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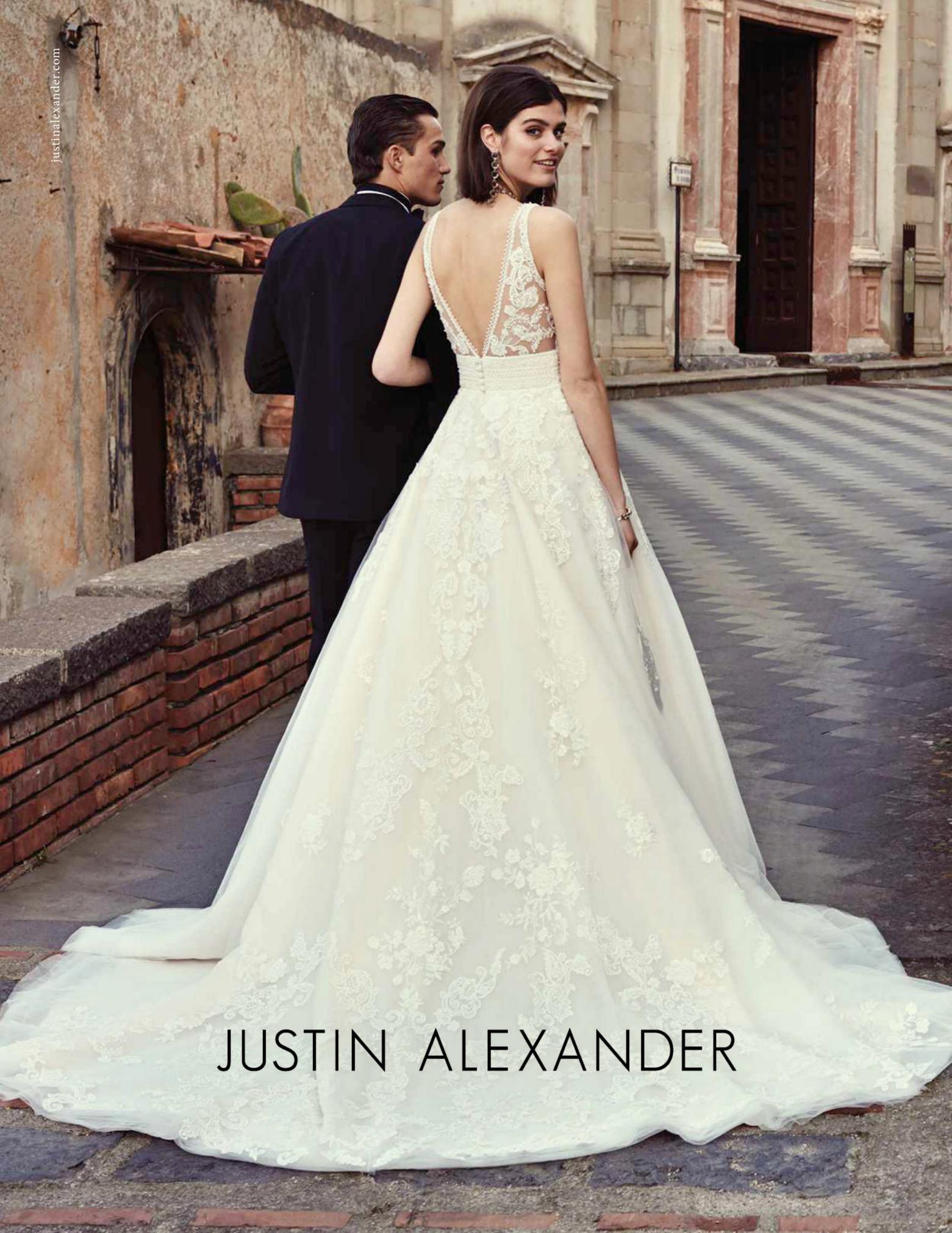






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### Editor's letter



or a stressful world of too much choice involving a search for something dreamlike and illusive.

At You & Your Wedding we're pretty obsessed with bridal fashion - from stunning couture dresses to beautiful high-street jumpsuits, or short dresses for dancing to full-on ballgowns with beads and sparkle... so we're here to help. Every year, we visit the bridal fashion shows around the world to find the best dresses for you and your style, shape and budget. See our round-up of gorgeous gowns from New York Bridal Fashion Week on p48. You'll also love our stylish shoots (from p145) full of stunning ideas for every bride.

Sadly, this is the last issue of You & Your Wedding. On our 35th birthday, myself and the team have worked hard to bring you a beautiful final issue, which we've put our heart and souls into. We have been obsessed with gorgeous weddings, have way too much knowledge of types of lace, and extremely high standards when it comes to honeymoon hotels. We hope you've loved reading the magazine as much as we have loved working on it.

Though the magazine is closing, we will still have an online and social presence, so do follow the brand on our website, on Instagram, Pinterest and Facebook.

Thank you for your support over the years, and happy planning...

Michelle Royle, group editor



#### LOVING THIS ISSUE?

There's plenty more where that came from! Our info- and inspiration-packed back issues are available for instant download to your phone or tablet via the Apple App Store, Google Play, Amazon, Zinio and Pocketmags.





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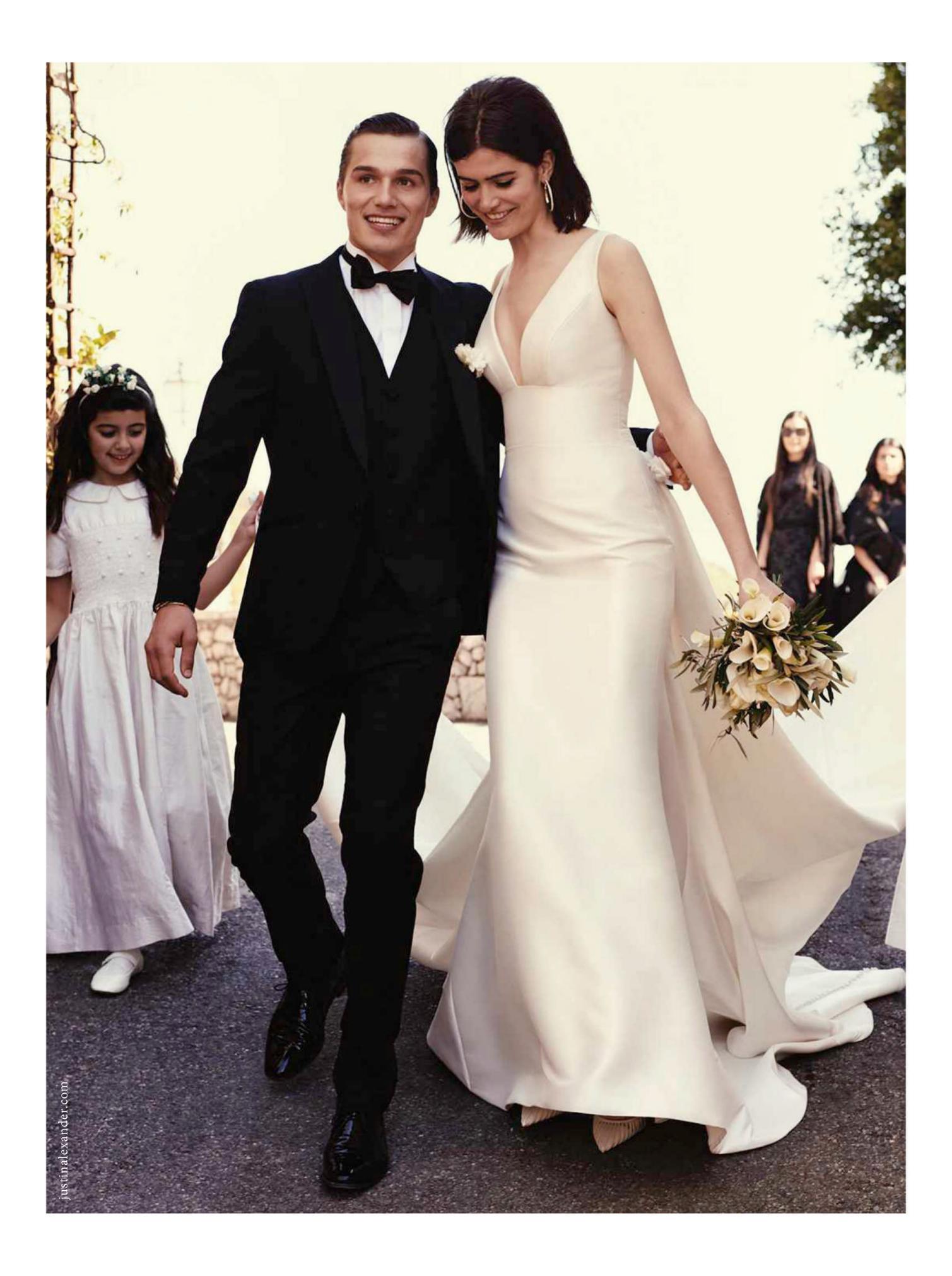


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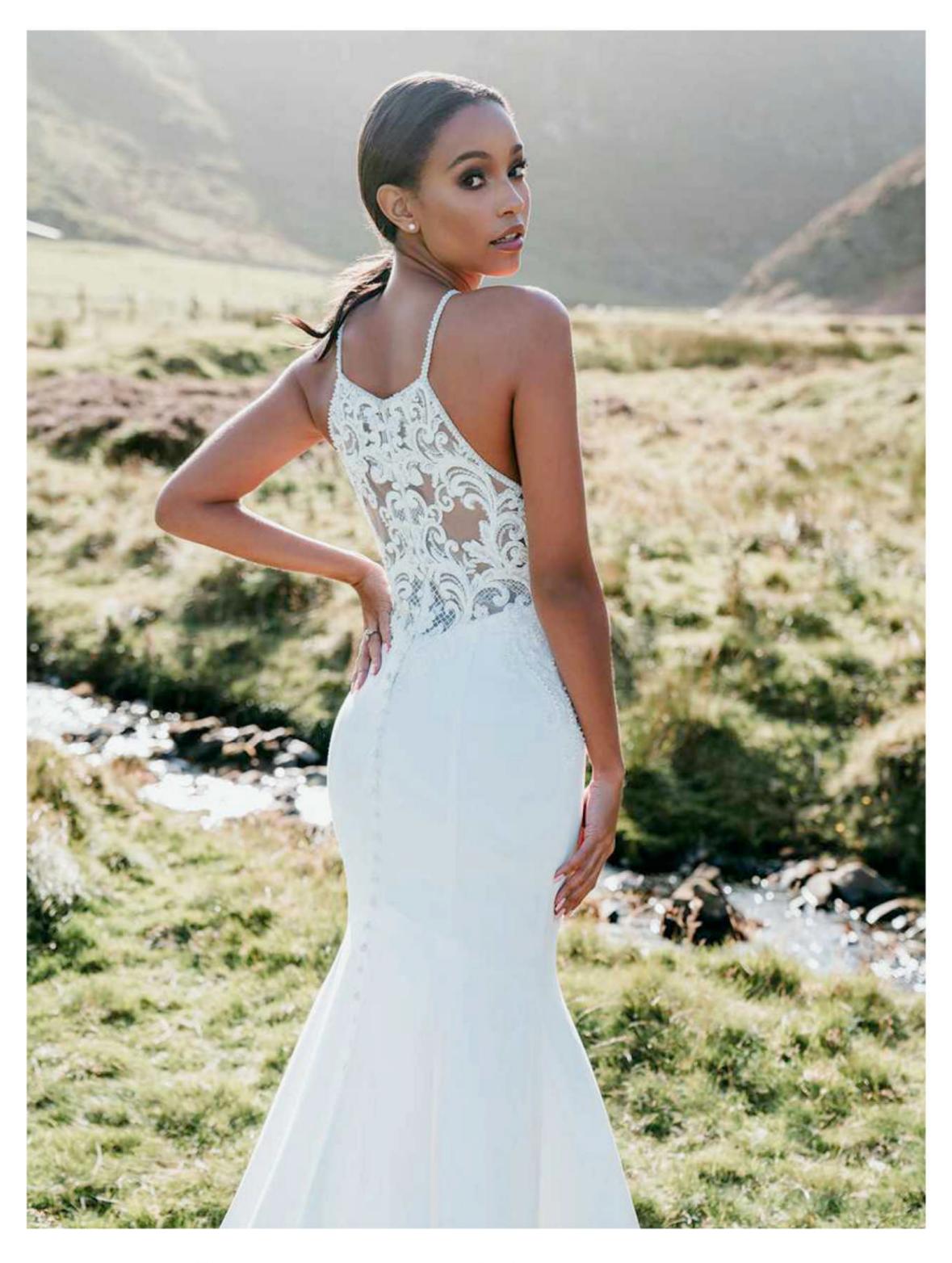




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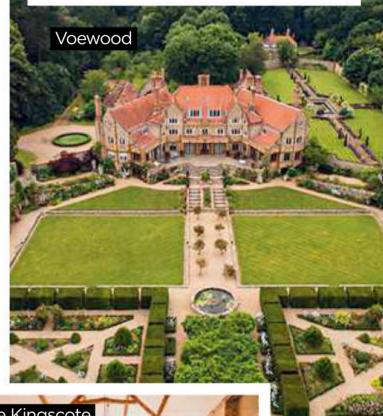
GREEN & PLEASANT Would you go fully vegan for your wedding breakfast? These dishes may convince you...



**Z**PARTY POLITICS Bridesman and groomsmaid: We bring you the new wedding party rules



THE GOOD PLACE(S)
Too much choice when it comes to venues? You need our carefully curated edit of the best wedding spaces









SHE'S GOT THE FLOWER Wildflower bridal bouquets: Why this is

the natural style for you

like their boho with a side order of luxe

#### **EXCLUSIVE INSPIRATION**

Follow us on Instagram, Pinterest, Facebook and Twitter for the latest ideas.

**GET THE ANSWERS** to all your wedding questions at youandyourwedding.co.uk/forum









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# 

The ultimate edit of what's hot in wedding style



WORDS BY SAMANTHA DE HAAS. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANNELI MARINOVICH



Vintage Hire

Cakes

Room spray, **£25, Priddy Essentials** at Petersham **Nurseries** 







From £10, That Flower Shop

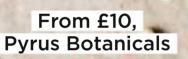
POA, Briar Rose Finishing Design

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OUCHES

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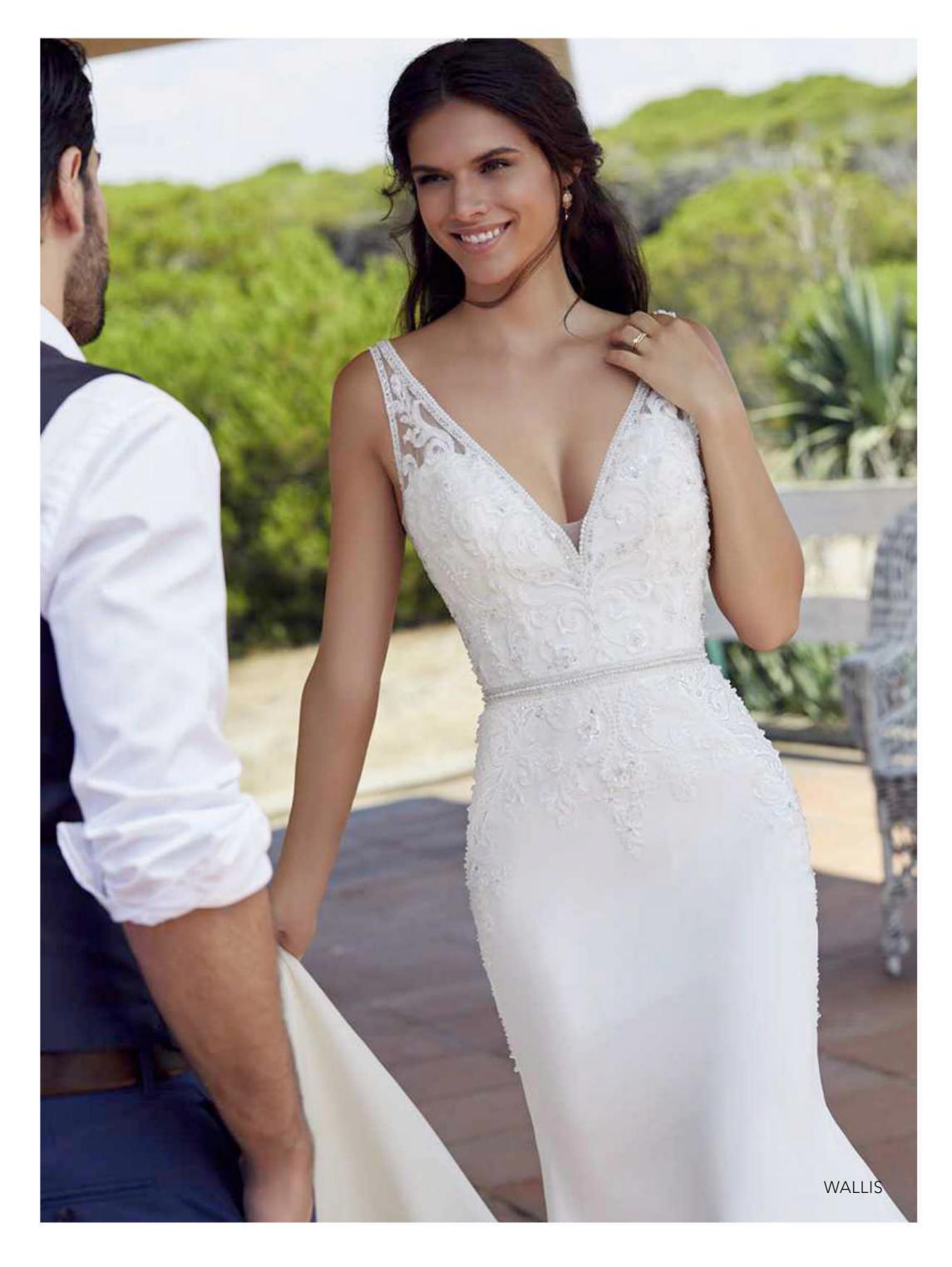






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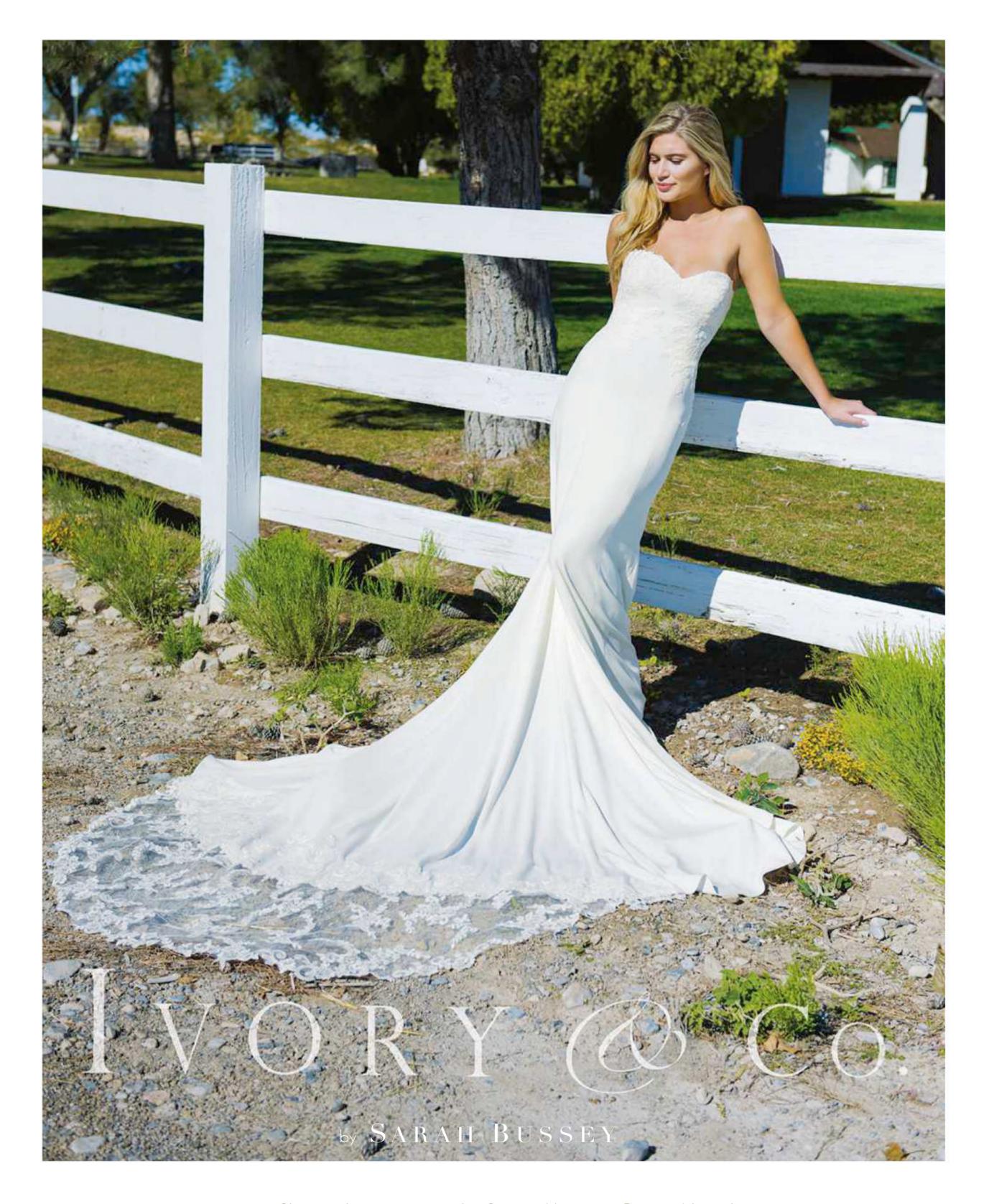
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Shot on location near the Spring Mountain Range, Nevada

Something new



# WE BRING YOU SS20'S STANDOUT TRENDS FOR BRIDES, COURTESY OF NEW YORK BRIDAL FASHION WEEK





















Figure 1. The second FLARE we love the fishtail: slinky and stylish, it's perfect for showing off your shape













A modern ROMANCE





**LONDON 1912** 

# ELLIS

















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o complement the traditional trulli houses in this area of Italy, the blue Apulian skies and warm July days, the team used a contemporary colour palette of yellow with a touch of pink. Roses and tulips in these shades were dotted around to add to that summer vibrance, while lemons and local ceramics gave a nod to the surroundings.

"The table setting was rustic with a touch of modern elegance," says wedding photographer Jules Bower. The fresh lemons and citrus-printed stationery contrasted beautifully with the black and white striped plates and yellow runners, while the delicate gold-rimmed glasses and long cylinder vases added a luxurious edge.

The pumo (a ceramic flower bud local to the area), candles and fairy lights were dotted around the venue and lined the many steps. "The confettata, which is a large traditional display of many different flavours of sugared almonds, also features," says Jules, while a wedding cake painted with ceramic tiles and handmade lemon details truly reflects the essence of Puglia.

Adding a hint of vintage glamour, the bride's look was the finishing touch. "In bespoke gold, pearls and black-stone jewels that have a very southern-rich and vintage style, it's an embodiment of la dolce vita," says Jules.





"The confettata,
a display
of flavoured
sugared
almonds, added
a traditional
touch"







THE DREAM TEAM

**Event planner** 

madreperlaevent.com

**Photography** 

jules-photographer.com

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facebook.com/melissafusariphoto **Venue** tenutamonacelle.com

Wedding dress radiosaatelier.it

Bridal shoes lesilla.com

**Jewellery** cristinabombardi.com **Make-up** esteticafrancy.com

Bridal hair

annaetoninoscorpati.wordpress.com

Stationery lauraswedding.com
Floral design stiattifiori.it

Wedding cake

alessandraeisuoidolci.com

Rentals preludionoleggio.it
Barber & groom styling

barbusbari.it

Wedding favours & confetti/sweets

ilsognodiedda.it





eception trends





"THE BEAMS IN THE BARN WERE USED TO CREATE A FOREST CANOPY"

he inspiration for this wedding was very much a magical Midsummer Night's Dream," says florist Ruth Davis of All For Love London, who styled this look with wedding planner Emma McDonald of Something Blue. The pair transformed the Tithe Barn at Loseley Park in Guildford into an enchanted, lush garden.

The key to crafting the look was to decorate the space so it felt as if all the plants were organic and growing, creating a truly natural style. The beams in the barn were used to create a forest canopy, while the entrance to the stately home was turned into a fairy-talelike passageway with an abundance of blooms.

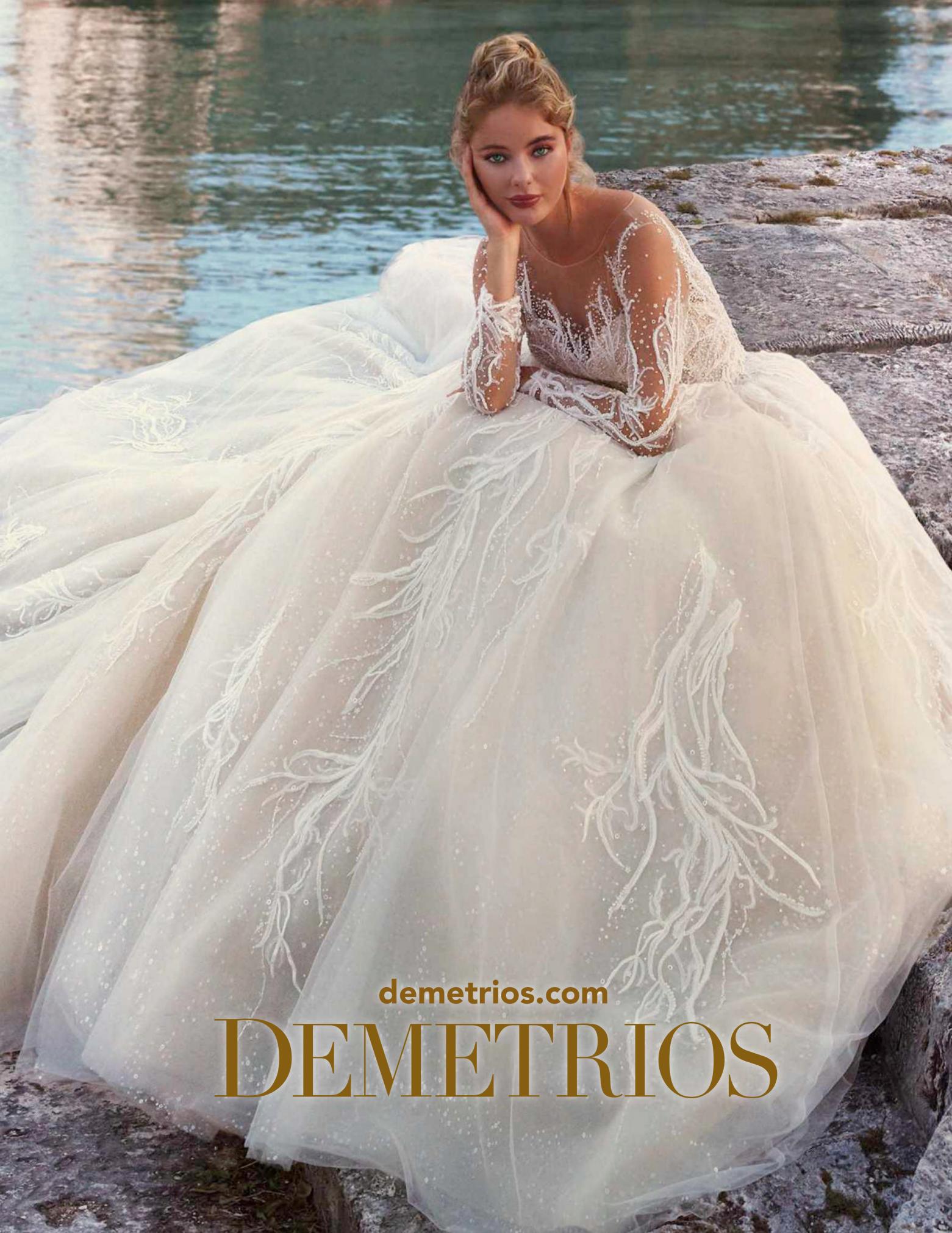
Mid-April was perfect timing for the first early peonies of the season. "Stunning, frilly ranunculus were beautiful, too, and it was a joy to work with all the seasonal late spring foliage," says Ruth.

A palette of coral, watermelon and peach with touches of gold fed into the ethereal theme, while special touches of coloured tapered candles, flower heads, paper lanterns and a wedding cake that gave the illusion of floating added to the feeling of a fantasy world.

Ruth's advice for creating this look: "When trying to create a garden, follow the path of nature to create something really wild and wonderful." Think outside the box, too. "Florals create atmosphere in a room, and they don't just need to be on the table!"









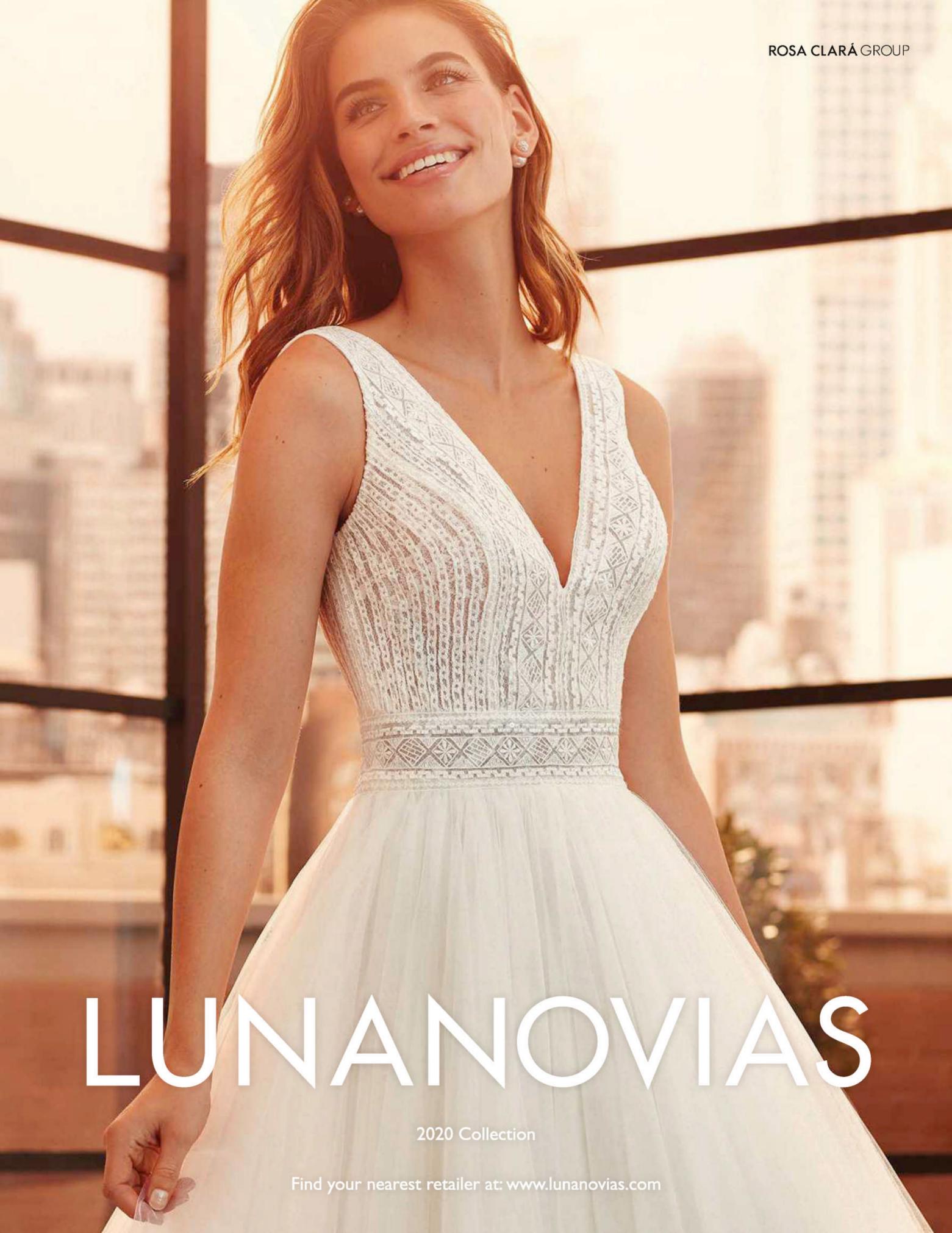




"Reflecting the barn's effortless charm, the converted horsebox bar was the perfect addition"











# A Westminster WEDDING

If you're looking for a truly stunning and unique setting to seal your love, the House of Commons will get everybody's vote



ny wedding day is special, but when you choose to tie the knot in a place that's iconic and steeped in history, it's going to be unforgettable – for you and your guests. For a simply spectacular setting for your wedding ceremony, civil partnership or reception, nothing comes close to the awe-inspiring location and sense of drama offered by the House of Commons.

Sitting proudly on the banks of the Thames, within the Palace of Westminster, the House of Commons is no stranger to occasions of grandeur, or a bit of pomp and ceremony. Since it became the home of the English parliament in the 13th-century, it has witnessed more than its fair share of memorable events – and maybe yours will be next.

#### NOT A DRY EYE IN THE HOUSE

When you celebrate your love for each other in the House of Commons, you'll follow in the footsteps of all the prime ministers, kings and queens who have walked these corridors of power down the centuries. As you enter through the doors of what must be one of the most famous landmarks in the world, it's impossible not to feel a sense of history, occasion and emotion – one that's likely to have your guests reaching for their tissues.

Whether you're thinking of an intimate ceremony for just a few close family and friends, or you have a much more lavish event in mind, there's a space to suit any occasion or style of wedding. Even better, experienced event coordinators will help

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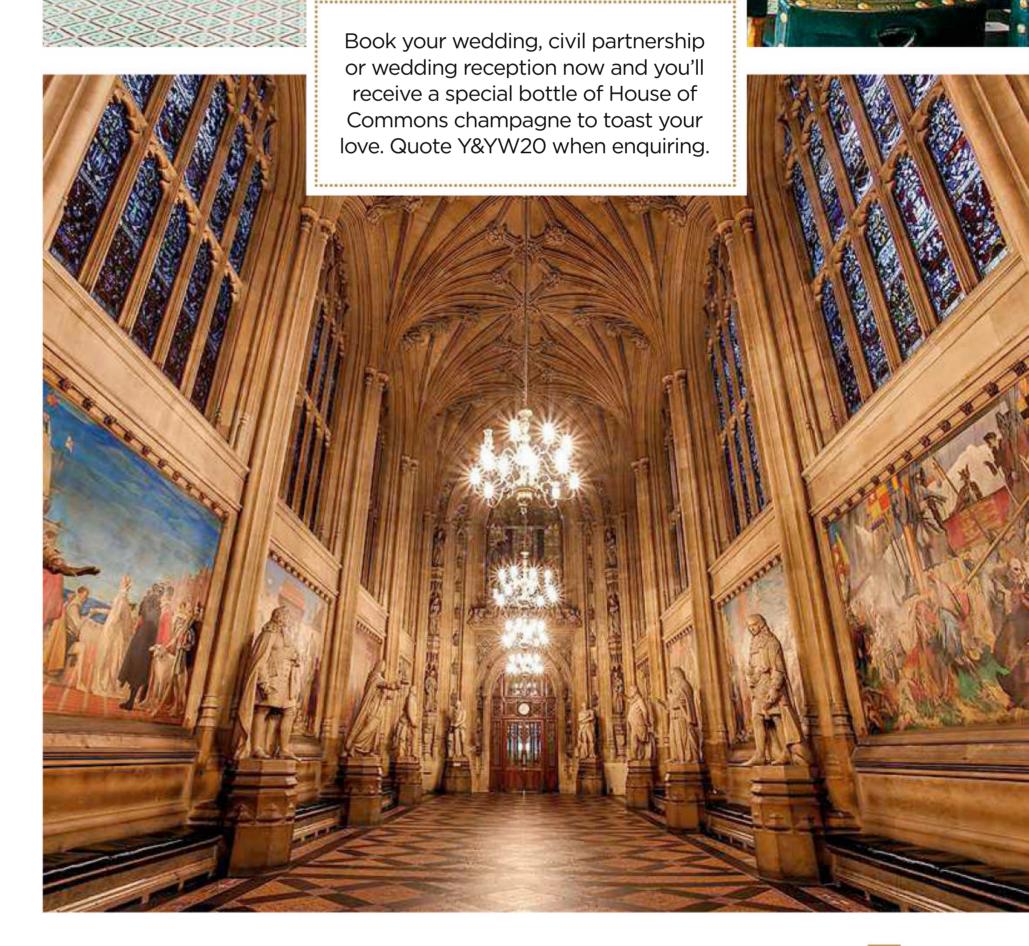
#### MEMBERS' DINING ROOM

Once known as the Painted Chamber, this glorious room has all the drama with its full-height windows that let light flood in, priceless pieces of art and rich wood panelling. Look closely and you'll see the panelling is adorned with wooden relief sculptures of fish, fruit and fowl, all produced by award-winning furniture maker and carver, Thomas H Kendall in 1874. This beautiful space comfortably holds up to 150 guests and is where Members of Parliament still come to dine when the House is in session – but it will be exclusive to you on your big day.

#### JUBILEE ROOM

With rich, glowing colours, glittering chandeliers and striking wallpaper designed by Augustus Pugin, this room is simply stunning. Situated just off the main Westminster Hall, it was designed by John Loughborough Pearson and completed in 1888. In 1977 it received its name, following the addition of a special fireplace to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. With a capacity of 60 guests, it's the perfect setting for a more intimate ceremony or wedding celebration.

If you're ready to start planning your dream day, let the House of Commons' event coordinators help you and your partner forge your own little bit of history in this iconic palace.



To find out more or book your wedding, call 020 7219 3090 or go to parliament.uk/wedding



# 

Take your seat at the world's loveliest weddings and prepare to be inspired







"I LOVE PINK, SO PINK WAS **ALWAYS** GOING TO BE **CENTRAL TO** THE STYLING"



**FLOWERS** The glorious floral arrangements were made up of local, seasonal blooms in blush, cream and pinks.



The couple had a personalised ceremony that blended Jewish and Christian traditions. Afterwards, they toasted their newlywed status with his and hers cocktails - Kir Royale for Kristen and Lavender St Germain G&T for Aaron – before sitting down for a wedding breakfast of French fine dining, amid bewitchingly pretty décor. Once the festivities were over, their passion for travel remained - so they planned an epic honeymoon. "On our very first date, we discussed how we wanted to travel for an extended period of time," says Kristen, "so we've quit our jobs and are travelling round the world for our honeymoon! It's the best decision we've ever made, aside from getting married, of course."









#### WELL MAID

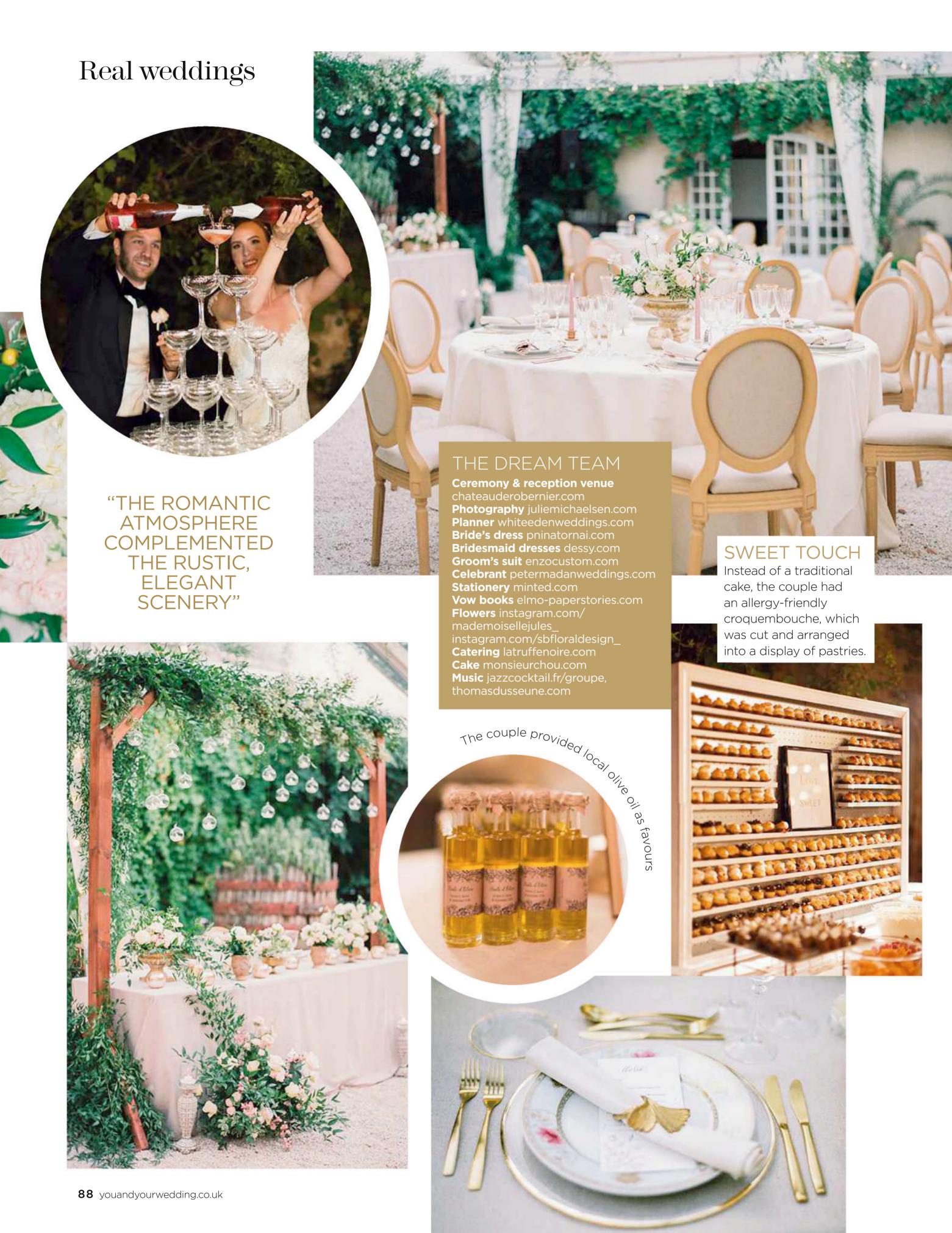
The bridesmaids chose dresses to suit their individual styles in the same blush shade.



"THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT! WE WOKE UP THAT MORNING WITHOUT A CLOUD IN THE SKY"













#### mehndi party with henna artists on the

Saturday night.

#### THE COUPLE Roz & Rav

Rosalind Rew, 30, and Ravi Radia, 33, held a Church of England ceremony at St Candida & Holy Cross at Whitchurch Canonicorum, and a Hindu ceremony and reception at Axnoller, Dorset

Yoming from two different faiths, it was Uimportant to Roz and Rav that they created a wedding that gave focus to both their cultures. Axnoller proved the perfect venue for their two-day "wedkend", with its variety of indoor and outdoor spaces. "We could have our two weddings on one site, which unified the two celebrations," says Roz. Saturday's festivities started with a church service at a Dorset church, while Sunday's celebration began with a Hindu ceremony at Axnoller.

To create a contrast between the two, the pair chose a natural white and green colour scheme for the first day and vibrant pinks and oranges for the second. Even the flower varieties used in the beautiful arrangements were different at each wedding.

# HAPPY together

This couple combined their backgrounds, for a weekend of multicultural celebrations

Photography | Weddings by Nicola & Glen



"The church was decorated with fresh flowers at the pew ends, and large floral arrangements at the church door and altar," says Roz. The Hindu ceremony, which was led by Rav's uncle, took place under a traditional mandap decorated with strings of flowers and floral arrangements around the base. "It cleverly combined vibrant India with wild Dorset and wowed us all," says Roz.

"The groom at a Hindu wedding typically arrives surrounded by his friends and family, and dancing," says Rav. This set the tone for the reception, where a band provided a laid-back soundtrack, and the couple chose *Ain't Nobody* for their first dance: "We love Chaka Khan and always sing along to her songs in the car."

While Saturday's meal was a vegan spread of fresh salads and tagine, on Sunday, guests were treated to an authentic Indian feast, which was mostly vegan – though they "let in some paneer as it's Rav's favourite".

There were veggie burgers provided later in the evening and, despite the wedding extending over two days, guests continued to celebrate late into the night. "We were blown away by how everyone embraced our multicultural wedding weekend."

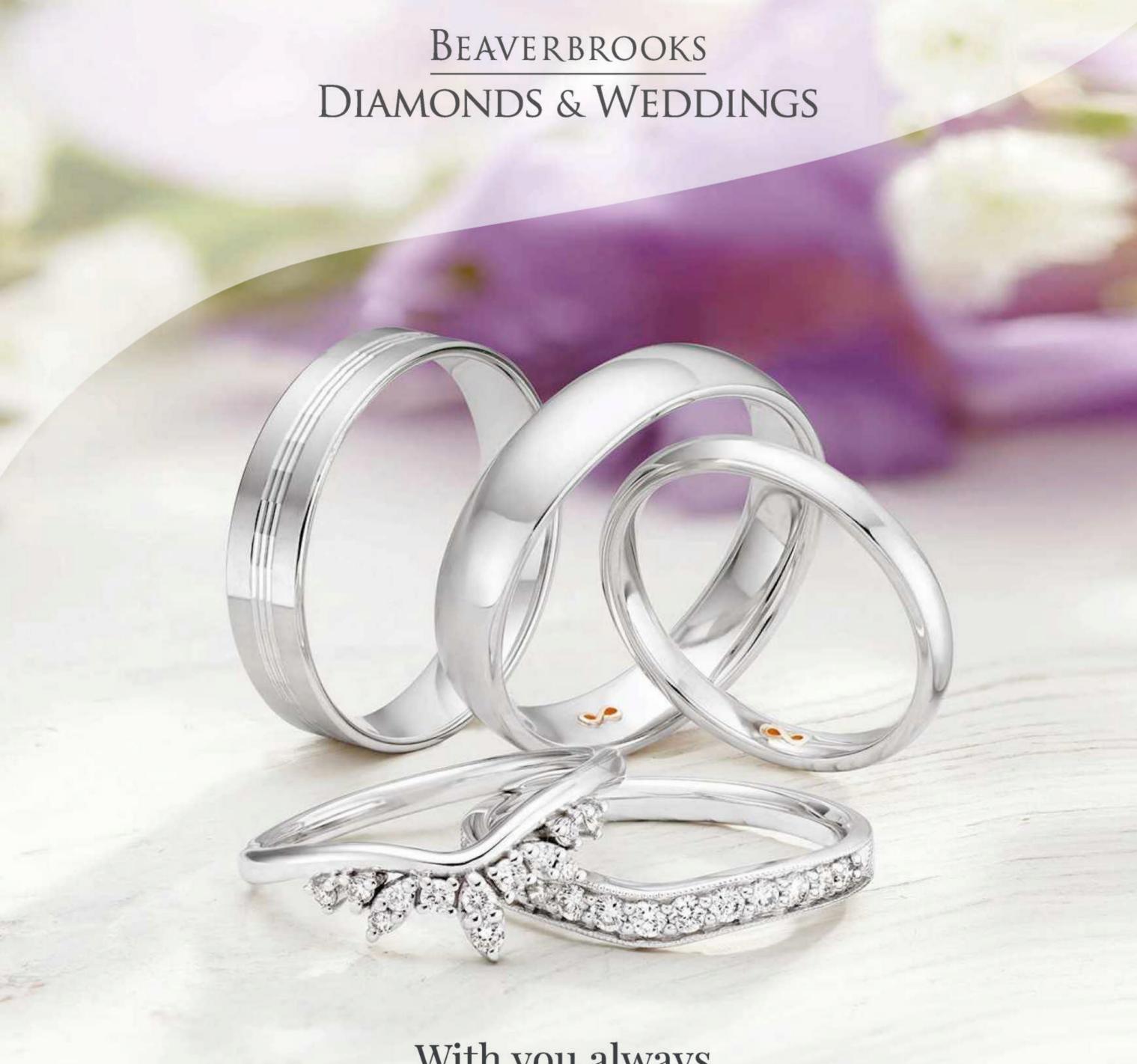




Photography Ngor Demba







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# Summer of

Bold colours and a relaxed feel created a fun festival vibe for this couple's big day

Photography | Pippa Carvell



Rosie and Martin first met at a festival, and wanted the same laid-back party vibe at their wedding.

#### THE COUPLE Rosie & Martin

Rosie Welch, 27, and Martin Bilham, 30, held their ceremony and reception at Slaugham Place, West Sussex

Then it comes to creating a festival-**VV** style wedding, the décor plays a big part in setting the tone. Bride Rosie works for creative florist Early Hours, so she was perfectly placed to get the look she and now-husband Martin wanted. The couple chose garden venue Slaugham Place, with a marquee for the wedding breakfast. Show-stopping floral installations helped put their stamp on the different spaces, from the five-metre arch of summer blooms at the ceremony to an incredible flower and balloon tree at the marquee entrance. Once inside, guests were greeted by a bespoke neon sign against a striking flower wall. "Having first met at a festival





#### Real weddings

"WE DON'T
TAKE OURSELVES
TOO SERIOUSLY
AND I THINK
THAT WAS
REFLECTED IN THE
DECORATIONS!"



their décor

and sharing a love for music, we agreed to name the tables after our favourite bands," says Rosie. "We tried to make the band relevant to the guests sitting at each table."

The festival vibe didn't stop there. Martin designed a stationery suite that included ticket-style invitations, lanyards for the extra information and bespoke wristbands. Naturally, music also played a big part, with three different bands performing throughout the day. "Our first band, The Cotton Piccadillys, had a very chilled and folky vibe," says Rosie. "Our second, Social Scene, played a relaxed set during dinner. Then The Kicks played an acoustic set outside the marquee, before moving inside to play a much livelier set." There was a glitter table to help guests get into the party spirit, and the couple provided an unlimited free bar throughout. "We were keen to keep everything fun and relaxed, and were focused on making sure our guests had the best time," says Martin. "We don't take ourselves too seriously, and I think that was reflected in the exciting decorations!"











Martin designed the table plan to look like a festival line-up poster.





#### THE DREAM TEAM

#### Venue

slaughamplace-weddings.co.uk Photography

pippacarvellphotography.com

Florist earlyhours.co.uk Flag hire eventflaghire.co.uk

Bride's dress teokath.co.uk

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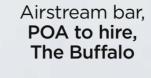
Rainbow bunting, £5.25 for 3m, Talking Tables

Tassel balloon, £14.50, The Giant Balloon Company



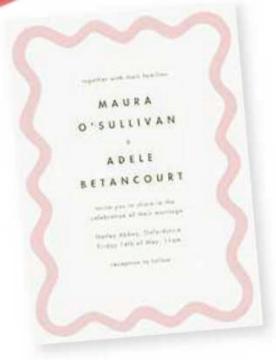
#### Style TIP

For a festival feel, go big with bold tones, and opt for wild and wonderful floral displays.





Streamer wedding backdrop, £38.84, LuckPartyGoods at Etsy



Scallop-trim invitation, **£22 for 10, Papier** 

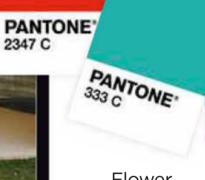


GET THE LOOK



## DAYS

Get into the festival spirit with plenty of colourful touches



Flower arrangement, POA, The Cadogan Flower



Light-up party sign, **£150 to hire, Vowed & Amazed** 



Eco-friendly rainbow

confetti, from £4.35, by

Rosieplustheboys at Etsy





For more venue ideas, go to youandyourwedding.co.uk/venues

COMPILED BY KATIE PHIPPS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIRSTY MACKENZIE PHOTOGRAPHY, A THING LIKE THAT, JENNIFER SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

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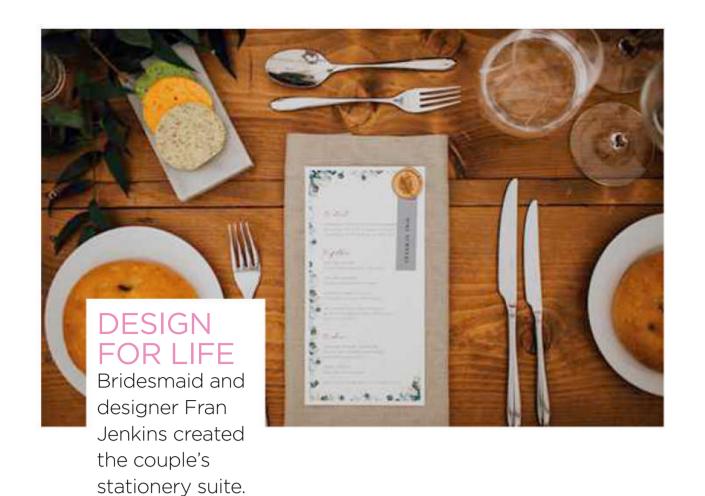
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Aurden

Nature-inspired décor and some amazing music gave this celebration a joyous atmosphere

Photography | Binky Nixon





#### THE COUPLE Becky & Gus

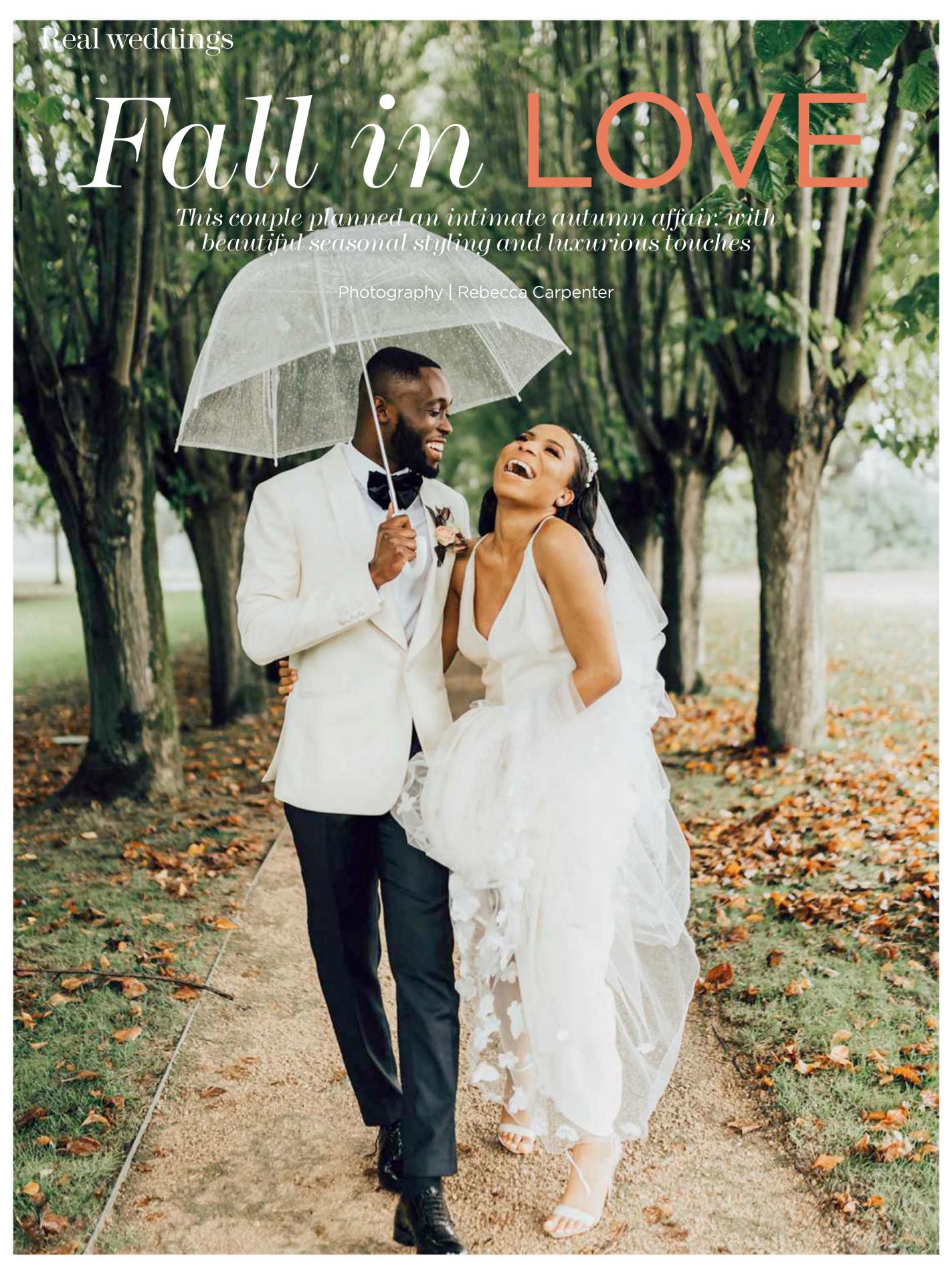
For Becky and Gus, the ceremony was at the heart of their day. "We had a gospel choir performing throughout, and they brought an amazing vibe," says Becky. "We also had four friends and Gus's sister doing readings. One of our best friends is an incredibly talented singer, and she performed Adele's Make You Feel My Love during the signing of the register, which was a particularly special and personal moment for us." All this isn't to say, of course, that the reception was an afterthought – the couple designed a celebration to delight their guests. Becky and Gus gave their blank-canvas marquee a welcoming feel by adding furniture for lounging and chatting, and

### Real weddings included potted plants and trees from the bride's parents' garden. "As the reception was in an English garden, we took inspiration from our surroundings, with festoon garden lights and garlands of foliage," says Becky. The long feasting tables were adorned with ferns in bronze plant pots, green napkins and twinkling candlelight. Gus put together a "help yourself" beer bar, made from cost-free pallets from a local builder, and decorated with more eucalyptus and festoon lights. These details all came together to create the perfect space for a lively party. "We've been together since we were 16, so we are incredibly lucky that we share almost all of our friends," says Becky. "Everyone was excited to see each other and talk." When it came to capturing such a special occasion, photographer Binky Nixon turned out to be the perfect choice. "Binky not only took the best photos but also brought an amazing energy to the day," says Becky. "We loved having her there." A sea perals were on hand for the conferm.











### THE COUPLE Periesa & Willis

Periesa Palmer, 27, and Willis Orome, 25, held their ceremony and reception at Coworth Park, Berkshire

**T**ould you change your wedding V date to make sure you could have a particular supplier? When the supplier in question is the photographer who'll be capturing memories of the day that will last a lifetime, it might make sense. So thought Willis and Periesa, who came up with a new date for their big day in order to have Rebecca Carpenter behind the lens. "She really is that amazing!" says Periesa. And there were certainly plenty of special moments to

ceremony. Having had the legal ceremony the previous week, Periesa and Willis exchanged vows they'd written themselves at a ceremony officiated by their pastor. "I still cry thinking about saying our vows to each other, it was so special," says Periesa.

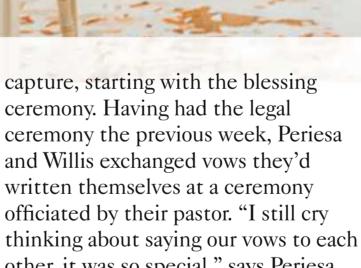
Afterwards, the couple and their 18 guests celebrated with Veuve Clicquot and elderflower mocktails, then sat down to a feast of seasonal dishes. The mood was more dinner party than large-scale celebration, with styling perfectly judged to suit both the intimate mood and the season: blooms and foliage in inviting autumn colours. "For the ceremony and drinks, we had a saxophonist, and jazz playing in the background at dinner," says Periesa. "We both enjoy intimate affairs and as a couple, we love to entertain. It was a perfect evening." Keeping it intimate meant the couple could spend quality time with their loved ones. "We realise how blessed we are to have family and friends like ours," says Willis.



The floral arrangements included seasonal blooms and plenty of foliage.



Real weddings



#### Real weddings



#### THE DREAM TEAM

Venue

dorchestercollection.com

**Photography** 

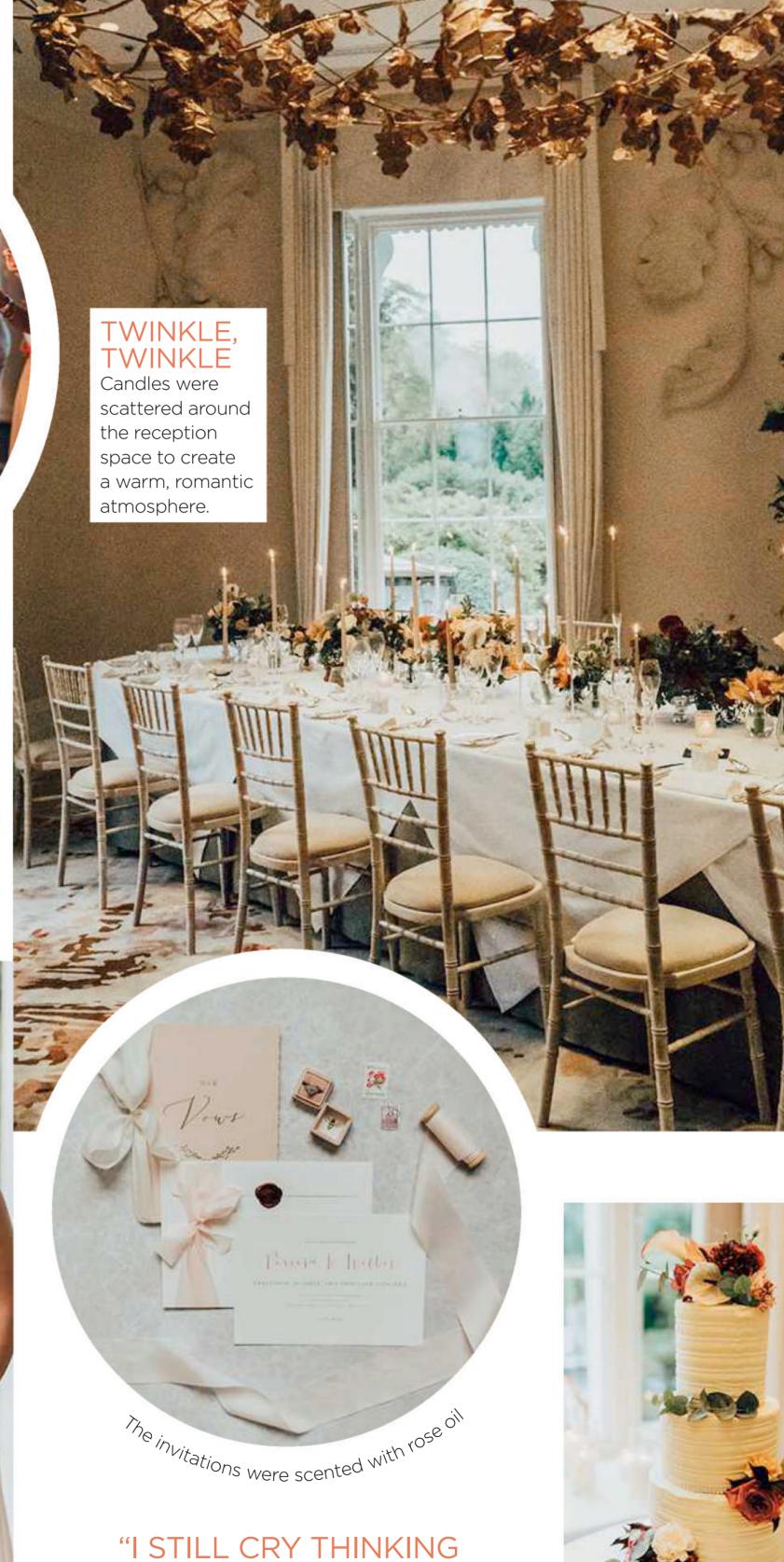
rebeccacarpenterphotography.com **Bride's & bridesmaids' dresses**asos.com

**Groom's suit** kabiruabu.com **Stationery** lilacandwhite.com **Flowers** 

beverleywilsonflorals.co.uk

Cake @ericakesuk on Instagram





ABOUT SAYING OUR

VOWS TO EACH OTHER, IT WAS SO SPECIAL"



# Whene the HEARIS

With fairytale mansions to country barns and everything in between, you're sure to fall head over heels with one of Mercure's wedding venues

t's an incredible feeling when you find 'The One', isn't it? And what better way to share your joy than by tying the knot surrounded by all your friends and family? Whether you want to say 'I do' in a charming country barn or a chic city venue, Mercure has plenty of idyllic wedding venues across the UK for you to choose from, so you're sure to find the perfect one for you.

What's more, with Mercure your wedding promises to be a truly special and authentic experience, as each venue champions the very best aspects of its local area through everything from its décor and service to its food and drink. And no matter if you want a small, intimate ceremony or a large, lavish celebration, you can rest assured that thanks to the passionate wedding team on hand at each venue, you'll be able to really enjoy your special day, as every detail will be planned to perfection.

Mercure has unique hotels situated in some of the most stunning spots in the UK – from the ruggedly beautiful Inverness to Brighton's bohemian coast – so wherever you choose to have your big day, there's sure to be a great Mercure venue near you. The dreamy Mercure Farnham Bush, for instance, is a regal Georgian-style hotel that's surrounded by tranquil gardens – perfect for those all-important wedding photographs.

Nestled right in the heart of Surrey's breathtaking countryside, meanwhile, you'll find Mercure Box Hill Burford Bridge Hotel. This stunning 17th-century barn exudes rustic charm and features its original wooden beams. Or, if you want a real fairytale wedding, then Mercure Aberdeen Ardoe House Hotel and Spa is perfect for you. This magical mansion boasts turrets, spires and ancient stained-glass windows.

So the only question is, which Mercure venue is the one for you?



#### COMPETITION

Fancy experiencing one of Mercure's gorgeous locations first-hand?
Then you're in luck! Enter Mercure's competition and you could win a stay for two at one of four fabulous Mecure venues. The prize includes breakfast, dinner and a bespoke meeting with the on-site wedding planner.

To enter, visit You & Your Wedding's sister title, Hitched, at: bit.ly/mercure-hitched



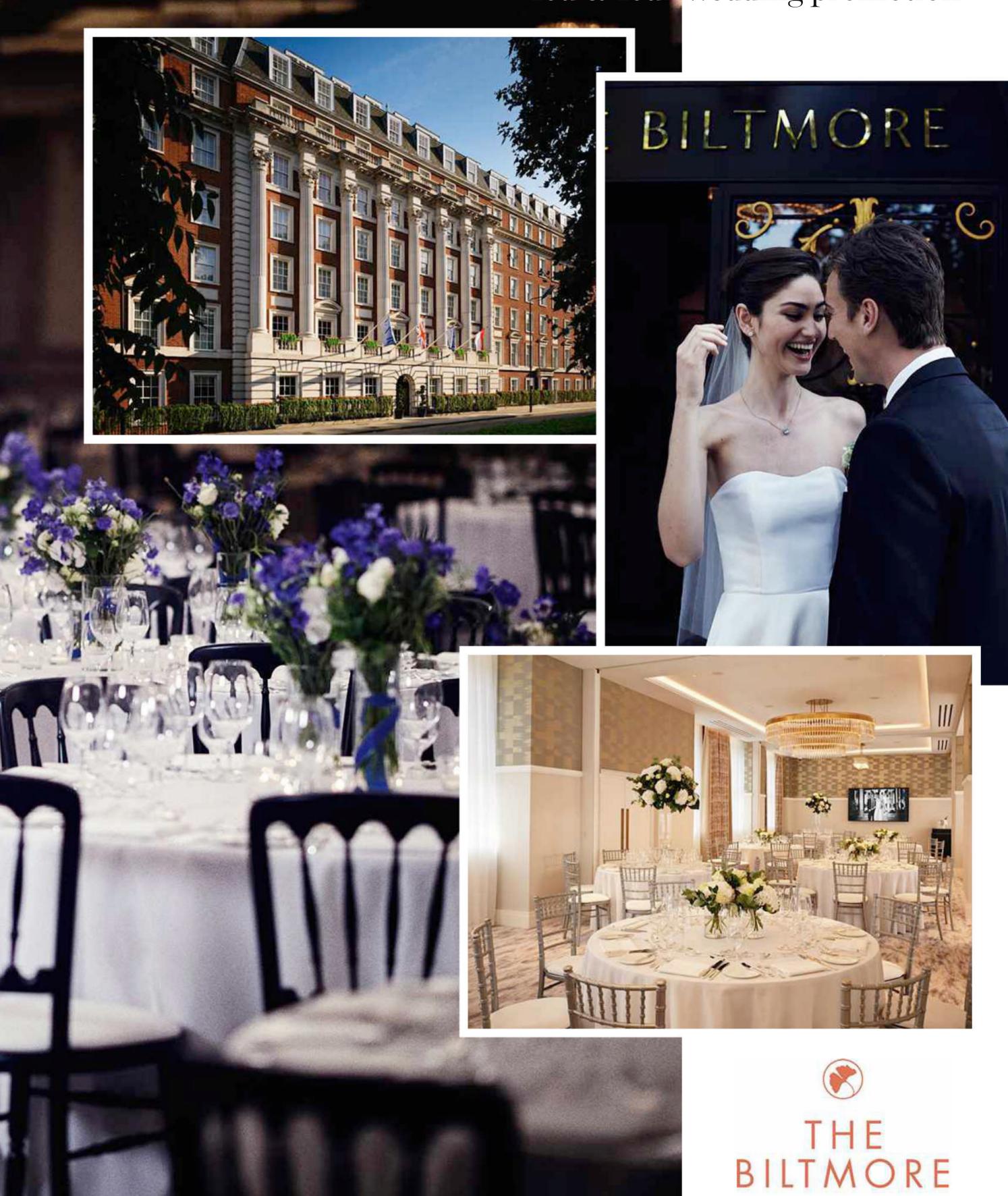
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# You & Your Wedding promotion

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Your low-stress, high-style guide to planning





anuary 3 2015. The date I'll always remember as my hen-do planning meltdown. It was five whole months before my sister's hen party was meant to take place. I say "meant to" as I'd just spent an unsuccessful day scouring the internet for available self-catering houses to sleep 21. Apparently the first June weekend is when everyone goes away in groups of 21.

I knew I'd hit rock bottom when I started trying to bribe an owner into accepting my booking, even though someone had beaten me to it an hour earlier. At that point, I didn't even know how many beds I needed, which wasn't helping matters. In between ringing holiday rentals and chasing that last

pesky hen who hadn't replied, I was attempting to solve this brain-teaser: if 14 hens are staying on the Friday night and seven more hens are joining on Saturday morning, but one is leaving on Saturday afternoon and three more hens are coming for the day only, how many clean beds does one maid of honour need to book? Who knew you needed a degree in applied mathematics to plan a hen party?

And that was just for starters. By the time I had waved off the last hungover hen on the Sunday afternoon, having eventually found a place to host it, I was an expert in everything from party planning and event catering to accounting and DJing, and I was exhausted! So, whatever kind of hen party you're planning, whether it's abroad, at home, one day or a whole week, and whatever your role in the wedding, this is everything I want you to know to ensure the planning is as stress-free as the event itself.

# **Start planning early**

I started thinking about my sister's hen nine months before the big day. My reasoning was that if you can create another person in this time frame, you can organise one little party. How deluded I was! It took me an entire month to even nail down a date, with at least four hens

rejecting my first suggested dates.

"APART FROM
BOOKING THINGS
BEFORE THE
PROPOSAL HAS
TAKEN PLACE,
THERE'S NO
SUCH THING AS
TOO PROACTIVE"

When it comes to planning, the early hen gets the worm, so as soon as you know the date of the wedding, get a list of potential names together. Apart from booking things before the proposal has even taken place, there's no such thing as being too proactive. When you're picking a date, remember you can't please everyone – choose a shortlist of just two or three dates and go

with the one the majority can make. That said, as brutal as it sounds, it's helpful to put the hens in order of importance. Ask the bride-to-be to do it unless you're 100% confident in choosing between the date the bride's work colleague can make and the one that her gym friend can. Top tip: burn this list straight after reading.

To make life easier for yourself, consider an off-peak date. According to GoHen, May and June are the most popular months for hen dos, so if you are able to get ahead of the game with your booking and plan outside these times, then do so.



# **Communicate smartly**

Unless you love spending your spare time emailing, avoid sending individual messages to each hen. The 250 emails in my inbox prove it's not the most efficient method. Instead, set up a WhatsApp group, where you can impart the essential information to all hens in one fell swoop. This also makes it easier to cross-check everyone's dates and requests when it comes to booking activities later on. Plus, no naughty hens can pretend they haven't seen the all-important payment schedule or on-the-day itinerary, because the app tells you who's seen each message.

Keep your communications short and direct. Think "Please reply by Wednesday at 5pm confirming you are free on 5 May," rather than "Can you let me know any weekends you're free in May or June – no rush!" Alternatively, set up a Doodle poll to get those all-important dates.

# **Know your audience**

Once you've secured the date, it's time to choose the party style. You may think that a week in Ibiza is the only way to say goodbye to singledom, but it's crucial to



remember who's coming and what they can afford, and to find a compromise between the bride's preferences and those of the other hens.

If you're all in then make it a short but sweet night out your thirties with

more responsibilities, but bigger budgets? Think local house-party weekend away with spa treatments. And if you have a complete range of ages with mums and cousins in attendance, provide options such as an afternoon tea followed by a karaoke night, so hens can dip in and out.

My biggest fear was that people would get bored if there was downtime. But there's no need to provide an expensive, jam-packed schedule – that'll just result in everyone running from one activity to the next like headless chickens. As long as the hens have somewhere to chill out, chat and quaff champagne (as well as low and no-alcohol alternatives), they'll be happy.

# Learn to let go

conscience can be an emotional drain, and organising

everything single-handedly is a recipe for making things more stressful than necessary.

Once you've got the key details in place, think about other time-consuming aspects and farm them out. Identify the party hen – they're the one you need to ask to put together the dancing play list or book the, ahem, exotic entertainment. Ask someone who's a natural leader to pull together the games. There'll be a tech-savvy member lurking somewhere in your hen house, too. Give them the role of filming the ultimate ice-breaker, the Mr & Mrs/Mrs & Mrs quiz. Finally, the crafty hen is perfectly placed to put together a photo and memories book for the bride or to bake celebratory cupcakes.

# Be a smart budgeter

Just because you're chief organiser doesn't mean you have to pay more than your fair share. Before you even consider booking anything or buying the cheapest of novelty items, work out the costs across the board. At my sister's do I heard, "I can't believe you managed to

get all this for such a cheap price!" from several girls. Confession: I didn't. I was just too embarrassed to ask for more money when I realised I'd miscalculated how much everyone owed.

All the little extras, such as sashes and T-shirts, might seem cheap at the time, but they add up. Enlist the help of a hen with a head for numbers if budgeting isn't your forte and cost up everything before revealing the final price. It's also worth building in a small buffer, say £5 per hen, for those small amounts, including

tips or taxis, that crop up on the night. If you don't use it you can always give it back.

Try to keep hen money separate from your everyday bank account for ease of comparing incoming and outgoing amounts. If you have an old account with nothing in it, this is the time to whip it back into action. There are also plenty of handy money-splitting apps, such as Pingit and Split It. And if a deposit is due on

anything, it's OK to tell a white lie and bring forward the payment date there's always one who'll push the deadline to the max! Finally, if you're self-catering, don't underestimate how much food and drink a gaggle of girls can get through in one sitting, so save space in the budget.

Save space in your

you're self-catering

Now it's time to get those dancing shoes out and enjoy the fruits of your labours. Here's to a happy and successful hen do!

# THE HEN alternative

At the beginning of the process, decide whether you actually want a hen - or whether your couple style better suits a joint "sten". After all, you might have a mutual friendship group, and don't want to split that along gender lines. It could be easier planning one big party. Just make sure you're both happy with the idea, and one of you isn't secretly craving their own celebration.

your twenties with tight budgets but love an all-nighter, in a cool city. In



This one is for all you control freaks. When planning a hen do, you need to share the mental and physical load. Having an entire group's expectations on your



Have your wedding reception in fun and bubbly style with The Gin Inn! A fabulous mobile gin bar!

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here's no rule saying you have to include an activity in your hen party. Good company, food and drink are perfectly sufficient for an enjoyable time. However, including something to do can make it feel like more of an occasion, and adds interest if your celebration will run across a whole weekend. What's more, if all your guests don't know each other, an activity can be an effective ice breaker. The key is to choose something that both suits your style and that won't have your more introverted guests recoiling in horror (singing in public tends to fall into the latter category). The old hen party favourites – afternoon tea, spa, cocktail making - are classics for a reason, but we think it's worth looking beyond these to make your hen stand out. We've found some excellent options for a party to remember.

# **DANCE IT OUT**

time at London Grace GoHen has enough dance-related hen activities to fill a season of Strictly, from the Charleston to street style, as well as the intriguingly named Twerkshop. Our choice for a sure-fire crowd-pleaser, however, is a Beyoncé-themed routine. All the (not-so) single ladies... Locations throughout the UK, gohen.com



# **NAIL IT**

If your hen-clinations are on the pampering side, look for a beauty salon that offers private hire. We love the packages at nail bar London Grace, which include a pizza and prosecco option. Everything in life, from the daily commute to tax returns, should include a pizza and prosecco option. London, londongrace.co.uk



**GREAT OUTDOORS** 

Glamping specialists Canvas & Stars have a new Hampshire site for 2020. Accommodation is in canvas cottages with private kitchens and fire pits, and there's a hot tub and pop-up spa. As an added extra, you can have a silent disco. Hampshire, canvasandstars.co.uk

# WHEN IN ROME

The Romans is an adventure park where you can train as an ancient Roman gladiator for the day, through a series of games. Cheesy? Undoubtedly, but if your childhood Saturday evenings once resounded with the cry "Gladiator, ready!" you'll be in heaven. Besides, they had us at "free toga hire". Liverpool, redsevenleisure.co.uk

# **SHAKE IT UP**

Cocktail classes have long been on the hen scene; keep it fresh by looking for a twist on the concept, such as a multi-sensory cocktail workshop, which includes deconstructed drinks and inhalable tipples. Locations throughout the UK, chillisauce.com



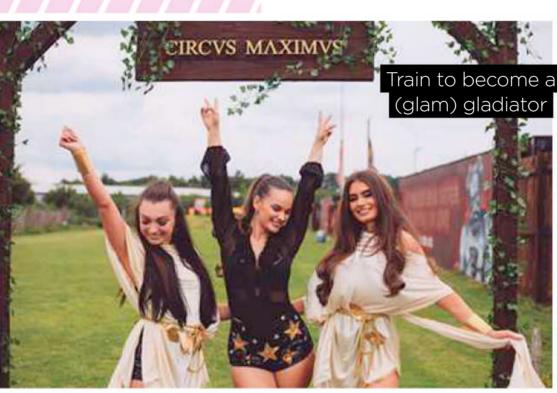


# **DOUBLE UP**

Afternoon tea and gin tasting are two classic hen activities - so why not combine them into one? With the High Tea Gin Tasting experience, you'll get to sample a selection of gins, infuse your own, learn all about the spirit and enjoy some tea and cake. Bath, gohen.com

# **FEELING CRAFTY**

Most Curious wedding events offers a selection of hen packages that are as cool as you'd expect. We particularly like the sound of Craft & Care, which includes a slow-craft workshop, self-care treatment, and lunch. London, but it may be possible to arrange elsewhere, amostcuriousweddingfair.co.uk



### **NAKED AMBITION**

What could be better than sitting down with your best friends to draw a naked person? Nude Life provides a professional life model to come to your chosen hen location, who can also offer a butler service, so you can enjoy a tipple as you show off your sketching skills. Locations throughout the UK, nudelife.co.uk

# **GET THE GIGGLES**

The tagline of innovative London supper club Mam Sham, available for private hire, is "good grub and lols", which seems to us the makings of a pretty fantastic evening. Tuck into top nosh with entertainment such as stand-up comedy and drag. London, mamsham.com

# THE CROWN

Spend the day as a Tudor Queen at Thornbury Castle, once owned by Henry VIII. You and your hens will dress up in replica Tudor gowns and jewels, try your hand at falconry and sit down to a classic cream tea. Gloucestershire,

tudorqueenexperience.co.uk



### **IMMERSE YOURSELF**

Immersive experiences remain hot on the hen circuit, and we'd be tempted to book Alcotraz based on the name alone. You and your fellow hens must smuggle in liquor past the "guards" to this prison-themed bar. Your reward? Some delicious bespoke cocktails. London and Brighton, fizzbox.com

### **CRYSTAL CLEAR**

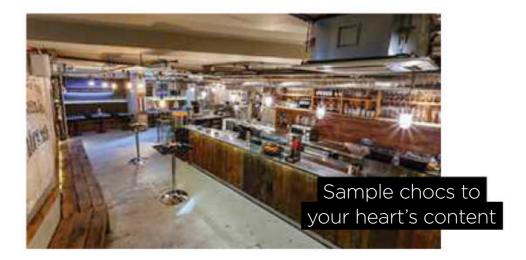
For a dose of '90s nostalgia, take yourself and your team to The Crystal Maze Live Experience. You'll be guided through tasks in the zones, before jumping for tokens in the crystal dome. Admit it, you're already humming the theme music. London and Manchester, the-crystal-maze.com

### **HENFEST!**

Beat the crowds by throwing your very own private festival. You can either hire a venue or, space allowing, have it at home. Pitch Boutique will do the hard work for you, providing everything from activities and decorations to food and drink, and even a luxe glamping village! You decide how much of the day they put together, and can choose from a one-day festival or a whole weekend of partying. East Anglia, pitch-boutique.co.uk

# **SWEET THING**

This esteemed chocolatier offers private tasting events for up to 16. We can think of few finer ways to spend an evening than munching our way through an assortment of gourmet chocolates – and there's a goody bag to take away. London and Leeds, hotelchocolat.com



# IDEAS OUTSIDE THE UK

# **SPANISH STEPS**

Looking for a purse-friendly alternative to Barcelona? We're big fans of sunshine city Valencia, which has laid-back nightlife and a glorious Old Town. While you're there, you can try a flamenco lesson, and get your twirl-twirl-stomp on, chillisauce.com

# **HIGH SEAS**

One for the luxe-lovers, SamBoat is the Airbnb for high-end boat rental. Croatia has breathtaking coastline, so we'd suggest hiring a skippered boat here for some picture-perfect sailing. Locations worldwide, samboat.com





### **ISLAND LIFE**

Despite its party reputation, Ibiza is a great place to unwind. Recharge your batteries with a three-hour Goddess Empowerment workshop, featuring meditation, yoga and dance, fizzbox.com Or stay close to the action – but still chill – by booking a day package at O Beach Ibiza, and enjoy cocktails by the pool, redsevenleisure.co.uk

# THE ONE WHERE...

Friends fans, this is essential: a New York weekend getaway with a tour of key locations from the TV show and a Rachelinspired Bloomingdale's experience. You'll even visit the planetarium where Rachel and Ross... you know, gohen.com

# **SURF & THE CITY**

Bewitchingly pretty architecture, a thriving foodie scene and a short flight time from the UK... it's easy to see why Lisbon is becoming a hot destination for the discerning hen. Take a break from the steep city streets with a surfing lesson, fizzbox.com







Create a delicious and eye-catching display for your guests on your big day, with a Joe & Seph's Wedding Popcorn Buffet!

Choose your favourites from their award-winning range of over 50 Gourmet Popcorn flavours, including Salted Caramel, Gin & Tonic and even Strawberries & Cream.

Displayed in Joe & Seph's iconic and beautiful Biscotti Jars, this unique Popcorn Bar is perfect as part of a dessert buffet or pre-dinner snack!





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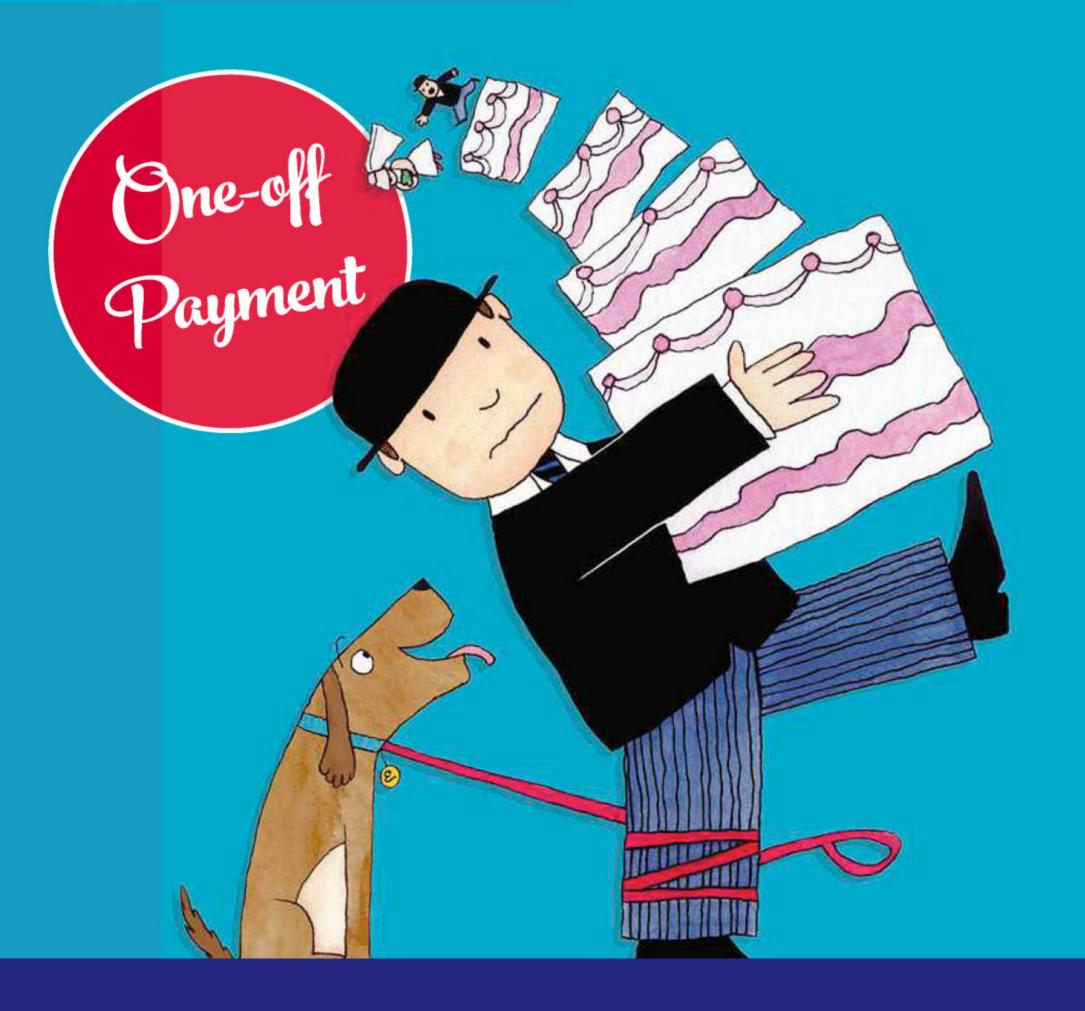








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# GET £50 OFF THE BRIDE'S BREAK WITH GOHEN

The hen party is your chance to celebrate with your best friends, so make it a memorable weekend with the help of GoHen.com. Having organised more than 500,000 pre-wedding adventures for partygoers, the GoHen pros know a thing or two about creating that perfect, bespoke weekend. What's more, they operate in 70 destinations across the UK, Europe and further afield, and offer up thousands of fab activities, nightlife and accommodation options, too. *gohen.com* 

# CLAIM YOUR OFFER

Quote **YAYW50** when booking a two-night hen weekend package at **GoHen.com** to save £50 off the bride's place. Offer ends 18 March 2020

**Terms and conditions:** The promoter is Groupia Ltd. The offer is valid from 13 February 2020 until 11.59pm on 18 March 2020. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotion. It is non-refundable and cannot be exchanged for cash. The offer is subject to availability.

# WIN A CHOCOLATE TASTING ADVENTURE

Indulge yourself with Hotel Chocolat, where you and your hens can enjoy 90 minutes of pure cocoa bliss during its School of Chocolate Tasting Adventure\*, held in both Leeds and Covent Garden, London. Hotel Chocolat is the only British chocolate maker to grow its own cocoa, so you'll be in expert hands as you enjoy a glass of prosecco with your friends and learn to become pro chocolatiers. You'll even have a goody bag full of treats to take home! hotelchocolat.com



### HOW TO ENTER

For the chance to win a
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Q: Where is Hotel Chocolat's boutique hotel and plantation?

- A Colombia
- **B** Saint Lucia
- **C** Ghana

Visit youandyourwedding.co.uk/competitions by 18 March 2020. T&Cs apply, see below.



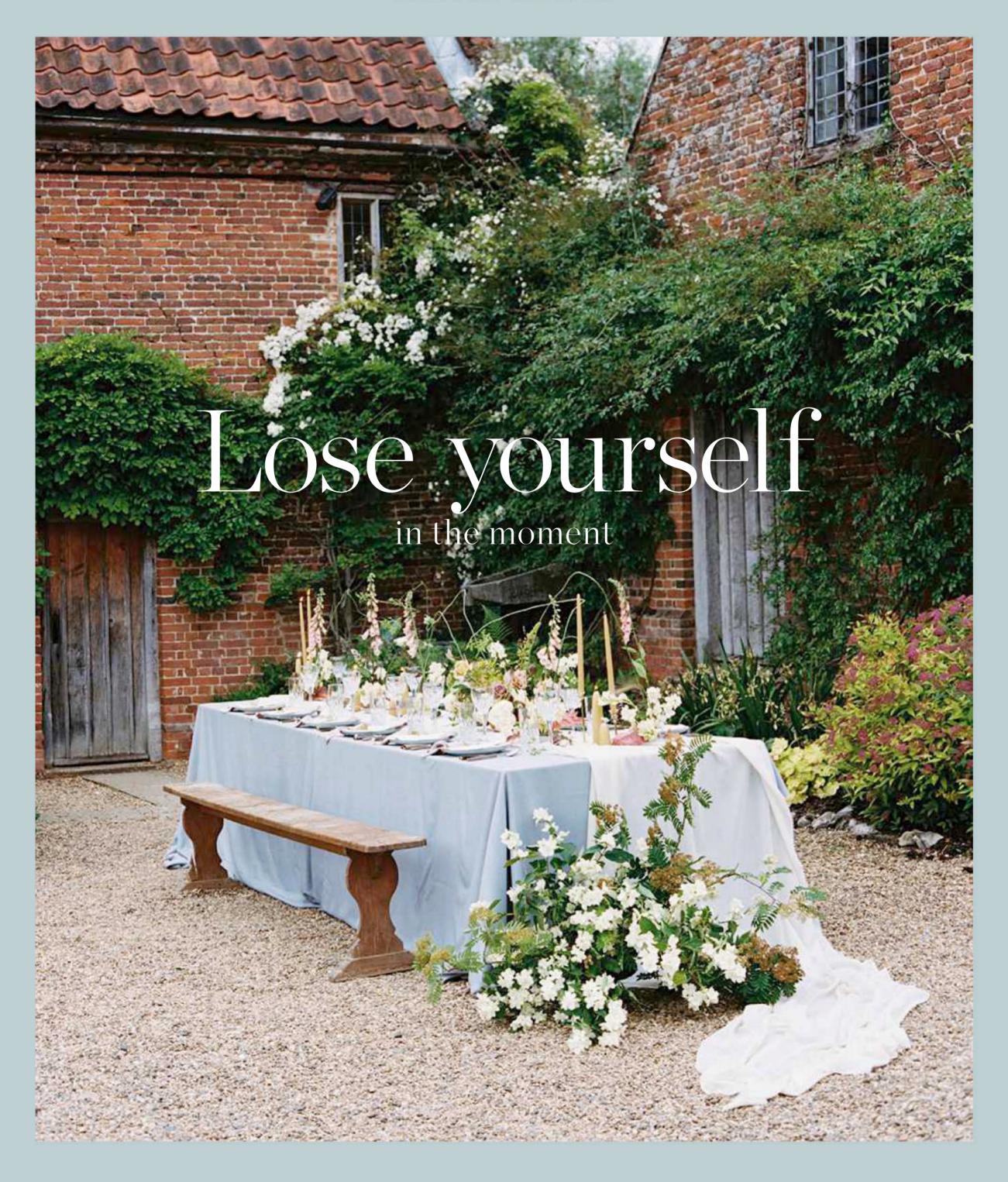




Terms and conditions: The promoter is Immediate Media Company London Limited. The competition closes at 11.59pm on 18 March 2020. Prize based on up to 10 people taking part in a 90-minute Hotel Chocolat Chocolate Tasting Adventure at either the Leeds Chocolate Metropolis or the London Covent Garden (Seven Dials) store and subject to availability. The prize must be taken by 13 February 2021. The prize excludes travel between the winner's home and hotel, personal expenditure, food and beverages, gratuities or incidental costs, other than where mentioned. Prize cannot be exchanged for cash or transferred. The competition is open to all residents of the UK, including the Channel Islands. The competition is not open to employees and their immediate families of the promoter, or any other company involved in this prize promotion. Entrants and the prize winner and their guests must be 18 or above. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries. The winner will be notified by the promoter via email within 28 days of the competition closing and details of how to claim the prize will be provided. If the winner cannot be contacted, fails to respond within 28 days of such notification being sent, or declines the prize, the promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner up, or to re-offer the prize in any future promotion. The promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value. The promoter does not accept any responsibility for lost, delayed or fraudulent entries. The surname and county of residence of the winner will be available upon request by sending an SAE to Hotel Chocolat competition, You & Your Wedding, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, London, W6 7BT within two months of the closing date of the promotion. The promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Immediate Privacy Policy (immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy). By entering the competition, the participants agree: a) to be bound by these terms and conditions; b) that t



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# 

Expert tips and trends for your big day



# Purls of wisdom

Got a crafty bridesmaid? An usher with a woolpassion? Parents into petit point? Thank them for their help with a kit by We Are Knitters. These cover projects from beanie hats for beginners to alpaca sweaters for the advanced, and use only sustainable materials.



Yes, you can jot down to-dos on your phone, but the stationery-lovers among us will use any excuse for buying a new notebook – and getting engaged is the perfect reason. Leather personal planner, £51, Kikki. K

# **VENUE** INSIDER

The latest openings and hottest happenings



**NEW LAUNCH** Crumplebury, Worcestershire



FLEXIBLE SPACE Fivefourstudios, Manchester



MAJOR RENOVATION
Oatlands Park Hotel,
Surrey

# Inspiration

# SO HOT!



# **VEGAN HENS**

Luxury macaron makers Ohlala have launched a plant-based version of their popular Macaron & Martini Hen Experience.



# TRAD MASKS

Forget sheet masks, more brands are launching old-school wash-off masks in jars to reduce packaging – perfect for pre-wedding prep.

# SUPER SANDWICHES

Gourmet sandwiches are set to be one of the hottest foodie trends this year - translate it to your wedding as evening food.

# **+** Bridal ↑ BAROMETER

# SPLIT ENDS

New Philip Kingsley Bond Builder Split End Remedy, £26, has been developed to seal splits - perfect for swishy aisle-ready locks.



# PROSECCO

Look to Spain for your celebratory w-day fizz.
We're seeing a cava resurgence, according to Waitrose & Partner's annual Food and Drink Report.



# **GOING OUT**

It's still the season for romantic nights in. Set the mood with a deliciously fragranced candle, such as Winter Scent, from Scandi-chic Von Norten, £36.









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Thank your guests for celebrating your wedding by making a donation in place of a wedding favour. Choose from our range of **favours** and **personalised cards** as a meaningful keepsake of your donation.

To browse our range of **wedding favours** and find other ways to support Cancer Research UK with your wedding,

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# **COLLEEN AND JOHN'S STORY**

"My mum passed away from an incurable lung cancer before she made it to my wedding. With Cancer Research UK wedding favours it felt like she was close by again. She loved gardening and seeing our guest's plant the seeds was a perfect tribute."



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Find your perfect shoes and veil with help from Rainbow Club and Freya Rose, followed by dinner and an overnight stay in Devon



ainbow Club, the UK's leading bridal shoe expert, has teamed up with the multi-award-winning shoe designer, Freya Rose, to create the ultimate bespoke bridal package.

With this fantastic prize, one lucky bride will get to step into the Rainbow Club studio for a one-to-one design consultation with Freya Rose. Using her innovative approach to couture design and Rainbow Club's manufacturing expertise, the bridal shoes you've always dreamed of will finally become a reality. Whether you opt for crystal embellishment, delicate embroidery, a platform sandal or a classic court shoe, Freya will assist you all the way.

Hand-picking materials and trims, the team will ensure you walk down the aisle in your dream wedding shoes, experiencing the ultimate in shoe luxury. And the same can be said for your bridesmaids, as Rainbow Club's in-house Colour Studio team will also provide two pairs of shoes dyed to any colour of your choice.

What's more, you'll also have a personal design consultation with Rainbow Club's in-house design team to choose your very own veil.

To help you unwind after your design consultations, Rainbow Club is also providing an overnight stay and dinner for two in picturesque Devon\*\*.

# YOUR PRIZE

- A shoe design consultation and pair of custom-made Rainbow Club bridal shoes\*
- A veil design consultation\*
- Two pairs of Rainbow
  Club shoes from the
  2020 collection for
  your bridesmaids\*
- Overnight stay for two in Devon, with dinner\*\*
- Return train travel for two to Exeter, to the value of £200.

# HOW TO ENTER

For the chance to win this fabulous prize worth £1,500, answer the following question correctly:

Q: How many colours are there in the rainbow?

**A** 6

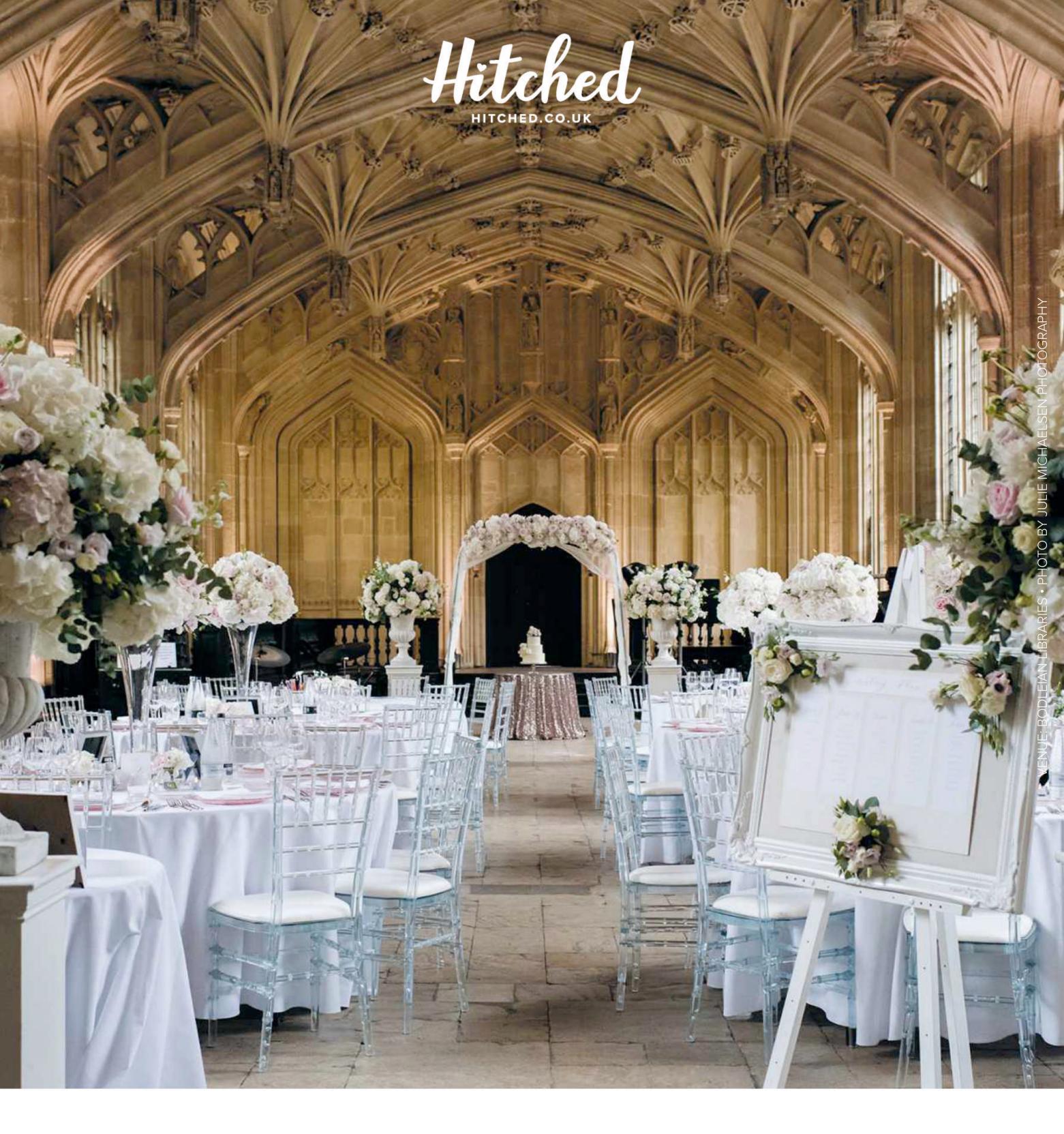
**B** 7

**C** 9

Visit youandyourwedding. co.uk/competitions. The competition closes 18 March 2020. Terms and conditions apply, see below for details.

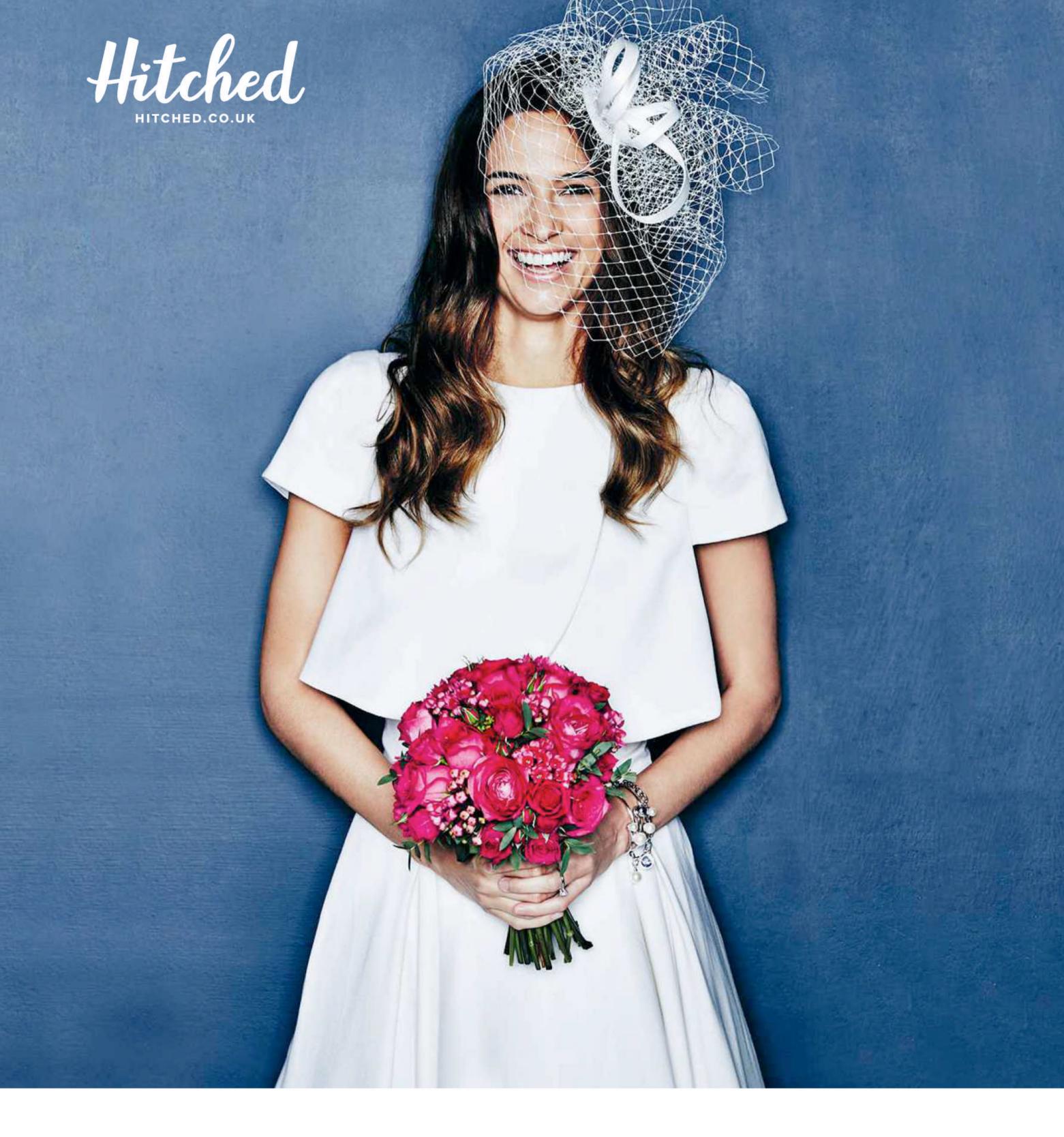
# RAINBOW

TERMS AND CONDITIONS The Promoter is Immediate Media Company London Limited. The closing date for entries is 11.59pm on 18 March 2020. The prize is based on two sharing a double room, valid until 31 August 2020. The prize is non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash. Price limits apply. The promotion is open to all residents of the UK, excluding the Channel Islands, aged 18 years or older, except the Promoter's employees or contractors and anyone connected with the promotion or their direct family members. By entering, you agree to be bound by all the rules of the promotion. Only one entry per person allowed. No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed, ineligible or fraudulent entries. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries. Winners will be notified by email within 28 days. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The surname and county of residence of the winner will be available upon request by sending an SAE to Rainbow Club Winner's List, You & Your Wedding, 44 Brook Green, London, W6 7BT within two months of the closing date of the promotion. The Promoter will contact the winner before releasing this information and provide the winner the opportunity to object or limit the amount of information shared. If any winner is unable to be contacted within 28 days of the closing date, the Promoter will offer the prize to a runner-up. The Promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Immediate Privacy Policy (www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy). Promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value but there is no cash alternative. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. For full terms and conditions, visit youandyourwedding.co.uk/competitions



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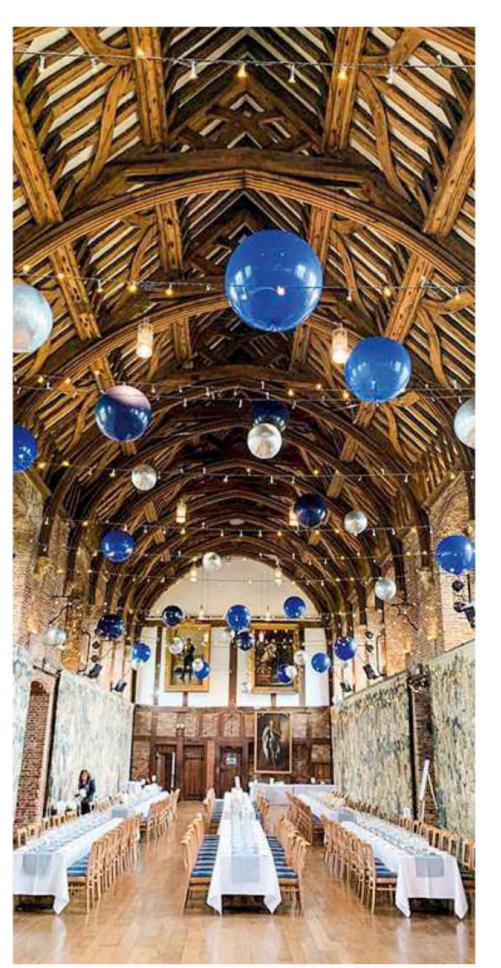
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# SHOULD YOU INTERNATION OF THE SHOULD YOU INTERNATION OF THE SHOW THE SHOULD HERE.

Each issue, members of the **You & Your Wedding** team debate the biggest wedding planning questions



Hannah Davies, commissioning editor



Hollie Bond, lifestyle editor



Elliott Wilmot, art director

**ELLIOTT SAYS:** 

"It's quite common now

for ex-partners to be

at Simon Cowell and

to your wedding but,

and enjoys their

company, too."

of course, this should

only be if your partner

has met them previously

all his exes! I think it's

fine to invite ex-partners

friends - just look



Katie Phipps, art editor



Laura Dean-Osgood, acting chief sub editor



Peta Hunt, editorat-large

# **HANNAH SAYS:**

"On the day you're declaring your love and commitment to another person, why would you want an ex there? The only reason I can think of is that you have unresolved feelings for them and are overcompensating by issuing the invitation. Don't do it."

"What do your friends and family think? Even if you're still on good terms with your ex, the people close to you might feel quite differently, particularly after a few glasses of bubbles... and the last thing you want is unnecessary drama on your wedding day!"

# PETA SAYS:

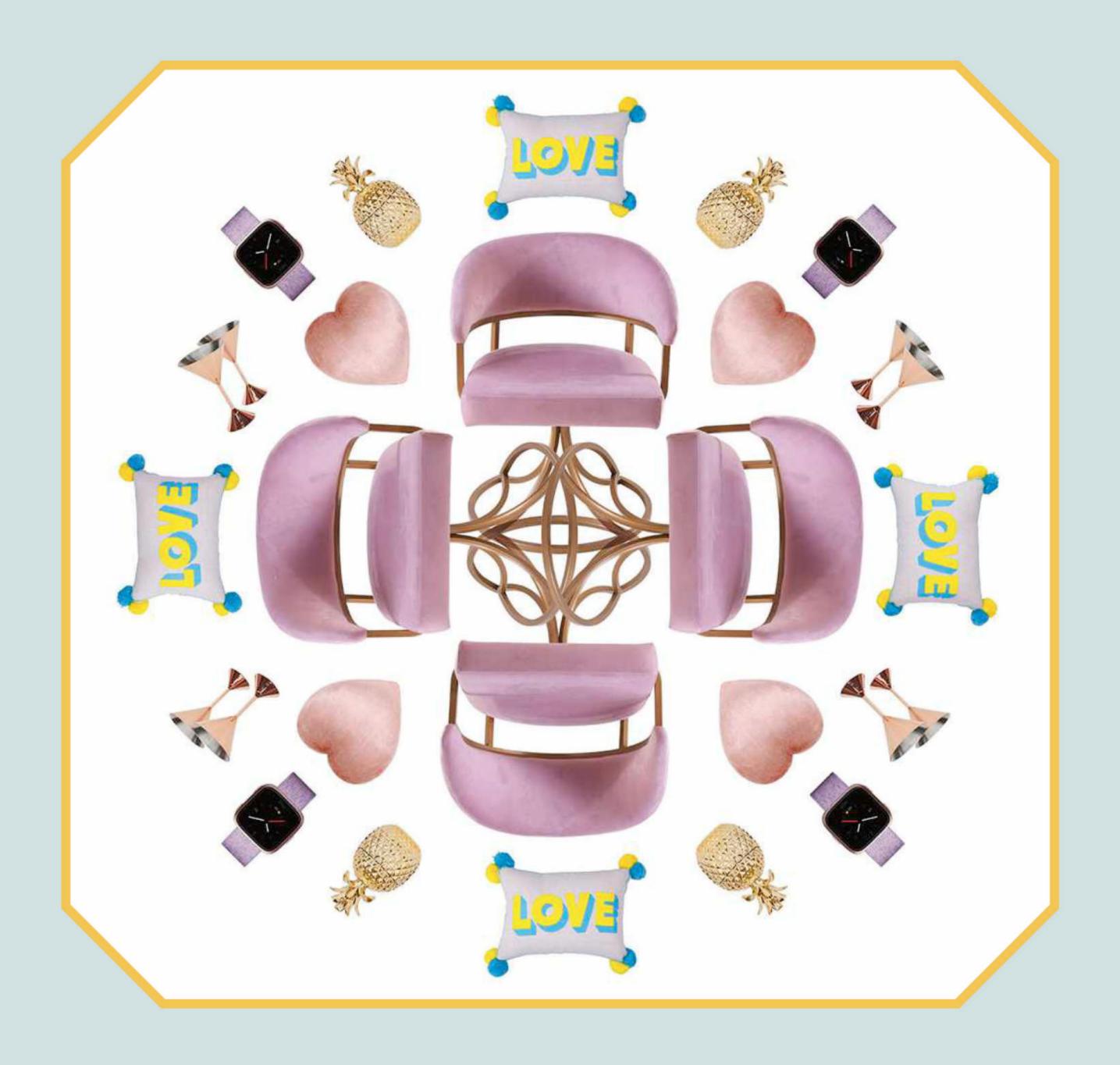
"My rule is, only have people as your guests because you care about them and you want to share your special day with them. If the ex fits into that bracket, then why not invite them? But only if you're having a large enough event—it would be bit odd with just six of you!"

# **LAURA SAYS:**

"I share a friendship group with my exboyfriend, and we're still on good terms, but neither of us invited the other to our respective weddings. We've moved on. At my wedding, we only had room for our very best and dearest friends, and my ex wasn't even a consideration."

# **HOLLIE SAYS:**

"It obviously depends on the relationship (anyone still hung up on their ex need not RSVP!), but in principle, if both the couple get on with, and have no bad feelings towards the person, then I think it's fine to invite them. I would say that though, as there were no exes at my wedding."



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# 

Gorgeous gift-list inspiration for every guest's budget

# THIS ISSUE Incredible interiors ideas for your living space

	amazon.co.uk	Prezola	John Lewis & Partners	The Wedding Shop
UP TO £50				
s <del></del> .	Faux fur throw, £18.87, amazon.co.uk	Pink velvet cushion, <b>£25, Habitat</b>	Green gin goblets, <b>£30, John Lewis &amp; Partners</b>	Set of three mini vases, £45, Kähler
UP TO £100		LCIVE LAUGHTER  R HARRILY EVER AFTER	The second secon	
	Velvet dining chair, £89.90, Duhome	Brass word art, <b>£75, Bombay Duck</b>	Marble and copper wine rack, £60, John Lewis & Partners	Knot cushion, <b>£95.50, Design House Stockholm</b>
UP TO £150	Station clock,	Leather magazine rack,	Green and brass globe,	Sunburst round mirror,
	£139, Howard Miller	£150, Soho Home	£110, Wild & Wolf	£110, Luna Home
UP TO £250	Two-shelf adjustable coffee table, £179.99, amazon.co.uk	Leather butterfly chair, £250, Ali&Co	Bottles with stoppers, £235 for four, Pols Potten	Coffee table, £210, Luna Home
—	Table, Eli 3.33, dilidzonico.dk	L230, Aliaco	101 10di, i 013 r Ottell	LETO, Edita Home
OVER £250				
	Statement table lamp, <b>f437.99. Premier Housewares</b>	Aztec rug,	Marble console table, <b>f619 Hudson Living</b>	Patterned throw, <b>£295</b> , Soho Home

£400, Ali&Co

£619, Hudson Living

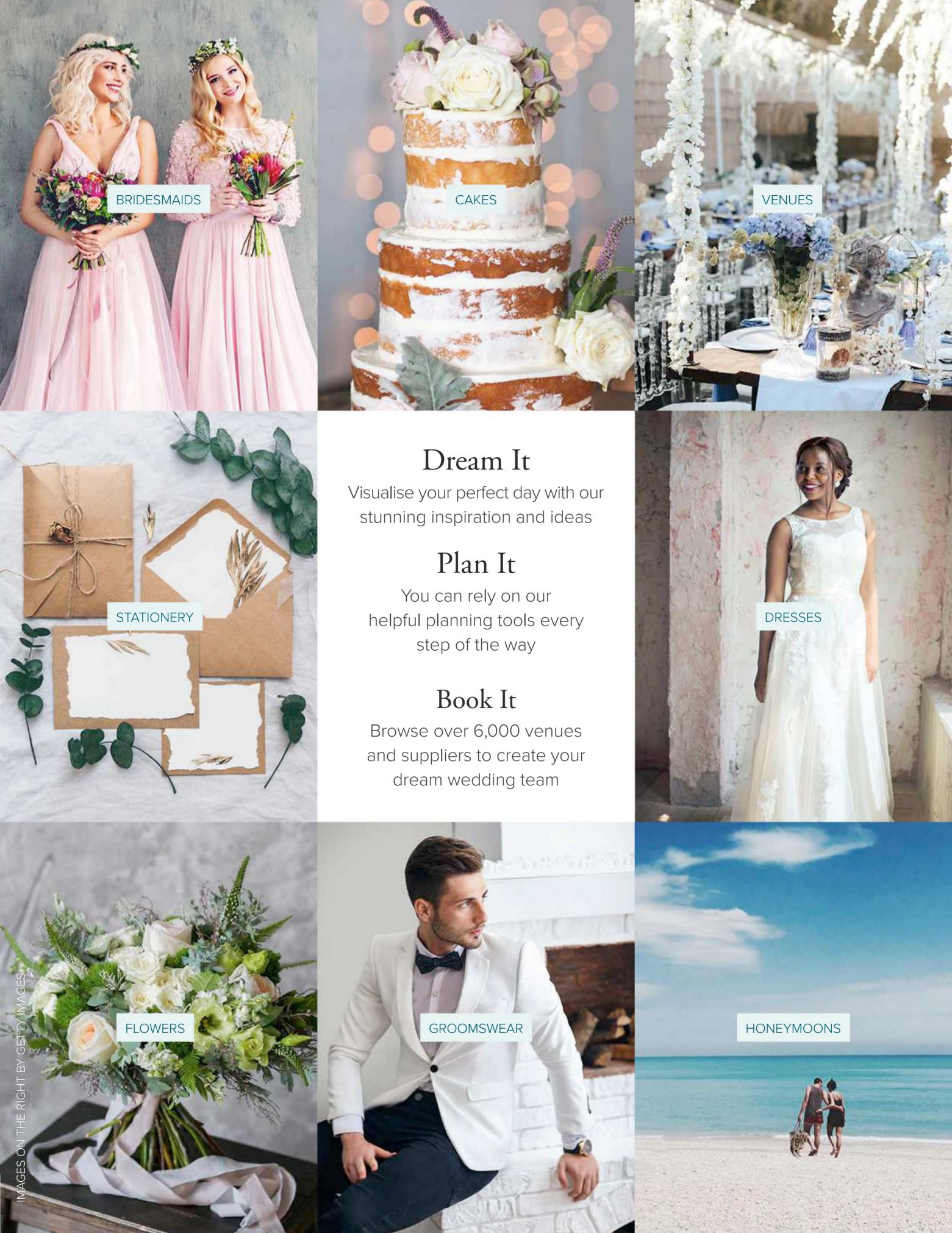
£437.99, Premier Housewares

**Soho Home** 



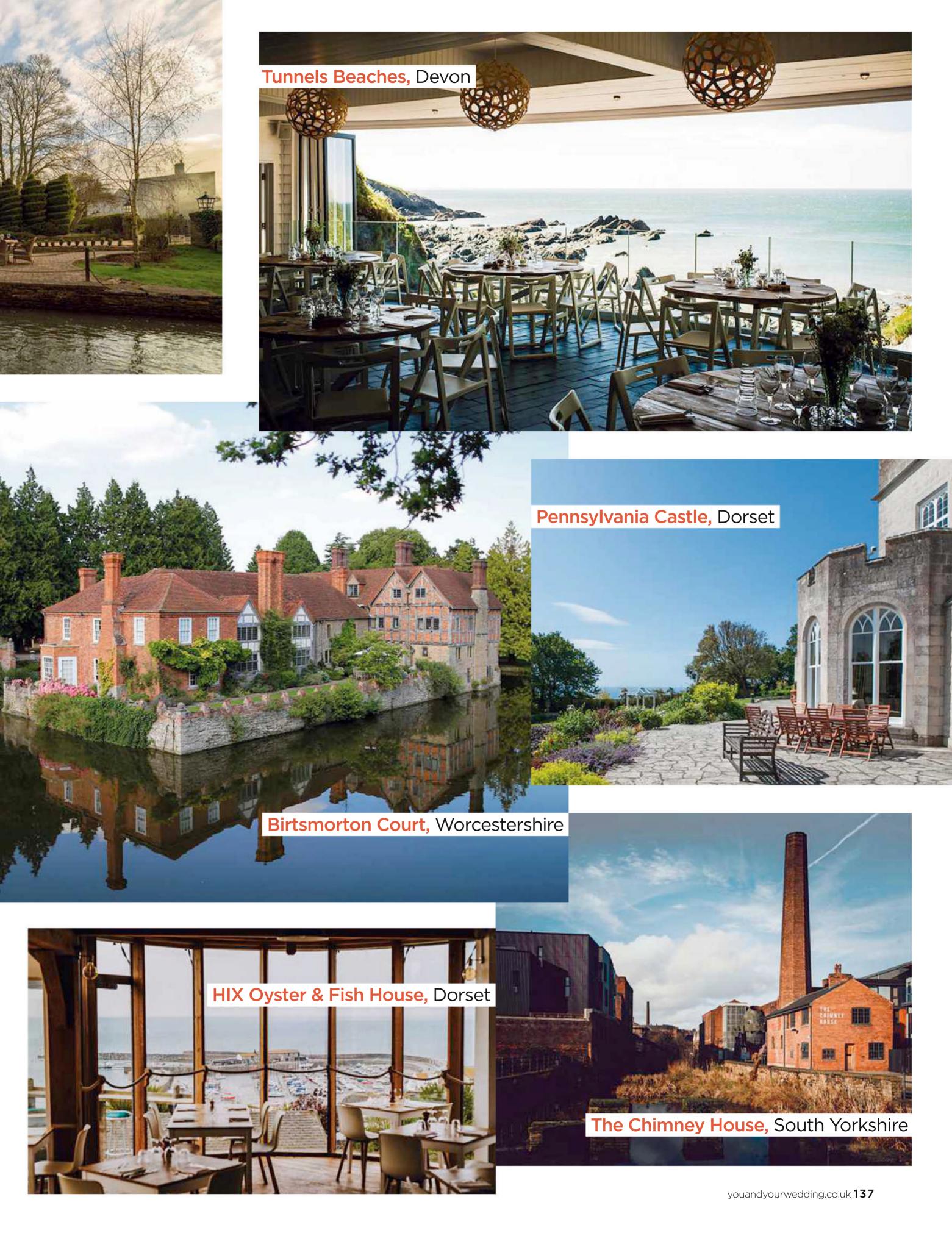
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PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATT AUSTIN (HIX OYSTER & FISH H HUFTON + CROW (THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD), DAVII GRIFFEN (CARBIS BAY HOTEL)





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Be organised

# he ultimate PLANNING CHECKLIST

Welcome to the wonderful world of organising your wedding. To give you a helping hand, we have put together a to-do list to make sure you don't miss a thing...

18 MONTHS TO GO	SIX MONTHS TO GO
Agree on a budget	Start shopping for groomswear
Draft a rough guest list so you know what	Buy the bridesmaid dresses
size of venue to look for	Book your honeymoon
Decide whether you would prefer a civil	Buy your wedding rings
or religious wedding ceremony and what	Sort out your first-night accommodation
type of venue you want	Discuss the order of service with the vicar
View and book your venue	or registrar
Book your church and registrar/other	Choose the readings, hymns, songs or
celebrant	poems you want at your ceremony
Finalise your guest list	If you're writing your own vows, start now
Invest in wedding insurance	: Set up your gift list
Book your photographer	
and videographer	THREE MONTHS TO GO
	Send out your invitations
12 MONTHS TO GO	Have dress and/or suit fittings
Choose your bridesmaids, best man	Have a hair and make-up trial
and ushers	Go on your hen and stag dos
Send out your save the dates	Break in your shoes
Book transport, if you need it	Start writing the speeches
Book your entertainment	Buy thank-you gifts for key members
If you need to hire caterers, book them	of the bridal party
and discuss the menu options	Have a menu tasting with your caterers
Start dress shopping	Start the table plan  Confirm quest numbers and any
<ul><li>Start bridesmaid-dress shopping</li><li>Book your hair and make-up artist,</li></ul>	<ul><li>Confirm guest numbers and any dietary requirements with your venue</li></ul>
if you're having them	and caterers four to six weeks before
ii you're naving them	the big day
NINE MONTHS TO GO	the big day
Book your florist	ONE WEEK TO GO
Book your cake maker	☐ Have a wedding rehearsal (if required)
Order the dress, if you haven't already	Confirm bookings and timings with
Buy your bridal accessories, such as	your suppliers
shoes, jewellery and underwear	Go through the day plan and duties with
Sort out your favours	the wedding party
Give notice to your local registrar (if	Settle all final balances
having a civil ceremony). This is valid	Collect any hired items
for one year	Pick up your wedding dress

 $To \ download \ this \ check list, and \ for \ more \ planning \ advice, \ visit \ you and your wedding. co.uk$ 



# -HOUSE-

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# What to ask your...

Make sure you're all on the same page by asking these key questions before you book

# What are the minimum and maximum guest numbers?

There's no point falling for a venue that doesn't suit your guest list.

# Are you licensed for ceremonies?

If so, you need to know exactly which spaces are available for "I do", along with room capacity.

# Will we have exclusive use?

If not, find out how your celebration will be set up to ensure maximum privacy - if that's important to you.

# What's the payment schedule?

Also check whether your deposit would be refundable in certain circumstances.

# What is your disabled access?

This may be an issue in listed buildings.

# Can we bring our own suppliers?

Some venues will provide suggestions for suppliers such as florists, photographers, caterers etc, others may have a strict list to choose from, or use their in-house team.

# Do you charge corkage?

This is a per-bottle charge if you want to bring your own drinks. If you're having mini-alcohol favours, check whether these are also subject to corkage.

# Do you charge cakeage?

A charge for having an outside baker create your wedding cake.

# Is there an in-house co-ordinator?

If so, how many meetings can you expect with them in the run-up to the day?

# How late can we celebrate?

Venues have different licenses. You may be able to get an extension, but that could involve extra fees.

# Do you have public liability insurance?

If not, walk away.

# What are the set-up & takedown procedures?

You need to know when you and/or your suppliers have access to set up your décor, and how soon afterwards everything needs to be dismantled.

# What happens if it rains?

It's crucial to have a plan B if any part of your celebration takes place outdoors.

# Do you have a sound limiter?

Some venues have limiters fitted that will cut the music if it goes over a certain volume - your band or DJ will need to know this.

# What don't you allow?

Some venues have restrictions on items such as candles and confetti.

# Do you have baby-changing facilities?

Important if any of your guests will be bringing their little ones.

# How does the accommodation work?

If guests will be staying over, find out whether you are expected to book out all the rooms at the venue.





# SIBTON PARK ESTATE AT WILDERNESS



## PURELYDIAMÖNDS

LONDON



## AISI E CONTROLL De la controlle de la controll

Dream dresses and bridal beauty for your perfect day Off-the-shoulder ballgown, POA, Pronovias. Doubledrop earrings, £18, Johnny Loves Rosie. Small hoops, £35, Orelia. Bouquet, This issue, we're POA, Amie Bone Flowers cutting chic and  $contemporary\, shapes$ in gorgeous modern classics (p146), showing off key styles fresh from the catwalk (p158), and falling for the beautiful gowns in Élysée's stunning new collection (p168).

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH & ISLA





Styles for the modern bride looking for a twist on a classic

Photography | Catherine Harbour | Styling | Peta Hunt

















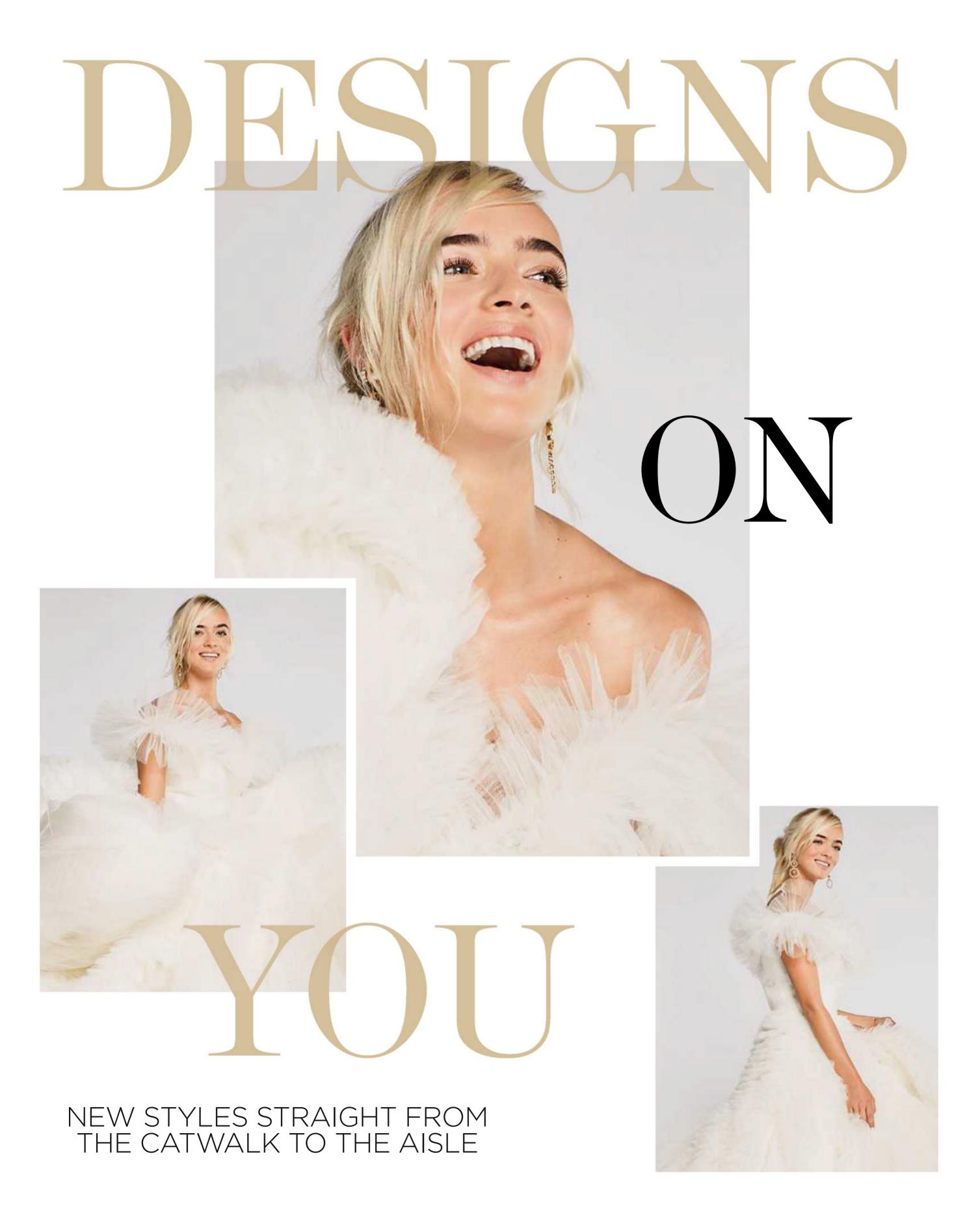






## Get the Best of the Bunch

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Spot-detail dress, £570, and lace jacket, £360, both Kelsey Rose. Pearl earrings, £35, Alice & Blair. Beaded bracelet stack, £110, LL Loves. Drawstring bracelet, £195, Monica Vinader. Crystal ring, £89, Swarovski









Dress with shorts, £1,855, Justin Alexander Signature. Studded hoops, as before. Crystal ring, and lacedetail shoes, as before





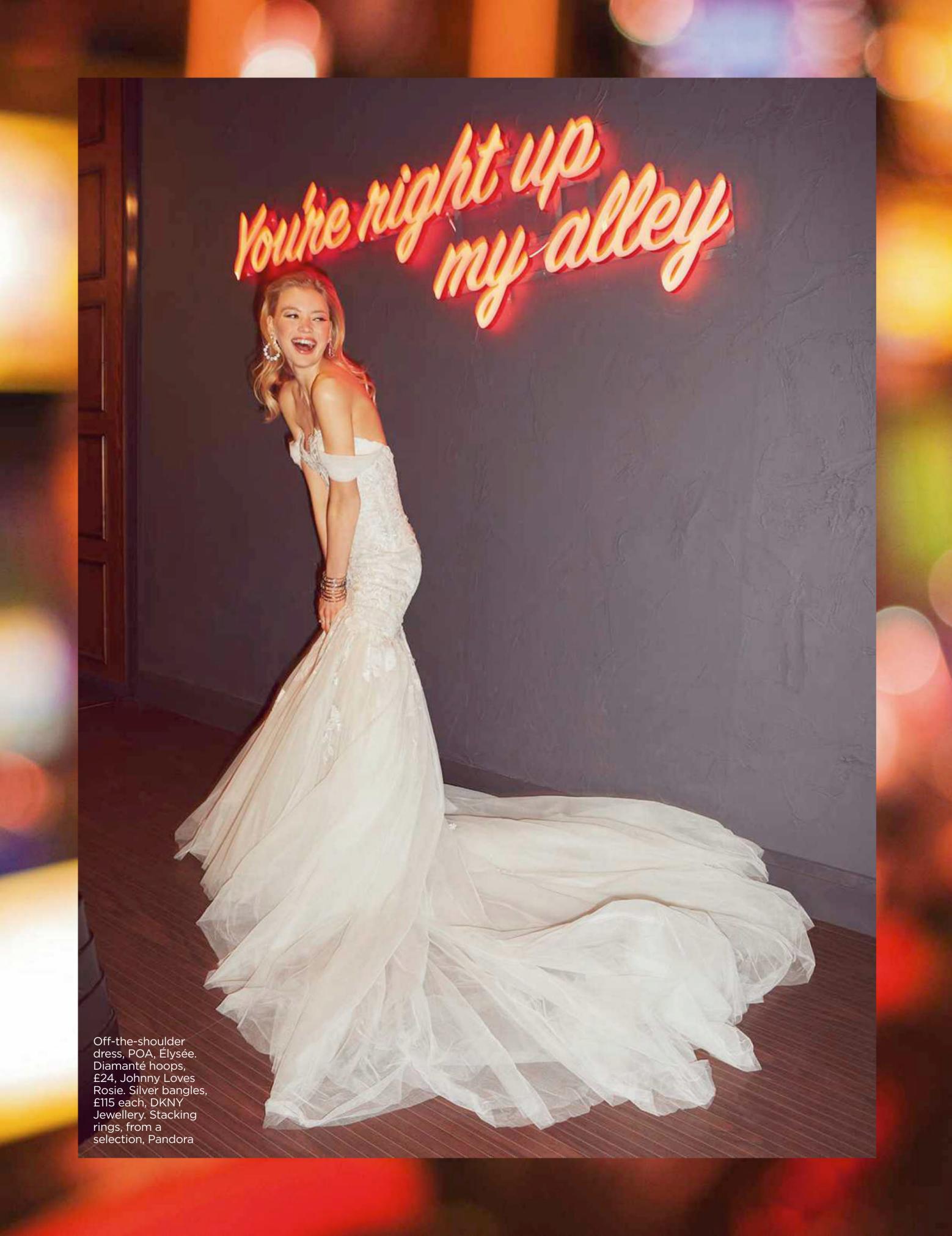
## 

EARN SOME SERIOUS W-DAY STYLE POINTS WITH THE GORGEOUS DRESSES FROM ÉLYSÉE'S NEW COLLECTION

Brunswick

Photography | Dan Williams | Styling | Peta Hunt



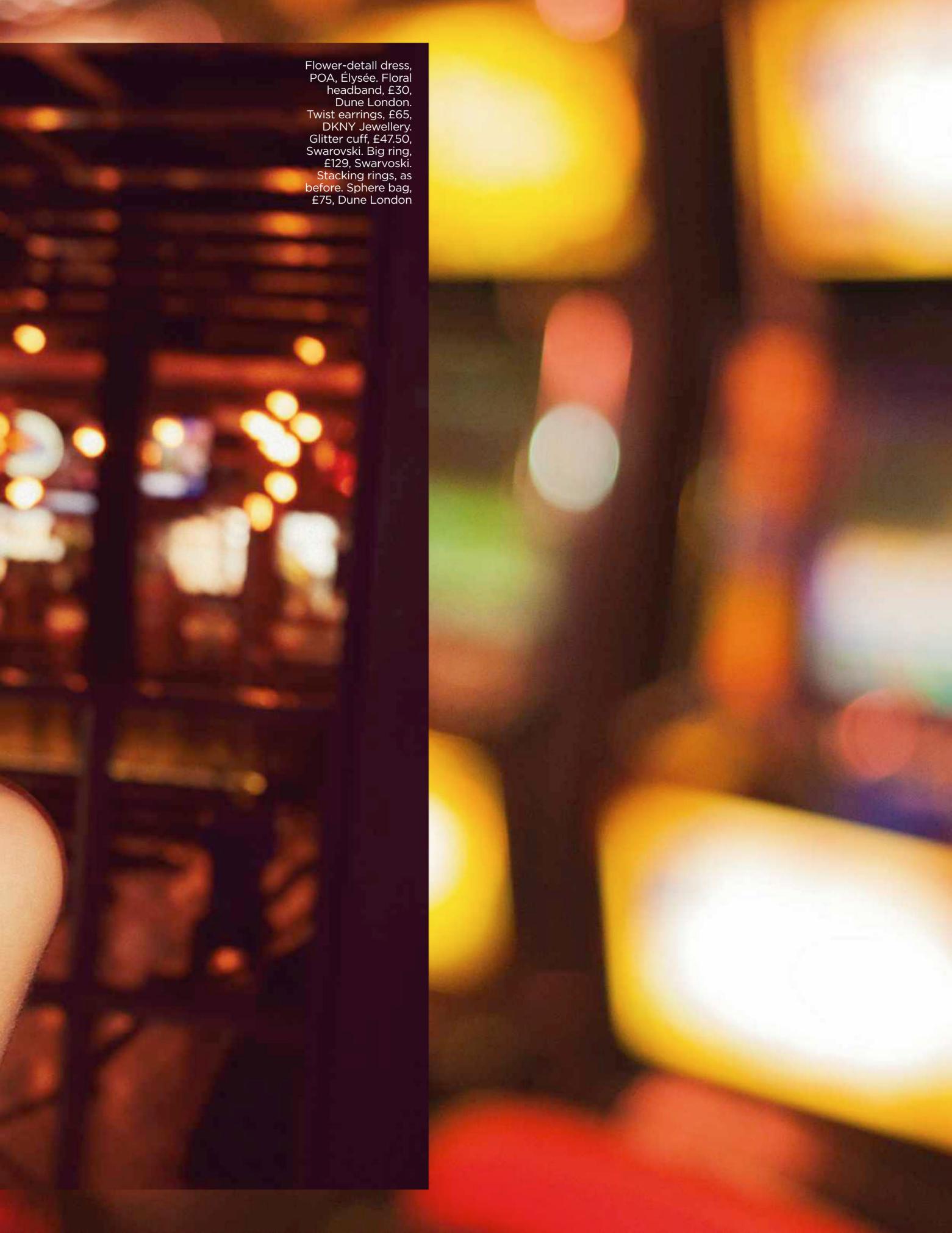




























LIV HART





**FAULKNER** 

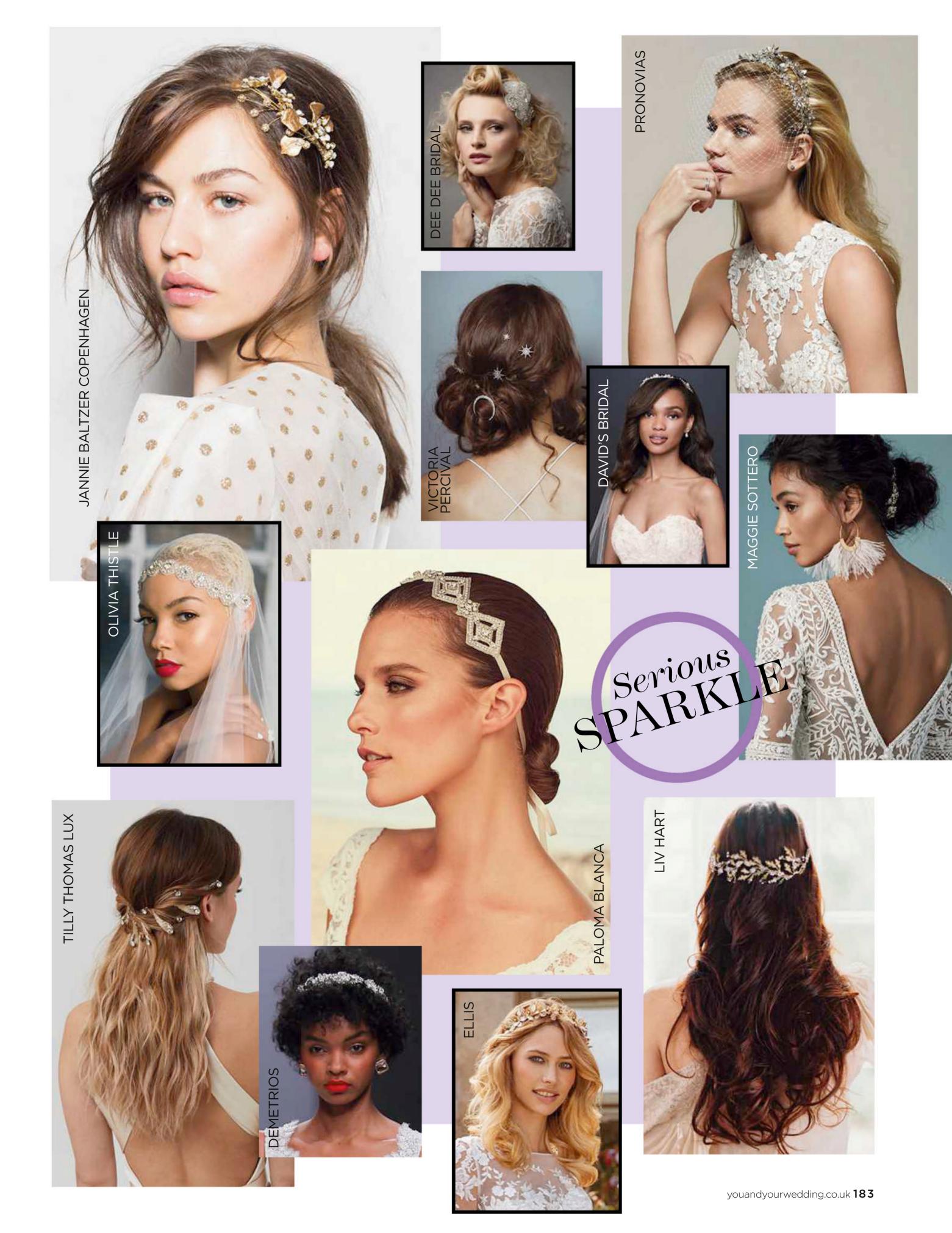
ANN-MARIE

Perfects



SOPHIE HIGGINSON PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN WILLIAMS

**PRONOVIAS** 





## It's a Piece of Cake

Find Your Wedding Cake at Hitched.co.uk

# Heaven sommen

These are the fragrances to fall in love with in time for spring

The season of new beginnings is the perfect time for perfume shopping – particularly for a w-day fragrance. The voluptuous, opulent scents of autumn and winter give way to a more uplifting, romantic mood. Flirty florals and zesty citruses dominate, but you'll find sun-dappled sensual scents, too. When trying fragrances, let each one develop on the skin for a good few hours. Perfumes develop through top notes, heart notes and base notes, so make sure you adore each stage of your potential new signature scent.

#### SAVE



Lush What Would Love Do? £15

Tangerine meets lavender for an uplifting citrus with a sweet edge - and it's suitable for vegans, too.



Beauty Pie Love, £16.68 for members (£125 for non-members)

A sophisticated take on a spring fragrance, moving through notes of quince, apricot and cedarwood.



Caudalíe Rose de Vigne, £27, Feelunique

A beautifully light floral, this is a romantic scent that's perfect for the warmer weather of late spring.



& Other Stories
Avant-Garde Air, £28

Mandarin, peach and green violet against a creamy, sugary base – this smells considerably more expensive than it is.

#### SPEND



Jimmy Choo Blossom Special Edition, £49

An update to sparkling floral favourite Blossom, with frangipani flower adding tropical warmth.



Jo Malone Vetiver & Golden Vanilla Cologne Intense, £78

This rich scent combines deep woody vetiver with warm vanilla to sensual effect – a real occasion fragrance.



#### Marc Jacobs Daisy Dream, £57, Feelunique

Jasmine flower, lychee and blue wisteria make for a seriously more-ish feminine fruity floral.



#### Flower By Kenzo Poppy Bouquet, £67

The woody base gives a subtle sexiness on the skin, balancing the sweetness of the Bulgarian rose heart note.

#### **SPREE**



Penhaligon's Bluebell, £100

What says spring more than bluebells? A delicious scent from a green floral with a fresh citrusy top note.



Memoize London Humanitas, £177, exclusive to Selfridges

This is joy in a bottle: passion fruit and peach give way to delightful florals, with a heady oriental base.



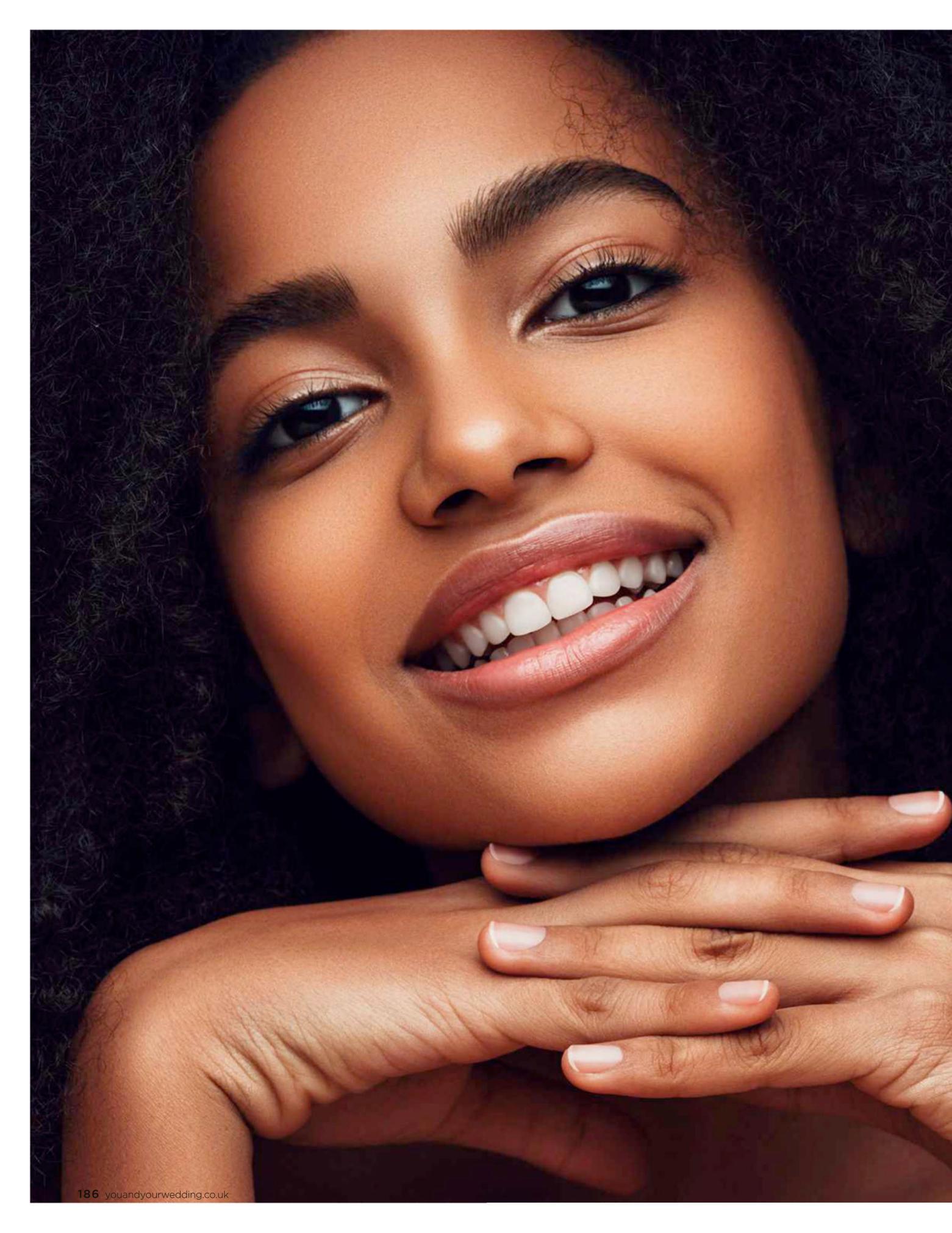
Diptyque Eau Capitale, £120

Diptyque's first chypre scent opens with citrus and a hint of bergamot, then develops into a vibrant, spicy floral.



#### Art de Parfum Gin And Tonic Cologne, £114

This spirited(!) citrus dances on the skin, with a gorgeous cocktail of grapefruit and lemon zest.





#### Pretty polished

takes a set of impressions of your teeth to make a set of customised trays then shows you step by step how to use them," explains Dr Chan. You're advised to keep hold of your trays for use in the future, that way you can simply purchase more of the whitening agent and add it to your trays overnight whenever your smile could do with a brightening boost.

Polished perfection If you're not a good candidate for bleaching or you're just looking to target a few individual stains, then professional polishing could be the brightening solution for you. Dr Reena Wadia, gum specialist and founder of RW Perio, recommends booking the treatment in early. "A couple of months before your wedding, it might be worth trying out an advanced polishing treatment, such as Airflow," she says. "This aims to remove stains that traditional scaling and polishing may not remove, using a combination of flavoured fine-powder particles, compressed air and water." And a brighter smile isn't the only benefit: "The results are immediate, and leave patients with cleaner teeth and fresher breath," says Dr Wadia.

If you'd like to introduce the treatment into your

special day, she recommends heading to the clinic

regular dental care during the build-up to your

every three months for the best results.

Home straight

Does the idea of straightening your teeth immediately conjure up images of wires, elastics and screws? It really doesn't need to be that way. One of the most popular straightening systems is an Invisalign aligner – and, as the name implies, it's very unobtrusive. "You wear a clear tray over your



teeth, and it moves your teeth a fraction of a millimetre, then you change to a new tray, and so on," explains Dr Tom Witcher, specialist orthodontist at Total Orthodontics. "It's cajoling teeth past each other in a relatively gentle way. You see your orthodontist every couple of months to make sure things are doing OK. We check how the teeth are tracking and can modify the plan mid-treatment for the best results." But, gentle as it is, this isn't a quick fix and it definitely requires commitment. "You should aim to wear your aligners for 22 hours a day," he says. The good news? You can eat and drink what you like with

# "" YOU START TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS

Invisalign, because you remove the aligners before tucking in. "If you forget to put them back in, or your job/lifestyle means you have to take them out a lot, you need to remember that if they're in your pocket, they're not working," points our Dr Witcher. In terms of when you need to get started with Invisalign, he advises the earlier the better. "It's a slow process, so give yourself as long as possible before your wedding. You start to see improvements almost immediately but, as a rule of thumb, I'd say you see significant results two-thirds of the way through. Treatments range from four months to a couple of years, depending on how difficult your problems are."

Once the treatment is complete, your smile will require your continued commitment to keep your teeth in place, as the treatment on its own is not a permanent fix. "No orthodontic result is stable by itself. It's really important that, as part of the planning, the patient is completely aware of what they need to do after treatment to keep teeth straight. You would need to wear a retainer long-term," says Dr Witcher.

Many dentists will fit patients with a bonded retainer, meaning some wires are fixed to the back of the front section of teeth, both top and bottom, and a new mould is made to accommodate them within your removable retainer. The removable retainer must then be worn every night, usually up to a year before reducing wear to a couple of times a week. With bonded retainers and trays, it's important to buy specialist dental floss to reach around the wires, and keep regular appointments with your dentist to ensure your teeth and gums are healthy. Remember, always check your dentist's credentials before hopping into the chair, too. And never trust online retailers promising amazing results for unbelievable prices. Your smile is worth investing in.

## **SERVICE**

Of course, your smile isn't just about your teeth. The winter months can leave your lips in less-than-happy condition. To banish mild chapping, flaking and dryness, it's worth adding a scrub to your routine twice a week (don't do this if your lips are significantly inflamed). Lip masks hit the beauty scene recently and they can be an excellent way to add moisture. The balm/no-balm debate continues, but we definitely feel better when we slick something on a few times a day. If your skin is sensitive, reach for no-nonsense Vaseline over anything with fragrance. Whatever you do, avoid licking your lips if they feel dry - it makes the dehydration worse. And look at your diet - mineral deficiencies can cause chapped lips in some cases.



Voya Organic Lip Balm, **£10.40** 



WORDS BY EMILY DEANE. PHOTOGRAPHS BY GETTY IMAGES





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# 

It's time to jet off on your first newlywed adventure. Bon voyage!





and sublime spas at two

heavenly honeymoon

hotels in Provence

A light-flooded suite



rance: je t'aime. I always have and I always will. We've got history, you see. I met my husband and a couple of lifelong friends at university there and fell hard for the wonderful way of life – boulangeries on every corner, long languid lunch breaks, delicious wine that costs less than a soft drink and the food... don't get me started on the food. I simply cannot get enough of the place.

I didn't think anything could make me love this country more until I stayed in two of its most romantic hotels: Château Saint-Martin & Spa in Vence and Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc in Cap d'Antibes. These Provençal palaces are both part of the exclusive Oetker Collection and, being just 40 minutes apart, they're the ideal mini-moon pairing for a taste of the area's charming countryside and chic coastal living.

#### 'Moon with a view

A short flight from London takes us from miserable grey skies to glorious cloudless blue. We're here in late September and the weather is still perfect – seemingly endless days of sun and the mercury resting in the mid-20°Cs.

Our first stop on this romantic Riviera retreat is just half an hour from Nice airport. We wind our way up through the hills with the glittering yacht-studded Côte d'Azur coastline behind us and picture-postcard hilltop villages tempting us to stop on both sides of the road.

our beautiful light-flooded suite, too, which boasts huge French windows and a vast roof terrace. The hotel comprises 52 rooms, all of which have recently been refurbished to make them airy and modern while retaining their heritage country style. There are also six bastide-style private villas nestled deep in the hills behind the hotel – ideal for wedding accommodation or bigger parties.

View of the hotel

from a villa

Alfreso feasting

#### In the lap of luxury

From the moment we arrive at this magical hotel, it feels like we've stepped into a fairy tale. Everything from the calming spa (hello, La Prairie treatments), smart olive grove, 34 acres of sculpture-filled gardens, flowerfilled main rooms and Michelin-starred restaurant is luxurious in an elegant, old-school princess way. It's five-star without being blingy or over the top – a vibe that encourages ultimate relaxation. You can do as you wish:

Château Saint-Martin & Spa is hidden away in a remote spot high above Vence, and there's a feeling of being cocooned, protected from the outside world as soon as you arrive thanks to a huge stone outcrop that rises up behind the hotel. Adventurous guests can even scale the rock face with the hotel's talented head chef, Jean-Luc Lefrançois, and enjoy a gourmet picnic at the top with what must be out-ofthis-world vistas. You don't need to don your crampons to make the most of the view, though. As soon as we walk through the door, we're drawn to the other side of the château, which appears to hang precariously over the precipice, overlooking acres of rolling hills covered in cypress trees and dotted with mansions in quaint villages. I'm not alone at being overwhelmed by the setting: apparently the owners purchased the property before stepping inside; the views quite literally sold it. Thankfully I can drink in the landscape from



dress to the nines (we see one honeymooning couple in full black tie and glittering gown for dinner); pad around in slippers and robes after a stint in the atmospheric underground spa; or spend your time in trainers and sportswear

after a spot of tennis or hiking.

We had our one-year-old in tow and he was encouraged to enjoy every inch of the hotel by the friendly staff. Plus, there's a kids' club during peak season, so a stay here is an option for familymooners, too. The surrounding countryside is a wonderful place to explore but we can't prise ourselves away from the serenity of the setting, preferring to spend our days alternating between the vast sun-soaked infinity pool and the one Michelinstarred Le Saint-Martin restaurant. We sit outside on the pretty panoramic terrace for

every meal, feasting on melt-in-the-mouth beef, straight-out-the-oven bread, garden-fresh vegetable risotto and shared bottles of crisp Whispering Angel rosé. In the height of summer, L'Oliveraie also opens for more relaxed dining options in the olive grove, serving up wood-fired pizzas and grilled fish.

Angel rosé" The hotel is an idyllic spot for a destination wedding, too, with a charming chapel that dates back to the original 12th-century Knights Templar château. The setting really lends itself to love – just imagine how amazing your honeymoon photo album would look with that backdrop.

#### A-list adventure

As we drive away from the château towards the coast and our next stop, Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc, we decide that nowhere can top Saint-Martin – not even this legendary A-lister haunt on the southern tip of Cap d'Antibes. As we walk up the steps of the 19th-century villa though, we're left momentarily speechless of it. Our son breaks the silence: "Wow, incredible house," he says as he takes in the chandeliers and high

"We sit outside

on the pretty

panoramic terrace

feasting on melt-in-

the-mouth beef and

sharing bottles of

crisp Whispering

ceilings. I couldn't have put it better myself. When something stops an excitable toddler in his tracks like that, you know it's pretty spectacular.

This magnificent mansion wouldn't look out of place in The Great Gatsby and has welcomed all sorts of movie stars, royals and presidents looking for a stylish (paparazzi-free) place to stay during the nearby Cannes Film Festival. From the mansion's exclusive back doors an

> tree-lined avenue and the shimmering Med. There's also a cleverly designed salt-water swimming pool cut into the rock face that was clearly made for posing in a designer swimsuit rather than perfecting your front crawl.

#### The best of both

As the name suggests, the hotel is a combination of

two completely different styles. Le Cap, the mansion – where we stay in *Versailles*-worthy opulence, with an entire regal wing jam-packed with chandeliers and gilded antiques – and the elegant retro-style Eden- Roc pavilion, which was added in 1914 and offers a more nautical, modern take on seaside chic. Despite the two distinct aesthetics, it all seems to merge seamlessly into one exquisite, playful and remarkably unassuming 22-acre coastal estate.

Anything is possible here – your wish is the staff's command and the service is impeccable. For honeymooners, it's definitely worth splashing out on a private cabana on the rocks,

too. These wooden cabins, like Southwold beach huts on steroids, have direct and private access to the sea. You don't have to move a muscle all day, with waiter service, a fridge and sun loungers with soft towels all on hand. Ours even had a little beach area, chosen specifically for us and our little one for its sandcastle potential. It's thoughtful touches like these that really make you feel like a VIP, movie star or not.

France

Lounge in luxury

Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc's lovely gardens

#### It's not goodbye

The hotel's Spa Eden-Roc by La Prairie is set in fragrant rose gardens and, in an attempt to achieve A-lister skin, I choose a Caviar Lifting and Firming Facial. Afterwards, I feel serene, my skin is glowing, and I look ready for a smart night out in the formal Eden-Roc restaurant. We toast to the end of a truly memorable and romantic escape with champagne, then tuck into steak cooked masterfully tableside, and a heavenly banana carpaccio with puff pastry crust to finish. It might be time to say au revoir, but we're going with the literal translation: France, we'll be seeing you again soon.

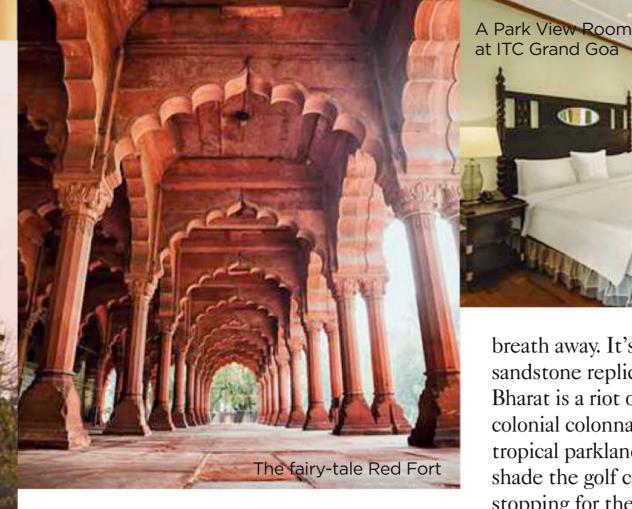
#### Go there

Rooms at Château Saint-Martin & Spa from €350 pn (approx. £297), B&B, oetker collection.com/hotels/chateau-saint-martin. Stay at Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc from €650 pn (approx. £552), B&B, oetkercollection.com/ hotels/hotel-du-cap-eden-roc

by the sheer beauty marble floors, sparkling

: elegant staircase leads down to a palm





14th child. Fourteen children! Together they have rested through eternity in a jewel-encrusted chamber where a small bearded man blowing a referee's whistle keeps the crowds moving.

#### CITY TREASURES

ROD GILCHRIST. PHOTOGRAPHS BY GETTY IMAGES

India isn't all about the Taj Mahal though, and Delhi has its own claims to architectural glory. Colonial buildings include the 300-room Viceroy's House, so big it makes Buckingham Palace look like a shed. This palace commands the heights of New Delhi, where we cruise along spacious boulevards before hitting the tangled streets of Old Delhi, seat of ancient Mughals. Around the Red Fort, a fairy-tale Berber castle, glamour seeping from its massive battlements, planned elegance gives way to organised chaos, but it's great fun to be a part of the hustle and bustle.

Wandering around Chandni Chowk, Delhi's biggest spice market, Indian life surges and pulses. Traders sit cross-legged by colourful bowls of dry ginger, red chilli and mango as buffalo, pulling carts heavy with herbs, chug through the crowded streets. Every alley is full to bursting with dealers selling silver, silks, cashmere and carpets, all so irresistible that I return home with suitcases full of local treasures.

Surprise is Delhi's calling card. I jump out of my seat on the way back to the hotel, when a fakir suddenly pops up at the taxi window holding a swaying cobra, its tongue darting against the glass, while overhead monkeys perform trapeze acts on the jumble of electricity cables.

Our sanctuary in Delhi is ITC Grand Bharat (Hindu for Home of India), which rises like a mirage in the haze above the treetops in the city's peaceful northern outskirts. The first sight of it takes your breath away. It's so big – a theatrical sandstone replica of a Mughal palace. Grand Bharat is a riot of domes, columns, and colonial colonnades set in 300 acres of tropical parkland where king palms shade the golf course, play only stopping for the passing peacocks. The lobby, an eight-sided copy of the Taj interior, is hung with paintings of garlanded elephants, tables groaning with silver tigers and enough snowy coloured Rajasthan marble to satisfy the Vatican.

It's a paradox of India's spirituality that it's continually seeking inner calm in the face of outward chaos, a mission served through the resort's passion for Ayurveda, an ancient practice that brings well-being through balancing the mind and body. Exhausted from sightseeing, I check into the Kaya Kalp spa for an Ayurvedic massage to see if it works for me. For 60 minutes I'm pummelled, exfoliated and scrubbed with oils of lemon and juniper berries that leave me in a state of chilled bliss. And we really get into the zen zone at sunset, when a chanting holy man calls us to a religious ritual on the waterside steps by blowing into a conch shell, inviting us to float lighted candles on the water.

#### **COASTAL CALM**

After the adrenalin of Delhi, the peaceful allure of the ocean beckons. I can feel the cool breezes of the Arabian Sea the moment we touch down in the former Portuguese colony of Goa on India's south-west coast. The

seaside here is all palmfringed, white-sand glory – the endless empty beaches now a favourite altar for glossy sunset weddings under flamboyant pavilions. ITC Grand Goa's

ITC Grand Goa's

tranquil poolside bar

cathedral-high reception is designed to let the outside come in, creating a relaxed vibe, or "susegad" as they say in Goa.

Built in a village style, the hotel sprawls across 45 acres of lush lawns, protected from the pounding surf by grassy dunes. Comfortable suites, many with private gardens and pools, have been designed with honeymooners in mind, with sunken bubble baths sprinkled with red rose petals by personal butlers. Such luxury. Both ITC hotels are guided by Ayurveda when it comes to food – the restaurants dish up succulent tandooris inspired by the rugged north west, cooked on a spit oven. The Gujarati vegetarian thali is a particular highlight for me, among many other delicacies that are culinary heaven, spoiling my local takeaway forever!

India lives up to its image – romantic, ravishing, epic, exhausting and seductive. Everywhere you look there is sensory overload that really does dazzle – don't forget to pack your sunglasses.



Lic BOUTIQUES

Lavish honeymoons don't need to cost the earth. Escape 🖁 to one of these purse-friendly retreats and enjoy luxe for less

othing beats a hidden-gem hotel – a place where you can get away from it all that isn't full of other honeymooners and doesn't break the bank. From a restored Tuscan tobacco warehouse to a neo-classical apartment building in Budapest, we've rounded up some of our favourites, so you can enjoy a slice of luxury for £200 a night or less. Just keep them to yourselves!





#### Torralbenc, Menorca, Spain

Marrying rustic style with a blissed-out bucolic vibe, Torralbenc is one of the most serene retreats in Menorca. An updated 17th-century finca set in landscaped gardens patrolled by wild tortoises, it comes with a small spa offering holistic treatments, alfresco yoga sessions, a Michelin-starred restaurant, plus plenty of shaded, rosemaryscented spots to laze in. Hit the 80ft infinity pool, where you can order refreshments at the push of a button, then soak up the sun. Rooms from £181.50 (approx. £155) per night, torralbenc.com

#### Brody House,

Budapest, Hungary
Looking for an alternative European city break? Budapest is calling out to be explored, but stay at Brody House – on a quiet, leafy street opposite the Hungarian National Museum – and you won't want to leave. Occupying three floors of a historic, artsy neo-classical apartment building, each room is a mini gallery boasting lofty ceilings, lashings of natural light and central-courtyard views - romance at its best. Mix your own drinks 24/7 at the well-stocked honesty bar before taking a soak together in your freestanding bathtub.

Rooms from £71 per night, brody.house





#### FCC Angkor by Avani, Siem Reap, Cambodia

A stone's throw from the Royal Residence and 10 minutes from Siem Reap's UNESCOworld heritage site, Angkor Wat, this oasislike hotel is ideally located for adventurous honeymooners. Newly modernised after a multimillion-pound renovation, guests can dine on the inspired East-meets-Europe dishes before stretching out by the slatetiled plunge pool, melting away any stresses in the world-class spa and strolling together through the private gardens.

Rooms from £85 per night, preferredhotels.com



#### Hotel Pulitzer, Barcelona, Spain

You'd be hard-pushed to find a hotel more central than the Pulitzer, which is situated just seconds from Barcelona's buzzy Plaça Catalunya. This is where the party set stay – although there are plenty of spaces to retreat to for a peaceful moment à deux. If you want a room with a view and eye-catching artwork, book the Pulitzer Extra. Also recommended: hop on one on the hotel's electric scooters to see the city by day, before dancing the night away on the Pulitzer's iconic rooftop bar. Rooms from £66 per night, hotelpulitzer.es



#### La Tabaccaia, Tuscany, Italy

Think of Tuscany and you probably envisage vineyards and olive groves stretching as far as the eye can see – and that's exactly what you get at this luxury property. A restored tobacco warehouse set in the medieval village of Castelfalfi, its original exposed beams and wood flooring create an idyllic honeymoon backdrop. Discover the Tuscan countryside's rolling hills on two wheels (the hotel has bikes) or via the wine-tasting and pizza-making classes on offer. Bellissima! Rooms from £152 per night, castelfalfi.com

#### Heavenly honyemoons

#### Santarena Hotel, Las Catalinas, Costa Rica

If you're looking for the perfect base to explore the sultry streets of Costa Rica, this is it. Located in the car-free town of Las Catalinas, between two picturesque Pacific beaches, chic Santarena Hotel is perfectly placed to experience Costa Rica's lush landscapes and pura vida vibes. Laze in the rooftop lounge before sampling the plethora of activities on offer – think hiking, mountain biking, kayaking and scuba diving. Rooms from £173 per night, preferredhotels.com



#### Le Jardins des Douars, Essaouira, Morocco

Want off-the-beaten track? There's nowhere quite like Jardin des Douars. A boutique hotel tucked away in the argan tree-lined hills of Essaouira, it's a secluded sanctuary. Villas nestle in the walled gardens surrounded by bougainvillea, while secret nooks reveal unexpected ponds and pools. Book a Luxe Room for your own outdoor terrace, sunken bath and fireplace, then lounge in the library or head to the pétanque pitch.

Rooms from £115 per night on a B&B basis, jardindesdouars.com





#### Casa Las Tortugas, Holbox, Mexico

Beachside location? Check. Stylish shaded daybeds for two? Check. An in-house spa? Check. For pure barefoot luxury, hit this boho hotel on the heavenly island of Holbox and lap up its private sugar-sand beach literally steps away from your room. Suggested itinerary: take a dip in the palm tree-lined pool, swim in the bath-like ocean with turtles, then work your way through the hotel's trio of restaurants, which serve up sushi and Mexican-style tapas, plus zingy fruit cocktails best served at sundown. Rooms from \$186 per night on a B&B basis, holboxcasalastortugas.com

# Fairy tale of NEWYORK

Y&YW's group editor Michelle Royle heads to the Big Apple to taste test a contemporary boutique retreat - and a luxe Midtown masterpiece

very October, New York turns into the bridal fashion capital of the world thanks to NY Bridal Fashion Week, where – along with Y&YW's fashion expert, Peta – I spend five days covering the catwalk shows, visiting our favourite designers and honing in on the trends for the season ahead. We've been flying out to the Big Apple in autumn for years now, so we know all the top travel hacks - and that includes the best ways to get there. The journey is more important than you might think when you're planning a metromoon, as you'll want to arrive as fresh as possible, ready to take in all the incredible sights. I actually love flying and like to make the whole journey a real experience, so it made sense to fly direct with British Airways from Heathrow, so I could relax and enjoy the BA lounge (a great way to upgrade a holiday to a honeymoon). For Peta, the priority is avoiding queues, so she travelled from London City with Aer Lingus, instead. Flying via Dublin to complete the US security checks meant that when she landed in NY, she could avoid the notoriously long queues and get straight



Huge leather sofas for the lounge lovers

The Ace Hotel chain is famed for L being cool and attracting a young, hip clientele, so we knew the New York offering was going to be ultra-chic. Arriving at the hotel in NoMad (a great location between Broadway and West 29th Street) after a quick transfer from JFK, we're immediately drawn to the gorgeous flower-strewn entrance hall and those moody, dark interiors the chain is renowned for. Once our eyes have adjusted to the muted colours and taken in the huge lobby and cafe area full of deep leather sofas, we start to notice the sexy hanging lighting, and the buzz of New Yorkers working and socialising in the foyer. This is going to be a unique hotel experience.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN KENT JOHNSON, GETTY IMAGES

to the Frow. Clever...

The grey, black and white palette of the communal areas continues in the rooms, where textured industrial-chic styling meets vintage furniture. My bed is facing the window (with a great view of the Empire State Building) and a huge tapestry, concrete table, Smeg fridge and dark walls help to make the space feel like a cosy cocoon in the heart of the city. You'll find quirky touches everywhere in the hotel, and our rooms are no different. The clothes hangers are printed with "You look good in that", while mirrors and bins have funny quotes engraved or printed on them to make you smile.

The hotel's restaurant, The Breslin, is one of the most sought-after in the area –

its seasonal dishes and nose-to-tail menu have New Yorkers raving. The lobby bar is great for lighter snacks, cocktails and juices, while the coffee shop, Stumptown Coffee Roasters, does well with both locals and tourists who have sought out those deep, squishy sofas for a long lounge. If industrial chic is up your street, and you love a hotel with cool vibes and equally cool customers, you'll fit right in at the Ace New York.

#### **GO THERE**

Rooms from \$179 pn (approx. £136), depending on the time of year and room type, acehotel.com/newyork





ur first view of the Baccarat as our taxi pulls up on West 53rd street is of a glowing fireplace facing out to the city, inviting us to discover more wonders within. Spoiler: the Baccarat doesn't do things by halves, combining opulence, charm, serenity and a fun dose of bling. From the beautiful Grand Salon to the incredible spa, every single detail has been thought through and executed perfectly. Our rooms, described as having a "Parisian aesthetic with a New York City perspective" are stunning. In complete contrast to the moody hues of the Ace, white dominates here, with touches of red and gold. Marble bathrooms, four-poster beds, white leather chairs and the most amazing French crystal glassware give a true feeling of luxury. Our favourite touch is the champagne button on the phones: press it and your favourite fizz will be

delivered to your room in minutes – with Baccarat champagne flutes, of course. In fact, wine director Matthieu Yamoum has curated the largest champagne list in the country, with more than 250 different labels (literally) at your fingertips.

Meanwhile, the hotel's restaurant is overseen by two Michelin-starred chef Gabriel Kreuther, and the setting is just as special as the food – the parquet-floored Grand Salon is enveloped in silk-covered walls and topped with a 64-arm Baccarat chandelier. You'll never want to leave. But there's one extra special space you have to visit before checking out: the incredible Spa de La Mer (the only La Mer spa in the US). Splash out on a post-wedding treatment and take a dip in the delightful cabana-lined pool before heading back into the hustle and bustle of the city that never sleeps.



#### **GO THERE**

Rooms start from \$795 (approx. £606) in low season, baccarathotels.com



#### 5 romantic things TO DO IN NYC

- **1.** Hire a boat in Central Park and watch the world drift by.
- **2.** Catch a jazz show in Harlem at billsplaceharlem.com
- **3.** Take a helicopter tour of the Big
- Apple with libertyhelicopter.com
- **4.** Book seats at the opera or ballet at lincolncenter.org
- **5.** Visit the Empire State building at night with newyorkpass.com

**THANK YOU** to both Aer Lingus and British Airways for providing flights to New York. **Aer Lingus** offers connections from London City to New York, flying via Dublin, where guests can preclear US Immigration. Fares start from £209 (£949 business class) each way including taxes and charges when booked as a return trip, aerlingus.com **British Airways** provides excellent hospitality in both its airport lounges at Heathrow and JFK. British Airways flies from London to New York from £262 return including fees, ba.com/newyork or call 0344 493 0122.



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turquoise seas and sugar-white sand, your own private garden and stylish accommodation, the recently opened Emerald Maldives Resort & Spa is an oasis of bliss – and one lucky couple can win a dream honeymoon here. In one of the luxurious Beach Villas, just moments from the island's wraparound house coral reef and lagoon, you can while away days stretched out on your sun lounger or snorkel with over 300 species of tropical fish.

#### DIVINE DINING

When it comes to food, Emerald is a foodies' paradise, serving cuisine from around the world in four fantastic restaurants, including Amazònico Restaurant – the first and only South American eatery in the Maldives. You

can also enjoy delectable breakfasts at the beachfront Aqua Restaurant, lazy lunches at the Beach Club Grill and memorable dinners at Le Asiatique, where food meets theatre with a live cooking station and teppanyaki grill.

#### AND RELAX...

Want to melt away post-wedding stress? Indulge in a couples' spa experience at the Emerald Spa, which offers unique Balinese and Thai treatments, as well as a relaxation area with an Indonesian-style pool, steam bath, sauna and Jacuzzi. Or, to get the heart beating faster, rent out a kayak, wind surf or sailing boat, or embark on a snorkelling excursion where manta ray and turtle sightings are almost guaranteed. For more information, visit emerald-maldives.com.

#### You & Your Wedding competition



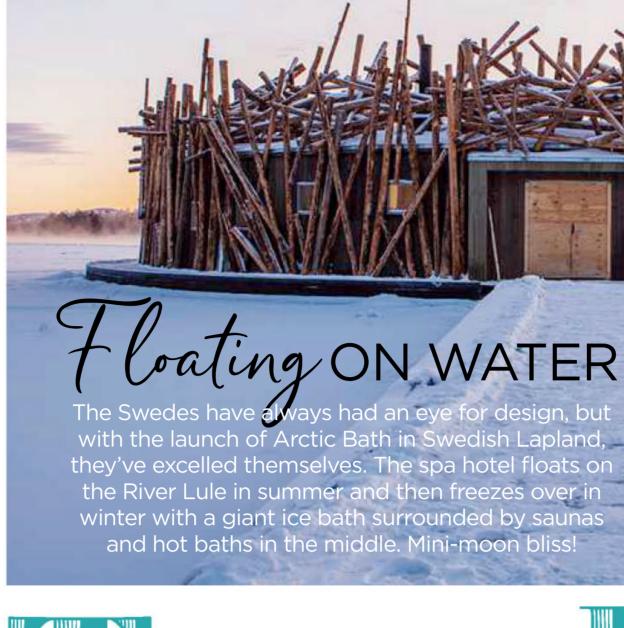
TERMS AND CONDITIONS Competition closes at 11.59pm on 26 March 2020. Prize is valid for two people from 1 May 2020 to 20 December 2020. Bookings and accommodation are subject to availability and subject to change. The prize does not include flights, transfers, travel between the winner's home and the airport, travel insurance, personal expenditure, visas if required, other than where mentioned. It is the responsibility of the prize winner to ensure they have a valid passport and travel insurance and to obtain any necessary vaccinations and visas for their trip. Any costs at the hotel will need to be settled upon check-out in full. Prize cannot be exchanged for cash or transferred. Once the holiday is booked, it is non-changeable, exchangeable or refundable. The competition is not open to employees and their immediate Media Co and their associated agencies. Prize winners must be over 18. One entry per household. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries. The winner will be notified by the promoter via email within 28 days of the competition closing and details of how to claim the prize will be provided. For details of the winners, send a SAE to Maldives Competition Winners List, You & Your Wedding, Immediate Media Co, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, London W6 7BT within two months of the closing date. The Promoter will contact the winner before releasing this information and provide the winner the opportunity to object or limit the amount of information shared. If any winner is unable to be contacted within 30 days of the closing date, the promoter will offer the prize to a runner-up. The winner must claim their prize within 28 days of being notified. The promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value. The promoter does not accept any responsibility for lost, delayed or fraudulent entries. Prizes must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. The promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Immediate Privacy Policy (www

#### Get away

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#### THE HOTEL HOT LIST

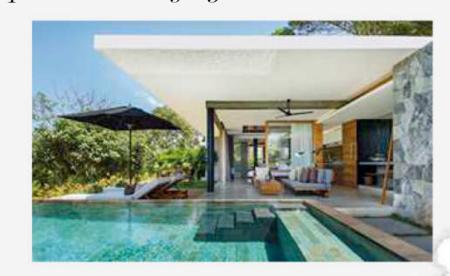
There's a key card with your name on it at one of these so-new-the-paint's-still-drying love nests



Hoshino Resorts Risonare Nasu, Japan risonare.com/nasu/en



Capella, Bangkok capellabangkok.com



Haritha Villas + Spa, Sri Lanka harithavillas.com

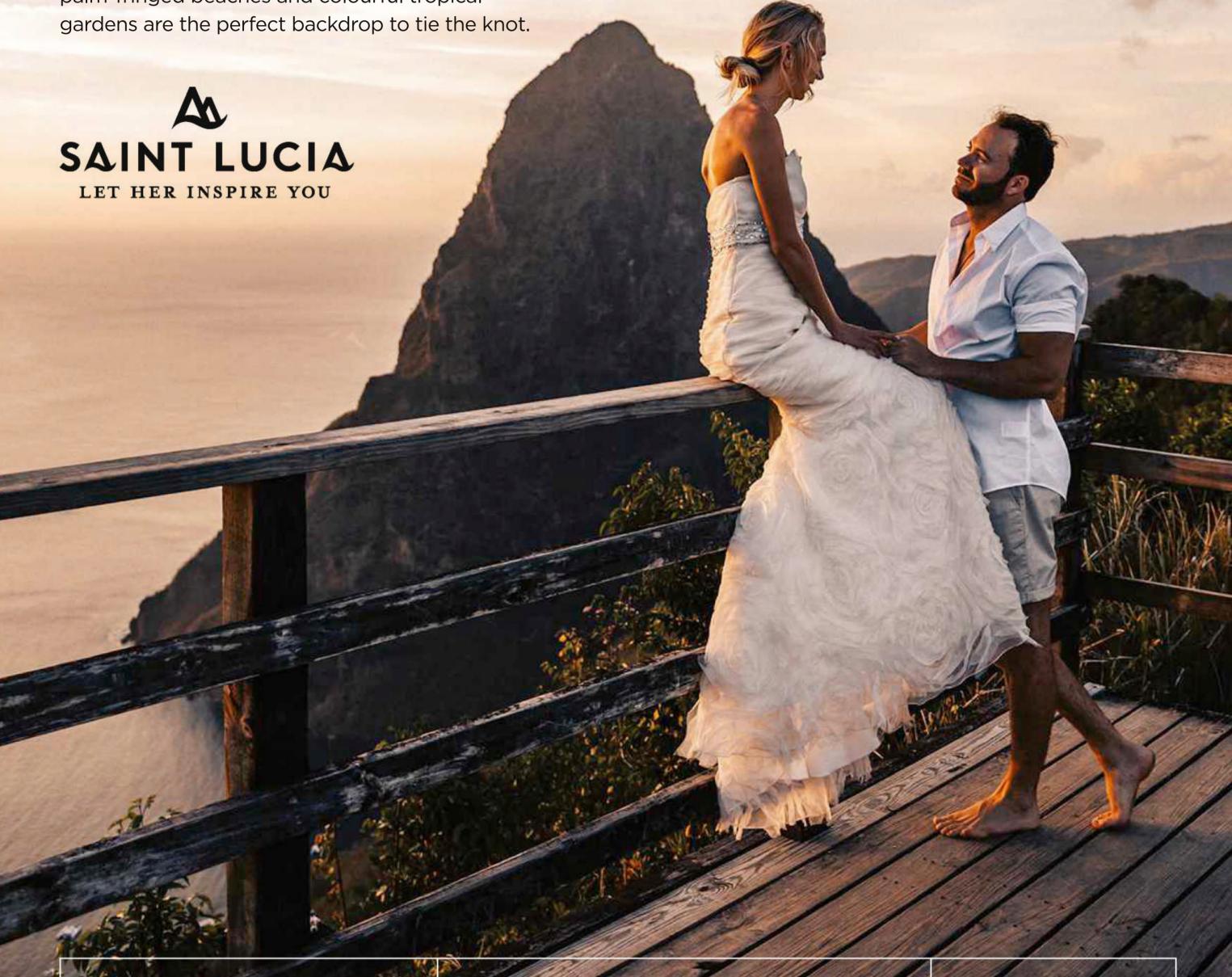


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# are perfect for pampering or romance

#### These boltholes or romance



#### THE ROYAL **CRESCENT** HOTEL & SPA, Bath

WHERE The five-star Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa sits in the middle of the famous Royal Crescent in Bath – acclaimed for the Georgian

architecture of its 30 Grade I-listed houses. It overlooks Royal Victoria Park, and the city's shops and cafés are also on your doorstep. **WHY** We checked into the Sir Percy Blakeney Master Suite, where our lounge had an incredible panorama of the park, and our divine

bedroom came with a pink-canopied four-poster bed. Dinner at The Dower House restaurant lured us out of the suite, with flame-grilled mackerel and slow-cooked duck egg followed by venison with haggis croquettes and a hot smoked duck breast. The cheeseboard was a delight, and the fromager (cheese sommelier) paired each with the perfect wine. The next morning, a massage at the spa and a faultless breakfast finished off the perfect stay. **BOOK** Deluxe bedrooms from £330 per night, Master Suites from £1,350 per night, B&B, royalcrescent.co.uk





#### THE MILESTONE **HOTEL &** RESIDENCES, London

WHERE Situated directly opposite beautiful Kensington Palace, this Grade-II listed hotel has gorgeous views and is an easy walk to the Royal Albert Hall and the boutiques and restaurants of Kensington. **WHY** The Milestone combines old-school British tradition and service with modern touches. Our fabulous suite, The Park, had views of Kensington Gardens, a huge canopied bed, marbled bathroom and a lounge and dressing area. Cocktails in the wood-panelled Stables Bar (we liked the clever

equestrian touches) were delicious, and perfectly set us up for dinner at

Cheneston's restaurant. As we dined on Dorset crab salad, Dover sole and a chocolate and espresso delice, the live piano playing took us back to a bygone era and created such a romantic vibe. **BOOK** From £350 per room per night, including full English breakfast, milestonehotel.com



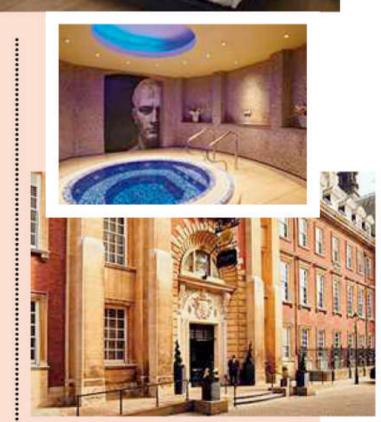


# City SLICKERS

#### THE GRAND, York

WHERE This landmark hotel is just steps from the River Ouse, which runs through the historic city of York. A five-minute wander over the bridge will take you to the heart of the city, where you can explore the higgledypiggledy Medieval streets, hit the amazing array of shops, and stop for refreshments in one of the many atmospheric coffee shops, tea houses or quirky old pubs.

WHY The Grand makes an excellent base for visiting York. From our vast room, we had great views of the city walls - with its raised walkway – and strolled to the river, mere moments away, for a few romantic walks. After a day on our feet, we



particularly enjoyed some downtime in the subterranean spa. And dinner at The Rise, with its Art Deco-inspired contemporary styling, great British menu and open kitchen, is highly recommended.

**BOOK** From £139 per night, the grandy or k.co. uk

#### Pillow talk



#### THE BRIMSTONE, Cumbria

WHERE This modern chalet-style hotel, part of the Langdale Estate, is nestled in a wooded valley reached via a narrow undulating road. It feels like you're in the remotest part of the Lakes, yet tourist hotspot Ambleside is just 15 minutes away. Some of the area's best fell walks start from the front door. **WHY** Brimstone might just be the most stylish and sexy hotel in the Lakes. It's a far cry from your usual walking lodges or traditional lakeside hotels. The rooms are vast and next-level luxurious – ours had two floors, a wood-burning stove, a roll-top bath in a concealed cupboard in the



lounge area and a large terrace overlooking the valley. There's also a team of hosts to cater for your every whim, a reading room full of homemade snacks and drinks (including alcohol) to help yourself to any time of the day, free-to-use walking gear and a modern spa with an alfresco thermal pool.

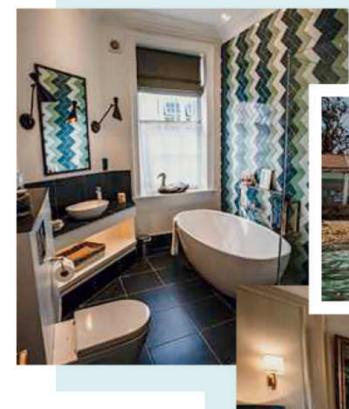
Mini-moon perfection! BOOK From £350 per night, brimstone hotel.co.uk

THE GEORGE, Isle of Wight

WHERE We took our car on the Lymington to Yarmouth ferry, a 40-minute chug across the Solent, which brought us straight into the harbour, just around the corner from our destination, The George. The hotel, formerly the Governor of the Isle of Wight's house, has been in this idyllic spot next to the castle for a few hundred years.

**WHY** The George is delightfully decorated - mixing modern comforts with quirky antiques seamlessly – plus

plenty of fun touches, such as paintings of famous Georges in wigs in the hall. Our huge bedroom had panelled walls, and window seats looking out onto a roof terrace with views of the gardens, sea and pier below. The food here is fantastic – fresh from the harbour and locally sourced, served in the New Englandstyle garden conservatory, which transforms at night into a romantic spot full of twinkling fairy lights. So romantic, in fact, that Benedict Cumberbatch chose it as the spot to propose to his wife! **BOOK** Two-night winter escape from £360 per person\*, thegeorge.co.uk





# Country



#### HURLEY HOUSE, Berkshire

WHERE Just an hour from London, and a short drive from the picturesque riverside village of Hurley, this boutique hotel is perfectly positioned for a quick getaway from the capital. Cosy up in

the rustic-style rooms, relax in the welcoming bar area, or pop out for a jaunt around the affluent village – which has a great farmer's market and plenty of lovely independent shops and eateries.

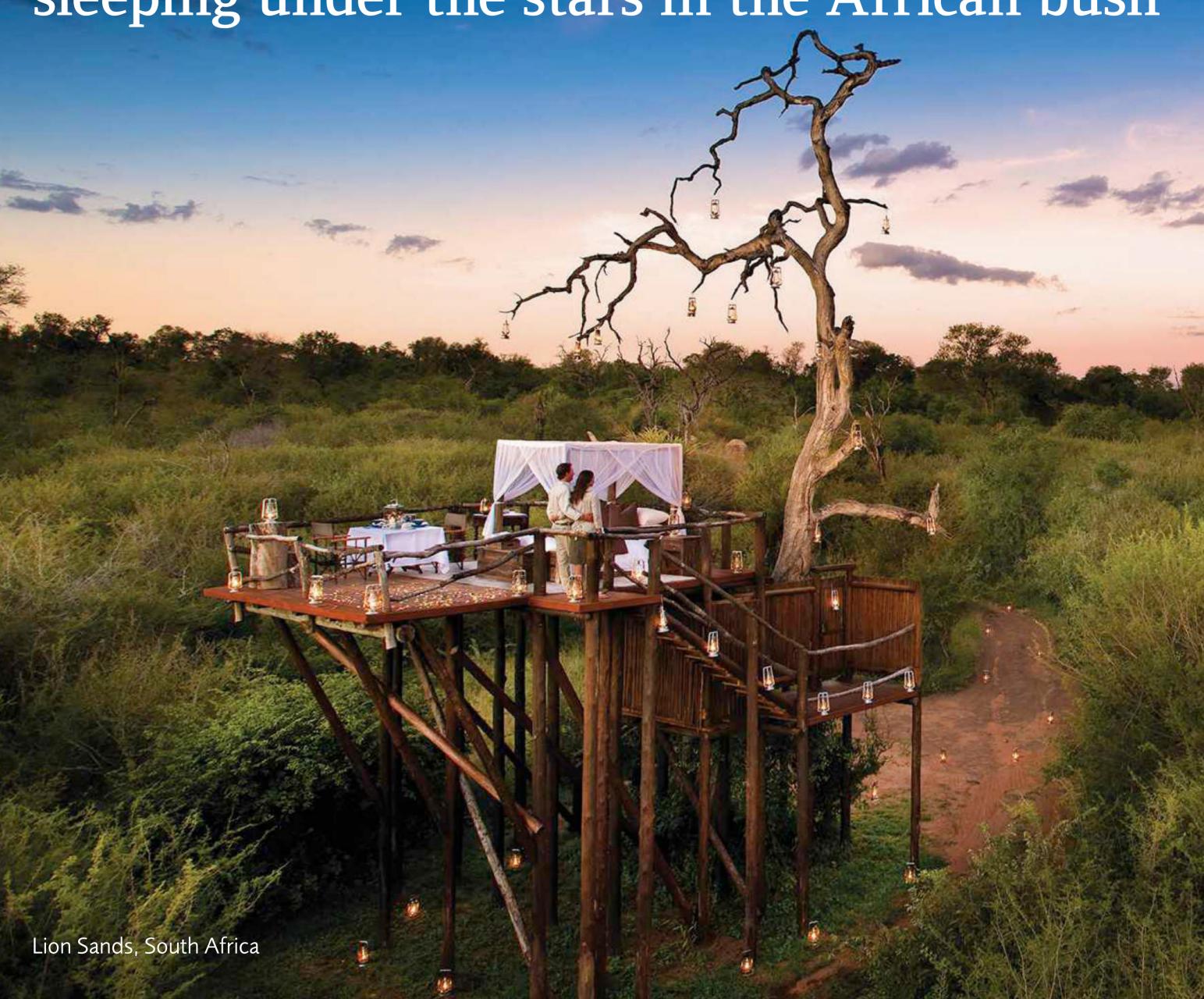
WHY With just 10 immaculately finished rooms



creating an intimate home-from-home feel, we felt like we'd really managed to escape to the country for the weekend. Dinner here was a memorable occasion - we enjoyed an amazing meal paired with wine suggested by an expert sommelier, and with the twinkling lighting and atmospheric surroundings, it was truly romantic. On our visit, we made the most of the balmy evening, with a cocktail in the gardens with a state-of-the-art barn, sweeping lawn and outdoor bar, they're perfect for a pretty country wedding. **BOOK** From £170 per night, hurleyhouse.co.uk

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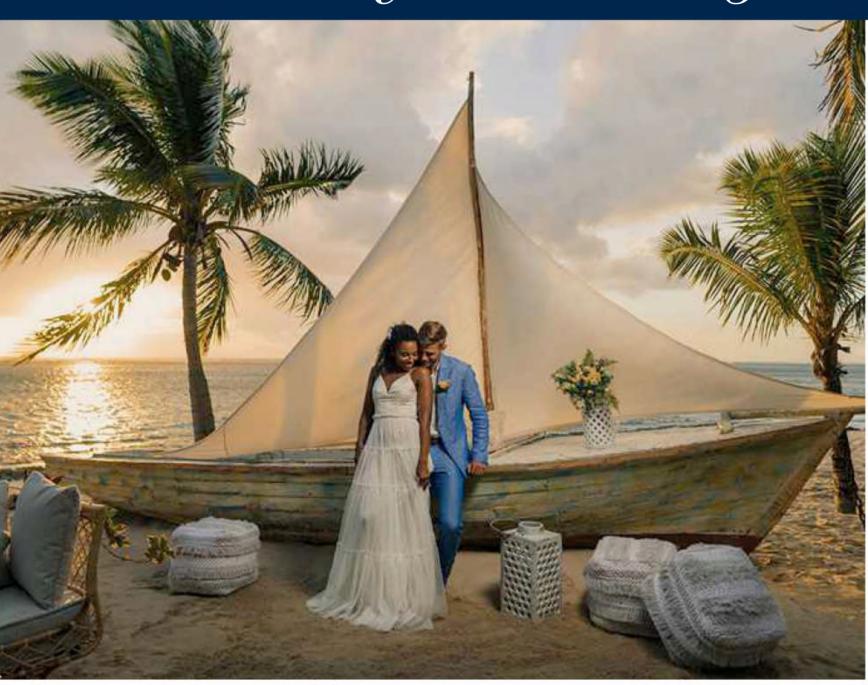
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Escape to the country, just the two of you, with a dreamy stay at Seckford Hall

ant a short and sweet retreat after the thrills of your wedding? One lucky couple could win a romantic minimoon in a sumptuous suite at the four-star Seckford Hall Hotel & Spa (seckford.co.uk), near the Suffolk coast. A family-owned mansion set in 34 acres of beautiful gardens and woodland, it's Tudor charm at its best.

Dine on mouth-watering dishes of locally sourced ingredients in the stylish 1530 Restaurant, take afternoon tea in the cosy lounge or on the terrace, overlooking the lawns and lake. Afternoons can be whiled away in the spa, complete with a swimming pool, hot tub, steam room, sauna and double treatment rooms. This romantic bolthole, nestled in its own private valley, is the perfect place to start.

#### READER OFFER

Seckford Hall is one of three venues in the award-winning Heritage Rocks Group, joining Woodhall Manor in Suffolk, and Manor By The Lake in the Cotswolds. Book a wedding at one of these venues quoting You & Your Wedding and you will qualify for a complimentary Flicker and Sparkle Collection – a selection of candles for the ceremony and wedding breakfast, sparklers for the evening, and more. For details, call 01394 385678 for Seckford Hall; 01394 411288 for Woodhall Manor; and 01242 245071 for Manor By The Lake\*.



#### YOUR PRIZE

- Two nights in a suite
- Full English breakfast each morning
- Dinner each evening\*\*
- Afternoon tea on the day of arrival
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#### HOW TO ENTER

For the chance to win this amazing prize, simply answer the following question correctly:

Q: Which of these is a town in Suffolk?

- **A** Exeter
- **B** Durham
- **C** Ipswich

Visit youandyourwedding.co.uk/ competitions. Competition closes 26 March 2020. T&Cs apply.

Terms and conditions: The Promoter is Immediate Media Company London Limited. The competition closes at 11.59pm on 26 March 2020. Prize based on two sharing a double suite, valid for six months from the nomination of winner, excluding Easter weekend and Bank Holiday weekends and subject to availability. The prize excludes travel between the winner's home and hotel, personal expenditure, food and beverages, gratuities or incidental costs, other than where mentioned. Prize cannot be exchanged for cash or transferred. The competition is open to all residents of the UK, including the Channel Islands. The competition is not open to employees and their immediate families of the Promoter or any other company involved in this prize promotion. Entrants and the prize winner must be 18 or above. One winning entry will be chosen at random from all eligible entries. The winner will be notified by the Promoter via email within 28 days of the competition closing and details of how to claim the prize will be provided. If the winner cannot be contacted, fails to respond within 28 days of such notification being sent, or declines the prize, the Promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner up, or to re-offer the prize in any future promotion. The Promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value. The Promoter does not accept any responsibility for lost, delayed or fraudulent entries. The surname and county of residence of the winner will be available upon request by sending an SAE to Seckford Hall competition, You & Your Wedding, Vineyard House, 44 Brook Green, London, W6 7BT within two months of the closing date of the promotion. The Promoter will contact the winner before releasing this information and provide the winner the opportunity to object or limit the amount of information shared. By entering the competition, the participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions. Only one entry will be permitted per person. The Promoter reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The Promoter excludes liability to the full extent permitted by law for any loss, damage or injury occurring to the participant arising from his or her entry into the promotion or occurring to the winner arising from his or her acceptance of a prize. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. For full terms and conditions, please visit youandyourweddingco.uk/competitions

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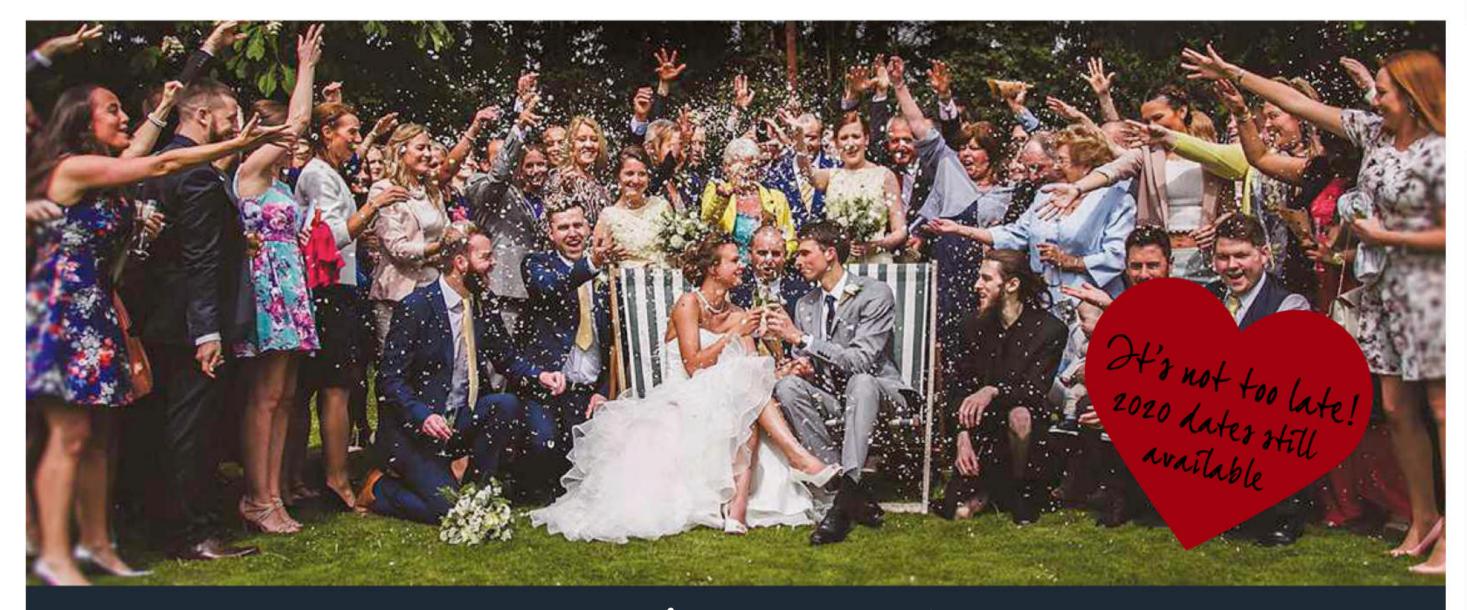
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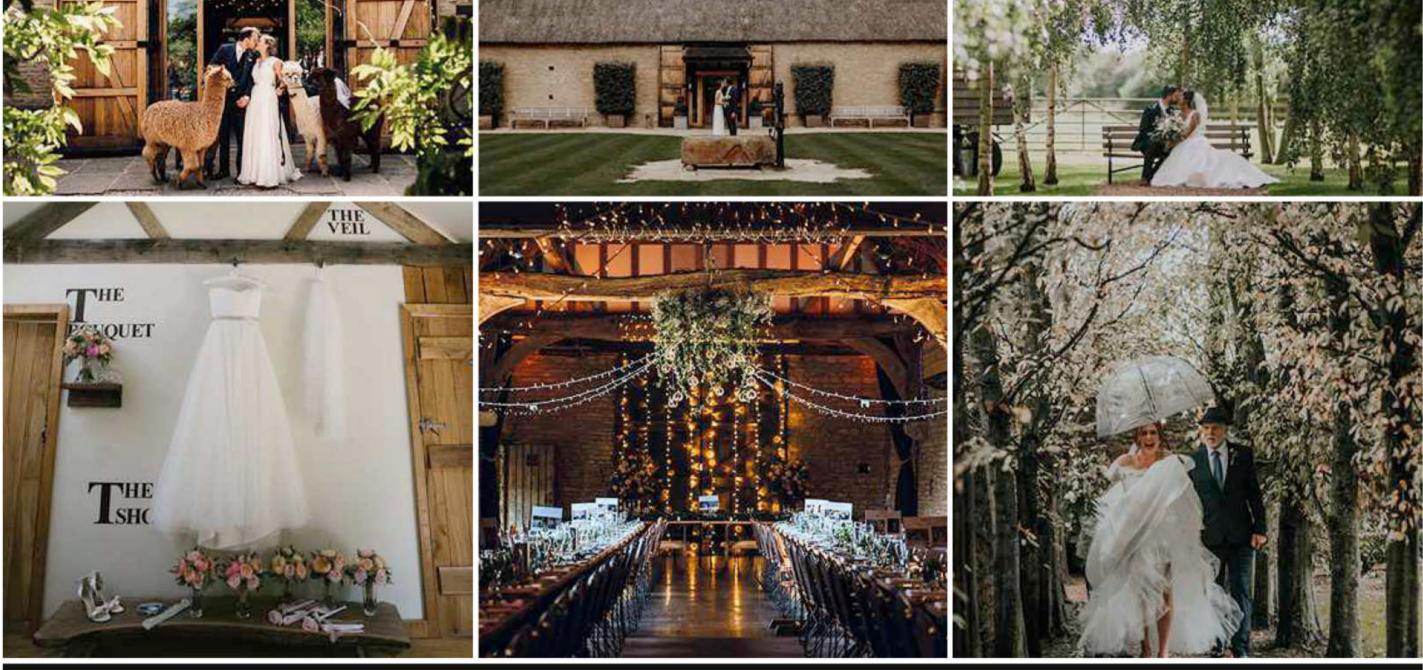
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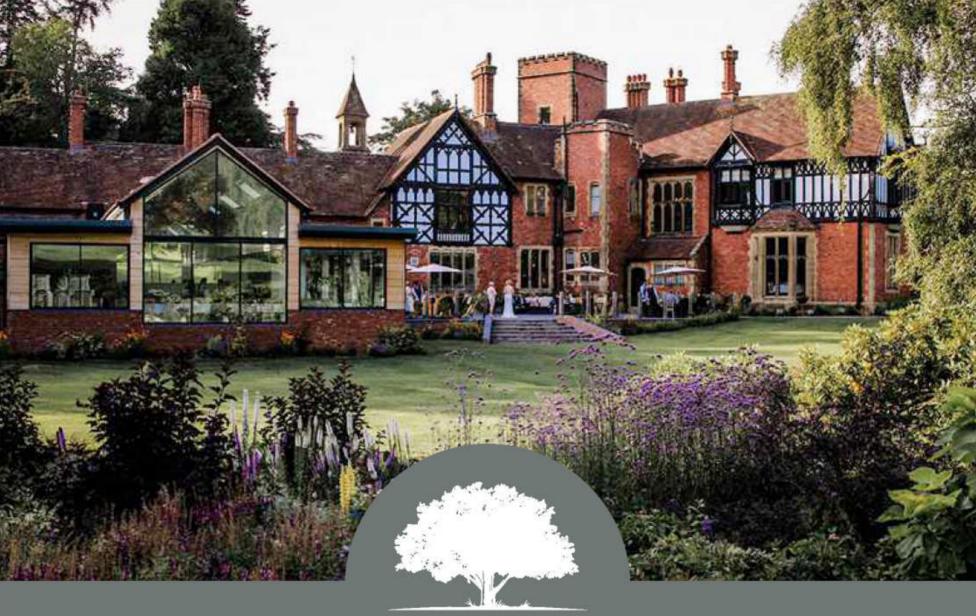
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# Your FASHION guide

Get inspired with this beautiful collection of dresses, shoes, accessories and much more!



#### **AVA LOUISE BRIDAL**

Ava Louise Bridal Wear is a luxurious bridal boutique offering beautiful wedding dresses, hand-picked from the following exclusive designers: St Patrick by Pronovias, Blue by Enzoani, Aire by Rosa Clara, Eliza Jane Howell, Willowby by Watters, and bridesmaids by Dessy.

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Our hand-picked guide of truly bespoke services to make that special occasion one of a kind



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#### 3. INSCRIPTURE

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Inscripture extract the actual handwriting from that sentimental card you saved and engrave it onto a treasured keepsake for

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beautiful bouquet.



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creative-space.org.uk

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bowtiebar.co.uk

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# Beat the 10 miles of the 10 mi

It's possibly the least sexy part of big-day planning - but wedding insurance can save you some serious heartache

What's your favourite wedding element so far? It might be your fabulous venue; that incredible cake you've ordered; your carefully chosen menu, which you can't wait for guests to tuck into. It's unlikely that your answer will be, "Our wedding insurance." And yet this is a really important part of the celebrations. While we hope your day goes without a hitch, the fact remains that sometimes things don't go to plan. The last thing you want is for your carefully constructed budget to be busted if a supplier unexpectedly goes out of business, for example, or your wedding dress gets damaged. Think of it this way: get insurance, and if anything goes wrong, you'll be secure in the knowledge that you're covered; if nothing goes wrong, even better, but that small amount will have brought you peace of mind. Here's what you need to know...

#### CHOOSE A REPUTABLE POLICY

Companies including John Lewis & Partners, Debenhams, The Insurance Emporium and Dreamsaver offer specialist wedding insurance.

#### CHECK THE CANCELLATION TERMS

Cancellation coverage will ensure you're reimbursed for non-refundable payments if the wedding can't happen for any reason beyond your control - typically, these include unexpected illness, a death in the family, or adverse weather that prevents a sizeable percentage of the wedding party from turning up. Note that "disinclination to marry" (AKA cold feet), along with pre-existing medical conditions, is unlikely to be covered.

#### SHOP AROUND

Wedding insurance varies considerably, depending on where you get it from, and the plan you choose – companies will offer different levels of cover. As with any insurance policies, a rule of thumb is that the more you spend, the more you'll be covered. Carefully read what the exclusions are on each policy.

#### **BUY EARLY**

It's better to get this step out of the way, so you can keep planning knowing you're insured. However, in most cases, you can buy cover as late as two weeks before the big day and deposits you've made beforehand will, for the most part, be covered – provided you don't already know of a reason that will cause you to make a claim.

#### GET DESTINATION INSURANCE

If you're getting married outside the UK, you'll need specialist overseas cover.

#### DON'T RELY ON CREDIT CARDS

Paying on credit card offers a certain level of protection, but this won't cover everything, such as illness.

#### GET TRAVEL INSURANCE, TOO

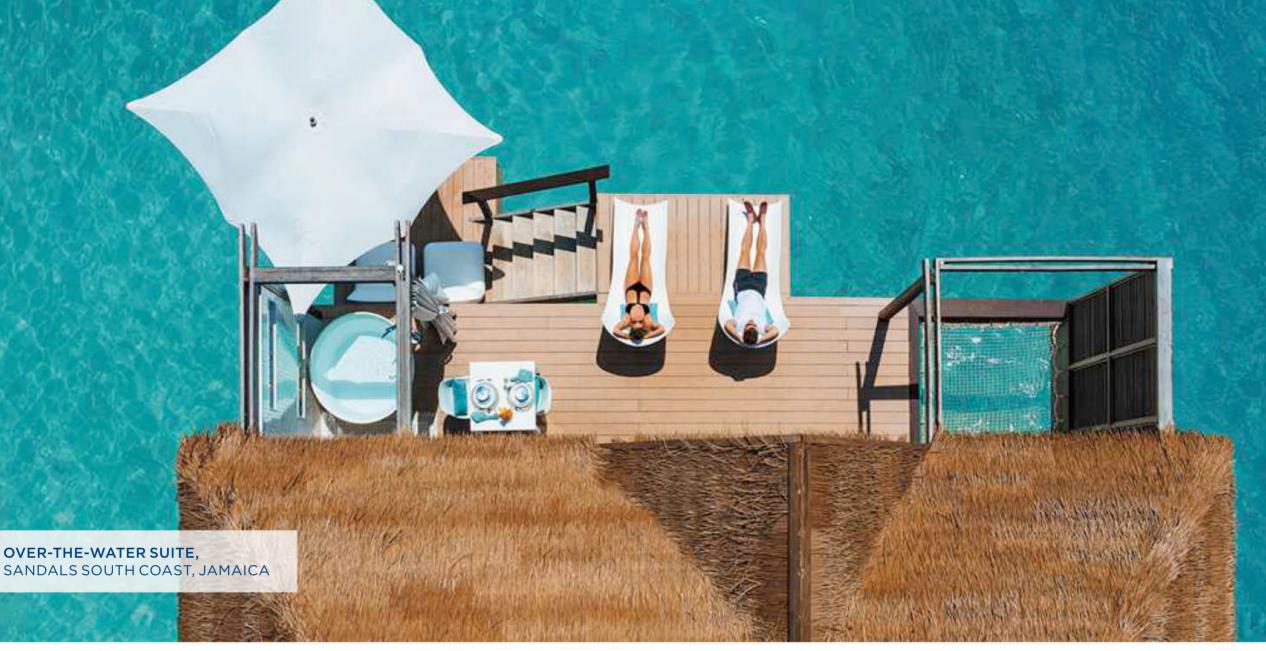
Your honeymoon won't be covered by wedding insurance.

#### STAY ON TOP OF ADMIN

Contact your insurance company immediately if trouble arises, with invoices and receipts to hand. Report any stolen items to the police. And always, always insist on a signed contract.

# Honeymoon

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