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ISSN 1750-3477



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*Photo credits clockwise from top: Millie & Max Photography, Arina Photography, Barry Page Photography & Zara Price Photography*





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elenapopa.com

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olivejoyphotography.co.uk



## On the cover

This issue's cover features real wedding couple Amy and Daryl, captured by [debbiesandersonweddingphotography.co.uk](http://debbiesandersonweddingphotography.co.uk). Turn to page 53 for to find out more about their big day.

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rebeccacarpenterphotography.com

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amandalucas.co.uk

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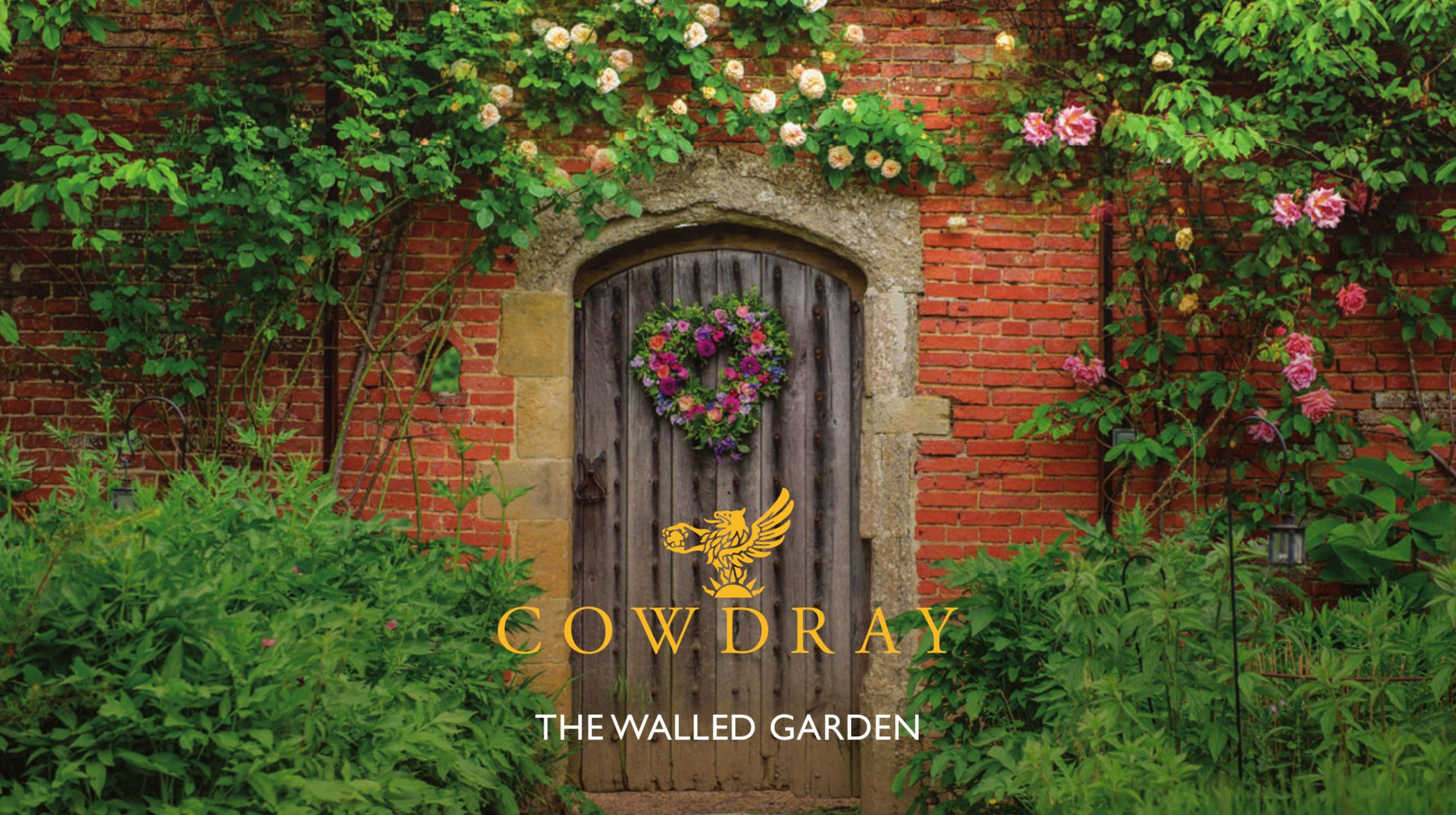
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It is possible to balance romance and family thanks to Zafiro Hotels' family-friendly facilities, finds Georgina Cassels



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**COWDRAY**  
THE WALLED GARDEN

# *Wedding Showcase Event*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**  
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## Romance is in the air



If you're reading *Your Sussex Wedding* for the first time because you said "yes" to the most important question you're ever likely to be asked over the festive period or Valentine's Day – let us offer you a very warm welcome and our heartfelt congratulations. You're about to embark on the ride of your life, and we'll be with you every step of the

way with wedspiration and tips at every turn, all with the help of the region's incredible wedding suppliers.

Speaking of our local bunch of talented experts, they've outdone themselves this issue with four stunning styled shoots, so different from each other, yet all inspiring in their own way. So, whatever your style, there's bound to be something to catch your eye. Don't miss them on pages 67, 71, 75 and 84.

Looking forward to spring already we've decided to take a look at big-day blooms. The county's florists show us how to reflect your colour palette everywhere from the bouquet to the centrepieces. Plus, we've put together three pages of non-stop bling in our jewellery and accessories feature. Before you go, don't forget to check out Hot Topic (page 89), our experts' indispensable guide to bringing an added air of romance to your nuptials, inspired by Valentine's Day.

Happy planning!

*Kelly* x

Kelly Andrews,  
editor

**WIN!**  
A HONEYMOON  
IN ITALY, WORTH  
£1,500.



Cover couple Amy and Daryl tied the knot on a blustery day in August. Did the weather deter their photographer? Not one bit, she used it to capture some stunning and atmospheric shots. I only wish I had space to show you all of them!

debbiesandersonweddingphotography.co.uk



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I'm completely in love with this beautifully romantic table setting crafted in a palette of pinks.

rebeccacarpenphotography.com

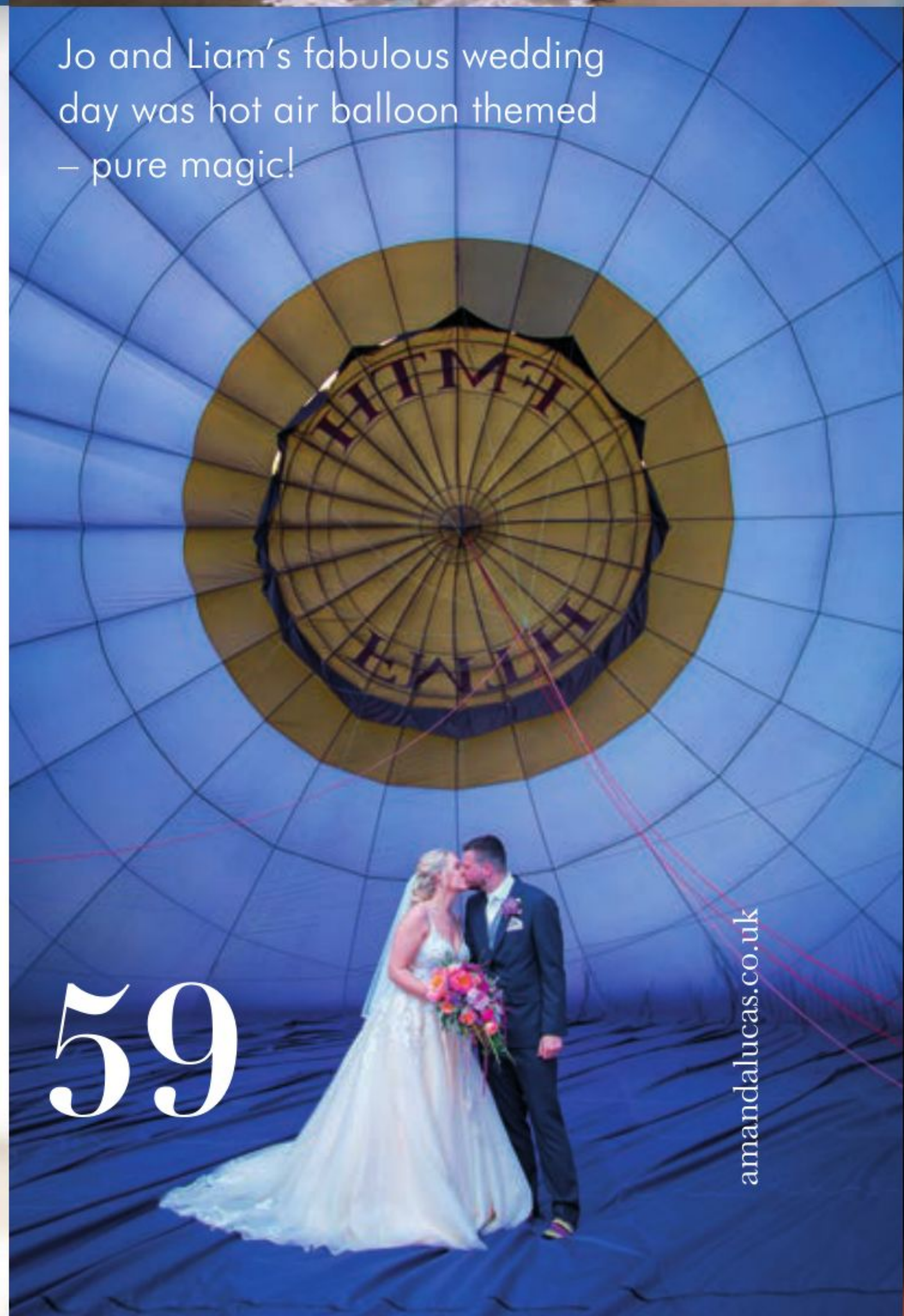
Say it with flowers – our roundup of stunning floral gowns.

101



clairepettibone.com

Jo and Liam's fabulous wedding day was hot air balloon themed – pure magic!



amandalucas.co.uk

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This beautifully decorated bake, with its delicate lace design, by Clare's Cake Boutique, brought a touch of modernity to an Art Deco-inspired shoot.

71

jiphotographyforalluk.com

36

Julia's bridesmaids looked beautiful in a theme-fitting mink hue.

kenquartzphotography.co.uk

Find jewellery and accessory inspiration to suit your style in our shiny roundup.

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murrayclarke.co.uk

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You can't beat a delicate palette of pastel pinks for the ultimate romantic vibe.

75

Greek mythology associated the dove with Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Imagine releasing a pair of these ethereal white birds after your vows – super romantic!

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## BUXTED PARK

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Hamish Cameron

## 5 minutes with...

Local bridal designer Kasia Austin has launched her 2020 Enchanted Collection of bridal gowns from her Bridal Couture Collection. We caught up with the woman herself to find out more.

### TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I was born in a village near Warsaw where tradition decrees that each baby must choose from a selection of objects to determine its future. I reached out and touched the scissors and was soon making clothes for myself and school friends, adding my own creative spin to designs I loved from magazines.

After moving to England, I was spotted by embroidery designer Cathryn Avison whose film credits include *Maleficent*, *Harry Potter* and Disney's *Cinderella*. I made and embroidered dresses and cashmere for the Avison fashion label before I launched my own.

### WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR INSPIRATION?

I'm known primarily for my embroidered gossamer dresses for which I'm inspired by the ethereal and vibrant colours of the countryside around my West Sussex home. It's the epitome of a perfect English summer day.

I put my heart into every single gown. Each one takes many hours of detailed work. I want women to feel exceptional on their wedding day, confident that no one will ever be wearing the same dress.

### TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR NEW COLLECTION

It really is the epitome of intricacy and craftsmanship with whispers of fairy stories and countryside nuptials. It harks back to the days of romantic weddings in historical novels and includes a range of gowns from the beautifully simple to the highly ornate.

I colourwash and embroider natural fabrics to create this fairytale style, the chiffons and silk move with each individual bride. This new collection is more fitted than past designs, yet still floaty and flexible. The material moves like waves in the wind. Each dress makes a personal statement with ideas from the bride.

For further information check out the website [kasiaaustin.com](http://kasiaaustin.com)

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Pop along to a wedding fair this season and meet the county's top-notch suppliers.

#### Wedding Show at Selden Barns

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 | 11am-3pm  
[pureweddingevents.co.uk](http://pureweddingevents.co.uk)

#### Cowdray Wedding Showcase

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 | 10am-4pm  
[cowdray.co.uk](http://cowdray.co.uk)

#### The BIG Crawley Wedding Fayre

1<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 | 11am-3.30pm  
[crawleyweddingfair.com](http://crawleyweddingfair.com)

#### AMEX Stadium

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020 | 10.30am- 3pm  
[pureweddingevents.co.uk](http://pureweddingevents.co.uk)

#### South of England Wedding Fayre

26<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 | 11am-3.30pm  
[soewedfair.com](http://soewedfair.com)

# Nearlywed NEWS

Check out the news that's local to you



jesscamilberg.com

## TREND SPOTLIGHT

With over 15 years of experience, Katherine Hudson, founder of Arabian Tent Company has seen it all. We caught up with her to find out her top wedding trend tips for 2020, which, she tells us, "are set to focus less on tradition and more on choosing your own adventure. Weddings today are more individual than ever before, with couples customising their day in endless ways."

#### ♥ Carbon Neutral

If your wedding is in line with the average it could generate 14.5 tonnes of carbon. Fortunately, there are numerous ways to avoid this. Shopping local and in-season, gathering wildflowers and forgoing gifts in favour of charitable donations have all been on the rise.

#### ♥ Feminine tones

Venue stylists are pushing feminine tones straight through 2019 and into 2020 with variations of pink. Blush, millennial pink, bronze, taupe, and other light shades work beautifully together to create a serene, elegant atmosphere.

#### ♥ Velvet

It may not be everyone's cup of tea, but it's going to be trendy in 2020 with its blend of luxury and comfort. We'll see stylists taking a deeper dive into velvet design options with furniture accented by the fabric.

For lots more on what's hot from Katherine, head over to [your-sussex.wedding](http://your-sussex.wedding). Also, check out [arabiantents.com](http://arabiantents.com)



# AWARDS *special*

This county's talented suppliers have been sweeping up various high-profile accolades left, right, and centre already this year! Here's our roundup.



## #WINNING

Sussex-based To Have and To Hire has been awarded Best Venue Stylist at The South East Regional Wedding Industry Awards 2020. Sara Ellis, founder and CEO, commented, "We're overjoyed and absolutely blown away by winning this award. It's such a deep feeling of happiness and gratitude to be recognised for all our hard work, not only by our lovely clients, but also industry leaders. It's further cemented our passion and drive to excel further and strive for perfection, as well as push the boundaries in creativity."

The Wedding Industry Awards was designed to recognise businesses and individuals who aren't only the finest at what they do, but also those who are the most innovative, creative and trusted by their clients. After the initial voting by customers is complete, the panel sets to work assessing shortlisters based on reviews, social media, websites, and crucially, their body of work. This is thought to be the most rigorous judging approach in the industry, ensuring the awards are based on skill rather than popularity.

To find out more about To Have and To Hire visit [tohaveandtohireweddings.com](http://tohaveandtohireweddings.com)



## HOST WITH THE MOST

Not only did Field Place Manor House & Barns in Worthing host the 2020 South East regional finals of The Wedding Industry Awards, but it also scooped an impressive win for the Best Town and City Wedding Venue for the third year running. The regional finals culminate in the winners of each category from each region competing at the national finals in London, meaning Field Place gets to represent Worthing on a national scale showing off the town's hidden gems.

Mark Byerley, facility manager at the venue says, "This is a fabulous award that not only showcases the amazing transformation of the venue over the last three years, including the addition of our stunning wedding gardens, but also the amazing effort that the staff put in to make sure our couples experience their perfect day, and are given the best service from start to finish."

Check out [fieldplace.co.uk](http://fieldplace.co.uk)



## NATIONWIDE RECOGNITION

Newlyweds from around the nation have been casting their votes for The British Wedding Awards 2020. Showcasing the very best the industry has to offer, the categories focus on all aspects of wedding planning from the dress to the venue. We're excited to see some of Sussex's finest amongst the deserving nominees including Yoghurt Rooms ([yoghurtrooms.com](http://yoghurtrooms.com)) for Barn Wedding Venue, East Sussex National ([eastsussexnational.co.uk](http://eastsussexnational.co.uk)) for Countryside Wedding Venue, The Ravenswood ([theravenswood.co.uk](http://theravenswood.co.uk)) for Outdoor Wedding Venue, and Teri V ([terivphotography.co.uk](http://terivphotography.co.uk)) for Photographer. We wish everyone the best of luck!

[terivphotography.com](http://terivphotography.com)

## *Glorious gardens*

Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens in Horsham was recently awarded the Beautiful South New Tourism Business Award. Set in a valley, the gardens offer visitors a variety of scenic walks with seven interlaced lakes, woodland and parkland. There's also the acclaimed Pulham rock garden, built in 1890, a deer park and a colony of wallabies wandering the estate. Adam Streeter, general manager says, "We're delighted to win this award for excellence. It confirms the superb work carried out by our team at Leonardslee. Ours has been the largest UK garden restoration project in nearly 30 years. Our team will continue to ensure that the special wildlife and plant collections here are protected and nurtured for this and future generations."

To find out more about hosting your big day at Leonardslee, check out [leonardsleegardens.co.uk/weddings](http://leonardsleegardens.co.uk/weddings)





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Danni Beach Photography



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Set in impressive grounds with a mix of intricate wood-panelled function rooms, light and bright event spaces and an expansive terrace, it's no surprise that Woodlands Park has been a wedding venue of choice for decades. Its impressive entrance hall nods to a bygone Victorian era where style and grandeur was the backdrop to every momentous occasion. Your dream wedding is no exception!

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Laurence & Ella Photography



## TIME TRAVEL

Empress Classics don't offer just any kind of coach, oh no. All of their vehicles are 20-seat Bedford J2 models with coach built Plaxton Embassy bodies. If that means nothing to you, then let us tell you, this translates to the height of retro-chic.



Not only are they stylish, they're also compact so that they can easily deliver you and your guests to venues that might not be possible for many standard coaches. What's more photographers love both the spacious interiors and burgundy and cream exteriors, which form ideal backdrops for some memorable group shots. For your extra special day, the team will even dress your coach in ribbons and bows to suit your colour palette.

We're delighted to have teamed up with this fab supplier to bring you a £50 discount on all classic coach hire bookings for 2020 (excluding Saturdays). To claim, simply quote 'Your Sussex Wedding' at time of booking.

Check out [empressclassics.co.uk](http://empressclassics.co.uk)

# Freebies & OFFERS

Take advantage of these gorgeous giveaways and fab offers

## FREEBIES & OFFERS

### HERE COMES THE BRIDE

Bridal boutique Truly Gorgeous stocks some of the world's leading bridal designers including Lusan Mandongus, Ronald Joyce, White Rose, Diane Legrande, and Alan Hannah.

There's also an alterations service with the amazing Sunay James, who originally opened the boutique in 2007. She has

over 30 years experience in the fashion industry, having specialised in couture design and tailoring. She aims to make your dress bespoke by adding lace tops, boleros, straps, belts and trains, all of which are seamlessly integrated to look like they'd always been there.

We've partnered with Truly Gorgeous to offer either 10% off of your wedding dress or a complimentary tiara, simply by mentioning 'Your Sussex Wedding.' Hurry down to the boutique in Chichester and check it out online at [trulygorgeous.co.uk](http://trulygorgeous.co.uk)



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

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

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

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

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



ENTER ONLINE AT [YOUR-SUSSEX.WEDDING](http://YOUR-SUSSEX.WEDDING)

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





# Wedding Shows

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

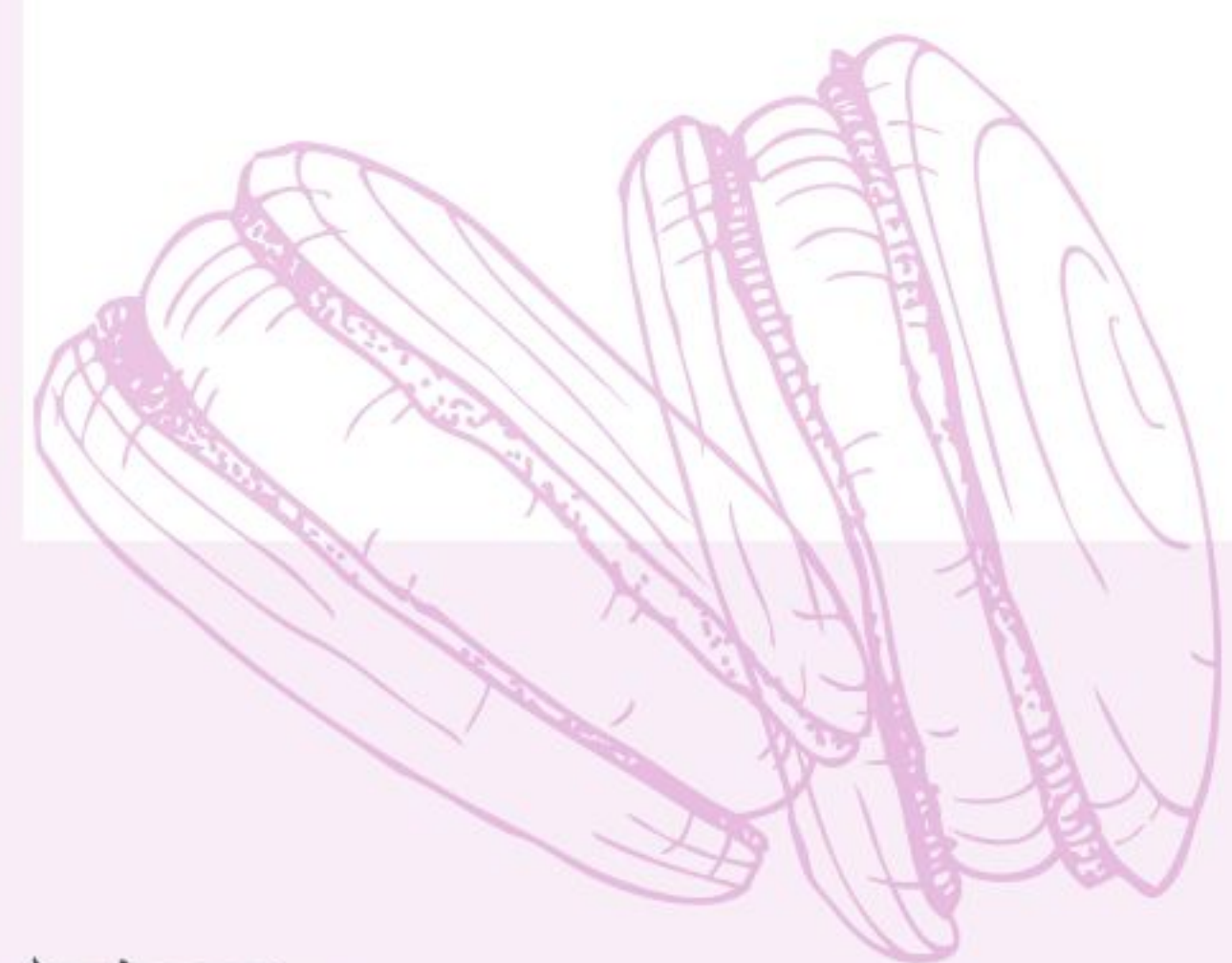
Each wedding show is hosted by a stunning venue and attended by a wide variety of quality exhibitors ready to offer help and advice in planning your day. All our events offer **free entry**, a complimentary **goody bag** with our latest **glossy magazine** as well as the opportunity to enter prize draw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

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



## MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD

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



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# Spring Shows

ALL EVENTS 11AM – 3PM  
unless otherwise stated



## SUSSEX

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



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



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



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



## SURREY

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



## KENT

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



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



HEVER HOTEL  
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SUN 19 APR



## BERKS, BUCKS & OXON

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SUN 9 FEB



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



## ESSEX

GREENWOODS  
HOTEL & SPA,  
Ingatestone, CM4 9BE  
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

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



## EAST ANGLIA

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



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

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If you would like more information about either holding a wedding show at your venue or exhibiting at any of our shows, please contact us at [info@countyweddingevents.com](mailto:info@countyweddingevents.com), call 01376 514000 or visit [countyweddingevents.com](https://countyweddingevents.com).



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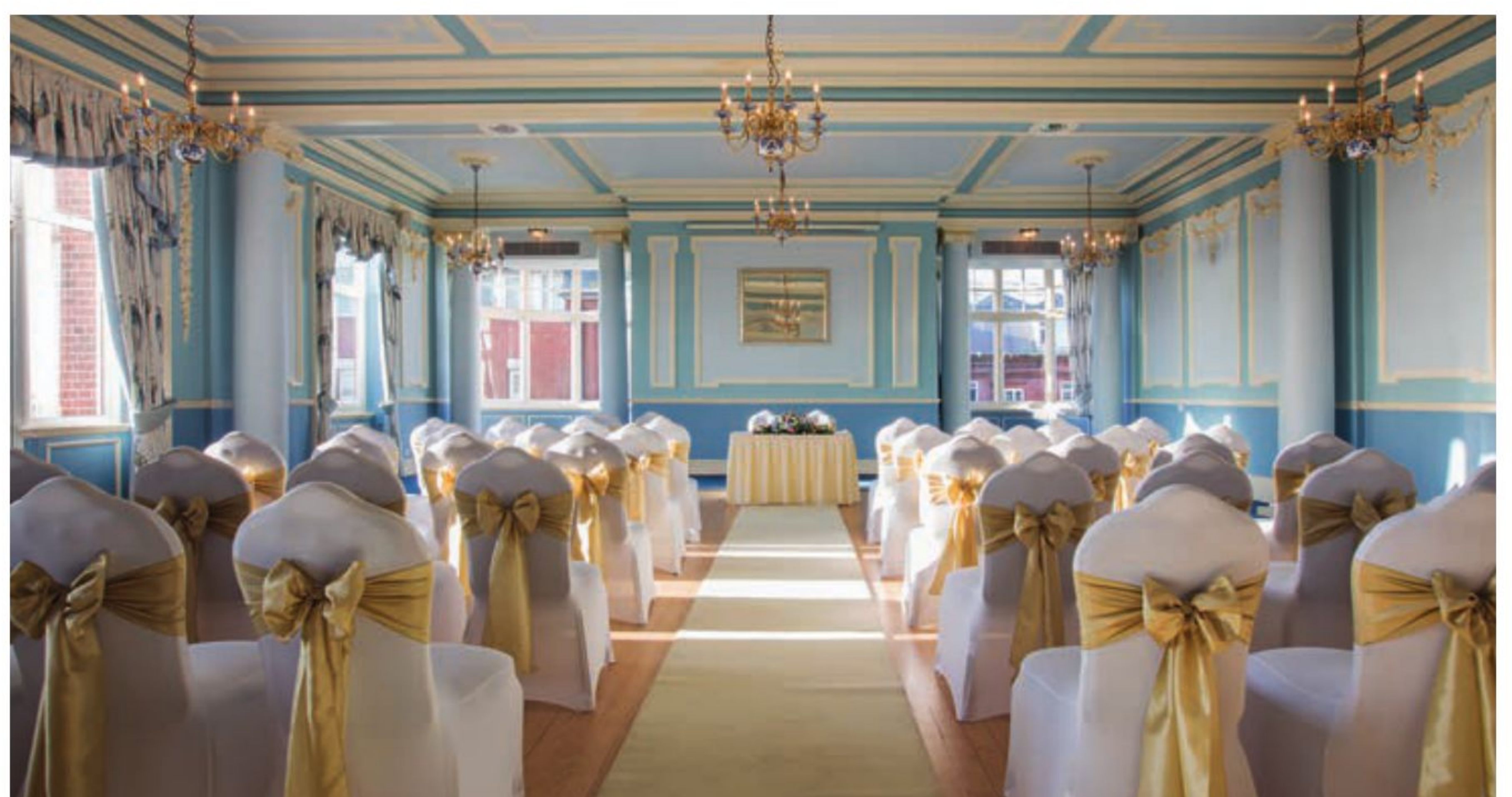
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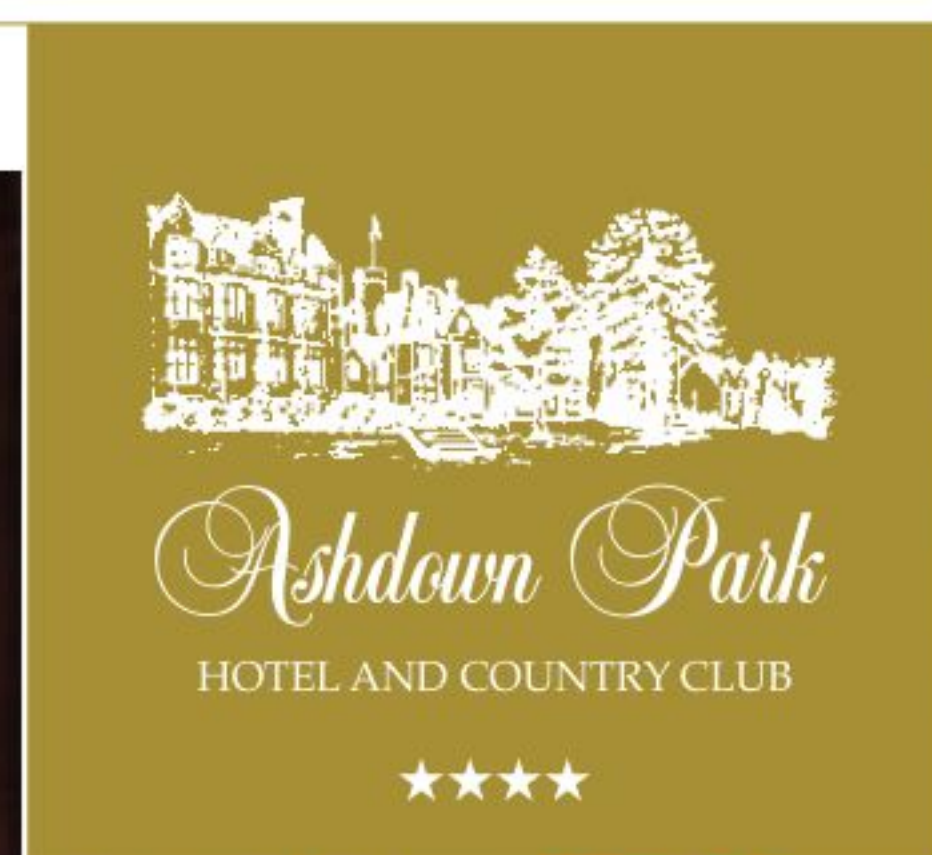
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Ashdown Park Hotel and Country Club, Forest Row, Sussex, RH18 5JR



# Spotlight on... UCKFIELD & AROUND

Tie the knot in a local hotspot



## HENDALL MANOR BARN

01825 732 561 | [hendall.co.uk](http://hendall.co.uk)

Hendall Manor Barns consists of three interconnecting buildings surrounding a sizeable central courtyard with a lawn and raised terrace. These historical and beautiful buildings sit below the manor house and its neighbouring 17<sup>th</sup>-century sandstone barn, which is used for bridal and family accommodation.

The Stone Barn is an impressive building arranged on two levels. The upper half provides a large reception space in addition to the entrance and access to the terrace and lawn. The lower half boasts a tall vaulted roof and oak flooring. You have the opportunity to create your own special day here and make imaginative use of the spaces available. Whether you're looking for a relaxed barbecue, vintage-style tea party or formal seated wedding breakfast, the buildings can be easily adapted and decorated to transform your dreams to reality.

Privately positioned in the heart of the East Sussex countryside, Hendall enjoys far reaching views of the Downs. The grounds feature a delightful pond complete with its own walkway, plus an orchard, wooden swing, private lawns and gardens. The main house has a striking arched loggia and a stone gazebo within the garden. So, there's certainly no shortage of gorgeous backdrops for the all-important photos!



### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

**The Stone Barn.** The "I dos" and receptions all take place here, within the main barn. All weddings have exclusive use of the buildings, terrace and lawn for the duration of the day (150 ceremony, 120 dining, 150 evening guests).





## CROCKSTEAD FARM HOTEL

01825 841 022 | [crocksteadfarmhotel.co.uk](http://crocksteadfarmhotel.co.uk)

A small country hotel set in more than 200 acres of private parkland, Crockstead Farm Hotel is located in the heart of the Sussex countryside. It has a rustic feel created by the beams, stone floor and brick walls, which is elevated by its chandeliers. There's plenty to catch the eye as it's decorated throughout with antiques alongside modern oil paintings.

Crockstead's many original buildings date back to the 13th-century. They've been updated, but the original beams maintain the charm and feel. Overlooking a pond, lawns and a courtyard, the hotel is ideally situated for a country wedding offering photo opportunities aplenty. Before sitting down to



eat, guests can sip their drinks and savour delicious canapés whilst strolling around the gardens and sun-flooded courtyard. The wildlife is always a fascination with tame free-roaming peacocks, ducks and chickens all resident on the grounds.

### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- ♥ **The Old Barn** is a romantic space with low beams and fairylights (80 ceremony guests).
- ♥ **The gazebo** is a lovely wrought iron structure situated across the pond with a nearby willow tree leaning over the lawn (200 ceremony guests).
- ♥ **The Millroom** is the original equestrian mill across the courtyard with high beams and stone floors (120 ceremony, 110 dining, 200 reception guests, 500 with the addition of a marquee).



## THE CARTLODGE, HORAM MANOR FARM

07730 277 118 | [horammanorfarm.co.uk/the-cartlodge](http://horammanorfarm.co.uk/the-cartlodge)

The Cartlodge is a restored barn at Horam Manor Farm with rustic beams, clean crisp walls and a glass frontage. Set amongst the picturesque surroundings of the farm estate, it offers countless idyllic backdrops to capture the day's memories against. Bookings can also include use of the large grassed area and the rustic wooden

Granary Barn.

Furthermore, the onsite silver jeweller offers an unforgettable opportunity to make your own wedding rings. You can also create your own rustic venue decorations with expert willow-weaver Dominic Parette. Plus, there's a florist at the farm who can help bring your vision to life.

### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

**The Cartlodge Hall**, gardens and Granary Barn (60 dining and reception guests, or 100 with a marquee).



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## HORAM MANOR FARM

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

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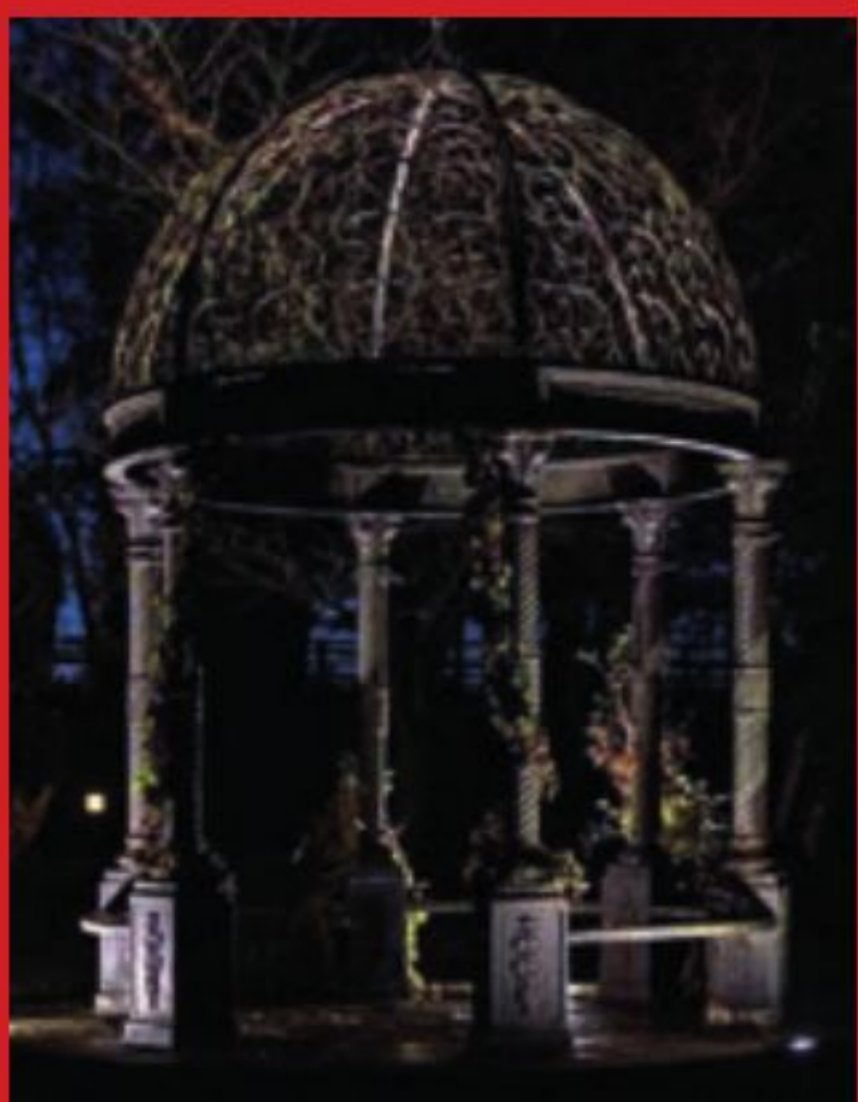
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Crockstead Farm Hotel has the facilities to cater for almost any event. Whether you're looking to book a small intimate meeting or a party for 200 guests, we are the venue for you. We have several function rooms to choose from, or if the weather is favourable, we can even host your event outside in our courtyard or on the lawn.

*We pride ourselves on developing your perfect wedding day with you...*

Our planning team will help create the perfect bespoke wedding for you - from welcome drinks in our beautiful courtyard on arrival to an elegant three course wedding breakfast, Crockstead Farm Hotel is the perfect venue for your special day.

Call **01825 841022** to speak to our Wedding Events Organiser who can help make your day unforgettable.





## THE BELL IN TICEHURST

01580 200 300 | [thebellinticehurst.com](http://thebellinticehurst.com)

Set in the heart of the historic village of Ticehurst, The Bell is at once welcoming to you and your guests. Its design is eclectic and it's just been upgraded featuring wallpaper especially designed for the venue by Hastings artist Melissa White.

The Bell's gardens were designed by Chelsea Gold Medallist Jo Thompson. The firepit is a popular place for guests to gather to toast marshmallows and pose for photos. There's also a fabulous double-sided sculpture representing romance and marriage.



You'll love the venue's illuminated "I Will Always Love You My Friend" sign in the Stable. Plus, the Love Nest, the round bridal suite, comes complete with copper bath, double shower, wood burner and roof terrace.

### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- ♥ **The Assembly Room** on the first floor is the spot to say "I do" (90 ceremony guests).
- ♥ **The Stable**, which is typically set up with a long table (90 dining, 120 evening guests).



## BUXTED PARK HOTEL

01825 733 333 | [handpickedhotels.co.uk/buxtedpark](http://handpickedhotels.co.uk/buxtedpark)

Reached by a sweeping tree-lined drive, this impressive Grade II Georgian country house, has a host of period features, including huge fireplaces, elegant cornicing, crystal chandeliers and sash windows.

Nestled within the stunning Ashdown Forest in 312 private acres of Sussex parkland, Buxted Park is a Palladian-style mansion with stone pillars, creating a classically romantic backdrop to your wedding photos. The large stone patio at the back of the house boasts far-reaching view across the picturesque lake, ancient oak trees and countryside beyond. Adjacent to the house lie pretty manicured gardens and the ornamental fish pond.

### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- ♥ **The Coat of Arms Lounge** is located at the heart of the hotel



and features an original grand working fireplace dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. With direct access to a private patio, it makes an ideal setting for your ceremony (120 ceremony guests).

- ♥ **The garden steps** are an idyllic spot for open-air "I dos." The lawn is set up with traditional chairs either side of a red carpet, leading to the impressive stone portico (120 ceremony guests).
- ♥ **The Orangery** overlooks the main hotel terrace and formal lawn, with views down to the fishing lake. An original part of the Georgian building, its tall glass ceiling allows streams of natural daylight to flood in (90 ceremony, 70 dining guests).
- ♥ **The Library** is designed in a traditional style with beautiful furnishings, ideal for intimate ceremonies (50 ceremony guests).
- ♥ **The Ballroom** is the state wedding room, featuring five empire chandeliers and views over the estate (120 dining guests).





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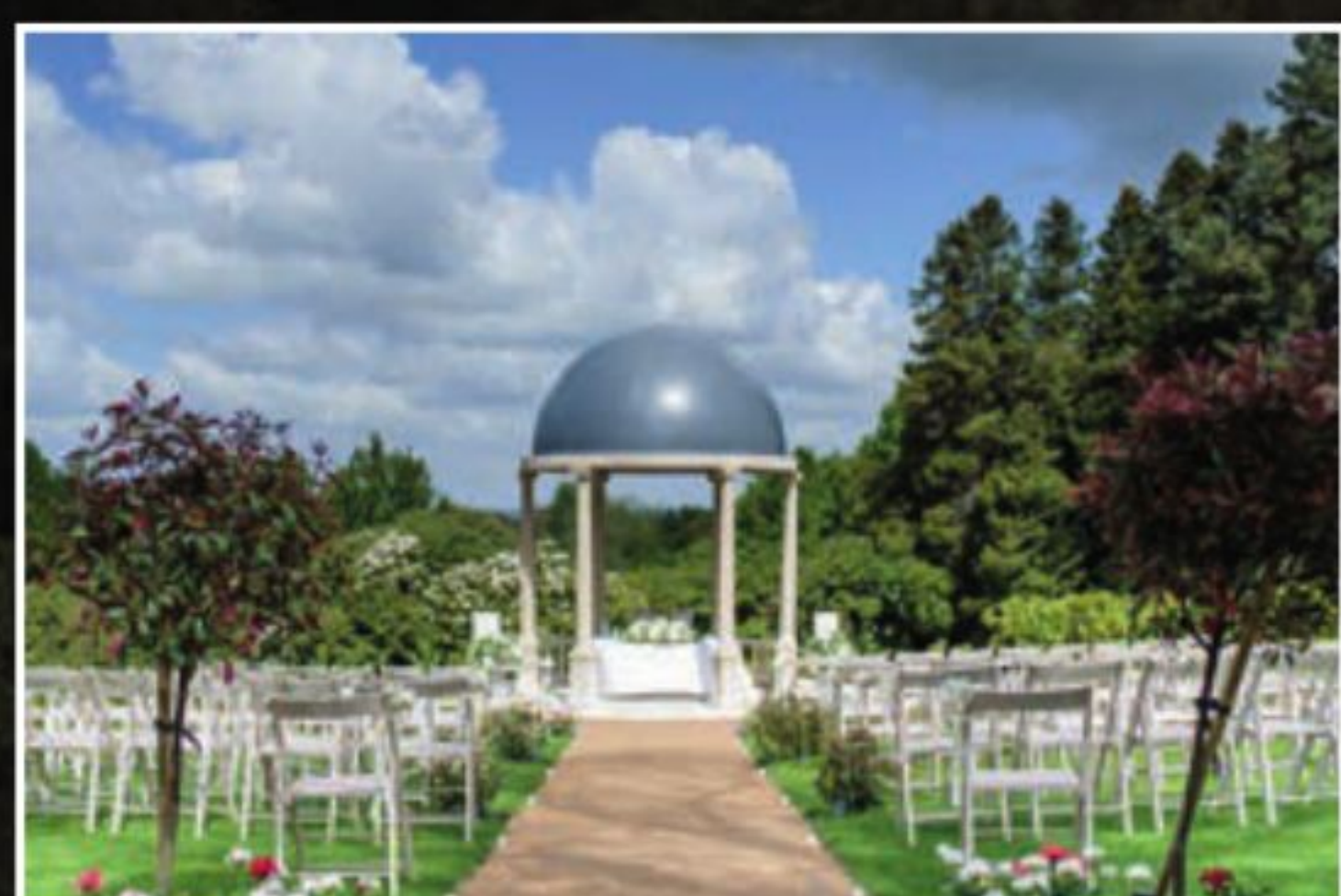
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# LIFE OF THE PARTY

Our roundup of venues bursting with character



## BLUEBELL RAILWAY

01825 720 800 | [bluebell-railway.com](http://bluebell-railway.com)

If you're looking for vintage in the truest sense of the word, Bluebell Railway makes for a wonderfully atmospheric venue. With the style and elegance of a bygone era, the cream-hued wood panelling of the Horsted Keynes Wedding Room is adorned with period railway advertising. Favoured by film companies for the detail of decoration and character, this station in particular gained fame when featured in *Downton Abbey*. It's a photographers dream!

Why not enhance your big day by boarding your own chartered steam train and enjoy a romantic journey through the beautiful Sussex countryside or explore the accredited museum and SteamWorks? There's also space for junior guests to play.

### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- ♥ **The Wedding Room** at Horsted Keynes Station has been restored to the 1930's Southern Railway period, creating an impressive and charming backdrop for your nuptials (40 ceremony guests).
- ♥ **The Birch Grove Suite** at Sheffiled Park Station is perfect for a larger ceremony. The room is located above the platform restaurant (60 ceremony guests).



- ♥ Tranquil meadows fringed by woodland areas at the various stations along the line offer brilliantly flexible outdoor spaces for marquee receptions. The railway's wedding coordinator will work closely with you to ensure you find the perfect spot.
- ♥ Alternatively, enjoy a warm and friendly evening in the platform restaurant.





## DRAKES HOTEL

01273 696 934 | [drakesofbrighton.com](http://drakesofbrighton.com)

Built in the late Georgian period by Amon Wilds, Drakes Hotel was originally two town houses designed to complement the fine Regency residences of the area. The property remained as a private residence until the 1970s when it was purchased by Mr and Mrs Simmonds and saw it's first incarnation as a hotel. The current owners took over in 2002, by which time the building had become sadly dilapidated and undertook extensive renovations to bring the stunning boutique Drakes Hotel to life as you see it today.

The jewel in Drakes' crown for any bride and groom is the super king-size bridal room, which features a seven-foot wide



handmade bed dressed in the finest Egyptian linens and velvet throw, as well as a chaise lounge, monsoon wet room and a magnificent freestanding bath set in front of the triple aspect, floor-to-ceiling windows. Through the brass telescope, couples can observe the picturesque views of the fabulous Brighton Palace Pier.

### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

**The Restaurant at Drakes**, where head chef Andy Vitez continues to achieve glowing accolades. Set with crisp white table linen, the shuttered windows and low-key lighting create a feel of relaxed glamour. The package includes everything from canapés and champagne reception to a full breakfast the following day (40 ceremony, 65 reception guests).



## SOUTHEND BARNES

01243 641 247 | [southendbarns.co.uk](http://southendbarns.co.uk)

Set on a working farm in the beautiful West Sussex countryside, Southend Barns has been lovingly restored. Surrounded by stunning landscaped gardens and peaceful courtyards, it offers a magical setting for your wedding celebrations.

The courtyard lies at the heart of the venue with its luscious lawn, well-kept pots and Cornish slate patio – a lovely spot for drinks and mingling. As evening falls, the gardens are romantically lit to show off the fantastic flint and log walls of the barns.

The in-house catering team, Roots, have launched some fun informative menu-tasting evenings when you can sample the canapés and main menu options. There's also live music and plenty of wedding advice from suppliers.



### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- ♥ **The Dairy Barn** boasts a wonderful 22-metre aisle, exposed beams and benches made of sweet chestnut. It can also be used after the "I dos" for drinks or an entertainment room for children (120 guests).
- ♥ **The Secret Garden** is a hidden gem. Taking inspiration from the Dutch term gezellig, the garden is a celebration of togetherness, comfort and enjoyment and is an idyllic spot for your vows.
- ♥ **The Threshing Barn** radiates rustic charm and offers plenty of space for dancing and entertaining, with vast windows across both sides (120 dining, 200 evening).
- ♥ **The Collecting Yard** is where guests can gather on sumptuous sofas around firepits to enjoy the perfect end to a perfect day.
- ♥ **The Milking Parlour** can be used as the groom's quarters or for the bride tribe's preparations. Couples can also use the suite for privacy during the day or to stay the night should you wish.



# Weddings at the Royal Pavilion

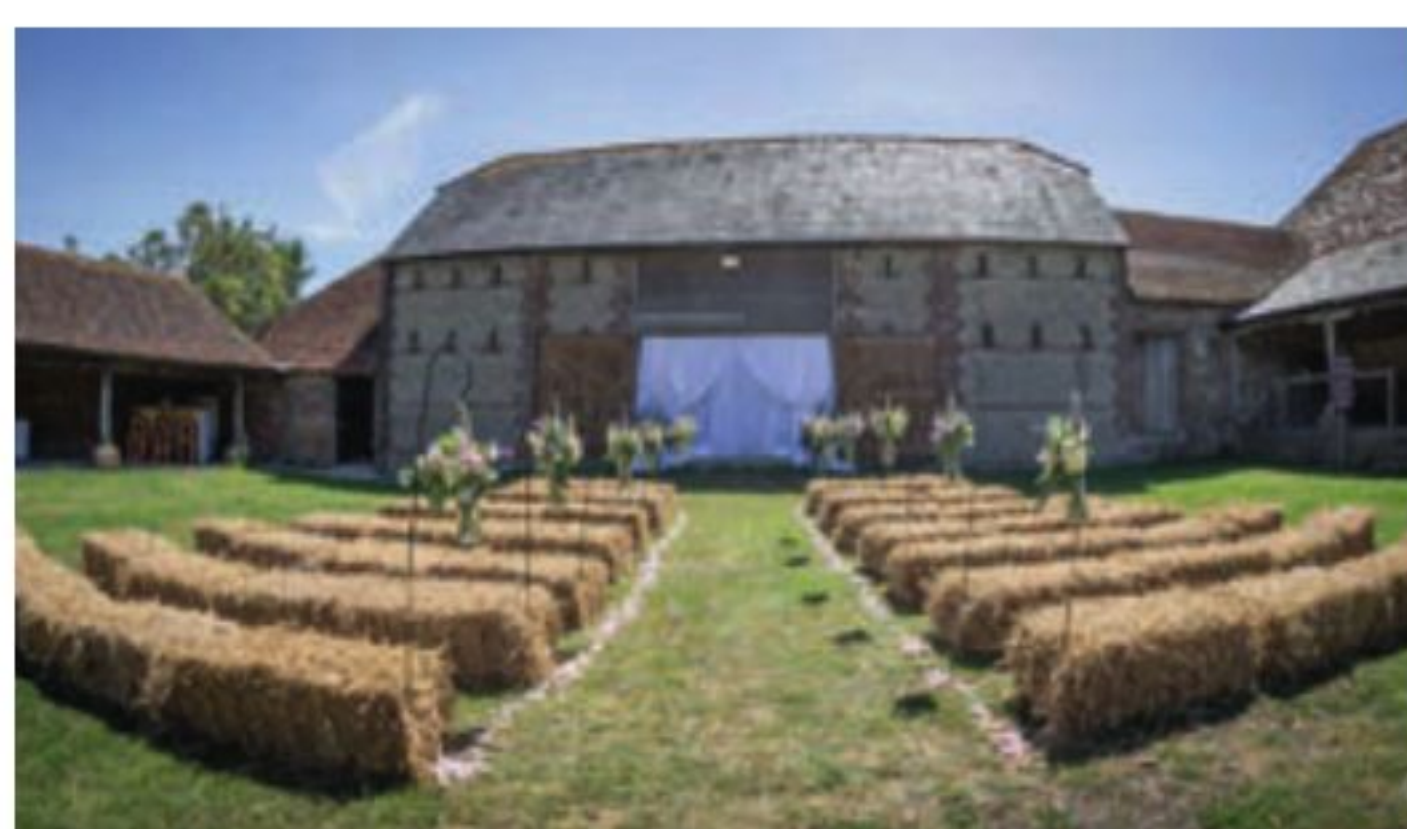
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## ROYAL PAVILION, BRIGHTON

03000 290 905 | [brightonmuseums.org.uk](http://brightonmuseums.org.uk)

This breathtaking former Regency palace offers a unique venue for your nuptials in the heart of Brighton and Hove's cultural quarter. Bask in the splendour of the Indian architecture and Chinoiserie interiors, which make an exquisite backdrop for your big day. One of the most exotically beautiful buildings in Britain, it was designed to entice, enrapture and enchant the great, good and grand of George IV's court – a more impressive location for your big day you couldn't hope to find!

The glorious garden here is one of the few fully restored Regency gardens in the country. Groups of flowers emulate jewels set against flourishing evergreens, framing striking views of the palace. Imagine the wedding album!



### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- ♥ **Red Drawing Room.** This beautiful space retains much of George IV's striking 1820s decorative scheme, incorporating distinctive dragon wallpaper and palm tree pillars. Not open to the public, it benefits from a private entrance, leading directly from the garden (90 ceremony guests).
- ♥ **Music Room.** Exchange your vows in dazzling splendour. The Music Room's extraordinary interior is lit by nine lotus-shaped chandeliers suspended from a ceiling made up of hundreds of plaster cockleshells (90 ceremony guests).
- ♥ **King William IV Room.** A versatile space for both afternoon and evening celebrations, this space has its own lobby and caterers' kitchen (drinks reception 80, standing buffet, 70, seated dinner 60).
- ♥ **Adelaide Suite.** This beautifully refurbished suite includes two rooms with a sunny balcony overlooking the garden (drinks reception 75, standing buffet 60, seated dinner 46).



## WORTHING DOME

01903 210 044 | [worthingdomeevents.co.uk](http://worthingdomeevents.co.uk)

Built in 1911 Worthing Dome is a Grade II listed building situated on the Sussex coast. It's a rich example of Edwardian architecture, typical of coastal town entertainment complexes of the period and one of the last of its kind still standing. The building is still a working cinema with a plush interior and many original features and there's a large south-facing balcony that runs the width of the venue overlooking Worthing's award-



winning beach. The promenade is a stone's throw away and the pier is a favourite spot with couples for their photos.

### SPACE TO CELEBRATE

- ♥ **The Main Lounge** is a classic room featuring ornate mouldings and iconic south-facing arched windows (150 ceremony, 140 dining, 190 evening guests).
- ♥ **The Whispering Gallery** is a dramatic mezzanine room with beautiful overhead steel framework and stunning views overlooking the sea (85 ceremony, 40 dining, 85 evening guests).





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**For bookings and additional information, please contact**  
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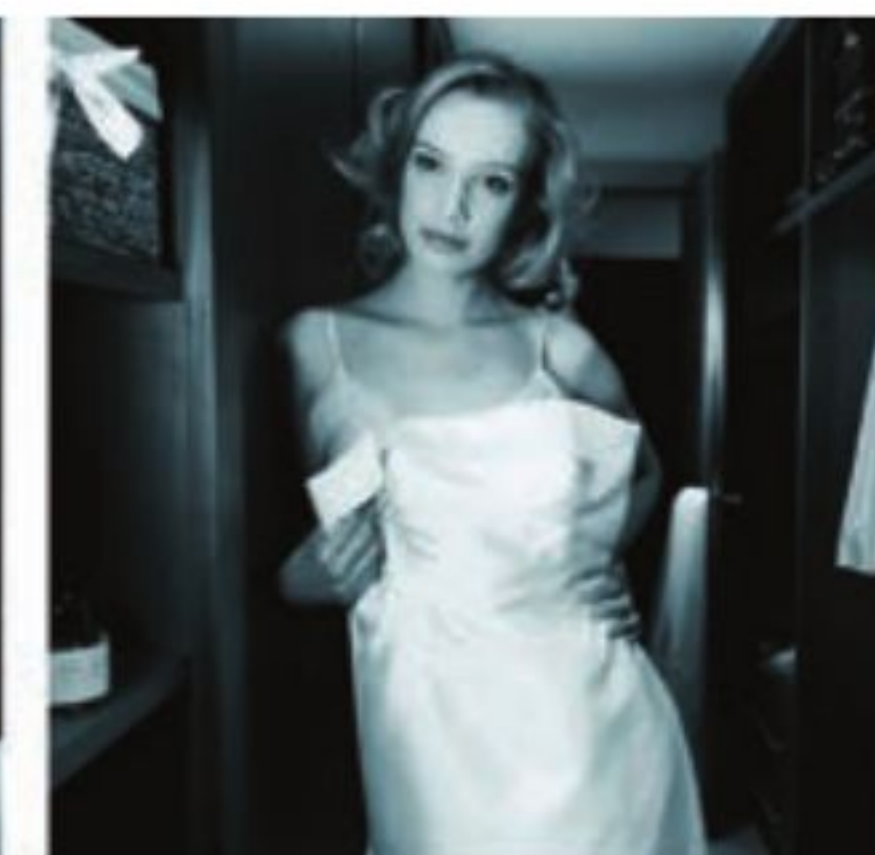
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Julia and Sam styled their day  
with a rustic vibe

*Images courtesy of Kenquartz  
Photography*



A chance meeting at a club in their hometown brought Julia and Sam together. Given Sam was wearing a fluorescent yellow t-shirt, Julia could hardly miss him! She says, "I kept noticing his cheeky smile, and mentioned to my friend that I liked him, so she asked for his number. We messaged back and forth for a few days, before he asked me to go on a date."

We rejoin their story eight years on, when Sam surprised Julia with the Christmas present to end all Christmas presents – a trip to New York. They arrived in the Big Apple in the following February, and began their first day exploring the city. Julia remembers, "We'd been walking around for quite some time when Sam, all of a sudden, dropped to one knee and asked me to marry him." It came as a total surprise to her, and certainly turned the trip into one the pair would remember forever.

Having attended weddings at various local venues over the years, Julia was keen to find somewhere different. Gildredge Manor had been suggested to her, so she took her mum along for a viewing. "I fell in love with it straight away. I felt that it really suited my style," she recalls. So, the date was set for 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

We found out more about the big day from the bride...

## SETTING THE SCENE

The couple settled on a rustic theme with a neutral colour palette, and the centrepieces reflected this beautifully. Log slices acted as the base for hessian-wrapped jars filled with dried lavender and gypsophila. The latter was used throughout the venue, including the ends of the ceremony chairs, and featured in the bride's bouquet. "I also chose blush pink roses and eucalyptus. My bridesmaids had the same, but on a smaller scale," Julia explains.

The bride designed the table plan, and sent it to an online supplier to be made. It featured Kraft card adorned with pearls, and the place names were the perfect complement. Each table was named after a tree species to fit the rustic theme.

A family friend made their incredible cake, with bark-effect icing and sugar flowers. The top tier was fruitcake, and the middle was flavoured with coffee and walnut, with a foundation layer of Julia's favourite – lemon.

A casual meal was on the agenda for the pair's guests. They served a barbecue buffet where friends and family could help themselves to as much or as little as they wanted. They were blessed with wonderful weather, so it suited the day perfectly. For dessert everyone enjoyed Eton mess and lemon pots.

## LOOKING THE PART

Julia looked stunning in her Stella York gown. She says, "I only tried on three or four dresses in total, as the one I chose felt so right. It had a racer back as I didn't want straps that would need adjusting, and the fitted style worked well with my body shape." Despite being adamant that she wouldn't have a veil her grandma persuaded her to try one on. "It complemented the dress so well, with subtle sequins around the edge," she says, having taken the decision to go with it. The groom wore a navy suit, with a slight tweed check, and his groomsmen were dressed to match. Sam stood out with a pale pink



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tie, which matched the bridesmaids' dresses, and the other gentlemen wore a mustard version to complement the lining of their suits. "My bridesmaids looked beautiful," Julia remembers. "The dresses were a lovely shade of pink in a fitted style and floaty at the back," she continues.

## TIME TO CELEBRATE

Guests used the venue's stunning grounds to their fullest throughout the day, and started an impromptu football match at one point. Julia remembers: "It was great to see both of our families coming together."

There was also a magician on hand to entertain nearest and dearest from early afternoon until the early evening. There were certainly plenty of amazed faces around as a result.

*"Take a moment to stand back  
and watch everybody enjoying  
themselves as the day just flies by  
so fast."*

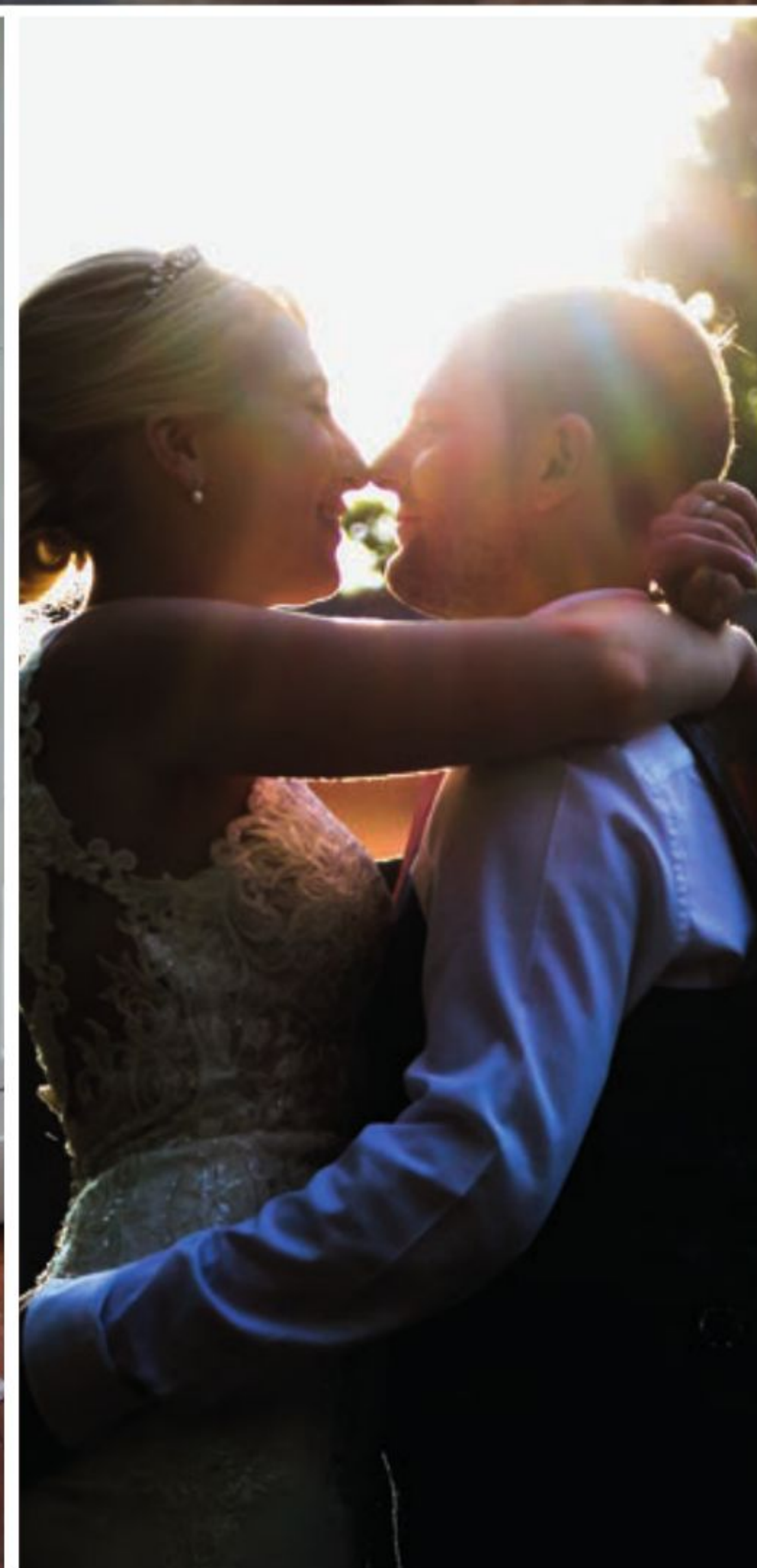
## MEMORABLE MOMENTS

For the bride, walking down the aisle to meet Sam was the highlight of the day. She recalls: "I felt completely relaxed throughout the morning, until suddenly I was told that I would be walking down the aisle in five minutes. That's when the nerves kicked in! I cried happy tears as I walked towards my handsome fiancé, surrounded by our family and friends."

"The day really couldn't have gone any better – there was so much laughter from everyone enjoying themselves. We both had family who had travelled a long way to be with us, and it was wonderful to see everybody together."







## JULIA AND SAM'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, Gildredge Manor, [gildredgemanor.co.uk](http://gildredgemanor.co.uk) | **Photographer**, Kenquartz Photography, [kenquartzphotography.co.uk](http://kenquartzphotography.co.uk) | **Bride's dress**, Fross Wedding Collections, [frossweddingcollections.co.uk](http://frossweddingcollections.co.uk) | **Make-up artist**, Lauren's Beautique, [laurensbeautique.co.uk](http://laurensbeautique.co.uk) | **Hair stylist**, J.L.S **Mobile Hairdressing**, [facebook.com/JLS-Mobile-Hairdressing-205451916706972](https://facebook.com/JLS-Mobile-Hairdressing-205451916706972) | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, ASOS, [asos.com](http://asos.com) | **Groom's suit**, Marc Darcy, [marcdarcy.co.uk](http://marcdarcy.co.uk) | **Flowers**, Pat's Flowers, [patsflowershailsham.com](http://patsflowershailsham.com) | **Entertainment**, Kevin Morton Magician, [kevinmortonmagician.co.uk](http://kevinmortonmagician.co.uk) | **Catering**, Green Fig Catering, [greenfigcateringcompany.com](http://greenfigcateringcompany.com)



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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 entourage 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*



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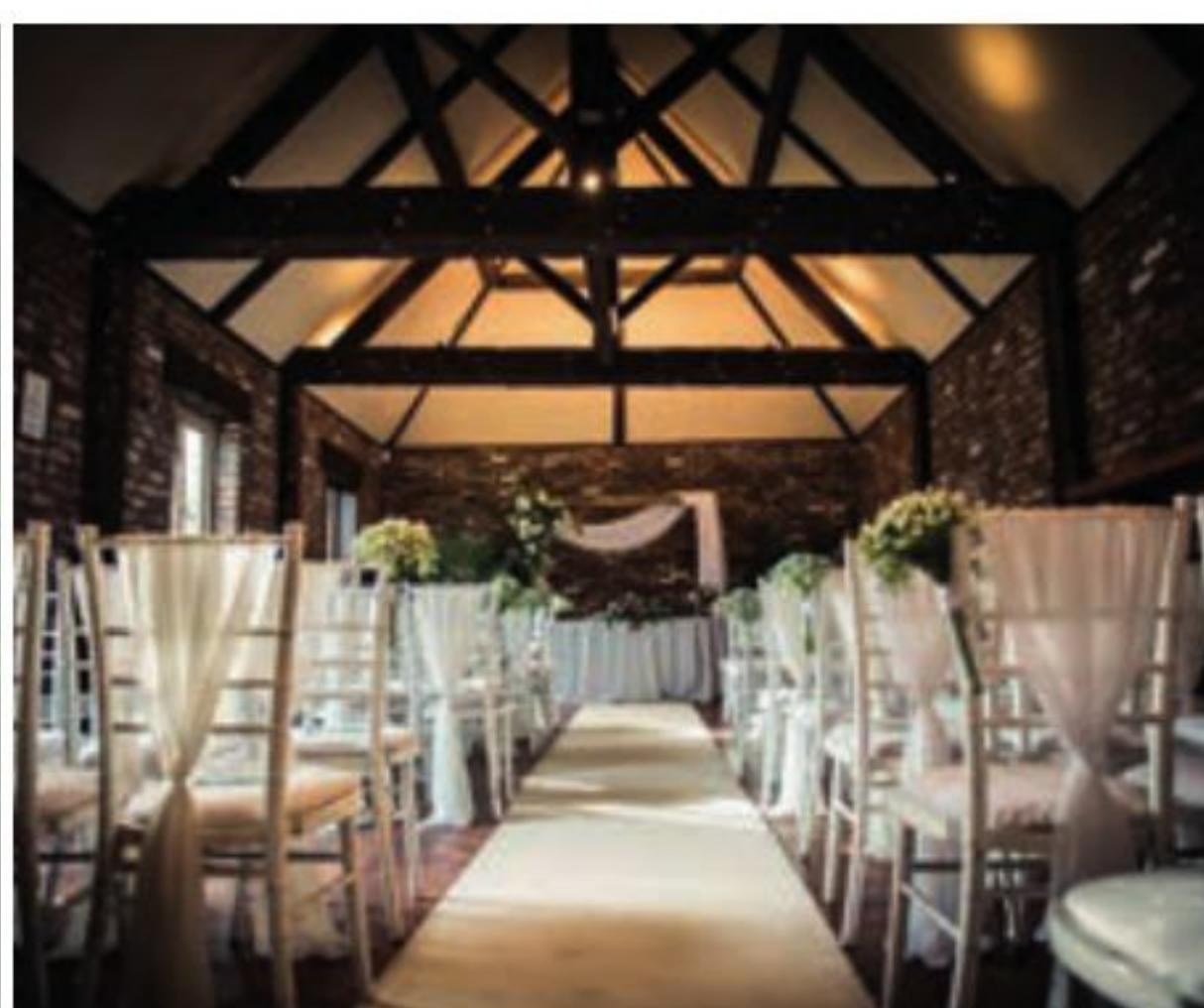
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What's not to love about a spring wedding? Flowers start to bloom, the air brings a new warmth, and the Easter bunny hops into action. So for us, it was love at first sight when we laid eyes on these images from Emma and Alex's blooming lovely wedding day at The Ravenswood. With a gorgeous palette of burgundy and blush, the styling exudes an air of oh-so chic country elegance.

Alex had proposed to Emma at her surprise 30<sup>th</sup> birthday party, just five days after receiving the happy news that they were expecting their first child. Emma says, "No one knew what he was planning to do, so our family and friends were as shocked as I was!"

Naturally, our curiosity was peaked so we caught up with the bride for the lowdown on the big day...



# Spring is in the air

Emma and Alex tied the knot at The Ravenswood on  
27<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

*Images courtesy of Chelsea Wedding Photography*





The moment we exchanged our vows is one we'll never forget. Our registrar was super-funny, which put us both at ease. Although she did pull me up on making a mistake in my vows, which made everyone giggle!



The bridesmaids wore two different gowns by Eternity Bridal to suit their body shapes.



Alex wore a tailored suit from Gresham Blake, as did his best man. He looked stunning in his farmer colours with flashes of burgundy. The groomsmen were dressed in navy three-piece suits.



The Ravenswood offered everything in one space. The gardens were stunning and filled with photo opportunities. The main hall, where we said "I do," was beautiful with its grand staircase and fireplace.



I wasn't expecting to like the silhouette of a fit and flare, however when I tried on my Mori Lee dress, I fell in love with it straight away. I accessorised with a cathedral-length veil.





Our table plan was written on a gorgeous mirror.



Our venue stylist, Mulberry Events, added blossom trees to the venue, which looked gorgeous.



Alex's speech took everyone on a rollercoaster of emotion.



We opted for a four-tier cake as we couldn't decide which flavours we wanted, so we had all of them! We also asked Nicola to add some floral finishing touches to the cake, and it turned out beautifully.



REAL WEDDINGS



I made chocolate tractors as favours for our guests, which were a nod to my new husband's job. They were labelled, so doubled up as place names.



Our centrepieces were made up of three glasses containing flowers to complement our colour palette. My friend, Nicola, did an amazing job with all of the flowers, I was so pleased with everything.



Alex managed to hire a tractor, much bigger than any we have, to take him to the venue. Our photographer captured some great shots of us with it.





Our guests had a choice of two starters, and two main courses. All of the food provided by The Ravenswood was amazing.



Some friends of ours sung our first dance song, which made the moment all the more amazing. Everyone loved them and they also performed a set during the drinks reception. The photo booth was a great hit with guests too.



## EMMA & ALEX'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

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# MODERN *chic*

Amy and Daryl styled their day in a palette of dusky pink, cream and silver  
*Images courtesy of Debbie Sanderson Photography*

Teenage sweethearts, Amy and Daryl met at the local chippy. Amy remembers, "I wasn't that interested at first, Daryl did all of the hard work!" Of course, Amy came around eventually, and after six years together Daryl proposed while the pair were out for a meal in Covent Garden celebrating Amy's birthday.

Soon, they were looking at wedding venues and found themselves attracted to Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Club. Amy explains, "Daryl loves golf and one of the main reasons we chose this venue was the fact that we could host our whole day under one roof. Plus, there were plenty of rooms available for guests, and we both felt incredibly welcome from the moment we set foot inside for our initial viewing."

We caught up with Amy to find out more about their beautiful wedding day on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2019...







*I made our favours myself, which were alcoholic shots in small jam jars tied with a dusky pink bow around the neck to reflect the colour palette. I added a rose gold shimmer to the shot, which made it tie in nicely too.*



*I bought a mirror and ordered some vinyl from Etsy to stick on. It was a simple table plan design, but effective. It was presented on an easel to suit the modern theme.*



*We had eight tables so we opted for four tall vases and four small vases filled with fresh flowers. They were placed on mirrored plates and surrounded by tea lights.*



*The bouquets, buttonholes and centrepieces were all made from cappuccino roses, gypsophila, lisianthus and carnations in a palette of dusky pink and cream.*



*Our cake had three tiers with the top and bottom decorated in a ruffle effect ivory icing. We chose cherry bakewell, mint chocolate and lemon flavours.*



*The table numbers were crafted from silver plastic and placed amongst the floral centrepieces. Our place names were written on ivory card, along with our names and wedding date with a little white pearl embellishment.*





*We chose chiavari chairs, decorated with blush pink linen sashes, as well as a starlight backdrop behind the top table. The windows were draped, and uplighters were placed around the space creating romantic atmosphere.*



*My dress was an ivory fit and flare by Essense of Australia, I felt like an elegant bride as soon as I tried it on. Originally I wanted an A-line style, but the silhouette didn't suit me. I accessorised with a Swarovski crystal-embellished veil.*



*Daryl wore his own brown and grey check suit, which set him apart from his groomsmen. It was originally from asos.*



*My bridesmaids looked beautiful in long-length pleated dresses in dusty pink from TFNC.*



*The groomsmen were dressed in classic mid-grey suits, paired with light grey waistcoats and dusky pink ties.*



*We hired a photo booth from Prop and Snap, and a DJ entertained our guests in the evening.*





*We experienced a rollercoaster of emotions on the day – scared, excited, nervous, overwhelmed, the list goes on!*



*The best man's speech was unexpected as he got out his guitar and sang for us.*



*All of our suppliers went above and beyond, and our photographer made capturing our wedding memories a lot of fun, especially given the weather conditions.*



*You can't please everyone, so do what's best for the both of you. Try not to overthink the small details.*



*Walk amongst the tables during dinner and speak to your guests, as well as making sure you get some time alone, just the two of you. It's not a lie when people say the day flies by!*



## AMY AND DARYL'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, Dale Hill Hotel & Golf Club, [dalehill.co.uk](http://dalehill.co.uk) | **Photography**, Debbie Sanderson Wedding Photography, [debbiesandersonweddingphotography.co.uk](http://debbiesandersonweddingphotography.co.uk) | **Bride's dress and accessories**, Champagne & Confetti, [champagneandconfetti.co.uk](http://champagneandconfetti.co.uk) | **Hair and make-up**, Grace Benson Makeup, [gracebensonmakeup.com](http://gracebensonmakeup.com) | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, TFNC, [tfnclondon.com](http://tfnclondon.com) | **Cake**, Dee's Creative Cakes, [deescreativecakes.co.uk](http://deescreativecakes.co.uk) | **Flowers**, Fleur de Lynn Designer Florist, [fleurdelynn.co.uk](http://fleurdelynn.co.uk) | **Entertainment**, Sussex DJ Company, [facebook.com/sussexdjcompany](http://facebook.com/sussexdjcompany) | **Photo booth**, Prop & Snap, [propandsnap.co.uk](http://propandsnap.co.uk) | **Venue styling**, Bows Hire, [bowshire.co.uk](http://bowshire.co.uk) | **Videography**, Dale Rook Films, [facebook.com/DaleRookFilms](http://facebook.com/DaleRookFilms)



A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit and a red hat, is playing a red electric guitar and singing into a microphone. The background is dark with some green and blue stage lighting.

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# ABOVE THE *clouds*

Joanna and Liam's wedding theme was a natural choice given they'd travelled the globe to visit hot air balloon festivals, including the capital of ballooning – Albuquerque, U.S.A

*Images courtesy of Amanda Lucas Photography*

As many do, Joanna and Liam met through a mutual friend. It wasn't until five years after this first meeting at a 17<sup>th</sup> birthday barbecue though, that they got back in touch again. Theirs is a beautiful tale of a friendship that developed into much more as they learned about each other, and shared common interests, as well as a similar sense of humour.

Liam proposed in May 2016. Jo remembers, "We went for a picnic together in Friston Forest. He told me to close my eyes and when I opened them again he was down on one knee, telling me that he wanted to be with me forever!" Naturally, Jo gleefully accepted his proposal, and there the pair sat, overlooking the Litlington White Horse, watching the paragliders soar past as they soaked in the moment.

The couple shortlisted Northease Manor from a selection of venues they'd seen online. Jo explains, "We were looking for somewhere local where we could host the whole day. We loved its setting, the grounds, the thatched Tudor barn, the manor house, and the rugby pitch allowing us to have a hot balloon!"

We were super-excited about this wedding day as soon as we laid eyes on the couple's incredible photos, and caught up with the bride to hear her memories of 1st June, 2019...



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My hair was amazing – a true Rapunzel style mermaid braid with fresh flowers.

The groom was dressed in a dark navy suit, with a grey tweed waistcoat. He paired this with a champagne coloured tie and pocket square. He wore a vanda orchid buttonhole making him stand out from the groomsmen.



The chairs were covered in ribbons. We also had ribbon bunting, fairy lights, uplighters, foliage on the beams, and a handmade cork bar sign. I made all the signage, guestbook, reserved ceremony seating labels, and order of service fans.

The ceiling in the barn was covered in coordinating paper lanterns, which Mum and myself made. Each had a woven basket attached to give the illusion of a hot air balloon in the sky.



I wore a Martina Liana gown, style number 984. It was an A-line dress with beading in champagne. I accessorised with a necklace, which had silver orchids on the chain and a blue pendant, to serve as my something blue.







Our favours were little fabric pouches in various colours to complement our palette, which contained Californian poppy seeds from our garden.



REAL WEDDINGS

Katie, my maid-of-honour, and Sophie, my bridesmaid, wore tulle maxi skirts and cream tops in two tones of pink and lilac with vibrant bouquets and flowers in their hair. Tilly, my goddaughter and flowergirl wore a coral dress.



We had a round table plan with pegs and string. It was decorated with a flower wreath and a hanging basket to give the impression of a hot air balloon.

I had a gorgeous shower bouquet full of textures and the buttonholes were all shaped with various flowers and colours to match the groomsmen's ties and socks. The ladies had corsages and the flowergirl carried a small hoop.



Our tables were all named after the places we've travelled to together. The top table was Dominican Republic (our honeymoon destination). There was also Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Albuquerque, Venice, Verona, Jamaica and Paris.

We made our hot air balloon centrepieces by hand from paper maché, painted in colours from our palette and a flower basket of trailing blooms. Little flags displaying the country table name were sewn in.



I was a florist in the past and chose my floristry tutor to create our wedding blooms. I gave her a brief of vibrant deep hues to contrast with the pastels, along with a list of my favourite flowers including Black Magic vanda orchids, hydrangeas, roses, hypericum berries, trailing amaranthus, peonies, veronica, astilbe, and clematis.







We had a four-tier cake in various flavours, covered with buttercream in hues to suit the theme. It was topped with a hot air balloon, which read "Mr and Mrs Bailey."



The ceilidh dancing was also so much fun, it was great to see all the guests enjoying themselves!

We got to walk inside the balloon envelope as it was being inflated, which was incredible. But, climbing in and out of the balloon basket wasn't an easy task in my big dress. We were so fortunate with the weather, which made the balloon possible. We hadn't told many about it in case it didn't happen.



We decorated the tables with laser-cut place names and menus. The bridesmaids, groomsmen and our parents also had personalised hot air balloon biscuits.



We started with canapés at the drinks reception and later sat down to a three-course meal of chicken roast. In the evening we served a hot roast finished with chocolate-covered strawberries and cake.



Liam travelled to the venue in a Mercedes with his best man. Me, the maids, and my parents arrived in a cream VW Campervan, which was a dream come true!



## JOANNA AND LIAM'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, Northease Manor, [circacirca.com/venue/northease-manor](http://circacirca.com/venue/northease-manor) | **Photographer**, Amanda Lucas Photography, [amandalucas.co.uk](http://amandalucas.co.uk) | **Bride's dress and veil**, Isabella Grace Bridal, [isabellagracedbridal.com](http://isabellagracedbridal.com) | **Alterations**, Miss Kay Seamstress, [misskayseamstress.co.uk](http://misskayseamstress.co.uk) | **Bride's accessories**, Etsy, [etsy.com](http://etsy.com) | **Hair and make-up**, Makeover Box, [makeover-box.co.uk](http://makeover-box.co.uk) | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, ASOS, [asos.com](http://asos.com) | **Groom's suit**, Moss Bros, [moss.co.uk](http://moss.co.uk) | **Groom's and groomsmen's accessories**, Swagger and Swoon, [swaggerandswoon.com](http://swaggerandswoon.com) | **Cake**, The Purple Whisk, [facebook.com/thepurplewhiskhorsebridge](http://facebook.com/thepurplewhiskhorsebridge) | **Cake stand**, The Duchy Box Company, [theduchyboxcompany.uk](http://theduchyboxcompany.uk) | **Biscuit favours**, The Biscuiterie, [thebiscuiterie.co.uk](http://thebiscuiterie.co.uk) | **Flowers**, Fern Cottage Floristry, [ferncottagefloristry.com](http://ferncottagefloristry.com) | **Transport**, Bridal Bug Weddings, [bridalbugweddings.co.uk](http://bridalbugweddings.co.uk) | **Entertainment**, Licence to Ceilidh, [licencetoceilidh.co.uk](http://licencetoceilidh.co.uk) | **Catering**, Circa Events, [circacirca.com](http://circacirca.com) | **Venue styling**, Colour Pop Occasions, [colourpopoccasions.com](http://colourpopoccasions.com) | **Wedding rings**, Bryony Bespoke Jewellery, [bryony-bespoke.com](http://bryony-bespoke.com) | **Confetti**, Shropshire Petals, [shropshirepetals.com](http://shropshirepetals.com)



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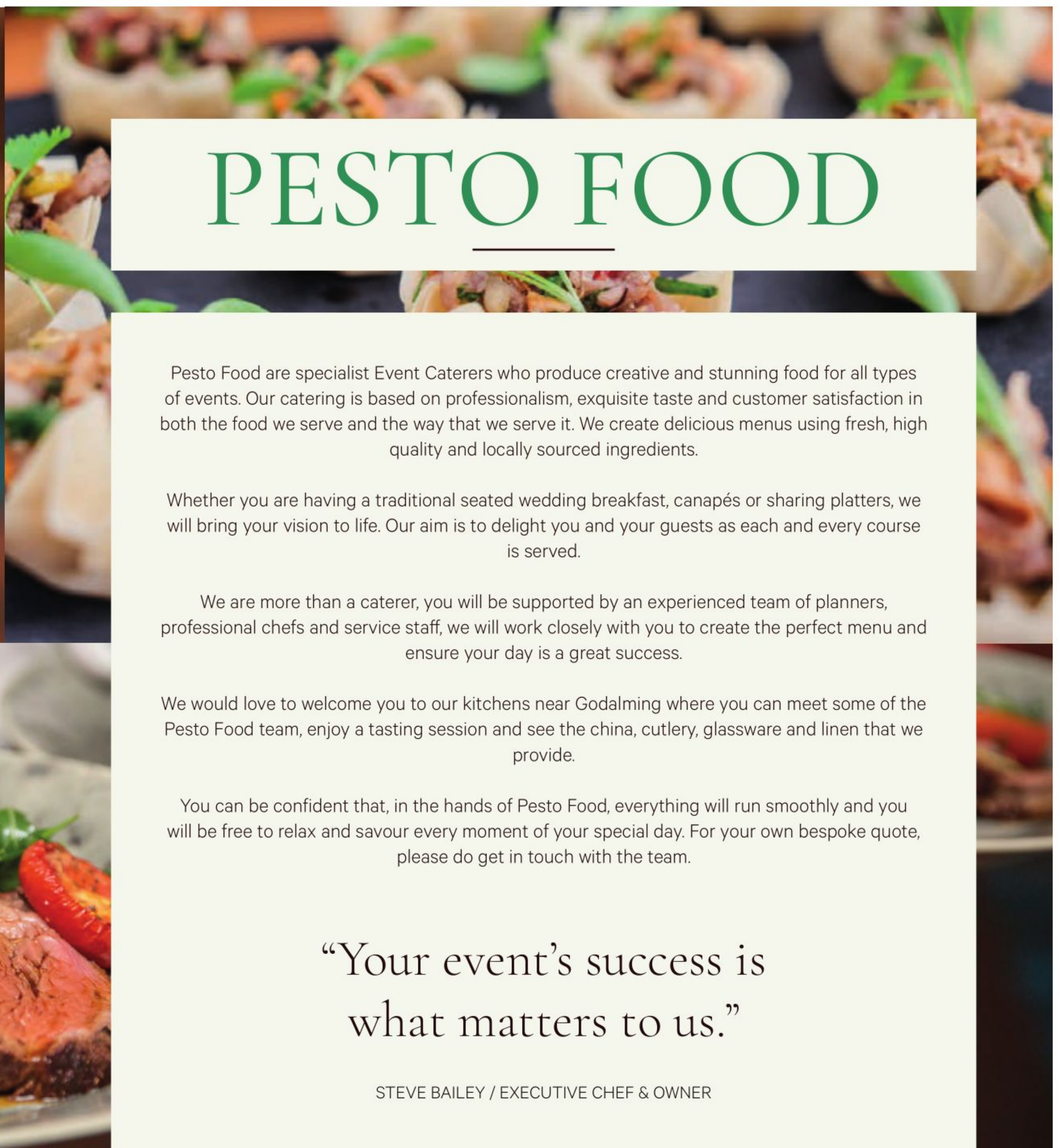
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# Gorgeous GLAMPING

Check out this fun-filled boho evening wedding party at Wickerwood Farm  
*Images courtesy of Elena Popa*

How decadent would it feel to be glamping amongst beautiful surroundings, wrapped in a blanket, drink in hand? Pretty darn good we'd expect! Shoot coordinator Elise Mongardi of Beneath the Canopy took this idea as her inspiration and ran with it to create an outdoor fine-dining scene that proves sitting down to a glorious feast doesn't have to involve four walls.

She explains, "Festival-style

weddings are what we do here at Beneath the Canopy. While many of the images were captured during the day, I also wanted to showcase the beautiful things that can happen after dark. There's something about festoon lighting, fairy lights and firepits that creates such a magical atmosphere."

We hope you love this fabulous juxtaposition of a natural setting with sumptuous dining as much as we do.









### THE TALENTED SUPPLIERS

**Venue and styling**, Wickerwood Farm, [wickerwoodfarm.com](http://wickerwoodfarm.com) | **Photographer**, Elena Popa, [elenapopa.com](http://elenapopa.com) | **Furniture, prop hire and styling assistant**, The Toast, [thetoast.co.uk](http://thetoast.co.uk) | **Dresses**, Poppy Perspective, [poppyerspective.com](http://poppyerspective.com) | **Accessories**, Rosehip & Wren, [rosehipandwren.com](http://rosehipandwren.com) | **Hair stylist**, Simply Beautiful Wedding Hair, [simplybeautifulweddinghair.co.uk](http://simplybeautifulweddinghair.co.uk) | **Suit**, Dickies Menswear Eastbourne, [dickiesmenswear.co.uk](http://dickiesmenswear.co.uk) | **Flowers**, The Wild Flower Box, [thewildflowerbox.co.uk](http://thewildflowerbox.co.uk) | **Catering**, Boxed Weddings, [boxed-weddings.co.uk](http://boxed-weddings.co.uk) | **Festoon lighting and tent uplighters**, Lighting With Intent, [lighting-with-intent.com](http://lighting-with-intent.com) | **Table and glassware**, Place Settings Event Hire, [placesettingseventhire.com](http://placesettingseventhire.com) | **Umbrellas**, hay bale covers and blankets, The Brolly Bucket, [brollybucket.co.uk](http://brollybucket.co.uk) | **Bride model**, Amie Hampshire-Gill





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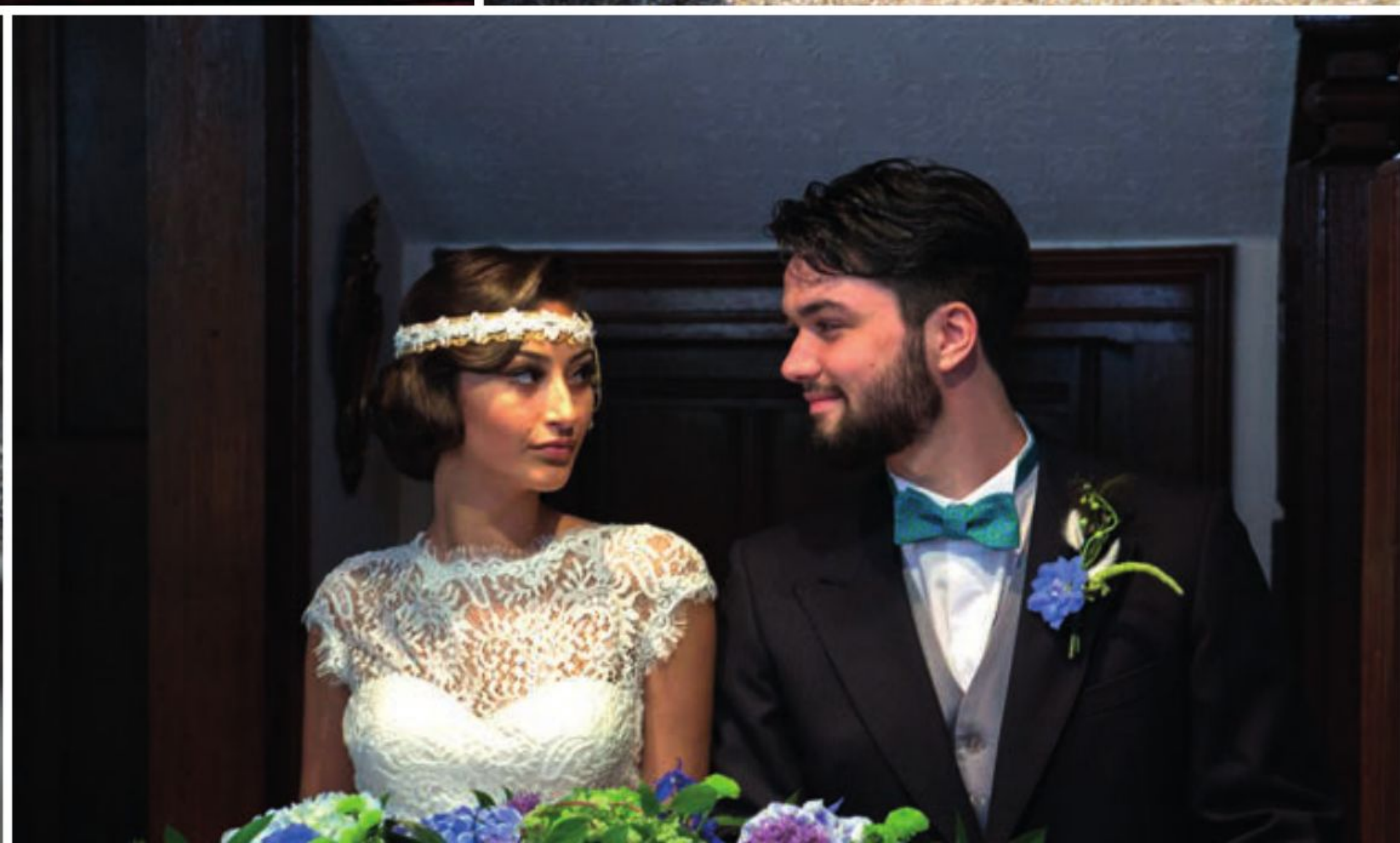
# A FINE VINTAGE

A 16<sup>th</sup>-century venue provided the location for this 1920s inspired shoot with 21<sup>st</sup>-century influences  
*Images courtesy of BN1 Portraits, Sadie Avar and J&I Photography*

Classic cars, Art Deco design, lace boots, and kitsch cushions all had their own influence on this vintage shoot. "We set out to capture the excess of the 1920s adding our own modern twist," says shoot coordinator Mandy Young of Ritz and Sass.

Achieving a look that takes its influences from the past and present relies on attention to detail and this team left no stone unturned. The deft pairing of Art Deco motifs with an of-the-moment colour palette brings the 1920s and 2020s into perfect harmony to create a stunning big-day style.









REGIONAL SHOOT



#### THE DREAM TEAM

**Venue**, Great Ote Hall, [greatotehall.co.uk](http://greatotehall.co.uk) | **Photographers**, Sadie Avar, [sadiepatriciaavard.wixsite.com/sadiepatricia](http://sadiepatriciaavard.wixsite.com/sadiepatricia) | Sam Elfer at BN1 Portraits, [bn1portraits.com](http://bn1portraits.com) | Inger Sanders at J & I Photography, [jiphotographyforalluk.com](http://jiphotographyforalluk.com) | **Dresses**, Bella May Bridal, [bella-may-bridal.co.uk](http://bella-may-bridal.co.uk) | **Accessories**, Ritz and Sass, [instagram.com/ritzandsass](http://instagram.com/ritzandsass) | **Hair stylist**, Gavin Harvie Hair, [gavinharviehair.com](http://gavinharviehair.com) | **Make-up artist**, Make up with Chelsea, [instagram.com/makeupwithchelsea](http://instagram.com/makeupwithchelsea) | **Suits**, Coles of Uckfield, [coles-menswear.co.uk](http://coles-menswear.co.uk) | **Bow ties**, Lewes Bow Ties, [lewesbowties.com](http://lewesbowties.com) | **Cake**, Clare's Cake Boutique, [clarescakeboutique.co.uk](http://clarescakeboutique.co.uk) | **Flowers**, Chirpee Flowers, [chirpee.net](http://chirpee.net) | **Transport**, Sussex Vintage Wedding Cars, [sussexvintageweddingcars.co.uk](http://sussexvintageweddingcars.co.uk) | **Stationery**, The Wedding Print Shop, [theweddingprintshop.co.uk](http://theweddingprintshop.co.uk) | **Boots**, House of Elliot, [houseofelliotcollection.com](http://houseofelliotcollection.com) | **Cushions**, Sublime Vintage, [sublimevintage.co.uk](http://sublimevintage.co.uk) | **Wedding rings**, Annika Rutlin, [annikarutlin.com](http://annikarutlin.com) | **Dove release**, Sussex Dove Release, [sussexdoverelease.co.uk](http://sussexdoverelease.co.uk) | **Models**, Ruby Dademo, [instagram.com/rubydadero](http://instagram.com/rubydadero) | Savva Pistolas, [instagram.com/savvapistolas](http://instagram.com/savvapistolas)



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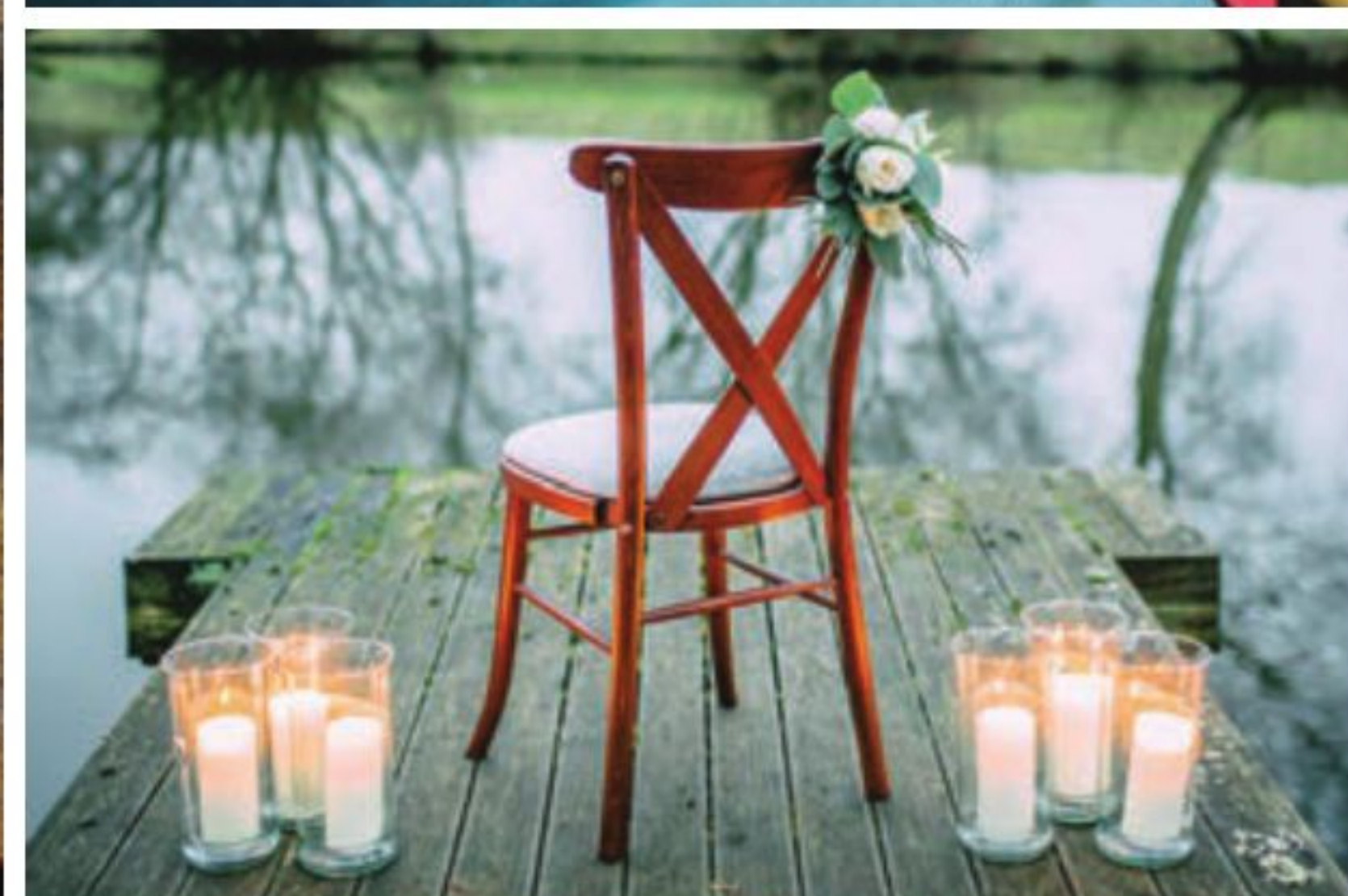
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# A CALM

# chaos

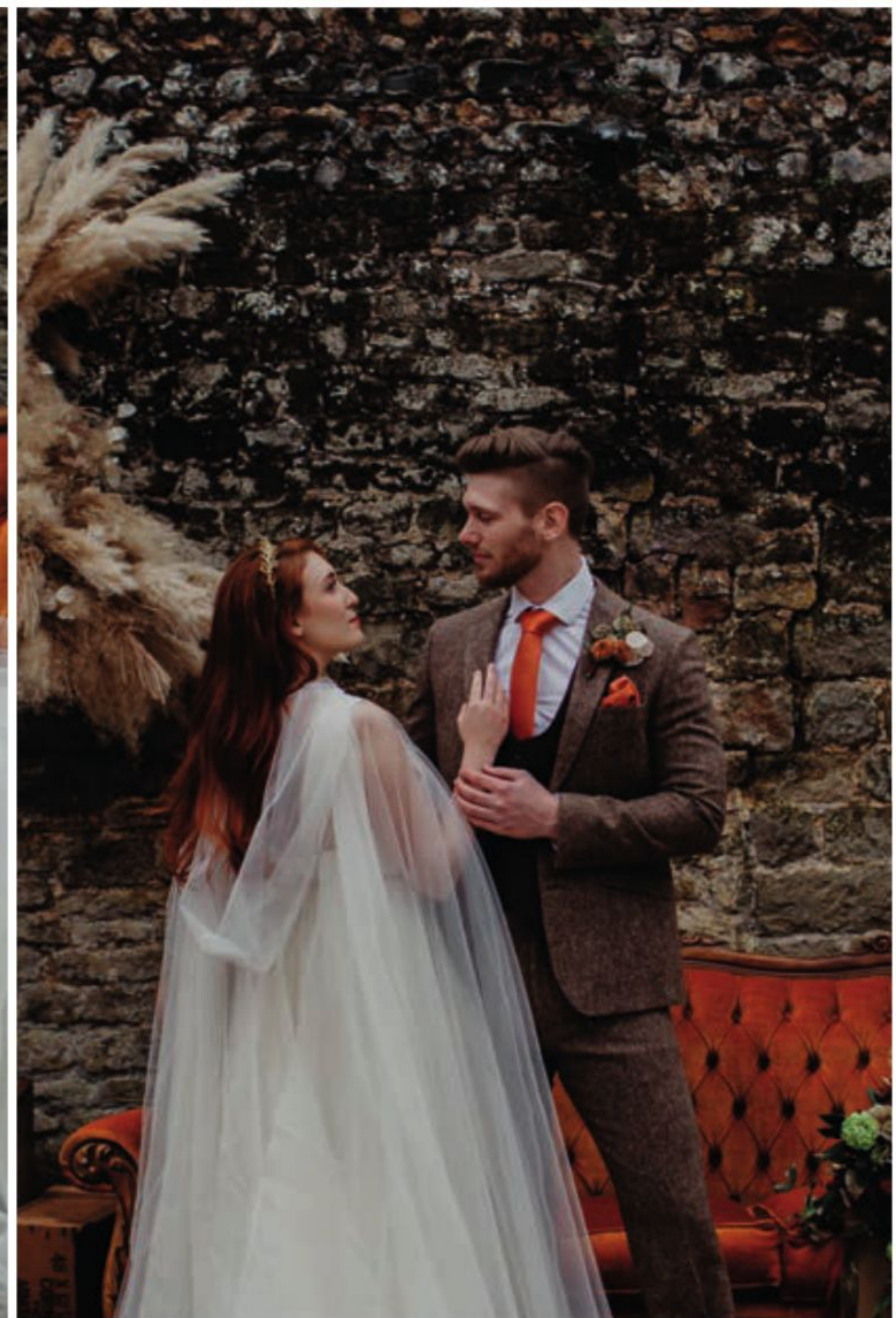
We love this majestic and earthy shoot featuring stunning transparent capes and untamed florals

*Images courtesy of Olivejoy Photography*

The two hundred-year-old stables and coach house at Bignor Park provided the stunning backdrop for this wistful elopement shoot. With a brooding, ethereal vibe, it has undertones of a Brontë-style period drama. Gorgeous contemporary styling paired with timeless bridalwear from Leanne Marshall's collection; create a look that's both striking and utterly feminine.

Shoot coordinator, Nikki Lamb of The Toast, says, "The colour palette was key. A base of soft earthy calming tones woven throughout the flowers, cake design, naturally-dyed linens and silks, along with the stone and pottery tableware meant that pops of bright burnt orange and saffron yellow injected by key objects provided a stunning richness and startling contrast."









### THE DREAM TEAM

**Venue**, Bignor Park, [bignorpark.co.uk](http://bignorpark.co.uk) | **Photographer**, Olivejoy Photography, [olivejoyphotography.co.uk](http://olivejoyphotography.co.uk) | **Concept, styling and props**, The Toast, [thetoast.co.uk](http://thetoast.co.uk) | **Stylist assistant**, Annie Fern, [anniefern.co.uk](http://anniefern.co.uk) | **Cake**, The Beachside Bakery, [instagram.com/thebeachsidebakery](http://instagram.com/thebeachsidebakery) | **Floral design**, Tigers to Lilies, [tigerstolilies.co.uk](http://tigerstolilies.co.uk) | **Flower supplier**, Atlas Flowers, [atlasflowers.co.uk](http://atlasflowers.co.uk) | **Table fabrics, napkins and ribbons**, The Natural Dye Works, [instagram.com/thenaturaldyeworks](http://instagram.com/thenaturaldyeworks) | **Bride's dress**, Rock The Frock Bridal, [rockthefrockbridal.co.uk](http://rockthefrockbridal.co.uk) | **Bridal capes**, Britten Weddings, [brittenweddings.com](http://brittenweddings.com) | **Accessories**, What Katy Did Next, [what-katy-did-next.co.uk](http://what-katy-did-next.co.uk) | **Hair and make-up**, Frances Moore MUA, [francesmooremua.co.uk](http://francesmooremua.co.uk) | **Groom's suit**, Menswearr, [menswearr.com](http://menswearr.com) | **Chairs**, Coordination Catering, [co-ordination.net](http://co-ordination.net) | **Crockery**, Zara Home, [zarahome.com](http://zarahome.com) | **Perspex plinths**, Fabricate, [fabricate-decor.co.uk](http://fabricate-decor.co.uk) | **Confetti**, Bubble and Berry, [bubbleandberry.com](http://bubbleandberry.com) | **Furniture**, Okehurst Design, [okehurstdesign.co.uk](http://okehurstdesign.co.uk) | **Stationery**, In The Details Design, [inthedetailsdesign.co.uk](http://inthedetailsdesign.co.uk) | **Etched glass place names**, Vinegar and Brown Paper, [vinegarandbrownpaper.co.uk](http://vinegarandbrownpaper.co.uk) | **Dove release**, Lovey Dovey, [loveydoveyuk.com](http://loveydoveyuk.com) | **Models**, Bethany Ash, [instagram.com/bethanyash](http://instagram.com/bethanyash) | Amy Wilde, [instagram.com/\\_amywilde\\_](http://instagram.com/_amywilde_) | Matthew Roberts, [instagram.com/matthewrobertsmodel](http://instagram.com/matthewrobertsmodel)



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# Floral fiesta

We quizzed the county's florists on blooms to suit some of the top wedding colour palettes

◀ "Large cream and white flowers such as the Café au Lait dahlia make a great statement, with just a hint of dusky pink and plenty of trailing eucalyptus," says Sam of The Crazy Daisy Company, [f @thecrazydaisycompany](#)



murrayclarke.co.uk



instagram.com/victoriajklamburn

▲ What better way to reflect a couple's romance-inspired theme than with soft pinks and white? Bella of Arabella Floral ([arabellafloral.com](#)) explains, "Not only did they choose blooms that had sentimental value to them, but they also wanted their arrangements to smell amazing. So, we included scented favourites like David Austin's Keira roses, O'Hara roses, sweet peas, freesias and mint."

**PALE AND INTERESTING**



▲ Annabel of Butterflies and Bows ([butterfliesandbows.co.uk](#)) says, "Lovely lilac roses and white lisianthus paired with greenery create a simple yet effective bouquet."

◀ What a way to make an entrance! "Soft peach, pink and cream meadow-style blooms made for an elegant aisle, with just a hint of burgundy to add interest," says Sam of The Crazy Daisy Company



mundialphoto.co.uk

sungblue.co.uk



◀ This pastel colour scheme was created by Chirpee Flowers ([chirpee.net](#)) to coordinate with the bridesmaids' mint and pink dresses. Pale pink open peonies contrast with accents in a deeper shade to lift the palette, while white dahlias and sweet peas add another accent alongside touches of wild oregano.





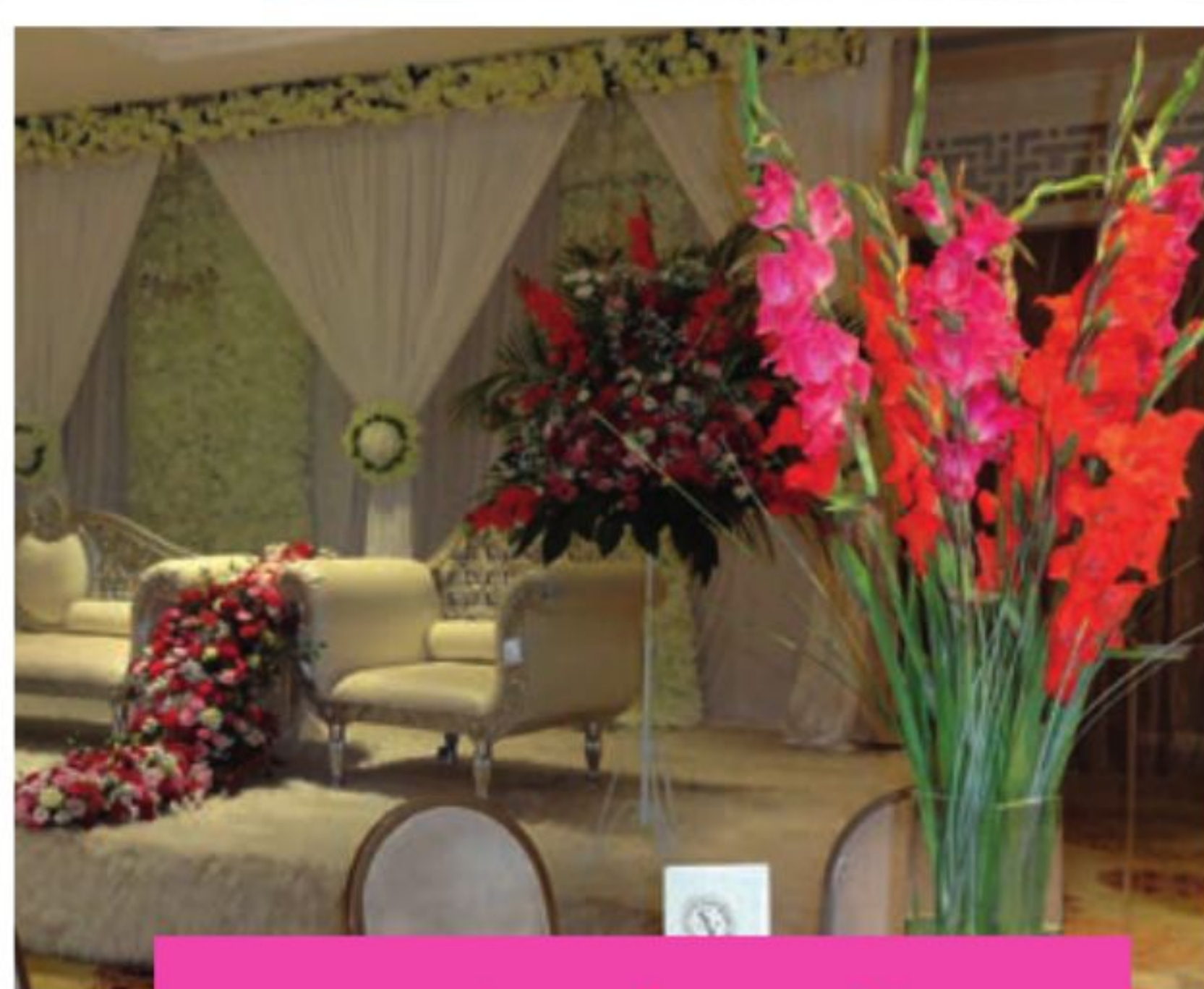
◀ The palette Bella of Arabella Floral ([arabellafloral.com](http://arabellafloral.com)) used for this gorgeous bouquet and flower crown stemmed from the bride's red lipstick. "She wanted bold and bright colours mixed with softer pinks, peaches and white with a real boho feel," she explains.

◀ This opulent jewel-tone bouquet by The Crazy Daisy Company features a strong pink, plus purple and lilac with a hint of eucalyptus to soften.

[instagram.com/hmc\\_j\\_photo](https://www.instagram.com/hmc_j_photo)



▲ The Crazy Daisy Company ([@thecrazydaisycompany](https://www.facebook.com/thecrazydaisycompany)) gathered a meadow of bright blues and yellows to complement the couple's big-day theme and relaxed style.



▲ Here, Butterflies and Bows ([butterfliesandbows.co.uk](http://butterfliesandbows.co.uk)) combined vibrant hues of orange and red to brighten this neutrally decorated space.



▲ Annabel of Butterflies and Bows says, "Red roses are fantastic on their own with a bit of greenery for a really bold and beautiful bouquet."



## ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

◀ The riot of colour that draws the eye to this bouquet began with sunflowers, which Chirpee Flowers ([chirpee.net](http://chirpee.net)) then developed using contrasting hue harmonies from opposite sides of the colour wheel.





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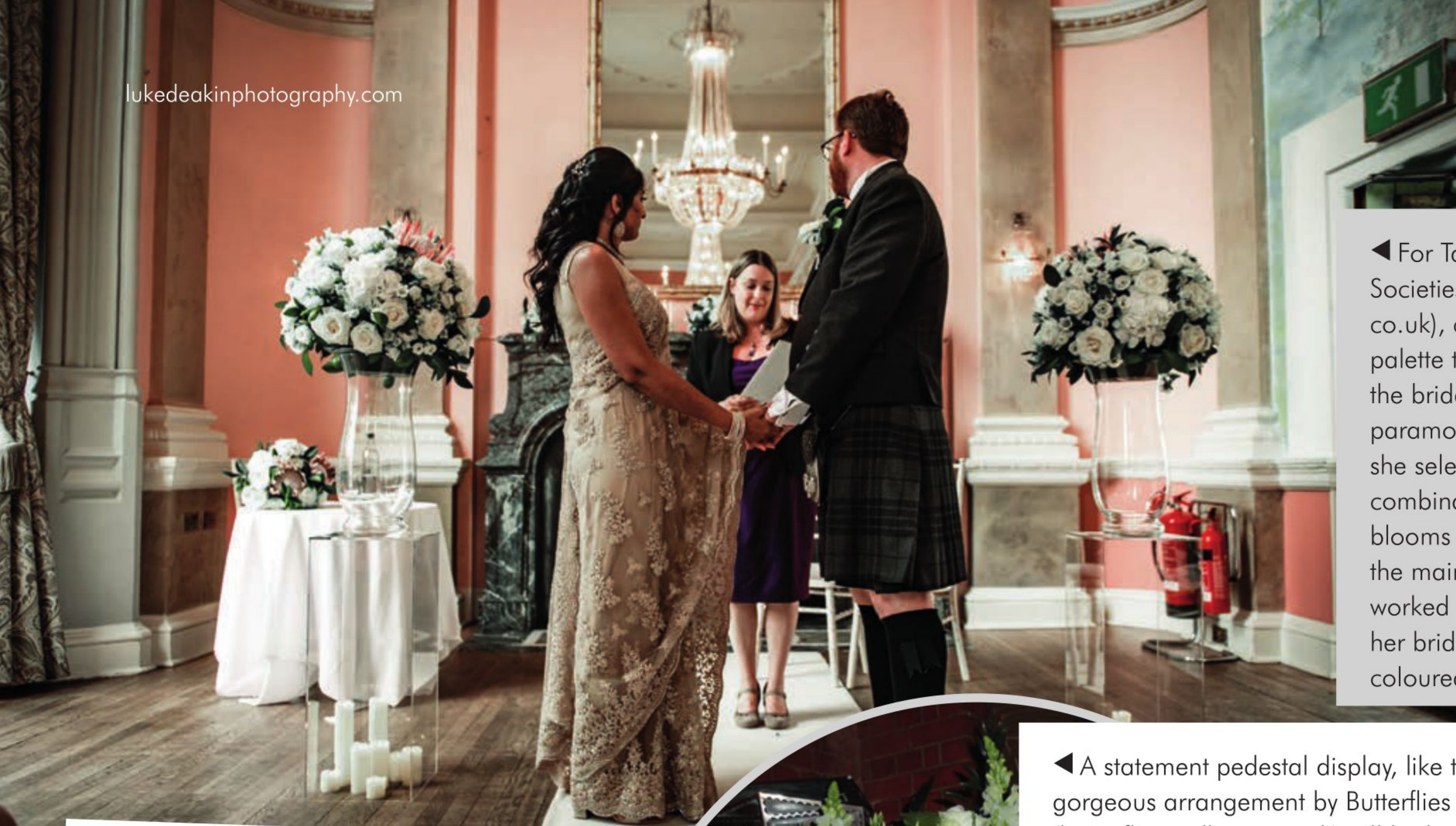


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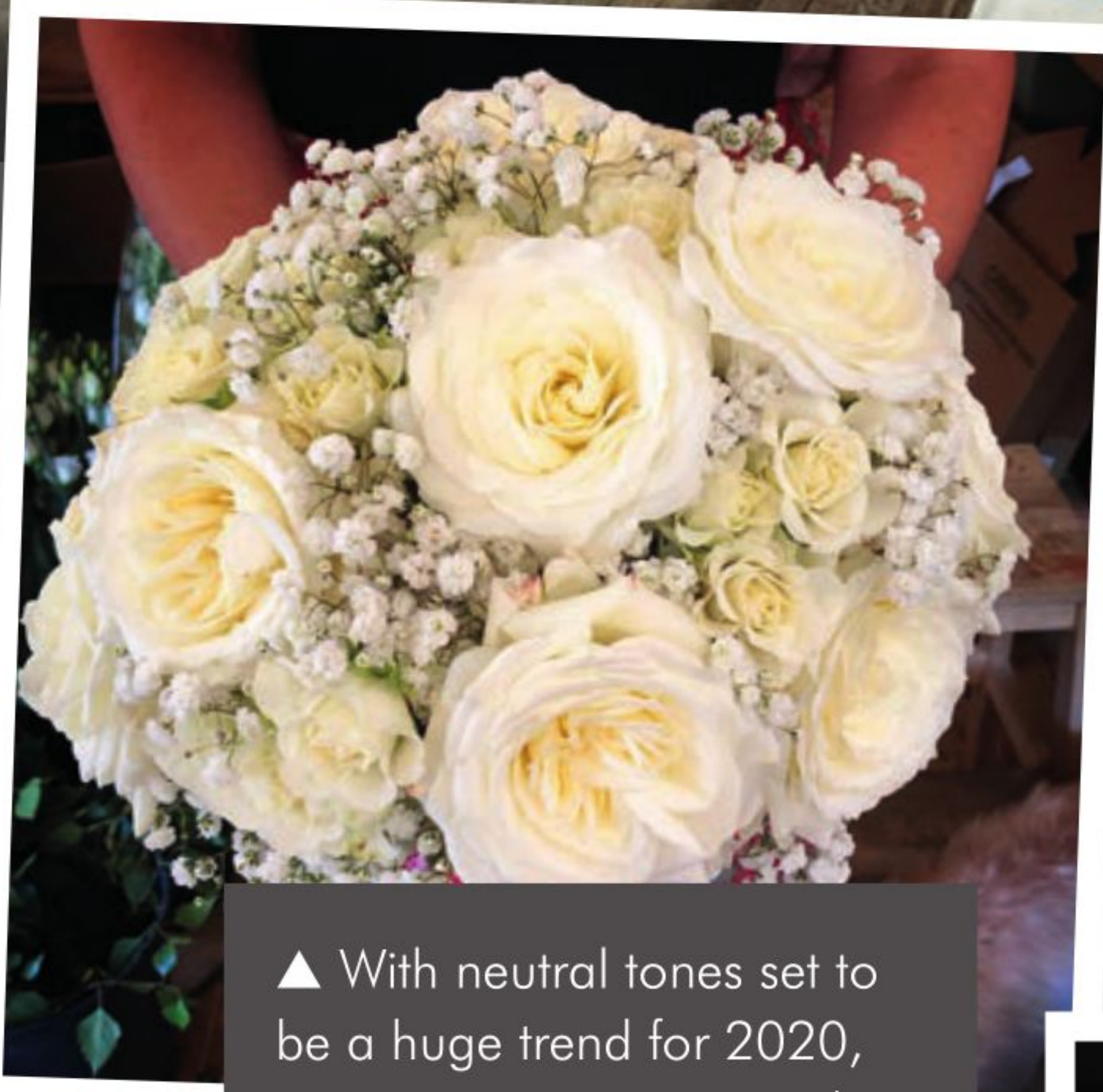


[www.lydiedalton.co.uk](http://www.lydiedalton.co.uk)





◀ For Tania of Hire Societies ([hiresocieties.co.uk](http://hiresocieties.co.uk)), choosing a palette to complement the bridalwear is paramount. Here, she selected a chic combination of white blooms with a protea as the main flower, which worked beautifully with her bride's champagne-coloured gown.



▲ With neutral tones set to be a huge trend for 2020, we're expecting to see a lot of bouquets like this stunning version by Arabella Floral ([arabellaflora.co.uk](http://arabellaflora.co.uk)) featuring divine alabaster roses, snowflake spray roses and gypsophila.



◀ A statement pedestal display, like this gorgeous arrangement by Butterflies and Bows ([butterfliesandbows.co.uk](http://butterfliesandbows.co.uk)) will look stunning at a church ceremony. Don't forget to take it to your reception venue where it can continue to wow guests at the cake table or entrance.



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

▲ For neutral palettes, hydrangeas and scented garden roses are the perfect choice. They're the stars of the show here, coupled with trailing ivy and ruscus. We love this top table arrangement by The Crazy Daisy Company.



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

▲ The Crazy Daisy Company ([@thecrazydaisycompany](https://www.facebook.com/thecrazydaisycompany)) combined large and small blooms to give interest and texture to this classic green and white creation.



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

## NATURALLY NEUTRAL

◀ This orchid cascade is not only pure luxury, but also right on trend. Chirpee Flowers ([chirpee.net](http://chirpee.net)) added an abundance of texture with soft bunny tail grass and mimosa foliage. Steph advises, "If you opt for an all-white bouquet it's essential to include contrasting textures or the design will look flat and uninteresting."



# ONE summer's DAY

Make the most of the  
sunshine and enjoy your  
wedding day al fresco  
Images courtesy of Rebecca  
Carpenter Photography

On a bright and beautiful day in June, some of the region's finest wedding suppliers gathered together at Wadhurst Castle to showcase their creativity. From cake to falconry, wedding dresses to ice cream, each and every element complemented the others perfectly.

The gorgeous colour palette involved fresh shades of green, lilac and pink, brought to life through the tableware, flowers and décor. Clare Edwards of The Wedding Box Boutique, the shoot's coordinator says, "We tried to capture the essence of summer with our outdoor ceremony set up, garden tipi seating and hanging tree decorations all within the enchanting grounds of this stunning historical venue."

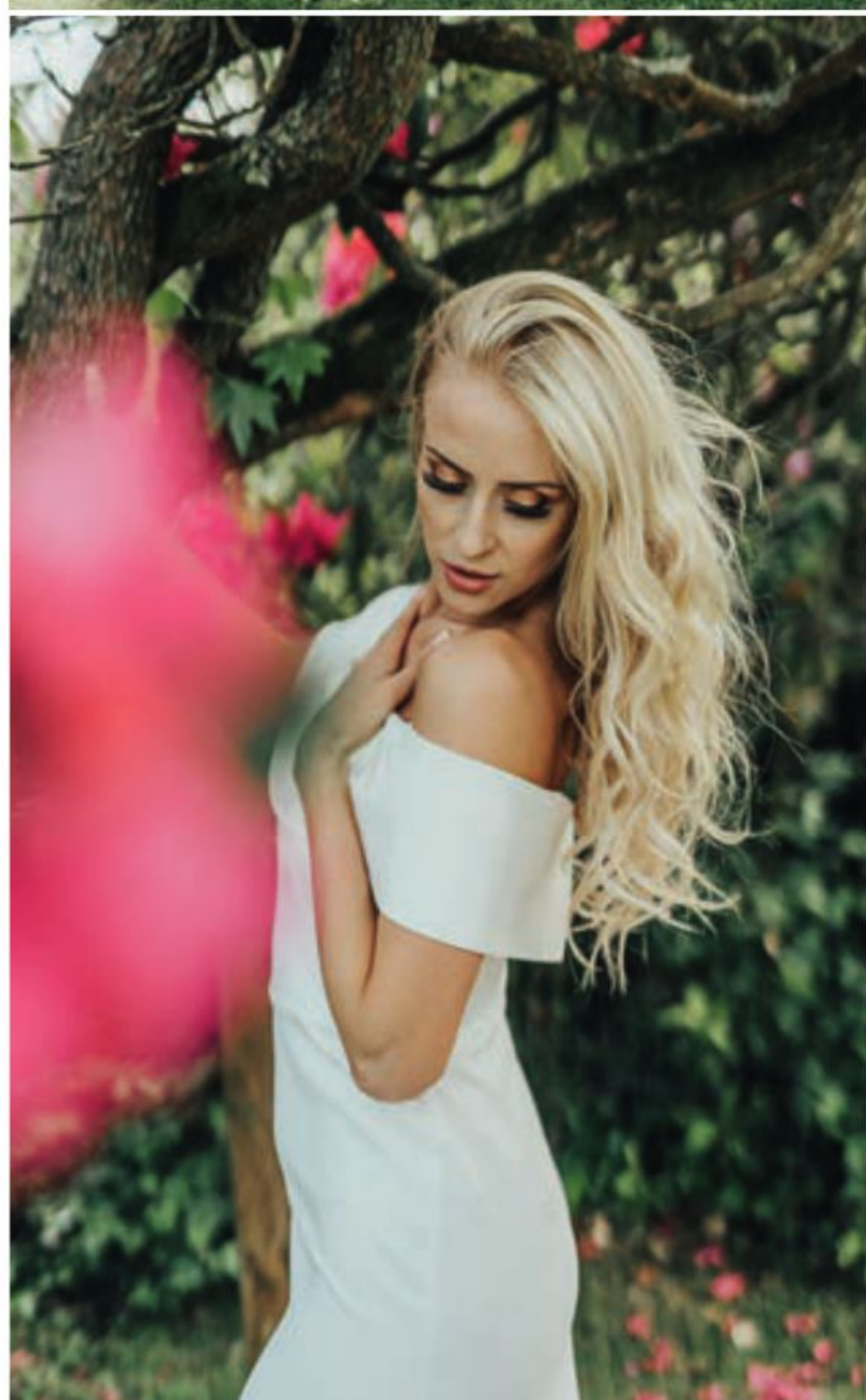
So if you're in the process of planning your own summer fiesta of a wedding day, we hope you find inspiration aplenty amongst these images.











## THE DREAM TEAM

**Planning and styling**, The Wedding Box Boutique, [theweddingboxboutique.com](http://theweddingboxboutique.com)

**Styling**, Mulberry Events, [mulberry-events.co.uk](http://mulberry-events.co.uk)

**Venue**, Wadhurst Castle, [wadhurstcastle.co.uk](http://wadhurstcastle.co.uk)

**Photographer**, Rebecca Carpenter Photography, [rebeccacarpenterphotography.com](http://rebeccacarpenterphotography.com)

**Dresses and accessories**, Love in Lace Bridal, [loveinlacebridal.co.uk](http://loveinlacebridal.co.uk)

**Hair and make-up**, Makeup Angel, [makeupangel.co.uk](http://makeupangel.co.uk)

**Suits**, Suits to Suit, [suitstosuit.co.uk](http://suitstosuit.co.uk)

**Cake**, Bonney's Cakery, [bonneyscakery.co.uk](http://bonneyscakery.co.uk)

**Flowers**, Lydia Dalton Floral Design, [lydialtonfloraldesign.co.uk](http://lydialtonfloraldesign.co.uk)

**Ice cream van**, Vanilla Pod, [veravanillapod.co.uk](http://veravanillapod.co.uk)

**Stationery**, Flora Dora Designs, [floradoradesigns.co.uk](http://floradoradesigns.co.uk)

**Indoor fireworks**, X-iting Fireworks, [x-iting.co.uk](http://x-iting.co.uk)

**Falconry**, Owl and Raptor Centre, [owlandraptorcentre.co.uk](http://owlandraptorcentre.co.uk)

**Marquee**, J&D Hire, [janddhire.com](http://janddhire.com)





AS FEATURED IN THIS EDITION



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Katherine and her Camera

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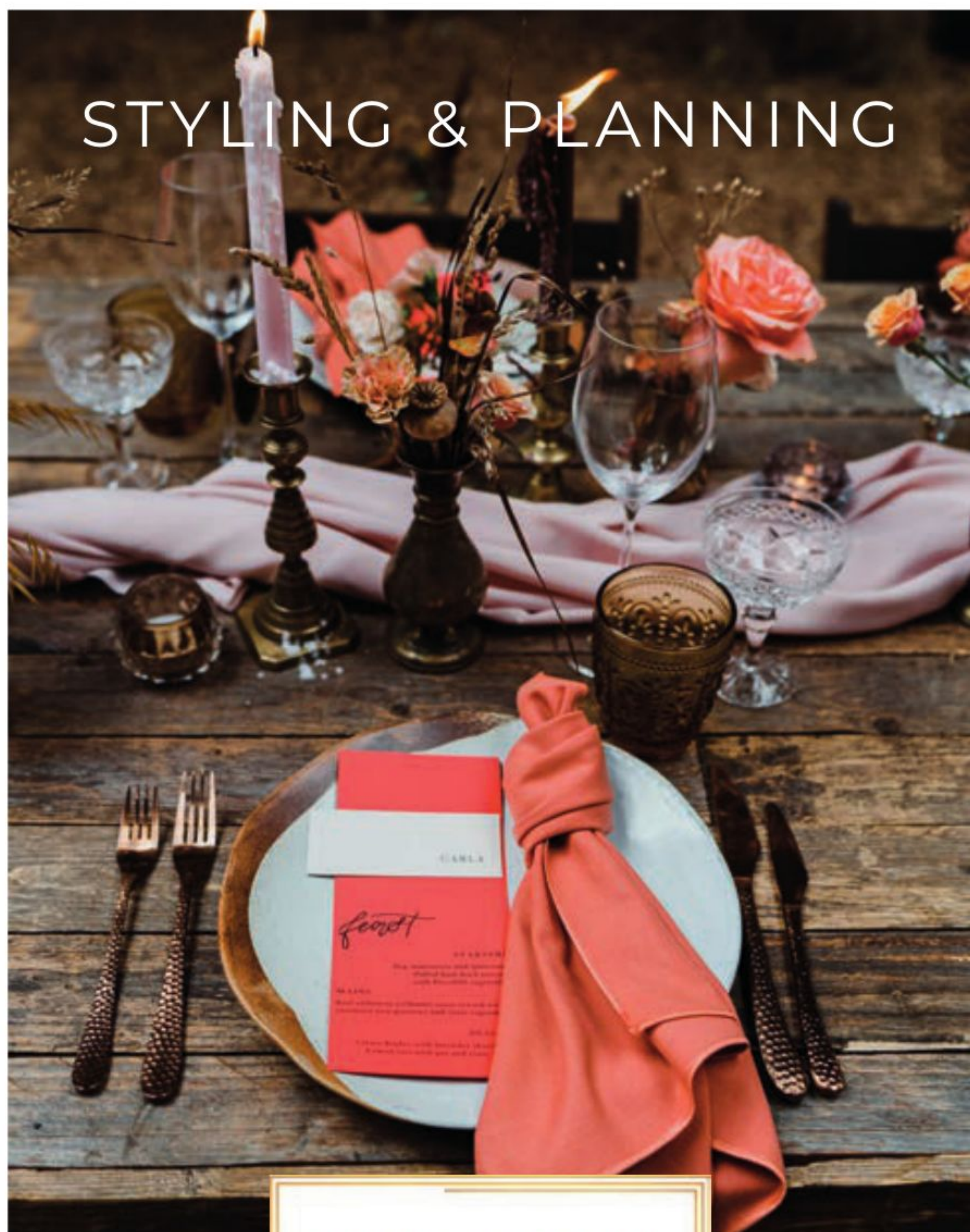
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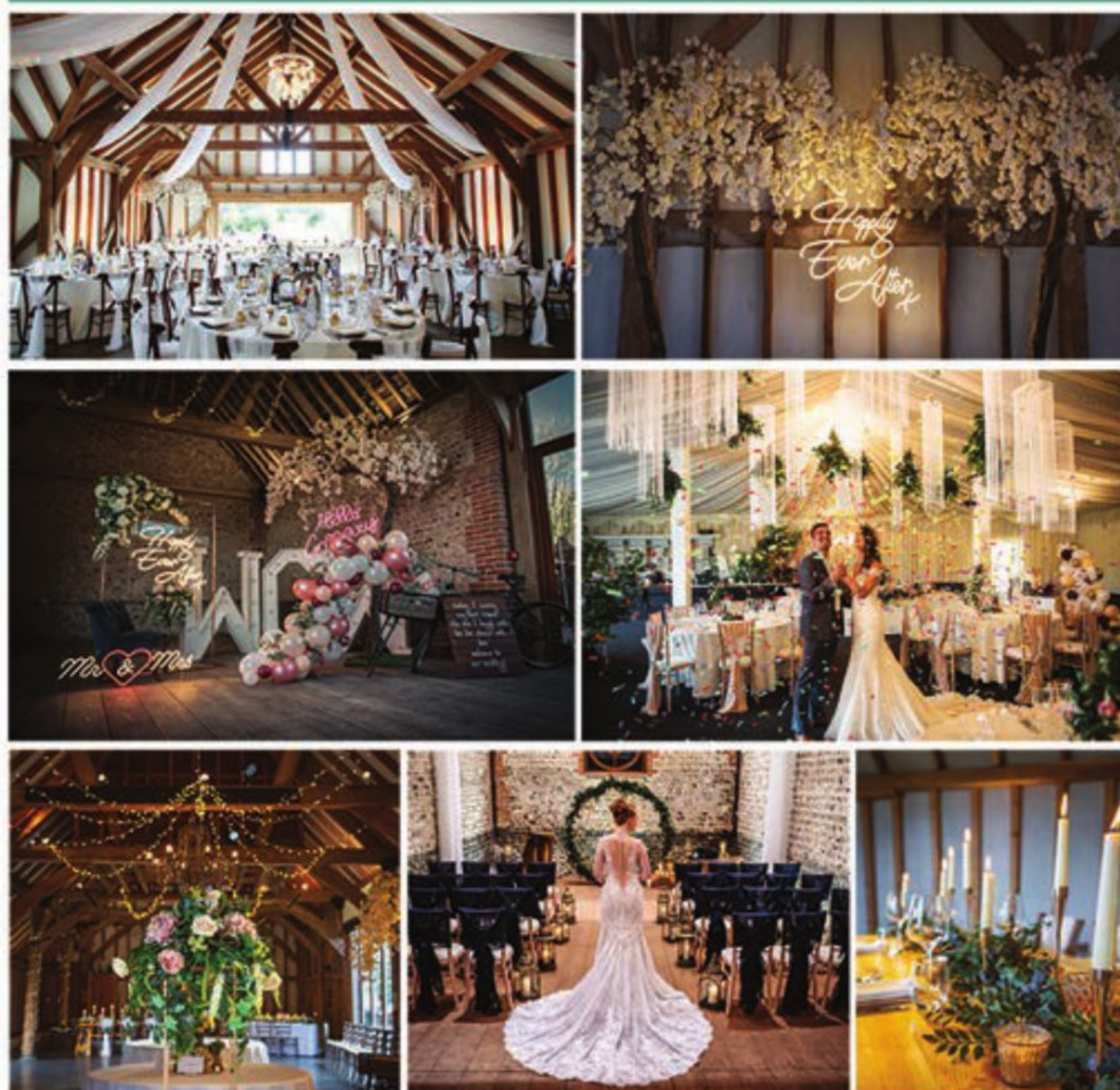
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- ♥ **Season and theme.** Music can enhance your theme and bring it to life, so think about what fits.
- ♥ **Type of venue.** Every venue has its own criteria including floor-space restrictions, permitted sound levels and whether music can be played inside or out. Be sure to find all of this out before you book.
- ♥ **In-between moments.** Consider your guests. They'll have to endure a lot of waiting around at various transition points. Entertainment will keep the day flowing and the atmosphere lifted.
- ♥ **Budget and guest list.** Be realistic. Try to allocate between 10-20 per cent of your wedding budget to the entertainment and look for acts within your price range. Remember you may need to cover travel and food, sometimes even accommodation and equipment.
- ♥ **Do your research.** Ask friends, trusted wedding suppliers and top local venues for their recommendations. They'll know of the best, reliable and most professional acts around.
- ♥ **Think of everyone.** The most successful parties have a little something for all, so be sure to cater for a wide audience. Good quality acts confidently know which bangers to pull out of the bag!
- ♥ **Help is at hand.** Using an agency like Toast can take the stress out of planning. Our in-depth knowledge of venues means we can confidently answer your questions and make suitable recommendations. Booking a trusted artist guarantees outstanding entertainment, leaving you to enjoy your day.

Nathan Evans | [toastfunctions.com](http://toastfunctions.com)



steveandtaniaphotography.uk

## Gone with the wind

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

Don't let the weather ruin your day! We photographed two weddings in 2019, with gale force winds, but neither let the extreme conditions affect the joy and fun of their days one iota. One of our brides lost her veil completely – the wind just took it and it flew into the grounds.

If you're brave enough to face the elements, some fun shots can be had. You'll always remember exactly how your day was. If the venue has a gazebo, you're sorted. Good cover for the bride and groom is all that's needed, and some wonderful photography can be captured making the use of flashlights. Alternatively, you can always stay in and use natural light coming through the windows for photographs. Above all, embrace whatever comes your way!

Tania Jonas | [steveandtaniaphotography.uk](http://steveandtaniaphotography.uk)





## LABOUR OF LOVE

We plan to get married in February around Valentine's Day. What romantic touches can we bring to our big day to make it even more special?

You may automatically think of soft, muted pastels and pretty florals, but elements can be included in lots of ways in order to add something extra special. Choosing to have your wedding near Valentine's Day means that it will be particularly romantic and a perfect excuse to really show your partner how much you love them. What's important is that the details you choose are authentic and completely you. Some romantic ideas include personalised cake-toppers, table names or sharing your milestones on a blackboard.

I think it's super-romantic to find a way to connect with your partner prior to the ceremony. I'm a sucker for a secret love letter or a personal token delivered to your intended before the day gets going. One of my brides commissioned a lapel pin in the shape of their beloved Labrador's face for her new husband to wear – a great way to include a special member of the family as well as a personal symbol of love.

**Sally Gallis, [events-by-design.co.uk](http://events-by-design.co.uk)**

## "I do" declare!

**What are the benefits of using a celebrant rather than a registrar?**

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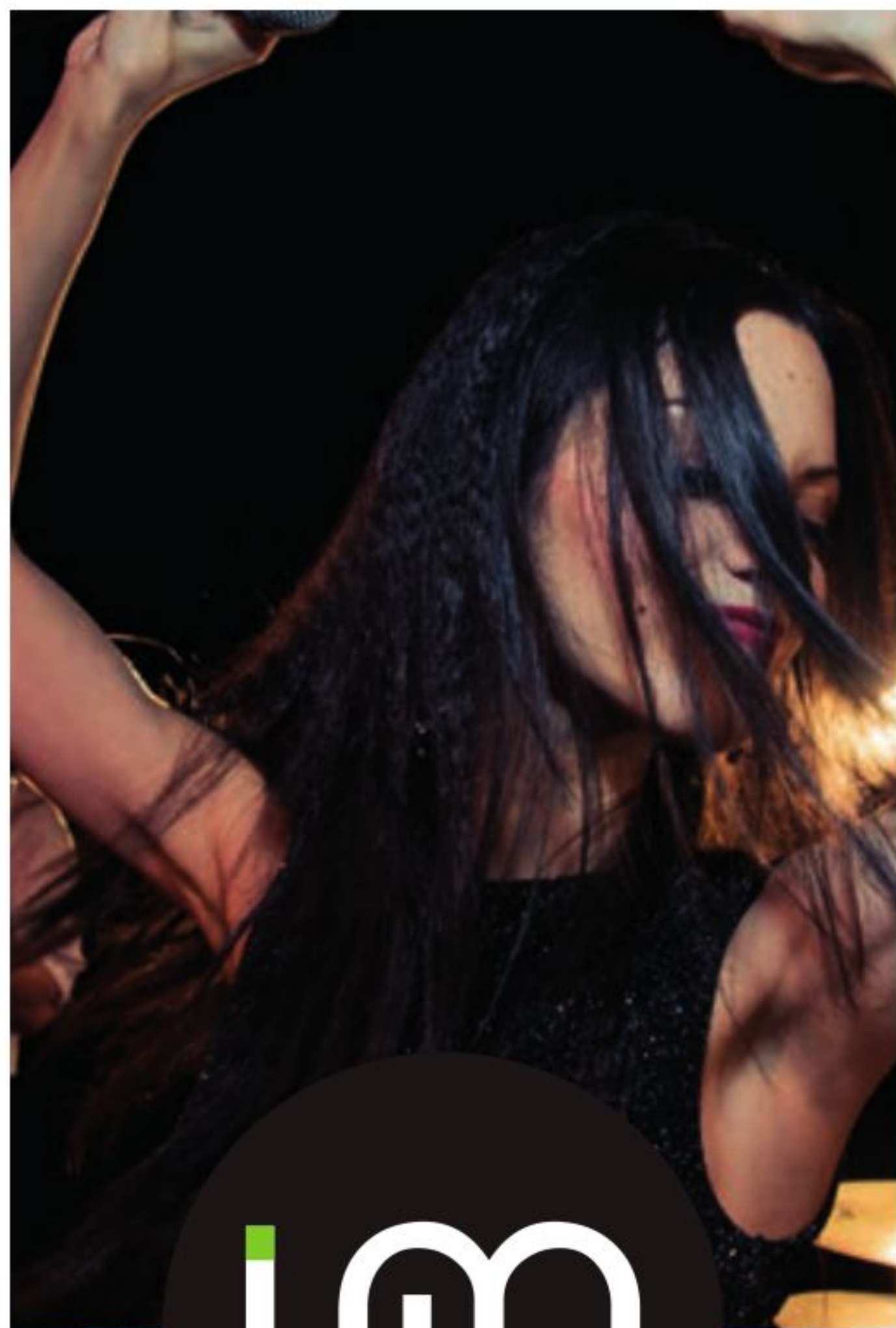
You'll find that your celebrant will take the time to get to know you as a couple, so that they can create a loving and meaningful ceremony totally reflective of you. There'll be no standard script, no rules, and no wondering who's going to turn up on the day to perform your nuptials. You also have the option to include any symbolic rituals, or perhaps you prefer to keep the more traditional elements, it's completely up to you. What's more, my ceremonies are dog-friendly so your best buddy doesn't have to miss out on the fun.

It's worth noting though, that celebrant-led ceremonies aren't legally binding, but a quick visit to the registrar to complete the legalities is all that's necessary.

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

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 Seafeld Silver, [@seafieldsilver](https://www.facebook.com/seafieldsilver)  
 Wakefields Jewellers, [wakefieldsjewellers.co.uk](http://wakefieldsjewellers.co.uk)





## Gift it

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



## Editor's favourite

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



## Stylish maids

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

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



## BEST FOOT FORWARD

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



# Fashion focus

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

## NAME IT

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

Melanie



## PICK YOUR OWN

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

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

## EDITOR'S PICK

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



## What lies beneath

Lingerie, swimwear and nightwear brand Boux Avenue has released 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](http://bouxavenue.com) [bouxavenue](https://www.instagram.com/bouxavenue)





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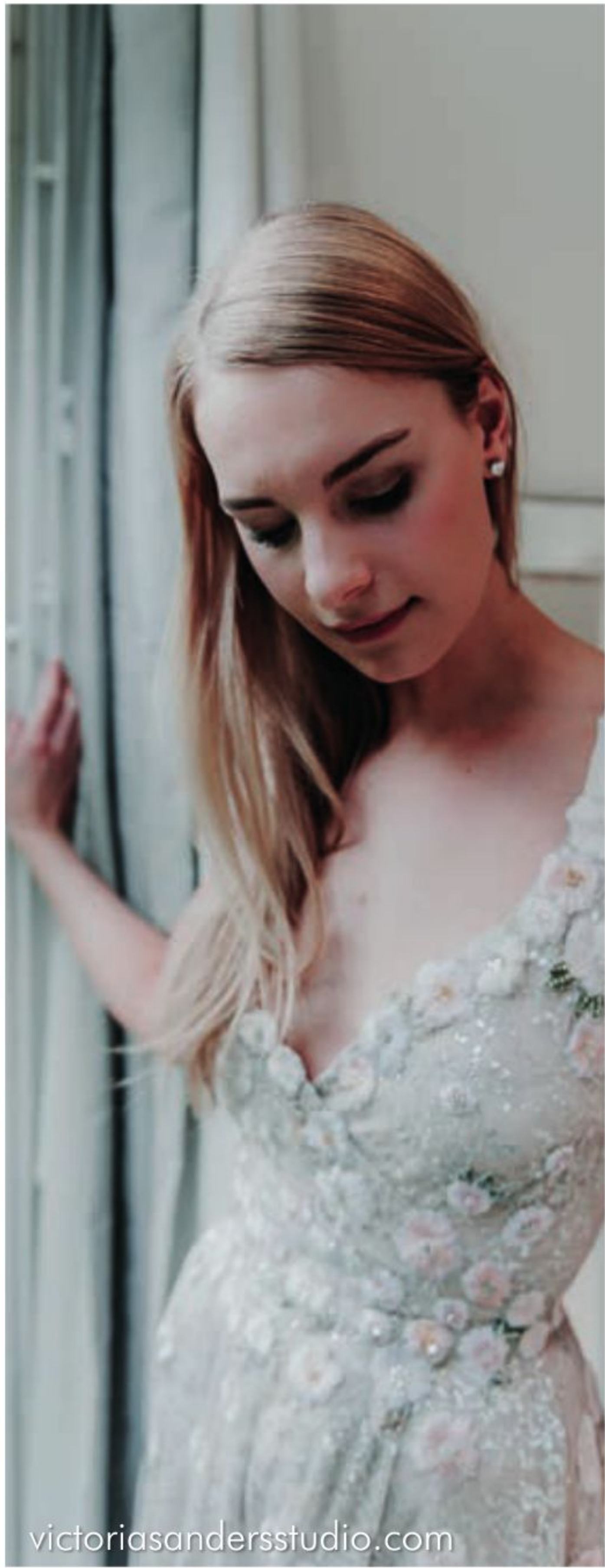




















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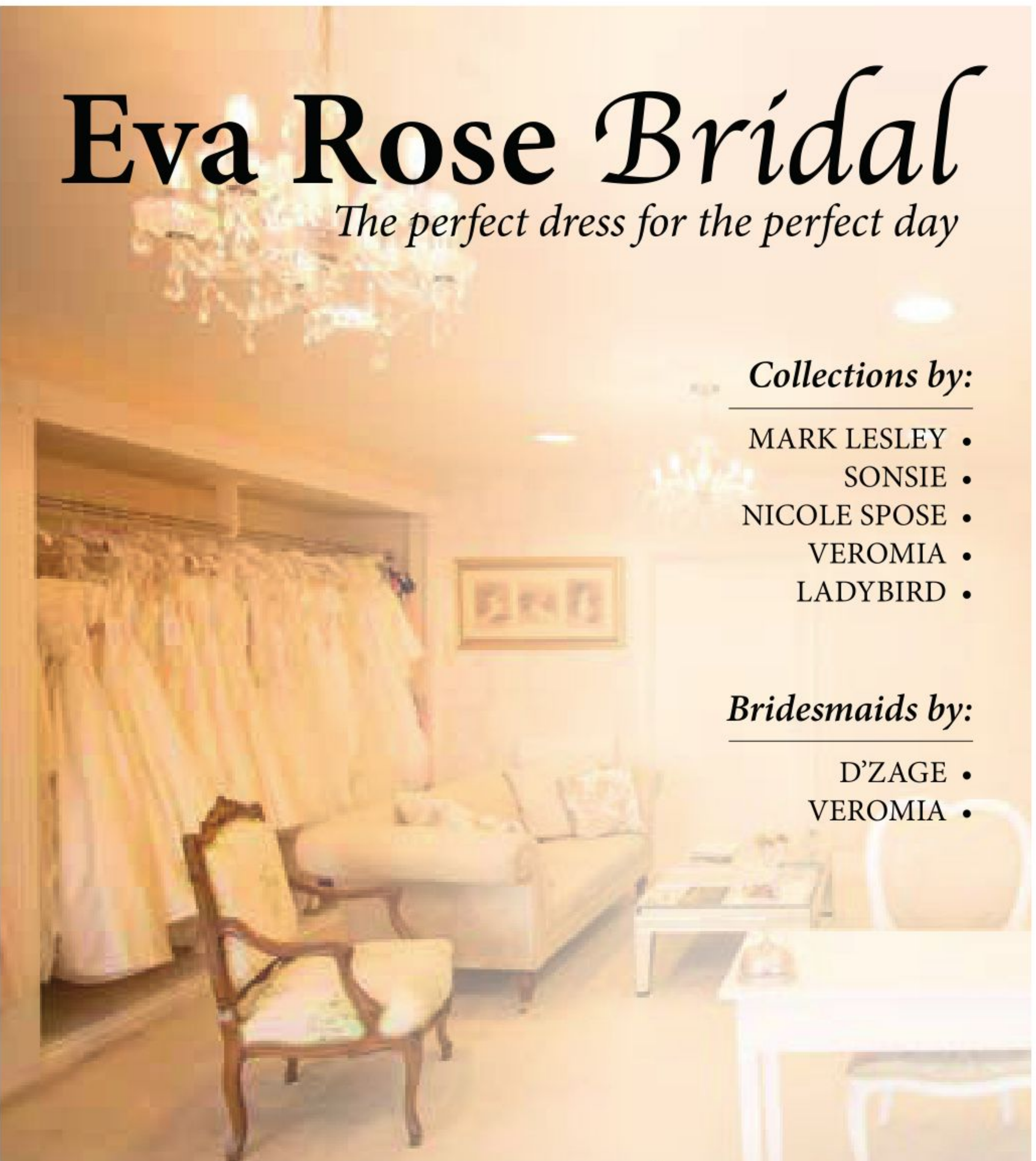
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# Dare To BARE

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





Saint by alexandragrecco.com



Celestial by charlottebalbier.com



Seville by miamiabridal.co.uk



Style no 7620 by enaura.com



Nina by rikidalal.com





Cayla dress and Caitlin top  
by miamiabridal.co.uk



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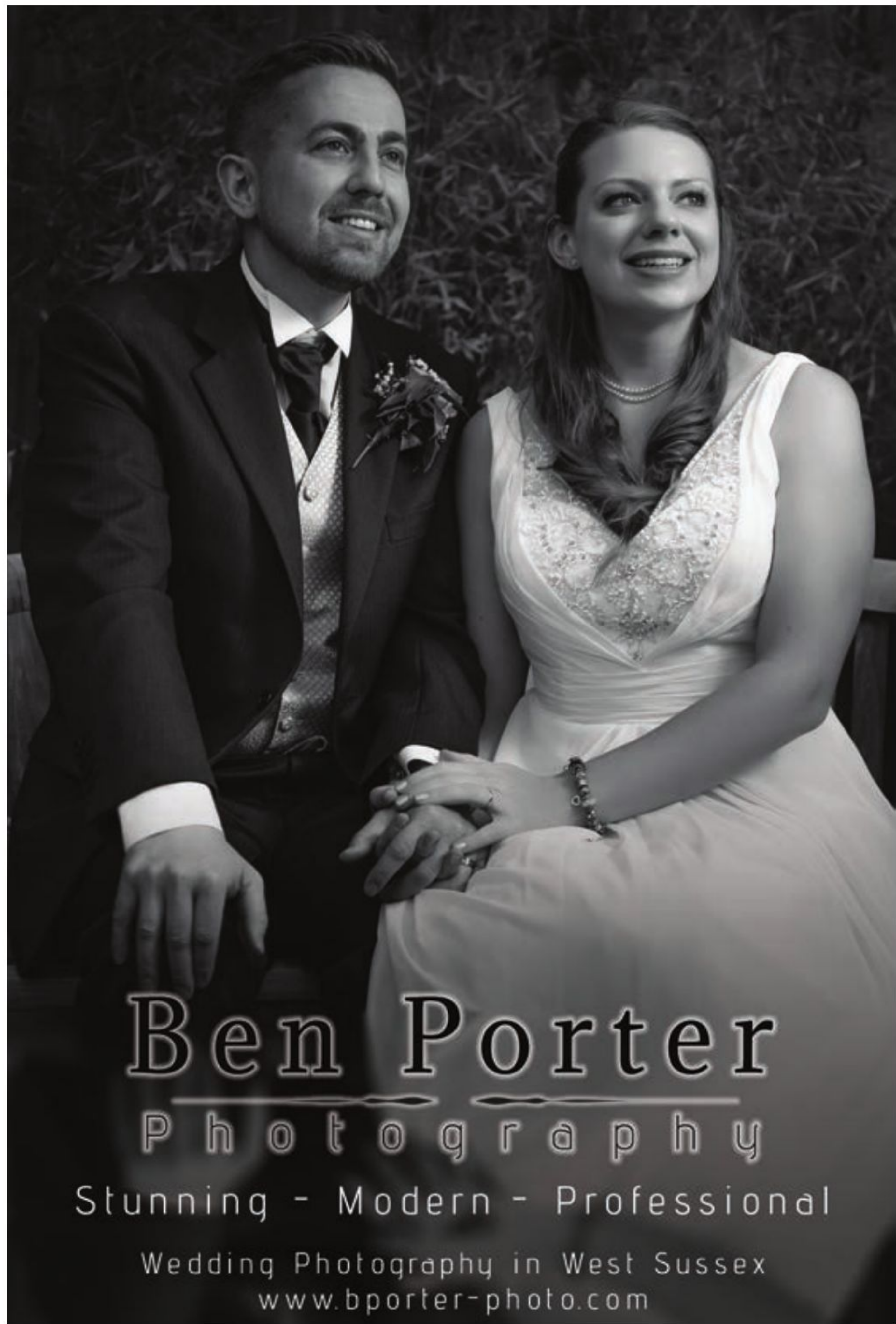


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## KEEPING WATCH

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](http://hourtime.co.uk)



## FROM THE WAIST UP

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

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



## Read all ABOUT IT!

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



## Showers forecast

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

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



## BEST FOOT FORWARD

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

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

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

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

## Super hero

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

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





# Beauty Q&A

Local professionals offer advice on looking your big-day best

## JUST BROWSING

I've heard that perfectly painted brows are out and fluffy brows are in. How can I achieve this on-trend look?

**Claire says:** Brow lamination is a game changer. In this salon treatment, brows are brushed upwards with a gentle adhesive then a lifting lotion is applied, which moulds the hair into its new position. Once that's removed, a fixing lotion sets them into shape, a tint can then be applied for added definition. The whole treatment takes around an hour and you can maintain your day-to-day look by brushing through a little brow wax.

If you prefer to try some alternatives at home, Soap Brow is a great option. Simply spritz a little MAC Prep + Prime Fix+ spray into the tin and use a clean mascara wand to brush the product through. You can also give the illusion of added thickness by drawing hairs in using something like NYX Micro Brow.

## Perfect pout

How do I pick the perfect lipstick for my wedding day?

**Danielle says:** Go for a lipstick hue that complements your skin tone and possibly even your day's colour palette. Blush pinks are always a firm favourite with brides-to-be, such as Pillow Talk by Charlotte Tilbury.

If you're considering something brighter, like a red, I'd advise you to opt for one with a blue undertone as this will make your teeth look whiter. Reds with orange undertones tend to have the opposite effect.

### CONTACT THE EXPERTS

Danielle Lury, [makeover-box.co.uk](http://makeover-box.co.uk) | Claire Reed, [thebeautyninjas.co.uk](http://thebeautyninjas.co.uk)



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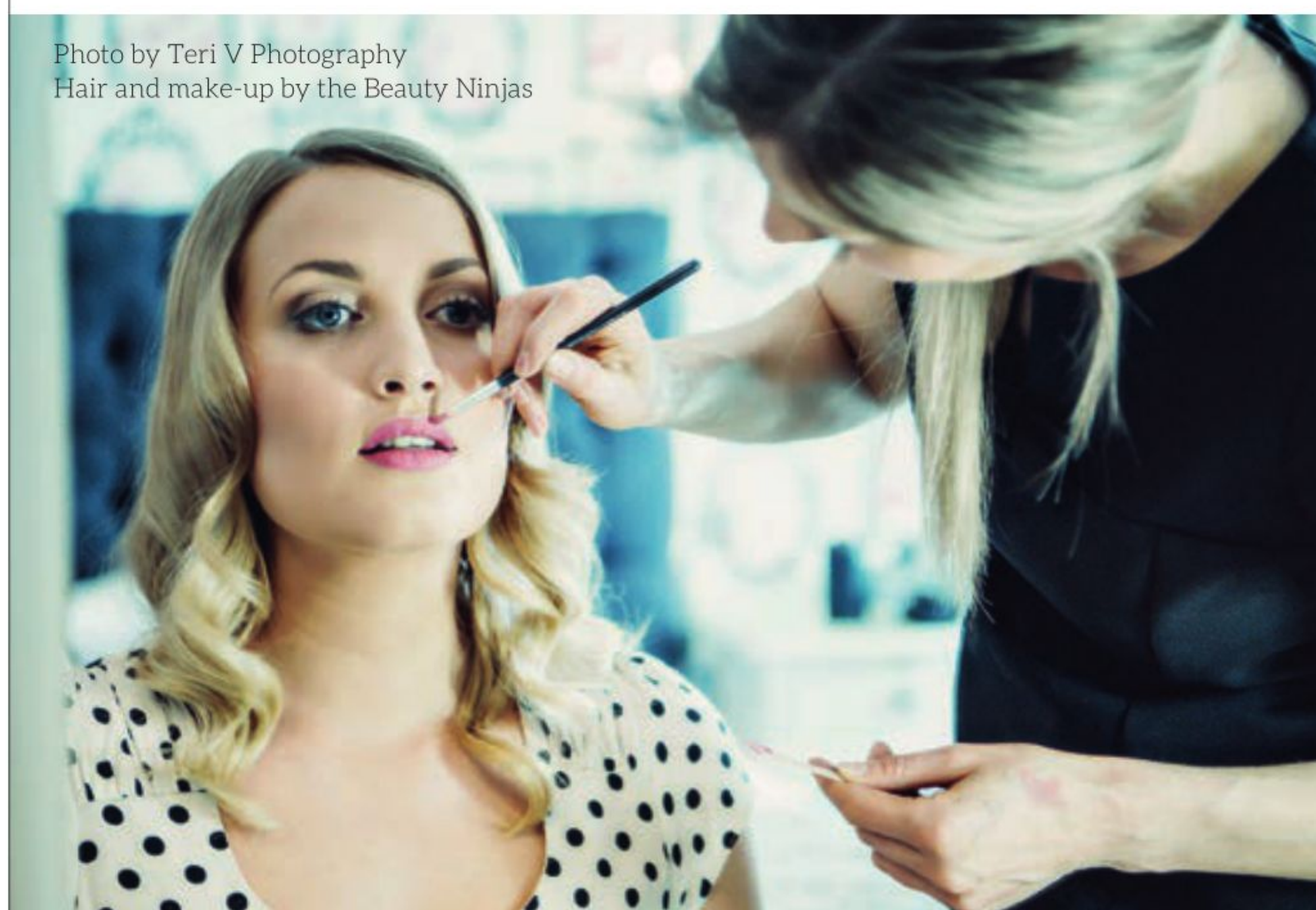


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10/10

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



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

*Danielle* x

Danielle Harvey, beauty editor



## Brush it off

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

# BEAUTY BUZZ



## THE FACE HAS IT

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

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

## HONEY, HONEY

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



## PERFECTLY BAKED

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

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

## MIGHTY MULTITASKING

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





## BE KIND

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

### ♥ BRIGHTEN

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

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

### ♥ HYDRATE

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

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

### ♥ CALM & SOOTHE

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

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

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

## GOING GREEN

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

## DAY TO NIGHT

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

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

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

## SAVING PLANET EARTH

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

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

## BRONZED BEAUTY

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

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

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# UP, UP and away



blossomandbonephotography.com

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

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

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

## THE SILHOUETTE IS EVERYTHING

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





blossomandbonephotography.com

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

#### LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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

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

#### CAREER HIGHS

As a session stylist Vicki has worked with

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

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

#### TOP TIPS

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

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

Batiste Dry Shampoo either.

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

#### GIRL POWER

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

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

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



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





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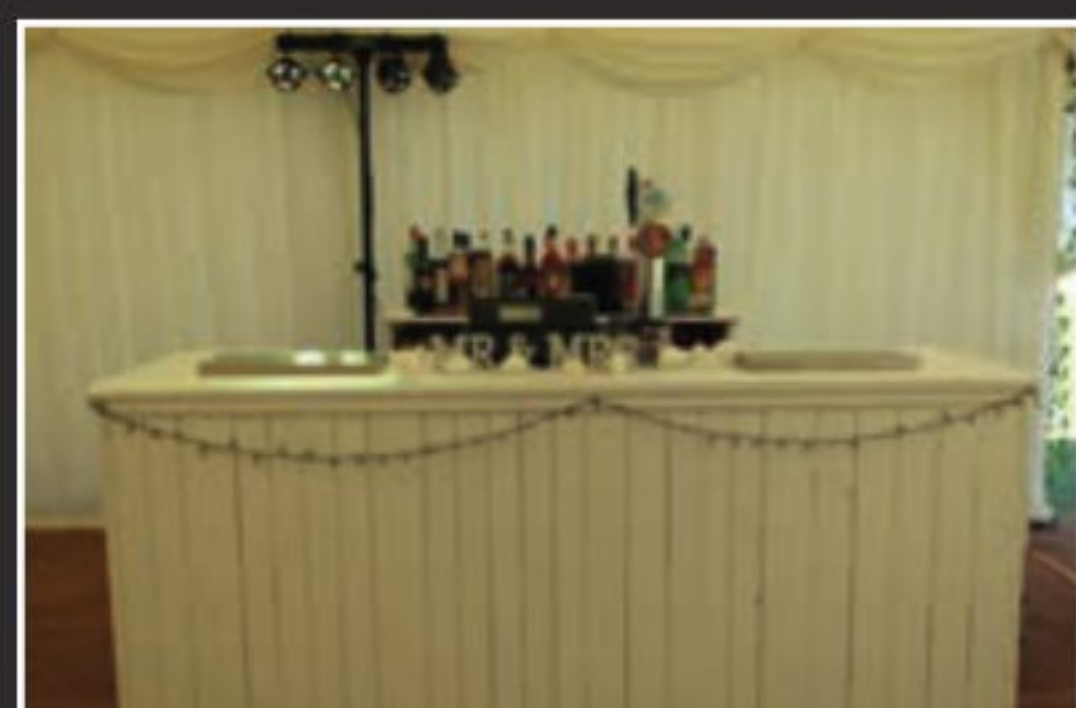
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## SHORT-HAUL SUNSHINE

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](http://lindos-village.gr)

## YOUR CARRIAGE AWAITS

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

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

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

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

# HONEYMOON

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



## Bright ideas

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





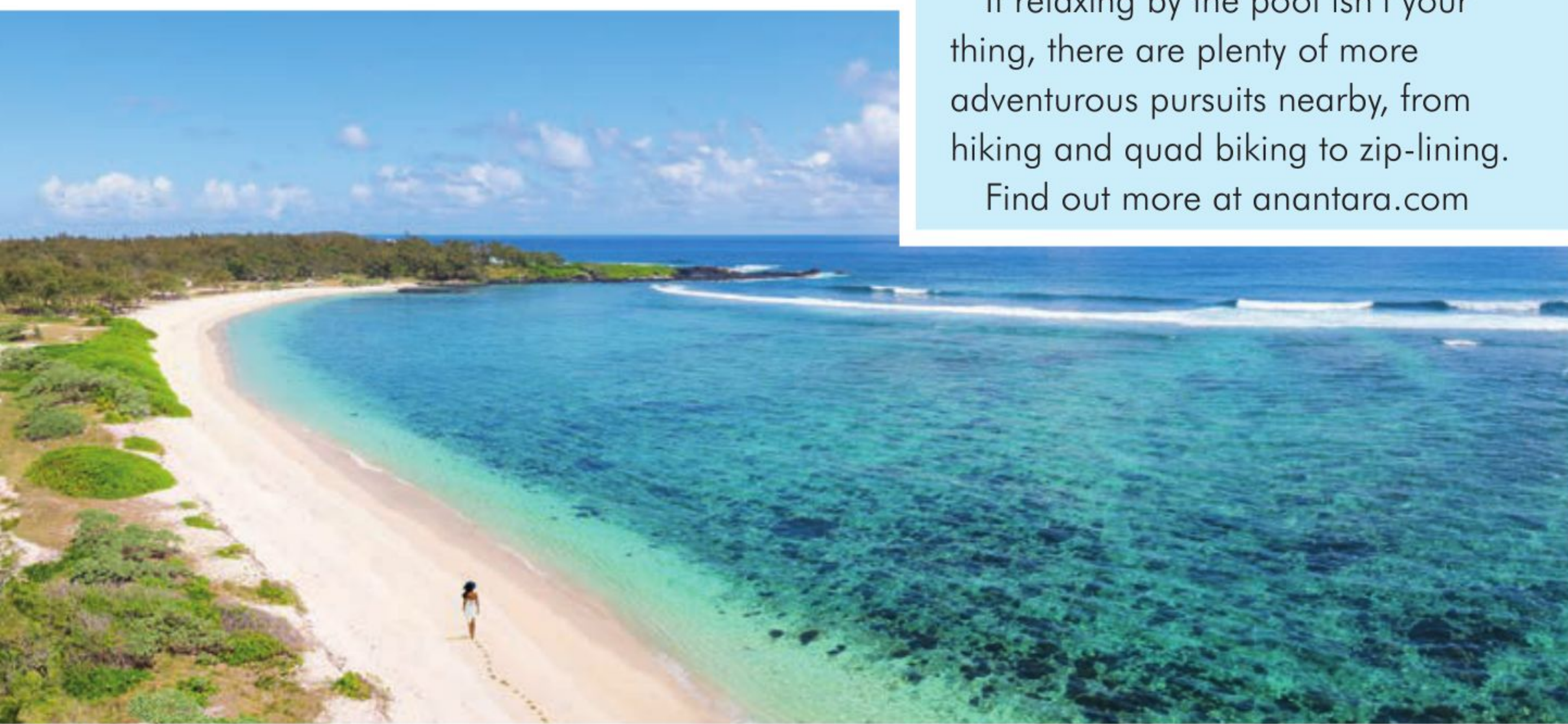
## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

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

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

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



## EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA

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

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



## TREAT YOURSELF

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

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

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

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

## KUONI'S TOP 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# ME, YOU AND THE FAMILY TOO

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



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

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

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

Reaching our elegant Penthouse Suite,

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



## MY HIGHLIGHTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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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!

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



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APRIL/MAY 2020

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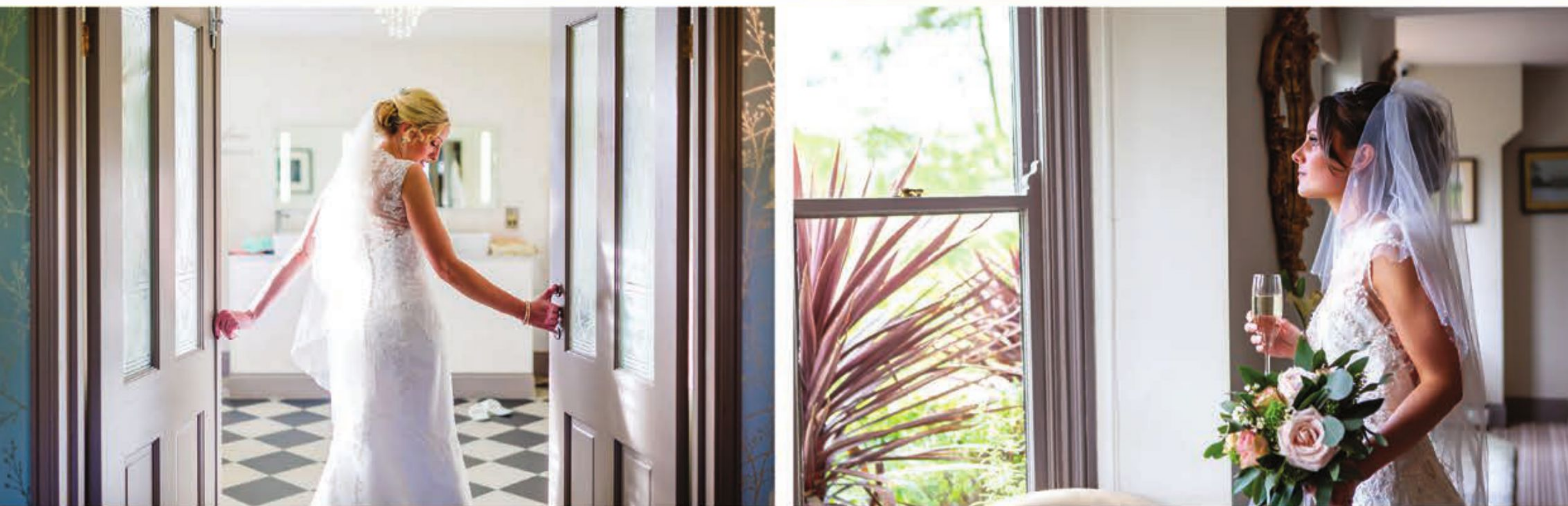
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