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FEB/MAR 2020

ISSN 2049-4203

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## *Spring florals*

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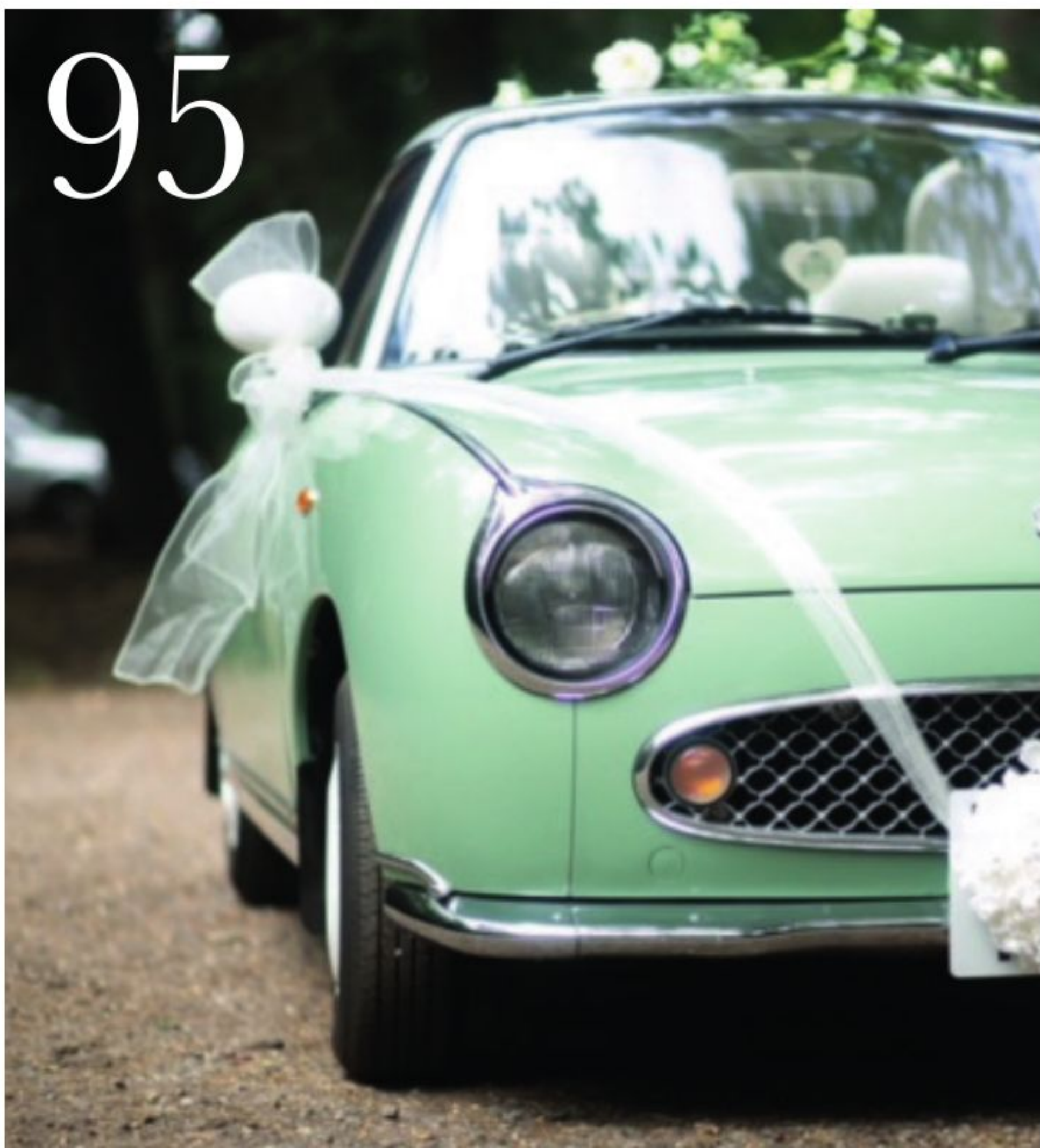
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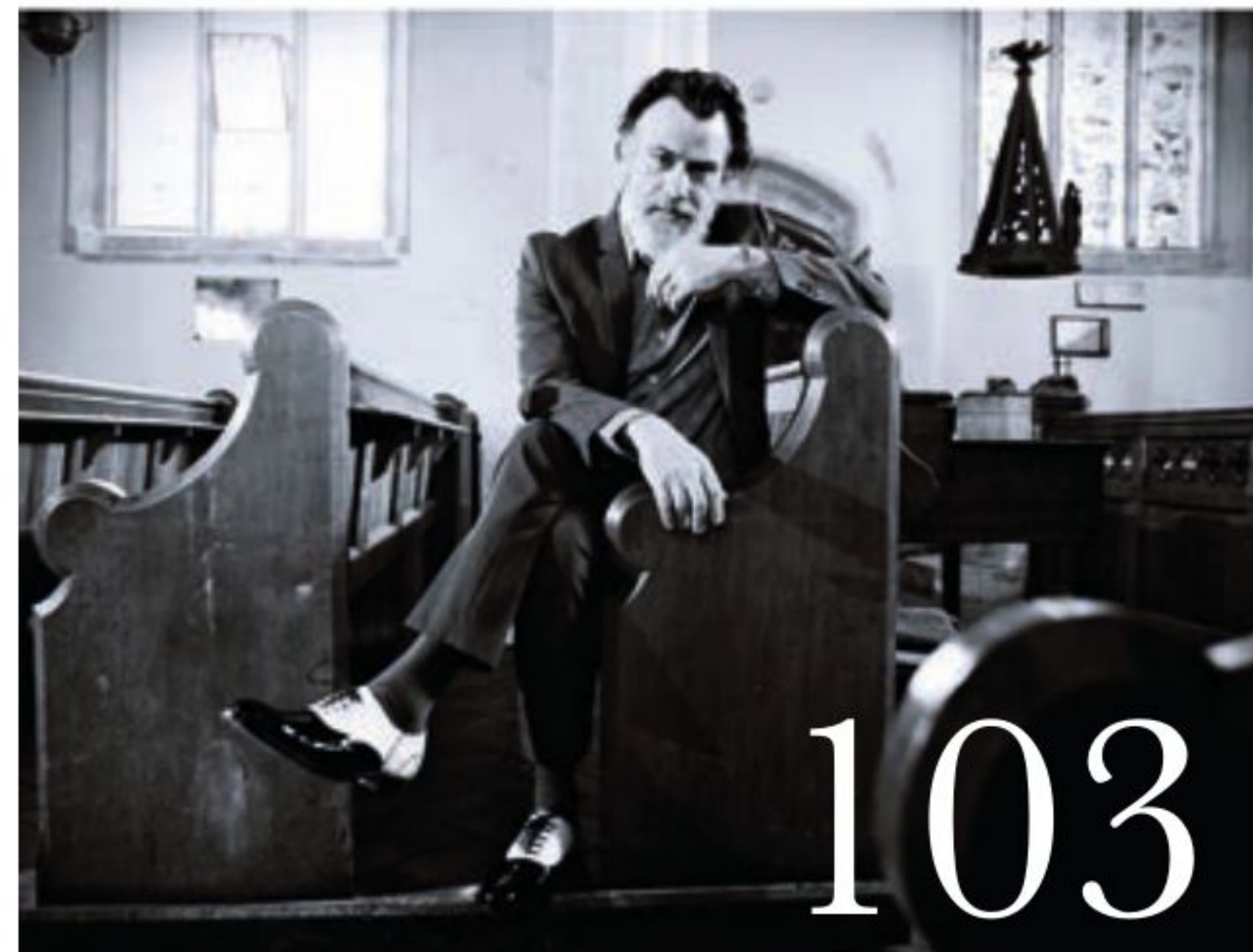
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C R A Z Y B E A R

*weddings*



Please contact us to discuss your ideas T: 01865 893967 E: [weddings@crazybeargroup.co.uk](mailto:weddings@crazybeargroup.co.uk)

[www.crazybeargroup.co.uk](http://www.crazybeargroup.co.uk)



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# All things new



Welcome to the first issue of *Your Berks Bucks and Oxon Wedding* in 2020!

Wow, where did the last 10 years go, and how exciting to start a new decade!

If you're tying the knot this year, what an exciting year to do it, and you're in for a treat following each issue of *Your Berks Bucks and Oxon Wedding* because it's packed to the brim full of local suppliers, from venues to photographers, cake designers to florists, all of our features, tips and inspiration is from the region.

What's more, Berkshire is home to our Signature Wedding Show at Ascot Racecourse, an event the County Wedding Magazine team loves to attend to meet with local professionals and also the couples visiting the show to hear all about their big-day plans.

If you're still in the throes of wedding planning then read on, as we're on hand to help; this issue we have a wedding transport feature to get your inspiration wheels turning, as well as a photography showcase of our favourite wedding images from last year – there's a couple of tear-jerkers in the mix so have your tissues at the ready!

We're also bursting with real wedding inspiration; from Eric and Lydia's *Harry Potter*-themed day to Kate and Gary's romantic do, Amy and Michael's nuptials at De Vere Latimer to Scott and Rhonda's perfect day – we hope you like them as much as we do.

Finally, if the search continues for the dream venue, we highlight properties in South Bucks and South Oxon and a pick of hotel venues that mean you can stay that extra night and turn your wedding day in to a wedding weekend!

Pull up a chair, make a brew and enjoy reading this issue

*Danielle x*

**Danielle Harvey, Managing editor**



If you need *Harry Potter*-theme inspiration you simply have to cast your eye on page 35, where Eric and Lydia executed it to perfection.



Our advice on page 86 is a must read for bridal beauty.



This image reminded me of a bygone era, classic Hollywood where movie stars oozed elegance. Taken by Oxford's David Bostock, see more of his work on page 63. Check out [davidbostockphotography.co.uk](http://davidbostockphotography.co.uk)

**WIN**

your honeymoon in Italy worth £1,500 on page 112.







We have some fab giveaways this issue over on page 13.

Check out 92 for tips and advice on planning your big day and the honeymoon!

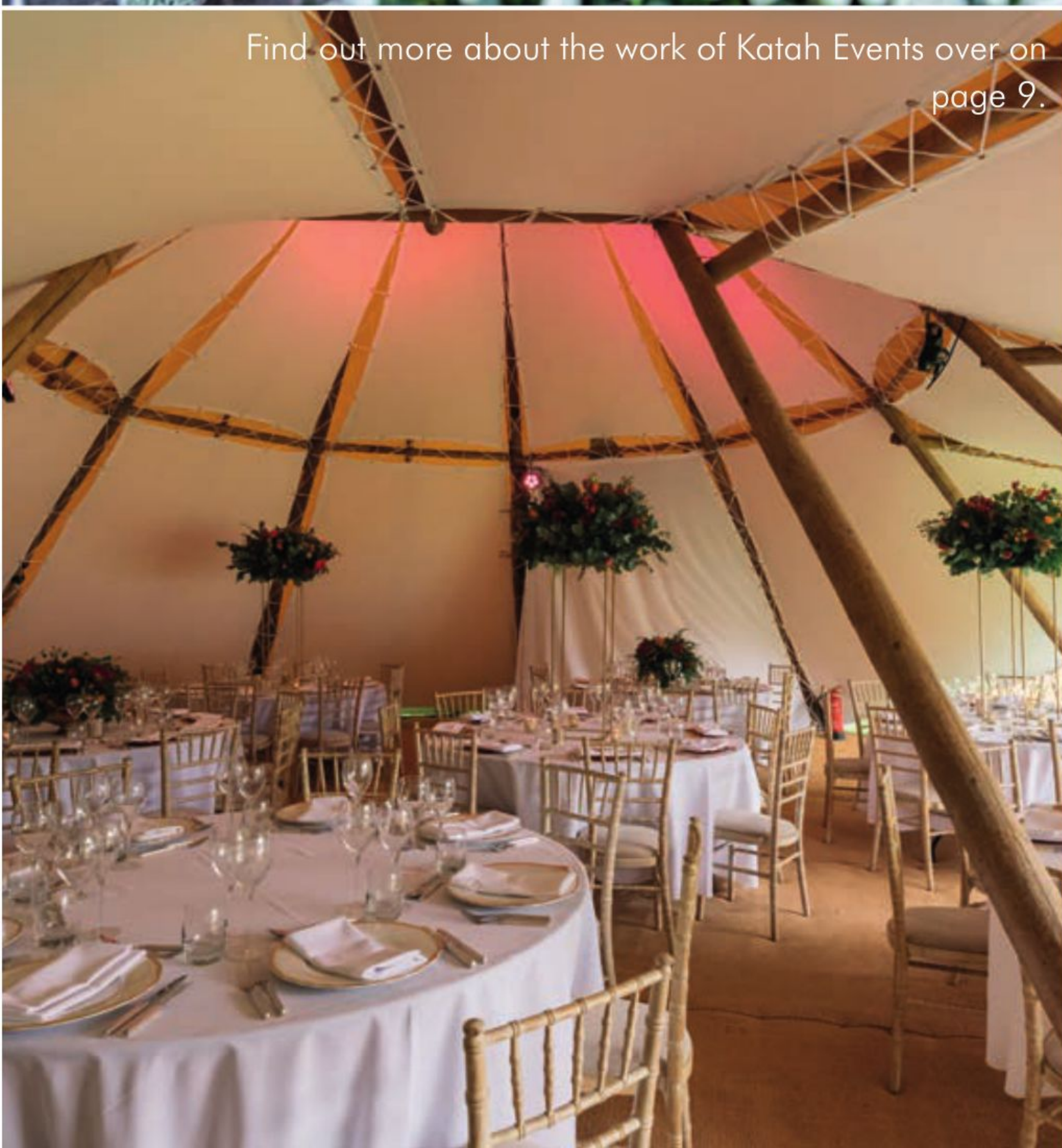
## EDITOR'S LETTER



Now this is how you do balloons! Check out more from Scott and Rhonda's wedding on page 42. Image by [brendanfosterphotography.com](http://brendanfosterphotography.com)



Heart-eye emoji! A great moment to capture on film by Stone Photos, ([stonephotos.com](http://stonephotos.com)), see more on page 63.



Find out more about the work of Katah Events over on page 9.



What a dreamy wedding setting, how tranquil by the water's edge? Read more about voco Oxford Thames Hotel on page 27.





# Wedding Fair

Sunday 29th March 2020

11am - 3pm



BRADFIELD COLLEGE

*Weddings*

Bradfield, Berkshire RG7 6AU

T: 0118 964 4570

[www.bradfieldweddings.co.uk](http://www.bradfieldweddings.co.uk)

email: [enterprises@bradfieldcollege.org.uk](mailto:enterprises@bradfieldcollege.org.uk)







## NEW BUSINESS VENTURE

High demand for a luxury photobooth experience enables premium photobooth brand to launch UK franchise model.

With discerning couples continually looking for something fun to entertain their guests The Best Photoboos are clearly doing something right. They came onto the photobooth scene four years ago with one aim – to be the best photobooth supplier in the UK.

With most people having experienced a photobooth at one time or another – we've all loved seeing the pictures from the night before however embarrassing they may have been – The Best Photoboos has taken this to another level offering a fun yet focused approach with dedicated 'Booth Butlers' attending events with only one prerequisite – to make the experience the very best it can be. High-end props, coupled with personalised guest books and a creative design service are always included and the booking process, with a personal yet professional touch couldn't be easier.

With the ever popular 'selfie' and social media world we live in The Best Photoboos has kept up with demand for its services by investing in an innovative Magic Mirror Photobooth. This has not only increased demand but has now enabled a franchise offering: The Best Magic Mirrors Franchise.

So, if you're looking for The Best Photobooth or Magic Mirror to capture the fun on your special day we suggest you give these guys a call or visit [thebestphotoboos.co.uk](http://thebestphotoboos.co.uk) | [thebestmagicmirrors.co.uk](http://thebestmagicmirrors.co.uk)

Alternatively, if you want to find out more regarding franchise opportunities visit [franchise-uk.co.uk/franchise/the-best-magic-mirrors/](http://franchise-uk.co.uk/franchise/the-best-magic-mirrors/)



## CAKES GALORE

Celebration Cakes by Catherine is offering couples the chance to view a variety of cake designs and favours as well as the opportunity to taste the company's full range of cake flavours at its Spring 2020 open day.

The event will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> April between 11am and 3pm in the design studio in Moulsoford; there will be more than 30 wedding cake designs on display and couples can take the opportunity to discuss their design ideas with dedicated staff. What's more, there will be special offers available for couples paying a date reservation deposit on the day!

Pop along to: Unit 1 The Byre, Greenlands Farm, Moulsoford, OX10 9JT.

Call 01491 873 332 or 0118 946 1112, email [info@catherines-cakes.co.uk](mailto:info@catherines-cakes.co.uk) or visit [catherines-cakes.co.uk](http://catherines-cakes.co.uk) for more information.



## OPEN DAY

On March 29<sup>th</sup> 2020, Bradfield College is hosting its wedding fair between 11am and 3pm for couples to view the venue and meet with a selection of professional suppliers.

Set in idyllic Berkshire countryside, Bradfield College is the perfect location for a quintessentially English wedding. Exclusively yours, it offers a range of beautiful rooms and spaces for your special day as well as an experienced team and wedding coordinator. Whether you want to treat

150 guests to an elaborate wedding breakfast, or want to keep things small and intimate the venue is licensed to hold ceremonies from 40 to 150 guests from a choice of three beautiful rooms; the Dining Hall, the Warden's Room and the Linnell Room.

With pride in offering a fantastic service, exemplary culinary choices and stunning surroundings, the venue is also conveniently situated between Reading and Newbury and located from main transport links.

Check out [bradfieldcollege.org.uk](http://bradfieldcollege.org.uk)





zakichartphotography.com

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Oxford's Katah Events has updated and expanded its range of furniture on offer, as well as introducing new sizes of tents, Sonya Carassik Raty adds, "We have smaller tipis which are perfect for bars or reception areas, and have also added to our range of solid wood bars and now have a circular option perfect for couples planning their big day." Drawing upon vast expert knowledge, Katah Events provides on-site services for most aspects of outdoor events; from supplying power generators to providing live music and DJs, Katah Events offer a complete service based around luxurious giant tipis.

"Nothing gives us more pleasure than satisfied customers; our clients and their guests enjoying themselves in a fabulous environment; the thing that really sets us apart from the competition are our tent linings and interiors which make our set up really luxurious and customisable. We hope to share our passion with you and help to create a wonderful event. We're not just another tent-structure company. We don't believe the job finishes once our tipis are erected. From start to finish our team are on hand to offer support and ensure your event meets the high standards we're known for delivering."

Call 07912 446 810 or visit [katahevents.org](http://katahevents.org)



## NEW VENUE, NEW FAIR

With 2020 seeing the continuing trend for barn-style weddings, discovering a venue which is relatively new to the wedding scene is a rarity. Stanlake Park is a bit of a hidden gem, not only is it an exclusive-use barn wedding venue it is also set within the grounds of Berkshire's largest wine estate and vineyard in Twyford.

The Coach House and Vineyard Barn, at Stanlake Park, will be opening its doors to a variety of wedding suppliers hand-picked for



## THE COUNTDOWN IS ON...

We live and breathe weddings at CWM towers, so we can't wait for our Signature Wedding Show at Ascot Racecourse on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2020! If you've never been to an event like this before, we've put together some top tips to help you get the most from it:

- ♥ **Narrow down.** Before the show, have a chat with your partner to decide a few key factors about your wedding. This will help when talking to suppliers.
- ♥ **Comfort.** You'll be on your feet all day; wear comfy flats and pop some blister plasters in your bag.
- ♥ **Set up a wedding email address.** This way you can keep everything in one place, and it makes it much easier to refer back to suppliers' emails.
- ♥ **The entourage.** Decide who you'll take with you – will it be our partner, or would you prefer to have a day with the girls or your mum?
- ♥ **Homework.** Make a checklist of the type of suppliers you're looking for on the day.
- ♥ **Get social.** Follow the event organiser and some of the exhibitors on social media. This way you'll be first to know of any show offers.
- ♥ **Book.** If you love something, book it – but don't ever feel pressurised into doing so if you're not 100 per cent sure.
- ♥ **Get organised.** Take a diary with you so you can make appointments, and make sure you keep any literature you receive in a folder.

Our shows are free to attend, just pre-register online to save time on the day and to be entered into our prize draw to win a £250 SpaBreaks.com voucher! Head to [countyweddingevents.com](http://countyweddingevents.com)

inspiration when it has its first wedding fair on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Wander the grounds and enjoy the stunning surroundings of the courtyard, the walled garden, the vineyard, the lawns and even visit the wine shop!

If you feel inspired at the idea of an English vineyard wedding and you get the feeling that this is the venue for your wedding do request a show round. The dedicated Heritage Events and Catering Team will be at hand to show you around and discuss all your wedding day plans.

For more details visit [berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk](http://berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk)

*Psst!* Keep your eyes peeled for the new designs from The Cotswold Tailor!

Alexander Edwards, managing director at The Cotswold Tailor, says, "We're currently designing our own label wool/linen blend summer weight hire suit. A lot of our clients are worried about over heating on their big day during the summer months. This new lightweight suit will be perfect for grooms looking for a breathable suit that hangs well and doesn't crease. The best bit is we will offer them for hire so grooms don't need to spend thousands buying them for their ushers too!"

Pop along to 21B Oxford Street, Woodstock, OX20 1TH or call 01993 358 284.



You are invited to attend ... ..

## Our Spring 2020 Bespoke Wedding Fairs

Hosted by



Visitor entry and parking free.  
Different Suppliers at each show.  
11am - 3pm  
Except our Multi-Cultural fair  
11am - 4pm.  
Fashion Show at some venues, please  
check website for details.

### Sunday 2nd February

\*Multi-Cultural Wedding  
Fair showcasing British,  
Asian, Afro-Caribbean and  
Jewish communities

**De Vere Wokefield  
Estate Multi-Cultural  
Wedding Fair**  
Goodboys Lane,  
Reading RG7 3AE

### Sunday 9th February

\*Award Winning Wedding  
Barn Venue

**Lillibroke Manor**  
Ockwells Rd,  
Maidenhead SL6 3LP

### Sunday 23rd February

\*Unique Alpine Styled  
Venue

**Coppid Beech Hotel**  
John Nike Way,  
Bracknell RG12 8TF

### Sunday 1st March

\*Beautiful 4 Star Luxury  
Hotel with Spa

**Fredrick's Hotel**  
Shoppenhangers Rd,  
Berkshire SL6 2PZ

### Sunday 26th April

\*A Beautifully Restored,  
Grade-II Listed, 18th  
Century Barn

**Stanlake Park Vineyard  
Weddings**  
Waltham Rd, Twyford  
RG10 0BN

[www.berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk](http://www.berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk) | [info@berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk](mailto:info@berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk)

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and our formal hire suits have been designed exclusively for  
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To find out more please contact us on:

**[www.thecotswoldtailor.com](http://www.thecotswoldtailor.com)**

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01628 496 820  
events@cpmarlow.co.uk  
www.cpmarlow.co.uk



## Wedding Show dates for your diary

### Aylesbury Wedding Show

Aylesbury Gateway, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF

**Sunday 26th January**

11am – 3pm

### Milton Keynes Wedding Show

Middleton Hall, centre:mk  
Milton Keynes, MK9 3AQ

**THE BIG ONE:**

**7th – 9th February**

### Milton Keynes Wedding Show

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, MK1 1ST

**Sunday 1st March**

11am – 4pm

### Milton Keynes Wedding Show

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, MK1 1ST

**Sunday 5th July**

11am – 4pm

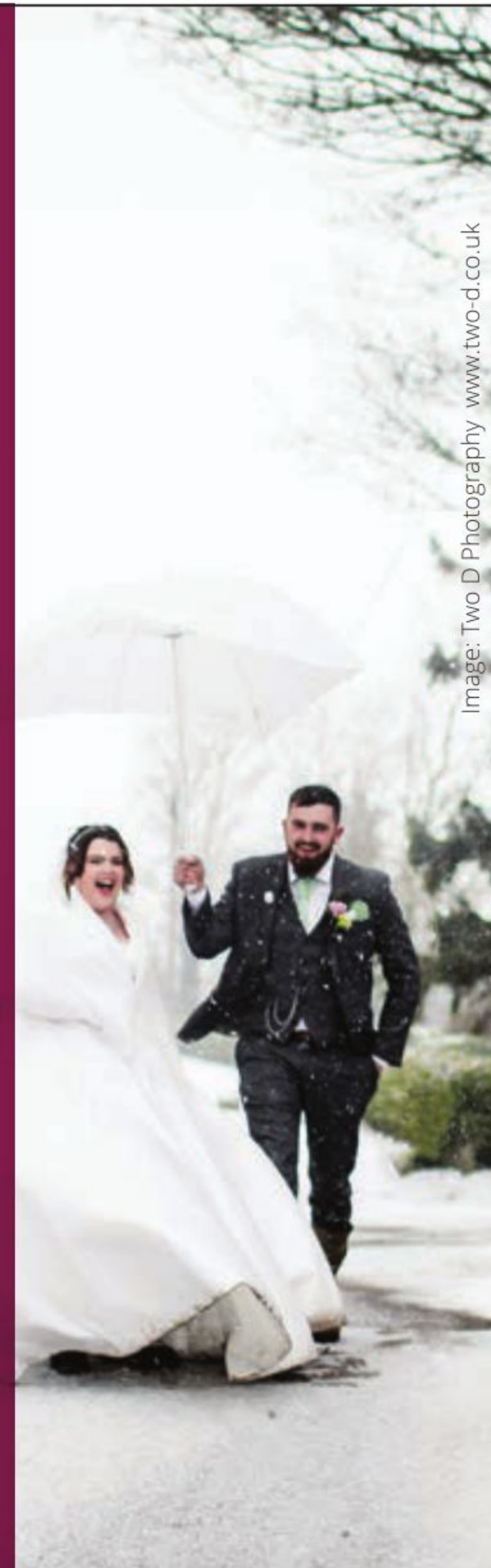


Image: Two D Photography www.two-d.co.uk



Visit the website:

[www.centralexhibitions.co.uk](http://www.centralexhibitions.co.uk)

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# Freebies & OFFERS

Take advantage of these gorgeous giveaways and fab offers

## MORE TEA PLEASE

The Laura Ashley Tea Room at Berkshire's Burnham Beeches Hotel, is exquisitely furnished, the embodiment of Laura Ashley's stylish and elegant design — creating a traditional atmosphere for this delightful pastime! Guests can expect afternoon tea favourites such as finger sandwiches, delicious scones and irresistible cakes and pastries.

Your Berks Bucks & Oxon Wedding has teamed up with Laura Ashley Tea Room at the Burnham Beeches Hotel to benefit our readers with this great Bridal Shower offer: every Bridal Shower afternoon tea booking for more than 15 people receive free private room hire and a free upgrade to prosecco afternoon tea at the Laura Ashley Tea Room at the Burnham Beeches Hotel.

For your chance to claim this offer, please enter the discount code 'LABRIDETOBE' at check out [lauraashleythetearoom.com](http://lauraashleythetearoom.com)



In the modern world, it's hard to buy someone a gift no-one else will be able to. So why not try an experience that can't be replicated – a night at the theatre. But how does someone give that gift while making sure it's the right show and right time for the recipient? That's where Theatre Tokens come in.

Theatre Tokens are unique gift vouchers that can be used at over 260 theatres across the country. This means the giftee can see plays, musicals, opera and dance at home or on a trip away. Best of all, Theatre Tokens have no expiry date so there's no pressure to choose right away, meaning the

recipient can wait for their dream show. Theatre Tokens Gift Cards and eGifts can be bought and topped up on [theatretokens.com](http://theatretokens.com)

County Wedding Magazines has teamed up with Theatre Tokens to offer readers the chance to win a £50 gift card. For your chance to win enter via our website.

What's more, we also have a wonderful discount for readers: 10% off Theatre Tokens. To get 10% off, order a Gift Card, an eGift or a Top Up before midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and quote COUNTYWEDDING online at [theatretokens.com](http://theatretokens.com)



ENTER ONLINE AT [YOURBERKSBUCKSOXON.WEDDING](http://YOURBERKSBUCKSOXON.WEDDING)

Closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020, unless otherwise stated.



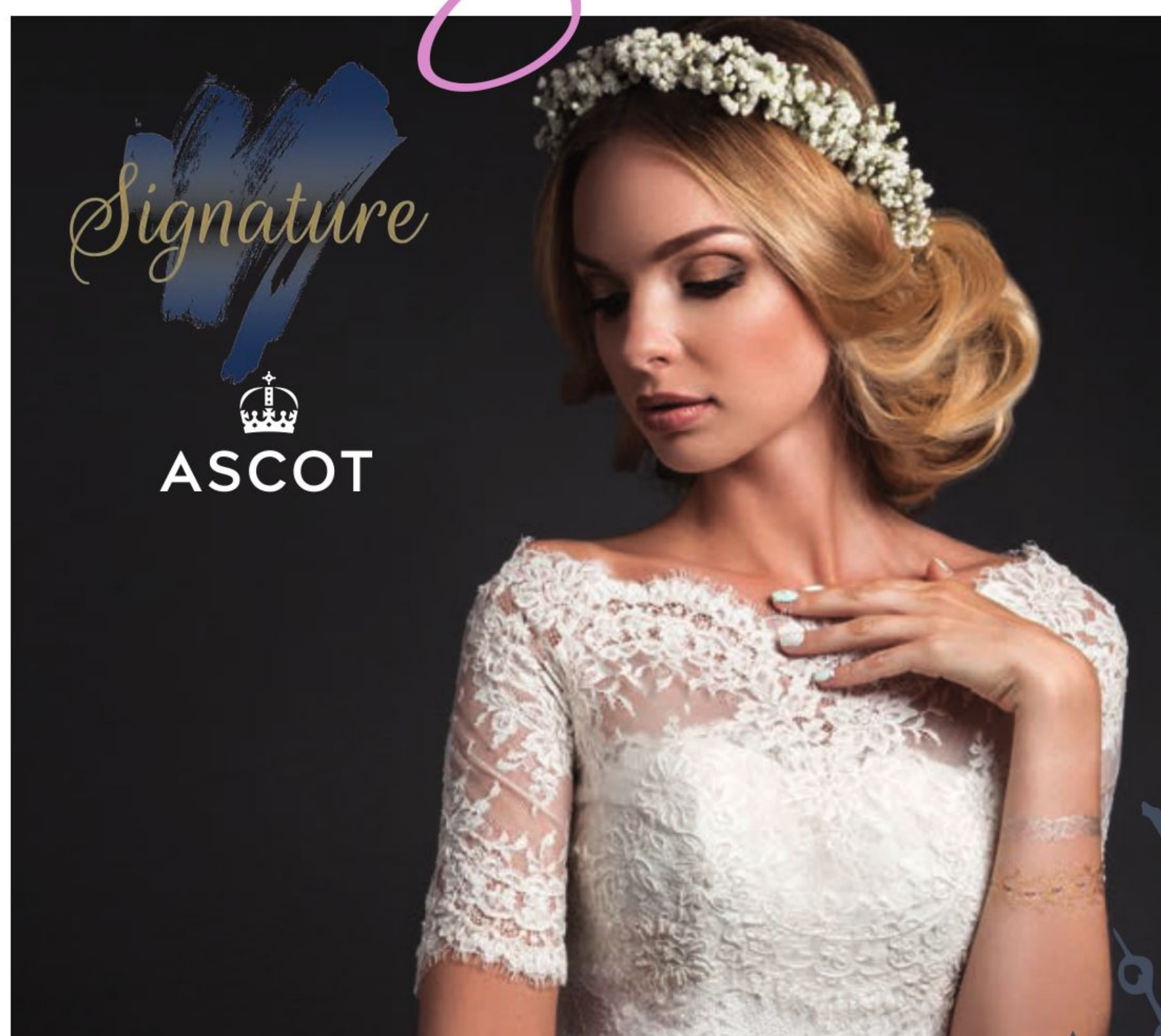


# Wedding Shows

At County Wedding Events our aim is to help you find the perfect venue and suppliers for your wedding day.

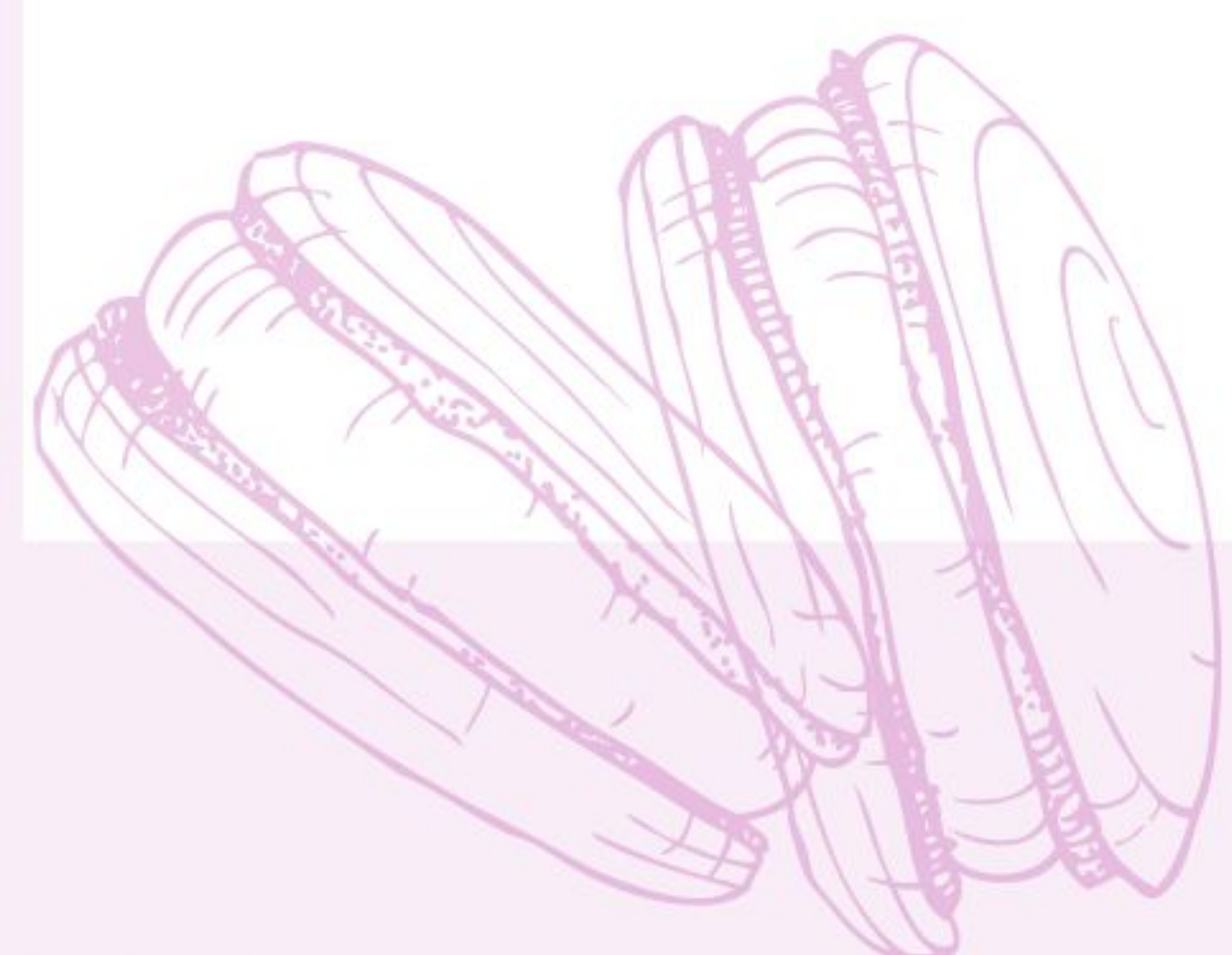
Each wedding show is hosted by a stunning venue and attended by a wide variety of quality exhibitors ready to offer help and advice in planning your day. All our events offer **free entry**, a complimentary **goody bag** with our latest **glossy magazine** as well as the opportunity to enter prize draw **competitions** and take advantage of **exclusive offers** and **discounts** on the day.

Our Signature events are held at prestigious exhibition venues and you can expect to see up to 200 wedding specialists exhibiting on the day. They are **the ultimate wedding shopping experience** and include fashion shows, demonstrations, entertainment, exclusive offers, competitions and much more!

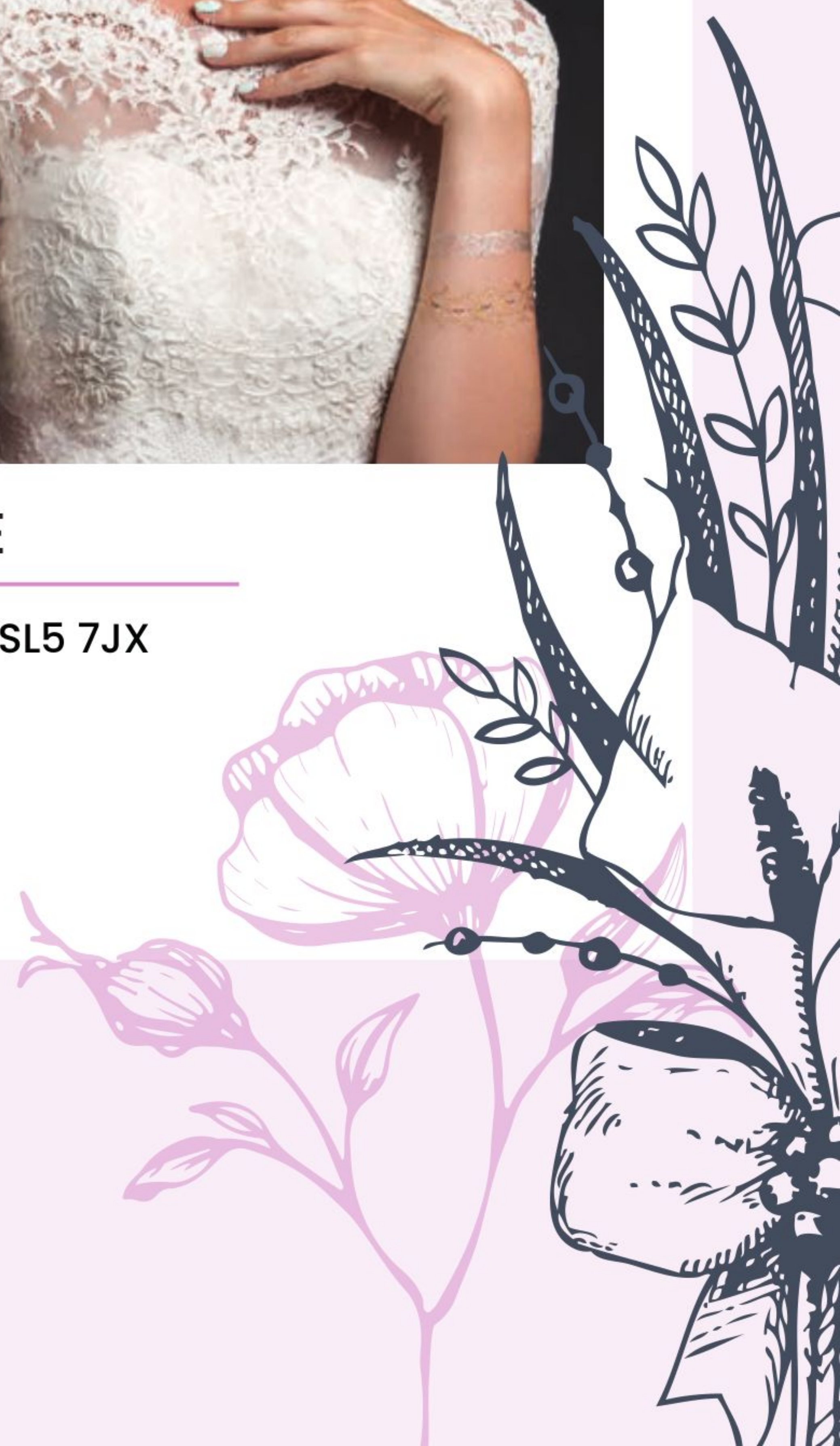


## ASCOT RACECOURSE

High Street, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7JX  
SUN 8 MAR | 11AM - 4PM



Follow us on social media





# Spring Shows

ALL EVENTS 11AM – 3PM  
unless otherwise stated



## BERKS, BUCKS & OXON

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



## SURREY

CLOCK BARN HALL  
Hambledon Road,  
Godalming GU8 4AY  
SUN 29 MAR



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



## LONDON

DOUBLE TREE HILTON  
HOTEL AT EALING,  
London W5 3HN  
SUN 9 FEB



COLVILLE HALL  
Chelmsford Road,  
White Roding CM6 1RQ  
SUN 19 APR



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



## SUSSEX

GHYLL MANOR  
High Street,  
Horsham RH12 4PX  
SUN 9 FEB



## KENT

TUDOR PARK  
Ashford Road,  
Maidstone ME14 4NQ  
SUN 1 MAR



MICHELHAM PRIORY  
Michelham Priory,  
Hailsham BN27 3QS  
SUN 23 FEB



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



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



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



STANMER HOUSE  
Stanmer Park Road,  
Brighton BN1 9QA  
SUN 19 APR



## HERTS & BEDS

THE BARN AT ALSWICK  
Hare Street Road,  
Buntingford SA9 0AA  
SUN 5 APR (12 – 4PM)



## EAST ANGLIA

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



## ESSEX

GREENWOODS  
HOTEL & SPA,  
Ingatestone, CM4 9BE  
SUN 23 FEB



BRESSINGHAM HALL  
& HIGH BARN,  
Norfolk, IP22 2AA  
SUN 19 APR

Pre-register at [countyweddingevents.com/registration.cfm](https://countyweddingevents.com/registration.cfm)



# Signature Wedding Shows

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As part of KD Events and Publishing Ltd, County Wedding Events (CWE) is ideally placed to offer you a wealth of experience organising events in the wedding industry.

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](mailto:info@countyweddingevents.com), call 01376 514000 or visit [countyweddingevents.com](https://countyweddingevents.com).



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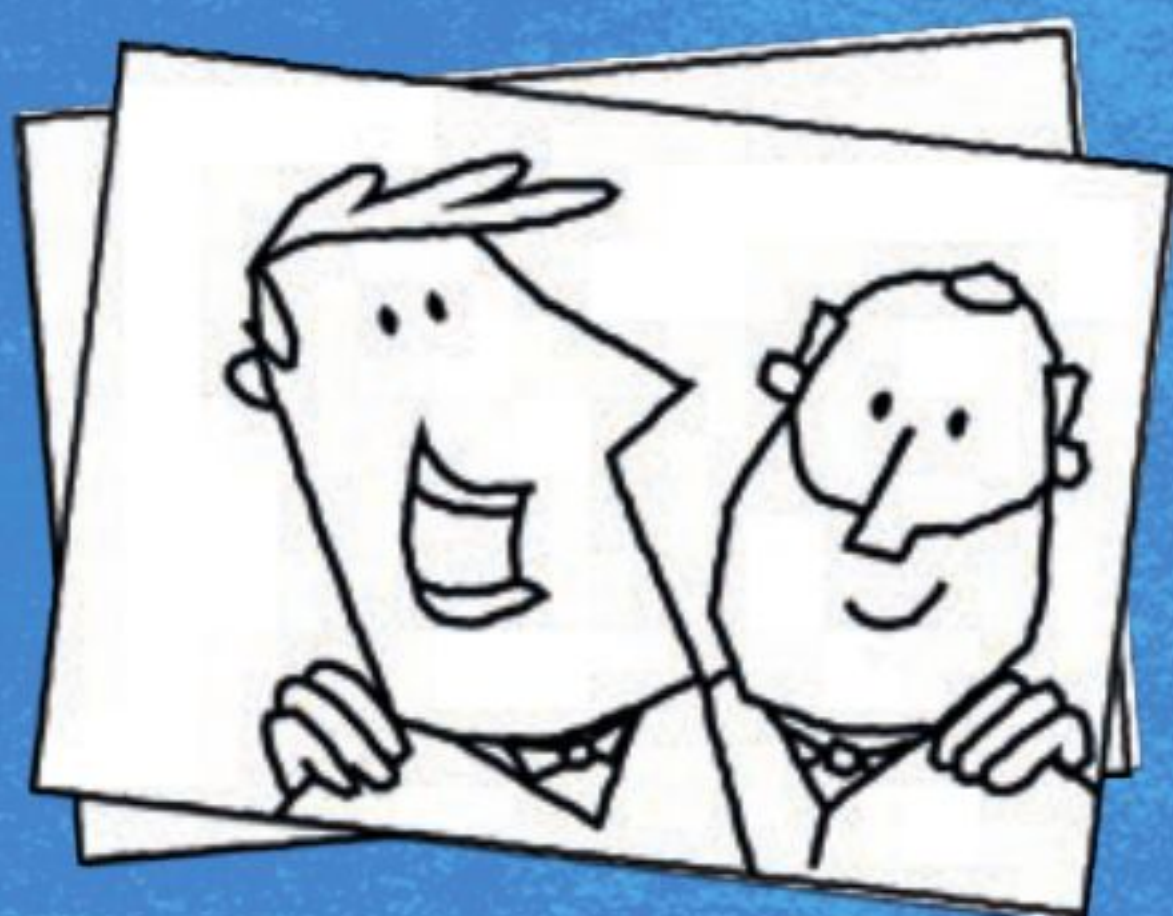
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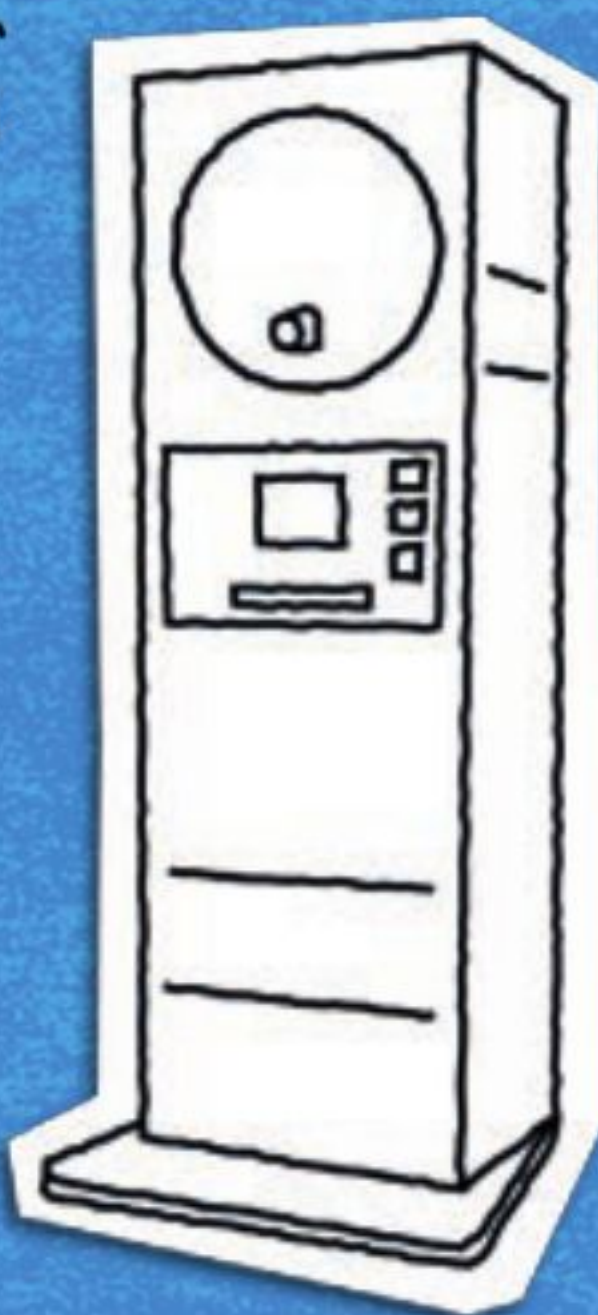


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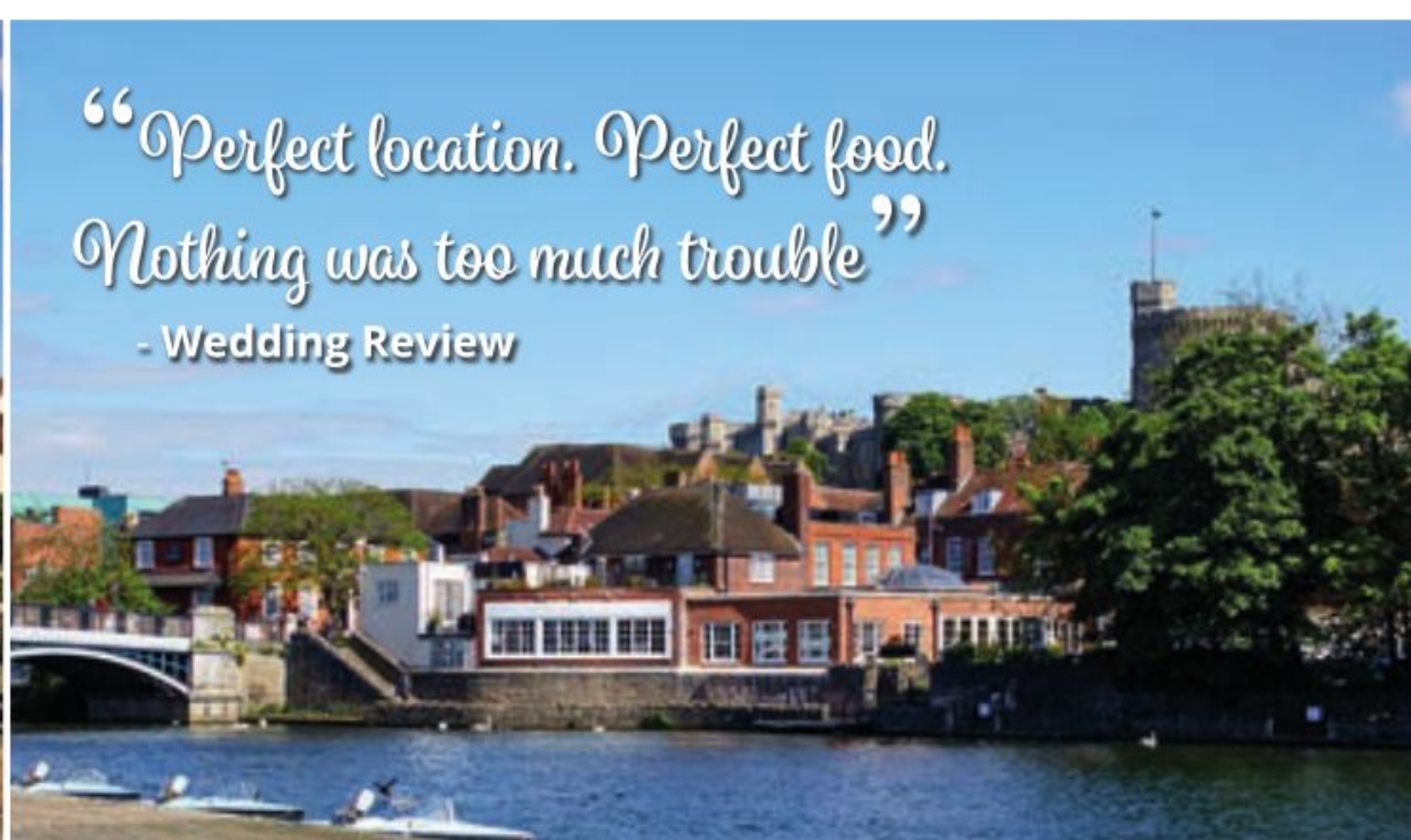




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01753 307 550 | [sirchristopherwren.co.uk](http://sirchristopherwren.co.uk)

Located on a charming cobbled street under the ramparts of Windsor Castle, the historic Sir Christopher Wren Hotel & Spa boasts a beautifully romantic setting. Just steps from Eton Bridge and overlooking the River Thames, the surrounding areas make the perfect place for wedding photographs. The Riverside Terrace is exquisitely decorated with greenery and flowers, making a stunning backdrop for a waterside wedding and drinks receptions — offering stunning views across the river.

Sir Christopher Wren Hotel & Spa offers three event suites licensed for

wedding ceremonies: The Princess Suite is the largest, with space for up to 110 guests day and night, boasting large windows overlooking the River Thames and a private bar is available for receptions.

Windsor Lounge is a new event space, recently refurbished with modern décor for 50 guests to watch the vows.

With deep red chairs and curtains, the Sienna Room is an atmospheric spot for an intimate ceremony of 18 or for a private wedding dinner of 12.

Alternatively, al fresco nuptials can take place on the Riverside Terrace, so you can say 'I do' overlooking the River

Thames and Eton Bridge with 50 guests.

Last, but by no means least, The Brasserie: a semi-private space located within The Brasserie at Sir Christopher Wren with a large glass ceiling dome, modern décor and direct access to the Riverside Terrace; it can host 36 guests for the wedding breakfast.

Sir Christopher Wren Hotel & Spa is also home to Wren's Club, a private gym and day spa offering various beauty treatments; perfect for some pre-wedding pampering. All wedding packages include one night free accommodation for the bride and groom!



*Pssst! The grand entrance is sure to impress guests as they arrive and is picture-perfect for photographs. There is also a private jetty which can be used for wedding parties to take a boat trip along the river.*





## MINSTER MILL

01993 774 441 | [minstermill.co.uk](http://minstermill.co.uk)

Minster Mill is set in the heart of the quintessential village of Minster Lovell in 65 magical acres on the banks of the River Windrush. You'll find an enchanting blend of romantic riverside gardens, luxuriant wildflower meadows and peaceful woodland.

Elegant, timeless and unique, Minster Mill is a charming mix of honey-coloured Cotswold stone buildings barely a hundred years old, but it is built on the foundations of a thousand-year-old mill that was documented in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Minster Mill's wonderfully atmospheric spaces feature exposed Cotswold stonework, high ceilings, original wooden beams and magnificent views across the scenic

hotel gardens and the peaceful Cotswold countryside beyond. Each one of Minster Mill's 38 guest rooms is dressed in a sleek, streamlined Scandi-style with contemporary fittings, mid-century furniture and sumptuous bathrooms.

Newly refurbished and remodelled, the Malthouse is an enchanting self-contained building for ceremonies with stunning views of the River Windrush and the peaceful woodland beyond, the Malthouse also leads directly outside on to a private terrace and garden and can host up to 80 loved ones. Post-vows, The Malthouse hosts up to 190 for evening receptions.

In the warmer months, exchange vows in the picture-perfect outdoor Garden Temple framed by weeping willows and creeping

roses in the centre of incredible gardens, enjoyed with up to 100 guests.

A bright and beautiful space with exposed Cotswold stonework, high ceilings and magnificent views across the river meadow The Barn host up to 60, which The Oak is perfect for an intimate do of 30.

The Garden Spa is a tranquil haven in the heart of Minster Mill's beautiful grounds. The indoor heated plunge pool is beautiful and intimate, with a poolside rock sauna, aroma steam room, ice fountain and tropical rain forest showers completing the picture. Relax, unwind and indulge with a selection of super-soothing ESPA spa treatments.

Couples taking the Exclusive Use package can enjoy a complimentary menu tasting with wine.



*Pssst! When booking this big-day venue couples also benefit from 46 executive hotel rooms decorated to an exquisite standard, with four luxurious suites, all on-site including and a free menu tasting before the big day!*

## THE OXFORDSHIRE

01844 277 659 | [theoxfordshire.com](http://theoxfordshire.com)

Set in the picturesque Oxfordshire countryside, the hotel is the ideal place for beautiful pictures; landscaped grounds offer a romantic setting apparent from the moment you drive up the tree-lined driveway to the magnificent stone pillared entrance of The Oxfordshire.

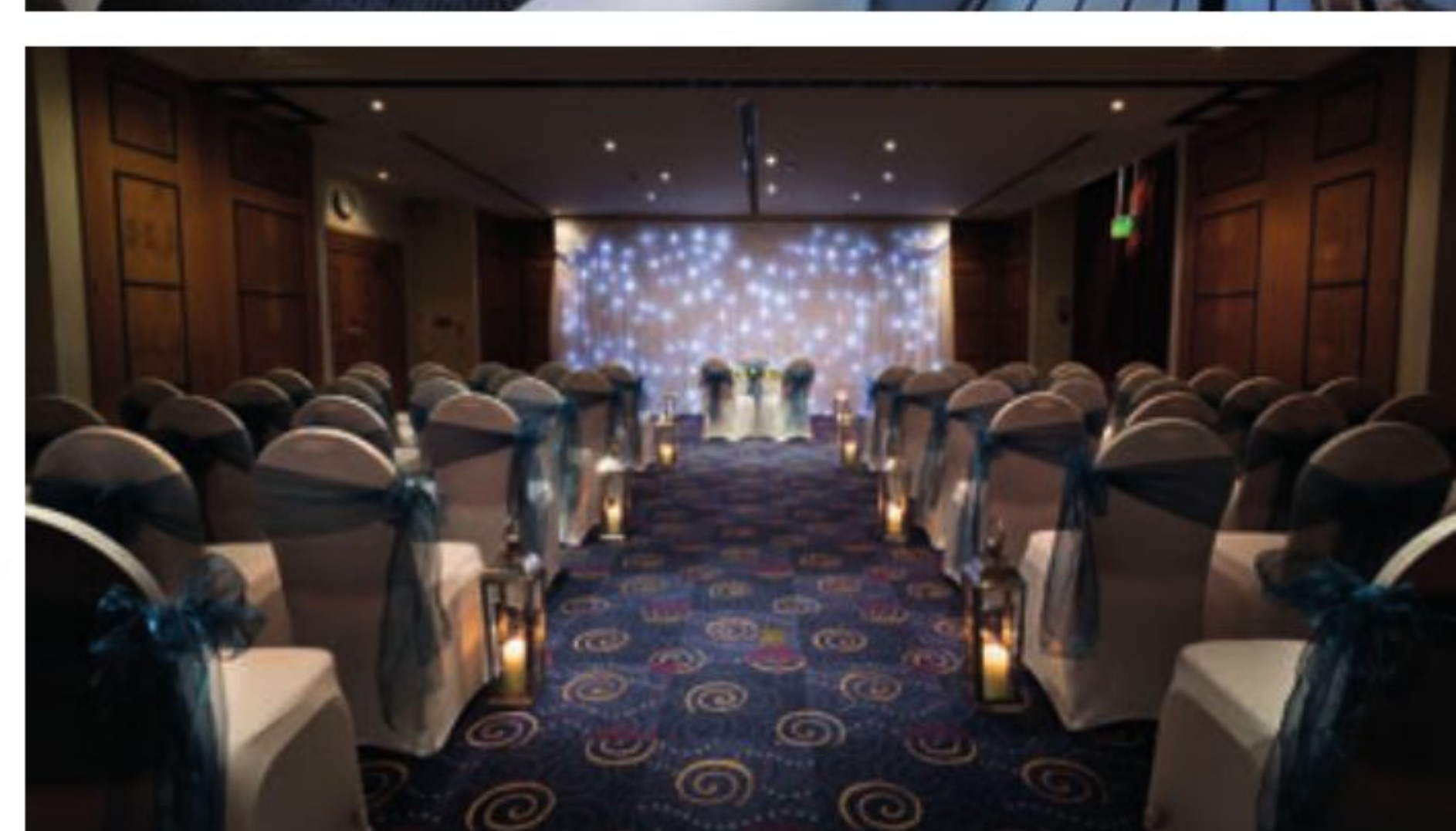
The balcony and patio areas give your guests a great view of its famous championship golf course and surroundings.

The balcony area also provides a great opportunity for the tossing of the bouquet or to watch a potential firework display.

The grand marble entrance welcomes all guests before they enter one of the intimate ceremony rooms. The changeable function rooms, with panoramic views, have an elegant modern design and the hotel rooms owing to a contemporary interpretation of a traditional English country house.

Couples can host their ceremony and reception in The Oxford Suite for 80 and 50 guests respectively, and The Fairways Suite for 100 and 80 respectively; the latter is a more traditional space.

Alternative spaces for after the nuptials is The Oaks Suite, offering panoramic views of the countryside, for up to 110 people, and The Fairway & Oaks Suite joined together to accommodate 200.





# Minster *Mill*

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Treat Minster Mill as your very own private country retreat for your exclusive use wedding, including all 38 luxurious rooms and suites. Or enjoy the tranquil atmosphere for an unforgettable day wedding celebration with up to 190 guests.



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## VOCO OXFORD THAMES HOTEL

01865 334 444 | [oxfordthames.vocohotels.com](http://oxfordthames.vocohotels.com)

As you approach the hotel, the sweeping tree-lined driveway opens up to reveal the beautiful Cotswolds stone buildings, which surround the Medieval barns and the Grade II listed, 15<sup>th</sup>-century manor house. Nestled within 30 acres of grounds, this charming hotel sits on the bank of the River Thames, providing the most picture-perfect setting.

With a history dating back to the Middle Ages, it was originally headquarters of the Knights Templar, the house and its lands have been owned by notable religious figures, lords, and even kings throughout the centuries.

For vows, couples can choose to make

the most of the idyllic River Thames location with an outdoor ceremony at the Riverside Gazebo for up to 200 guests.

A magical setting for more intimate ceremonies of 30, take to the water and say your vows aboard the St. John's College Barge. As the dappled light filters through the trees to the pretty boat below, you'll know this is a wedding day unlike any other. Not only can this be used for ceremonies, it is the perfect backdrop for photos.

The Little Barn, boasting 15<sup>th</sup>-century charm can host ceremonies and receptions of up to 100 and features rustic exposed brickwork and wooden beams.

The wonderful Oxford Suite (200) is flooded with daylight, with views of the meadows and access to its own private outdoor terrace. The Conservatory is the perfect balance of rustic and contemporary with its exposed brick walls, glass-top roof and white beams.

For a little extra space you can hire the Little Barn or the River Room, which are adjacent to The Conservatory and allows for direct outside access. When tying the knot here couples will benefit from a complimentary menu tasting, use of the honeymoon suite on the wedding night and a toastmaster is included in packages.



## VILLIERS HOTEL

01280 822 444 | [villiers-hotel.co.uk](http://villiers-hotel.co.uk)

Located in the beautiful Medieval town of Buckingham, Villiers is a magnificent four-star hotel steeped in history. An elegant house built in the early 1500s, which still retains its ancient cobbled courtyard, it offers a rare balance of relaxed comfort, informal surroundings and impeccable service.

The grand entrance hall and staircase will

wow guests on their arrival before entering the historic Ballroom where ceremonies and receptions take place with up to 180 guests for the ceremony and wedding breakfast and up to 200 loved ones for the evening do – what's more it's exclusive-use! The gracious ballroom boasts Austrian crystal chandeliers, air-conditioning and natural daylight. Couples can relax in the

knowledge that guests will enjoy a banquet prepared by some of the most accomplished chefs in Buckinghamshire with an AA Rosette for Food Excellence – there's a complimentary menu tasting for the couple!

When choosing this big-day venue, couples will enjoy a complimentary one-night stay in a newly refurbished suite on the night of their wedding.

*Pssst! It's the only licensed wedding venue in Buckingham Town Centre offering an unrivalled personal experience, where you will see four-star hospitality set within historic buildings.*





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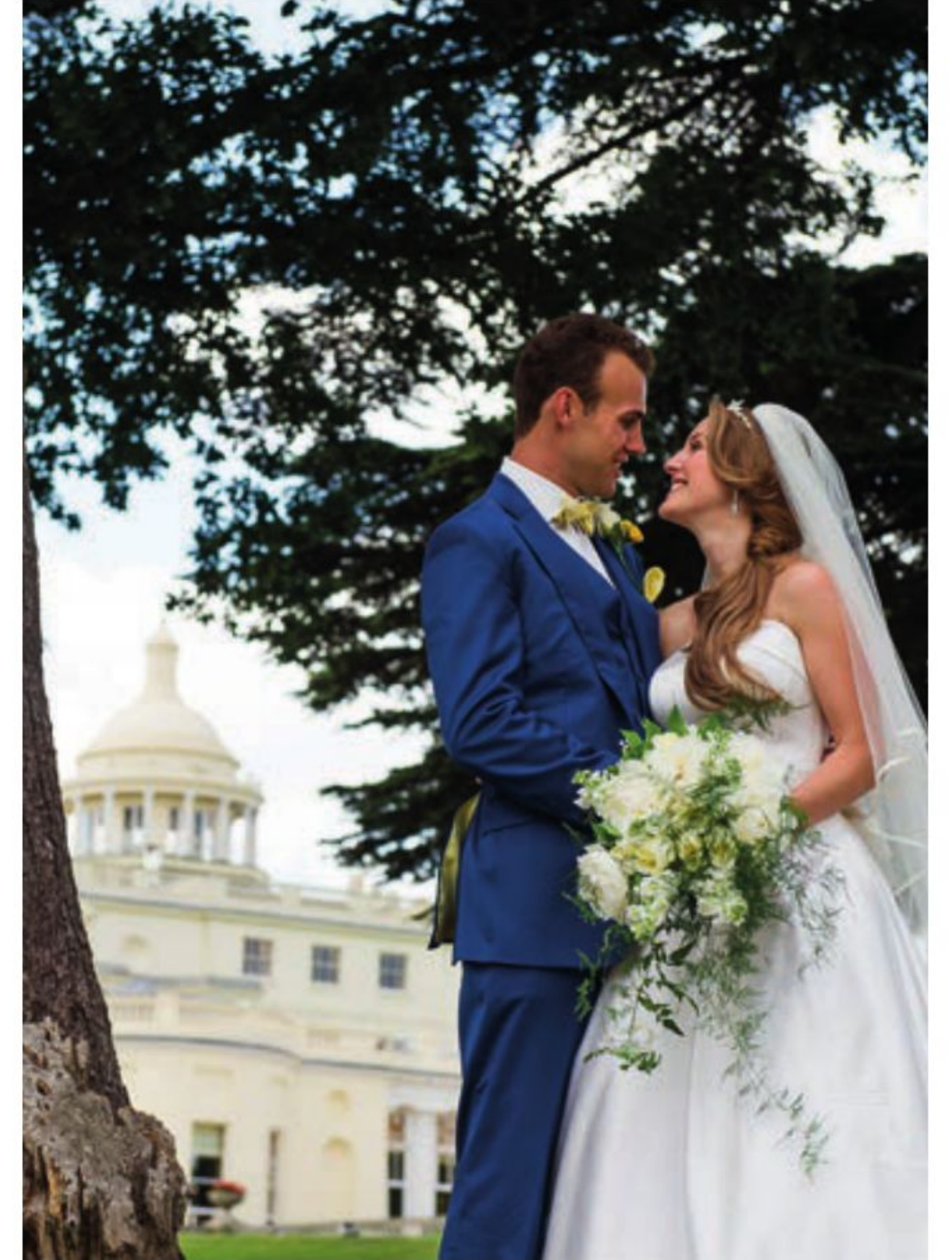




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## COLSTON HALL

01753 392 400 |  
[colstonhallgx.com](http://colstonhallgx.com)

This striking Grade II listed property is surrounded by grounds and pretty gardens making a picture-perfect setting for photographs and for entertaining al fresco – a beautiful backdrop!

Awash with neutral colours its façade and interior will complement any big-day theme, with its large halls and rooms providing a wonderful atmosphere for a grand, yet relaxed day.

For ceremonies, couples can host their nuptials in the Garden Room for up to 116 guests with access leading straight into the gardens, or Colston Hall holds up to 140 loved ones, and this large hall benefits from a neutral colour scheme. The latter, is also the setting for post-vow celebrations, 150 friends and family can enjoy a sit-down wedding breakfast and up to 200 attendees can partake in the evening festivities.

## FISON BARN, EARTH TRUST

01865 407 792

[earthtrust.org.uk/weddings](http://earthtrust.org.uk/weddings)

Nestling at the foot of the Wittenham Clumps nature reserve, Fison Barn is set amidst 1,200 acres of countryside. This stunning and beautifully maintained nineteenth-century barn boasts original oak beams which have been lovingly restored and local Western Red Cedar has been used on the exterior cladding.

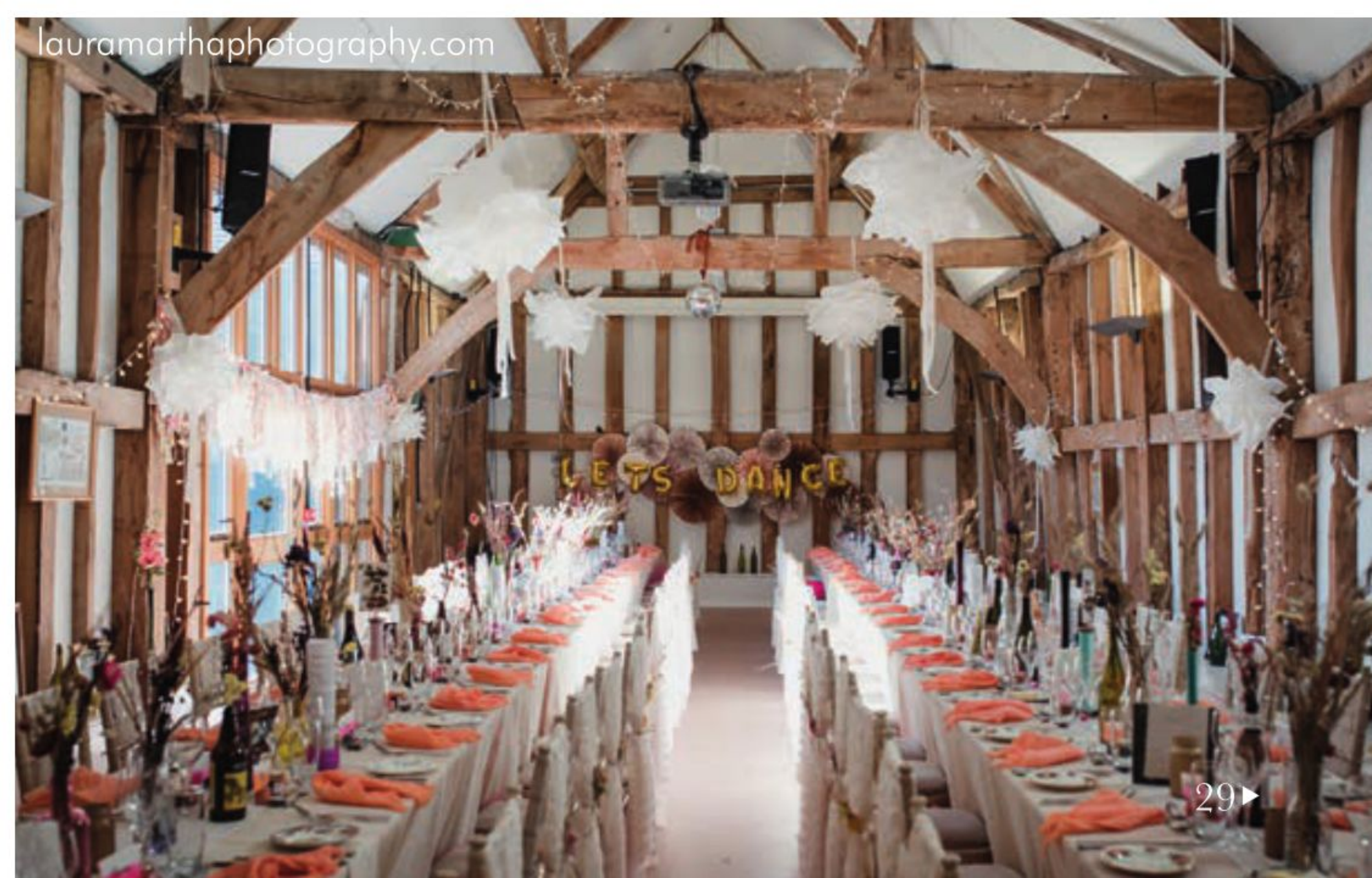
The large barn doors open onto a tranquil courtyard where bats and swallows have made their homes in the barn eaves, red kites swoop overhead and there are floral displays of herbs and plants attracting butterflies and insects.

For vows, couples can say 'I do' al fresco in the courtyard and inside Fison Barn each holding 85 guests. To celebrate, couples can enjoy a

wedding breakfast with up to 85 loved ones and an evening do with 200 standing with the use of a marquee (hired separately) in the courtyard, an ideal extension space for events.

When tying the knot here sustainability is at the heart of everything hosted at the venue; its eco-friendly biomass boiler provides underfloor heating during winter for all buildings. Rain is harvested for use in the toilets and its solar panels generate greenhouse-free electricity to meet a substantial portion of electricity requirements.

The beauty of choosing Fison Barn for a big-day venue is that it's a 'dry hire' venue; tables and chairs are supplied but then couples have the flexibility to hire in caterers, entertainment and a bar company, with the freedom to also decorate the barn as they wish.







## MILTON HILL HOUSE

01235 831 474 |

[miltonoxfordshire.co.uk](http://miltonoxfordshire.co.uk)

Milton Hill House is a traditional Georgian house within 22-acres of land, what more space do you need with your family and friends? The original white building is a perfect backdrop for those all-important wedding photos and there's plenty of outdoor areas for guests to mingle in, old oak trees frame the grounds, flowers bloom in the summer – it's very quintessentially English.

Couples are spoilt for choice with many ceremony rooms to choose from; from the small and intimate library to the large and spacious – and most popular – Wisteria room. All neutral in colour to decorate and enhance as a couple desires, with traditional features for a feeling of special elegance.

For couples who love the outdoors, why not wed al fresco in the venue's grounds? The landscaped Italian gardens are fantastic for wedding photos and for your guests to relax in during the evening hosting up to 144 loved ones to watch the ceremonies. Other capacities are, Wisteria 144, Lilac 85, Oak 60, Library 30. To celebrate the nuptials, couples and 144 guest can retreat to the Wisteria room.

When choosing this for a big-day venue, couples can benefit from a free menu tasting, wedding night accommodation in a Superior Room and free anniversary stay (dependent on package booked).

## KINGSTON BAGPUIZE HOUSE

01865 818 166 | [kbhweddings.uk](http://kbhweddings.uk)

Set in acres of lush parkland with roaming deer, and rolling lawns for croquet and drinks, the exclusive-use Kingston Bagpuize House also boasts raised terraces, pavilions for private photos and ceremonies, and wildlife ponds and follies – all providing the ideal backdrop to any wedding or event!

This historic house is perfect from every angle, with the Georgian symmetry, large window frames and gorgeous red brick it stands proud in the grounds. With two fantastic entrances you really can take your pick on where to enter the house.

With gorgeous wood panelling, traditional high ceilings and fantastic natural light Kingston Bagpuize House has elegant proportions and a lovely symmetry inside too!

The cantilevered staircase provides a dramatic backdrop to any photo, with the Library and Drawing Room adorned with hand-painted wallpaper and antique furniture offering grandeur for all guests.

Ceremonies take place in the Drawing Room for up to 96 seated guests, while there's also the option of an al fresco setting on the main lawn (unlimited) and The Pavilion (standing room for up to 150) outside. After the all-important vows, intimate gatherings can enjoy a seated wedding breakfast of 50 guests in the Drawing Room, or the Summer Marquee can host grand affairs of up to 200 loved ones (can be extended for additional fee to seat 300).

When tying the knot here, not only do couples enjoy the private hire, but also a complimentary tasting is always included, as well as a dedicated wedding planner and use of the bridal suite for the day of the wedding.



Christopher Martin Photography







## PINEWOOD HOTEL

01753 896 400 | [pinewoodhotel.co.uk](http://pinewoodhotel.co.uk)

Pinewood Hotel is nestled among five acres of rural land with the leafy backdrop of South Buckinghamshire – unbelievably only 30 minutes from London, and 10 minutes from both Slough and Uxbridge train station.

A contemporary hotel with a twist, Pinewood Hotel boasts 48 bedrooms on-site with flexible function spaces which are modern with a neutral colour tone to accommodate various colour schemes and themes so couples can truly personalise their day.

Ceremonies and receptions take place in the Symak suite which has a maximum capacity of 120 day guests, and 200 evening guests. This room is located on the ground floor and benefits from natural daylight and direct access to the grounds.

When tying the knot here, some packages include a menu and wine tasting, as well as bedrooms.

## PHYLLIS COURT CLUB

01491 570 500 | [phylliscourt.co.uk](http://phylliscourt.co.uk)

A breathtaking riverside setting, Phyllis Court is an elegant historic manor made up of graceful buildings and 18 acres of manicured lawns sweeping down to the River Thames with views of the Chilterns countryside beyond.

A beautiful private members club, it also has 17 individually styled bedrooms. For the big day The Ballroom and Finlay Suite is grand and historic featuring beautiful classic architecture, columns and an abundance of natural daylight. French windows open out onto a private terrace, leading to the lawns and the River Thames, and it can host 240 ceremony guests, 240 for a sit-down meal and 300 for an evening reception. The striking two-storey Riverside Pavilion is both impressive and romantic. Set on the banks of the Thames, it enjoys panoramic views of the grounds and is modern and fully glazed, it provides year-round protection from any

inclement weather. You will enjoy access to private balconies on both decks. The Pavilion also benefits from private moorings so you may arrive by boat. It can host 130 ceremony guests, 100 for a sit-down meal and 130 evening.

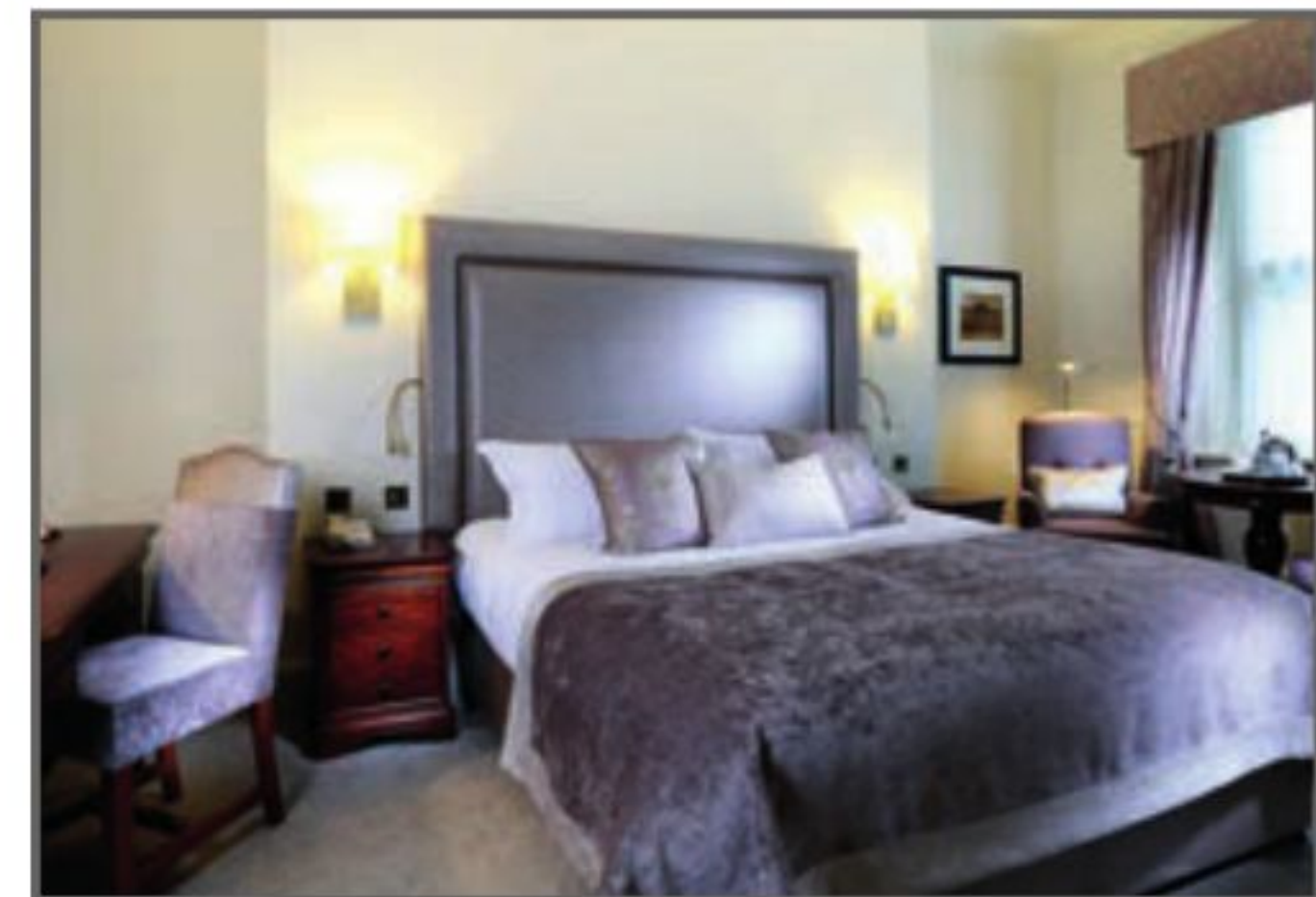
Elegantly decorated in contemporary colours of cream and taupe, the Thames Room is light and airy with French windows leading onto a private terrace for your reception drinks. It boasts a beautifully ornate ceiling and grand fireplace. It is perfect for a smaller, intimate wedding with up to 50 guests. When tying the knot here couples benefit from a wedding coordinator, banqueting manager, toast master, wedding food tasting meal, on-the-day stationery, cake stand and cake knife, mood lighting, dancefloor and Bridal Suite on the night of your wedding are all complimentary! Furthermore, choosing your wedding venue is a big decision, when you book a tour of the Club, couples will be gifted an afternoon tea voucher for four.







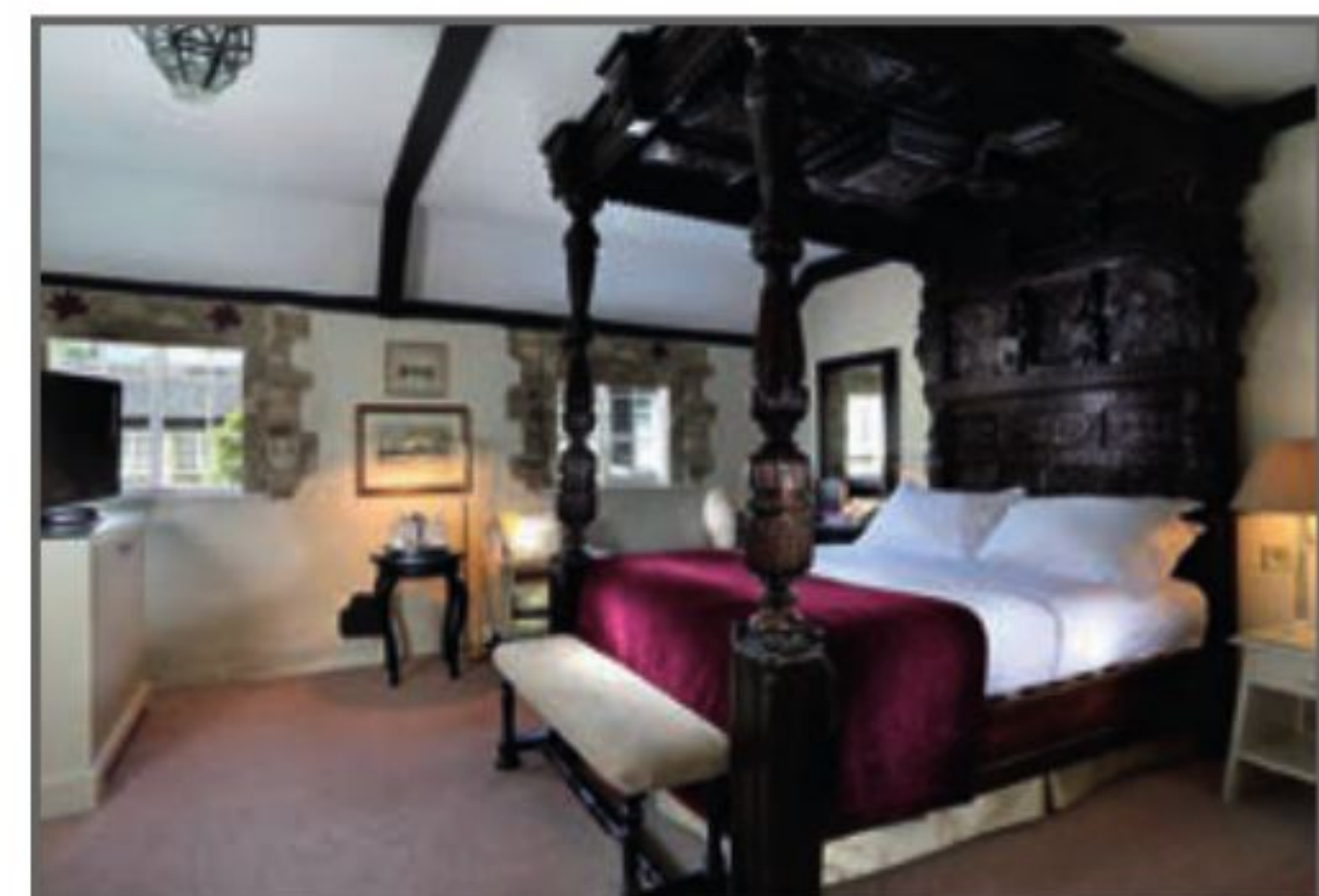
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Lydia and Eric met in contemporary fashion online through their love of geeky interests such as films, books and video games. "For our first date we met for coffee, and we talked non-stop about all of our favourite films for about four hours before we realised the time!" recalls Lydia.

Where better for Eric to propose than Disneyworld? "Eric proposed to me in front of the Cinderella Castle. Although we had talked about getting married, Eric kept the proposal very secret, and it was a perfect romantic setting on a beautiful sunny day."

The bride- and groom-to-be set the special date for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2019, with the Tudor Barn Burnham setting the scene. Here, we find out what inspired their *Harry Potter*-themed wedding...

# UNDER YOUR SPELL

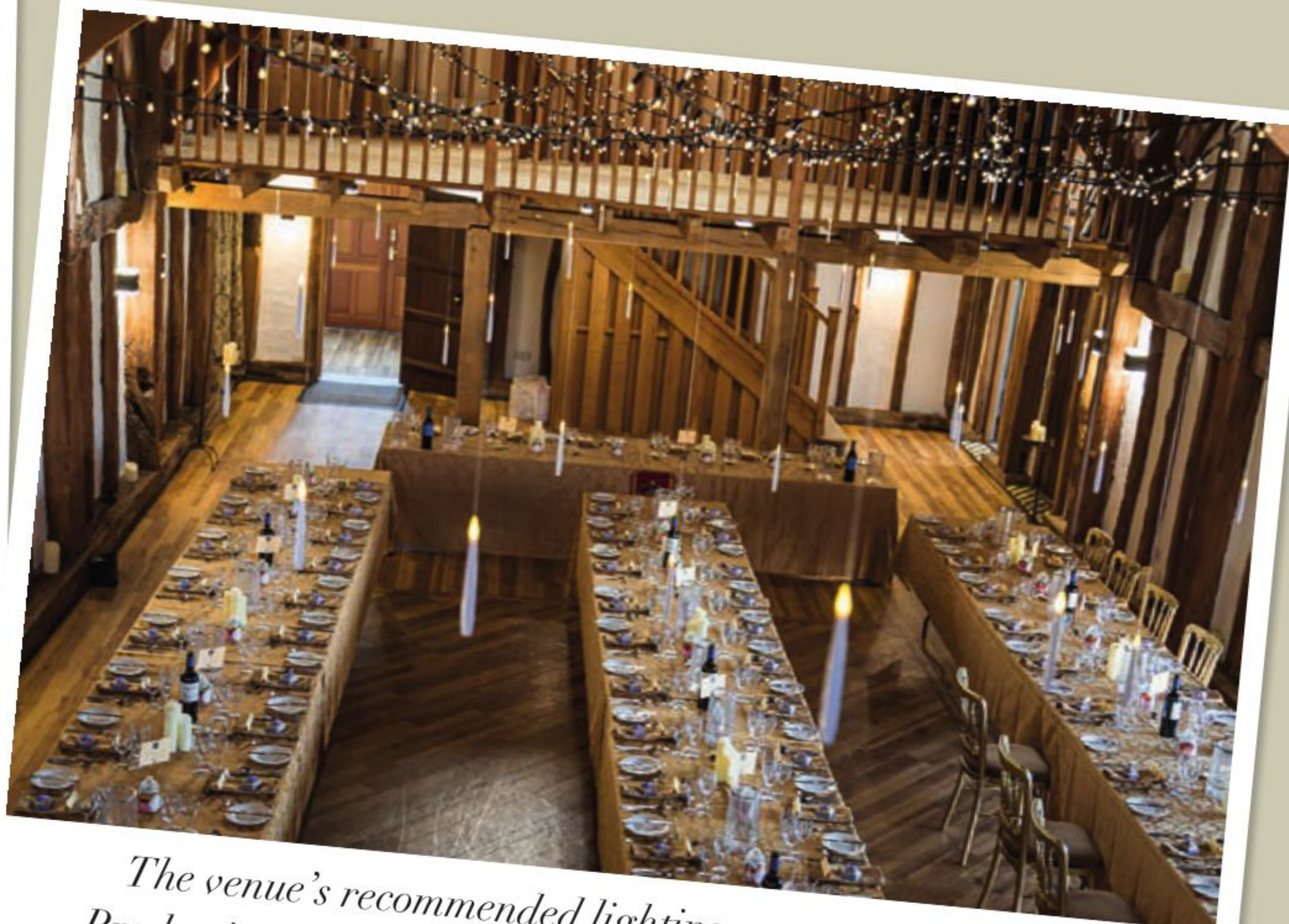
Eric and Lydia's *Harry Potter*-themed wedding was a sight to behold at The Tudor Barn

Images courtesy of Anna Durrant Photography





*We had spoken about having a Harry Potter-themed wedding, as we are both huge fans of the books and films. The Tudor Barn Burnham seemed like the best place to have our wedding, as the barn – particularly with the rafters, twinkling lights, and the cosy feel it had – looked exactly right for the Great Hall-look we wanted to portray.*



*The venue's recommended lighting company, Academy Productions, said they were more than happy to do floating candles for us, which was absolutely fantastic, so we knew we had chosen the perfect venue!*



*We hired long tables and gold tablecloths and napkins from Allenshire, which created a real royal and cosy theme to the wedding. Guests were sorted into either Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw or Slytherin, (the head table was Gryffindor!), by putting the sorting hat on their heads, and pressing their name on a powerpoint presentation where the sorting hat would speak their chosen house!*



*Every guest had a handmade chocolate frog box with a chocolate frog inside, and a name card with their Hogwarts house crest on. Every table was decorated with jars of Bertie Botts Beans, Ferrero Rochers with wings made to look like golden snitches, battery-lit flickering candles, and descriptions of the Hogwarts houses to inform the guests on their particular Hogwarts house.*







There were broomsticks, potion bottles, wands and more candles scattered around the venue, with a soft toy Hedwig and quill pen on the registrar table. There were even Hogwarts house points in long vases which were filled with glitter. The floating candles the lighting company provided were absolutely magical and really captured the Harry Potter theme. The lights were dimmed throughout the meal, creating cosy feel.



The table plan was a large Marauder's Map, with everyone's names on little pieces of parchment, and little footprints scattered around the map.



We hired a blue Ford Anglia for the wedding car – the car the Weasleys drove in! It was fantastic, although a little difficult to get in and out of with my dress!



I had a red rose bouquet and the bridesmaids, who wore burgundy dresses with white shawls, carried white rose bouquets. It had a real winter wedding look.

"The best men's speech was overwhelming. They spoke about how Eric was the most supportive best friend anyone could ever have, and a few tears were shed."



I wore an A-line princess, lace gown called Bronwyn by Anna Sorrano. I'd always wanted to look like a princess on my wedding day, and this was the perfect dress!





*Rather than Harry Potter decorations, we chose to decorate the cake with other geeky things we liked. It was a three-tiered sponge cake with a different superhero logo on each tier: Batman, the Avengers, and Wonder Woman, with a silhouette of the Joker and Harley Quinn on top. It did however also have a golden snitch on top to keep the Harry Potter theme going!*



*Eric and his best men wore the same navy blue suits with a red rose buttonhole to suit the winter theme.*



*Although we were both a little nervous on the day (I more so!), the moment we saw each other down the aisle, we both immediately felt at ease. Seeing each other for the first time definitely was the stand out moment for us, along with guests' reactions to seeing the venue decorated, and complimenting all the decorations we had taken months to make.*



*We used the venue's recommended DJ, DJ Mitch, who was absolutely fantastic. He took our list of songs we wanted for the disco, and mixed them together in such a way that the guests didn't stop dancing all night!*

## Eric and Lydia's contacts book

**Venue**, The Tudor Barn Burnham, [tudorbarnweddings.co.uk](http://tudorbarnweddings.co.uk) | **Photographer**, Anna Durrant Photography, [annadurrantphotography.co.uk](http://annadurrantphotography.co.uk) | **Hair and make-up**, Big Day Hair and Make-up, [bigdayhairandmakeup.co.uk](http://bigdayhairandmakeup.co.uk) | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, JJs House, [jjshouse.co.uk](http://jjshouse.co.uk) | **Groom's suit**, Slaters Reading, [slaters.co.uk](http://slaters.co.uk) | **Cake**, The Sugared Doily, [thesugaredoily.com](http://thesugaredoily.com) | **Flowers**, Pink and Perfect Florists, [pinkandperfectflorists.co.uk](http://pinkandperfectflorists.co.uk) | **Transport**, Star Car Hire, [starcarhire.co.uk](http://starcarhire.co.uk) | **Entertainment**, Mitchell Douglas, 07976 287 569 | **Lighting**, Academy Productions, [academy-productions.co.uk](http://academy-productions.co.uk) | **Table and linen**, Allenshire, [allenshire.co.uk](http://allenshire.co.uk)

*We had full confidence in the The Tudor Barn staff, who worked above and beyond to make our day as special as it was. Debbie (the manager and wedding coordinator of the Tudor Barn) was absolutely fantastic from the moment we booked the venue right up until the big day, in answering all our queries, her helpful advice, and in making sure our day was perfect.*





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# LoveSTRUCK

Scott and Rhonda were introduced by a mutual friend who convinced them that they would be very well suited. After speaking on the phone for a few weeks the couple finally met up in person, "We both still agree that our first meeting was a thunderbolt moment!" recalls Rhonda.

After spending a wonderful ten years together, on a family trip to Brighton with their two teenage boys – who knew Scott was going to propose – the groom-to-be popped the question on a beautiful sunny day in November on Brighton pier – much to Rhonda's surprise.

The big day was set, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 with De Vere Latimer Estate setting the scene and the happy pair opting for a French blue, grey, cream and sage colour palette.

Here we find out more about their day...

Scott and Rhonda knew it was love at first sight,  
and never looked back

*Images courtesy of Brendan Foster Photography*





*The second we drove down the long driveway of Latimer Estate, we knew this was the venue we wanted to get married in. We had an old stately home in our ideas of a venue but Latimer house was so much more than that. We love the history of the building, the beautiful drive through the small village of Latimer was so pretty we could imagine the thrill our guests would feel arriving on our wedding day. Every member of staff was so accommodating and helpful.*



*The centrepieces were moved from the aisle and were huge white balloons with grey ribbon and eucalyptus trailing from them contained by a silver pot brimming with gypsophila.*



*Our table plan was scripted writing on a mirror. We just had our best man and my best friend on our top table, with our blended families on tables close by.*



*The flowers were white tulips and roses with lots of greenery.*



*The cake was a giant Krispy Kreme doughnut tower.*



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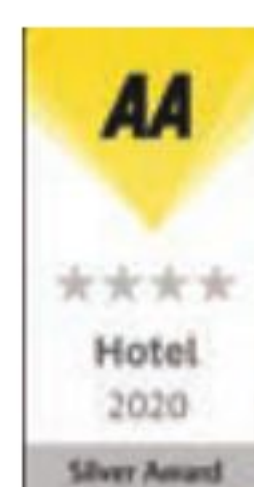
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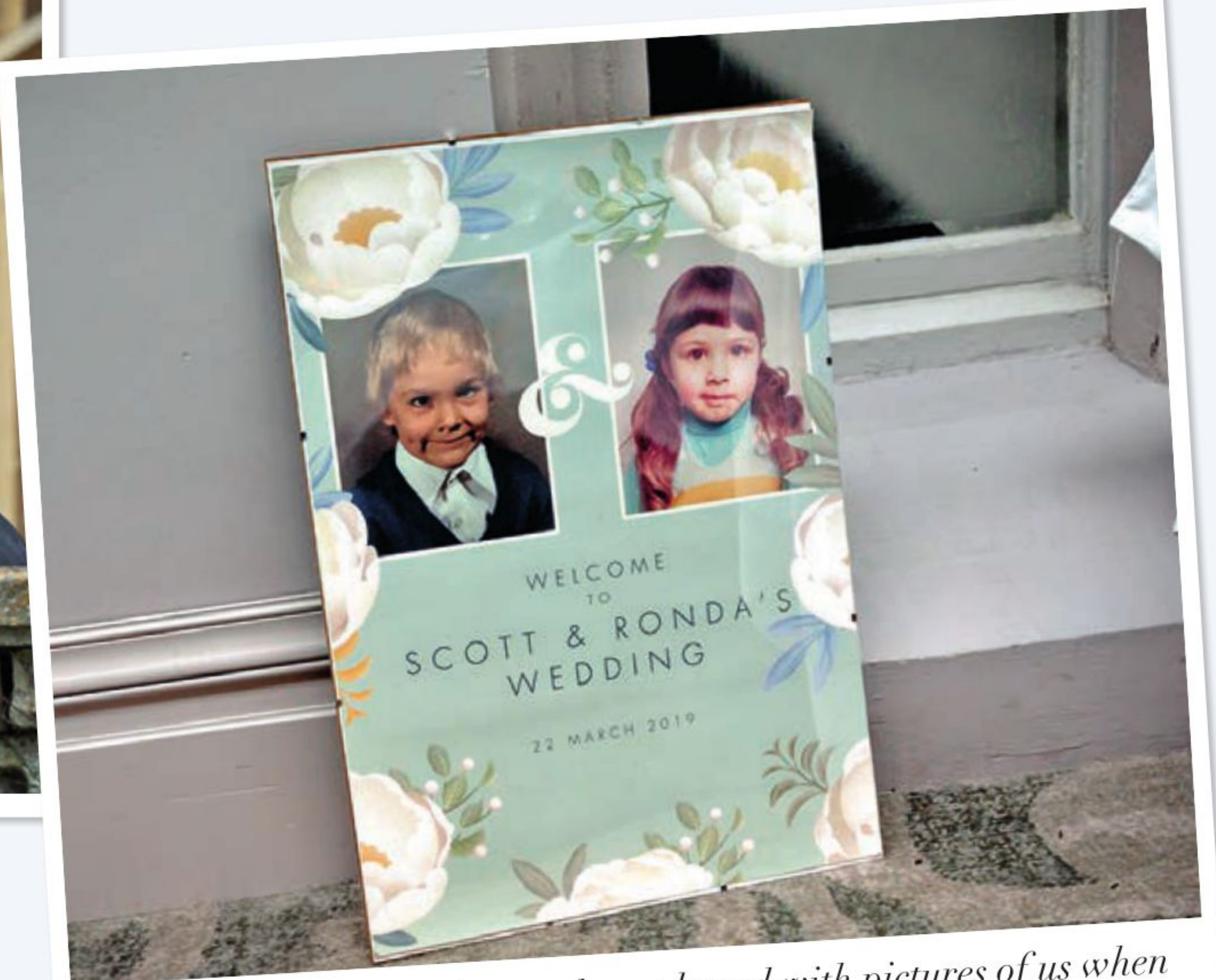
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*“We had delicious canapés followed by French Onion soup with cheesy croutons, roast beef fillet with roast potatoes and vegetables, and chocolate brownie and cream.”*



*We had a friend make a welcome board with pictures of us when we were five.*



*The groom and his groomsmen wore grey three-piece tails, Prince of Wales check waistcoats and French blue silk ties — a cravat for the groom.*



*My dress was by Maggie Sottero. It was a strapless, satin, A-line gown with diamanté around the neckline and waist. I had a cathedral-length Maggie Sottero veil edged with diamanté too, a tiara made of crystals and crystal drop earrings.*



*The two older bridesmaids wore floor-length French-blue chiffon dresses with cold-shoulder detail, while the two younger bridesmaids wore silver grey chiffon floor-length dresses.*





*We had a DJ in the evening which had everyone dancing old and young until the early hours.*



*We both said that we had the best day of our lives. All our guests said it was the most fun wedding they had ever been to, and we both looked so happy.*



*The toastmaster and the photographer were amazing all day and made it seem so much more special.*

*Top tip: Our top wedding tip would be to try to take yourself off for a bit of one on one time together. The day goes by so quickly and you are constantly talking to your guests that you need to take a quiet moment just the two of you to take in the most amazing day.*



*Scott had everyone in hoots of laughter by saying "My awful wedded wife" — it took my nerves away.*

## SCOTT AND RHONDA'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, De Vere Latimer Estate, [devere.co.uk](http://devere.co.uk) | **Photographer**, Brendan Foster Photography, [brendanfosterphotography.com](http://brendanfosterphotography.com) | **Bride's dress**, Elizabeth McQueen Bridal, [elizabethmcqueen.co.uk](http://elizabethmcqueen.co.uk) | **Bride's accessories and bridesmaids' dresses**, David's Bridal, [davidsbridal.co.uk](http://davidsbridal.co.uk) | **Hair**, Hair by Beckie, 07515 483 567 | **Make-up**, Make-up by Chelsey Leigh, 07716 287 320 | **Groom's suit**, Elegans Menswear, [elegansmenswear.com](http://elegansmenswear.com) | **Cake**, Krispy Kreme Donuts, [krispykreme.co.uk](http://krispykreme.co.uk) | **Flowers**, Maple Flowers, [mapleflowers.co.uk](http://mapleflowers.co.uk)



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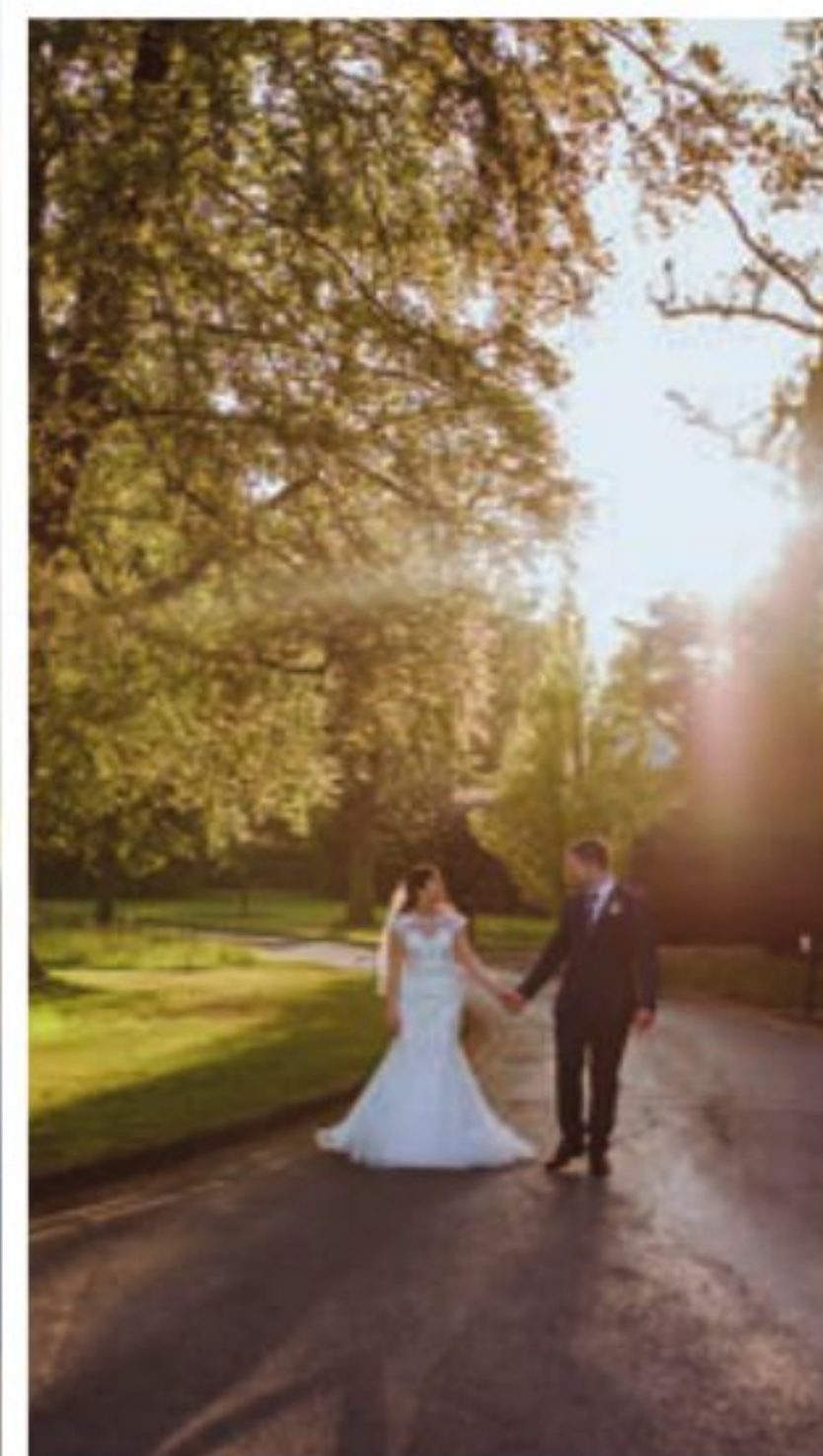
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# Rustic ROMANCE

KATE AND GARY TIED THE KNOT AT EASTER

*Images courtesy of Stone Photos*

Kate and Gary met at a New Year's Eve party at a friend's house in 2014. "It was like a school disco at first where the girls were on one side and the boys were on the other!" laughs Kate. "But then we got talking, realised we had a lot in common and just clicked. We started messaging the next day and then had our first date at an Italian restaurant two weeks later."

Romance blossomed, and Gary proposed in Santorini in July 2017. "He wanted to do it whilst watching the sunset in Oia, then realised there were too many people about and I would have hated an audience!" recalls Kate. "So he waited until we got back to the hotel when it was just the two of us. We then celebrated on our terrace with champagne."







It was a big surprise, Gary is quite unorganised so I was shocked he had planned it all!"

The happy pair set the big date for 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, at Lillibrooke Manor. Here, we find out all about the finer details of the day...

## SETTING THE SCENE

Looking for a rustic but modern barn, Kate and Gary found this in Lillibrooke Manor, and with pretty grounds and exclusive-use to boot, what more could they ask for? "We had seen a few similar venues but what stood out for us at Lillibrooke was the fact they had a separate room for the ceremony to take place in so no room changeover was needed," adds, Kate. "As it was spring, there were some beautiful blossom trees as well which looked great as a backdrop for pictures. When we visited, we just could envision how the day would flow and it just felt right."

As the wedding was on Easter Saturday, the couple felt they should acknowledge that in the wedding favours, which were organza bags filled with mini eggs. The place names and cards fitted the barn theme perfectly, and they kept it simple with table numbers.

"We hired a great company called Seventh Heaven Events to decorate the venue," shares Kate. "They took care of the flower arch which we got married under, the candles and lanterns to line the aisle and the jars of flowers. They then moved it all from the ceremony room to the barn for our wedding breakfast centrepieces and the arch was put at the entrance of the barn."

Opting for a springtime colour palette of blush pinks and lilacs, these were also the bride's favourite colours. "The cake was quite simple, a rustic looking buttercream cake decorated with flowers provided by the florist," shares Kate. "The catering was provided by the venue and the choices were really varied and we felt we could pick something that was more 'us' so we selected pie and mash for the wedding breakfast and pizzas for the evening."

## LOOKING THE PART

Kate looked picture-perfect in a San Patrick gown from Ann Louise Bridal. "I had tried on about seven dresses and then the owner of the boutique suggested this one based on the feedback I had given on the others – I felt some were too revealing and I didn't feel comfortable in anything too fitted but also felt too swamped in a princess dress! As soon as tried it on, it felt right but I also felt like it was missing something so we added the San Patrick Jacket and the sparkly belt. I loved being able to take the jacket off in the evening and change the look of the dress – it was also easier for dancing!"

Gary was keen to wear a navy suit which is quite popular for weddings at the moment so he decided on tails so that the wedding party would stand out from the rest of the male guests. "We added the grey checked waistcoat as felt this made the look a little less formal which suited our style and venue," shares Kate. "Gary had an extra buttonhole to stand out from the rest of the groomsmen."

Choosing four bridesmaids, including one that was





pregnant, Kate found something to suit them all and the colours perfectly fitted the colour scheme. “I couldn’t decide on what colour I preferred so we decided to have two in pink and two in purple which worked well.”

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Neither Kate or Gary had prepared for how nervous they would feel on the day finding it all quite overwhelming, however, they also found it to be a very happy day. “It is very surreal to have all your friends and family in one room and to know that everyone is there to celebrate with you. My dad seeing me in my dress for the first time was very emotional. I don’t know what he expected me to wear but he seemed genuinely shocked that I was in a full on white dress!

“Also walking down the aisle to Gary was so scary but also a very happy and emotional moment and I did cry!”

For Gary, seeing Kate walk down the aisle for the first time was the best moment, “She looked amazing and I was very relieved she was there as she seemed to take forever to arrive!” remembers Gary. “Also just looking around at the reception (after the speeches were over!) and seeing everyone you love laughing and having a good time.”

The event coordinator from the venue was brilliant on the day and took care of everything for the couple with lots of people commenting on how helpful he was. “The photographer also did a great job of organising everyone and definitely went above and beyond!” shares Kate. “The speeches were a real highlight too. Gary had his brother and a friend as best men and his brother is quite shy and actually had said he wasn’t going to do a speech so he surprised us on the day by doing a great one which was really funny and he did so well.”







## KATE AND GARY'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, Lillibrooke Manor, [lillibrookemanor.co.uk](http://lillibrookemanor.co.uk) | **Photographer**, Stone Photos, [stonephotos.co.uk](http://stonephotos.co.uk) | **Bride's dress and accessories**, [annlouisebridal.com](http://annlouisebridal.com) | **Make-up**, Amanda Marie, 07725 580 054 | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, TFNC London, [tfnclondon.com](http://tfnclondon.com) | **Groom's suit**, Elegans Menswear, [elegansmenswear.com](http://elegansmenswear.com) | **Cake**, Sweet Treat Cupcakes, [facebook.com/cupcakesweetstreats](https://facebook.com/cupcakesweetstreats) | **Entertainment**, DJ Swerve, [thedjswerve@gmail.com](mailto:thedjswerve@gmail.com) | **Venue décor**, Seventh Heaven Events, [seventh-heaven-events.co.uk](http://seventh-heaven-events.co.uk) | **Lighting**, Lex Event Lighting, [lexeventlighting.co.uk](http://lexeventlighting.co.uk)



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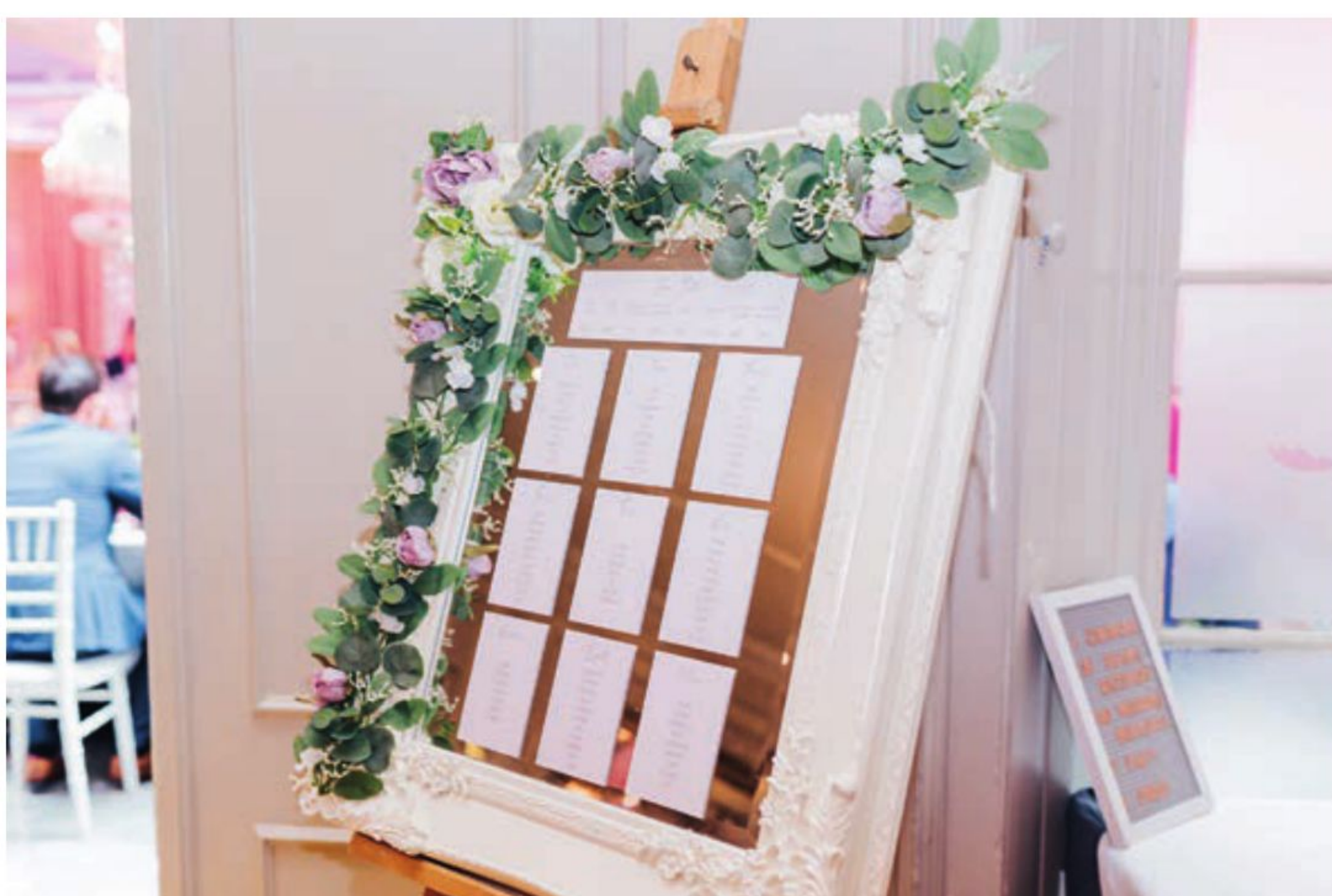




# Just the Two of us

Amy and Michael's big day was certainly styled to perfection  
*Images courtesy of Nikki's Moments Photo & Film*





Amy and Michael's history dates back to school where they first met through a mutual friend. Fast-forward four years, and the duo bumped into each other on a night out. "We shared our first kiss that night outside Primark (classy) and the rest is history!" shares Amy.

After romance blossomed, seven years later and after moving in to their first home together Michael proposed at home after a romantic meal. "It was really a sweet and really personal moment just between the both of us," recalls Amy, "Although, as it happened late at night and all our family and friends had gone to bed, it was torture having to wait until the morning to share our news."

The big date was set, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019, and De Vere Latimer Estate was the backdrop to the day.

Here, *Your Berks Bucks and Oxon Wedding* finds out about the wedding of Amy and Michael...

### SETTING THE SCENE

Planning a wedding can be a daunting task and Amy and Michael were beginning to lose faith in finding their dream venue after visiting no more than 20, none of which were quite what they were looking for. "We had never really heard of the De Vere Latimer Estate," admits Amy, "Until one day it popped up on my Facebook page featuring the upcoming wedding open day. I instantly fell in love with the photos and had to go and see it that day, I just couldn't wait until the open day!"

"The second we walked in, we both knew this was where we would become husband and wife. We loved everything from the drive way up to the manor house, the elegant and neutral décor – especially the stunning chandeliers and down-lighters in the wedding suites – to the beautiful grounds."

It was important for the bride- and groom-to-be to have lots of outdoor space so guests could relax between the ceremony and wedding breakfast. There's a terrace directly off the wedding suites which is surrounded by stunning grounds and views of the River Chess – the perfect backdrop for photos.

The icing on the cake for the couple was the staff, "each and every one was just incredible. From Ben who showed us round on our first visit, to Lydia our wedding planner, the event coordinators, bar staff and waiters all went out of their way to make sure we had the perfect wedding day, I want to do it all again!" adds Amy.

The colour palette of the day was dusky lavender which was reflected in the finer details of the day. Amy, a wedding stationery designer, was excited to finally create her own after years of designing for other happy couples. "Our invitations were pearlescent silver damask folders, sealed with double satin lavender ribbon with sparkly crystal embellishments," shares Amy. "Each invitation was wrapped in tissue paper then boxed and sealed with ribbon then addressed to our guests with foil text detail. I also made our table plan an ornate mirror wrapped with white and lavender silk flowers to complement our scheme – I love it so much it's become a permanent feature in our home!"

For favours, the couple made a donation to Cancer Research UK, a cause close to their families hearts, and guests all wore charity pins on the day and to take home, "I wear mine every day!" adds Amy.

"Centrepieces were one of my favourite parts of the décor. I knew I wanted something a little different that I hadn't really seen before.



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We had tall floral halos (or space ships as Michael referred to them) with hydrangeas, roses, peonies and gypsophila which had crystals and tea light baubles dangling from them. We received so many comments on how beautiful they were!"

Wanting to use sustainable flowers Amy and Michael opted for silk flowers for the bouquets and buttonholes of white hydrangeas, lavender peonies, gypsophila and lavender sprigs with some foliage. "I also had little bouquet charms with photos of our grandparents who are no longer with us so they were with us on our special day."

### LOOKING THE PART

Amy looked picture-perfect in style 6477 by Stella York, teamed with diamante embellished sandals and a hand-painted leather jacket! Michael wanted to stay traditional when it came to choosing his big-day attire and opted for blue morning suits with tails, an ivory waistcoat and matching ivory cravat and pocket square. The groomsmen wore matching suits with lavender frost-coloured cravats and pocket squares, "I would highly recommend Swagger & Swoon who offer a colour matching service if you are struggling to find the right colours," shares Amy.

Finally, Amy's best girls looked gorgeous in Serene pleated maxi dresses in a grey lavender fog hue.

### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

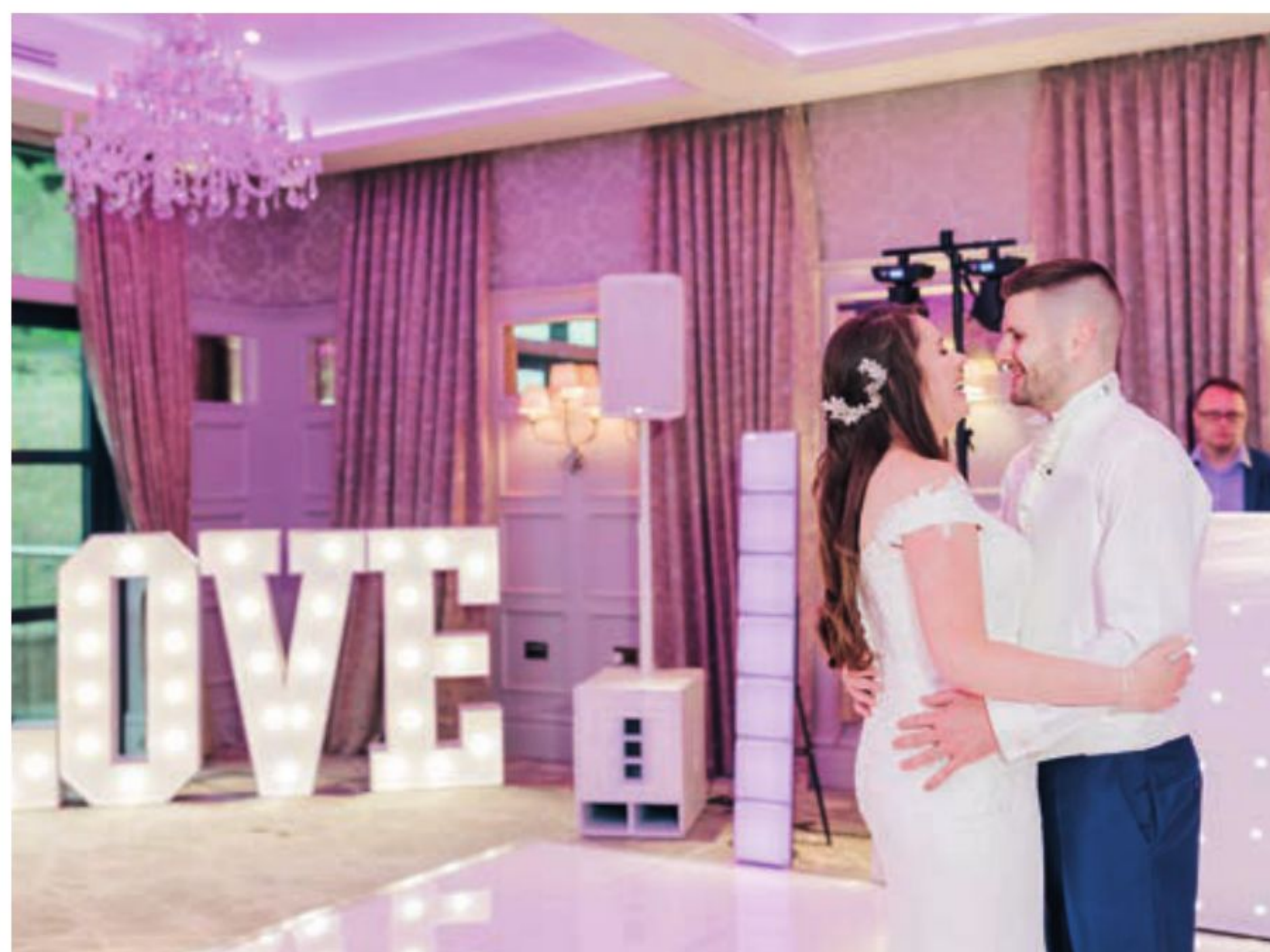
Amy and Michael's day was full of love, happiness and laughter. "I remember the feeling when I first saw Michael when I started walking down the aisle. It was the happiest moment of my life knowing he was just about to become my husband," shares Amy. "When we were stood saying our vows, it was like we were the only people in the room, in our own little bubble for a moment or two."

For guests, the couple hired a white bouncy castle which came with a beautiful wisteria floral garland. "We got it for the kids, but I think the adults had even more fun! Our photographer Nikki captured some great photos of us all on the bouncy castle.

"Another surprise is one I arranged for Michael – a huge fan of the film *Grease* – a 1948 Ford Grease Lightning' car to bring him and his groomsmen to the venue! It was so hard to keep it a secret for over a year! I had a 'Bride' leather jacket which I wore for photos with the car which was hand-painted by the very talented Georgina from GA Illustration."







## AMY AND MICHAEL'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, De Vere Latimer Estate, [devere.co.uk/latimer-estate](http://devere.co.uk/latimer-estate) | **Photographer**, Nikki Moments Photo & Film, [nikkismoments.com](http://nikkismoments.com) | **Bride's dress and veil**, Pure Couture, [purecouture.co.uk](http://purecouture.co.uk) | **Bride's shoes**, [dunelondon.com](http://dunelondon.com) | **Wedding stationery**, Apple Blossom Stationery – Wedding & Events, [instagram.com/AppleBlossomStationery](https://www.instagram.com/AppleBlossomStationery) | **Make-up and nails**, Aimee Stokes Makeup & Beauty, [asmakeupbeauty.co.uk](http://asmakeupbeauty.co.uk) | **Hair**, Hair By Hannah, [facebook.com/hairbyhannahsparkes](https://www.facebook.com/hairbyhannahsparkes) | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, TFNC, [tfnclondon.com](http://tfnclondon.com) | **Groom's suit**, Jolliffes, [jolliffes.co.uk](http://jolliffes.co.uk) | **Cravats and pocket squares**, Swagger & Swoon, [swaggerandswoon.com](http://swaggerandswoon.com) | **Centrepieces**, Anne Smith Candelabra & Event Hire, [facebook.com/flowerballhire](https://www.facebook.com/flowerballhire) | **Flowers**, Sam Adby, 07580 732 990 | **Leather jacket**, GA Illustration Georgina, [instagram.com/ga.illustration](https://www.instagram.com/ga.illustration) | **Transport**, Grease Car American Dreams [americandreams.co.uk](http://americandreams.co.uk) | **Entertainment**, DJ, dancefloor and light-up letters, It's Show Time, [itsshowtimeevents.co.uk](http://itsshowtimeevents.co.uk) | **Bouncy castle**, Henley Bouncy Castles Ltd, [henleybouncycastleles.co.uk](http://henleybouncycastleles.co.uk) | **Ceremony decorations, white aisle runner and floral lanterns**, The Event Styling Co. [eventstylingco.co.uk](http://eventstylingco.co.uk) | **Burger van**, KK Catering, [kkcatering.co.uk](http://kkcatering.co.uk)



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*Amy Jones - Sep 2019*



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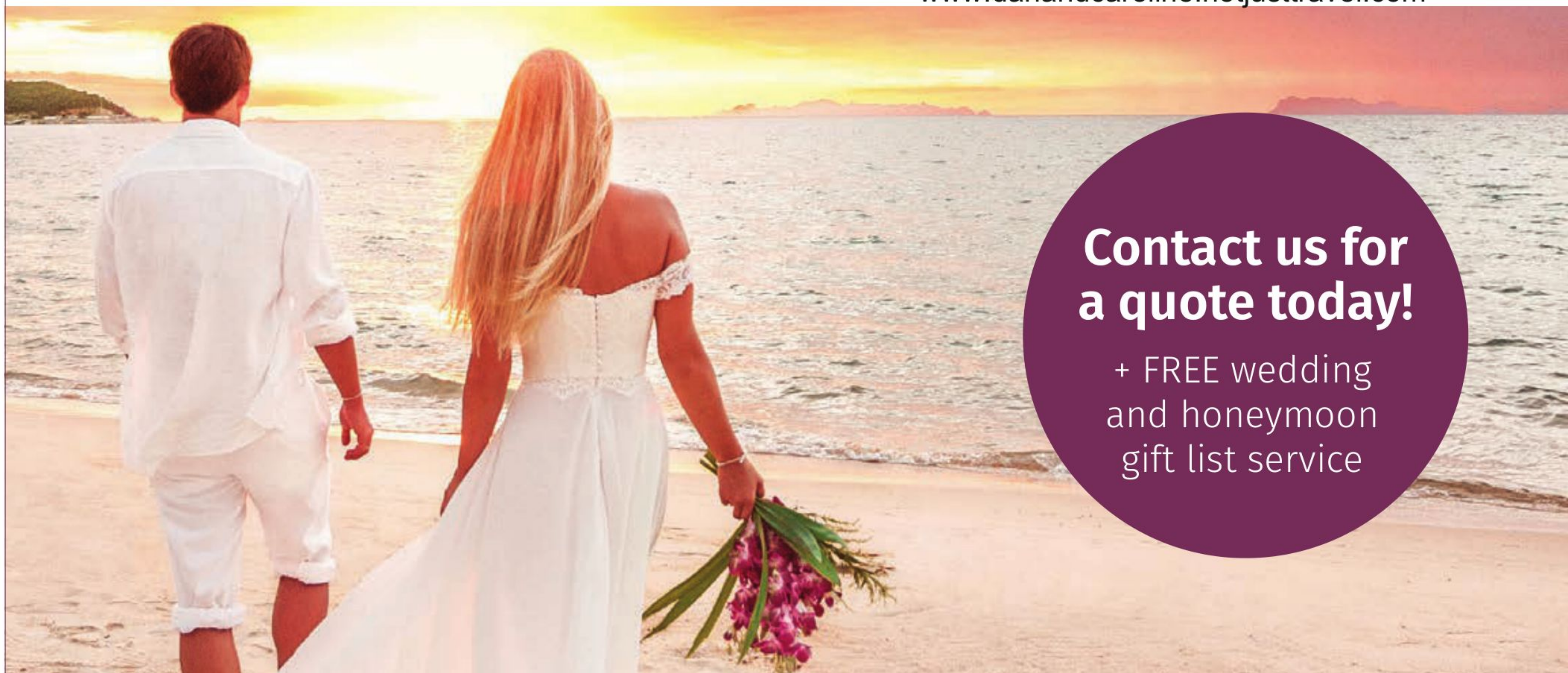
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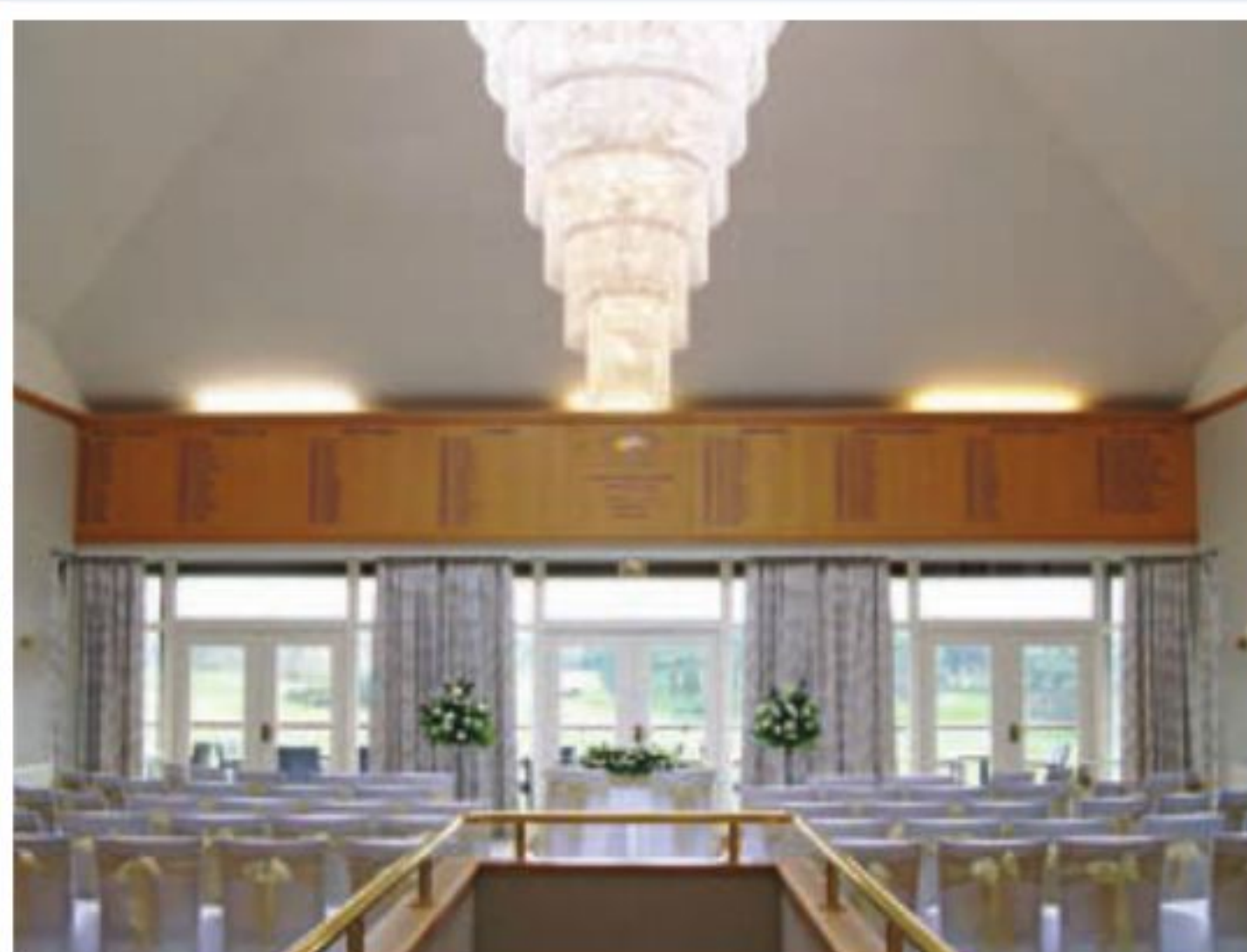
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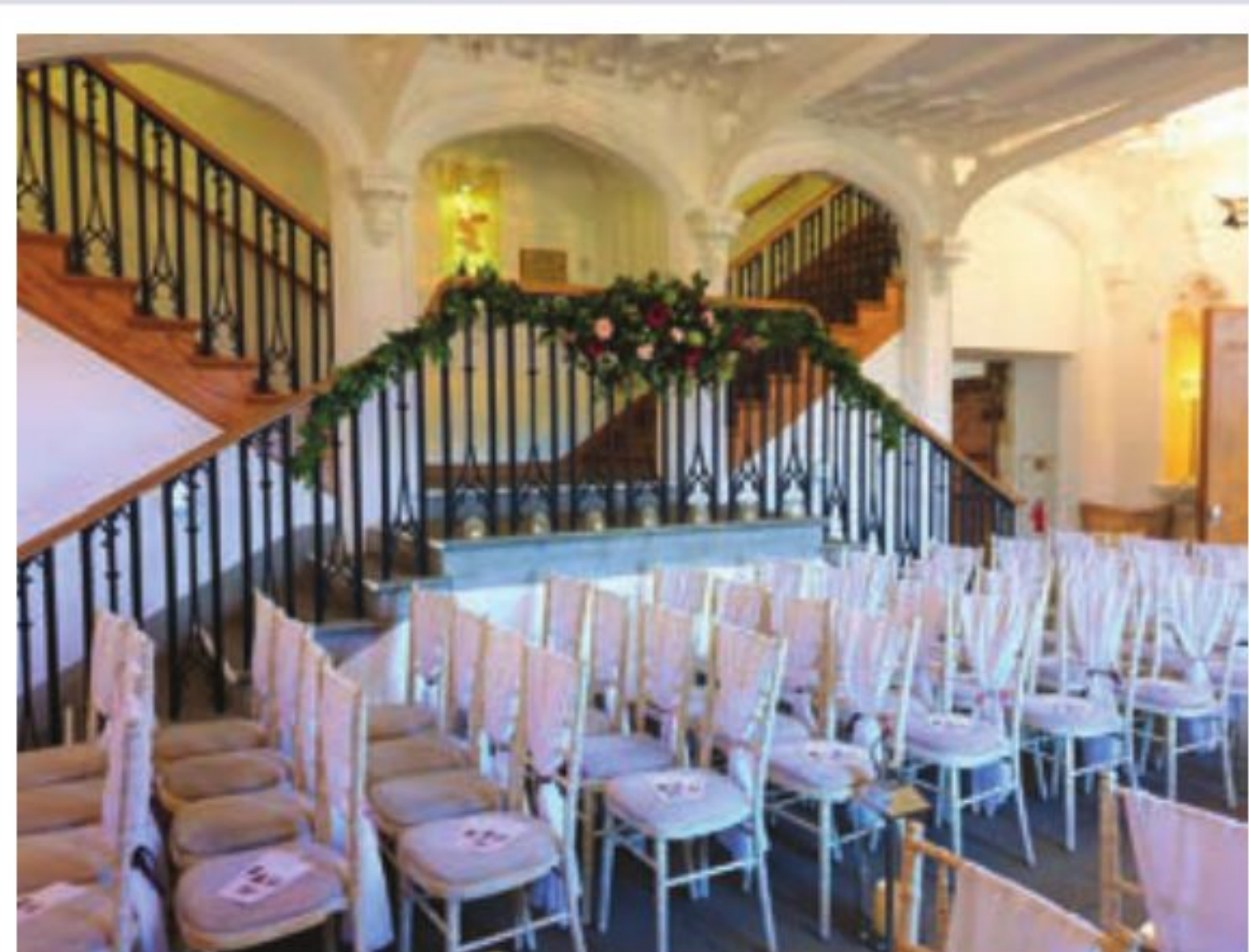
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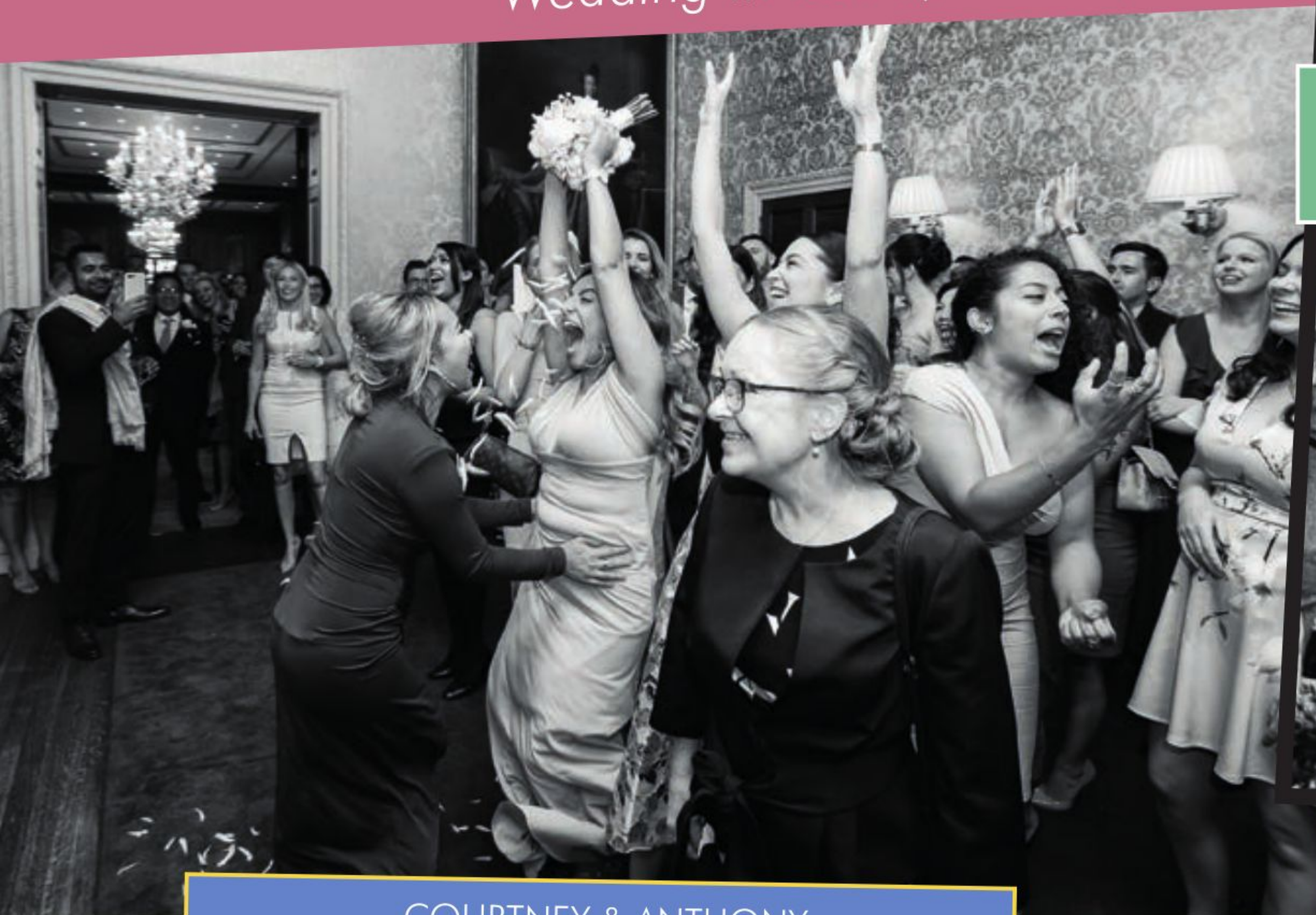
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# CLASS OF 2019

From our photographer's favourites to those appearing in Your Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wedding in 2019, it was quite a year for wedding pictures!



COURTNEY & ANTHONY  
20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019, HEDSOR HOUSE

"I just love the expression of total joy and excitement on the bridesmaid's face as she catches the bouquet and is shaking it so hard the petals are flying off! I also love the guest that looks almost as excited. I remember speaking to her during the wedding bridal prep asking her if she was married and she said she was sadly single, I joked that perhaps she might meet someone at the wedding and 'you know what they say about weddings!' hopefully catching the bouquet brought her luck!

"Wedding photography for me is all about capturing the moment and the expressions and this image has all of that and more." – David Bostock

**David Bostock Photography |**  
**davidbostockphotography.co.uk**



ABI & JOSH  
25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019, CASWELL HOUSE

*"I love this image as the groom has just said something obviously controversial in his wedding speech that has made both the bride and her mum look so shocked and incredulous – an amazing reaction. The speeches are great times to capture the emotions, and the reaction of those two with the groom blissfully unaware make the shot for me!" – David Bostock*

**David Bostock Photography |**  
**davidbostockphotography.co.uk**



TANYA & TIM  
3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2019, LE MANOIR AUX QUAT'SAISON

*"I love this image, full of happiness. It was such an intimate wedding, you see the entire party in the shot. Despite all the fantastic settings this venue offers which we also used, this shot says it all."* – **Tonja Fritz-Johnson**

**Wallingford Portraits | wallingfordportraits.co.uk**





MELISSA & ANDREW, SEPTEMBER 2019,  
CRESLOW MANOR.



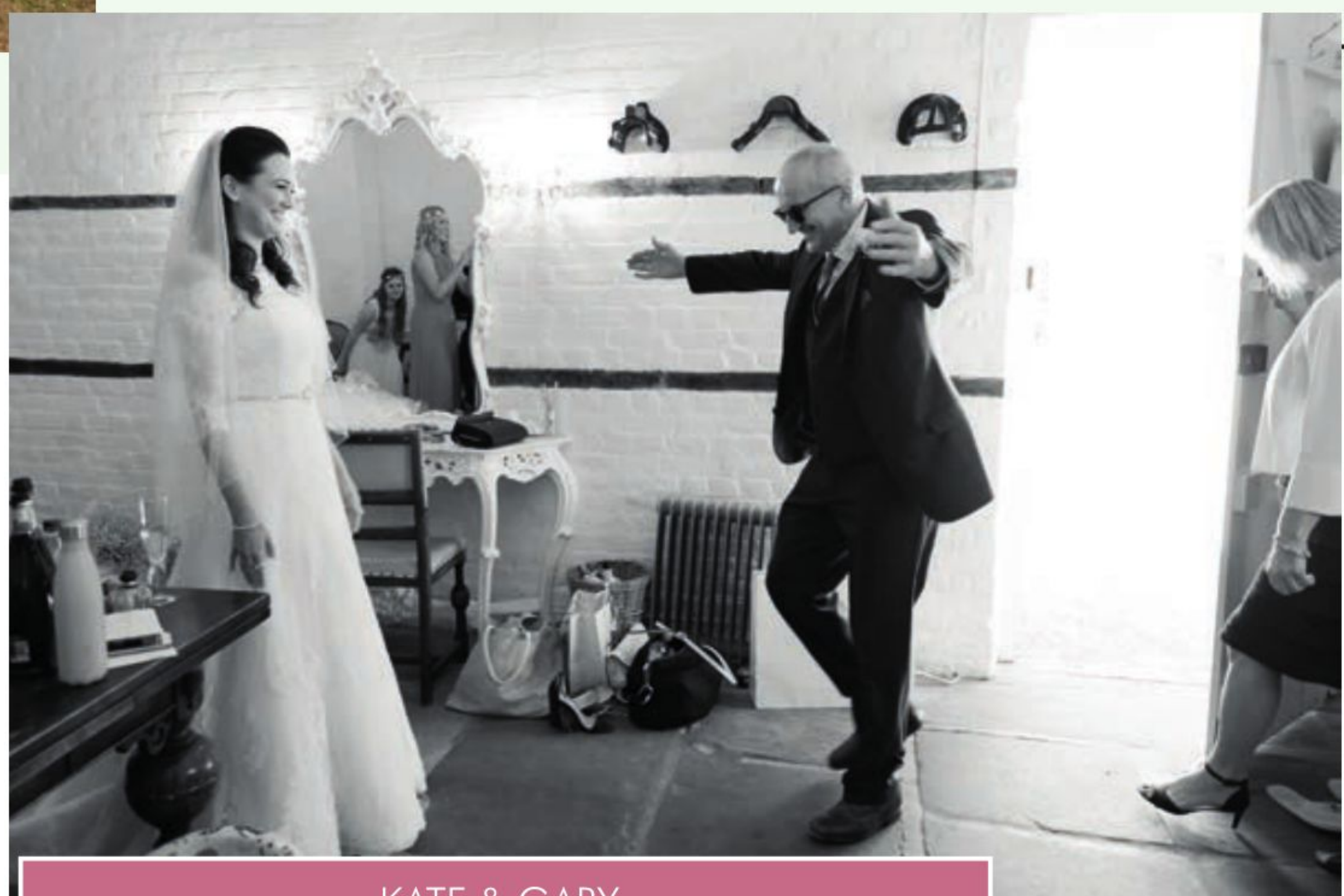
SILVIA & GEORGE,  
30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019, VOCO OXFORD THAMES

*"An image showing the dad delivering the bride to the groom, glances are exchanged, such a pivotal moment."* – Tonja Fritz-Johnson

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*"It was one of the last photos of the night and after a fun day it just summed up the couple and their friends perfectly. It was an image I had always wanted to shoot but never had the opportunity (or a bridal party willing to get covered in champagne!) so I'm so pleased these guys just went for it and really enjoyed it!"* – Laura Westley

**Laura Westley** | **Laura Rachel Photography** |  
[laurarachel.co.uk](http://laurarachel.co.uk)



KATE & GARY  
26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019, LILLIBROOKE MANOR



*"My favourite is actually a sequence of three, the father-of-the-bride being introduced to his daughter as a bride, both have tears of joy, happiness and love."* – Loren Stone  
**Stone Photos** | [stonephotos.co.uk](http://stonephotos.co.uk)



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SARAH & SEAN

22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2019, AT NOTLEY ABBEY

*Editor's pick... "Wow! As first dance picture go, this one is pretty magical! The lighting, the dress and the composition all come together perfectly to capture a moment I'm sure the happy couple will never forget."*

*Featured in Your Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wedding, image courtesy of Steph Kiely Photography ([stephkielyphotography.co.uk](http://stephkielyphotography.co.uk))*



FAY & MIKE CLARKE

1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2019, AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,  
CORNWELL MANOR

*Editor's pick... "I have to say this image made me smile. What a wonderful experience for the bride walking with her bridesmaids to her wedding. Not many brides will have this brilliant picture, a truly unique moment."*

*Featured in Your Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wedding, image courtesy of Alice*

*Morgan Photography*

*([alicemorganphotography.co.uk](http://alicemorganphotography.co.uk))*



KATHERINE & JONATHAN

6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019, BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL CHAPEL, DE  
VERE LATIMER ESTATE

*Editor's pick... "This image made me well up! The emotion is clearly visible on such a monumental day – a touching moment!"*

*Featured in Your Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wedding, image courtesy of Steph Kiely Photography ([stephkielyphotography.co.uk](http://stephkielyphotography.co.uk))*



JADE & BEN EUSTICE

6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019, AT NOTLEY TYTHE BARN

*Editor's pick... "The confetti shot is still a must-have request for many couple in their wedding albums; so I love that this couple have used bubbles for this iconic moment which looks just fab in the picture!"*

*Featured in Your Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wedding, image courtesy of Yellow Door Photography ([yellowdoorphotography.co.uk](http://yellowdoorphotography.co.uk))*

KIMBERLEY & NATHAN DOWIE  
10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2019, CROWNE PLAZA MARLOW



*Editor's pick... "I think achieving that 'bridal glow' is about being yourself and showing off your natural beauty which Katherine nails to perfection with her naturally beautiful bridal look."*

*Featured in Your Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wedding, image courtesy of Wendy Aldiss, ([wendyaldiss.co.uk](http://wendyaldiss.co.uk))*



# THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Read on to find out about  
the county's biggest  
must-visit wedding show

You've said 'yes' to the love of your life – and the beautiful ring – and now you'll both be in full wedding planning mode. However, for some this can be an extremely daunting task. To help you organise the all-important big day, then I have to simply point you in the direction of our County Wedding Events Signature Wedding Show at Ascot Racecourse.

One of the largest shows to be held in the South of England boasting more than 150 exhibitors, there will be a huge range of specialists attending including venues, bridal boutiques, photographers, florists, cake makers and more.

On the day, couples and their entourages 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 the on-site café at Ascot Racecourse as well.

What's more, by attending our exhibition 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.

*Sarah x*

*Sarah Ellis, sales and events director*

*Psst! 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 Spabreaks.com voucher.*



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# Signature

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- 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



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## Gift it

The Wedding Collection by Wanderlust Life is a new jewellery launch, brimming with handmade pieces featuring mother-of-pearl, semi-precious stones and freshwater pearls. We love these champagne quartz earrings, £44, [wanderlustlife.co.uk](http://wanderlustlife.co.uk) [wanderlustlifejewellery](https://www.instagram.com/wanderlustlifejewellery)

## Editor's favourite

Wedding Buttonique custom-makes button and brooch bouquets that will last a lifetime, [etsy.com/uk/shop/WeddingButtonique](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/WeddingButtonique) [weddingbuttonique](https://www.instagram.com/weddingbuttonique)



## Stylish maids

Grace Loves Lace has launched its new Silky Satin Bridesmaids Edit. This selection of luxurious hand-crafted pieces includes three versatile styles – a midi and mini dress, and a two-piece set available in olive, dusk, steel and moonshine shades. A range of accessories including satin hair buns and scarves has also been unveiled.

In other news, the company has launched their first pair of white leather wedding trainers, ideal for brides wanting comfort and fashion, [graceloveslace.com](http://graceloveslace.com) [grace\\_loves\\_lace](https://www.instagram.com/grace_loves_lace)



FASHION

## BEST FOOT FORWARD

These ivory satin bridal peep toes adorned with a large chiffon bow at the back, £220, are the latest offering from shoe designer Harriet Wilde. Why not personalise the soles with a short message available in a variety of colours and a choice of fonts? [harrietwilde.com](http://harrietwilde.com) [harrietwildeshoes](https://www.instagram.com/harrietwildeshoes)



# Fashion focus

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

## NAME IT

This sterling silver name necklace, £40, is from the new personalised collection from [jewellerybox.co.uk](http://jewellerybox.co.uk) and makes the ideal big-day keepsake. [jewelleryboxuk](https://www.instagram.com/jewelleryboxuk)



## PICK YOUR OWN

Jeweller Emily Mortimer has launched a bespoke service where couples can choose the stone, carat, metal, shape and colour of their engagement ring.

Emily discusses initial ideas and then produces a three-dimensional CAD design, along with a quote that's always within budget. Only the best quality gemstones and GIA-certified diamonds are sourced. Emily will also remodel heirloom pieces, [emilymortimer.co.uk](http://emilymortimer.co.uk) [emilymortimerjewellery](https://www.instagram.com/emilymortimerjewellery)



## EDITOR'S PICK

Thank your best girls with this gold-tone crystal bracelet, £89, from the new Tarot Magic collection by [swarovski.com](http://swarovski.com) [swarovski](https://www.instagram.com/swarovski)



## What lies beneath

Lingerie, swimwear and nightwear brand Boux Avenue has released Bouxique by Boux Avenue, a luxury new capsule collection inspired by traditional corsetry techniques and French lace fabrics. Bold red and black pieces feature supportive designs and are honeymoon lust-haves, [bouxavenue.com](http://bouxavenue.com) [bouxavenue](https://www.instagram.com/bouxavenue)





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# Floral ABUNDANCE

Pick a wedding dress budding with flower detail

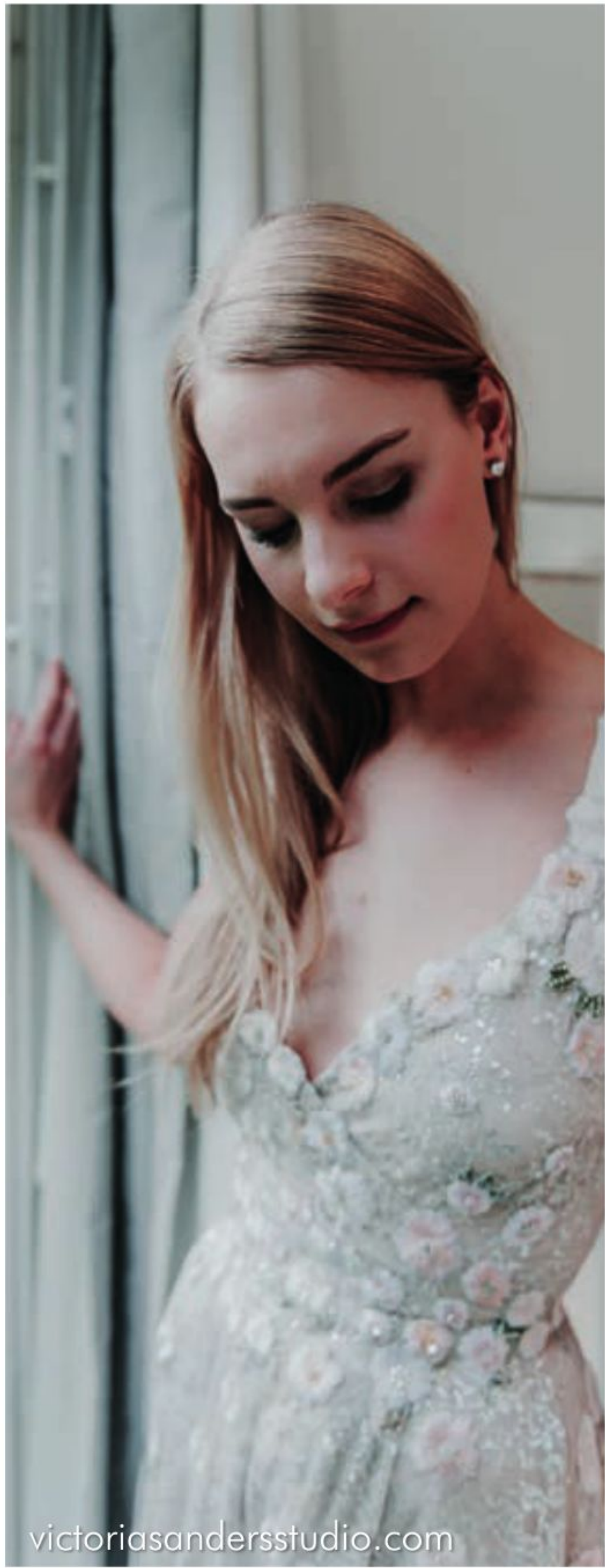




















# An Oasis of Rural Tranquillity

Its courtyard, croquet lawn and landscaped gardens give way to sweeping views across the North Cotswold valley to one side, and are protected by acres of deciduous English woodland to the other. Now, for the first time in its centuries old history, the farm is being made available for weddings. You and your guests can stay in one of our five award winning cottages, centred around a courtyard with a rill, lily pond and stunning seated archway, or in a luxury bell tent nestled in the woodland and garden area. Available for exclusive bookings only, for just six weddings a year, we have created a range of packages to offer you an exceptional wedding venue.

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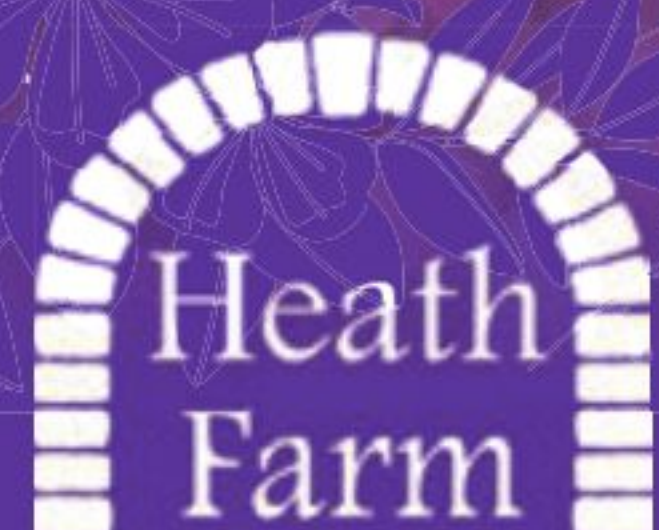


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[www.hireclass.co.uk](http://www.hireclass.co.uk)





# Dare To BARE

Dresses featuring decorative back detail are this season's hottest trend





Saint by alexandragrecco.com



Celestial by charlottebalbier.com



Seville by miamiabridal.co.uk



Style no 7620 by enaura.com



Nina by rikidalal.com







Green amethyst  
pendant necklace,  
£135,  
monicavinader.com



Blue crystal stud earrings,  
£45, uk.pandora.net



Rainbow pastel clutch bag,  
£40, dunelondon.com

KissKiss Liquid in Miss Glitter,  
£29.50, feelunique.com



Pistachio full-length dress,  
£150, thandth.com



Pink scarf, £95,  
marc-cain.com



Blue headband with  
pearls and Swarovski  
crystals, £74,  
aliceandblair.co.uk

Wedding guests will love this  
season's sweet selection of  
ladylike pieces

Powder blue off-the-shoulder dress,  
£195, theprettydresscompany.com



Rainbow pastel court shoes,  
£75, dunelondon.com

# Pastel hues



Full-length dresses,  
£125 each, [dessy.com](http://dessy.com)



# Into the blue

Team this popular shade with crystal silver accessories

Silver Swarovski crystal  
and pearl hair slide, £24,  
[aliceandblair.co.uk](http://aliceandblair.co.uk)



Silver satin  
two-piece, £370,  
[graceloveslace.com](http://graceloveslace.com)



Silver glitter clutch bag, £65,  
[rainbowclub.co.uk](http://rainbowclub.co.uk)



Sterling silver crown  
bracelet, £70,  
[uk.pandora.net](http://uk.pandora.net)



Silver shimmer  
necklace, £89, DKNY  
at [shadesoftime.co.uk](http://shadesoftime.co.uk)



Crystal-encrusted  
court shoes, £120,  
[dunelondon.com](http://dunelondon.com)



Silver crystal and  
pearl earrings, £18,  
[jonrichard.com](http://jonrichard.com)





10/10

It's always tricky to find the perfect shade, but that should be made simple with the new essential eye wardrobe from MUA. Featuring 10 beautifully buildable tones, six pearl and four matte varieties, they're just £1.50 each! With exceptional pigment to rival brands 10-times the price, can you really afford not to try them all! What's more they are 100% vegan and cruelty-free to boot! Check out [muastore.co.uk](http://muastore.co.uk)



The key to being big-day ready is to start your beauty regime early! Here's a pick of the latest health and beauty essentials to help you look good and feel great from the inside out.

*Danielle* x

Danielle Harvey, beauty editor



## Brush it off

The key to great make-up application is down to having the right tools, and that means high quality brushes; enter beauty and lifestyle brand, Lily England! The company's new brushes, in stylish black, gold and marble, are hand-finished, vegan-friendly and are not only affordable but are totally wedding-album-worthy! Luxurious and cruelty-free, the range boasts sets for the face, eyes or a full brush kit. Each synthetic brush is made with high-quality super-soft bristles designed to last – suitable for people with sensitive skin! The new range also includes chic marble make-up and travel bags, great for stylishly organising your toolkit. The set is £45 and is available at [lilyengland.com](http://lilyengland.com)

# BEAUTY BUZZ



## THE FACE HAS IT

Creating a tan-compatible, cosmeceutical, vegan skincare line was essential to the Amanda Harrington philosophy and tanning range. The just-launched New Skin Face are advanced glycolic facial pads designed specifically to promote rapid exfoliation and to create the perfect smooth base. These generously sized, ultra-soft and biodegradable cotton pads are soaked in a bespoke blended formula of glycolic, fruit acids and soothing aloe vera – to expertly polish, brighten and refresh the face.

A must-have multi-tasker, erasing unwanted tan or leftover traces of make-up, they are gentle enough to use 3-4 times a week within your usual skincare routine – brightening the skin and removing impurities, creating the perfect canvas for tanning. Priced £18 for 30 facial pads visit [amandaharrington.com](http://amandaharrington.com)

## HONEY, HONEY

French pharmacy brand Nuxe has just added two new products to its iconic collection. Perfect for creating that bridal glow, they soothe and nourish dry and sensitive skin. The Nuxe Reve de Miel collection (literal translation Honey Dreams) is aimed at dry and sensitive skin, using honey and precious essential oils which will wrap the skin in softness. The Ultra-Comforting Face Balm uses nourishing, soothing and repairing active ingredients while the Melting Body Balm with honey, provides a sensory and effective response to dryness – exactly what parched, dry winter skin needs, a cocoon of argan, honey, mimosa, vanilla and botanical oils – hello beautiful! Face Balm, £27.50, Body Oil Balm, £22.50, Lip Balm, £10.50 at [escentual.com](http://escentual.com)



## PERFECTLY BAKED

The B.Makeup collection at Superdrug boasts four new B.Baking Powders – a big-day essential for the bride and her girl squad. Finely milled for an effortless lightweight application, they instantly mattify, blur and help make-up stay in place all day.

Vegan-friendly and cruelty-free, there is a choice of four shades; translucent, light, medium and dark. Priced at just £6.99, they're available from [superdrug.com/brandshop/B/makeup](http://superdrug.com/brandshop/B/makeup) and stores nationwide.

## MIGHTY MULTITASKING

Hydrating and oxygenating this AHA cleanser is mild, yet ultra-effective, with a beautiful and comforting texture. Priced £58, visit [mzskin.com](http://mzskin.com) and Harrods and Harvey Nichols nationwide.





## BE KIND

Reading the back of products can certainly lead to confusion with names and ingredients you don't recognise and then follows the worry of not knowing what you're truly putting on your skin! Step forward, Kind Natured, the skincare brand that believe in keeping it natural. There's three key ranges encompassing all your beauty needs, from facial oils to jelly masks, eye creams to moisturiser, each comes under one of the following:

### ♥ BRIGHTEN

**Ginseng** – helps to plump and firm skin which leads to a naturally radiant glow.

**Grapefruit** – Grapefruit helps even the complexion, delivering a natural luminosity.

### ♥ HYDRATE

**Coconut milk** – the natural fatty acids within coconut milk make it perfect for treating dry and irritated skin.

**Cotton** – rich in Vitamin E and fatty acids, which help to reduce inflammation, soothe skin and moisturise.

### ♥ CALM & SOOTHE

**Shea** – Shea has proven anti-inflammatory properties, helping to calm any redness and alleviate dryness caused by sensitive skin.

**Aloe** – Rich in vitamins and known for its soothing properties, Aloe helps to calm and soothe the skin.

Full skincare range available to purchase at Boots stores and boots.com

## GOING GREEN

Greenpeople has some exciting new launches. Pure Luxe Body Oil (£25) is blended with plant botanicals for superior radiance and an unrivalled skin glow. Rich in pomegranate and phospholipids, this leaves the skin with a beautiful satin-soft finish. Next up the aptly named Ultimate Wonder Balm (£32); a richly rejuvenating multi-purpose beauty balm which can be used as a cleanser to effectively melt away make-up or utilise this SOS balm to soothe and protect sensitive lips, tame eyebrows, nourish cuticles or soothe dry skin anywhere. Available from greenpeople.co.uk, selected Holland & Barrett stores nationwide and online.

## DAY TO NIGHT

Introducing Babe Night, the new fragrance by Missguided adding to its award-winning collection.

The intoxicating new fragrance opens with citrus notes of lemon, orange and green apple and develops with heady accords of orange blossom, jasmine and spicy pink pepper. Base notes of musky vanilla, cedar and patchouli make Babe Night the ultimate scent to take you from day into the evening – perfect for the 'I dos' to the first dance!

Available in an 80ml Eau de parfum, Babe Night is vegan-friendly and cruelty-free. Priced £28, from missguided.com

## SAVING PLANET EARTH

Tisserand Aromatherapy collaborates with National Geographic so brides can rest assured they're buying their beauty products without damaging the planet!

The collaboration has been designed to protect and respect your wellbeing as well as the earth's and celebrates the power of nature from all over the world, with three new aromatherapy blends housed in fully recyclable packaging. Putting sustainability at the core of the collection, it's been created with 100% PCR (post-consumer recycled) plastic, 100% natural ingredients and a dedication to giving back to those who work in conservation via the not-for-profit National Geographic Society. The three blends are available in six options priced from £9: Shower Wash, Bath Oil, Diffuser Oil, Roller Ball, Mood Mist, Travel Kit (compromising Bath Oil, Mood Mist, Roller Ball), packaged in a reusable vegan cosmetic bag (£20). Available from Boots and tisserand.com

## BRONZED BEAUTY

Due to popular demand, the Sunny Honey Bali Bronzing Foam from Coco & Eve is now back in stock after selling out over 190,000 units in just nine weeks!

Packed with key ingredients such as mango, guava, banana, linseed oil, there's definitely no biscuit smell here! This self-tan is the world's first tan with anti-cellulite technology to blur pigmentation and perfect skin for all occasions. With a lightweight and non-sticky formula, the tan is fast-drying and develops in just two-hours – perfect for hen dos, big-days and honeymoons!

100% vegan, natural DHA, and no nasties, this is certainly the self-tan you need. Priced £29.90, check out uk.cocoandeve.com





# Beauty Q&A

Be inspired by 2020 hair and beauty trends when it comes to creating your big-day look

## THE FACE HAS IT

Beauty editor Kelly Andrews, of County Wedding Magazines says:

**Fluffy brows** – gone are the days of super slick and perfectly penciled brows. The latest trend has a more relaxed feel and is easily achieved by brushing the hairs upwards before setting with a clear or tinted gel. For a long term solution, check out brow lamination treatments at your local salon.

**Au naturel** – still by far the hottest make-up trend is the understated natural look. Think wedding-day Duchess of Sussex with radiant glowing skin, lightly flushed cheeks and doe eyes with a smoked-out liner.

**Berry nice** – a classic red lip is a great way to amp up the glam, but it's not a shade everyone will feel confident with. Try a gorgeous berry hue on your lips after the first kiss to take your look from day to night.

Beauty editor | Kelly Andrews  
| [kellya@county.wedding](mailto:kellya@county.wedding)

## ON-TREND LOCKS

Hair stylist Hannah Sparkes, of Hair by Hannah says: I feel when choosing a hairstyle for yourself/bridal party, it should be complementary to your dress, face shape, hair texture and length.

I still feel for 2020 the reigning champion for bridal hairstyles are still a quintessential bohemian look.

Whether it's a low soft up do or down with loose waves, these styles are so versatile and can be dressed up or down using a different bridal hair accessories, whether it's a flower crown or a more vintage style embellished headpiece or vine to add more of a chic look, each style looking effortlessly exquisite. The options are vast, but this trend I feel is one to stick around.

Hair stylist | Hair by Hannah | [facebook.com/hairbyhannahsparkes/](https://facebook.com/hairbyhannahsparkes/)



# NETHER WINCHENDON *House*



Breathtakingly romantic, Nether Winchendon House sits dreamily on lawns running down to the River Thames. Whether you are using The Carriage Barn for your reception or a Marquee, this timelessly enchanting house will be the backdrop of your fabulous Wedding Day photographs here at Nether Winchendon House - where towers, arches, turrets and balconies cast their spell of elegance and charm.



## **Nether Winchendon House**

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Nether Winchendon House, Near Thame, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0DY | [nwhouse.co.uk](http://nwhouse.co.uk)





# UP, UP and away



blossomandbonephotography.com

Multi-award-winning bridal and celebrity hair designer Vicki Lord talks to Kelly Andrews about creating the perfect up do silhouette, 2020 trends, and her top tips

"I used to do my own hair as a child, and I have been creating my own up styles from the age of five," Vicki says. She left school before the age of 16, and went to work in a salon where she learned that Vidal Sassoon was interviewing for apprentices: "Everyone told me I should go, but I said 'I can't do that!' I was just working at a little salon in Allington at the time." Nevertheless, her friends and family were persistent in their encouragement and eventually Vicki caved! She remembers, "I gathered all of my nearest and dearest together to model every hair-up style in my arsenal, and create a portfolio. The interview panel was impressed with what I'd put together, and told me they'd never had an apprentice produce anything like it before. Out of 50 candidates I was one of only a handful to be given the opportunity to become an apprentice."

Following her time at Vidal Sassoon, Vicki became a freelance hairdresser, undertaking further specialist training as she worked. She explains: "I did a hair extension course with Balmain and became one of their trainers. Later, I went on to become a regular session stylist, but hair-up has always been with me – it's my passion."

## THE SILHOUETTE IS EVERYTHING

With a vast knowledge and 30 years of experience when it comes to creating innovative looks, nothing excites Vicki more than advocating the silhouette as a planning tool. "Hairdressers should understand shapes," she explains, and continues, "We work with them all the time. When you're learning to cut hair you're taught how to consider face shapes, and I take the same ethos into my designs. I'm constantly thinking about the silhouette I'm creating. For example, those with a square jawline shouldn't have anything at the sides of the face, as it'll look wider than it is. Likewise, with oval face shapes wearing the hair high will overly elongate. So, the first thing I do with my brides is sit down and sketch out the dress with hair styles, thinking about the face shape and neckline."





blossomandbonephotography.com

Keen to share her knowledge on this subject, Vicki regularly heads out on the road to some of the country's biggest wedding fairs to talk to brides in person. She says, "So many brides have come to me with a Pinterest board of styles they like, and I have to say to them: 'Hang on, look at your face shape then look at that picture again. Do you still like the style?' I've been championing this idea for more than 20 years and I've tried to teach it to other hairdressers. It's really important. In fact, I actually think brides should think about their hair before they choose their dress – say 'yes' to the hair! Think about it, if you have your heart set on wearing your hair down and nothing will sway you, you should be looking for a figure hugging dress or a fishtail design."

#### LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

"Fashion goes round and round in a circle. I look at the latest catwalk trends, but most of the time you become the trendsetter," Vicki says when asked about her inspirations. She continues, "My muse is the bride herself. Seeing her dress and her wedding set-up – is it boho, contemporary, vintage? That's what gives me my moodboard."

I asked Vicki to give us the inside track on the top wedding hair trend for 2020, something she'd already given a lot of thought to: "I'm noticing that dresses are becoming a lot sexier with a lot of deep V's and low backs. With that in mind, I want to bring back a Mediterranean high-gloss look. There are so many undone styles, so I'd love to see some structure and creativity. Think Kim Kardashian and Audrey Hepburn with those sharp centre partings. It's a timeless look that'll never date."

#### CAREER HIGHS

As a session stylist Vicki has worked with celebrities from Jodie Kidd to Tess Daly, but

one in particular gets the award for creating her most surreal moment. She tells us more: "I loved working with Macy Gray's hair, it was so cool to make her look different, I did a mohawk on her. I had to stand in the wings while she was performing, ready to make any adjustments and as she came off stage she headed straight for me saying, 'Hey Vicki how ya doin'? I love the frizz, you've done a massive job on the frizz, but aw man can ya take the grips out?' So there I was, pulling out hair clips, when next thing I know, Macy Gray's head is in my lap and I'm giving her a scalp massage! Things don't get any weirder than that, but it was my best moment."

Vicki's favourite celeb client right now is Shona McGarty, otherwise known as *Eastenders*' Whitney Dean. "I love giving her a red carpet look that's the complete opposite to her on-screen character – something demure and classy," she explains. Her ultimate dream of a client though would be the incomparable Lady Gaga. Why? "She'd wear my crazy sculptural hairpieces! She needs me in her life! It will happen one day," she laughs.

#### TOP TIPS

If you're trying to grow your hair for the big day, you're not alone, but that doesn't mean you should neglect your locks. Vicki says, "Regular trims are paramount. If you're scared of having too much taken off, have your hair washed and straightened at the salon and just have the ends trimmed dry."

"Use regular conditioning treatments. I'd highly recommend using Amika's Soulfood once a week. Free of sulphates and parabens, it's also vegan and cruelty free. Olaplex is also a great product and will improve the structure of your hair. I couldn't live without my T3 heat styling products and Batiste Dry Shampoo either."

"You might also want to think about clip-ins or extensions. I'm Balmain's ambassador and love their products. I'd say 90 per cent of brides, models and celebrities will have hairpieces in. No one has that much hair! If you've got a big dress you need big hair or you're going to end up with a bridesmaid's do and you're the one who needs to stand out."

#### GIRL POWER

Vicki launched her own fresh and contemporary hair salon in Canterbury, Kent in the spring of 2019, where she and her talented team specialise in their own fields including cutting, styling, colouring, hair extensions, hair up and, of course, bridal. "We have the bridal suite and academy upstairs and the salon downstairs, as well as Kent's very first braiding bar."

The multi-award-winning hairdresser says she now wants to inspire others: "I really want to drive my academy forward. Plus, in the future I'd love to have my own chain of salons, and launch a range of hair extensions and products. Who knows what the future holds?"

A newly single mum of a 10-year-old and a 15-year-old Vicki is determined to be a positive role model for her children: "I've gone through an emotional rollercoaster and I've come out the other end thinking 'I can do this, and I will do this.' Women are stronger than we think we are. Work-life balance is hard, but there are more important things than dirty dishes. Life is for living!"



Find out more at [vickilordhair.com](http://vickilordhair.com)



# RING-A-DING-DING

Looking for the perfect jewellery for your big day? Take our test to see which design best suits you

Here at County Wedding Magazines HQ, we understand how important it is that you look and feel fabulous on your big day. Jewellery and accessories are a key part in helping you achieve your desired look, so to help you find pieces that will complement your gown we've created the ultimate quiz. Simply tick the boxes that apply and turn over to see the results!

## WHICH EARRINGS WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

1



2



3



4

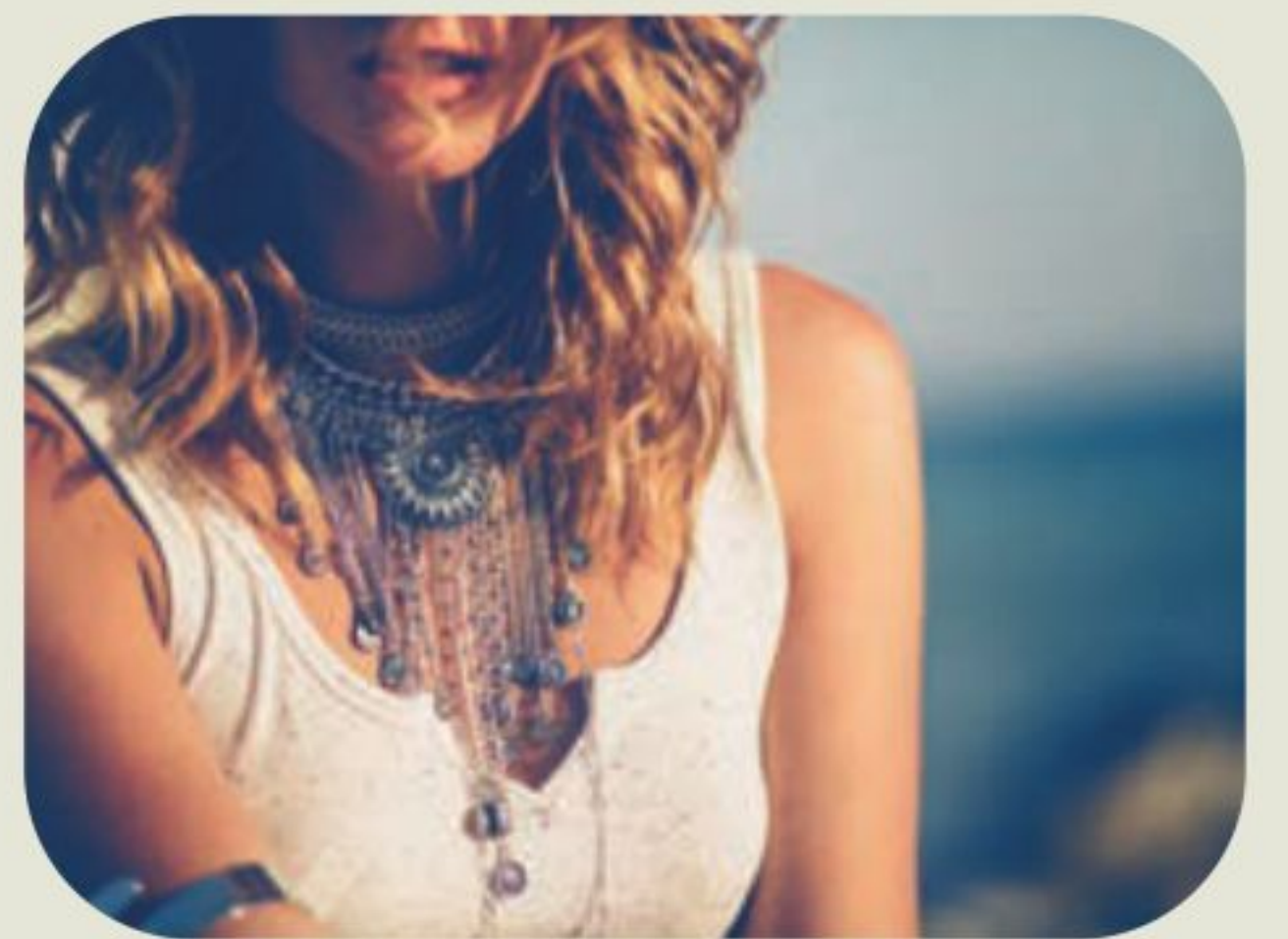


## WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE NECKLACE?

1



2



3

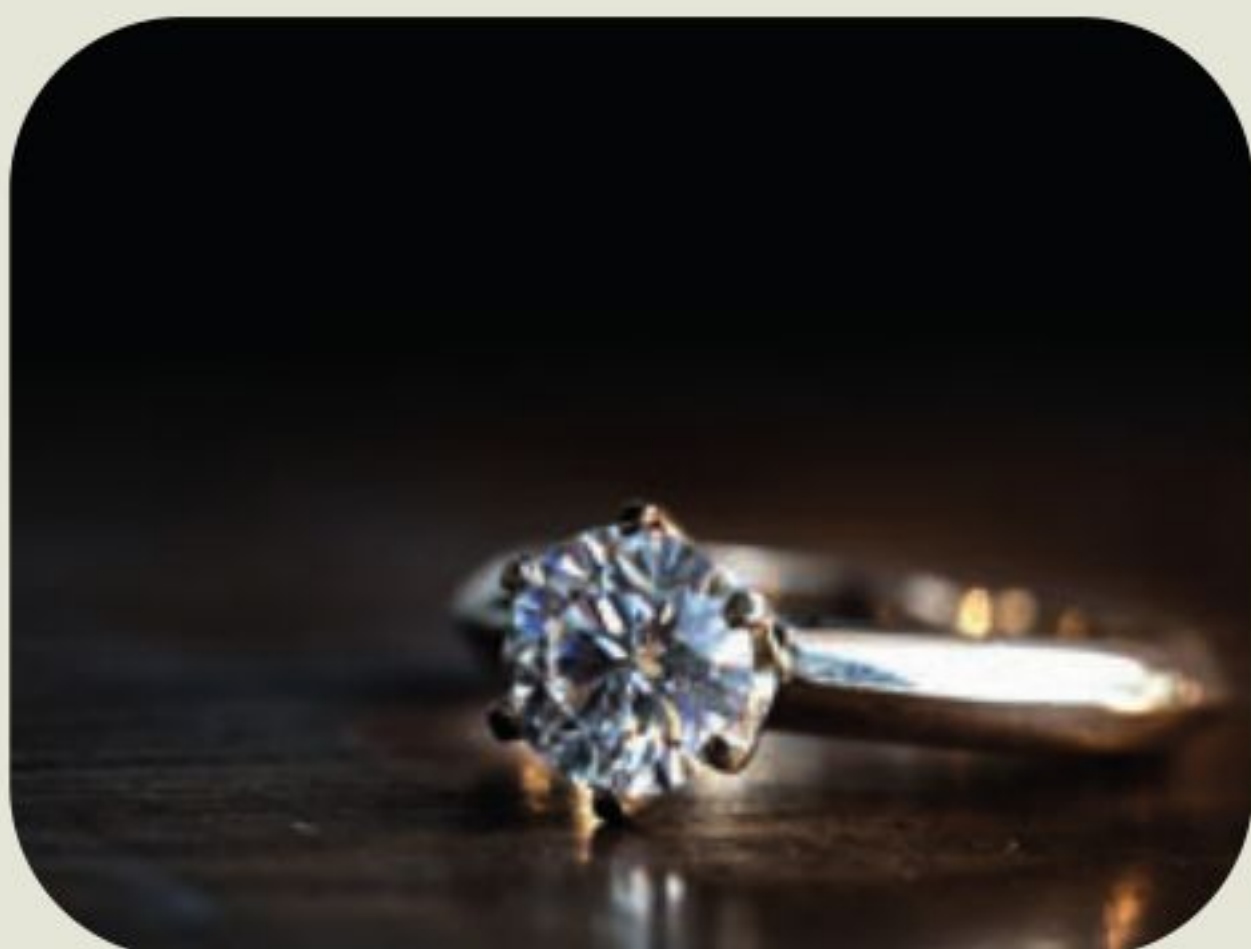


4



## CHOOSE THE MOST APPEALING RING

1



2



3



4

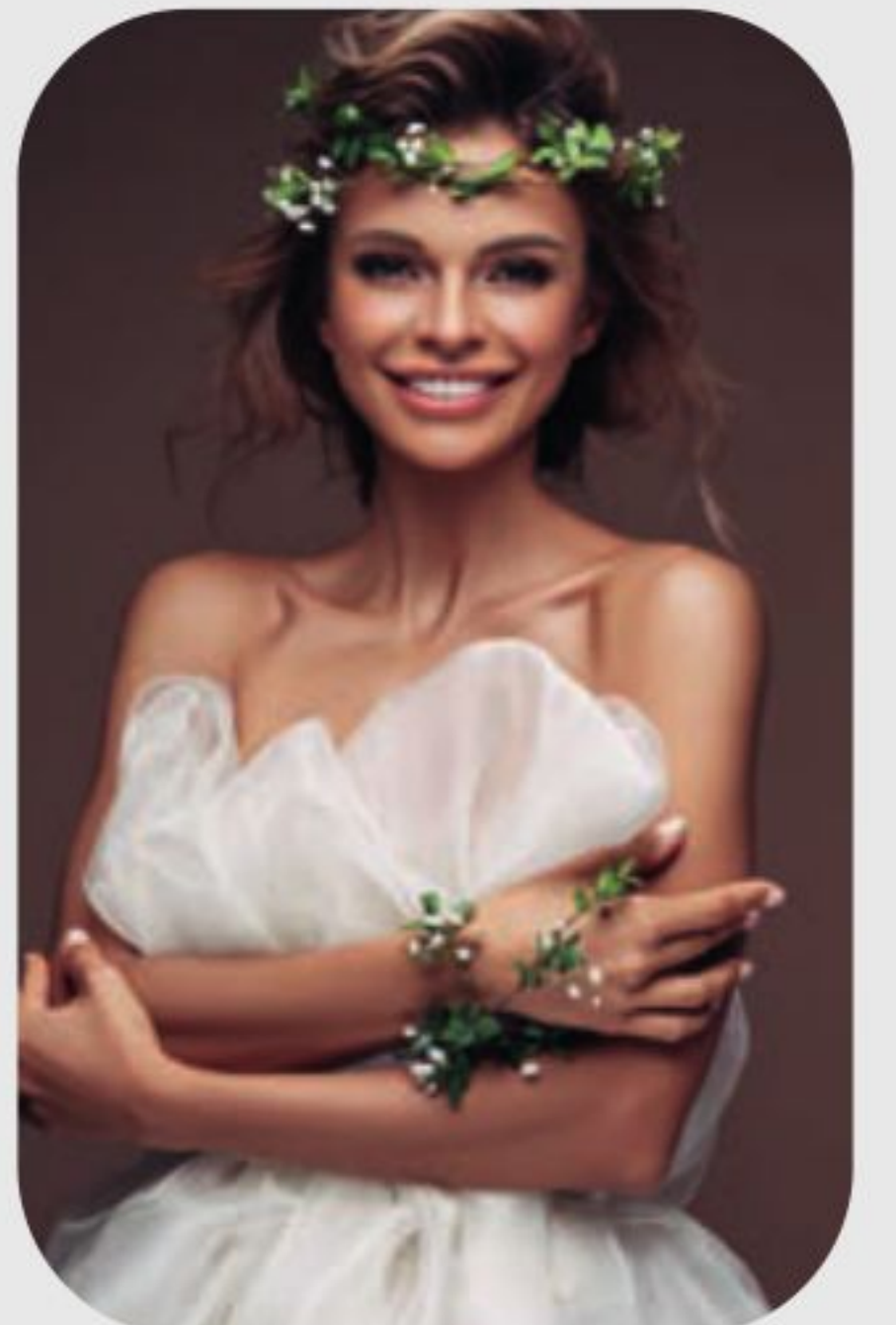


## WHICH BRACELET WOULD YOU WEAR?

1



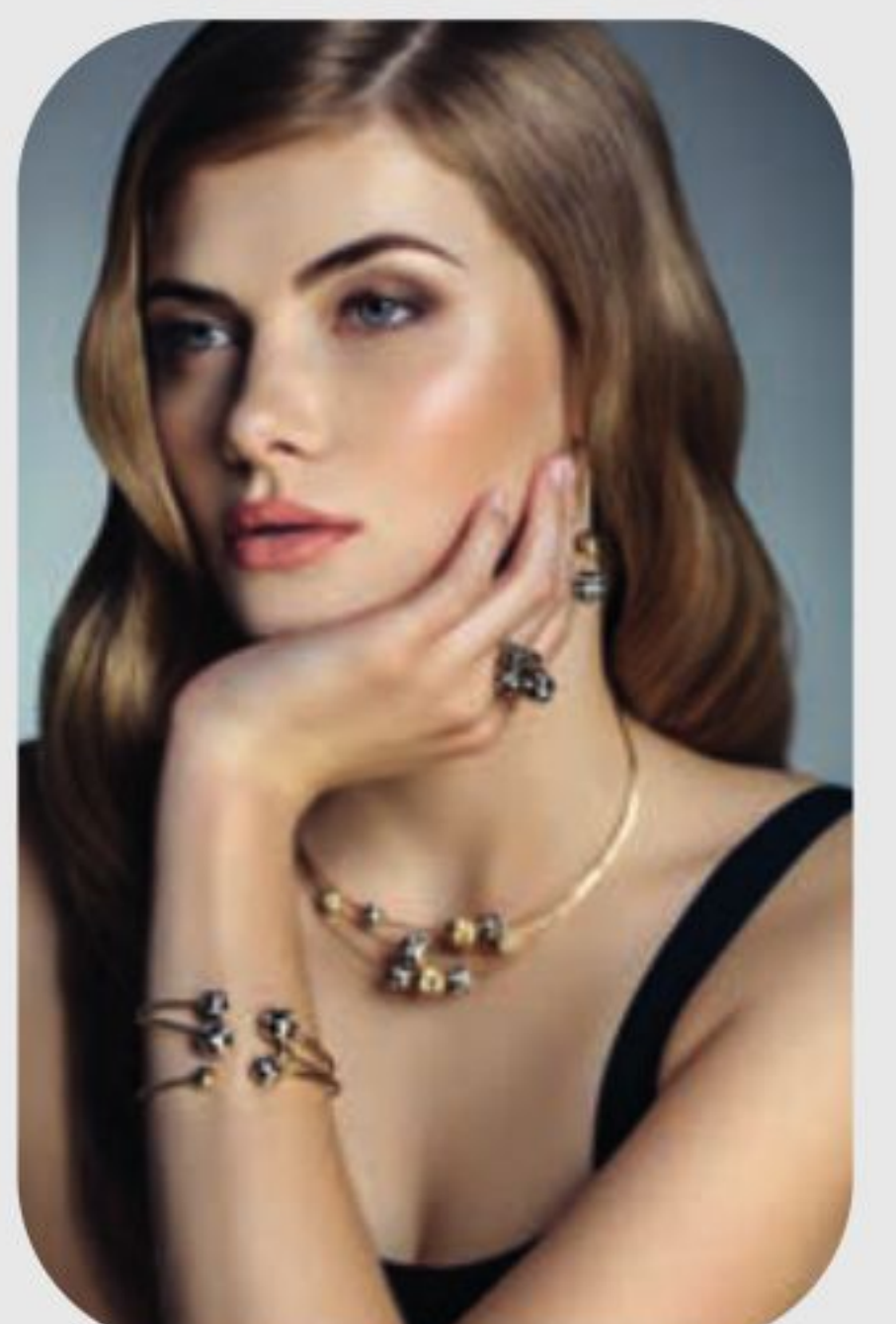
2



3



4





PICK YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGN

1



2



3



4



WHICH BAG DO YOU PREFER?

1



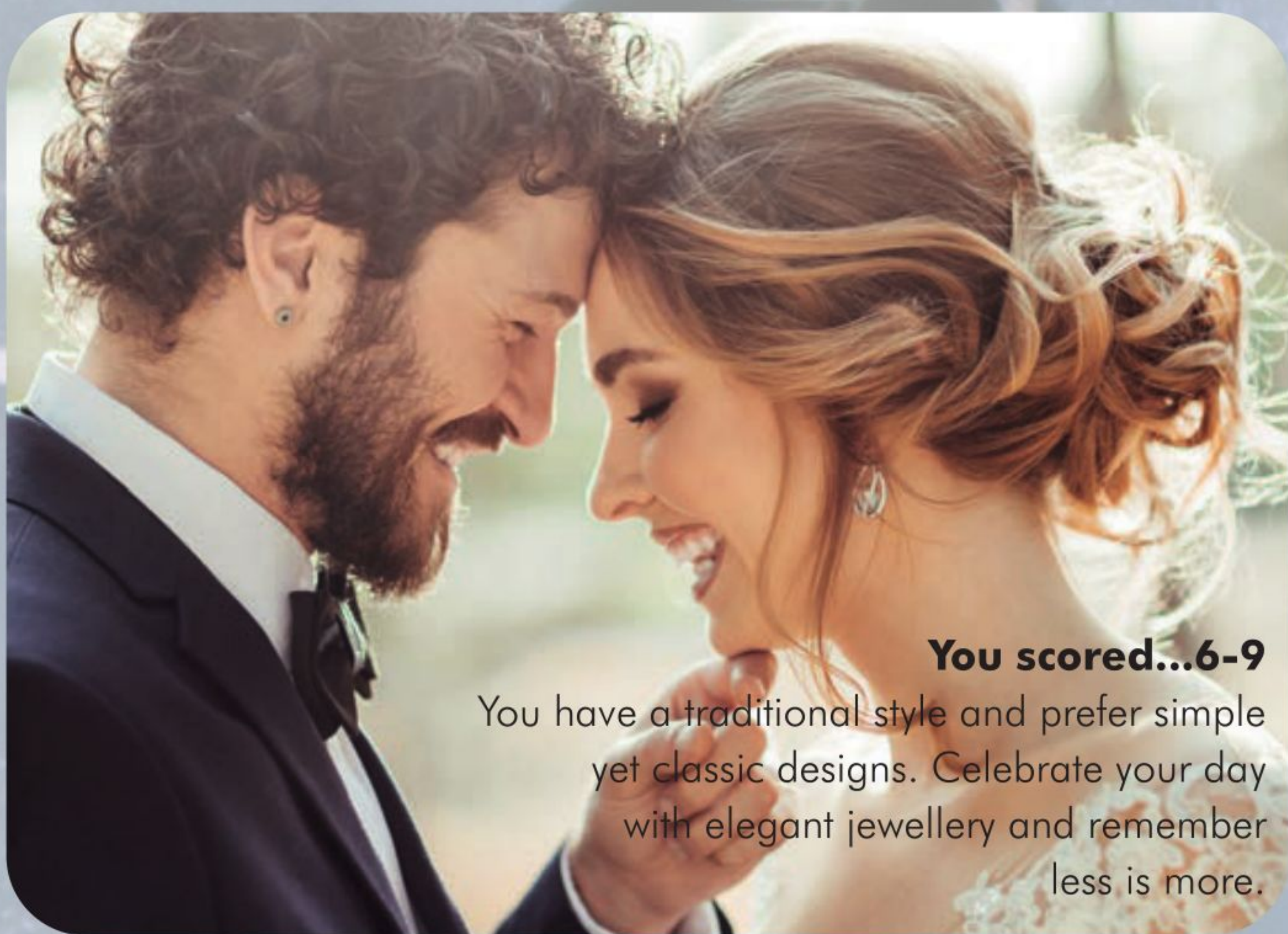
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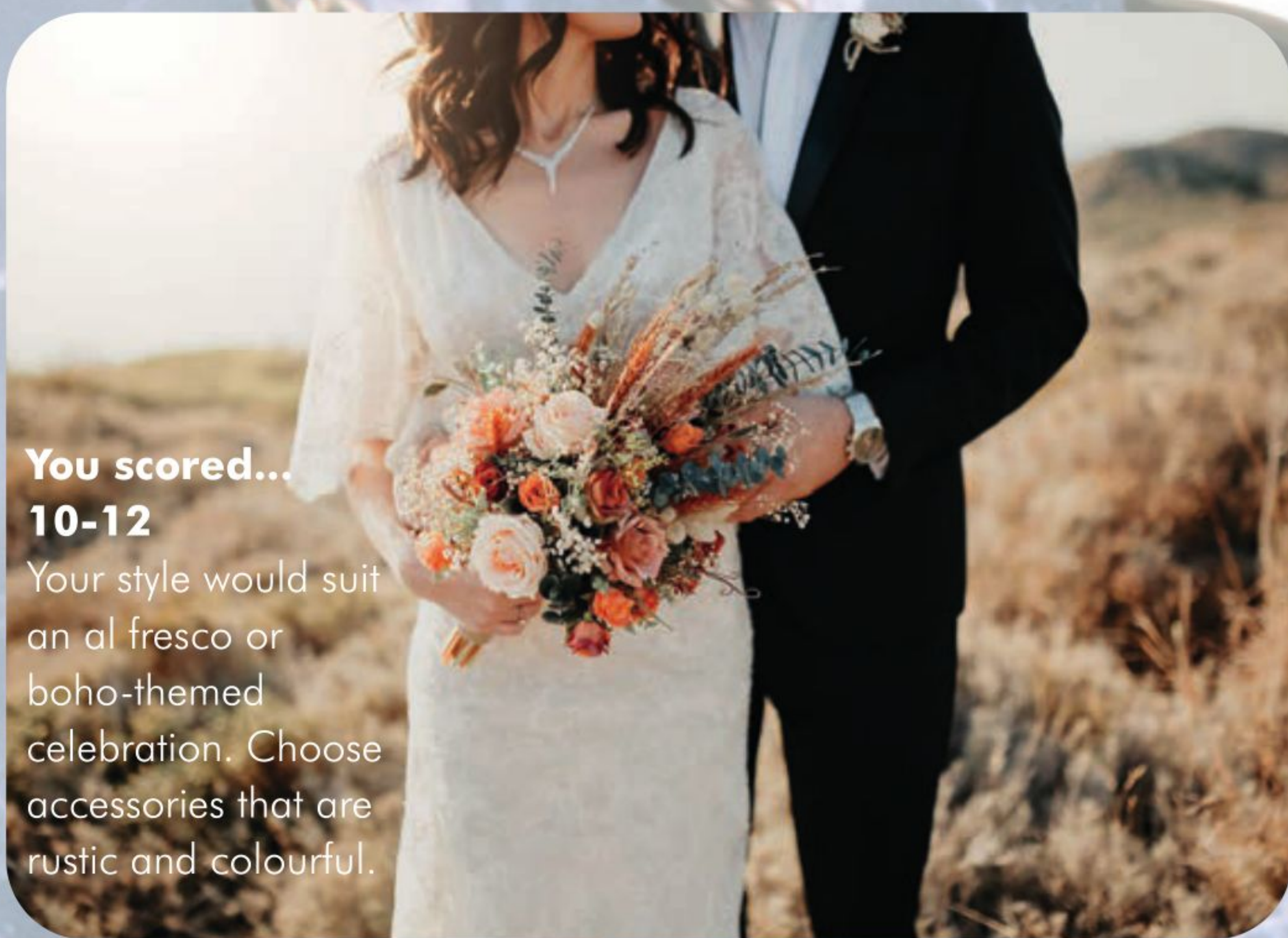


4



**You scored...6-9**

You have a traditional style and prefer simple yet classic designs. Celebrate your day with elegant jewellery and remember less is more.



**You scored...10-12**

Your style would suit an al fresco or boho-themed celebration. Choose accessories that are rustic and colourful.



**You scored...13-15**

Alternative weddings are ideal for those who want something a bit different. Opt for strong colours and quirky designs.



**You scored...16-20**

You're a sophisticated person who loves luxury. Look for grand creations with impressive embellishments and a gold or silver colour scheme.



# HOT TOPIC

## #trending

What's hot in the world of weddings in 2020



### ... FOR THE FIRST DANCE

Director of All Steps First Dance Ltd Kiri Cullen says: It's the dawn of a new decade, and for those lucky wedding couples getting married this year, there's lots to look forward to. From exciting first dance songs to new ways of putting together a routine.

More and more couples are choosing to learn a group dance rather than the traditional couple dance. They may decide to learn a dance at their hen or stag weekend and then perform it at the wedding. Or if want any chance of remembering it, it's maybe best learning the group dance a few weeks beforehand without any influence or distractions that sometimes are very much included in hen and stag weekends.

How about an aisle entrance dance? Not surprising, a trend originating in America and working its way across the pond. You can get your bridal party involved and strut your stuff down the aisle working your way towards the very surprised but hopefully happy groom! More recently, couples are eager to do something different as opposed to the normal traditional sway like dance to a slow romantic song. They want to show their personalities and start married life in a fun and upbeat way.

Or, you could opt for a first dance with just the two of you but perform a mash up, a mix of songs and styles that you can

perform to your guests. You will certainly wow your guests with this performance especially if you keep rehearsals under your hat.

You may be worried about creating all these mash ups and cuts of songs to make a musical piece that doesn't sound like you made it yourself. Help is on hand, as we at All Steps First Dance have a bank of fabulous and professional dance teachers who not only can choreograph any dance you would like, they can also cut the music and create the mash up for you!

But what songs are you going to choose? Most couples choose one main favourite song for the chorus and verse and then mix in a few other songs to complement it. A few popular first dance songs to choose from in 2020 include the *Greatest Showman's* *Tightrope*, Ed Sheeran *Perfect* and *Thinking Out Loud* are still very popular, as well as James Arthur *Say you won't let go*, Sam Smith *Stay with me*, Christina Perri *A thousand years*, John Legend *All of Me*, Goo Goo Dolls *Iris* and Ellie Goulding *Love me like you do*. But of course, a song that means something to you both would also be a great choice and can be incorporated in.

Kiri Cullen | All Steps First Dance Ltd | 07724 240 244 | [allstepsfirstdance.co.uk](http://allstepsfirstdance.co.uk)





## ... FOR GROOMSWEAR

British accessory and homeware designer Karen Broude says: Pocket squares have blown up on the menswear scene recently with Bradley Cooper, David Beckham, Eddie Redmayne and Daniel Craig, to name but a few, rocking the look.

This classic accessory allows you to have a bit of fun with your look and add some flair to a stylish groom's outfit. The colours can be mix-and-matched and themed to your own wedding palette.

Choose to stand out by selecting a design with a pop of colour to add a focal point to a plain suit, or opt for soft pastels a shade lighter or darker than your tie for a romantic look.

**Karen Broude**  
[karenbroude.moonfruit.com](http://karenbroude.moonfruit.com)  
[instagram.com/broudek](https://www.instagram.com/broudek)



## ... FOR WEDDING PLANNING

Mobile bar specialist Abi d'Aulerio of Madda Events says:

♥ **Veganism** – Believe it or not, there are actually a lot of spirits which are vegan. You need to watch out though, as some drink processes can include filtration with animal products? Depending on the level of veganism, you also need to watch out for the glue on the labels – this can be an animal by product!

We are attending a few vegan events in 2020 including Basingstoke's Vegan Food Fest which is an exciting new adventure for us and cant wait to be apart of the vegan community!

♥ **Non alcoholic beer** – As people are looking for a healthier sustainable lifestyle, non alcoholic beer is becoming more and more popular. We attended the International Drinks Expo in London in 2019 and tried non alcoholic Effes which tastes exactly like the alcoholic version (minus the hang over)! Spending time in Munich this Christmas, there were 100s of non alcoholic beers in the supermarkets, which I'm sure is going to make its way over to the UK this year!

♥ **Colour** – A key wedding colour trend for 2020 is blue and our beautiful horsebox bar fits perfectly within the theme. With an oak wood finish and copper fittings, it's the perfect addition to any DIY wedding for 2020.



**Abi d'Aulerio | Madda Events | [info@maddaevents.co.uk](mailto:info@maddaevents.co.uk) | [maddaevents.co.uk](http://maddaevents.co.uk)**

## ... FOR THE HONEYMOON

Caroline Dennis, travel consultant for Not Just Travel shares her top destinations where couples will be venturing to in 2020:

### MAY – OCTOBER

- ♥ Tahiti
- ♥ Fiji
- ♥ Mauritius (although a year-round destination)
- ♥ Seychelles (although a year-round destination)
- ♥ Hawaii
- ♥ Canada
- ♥ Kenya
- ♥ Tanzania
- ♥ Zanzibar
- ♥ Europe
- ♥ Queensland

### NOVEMBER – APRIL

- ♥ Caribbean
- ♥ Mexico
- ♥ Thailand
- ♥ Australia
- ♥ New Zealand
- ♥ Maldives
- ♥ South Africa
- ♥ Dubai

**Caroline Dennis**  
 Travel Consultant | Not Just Travel  
[danandcaroline.notjusttravel.com](http://danandcaroline.notjusttravel.com)



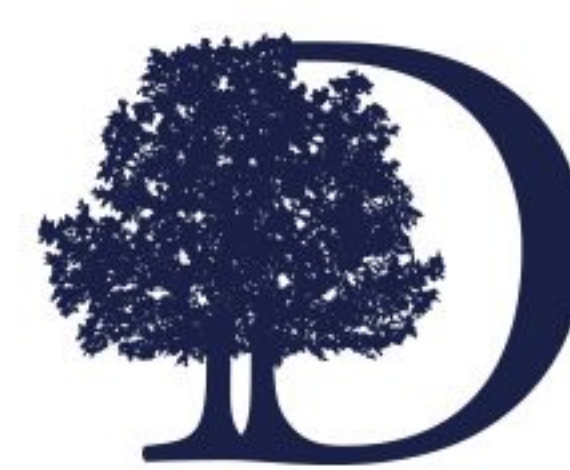




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T: 01280 702029 M: 07815 963471

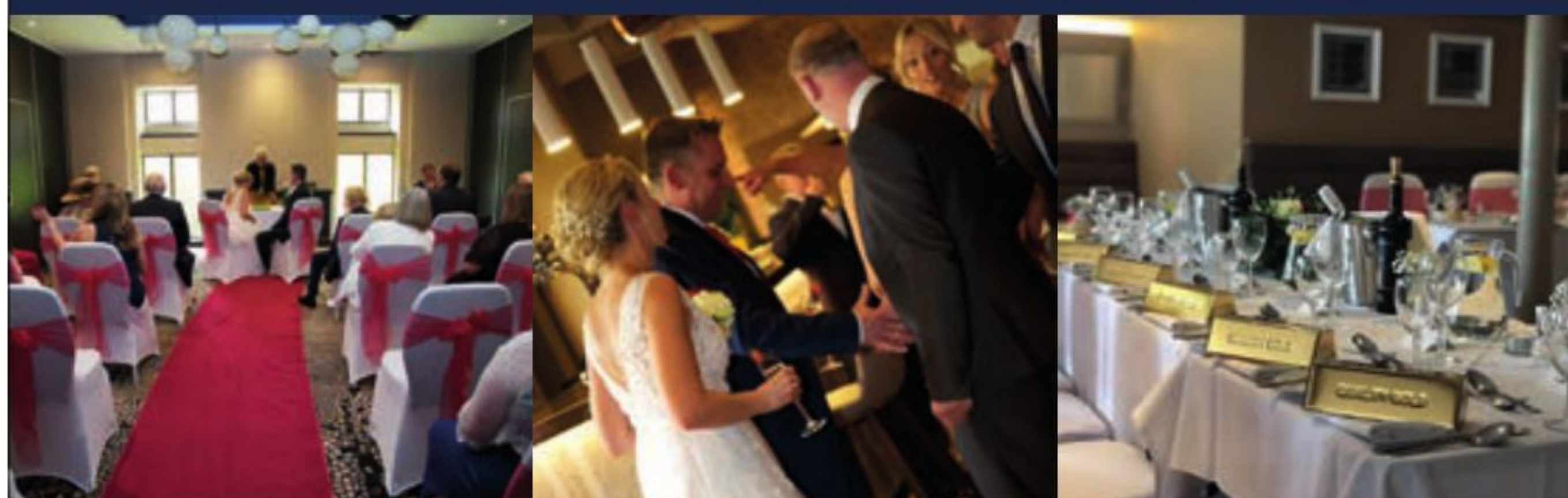


[WWW.TWOHEARTSWEDDINGCARS.CO.UK](http://WWW.TWOHEARTSWEDDINGCARS.CO.UK)



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# A DRIVE TO REMEMBER

We chat to local businesses about their big-day transport wedding offering



WEDDING-CAR.CO.UK



The company can cover a large area from its base in Milton Keynes and only ever carry out one wedding per car in any day, as a wedding is far too important to race around!

Specialising in providing 1920s and 1930s vintage cars for weddings, the company's genuine vintage fleet is fitted with modern heaters for the colder months so brides need not worry!

Ray Cope of Wedding-Car.co.uk, adds, "If the wedding is at a single venue we will wait until after the ceremony and take the happy couple for a drive around, this gives them some time out

together and often we can incorporate this with stopping somewhere to meet the couple's photographer to take some special pictures together."

Couples need not worry about the rest of the bridal party either because, if the ceremony venue is within reach to match with the timings of the day, Wedding-Car.co.uk is able to take bridesmaids first, then return for the bride, "We never charge additional for this service as none of us here at Wedding-Car.co.uk need much encouragement to drive any of the vintage vehicles," says Ray.

Choosing wedding day transport is particularly important but perhaps a last-minute decision for many, here at County Wedding Magazines we're telling you to think again. It's an integral part to the day 'how are we getting to the wedding?' if you don't get there, there won't be a wedding! So, choosing your wedding wheels should be high on the priority list, but where do you start? First and foremost, create a checklist of what's important to you is it style, size, distance, colour? Also bear in mind things like: does the company offer any extra services, do they have insurance, what happens in the event of a breakdown what's plan B? After all the specifics, you can enjoy choosing your big-day transport, are you going to turn up in a vintage classic reminiscent of *Downton Abbey*, or perhaps rock up in a limo like a Hollywood movie star!

We chat to some local providers to give you some inspiration....



## THE CARS...

"We started like many companies off the back of a hobby; in this case the hobby of restoring and owning rare vintage and classic cars, our first car we used for a wedding was purchased in 2006, which we still have on our fleet," shares Ray.

"We have some very rare cars, including four right hand drive English built Citroens (built in Slough, Buckinghamshire), we have three from the 1920s and one from the 1930s .

"We have a beautiful 1937 Rolls Royce limousine with six passenger seats – this car took us two years to restore, and the car's first wedding with us was as the bridal car for our daughter's wedding in December 2016. This is our most popular car and is an absolute pleasure to drive too – it also provides for a great entrance and backdrop for the happy couple on their wedding day.

"For the groom (or bride), we have another very rare classic

car called a Triumph Roadster (1949). If you were around in the 1980s you would have seen one of these fine vehicles driving Sergeant Bergerac around in the TV series *Bergerac* based on the island of Jersey. We can now arrange for this car to be self driven by the happy couple if they want to make a grand exit from the ceremony and drive off into the sunset together – great if their wedding is being videoed!

"We have a modern-classic Jaguar too – it is not quite modern and not quite a classic – whilst our cars are predominantly chauffeur driven, this car could also be driven by the happy couple if they so desired. Using genuine vintage cars you get outstanding reliability (as they are far less complex than a modern car), extreme comfort with masses of leg room, easy entry and exit through the large doors a fantastic grand entrance and prior to arriving at the ceremony there is the attention received from passers by and other motorists all waving and wishing the happy couple well.



## RAY'S TOP PICK...

"Our favourite car is the 1937 Rolls Royce, it took the longest to restore, the engineering of this car is incredible and it is a 1930s car capable of cruising at 60mph — don't worry, we would never drive at this speed for a wedding! So an 83-year-old car that you could, if you wish to, take on long journeys in comfort — it even has an intercom from the rear seat to the driver, incredible 1930s technology.

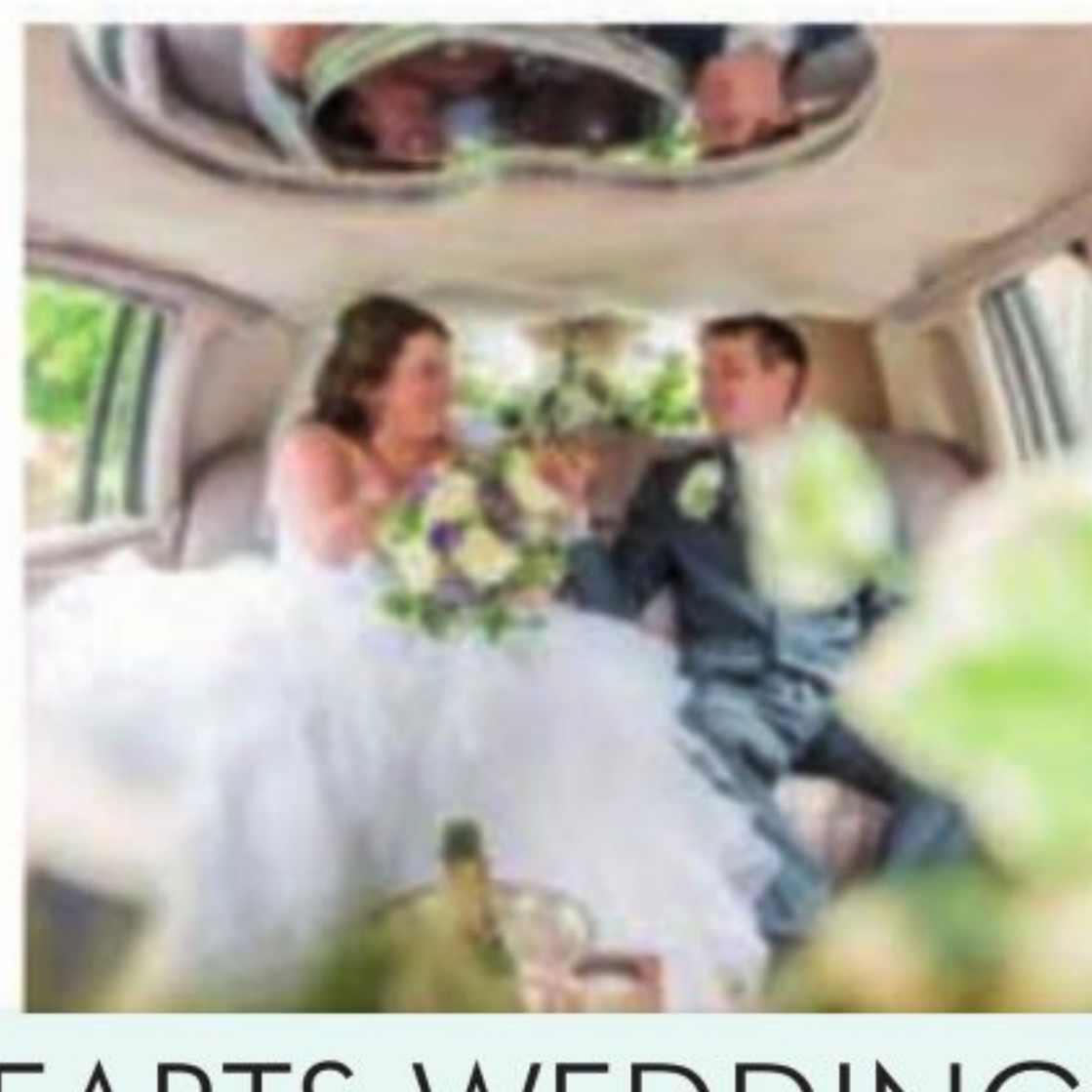
"Our Triumph Roadster is a great car for a wedding, especially on a sunny day as it is an open-top car, it is especially suited if the happy couple want something a little bit different and unusual and the view over the long bonnet is stunning!

"Having said the above, really all the cars are our favourite, they all mean a lot to us and they are all very rare. All the cars came to us in a state of disrepair, we have restored all of them ourselves and now they are stunning — interestingly, whilst we gathered our collection of vintage Citroens from all over the UK, they were all built in the county we live in — Buckinghamshire."

**Contact: 01908 366 766/07578 038 491 | [wedding-car.co.uk](http://wedding-car.co.uk)**



*Ray Cope, "Our most memorable time during the many years we have offered our cars for weddings was at our own daughter's wedding, when she elected to utilise all five of our vintage cars for her wedding. The procession of all the cars really caught everyone's attention on the way to Wrest Park, what an entrance. Having driven at many weddings, this wedding was also the first time I had sat in the back of the car as father-of-the-bride, a very enjoyable experience indeed."*



## THE CARS...

There's currently seven cars in the Two Hearts Wedding Cars fleet which are:

1. 1945 Standard Flying 12, gives a very period feel to a special day.
2. 1963 Fiat 600 (original multipla) very unusual and popular choice as it adds a fun retro feel.
3. Daimler DS420 a large multi seat car which has served dignitaries and royalty for many years.
4. Lincoln Excalibur an imposing stretched limousine which has been hand finished creating a bespoke interior and roof line.
5. Chrysler 300c a nice executive car suitable for all occasions, without blowing the budget.
6. Bentley Flying Spur the long wheelbase gives plenty of legroom and is the true meaning of luxury. If you don't deserve a Bentley on your wedding day when do you?
7. For the groom to make a memorable entrance there is the thunderous '90s Chevrolet Camaro, an American sports car that has style.

## TWO HEARTS WEDDING CARS

Two Hearts Wedding Cars was started by Graham Burford in 2012 and was born from a passion for cars and setting up a wedding car business was the perfect way for others to enjoy the vehicles as well.

"We like to think that the service that we offer goes past the expectations of our customers," says Graham. "From the very first contact we like to give our full attention which is carried all the way through to the wedding day.

"We carry out trial runs of the wedding

route to check access and to time the journey so that on the wedding day everything is as relaxed as possible, the cars all carry fresh chilled mineral water, umbrellas and tissues — a helpful chauffeur is always on hand to assist where needed.

"From the range of cars that we offer we like to think that there is a car suitable for everyone and every budget, from the timeless classics to the modern and, also the more unusual."

## GRAHAM'S TOP PICK....

"To choose a favourite car would be impossible, as each one has a special place," shares Graham. "Be it the luxury and refinement of the Bentley or the unique style of our Lincoln Excalibur each one of our cars bring a different element, which gives a special feeling."

**Contact: 01280 702 029/07815 963 471 | [twoheartsweddingcars.co.uk](http://twoheartsweddingcars.co.uk)**



## JAMES'S TOP PICK....

*"Queen of the fleet is Victoria."*

Contact: 0118 978 7308 |  
charismaticcars.co.uk



## CHARISMATIC CARS

"Charismatic Cars was founded nearly 40 years ago by myself and my wife and we have been trading with great success ever since," recalls owner James Strugnell. "Our fleet is housed in a large garage here at home so we can see potential customers at any time by appointment including evenings and weekends.

"We take our responsibilities to the

customer very seriously on what is a very important day so we carry good comprehensive motor insurance and public liability cover. Our service includes a uniformed chauffeur, ribbons on the car and where possible flowers on the rear parcel shelf. The prices we quote do not hide any hidden extras – what we quote is what you pay."



## FIAGRO FOR WEDDING HIRE

Peggy the retro classic Nissan Figaro is a wedding car with a difference! Owner Chritsina shares, "Born in 1991 in Japan, she is a two-door retro-styled convertible with leather upholstery, 1950s instruments and CD/radio, but with up to date specification including power steering, power windows, full air conditioning, 2+2 seating, and fully automatic for your comfort!

"Now living in a small village near Milton Keynes, Peggy is happy to travel up to 180 miles to your event and is a picture-perfect addition for a couple's wedding day pictures. We offer our customers a unique experience. We pride ourselves on always being reliable and flexible, we will do our best to accommodate any special requests or requirements."

## CHRISTINA'S TOP PICK....

*Peggy the Figaro of course!*

Contact: 07956 655 758 | figaroforweddinghire.com

## FIND THE CAR OF YOUR DREAMS

Allerston Taylor

regencycarriages.co.uk

Always Chauffeur Wedding Cars

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British Classic Car Hire

britishclassiccarrhire.co.uk

Caravatti Events

caravattievents.co.uk

Charismatic Cars

charismaticcars.co.uk

Figaro for Wedding Hire

figaroforweddinghire.com

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flyingladycars.com

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justmarriedweddingtaxis.com

Oxford Travel

oxford-travel.co.uk

Platinum Car Hire

rolls-royce-hire-london.co.uk

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*Suits Newbury is an independent formal menswear specialist, based in Newbury, Berkshire.*

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Charismatic Cars was established in 1982 and we currently have ten classic chauffeur-driven wedding cars available for hire. We believe we have one of the finest collections of wedding cars available in the area and we hope we can meet all your wedding transport needs. Our rates start from £455 with no VAT to pay. We cover large parts of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and West London.

*Charismatic Cars*

WWW.CHARISMATICCARS.CO.UK

0118 9787308

[james@charismaticcars.co.uk](mailto:james@charismaticcars.co.uk)



## KEEPING WATCH

The new Areo Collection from BOSS Watches (Hugo Boss) boasts masculine chronographs impeccably crafted from stainless steel with a choice of Italian leather strap, matte and polished black bracelet styles.

The pilot-inspired functionalities of this watch include a slide-rule bezel and two matching logarithmic scales – one stationary, the other rotating – to make a host of multiplication, division and conversion calculations possible. A retrograde chronograph movement including a date display defines the bold design.

Priced £499 from [hourtime.co.uk](http://hourtime.co.uk)



## FROM THE WAIST UP

The new Butler Stewart Christopher Waistcoat is a beautifully tailored addition to the big-day wardrobe!

Waistcoats are as popular as ever with grooms, and this instant outfit upgrade comes in five tweeds and all feature a solid coloured satin back with a cinch buckle. Notch lapel and two welt pockets are just some of the attention to detail given to this classic garment. Colours include Oxford Blue, Dark Brown, Heather, Harvest Brown, and Pear Green, all priced £225 from [butlerstewart.co.uk](http://butlerstewart.co.uk)



## Read all ABOUT IT!

Danielle Harvey shares her latest news and product launches for the man of the moment



## Showers forecast

This travel-size shower trio is perfect for any budding groom offering one for each big event; the stag do, wedding day and honeymoon!

From The Groomsmith collection these mini shower gels are certain to refresh and revive you, priced at £5, from [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)



## BEST FOOT FORWARD

New online store Quarter & Last offers high-end footwear at the click of a button. From the finest selection of Derby brogues to Chelsea boots there's something for every style of groom – handpicked from a curated selection of luxury brands! This range is supported by a high level of customer service, including free UK next day delivery and free UK returns.

Northampton plays a big part in Quarter & Last's collection with several of its stocked brands born in the area including Barker Shoes, Joseph Cheaney & Sons and Tricker's England, alongside popular names such as Loake and Jeffery West.

Australia's well-known heritage boot brand, R.M Williams, is also available including its iconic Craftsman boots and Chelsea styling.

Leather and rich shades of suede lead the collections in both tailored and casual footwear with prices from £140 to £445. Quarter & Last is available online now at [quarterandlast.com](http://quarterandlast.com)

## Super hero

We love the new Jimmy Choo fragrance Urban Hero the perfect big-day scent! For this new addition, the brand chose to celebrate the intensity and contrasts of modern masculinity, this woody aromatic eau de parfum is inspired by the urban environment.

On top, the freshness of precious lemon caviar with its vibrant undertones combines with the warmth of black pepper. Its heart opens onto the sensuality of rosewood and the sophistication of vetiver. The dry down combines the urban elegance of grey amber with a note of leather for just a hint of rebellion. Priced from £33 to £70 from [theperfumeshop.com](http://theperfumeshop.com)





# CHEEK MATE

Rock this perfectly patterned look





£14, mandco.com

£130, joebrowns.co.uk



POA, atelier412newyork.etsy.com



£429, tedbaker.com



£225, chesterbarrie.co.uk



£70, riverisland.com



£60, simoncarter.net



£69.99, Maestro Brown, baselondon.com



£25, farrar-tanner.co.uk





# SOCK IT

Keep it classic on your big day or show your fun side? Check out this selection of socks



getthepersonal.co.uk, £13.90



tkmaxx.com, £6.99



chichesterbrand.com/en/, £12.12

# to me!



shop.nationaltheatre.org.uk, £12.13



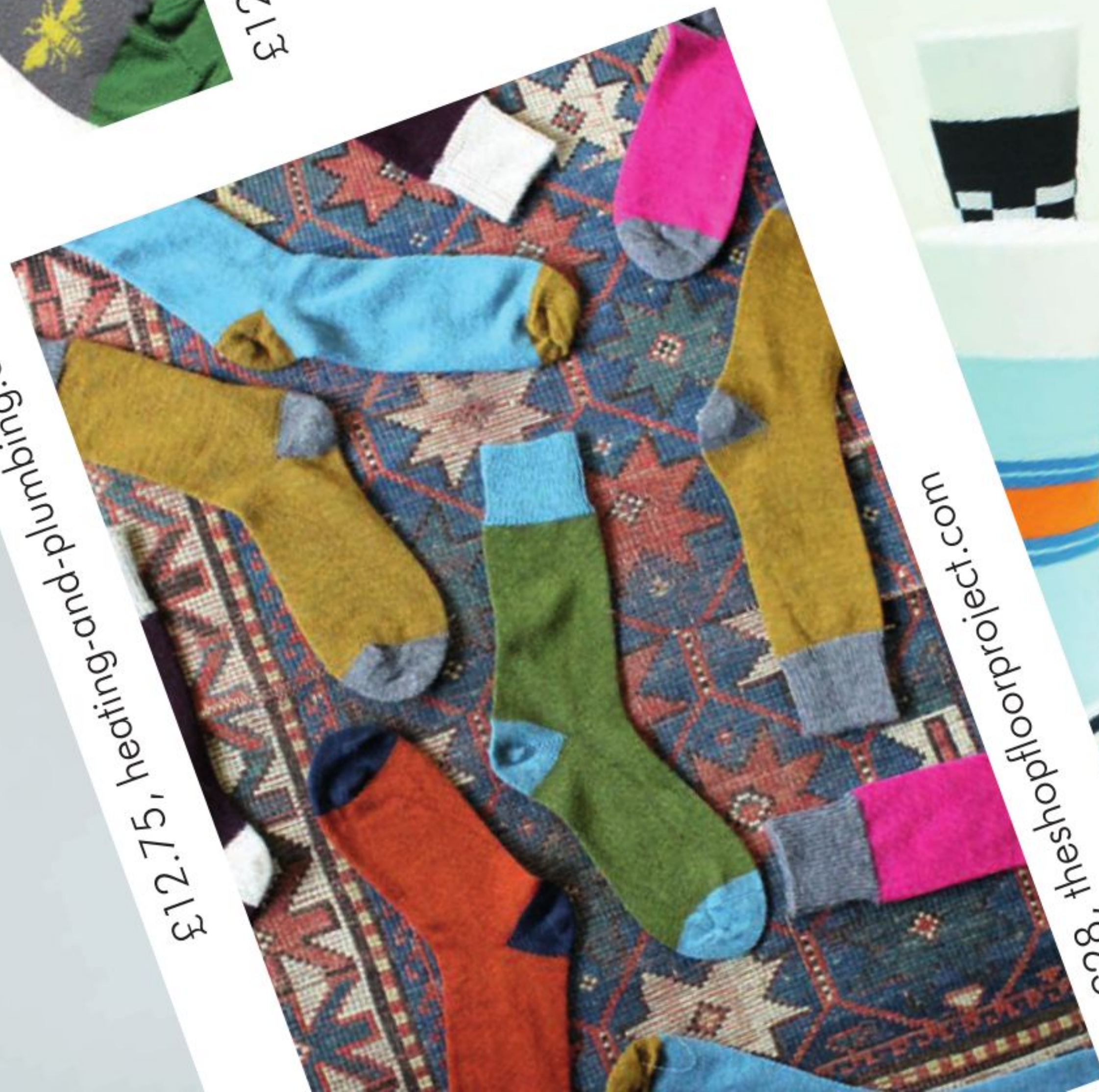
yesiwantit.com, £6.99



postboxed.co.uk, £12.50



meanmycar.co.uk, £5 per pair or 3 pairs for £25



heating-and-plumbing.com, £12.75





# BEST FOOT FORWARD

Start your wedding off on the right foot with advice from Percy Stride



Choosing the right shoes for the groom and his groomsmen is an investment they'll love and cherish forever.

When it comes to tying the knot, there's an awful lot to think about. From choosing the perfect wedding dress and sending out the invites, to cake sampling and finding the ideal venue. However, one thing that often slips down the priority list is the groom's footwear.

This is quite surprising when you consider how many hours the groom, the groomsmen and the father-of-the-bride spend on their feet on a wedding day. Especially when the infamous dad dancing moves come out in the evening.

As well as the comfort factor, opting for quality footwear is a sign of style as well. Men's fashion is no longer deemed as an additional "nice to have", it's an integral way of life.

How the groom and his groomsmen dress on the day says a lot about your wedding. It's an opportunity to showcase both of your personalities, add an extra layer of sophistication to the occasion and make the important men rightfully stand out from the other guests.

Every step should be calculated and considered. When the guests arrive at the wedding venue, the first people they'll see is the groom and his groomsmen. How they look will instantly set the tone for the whole day and the way guests perceive your big day.

It will have a detrimental effect on your wedding photos too. So, if the

groom and his groomsmen's shoes are scruffy, the wrong style or in a ghastly colour, there's no filter or editing tool in the world able to make them disappear.

Unlike a bride's wedding dress, choosing quality footwear for the groom and his groomsmen doesn't have to be a one day only purchase – although I'm sure there are some brides out there who secretly wear it around the house – you know who you are!

One British independent footwear company who have covered quality, style and comfort all in one are Percy Stride.

However, one of the most notable reasons to invest in a quality pair of shoes like these is that you'll be giving the groom and his groomsmen something they can cherish forever.

The versatility of the Percy Stride Oxfords and their premium construction gives them life after your big wedding day, allowing all of the special men involved to combine them with jeans and chinos for a smart/casual appearance at work or on a date night.

Every time they reuse their special pair of Percy Stride Oxford shoes, the groom and his groomsmen will be transported back to the special wedding day. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

To find out more about the hassle-free Percy Stride wedding packages, email [info@percystride.com](mailto:info@percystride.com) or visit [percystride.com](http://percystride.com)







## SHORT-HAUL SUNSHINE

The stunning Greek island of Rhodes is perfect for newlyweds seeking a relaxing getaway.

A destination famous for its serene sunsets and breathtaking beauty, the recently renovated five-star, adults-only Lindos Village Resort & Spa is perfectly located between mountain and sea.

For a truly romantic experience, couples can visit Lindos' most picturesque beaches including St Paul's Bay, which is naturally formed in the shape of a heart. Dramatically overlooked by the town's historic acropolis, honeymooners can spend an evening under the stars while enjoying Greek and Mediterranean delicacies paired with traditional Rhodian wine – all to the backdrop of a candlelit beach.

Couples wanting to explore further afield should head for the nearby island of Symi – famously known for its delectable shrimps – where a sprinkling of colourful neoclassical houses and harbourside eateries glisten along the Aegean Sea.

For further details about Lindos Village Resort & Spa, visit [lindos-village.gr](http://lindos-village.gr)



## YOUR CARRIAGE AWAITS

For a mini-moon to remember, how about staying in Sprat & Winkle, a newly refurbished converted Victorian train carriage?

The London and South Western iron clad corridor coach has been fully converted into a cosy holiday let, complete with light fittings from the Orient Express and vintage luggage racks.

Newlyweds can sit back and relax with a barbecue on Platform 1 at Horsebridge railway station in Hampshire, or set out for a stroll along one of the many country footpaths nearby.

Sprat & Winkle is priced from £425 for three nights. To book, visit [mulberrycottages.com](http://mulberrycottages.com)

# HONEYMOON



From a five-star adults-only resort in Greece to a converted railway carriage in the UK, Demelza Rayner showcases a selection of the latest honeymoon hotspots

## BEACHSIDE BLISS IN ST LUCIA

One of the island's best-loved adults-only resorts – Rendezvous – is now offering a wider range of complimentary romantic experiences including 'bubbles and sand', 'stars and a movie' and 'wine 101'.

For 'bubbles and sand', a picnic rug is set up on the beach just before sunset with a bottle of champagne. 'Stars and a movie' describes a film screening on the beach, with comfy seats set up on the sand, and popcorn and drinks served. Finally, 'wine 101' is a fun, informal tasting session.

In addition, there are two experiences available at an extra charge; a couple's cookery class and a massage lesson at The Spa in the Water Garden.

Visit [theromanticholiday.com](http://theromanticholiday.com) to find out more



## Bright ideas

Have some fun with your honeymoon luggage. Available in bright red, lime, sea green and stone grey, these brilliant bold cases are ideal for standing out on the carousel. Visit [tumi.com](http://tumi.com) to find out more.





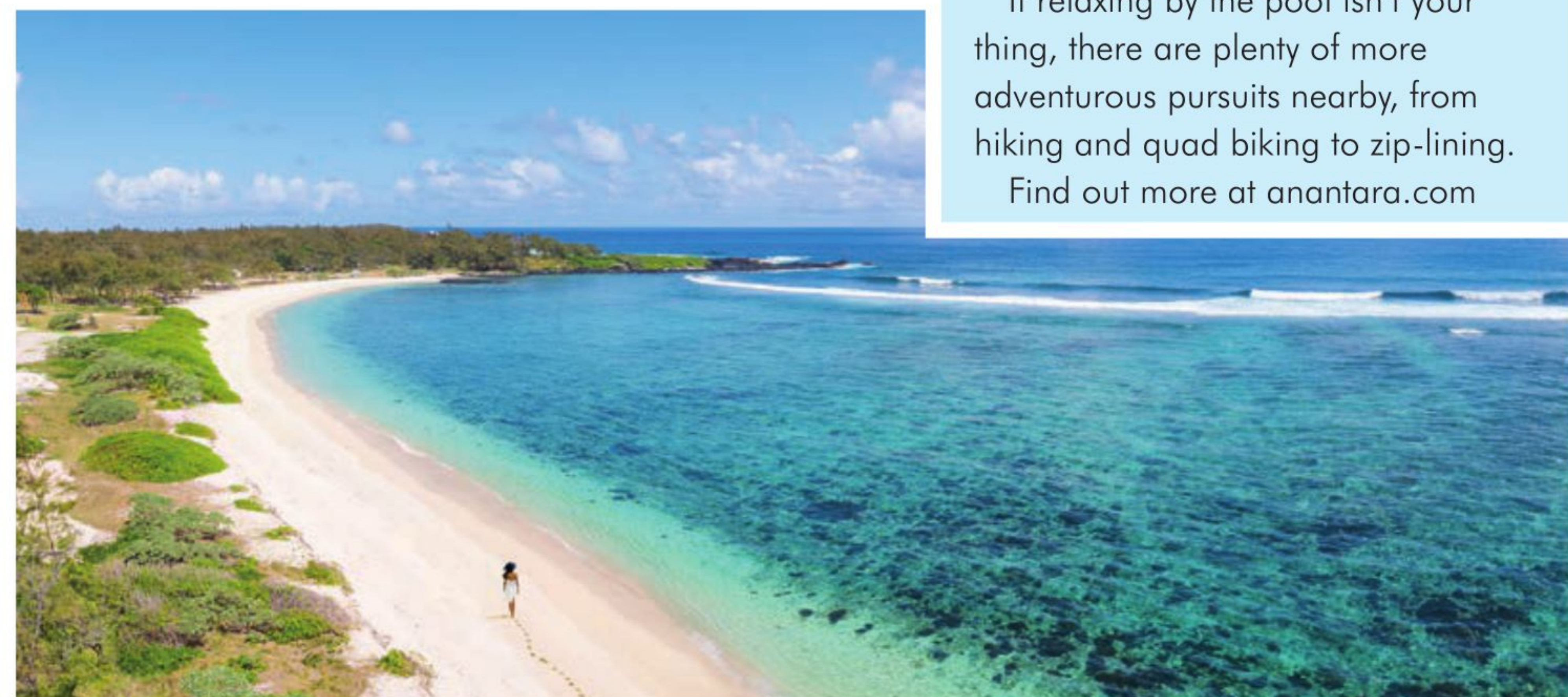
## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

If the darker evenings and cold mornings just make you want to hibernate, then the decadent 'Behind Closed Doors' winter honeymoon package from Blakes Hotel London will help you to hibernate in style!

Upon entering one of Blakes' beautifully designed suites, couples can abandon their layers, slip on Kiki De Montparnasse silk pyjamas and jump into the king-sized bed.

For the ultimate 'do not disturb' experience, breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in-room, with unlimited room service. This includes oysters – a known aphrodisiac – along with chocolate pastries and a Laurent Perrier Champagne Jereboam that can be enjoyed in the room or in a luxurious bathtub.

Find out more at [blakeshotels.com/offers/behind-closed-doors](https://blakeshotels.com/offers/behind-closed-doors)



## TREAT YOURSELF

Discover the stunning south coast of Mauritius on your honeymoon while staying at one of the island's newest luxury hotel openings – the Anantara Iko Mauritius Resort and Villas.

Fringed by acres of sugarcane and the crystal-clear waters of the Indian Ocean, the resort is ideal for newlyweds, boasting the signature Anantara Spa, an array of exotic dining options and numerous stylish suites.

If relaxing by the pool isn't your thing, there are plenty of more adventurous pursuits nearby, from hiking and quad biking to zip-lining.

Find out more at [anantara.com](https://anantara.com)

## KUONI'S TOP 10

Top luxury travel firm Kuoni has recently released its 2020 travel hotlist, providing plenty of new destination inspiration for soon-to-be-weds.

Exploring countries beyond the well-trodden tourist trails is a key theme for the year ahead, so Kuoni has created more travel options to places including India, Africa, Canada, the USA and Italy for couples who want to see the world's natural wonders in lesser-known regions, national parks and states. Destinations tipped for increased bookings in 2020 include:

1. India, beyond the Golden Triangle
2. Zimbabwe, back after years of political instability
3. USA, direct flight to Charleston and Portland increase demand for fly-drives
4. Indian Ocean, 16 new hotels added for 2020
5. Greece, luxury credentials on the up
6. Colombia, added to its escorted touring programme
7. Japan, the buzz continues for the Olympic Year
8. The Caribbean, new hotel openings
9. Canada, escape the crowds in winter
10. Italy, slow travel in the regions of Puglia and Basilicata

Colombia features for the first time in Kuoni's escorted touring collection, with a 12-night tour taking in the country's coffee-growing region and UNESCO-listed old town of Cartagena.

Hotel openings in Antigua raise the bar for luxury with Hammock Cove and its collection of ultra-modern pool villas due to open in December, while in Mauritius the new adults-only Lagoon Attitude has a strong sustainable ethos.

Luxury credentials in Greece are on the up for 2020 with the Angsana in Corfu a notable addition – an offshoot of the Banyan Tree brand, it is cool and contemporary and mimics a classic Greek hilltop village.

Find out more at [kuoni.co.uk](https://kuoni.co.uk)

## EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA

What could be more romantic than viewing the solar eclipse in Argentina and Chile in December 2020? Luxury travel firm Hayes & Jarvis invites couples to explore these captivating countries with its Patagonia discovery tour. Beginning in the Argentinian capital of Buenos Aires, the tour will continue on a magical journey including hiking on the still-growing Perito Moreno Glacier, a catamaran cruise across the Biosphere Reserve of Tierra del Guero, a whale-watching cruise, seeing Magellan penguins and unbelievable scenery along the way.

For further details visit [hayesandjarvis.co.uk](https://hayesandjarvis.co.uk)





# ME, YOU AND THE FAMILY TOO

It is possible to balance romance and family thanks to Zafiro Hotels' family-friendly facilities, finds Georgina Cassels



As every parent knows, holidays take on a whole different meaning once you've had kids – and that's OK, I mean, who doesn't enjoy getting up at 6am to smear sun cream on a reluctant toddler? But when it comes to your honeymoon, you're probably thinking more indulgent couples' massages and lounging on a chic day bed, less constructing 17 sandcastles before noon. As I was to discover on a recent trip to Zafiro Hotels in Mallorca, you can have the best of both worlds – this family-friendly hotel chain balances the needs of the whole family with something for everyone.

Indeed, as we drove up to Zafiro Palace Alcudia – our first port of call for this dual-destination trip – its soaring lobby and

magnificent views through floor-to-ceiling windows certainly suggested the former over the latter, as did the glass of fizz we were offered to ease the already seamless check in. It was only as we crossed the central pool area that I began to suspect that this is not just paradise for loved up newlyweds but their children too because there, nestled among the – count 'em – nine different outdoor swimming pools, including six swim-ups accessed directly from the ground floor suites and an adults-only area – was a pirate ship, complete with slides. If my five-year-old had been with me, she would have lost her tiny mind at that alone, never mind the playground, which boasts a bouncy castle, climbing frame and table tennis.

Reaching our elegant Penthouse Suite,

we were swiftly transported back into adult-land: think rooftop terrace complete with Jacuzzi and Bali bed, not to mention a room with space enough for a family of four. The Londoner in me couldn't resist mentally scrolling through every flat I've ever lived in and comparing square footage. No prizes for guessing the victor. There's also facilities designed to make a parent's life all the easier: in my case, tea and coffee facilities and a microwave but rooms with a more extensive kitchenette are available too – not that you'd need it as the feast on offer at the hotel's Market Buffet Restaurant is impressive, with something to please even the fussiest of eaters while catering to the more discerning gourmands out there too with local specialties on tap.



## MY HIGHLIGHTS

♥ **A private boat charter**  
[llautsanfrancisco.com](http://llautsanfrancisco.com)

If there's a more charming boat in existence than Llaut San Francisco then I'll eat my (sobrassada-covered) hat. Setting sail from Alcúdia port, we cruised along the coastline parallel to Cala Poncet to the Isla de Alcanada where we dropped anchor in full view of the island's lighthouse. Despite the somewhat 'fresh' temperature of the sea in May, I couldn't resist jumping into those turquoise waters for a leisurely snorkel before a feast of homemade and local specialties including local wines, tumbet (a tumble of cooked Mediterranean vegetables) and ensaimada (a sweet pastry dish), laid on by our charming captain Miguel.

♥ **Open-air yoga at Zen, Body & Mind**  
[zafirohotels.com](http://zafirohotels.com)

Zafiro Palace Hotel Alcudia offers a wide range of wellness programmes through its Zen, Body & Mind space, not to mention the full gamut of spa facilities, but being led through a series of poses from the basic to advanced (I very nearly did a headstand) on the rooftop terrace has to be up there with one of the best ways to start the day.

♥ **Wine tasting at Bodega Ribas**  
[bodegaribas.com](http://bodegaribas.com)

This family winery dates back some 300 years, making it the third oldest winery in Spain. Tastings take place inside the 18<sup>th</sup>-century family house, which is a sight to behold in itself thanks to the traditional tiled kitchen and idyllic terrace. The bodega's wines, made from native Mantonegro and Prensal grapes, are truly local, and excellent, especially when paired with regional cured meats and cheese.

There's three further à la carte restaurants to boot and, strictly in the interests of research, you understand, I sampled them all over the course of the trip, from the Asian delights at Tastes & Sushi and pasta at El Portico to the traditional Mallorcan fare at El Olivo. Book the hotel's babysitting service now; you're in for a treat (although all the restaurants welcome mini diners too).

Indeed, food is a central part of Mallorcan life and the island's many specialties are not to be missed. From the homemade sobrassada (a type of cured sausage) we nibbled as we drifted on the turquoise sea aboard an idyllic traditional laut (boat) one afternoon, to the pa amb oli (bread with oil), rubbed with a native tomato expertly prepared for us by Zafiro Alcudia's head chef, we were never knowingly underfed.

I'm ashamed to say that on our two previous family holidays to Mallorca, we didn't venture much further than the beach so it was a delight and pleasure to discover more of this beautiful island. Alcudia's charming old town, for one, with its beautifully preserved walls and Roman ruins is a must for even the most reluctant tourist. But it was Palma that captured my heart and imagination – from the stalls piled high with fresh produce at Mercat de l'Olivar to the distinctive octagonal ensaimada boxes stacked in Horno San Cristo's window, it's not only a foodie paradise but also a delight for fans of art and architecture thanks to its abundant galleries, impressive cathedral

refurbished by both Gaudi and Barcelo in its time and several well preserved Art Nouveau façades dotted throughout.

Luckily, Zafiro Palace Palmanova is perfectly placed for those who wish to explore further. And I certainly did; with our tastebuds well and truly set alight by a wander around the market, we headed to La Rosa Vermuteria & Colmado to sample ALL the local specialities over a leisurely lunch – made all the more appealing thanks to the convivial atmosphere and industrial-vintage décor. We may have slightly over-indulged (I'm assured that's the Mallorcan way or, at least, that's my excuse), which made the prospect of a post-prandial stroll through the cobbled streets to Es Baluard Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art all the more appealing but not before ducking in to the Caixa Forum to check out works by local artist H. Anglada Camarasa. While it's no surprise that the stunning Mallorcan light has lured many an artist to its shores, this small island certainly boasts more than its fair share of notable painter alumni – Miro among them. Es Baluard's permanent collection boasts works by him as well as Picasso, Sorolla and Barcelo not to mention sweeping views over the city, marina and sea beyond.

And if that's all a little erudite, rest assured that I also spotted former Love Island contestant Georgia at the airport as we waited to board our evening flight. After all, it's all about balance, right?

*Georgina Cassels was hosted by Zafiro Hotels and stayed in Zafiro Palace Hotel Alcúdia and Zafiro Palace Hotel Palmanova. For more information, visit [zafirohotels.com](http://zafirohotels.com)*



# SETTING *sail*

Francesca Hayden at ROL Cruise highlights her top seven honeymoon cruises for newlyweds seeking a fuss-free way to travel

1

Your first few days as newlyweds are some of the most magical of your life, so why not begin your journey as a married couple on a blissful honeymoon cruise? From breathtaking destinations and unsurpassed service, to exquisite accommodations and tranquil spa treatments; a cruise provides the perfect balance of relaxation and romance.

## THE STUNNING SOUTH PACIFIC

It's hard to know whether Oceania Cruises' luxurious Regatta or the picture-perfect islands of the South Pacific are the highlight of this cruise, but you and your new spouse will have a glorious 21 nights to decide.

The South Pacific is the quintessential honeymoon destination and, as you step ashore, you'll soon see why. Vast mountains, white sandy beaches, turquoise oceans and glittering coral reefs will make you feel as if you are in paradise.

Back on board, suites boasting resplendent décor give way to spacious balconies; the 'finest cuisine at sea', created by world renowned master chef Jacques Pépin is readily available; a 24-hour butler service will cater for your every whim and you can enjoy an unrivalled array of spa treatments. What else could you possibly need for the honeymoon of a lifetime?



2

## BEAUTIFUL BORDEAUX

Extraordinary landscapes, stunning wineries and a wealth of charming towns await as you cruise in five-star luxury with Scenic to some of France's most romantic destinations.

Savour delicious wines during a tasting at the estate of Château de La Rivière; enjoy a live classical music performance at Médoc's Château d'Agassac; 'shop with a chef' in Bordeaux for local fare and unwind with your loved one on the sun deck as you cruise the Gironde River.

Looking after you throughout your honeymoon is the all-inclusive five-star Scenic and its dedicated team, boasting some of the largest suites on Europe's waterways, a private butler service, diverse and delicious food experiences, exquisitely appointed wellness areas and exemplary levels of luxury. You and your spouse will be forgiven for thinking that you are honeymooning in the plush comfort of one of the world's most elegant hotels.

## BREATHTAKING CANADA

Not all newlyweds seek sun, sea and sand on their honeymoon; for some, the more active the holiday, the better. Within the unique world of rail travel, Rocky Mountaineer is the key to unlocking the hidden world of the spectacular Canadian Rockies.

The 'Journey Through the Clouds' route will take you and your partner from Jasper to Vancouver in world-renowned GoldLeaf Service, which boasts panoramic views from the bi-level glass-dome coach. Your journey will also include award-winning service, five-star cuisine and stays at some of the world's most luxurious hotels.

This incredible rail journey is paired with a cruise on board Cunard's iconic Queen Elizabeth, so that you can follow your nuptials with traditional luxury and enjoy endless entertainment, opulent accommodation and an array of delectable dining choices.



## WILDLIFE WATCHING IN THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Your honeymoon is the perfect opportunity to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey, so why not do it with Celebrity Cruises? Its new ship, Celebrity Flora, was designed with state-of-the-art technology and is one of the most eco-friendly ships sailing today.

The location of the remote Galápagos Islands offers wildlife and landscapes found nowhere else on Earth. Explore the islands and witness marine iguanas, Galápagos tortoises, sea turtles and the iconic blue-footed boobies as well as beautiful, diverse terrain and plants that inspired Charles Darwin with his theory of evolution.

Returning to the ship after a day spent ashore, you can enjoy all-suite accommodation, including the cutting-edge Sky Suites with infinite verandas, as well as the first ever glamping experience at sea; an open-air star gazing platform – ideal for any starry-eyed couple.

4

HONEYMOON

## ENCHANTMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE

For a honeymoon not too far from home, this magical 10-night river cruise is ideal for any newly-married couple.

Award-winning Emerald Waterways will take you to the heart of many European destinations where a variety of included excursions enhance your cruise experience. This can include anything from joining a locally guided tour of Budapest; visiting a traditional family home in Osijek; enjoying tastings at a local vineyard in Vidin; or hiking to the Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo.

Emerald's Star-Ships also boast contemporary designs, including the Emerald Owner's one-bedroom suites. Each one has an outdoor private balcony, a separate living room and bedroom, a walk-in wardrobe, a complimentary minibar and an invitation to dine at the Captain's Table. What more could you want from your honeymoon?

6

## DISCOVER AUTHENTIC INDIA

The chance to honeymoon in the lap of luxury is yours with this exquisite tour and cruise of India's iconic Golden Triangle.

Beginning with opulent five-star hotel stays and tours in New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, you will then cruise the sacred Ganges River on board Uniworld's beautifully appointed Ganges Voyager II.

Drawing design and décor inspiration from India's colourful palette, your suite has French balconies with floor-to-ceiling glass doors, cosy seating areas and spacious bathrooms with rain showers. If you can bear to leave your stunning suite, elsewhere you will find enticing public areas and luxurious amenities, including a lounge with full-service bar, fitness centre, restaurant, the Voyager Spa and a sun deck where you can relax and take in the ever-changing views that India has to offer.

7

5

## WITNESS THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

This inspiring expedition will turn your honeymoon from a holiday into an experience you'll remember for the rest of your lives.

As exploration experts, it is Hurtigruten's vast knowledge that will enhance your expedition as you enjoy stunning Scandinavian design; the Science Centre, which is packed with innovative technology, high-tech gadgets and a hand-picked expedition team, who will lead the way on hiking and walking tours, outings to local performances and onshore events.

The Northern Lights themselves are a breathtaking natural phenomenon that newlyweds can witness multiple times from the top deck or ashore in a number of authentic Norwegian destinations. This voyage ensures that you get front row seats to the most extraordinary light show on Earth.



# SWISS MARVEL

Claire Muffett-Reece discovers why Switzerland is the perfect summer honeymoon destination



When I was offered the chance to visit Switzerland in July I'll admit it wasn't a season I'd initially choose as my preference. The Alps are typically known for their ski season, and it was hard to envisage a trip that didn't involve an abundance of snow. How very wrong I was about to become...

My destination for three nights was none other than Suvretta House, a five-star hotel in the heart of St Moritz that's welcomed the Kennedys, Eva Peron and the Emperor of Japan through its doors. Built in 1912, this Art Deco wonder is nestled in the Alpine landscape of the Upper Engadine, on the Chasellas plateau in Suvretta. With Suvretta itself being 1,850 metres above sea level, your honeymoon starts the very minute you touch down at Zurich airport, as the scenery you'll encounter on the three-hour train journey to St Moritz is some of the most romantic you'll ever see. I'd taken my laptop with the idea of working on the journey, yet constantly found myself rushing from one side of the train carriage to the other, snapping glacier blue rivers and snow-capped mountains as we climbed higher and higher to our destination.

Upon arrival at the train station we were greeted by the hotel's vintage green bus, which took us straight to Suvretta House for a delicious afternoon tea. Suitably stuffed after far too many sandwiches and scones, I was given a key (a proper key, none of the problems of your key card locking you out of your room!) to my Junior Deluxe Suite, a huge room complete with walk-in wardrobe, large bathroom with separate shower and panoramic view of the mountains and lakes of the Engadin. I could happily have spent my time lounging around in this magnificent space, but after a quick change it was down to dinner in one of the hotel's off-site mountain restaurants, Chasellas.





## COME DINE WITH ME

From our very first dinner at Suvretta House it became clear that the hotel takes feeding its guests seriously. Chasellas, situated 1,936 metres above sea level, offers 45 indoor seats and an inviting sun terrace directly situated at the entrance to the ski and hiking area. Expect typical Austrian fare to fuel you, from Bavarian sausage, fried chicken 'Viennese style' with potato salad, and Swiss fillet of beef with prawns. Suvretta House also has another off-site restaurant, Trutz, which is even higher up the mountain for those seeking a more active honeymoon experience! A mere 2,211 metres above sea level, it's reached by around a 90-minute hike (or cable car if you fancy a less energetic approach). Ask to sit outside and enjoy the stunning views, taking advantage of the blankets that are offered – even throughout the summer months. Here I enjoyed an ice-cold Viva Tavola beer while getting stuck into a variety of dishes, from air-dried meats and Wienerschnitzel, to polenta with gorgonzola and a delicious barley soup.

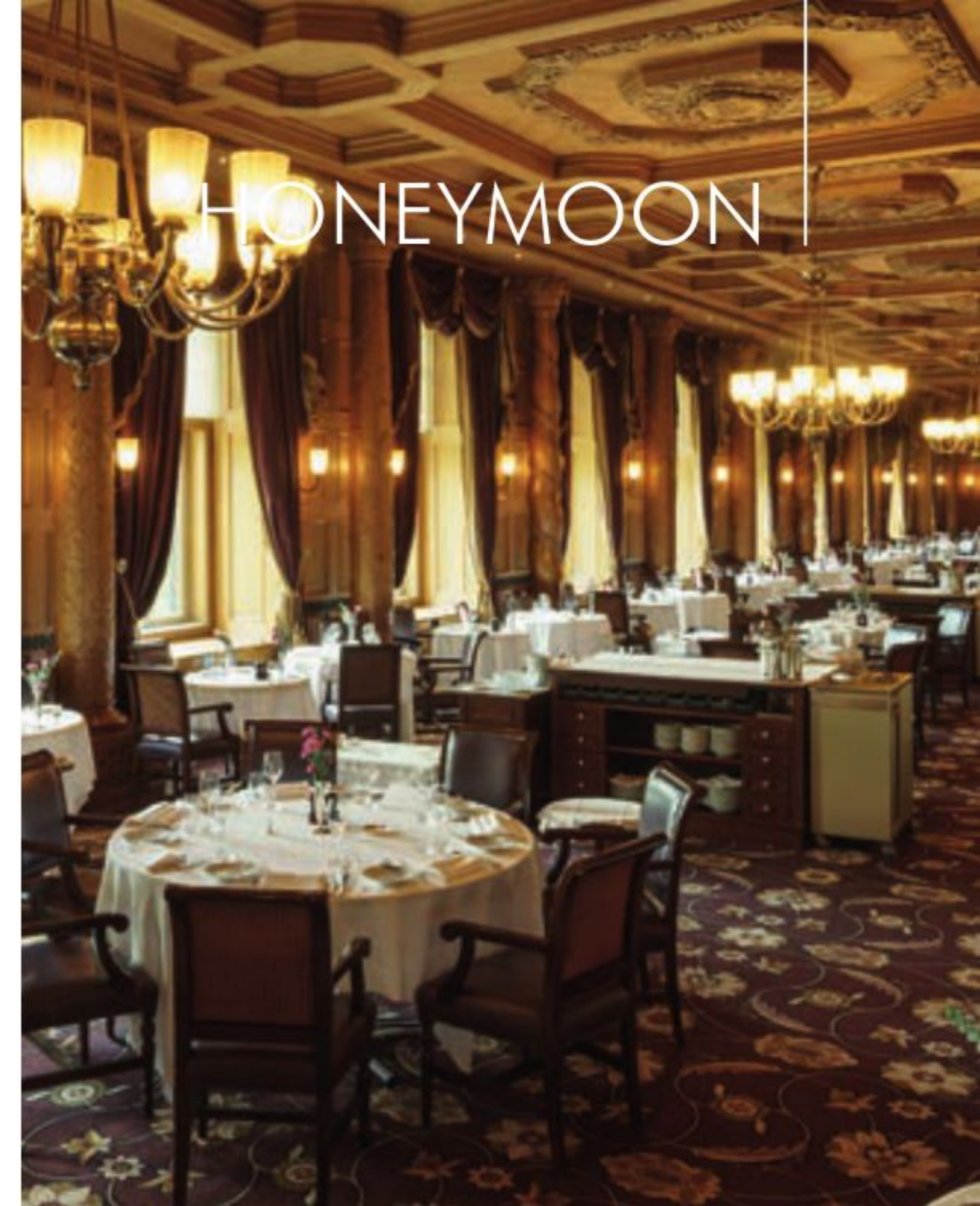
For me, however, the best meal of the entire trip was at Suvretta's Grand Restaurant, a breath taking room with incredible panelling, carved solid oak columns and elaborately decorated cassette ceiling. There I enjoyed a warm lobster salad with Amalfi lemon and green asparagus, followed by a saddle of summer venison. Completing the meal with cheese and biscuits, I was glad to take full advantage of Suvretta's outdoor summer activities to help burn off those extra calories!

## LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Looking through my itinerary, I was pleasantly surprised to see many activities available for those visiting Suvretta House in the summer season. Swapping ski boots for hiking shoes was my first port of call, with a hike up the mountains with our experienced guide, Heinz. Making sure to turn on my Strava app before we set off, I was impressed to discover our party had hiked just over 6km, with a calorie-burning 385-metre elevation, in just shy of two hours. That's not bad considering we weren't yet accustomed to being that high above sea level!

The following day it was time for a bike ride – and I've never been more thankful to be given one of the electric variety! Foolishly thinking it would be a leisurely jaunt around a flat-level lake, we were soon heading off-road and up into the mountains! Before I knew it we'd clocked up a bottom-burning 25km – and another elevation of 388 metres!

Throughout my stay at Suvretta House I also took part in a tennis lesson – I'll never be a Serena or Venus, mind you – and enjoyed the hotel's incredible spa facilities, with a refreshing swim followed by a full body massage. However, one activity I'll never forget is sailing on St Moritz Lake, with an experienced sailing instructor from Suvretta Sports. Sitting there, enjoying some of the freshest mountain air and cleanest waters in the world, I saw why you should one hundred per cent choose the mountains of Switzerland – and Suvretta House – as your perfect honeymoon destination.



## BOOK IT

Summer rates at Suvretta House start from 410 CHF (approximately £347) in a Double Room Standard Mountain, per night, on a half board basis. Book your honeymoon at Suvretta House by visiting [suvretthouse.ch](http://suvretthouse.ch)



# WIN!

## A LUXURIOUS THREE-NIGHT HONEYMOON TO TUSCANY

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Fonteverde Tuscany is located in the stunning Medici Palace of San Casciano dei Bagni, the historic former property of Ferdinando de' Medici. The Renaissance Palace is renowned for its position set upon a natural thermal spring, overlooking the hills of the Val d'Orcia Valle, cypress groves and small churches.

Hotel of the 'Worldwide Health & Wellness Destination of the Year' is credit to its natural thermal spa and large spring water pools from which to soak up the panoramic views of the hills beyond. Honeymooners can enjoy a range of indulgent beauty and massage treatments, from nourishing clay facial masks to invigorating thermal massages, and choose to participate in the brand's award-winning Equilibrium programme, designed to reduce internal inflammation and rebalance the body and immune system – the perfect antidote to post-wedding indulgence!

Fonteverde's rooms and suites pay tribute to the Italian Renaissance, showcasing exquisite art and stunning décor.

Find out more at [fonteverdespa.com](http://fonteverdespa.com)



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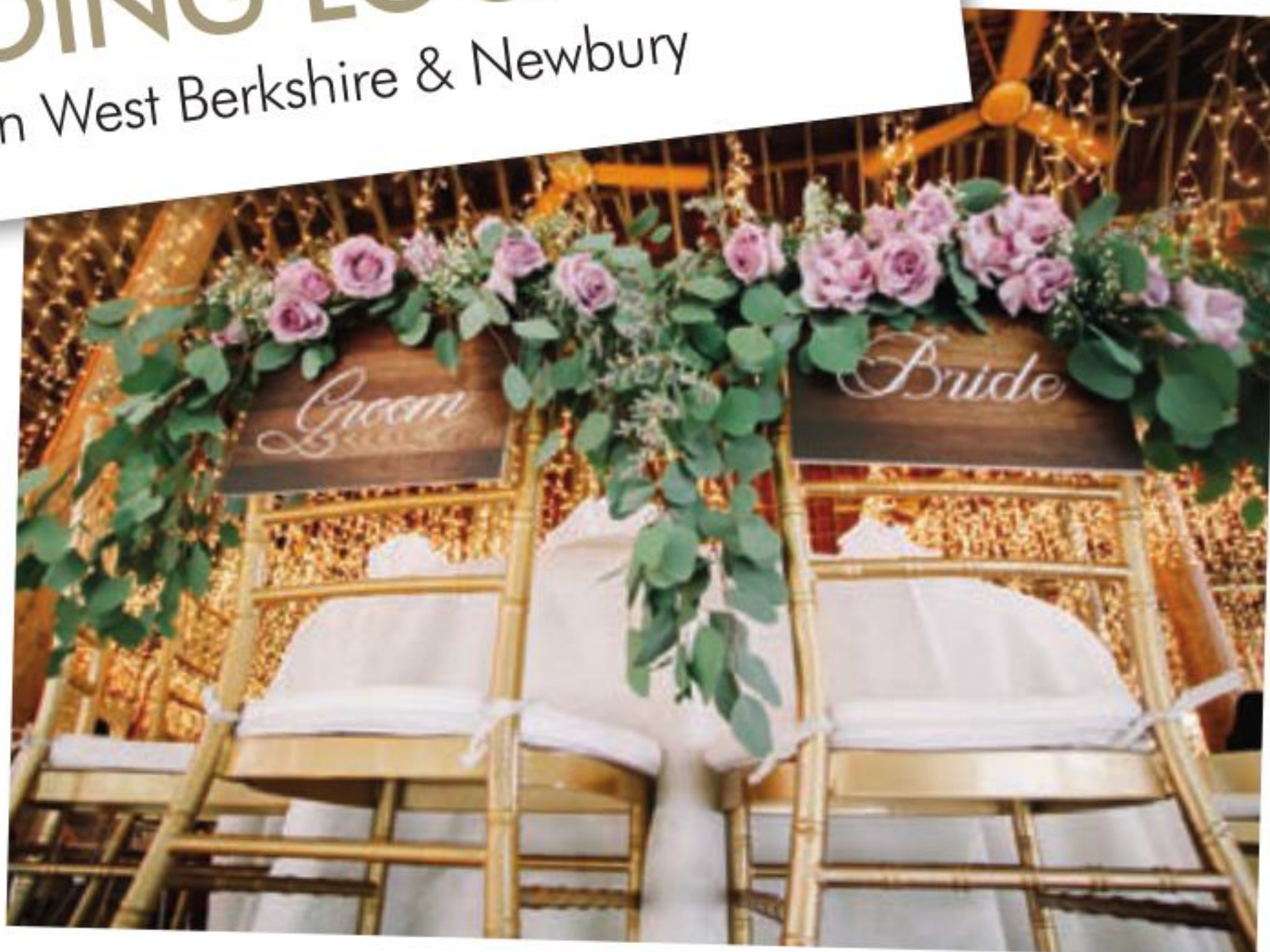
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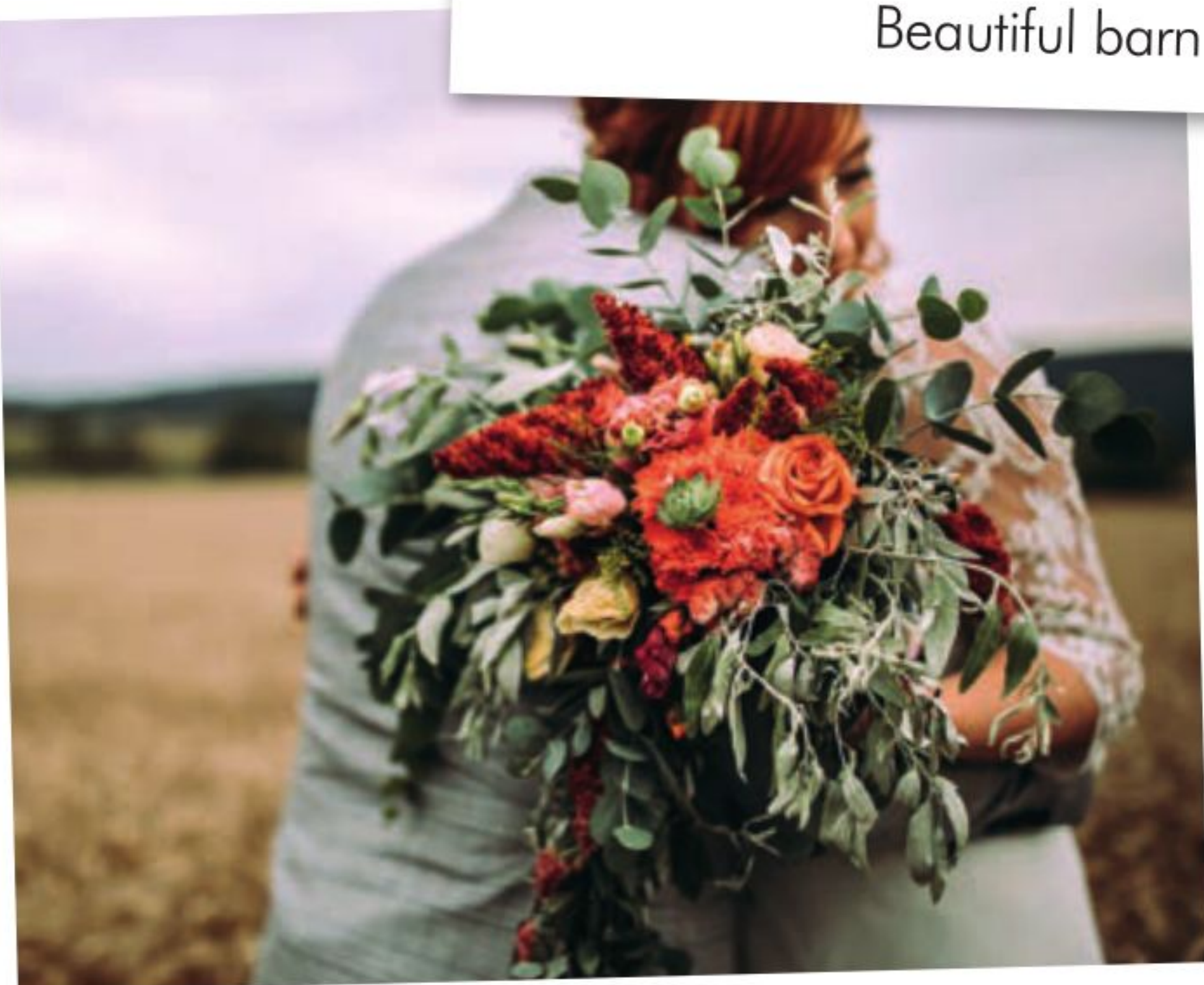
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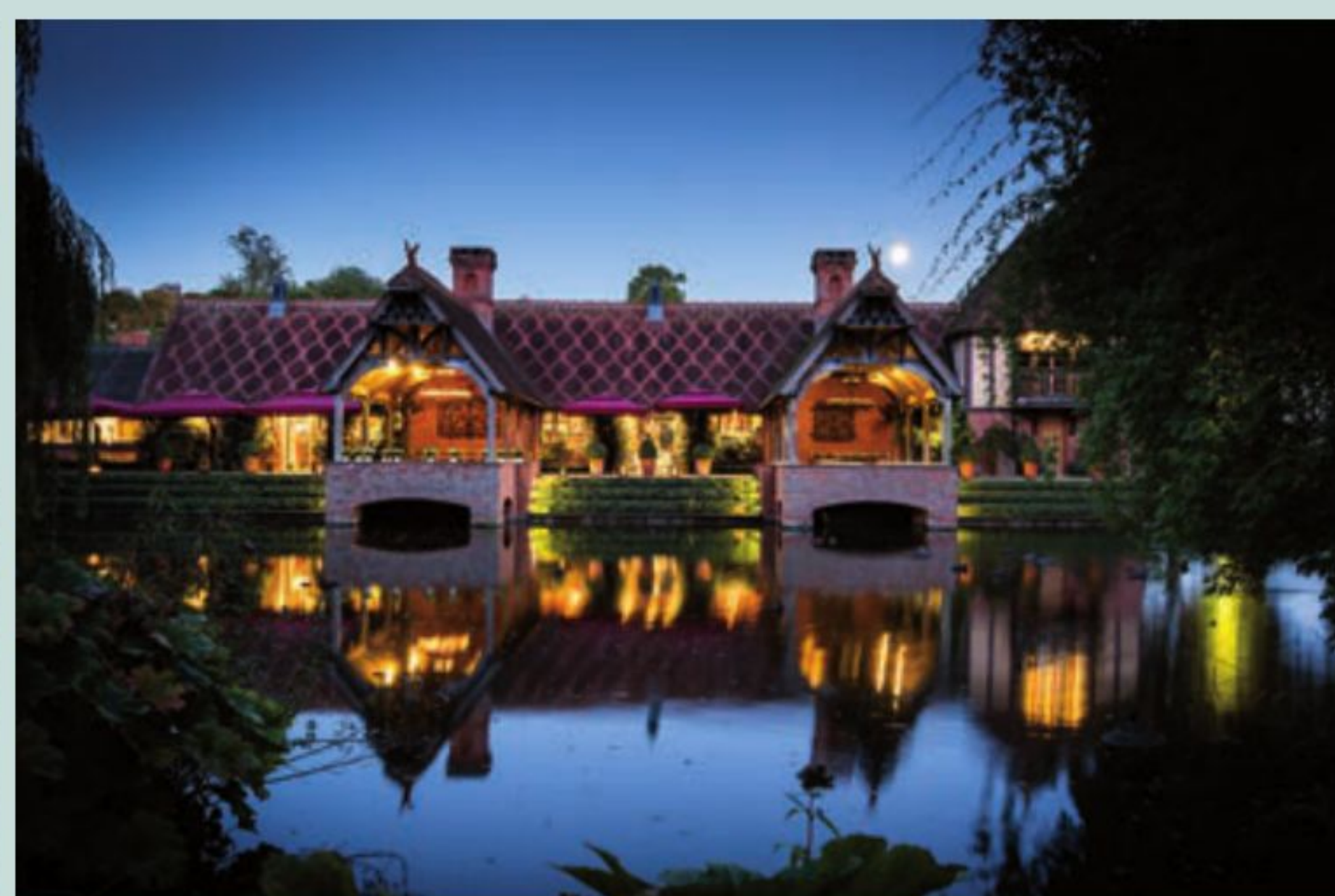
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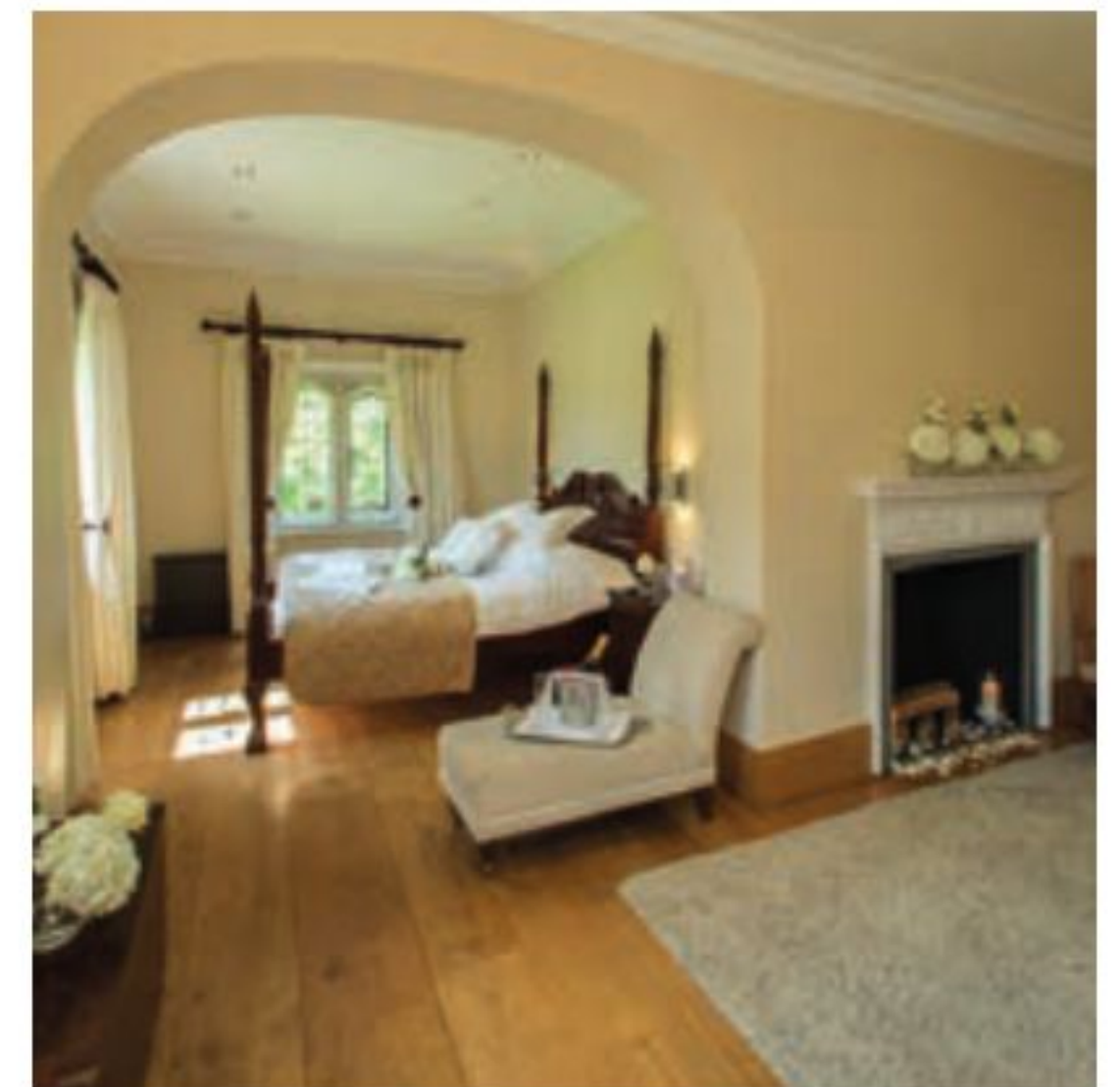
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