explains Abbie.

Two-and-a-half years afterwards Ryan popped the question at home on Christmas Day, 2016. Abbie's brother had already given the game away when, a few days before while talking to Ryan on speaker phone in the car, he let slip about her ring size. When it came to planning the wedding, after receiving sad news of a loved one's ill health, they decided to bring the date forward, in order to make sure they could be there on the day. It left only 28 days to organise everything. "All of the local suppliers we used went far and beyond to make sure we could have what we wanted in the limited timescale available. Without their help and the support of our family and wedding planner Ruth, I'm not sure our day would have been as special as it was." Read on for more of Abbie's account...

Abbie and Ryan Long were married at Balmer Lawn Hotel in the New Forest on 13th June, 2019.



I knew my ivory lace dress was the one as soon as I put it on. It made me feel like a bride and fitted my body shape perfectly.



I wanted Ryan and his groomsmen to all look the same; the only difference was the buttonholes.

> *We chose the Balmer Lawn Hotel because we had one of our first dates by the river just across the road from the venue.*





The flowergirls carried baskets of white and mint green petals.





My bouquet of white roses was studded with diamantés and tied with mint green ribbon.

> *Bridal Mill made sure I had the dress I wanted within 28 days, including the alterations.*



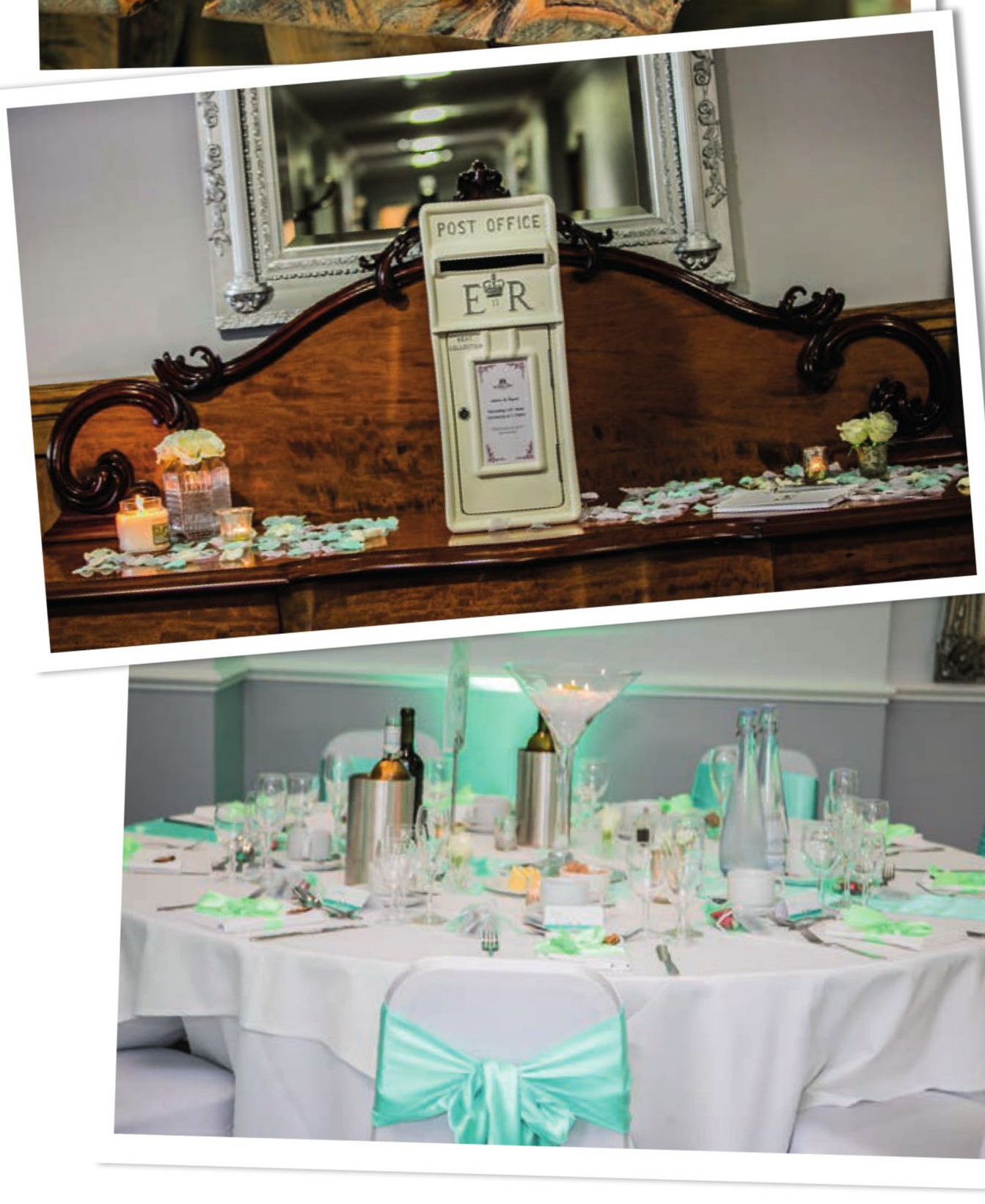
We gave our guests personalised wooden horseshoes as keepsakes along with organza bags filled with truffles and a key ring for their photo-booth picture.







The tables were sprinkled with mini love hearts and we had Martini glasses as centrepieces filled with crystals and green and white candles.





Our three-tier white cake was decorated with ribbon and flowers on each tier to complement our colour scheme.



To echo our theme we had a white flower wall behind the top table.







We had a sweet cart and a photo booth for our guests and we also played a game of Mr & Mrs to see how well Ryan and I knew each other, which everyone enjoyed.



THE BIG-DAY LINE UP

Photography | Kimberley Garrod Photography | kimberleygarrod.co.uk
Venue | Balmer Lawn Hotel & Spa | balmerlawnhotel.com
Bride's dress and accessories | The Bridal Mill | thebridalmill.co.uk
Hair and make-up | Christchurch Bridal Hair & Make-up | christchurchbridalhairandmake-up.co.uk
Bridesmaids' dresses | JJ's House | jjshouse.co.uk
Groom's suit | Marks & Spencer | marksandspencer.com
Cake | Cake Workshop | cakeworkshop.co.uk
Flowers | Stylish Weddings and Events by Rosie | facebook.com/stylishweddingsandeventsbyrosie
Entertainment | All Parties and Events | allpartiesandevents.co.uk

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Dorset Council

ONE FINE *day*

Hannah and Pete celebrated their wedding with a bright and cheery summer garden party

Images courtesy of Katie McCullough Photography

Hannah and Pete met at Nottingham University while they were both studying medicine. "We were in halls just down the corridor from each other and were friends for a few years before becoming a couple. I always joke that he was just a bit slow to catch on," laughs Hannah.

Pete proposed on a day out in the New Forest, one of Hannah's favourite places. "We'd both been working the weekend before so we had a random Tuesday off together which meant we barely saw anyone else during the walk. As we reached a lovely part of the woods off the beaten track, Pete got down on one knee!"

She said 'yes' of course and they celebrated with a pub lunch afterwards and champagne when they got home. "Hannah nearly ruined it all by making plans with a friend for the same day.Thank goodness it was cancelled at the last minute," adds Pete. The timing was perfect as two of Hannah's oldest friends also got engaged within weeks of them, so they were all able to celebrate and plan together. Read on for Hannah's account of their big day…

We both love gardens and light open spaces and when we walked around Houghton Lodge we knew it was the perfect place for our wedding.



My dress wasn't at all what I thought I wanted. Originally I was looking for something simple and ended up with a huge princess gown!



We got married in the gorgeous Orangery, followed by drinks in the walled garden and then had a marquee on the lawn for dinner and dancing.

My bridesmaids came to my house for a weekend to try on lots of different dresses, which we'd ordered beforehand, and to enjoy tea, cake and champagne; something I'd definitely recommend!



"I wore my mum's veil which I had lightened to match my dress."



The shoes were vital as the number I own is a bit of a running joke! The ones I chose incorporated my favourite glitter as well as superheroes which Pete loves.

Pete and his groomsmen wore matching morning suits with double-breasted waistcoats and they all had bright yellow socks.





The setting was so beautiful we wanted everyone to be able to appreciate it so we had a marquee that enabled us to have the sides down and enjoy panoramic views over the River Test.



We had our cake for dessert with summer berry salad which was really tasty.





We and our parents hand-dried all the confetti. It meant a lot to us as we used bouquets bought for birthdays, Christmas and anniversaries as well as flowers from our garden and Houghton Lodge.

"We wanted a relaxed day with a summer garden party feel where all our friends and family could have a good time with no pressure."

We had long tables and sharing platters of food to encourage our guests to chat and get to know each other.



My parents created lots of little signs and special touches for the day and my dad made our table plan.



Pete's mum is the flower queen so she and a friend of ours arranged all the loose blooms to line the aisle and decorate the tables.



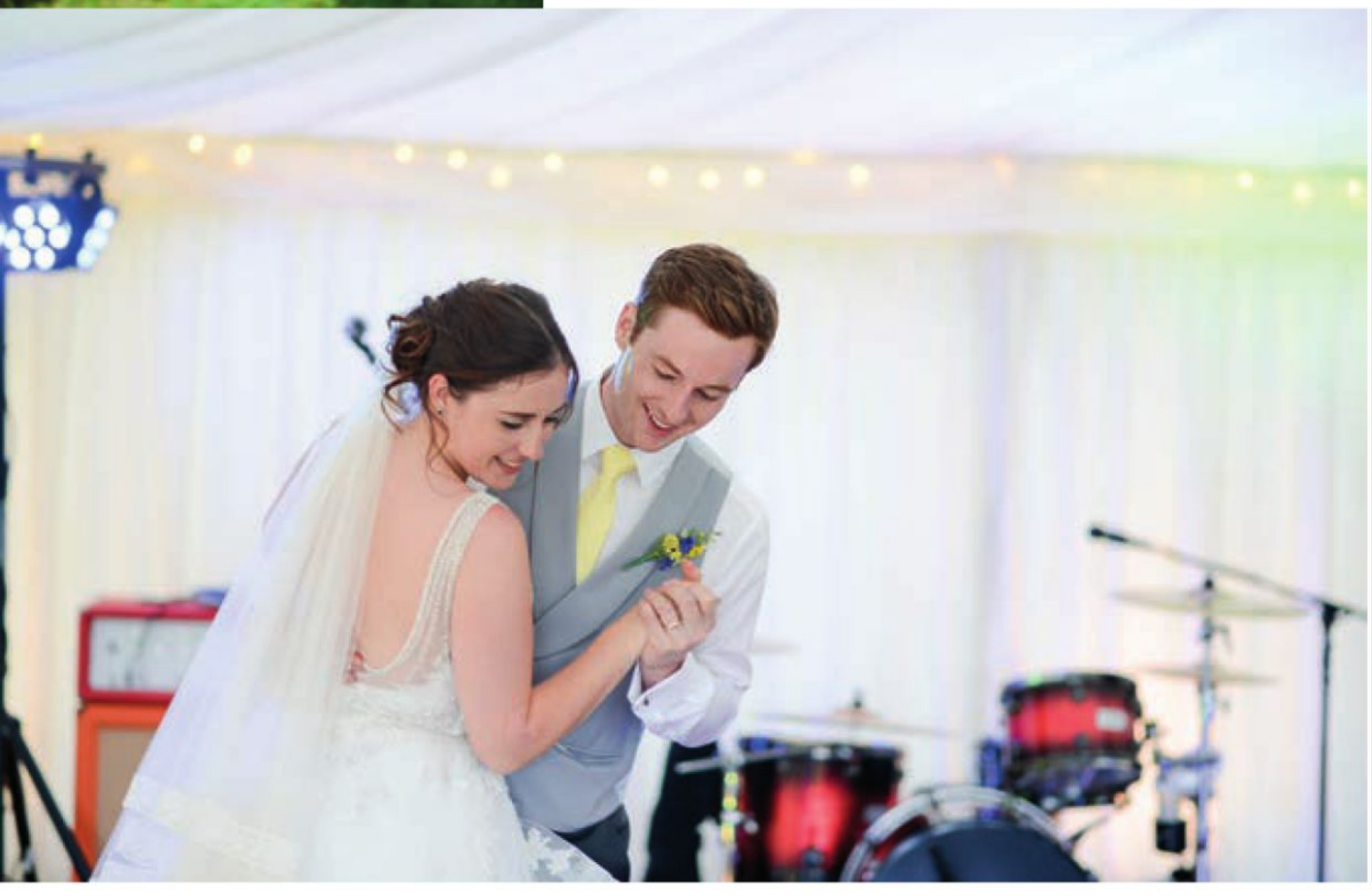
I'm known for my slight obsession with glitter so we had some for our guests to use after dinner which proved really popular and provided some great photos.

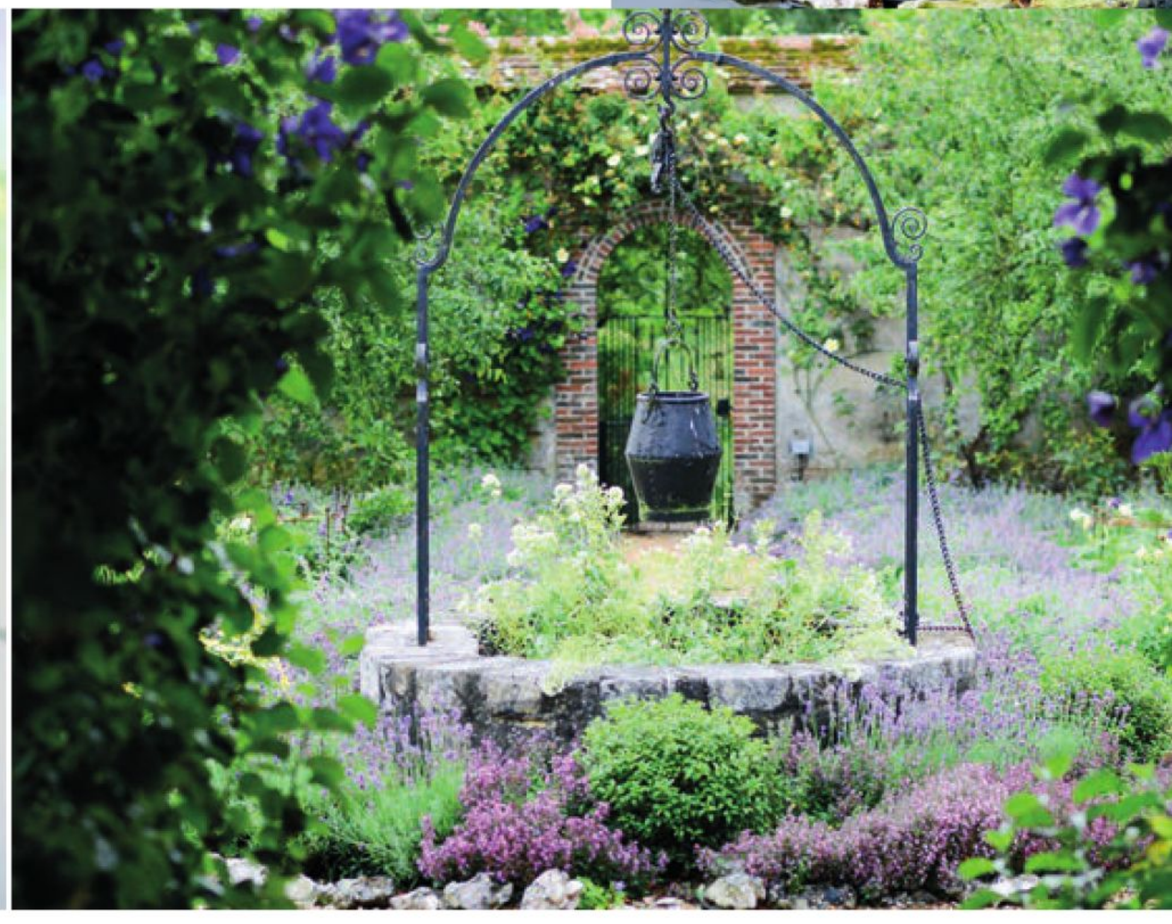




"We knew from the moment we got engaged that we were going to ask Katie to be our photographer as I've known her since we were four years old. Her natural-light photography style suited the venue perfectly and we were delighted she could come and enjoy the day as well as document it." – Hannah







HANNAH AND PETE'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Photography | Katie McCullough Photography | katiemccullloughphotography.co.uk
Venue | Houghton Lodge Gardens | houghtonlodge.co.uk
Bride's dress | Kelly's Bridal Couture | hampshirebridalshop.com
Veil cleaning and lightening | Boxed Bridal | boxedbridal.co.uk
Hair and make-up | Abbey Javes Makeup | abbeyjavesmakeup.com
Bridesmaids' dresses | ASOS | asos.com
Groom's suit | Debenhams | debenhams.com
Cake | Cocoa & Whey Cakes | cocoaandwheycakes.co.uk
Flowers | Bridal Flowers Direct | bridalflowersdirect.com
Catering | The Little Kitchen Company | thelittlekitchencompany.com
Marquee | Alresford Marquees | hiremarquee.co.uk
Band | The 505s | the-505s-band.com

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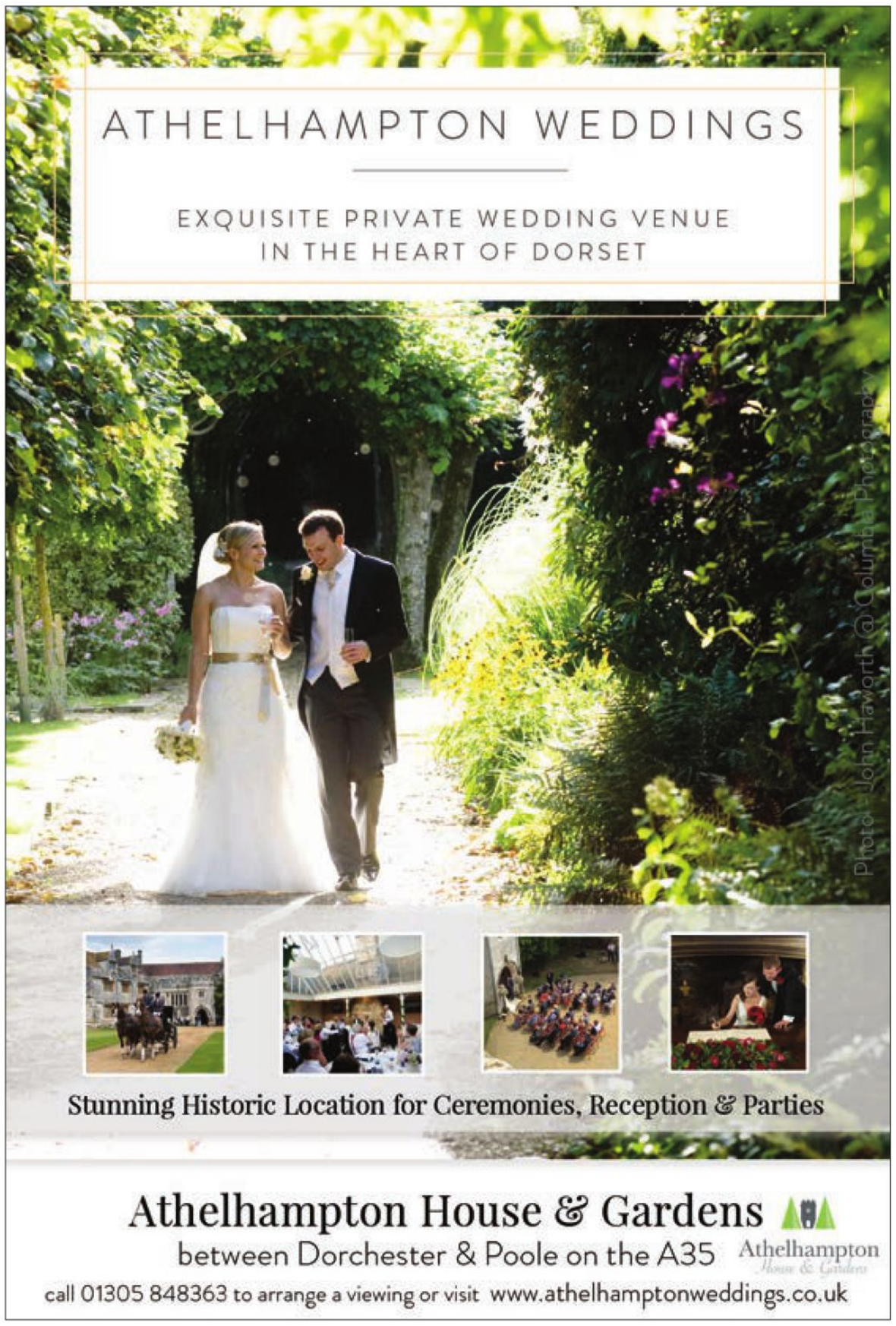
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An oasis OF CALM

Zen out with Japanese-inspired wedding styling

Images courtesy of Peppermint Love Photography

Take a one-of-a-kind wedding venue, add a dash of Japanese style, fabulous florals and delicate details, blend with talented Dorset suppliers, stand back and admire!

Award-winning Dorset-based hair and make-up artist Caroline Swaffield explains, "The inspiration for this shoot was soft English rose with a pop of Japanese fusion. Looking at the bridal shows, we knew the Japanese theme would be big this year so we thought we'd add our own touch of magic with a beautiful updo adorned with big blousy orchids and small touches of alluring Asian mystery in the eye make-up."

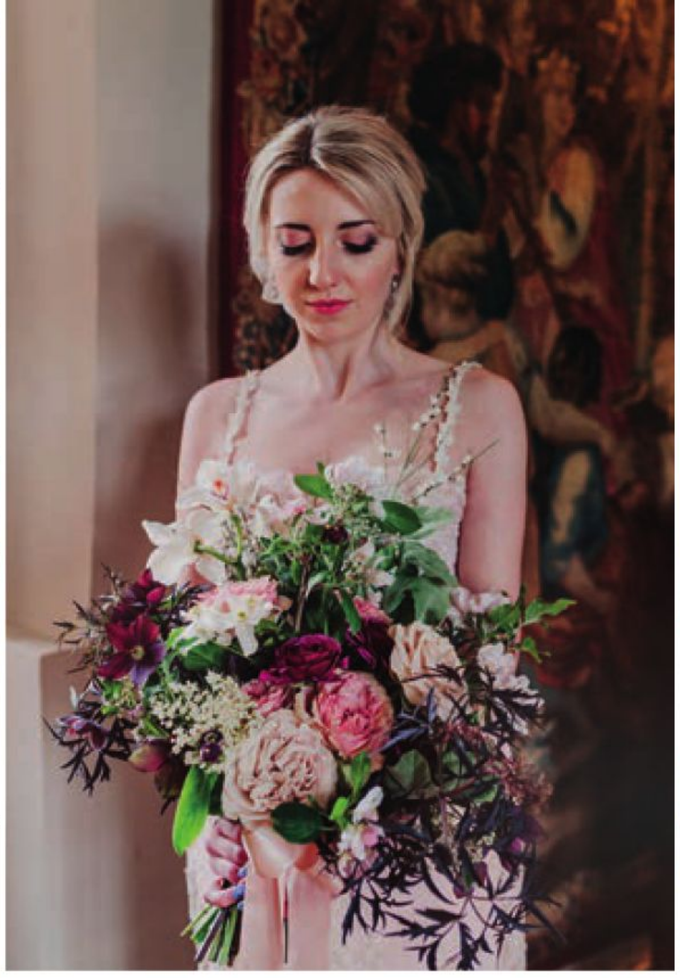
Located in the heart of picturesque Cranborne Chase, the beautifully designed gardens and quirky buildings of the Larmer Tree venue provided the perfect backdrop.

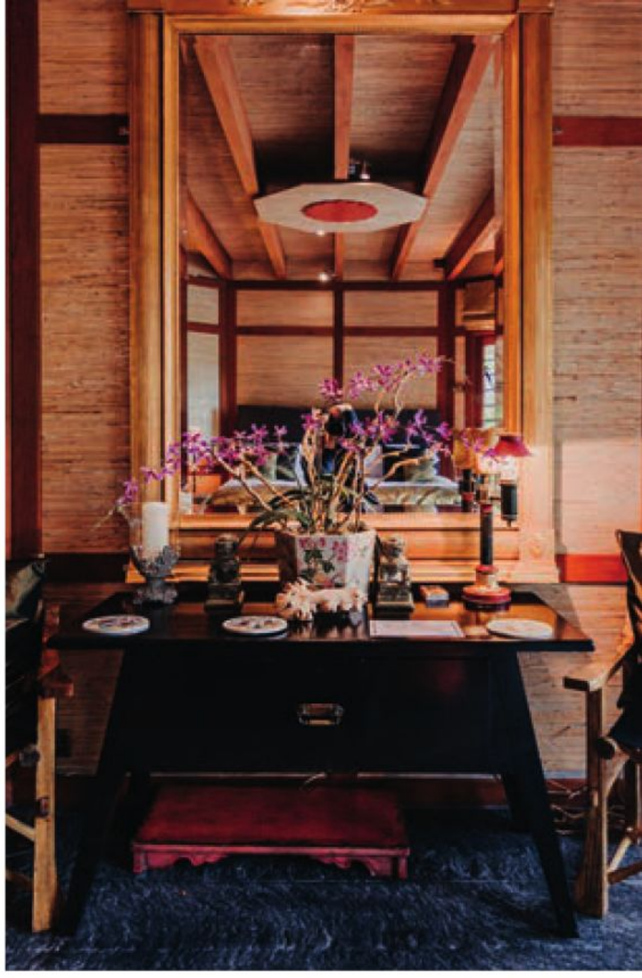












"I wanted to use a concept of dark and light in a monochrome way, but without the starkness of black and white. Using a palette of varied pink, white and pinot noir tones, I was able to draw on seasonal touches such as Dorset-grown black elder leaves, my home-grown white Montana clematis and spiraea, alongside fruit-tree blossoms which are central to the Far East look." – Jessie Copper, West Dorset Wedding Flowers



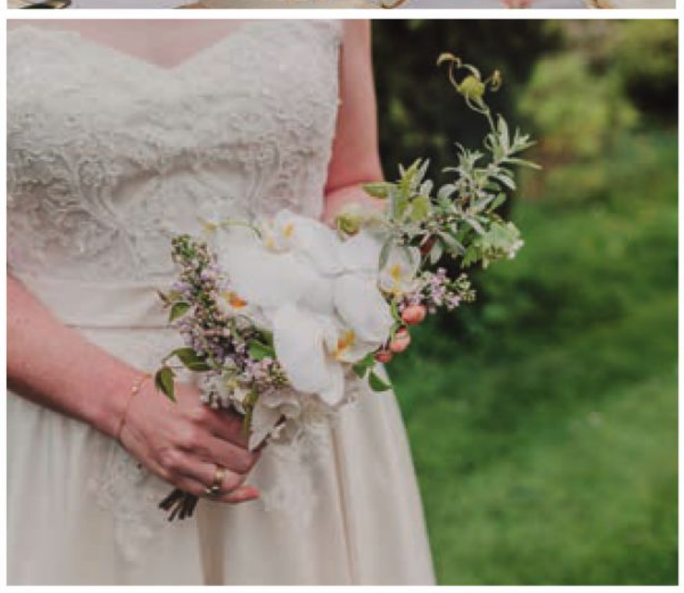


"Beautiful Japanese blossom, stunning deep mulberry peonies and pretty white camellias, teamed with a touch of gold in the leaves and delicate white piping to soften, give this cake a truly elegant and dreamy look."
– Helen Jalim, Cakes by Helen











THE DREAM TEAM

Photography, peppermintlovephotography.com; **Venue**, larmertree.co.uk; **Dresses**, bridalreloved.co.uk/dorchester; wedding-time.com; chantellesophia.com; **Hair and Make-up**, amazing-face.co.uk; **Styling**, swingletreevintage.co.uk; **Stationery**, etsy.com/shop/Idoeventstationery; **Cakes**, cakes-by-helen.co.uk; **Flowers**, westdorsetweddingflowers.co.uk; **Models**, Laura and Andrew Graham; Bridesmaid, Becci Phillips

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WHAT'S COOKING

All the latest in wedding catering

One of the things that lingers in people's memories long after the big day's over, is the food – hopefully for all the right reasons! So what are the rules for getting it right? Well here's the good news – you decide. Set your own agenda to suit you, your guests, the wedding theme and the style and feel of your day. So if you want a traditional three-course sit-down wedding breakfast, that's fine and if food stations and al fresco dining are more your thing, that's great too! There's so much to choose from, the world's your oyster. We speak to experts from around the region to get their take on the latest catering trends and innovations to set your celebration apart from the crowd.

WHAT'S HOT

More and more newlyweds-to-be are looking at the choice of food and drink for their big day as a top priority. However, not everyone is a foodie or keeps on top of popular dining trends – so where to start? We asked Alexandra Bishop, owner of Southampton-based bespoke cake and catering company The Pastry Corner for her top tips and predictions for the wedding season ahead. She reports...

♥ *Your day, your way*

The rise and rise of alternative-style wedding breakfasts is a set to continue for 2020 and with so many fantastic options available now, more and more couples are looking for something different to the norm. More than just food, they want an experience for their guests to enjoy and we're seeing increased demand for more social and informal choices; everything from afternoon teas to help-yourself hampers.



♥ GRAZING TABLES

Think wooden boards laden with delicious meats and cheeses, served alongside a range of olives, pickles and other mouthwatering delicacies, basically a giant antipasti platter for all your guests to dig in and enjoy. They're also a great option for dessert providing an assortment of elegant patisseries and sweet treats as the perfect way to complete your wedding breakfast. You can even have a bespoke grazing breakfast delivered to your door on the wedding morning to enjoy while getting ready with your best girls or boys. Freshly baked pastries, chocolate-dipped strawberries and delicious toasted bagels, what better way to start your big day?

♥ TEA ANYONE?

Afternoon teas for weddings have been around for a number of years now and are definitely here to stay! Picture a variety of sweet delights and dainty finger sandwiches presented on your choice of stand. Who doesn't love a freshly baked scone either, filled with clotted cream and strawberry jam? Afternoon teas are light enough to allow you to explore more elaborate options for the evening catering too, such as barbecues, pizza vans or big-pan dishes.





♥ *Picnic hampers*

Big wicker picnic hampers filled with mouthwatering morsels are just the thing for outdoor weddings. They offer a laid-back experience, allowing guests to eat at their leisure throughout the day. A great ice breaker, they also help family and friends to mingle and get the conversation flowing. Like any other summer picnic in this country, the weather can't be guaranteed, however this style of catering can work just as well in an indoor setting like a barn or marquee.

ALEXANDRA'S TOP TIP

Rather than a big lavish meal for the wedding breakfast, spread the food out across the whole day to get your guests talking about all the tasty choices available.

Visit thepastrycorner.co.uk

GOING GREEN

Sustainability is a key element for 2020 weddings, covering every aspect of the big day from food to fun, reports managing director of Hampshire's Vanilla Catering and Events Sally Pickles. She says, "Plant-based menus are really on the rise with vegan and gluten-free options a big hit this year. Couples are also wanting to personalise their weddings with dishes replicated from meaningful moments in their lives, anything from first dates to favourite holidays."





SALLY PREDICTS:

- ❤ Incorporating edible flowers into food is a rising trend, to give dishes a vibrant fresh look.
- ❤ Street food is still popular but the way to go with this theme in 2020 is with elevated options – the same kind of menu but with a classier look.
- ❤ Food stations with the emphasis on farm-to-fork produce and interactive adventurous foodie moments is something to watch for. It's early days at the moment but look out for more of this trend in the autumn.

Visit vanillacatering.co.uk

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

According to Michele Rae, joint head chef at event management and catering specialists 7th Wave Events, the key to making your wedding breakfast stand out from the crowd is good, fresh ingredients – locally sourced if possible. Emerging trends they've noticed include growing love for 'part-plated' and 'family-style' sharing platters.

"One of our most popular menus includes a large selection of canapés for starters, roast port as the main course, served whole to the table for guests to carve and serve, followed by a whole Pavlova for dessert with Chantilly cream and heaps of summer berries and homemade chocolate brownies for people to help themselves. This is a relaxed, sociable way of eating; like sitting down to a large family Sunday roast. The part-plated option means the main ingredient is served individually and all the accompaniments are then brought to the table for guests to share. This is a little more formal, but still great for breaking the ice and getting everyone talking," Michele explains.

Visit 7thwave-events.co.uk







FESTIVAL FLAVOUR

The popularity of sharing boards has attracted more adventurous couples to take things one stage further, according to Emma Lopex of Idelica, specialists in paella and tapas-style catering in Hampshire and Dorset. She says, "Even in the more formal settings we're being asked for wedding breakfasts where the food is not so much multi-course as free-flowing with sharing pans of paella, tapas dishes and bowls of salad between platters of sweet and savoury appetisers and desserts. We call it fiesta food and despite the laid-back appearance, it requires careful planning and orchestration."

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MEALS ON WHEELS

The popularity of festival-style weddings shows no sign of slowing soon and with it comes a whole new era of creative catering solutions for fun al fresco dining. Variety is key, catering for everything from vegan options to live-action food stations serving up international dishes from around the globe, anything from paella to oriental stir fries and hot and spicy curries to good old British fish and chips, straight from the van. Food trucks delivering traditional favourites such as burgers and hot dogs are perfect for the evening party or a sizzling hog roast for when the late night munchies set in; ideal for feeding a crowd.



Meat The Cheese is a mobile food van serving high-welfare grilled meat and delectable melting cheese in a range of tantalising options including steak and cheese baguettes and cheddar and cider cheese fondue. "We use fresh watercress from the nearby farm, our meat and cheeses are sourced locally and our French bread is baked on-site and served still warm," says owner Anthony Goodwin. The business is committed to sustainable principles too, so all wrappings and disposable items are compostable and they only use recyclable cans, not plastic bottles. Visit meatthecheese.co.uk



CHIN, CHIN

When it comes to big-day tipples, bubbly and weddings go hand and hand. The only problem can be which to choose. Cecile Bergart, wine tutor, champagne expert and owner of The Hampshire Wine School is here to help. She says, "People naturally turn to fizz as it adds a sense of occasion, an air of sophistication and overall excitement to any wedding. There are a few facts to note however, before toasting your forever after."

- ❤ Deciding when and how to serve your fizz is crucial, as it will determine not only the type of bubbly you'll need, but also the quantity.
- ❤ Finding your perfect bubbly is just like choosing your wedding dress; it takes a lot of trials! Taste as many different types as you can before the day. (A champagne or a sparkling wine tasting at the Hampshire Wine School will help!)
- ❤ Remember that it's perfectly fine to include several types of bubbly throughout the big day. Cava in the morning for your mimosa (the French equivalent to bucks fizz), prosecco for the welcome drinks in the early afternoon, champagne brut for the toast before the evening meal, champagne demi-sec with the cake, and some French crémant or a sparkling wine from South Africa at the bar.
- ❤ If you're looking for something a bit decadent and extravagant to serve with the wedding breakfast, vintage and rosé champagnes are particularly well-suited to enjoy with food.
- ❤ Ultimately, it's your taste that should prevail when selecting the drinks, so have fun finding *the one*!

Visit hampshirewineschool.com



Romantic REFLECTIONS

Picture your day down by the waterside

Images courtesy of Ann Aveyard Photography

Nestled by the water's edge where the Beaulieu River joins the Solent, New Forest gem Gins Barn provided an idyllic location for this styled photo shoot. Hampshire and Dorset wedding suppliers set out to celebrate the natural setting and create a romantic vision with dreamy dresses and decorative touches.

On the day wedding coordinator Tasha Mae explains, "We wanted the shoot to reflect as much of the natural outdoor elements as possible, including the free-roaming chickens! With the sound of the boats, the rippling river and the birds singing we were spoilt for ideas to work with."













"The ceremony arch made out of rowing oars across the pontoon was decorated with foliage, grasses and delicate flowers to match the dusky blue, white and cream colour scheme, all of which fitted perfectly with the riverside setting." - Tasha Mae







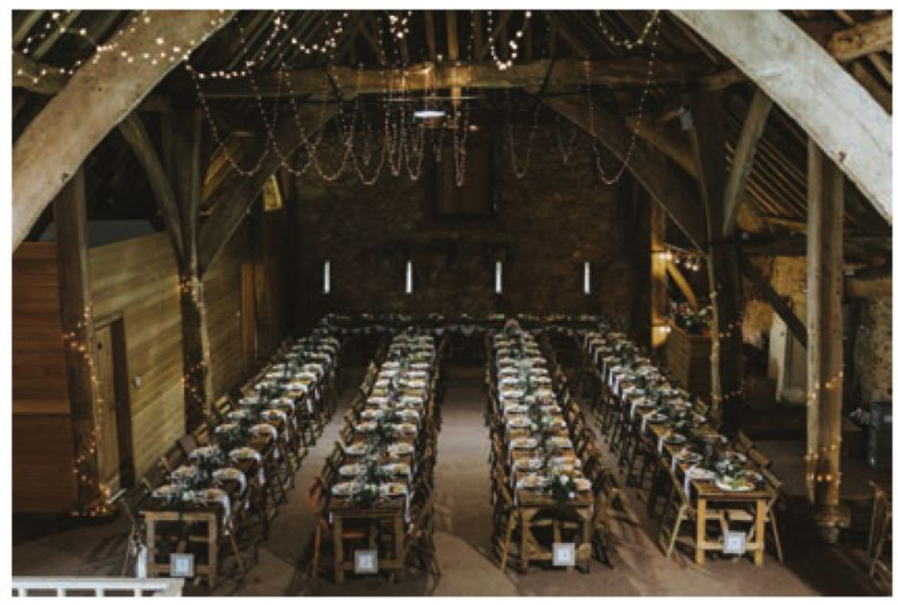
THE CREATIVE CREW

Photography, ann-aveyard.co.uk; **Venue**, newforestescapes.com; **Videography**, brideandzoom.co.uk; **Coordination**, tasha-mae.co.uk; **Stationery and styling**, laureldesignstudio.co.uk; **Flowers**, jessicahillier.co.uk; **Cake**, cakes-by-helen.co.uk, **Dresses**, minsterbridal.co.uk; **Hair and make-up**, nikkimullard.com; **Vintage tea party set-up**, fifteas.com; **Model**, Becki Nicholson, southcoastmarquees.co.uk

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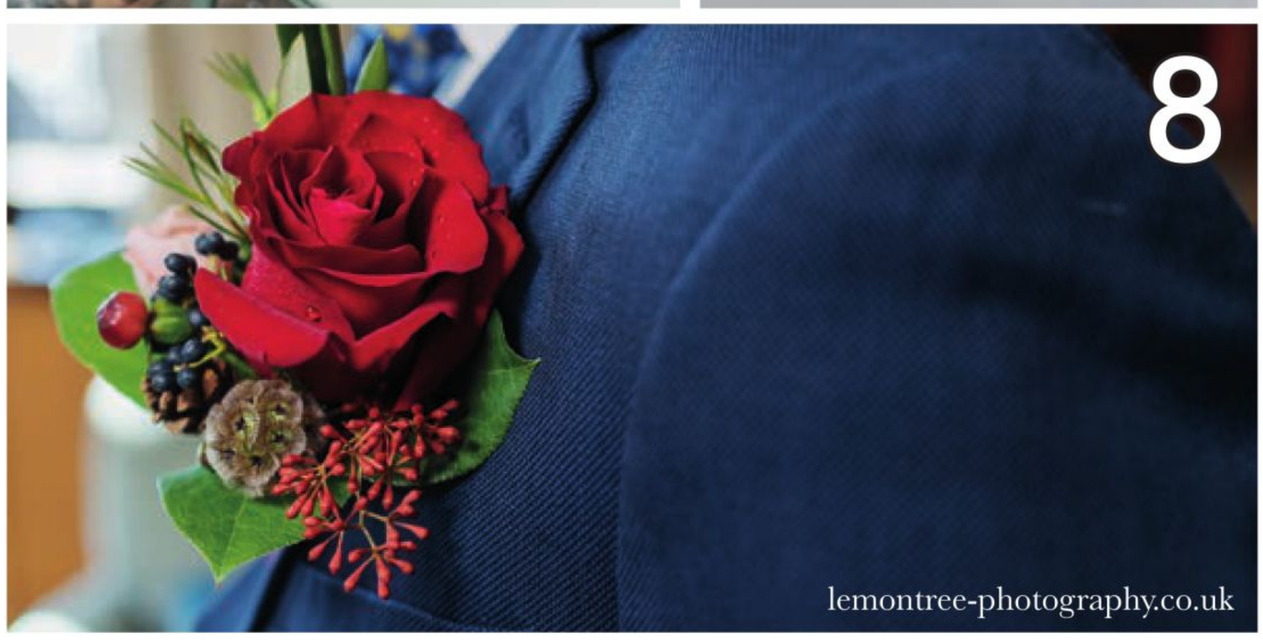












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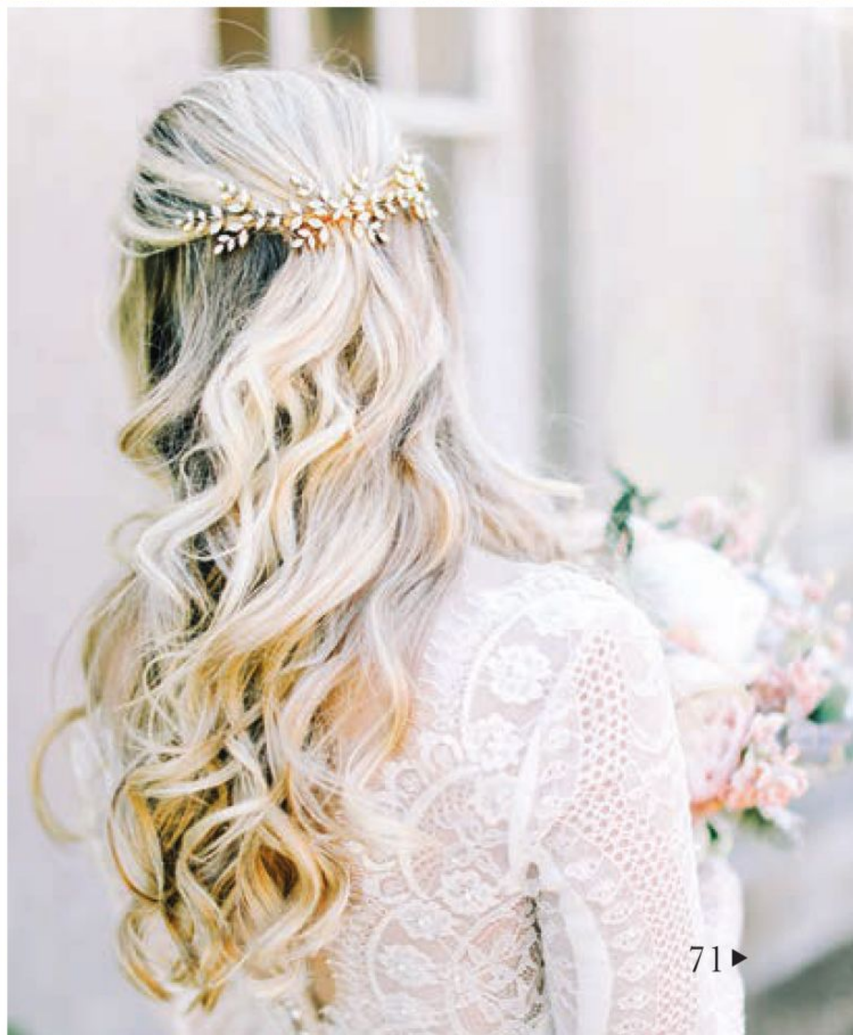
New Forest wedding wonder at Hampshire's Hale Park

Images courtesy of Charlotte Wise Photography

Close your eyes to picture your big day and this could be it. The stuff that wedding dreams are made of - trailing wisteria, a beautiful gown, sumptuous details and a pinch-me venue surrounded by glorious grounds in the heart of the New Forest. What's not to love?







THE SQUAD GOALS

Photography, charlottewisephotography.co.uk; **Venue**, haleparkweddings.co.uk; **Dress and shoes**, hannahelizabethbridal.com; **Accessories**, kellyspence.com; **Hair,** jmshairdesign.com; **Shoot director and make-up**, francesmooremua.co.uk; **Flowers**, johicksflowers.co.uk; **Stationery**, peonyandrose.co.uk; **Cakes**, sparklebakes.com; **Venue stylist, art direction and tablescape**, fabulouscompany.co.uk; **Ring box**, etsy.com/uk/shop/LaPetitBox; **Glitter**, ecoglitterfun.com; **Model**, Sophie Waldron, instagram.com/sophiewaldron



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Lou Osborne, James White, Tom Langford Photography















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

HIGH STREET HOT LIST

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

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



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

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



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.

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Fun and frivolous

These flirty styles are setting the trends for 2020

Long sleeves

adriannapapell.com

Halterneck

catherineparrybridal.com

Oversized bow

alanhannah.co.uk

Short and sassy

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

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Feathers

demetrios.com

Plunge neckline

jesuspeiro.com

Chic jumpsuit

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Elegant cape

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Madelyn dress with collar by elbethgillis.com

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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





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HEADLINERS

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

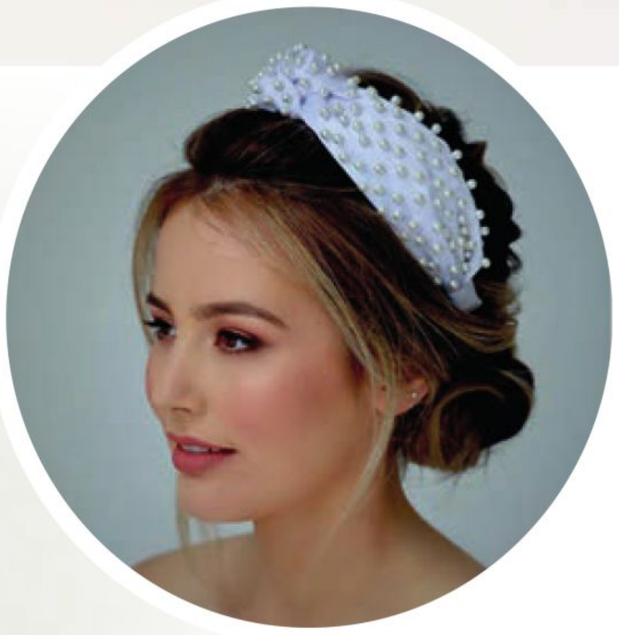


Headdress, from a selection, mervebayindir.com

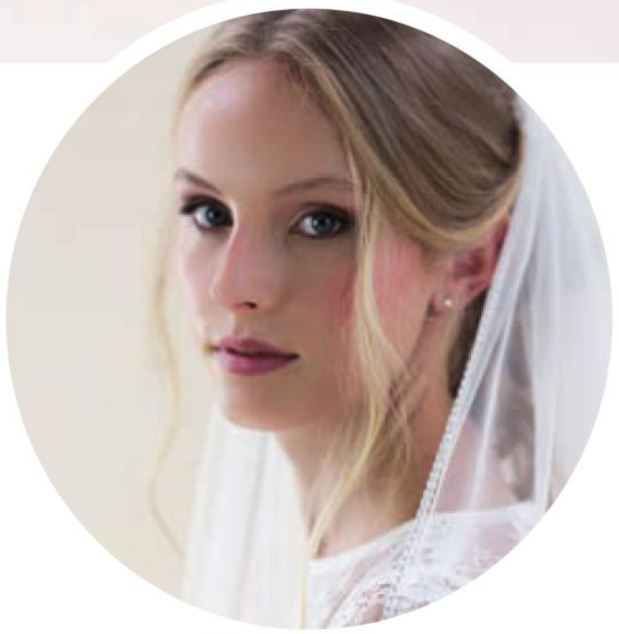




Tiaras and veils spotted at demetrios.com. For similar, try richard-designs.com



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



Cream knot headband, £4.99, newlook.com



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



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Sunday 8th March	**Norton Park Hotel**, Winchester
Sunday 5th April	**Richmond Hill Hotel**, Richmond, Surrey
Sunday 26th April	**Hilton Ageas Bowl**, Southampton
Sunday 17th May	**The Potters Heron**, Romsey
Sunday 31st May	**Spring Wedding Exhibition** Fontwell Park Racecourse, West Sussex
Sunday 14th June	**New Place Hotel**, Shirrell Heath
Sunday 5th July	**The Royal Southern Yacht Club**, Hamble
Sunday 12th July	**Chilworth Manor Hotel**, Southampton
Sunday 6th September	**Audleys Wood Hotel**, Basingstoke
Sunday 13th September	**The Solent Hotel & Spa**, Whiteley
Sunday 20th September	**Rhinefield House**, New Forest
Sunday 4th October	**Langstone Quays Resort**, Hayling Island
Sunday 11th October	**Old Thorns Manor Hotel**, Liphook
Sunday 25th October	**Norton Park Hotel**, Winchester
Sunday 1st November	**New Place Hotel**, Shirrell Heath
Sunday 8th November	**Nutfield Priory & Spa**, Redhill, Surrey

Additional dates being added - please see our website for the up-to-date Calendar.











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Photography, martinespijksma.co.uk; **Dresses and accessories**, aylinwhitedesigns.com; **Hair and make-up**, makeupbylular.co.uk; **Model**, Tanya Harder; **Project**, @upsidegallery and @paintshopstudio

OFF *the wall*



Bridal meets Bournemouth street art

Images courtesy of Martine Spijksma Photography

The artistic creations on a Bournemouth underpass provided the inspiration for bespoke wedding dress designer Sally Broad of Dorset-based Aylin Designs to create this mini shoot.

"I saw a fantastic photograph on Instagram of a Bournemouth art scene. It had such an impact, that I went to see some of the artists' work and was totally blown away. I just knew I had to get my hand-painted wedding gowns and accessories photographed in front of this amazing creative space," she explains.

Paintshop Studio commisioned the artists for the Upside Gallery project which was funded by Arts Council England. Leading artists from around the UK created the original artwork on concrete pillars underneath the A338 road in Bournemouth for the town's 2019 Arts by the Sea weekend. The project was part of an initiative to showcase the talents within the graffiti and street art movement.





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

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





A ROSY GLOW

Looking to achieve that natural dewy flush of colour for your wedding day? The folk at Beautaniq Beauty have just the thing. Introducing the Butter Cheek & Lip Balm. This cream blusher blends seamlessly into cheeks using nothing more than the warmth of your fingertips, and doubles up as an effortless lip colour. Crafted with 90% natural plant-based oils to nourish, condition and hydrate the skin, it simultaneously bestows a gorgeous, creamy radiance. Available at beautaniqbeauty.com it's priced at £12.50.





Sustainability, solved

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

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

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



FASHION AND *beauty*

Local experts on spring weddings

SEASONAL STUNNERS

Andrew says: New gowns are arriving all the time now and the elegant, classic and simple shapes are very much at the forefront this season. With satin, lace and also crepe featuring, more brides are looking for the 'relaxed' look as well as traditional gowns. Some of our favourites in store at present which have had an amazing reaction from our brides and on social media include:



Sincerity Bridal Style 44080 (justinalexander.com)

This on trend mikado ball gown has everything. The asymmetric draped V-neckline leads to a natural waistline and pockets with buttons to the end of the chapel-length train to complete the look.



Pamela dress (maggiesottero.com)

We love when soft and delicate makes a serious statement. Choose this long-sleeved A-line wedding dress for the dreamiest of boho celebrations.



Mark Lesley Bridal Style 7351 (marklesley.com)

This fit and flare dress features crepe and Chantilly lace, a Bardot neckline, lace appliqués, pearl buttons down the back and a chapel-length train with transparent lace insert. Two-tone gowns like this are very on trend. The bodice comes in a nude tone, but is also available in ivory, and looks amazing for this season.

Andrew Pearce | Co-owner | creatiques.co.uk

SOFTLY, SOFTLY

Grace says: I'm finding more and more of my brides are opting for relaxed, softer hairstyles in favour of the neat and perfect look. There's increased demand for soft hollywood waves, or tousled up dos, with lots of natural volume, gently put together with loose strands, then finished with a light hairspray and some fresh seasonal flowers or delicate hair pins. That said, I'm betting we'll see the comeback of the glam bride in 2021.

Grace Bailey | Hair stylist | gracebaileybridalhair.com





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GREAT EXPECTATIONS

2019 has been quite a year for County Wedding Magazines and Events HQ, the launch of our Signature Wedding Shows were such a huge success that the 2020 dates are bigger and better than ever. Here's what to expect when attending one of our events...

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.

Psst! The first 100 couples through the door will receive a free Wedding Journal Keepsake, and our pre-registered visitors will have the chance to win a £250 gift voucher courtesy of Spabreaks.com

SPABREAKS.COM

A date for your diary...

WEMBLEY STADIUM, 26TH APRIL, 2020
THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2020
MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2020
ASCOT RACECOURSE, 25TH OCTOBER, 2020

Pre-register for all of our events at **countyweddingevents.com**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

cwm
COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

Signature WEDDING SHOW

cwe | COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

One of the largest wedding shows to be held in the South of England

- Free entry
- Goody bag for each couple
- First 100 couples attending receive a Wedding Journal Keepsake
- Win a luxury honeymoon
- Huge number of wedding specialists including venues
- Up to 200 stands
- Bridal fashion shows
- Demonstration areas
- Entertainment
- Refreshments

Pre-register and attend the show to have a chance to win a £250 gift voucher courtesy of

SPABREAKS.COM

A date for your diary...

Sunday 25th October 2020, 11.00AM - 4.00PM

Hosted at Ascot Racecourse, High Street
Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7JX

ASCOT Racecourse

Pre-register at **countyweddingevents.com/registration.cfm**

Follow us on /CountyWeddingEvents @CountyWedEvent @countyweddingevents

Signature WEDDING SHOW

cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

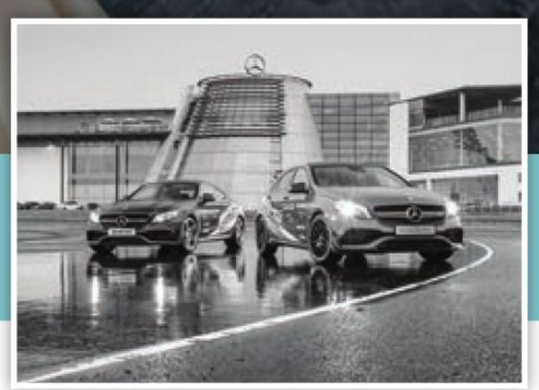
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- Win a luxury honeymoon
- Up to 200 stands
- Huge number of wedding specialists including venues
- Bridal fashion shows
- Demonstration areas
- Entertainment
- Refreshments



Hosted at Mercedes-Benz World at Brooklands



Pre-register and attend the show to have a chance to win a £250 gift voucher courtesy of SPABREAKS.COM

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2020, 11.00AM - 4.00PM

Hosted at Mercedes-Benz World, Brooklands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0SL

Pre-register at **countyweddingevents.com/registration.cfm**

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Signature WEDDING SHOW

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH cwm COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

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SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020, 11AM TO 4PM

THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE, ESSEX

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- Bridal fashion shows
- Demonstration areas
- Entertainment
- Refreshments
- First 100 couples attending receive a Wedding Journal Keepsake
- Win a luxury honeymoon
- Huge number of wedding specialists including venues



Pre-register and attend the show to have a chance to win a fabulous spa break worth £250 courtesy of SPABREAKS.COM

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Signature WEDDING SHOW

cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

WEMBLEY

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WEMBLEY STADIUM, LONDON



SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2020
11AM TO 4PM

Pre-register and attend the show to have a chance to win a fabulous spa break worth £250 courtesy of

SPABREAKS.COM

- Free entry
- Goody bag for each couple
- First 100 couples attending receive a Wedding Journal Keepsake
- Win a luxury honeymoon
- Huge number of wedding specialists including venues
- Up to 200 stands
- Bridal fashion shows
- Demonstration areas
- Entertainment
- Refreshments

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One of the largest wedding shows to be held in the South of England

Pre-register at **countyweddingevents.com/registration.cfm**

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Let it go

Release your inner ice queen and colour your day with a palette of blues

Images courtesy of TP Photography

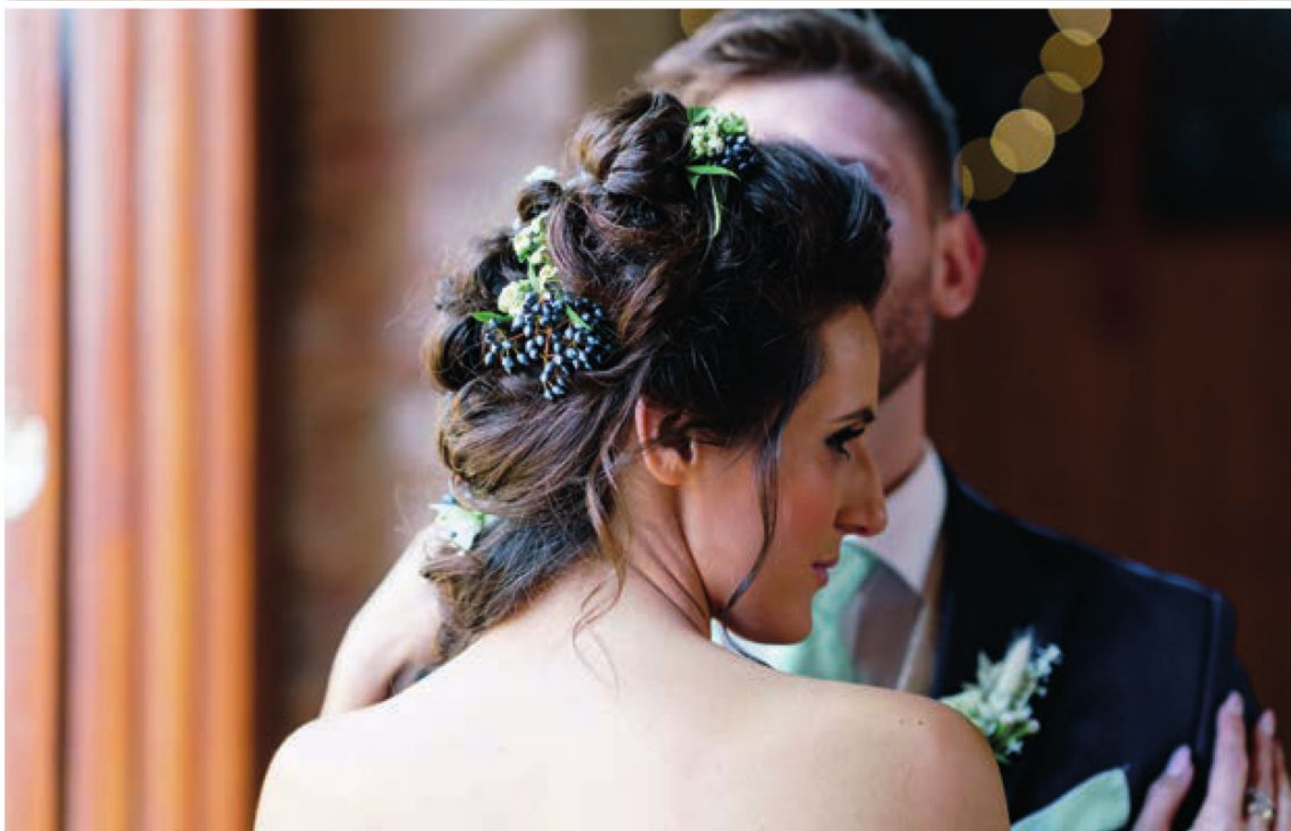
It's raining blues in a flood of wonderful shades for weddings this year. With Classic Blue the 2020 Pantone Colour of the Year, big-day moodboards are awash with it; add a splash or dive right in and opt for a whole colour scheme dedicated to the popular hue.

Inspired by the recent release of Disney's Frozen 2 animated film, local creatives pooled their talents to create a vision of dusky blue tones at Kingston Country Courtyard. With its stone walls, the Dorset wedding venue provided the perfect backdrop to pull the look together. Fairylights, sheepskin rugs and flickering candles added a cosy feel to enhance the Frozen-esque feel.









Cake maker Jen Thomas created a table full of sumptuous treats including a trio of cakes in dusky blue watercolours using crystal-clear acrylic separators to give the illusion they were floating on icy glass.

THE DREAM TEAM

Photography, thurtlepower.com; **Venue**, kingstoncountrycourtyard.com; **Dresses**, bridalreloved.co.uk/shops/dorchester; **Veil and garter**, chantellesophia.com; **Make-up**, timelessbeautybylouise.co.uk; **Hair**, brideshair.co.uk; **Ice Queen make-up**; festidolls.com; **Styling**, whitewillowwedding.com; **Stationery**, facebook.com/lilyandlottiestationery; **China**, swingletreevintage.co.uk; **Cake**, cakeylulus.co.uk; **Flowers**, facebook.com/charlotterosefloraldesign; **Suits**, wedding-time.com/shop/grooms-wear; **Videography**, brideandzoom.co.uk; **Models**, Samantha Shapley and Matthew Roberts







Cakey Lulus

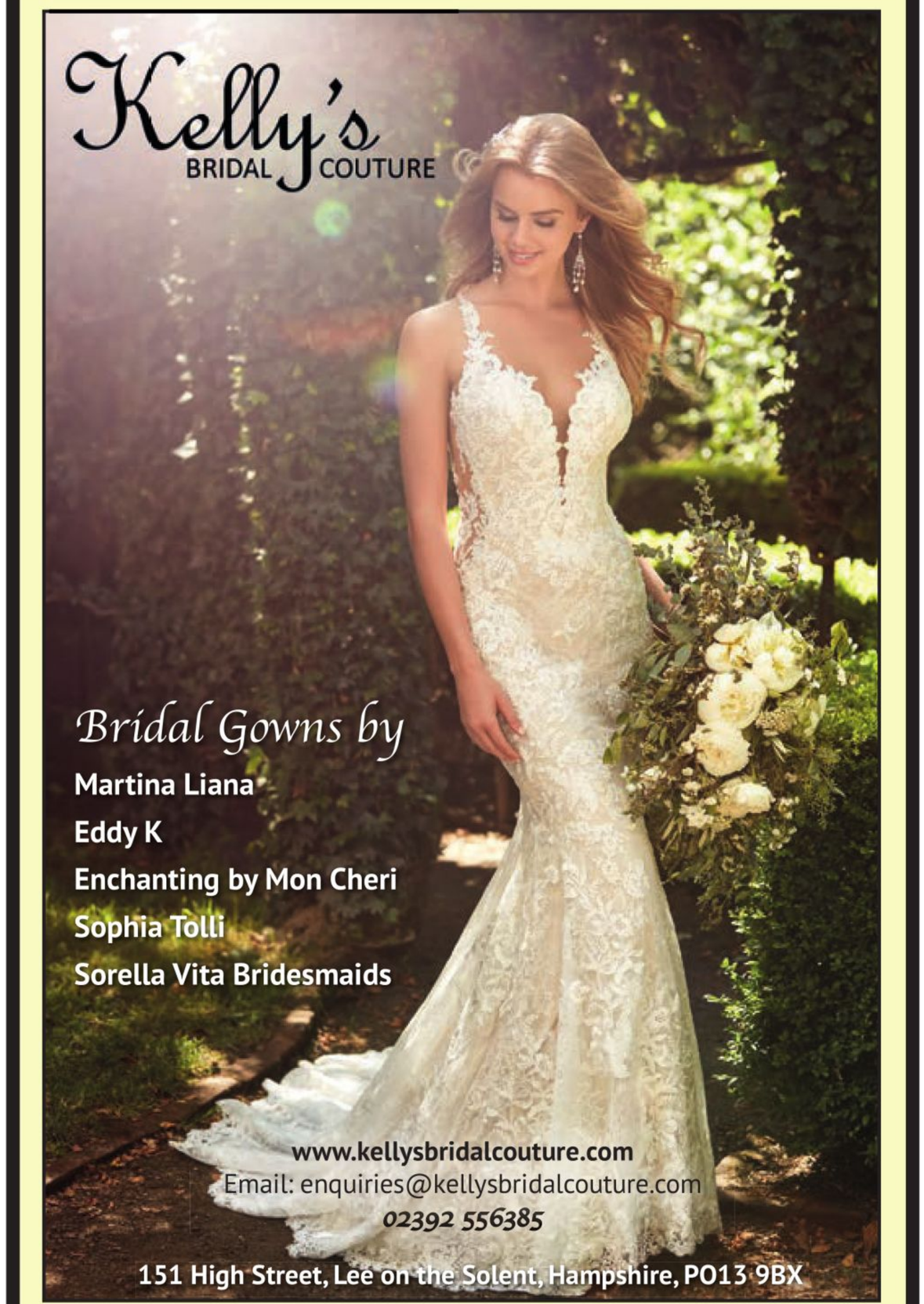
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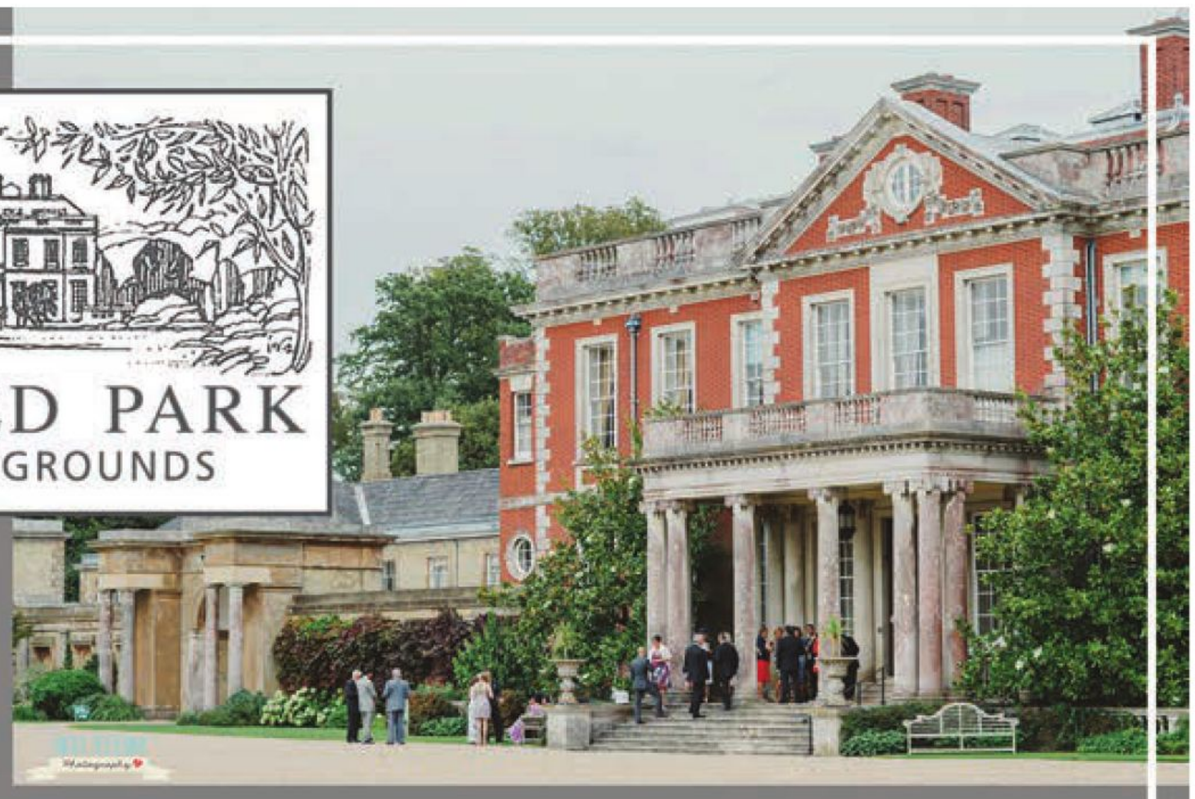
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ONLY TIME WILL TELL

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

STEP INTO *spring*

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

£110, burton.co.uk

£35, foxandchave.com

£45, davidwatson.uk

£59.95, remusuomo.com

£100, joebrowns.co.uk

£99.99, tkmaxx.com

£199, newgateworld.com

£22, villageleathers.com

£24.99, gettingpersonal.co.uk

£110, dunelondon.com

Condici 71005

HOT TOPIC

Local experts tackle your wedding woes

MUM'S THE WORD

My mum was thrilled when we got engaged but she's been stressing ever since about what to wear for our wedding. She's most comfortable in casual clothes and hasn't a clue about formal wear – can you help?

Steve says: Buying an outfit as a mother-of-the-bride or -groom can be daunting. The pressure of being seen by everyone and getting the colours right can make choosing the ideal style even more vital. Above all it's important for your mum to think about comfort and how she'll feel in her outfit, after all she'll be in it for quite a while. She may not want to wear a jacket for the whole day either, so make sure the dress looks great on its own.

There's a whole range of options and one of my top tips is, don't judge styles on the hanger, you have to be open to trying things on. Some people assume the classic dress and bolero combo might make them look frumpy, but think again! Designers like Linea Raffaelli are taking this look to the next level with great fabrics and touches to give the classic look a modern twist.



Linea Raffaelli Set 230

As temperatures start to rise, sometimes a jacket isn't required, especially if the wedding's at a more unconventional venue. Going for a less formal but striking look is a great idea, with the added bonus that you can wear the dress again on holiday or to a party. The '50s-style A-line dress is a popular choice for weddings currently and can complement most body shapes.



Marfil Barcelona 4J2B5

Steve Taylor | Boutique owner | fabfrocks.co.uk

GOING GREEN

What should we look for in our wedding flowers in order to reduce the carbon footprint of our day?

Jo says: We use biodegradable floral foam in arrangements where ever possible and other planet-friendly practices like recycling plastics and having floral trays and dishes returned to be used again. Looking to the future, it may even be worth florists introducing incentives, especially for weddings, by giving people an allowance on plastic items returned for re-use. We also use long-burning candles more than once and offer discounts to customers who are keen to minimise waste. There are a number of other things you can look out for including:

- ❤ Reduced packaging
- ❤ Paper and tissue wrappings instead of cellophane
- ❤ Cardboard boxes for display and sending out wedding bouquets
- ❤ Locally grown flowers to reduce travel miles from grower to supplier
- ❤ Simple swaps back to more traditional techniques such as avoiding plastic bouquet holders
- ❤ Blooms without any artificial dyes or paints

Jo Hicks | Florist | johicksflowers.co.uk





Images: lemontree-photography.co.uk



PLAY ON

We know we want live music at our wedding but we're not sure what to choose to suit everyone or what stages in the day are best.

Martin says: When you're planning a wedding, and haven't booked a band before, there are some important things to consider:

- ❤ The type of music is probably the first thing to think about because there's likely to be a wide selection of guests of varying ages, so something that doesn't alienate one section is advisable.
- ❤ Find out whether the venue has any restrictions on the type of band they have a licence for, or will allow.
- ❤ If you want a specific tune then don't be afraid to ask, most experienced groups know more than is on their current play list and given enough warning may even learn one specially for you.
- ❤ Check the dress code so the musicians can be suitably attired.
- ❤ If you're having a band find out how many people to expect, especially if space is limited, if they need a changing room or if you're providing food and drink for them.
- ❤ Make sure you get what you were expecting. This is where personal recommendations are helpful.
- ❤ Find out how long the musicians need to set up so that the area can be made available accordingly.
- ❤ Always ask for an all-inclusive quote and whether any extras such as travel costs or VAT will be charged.
- ❤ If you think you may want them to play for longer establish beforehand what the extra fee will be to avoid embarrassment (on both sides) on the day.
- ❤ Be prepared to pay a deposit and, importantly sign a contract or obtain a letter of confirmation that states when the final payment is made.
- ❤ Public liability insurance is often asked for by the venue and any established band should have this, make sure that all members of the band are covered though.



Martin Jones | Jazz musician | acousticjass.co.uk

TOP 10

10 tips for planning your dream sustainable wedding

Celia Gaze is the founder of The Wellbeing Farm, and says, "As we're getting more conscious about our environment and how we can protect it, the idea is also flooding the wedding market, as brides are looking for a lush wedding day that doesn't cost the planet. As a venue that has always had a green centre, here are our 10 top tips if you're planning a sustainable wedding..."

1

DITCH THE PALM BEACH WEDDING IN FAVOUR OF SOMETHING LOCAL

This may be an obvious one, but it's a good starting point. As nice as those pictures of destination weddings look, think of all the air miles to fly everyone over, and then transport from the airport... that's a lot of CO2 emissions. With that in mind, if your venue is accessible by public transport, even better.

PLAN A VEGETARIAN OR VEGAN MENU

One of the biggest trends is cutting out a lot of meat and other animal products from your diet. Whilst your wedding has been considered the one day you can indulge, this now doesn't mean that you can't splurge on taste without cutting out the meat. Even as an omnivore, some of the nicest food I have had is vegetarian and vegan. If your menu is seasonal, organic, or uses fair trade ingredients, or a mixture of all three, even better!

2





3

SPEAKING OF SEASONAL, KEEP YOUR FLOWERS SEASONAL TOO

Seasonal flowers save the air miles, there's no need to import tulips from Holland in the middle of September. Also start thinking about what you are going to do with the flowers afterwards, and if your florist avoids using foam in their arrangements, that's a big fat green thumbs up. If they are also supplying confetti, look at a kind that is bio-degradable.

4

Think about transport

If your venue isn't easy to get to via public transport, instead of a million cars arriving at your venue, think about hiring a coach from a suitable meeting point e.g. the hotel your guests are staying at; this will hopefully cut down a lot of emissions even before your big day starts.





5 USE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS OR SECOND-HAND PROPS FOR YOUR DÉCOR

One of our biggest features for our brides is our Prop Shed, which holds every kind of decorative prop you can imagine: saving time, money and the planet as everything is reused from couple to couple. Some brides like to use bits they've picked up themselves – afterwards, think about donating to other brides for their day.



6 ASK YOUR VENUE ABOUT ITS GREEN POLICY

A big note when looking around venues is looking at its bar – if they are still using plastic straws, that's a big no-no! Do they recycle everything on-site, use local suppliers, grow their own produce and have they cracked down on single-use plastic, among many other measures.



7 *Find local suppliers*

From your cake to your DJ, using suppliers who are local to you/ your venue is key to making your wedding sustainable and keeping your wedding's carbon footprint down. Venues should have a list of recommended suppliers on their websites, who are all local to the property.



8 CONSIDER SUSTAINABLE FAVOURS

Think about not just what you want them to be, but also how they are packaged. Stay away from the plastic toys and trinkets, and cellophane wrapping that cannot be recycled. If there is an animal, environmental or sustainability charity that means something to you and your partner, a donation favour to that charity would be a good choice.



9 DRESS UPCYCLE

Why not donate your dress to a charity shop to make an impact long after the big day – this also applies to the bridesmaids' dresses too if you're looking for a green wedding! Also, keep away from silk and other materials that come from animals.



10 IS YOUR STATIONERY SUSTAINABLE?

As pretty as the save-the-date invitations and other stationery looks, think about using invites made from an ethically sourced or recycled material.



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A LUXURIOUS FIVE-NIGHT HONEYMOON TO OMAN



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

WORTH £3,000

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

THE PRIZE

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

HOW TO ENTER

Which ocean does the Salalah Rotana Hotel overlook?

Enter online at yourhampshiredorset.wedding

The closing date is 5th June, 2020. Terms and conditions apply. Please see our website for details.



PICTURE-PERFECT PARADISE

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

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



A WILD MINI-MOON

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

HONEYMOON

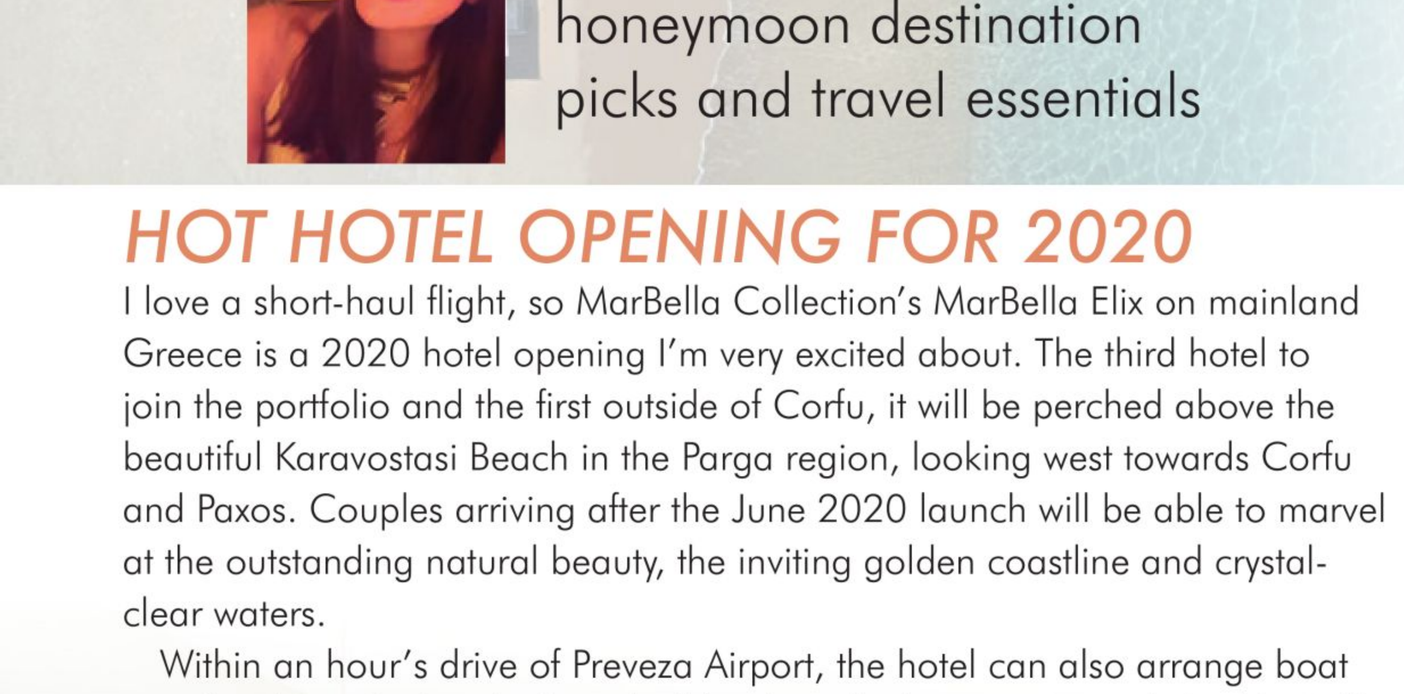


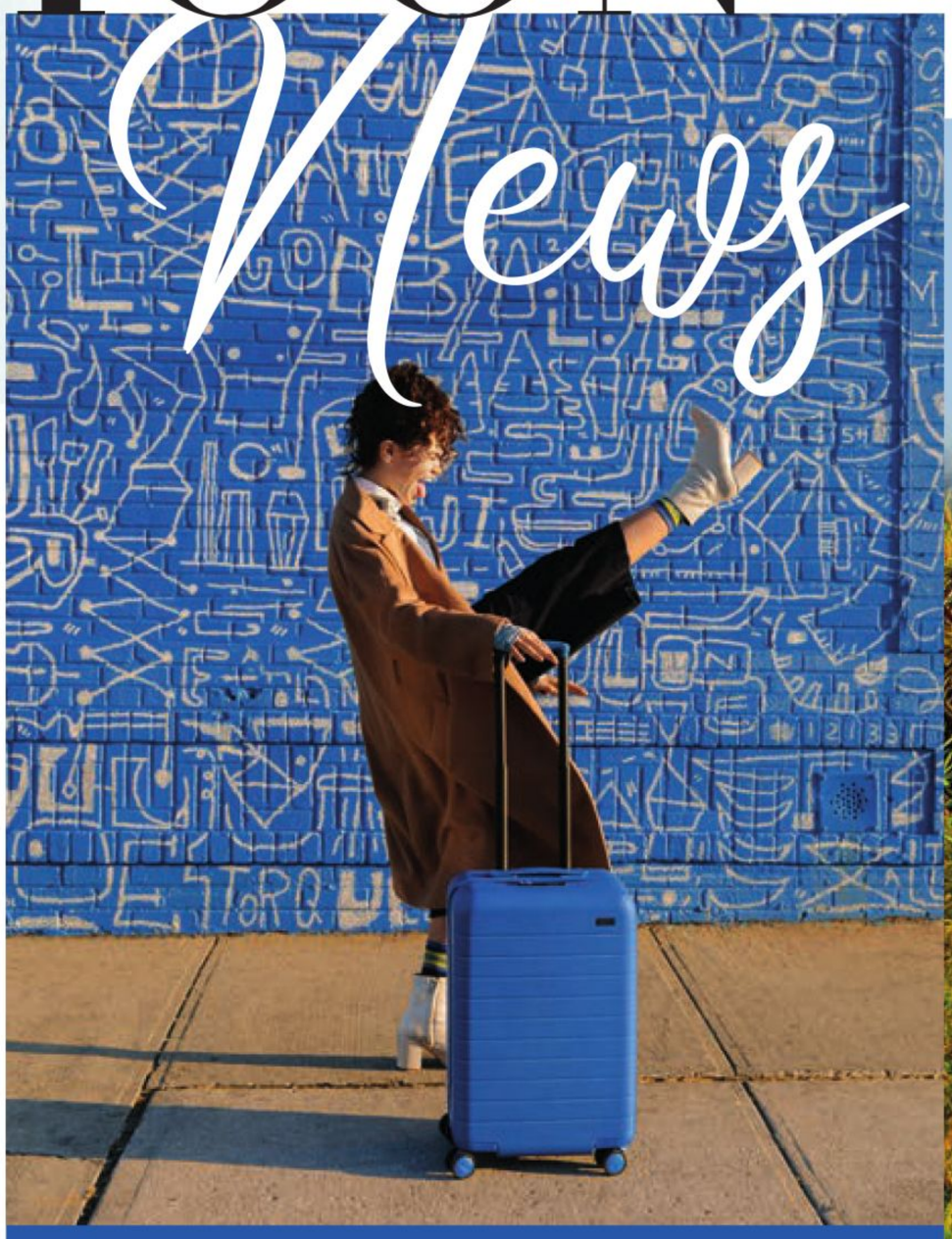
Travel editor Hannah Faulder reveals her top honeymoon destination picks and travel essentials

HOT HOTEL OPENING FOR 2020

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

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





News

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.

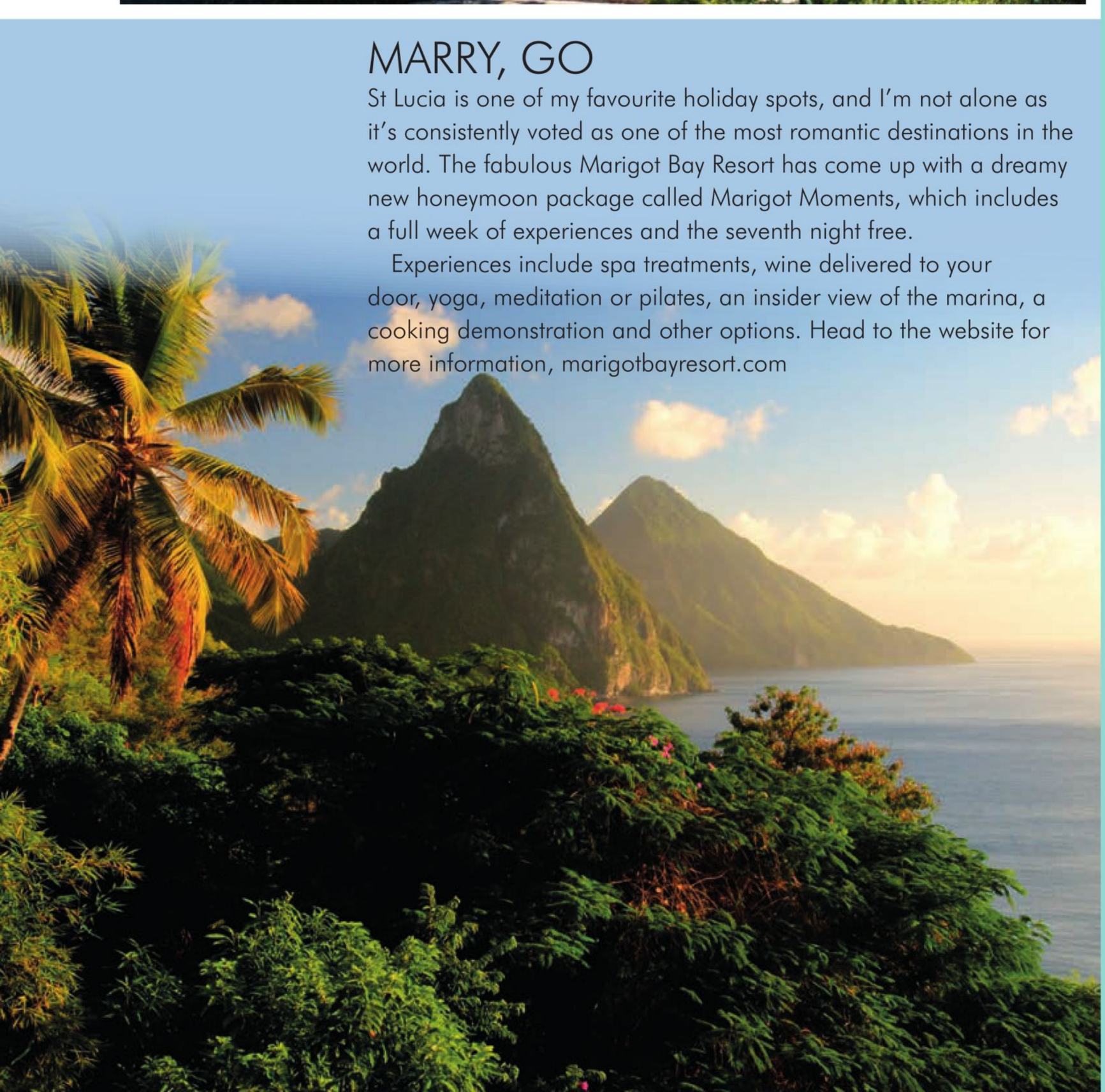
The property is dedicated to conserving its natural biodiversity and guests have the opportunity to become a part of the landscape that cultivates the exquisite produce found in its restaurants and wine cellar. To find out more, visit boschendal.com



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

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

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.

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

#horseriding on the #beach #meadsbay #belmondcapjuluca



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







#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 ♥

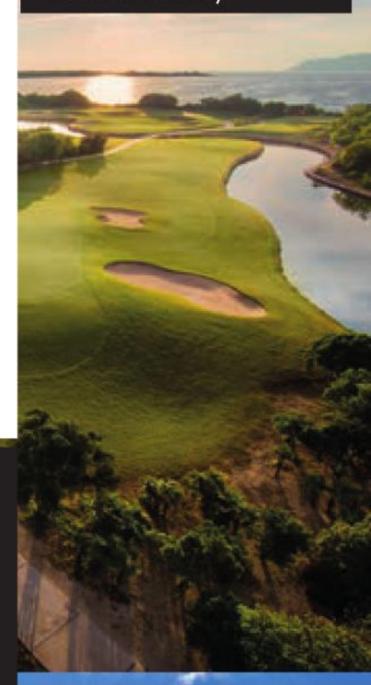


#freshseafood and a #romantic ambience at Café Celeste (above and below)





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





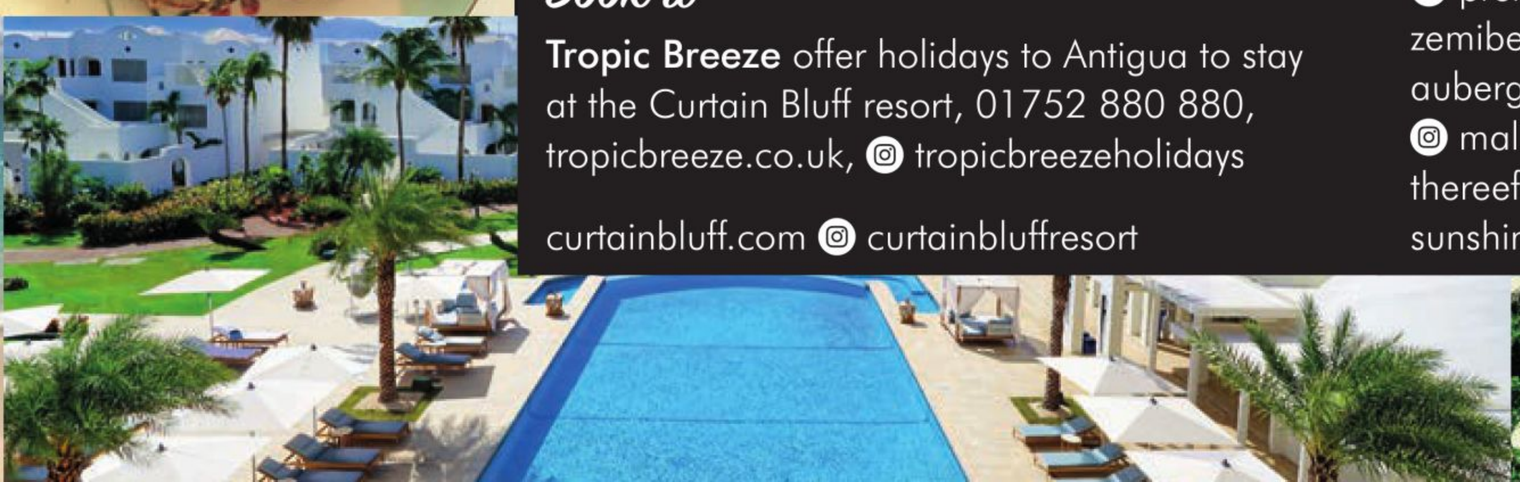
Book it

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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We've teamed up with Matthew Calvin to give County Wedding Magazine readers the chance to claim a pair of Allied Square Studs in sterling silver – worth £24 – when you take out a year's subscription.

These gorgeous Allied Square Studs, in sterling silver, gold and rose gold plate, use a special hand-finishing technique using different tools and hand-textured lines. These square studs are part of a tradition of the studio's pieces which are delicate enough to be layered up with other pieces from its collections, or will make an elegant statement piece by itself – perfect for your bridal look!

Matthew Calvin has become synonymous for contemporary jewellery design. Each piece is individually handmade to the highest standard with great attention to detail and finishing. All jewellery is complemented with clean and minimalist packaging that makes for the perfect gift for your bridal party!

Matthew Calvin also creates bespoke pieces, designed for his customers' most special life moments.

Visit matthewcalvin.com to view all the collections or to book a consultation for creating your own bespoke pieces.

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