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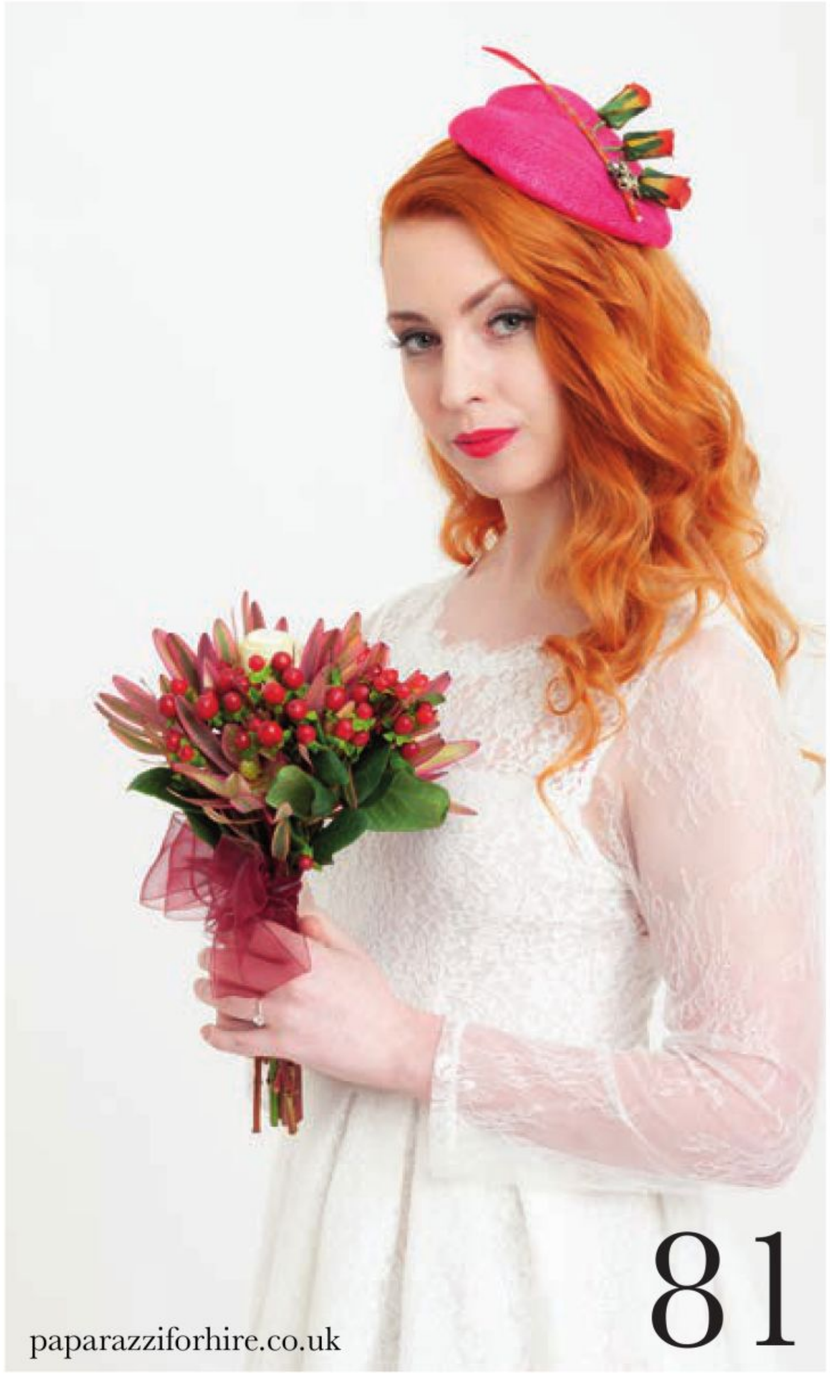

On the cover

This issue's cover is taken from Kimberly and Nathan's wedding on page 41. It was photographed by Emma Russell Photography (emmarussellphotography.co.uk) at Botleys Mansion (bijouweddingvenues.co.uk).

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emmarussellphotography.co.uk

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Happy new year!

Welcome to our first issue of 2020. It's that time of year again, Christmas has come and gone, and we say hello to a new year. I hope you had a wonderful festive season and if you received a ring – congratulations!

Whether you're at the beginning or end of your planning journey, we understand how stressful it can be. To avoid getting overwhelmed by the to-do list, take some time out and declare it a wedding-free zone. Share the load and don't be afraid to ask loved ones for help.

If you're looking for inspiration, then you've come to the right place! We have three real weddings starting on page 41 that are full of gorgeous dresses, flowers, cakes and wow-factor styling. We're also looking at historic venues on page 29 and what Waverley & Mole Valley has to offer on page 21. Once you've found the perfect place to say "I do", head over to page 61 for cake ideas and the latest fashion trends on page 85.

I hope you enjoy the issue and don't forget you can submit your wedding at any time by visiting this link – yoursurrey.wedding/get-involved-real-wedding

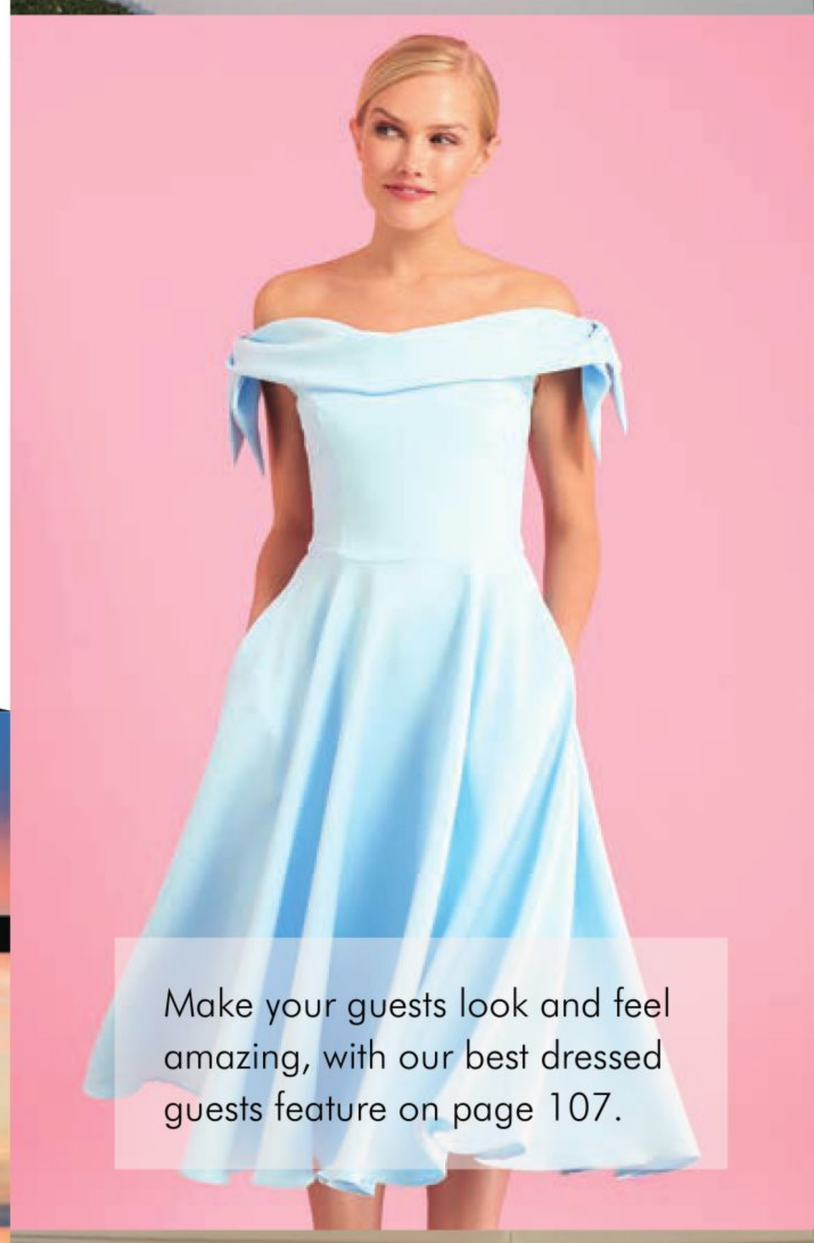
Melissa x

Melissa Barker, Editor

WIN!
A HONEYMOON IN ITALY, WORTH £1,500, ON PAGE 128.

Brooklands Hotel has announced its 2020 wedding packages. See page 9 for more details.

magdahoffman.com



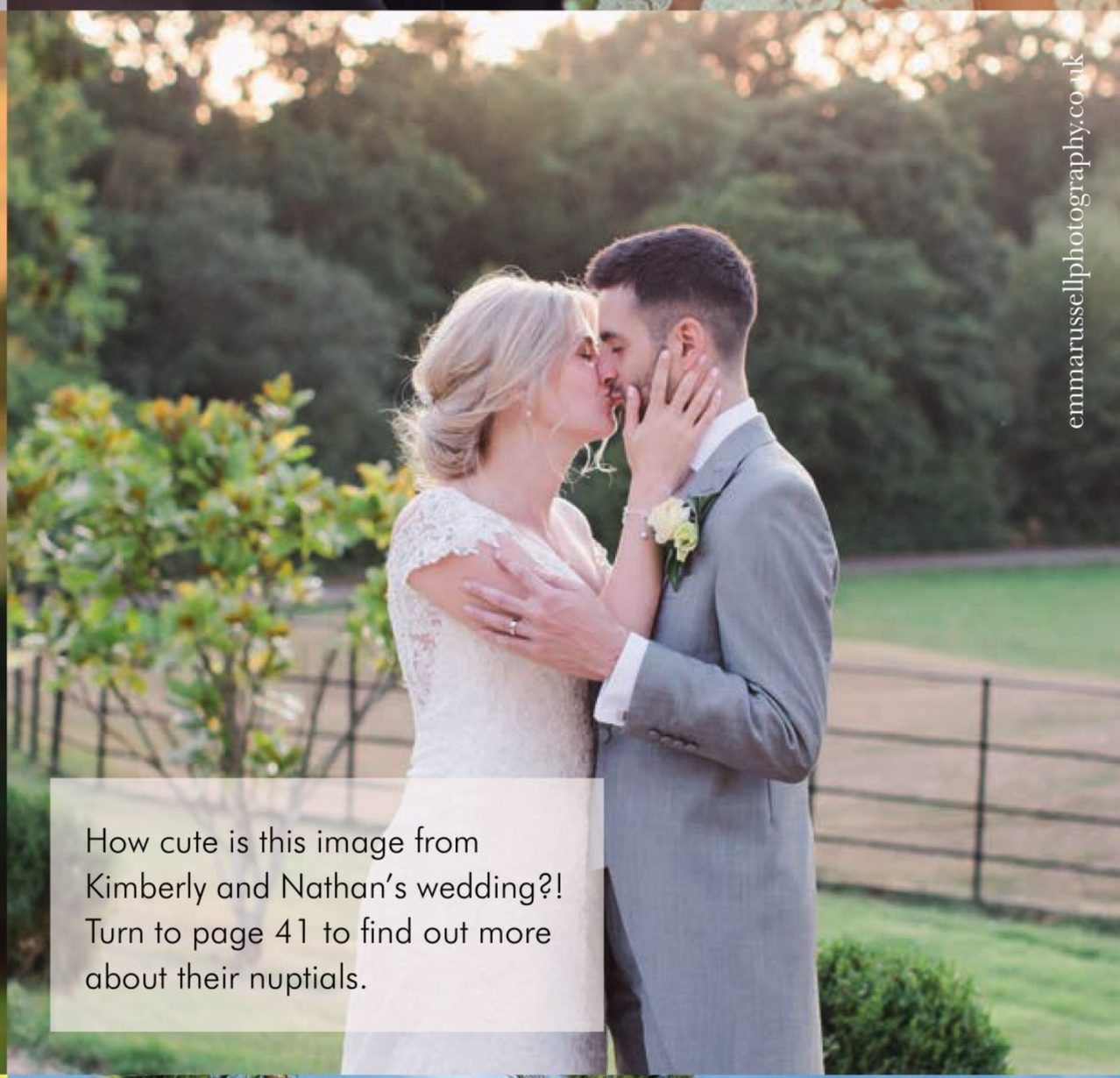
Make your guests look and feel amazing, with our best dressed guests feature on page 107.

The cake is the centrepiece of every wedding. It's a great way of incorporating your chosen theme or colour scheme and is always a crowd-pleaser. To help give you some inspiration we've asked local suppliers for their top tips on page 61.

I adore this dress from our Spring Florals feature on page 87.

Here at Your *Surrey Wedding HQ*, we understand how important it is that you look and feel fabulous on your big day. Jewellery is a key part in helping you achieve your desired look, but finding pieces that will complement your gown without upstaging it can be tricky. Turn to page 72 to take our jewellery-themed quiz and discover what style best suits you.

When it comes to dress shopping, there's a lot of pressure to find *the one*. You want something that's going to make you feel like a bride but also complement your figure and personality. For inspiration, head over to page 99 to find out more about local bridal boutiques.



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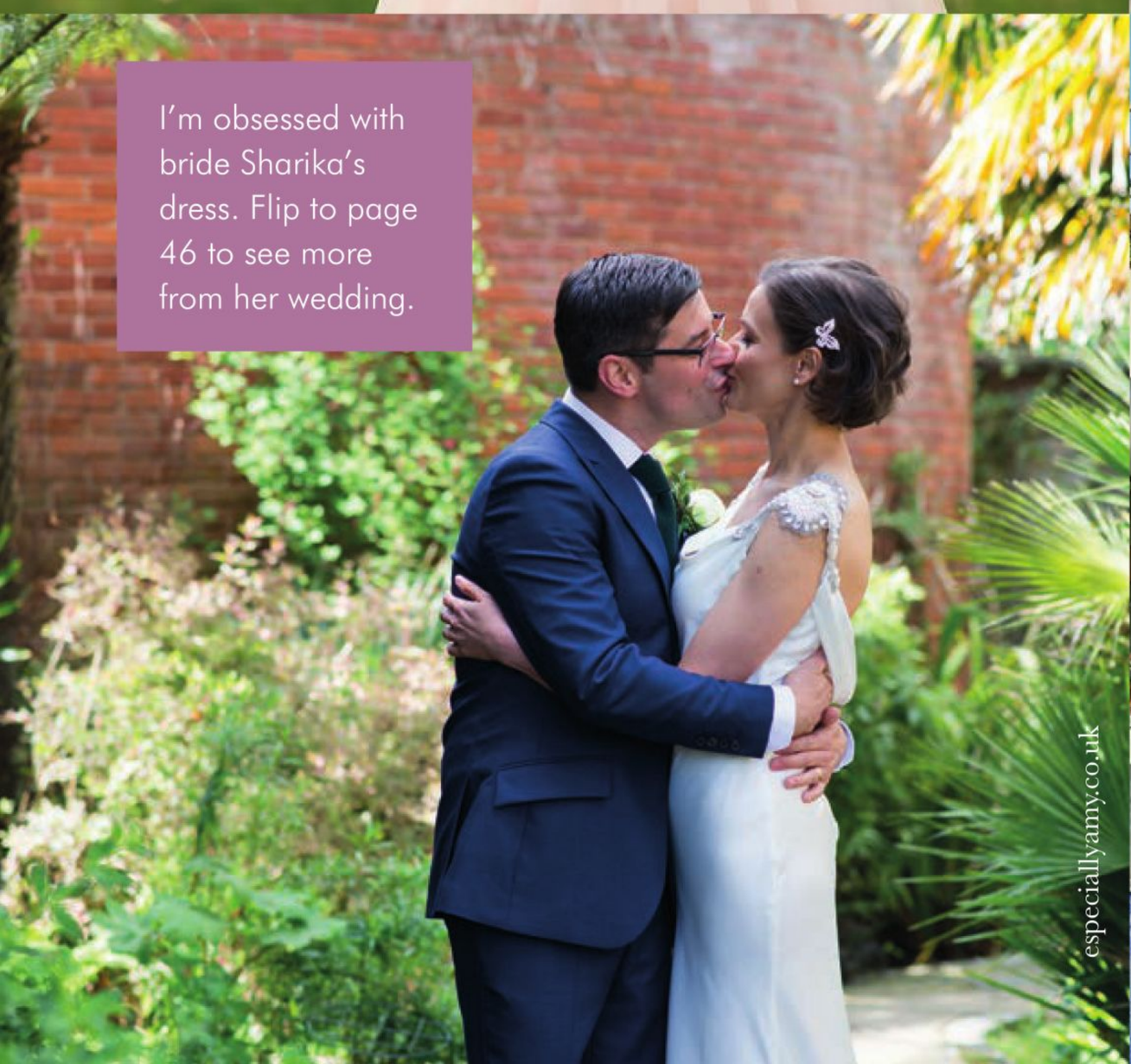
How cute is this image from Kimberly and Nathan's wedding?! Turn to page 41 to find out more about their nuptials.



I'm obsessed with bride Sharika's dress. Flip to page 46 to see more from her wedding.

especiallyamy.co.uk

Looking for a mini-moon destination? You're in luck! We're focusing on Mallorca in our honeymoon section over on page 124.

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Image by rosshurley.com

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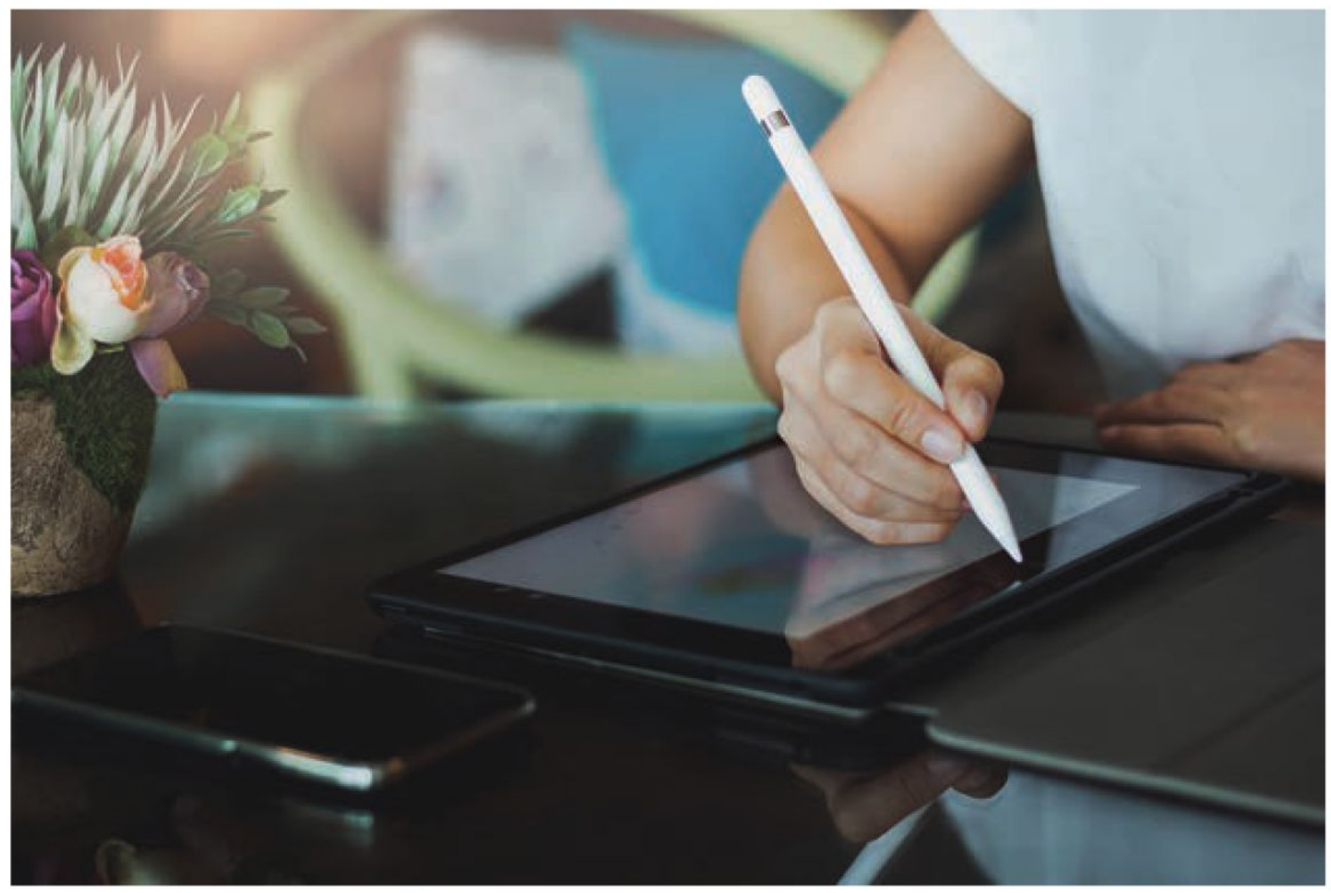
PLANNED TO PERFECTION

Luxus Events is a luxury event planning and design company based in Woking. New for 2020, the business has developed a digital design experience.

We spoke to the owner, Melinda Gill, to find out more: "Clients will be able to use design boards consisting of digital sketches, mood boards, look books, digital mock-ups, CGI images and 3D renderings to plan the perfect wedding. These are then sent to aesthetic vendors to curate a stunning cohesive design aesthetic. We also offer custom sketching services for customers upon request. This new, innovative process helps couples visualise how each piece of the design fits together, creating the customised, cohesive feel and luxury experience they are looking for."

To find out more, visit luxus-events.com



Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from around the region

A passion for fashion

Wedding Frox, a bridal boutique in Guildford, has added dresses from Australian-designer, Madi Lane to its offerings.

We spoke to Julie Aitken from Wedding Frox to find out more: "An innate sense of style is synonymous with the Madi Lane bride. Madi Lane gowns are both aspirational and attainable, exclusive pieces that look, feel and read modern contemporary couture. Her creations are designed with personality and personalisation in mind, each gown embodies fierce femininity, fitting the individual body and spirit."

To see more, visit weddingfrox.co.uk

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

First Dance in Woking is celebrating its 20th year of business!

We spoke to the owner, Emma Harris to find out more: "In 2000, some of my friends asked me to help choreograph their first dance. I was surprised at first, but after a bottle of red wine, I taught them how to waltz in their kitchen. I then attended their wedding, and the guests went wild for the dance. After that, I set up First Dance and have never looked back. It was the years before *Strictly Come Dancing* and preparing a routine was something completely new. The company has now seen thousands of people, and it has been an absolute pleasure to help them. I've remained good friends with many of my clients, and one couple even became my son's godparents."

Check out firstdance.co.uk for more.

COUNTING THE PENNIES

Brooklands Hotel in Weybridge has launched a new package for 2020. The Exclusive Package is designed to help couples create a magical wedding while removing some of the budget stress. It's based on 40 guests but is only available for a limited time and on selected dates. It includes a red carpet on arrival, drinks reception with one glass of prosecco per guest, a three-course wedding breakfast with coffee, still and sparkling water, an evening finger buffet and much more.

Brooklands is home to the world's oldest purpose-built motor racing track and boasts contemporary architecture, stunning event spaces and an elegant Art Deco interior.

Marco Gervasoni, the general manager, said: "We pride ourselves on making guest experiences exceptional, and we have a variety of options that can be added to their package to make it truly magical."

To find out more, visit brooklandshotelsurrey.com

The winning formula

Henson Weddings is a new company based in Croydon that creates wedding websites. We spoke to Mark Henson to find out more: "If you're wondering how to save money on admin, then Henson Weddings is just what you need. We develop and host wedding websites and do all the work for you, so you don't need any IT experience. We can even match your chosen theme or colour scheme. Your guests will be able to see everything about your wedding in one place, send rsvps, messages and menu choices. We can also handle quirky designs and requests."

For more information, visit hensonweddings.co.uk

REST AND RELAXATION

Chertsey-based wedding venue, Foxhills Country Club & Resort is celebrating after its new yoga cabin has become a popular attraction for members and guests.

Marc Hayton, the managing director, said: "We thought it would be a success, but it has exceeded our expectations. The occupancy alone tells its own story. We have moved from 17 classes per week up to 30. We always wanted to build it next to the spa in the woods to make is a sensory experience. There are bees, a birdhouse and an almost treehouse-feel to the building."

Head over to foxhills.co.uk to find out more.

DRINK IT ALL IN

De Vere Horsley Estate has partnered with nearby Denbies Wine Estate to create a special wine-lovers package. It includes a relaxing overnight stay complete with a three-course dinner and a hearty breakfast at De Vere Horsley Estate, plus a tour of Denbies Wine Estate's extensive vineyard with a tasting experience.

The vineyard was planted in 1986, and the company has since become one of the largest wine producers in the UK. Guests will have the chance to explore the beautiful Surrey Hills along a seven-mile footpath, which trails throughout the vineyard, as well as taste Denbies Wine Estate's portfolio of white, rosé, red and sparkling English wines.

De Vere Horsley Estate, nestled within acres of Surrey parkland, has recently undergone a £2 million refurbishment, which has seen an overhaul of interiors throughout the Horsley Towers, the mansion house featured in Netlfix's drama, *The Crown*.

Visit devere.co.uk/horsley-estate and denbies.co.uk for more information.

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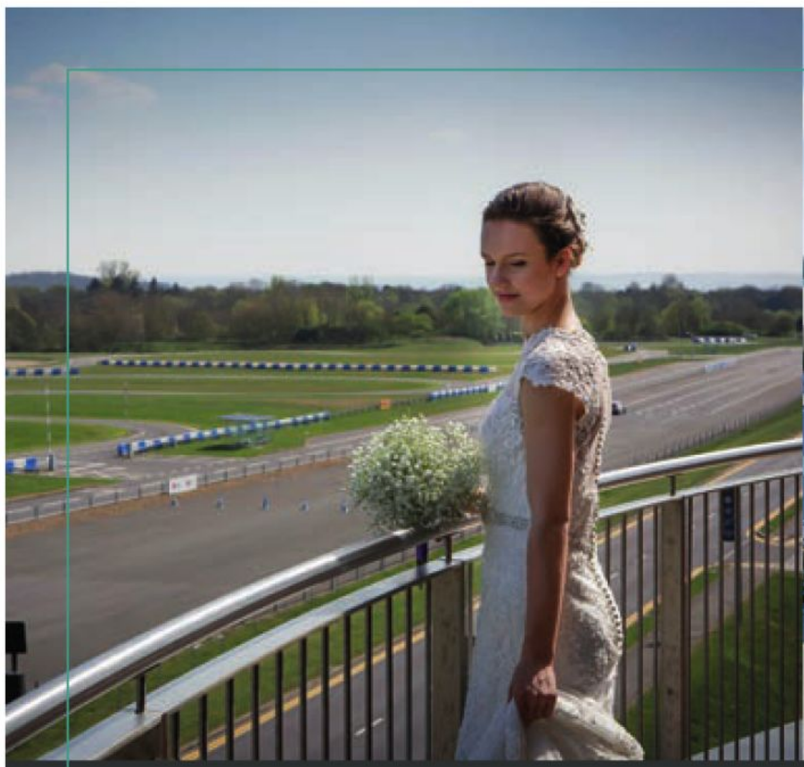

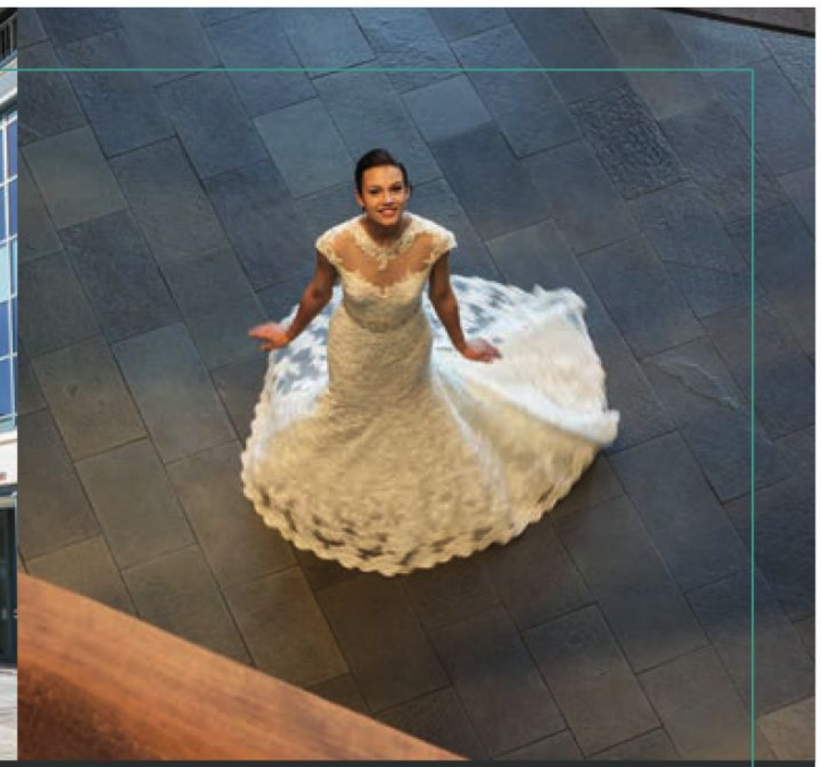

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THE WRITE STUFF

Based in Walton On Thames, The Sugared Doily specialises in bespoke cakes and wedding stationery. The owner Claire offers a wide range of products, including invitations, save-the-dates, table plans, menu cards and name cards. The company creates products to suit your chosen theme, style and budget.

Exclusively for *Your Surrey Wedding* readers, Claire is offering 15% off any stationery when you purchase your big-day cake. Simply email Claire with the code 'YSYW' at cbarnes12@virginmedia.com to receive this fab discount.

To find out more, visit thesugareddoily.com

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Here at *Your Surrey Wedding*, we know how important it is to find the perfect photographer. There's a lot you need to take into consideration, from finding someone within your budget to picking someone who understands your vision.

Together with Guildford-based photographer Roman Hajduk, we're offering couples an exclusive 10% discount on all wedding packages. Roman has a range of packages available that can be tailored to suit you and can be booked for pre-wedding photo shoots.

To claim this offer, contact Roman via email at info@paparazziforhire.co.uk with the code 'YSYW'.

Visit paparazziforhire.co.uk for more.

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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.

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KENT

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SUN 1 MAR

WEST HEATH
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Sevenoaks TN13 1SR
SUN 29 MAR

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

BERKS, BUCKS & OXON

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SUN 29 MAR

SUSSEX

GHYLL MANOR
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Horsham RH12 4PX
SUN 9 FEB

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

CASTLE GORING
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SUN 5 APR

STANMER HOUSE
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SUN 19 APR

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SUN 9 FEB

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SUN 8 MAR

ESSEX

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SUN 23 FEB

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

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

STIFFORD HALL HOTEL
High Road,
Grays RM16 5UE
SUN 12 JAN (12PM - 4PM)

HERTS & BEDS

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www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk | **01252 795161** | events@frenshampondhotel.co.uk

Spotlight on... WAVERLEY AND MOLE VALLEY

LYTHE HILL HOTEL & SPA, GU27 3BQ

01428 744 815 | lythehill.co.uk

Located within 22 acres of glorious countryside is the grand Lythe Hill Hotel & Spa. Resting on the borders of Hampshire, Surrey and West Sussex, the property is an outstanding example of a luxury country house hotel that has retained much of its original charm. The property perfectly combines 16th-century architecture, with a contemporary and elegant feel to create a luxurious atmosphere. The hotel boasts 43 individually designed bedrooms, a gym, a spa, a health club and a restaurant.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The Gazebo is an outdoor ceremony space that offers impressive views of the Surrey Hills, surrounding lake and fountain, with room for 150 guests.

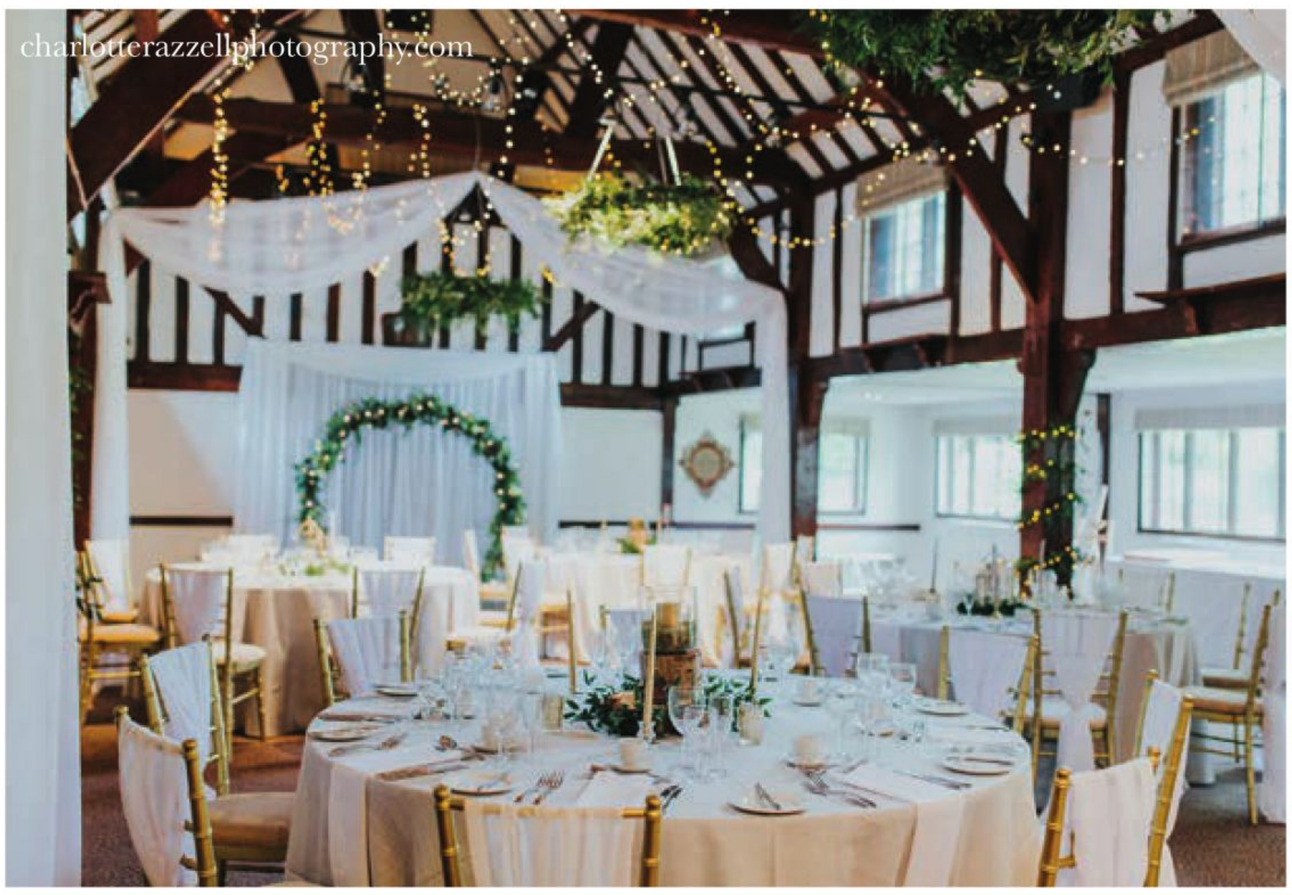
The Ivory Suite can cater for 150 loved ones for the vows and 250 for a standing reception. It's the largest indoor ceremony space available and features a sky view lantern roof and exposed beams.

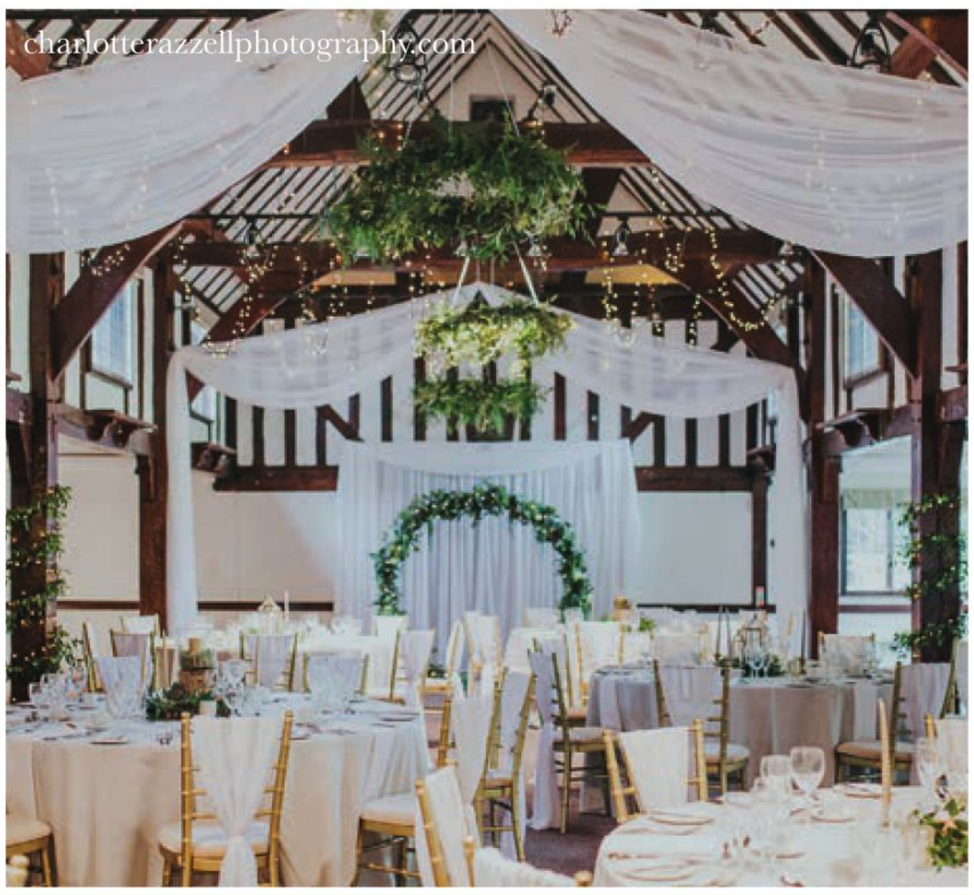
Alternatively, The Hampton Suite can be used. The space is a blank canvas that features white walls and brick, perfect for couples wanting to add a personal touch to their big day. It can accommodate 80 friends and family throughout the day.

The Old Room can be used more for more intimate celebrations. Nestled in Lythe Hill Hotel & Spa's historic Tudor house, it's an oak-panelled room full of character, with a decorated fireplace and room for 30 nearest and dearest for the ceremony.

WE LOVE...

Upon booking, couples are automatically enrolled in the Tie The Knot Membership. This entitles brides and grooms access to the spa and health club in the run-up to the wedding and two months after. They'll also receive spa passes for friends, 10 per cent off food and beverages and 10 bedrooms will be held for guests wanting to stay at the hotel.





MERCURE BOX HILL BURFORD BRIDGE HOTEL, RH5 6BX

01306 884 561 | all.accor.com

The Mercure Box Hill Burford Bridge Hotel is quintessentially English, with Georgian windows and gorgeous grounds. The property has undergone an impressive renovation, which has created a classic yet contemporary style throughout, with opulent furnishings and calming colours. There are plenty of places to take those all-important photographs, including the 100-year-old evergreen tree and intimate courtyard.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The Tithe Barn has original features, including beams from ships used in the Spanish Armada, and is capable of holding 280 people for the ceremony.

Alternatively, The Garden Room, with its gorgeous chandeliers, bay windows and private gardens, can be used for intimate weddings of up to 70 loved ones.

Receptions of 300 friends and family take place in the Tithe Barn, as well as outside on the lawns.

The Garden Room, which opens onto a private garden, can hold 70 nearest and dearest for the evening reception.

WE LOVE...

Couple can enjoy a complimentary menu tasting, a night's stay in the bridal suite and a first anniversary stay, as well as a red carpet arrival and discounted rates for guests.

CLOCK BARN HALL, GU8 4AY

01483 414 147 | clockbarnhall.co.uk

Clock Barn Hall is an elegant and modern building surrounded by fields, stables and barns. Consisting of two halls joined by moveable walls, the venue boasts a newly-built, raised terrace that overlooks a beautiful garden and a rustic horse trailer that can be converted into an outside bar for reception drinks.

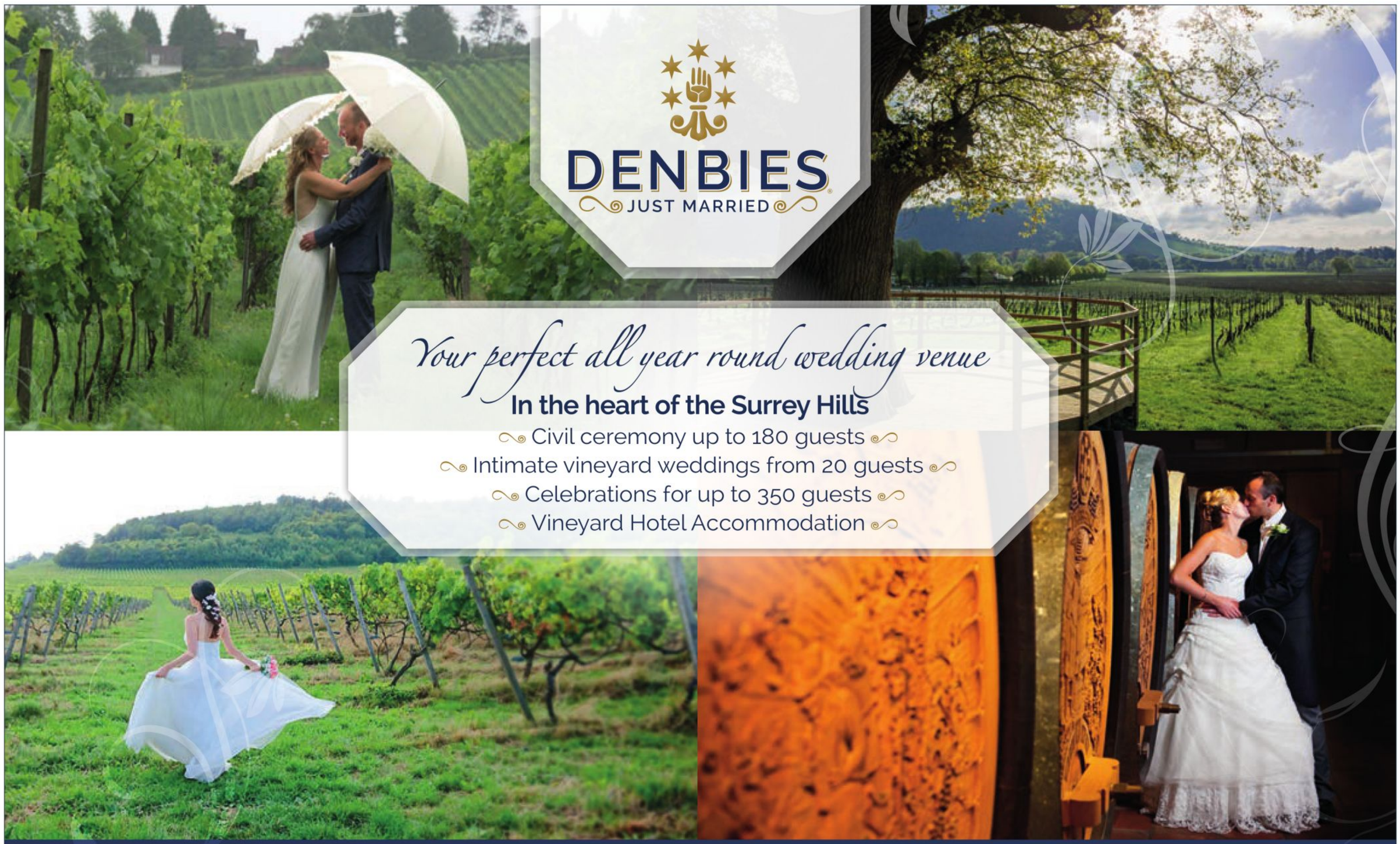
CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Ceremonies take place on the west side of the building, which has large windows overlooking the terrace and garden, with space for 100 guests.

The reception hall, located on the east side of the property, has a fully-equipped kitchen that's ideal for wedding breakfasts and evening celebrations.

WE LOVE...

The venue offers brides and grooms the opportunity to set up and decorate the day before, space to leave cars overnight and a private room for the bridal party to get ready in.



Denbies Wine Estate Ltd, London Road, Dorking Surrey RH5 6AA
T. 01306 876616 www.denbies.co.uk **Email:** events@denbiesvineyard.co.uk
Company Registered in England No 9822843
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The wedding venue for Godalming, Surrey

Clock Barn Hall is a modern venue set in the heart of a working farm and estate just outside Godalming, Surrey. A truly romantic setting, surrounded by stable yards, barns, fields and horses.

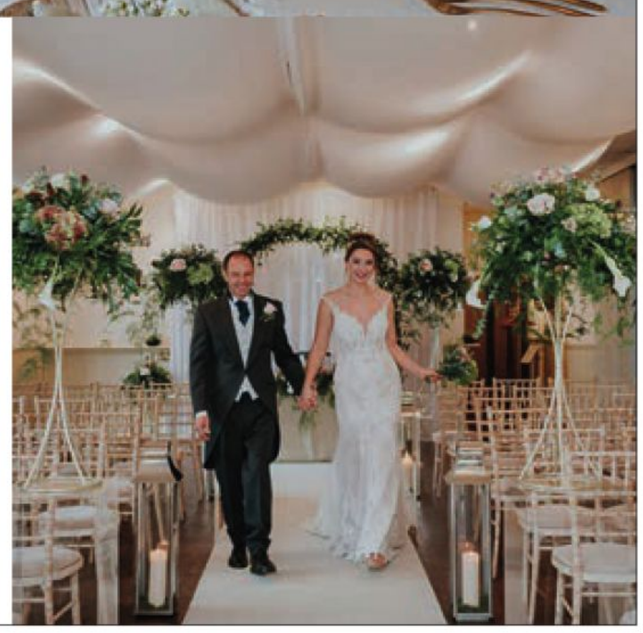
The venue consists of two halls, one of which is primarily used for Civil ceremonies and is licensed for up to 100 guests. The other hall is an elegant reception hall for wedding breakfasts and parties. The reception hall can seat up to 100 guests, with the option of extending up to 170 guests for larger weddings. Both halls boast modern lighting and air conditioning (perfect for those hot summer days). The venue has ample free parking. There is also a bride's room and a family room.

www.clockbarnhall.co.uk
info@clockbarnhall.co.uk
Photo credit: Gingersnaps Photography

Wedding Show on Sunday 29th March 2020 11am - 3pm

Come along to our wedding show and meet some of Surrey's best wedding suppliers. From caterers, florists, photographers, wedding dress shops, photobooths and honeymoons. Get inspired!

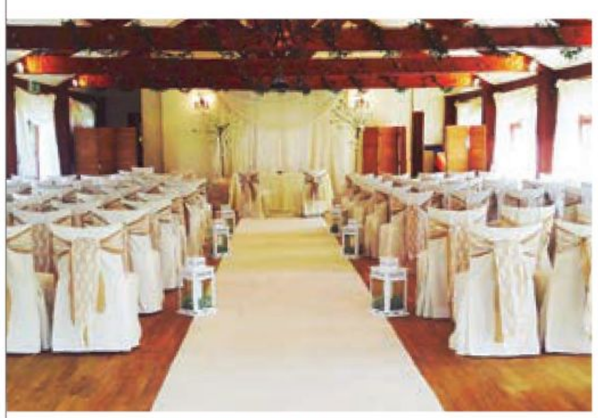
FREE ENTRY



Coltsford Mill

Coltsford Mill offers the best of a classic country barn wedding with an elegant contemporary finish.

This hidden gem offers endless photographic opportunities featuring stunning lakes and cascades fed by the river Eden.



Coltsford Mill

Tel. 01883 716354 | Email. events@coltsfordmill-weddings.co.uk | Coltsford Mill, Hurst Green, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9DG

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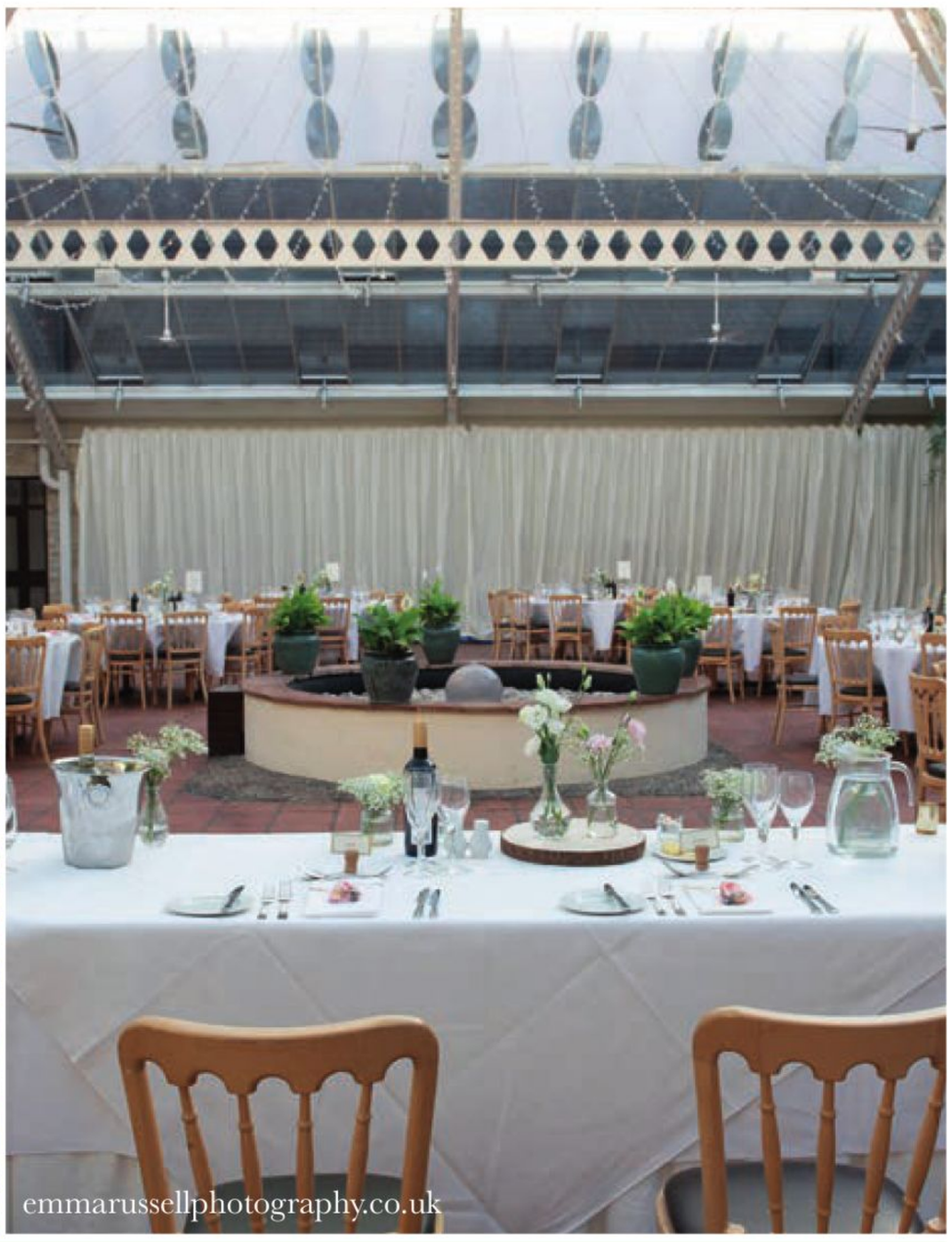
LYTHE HILL WEDDING SHOWCASE - SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2020

emmarussellphotography.co.uk


emmarussellphotography.co.uk

DENBIES WINE ESTATE LIMITED, RH5 6AA

01306 734 663 | denbies.co.uk

Denbies Wine Estate Limited is situated within 265 acres of vineyards and boasts breathtaking views of the Surrey Hills and ample places to take those all-important photographs. Couples will receive a warm welcome from the experienced team who will be on-hand to ensure every part of the day is planned to perfection.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Lovebirds can tie the knot in the Denbies Suite. Situated on the first floor, this large space is perfect for grand celebrations and is capable of holding 180 guests for the vows.

Alternatively, the Garden Room can be used. Overlooking the Cloisters Courtyard, this charming area can hold 150 loved ones for the service.

The Cloisters Courtyard is licensed for outdoor ceremonies between May and September and can accommodate 100 friends and family.

Couples looking for a more intimate setting can say "I Do" in the Ranmore Suite. It's the venue's smallest ceremony space and can cater for 50 nearest and dearest.

Receptions take place in the Conservatory Atrium. This beautifully-decorated room can hold 250 partygoers.

The Gallery Restaurant, which has panoramic views of the vineyard and Box Hill, is ideal for more intimate celebrations, with space for 60 people.

WE LOVE...

Newlyweds will receive a complimentary menu tasting, the opportunity to sample the venue's range of wines and an overnight stay on the night of the wedding.

Also check out...

FRENSHAM POND HOTEL & SPA, GU10 2QD

01252 795 161 | frenshampondhotel.co.uk

Frensham Pond Hotel is Farnham's only four-star hotel and is located on the edge of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The 15th-century property is full of historic character and has plenty of spaces to tie the knot.

FRENSHAM HEIGHTS, GU10 4EA

01252 792 561 | frensham.org

Frensham Heights is a majestic mock Tudor building that dates back to 1902. Surrounded by more than 120 acres of breathtaking countryside, there are plenty of places to take photographs, including the towers, large mullioned windows, ornate gate, stone walkway and fountain in the Walled Garden.

MILLBRIDGE COURT, GU10 3DJ

01252 792 572 | millbridgecourt.co.uk

Located in the heart of the Surrey countryside, Millbridge Court is just minutes from the National Trust Frensham Ponds. There's plenty to explore; from a festoon-lit courtyard, a luscious green lawn stretching past the walled garden and a secret fern garden.

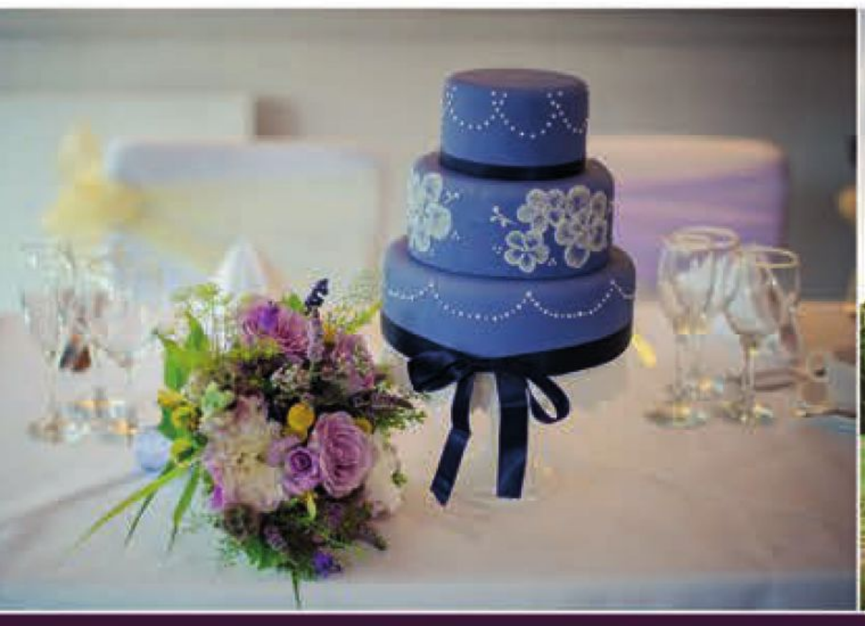
RAMSTER HALL, GU8 4SN

01428 654 167 | ramsterweddings.co.uk

Situated just outside the picture-perfect village of Chiddingfold, in the Surrey Hills, Ramster Hall is surrounded by parkland and more than 25 acres of stunning gardens. It's a timber-framed building dating back to 1604 and has impressive vaulted halls surrounding a lovely private courtyard.

Perfect Memories

Celebrate the best day of your life at Foxhills Club & Resort in Surrey. The ideal setting for your wedding day, Foxhills has over 40 years' experience in making dreams come true. Exchange vows in the 19th century Manor House before joining your nearest and dearest for an evening reception in the Clubhouse and toasting your happy ever after.



Stonehill Road
Ottershaw
Surrey KT16 0EL

foxhills.co.uk/weddings

Foxhills

GORSE HILL

Surrey

Built in 1912, Gorse Hill is a unique venue, perfect for an elegant and intimate wedding. Situated in 17 acres of stunning Surrey countryside, surrounded by manicured lawns and colourful gardens, the beautiful Edwardian mansion house is a magical setting in which to celebrate your big day.

The Garden Suite is fully licenced to conduct civil ceremonies, so once you've exchanged your vows in our beautiful venue, you and your guests will be able to step out onto the terrace or into our stylish bar where your reception drinks and canapés will be served.

The venue will accommodate up to 150 people for the ceremony and Wedding Breakfast, after which the room will be transformed into a magical dancefloor for you and your guests to dance the night away.

Call: 01483 474 444 Email: sales@gorsehillsurrey.com Visit: www.gorsehillsurrey.com

GORSE HILL, HOOK HEATH ROAD, WOKING, SURREY, GU22 0QF

WEDDING SHOWCASE EVENING | WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2020 | 6PM-9PM

SEE THE HOTEL DRESSED FOR OCCASION FREE ENTRY FREE PARKING COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF BUBBLY ON ARRIVAL

We love a love story

In the "never ending" stunning grounds and scenery that this historic building overlooks, unforgettable wedding memories are made.

The wedding team here at De Vere Selsdon Estate, are commited to making dreams come true. Contact us to book your consultation and start your wedding planning journey.

DE VERE

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Once upon a time

Tie the knot in a historic venue

BARNETT HILL, GU5 0RF

01483 893 361 | barnetthillhotel.co.uk

Barnett Hill is a refurbished Grade II listed mansion surrounded by 26 acres of peaceful countryside and landscaped gardens. This historic building was built in 1905 by Frank Cook, the grandson of the renowned travel agent, Thomas Cook.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

There are plenty of areas where couples can say "I do". The spacious Drawing Room has wood-panelling, an original fireplace and direct access to the terrace and gardens beyond. It's capable of holding 70 friends and family for the vows.

The Oak Room boasts contemporary chandeliers and a gorgeous décor throughout. It can hold 80 loved ones for the service.

Receptions take place in the Garden Suite. This newly refurbished space features natural daylight, a feature fireplace and room for 80 nearest and dearest for the wedding breakfast and 120 for the evening celebration.

WE LOVE...

Couples will receive a menu tasting and preferential accommodation rates for all guests on the night of the wedding.

OATLANDS PARK HOTEL, KT13 9HB

01932 847 242 | oatlandsparkhotel.com

Oatlands Park Hotel is a four-star country house hotel situated within acres of picturesque parkland. The magnificent grounds were originally the site of a grand Tudor palace built by Henry VIII in 1538. Over the centuries, the house and grounds have been rebuilt and remodelled to create the current premiss. The property has been tastefully refurbished to create a modern and contemporary style while still retaining elements of the hotel's original character.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The York Suite is the venue's largest space and boasts a private bar and kitchen, white walls, cream curtains and flexible dividers so the area can be made smaller if needed. It's capable of holding 420 guests throughout the day.

Alternatively, the Mulberry Suite, with spectacular views overlooking the lake, is available. The room has high ceilings, natural lighting and a stylish décor.

La Terrazza is a new addition to the hotel, which has floor-to-ceiling windows and a retractable ceiling to block out the British weather when necessary.

Lastly, the Garden Room can be used. Ideal for smaller nuptials, this fabulously stylish area can accommodate 30 loved ones for the ceremony and 33 for the wedding breakfast.

WE LOVE...

Lovebirds will receive a complimentary menu tasting with the senior chef, accommodation on the night of the wedding and a free anniversary stay.

SHIRLEY PARK GOLF CLUB, CR0 7LB

02086 541 143 | shirleyparkgolfclub.co.uk

Shirley Park Golf Club is a grand wedding venue set within a 135-acre golf course. Couples can enjoy a private buggy ride and take photographs in the breathtaking grounds. The 100-year-old clubhouse has a traditional yet contemporary décor and is full of history.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Nuptials take place in the newly refurbished dining room; it's spacious, with a high-domed ceiling, patio doors and a lounge area with a fully stocked bar. It's capable of holding 120 loves ones throughout the day and 150 for the evening celebration.

WE LOVE...

The impressive views.

DE VERE HORSLEY ESTATE, KT24 6DT

01483 286 598 | devere.co.uk/horsley-estate

Situated in more than 70 acres of picturesque parkland is the De Vere Horsley Estate. This Victorian mansion dates back to 1820 and boasts 28 newly refurbished en suite bedrooms, a croquet lawn, a lake and quirky towers.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Nearlyweds can tie the knot in the Great Hall, a traditional English banqueting hall, with room for 120 friends and family for the ceremony, 110 for the wedding breakfast and 200 for the reception.

The Sopwith can also be used, which has an elegant design, large bay windows, a terrace and a croquet lawn, with space for 120 loved ones for the meal and 200 for the evening celebration.

Alternatively, 1820 is available. Full of natural light, this grand area has an 18th-century fireplace and can accommodate 40 guests for the service and 120 for the party.

WE LOVE...

Couples will have the choice of two stunning bridal suites on the night of the wedding, a certified toastmaster, use of a ceremonial knife and sterling cake stand, a red-carpet arrival, menu tasting, complimentary bed and breakfast and a stay at Horsley Towers for their first anniversary.

HARTSFIELD MANOR

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WEDDING SHOWCASE
SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2020

Sign up on our website and enter our prize draw on arrival to win a night's stay for 2 with dinner and breakfast!

stanhillcourthotel.co.uk

Stanhill Court is a magnificent country manor house, built in 1881 and surrounded by 35 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens and woodland. A stunning venue with idyllic views overlooking the Surrey Hills, creating a romantic and picturesque setting for weddings. The new owner's enthusiasm and passion for this historic building has led to a completely refreshed venue with a modern, contemporary feel that also respects and retains the character and features of the house.

01293 862 166 | weddings@stanhillcourthotel.co.uk | www.stanhillcourthotel.co.uk

WARREN HOUSE CONFERENCE CENTRE, KT2 7HY

02085 471 777 | warrenhouse.com

Nestled amongst acres of secluded countryside is the Grade II listed Warren House. The original 1960s red brick tiled roof and metal frame windows are still on display, creating the perfect backdrop for photographs.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Nuptials can take place in the Edwardian Ballroom. Inspired by the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles, it has a rich history and space for 100 guests for the ceremony.

Depending on the weather, al fresco celebrations can take place under the Gazebo.

The first meal as newlyweds can be enjoyed in the Persian Dining Room, which has a traditional Persian fireplace and can hold up to 100 loved ones.

Evening receptions of up to 100 take place in the London Room.

WE LOVE...

Couples will receive a complimentary menu tasting, a bedroom on the night of the wedding and a free anniversary stay.

FOXHILLS CLUB & RESORT, KT16 0EL

01932 704 448 | foxhills.co.uk

Foxhills Club & Resort is a 19th-century manor house surrounded by 400 acres of countryside. The impressive hotel boasts three golf courses, beautifully decorated bedrooms, an outdoor pool, a natural pond, woodlands and grand event spaces.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Ceremonies take place in The Library. This stately room is the resort's only ceremony-licensed suite and features wooden furnishings, lots of natural daylight and room for 100 friends and family for the vows and 60 for the reception.

The Clubhouse can be used for receptions of up to 200 loves ones. It's the largest suite available and includes a built-in sound system, a wooden dancefloor, private bar and doors leading to the outdoor terrace that overlooks the Championship golf course.

Smaller nuptials can take place in the Orangery. Located in the historic manor house, this Victorian room is bathed in natural light and can hold 42 nearest and dearest for the party.

WE LOVE...

The venue offers a tasting menu for up to four people, accommodation before and after the wedding, a dedicated coordinator, use of the country club facilities and exclusive use of the property throughout the day.

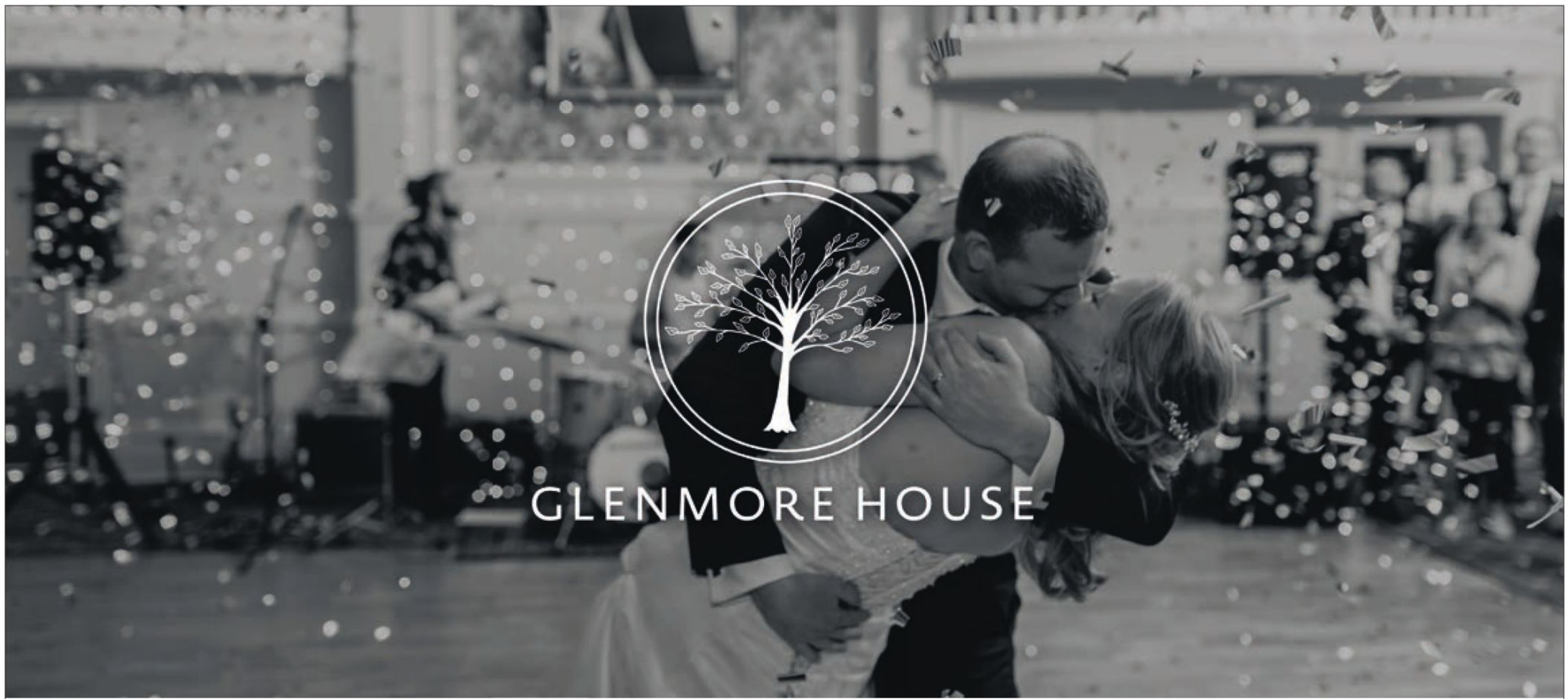
THE Boleyn HOTEL

The Boleyn Hotel opposite the River Thames dates back to the 16th century and is the perfect venue for your magical day. The hotel's flexible and spacious facilities enable us to host weddings and parties catering up to 250 guests in our newly refurbished Pearl Suite. One of our experienced event managers will work together with you to ensure that your wedding day is planned to perfection, stress-free and unforgettable.

Our newly refurbished executive rooms are individually designed with a unique combination of colours and materials. Rooms are fully air conditioned, have comfortable large beds for a great nights sleep, flat screen TV's and grohe power showers.

01784 455930 | www.boleynhotel.com | stay@boleynhotel.com

The Boleyn Hotel, 29 The Hythe, Staines, Middx, TW18 3JD



Glenmore House has acquired an enviable reputation locally as a venue offering superb value for money at highly competitive prices, without compromising on quality. With gourmet cuisine, second to none, and fantastic standards of service from all of our friendly, passionate and experienced staff, Glenmore House is the ideal wedding venue

Tel: **020 8399 1415** Email: **info@glenmorehouse.co.uk** Visit: **www.glenmorehouse.co.uk**

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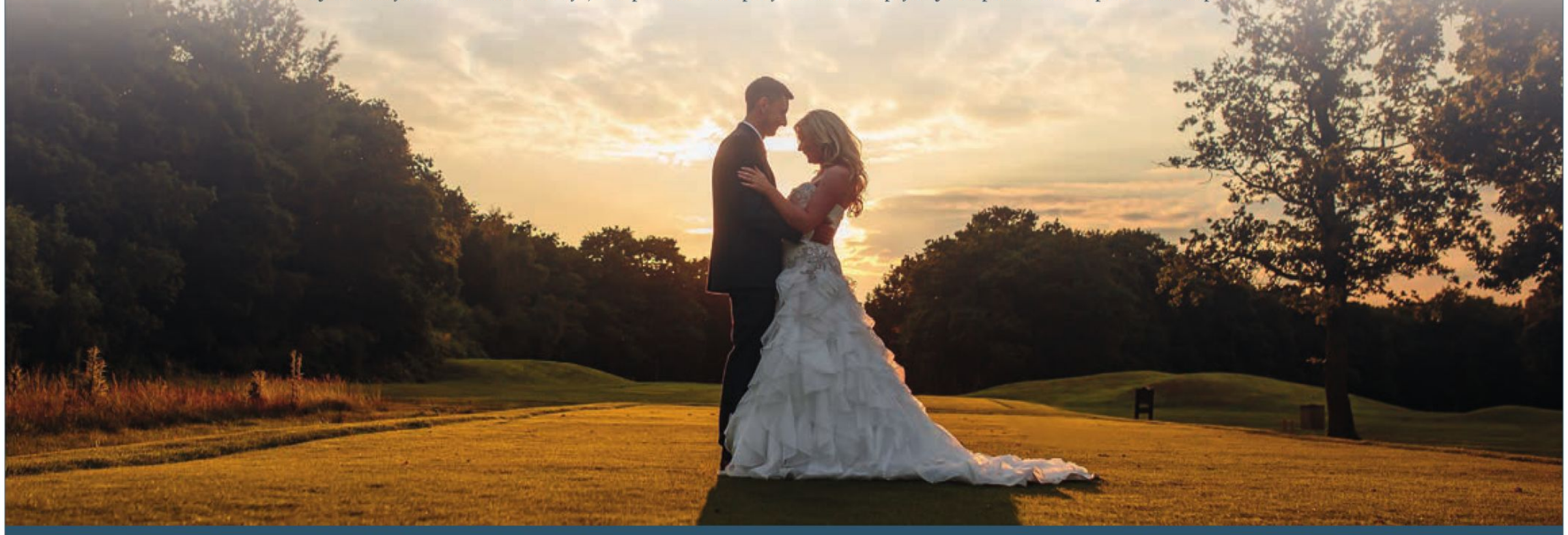
Weddings at The Drift Golf Club

For Memories That Last A Lifetime

Set in an area of outstanding natural beauty amongst the picturesque Surrey countryside, The Drift Golf Club is the ideal venue for your special day. Surrounded by beautiful trees and wildlife, we provide the perfect backdrop for your photos to capture those precious moments.



Our Wedding Package includes:

Private Room Hire of the Pheasant Suite for your Wedding Breakfast and Evening Reception • Red Carpet Arrival • Arrival Drink Luxury 3-Course Menu • Coffee and Truffles • Glass of Sparkling Wine for your Toast • Half a Bottle of Wine per person • Mirror Mats & Tea Lights

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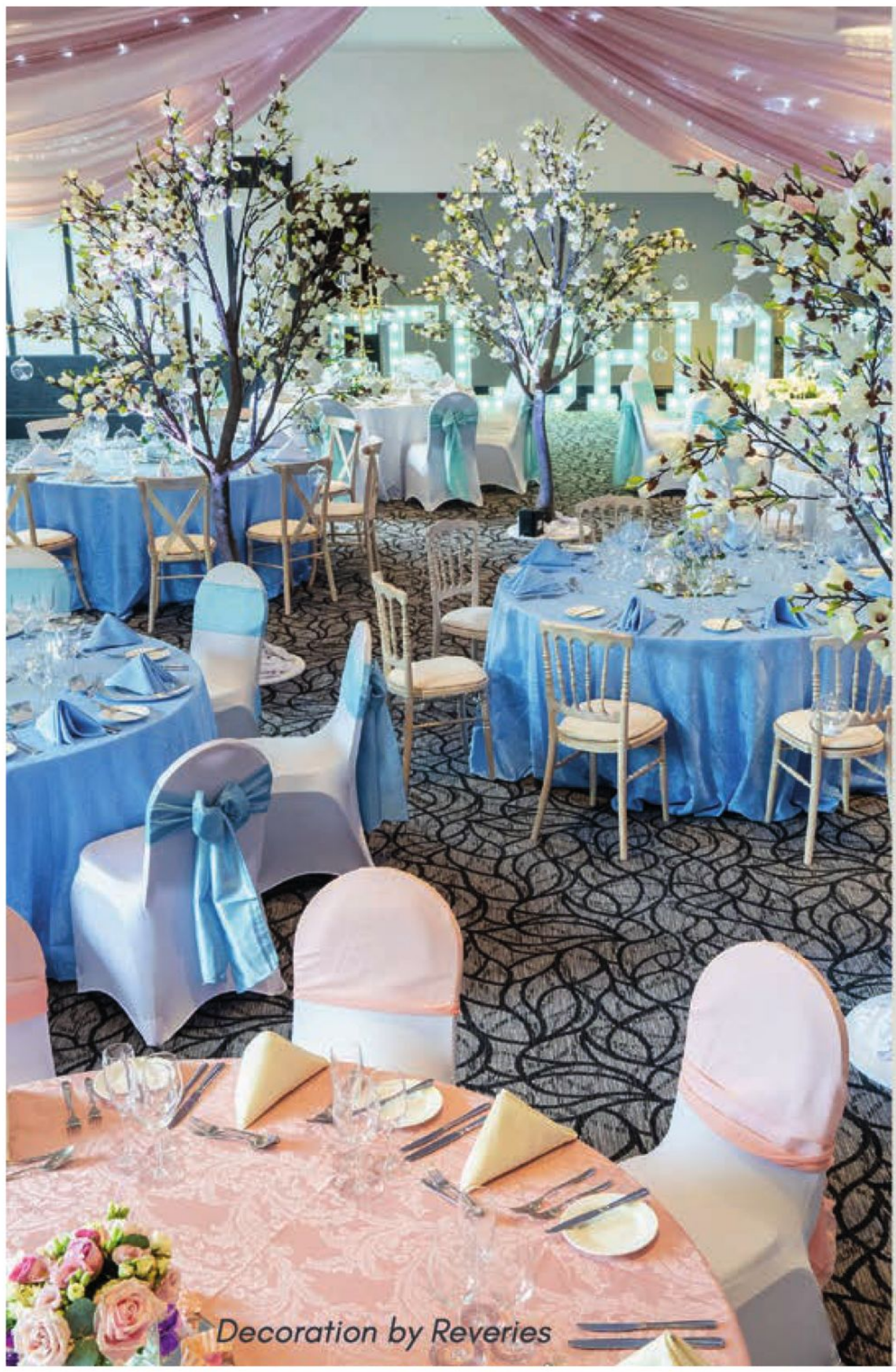
The Drift, East Horsley, Surrey, KT24 5HD



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GREAT EXPECTATIONS

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

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

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

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

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

ON THE DAY DELIGHTS

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

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

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

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

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

Sarah x

Sarah Ellis, Sales and Events Director County Wedding Events.

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

SPABREAKS.COM

A date for your diary...

ASCOT RACECOURSE, 8TH MARCH, 2020
MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD, 15TH MARCH, 2020
WEMBLEY STADIUM, 26TH APRIL, 2020
THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

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

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

cwm

COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

Signature

WEDDING SHOW

cwe | COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

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

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

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

SPABREAKS.COM

Hosted at

Mercedes-Benz World
at Brooklands

A date for your diary...

Sunday 15th March, 2020, 11AM to 4PM

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

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

Follow us on /CountyWeddingEvents @CountyWedEvent @countyweddingevents

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SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020, 11AM TO 4PM
THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE, ESSEX

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

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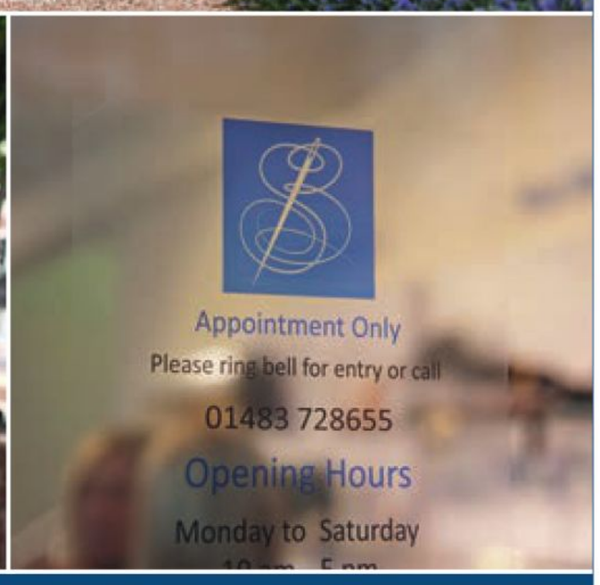

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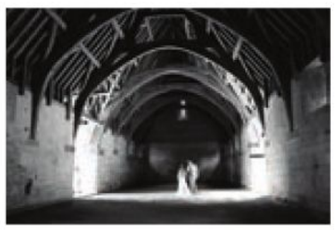

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THE ONE FOR ME

Kimberly and Nathan had a romantic celebration at Botleys Mansion

Images courtesy of Emma Russell Photography

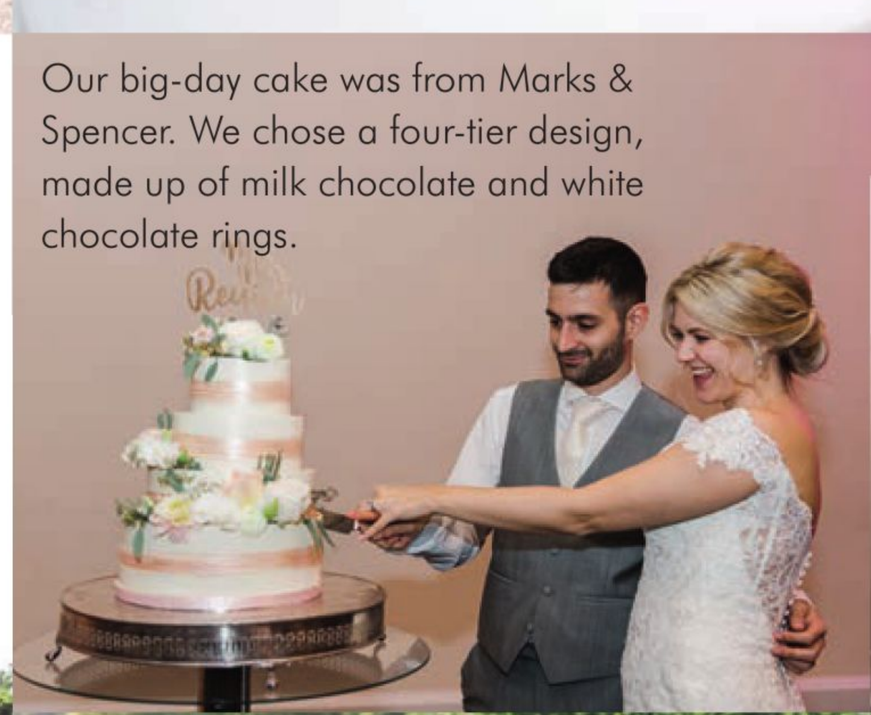
Kimberly and Nathan met online. "We had lots in common and clicked straight away," says Kimberly. "I messaged him first, and he got so wrapped up in our conversation that he ended up losing a poker game!"

Nathan popped the question at the couple's home. "We spent the day buying furniture from Ikea and were surrounded by flat-pack boxes," shares the bride. "He called me into the front room, told me he loved me and got down on one knee. I was so shocked and kept asking if he was joking. He'd planning to do it when we were away with my family in Centre Parcs the weekend before but couldn't find the right moment. It was perfect, and I couldn't have asked for a better proposal."

Here she shares some of her favourite moments from their big day…

We'd always talked about getting married in a stately home, and when we saw Botleys Mansion, we knew it was the perfect place for us. We had a great feeling from the moment we walked in and loved that the ceremony and reception would be in two separate rooms to help break up the day and make the most of the venue.

Our big-day cake was from Marks & Spencer. We chose a four-tier design, made up of milk chocolate and white chocolate rings.



Dahlias are my favourite flower, so I knew I wanted to include some in our wedding. Our florist Lily & Myrtle provided a mixture of white hydrangeas, blush roses, foliage and of course dahlias.

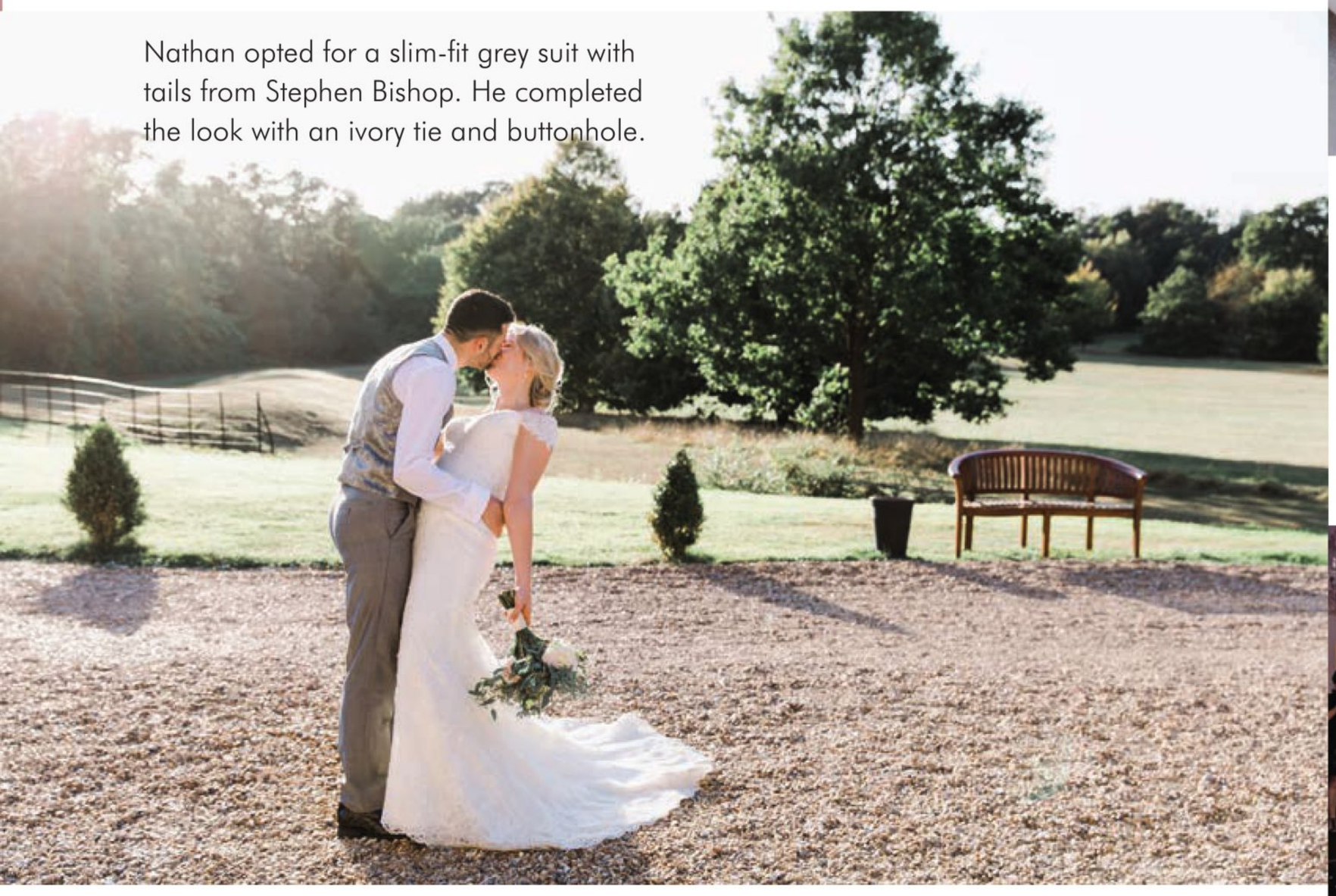
We decided not to include many decorations as the venue was already so stunning that it spoke for itself.

For our reception, we had a three-course meal followed by a light buffet in the evening. It was delicious and went down a treat with our friends and family.

On the morning of the wedding, I felt very nervous, but Nathan was incredibly calm. We both really excited and couldn't wait to become husband and wife.

I wore a dress by Mori Lee called *Kinley* from Pure Couture Bridal Boutique. It was a classic design, with all-over lace, a sweetheart neckline, cap sleeves and buttons on the back. I added a train-length veil, pearl earrings, a bracelet and a necklace that I borrowed from my mum.

Nathan opted for a slim-fit grey suit with tails from Stephen Bishop. He completed the look with an ivory tie and buttonhole.



The speeches were lovely, and I cried at every one, especially Nathan's. There was a funny story from Nathan's stag party that involved a scooter, so at one point Nathan and his friend, Dean, rode into the reception on a scooter. His brother, Dan, didn't know about it but finished off his speech by riding it out of the room.

My four bridesmaids chose blush pink dresses with gorgeous detailing on the shoulders.

To keep our loved ones entertained, we had garden games during the day and a DJ in the evening. We kept it simple, so everyone had a chance to mingle and relax.

Make sure you take a few moments to take everything in. Otherwise, you'll spend the day talking to other people, and it will fly by!

My 89-year-old grandad managed to make it from West Sussex, and my 86-year-old nanna came from Australia! It meant so much to me to have them both there.

For our honeymoon, we went to the Maldives for 10 nights. We chose it together, and it was absolutely perfect.

KIMBERLY AND NATHAN'S CONTACTS

Photographer, Emma Russell Photography, emmarussellphotography.co.uk | **Bride's dress and accessories**, Pure Couture Bridal Boutique, purecouture.co.uk | **Hair and make-up artist**, Helen Andrew Professional Hair & Make-up Artist, helen-andrew.com **Venue and entertainment**, Botleys Mansion, bijouweddingvenues.co.uk/venue/botleys-mansion | **Groom's suit**, Stephen Bishop, stephenbishopsuiting.com | **Cake**, Marks & Spencer, marksandspencer.com | **Flowers**, Lily & Myrtle, lilyandmyrtle.co.uk **Stationery**, Vistaprint, vistaprint.co.uk

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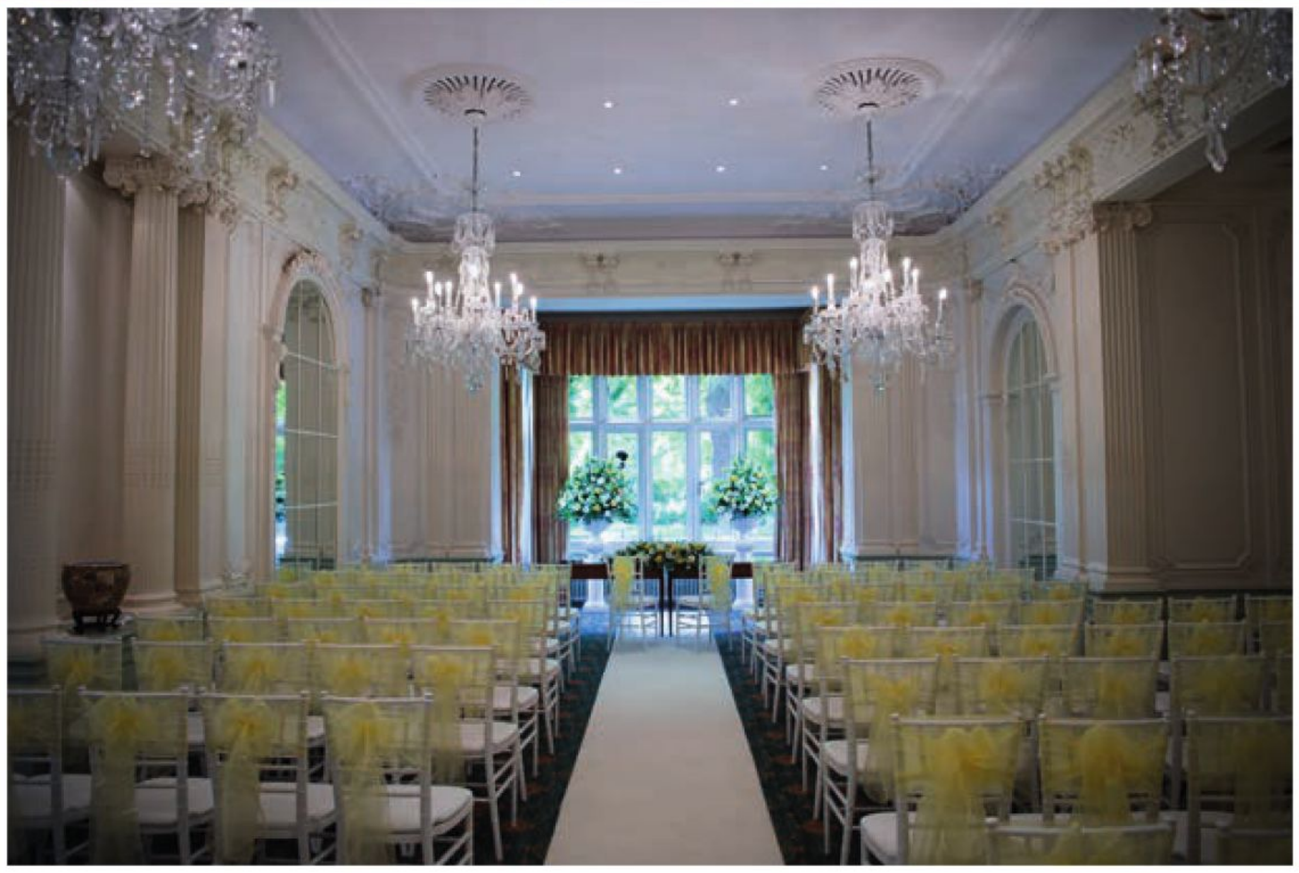
A ray of sunshine

Sharika and Leslie had a Sicily-themed celebration at Warren House

Images courtesy of Especially Amy



Sharika and Leslie met through work. "Leslie was designing books, and I was the project manager," says Sharika. "We always had a great time talking to each other, and the time would fly by. When one of our mutual friends didn't turn up for an evening get-together, and it was too late for either of us to cancel, we met up and gradually became closer. It surprised us both when we are realised we might be becoming something more. During one of our meetings, we kissed, and things went from there."

Leslie popped the question during a holiday to Sicily in 2017. "We had talked about getting married and had even spent one afternoon looking at rings, but I still didn't expect the proposal," shares the bride. "We were visiting Punta Secca where *Inspector Montalbano* was filmed when he asked me. The ring came in a giant box, so Leslie had wrapped it in foam and lots of sellotape. He was struggling to get the tape off and had to use his teeth. I still didn't believe he was being serious until I saw the ring gleam in the sun. He'd designed it himself and had it made by a man called Vincent Loveland. Now every time we watch *Inspector Montalbano,* we point to the place where he proposed."

SETTING THE SCENE

"We wanted a venue that was within easy each reach of our friends and family," explains Sharika. "With the number of people who stayed the night, we almost had Warren House exclusively. The staff did a great job of separating the wedding party and the other guests. We also loved that the venue had separate areas for the ceremony and reception."

The lovebirds decided to make their invitations, place names and table plan. "Samuel, who is Leslie's youngest son, did a few drawings of us getting married when he was five or six years old," shares the bride. "We used these on our invitations and table plan."

The couple's big-day bake was made by Designer Cakes by Elle. "We chose a three-tier design," shares Sharika. "Two of the layers were lemon sponge, and the other was Victoria sponge."

Sharika and Leslie decided to have a yellow and white colour scheme. "We chose beautiful flowers and incorporated lemons into the arrangements to represent Sicily," says the bride. "We hired Flowers by Brian Kirkby, and the results looked amazing."

"We would definitely recommend our photographer, band, florist and the cake designer," reveals Sharika. "We visited the home of one of the band members and sat around having tea for an hour. It was important for us to have suppliers who we bonded with and would use again. Now I just need an excuse to throw a giant party!"

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Sharika purchased her big-day gown from Sanyukta Shrestha. "I tried on several dresses with varying price ranges," says Sharika. "I

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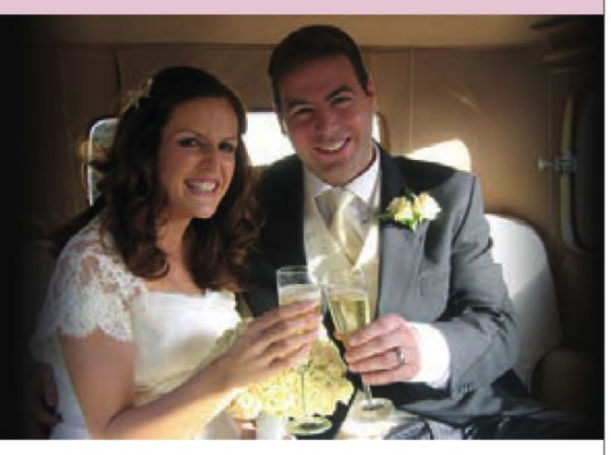

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spent three hours in her boutique and was surprised at how versatile the designs were. Sanyukta had a brilliant way of altering dresses by adding lace, a train, changing the shoulders or moving the material to make it hang differently. My dress had an incredibly comfortable bamboo lining and a train that rippled across the floor when I moved. I accessorised with a pair of pearl earrings that Leslie had bought me for my birthday and a small hair-clip that I borrowed from my mum."

Leslie opted for a bright blue suit from Reiss. "When we first visited Italy we went to the Amalfi Coast where I purchased a silk pock square that I was keen for him to wear at the wedding," explains the bride. "The bright blues and yellows worked perfectly with our overall theme."

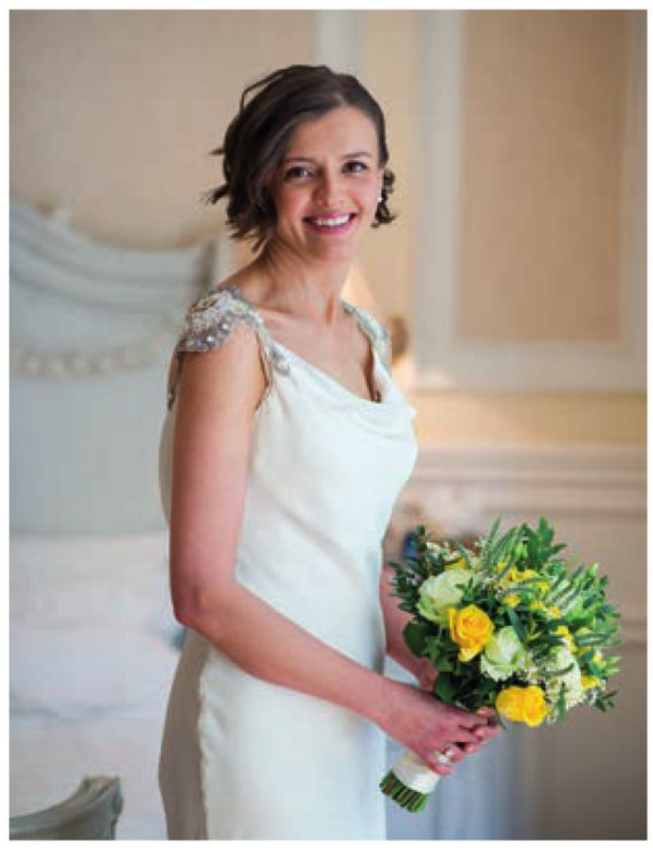
"I chose to have my sister as my bridesmaid," shares Sharika. "She wore a bottle green A-line gown. I wanted something she would like and would tie in with our colour scheme. She looked amazing. We had Leslie's children, Jack and Samuel, carry the rings. They carried a box each down the aisle, walking in front of me."

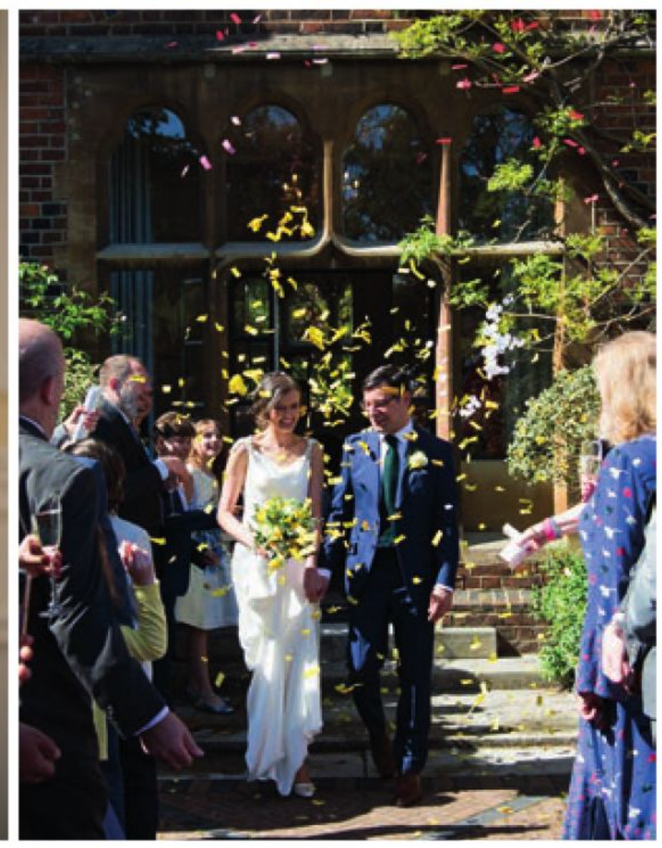
TIME TO CELEBRATE

"We had a string quartet for the ceremony called Titanium String Quartet London," says Sharika. "They were fantastic and played before the service and during the wedding breakfast."

In the evening, the couple hired a band called Articulate Music to keep the guests entertained. "We chose to have a six-piece band, and they were excellent," shares the bride. "They came and joined in with the crowd and played tunes that we requested. We loved that Warren House had a separate area for the band to get set up in. Our nearest and dearest didn't know they were there, which meant there was no disruption to our day. We did consider hiring entertainers for the children, but they had a great time exploring the grounds and playing with the on-site Jenga."

The lovebirds organised a separate area for the children to play in. "The kids loved the room," explains Sharika. "I prepared lots of puzzles and quizzes for them, and it was nice having them only an arm's length away."





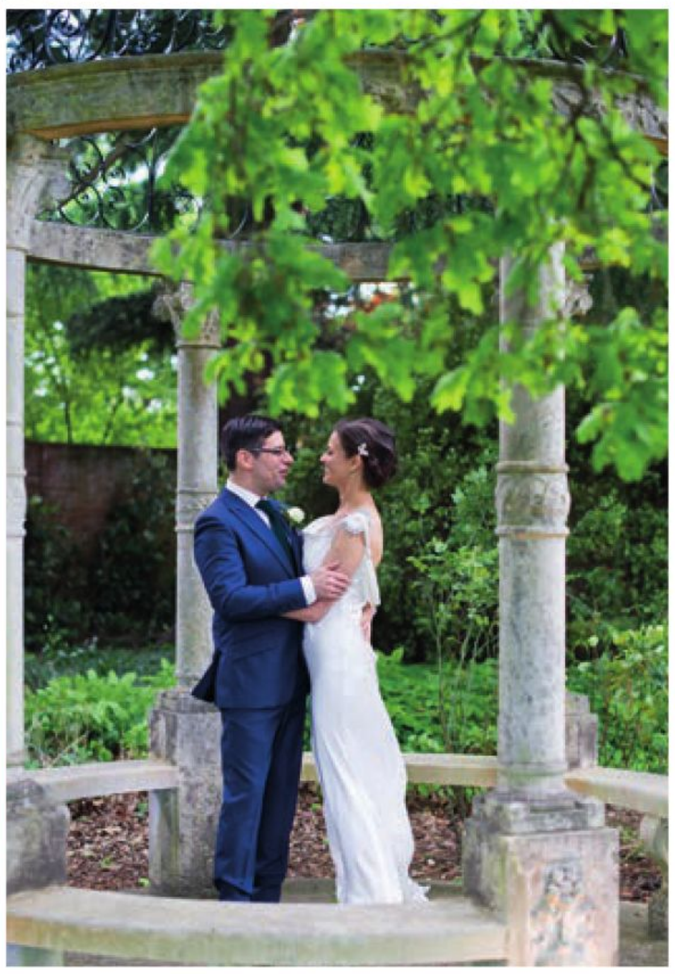
MEMORABLE MOMENTS

"On the morning of our nuptials, I felt extremely happy and couldn't wait to see Leslie," Sharika shares. "I loved Jack and Samuel's reading, it made everyone laugh, and they did a great job. Jack also did a short, impromptu speech which was wonderful. It brought tears to people's eyes, and it was so special having both the children there to celebrate with us."

There were lots of funny memories from the day. "Leslie and the best man had a disaster when ironing his shirt," says the bride. "The iron poured water everywhere! My brother-in-law also hurt his ankle doing some crazy dance moves. I think he's realised he can't compete with a 12-year-old anymore."

HONEYMOON

"We went to Sicily again for a few weeks" reveals Sharika. "The wine was fabulous, and our favourite part was visiting Masseria Susafa. We spent most of our time there. It has an amazing history, and the food was superb."



SHARIKA AND LESLIE'S CONTACTS

Venue and catering, Warren House, warrenhouse.com | **Photographer**, Especially Amy, especiallyamy.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, Sanyukta Shrestha, sanyuktashrestha.com | **Alterations**, Gina Bridal Services, ginabridalservices.co.uk | **Hair stylist**, Unparalleled Hair, uhsalons.co.uk | **Make-up artist**, Willow & Rose, willowandrosemakeup.co.uk | **Groom's suit**, Reiss, reiss.com | **Bridesmaid's dress**, John Lewis, johnlewis.com | **Cake**, Designer Cakes by Elle, designercakesbyelle.co.uk | **Flowers**, Flowers by Brian Kirkby, briankirkbyflowers.co.uk | **Venue styling**, Host With Style, hostwithstyle.co.uk | **Entertainment**, Articulate Music, articulatemusic.co.uk; Titanium String Quartet London, titaniumstrings.com

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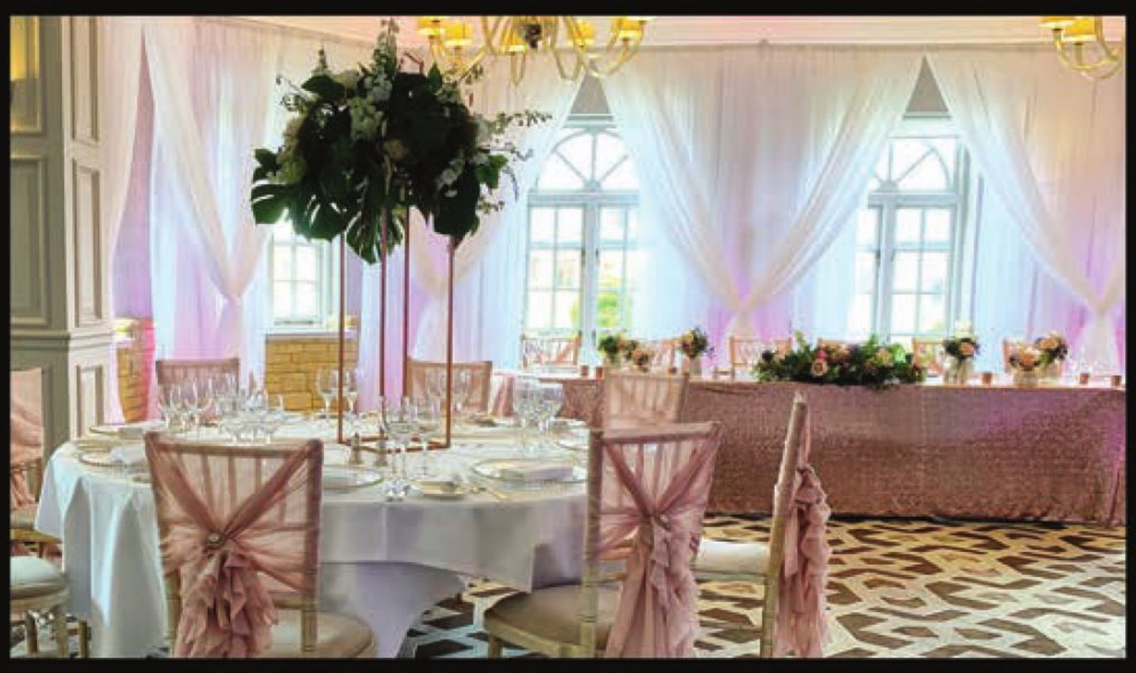

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THE *Love* OF MY LIFE

Sharon and Kevin's nuptials took place at Weybridge Register Office and Oatlands Park Hotel

Images courtesy of Sheila Constable Photography

Sharon and Kevin met online. "We had our first date on 19th March, 2017 at a pub in Maidstone," says Sharon. "We had lots if common, and knew we were meant to be."

Kevin surprised Sharon by asking her to marry him. "Although we'd talked about marriage I was still shocked by the proposal," shares the bride. "We had been going through a rough time, but we were always there for each other and have a strong bond."

Here she shares some of her favourite moments from their big day...

We chose to have our ceremony at the beautiful Weybridge Register Office.

Kevin and I looked at a few places in Weybridge, and Oatlands Park Hotel was by far the most superior. It had great grounds, a fabulous choice of rooms and nice, helpful staff.

We had guests coming from far and wide, so it was important they had somewhere to stay. Oatlands Park Hotel had a range of accommodation available at a discounted rate too!

Our cake was inspired by our motorhome. The lovely Chris Kepper made it for us, and it tasted great.

The waiting and catering staff at Oatlands Park Hotel did extremely well. The food was lovely, and the service was fantastic.

For our flowers, we purchased pink, yellow and grey blooms from Fleurs Amanda.

My dress was a design by Victoria Jane from Love U Forever. I'm a bit shy about my figure, so I surprised myself when I chose quite a fitted style.

I organised some of the décor and left the rest up to our venue stylist, Swaylee Ruth.

Kevin and my son, Gavin, wore blue suits from Next. My two youngest grandson's, Rocco and River, also wore matching outfits with brown shoes.

We decided not to have any groomsmen. My son walked me down the aisle, and Kevin's daughter, Cheryl, was the ring bearer.

On the morning of the wedding, we both felt nervous and excited, but everything turned out perfectly.

For our honeymoon, we went to Norman's Bay in East Sussex in our motorhome. We took our dog, Terry, who experienced his first-ever train ride to Eastbourne.

SHARON AND KEVIN'S CONTACTS

Ceremony venue, Weybridge Register Office, surreycc.gov.uk/birth-death-and-ceremonies/register-offices/weybridge | **Reception venue and catering,** Oatlands Park Hotel, oatlandsparkhotel.com | **Photographer,** Sheila Constable Photography, sheilaconstable.co.uk | **Bride's dress and accessories,** Love U Forever, loveuforever.co.uk | **Hair and make-up artist,** Faye Carter Hair Design, fayecarter.co.uk | **Groom's suit,** Next, next.co.uk | **Cake,** Chris Kepper, 07463 109 876 | **Flowers,** Fleurs Amanda, fleursamanda.co.uk | **Venue styling,** Swaylee Ruth, 07747 513 368 | **Stationery,** Optimal Print, optimalprint.co.uk | **Entertainment,** Del Harris Professional DJ and Event Organiser, facebook.com/del-harris-professional-dj-and-event-organiser-527196587435206

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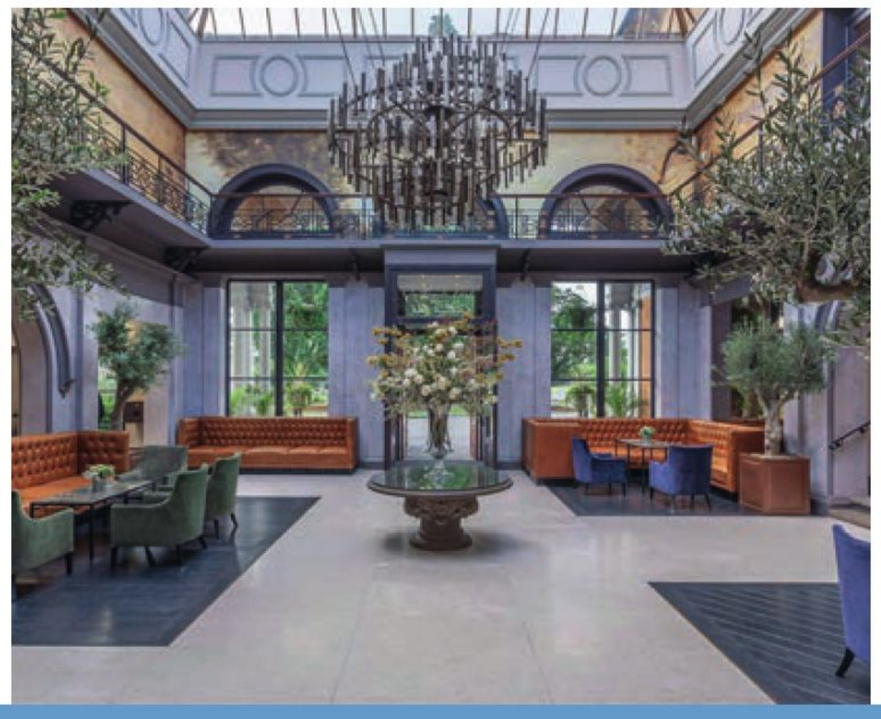

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thesugareddoily.com

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"Find out how many cakes your chosen supplier will be working on at one time. I take on one wedding per week to ensure each design is perfect." – Claire from The Sugared Doily.

"Before booking a supplier, check out their website or social media pages. Look at their previous work, price guide and reviews." – Elizabeth Egginton from Elizabeth Ann's Confectionery.

ltcakes.co.uk

cake-maker.com

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"Decide how many flavours you want to offer your guests. Just keep in mind that some options are more expensive than others." – Shenaz from Lake Thomas Cakes.

"Think about choosing an unusual stand or pillars, you could also use upside-down glasses or perspex tubes. If your cake maker is experienced enough, they may have a few ideas and stands to show you." – Elizabeth from Elizabeth Ann's Confectionery.

BRIGHT AND BOLD

"Show your chosen supplier samples from your invitations, images of your dress or even a mood board that you've put together. This will give them a rough idea of your overall style." – Elizabeth from Elizabeth Ann's Confectionery.

"Think of the design you want to achieve. Are you looking for something plain, quirky, fun or elaborate? Make a decision before going to see your cake supplier." – Shenaz from Lake Thomas Cakes.

thesugareddoily.com

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"If you're stuck for inspiration, look at your chosen colour scheme, the venue or bride's dress and ask your cake maker for suggestions." – Claire from The Sugared Doily.

What kind of texture did you want on your cake? Look at iced, buttercream and chocolate options.

ltcakes.co.uk

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"If you're having a theme, let your designer know so they can incorporate it into your creation." – Elizabeth from Elizabeth Ann's Confectionery.

"If you're struggling to find a pre-existing design that you love, ask your supplier to make one from scratch." – Claire from The Sugared Doily.

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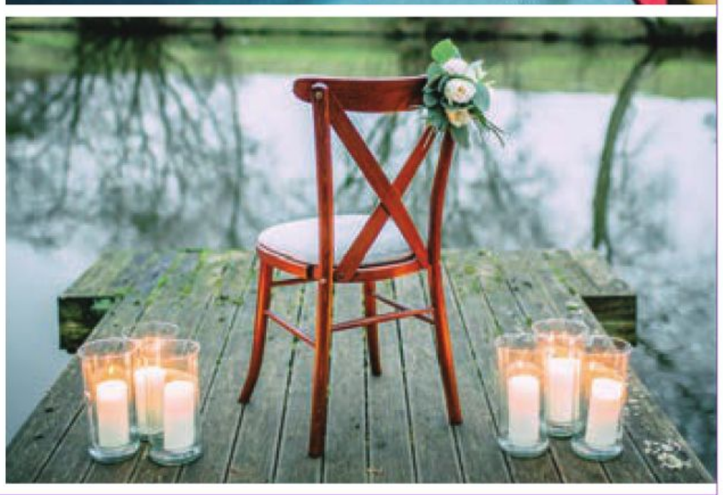

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QUIRKY

"Some suppliers offer additional services. For example, I also make stationery, including invitations, table plans, place names and signs." – Claire from The Sugared Doily.

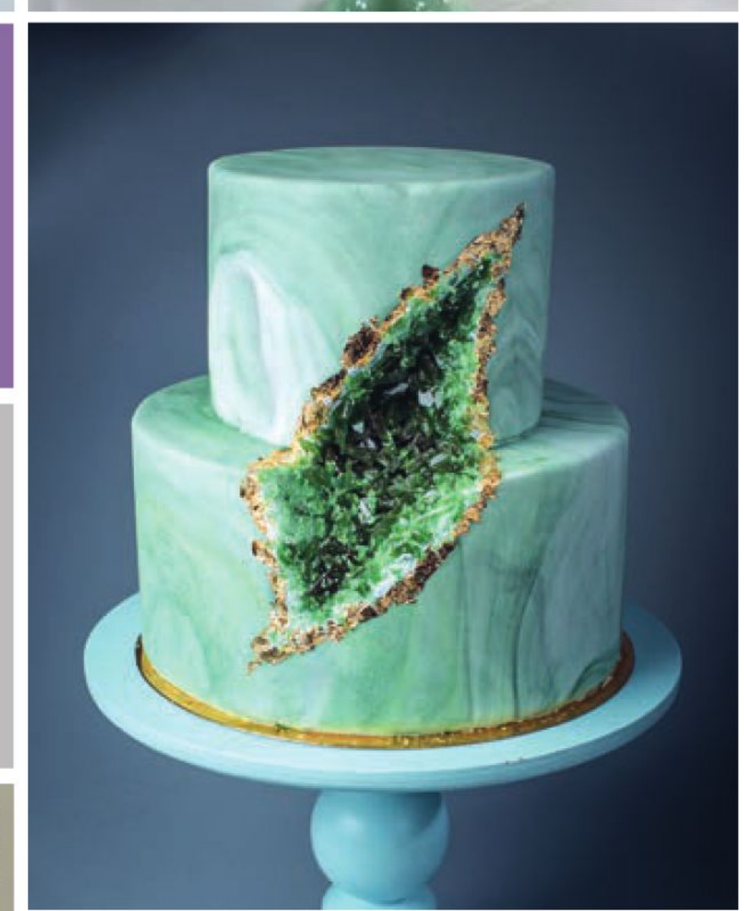
thesugareddoily.com

ltcakes.co.uk

"Consider setting up a dessert table full of fudges, marshmallows, cupcakes, cake pops and cookies." – Shenaz from Lake Thomas Cakes.

cake-maker.com

"The bouquet is often placed on the cake table at the reception." – Elizabeth from Elizabeth Ann's Confectionery.



"Semi-naked and naked cakes are very popular and can be done with icing or buttercream." – Shenaz from Lake Thomas Cakes.

thesugareddoily.com

cake-maker.com

"Remember, taste is just as important as style!" – Claire from The Sugared Doily.

"Like clothes, cakes have their own trends, but there's no rule that says you have to follow everyone else." – Elizabeth from Elizabeth Ann's Confectionery.

CONTACT OUR EXPERTS:

The Sugared Doily, thesugareddoily.com | Elizabeth Ann's Confectionery, cake-maker.com | Lake Thomas Cakes, ltcakes.co.uk

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HOT TOPIC:

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A BUDDING ROMANCE

We're on a tight budget but still want beautiful flowers on our big day. Do you have any ideas on how we can save money?

Use flowers that are in season in the UK, as although we can buy them all over the world, the cost can increase considerably if they're flown in from outside of Europe.

- ❤ Use more expensive flowers such as roses, peonies and orchids in your bouquet and top table and replace these with something more economical for the bridesmaids' posies. You'll still have the same effect but reduce the cost considerably.
- ❤ We don't charge extra for vase hire, but some companies will so shop around before booking.
- ❤ Specialist roses such as David Austin are beautiful but cost far more than standard versions. If you really want them, use them for a special arrangement or your bouquet.
- ❤ Flowers that are easily grown tend to be cheaper. Look for chrysanthemums, gerberas, eustomas and carnations.
- ❤ On-trend shades are usually more expensive. Think about having an ivory/white base with accents of colour or incorporate your favourite hue into your ribbons and decorations.
- ❤ A few large blooms can work out more cost-effective than having lots of smaller ones. Hydrangea heads look amazing in a tall vase of gladioli.
- ❤ Silk or artificial flowers can be mixed with fresh versions and/or greenery to create a beautiful display. This can lower the price of arches, gazebo decorations and garlands dramatically.
- ❤ Be aware that greenery fluctuates in price depending on the time of year.
- ❤ Use the same flowers at both your ceremony and reception.
- ❤ Centrepieces can be used as gifts instead of buying separate thank you presents. Ask your florist if they have any supply vases you can buy instead of hire.

Annabel Grange
Florist
butterfliesandbows.co.uk

facebook.com/alexandra.glazko.photography

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

I want to wear a headband or fascinator on my big day, but I'm not sure what to look for. Do you have any suggestions?

Fashion is so inclusive and versatile. Brides-to-be have a wide choice of headpieces to choose from and are not limited to combs and small options. Keep things simple, make your dress or the fascinator the focal point to avoid any clashes and try to stick with one style. Needless to say, everything depends on the dress, style and colour you've chosen. Mermaid and trumpet gowns go well with both fascinators and headbands as long as they're matched appropriately. Figure-hugging dresses with open necks and shoulders would look good with a pillbox with floral elements, and tea-length or mini-dresses could even be paired with leathers or feather headbands. I'd be careful when it comes to ballgowns and avoid anything too heavy.

It's always best to have your headpiece custom made using the same fabric and elements as your dress. For a lace gown, opt for a fascinator that incorporates flowers and if you've gone for a satin or silk option include feathers but be careful not to overdo it.

In terms of face shapes, I'd wear a tall headband with vertical details if you have a round face to give some height to your overall look. Those of you with long faces should go for a fascinator or flat headband with detail on the side to give your face width and if you have a small face find something that looks in proportion.

All in all, try to choose items that match and supplement each other and ensure you really like them before buying.

Inna Walker
Headwear designer
facebook.com/innawalkerheadpieces

IT'S SHOWTIME!

My wife-to-be and I are getting ready to book our wedding entertainment and were wondering what we should ask our chosen supplier before booking?

It's important to establish a time frame for the day. Once you've done so, look for any must-have songs and discuss with the venue how long it will take to set everything up.

Assuming you've done the groundwork, seen your chosen supplier live or an unedited video and their references look good then you should be ready to get the final quotation.

Good questions to ask are:

- ❤ Can they play your most important tunes or suggest any better ones? They will have had lots of requests in the past and can offer up some ideas and alternatives for the bride's entrance or first dance.
- ❤ What is their usual length of sets? Try to get the maximum amount of playtime for your money but take advice from the artist as to what will be best for your friends and family.
- ❤ How do they engage and interact with guests? In my experience, performers are usually best as backgrounds music during the day and interactive before the speeches. This will transform the mood and get your loved ones up on their feet.
- ❤ How long do they need to set up and do they require a noisy soundcheck? Most experienced artists will need to place their equipment, check it's working, tune-up and ideally play a tune or two. For solo or small ensembles this can normally be done quickly and discretely but for a larger group expect there to be noise. If the venue needs to turn around the room, then the issue is usually time. If you plan to stay in your seats from dinner to the first dance, then you'll probably need them to set up before the wedding breakfast.
- ❤ Can you have a copy of their Public Liabilities Insurance and PAT testing for their equipment? Your venue will usually ask for this, but it's a good indicator as to their experience as wedding professionals.
- ❤ What happens if they're unable to play? This is fortunately very rare, but serious illnesses and accidents do happen, so it's important that the act has a contact at the wedding other than yourselves to liaise with. A professional band would normally be able to replace a player at short notice without you even knowing.
- ❤ Do they require food, what do they eat and when do they want it? It may seem like an unnecessary expense, but everyone working on the day needs to eat something substantial to give their best performance. Most artists will include any special dietary requirements in their contract as standard. It's worth talking to your caterers in advance and deciding what you can afford to keep everyone happy.

Paul Holgate
Entertainer
sosinatra.com

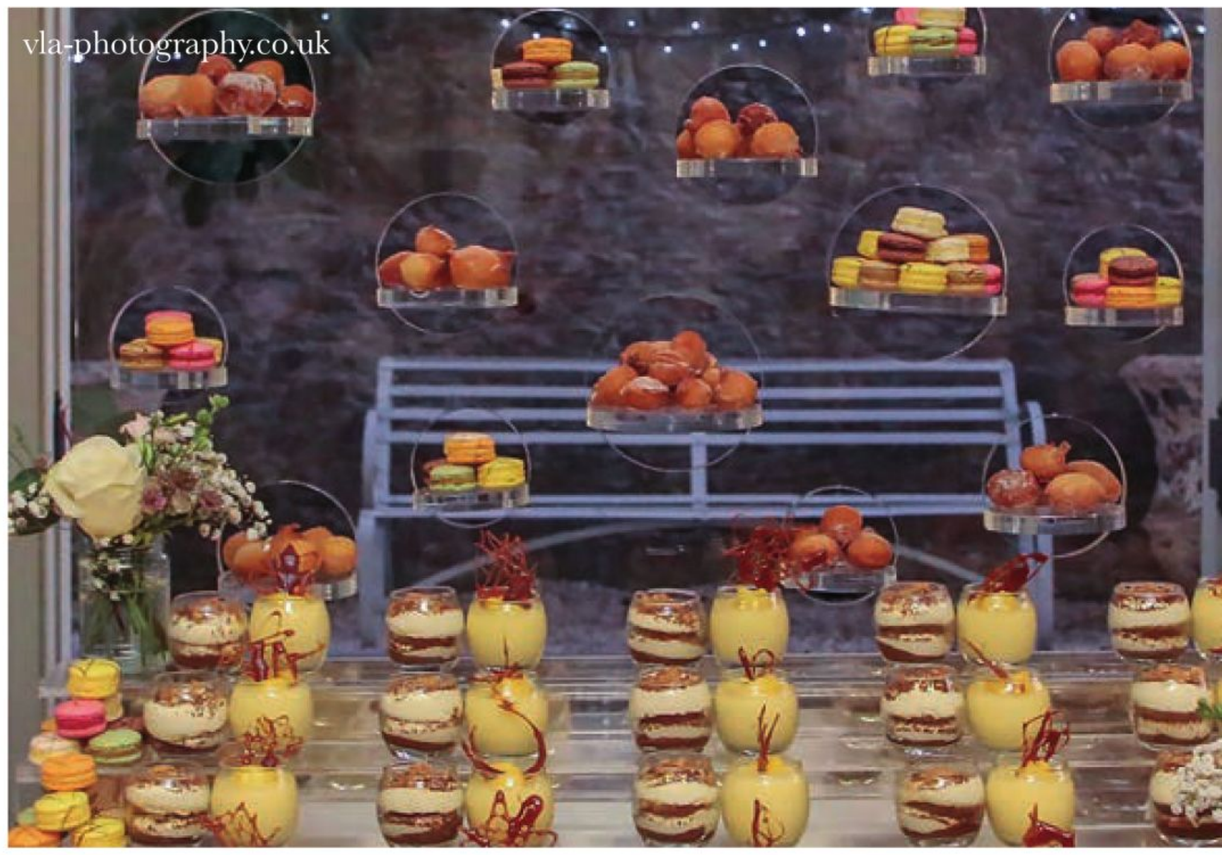
ROSES ARE RED

We're getting married next Valentine's Day and want to incorporate our theme into our big-day flowers. Do you have any suggestions on how we can do this?

You can easily incorporate your theme into your flowers. Use soft delicate, flowing foliage with a variety of blooms to create different shapes and textures. Opt for candles as part of your centrepieces to create a romantic atmosphere.

Valentine's Day is a popular time of year to give flowers as a gift, especially red roses. Unfortunately, this means they are in high demand, so prices will be higher than usual. It's worth keeping this in mind when choosing your big-day blooms. You could look for arrangements that aren't red or mix them with other colours to save money. Remember Feburary is a lovely time for spring flowers which are a nice sight after winter.

Sue Sturges
Florist
brambleandbelle.co.uk



DELECTABLE DELIGHTS

We want a menu that will wow our guests at our upcoming nuptials. Do you have any suggestions?

We often suggest to our clients that they create a dessert station. Your guests will likely want to get up, mingle, stretch their legs or simply talk to someone else. A dessert station is a great way of giving your loved ones a place to visit and they will be able to eat what they want, when they want – plus it looks great!

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Catering specialist
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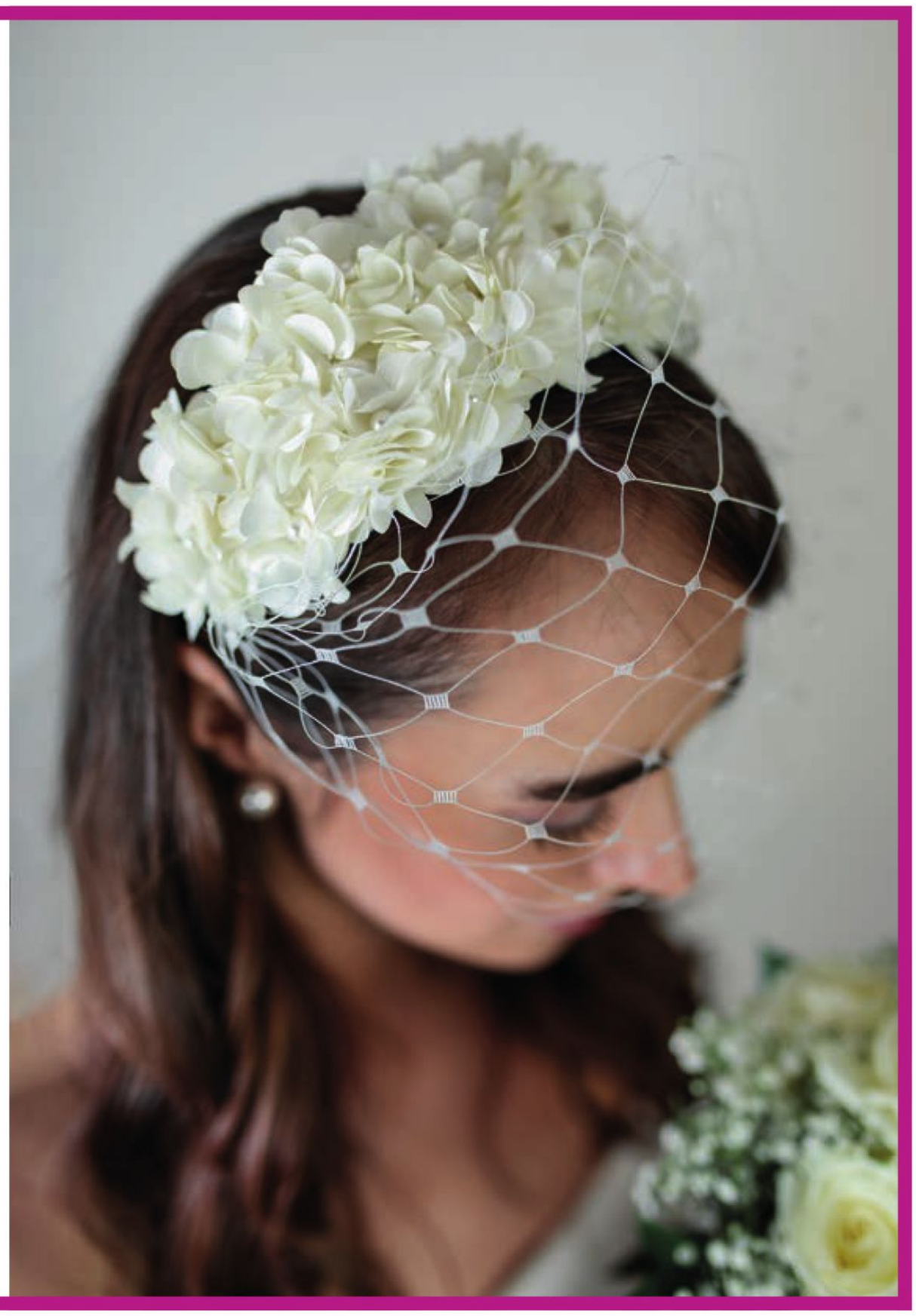


RING-A-DING-DING

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

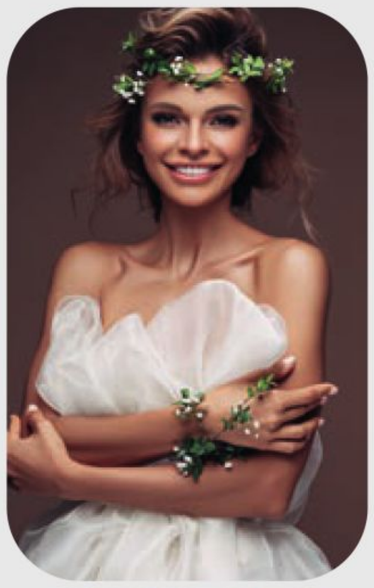
3

4

WHICH BRACELET WOULD YOU WEAR?

1

2



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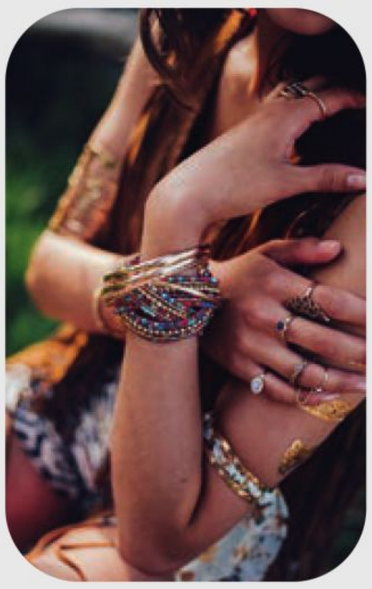

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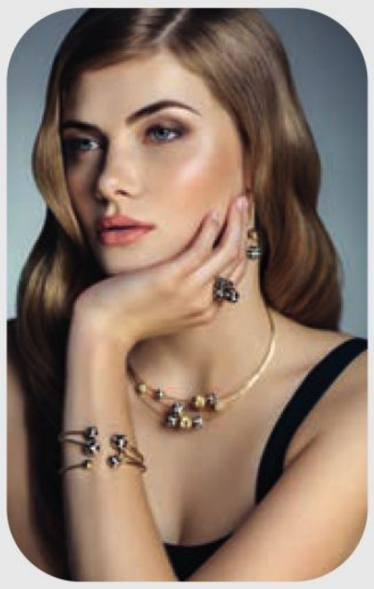
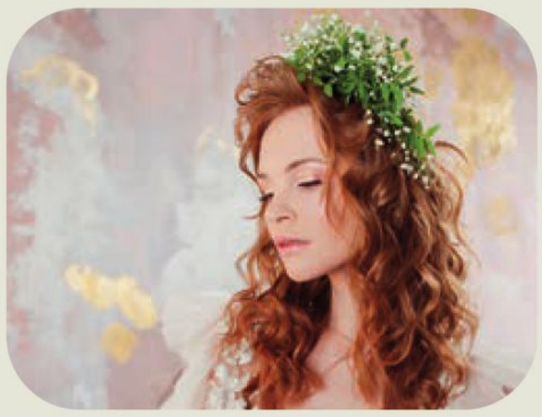


PICK YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGN

1

2



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4

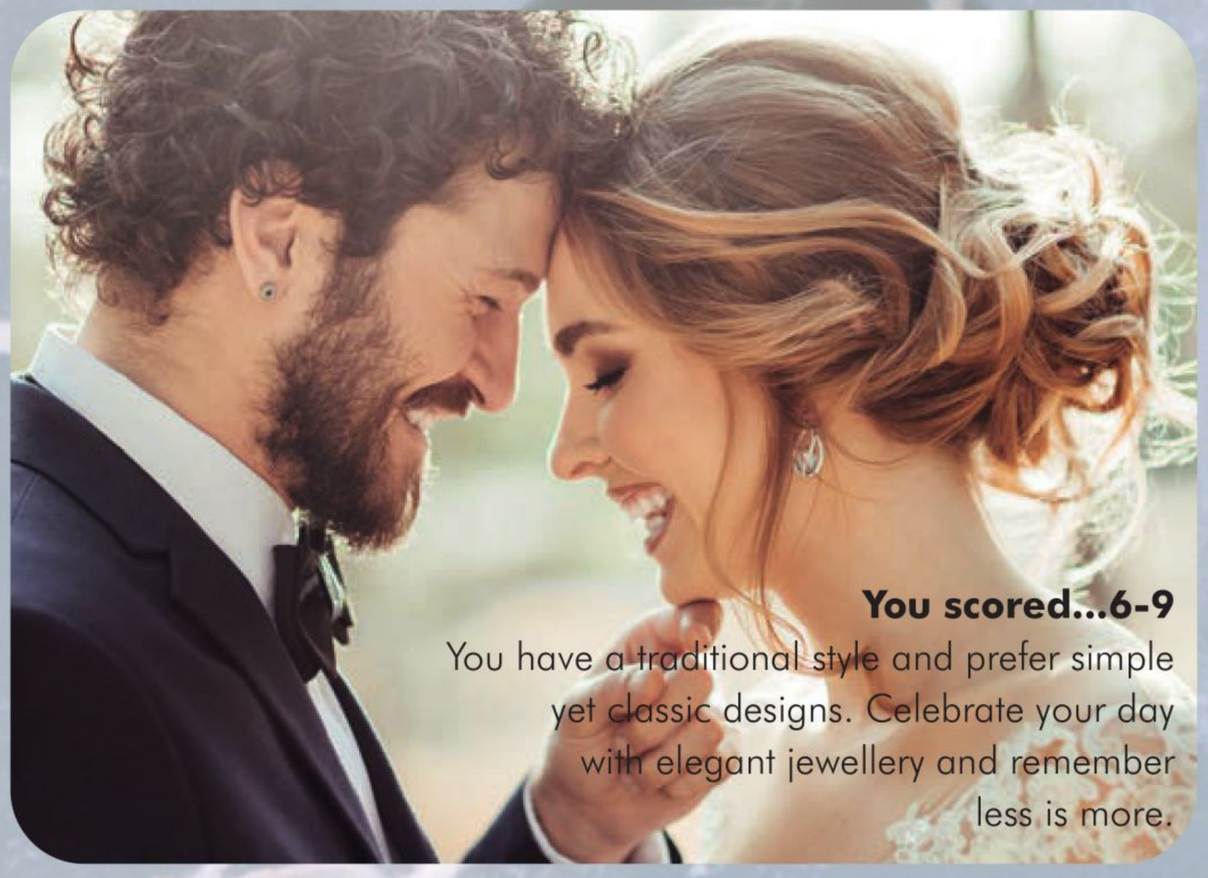
WHICH BAG DO YOU PREFER?

1

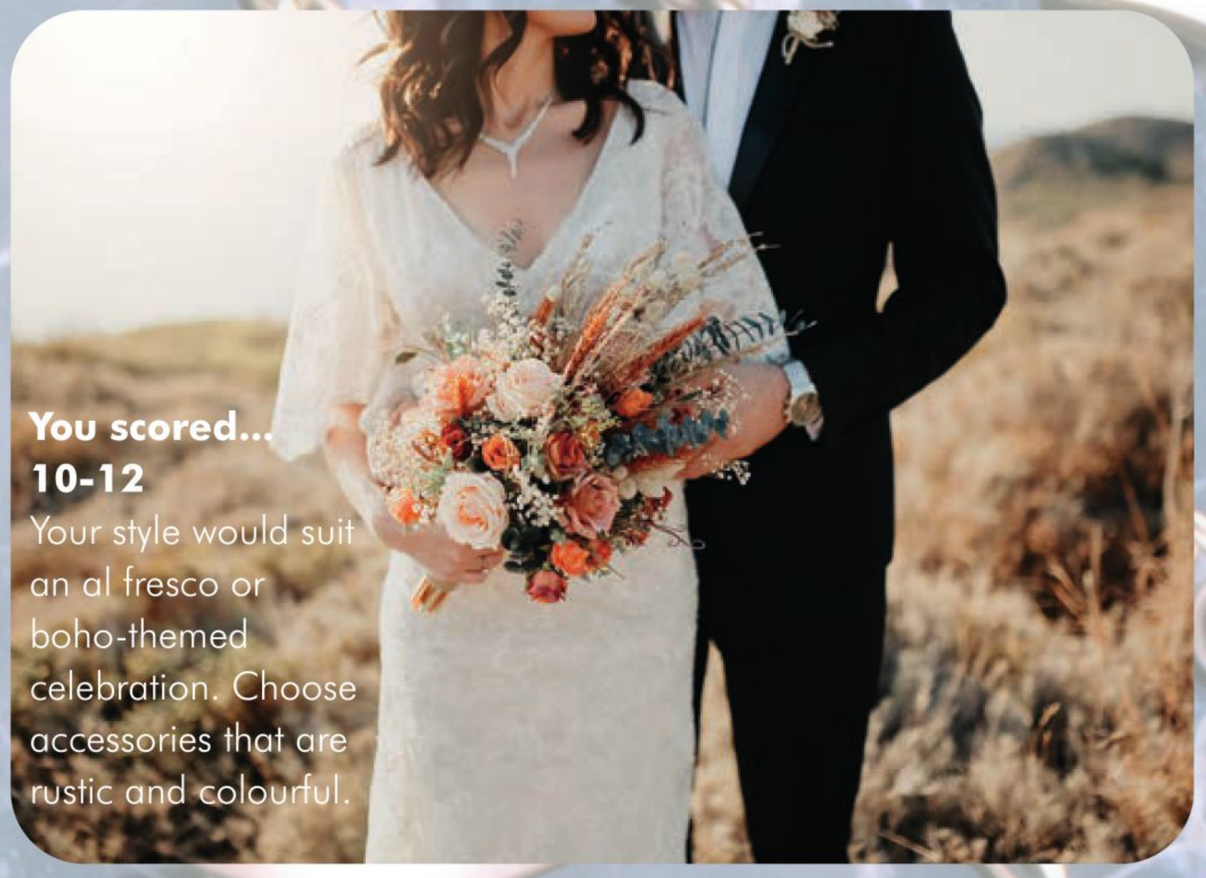
2

3

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.

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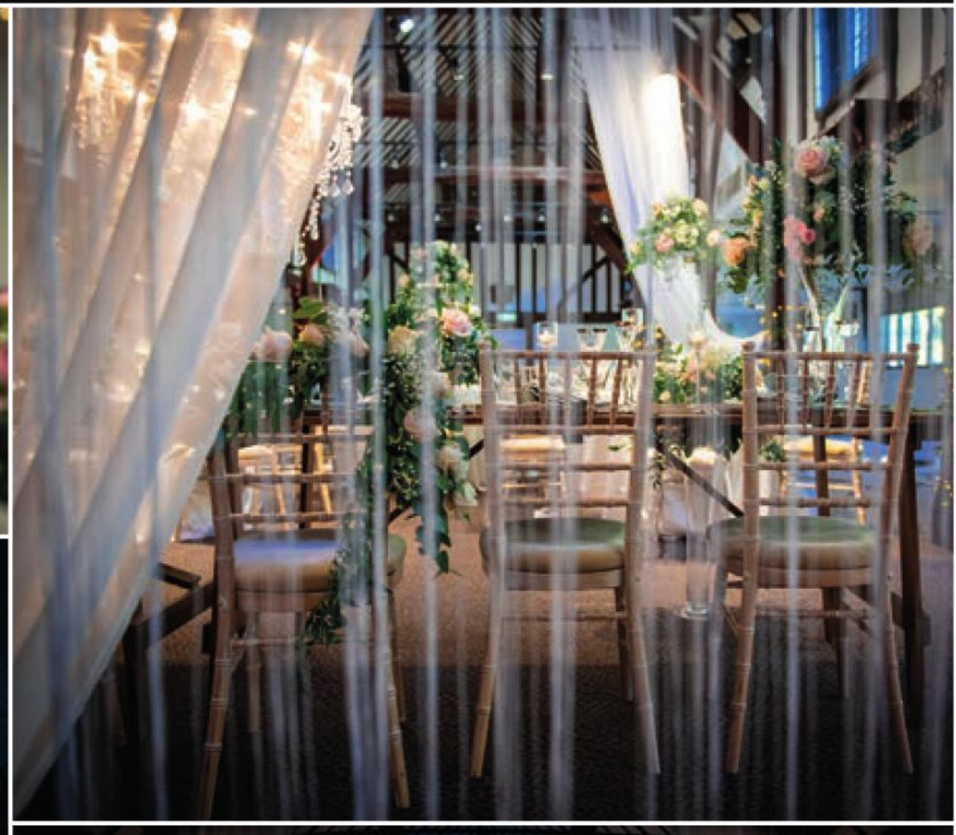
NATURAL BEAUTY

Take a peek at this timelessly elegant shoot at Mercure Box Hill Burford Bridge

Images courtesy of Love Heart Photography

When this shoot landed in our inbox, we just knew our readers would love it. We spoke to wedding planner, Charlotte Hill from Mercure Box Hill Burford Bridge and asked what her inspiration was: "We wanted to create a classic and romantic stance on a barn wedding. We incorporated soft, dreamy lighting, rustic furniture and a soft colour pallet to create a timeless look."



CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SHOOT

Venue and styling, Mercure Box Hill Burford Bridge, mercureweddings.com/hotel/mercure-box-hill-burford-bridge | **Photographer,** Love Heart Photography, loveheartphotography.com | **Florist,** Flowers by Elaine, flowersbyelaine.co.uk | **Décor,** To Have & To Hire Events, tohaveandtohireweddings.com | **Linen, tablewear, cutlery, glasses and chairs,** Crystal Hire, crystalhire.com | **Dancefloor and uplighters,** Surrey Event Services, surreyeventservices.co.uk

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We are an Award winning pop up cocktail bar service, which travels the country providing tasty drinks and a great atmosphere to shake up your event.

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We have a variety of different ways in which you can hire us, to make things as flexible as possible for you. Whether you'd like a cash bar, a pre paid bar tab or we can provide a bespoke cocktail package for you.

We can also give you professional advice on what drinks work well at events and help you create the right ambience to succeed in executing a top service on your special day.

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TRULY *romantic*

A team of local suppliers worked together to create this colourful shoot

Images courtesy of Roman Hajduk Photography

THE DREAM TEAM

Photographer, Roman Hajduk Photography, paparazziforhire.co.uk | **Flowers,** Flowers by Elaine, flowersbyelaine.co.uk | **Hair and make-up artist,** Make-up by Jana, makeupbyjana.com | **Headpiece,** LinmiR Millinery, linmir.com | **Model**, Charlotte Louise Fowler

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Roman Hajduk Photography

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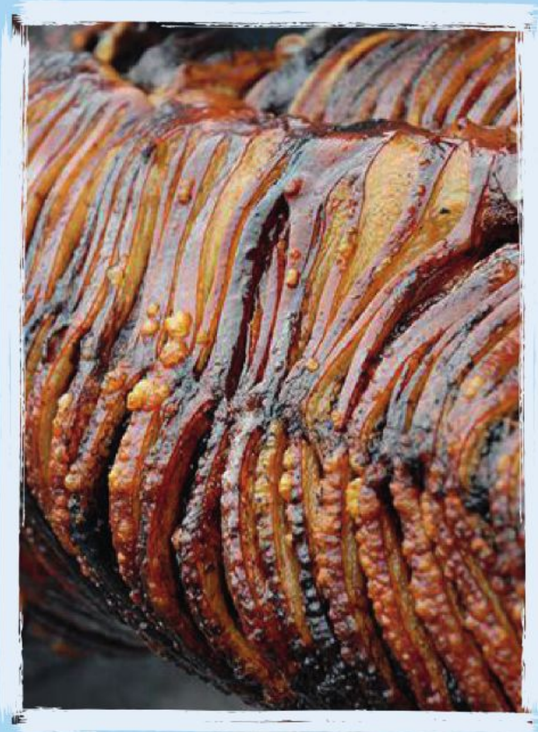
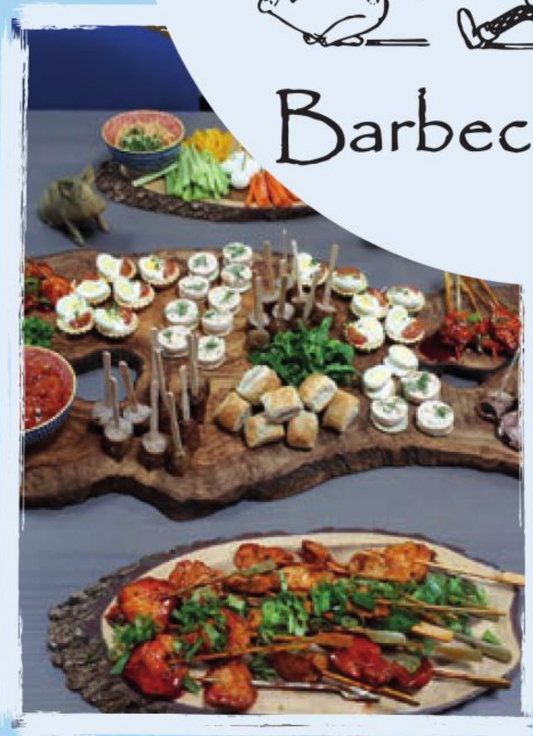
Web: www.paparazziforhire.co.uk

Barbecue Chefs





Barbecue Chefs is a family company with over 40 years experience in the Catering Industry.

Barbecue Chefs offers great food and value for all occasions all year round. The chefs use fresh produce throughout the menu and use local suppliers for all food. Barbecue Chefs offer traditional charcoal cooked spit roasts which includes, Whole Hog, whole Lamb, Venison and Barbecues. Other services provided include buffets, themed evenings, weddings, working lunches, christenings, birthday parties Anniversaries, Paella Parties formal and informal events and much more including all you Choco Hollics Chocolate Fountain with first class Belgium Chocolate. We offer excellent customer service to customers throughout the local area. Set-up in 2008, the business is located in Godalming.

The firm offers comprehensive catering to businesses, which can be intended to suit any budget at all times and Taylor-Made menus for each Client. With experience, the business also has capable staff enabling clients to enjoy the function.

Barbecue Chefs has an expanding network of clients, located throughout the South East. The business supplies a wide range of quality products that are locally sourced and are a healthy option and now a wide selection for Vegetarian & Vegan Meals. The products feature organic origin's, making them suitable for all clients, and they are available all year round.

The company is managed by David Squires who has been focusing on the Caterers trade for 40 years. Having previously worked for in a broad range of catering company's, David Squires has worked for Gardner Merchants and Sodexo for 27 years working for companies at British Aerospace, Gatwick Airport Safeway for 15 years Barclays Training Centre and Imperial Life as well as Eurest Catering.

Mobile: 07796261773 | www.barbecuechefs.co.uk | E-mail: dave@barbecuechefs.co.uk

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In our recently opened shop, also in Cheam, we offer a beautiful range of Mother of the Bride outfits by Lou Lou, White Rose and Alex Evening Wear. Equally special are our dresses for your bridesmaids and flower girls and clothing for your pageboys.

Our designers include award winning Maids to Measure, Emma Bridals and White Rose. We have a lovely selection of hats and shoes to finish off your wedding outfit. We have recently started supplying Prom dresses from designers Gino Cerruti and Simply Divine.

To make an appointment for Bridalwear please call **020 8642 4222** or for Bridesmaids, Mother of the Bride and Prom call **0203 409 4566** or email **info@cloud9bridalwear.com**

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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 wanderlustlifejewellery

Editor's favourite

Wedding Buttonique custom-makes button and brooch bouquets that will last a lifetime, etsy.com/uk/shop/WeddingButtonique 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 grace_loves_lace

Fashion *focus*

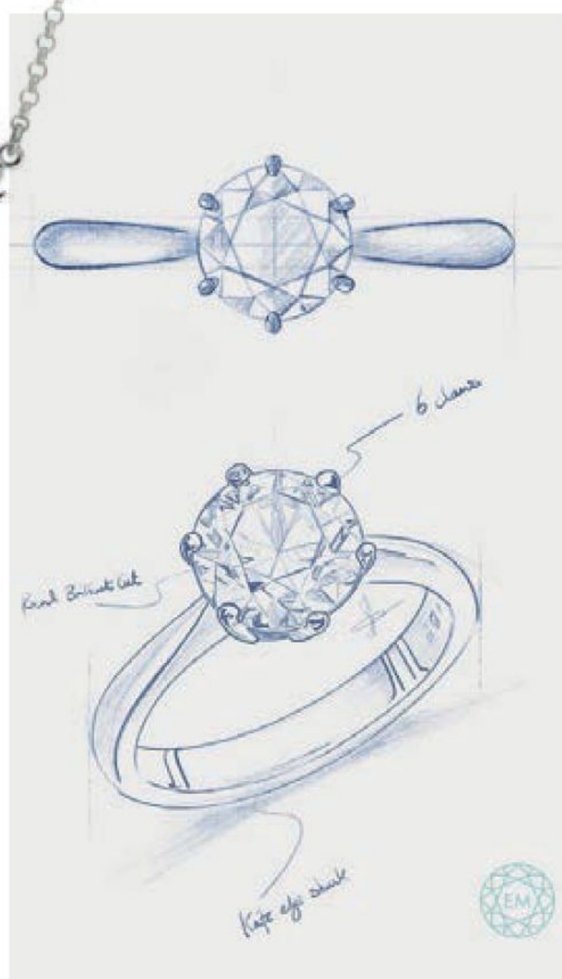
Fashion editor Claire Ridley reveals the latest bridal news, buys and launches

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 harrietwildeshoes

NAME IT

This sterling silver name necklace, £40, is from the new personalised collection from jewellerybox.co.uk and makes the ideal big-day keepsake. 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 emilymortimerjewellery

EDITOR'S PICK

Thank your best girls with this gold-tone crystal bracelet, £89, from the new Tarot Magic collection by swarovski.com swarovski

What lies beneath

Lingerie, swimwear and nightwear brand Boux Avenue has released Bouxtique 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 bouxavenue

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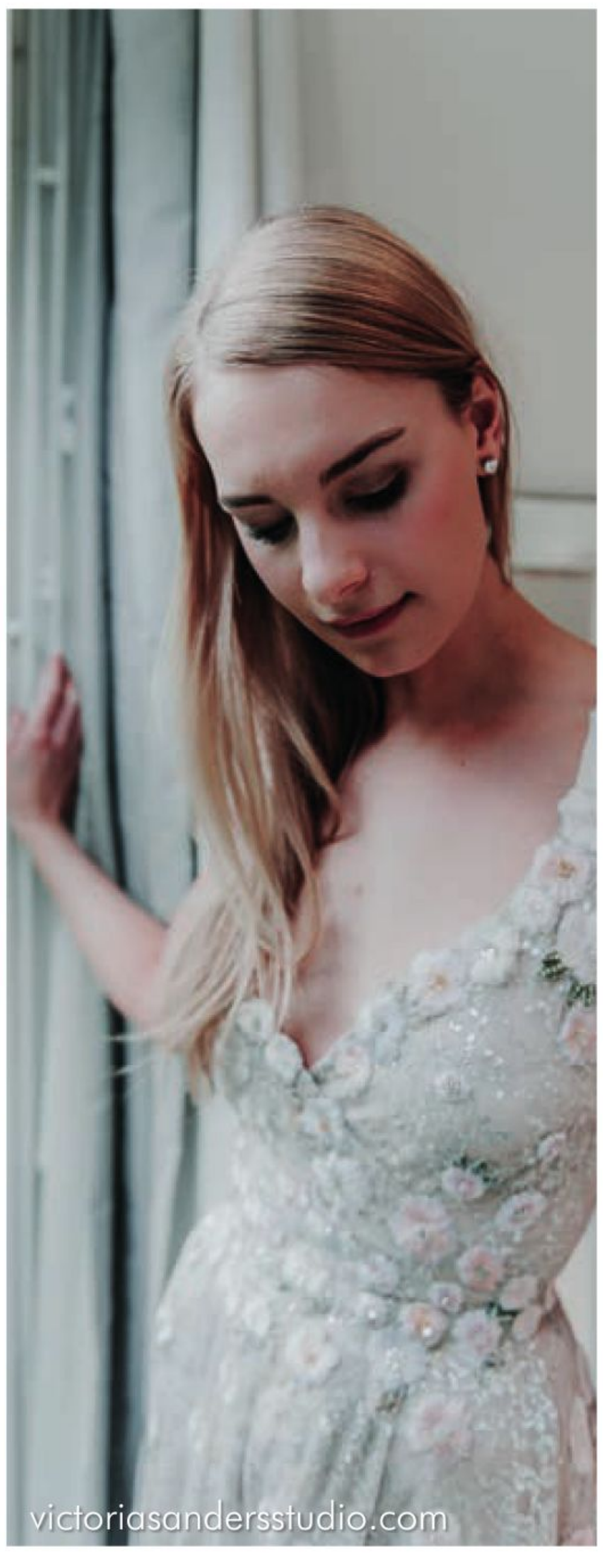
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Dare to BARE

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

Style no 103b by jesuspeiro.com

Saint by alexandragrecco.com

Celestial by charlottebalbier.com

Nina by rikidalal.com

Seville by miamiabridal.co.uk

Style no 7620 by enaura.com

Cayla dress and *Caitlin* top
by miamiabridal.co.uk

Summer by graceloveslace.com

Casini by rosaclara.com

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by palomablanca.com

Style no 50346
by kelseyrose.co.uk

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SURREY BRIDES

The perfect setting to discuss and find your wedding gown. Shopping for this dress should be one of life's greatest pleasures and requires more thought and care than any outfit you will ever wear. We will help and guide you to make the right choice that will reflect your personality and enhance your beauty and radiance on this most important day.

The main focus of the day is on the Bride and the right choice of gown is paramount.

Deborah and her team provide themselves on a friendly professional consultation and so an appointment is necessary.

We also offer a couture service for Brides that wish for a unique Wedding Gown to be created for this special day. This service includes design discussions, sketches and calico toile to create a bespoke made to measure couture gown.

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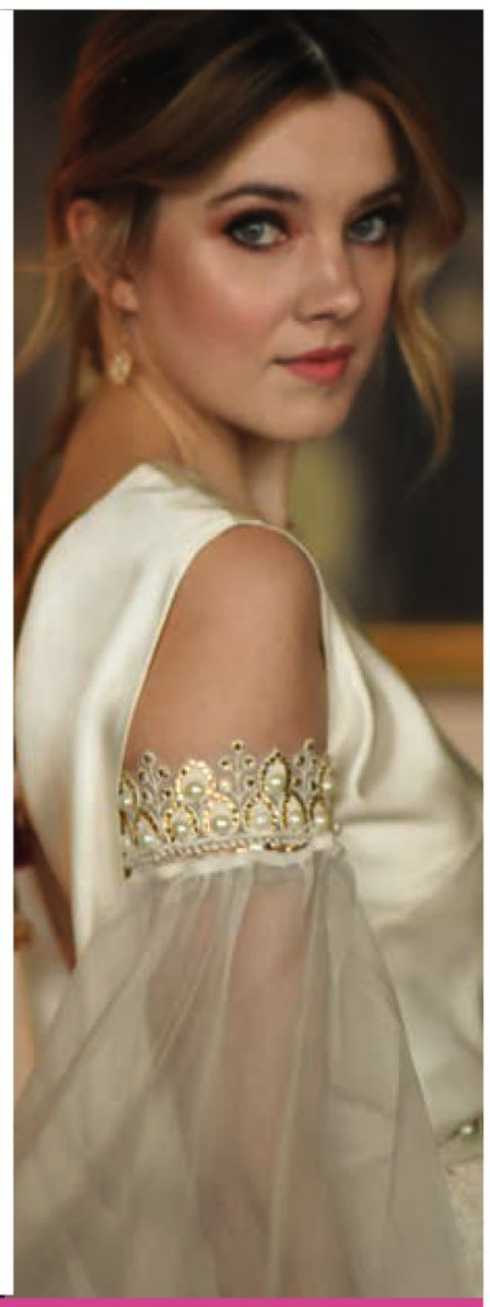

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FINDING *the one*

Local bridal boutiques showcase their favourite dresses

When it comes to dress shopping, there's a lot of pressure to find *the one*. You want something that's going to make you feel like a bride but also complement your figure and personality. To help, we've asked some of the region's finest boutiques more about their stores.

MEET LORRAINE LANGRIDGE OF BRIDES VISITED

The experience... Here at Brides Visited we're great listeners and can suggest the ideal style to suit your silhouette. We have 200 stunning bridal gowns available for you to try and with our knowledge and experience, we'll help find the perfect dress for you.

The designers... We stock gowns from the amazing Enzoani, Sophia Tolli, Martin Thornburg, Romantica of Devon and much more.

Time frame... It's never too early to start looking for your dream gown. Keep in mind that some designers can take up to five months to order in, and you also need to allow six weeks for fittings. However, if you're tight for time, we do sell off-the-peg and discontinued dresses that you can take home the same day.

Favourite dress... It's a tie between Enzoani's *Oprah* and Sophia Tolli's *Stephanie Grace*. It's so difficult to choose when there are so many different styles and shapes available.

Top tips... Be brave when choosing your gown. Think outside the box and go out of your comfort zone. If you want to get the wow factor, don't always stick to what you know. Try and experiment a little but don't change too much.

Visit bridesvisited.co.uk
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CHOOSING A COLOURED GOWN

- Know what colours suit you ahead of dress shopping.
- You don't have to stick to a pastel palette. Stand out from the crowd with a bright hue or metallic shades.
- If you love loud hues but want to wear white, you could add a pop of colour with a sash around your waist or bright shoes.

PERSONALISING YOUR DRESS

- Embrace embellishments by adding crystals or pearls to your bodice to up the wow factor.
- The underskirt of your dress is a great way of adding interest, look for striking prints or bold colours.
- Accessories can make or break an outfit.

MEET JULIE AITKEN OF WEDDING FROX

The experience... We like to allow around 75 minutes per appointment. This will give you plenty of time to try on a large selection of styles without becoming overwhelmed.

The designers... We have amazing collections by leading designers including Stella York, Lillian West, Justin Alexander, Madi Lane and White One Pronovias.

Time frame... We suggest you visit the store 12 months before your wedding. This will give you plenty of time to shop without feeling rushed. However, if you have less time, don't worry we can still help.

Favourite dress... We love Stella York's *7012*. It's a fabulously flattering off-the-shoulder gown with a hint of boho-chic.

Top tips... Keep an open mind. Designs can look different off the hanger, and you might even surprise yourself.

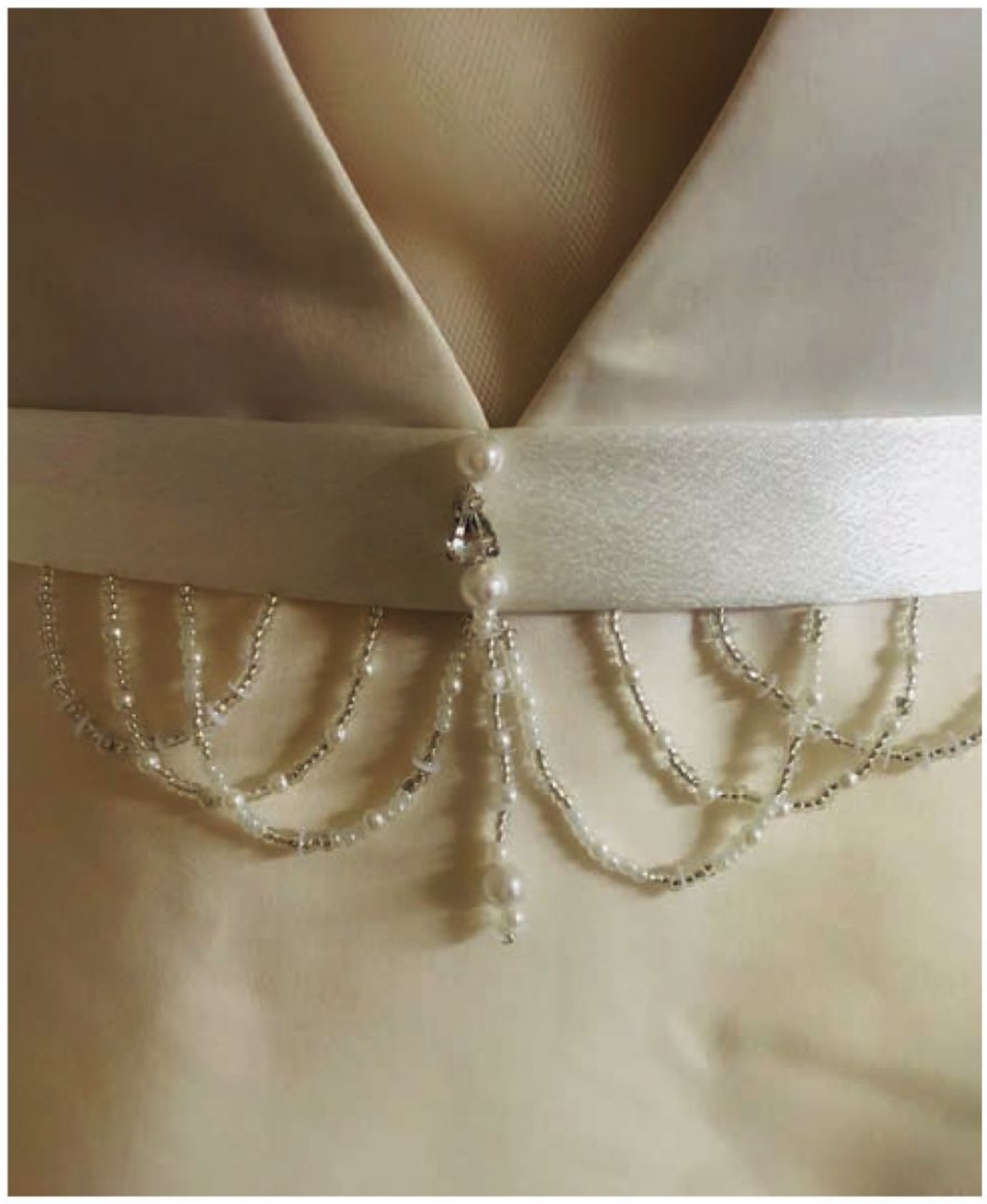
Visit weddingfrox.co.uk
@Wedding-Frox-Bridal-Studio-Guildford-151828631573813

COMFORT WITHOUT COMPROMISE

- It's important you feel comfortable both physically and mentally on your big day. Think carefully about what shoes you'll be wearing. You can stick look on-trend in something comfortable.
- Purchase padded insoles and heel grips that are flexible.

ACCESSORIES

- If you're getting married somewhere with a long aisle, a cathedral-length veil would help you make a dramatic entrance, and it looks fabulous in photographs.
- The evening reception is the perfect time to relax and unwind so if you're worried about tripping on your veil, why not purchase two? Have a shorter version that will transform your look.



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MEET HEIDI FERRUCCI-GRAY OF MEBO BRIDAL

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The designers... Mebo Bridal is a specialist alternations company and accessories designer that provide one-to-one service for brides-to-be. Whether it be a bridal belt, veil, hairpiece or a remodel of an existing dress, we'd love to help you achieve your dream and make you something bespoke.

Time frame... If you're looking for an accessory that's made-to-match your dress, this can be turned around within three to five weeks. If you require dress alterations, we require you book no later than two months before the big day. Book in advance to reserve your slot as we have limited availability due to demand.

Favourite dress... I worked on a gown for a bride called *Carly*. I loved it because it was unusual and elegant. It made me think of a dress that a Bond girl might get married in.

Top tips... Prioritise and book in advance to get the best deals. Be true to yourself as your wedding is a reflection of you and your partner and no one else. Lastly, don't sweat the small stuff! Breathe and enjoy every second of the planning process.

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THE LATEST TRENDS

- Separates are becoming really popular. It's a great way of mixing and matching styles and is oh-so-comfy.
- As you're walking down the aisle, your guests will see the back of your dress, so why not go for something dramatic? Low backs are bang on-trend and look fabulous.

LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT

- If you're eco-conscious and want to cut back on your carbon footprint, shop locally. This means your dress won't have travelled far, and it supports local companies.
- When purchasing your gown, consider if you can modify it to wear it again or look for a pre-loved dress.

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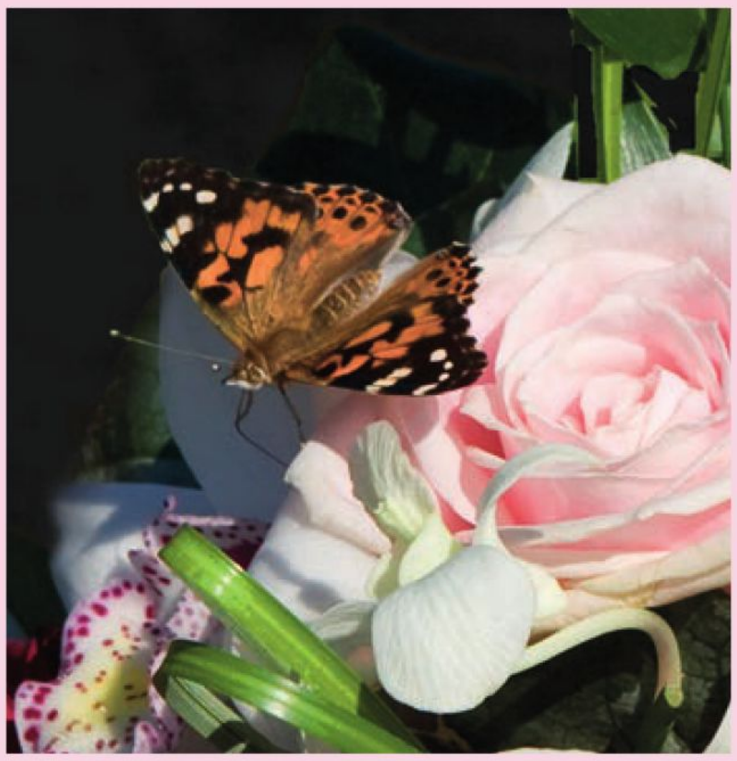

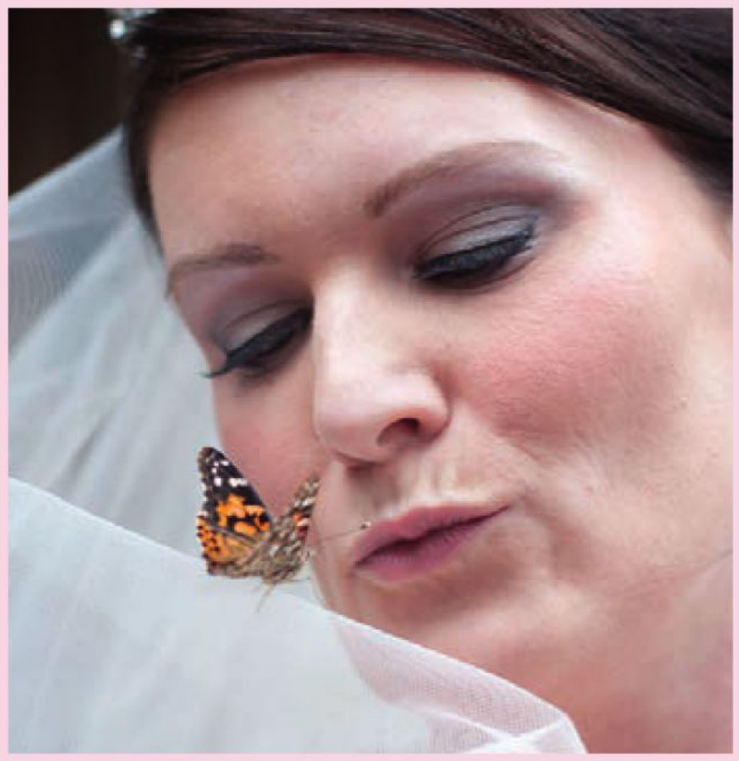

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Into the blue

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Silver Swarovski crystal and pearl hair slide, £24, aliceandblair.co.uk

Silver glitter clutch bag, £65, rainbowclub.co.uk

Silver satin two-piece, £370, graceloveslace.com

Sterling silver crown bracelet, £70, uk.pandora.net

Silver shimmer necklace, £89, DKNY at shadesoftime.co.uk

Silver crystal and pearl earrings, £18, jonrichard.com

Crystal-encrusted court shoes, £120, dunelondon.com

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

Green amethyst pendant necklace, £135, monicavinader.com

Rainbow pastel clutch bag, £40, dunelondon.com

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

Pink scarf, £95, marc-cain.com

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

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

Pastel hues

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

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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

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

Read all ABOUT IT!

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

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

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

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

CHECK MATE

Rock this perfectly patterned look

£14, mandco.com

£130, joebrowns.co.uk

POA, atelier412newyork.etsy.com

£429, tedbaker.com

£225, chesterbarrie.co.uk

£25, farrar-tanner.co.uk

£60, simoncarter.net

£70, riverisland.com

£69.99, Maestro Brown, baselondon.com

BEAUTY BUZZ

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

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

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

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

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 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 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

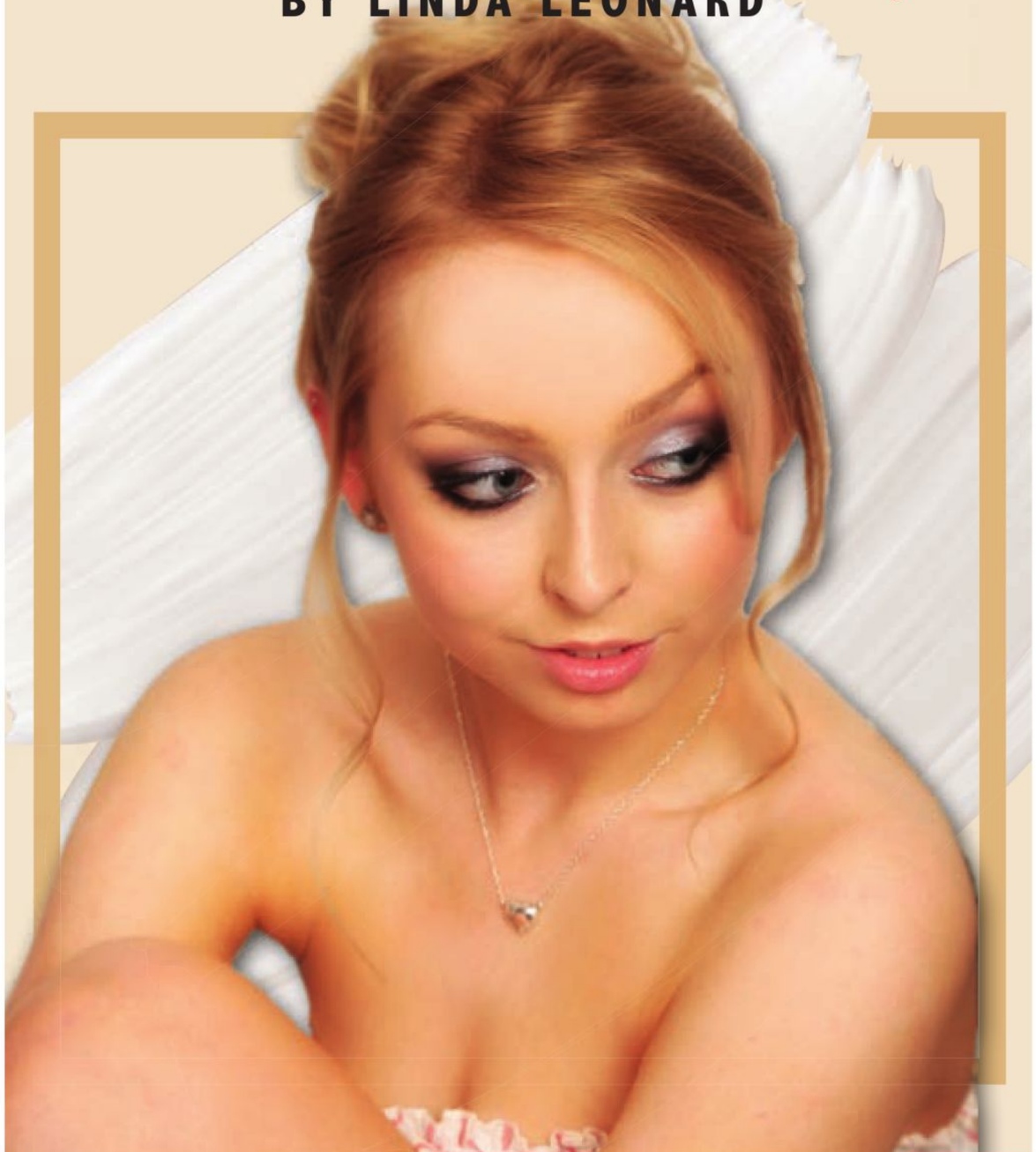
Due to popular demand, the Sunny Honey Bali Bronzing Foam from Coco & Eve is now back in stock after selling out over 190,000 units in just nine weeks!

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

Hair & Make-up

BY LINDA LEONARD



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"The LUXEStar was the shining star of our wedding evening, everybody absolutely loved it and you guys were incredible!"

SEAL OF APPROVAL

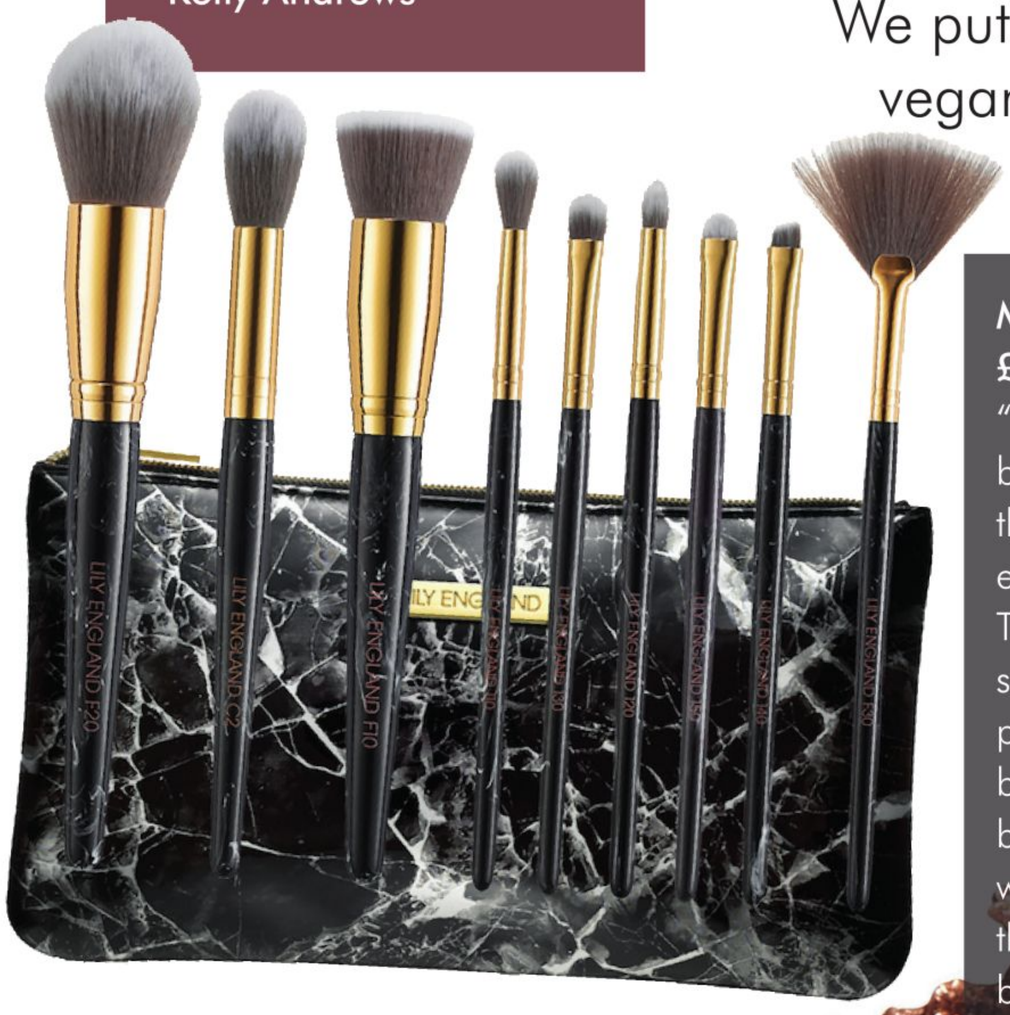
We put to the test the latest vegan-friendly products

Nature's Kitchen Super Protein Skin Boosting Anti-Ageing Moisturiser, £26.99, Lovelula.com
"I have sensitive skin that gets easily irritated when trying new products, so I was a little apprehensive about testing this vegan-friendly moisturiser. After a few days of use, my skin felt hydrated and much to my surprise, it didn't feel irritated. The cream has a light consistency and soaks into your skin nicely. It provides moisture throughout the day but doesn't feel or look oily and smells divine. I'll definitely be buying it in the future." – **Melissa Barker**

Babe Night, £28, missguided.com
"I'm a fragrance fanatic and firmly believe you don't have to spend a fortune to get a great scent, from high-end to budget-friendly, I've tried all sorts. Babe Night had a gorgeous aroma from just opening the box! I was keen to have a spritz immediately, and adored the heady notes of orange blossom, jasmine and pink pepper – everyone in the office commented on it immediately and it lasted for my night out after work that evening too. This is now one of my go-to scents, and at only £28 for 80ml it's a bargain to boot!" – **Danielle Harvey**

Coco & Eve Sunny Honey Bali Bronzing Foam, £29.90, from uk.cocoandeve.com
"I love Coco & Eve's iconic hair mask as it does wonders for my locks, so I was intrigued to see if my skin would get the same nourishing treatment with its new bronzing foam. It adheres to its vegan ideals and is packed with lovely natural ingredients. The foam is lightweight and easy to apply with the rather luxurious velvety mitt. It develops in two hours and leaves your skin with an almost airbrushed look thanks to its CellushapeTM formula, which promises to hydrate and firm the skin. The thing I don't like about normal fake tan is that tell-tale biscuity smell, but the summery mango and guava scent of this product means no one will know your secret." – **Hannah Faulder**

Marble Luxe 9-Piece Make-up Brush Set Black & Gold, £45, lilyengland.com
"I've tried so many different make-up brushes from the cheap to the expensive, but I can't say I've ever found any that'd I'd deem indispensable. Until now that is! My absolute favourite in this set is the F10 kabuki foundation brush. It gives my base a flawless finish and uses much less product than applying with fingers or a standard foundation brush. It's an expensive business gathering the perfect tool to build each element of your look, so it's well worth investing in a set like this, as it's great value for money." – **Kelly Andrews**



Kimberly Sayer Cellular Extract Eye Lift Gel, £31.70, Lovelula.com
"As a bit of a night owl, I regularly pay the price with puffy eyes, fine lines and dark circles. This handy gel tackles all of the above and is a real morning-after saviour. Light, non-greasy and easy to use, a little goes a long way. It gave the delicate skin around my eyes an instant lift, plus my concealer and foundation went on like a dream afterwards, with no caking – win, win!" – **Sarah Reeve**

MUA Essential Eyeshadow, Ember, £1.50, muastore.co.uk
"I have never used eyeshadow from this brand before and was eager to try it out for the first time and it didn't disappoint, especially because it's so affordable too! The colour is spot on for autumn with its stunning burgundy and shimmery finish that pops on the eye. I found it very easy to blend with no fall out which earns this brownie points for me. I have oily eyelids which I was worried about but after wearing this eyeshadow for a few hours it didn't budge. This single eyeshadow not only looks and feels great but is the perfect size to be able to slip it into your bag and apply more if desired. I will definitely be buying more!" – **Olivia Gibson**

UP, UP *and away*

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 have been creating my own up styles from the age of five," Vicky 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."

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

Beauty & Fashion Q&A

Local experts offer advice on how to look your best

HERE COME THE GIRLS

I've fallen in love with a beautiful bridesmaid's dress, but I can only find sizes that are too big for my maids. I'm thinking of purchasing them anyway and having them altered. Is this something that can be done? If so, how long will it take?

In theory, it's something that can be done, providing that the dresses aren't much bigger than your bridesmaids. Most seamstresses will tell you that the rule of thumb is that they can only be taken in by two sizes. After that, the shape and structure of the gown will start to look and feel out of place.

I would normally recommend booking an initial consultation six to eight weeks before the wedding. This will give you time to have fittings and ensure your best girls look amazing.

Don't forget to book your seamstress in advance as they tend to get booked up quickly, especially during wedding season.

Heidi Ferrucci-Gray
Dress alterations specialist and bespoke accessories designer
07455 024 312

A SHOWSTOPPING LOOK

What tips can you suggest to get my make-up looking fabulous for my big day?

Good skincare is key to creating a picture-perfect look. There are lots of routines and products you can use at home to keep your pours looking fabulous. If you do have any major concerns, seek advice from a salon or book a consultation.

A good base and primer will provide longevity. A compact powder is ideal for last-minute touch-ups on your T-zone, especially if you're prone to shiny skin.

Finally, use a good finishing spray to seal the deal. MAC Prep & Prime Fix is one of my favourites and now comes in a 30ml bottle, ideal for your bridesmaids to carry around on the day.

Amy Lacey
Make-up artist
amylacey.co.uk

The best of both worlds

My mum wants to wear a lace gown, but we're struggling to find a design that we both like. Do you have any suggestions?

It may be possible that the garment of your dreams isn't available this season. I suggest that you both sit down and come to a compromise. Remember the most important thing is that your mum feels wonderful and looks forward to wearing the garment. Afterall, it would be a shame to spend money on something neither of you are really happy with.

Dee Brain
Mother-of-the-bride specialist
serendipityfashions.co.uk

A SMOOTH FINISH

I want to look amazing on my big day, but I'm useless when it comes to make-up. What's the difference between highlighter, bronzer and foundation and do I need them all? Help!

If make-up isn't your forte, then I suggest you hire a professional. We've learnt every trick in the book to help enhance your features and ensure you're camera ready. It relieves the stress of getting it right and allows you to have a little bit of pampering on your big day. That being said, if you do want to do it yourself, then invest in some quality products and practice as much as you can.

- ❤ Foundation, as the name suggests, is the base to build upon. It creates an even complexion and covers any imperfections. It comes in a variety of formulas and choosing the right one to suit your skin tone is essential.
- ❤ Once the foundation has been applied, you need to add some dimension back to your face, and this is where bronzer, highlighter and contour come into their own.
- ❤ Highlighter is one of my favourite aspects of make-up. Correctly placed it catches the light on the high points of your face, creating dimension and enhancing the sort after bridal glow.
- ❤ Bronzers, not to be confused with contouring, adds warmth and a sun-kissed look.
- ❤ Contour is used to create depth and sculpt the face. They tend to be matte cool-toned products that replicate shadows. Defining cheekbones, sharpening jawlines, and slimming noses are all illusions that can be achieved through this.

Jenny Ojo
Make-up artist
jennyojomakeup.com

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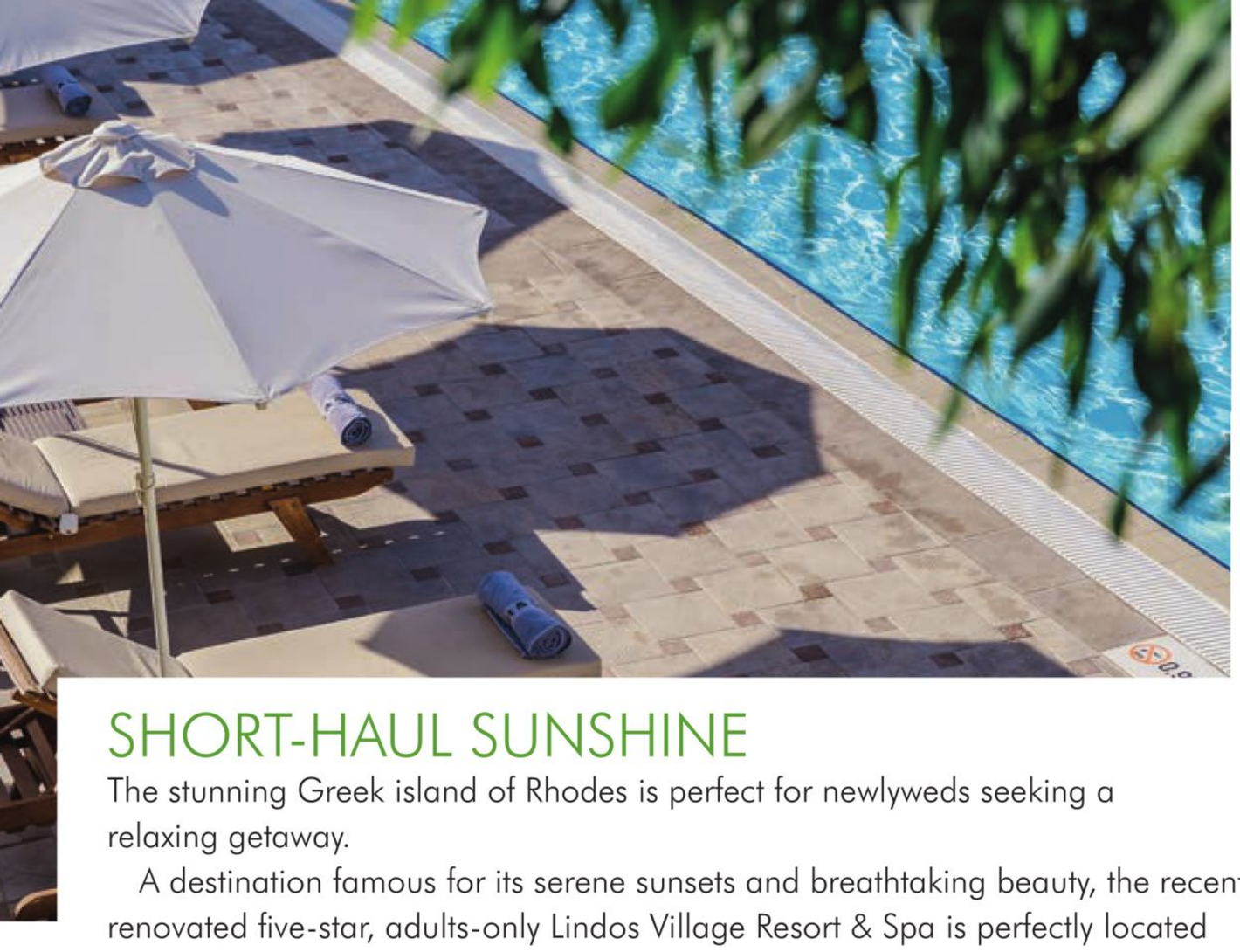


SHORT-HAUL SUNSHINE

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

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

HONEYMOON *News*

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 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 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

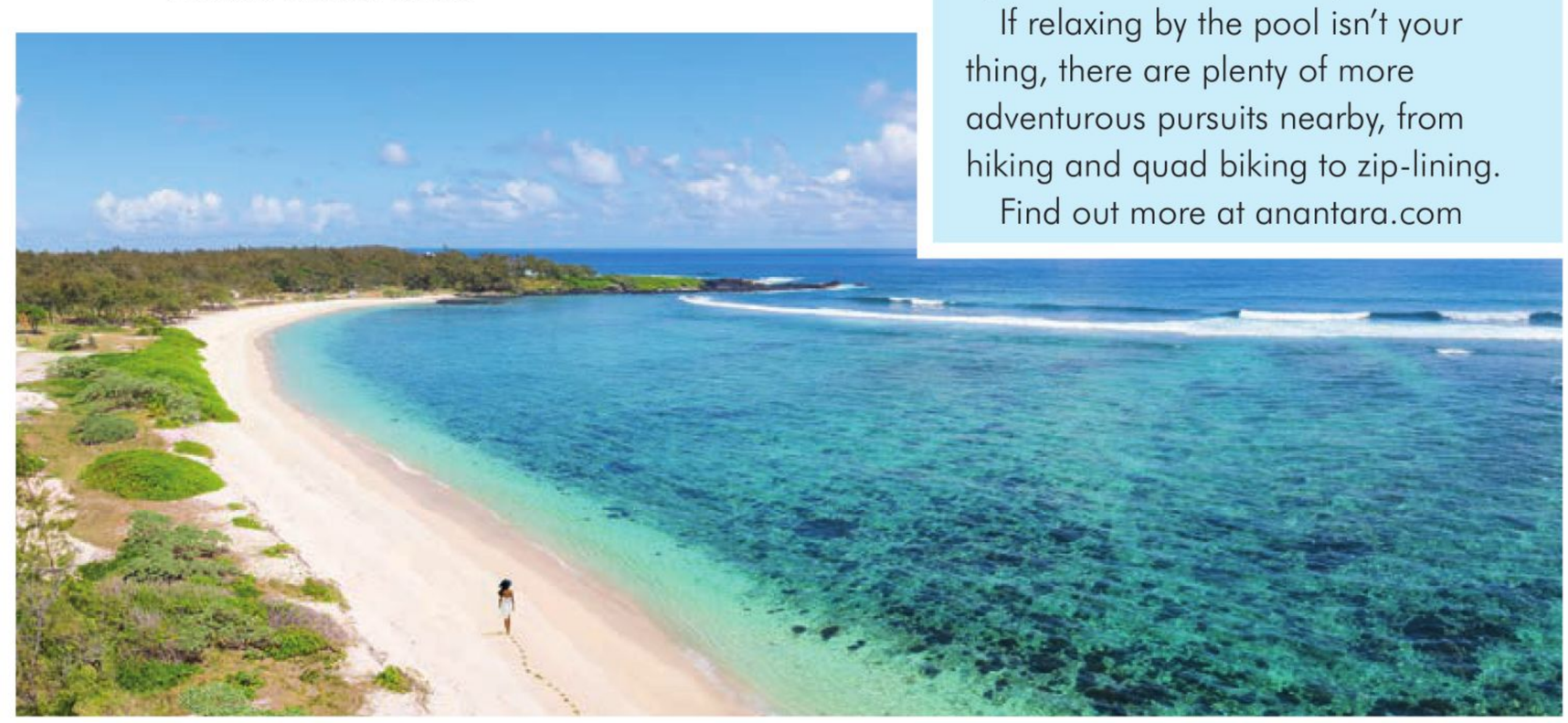
TREAT YOURSELF

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



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

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

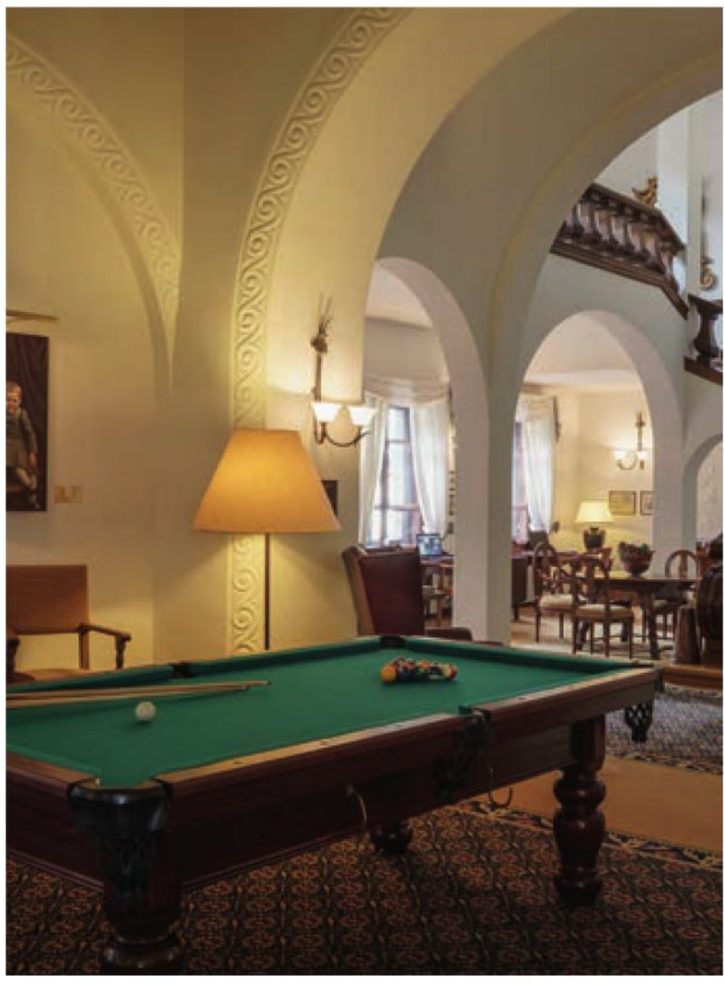
SWISS MARVEL

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.

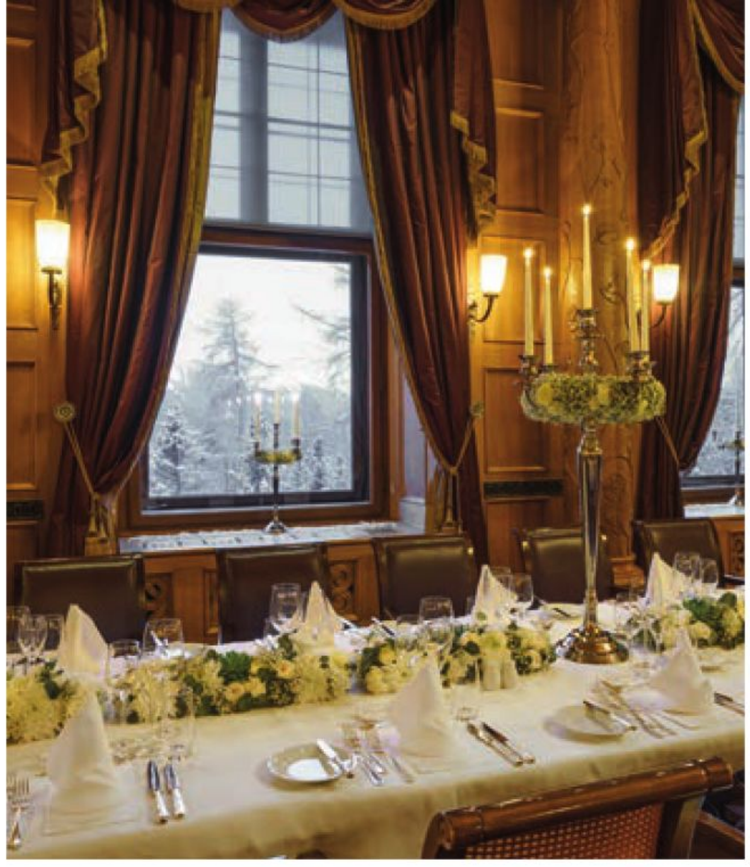
For me, however, the best meal of the entire trip was at Suvretta's Grand Restaurant, a breath taking room with incredible panelling, carved solid oak columns and elaborately decorated cassette ceiling. There I enjoyed a warm lobster salad with Amalfi lemon and green asparagus, followed by a saddle of 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!

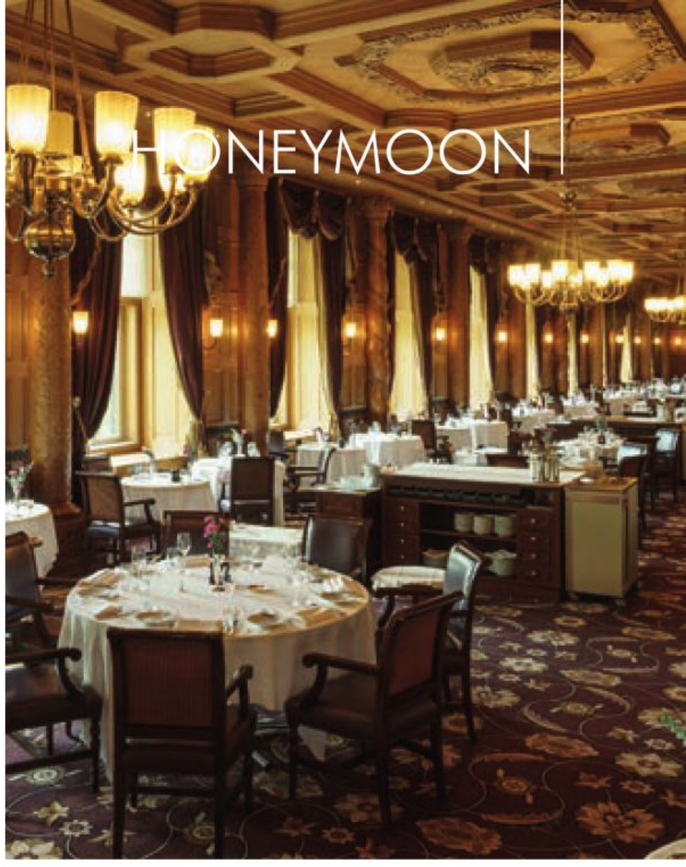
LET'S GET PHYSICAL

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 suvrettahouse.ch

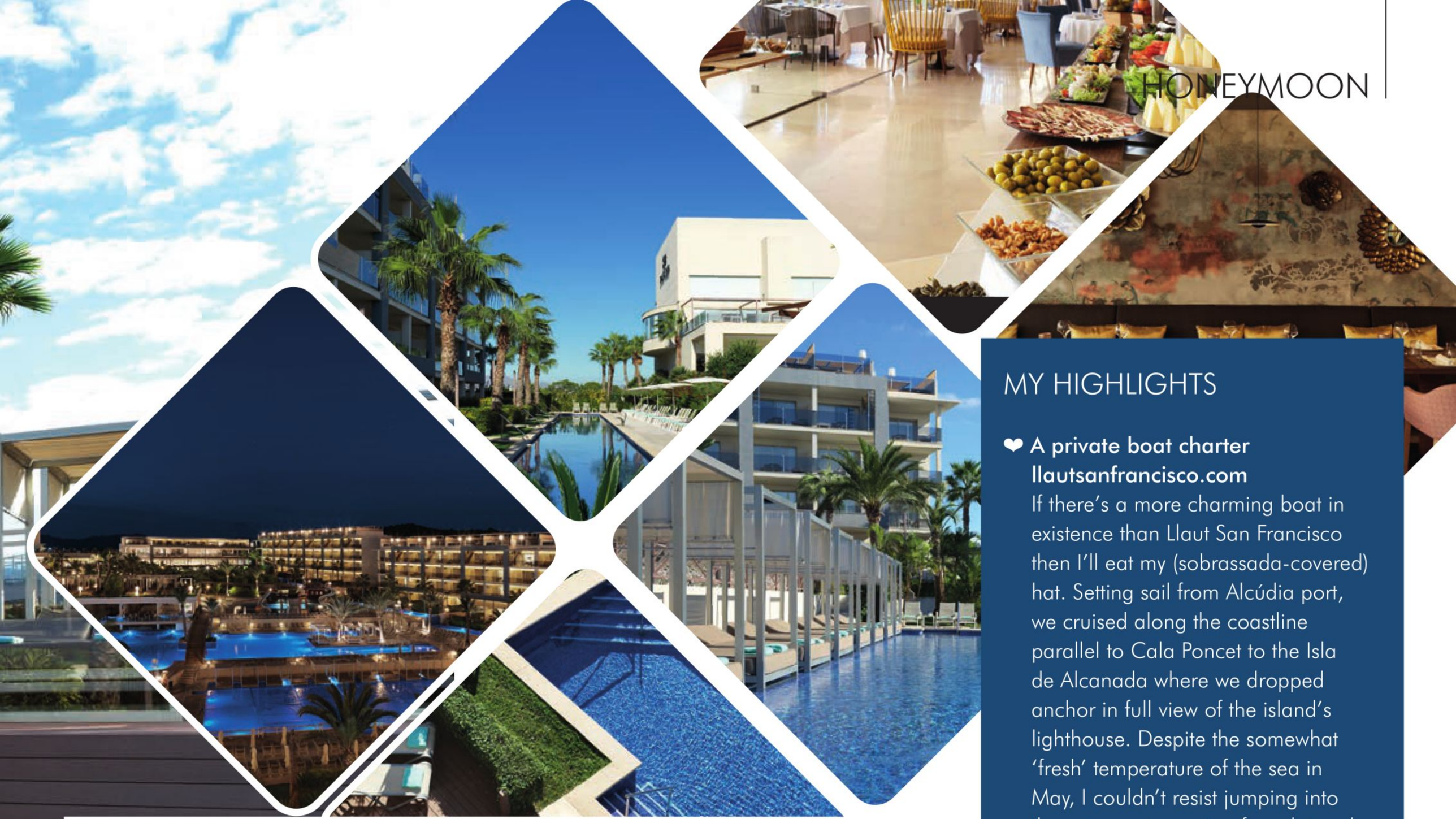
ME, YOU AND THE FAMILY TOO

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.



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?

MY HIGHLIGHTS

❤ **A private boat charter**
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
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
This family winery dates back some 300 years, making it the third oldest winery in Spain. Tastings take place inside the 18th-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.

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

SETTING *sail*

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

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.

1

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

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.

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.

3

4 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.

6 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?

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.

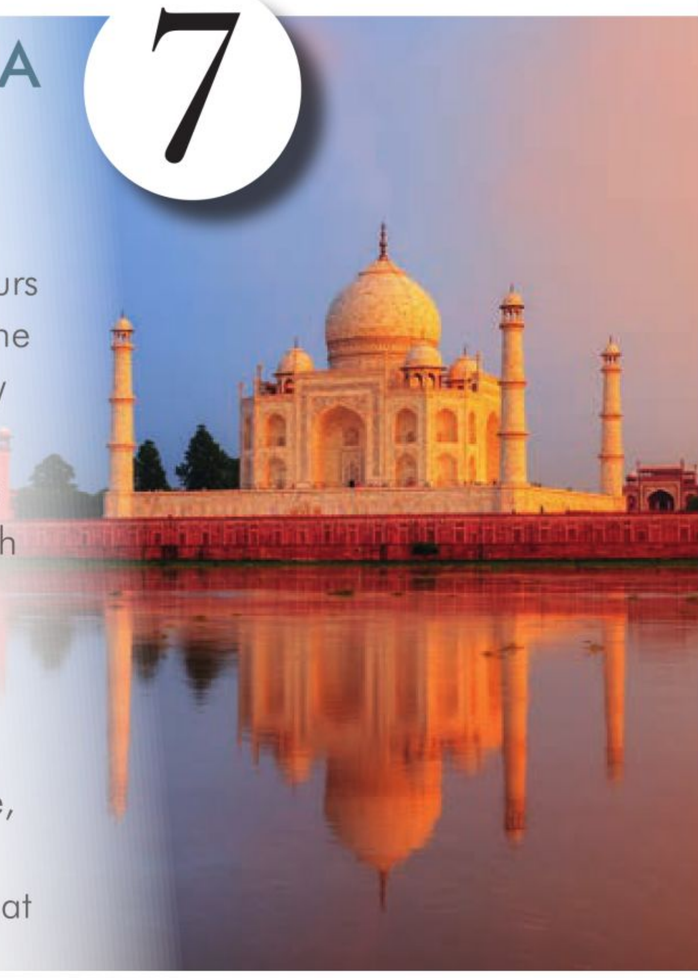
The Northern Lights themselves are a breathtaking natural phenomenon that newlyweds can witness multiple times from the top deck or ashore in a number of authentic Norwegian destinations. This voyage ensures that you get front row seats to the most extraordinary light show on Earth.

7 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.



For more information on ROL Cruise, including details of any of the itineraries above, visit rolcruise.co.uk or call 0800 251 1005.

WIN!

A LUXURIOUS THREE-NIGHT HONEYMOON TO TUSCANY

Enter now for your chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the incredible Fonteverde resort in Italy

WORTH £1,500

County Wedding Magazines has partnered with the stunning resort of Fonteverde to offer one lucky reader the chance of winning a three-night stay on a half-board basis to the luxurious hotel, plus spa treatments.

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

THE PRIZE

- ❤ Three-night stay
- ❤ Half-board basis
- ❤ One spa treatment per person

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

In which region in Italy is Fonteverde located?

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The closing date is 3rd April, 2020. Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

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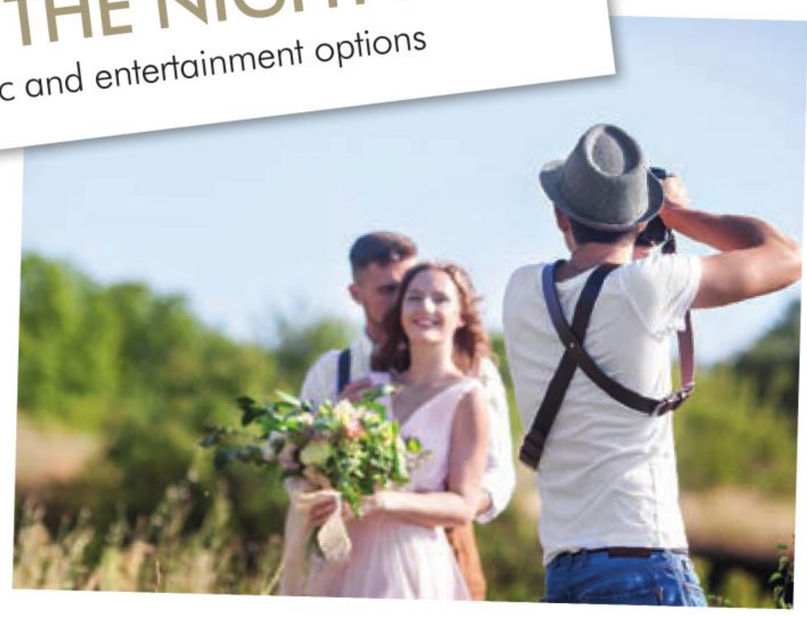
Music and entertainment options



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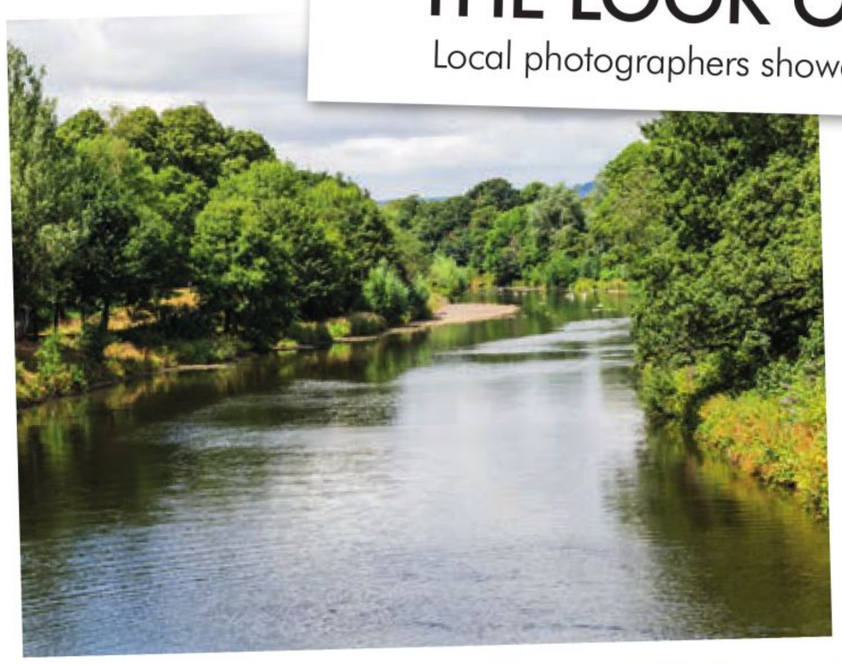
Local photographers showcase their work



ROMANTIC REFLECTIONS

Waterside venues

FUN AND FRIVOLOUS

The latest fashion trends

Buy online at yoursurrey.wedding Sign up for a year's subscription to *Your Surrey Wedding* and not only will you save money on the cover price, you'll also receive a votive candle set worth £15*.

We've teamed up with Shearer Candles to give County Wedding Magazine readers the chance to claim a Mr&Mrs votive candle set – worth £15 – when you take out a year's subscription.

Shearer Candles is a leading creator and purveyor of artisan candles and scented products. Established in 1897, the company is the UK's longest established lifestyle candle manufacturer, working with only the purest ingredients and inspired by the business's beautiful surroundings in Scotland.

Shearer Candles' new Alphabet Collection of scented votive candles features each letter of the alphabet, plus a heart and ampersand. Candle lovers can spell out their initials or whatever special message takes their fancy, including Mr&Mrs for newlyweds or individual initials for guest favours and table place settings.

The candles carry the firm's popular Egyptian Cotton scent, loved for its delicate fresh linen-style fragrance. Each votive candle will burn for approximately 20 hours.

The Alphabet Collection is exclusively available to purchase in Shearer Candles stores including its website shearer-candles.com All you need to do to claim your gift is take out a year's subscription to *Your Surrey Wedding*.*

*Subject to availability.

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DE VERE

HORSLEY ESTATE

WEDDING SHOWCASE | SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2020 | 11AM-4PM | FREE ENTRY

There can be few more romantic settings in which to say *'I do'*. From the ornate, classical 19th century chapel, to the grandeur of the Great Hall, Horsley Estate could have come straight out of the pages of a fairytale.

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Our wonderful bedrooms include bridal suites, some with Victorian roll-top bath, for your wedding breakfast you can opt for a candlelit marriage feast in the atmospheric Great Hall, a drinks receptions on the lawns with the Towers as backdrop, or a lavish reception in the Sopwith Lounge. At Horsley Estate we offer you the opportunity to create the wedding of your dreams.

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01483 286599 or visit www.devere.co.uk/horsley-estate

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