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fresco appeal

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a time...*

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Bolton Castle

LEYBURN, NORTH YORKSHIRE



Set amidst the breath-taking beauty of the Yorkshire Dales, Bolton Castle is a magnificent symbol of longevity which has withstood the test of time. Built on strong foundations, it has survived in a challenging and ever changing world.

Recently voted the 17th Best Wedding Venue in the UK by The Independent, what better place to celebrate your wedding and the promises you have chosen to make. Whether you want a simple wedding reception or a full wedding service, we are committed to ensuring everything is perfect for your special day.

Imagine arriving through the impressive archway under the portcullis into the stunning cobbled courtyard of the Castle. You will be following in the footsteps of Royalty and you will be the King and Queen of Bolton Castle for the day. Imagine marrying in a beautiful candle lit room in the Castle with a Barn Owl quietly flying down the aisle to deliver your wedding rings at just the right moment as you say your vows to each other and your guests being entertained by our falconry display as you have your photographs taken in the beautiful backdrop of the Castle and its grounds.

Release two or ten Doves to symbolise your everlasting love for each other before you and your guests proceed with the day of celebrations in the magnificent Great Chamber.

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SHOUT OUT TO THE YORKSHIRE WEDDING INDUSTRY...



I always know summer has arrived when I have an overwhelming urge to watch *Four Weddings and a Funeral* – my unofficial way of marking the start of wedding season. Unfortunately though, in these unprecedented times, I have a little while longer to wait for the two weddings I

had in the diary this season – the suspense is too much!

We have an epic issue for you, which is full of incredible fashion picks (page 50), flowers in all the colours of the rainbow (page 39), honeymoons to daydream about (page 82), and of course, our gorgeous collection of real weddings (page 25) to inspire you.

We're dedicating this issue to the amazing Yorkshire wedding suppliers who have remained positive throughout these tumultuous times and worked tirelessly to ensure couples can still have their dream days. We salute you!

Hannah x

Hannah Faulder,
editor

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WIN!

A LUXURY
MINIMOON IN
ALCUDIA, MALLORCA,
WORTH £2,500.

85

Enjoy the ualitimate romantic
break in Yorkshire.

Layering it
up with these
gorgeous
dress picks.

51

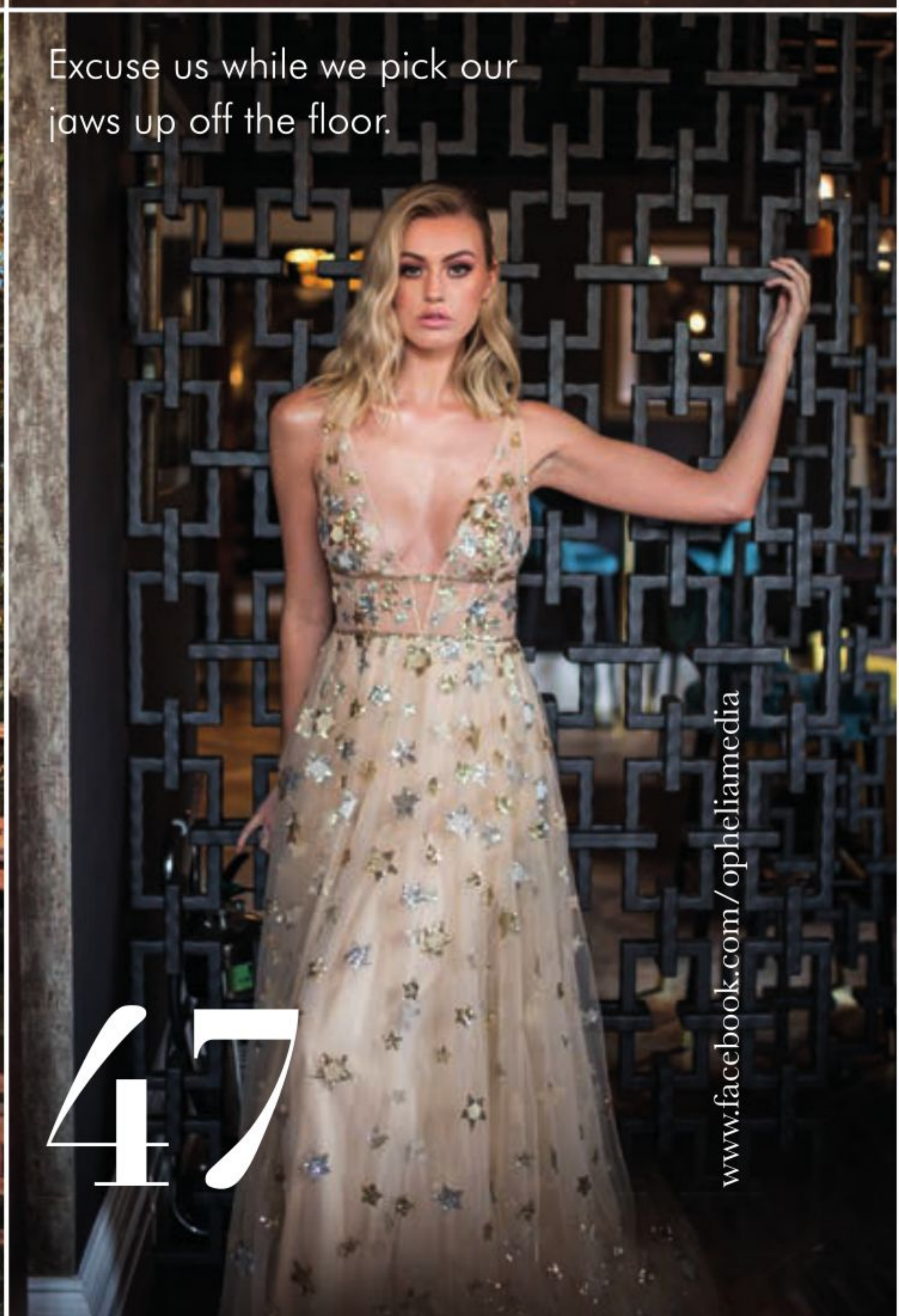


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We find out how to throw
the best party ever.

Excuse us while we pick our
jaws up off the floor.

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This bouquet is what dreams are made of.



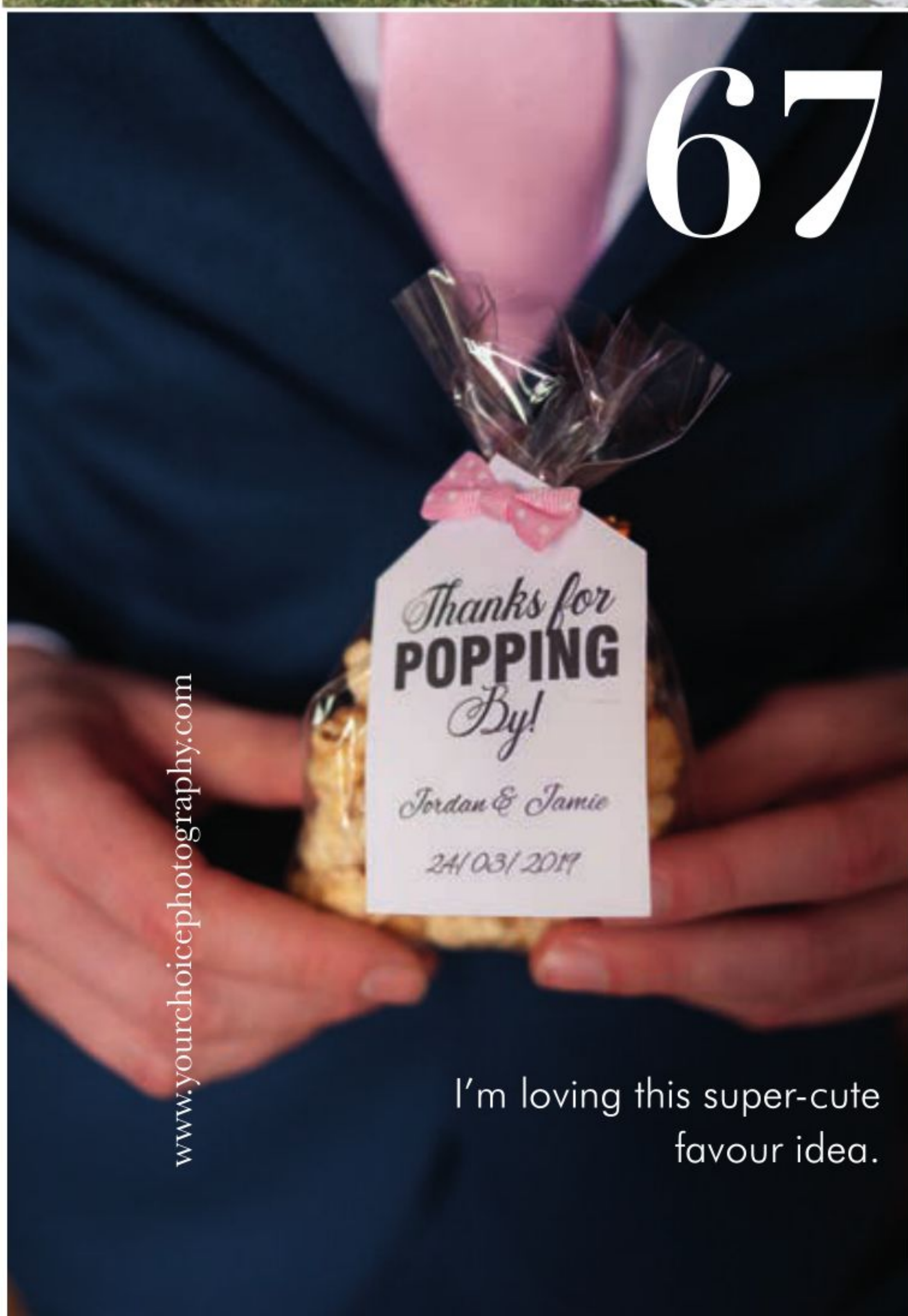
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I'm loving this super-cute favour idea.



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We learn how to get the natural look.



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I love all the fun and floral touches in this wedding.



GREEN WEDDINGS

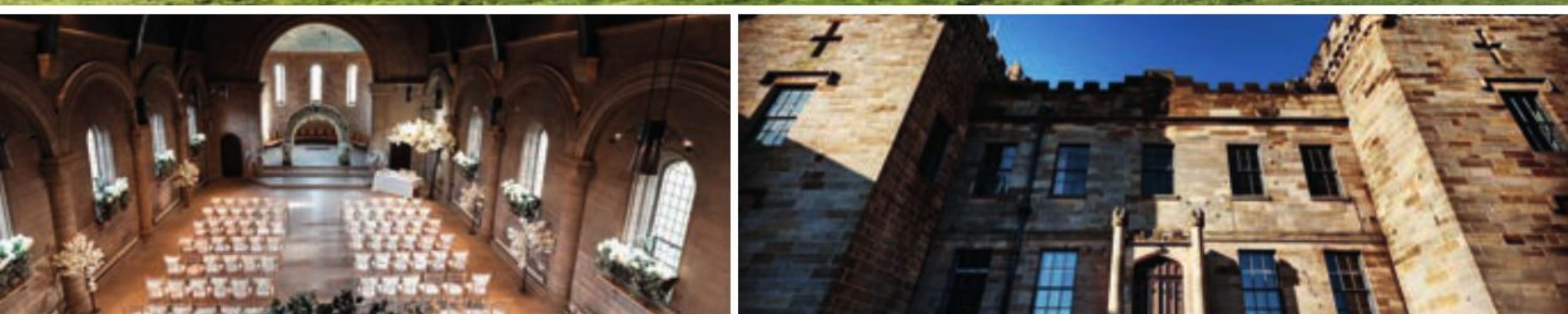
Crathorne Hall Hotel in North Yorkshire, part of Hand Picked Hotels, has announced a collaboration with The Woodland Trust to plant more than 1,000 trees within its 15-acre estate, introducing a new native woodland to the grounds.

The initiative is part of the hotel and wedding venue's commitment to proactively developing the sustainability of plants and wildlife at the property. General manager Chris Porter commented, "Over the years, the venue has worked hard to protect the wildlife within the estate and encourage new species, so I'm delighted to support this project. The grounds are a huge part of the hotel's appeal, including everything from manicured lawns and a sunken garden to wild grasslands with hand-built beehives and a woodland walk."

To find out more about this elegant stately home, visit the website www.handpickedhotels.co.uk/crathornehall

Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from around the region



MAKING HISTORY

Couples looking to tie the knot in historic, quirky surroundings should check out the new Ilkley Manor House, which is now fully licensed for weddings for up to 60 loved ones. There are a number of enchanting spaces to choose from in the mid 14th-century building, including the Western Gallery with its vaulted ceiling and courtyard views or the Solar Gallery with its large windows bathing the space in natural light. "The Manor House will only hold a small number of events each year," says trustee Daisy Johnson. "This is so it can fulfil its primary role as a creative heritage and arts hub, so it will always be a special occasion if you choose to celebrate here."

The team can help plan your event alongside its list of preferred local suppliers. To find out more, visit www.ilkleymanorhouse.org

UNVEILED

Whitby venue The Stables at Cross Butts has purchased Sneaton Castle from the Order of the Holy Paraclete and will be holding weddings there for parties of up to 200 people. "We're a family-run business with more than 16 years experience," says Cheryl Morley. "Sneaton Castle will offer a wow factor space for weddings run by the same team, with the same style but in a new and exciting location."

To find out more, visit www.cross-butts.co.uk and follow the venue on its social media for more sneak peaks.



<https://janebeadnellphotography.co.uk>

A HOME FROM HOME

As well as the already incredible offering at Spicer Manor, the venue has announced its newest addition, the Coach House, which will be completed in mid-2020. A versatile and stylish new space, it will provide beautiful surroundings for up to 160 wedding guests.

Taking influence from the modern farmhouse style of the main house, it will give larger groups the chance to celebrate against a backdrop of the breathtaking Yorkshire countryside. Boasting excellent facilities such as underfloor heating, rustic wooden wall panels and atmospheric lighting, the new space is the perfect setting, with Spicer Manor sleeping up to 34 guests next door when the party is over. Visit www.spicermanor.co.uk

TO DINE FOR

The food you serve at your wedding is an important factor in bringing everyone together and creating an exciting talking point, which is why The Arches at Dean Clough Mills provide in-house catering options at an exceptionally high standard.


Its multi-award-winning chef, Mark York, heads up True North Restaurant (<https://truenorthrestaurant.co.uk>), which is the newest addition to the prestigious Dean Clough Mills complex where The Arches is based. Not only does this provide the perfect location for menu tastings, but it means couples and their loved ones can now book pre-wedding get-together dining packages and breakfasts at True North. Check out <https://thearchesdeanclough.com> for more information.



PULLING TOGETHER...

The coronavirus pandemic has affected every single one of us, and for those of you planning a wedding for summer 2020 it's been a particularly stressful journey to navigate. However, we have heard so many heart-warming stories over the past few weeks that have put a smile on our faces and reminded us why we love the Yorkshire wedding industry so much.

From venues that have set up food-delivery services and creative companies offering pick-me-up parcels to small business owners who have worked tirelessly to rearrange their clients' big days, everyone has played their part. We've been banging this drum for seven years, but recent events really have shown that when it comes to planning the biggest day of your life, local suppliers are always the best.



"THE best band around! Guaranteed to get everyone dancing, from the young to the old." Caroline Bilton BBC Look North

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Sheffield

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A family-run business for 27 years, The Flower Shop Elmsall prides itself on its impeccable work – particularly for weddings. Mother-and-daughter team Jackie Axe and Margaret Bucknall go above and beyond to make sure every couple's day is treated as if it were one of their own.

We've teamed up with the company to offer *Your Yorkshire Wedding*

readers a free bridal bouquet when you book both your ceremony and reception flowers. Simply mention the magazine when enquiring. Head to the website to find out more www.southelmsallflorist.co.uk



RAISE A GLASS

Two Seven Club is a boutique events company that specialises in providing the perfect bar for any occasion. Focusing on a five-star service, the team uses its combined years in the industry to create a structure that accommodates all clients' needs.

Whether you're getting married, having an engagement party or just want a great-looking bar, the company will have something for you. What's more, it's offering to waive the standard booking fee of £250 for our lucky readers when you mention *Your Yorkshire Wedding*! To take a look at the bars and get in contact, head to www.twosevenclub.com

Freebies & OFFERS

Take advantage of these gorgeous giveaways and fab offers

SLEEP IN *luxury*

Your chance to win £150 worth of Luxury Egyptian Cotton Bedlinen

Have you ever spent a night in Egyptian cotton bed sheets? Now we are offering you the chance to do just that with your own personal piece of perfection in the bedroom.

Mediterranean Linens is partnering with County Wedding Magazines to give you the opportunity to win luxury bed linen to the value of £150. Once you've experienced the delightful feeling of fresh, crisp, highest quality cotton bed sheets you won't be able to get a good night's sleep in anything else.

Mediterranean Linens is a supplier of 100% Egyptian cotton bed linen, with sustainability and ethical production embedded throughout the company values. Its products are all certified by Eco Label and the Cotton Egypt Association, so you can rest assured these cotton bed sheets are produced with as little environmental impact as possible. The winner will receive a £150 voucher code for products purchased direct from the Mediterranean Linens' website (www.mediterraneanlinens.co.uk), where you can also find out about the company and their sustainable credentials.

With these bedsheets you can sleep in boutique hotel style luxury every night of the year, all you'll need to do is find someone to serve you breakfast in bed.

For your chance to win enter via our website.



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Closing date 7th August, 2020, unless otherwise stated. Terms and conditions apply.

Spotlight on...

YORK AND HARROGATE VENUES



<https://natashacadman.com>

ESCRICK PARK ESTATE

01904 728 252 | www.escrick.com

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Escrick Park Estate offers couples the chance to get back to nature with a woodland ceremony area and grassy parkland space for a bespoke marquee celebration. Brides and grooms can enjoy total flexibility to create their perfect day in a number of spaces all with glorious, uninterrupted views across the former deer park and open landscape that stretches for miles.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Civil or celebrant-led services take place at Skipwith Hall, the quaint Little Theatre, or in the glorious al fresco setting of the woods under 18th-century oak trees. Parties can then dance the night away in their own choice of marquee set in lush, picturesque grounds, benefitting from magnificent views across the Yorkshire countryside.

WE LOVE...

For those who want to continue the party, camping is available on-site. The parkland and woodland is available all year round, with discounts offered on bookings between November and February.

<http://dominicwright.co.uk>





MIDDLETHORPE HALL & SPA

01904 641 241 | www.middlethorpe.com

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Middlethorpe Hall is a 17th-century William and Mary country house standing in 20 acres of glorious gardens and parkland, yet is only two miles from York's city centre. The romantic scented rose garden is a wonderful spot for couple's portraits and the manicured lawn is ideal for a marquee reception when the venue is booked exclusively.

The magnificent red-brick building has been restored to its former glory with exacting attention to detail. For the past eleven years, it's been owned by the National Trust and all profits go to the charity.

The hall has 29 bedrooms across the main building and courtyard, but retains the welcoming feel of a private country residence with its stone-flagged entrance hall, black marble fireplace and oak door surrounds. Beautiful Georgian art decorates the walls and gives a homely ambience.



TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Couples can say "I do" in the Upstairs Sitting Room or the Dovecote within the walled garden, with up to 14 witnesses. The Barlow Room (56 guests) is situated 70 yards from the hall and offers a traditional seating arrangement and aisle. The magnificent Drawing Room is available for ceremonies when the hotel is booked exclusively.

After the formalities, the venue offers a range of packages for receptions. Smaller gatherings can opt for the pretty Yellow Room (14 guests). The Grill Room (56 guests) benefits from its own private sitting room, while weddings for up to 150 loved ones can opt for a marquee on the South Lawn.

Nearlyweds can book exclusive-use of the house for the day and night or even longer if desired. With this, they'll enjoy an evening party in this exceptional space and all of its 29 bedrooms.

WE LOVE...

Before and after the big day, couples can indulge in a touch of R&R in the relaxing spa.



<https://bloomweddings.co.uk>



www.susielawrence.com

SUN PAVILION, HARROGATE

01423 522 588 | www.sunpavilion.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Situated in the heart of Harrogate's historic Grade II listed Valley Gardens, this architectural landmark offers fantastic views across the idyllic grounds, while providing a private and tranquil setting for wedding parties. Built in the 1930s, the venue features a glorious Art Deco glass dome and ivy-covered pillars.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Inside, a grand staircase sweeps down to a charming circular room

where vows can be made bathed in natural light. Alternatively, the heated terrace provides real wow factor and offers fabulous views of the Valley Gardens. Wedding receptions take place in the main room (200 guests), while couples can make use of the gorgeous grounds with its abundant flora and fauna for photographs.

WE LOVE...

Brides and grooms are offered a free menu tasting when they book the venue, as well as continuous help from the events team throughout their planning.



www.joannebphotography.co.uk

THE PARSONAGE HOTEL & SPA

01904 728 111 | www.parsonagehotel.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Situated just six miles from York, this idyllic venue stands in three acres of beautiful gardens and enchanting woodland. Built in the early 1840s, this wow-factor historic building creates a romantic place for weddings. Inside, couples will find it retains many of its original features, while modern touches provide added luxury.



www.joannebphotography.co.uk

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

The Castania (110 guests) is where ceremonies are held. The half-conservatory room allows for glorious vistas of the grounds. Parties then move to the Crystal Suite (150 guests) to eat, drink and be merry against a backdrop of panoramic views from its two fully glazed walls.

WE LOVE...

When the party's over, couples can retire to their complimentary bridal suite for the night.



BEDERN HALL YORK

01904 646 030 | www.bedernhall.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Bedern Hall is a timeless Medieval church-style venue close to York Minster. Accessed via the historic Monkgate Bar, there are many attractive locations for photographs nearby including the Minster and College Green. The front of the venue benefits from a tree-lined entrance and gothic-shaped windows, while the attractive terrace at the back of the venue is a great spot for drinks receptions.

Inside, visitors find a characterful space with timber beams, stained-glass windows, York-stone floors and fan-vaulted ceilings.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Ceremonies can take place in the Main Hall (80 guests) or in the Committee Room (20 guests). The Main Hall is also used as a reception space, while the Committee Room is perfect for drinks and canapés or a breakout location. There's a strong focus on excellent food and personal service here, providing an authentic experience for all couples.

WE LOVE...

Bedern Hall can offer a postponement package if you've had to delay your big day in these uncertain times. If you book with them and have to cancel or postpone, the venue guarantees to refund your deposit.



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It is an idyllic setting with an array of wildlife around you; a photographer's dream where memorable moments can be captured forever. The sunsets are breathtakingly beautiful they change the colour of the landscape around you as the sun slowly slips away and the night begins to fall.

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In an English country garden

Venues with al fresco appeal

BOWCLIFFE HALL

01937 541 111 | <https://bowcliffehall.co.uk>

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

The perfectly manicured gardens at Bowcliffe Hall give a sense of tranquility. The Bowcliffe Estate offers 28 acres of spectacular grounds, with availability for a select number of marquee weddings. Built between 1805 and 1825, Bowcliffe retains the stately atmosphere of a country house, which is steeped in history.

A modern contrast is provided by the multi-award-winning Blackburn Wing – a 2,000-square-foot treehouse shaped like an aeroplane wing nestled in ancient woodland. Designed with meticulous attention to detail, the copper-and-glass masterpiece makes a spectacular venue.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Couples can choose from two opulent ceremony spaces. The Bowcliffe Room (80 guests) offers the chance to walk down

the aisle in a room that's the epitome of Georgian elegance, with its period features, high ceilings and double doors to a south-facing terrace. The Ballroom (135 guests) provides all-out glamour with its incredible chandelier and 23.5-carat gold gilded ceiling. It can also be transformed into the perfect reception space with its phenomenal sound system and hidden oak dancefloor set against beautiful garden views.

The contemporary Blackburn Wing (60 dinner guests and 120 reception guests) provides an exquisite setting for celebrations. Built as a tribute to Robert Blackburn, a Yorkshireman and aviation pioneer, this architectural showstopper is home to state-of-the-art facilities and will provide a memorable big-day backdrop.

WE LOVE...

Couples marrying here will receive a 12-month membership to Bowcliffe Drivers Club. This private member's club is set in a grandiose space inspired by the 1920s and the golden age of motoring. It's also a stunning place for a drinks reception.



BOLTON CASTLE

01969 623 981 | www.boltoncastle.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Situated in the Dales, this impressive Medieval castle overlooks the Wensleydale Hills. Found in beautiful gardens, there are plenty of picture-perfect spots including a maze and flower arches. There's real wow factor as guests enter through the portcullis into the cobbled courtyard and the view from the battlements is truly breathtaking.

Inside, the castle has been protected to show how it would have looked when it was a luxurious Medieval home, complete with working fireplaces and spiral staircases. Guests will also love seeing the armoury and dungeon.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

There are many areas to explore and rooms to suit up to 120 day guests and 200 evening guests. The Old Kitchen (up to 70 guests) is a popular space for smaller weddings or reception drinks with its beams and working fireplaces. Once Mary Queen of Scots' day room, the light and airy Solar (120 guests) is where most ceremonies are held. The Great Chamber can seat up to 120 guests for a meal, and is a brilliant party space for 200 friends and family in the evening.

Couples will be glad to know the venue is available the day before the wedding for stress-free set-up. They'll also receive a free menu tasting.

WE LOVE...

The resident birds of prey can provide a falconry display or even deliver the wedding rings.



THE DEVONSHIRE ARMS HOTEL AND SPA

01756 718 155 | www.yorkshirewedding.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

The Devonshire Arms Hotel and Spa at Bolton Abbey combines panoramic beauty with style and traditional elegance. This landmark venue is enveloped by pretty English gardens full of abundant plants and flowers, as well as an Italianate-style knot garden.

The venue itself is a handsome Georgian property crafted from Yorkshire stone. Once a coaching inn owned by several dukes of Devonshire, it's been sympathetically extended. Inside it has a homely yet classic feel, with fine art, period features and contemporary design.

The bedroom suites boast hand-carved four-poster beds and the hotel even has two heli pads for those who wish to arrive in style.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Ceremonies take place in a range of locations for 12 to 90 guests. The wood-panelled Cavendish Room (90 guests) boasts decorative sconces and mirror panels, while the atmospheric Clifford Room (30 guests) is ideal for cosy celebrations with its dark blue palette. Smaller parties should consider the Hartington Room (20 guests) or the Barden Room (12 guests). Receptions can be held for up to 130 loved ones.

Couples will receive a complimentary tasting to help them decide on their big-day menu.

WE LOVE...

The tranquil Devonshire Spa is housed in an ancient barn adjacent to the hotel and features a swimming pool, treatment rooms, steam room, sauna, Rasul temple and relaxation space for pre- and post-wedding pampering.





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WHARFEDALE GRANGE

0113 288 6320 | <https://wharfedalegrange.co.uk>

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Wharfedale Grange is situated on a picturesque 90-acre fruit and flower farm between Leeds and Harrogate, overlooking the beautiful North Park of Harewood House. The serene countryside provides the perfect rural retreat among tranquil scenery, pretty villages and stunning landscapes.

The rustic yet modern interior embodies the breathtaking North Yorkshire surroundings. Through the remarkable redevelopment of four barns, Wharfedale Grange has been transformed into an exclusive setting and one of the most opulent barn venues in the north.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

The gorgeous Ceremony Room holds up to 200 people. After the formalities, the venue's outdoor spaces are the perfect summertime setting for a drinks reception surrounded by panoramic vistas. In the winter, celebrations are held in the luxurious cocktail bar and reception area under sparkling chandeliers for up to 250 guests. A specialised events team is always on hand to offer its expertise.

WE LOVE...

Everything has been thought of at this venue. There's the luxury Bridal Prep Room, opulent accommodation in The Farmhouse, the cosy Gossip Room and even a one-of-a-kind prosecco tap!



BIRDSALL HOUSE

01944 316 003 | <https://birdsallestates.co.uk>

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Overlooking the scenic Yorkshire Wolds, Birdsall House is nestled in its own secluded grounds including lawns, a 12th-century monastery and a lake overlooked by a temple, which is licensed for ceremonies. Peacocks roam freely through the manicured gardens.

Inside, this exquisitely furnished family home has a grand yet intimate feel where parties can celebrate in style with complete privacy. The five beautiful reception rooms can be used separately, or combined to create a stunning wedding location.

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

There are plenty of spaces to choose from for celebrations. The impressive Ballroom (180 guests) is perfect for large congregations while the Oval Room (40 guests) features huge windows and a



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grand piano, which will leave your family and friends awe struck. There's also the Long Hall or the remarkable Dining Room (80 guests), which is often used to host a pre-wedding dinner the night before.

For those wishing to get outdoors, vows can be taken on the Front Porch with up to 250 loved ones seated outside. The intimate temple is a one-of-a-kind space overlooking the lake or the traditional St Mary's Church (250 guests) is found in the grounds.

Newlyweds can have a fabulous marquee and enjoy dancing in the gardens 'til late surrounded by views of the lake, woodland and Yorkshire Wolds. A late license to extend celebrations past midnight is available on request.

WE LOVE...

Guests will love having exclusive use of the house for the entire weekend; there are six luxury bedrooms to stay in including a bridal suite.

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Luxury accommodation to sleep 34 guests in 15 beautifully designed bedrooms all with en-suites. Spicer Manor also has a state-of-the-art cinema room, games room and twin hot tubs.

Set amongst open country fields edged with Yorkshire stone walls Spicer Manor has an amazing backdrop for capturing those special images on your wedding day. The small woodland and 2 paddocks provide the perfect space to allow children to let off some steam while you relax under the old oak trees, set up outdoor activities or even enjoy sitting around an open campfire

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HOME ON THE

farm

Frances and James had a marquee wedding at home, with an emphasis on having the time of their lives

Images courtesy of Ruth Mitchell Photography



Frances and James were both out in Northallerton's infamous Bongo nightclub when they met. "I just thought he wasn't bad looking," Frances laughs. It must have been more than that, as the couple's relationship blossomed and James was soon planning how to pop the question.

After working away for two weeks, James returned home and the couple decided to go for dinner at their favourite pub, The Black Horse Inn, Kirkby Fleetham. "Before we left he called me into the kitchen," Frances tells us. "He had lit tealights in a heart that said 'Marry me' – badly burning his thumb in the process! It was a total surprise."

The couple set the date for 6th July, 2019, with a church ceremony at St John's, Sharow, and they knew exactly where they wanted to hold the reception...

SETTING THE SCENE

"I grew up on a farm and always wanted a marquee wedding," Frances says. "What better venue is there than in the front paddock at home?" The pair opted for a blush, cream and green palette with a rustic country theme running throughout. "The florals had a relaxed vibe with lots of blush and white blooms and greenery," Frances tells us. "The centrepieces were trees with hanging glass tealight holders." For their cake, they kept the design beautifully simple and informal.

The marquee was brimming with pretty and personal touches, such as blush chair covers dressed with sprigs of eucalyptus, floral hoops, huge potted plants for outside and a fairy-lit chiffon backdrop for the top table.

Fitting in with the country theme, they had their table plan hand-painted with a meadow feel. "I wanted the top table to be a wagon to represent my family's haulage business," Frances explains. "The other tables were motocross bikes as this has been James' hobby from a young age." Each guest was given a Macmillan Cancer Support pin badge as a favour. "I lost my gran to cancer five years ago, so this was something I really wanted to do," the bride says.

Frances arrived in style at the church. "I rode in my dad's 1950s Morris Commercial Wagon," she says. "We came back from the church in it too, sitting on straw bales." A

string quartet performed in the church and then returned with the party to play at the gloriously sunny drinks reception.

Friends and family were spoiled for choice when it came to food. There was a choice of crisp belly pork with Asian-style noodles, arancini, Yorkshire beef with dauphinoise potatoes, roast chicken and mini cottage pies. They finished with a classic trio of desserts: Eton mess, strawberry and prosecco posset and chocolate fudge brownie.

LOOKING THE PART

The bride looked stunning in a simple Pronovias gown from Victoria Robson Bridal, with pretty detailing on the sides and back. "When Victoria first pulled it out, I said it wasn't for me," Frances remembers. "She convinced me to try it and I absolutely loved it! When I walked out my mum burst into tears, so I knew it was *the one*." She teamed it with a Swarovski Angelic necklace, bracelet and earrings.

Coordinating perfectly with the day, the men wore blue tweed suits from Humphrey and Tilly in Thirsk. James wore a gold tie and pocket square to stand out from the groomsmen who wore pink accessories to match the bridesmaids. "My best girls wowed in blush dresses with embellished necklines," Frances says.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The nerves really kicked in for Frances the night before the wedding. "I felt so sick," she says. "I was awake from 3am on the day with butterflies in my stomach." This all soon evaporated when she was surrounded by her nearest and dearest. "There were so many amazing moments," Frances remembers. "From my parents seeing me in my dress for the first time, to laying eyes on a choked-up James at the altar and the most incredible speeches."

*Frances' top tip:
Enjoy every minute, take
it all in and party the
night away!*



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END CREDITS

Marquee | www.wills-marquees.co.uk
Photographer | www.weddingsalive.co.uk
Bride's dress | www.victoriarobsonbridal.com
Bride's hair | www.facebook.com/jasmineatburgongreen
Bridesmaids' hair | www.facebook.com/Kerrys-Hair-Design-634074823315606/
Make-up | www.facebook.com/allbitsbeauty
Menswear | www.humphreyandtilly.co.uk
Bridesmaids' dresses | www.victoriarobsonbridal.com
Mothers' outfits | www.snootyfroox.co.uk
Cake | www.fairycakesnorthyorkshire.co.uk
Stationery | www.hollyhocklane.co.uk
Flowers | www.flowerdesignripon.com
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Generators and fridges | www.stevenjdresser.co.uk
Outdoor plants and trees | www.ftateandsons.co.uk

A DAY TO *remember*

A vibrant palette of rose and royal blue set the scene for Catherine and Stuart's celebrations

Images courtesy of Your Choice Photography

Catherine and Stuart met 15 years ago at a wakeboarding festival in North Wales. "He was so friendly and made me laugh," Catherine remembers. "I was also attracted to his lovely Welsh accent!"

The couple have two sons together, and Stuart knew they had to be involved in the proposal. "He got down on one knee at Ingleton Falls," Catherine tells us. "He proposed with both our sons witnessing; it was so romantic and such a special moment in our lives." Catherine had no idea it was coming, but of course she said "yes", and they got to work planning their dream day for 20th July, 2019. Catherine fills us in on all the details of their Cookridge Hall wedding...



Cookridge Hall was the ideal size for our close friends and family and we loved the ceremony hall and reception space. Outside there were plenty of beautiful backdrops for our photos.



We chose a palette of rose and royal blue, which ran throughout our styling. The flowers were exactly what we wanted and incorporated old roses – my favourite! We wanted the centrepieces to be simple and elegant, our venue stylist used flowers and a balloon in a tall clear vase.



Our venue stylist created an amazing ceremony backdrop from big pictures of roses. She also made a flower wall behind the top table with a combination of fresh and faux blooms.



Our cake had three tiers to represent different times in our lives. The first tier was when we met at Wakestock, the second showed us as a family with our two boys and the third was me and Stuart kissing on our wedding day.



Our table plan looked striking with a colourful background and flowers. We treated our loved ones to fudge wrapped in rose-patterned cellophane. We even managed to get it in the same flavours as our cake: lemon, salted caramel and chocolate orange.

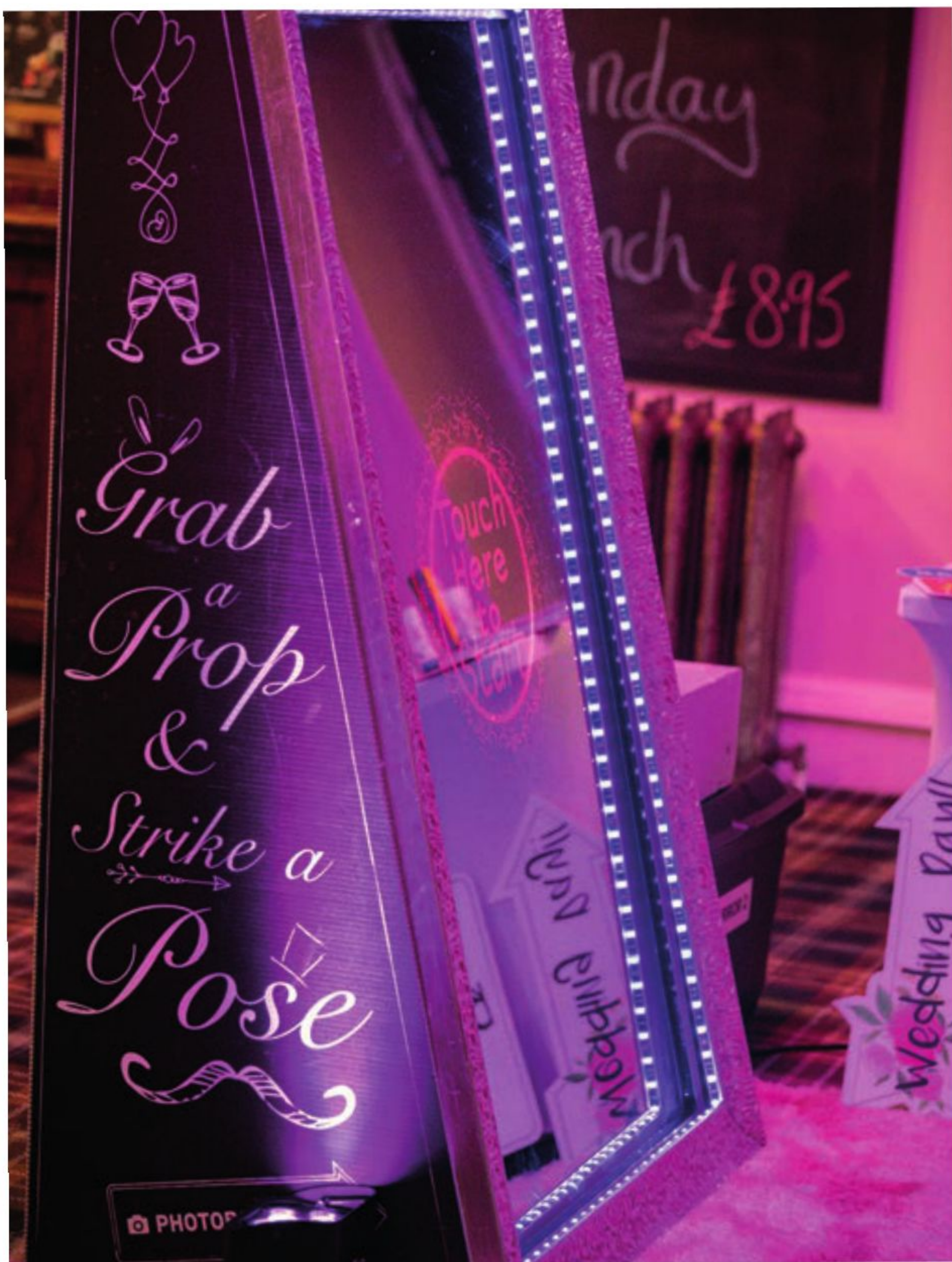


My dress was glamorous yet pretty, and it accentuated my waist. I teamed it with a veil and tiara and some of my mother's jewellery, which has great sentimental value.





The men looked dashing in royal blue three-piece suits. Stuart wore a different waistcoat to stand out. My maid-of-honour looked elegant in a rose-coloured gown with a train.



The party got going with the venue's resident DJ and we had a magic mirror to keep everyone entertained. Our guests loved all the props, and the fact that they could take the photos away as a memento.



The day was perfect, and I loved saying "I do" to Stuart, who is my best friend, partner and soul mate, in front of our two sons.



We were so happy to have our nearest and dearest from both the UK and the Philippines with us. My parents had flown in especially and both walked me down the aisle. My father was also very proud of me for giving a speech!

End credits

Venue and catering | www.bannatyne.co.uk

Photographer | www.yourchoicephotography.com

Hair and make-up | www.facebook.com/louisehawcethairandmakeupartist

Menswear | www.slaters.co.uk

Cake | www.facebook.com/daintydelightsdesignerweddingcakes

Flowers and venue styling | Kookaikorner Events Decorations | 07791 123 981

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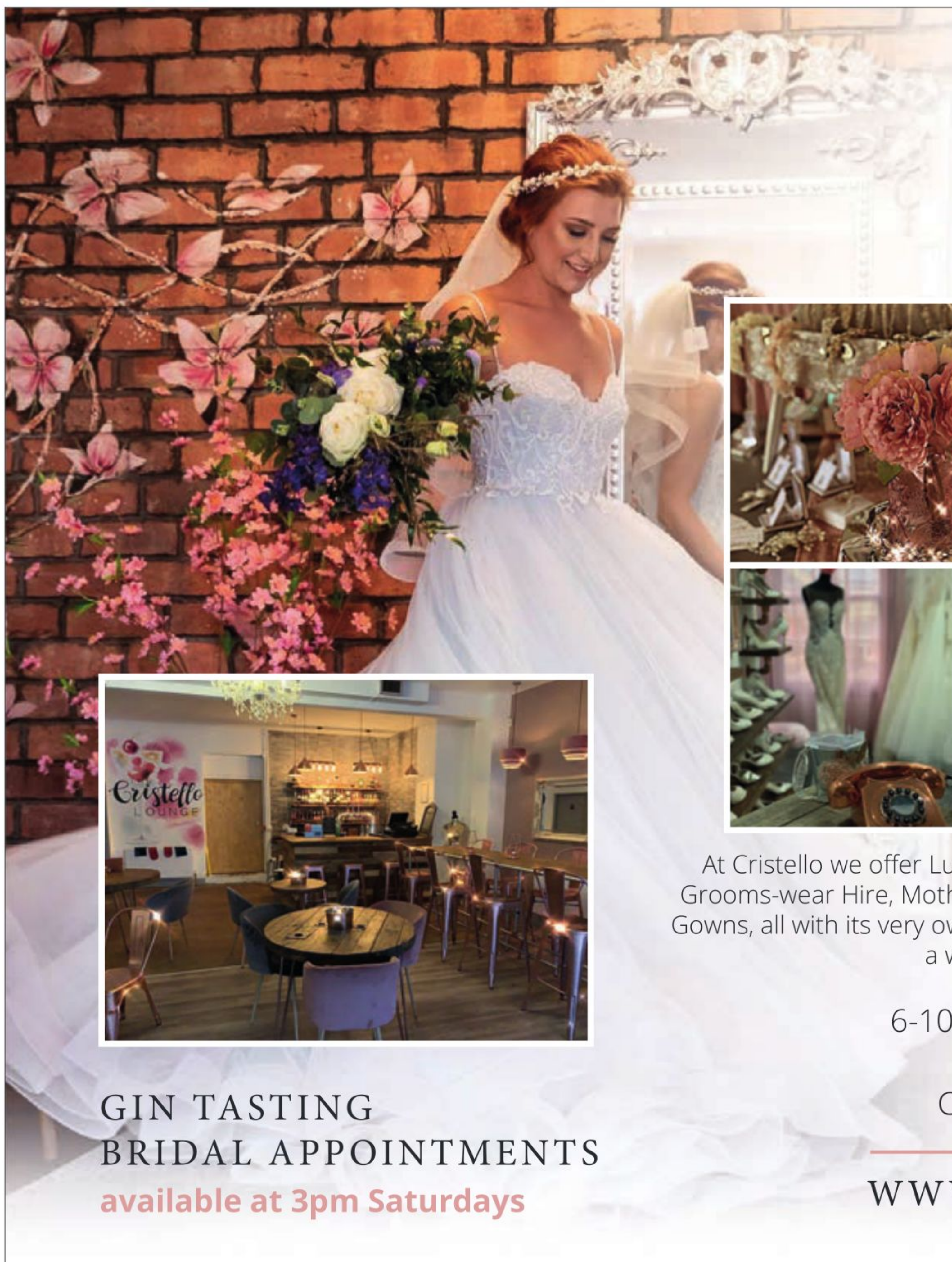
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Karyn and Andy were mates at university. “We grew close over a few months and realised there was something between us,” Karyn explains. Being friends first was obviously a great basis for their partnership; the pair had a long-distance relationship while Karyn worked abroad before moving in together with their gorgeous cockapoo, Oscar.

It was on a trip to Rome that Andy plucked up the courage to pop the question. “We had dinner near the Trevi Fountain,” Karyn tells us. “Andy told me that if you put €3 in the water then it means you will get married – so that’s what I did.” The pair walked around to the Spanish Steps, where Andy pulled a ring box from his pocket.

Back home, they soon set the date for 20th April, 2019, with a church ceremony followed by a reception at The Rockingham Arms in Wentworth. Karyn continues the story...

Pastel PERFECTION

Karyn and Andy’s big day was brimming with vintage touches and the prettiest pastels

Images courtesy of Charlotte Elizabeth Photography



It was important to both of us to have a church wedding, and we fell in love with the church at Wentworth. It's not far from where we live and the vicar was so welcoming.



REAL WEDDINGS

Our semi-naked cake looked absolutely beautiful adorned with fresh flowers.



We opted for vintage pastels as our theme. Our floral arrangements consisted of peonies and roses mixed with gypsophila in the most romantic, soft hues. We had a mix of birdcages and lanterns on the tables and a vintage tea set on the top table.



The table plan was mounted on a decorative mirror that I borrowed from my friend. The place settings were a similar design to our invitations, which were hand-decorated with little butterflies and coordinating colours.



I wanted something quirky for favours, so we got M&Ms personalised with a picture of us. We chose colours to match the day and my friends helped me put them in sleeves.



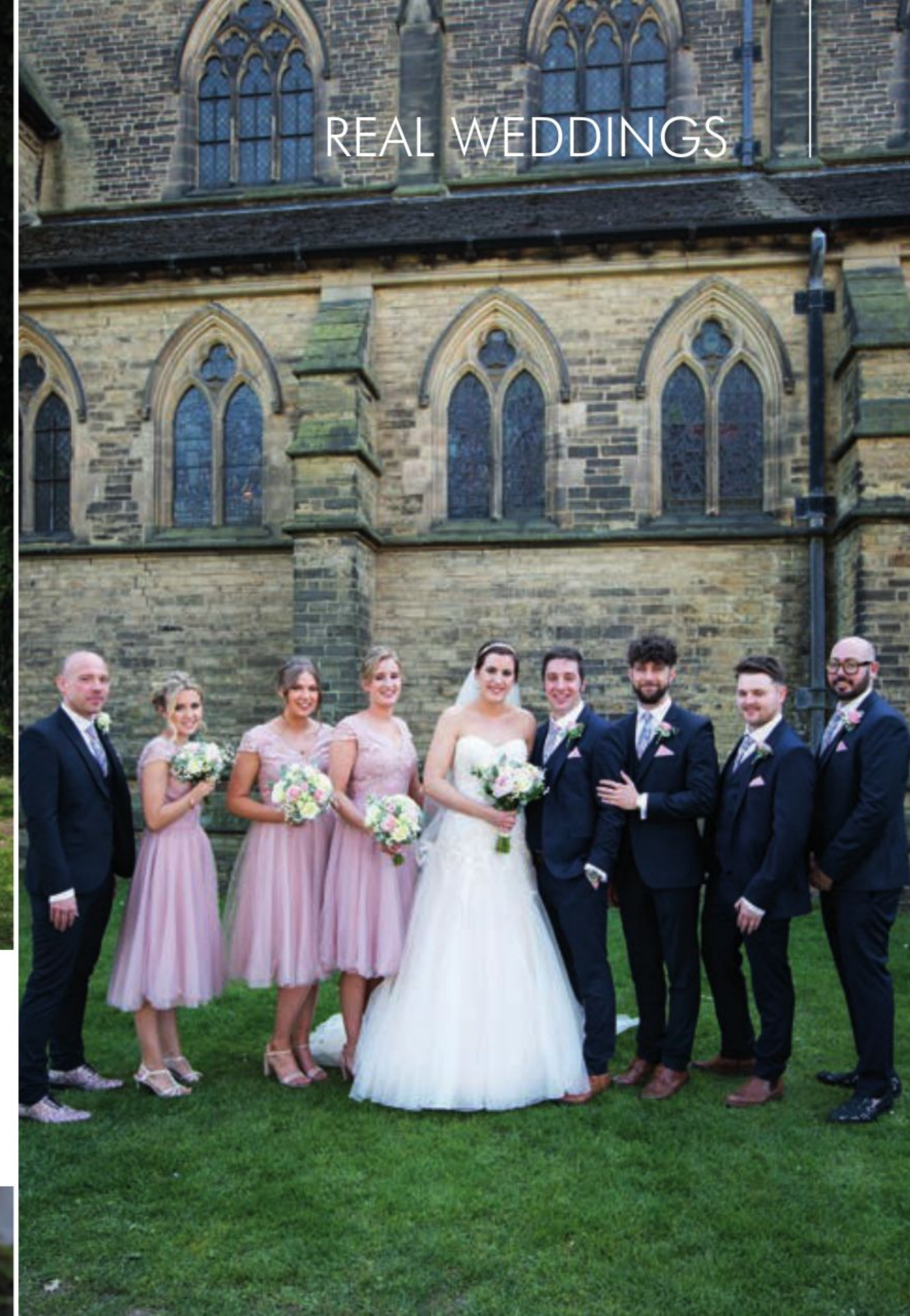
The church and venue were not far apart, so we walked through the small village in our wedding attire with our photographer, Charlotte, taking pictures. It was so surreal as there were lots of people out with their families or walking their dogs – everyone was so friendly and gave their congratulations.



I wore the most beautiful blush dress with a white lace overlay. The tulle skirt wasn't at all what I thought I wanted, but when I tried it on I knew it was *the one*. I surprised our guests by changing into a gold sequin number for the evening. Me, my man-of-honour and his husband all wore sparkly shoes; it was lovely to have that fun touch with my best friends.

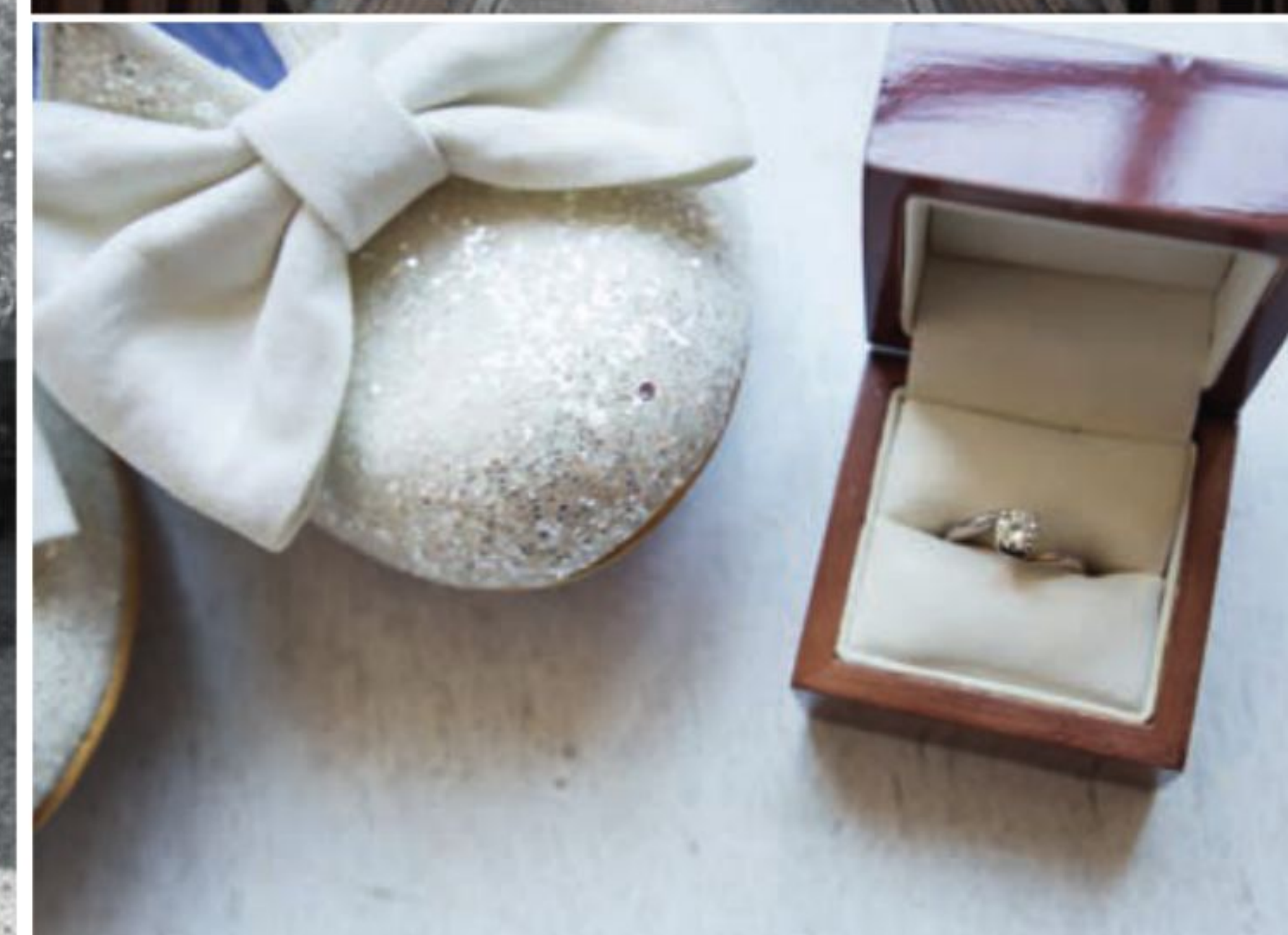


We were both incredibly relaxed on the day, even though we were expecting to be nervous. We spent the whole day laughing, and we were so lucky with the weather. Everyone got to enjoy the drinks reception outside in the sunshine.



The men all looked handsome in navy suits with pink and grey ties. My bridesmaids wore soft pink dresses, which I bought before we even booked the venue!





END CREDITS

Venue | Rockingham Arms www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk

Photographer | www.charlotteelizabethphotography.com

Bride's shoes | www.irregularchoice.com

Hair | Hair by Beckie

Make-up | www.facebook.com/beauty-lishus-355343837910737

Bridesmaids' dresses | www.chichiclothing.com

Menswear | www.next.co.uk

Cake | www.facebook.com/cakesbysharonwebster

Flowers | www.stemsfloraldesignrotherham.co.uk

Venue styling | www.bellabodavenuestyling.co.uk



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NAFAS Demonstrator (National Association of Flower Arrangement Society)

Vanessa works closely with The Devonshire Group at Bolton Abbey
as well as other wedding venues around the county

PICK OF THE Bunch

Beautiful blooms in every colour

Flowers and weddings have always gone hand in hand, but unless you have green fingers the choice of blooms can be overwhelming. We chose three different colour schemes and asked some of Yorkshire's best florists how they would make them pop.

"For this feminine look keep the bouquet loose and natural. Pastel shades look sensational when you go beyond the traditional pink. Protea pink ice are a rich shade that work amazingly with soft peach roses and lots of foliage for a natural spring-like feel." – Gillian Neild, Where Bees Meet



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www.bencummingphotography.co.uk



<https://mrsbouquets.com> |
<http://www.chrischambersphotography.co.uk>



<https://mrsbouquets.com>

"Beautiful blousy blooms such as peonies, roses, astilbe and hydrangeas are my favourite for springtime. Tall vases with big pretty florals make for timeless venue styling." – Georgina Tillotson, Mrs Bouquets Floristry & Event Styling



<https://wherebeesmeet.co.uk> |
www.nataliepluck.com

"Bouquets could be a simple hand-tied arrangement of delicate pink and ivory roses mixed with hydrangeas, veronica, lisianthus, thalespi, peonies and fragrant stocks. Table decor could be simple jars filled with single stem flowers on rustic log slices." – Jackie Axe and Margaret Bucknall, The Flower Shop South Elmsall



<https://wherebeesmeet.co.uk> |
www.maryannescott.co.uk



<https://wildflowersuk.co.uk> |
www.suzy-mitchell.com

"Can you beat pastel tones? Ranunculus is a perfect flower for these shades, and couples are loving anemones right now. Muscari, narcissus and tulips just scream spring." – Emma Turner, The Petal Studio



<https://wildflowersuk.co.uk>

"Try bringing in soft tuberose, pale roses, light pink astilbe, white astrantia and pink wax flower teamed with subtle grey foliage." – Vanessa Wellock, Wildflowers





<https://mrsbouquets.com> | <https://mattnichollsphotography.co.uk>

"For this palette, we'd go for a funky bouquet of vibrant pink ranunculus and rose, green viburnum, anemone, thistle, bright orange tulips, pink wax flower, sweet lilac stocks, eucalyptus and brunia. This could be finished off with palm leaves for an exotic feel."
– Jackie Axe and Margaret Bucknall, The Flower Shop South Elmsall



<https://wherebeesmeet.co.uk> | www.photographybykathryn.com

"Fabulous calla lilies, dahlias, sunflowers and gerberas are my go-to flowers for a colour pop. To style it, we love little collections of vases brimming with matching flowers placed around the room, with bright ribbons trailing from chiavari chairs." – Georgina Tillotson, Mrs Bouquets Floristry & Event Styling

"I love a summer wedding as it's when peonies are still around and dahlias come to life – the bold and vibrant shades they have to offer are unreal!" – Emma Turner, The Petal Studio



<https://wherebeesmeet.co.uk> | www.photographybykathryn.com

Bright and bold

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"Nothing beats roses for the sunny vibes we all crave. Try teaming with anthurium for a tropical look – especially in vibrant orange and red tones. This would look amazing with tropical palm leaves for a dramatic ceremony backdrop." – Gillian Neild, Where Bees Meet

"I love a mix of vibrant hues, to get this look I'd opt for rich purple delphiniums, hot pink peonies, pale David Austin roses, orange dahlias for a pop of colour and mix them with lush greenery." – Vanessa Wellock, Wildflowers



www.thepetalstudio.co.uk | <https://annabeth.photos>

www.thepetalstudio.co.uk | <https://annabeth.photos>

www.thepetalstudio.co.uk | <https://natashacadman.com>





I love this palette for an autumnal wedding. It's a great opportunity to add depth and texture with your choices. Rich burgundy and foliage such as continus looks great with a fabulous pop of complementary colour such as orange pincushion protea tied with silky ribbons. Try styling arrangements alongside natural wooden tables, feathers for softness and gold cutlery." – Gillian Neild, Where Bees Meet



<https://wherebeesmeet.co.uk> | www.eyesomephotography.com

"Rich red and blue shades are trending at the moment – try a deep velvety rose with blue thistles for this look. Red hypericum berries, helleborus, dark blue berries, deep burgundy amaranthus, blush rose and pine cones give that winter edge." – Jackie Axe and Margaret Bucknall, The Flower Shop South Elmsall



www.thepetalstudio.co.uk | www.jamesgreenstudio.com

<https://wherebeesmeet.co.uk> | www.eyesomephotography.com

"Think anemones, ranunculi, berries and thistles for deep colours and divine textures. Masses of candles and rustic logs look beautiful for a wintry wedding." – Georgina Tillotson, Mrs Bouquets Floristry & Event Styling

"Red chrysanthemums give depth when paired with pale oyster David Austin roses, red skimmia japonica and rosehip berries. Bring lush greenery into the mix with ferns, winter spruce and eucalyptus." – Vanessa Wellock, Wildflowers



www.thepetalstudio.co.uk | <https://photography34.co.uk>

CONTACT OUR EXPERTS:

Georgina Tillotson | Mrs Bouquets Floristry & Event Styling | <https://mrsbouquets.com>
Jackie Axe and Margaret Bucknall | The Flower Shop South Elmsall | www.southelmsallflorist.co.uk
Emma Turner | The Petal Studio | www.thepetalstudio.co.uk
Gillian Neild | Where Bees Meet | <https://wherebeesmeet.co.uk>
Vanessa Wellock | Wildflowers | <https://wildflowersuk.co.uk>

SEASONAL DELIGHTS

Delicious catering all year round

Yorkshire is bursting with amazing foodie options, so much so that choosing your catering can be daunting. The time of year in which you tie the knot will have a huge bearing on what you feed your guests, so we pulled together some ideas for each season...

Winter



Choose a selection of wholesome food and drink to warm you up on the chilliest of days.

A little spice is perfect for the cold weather – opt for a hot curry or chilli.



Instead of the usual after-dinner coffee, mix it up with a hot chocolate and Bailey's.

For a more traditional approach, why not try coq au vin or a rich casserole?



Don't forget to cater to your guests with special dietary requirements. Chat to your chosen caterer to make sure they offer food that's vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free etc. so no one goes hungry.

Fruit pies and decadent brownies offer a hearty sweet treat. Warm poached pears are the perfect lighter choice.



Box Tree Events
(www.boxtree-events.co.uk) suggest this winter-warmer menu:

Starter. Box Tree classic lobster cocktail with marie rose sauce

Main. Confit duck leg and cassoulet of Morteau sausage with glazed carrots and salsa verde

Dessert. Rum and raisin bread pudding with sauce anglaise

To drink. Warm winter Pimm's, seasonal fruit and apple juice



Spring and summer.



Match your drinks to your food. Having burgers? Try an ice-cold beer. Offering Italian options? Team it with a crisp pinot grigio. A frozen margarita will always go down beautifully on a summer's day.



Picture light, fresh dishes to while away a sunny afternoon.

For a spring wedding it has to be lamb. Try serving it three ways: loin, shoulder and rack.



www.boxtree-events.co.uk | www.jennymaden.co.uk

Get in the summery mood with picnic hampers on each table brimming with cheese, chutney, pickles and nuts. Wash it down with a cloudy lemonade or sparkling elderflower cordial.

Is there a more quintessential summertime treat than afternoon tea? Fluffy scones with strawberry jam and cream couldn't be more delicious.



Serve bowl food for a laid-back festival feel. Ideal options are macaroni cheese, Thai green curry or meatballs arrabiata.

Summer evenings are just made for barbecues. Stack it up with delicious local produce and let guests help themselves to mixed salad and beers from an ice bucket.



Box Tree Events
(www.boxtree-events.co.uk) suggest this summery menu:

Starter. Salmon ballotine with fromage blanc, fresh herbs and toasted brioche
Main. Grilled halibut alongside potted shrimps, buttered spinach and new potatoes

Dessert. Lemon tart, meringue and raspberry sorbet

To drink. Elderflower gin fizz



Autumn.



A rustic, seasonal approach is ideal for autumnal nuptials.

The popularity of grazing dishes isn't fading. Whether you choose picnic-style platters or a huge paella dish, there's something for everyone.



Treat your loved ones to cider rum punch. Team fresh apple slices with cider, dark rum and cinnamon for a taste of autumn.

The weather can change at the drop of a hat at this time of year, so team light dishes with hot sit-down food.



For dessert, a crumble packed with seasonal produce will go down a storm.

If you'd like to reduce your carbon footprint, autumn is the perfect season to make the most of Yorkshire's incredible local produce and foraged ingredients.



Box Tree Events
(www.boxtree-events.co.uk) suggest this autumnal menu:

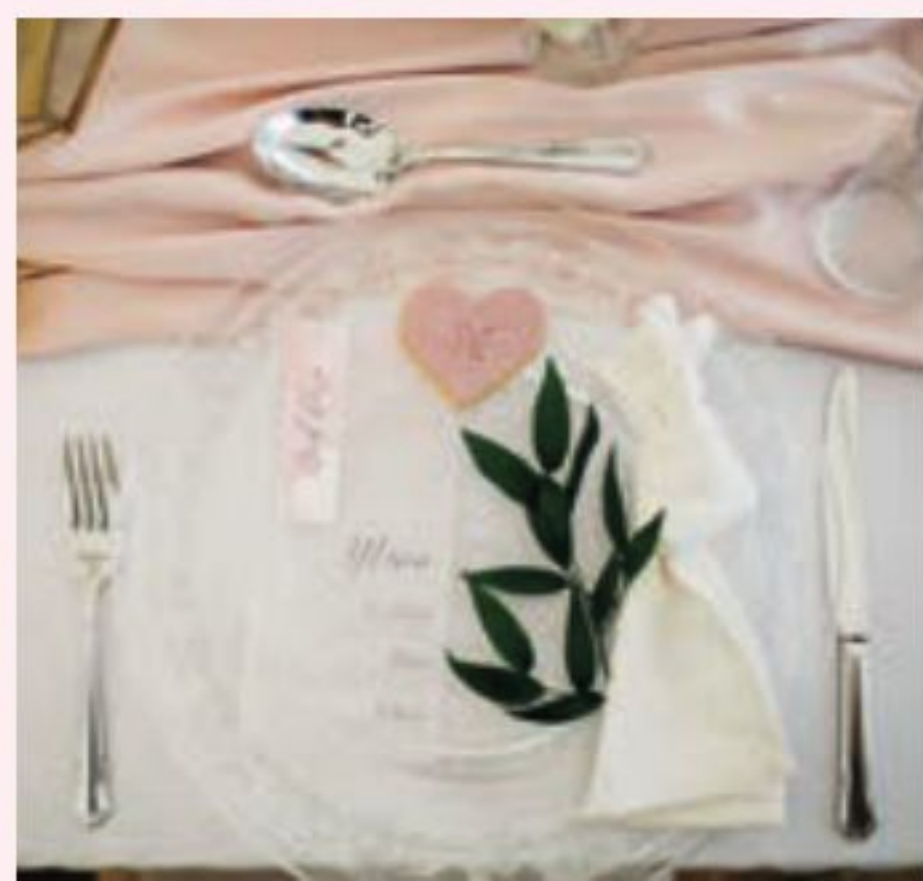
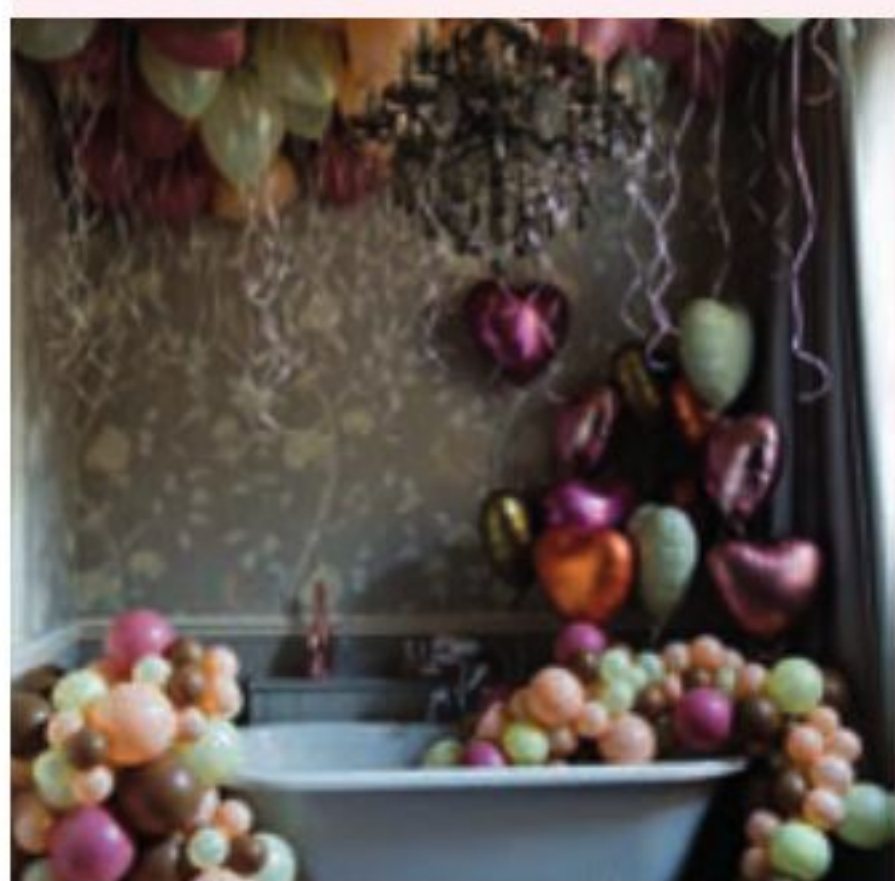
Starter. Ham hock terrine with capers, gherkins, parsley, sauce rémoulade and toasted sourdough

Main. Braised lamb shank with baby seasonal vegetables alongside saffron and tomato risotto

Dessert. Walnut chocolate brownie with raspberry sorbet

To drink. Box Tree Bellini – award-winning English sparkling wine with Yorkshire rhubarb puree

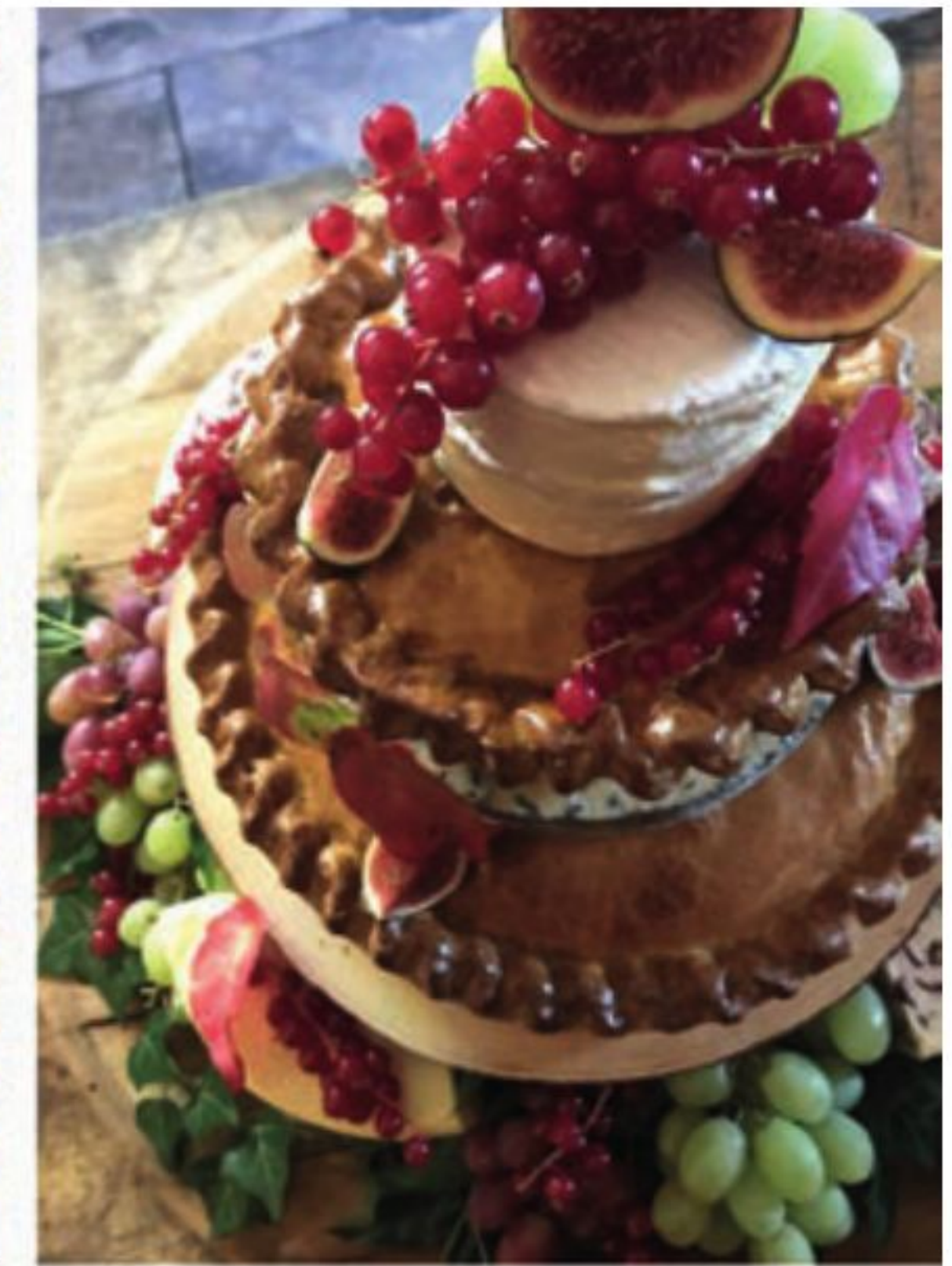




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@howardsevents | @howardsevents | www.howardsevents.com



Memorable Wedding Catering

When all you have is a day, it's important to have a caterer you can trust to deliver a menu that you and your guests will love and remember!

"Alice was so helpful from day one and made us feel so secure. We found it so easy to trust her. People are still commenting on the food and how amazing it was. She was there every step of the way and it all worked to how me and my husband envisioned!! I can't recommend them enough!! Outstanding!"

www.homegrownhospitality.co.uk
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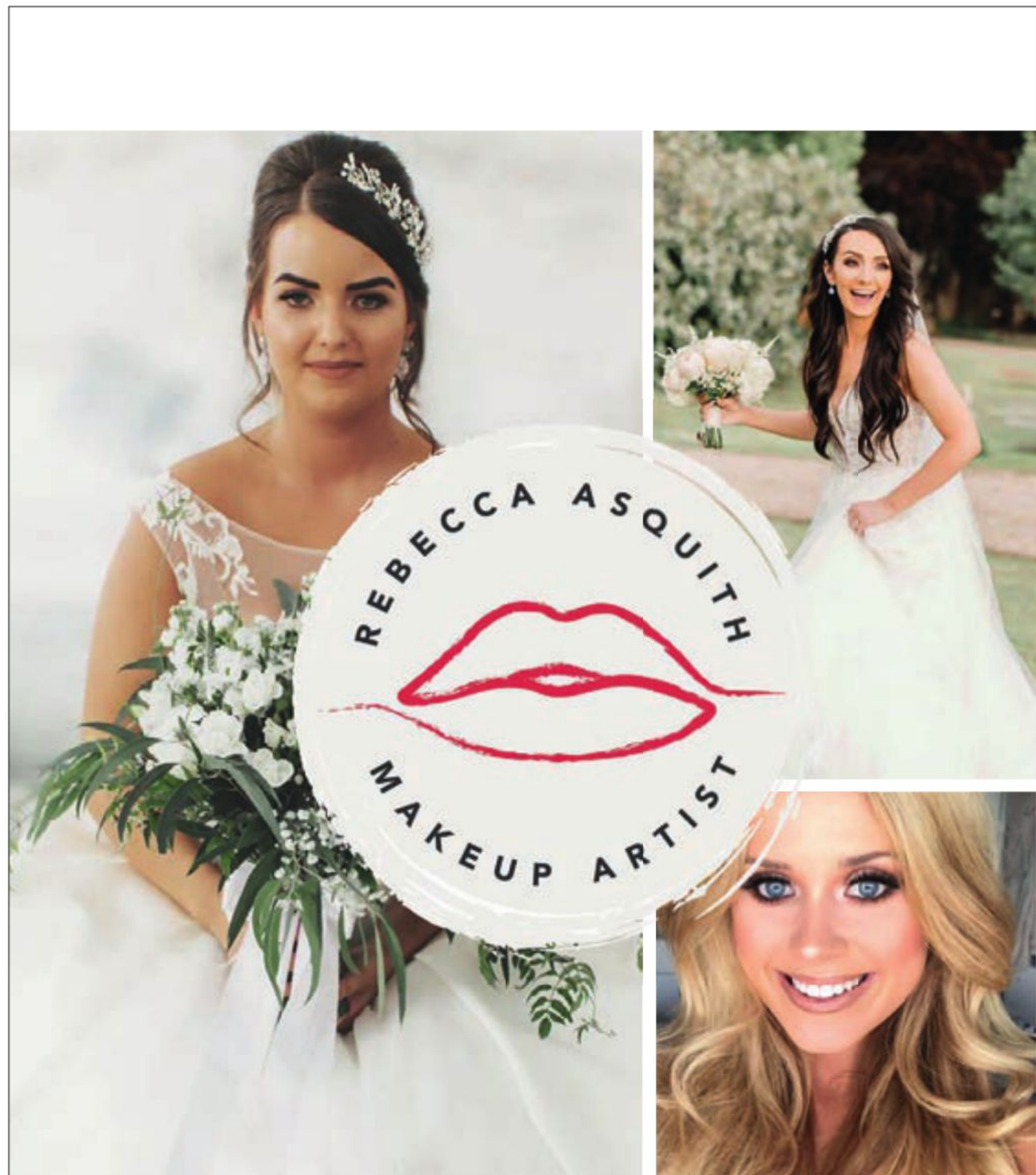
hello@twosevensclub.com | 07845604056 | Socials: /two7club
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For further wed-spiration and to keep up to date with the latest news and trends check out our *County Wedding Magazines'* Twitter page

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

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

Oh and don't forget...

 Follow us on Instagram: @cwm_wedding

 Follow us on Facebook: County Wedding Magazines

 Follow us on Pinterest: County Weddings



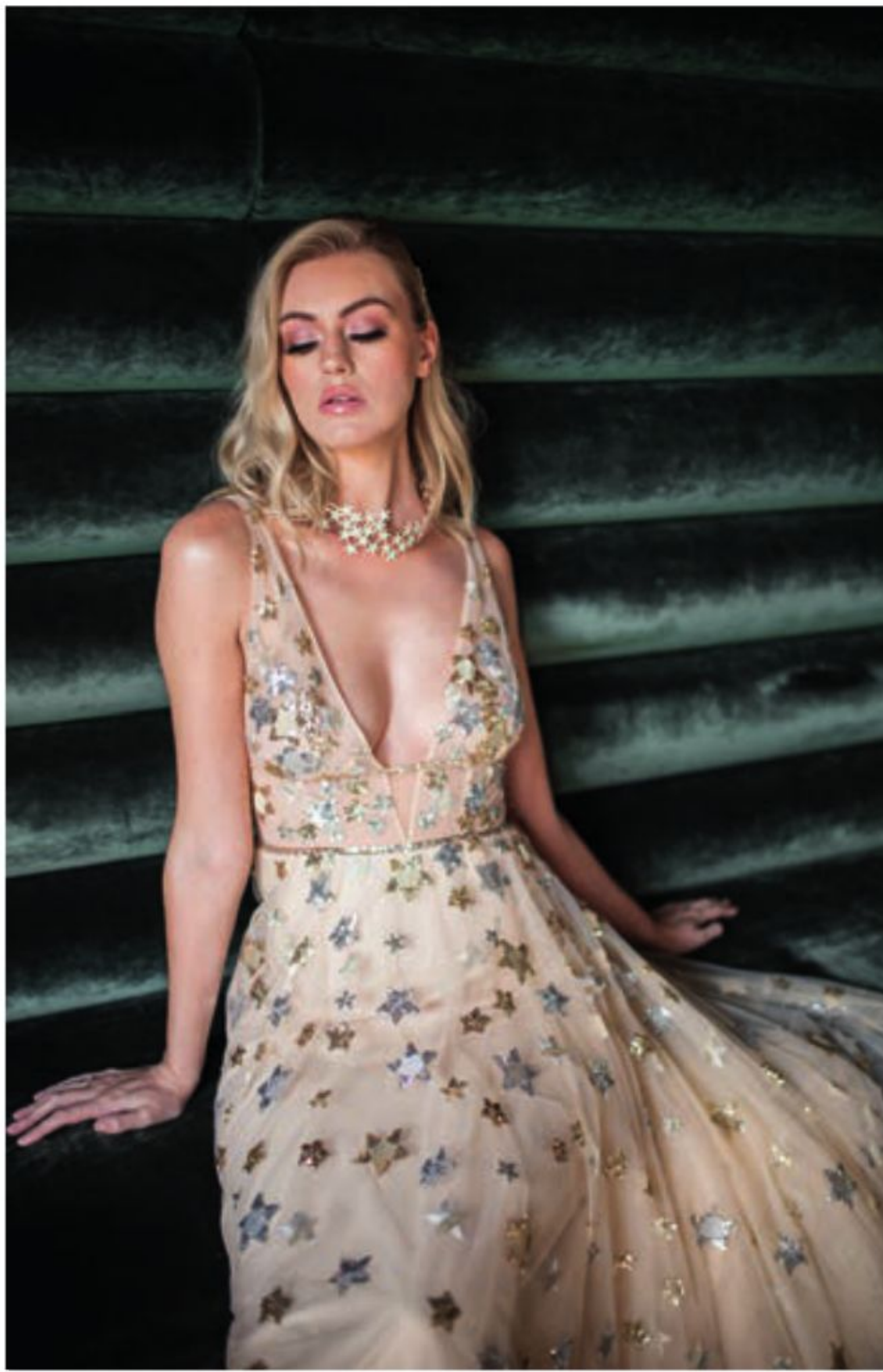
 @CountyWeddings

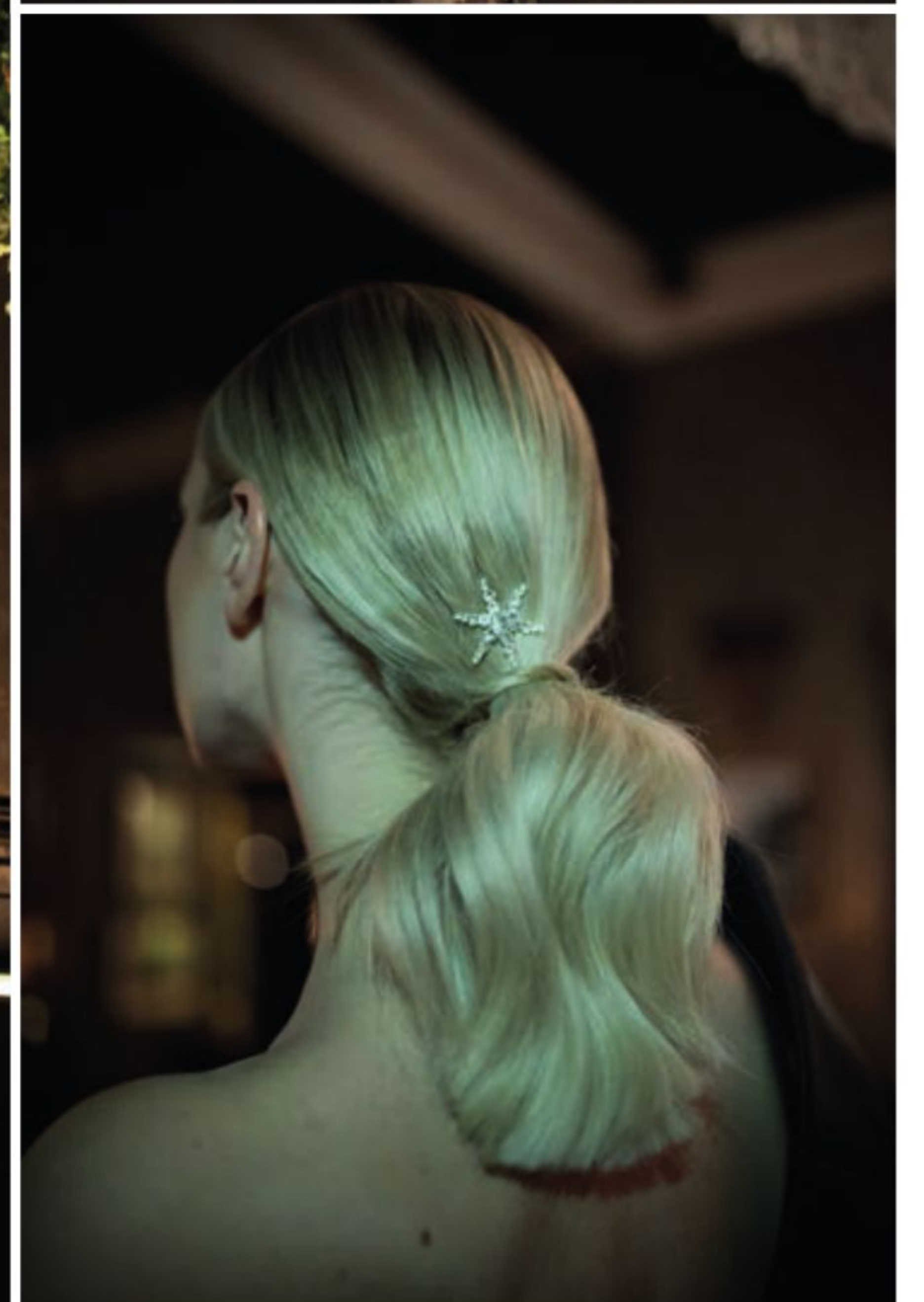
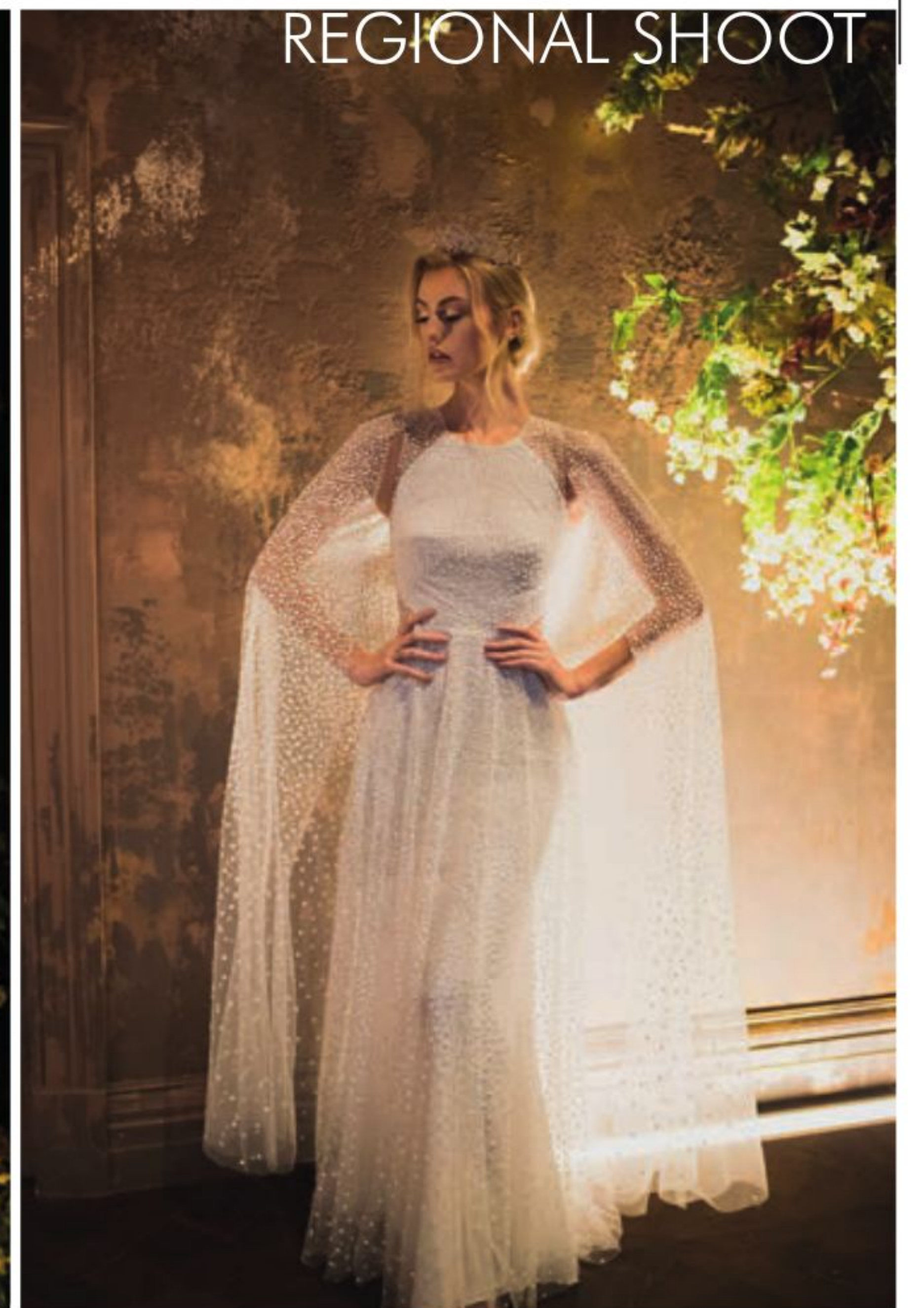
ALL-OUT glamour

Jaw-dropping dresses, opulent surroundings and the most glamorous decor – what more could you want from a styled shoot?

Images courtesy of Ophelia Media

Ammy Dutton of Ophelia Media coordinated and shot this set of outrageously glamorous images, with an editorial edge. Featuring incredible gowns from Dotty Bridal against a backdrop of the super-stylish Manor House Lindley, it shows that brides can be classy, sexy and drop-dead gorgeous on their big day...





REGIONAL SHOOT

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS SHOOT:

Venue | <https://manorhouselindley.co.uk>

Photography and coordination | www.facebook.com/opheliamedia

Bridalwear and accessories | <https://dottybridal.co.uk>

Hair | <https://hairbycraigparkinson.co.uk>

Make-up | www.instagram.com/rebeccaasquithmua

Model | Gemma Sadler



TOUCH OF SPARKLE

Online jewellery store Ruby & Oscar has launched a debut wedding jewellery collection featuring contemporary and classic styles in eight different categories. Pieces include a mixed-metal pearl necklace with matching earrings and a tanzanite penda

nt perfect for that *something blue*.

There's free delivery and a lifetime warranty on all orders. To shop, visit www.rubyandoscar.com/wedding

📷 rubynoscar

DRESS UP

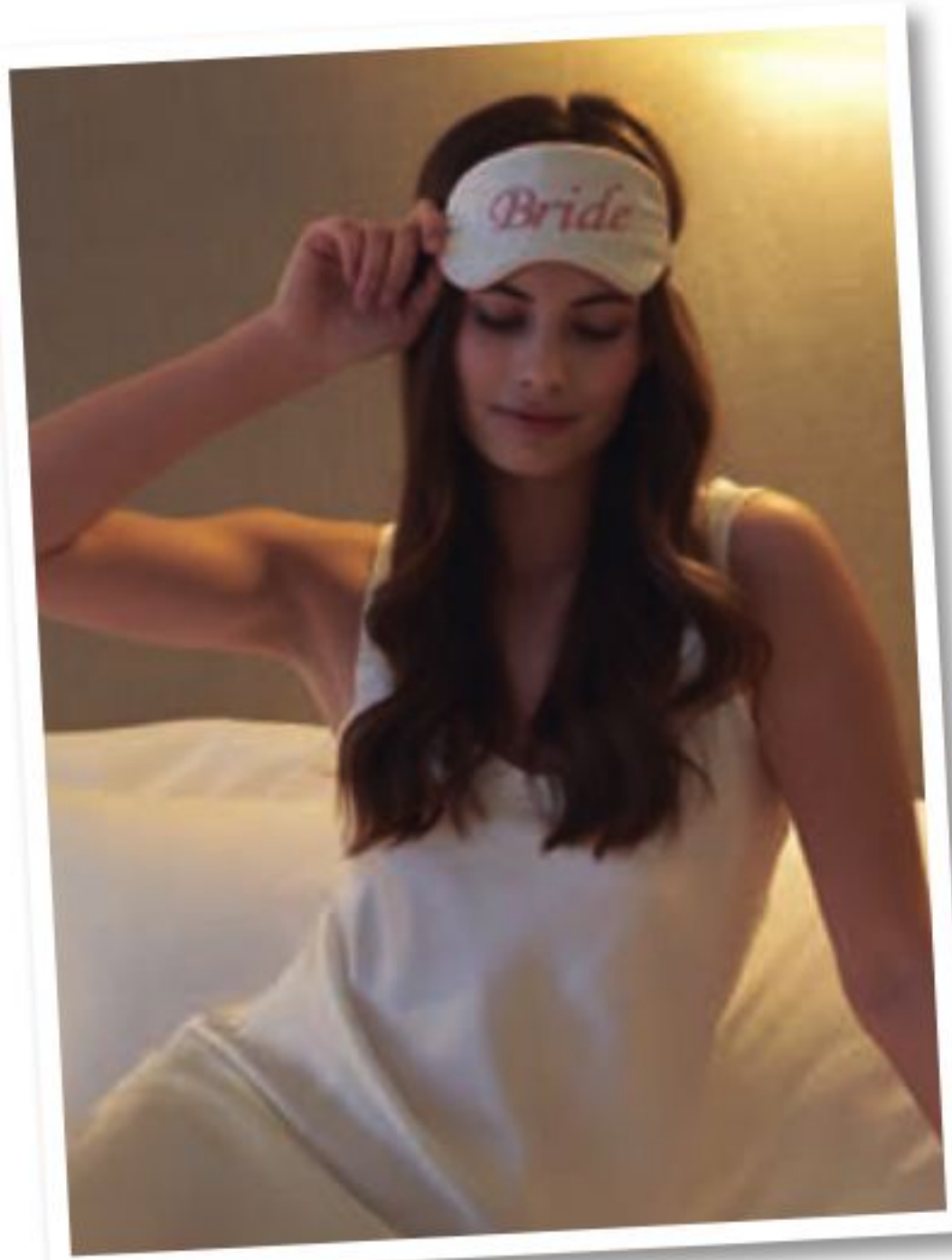
Bridal and women's evening wear brand Rowley Hesselballe London has launched in the UK. Co-founded by friends and former fashion buyers Rosie Poole and Canan Hesselballe, this online label offers modern and affordable bridal,



bridesmaid and evening wear directly to customers with next day delivery available in the UK and across Europe. The collection has been carefully made allowing for minimum alterations and includes silk, lace, and chiffon dresses and jumpsuits featuring draping, soft pleating and other elegant detailing. There are white and champagne tones for brides, and red, navy and emerald shades for bridesmaids and guests. Sizes range from XS to XL and prices start from £249 to £999.

Hand-crafted pearl, feather and silk headpieces and hair accessories complete the collection with prices ranging from £129 to £329.

To shop, visit www.rowleyhesselballe.com



BEAUTY SLEEP

Luxury British sleepwear brand, Bonsoir of London, has launched a bridal collection consisting of silk separates, a vintage-style silk nightdress, a kimono short gown, and a *Bride* and *Mrs* eye mask in blush and ivory.

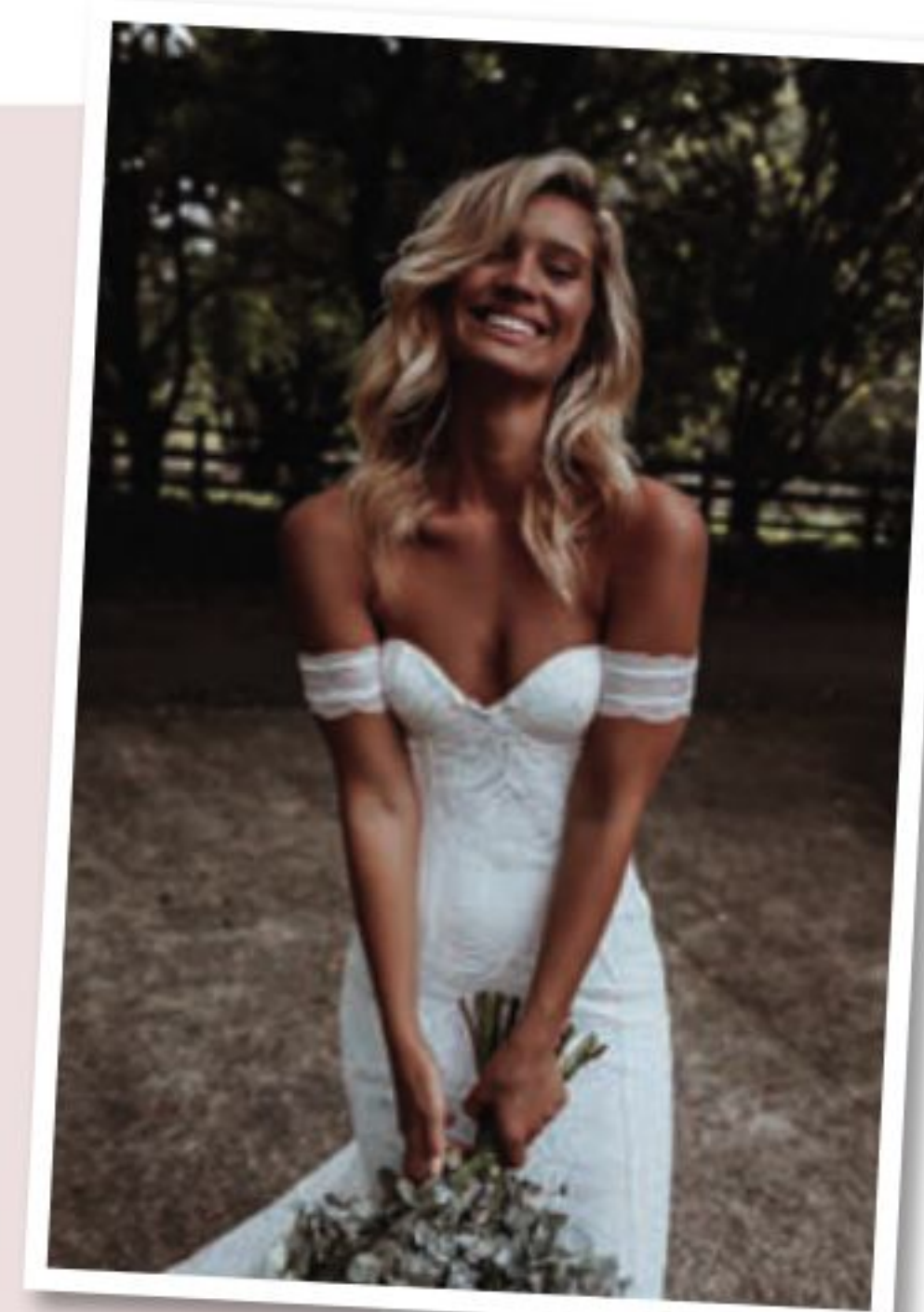
The collection has been made using premium materials hand-crafted in Somerset. To shop, visit <https://bonsoiroflondon.com>

📷 bonsoirlondon

Shape of you

Popular bridal brand Grace Loves Lace has launched three new dresses featuring a stretch bustier providing traditional shaping and full bust support without the restriction of traditional boning and corsetry. Sizes range from 28A to 42E, and the three new gowns are called *Palm*, *Poppy* and *Izabel*, with prices starting from £1,400. Each style comes with an assortment of armbands and straps, included in the price, for brides to create their own individual look.

To shop, visit <https://graceloveslace.com> 📷 grace_loves_lace



Editor loves

This 18-carat rose gold vermeil bracelet with rainbow moonstone, £100, by jewellery brand Katie Belle is a wonderful wedding keepsake. Other items include gold, sterling silver and rose gold vermeil necklaces that can be engraved with the wedding date, a name or a message. To shop, visit <https://katie-belle.com>

📷 katiebellejewellery



FASHION focus

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

Designer-inspired

Mackays has launched a new occasionwear brand called GL/AMOUR, a collection of designer-inspired dresses and separates available in flattering silhouettes with embellished details. Sizes range from 8 to 18 with prices starting from £59. To shop, visit www.gl-amour.co.uk 📷 glamourofficialuk



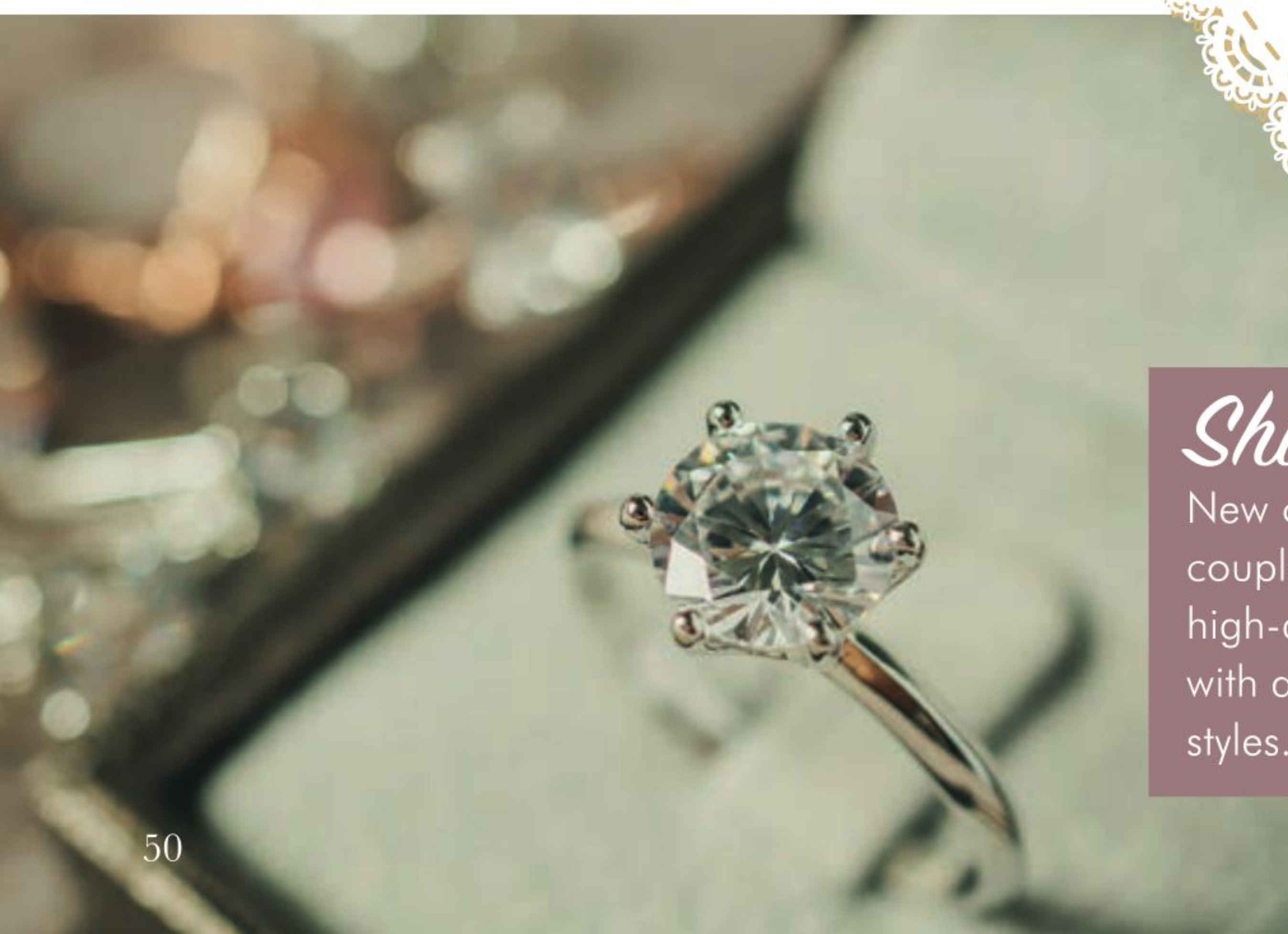
EDITOR'S FAVOURITE

Children's formalwear brand Roco offer a great selection of stylish yet affordable pieces for weddings, like this blue suit ideal for pageboys priced between £39.99 and £44.99, depending on size. To shop, visit www.rococlothing.co.uk 📷 rococlothing



Shine like a diamond

New online custom diamond service The Orange River offers couples the opportunity to design a ring that's shipped directly within weeks. Both high-quality, naturally mined diamonds and lab-grown stones are available, all with a certificate of authentication, and there's also a collection of ready-made styles. To shop, visit www.theorangeriver.co.uk 📷 orangeriverstore



Romance and ruffles

Cascading tiers, layers, pleats and ruffles decorate bridal gowns this season



www.whistles.com



www.kateedmondsonbridal.co.uk



www.justinalexander.com



www.halfpennylondon.com



www.suzanneneville.com



www.lauredesagazan.fr



BRIDAL FASHION



www.katyakatya.co.uk



<https://phillipalepley.com>



www.rosaclara.es



www.temperleylondon.com







Ivory strappy peep-toes, £395,
www.emmylondon.com



Blush lace court shoes with crystal butterflies, £660,
<https://arunaseth.com>

Embellished styles this season from
www.renecaovilla.com/gb/



Satin peep-toes with organza ties, £220,
www.harrietwilde.com



Flower embellished shoes, £310,
<https://dianehassall.com>

Platform peep-toes with crystal back detail, £84.99 per pair, Lulipa London at
www.zalando.co.uk



White embroidered Mrs pouch bag, £40,
<https://uk.monsoon.co.uk>



Shoe-spiration, from a selection,
www.sophiawebster.com

These Insta-worthy styles feature #feathers #crystals #butterflies and #bling



Embellished court shoes, £175, matching clutch bag, £80,
www.dunelondon.com



Wifey For Life court shoes, £495, matching bag, £295,
www.sophiawebster.com



Crystal-encrusted T-bar sandals with ostrich feathers, matching ostrich feather bag, from a selection,
www.jimmychoo.com



Pearl and crystal-encrusted T-bar shoes, £85, coordinating silver bag, £35,
www.paradoxlondon.com



A splash OF COLOUR

These wedding dresses in shimmery metallic shades and soft pastel tones are the perfect pick for brides not wanting to wear white

Style no 20-54 by www.bera.com



Look 27 by Morilee Madeline Gardner, www.morilee.com



Vienna by <https://phillipalepley.com>



Carrington by <https://kitrystudio.com>



Emery by www.katyakaty.co.uk



Elsa by www.motasem.co.uk



Seliin by www.rowleyhesselballe.com



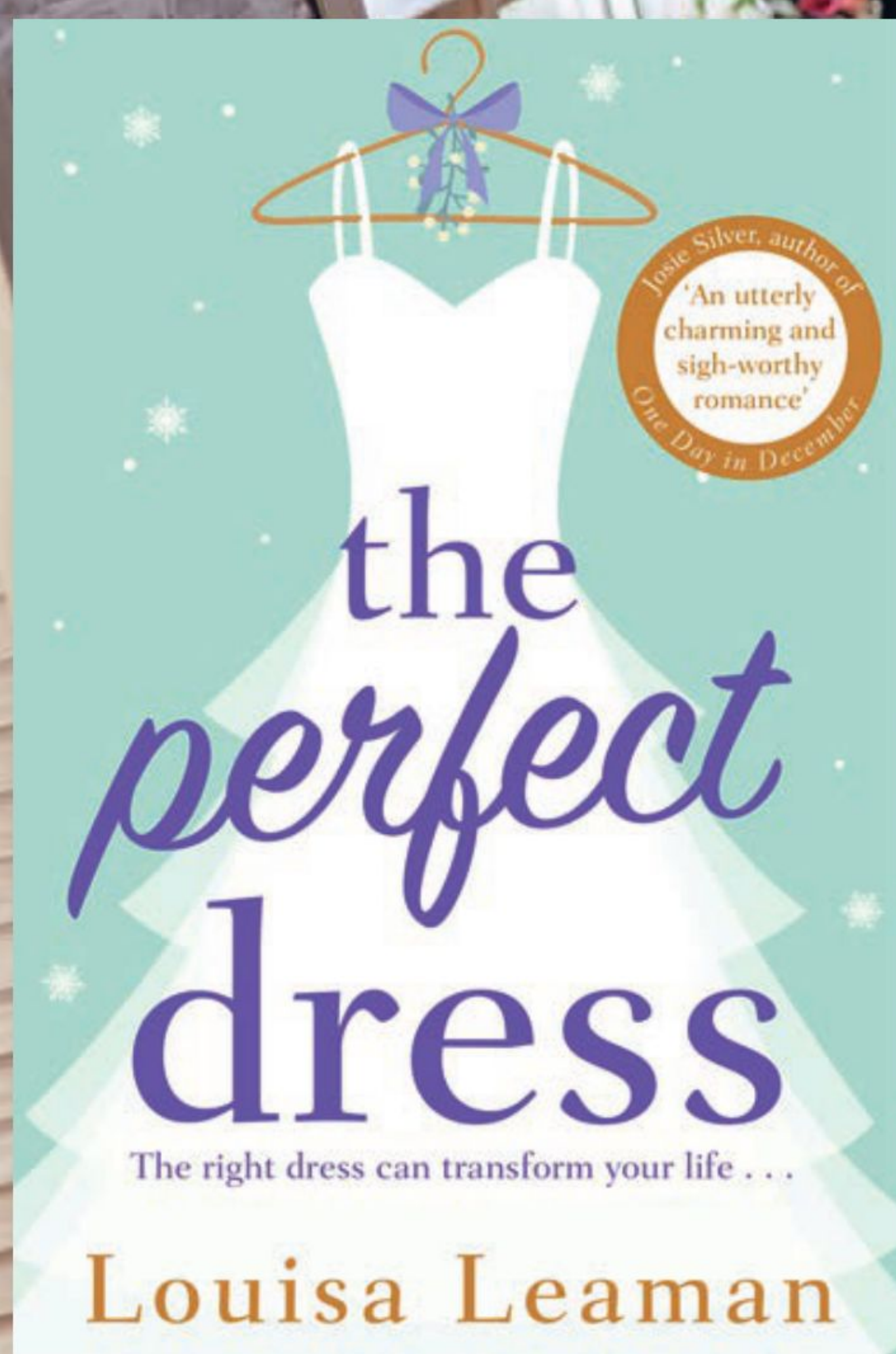
Daphne by www.temperleylondon.com



Dressed TO PERFECTION



Author Louisa Leaman shares her inspired guide to finding *the one*



Francesca Delaney, the wedding boutique-owning character of my novel, *The Perfect Dress*, has a particular mission in mind when choosing dresses for her brides. From 1930s full-length satin to crepe minis from the 1960s, she has the ability to ‘feel’ the wisdoms and stories woven into these vintage gowns, which she then matches to her customers, depending on what she thinks they need to make them happy. I had enormous fun researching the book and learned so much about wedding dresses and what they mean to their owners. Here is my guide to finding your own ‘perfect’ wedding dress – the one that sums you up and makes you feel amazing, whoever you are, whatever you’re into.

There are many codes and conventions surrounding the concept of the wedding dress, some as old as time, some defined by fashion blogs and trends, so it can be hard to know where to start. Do you know your sheath from your empire line? Your mermaid from your trumpet skirt? If you’re not sure what shapes and cuts suit you, study the clothing you already have in your wardrobe. That favourite top or dress that you love, the one that makes you feel super confident and beautiful – what is it that works so well? The waist? The fabric? The neckline?

One of the most important garments you’ll ever wear, your wedding dress is a chance to really

express yourself. All eyes will be on you and your image will be captured in photos that you'll want to keep forever. Naturally, you'll want your look to be perfect. The key question is: what does perfect mean to you? Start asking yourself questions – a bit of self-exploration to bring your true wedding dreams to light. Here are some ideas (get your journal ready!):

What would I wear if I wasn't afraid of wearing anything?
 If I had no limits (budget, shape, etc.) what kind of dress would I choose?
 Who do I admire most in the world?
 What are the things I'm most passionate about?
 What do I like/not like to do?
 What makes me unique?
 What are my greatest accomplishments in life so far?
 What are my values?
 What would I want people to say about my dress?
 The wedding dress genie gives me three wishes: what would they be?
 What would I wear if I knew no one would judge me?
 What do I like most about myself?
 What do I believe in?
 What or who would I be if I knew I couldn't fail?

In the past, wedding dresses were often designed and worn to imply a sense of wealth or purity. Today's brides have a lot more social freedom. Anything goes and this is our privilege. It's your wedding, your marriage, your life, so let your bridal wear be a presentation of the best version of your individual self. There's nothing wrong with impressing an audience – an aisle is a big old stage to walk down – but impress for the right reasons. Make your dress about you, the heart of you. Maybe a fairytale vision is what you desire, or a bohemian statement. If you want to go down the traditional line and marry in a white dress and veil, embrace it. If you want to wear a red swing dress, that's fine. If you love super short leather mini dresses – great! Or maybe you never wear dresses at all, so how about a trouser suit? The point is to wear what makes you comfortable in your skin, so that you can be happy, relaxed and free to enjoy your day.

Talking of enjoying the day, your overall wedding plans may need to have a little bit of sway over your choice of ensemble. That white silk fishtail gown might not be the most practical apparel for a marquee on a farm. How hard will your dress have to work? Are you hoping to limbo dance on a beach at sunset or do you intend to glide gracefully around a polished ballroom? Perhaps you'd like to wear multiple dresses – something long and formal

for the ceremony, something short, glitzy and dance-proof for the after-party, in which case you've got double the challenge – and double the fun.

Armed with this knowledge, it's time to key into your feelings. If a gown ticks your criteria but doesn't make you burst into smiles and shout 'OMG! THE ONE!' then it's best to keep looking. That magic moment, you'll know it when it happens. It doesn't have to involve tears, but it should at least get you glowing inside. What then, if you have the 'moment' with lots of dresses? Step away, let the dust settle. If the special one is among the crop, it will come to light. It'll be the one you can't stop thinking about it or that you keep coming back to. So take a second look.

Wedding dress shopping is a lovely experience for everyone involved, but if you're something of a people-pleaser, it can be hard not to bend to what your mum, sister, chief bridesmaid, or shop assistant gets excited about. So it's crucial to listen to your own instincts. Keep bringing it back to: how does this dress reflect my personality and values? And remember, there's nothing wrong with throwing out the rulebook!

Did you know that the white dress has only been common convention for a short time? Throughout history and around the world, colour is widely worn. Just look at the amazing, boldly coloured Asian wedding saris. Or how about exploring the historical wedding dress collection at the Victoria & Albert Museum, where dresses of colour and pattern are abundant? You could also consider vintage. In a pre-owned gown, you may be able to find something unique, timeless and beautifully crafted, at a fraction of the cost. It's never been chicer to make your wedding dress your 'something old'. Retro clothing is experiencing a boom, not just because of its nostalgic silhouettes, but because the sustainable principles are good for the planet.

Perhaps the future of the wedding dress is individualism. This doesn't mean your ensemble has to become some kind of novelty Disney Princess meets *Game of Thrones* affair (unless, of course, that's what you want!) – the aim is to filter away any misguided beliefs and deceptions, so that you can begin your wedding dress-finding mission with a clear, truthful vision of what matters to you. It's about knowing yourself and not fearing judgement – which is surely wise advice for life itself, not just bridal couture.

The Perfect Dress by Louisa Leaman is published on 14th May by Corgi. Available from www.waterstones.com, RRP £7.99.

Lemon yellow dress, £75, www.chichiclothing.com

Sterling silver cubic zirconia ring, £30, www.jonrichard.com



Peach and ivory earrings, £18, www.oliverbonas.com



Feather pom pom fascinator, £40, Jasper Conran at www.debenhams.com



Lemon tiered dress, £99, <https://uk.monsoon.co.uk>



Sorbet shades

This season's bridesmaids' dresses and accessories come in gelato-inspired colours of peach, raspberry, lemon and pistachio

Gelato Italian silk georgette tiered gown, price on application, www.bnvcouture.com



Silver-plated toggle bracelet, £20, www.jonrichard.com



Ice cream purse, £1.99, www.bhf.org.uk



Pastel gelly hi-shine nail paint in Lavender, Iced Latte, Berry Sorbet and Candy Floss, £3.99 each, <https://barrym.com>



Pistachio green chiffon dress, from a selection, Lipsy at www.next.co.uk



Pink chiffon halterneck dress, from a selection, Essentials Collection by www.truebride.co.uk



Personalised smash cup in strawberry pink chocolate, £24.99, www.gettingpersonal.co.uk



Great gift idea!

Peach satin sandals, £89.99, www.lulipashoes.co.uk



Swan LAKE

If you're looking for true luxury for your big day, then finding the right team of local suppliers is imperative. Whether you have a loose idea in your mind, or an exact vision, this shoot shows how a talented team can bring it to life.

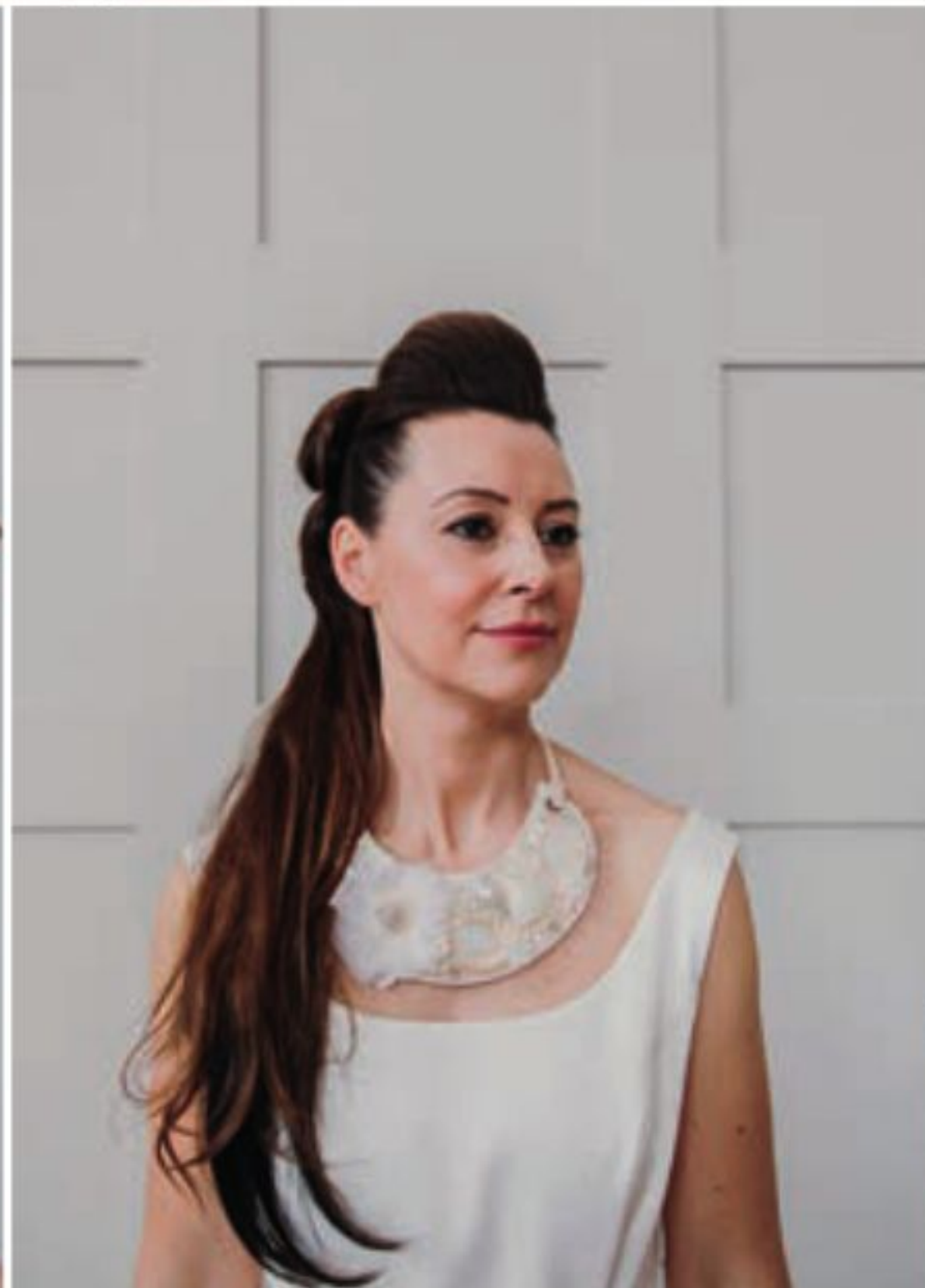
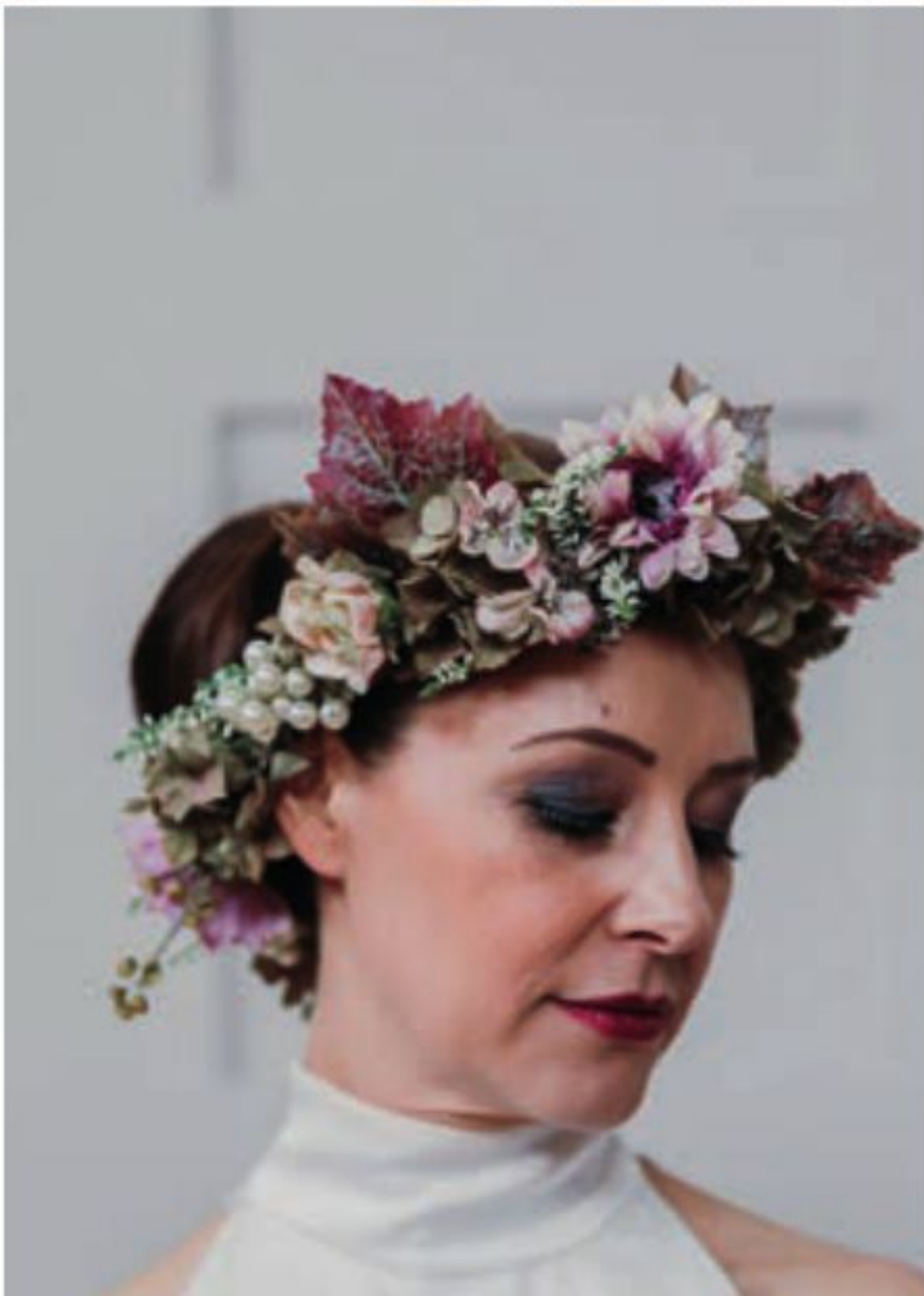
Shoot coordinator and bridal designer Stephanie of Stephanie Moran Couture opted for a Swan Lake theme. "This could have been taken in many different directions," Stephanie tells us. "Each supplier had their part to play. Everything is maximised in shoots to show what the company has to offer; it's up to couples to take elements of this to create something that fits them perfectly."

The creative North Yorkshire team crafted the ultimate picture of sophistication at the exclusive-use Thicket Priory. The clean, chic styling was beautifully juxtaposed against the historic backdrop, flamboyant styling and statement florals. Be prepared to be inspired...

This collaborative shoot boldly envisions the most luxurious of weddings, with the grace and poise of a ballerina

Images courtesy of Victoria Baker Weddings





CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS SHOOT:

Venue | <https://thicketpriory.co.uk>

Bridalwear and coordination | www.stephaniemorancouture.com

Photography | www.victoriabakerweddings.co.uk

Stylist | <https://pamelladunn.co.uk>

Cake | <https://wheretheribbonends.com>

Flowers | www.fleuradamo.co.uk

Stationery | www.raspberrytoast.co.uk

Hair and make-up | www.makeupartistsyorkshire.com

Menswear | www.dandythreads.co.uk

Rings | www.njgeddes.com

Millinery | www.instagram.com/hannahlaurenaccessories

Napkins and silk ribbons | www.extraspecialtouch.co.uk

Videography | www.wheelandspoke.co.uk

Models | www.instagram.com/kimathy_michelle | Richard Carrington

Fleur Adamo

to fall in love with flowers...

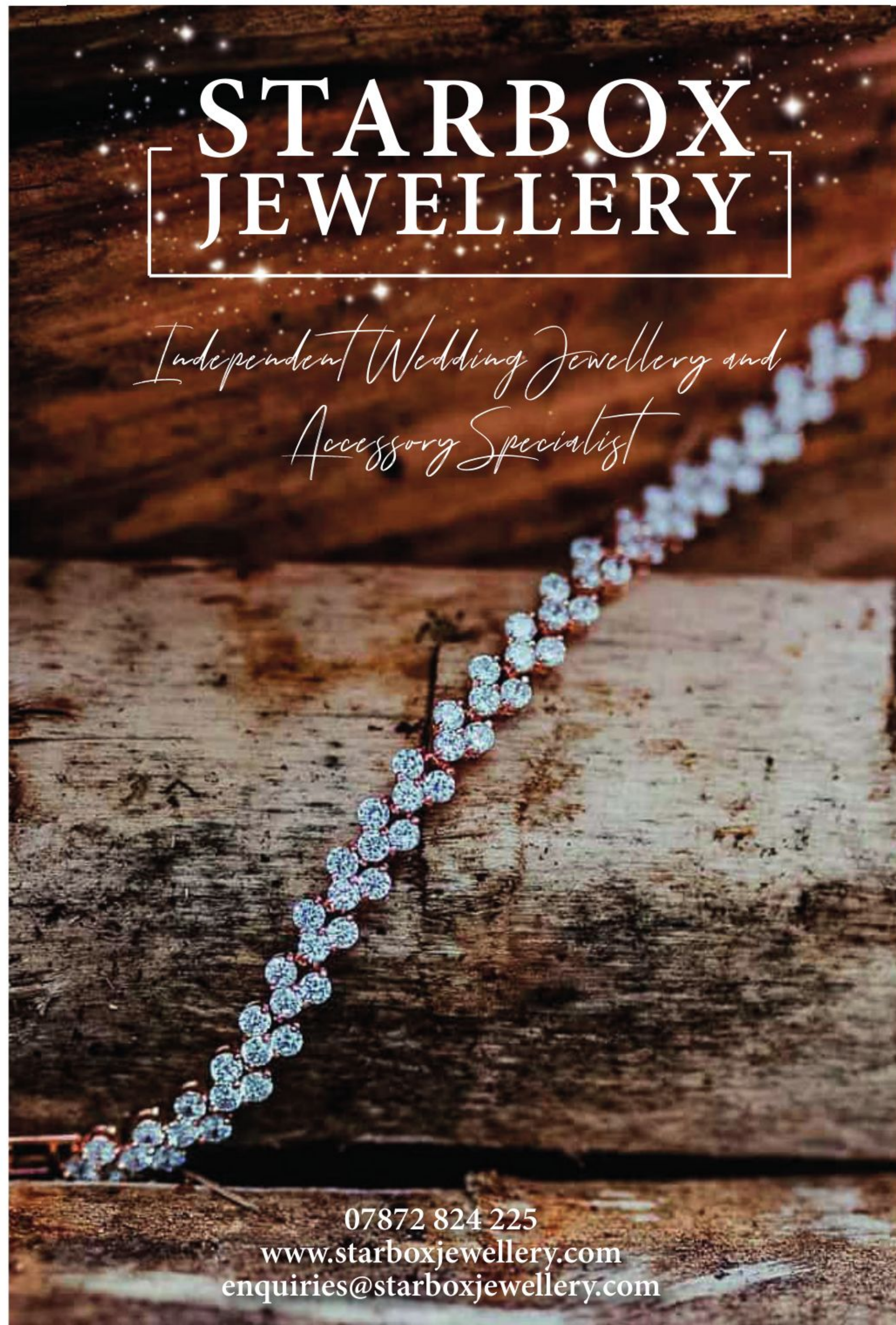


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OUR REVIEWS ARE
5 OUT OF 5

www.GandAMedia.co.uk



ABOUT THE VIDEOGRAPHERS

To give you an idea of who we are, we are a married couple first and foremost. We started our own love story when we met at film school nearly a decade ago! So, we value marriage because it's at the core of our business. This passion for love and marriage has driven us to pursue a business in Wedding Videography. We remember exactly how it feels on your wedding day, and let me tell you - your videos will allow you to revisit these emotions again and again.

We look forward to creating incredible heirlooms for you and your family...





THE

Romance

OF

Spring

Full of seasonal touches and a pretty pink and blue palette, this collaborative shoot shows the creativity of Yorkshire suppliers

*Images courtesy of
Your Choice Photography*

Nisha Keaton of Your Choice Photography was keen to showcase the incredible suppliers on her doorstep in Leeds. "I wanted to create something beautiful and local," Nisha says. "I spoke to Maisie, the wedding coordinator at The Tetley, and we had the same vision: a romantic spring theme with a vintage twist to tie in with the historic building." We adore seeing what a local team of creatives can achieve, and we know you'll love these images too...





CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS SHOOT:

Venue | www.thetetley.org
Photography and coordination | www.yourchoicephotography.com
Cake | <https://wheretheribbonends.com>
Flowers | www.vidaflowers.co.uk
Stationery | <https://graystarling.com>
Bridalwear | <https://bridalreloved.co.uk>
Jewellery | <https://starboxjewellery.com>
Shoes | www.irregularchoice.com
Hair and make-up | www.victoriamarleymua.co.uk
Menswear | www.next.co.uk
Venue styling | www.addvintage.com
Popcorn favours | <https://gbelegantevents.co.uk>
Neon and flower walls | www.lovelightstheaway.co.uk
Videography | www.gandamedia.co.uk
Models | Real couple Jamie and Jordan



NUTHING TO SEE HERE

Let's be honest, removing unwanted hair is a totally laborious task for us ladies, and boring bad-smelling products do nothing to improve the situation. That's where Nothing comes in. In bright colours of pink, blue and yellow, infused with non-plastic shimmer, and available in three fruity fragrances, hair removal is set to become something you look forward to.

The debut range available at Superdrug includes Shimmer Hair Removal Jelly (£9.99), Shimmer Hair Removal Wax (£12.99), and Shimmer Shave & Shower Sorbet (£6.99). Discover more at www.nothing.co.uk

BATHED IN LUXURY

This luxurious hand-whipped bath and shower wash is a real luxury for any pamper routine. Beautifully mild with no SLS or sulphates, it's kind to the skin and gently cleanses without drying. Soft and fluffy, it's bestowed with a light dusting of eco glitter for a touch of glam, and will leave you delicately fragranced with a scent of mimosa, jasmine, rose and white musk.

Check out www.prettylittlethings.co.uk where you'll find this beauty priced at £7, as well as many other little wonders available as super-cute wedding favours.



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

Beauty BUZZ

Scrub up well

Meet Sand & Sky's first body product: Australian Pink Clay Smoothing Body Sand. A whole new territory direct from the shores of the Aussie beach, delivered straight to your bathroom.

Not your average body scrub, this super smoothing four-in-one formula purifies, exfoliates, moisturises, and illuminates. Simply scoop a chunk of sand and massage over your body in circular motions. A little goes a long way. Rinse off and check that golden hour glimmer.

Priced at £29.90, find out more at www.sandandsky.com



BRIGHT EYES

BeautyBio's The Quench Eye is a breakthrough buildable balm that fills in fine lines and helps firm up the under-eye area. Persian silk tree bark addresses dark circles, while macadamia, olive and jojoba oils provide hydration, and create a shield against future damage from environmental aggressors.

Four skin lipids restore the critical protective layer for skin's elasticity and allow the delicate eye area to snap back into place after the daily strains. Your eyes will thank you for it.

Available at Harrods in-store or online, priced at £95.

GLOWING BRIDE

If a gorgeous wedding-day glow is the look for you, check out this lavish new launch from Payot. Suitable for all skin types and gorgeously fragranced, it dresses the skin with a long-lasting, natural-looking tan. The ideal addition to your spring skincare regime, it nourishes dry winter skin and gives your complexion a healthy streak-free glow, with a gradual tanning effect.

Its cocktail of precious oils hydrate the skin, with colouration results visible from the first day of use.

Visit www.payot.com/GB/en to find out more.



LOVE LASHES

In a Strip lashes have introduced two new light and fluffy styles, taking inspiration from Lash Perfect British, the new natural eyelash extension trend. This collection of 10, super-soft, luxury strip lashes can be moulded to the shape of the eye thanks to the flexible band, and are easily applied with lash glue.

We're excited about the fact that they're available in brown as well as black, making them absolutely ideal if you're a fairer bride or prefer a more subtle big-day look.

Check out www.yourbeautyhive.co.uk where the lashes are available priced at £12.95.



Luscious locks

When it comes to big-day hair, extensions are a must in order to achieve many of the trending looks. Whether you're a long-time wearer or the idea is completely new to you, Great Lengths' new Own The Day collection showcases versatility and the possibilities you can achieve. From a full head of bonds adding length and texture, to a few Great Lengths tapes at the side for volume and lift, your wedding day is the time to go big, own it, and leave your guests in awe.

For more style ideas and stunning images from the Great Lengths team, head over to county.wedding and check out our Beauty News section. To find a certified salon or stylist near you, head over to www.greatlengthshair.co.uk/salon-locator

www.josephscanlon.co.uk

Lip service

Burt's Bees latest range sees the brand utilise the deeply hydrating benefits of hemp seed oil. We love the 100 per cent natural origin lip balm (£3.99), which hydrates and conditions dry lips. Formulated with hemp seed oil and infused with beeswax plus other naturally nourishing ingredients, its luxurious texture offers smooth application in one easy swipe, ensuring a big-day ready pout.

Find out more about this and the rest of the range at www.burtsbees.co.uk



SPARKLE AND SHINE

Ted Baker's Midnight Bloom Shimmer Collection will keep you and your bridesmaids smelling and feeling fabulous on W-day. Ideal for adding a subtle glow to sun-kissed skin, choose from Shimmer Body Soufflé, Shimmer Body Oil, Shimmer Body Wash, and Shimmer Body Spray. You'll fall in love with the rich floral musk fragrance, which boasts exotic hints of green tea and lime blossom, floral notes of honeysuckle and snowdrops, with spicy undertones of cardamom, pepper and liquorice.

This gorgeous range is part of the Harmony Blossom Bath & Body Collection available exclusively in Boots.

BLOSSOMING ROMANCE

I was over the moon to hear that my beloved Jo Malone London has introduced a new limited edition Blossoms Collection. The cologne range features two news scents of yuja and waterlily, accompanied by the ever-popular osmanthus blossom, returning for a limited time (£52 for 30ml).

The playful scent of nectarine blossom and honey has been reimagined in a limited-edition cologne pen (£26). A great addition to your big-day supplies, it boasts a cooling ceramic tip allowing you to roll the fragrant gel onto the skin whenever you're ready for a freshen up.

Available at www.jomalone.co.uk and boutiques nationwide from May 2020.



EDITOR LOVES

It's logical when you think about it: think purple shampoo, but for your teeth. Billion Dollar Smile's Purple Tooth Polish (£10.99) brings colour spectrum technology, with a blend of purple pigments and whitening ingredients, to reflect a brighter and whiter smile. It also contains added vitamin E and natural papaya enzyme, which work together to break down stains.

There's something fun about putting this purple paste on your toothbrush, and its unusual yet pleasant taste left my mouth feeling fresh and ready for the day. I was impressed at how, after just one use my teeth already seemed brighter.

Check out the website www.billiondollarsmilecosmetics.co.uk



Fashion and Beauty Q & A

Our local pros solve your problems



www.charlottecluniephotography.com

NATURAL BEAUTY

Q I don't wear much make-up normally. How will I know what will suit me for my big day?

When working with brides, I'll always listen to their needs and get to know their day. We'll start by going through your wedding colour scheme and what your bridesmaids are wearing to build a picture. Next, I'll find out what make-up you'd normally wear and ask you to show me pictures of yourself in a beauty look that you like.

As a make-up artist, I can look to your skin tone, hair colour and eye colour to work out what shades will suit you and make you look your best on the day. It's important to have a trial so we can make sure everything is balanced perfectly with your hair and make-up.

Louise Fawcett | Louise Fawcett Hair and Makeup Artist

www.facebook.com/louisefawcethairandmakeupartist

SUMMER LOVIN'

Q What styles and fabrics will keep me cool for my August wedding?

Summer is the most popular time of year to tie the knot, and with good reason: the warm weather means we can take advantage of our beautiful outdoor spaces. There's nothing better than green grass and an English country garden on such a special day. When shopping for the perfect gown, most brides consider the style they want and the colour scheme, but a summer wedding will also influence the type of fabric you'll want to wear.

To keep cool, look for materials that are light and easy to wear like silks, chiffons, organzas and soft lace. Perhaps choose a style without too many underskirts, as these add bulk and therefore heat. A ballgown style in mikado or satin can be heavy, but if you want a fuller skirt, then an A-line number in silk chiffon with silk satin petticoats will hang beautifully and keep you as cool as a cucumber!

Kerensa Dyson | Bijou Bridal Boutique Holmfirth |

www.bijoubridalboutique.co.uk



DO ME A FAVOUR

Q We'd love to give beauty-inspired favours for our wedding, but we're struggling to find any that are eco-friendly. What do you suggest?

All of the Pretty Little Treat Company's vintage-inspired beauty products are eco-friendly. We live by our mantra: reduce, reuse and recycle. We make sure that all of our packaging falls into one of these categories. Our ingredients are natural and locally sourced too, in order to support local businesses as well as cutting down on our carbon footprint. You can confidently choose any of our products as wedding favours, or you can treat your best girls to one of our gift sets as a luxury pampering thank you gift.

Vicky Woodger | The Pretty Little Treat Co. Ltd | www.prettylittletreats.co.uk

Ishga Hydrating Hand Cream
£29.50, www.uk.ishga.com

"Writing this during the coronavirus outbreak, my strict hand wash regime has left my skin extremely dry, so this hand cream was sorely needed. The cream smells absolutely divine – just like a spa – and the silky-smooth texture absorbs quickly into the skin leaving it feeling nourished. It's packed full of organic ingredients, the hero of which is Ishga's potent seaweed formula." – **Hannah Faulder**



Mavala, Chill & Relax Collection, Beige Chill £5.20, www.nailpolishdirect.co.uk

"The colour intensity is perfect, and after only two coats your nails are ready for anything. I have Beige Chill which is an ideal bridal shade, and it doesn't chip as quickly as most of my other nail products do. If you're in a rush, there's no need to worry as this polish doesn't take long to dry which is a big bonus." – **Olivia Gibson**



TRIED AND TESTED

Jo Loves Eucalyptus & Cedar Woods A Hand Collection
£78, www.joloves.com

"I've seen handwash and moisturiser duos in hotels before, but I've never even used the moisturiser, let alone considered having both indoors! However, this Jo Malone duo is truly divine, providing a fragrant burst with each use, my hands are left soft and supple – effects which last for hours. This is certainly a new, must-have in my bathroom." – **Danielle Harvey**

Leighton Denny Expert Nails, Rejuvenate Hand Mask
£6.50, www.leightondennyexpertnails.com

"Along with most of us, I've been scrubbing and anti-bac'ing my hands like crazy recently, so this intense hydrating treatment mask proved a real saviour. After 20 minutes encased in the special serum-infused gloves my parched mitts felt super soft and my ravaged nails and cuticles looked instantly revived. I kept my hands tucked under the duvet overnight for maximum absorption and was thrilled with the results." – **Sarah Reeve**



THAT'S HANDY!

Show off that engagement ring to full effect with the help of these hand and nail care heroes

Naio Nails, Gel Polish Starter Kit – Snow White
£32.99, www.naio-nails.co.uk

"This professional gel kit is incredible value for money. There are five – count 'em – five full size bottles! I love the stone cuticle pusher, the most effective I've ever used, and these gels work with UV or LED, so will suit whichever lamp you have. My white nails look super-chic and neat. If you haven't used UV gel before, I'd just advise researching application before you use." – **Kelly Andrews**



L'Atelier Green, #NakedNailsCollection in True Innocence
£15.99, www.lateliergreen.com

"This nail paint went on smoothly with no brush marks, right from the first coat. The brush is nice and thick, with the usual strong smell of regular nail varnish minimal. After applying two coats, I can tell you the shade is stunning, and ideal for brides. A soft shade of grey with a shiny finish, even without a top coat it hasn't chipped yet." – **Claire Ridley**



SUN-KISSED beauty

Our beauty editor, Kelly Andrews, chats to Olivia Buckland about all things wedding, tanning and feeling flawless



All images courtesy of James Rudland

Love Island's Olivia Buckland shot to fame alongside her now-husband, Alex Bowen, as one of the show's best-loved success stories. The pair tied the knot at Gosfield Hall in Essex in September 2018, so the star certainly knows a thing or two about big-day beauty. Now, a huge celebrity social media influencer, her 2.2 million Instagram followers hang on her every word when it comes to beauty and fashion tips, and her TV work on shows such as *Olivia & Alex: Happily Ever After* and *Second Chance Dresses* has won her a fan base outside of the popular dating programme. We caught up with her to find out more about her latest project.

GOLDEN GLOW

Olivia's latest venture sees her become brand ambassador for Cocoa Brown, a match made in heaven she explains: "I love being tanned all year round and this brand

allows me to do that. The range is amazing, and I love being able to share such a fab and affordable product with my social media followers."

To tan or not to tan? It's a question many a bride has asked, especially when not feeling overly confident about the application process. Olivia suggests Perfect Fade Self-Tan, and says, "It's amazing. It's so easy to apply for first-time tanners and doesn't leave a biscuit smell, which can often be a little off-putting."

"To ensure my tan lasts, I always exfoliate and moisturise before I apply and continue moisturising every day. When the glow starts to fade, and I feel I want to start again, I use Cocoa Brown Fresh Start Self-Tan Eraser to get rid of any old lingering tan. For the perfect bridal look, I'd recommend using the Miracle Mist to achieve a natural glow for your face. It doesn't need washing off, which is a bonus. The 1 Hour Tan Mousse

in the original medium shade is also great, it isn't overpowering, and gives a lovely glow, which always looks gorgeous against a white dress."

NATURAL BEAUTY

The star is no stranger to posting stunningly fresh-faced make-up free selfies to her social media, and we were keen to know how she keeps her skin looking so flawless: "I always make sure I take my make-up off before I go to sleep. I also swear by using face masks once a week. My favourite is Skin Republic's Prep + Glow. I use it before I put my make-up on, and it makes the application so much smoother ensuring it lasts." With such a hectic lifestyle, you'd be forgiven for wondering how she gets the time for any skincare regime, but Olivia says: "I am a sucker for a bath at the end of the day with a candle and face mask. After a long day, it's what I look forward to."



wanting to know her beauty secrets and how she constantly looks so flawless."

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Post-*Love Island*, Olivia is grateful for every opportunity she's had and understandably feels a great sense of achievement. She says, "My clothing brand with Alex, Exempt Society is something I'm incredibly proud of. Also, having our TV show, *Happily Ever After* on TLC was incredible." Speaking of the star's television career, here at CWM towers we're huge fans of her other TLC venture, *Second Chance Dresses*, being wedding obsessed as we are. "I loved watching the brides' reactions when they found their dream dresses," she says. "It was such a lovely feeling because I could relate, I know how magical that moment is. My dress is currently being stored in the loft. I do toy with the idea of auctioning it off for charity, as I don't like the idea of it sat in storage, but I just can't decide!"

Having been a high-profile bride, we were keen to find out if Olivia had any big-day wisdom to impart. "Get wedding insurance," she says. "I didn't have to use mine thankfully, but it's such an important safety net. You hear of so many disaster stories. It's always better to be safe than sorry."

So what's next? "Alex and I have just bought a new house together, so we're mainly getting ready for the big move. I'm so excited to get settled in. We've such an exciting 2020 planned, so keep an eye out for new and upcoming projects."



Describing her day-to-day look as very natural, "if I'm not working I generally won't wear make-up at all," she says. When it comes to beauty must-haves though, she tells us, "My go-to product is the W7 Honolulu Bronzer. It gives me instant cheekbones!"

Having worked with some incredible make-up artists such as Anna Lingis and Lo Dias, Olivia finds a wealth of inspiration in the beauty industry. She explains, "It's full of people I look up to, but my main influence has got to be Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. She always shares her latest make-up must-haves, which I love. I always find myself



Olivia Buckland is the face of Cocoa Brown, which is available in Superdrug and Primark stores nationwide.

DAZZLING COMPLEXION

John Lewis & Partners have unveiled plans to sell men's make-up brand War Paint for Men in its flagship Oxford Street store and on the company's website. The full range of products includes foundation, concealer, bronzer and powder. In addition, John Lewis & Partners also offer a range of men's personal styling services and a dedicated studio in its Southampton shop.

Daniel Gray, the founder of War Paint for Men, said: "This is a massive step in the right direction, not just for us but for the industry and men's make-up in general."

Check out www.johnlewis.com for more.



SCENTSATIONAL

We love Emporio Armani's new fragrance by Nicholas Hoult and Alice Pagani. The Stronger With You Freeze scent is made up of limes, apples, sage, chestnut and iced lavender to create an unforgettable smell.

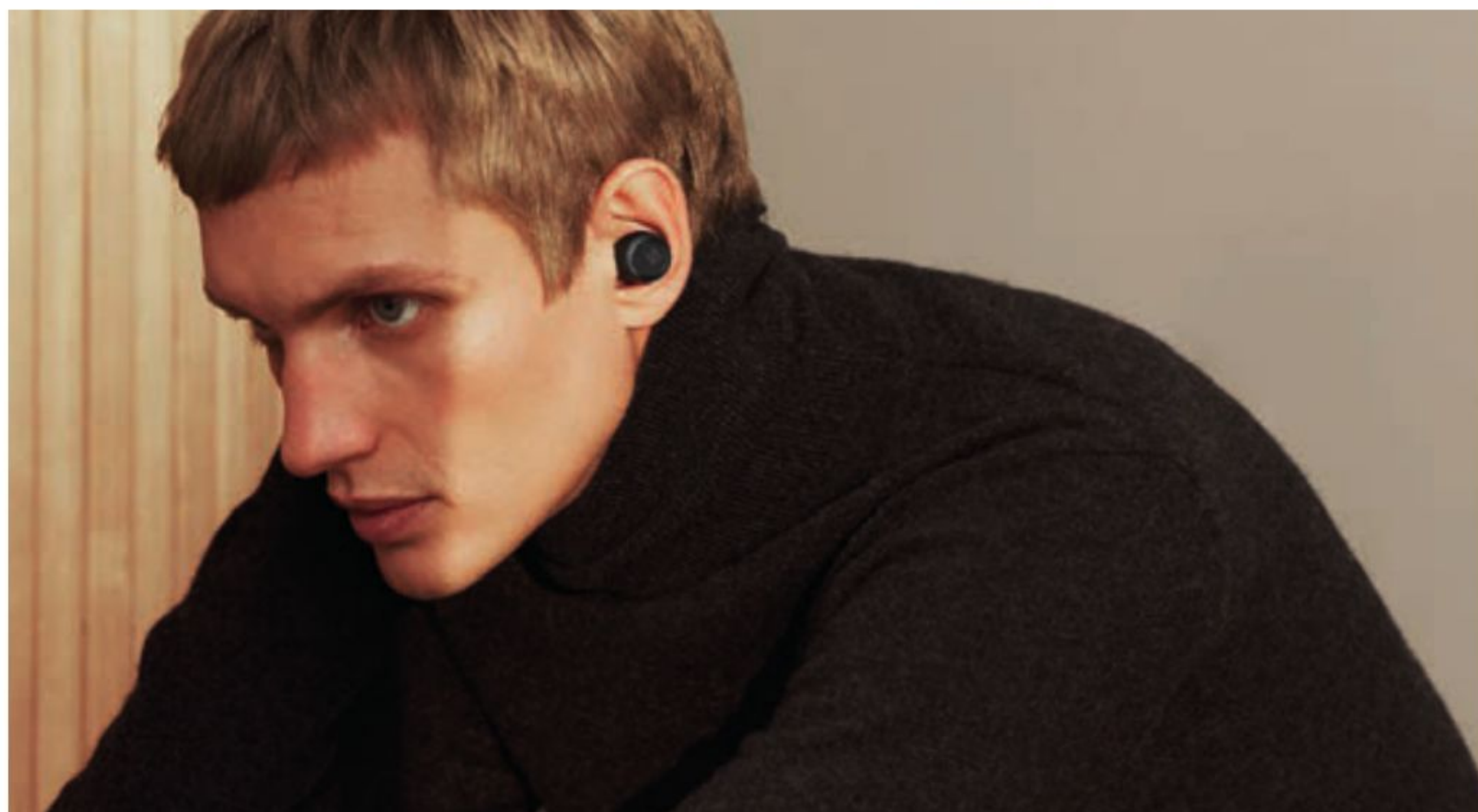
Brides-to-be can purchase the In Love With You version that's made using red cherries and jasmine.

Both are available to purchase from www.thefragranceshop.co.uk



Read all ABOUT IT!

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



DANCE TO THE BEAT

Bang & Olufsen has announced its next generation of Beoplay E8 earphones. The ideal gift for any groom-to-be, the product uses 3D-modelling to ensure it fits a large variety of ear shapes and sizes and boasts up to 35 hours of playtime.

Christoffer Østergaard Poulsen, the vice president of product management, said: "With the third generation of Beoplay E8, we have made the world's best-sounding true wireless earphones even better."

Visit www.bang-olufsen.com for more.

Sock it to me

Lincolnshire-based company, Sophie Allport has released its spring/summer 2020 collection. The homeware brand incorporates the founder's love of country living and wildlife to create beautiful products.

The collection is made up of kitchen and dining products, men's socks and wash bags, handkerchiefs and much more.

For more information, visit www.sophieallport.com



A CLOSE SHAVE

Award-winning barbers, ADAM, has revealed a new grooming experience. The brand wants grooms-to-be to step into a contemporary, uncluttered space, indulge in the artful hands of the highly-skilled barbers and walk out feeling restored while also looking sharp and polished. Customers will get to experience ADAM's exclusive product line which comprises of a beard balm, oil and hair paste.

Esat and Oytun, the co-founders, said: "We founded ADAM for the contemporary gentleman who works hard, plays hard and lives in a modern city but still seeks a classic and timeless experience."

To see more, visit www.adamgroomingatelier.com

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Purchase the perfect present for the groom-to-be



£28, www.amara.com



£12, www.whitestuff.com



£449, www.very.co.uk



£75, www.hersey.co.uk



£25, www.whitestuff.com



£59, www.farrar-tanner.co.uk



£92, www.harrisdistillery.com



£29.95, www.men-u.com

SUMMER LOVIN'

Be inspired by our seasonal picks

GROOMS' FASHION

£189.95, www.oxfordshirt.co.uk

£35, www.joebrowns.co.uk

£189.95, www.oxfordshirt.co.uk

£25, www.matalan.co.uk

£395, www.oliverbrown.org.uk

£40, www.joebrowns.co.uk

£59.95, www.annabeljames.co.uk

£185, www.fairfaxandfavor.com

£239, www.otarywatches.com

£45, www.laslettengland.com

www.8yards.co.uk

HOT TOPIC

Our experts solve your wedding dilemmas

STYLE IT OUT

From children and Insta-obsessed teenagers to more traditional older relatives, how do we make sure our wedding appeals to all our loved ones?

To get everyone's attention, try something a bit different. Traditional but with a twist will stand out from other weddings. An alternative Insta-worthy backdrop would be amazing for your guests to take photos in front of. Make your table decor interesting and exciting by thinking outside the box.

Why not try bold colours like in this photo? We teamed bright shades, light-up letters, beautiful table decor and personalised stationery in a rustic setting to really give the wow factor.

Give a personal touch to elements of your day by working with your suppliers to find things that reflect you and your partner. The work you put into the finer details will create something unique to you, which will leave a lasting impression of your magical day for your guests.

Tammy Howard | Howards Events |
www.howardsevents.com



KEEP CALM AND PLAN ON

After all the excitement of getting engaged, we're now totally lost when it comes to the planning. Can you give us a checklist of what we need to consider?

Firstly, take your time and don't panic. There's a lot to do but you don't want to get overwhelmed. Here are some points to consider...

- ♥ Decide on your budget and allocate amounts to different aspects of the wedding.
- ♥ Think about your guest list. This will have an effect on your budget and the size of venue you'll need.
- ♥ Visit and choose a venue, then get your date booked.
- ♥ Book your ceremony or registrar for the same day.
- ♥ If you're having a civil ceremony, you can give notice at your local registry office from 12 months prior to the wedding.
- ♥ Send save-the-dates, if you wish.
- ♥ Start to get ideas for the theme, style and colour of your day.
- ♥ Source suppliers such as a photographer, florist, caterer etc., and check they're available.
- ♥ If your dress is being made-to-order, you'll need at least six months' lead time.
- ♥ Once all your main suppliers are booked, you can start to look at the finishing touches.
- ♥ Send your invitations two or three months before the wedding.

Hazel Walshaw | Mindful Wedding Coach |
www.mindfulweddingcourses.com



<https://charlotteelizabethphotography.com>

THROUGH THE LENS

My partner and I are nervous about being in front of the camera. What tips do you have to help us relax on the day?

The biggest tip I can give any couple is to make sure you're comfortable with your photographer. If you don't feel at ease with them, it'll show in your photos. You need to totally trust your photographer – and all of your suppliers. Spend time with them and get to know the person behind the camera. Doing this will help you relax with them and make you less nervous on the day. Most professionals will offer a pre-wedding or engagement session. Use this opportunity to ask any questions and practice any poses that you're concerned about.

On the day, make sure you allow enough time for your photos. Your chosen expert will take control of the group shots and couple's portraits, but you don't want to feel rushed. Having enough time to top up your lipstick, fix your hair, straighten cufflinks and fasten waistcoats can make all the difference. Finally, remember that you've just married the love of your life. No matter how you feel in the run-up to the day, when you're standing together as newlyweds, nothing can burst your bubble.

Charlotte Elizabeth Kaye |
Charlotte Elizabeth Photography |
<https://charlotteelizabethphotography.com>

PLAY ON

How do we go about choosing a big-day playlist when we have guests of all ages coming?

Spotify and iTunes are a great place to start getting playlist

ideas, and I recommend setting these up a few months ahead of the day. Instead of trying to think of music to suit everyone in one go, you can take the pressure off of yourself by adding tracks as you go; it's amazing how quickly your list will grow.

If you'd like input from your friends and family, you can share the lists with them and they can add requests too. A professional DJ won't play directly from Spotify or iTunes, but this will give them access to your ideas in one place and will show the vibe you're going for.

However, don't get too hung up on choosing music for the whole night. A good DJ will be able to cater to guests of all ages, so I'd recommend leaning on their experience to deliver on this. I find that if I take a good brief from my client and understand the demographic of the people attending, then I can deliver for a mixed-age group every time.

Mark Green | DJ Mark Green | <https://djmarkgreen.co.uk>



THE PERFECT SETTING

We'd like a relaxed, country feel to our wedding. How do we narrow down our venue search and what should we be looking for?

These are some things you may like for your wedding that you hadn't considered, but will add to the vibe you're going for...

- ♥ *Accommodation.* Can you stay on site and how long for? We offer the option of a three-night stay, giving you plenty of time to relax, enjoy the facilities and gradually come back down to earth afterwards.
- ♥ *Exclusivity.* Do you want to celebrate in private, without sharing the space with any other couples?
- ♥ *Look and feel.* Think about having a venue with a beautiful rural setting as a backdrop to your photographs. Inside, do you want a homely country house to reflect your theme?
- ♥ *Little extras.* Think about what added extras a venue can offer to make it more special. We have a cosy cinema room as well as a games room, which is perfect for competitive guests! We also have hot tubs and can offer spa treatments for a bit of R&R.
- ♥ *Space.* Would you enjoy an outside area where children can let off steam while the adults can sit around a campfire with a glass of wine?
- ♥ *Food and drink.* What do you want to eat? We give the option of hiring in professional caterers or doing your own catering from our kitchen. We also offer flexible bar options to fit with the theme of your day.

Lisa Hunt | Spicer Manor | www.spicermanor.co.uk



www.dynamicpictures.co.uk



PARADISE FOUND

The new Emerald Maldives Resort & Spa is the latest addition to the Emerald Collection. Located on the Ra Atoll in the northern Maldives, honeymooners will be wowed by its spectacular design and deluxe all-inclusive offering.

Following its opening, the resort is excited to launch a romantic honeymoon package. Highlights include a memorable beach dinner on the shores of the resort's crystal-clear lagoon as well as a complimentary couple's massage at the Emerald Spa, before enjoying the Indonesian-style pool, steam bath, sauna and Jacuzzi.

There's so much to do: water sports, guided snorkelling tours, boat excursions to discover turtles, manta rays, dolphins and even whale sharks – what more could you ask for? Visit www.emerald-maldives.com

TOTAL LUXURY

We had to put Villa Kasika on your honeymoon radar. On the island of Koh Yao Noi in Phang Nga Bay, between the island of Phuket and Krabi on the Thai mainland, it's a real brag-factor destination. You can stay in a beautiful treehouse-style villa with open-air rooms, private plunge pool, amazing views, a spa and direct access to the private beach. Known for its dramatic landscape, including limestone cliffs, lush and rich rainforests and little islands within it, Phang Nga Bay is an idyllic post-wedding destination. Find it on www.oliverstravels.com

HONEYMOON



It's going to be a tough year for the travel industry, but now is the perfect time to plan your dream honeymoon for 2021 and beyond. Here are our hot travel tips and product picks...

News

LA DOLCE VITA

With celebrities such as Emily Blunt and John Legend tying the knot in Lake Como, it has made the spotlight shine even brighter on this incredible setting. The prestigious Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni is located on the shore in Bellagio and has welcomed guests such as John F. Kennedy, Winston Churchill, Clark Gable and Al Pacino.

Renowned for its elegance, the Villa is surrounded by flower-filled gardens that slope down to the water's edge, making it the perfect setting for a post-wedding getaway, and its honeymoon package is fit for such a romantic setting. Newlyweds can indulge in Michelin-starred dining, a Villa Serbelloni Spa treatment, a romantic tour of lake Como by private motorboat and entrance to the breathtaking gardens of Villa Melzi. For a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience, couples can book the Imperial Suite; the largest hotel suite in the region, it comes with a personal butler and exclusive gifts. Head to www.villaserbelloni.com



Greece is the word

Ikos Oceania in Halkidiki, northern Greece, is set to revolutionise honeymoons in 2020 with its award-winning luxury all-inclusive concept. The property will offer a tailored honeymoon experience for couples staying in the Deluxe Collection suites. The thoughtful touches include visits to wineries, an intimate candlelit dinner on the beach, a turn-down service with rose petals and chocolates and a couple's spa treatment. The Deluxe Concierge will take care of all your holiday preferences and even organise a bottle of champagne on arrival and a MINI to explore local hidden gems. Find out more at www.ikosresorts.com



WILD AT HEART

Fairmont Hotels and Resorts Kenya has launched the most incredible eco-moon experience for newlyweds looking for a getaway that offers the chance to give something back. You can get involved with conservation and sustainable initiatives with an exciting three-stop circuit to explore the best of east Africa.

Each retreat has its own charm. Fairmont the Norfolk exudes classic style and is an oasis in the city. Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club, the former home of Hollywood actor William Holden, retains all of its silver-screen allure with pretty cottages and suites. The luxurious tented camp retreat, Fairmont Mara Safari Club, features four-poster beds, en suite facilities and private decks overlooking the hippo-filled Mara River.

Fairmont has added special experiences to allow guests to support the environment, local communities and endangered species. Couples can adopt an elephant, eat produce grown on land that was gifted to local women, plant trees and purchase mementos from locals to boost the economy, as well as enjoy luxurious accommodation and incredible safaris. Check out www.fairmont.com

HONEYMOON NEWS



MAGICAL MAURITIUS

Maritim Resort & Spa Mauritius is set to relaunch in December 2020 with 60 additional rooms, new restaurants, bars and pools. "This isn't simply a revamp," Mark Spivey, director of international sales at Maritim Hotels tells us. "This is a completely new product. Our well-loved five-star resort is having a complete face lift along with new rooms and facilities to ensure we continue to offer a premium experience for our guests."

One of the hotel's new restaurants has already opened. Anno 1743 is a brasserie-style restaurant tucked inside a national monument, the Ruins of Balaclava. Inside, couples will find the Distillery Bar, which has the largest collection of rum on the island – the perfect place to ease yourselves into married life! Check out www.maritim.com

TREAT YOURSELF TO THESE TRAVEL PICKS...



This versatile vegan backpack is the ideal hand luggage size. Made from recycled plastic bottles, it's totally eco-friendly. Find it at www.ucon-acrobatics.com

As much as I like to think I'm a grown up, I still love Barbie pink! This suitcase from www.americantourister.co.uk caught my eye.



Update your flip flop game with these fab options from www.havaianas-store.com. The Glam Box also includes four Swarovski charms for a little added bling.

This incredible beach towel is going to revolutionise your sunbathing! It's super-lightweight, dries really quickly and the clever engineering allows sand to slip off easily – so you leave the beach at the beach! Get it at www.tesalate.com



WIN!

A LUXURIOUS MINIMOON TO ALCÚDIA, MALLORCA

Enter now for your chance to win the ultimate minimoon at Zafiro Palace Alcúdia, with Zafiro Hotels

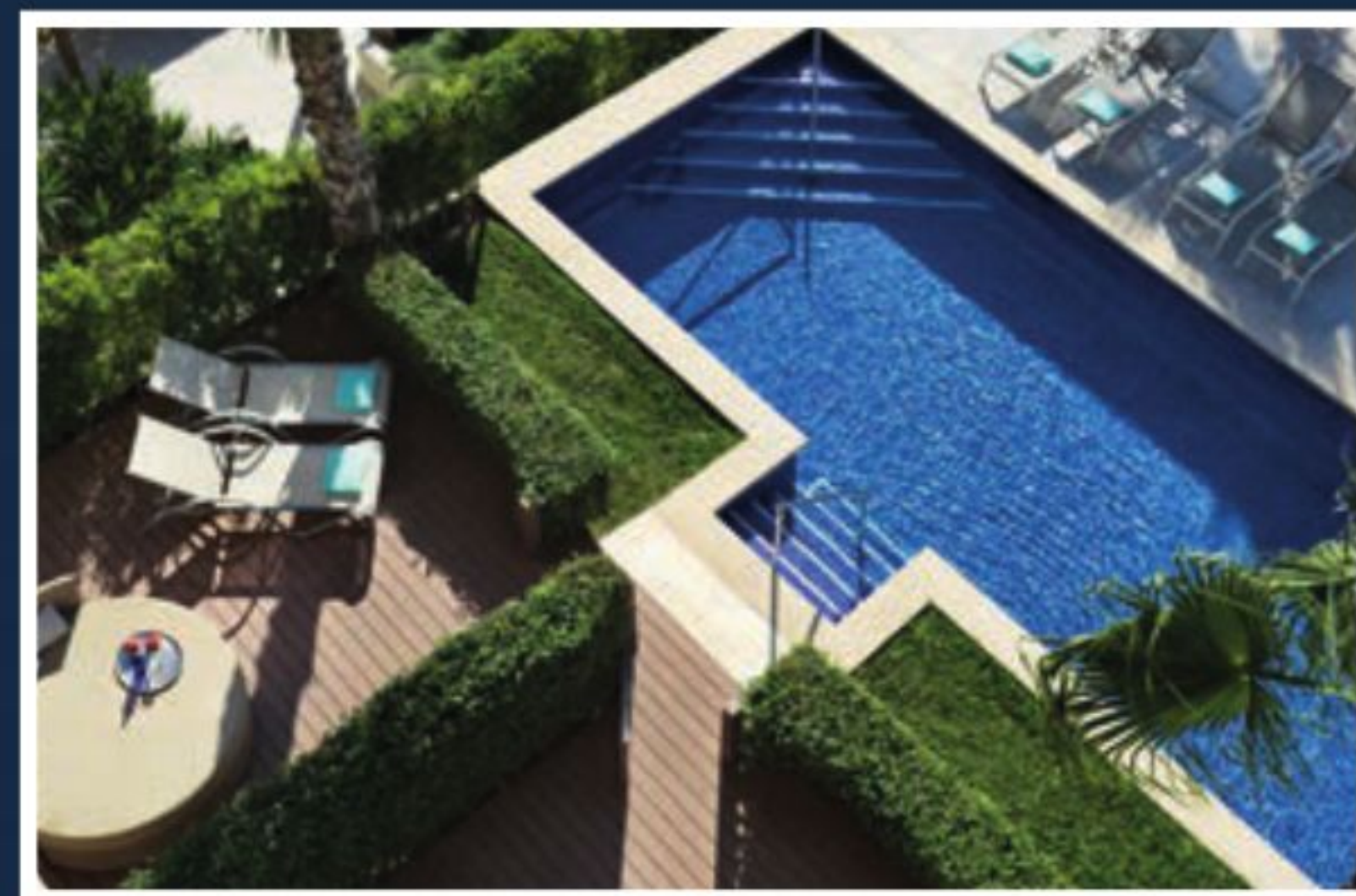
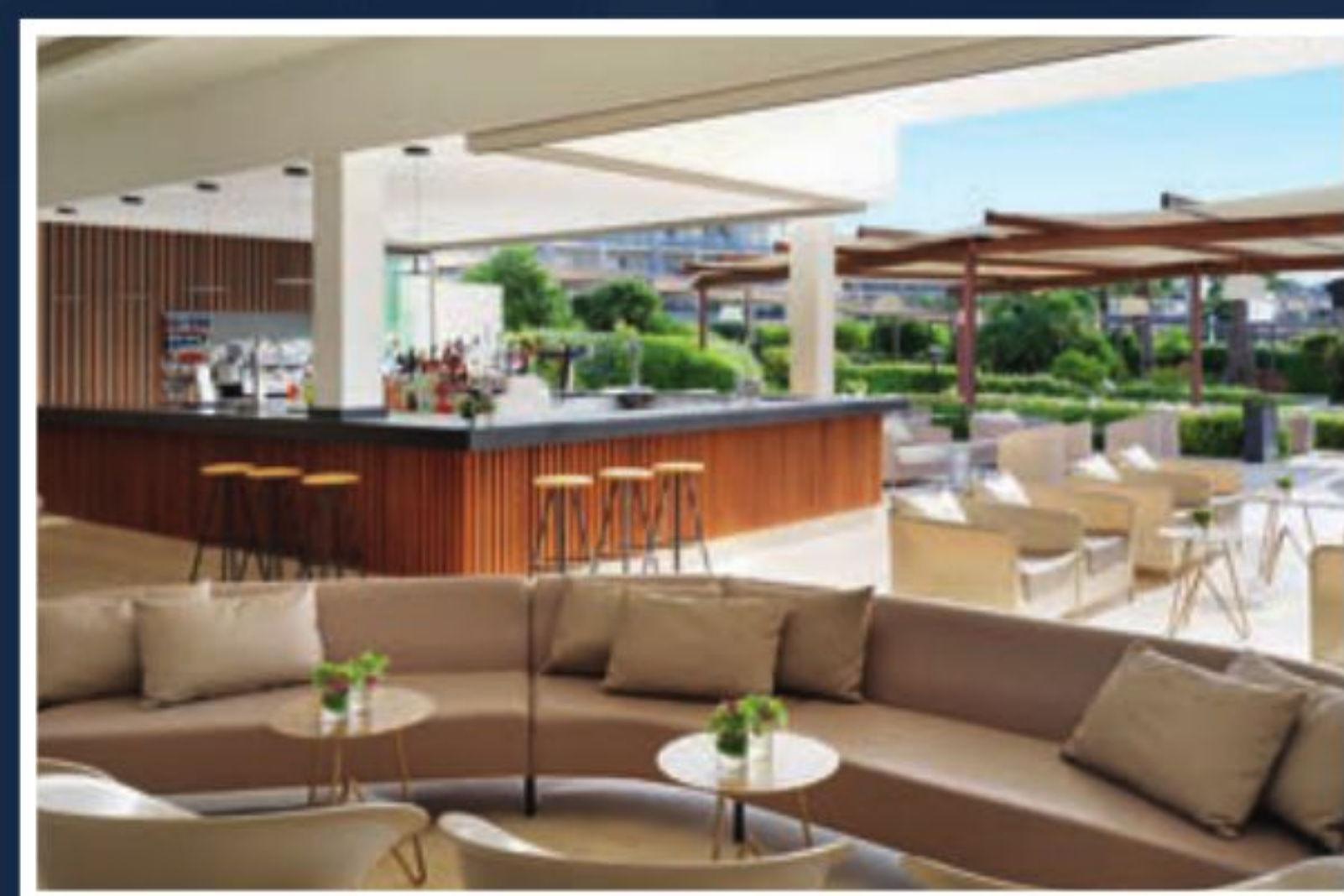
County Wedding Magazines has partnered with Zafiro Hotels to offer readers the chance to win a four-night minimoon at the five-star hotel Zafiro Palace Alcúdia. Situated on the authentic side of Mallorca, near to the medieval town of Alcúdia, Zafiro Palace Alcúdia balances luxury with mood-boosting experiences – all just steps away from the island's longest beach and its glamorous marina. The resort offers a selection of impressive suites to choose from, including the ground-floor Swim Up Suites, with private gardens and direct pool access.

Gourmet dining lies at the heart of

Zafiro Palace Alcúdia. Guests will be given the opportunity to experience five delectable themed restaurants, with a wide offering from local Spanish cuisine to further afield in the Mediterranean as well as Asian specialities.

The Zen Spa & Wellness Centre allows visitors to find inner bliss with a selection of luxury massage cabins, a sauna and two spacious swimming pools. The property also boasts a sensational kaleidoscope of pools – including an adults-only chill-out pool – along with excellent cycling facilities, a multi-sport court, high-tech fitness centre, volleyball pitches, aqua gym and putting green.

WORTH £2,500



THE PRIZE

- ♥ A four-night stay for two people sharing a Swim Up Suite at Zafiro Palace Alcúdia
- ♥ Full-board dining in the resort's five restaurants (breakfast, lunch and dinner included each day)
- ♥ Access to the hotel's Zen Spa & Wellness Centre
- ♥ Premium WiFi throughout the hotel

HOW TO ENTER

Simply answer the following question...

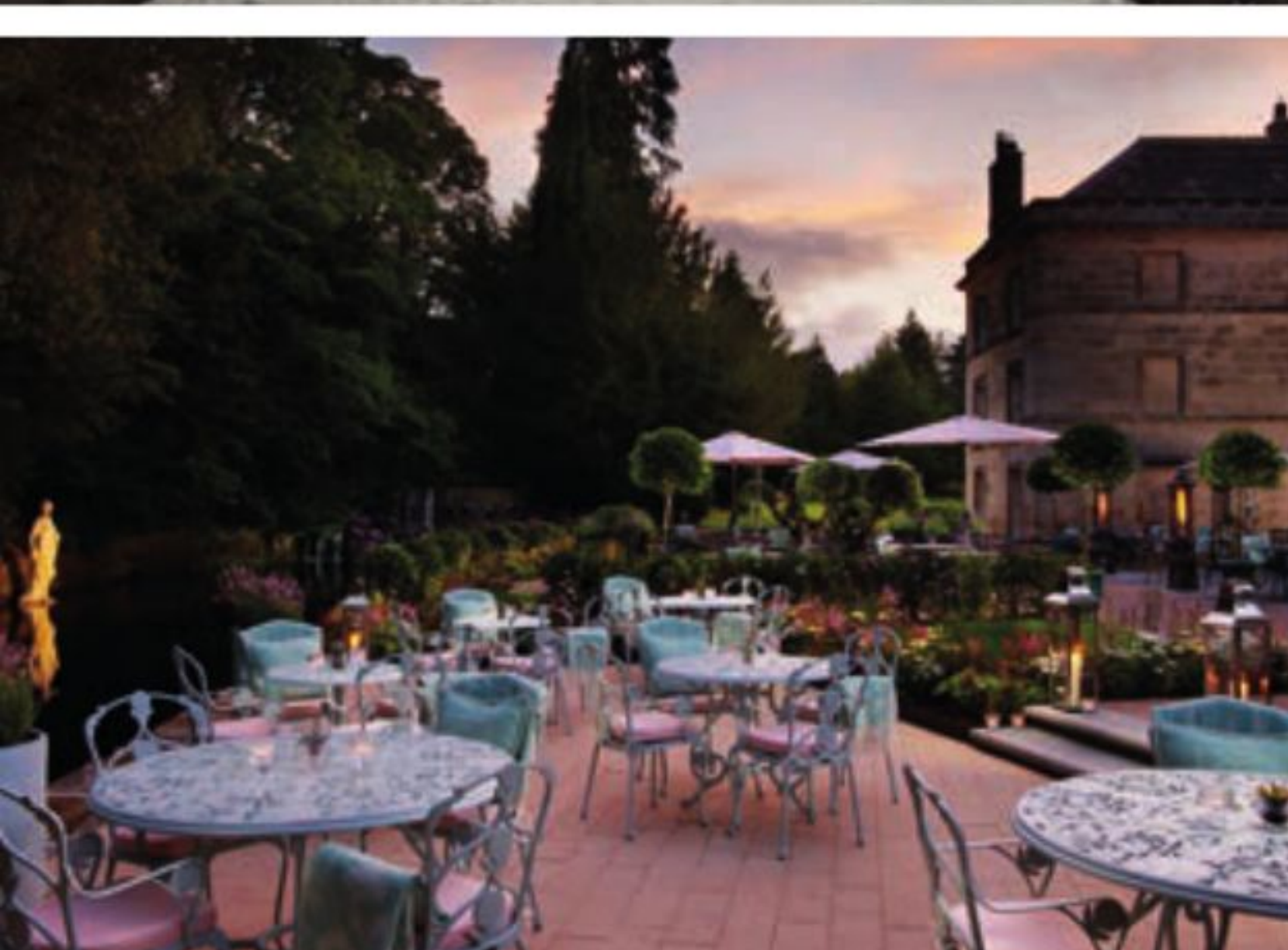
On which Balearic Island will you find Zafiro Palace Alcúdia?

Enter online at youryorkshire.wedding

The closing date is 7th August, 2020. The prize can be claimed upon request based on the hotel's availability by November 2021. Terms and conditions apply. Please see our website for details.



Yorkshire's *finest*



EXPLORE

If you can drag yourself away from the luscious surroundings, there are plenty of things to do nearby to make the most of your stay...

- ♥ *History.* Go back in time at Fountains Abbey.
- ♥ *Town.* Explore the elegant spa town of Harrogate.
- ♥ *Nature.* Get outdoors and marvel at National Trust Brimham Rocks.

Hannah Faulder finds out why the north's most lavish new hotel opening is the perfect spot to spend time with your loved one

Passing through the ornate gates and heading down the sweeping driveway, the Grade II* listed Grantley Hall appears in front of you in all its historic glory. Nestled in the idyllic countryside, the hotel and wedding venue's grounds boast a kitchen garden and an English Heritage-listed Japanese garden.

Step inside, and you'll find this stately manor has been transformed into Yorkshire's most lavish and talked-about hotel. With 47 exquisite rooms and suites, the tranquil Three Graces Spa and four incredible restaurants all in an enchanting setting, it's hard to imagine a more romantic retreat.

STAY

My sister, Laura, and I stayed in a suite in the Fountains Wing Atrium, a fabulous semi-open-air space complete with olive trees. The walk there from the reception took in some breathtaking interiors, from a showstopping contemporary chandelier and Roman-style statues to a fabulous lounge decked out in jewel-coloured décor and a cosy wine cellar complete with seating.

We were blown away by the attention to detail in our room – everything had been designed to make our stay just that bit more perfect. I've seen a pillow menu before, but a robe menu? I must admit we got quite excited about the light settings, which gave the perfect ambience for the day, evening and nighttime.

Returning to the room before bed, we were treated to a wonderful turndown service including mood lighting and classical music filling the room – the perfect bedtime ritual.

UNWIND

Laura and I are avid spa fans, so visiting the hotel's Three Graces Spa was a must. Named after Zeus' three daughters, the space evokes a Roman feel with its vaulted ceiling and

stone pillars. Appealing to the most discerning wellness-focused guests, it's a haven of serenity.

We made full use of the pool, steam room and outdoor hot tub (which included a bracing shuffle across the terrace on a cold January day). We also braved the snow room, although it turned out to be totally invigorating standing in a freezing room in your swimmers. Lunch in the spa lounge was a nutritious smoothie and bulgur wheat salad. Don't worry – there was cake too!

There's an extensive range of beauty and holistic treatments available and residents can also make use of the daily yoga sessions. In short, you cannot help but feel the weight lifting from your shoulders while you're here. How perfect would that be as a post-vow break to give you time to reflect on the most important day of your life?

EAT

There are four restaurants here encompassing everything from traditional fine dining at Shaun Rankin at Grantley Hall to modern Pan-Asian at EightyEight. We dined in Fletchers Restaurant. A wonderfully cosy space, it offers for a warm, welcoming feel. Picture dark wood-panelled walls, rich furnishings, velvet-bound menus and soft lighting. The staff were attentive, but not fussy, even checking whether I was right or left handed before placing my wine glass down. We had an incredible three-course meal including a delicious mousse starter with pickled vegetables and truffle and a deliciously fresh salad made from local produce. The star of the show was the chocolate and hazelnut rocher; it was so decadent it could only be topped off with gold leaf!

For more information, and to book your stay, visit www.grantleyhall.co.uk

SHORT

stories

Don't want to spend hours or even days of your precious honeymoon travelling? We hear you! Check out these incredible short-haul destinations...

MONASTERO SANTA ROSA, AMALFI COAST, ITALY

This spectacular former monastery has been transformed into 20 sea-view rooms and suites, which are suspended over a cliff edge. Hidden away on Italy's iconic Amalfi Coast, the hotel is home to the finest spa in the region and a Michelin-starred restaurant. Honeymooners can while away the hours between the incredible heated infinity pool, the stunning landscaped gardens and glorious historic spaces. Visit www.monasterosantarosa.com

DOMAINE DES ETANGS, MASSIGNAC, SOUTH WEST FRANCE

Escape to rural France for a minimoon in a French castle, complete with an on-site art gallery, Michelin-starred restaurant, a floating lakeside tennis court and vintage cars to explore the 2,500-acre private estate. At the heart of the property lies a fully renovated 11th-century chateau, which boasts incredible interior design and numerous pieces of contemporary art from Matisse to Picasso. Foodies will love the bespoke dining options, from woodland picnics to dinner in the wine cellar. Visit www.domainedesetangs.com

KALESMA, ORNOS BAY, MYKONOS

Set to elevate the island to new heights, Kalesma is a new luxury hotel opening in 2020. Kalesma means *inviting* in Greek, a name that is perfectly suited to the boutique property's ethos. The whitewashed collection of houses has been designed to resemble a charming local village, tumbling down a slope to Ornos Bay and the beach.

Newlyweds will enjoy spectacular sea views, a private pool and the services of the hotel's private experience managers to help them discover the island's hidden gems. Visit www.kalesmamykonos.com



SANT FRANCESC, PALMA, MALLORCA

Situated in the heart of the historic city, Sant Francesc offers the perfect base for an exceptional city break. The five-star boutique hotel has been lovingly transformed from a Neoclassical Mallorcan mansion and houses 42 elegant rooms and suites, three restaurants and bars and a fitness and wellbeing centre. Minimooners can discover the romantic cobbled streets of Palma, before relaxing – cocktail-in-hand – on the panoramic rooftop terrace with its glistening pool. Visit www.hotelsantfrancesc.com



ROYAL CHAMPAGNE HOTEL & SPA, FRANCE

One of the world's great wine regions took on a new dimension with the launch of Royal Champagne Hotel & Spa in 2018. Set among the vineyards, the boutique hotel is the destination's first contemporary-designed luxury hotel, which embraces the lush bounty of the wineries and surrounding UNESCO World Heritage Site. Inspired by nature and the cultural heritage of the region, the design favours natural materials and a Champagne theme runs throughout, all creating a feast for the senses. Visit www.royalchampagne.com



HONEYMOON

SIX SENSES, DUORO VALLEY, PORTUGAL

Newlyweds staying here will find delicious local cuisine, high-spec interiors and an outstanding spa in the heart of Portugal's wine region.

For the ultimate in romance, you can book the Vineyard Garden Suite, the highlight of which is an expansive terrace with a hot tub, day bed and dining area with spectacular views. You can even curate your own mini bar stock ahead of arrival and taste delights from the state-of-the-art wine fridge. Visit www.sixsenses.com



FINCA CORTESIN, ANDALUSIA, SPAIN

This is one of the finest romantic boltholes in Europe. Spanning 532 acres, it comprises an award-winning all-suite hotel, contemporary villas, a championship golf course, outstanding spa and sports facilities, exclusive shopping area and beach club.

Located in one of the most tranquil and sought-after enclaves of the Andalusian coast, it's ideal for a couple's holiday. We love that most of the items found in the suite can be purchased as a memento. Visit www.fincacortesin.com



ALMYRA, CYPRUS

A symbol of cool, contemporary Cyprus, Almyra offers a laid-back and elegant take on Mediterranean luxury after its multi-million-euro refurbishment.

Occupying eight acres of landscaped gardens on Paphos' seafront, couples can book one of the signature seafront villas to hear the gentle lapping of the waves outside. For those who can drag themselves away from their room, there's the tempting adults-only Almyraspa pool. Visit www.almyra.com

SUVRETTA HOUSE, ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND

Emerging from the trees of the Upper Engadine Mountains as if from the pages of a fairytale, the impressive turrets and Belle Époque exterior of Suvretta House stand out against the rugged landscape. Known as the Grand Dame of the Mountains, it gives couples the chance to snuggle up in the snow on a romantic alpine break in one of Switzerland's finest hotels. Why not indulge in its wonderful activities from ice-skating under the stars to a champagne carriage ride into the mountains. Visit www.suvrettahouse.ch



THE VICTORIA INN, HOLKHAM ESTATE, NORFOLK

Escape to the north Norfolk coastline and treat yourself to a staycation at The Victoria Inn. Situated in the privately owned 25,000-acre Holkham Estate, it's the quintessential English minimoon spot. Nestled on one of the country's most stunning stretches of coastline, it provides a base for discovering the seaside villages nearby as well as a number of wildlife experiences. Hole up in one of the 20 bedrooms, and enjoy candlelit meals in the beautiful conservatory. Visit www.holkham.co.uk



GLENEAGLES, SCOTLAND

Want something a little more action-packed? The Gleneagles Hotel is the perfect spot to enjoy a range of country pursuits in this glorious playground. Think horse riding, falconry, off-road driving, clay-pigeon shooting and couple's golf. Its new adventure hub, Trail Yard, is ideally placed for outdoor adventures and for getting equipment and advice. Later, you can cosy up by the hotel's roaring log fire before an evening of glamour and fine dining. Visit www.gleneagles.com



PARADISE ON OUR DOORSTEP

Kelly Andrews discovers the minimoon delights of Hampshire

The more real wedding features I have the pleasure of writing, the more couples I encounter who tell me their first port of call post-wedding is to take some much-needed R&R, not in some far-flung exotic location, but here in beautiful Britain. The rise of the domestic minimoon isn't at all surprising when you consider how much this country has to offer from heritage to culture, and everything in between. After all, there's a reason we welcomed more than 29 million overseas visitors to the UK in 2019 alone. One of the most delightful and characterful regions of our stunning sceptred isle is the New Forest, thanks in no small part to the gorgeous ponies. Despite staring down 40 I still found spotting them while out and about on our travels to be great fun!

Situated in the heart of the New Forest, Balmer Lawn Hotel & Spa cuts quite an impressive figure as it comes into view on the approach to Brockenhurst. Built in the mid-1800s as a hunting lodge, it's played a part in some of history's most dramatic chapters, such as being commandeered as an army hospital in WWI. It was here, at this classic country hotel, where we'd rest our heads for the next two nights.

I'm always like a kid in a sweet shop when I set foot into a hotel room for the first time, and being told that I'd be treated to a luxury balcony room, my excitement levels were already off the charts. The front-facing balcony, complete with garden furniture and its own (artificial) lawn was a real highlight. One that I was determined to make the most of despite it being mid-February, chilly, and pouring with rain. I was also immediately in love with the super king bed, so vast and

luxurious I was barely aware of my mum's presence way over on the other side of it! Balmer Lawn has a brilliant online booking system, whereby you can see pictures of each and every room before you book. Being the ultra-nosey person that I am, you can bet your bottom dollar I took them up on that! It's well worth checking out this feature to ensure your room has everything your heart desires, whether it's just the two of you, or if you're joined by your family or fur-baby.

The hotel offers a fabulous dining experience. I was particularly swept away by the seven-course chef's tasting menu, every bite of which was beyond delicious. Dishes included an artichoke velouté, Creedy Carver duck breast, and salted caramel fondant. With appetites well and truly satisfied, it was off to the comfortable bar and lounge for an espresso martini night cap, before reclining in front of Netflix back in our room.

MINIMOON AT BALMER LAWN FOR £530

- ♥ 1 night in a luxury room including breakfast
- ♥ Access to Leisure facilities – pool, gym, sauna and jacuzzi
- ♥ 7-Course tasting menu for two in the Beresfords Restaurant
- ♥ Bottle of bubbly and chocolates in your room
- ♥ Afternoon tea for two
- ♥ Bespoke couples' massage

The package can also be booked for a couples' retreat, birthday surprise, or a proposal. An extra night can be booked for £220 and payment is due in full at time of booking.

HAMPSHIRE'S HIGHLIGHTS

Exploring the New Forest, and indeed Hampshire as a whole, will no doubt be top of your agenda. Balmer Lawn is ideally situated, barely a stone's throw from Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst, as well as within easy reach of the whole county's attractions. Check out my highlights...

Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery **01256 890 909 |** **www.distillery.bombaysapphire.com**

Whether you're a gin expert or novice, you're sure to enjoy a day out here. With a variety of experiences on offer whether you want to be guided or left to your own devices, it's a fascinating visit. Crucially the experiences culminate in a cocktail, based on your own aroma preferences. We had so much fun.

It's also worth popping into the Whitchurch Silk Mill on your way back through the town.

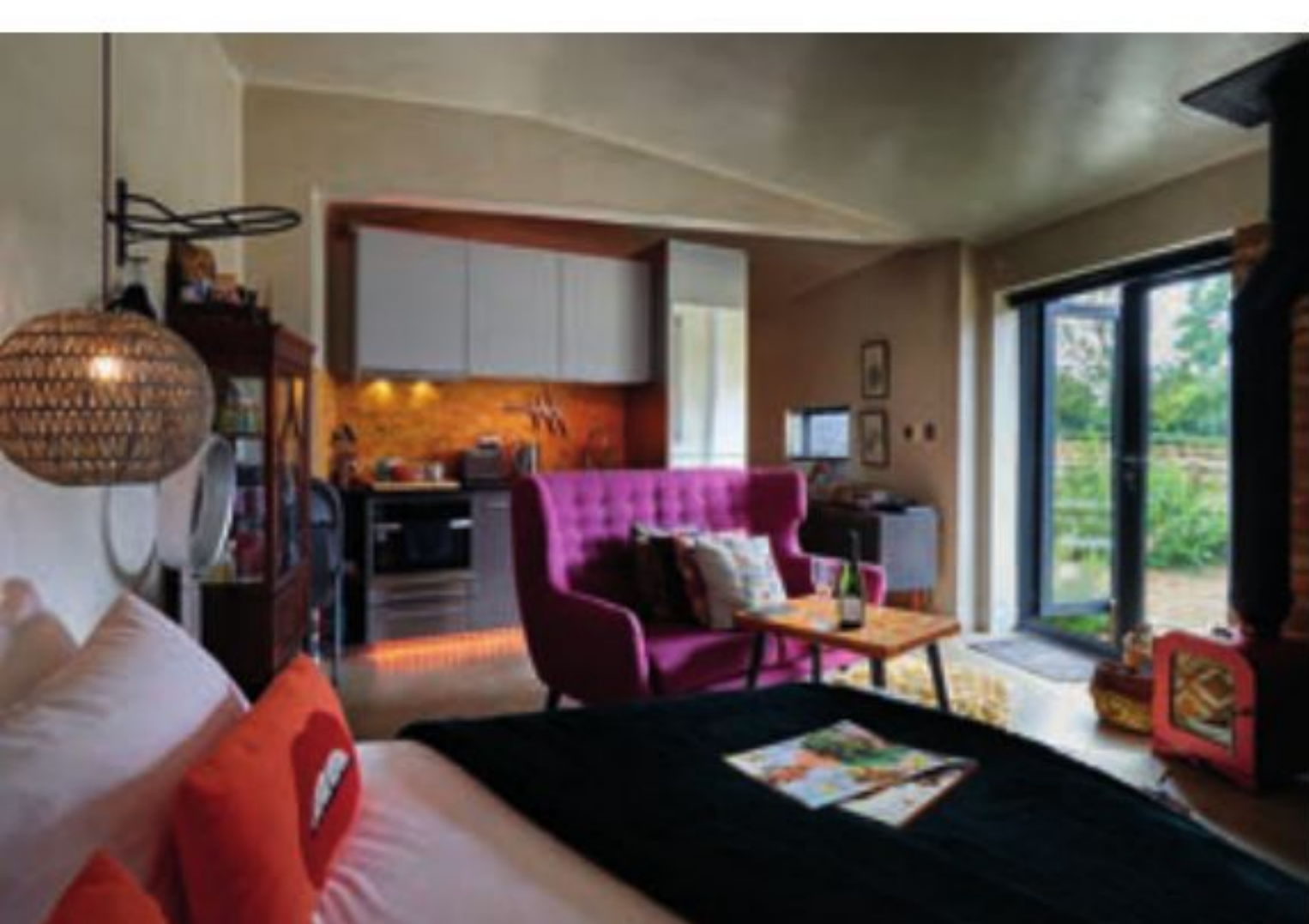
Burley Village **www.burleynewforest.co.uk**

The New Forest is bursting with traditional idyllic villages and Burley offers everything you'd expect. Witches, smuggling and dragons are all part of its character - a history which certainly hasn't escaped the local shops. What's more, if you're lucky you'll find ponies roaming freely as Burley is one of the few remaining villages still to practice the old tradition of commoming, allowing them to graze on the open forest. Burley is a wonderful place to while away some pleasant hours wandering around quirky shops and stopping for a bite to eat.



ESCAPE TO THE *country*

Cosy up with your partner and your four-legged friend at Bethnal&Bec – the ultimate hideaway in the Hertfordshire countryside



After the emotional rollercoaster that is planning a wedding, a relaxing minmoon is just what the doctor ordered. With so many couples now bringing their dogs to their nuptials, why not continue this trend and take your fur baby away with you too? Bethnal&Bec welcomes your pet with open arms to its luxury self-catering retreats.

Found in the idyllic village of Cottered in Hertfordshire, the two stable blocks have been reimagined into self-contained romantic boltholes, each with its own garden overlooking a wildflower-filled meadow.

A COSY RETREAT

I can't tell you how excited I was to take my little dog, Twig, on her first holiday at the grand age of 14. My husband, Cal, and I packed our luggage and the dog into the car and arrived at the retreat with plenty of time to enjoy our stay. Our retreat, Bethnal, was brimming with character – think Insta-worthy features, vibrant colours and quirky styling. I adored the freestanding bath right by the window so you can look out across the surrounding countryside, while Cal was taken with the record player and vast collection of records. We were treated to the Just Married Package, which adds that extra bit of indulgence for newlyweds with chilled champagne, balloons and super-cute décor touches to set the scene.

The modern styling and five-star luxuries are incredible, especially as this used to be a rural farm building. We could flick through Netflix on the TV, turn up the under-floor heating in the February chill, create the perfect atmosphere

with iPad-controlled Google Nest lighting and luxuriate in the vast his-and-hers rainforest showers with Aromatherapy Associates products. Twig was treated too, with organic dog treats, snuggly blankets, and even paw-secco – bringing a whole new meaning to the term 'pampered pooch'.

ROOM SERVICE

In the room, we found a fully stocked pantry including fresh ingredients for a full English breakfast. We couldn't wait until the morning, so we cooked it up for dinner. There were plenty of other yummy options; you could treat yourself to pizza, curry, burgers, or if you're feeling extra fancy, a personal chef can be arranged so you don't have to lift a finger.

Dinner was followed by a glass of bubbly in our hot tub, and we didn't see another soul all evening. This was exactly what we wanted – the space to reconnect and actively do nothing.

TIME TO EXPLORE

Heading out may be the last thing on your mind, but it will most definitely be on your dog's mind. After a few little whimpers we decided we'd best take Twig for a jaunt around the local area. We found a recommended walk in the retreat's guide and headed out across fields and meadows to find The Jolly Waggoner pub (what a great name!) for a pint. Returning after a wintry walk to the warmth and comfort of Bethnal was wonderful, and having our beloved pet there made it all the more perfect.

For more information, and to book your stay, visit www.bethnalandbec.com

NEXT ISSUE

JULY/AUG 2020

ON SALE: 3rd July, 2020



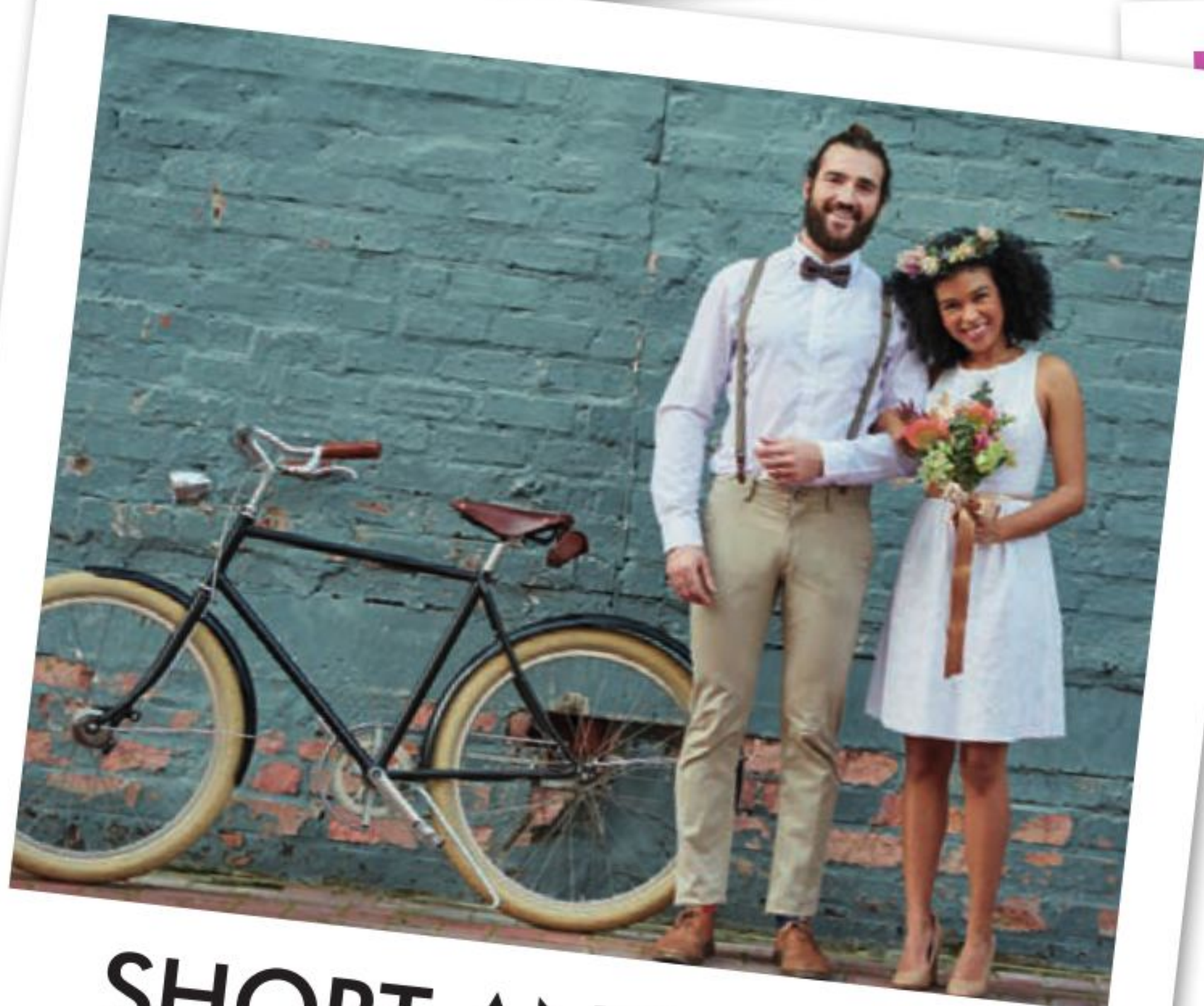
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Sheffield venues



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