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love stories

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in Italy

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ABUNDANCE**

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beautiful details

*Reflections
of love*

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FEB/MAR 2020

ISSN 1755-4756



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Business Growth Awards 2019
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The Wedding Industry Awards 2018
- **National Finalist Wedding Caterer of the Year**
The Wedding Industry Awards 2018
- **Winner of Caterer of the Year**
Food Awards Wales 2018
- **Winner of the Best Outside Catering Company**
The National Welsh Wedding Awards 2018

TESTIMONIALS



"Cleverchefs produced outstanding food & service on our wedding day, we were made to feel at ease right from the first meeting all the way to the big day. They said they would make it special but 'WOW' they really excelled & made our day perfect, you would be crazy to use another caterer."
- Luke & Ellie, Bristol

"As soon as we met the team we knew they were the caterer for us. Our guests are still commenting on how exceptional the food was and it was so important for us that we got that right, I would recommend cleverchefs to anyone, they are second to none. Thank you all again." - Alice & Tom, London



Get in touch ✉ feedme@cleverchefs.co.uk ☎ 0345 521 0123 💻 cleverchefs.co.uk



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Wed in a waterside setting



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Thank you to Storybox Films & Photo (storyboxfilms.co.uk) for this lovely image of real couple Holly and Matt. Holly's gorgeous dress is from Rookery Bridal (rookerybridal.co.uk). Turn to page 78 to find out more.

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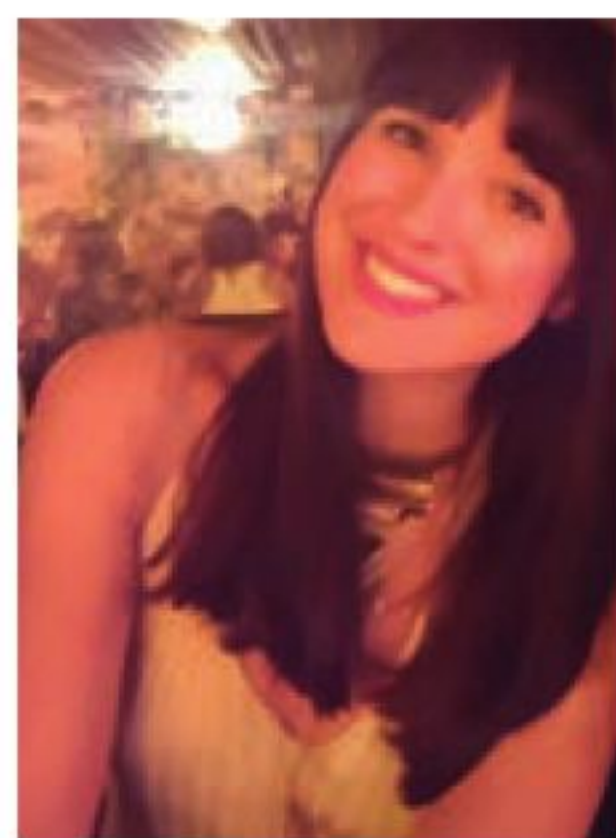
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Welcome to our 75th issue!



Welcome, lovely readers, to our 75th issue. It's so exciting that we've reached such a big milestone and I know the big 8-0 will be here before we know it. If you're joining us for the first time following a festive proposal *squeals*, then get ready to meet the best suppliers

our region has to offer. We're passionate (ahem, obsessed) about showcasing the local wedding industry to couples, and every type of nuptials from glamorous to rustic and contemporary to historic has graced these pages over the years.

We've got such a treat for you this issue with inspiring real weddings (starting on page 30), styled shoots (pages 71 and 99) and 11 pages of swoon-worthy fashion. We'll also introduce you to some of the leading caterers in the area (page 55) and help you plan the hen party to end all hen parties (page 63).

Enjoy!

Hannah x

Hannah Faulder,
editor

WIN!
A HONEYMOON
IN ITALY.



Plan your last fling
before the ring!

79



Spring into the new season with our pick of fabulous floral gowns.

We turn to our local experts to answer your burning questions.

111



prettycakecreations.co.uk | adamlowndes.co.uk

Can I get away with wearing this jacket in the office?

63



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venetianorington.com

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EDITOR'S LETTER

We take to the water for this gorgeous real wedding.

hannahsharpe.co.uk

I am in love with real bride Georgie's flowers.

Real bride Kayleigh's beauty look was flawless.

shutterbliss.co.uk

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Backs are the new fronts this year.

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Feed your wanderlust with our honeymoons section.

Be inspired by this deliciously vibrant shoot.

rebeccacaseyphotography.co.uk

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Situated in beautiful parkland of the Blaise Estate in Bristol, this late eighteenth century mansion was immortalised by being described as 'the finest place in England' in Jane Austen's novel Northanger Abbey.

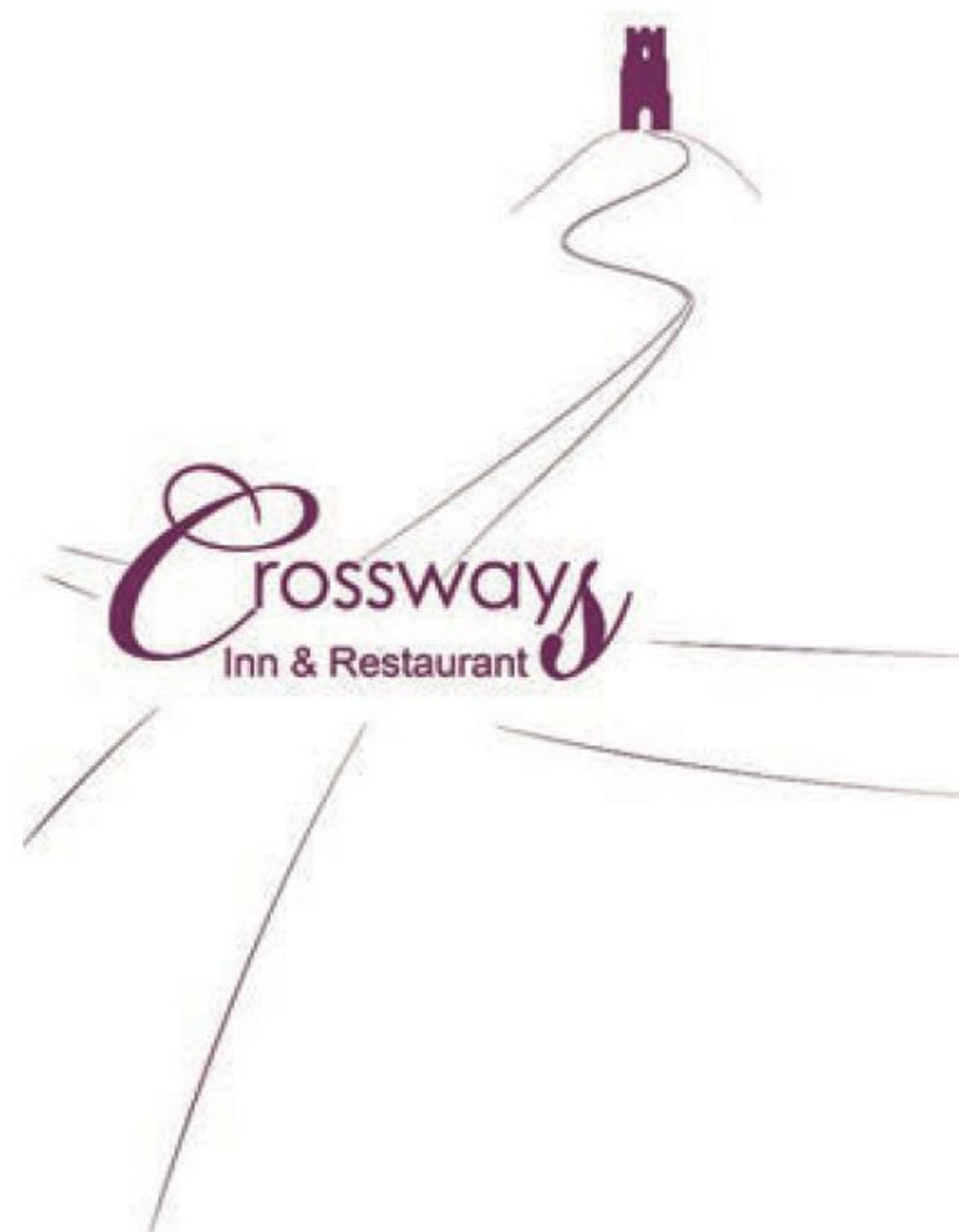
For your ceremony you have the choice between an intimate atmosphere with a grand backdrop of our fine art collections, or you can take your wedding outside and get married in our secret Dairy Garden.

For more information and a wedding day to remember contact us at:

museumvenuehire@bristol.gov.uk

or go to

www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/blaise-castle-house-museum



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Time to celebrate

Our friends at Celebration Roadshow have plenty to be cheerful about at the moment. Not only does 2020 mark its 30th year as a DJ and entertainment company, but it has also recently received two accolades. "We won the Bristol and Somerset Wedding Award's DJ category for the third time," says owner Phill Makepeace. "We also won the regional Wedding DJ category at The Wedding Industry Awards for the fourth time! Both awards are based on couples' feedback and scrutiny from a judging panel so we couldn't be happier."

Check out celebrationroadshow.co.uk



YOUR ESSENTIALS

PICTURE-PERFECT

Business partners Samantha Gilchrist, Stuart Guy and Natasha Cronin are set to complete a refurb of the 300-year-old Crowcombe Court over the next few months. There will be a new bridal suite, outdoor ceremony space and a bridal prep room. "Since we took over, the feedback from guests and local suppliers has been fantastic," says Samantha. "We're looking forward to many more events in the future."

Set in 10 acres of grounds, the building retains many historical features such as superb plasterwork, ornate fire surrounds and two original staircases. To find out more, visit crowcombecourt.co.uk

Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from
around the regions



INN DEMAND

The Crossways Inn near Wells has announced a £750K renovation project to modernise the property while maintaining its beautiful architecture and the original Cider House, which dates back to 1795. Wedding couples can expect to see additional en suite guest rooms for their nearest and dearest as well as a refurbishment of the wedding venue's extension, which opens onto a stunning terrace overlooking Glastonbury Tor.

For more information, head to thecrossways.co.uk



TRUE ROMANCE

Following hundreds of entries from across the country, the search by wedding venue Orchardleigh Estate to find the UK's best love story has now ended with the winners revealed as high school sweethearts Becky Tessier and Orin Jackson.

Their relationship started on the last day of school when a mutual friend, who knew they both carried a torch for each other, put their hands together – and they never let go. Although they attended different universities, the pair stuck by their promise that nothing would change between them and they exchanged hand-written letters detailing their dreams for the future. A decade later, the couple are now engaged.

The duo were crowned winners after receiving thousands of online votes. "The story of how we met and fell in love is very special to us," Becky says. "For the public to choose us as their winners with such stiff competition is really heart-warming." The pair have won a romantic weekend away at Orchardleigh Estate. To find out more about this enchanting venue, head to orchardleigh.net



Games night

A Bristol mum is celebrating the start of an exciting new business venture with the launch of her couples' date-night card game, Q Cards. The idea behind the project was to help other couples connect in a fun and meaningful way after finding this approach worked well in her own relationship. Each pack contains 52 question cards across three levels of increasing depth. All questions have been curated with the aim of sparking fresh and meaningful moments of connection.

After a couple of years of development and testing, Jen launched a Kickstarter campaign and the project was so well received it was fully funded in less than a week.

Try them for yourself at qcards.co.uk

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

The lovely Michaela Gair and her team at Clifton Brides started 2020 by celebrating the boutique's 30th year and a beautiful refurbishment. We caught up with Michaela to find out more...

What have you done to celebrate this milestone?

We invited past, present and future brides to the shop for some bubbles and to preview our latest collections and the new-look store. We'll also be running discount evenings and designer events throughout the year. Follow us on Instagram for the heads-up on these.

What's changed in 30 years?

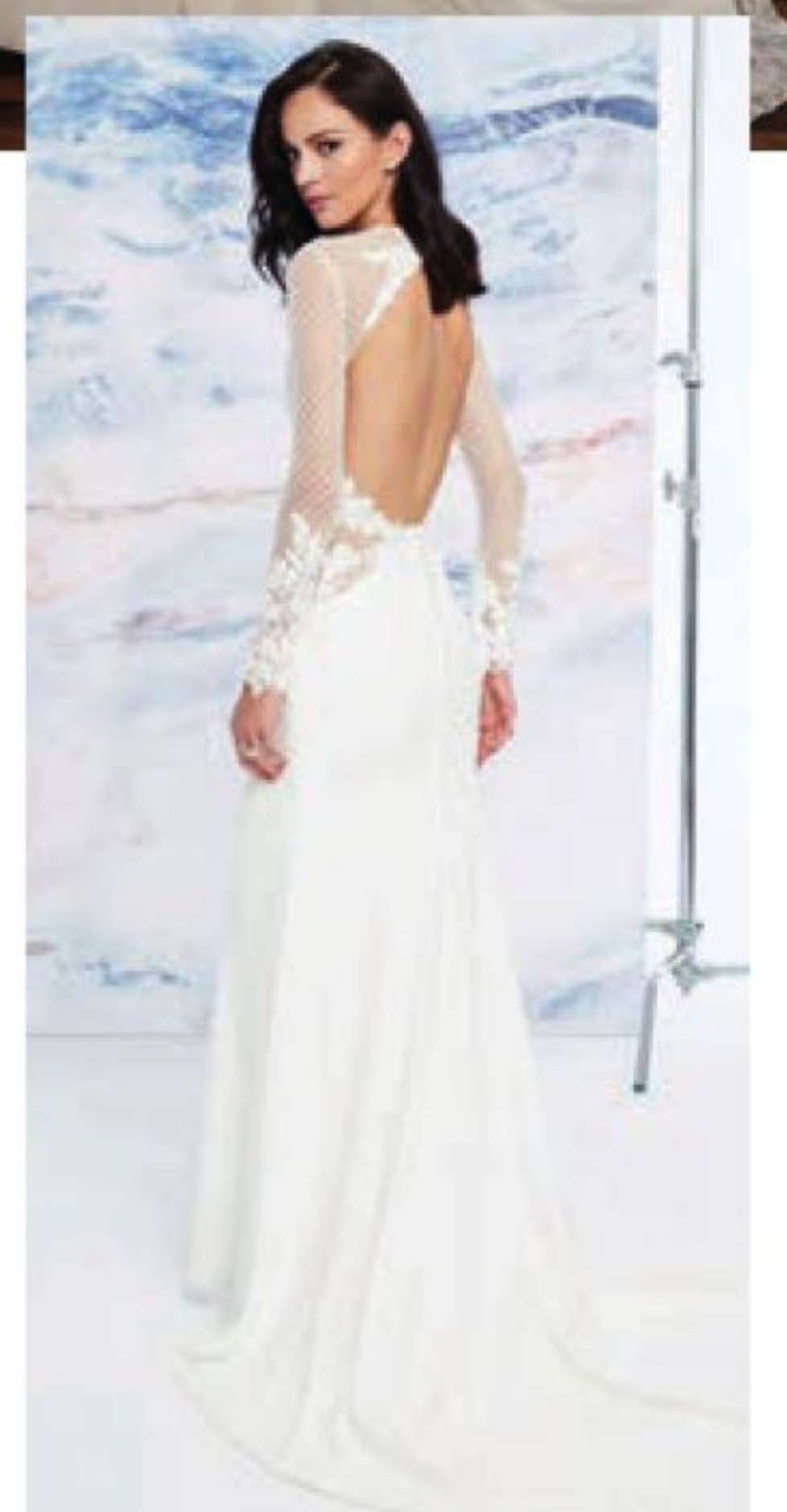
Styles have changed so much – no more Bo Peep meringues! When we started it was mainly just the mum who helped choose the dress. Now, many ladies shop alone or bring a best friend or even their fiancé – whatever's right for them. We now have more space so don't have to restrict brides on how many people they can bring.

It always used to be that most weddings were a church ceremony with a reception at a local hotel. Today, there's so much choice when it comes to venues, so we get to see a fabulous mix of styles, and trends are always evolving.

What can we expect from the refurbishment?

With some walls knocked down, we now have a spacious area for customers to move around in the dresses. Huge mirrors allow gowns to be viewed at every angle but we still have total privacy. We also now offer a bespoke service with the addition of two amazing seamstresses, Jane and Keziah.

Visit cliftonbrides.co.uk



TIME FOR TEA

Mark Country Catering has recently purchased Charlotte's Tea Rooms in Winscombe and renamed it Strawberry Line Tea Rooms. Priding itself on producing delicious homemade food, it also offers outside catering for wedding couples looking for an afternoon tea-themed treat. Couples can choose delicious sandwiches and cakes all served on its pretty vintage china. Visit strawberrylinetearooms.co.uk



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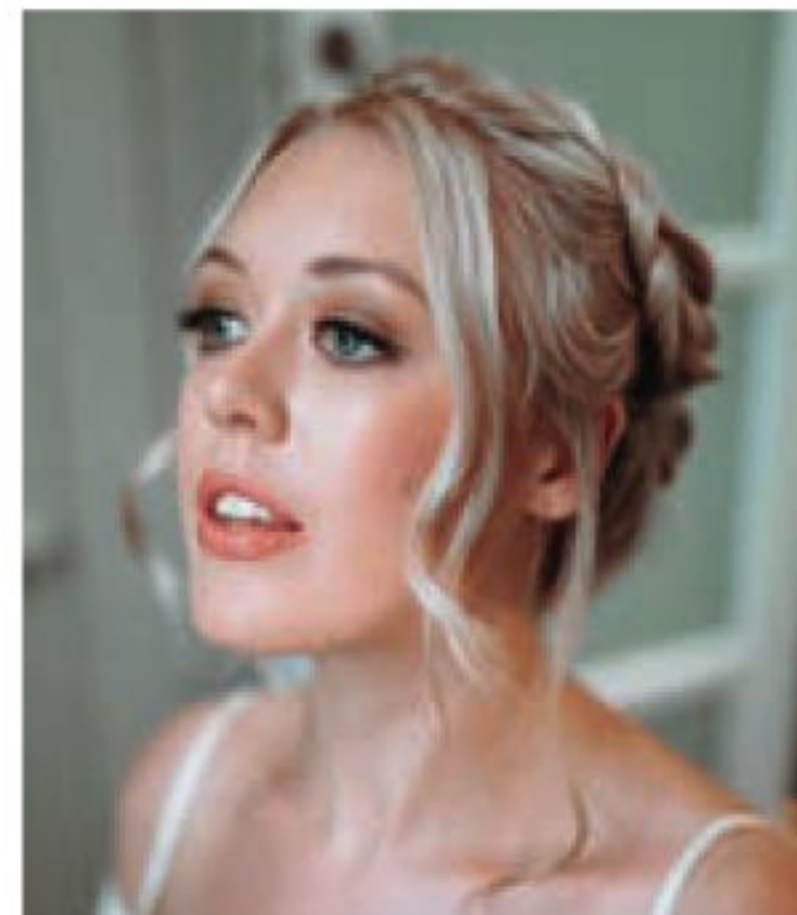
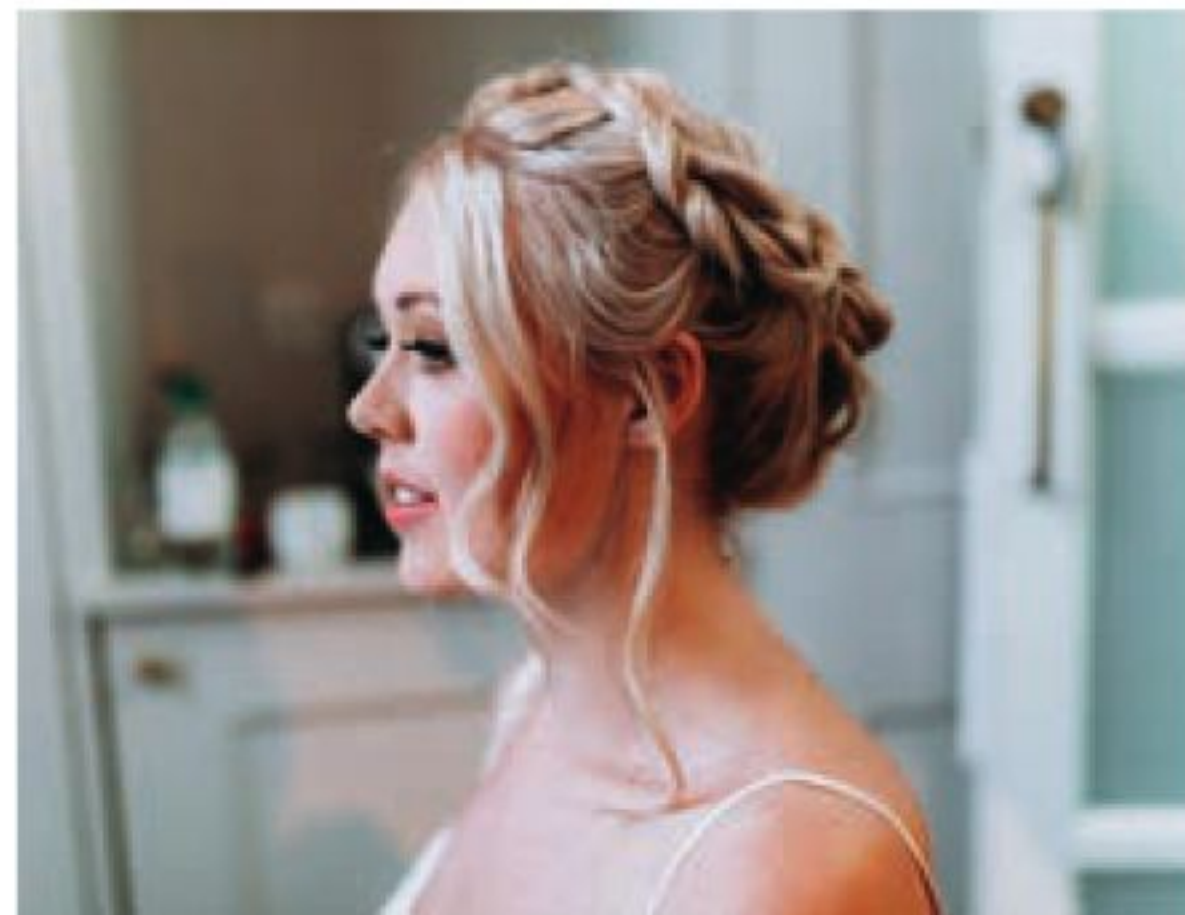
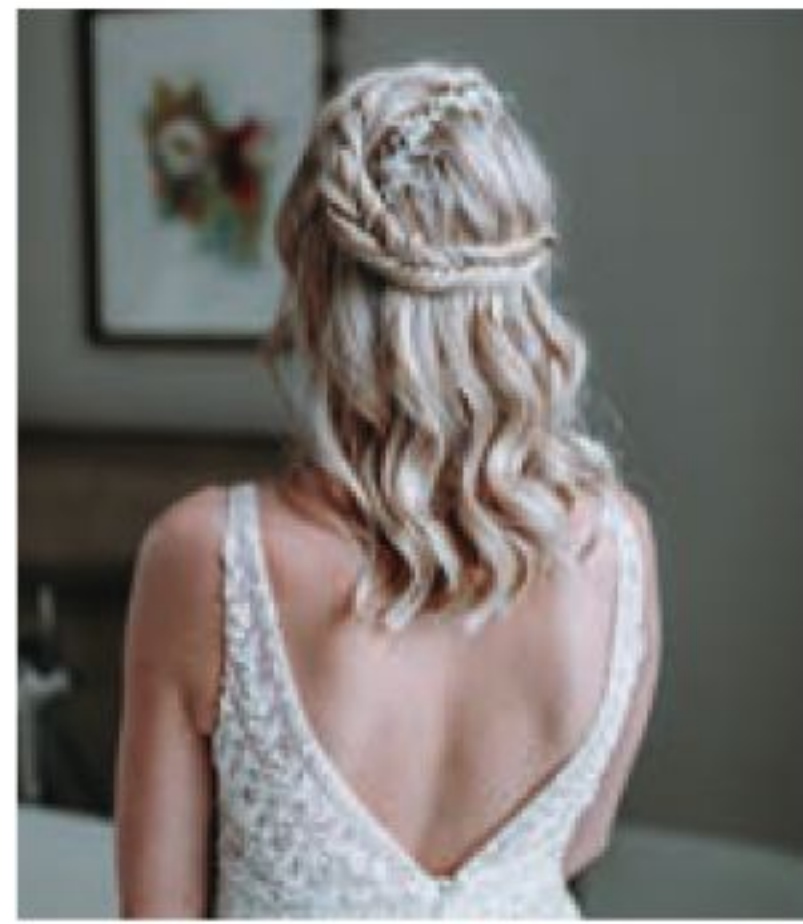
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Sophie Wylie

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Email: makeup@sophiewylie.co.uk

Instagram: @me_swmakeupartist

Location: Bristol

Hair Stylist

Katie Winter

Tel. No: 07983 501083

Website: www.bristolbridalhair.co.uk

Instagram: @bristolbridalhair

Location: Bristol



ORCHARDLEIGH ESTATE

Nestled amidst 500 acres of private parkland, Orchardleigh is a family owned country estate in stunning Somerset. Exclusively yours for your wedding day, Orchardleigh offers a truly magical place to say 'I do'.

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Three Day Wedding Package from £4,215



Orchardleigh Estate, Frome, Somerset BA11 2PB • 01373 472550 • info@orchardleigh.net • www.orchardleigh.net



LET THEM EAT CAKE

The lovely Becci Howe of Becci's Bakes is offering our lucky readers a fantastic 15% discount on new orders. Providing contemporary cakes with plenty of personality, Becci specialises in abstract buttercream and ganache – so you can have a showstopping cake on the outside that's delicious on the inside!

To take advantage of this offer, simply quote code 'CWMOFFER.' Check out beccibakes.co.uk for more sweet treats.



THE MUSIC OF LOVE

If you'd love a string quartet at your wedding, then this offer will be music to your ears! Formed in 2007, Bristol String Quartet have performed at more than 2,000 weddings across the South West and have a hugely varied repertoire with pieces ranging from Bach and Mozart to Coldplay and The Killers.

The quartet is offering a 10% discount on any weekday wedding booking. To claim, simply mention *Your Bristol & Somerset Wedding* when enquiring.

For more information, visit thebristolstringquartet.com

Freebies & OFFERS

Great giveaways and discounts up for grabs



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

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

recipient can wait for their dream show. Theatre Tokens Gift Cards and eGifts can be bought and topped up on theatretokens.com

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

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



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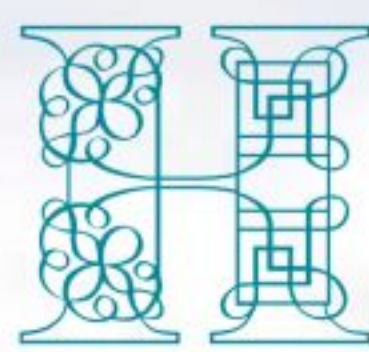
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WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

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LET'S CELEBRATE!

The Orangery (90 guests) is a beautiful hamstone building, designed by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. Licensed for ceremonies, it offers a picture-perfect setting for all styles of

wedding and allows brides and grooms to enjoy a light-filled area before spilling out to enjoy drinks on the lawn.

The Bampfylde Hall (150 guests) dates back to 1680. High ceilings and dramatic timber beams make it a fantastic place for a couple to enjoy their ceremony, wedding breakfast and party. The fairy-lit canopy emphasises its charm.

For something a little different, couples can have an open-air wedding in the 18th-century temple (112 guests), which is perched high above the Pear Pond in the Landscape Gardens. A romantic hideaway, it boasts views across to Taunton Vale.

WE LOVE...

Smaller weddings can be held within the rooms of Hestercombe House for a more intimate feel.



larissajoice.co.uk



jordanmarston.com



CROWCOMBE COURT

01984 618 752 | crowcombecourt.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Set at the foot of the Quantock Hills is Crowcombe Court. With its lake, hydrangea beds, kitchen garden, lawns and wild woodland, the venue provides plenty of stunning backdrops for photographs. The magnificent Grade I listed squire's mansion was built in English Baroque style in the 1730s from amber-coloured bricks with Bath Stone pilasters and frontispiece. Once inside, visitors find sumptuous interiors and 11 superb rooms with king-size beds, Edwardian furniture and luxurious en suites.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Ceremonies take place in the grandeur of The Great Hall (100



guests) with its intricate Italian plasterwork and flexible layout. The venue will soon be offering licensed outdoor ceremonies in a beautiful new area.

After the formalities, bespoke wedding breakfasts can take place in The Victorian Ballroom (100 guests). Its high ceilings and stunning chandeliers make it a wonderful space for newlyweds to celebrate their first meal as a married couple. After this, the nightclub-style vaulted Undercroft has a stage, dancefloor and bar just waiting for a celebration.

WE LOVE...

Couples will be excited to know the venue will soon be offering a designated room for pre-wedding prep with make-up stations, mirrors, en suite bathroom and plenty of space for champagne and photos!

DILLINGTON HOUSE

01460 258 612 | dillington.com

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Dillington House offers a breathtaking backdrop for celebrations. With romantic gardens, patios and surrounding woodland, this dreamy manor house is fit for the most elegant of weddings.

The manor is constructed from the local mellow-toned hamstone and its fairytale architecture echoes Downton Abbey. The inside is equally spectacular with an array of spaces to suit all tastes. Due to undergo a facelift, the building has 16 stunning bedrooms with magnificent countryside views.

Beyond the house is The Mews. A converted stable block, it's been transformed into the perfect party space. The addition of the modern Hyde building brings the estate right into the 21st century.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Weddings are held in a choice of the beautiful Orangery with its fountain patio, the croquet lawn overlooking the woodlands or in the stable block and theatre. For more intimate gatherings, couples can choose one of the rooms inside the house while guests can spill onto the al fresco patios when the weather is fine.

WE LOVE...

Couples will receive a free menu tasting and there are also special one-year anniversary packages now available. Guests will be happy to know there's on-site accommodation for up to 78 people.



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Images courtesy of Graham Hiscock at H Studios

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CROWCOMBE COURT
THE QUANTOCKS



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DUNSTER TITHE BARN

01643 821 658 | dunstertithebarn.org.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

The charming village of Dunster is surrounded by the wilds of Exmoor and Dunster Beach to the north – at its heart is the rustic Medieval tithe barn. The venue's walled garden is perfect for champagne and canapés, and couples will find plenty of picture-perfect spots all overlooked by the castle, church, a dovecote and folly tower.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

The ceremony and post-vow celebrations can all take place under the splendour of the venue's historic beams. The barn can seat up to 120 loved ones for a wedding breakfast and up to 250 guests in the evening.

Couples will find that the building has been beautifully restored with everything a modern wedding could need including a full kitchen and excellent bar facilities.

WE LOVE...

The gardens are available for outdoor games or a relaxed hog roast. There's also a late-night venue available for those looking to party for longer.



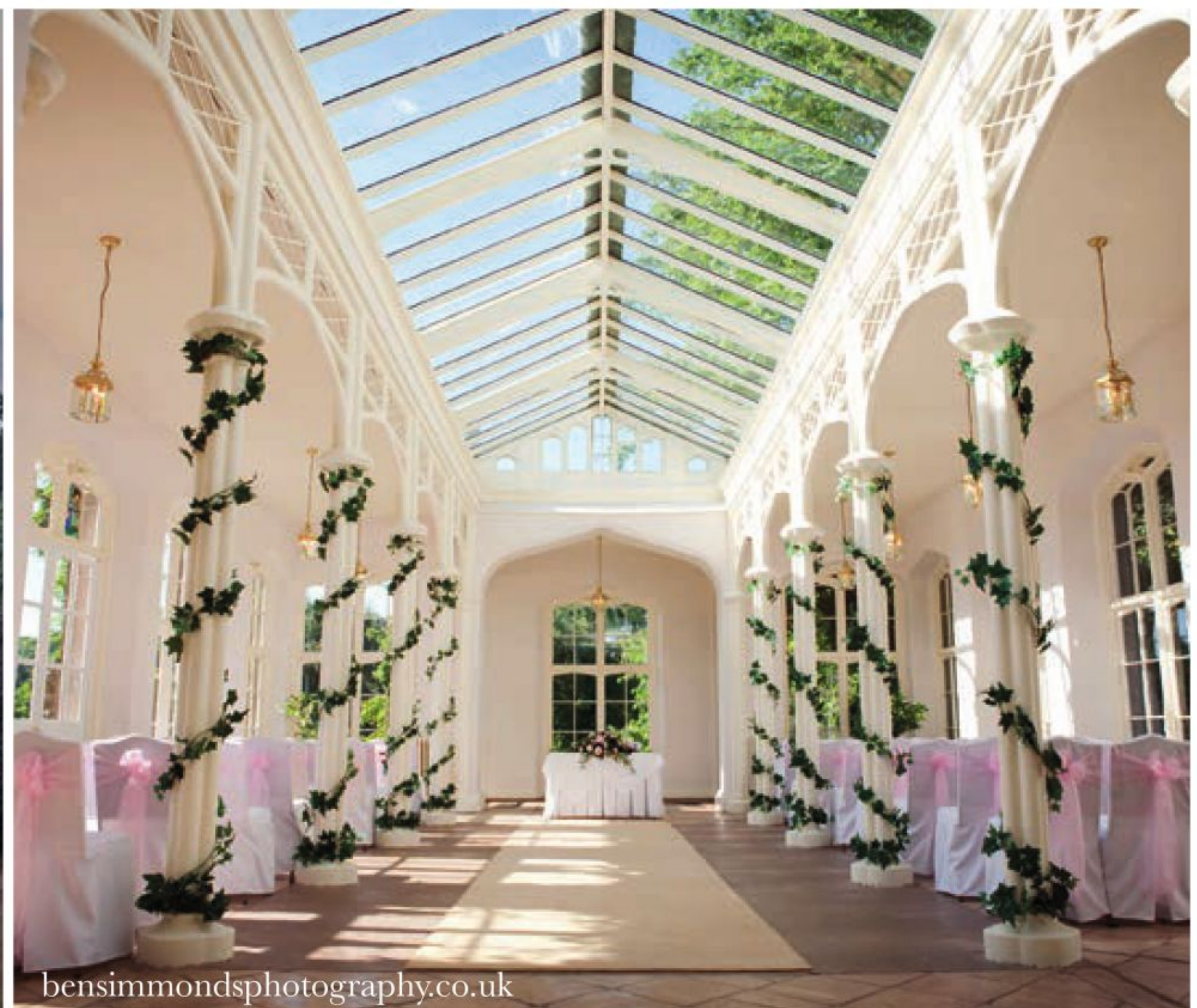
ST AUDRIES PARK

01984 633 633 | audries-park.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Spanning more than 100 acres in the rolling Quantock Hills, the St Audries Park estate boasts an elevated position with fabulous coastal views. The deer park and lake are serene settings, and the immaculate grounds feature neatly striped grass and a manicured croquet lawn.

The building provides an impressive backdrop for weddings, with towers, turrets, huge stained-glass windows and its Victorian-style Orangery. Inside, there are endless period features to enjoy in splendid surroundings.



LET'S CELEBRATE!

All couples have exclusive use of the house and grounds for their special day. Vows are taken in The Orangery (130 guests) before making use of the many grand and elegant reception rooms. The Great Hall's vaulted ceiling, minstrels' gallery and roaring log fire make for an impressive welcome. The Drawing Room, with its hand-painted ceiling and wall of windows, is another favourite. For fine dining with a view, couples will love The Banqueting Hall, which overlooks the deer park and rose garden.

WE LOVE...

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07854 166 624 | gantsmill.co.uk

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Nestled in a secluded position in the valley of the River Brue, Gants Mill is home to waterfalls, streams and picturesque gardens, as well as a 1,000-year-old working watermill.

Couples benefit from exclusive use of the secluded 50-acre river valley. Its idyllic floral gardens provide a burst of colour throughout its April-to-October wedding season, and parties have access to the mill, with a guided tour for guests included as part of the day.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Ceremonies are normally held in the oak Gazebo (150 guests) in the floral gardens, but the Garden Room is also licensed for nuptials should the weather be bad. After the formalities, receptions take place in the traditional, furnished marquee, with everything needed to throw a party – from lighting and heaters to a PA and bar.

WE LOVE...

The venue is very flexible, with couples being able to bring in their own caterers and alcohol with no corkage fee applied. There's also a bridal suite included in every booking.

THE LONGHOUSE

01749 812 307 | longhouseweddings.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

As the name suggests, The Longhouse is a long venue with beautifully large windows and French doors opening out onto a balcony overlooking the River Brue. The blank-canvas space offers simple white interiors with accents of soft sage green and wooden floors. Although the space is large, it retains a warm and welcoming ambience, with a log burner available for use in winter. Softly clad in silver larch and set high in the landscape, it gives the feeling of floating among the trees, looking out across the picturesque valley and abundant gardens.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

There are three gorgeous places in which to tie the knot among up to 140 friends and family. The Gazebo is a handmade oak structure set in the gardens at the base of the venue's vineyard. The Longhouse gives the feeling of bringing the outside in with its spectacular vistas. For a more intimate ceremony, The Wine Cellar is situated in the oldest part of the farmhouse and provides a deeply romantic feel through its stone walls and vaulted ceiling.

When it comes to post-vow partying, couples can invite up to 200 people. The Wine Cellar and The Longhouse are lovely spots, along with the Patio. A covered setting with stunning views, it's ideal for a drinks reception.

WE LOVE...

There's on-site accommodation for up to 61 guests with a full English breakfast in the morning, and each booking includes exclusive use of the bridal suite. This family-run business prides itself on caring for its couples and the environment.



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PRISTON MILL

01225 423 894 | pristonmill.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

With two picturesque venues on site, guests approach Priston Mill past the herb garden and farmhouse on the left and the water wheel to the right. Just six miles from Bath, it's surrounded by green fields and a flowing brook.

The Watermill covers three floors and stands proud in the centre of stunning gardens beside the mill pond. Blue shutters and climbing roses evoke a French feel, while The Tythe Barn is nestled in serene English country gardens.

The interiors are full of rustic charm, with original features and



mechanical workings on show. Soft lighting and cosy furniture complement exposed stone and brick.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

When the sun is shining, the Pergoda is a wonderful outdoor ceremony option. Indoor ceremonies and receptions are held in The Watermill (90 guests), with its tall beams and Juliet balcony, or the Tythe Barn (150 guests) for bigger gatherings. Although built in the 1720s, it has everything a modern wedding could need.

WE LOVE...

Guests can marvel at the mechanics of the impressive water wheel from a glass floor.

ROMAN BATHS & PUMP ROOM

01225 477 786 | bathvenues.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Situated in the heart of Bath's World Heritage Site, the Roman Baths & Pump Room is one of the most distinctive buildings in the country. The award-winning complex is steeped in history, with its origins dating back 2,000 years.

Forming part of the museum by day, the Great Bath has been meticulously renovated. It's here at sunrise and sunset that ceremonies take place, overlooked by the beautiful Bath Abbey. Although it's open-air, vows can still take place in adverse weather conditions, as shelter is provided by the terrace above.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Perfect for smaller and less formal celebrations, sunrise ceremonies take place at 8.30am and can be followed by a champagne breakfast for up to 60 guests – or 40 on a Saturday. Sunset vows (160 guests) are taken at 7.30pm – excluding mid-June to August – followed by drinks around the bath. In colder weather, the steam from the baths, coupled with flickering torchlight, creates a magical atmosphere.

The adjoining Pump Room is the ideal party space. Famously frequented by Jane Austen, the elegant room has tall windows, Corinthian columns and a glittering chandelier. Also part of the complex, the Terrace overlooking the Great Bath is an intimate area for events, along with the Reception Hall.

WE LOVE...

Exclusive-use packages are available for up to 290 friends and family. Nearlyweds will be treated to a free menu tasting with the venue's caterer, Searcys (searcys.co.uk).



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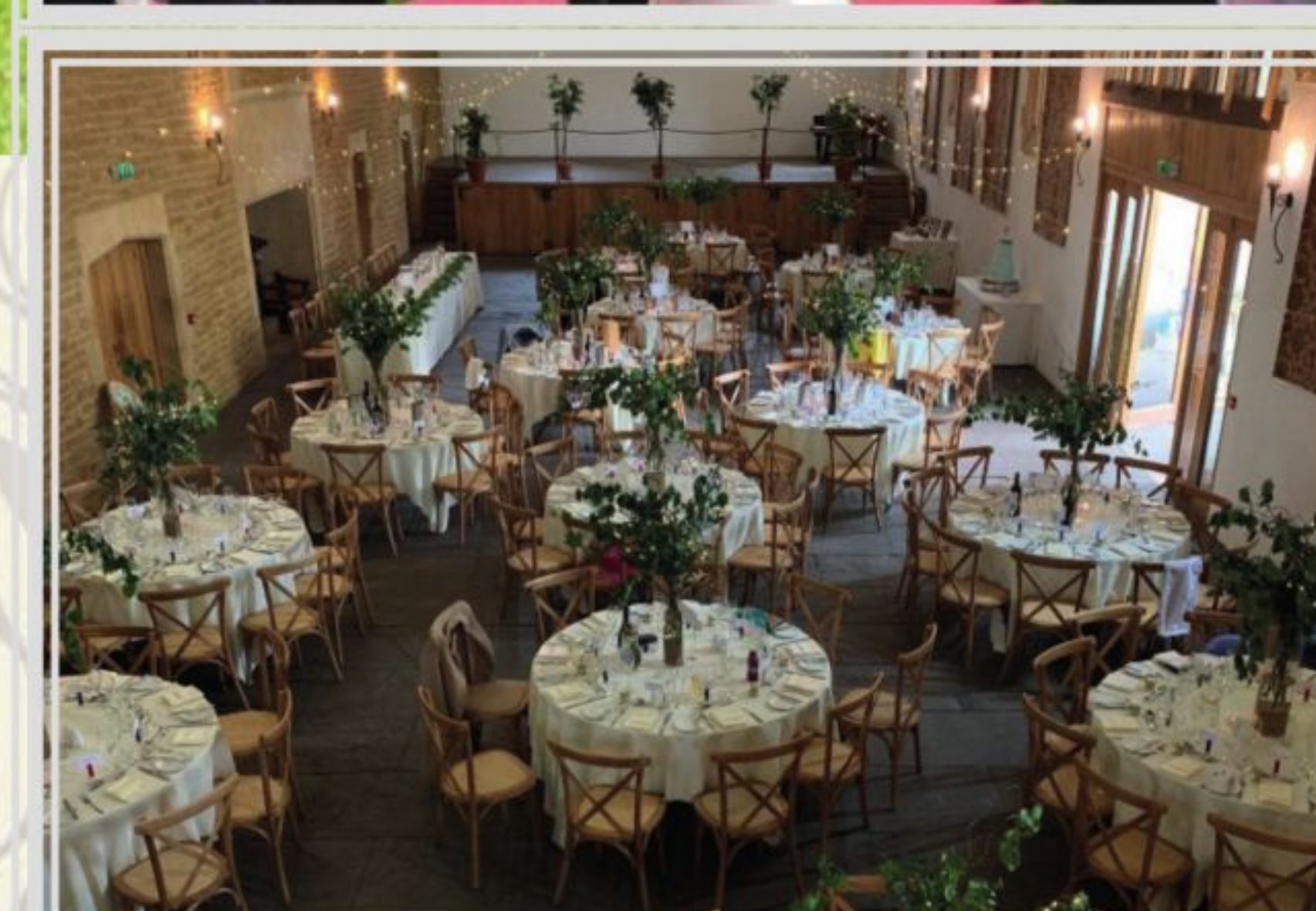
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THE ROYAL HOTEL

01934 423 100 | royalhotelweston.com

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

This charismatic Georgian hotel is centrally located in the seaside town of Weston-super-Mare and has been a familiar sight there since 1810. Set within its own private grounds, it boasts superb views of the promenade, pier and Welsh coast and is a short walk from the town's attractions. Inside, the hotel is luxuriously appointed with neutral décor that can be dressed to suit any taste.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Weddings are held in the Birnbeck Suite (150 guests). Recently refitted, there are large bay windows providing beautiful seafront vistas.

WE LOVE...

Weddings include a complimentary bridal suite for the wedding night, and there's also an on-site hair and beauty salon.



YARLINGTON BARN

01278 751 401 | yarlingtonbarn.co.uk

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

In the heart of rural Somerset, Yarlington Barn is a family-run venue set on a cider farm. Nestled among apple orchards, woodland and lakes, the large outside terrace offers stunning vistas of the picturesque waterside setting. The grounds and rose-clad gazebo provide breathtaking year-round photo opportunities, whether in the frost of winter or the vibrant colours of summer.



LET'S CELEBRATE!

Inside, the barn has a welcoming, country feel, and it's fully licensed for ceremonies. Exposed beams, iron chandeliers and an unusual barrel bar reflect the cider farm's heritage.

The Ceremony Room (80 guests) is the perfect location in which to tie the knot. In the evening, 160 of the couple's nearest and dearest can enjoy a buffet or a hog roast before dancing the night away.

WE LOVE...

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Home IS WHERE THE heart is

Georgie and Matt planned a perfectly
personal celebration
Images courtesy of Hannah
Sharpe Photography



After meeting at university, Georgie and Matt were friends for a year before sparks started to fly. Georgie tells us, "The more time we spent together, the more we realised we had the same values, morals and sense of humour." It was when her best friend told Matt on a night out that Georgie had feelings for him that their relationship turned into something more.

Their friendship was clearly a great basis to start from, as it wasn't long before Matt was plucking up the courage to pop the question. "For my birthday treat, he arranged for us to go for dinner and see a show in Bristol, followed

by a stay at Hotel du Vin," Georgie says. "It was raining when we got to our room, so I couldn't understand why Matt was trying to get me to come outside on the balcony." Little did she know, there was a bottle of champagne, a huge bouquet of flowers and a very nervous man surrounded by fairy lights waiting for her. "I didn't want to get my hopes up," Georgie smiles. "Luckily for me, he proceeded to get a wet knee and asked me to marry him."

They decided to spread the celebrations out over the 22nd and 23rd March, 2019. We got all the details from Georgie...

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SETTING THE SCENE

The pair had an intimate ceremony at St Barnabas Church, Queen Camel, followed by a reception at the bride's family home the following day. "We're very family-orientated," Georgie explains. "We had a lovely marquee in the garden surrounded by fields and countryside."

They opted for a timeless champagne palette with vintage touches. "Our flowers were delicate and elegant," Georgie says. "We chose blooms that you don't usually expect to see as wedding flowers." The centrepieces were made from artificial floral rings and moss for a natural, earthy look. "Following our vintage theme, we used an old gold-framed mirror for our table plan," the bride says. "The table names were based on romantic meals we've had together all over Europe." They filled the venue with pretty touches such as organza sashes, flower garlands and jars filled with pillar candles. "I used old Yankee Candle jars for this," the bride says. "It gave an expensive look without the cost."

The couple struggled to decide on favours, in the end opting to give Facecards games to each guest. "It was a great ice-breaker," Georgie recalls. Guests were also treated to a delicious Moroccan sharing platter from Mark Country Catering (now Strawberry Line Tea Rooms). "It suited everyone's dietary requirements," Georgie says. "We simply wrote the menu on the back of the table name and specified what was safe for each guest to eat." After this, they enjoyed a simple and elegant cake from Dee's Cakes. "I'm coeliac so the gluten-free option was perfect," the bride tells us.

LOOKING THE PART

Georgie's beautiful dress was a family heirloom. "My grandmother wore it in 1959 followed by my aunty in 1993," she says. "With a few adjustments, I had the pleasure of bringing it back to life; it has such sentimental value." She completed the look with ivory satin shoes, her mother's tiara and a veil worn by both her mother and grandmother.

Matt, along with Georgie's brother, looked dashing in morning suits. "On the ceremony day, we had my maid-of-honour and the best man there," Georgie explains. "For the reception the following day our honorary bridesmaids and groomsmen all coordinated in navy."

HAPPY MEMORIES

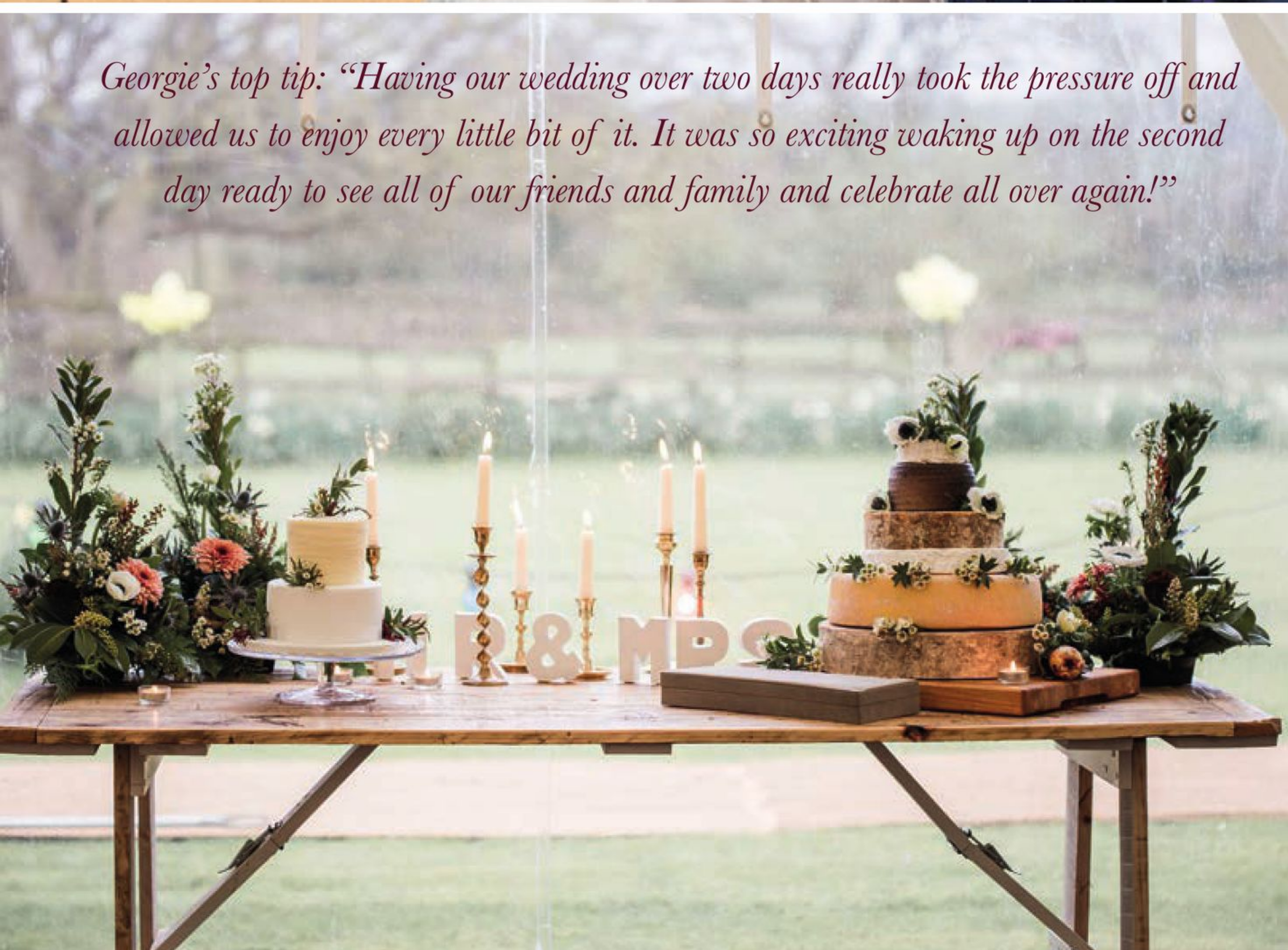
The bride and groom decided on a Celtic band called Head North to get the party going in the evening. "It was a little out of the ordinary but it created such an inviting atmosphere," Georgie says. "We loved that it was neutral to everyone and it got the dancefloor full!"

The couple are left with so many memories to treasure. "We particularly loved our walk up the hill immediately after the ceremony," the bride tells us. "It was our first hour as a married couple and we got to spend it together with just our photographer, Hannah, to capture some wonderful photos." There were some slightly more fraught moments too. "I arrived at the church without my veil," Georgie laughs. "My sister had to go into the church and get my cousin to drive home and collect it while we stalled the ceremony!"

It was a day full of love and laughter. "We were surprisingly relaxed!" the bride says. "It was such a pleasure to see so many happy faces in one place. Our friends and family stepped in whenever they could to help, which made us feel so loved."



Georgie's top tip: "Having our wedding over two days really took the pressure off and allowed us to enjoy every little bit of it. It was so exciting waking up on the second day ready to see all of our friends and family and celebrate all over again!"

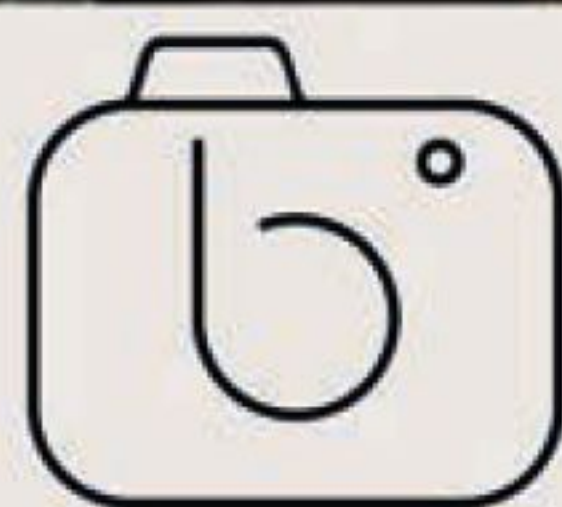


CLOSING CREDITS

Marquee | themarqueehirecompany.com
Photographer | hannahsharpe.co.uk
Bride's dress alterations | [!\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064_img.jpg\) Bespoke by Summer Mai](#)
Hair and make-up | amy-elizabeth.com
Menswear | slaters.co.uk
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MAKING waves

All aboard for Taya and Lloyd's wedding at Glassboat Brasserie

Images courtesy of Image Paradise



Taya and Lloyd knew each other through a group of online gaming friends but had never actually met face to face. It was when Taya took a job in the South West that the opportunity arose. "I was looking for accommodation and Lloyd offered a spare room where he lived until I found somewhere more permanent," she explains. "Safe to say, I never moved out!"

Lloyd fell for Taya's strength and loving character, while Taya was attracted to his genuine, kind and humble nature. The two made the perfect pair, and it wasn't long before Lloyd got down on one knee while they were on holiday in Barbados.

Back home, the couple got to work planning their dream day for 8th October, 2018. Taya continues the story...



We'd been to Glassboat Brasserie for lunch before and we loved its peaceful and beautiful location in central Bristol. As we've always enjoyed the food, we knew it was the ideal venue for us.



We opted for a teal colour scheme and chose our local florist, The Red Flower Barrow, to provide our flowers. They were great, using my favourite blooms and working within our budget to create lovely displays. I bought some extra flowers from them that I arranged in decorated glass bottles.



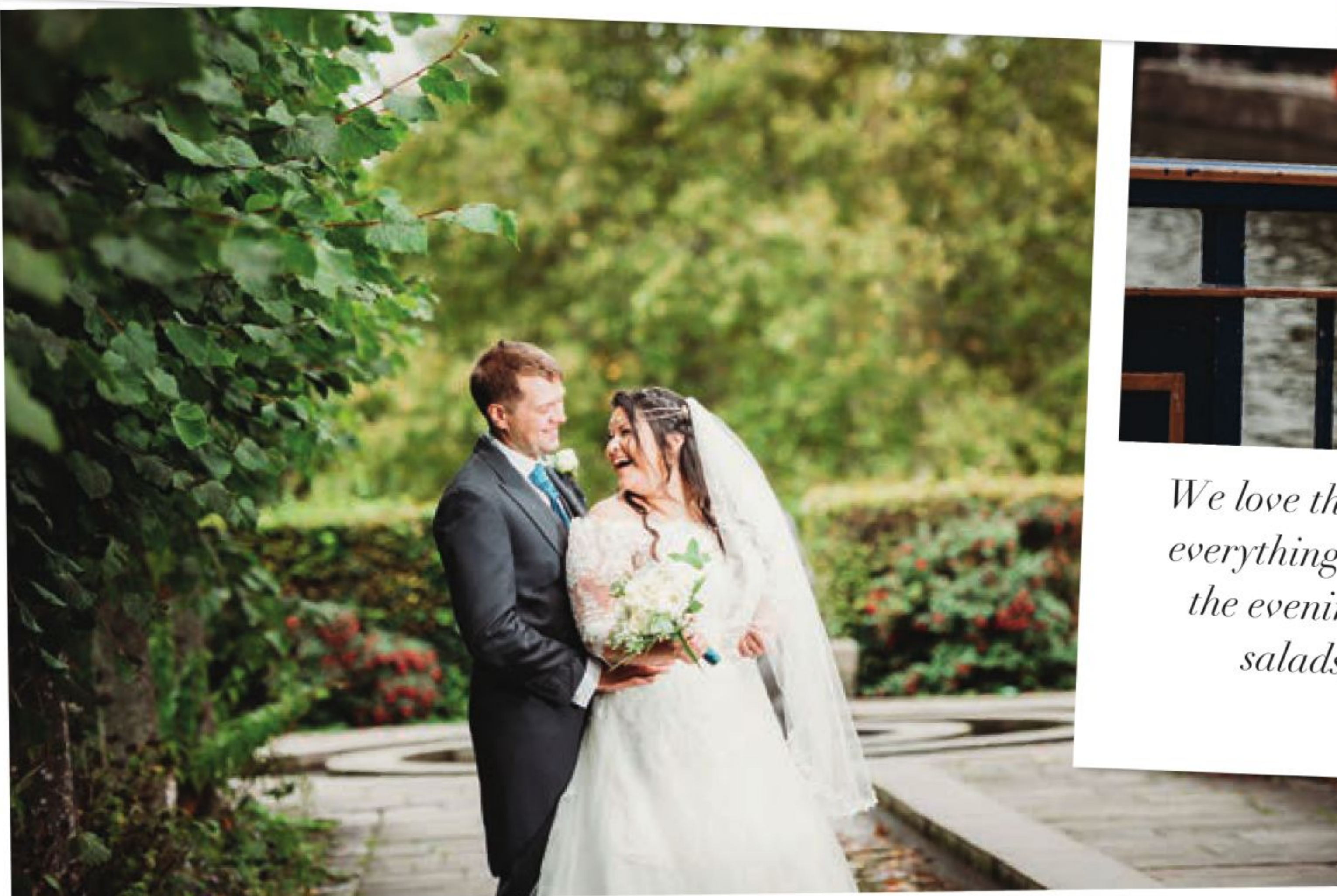
Our amazing cake was from a small local bakery called Ahh Toots in St Nicholas Market. All of its bakes are homemade with a mix of delicious flavours, and they can cater for different dietary requirements. We had a tier of lemon and courgette and a tier of devil's food chocolate cake.



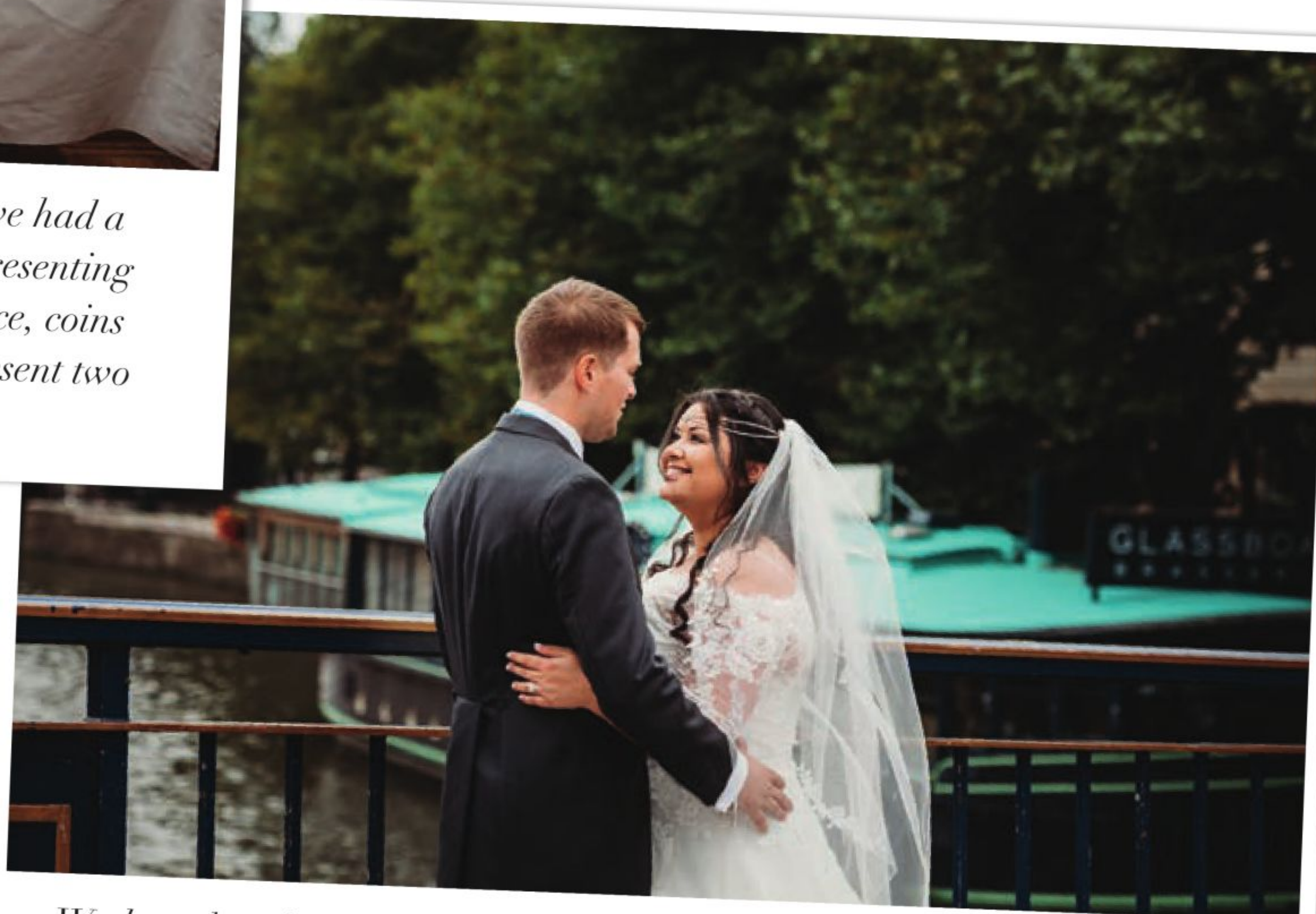
For a personal touch we included a hand-written message to each guest on their place card. We named our tables Stormwind, Darnassus, Ironforge and Exodar; these are place names from the online game that we met on.



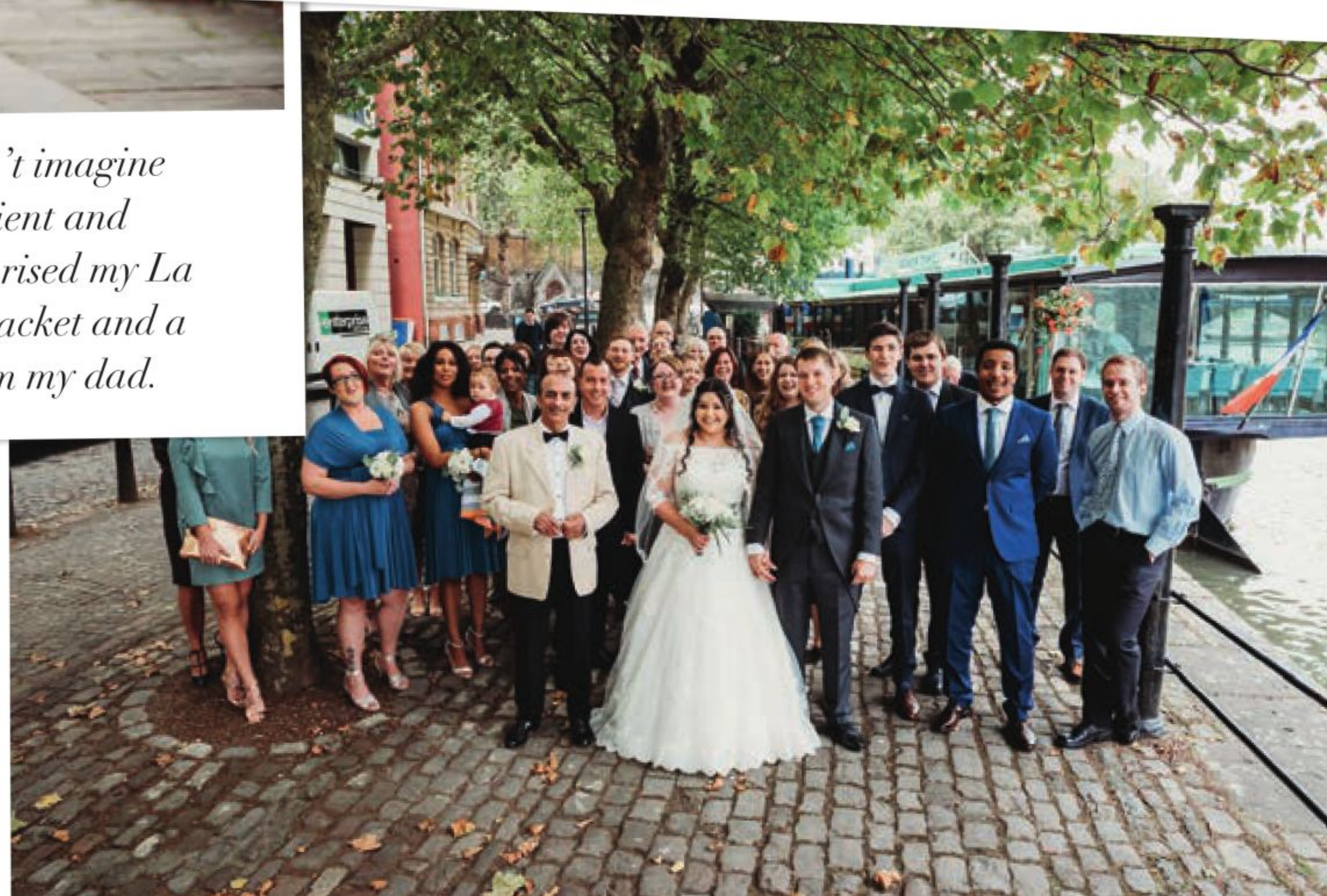
We wanted to show some of my Persian heritage in the day so we had a sofreh aghd – a Persian table tradition. It includes elements representing the bride and groom such as eggs for fertility, fruit for abundance, coins for prosperity, candles for light and a needle and thread to represent two becoming one.



From the first time I met Jan from Bride at Home I couldn't imagine anyone else being in charge of my dress. She was so patient and knowledgeable and nothing was too much trouble. I accessorised my La Sposa White One dress with a beautiful lace embroidered jacket and a pearl headpiece from Donna Crain, which was a gift from my dad.



We love that the venue uses sustainable, local and seasonal ingredients so everything was fresh and delicious for our wedding breakfast. Similarly, the evening buffet was not your average reception food! We had tarts, salads, meats and breads – it totally exceeded our expectations.



Lloyd looked amazing in a grey tailcoat with teal accessories, while my best girls rocked multiway dresses. It was great having such versatile styles – they looked gorgeous.



On our RSVPs we asked our guests to suggest a song that gets them on the dancefloor, which our DJ played in the evening. It was so nice to see everyone enjoying the music and we got a great mix of tunes.



We were both incredibly nervous in the morning after a night apart, but once we saw each other at the ceremony the nerves evaporated. We loved having our couple portraits taken so we could have some downtime and reflect on how brilliantly everything had come together.



The wedding was so special, with lots of our friends flying in from other countries to be there. It couldn't have gone better, and all the little things we worried about worked out so well.



CLOSING CREDITS

Venue and catering | glassboat.co.uk

Photographer | imageparadise.com

Bride's dress | brideathome.co.uk

Headpiece | donnacrain.com

Hair | staceyjade.co.uk

Make-up | jordansmithmakeup.co.uk

Bridesmaids' dresses | inoneclothing.com

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Wedding Breakfast

dorset brown crab & watercress salad
guinea fowl & herb terrine, pickles, toasted sourdough
slow cooked onion, washed rind cream & walnut crumb
wild garlic soup, crème fraiche, sourdough crouton

roast pork loin, braised cannellini beans, cavolo nero
slow cooked trout, leek, spring peas, sorrel
roasted squash, sof polenta, spinach, feta & hazelnut
confit lamb, Jerusalem artichoke, spring vegetable soffritto

goats milk panna cotta, rhubarb, gingerbread
burnt custard cream, citrus salad
dark chocolate mousse, black currant meringue
local farmhouse cheese, seeded crackers
sorbet, citrus salad

*Please note sample- menus are seasonal and therefore subject to change.

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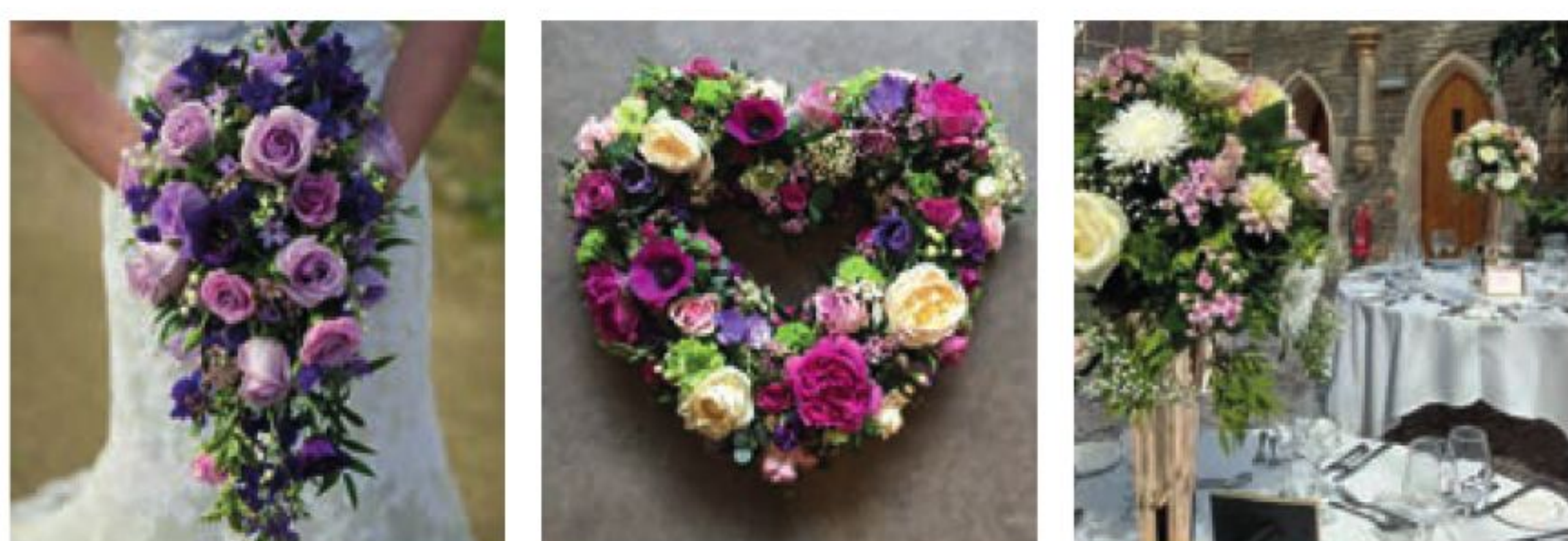


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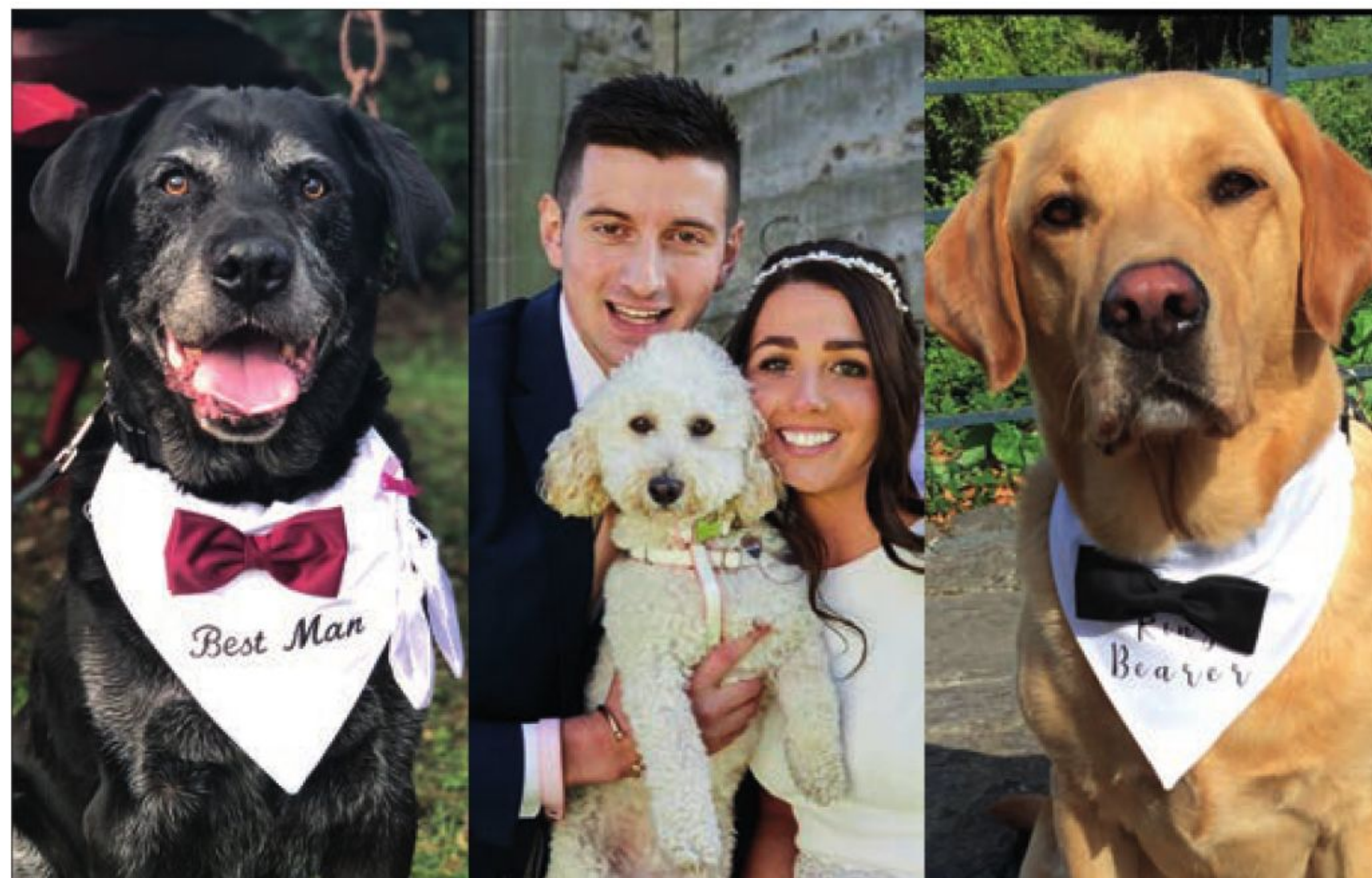
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Kayleigh and Luke met in the most modern of ways – on Tinder! They were messaging for weeks before deciding to have their first date at Il Michelangelo on Weston's seafront. "After the meal, we went for a nice walk and had our first kiss," Kayleigh remembers. "There was a spark from day one and we planned our second date to the aquarium just two days later."

The couple talked about marriage from early on in their relationship. With a trip to Cornwall coming up, Luke started planning how to pop the question. "It was a wonderful day walking around the coast and through the woods," Kayleigh says. "Then we had a lovely meal at our hotel where Luke got down on one knee!" Through the tears, Kayleigh managed to say "yes", and they celebrated with a bottle of champagne.

The pair set the date for 6th July, 2019, at Batch Country House. We caught up with Kayleigh to find out more...

A romantic wedding photograph of a bride and groom. The groom, with dark hair and a beard, is wearing a grey suit and is kissing the bride on the forehead. The bride has blonde hair styled in an updo with a veil and is wearing a white lace wedding dress. They are standing outdoors with green foliage in the background. In the foreground, there are large, vibrant pink flowers that are slightly out of focus.

Pretty IN PINK

Batch Country House was a dreamy backdrop for Kayleigh and Luke's big day

Images courtesy of Shutter Bliss Photography



We fell in love with Batch Country House. We adored the beautiful garden, stunning ceremony space and evening room; we could imagine ourselves getting married there the moment we stepped inside.



We had a pretty pink palette for our flowers. The centrepieces were fresh lilies provided by the venue.



Our cake was an amazing five-tier creation in blush pink with intricate white rose detailing.



The colour scheme ran through the table plan and place names. For favours we treated our loved ones to handmade candles we found on Etsy.





I wore a Pronovias gown from So Gorgeous Bridal, which was only the second dress I tried on! I couldn't stop crying when I put it on so I knew it was *the one*. The mermaid-style cut, illusion top and sparkles were exactly what I wanted and my long veil completed the look perfectly.



The men looked handsome in grey suits with pink ties. They coordinated brilliantly with the bridesmaids in their full-length gowns.





There was a pianist who performed a variety of tunes to keep our friends and family entertained during the day. In the evening, a DJ took over and got everyone on their feet.



We felt totally loved up on the day and couldn't keep our eyes off each other. Hazel, the wedding coordinator from the venue, was brilliant and made everything run so smoothly. We wish we could re-live it every day.



Luke wrote and sang two songs for the day: our first dance song and my bridal entrance music. It was so special and personal.

CLOSING CREDITS

Venue and catering | batchcountryhouse.co.uk

Photographer | shutterbliss.co.uk

Bride's dress | sogorgeousbridal.co.uk

Bride's accessories | laceandfavour.com

Hair and make-up | thebeautyspotshop.net

Bridesmaids' dresses | dorothyperkins.com

Menswear | sogorgeousbridal.co.uk

Cake and flowers | facebook.com/creative.cakes1

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TRADITIONAL.

From three-course silver service to a classic sit-down feast...

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

Check out this timeless menu from Cleverchefs:

TO START.

Pan-seared scallop, crispy pork crackling, breaded cod's cheek bon bon, cauliflower cheese puree and apple gel.

THE MAIN EVENT.

Smoked cannon of Welsh lamb, potato tuile, warm potato foam, port confit salsify, rock samphire, spiced carrot purée and jus.

TO FINISH.

Dark chocolate and almond tart with raspberry milk ice cream, raspberry sherbert and a liquid Battenberg shot.



tobooka.co.uk



Tobooka suggest these delicious options:

TO START.

Smoked mackerel pâté with pickled fennel
King prawn cocktail
Farmhouse pâté and mixed salad
Blue cheese and walnut stuffed mushrooms
Roasted root vegetable soup with cheese straws

MAIN COURSES

Gammon steak with pineapple chutney and sweet potato wedges
Slow roasted lamb with crushed potatoes, green beans and caramelised onions
Rib eye steak with peppercorn sauce, portobello mushroom and hand-cut chips
Luxury individual fish pies with watercress salad
Brie, cranberry and mushroom wellington with seasonal vegetables

DESSERT

Eton mess with clotted cream and berries
Sticky toffee pudding served with vanilla ice cream
A selection of local cheeses served with caramelised red onion chutney, grapes and crackers

Don't forget to have an expert pair your wine to your dishes for added wow factor.

RELAXED.

From sociable grazing platters to easy bowl food...

Cleverchefs pair all of these delicious starters in a picnic hamper to share with your guests: runny scotch eggs, homemade pork pies, lamb koftas with rose petal yoghurt, homemade sourdough bread, the perfect parfait, chutneys, salads and smoked hummus. Vegan and vegetarian options are also available!



Tobooka's grazing menu is a drool-worthy selection of artisan meats and cheeses, freshly made breads, marinated olives, sun-dried tomatoes and gherkins and pâté alongside a plethora of fruit, vegetables, nuts, crackers and delicious dips.

tobooka.co.uk



tobooka.co.uk

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



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



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



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

Strawberry Line Tea Rooms in Winscombe can provide a quintessentially English afternoon tea for weddings with amazing cakes and sandwiches served on pretty china.



For a little theatre, Cleverchefs can provide a carvery with crispy loin of Gloucestershire Old Spot pork with a sticky cider and rosemary glaze, pulled pork, celeriac and potato gratin, salt-baked heritage beetroot and pan-roasted pak choi with a sticky miso jus. This is followed by a dessert station brimming with homemade desserts such as gooey brownie, mini lemon meringue pie and cherry cheesecake cornettos!



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Roasted tomato and aubergine dhal

Red lentils cooked with roasted tomatoes, aubergines, turmeric and cumin.

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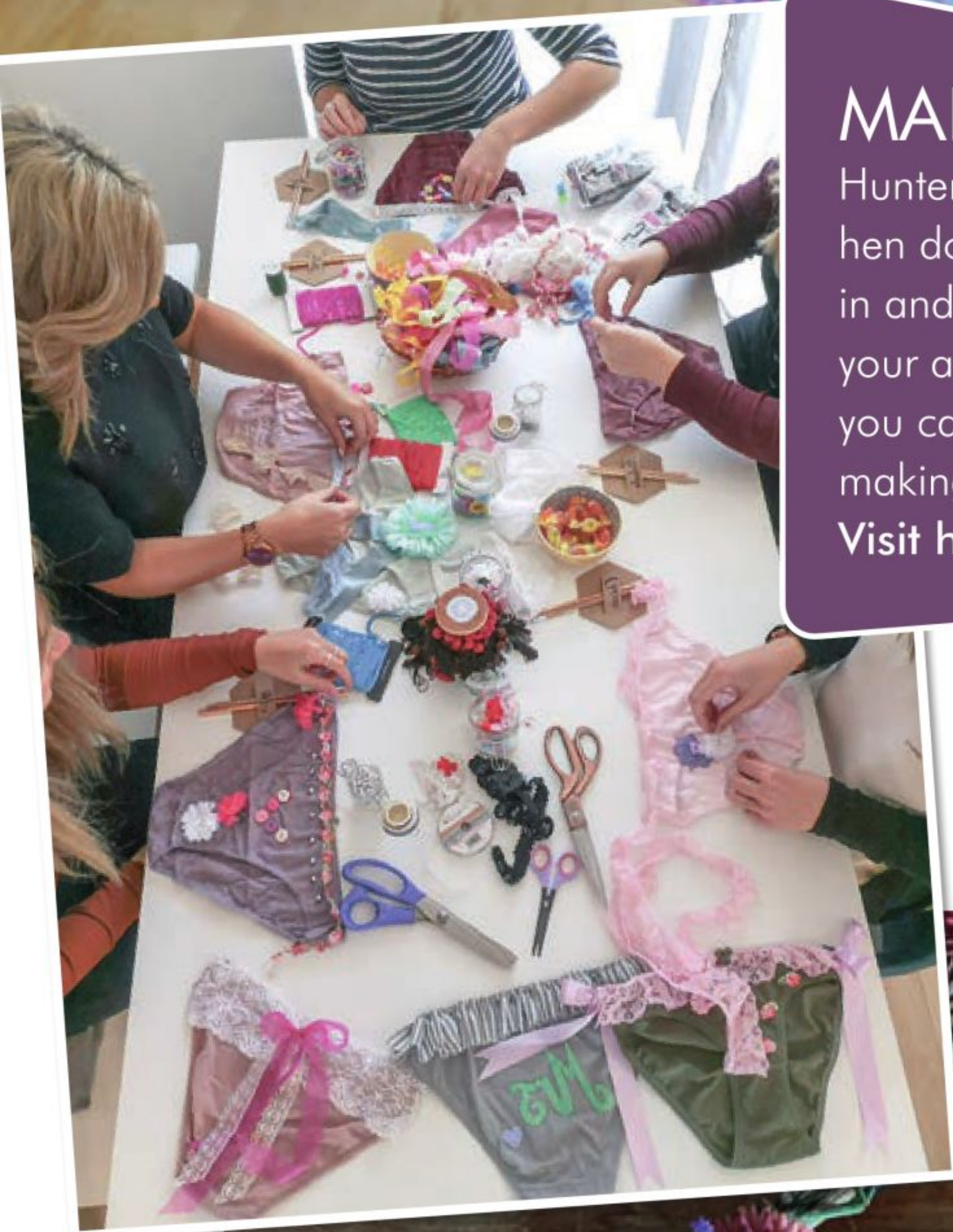
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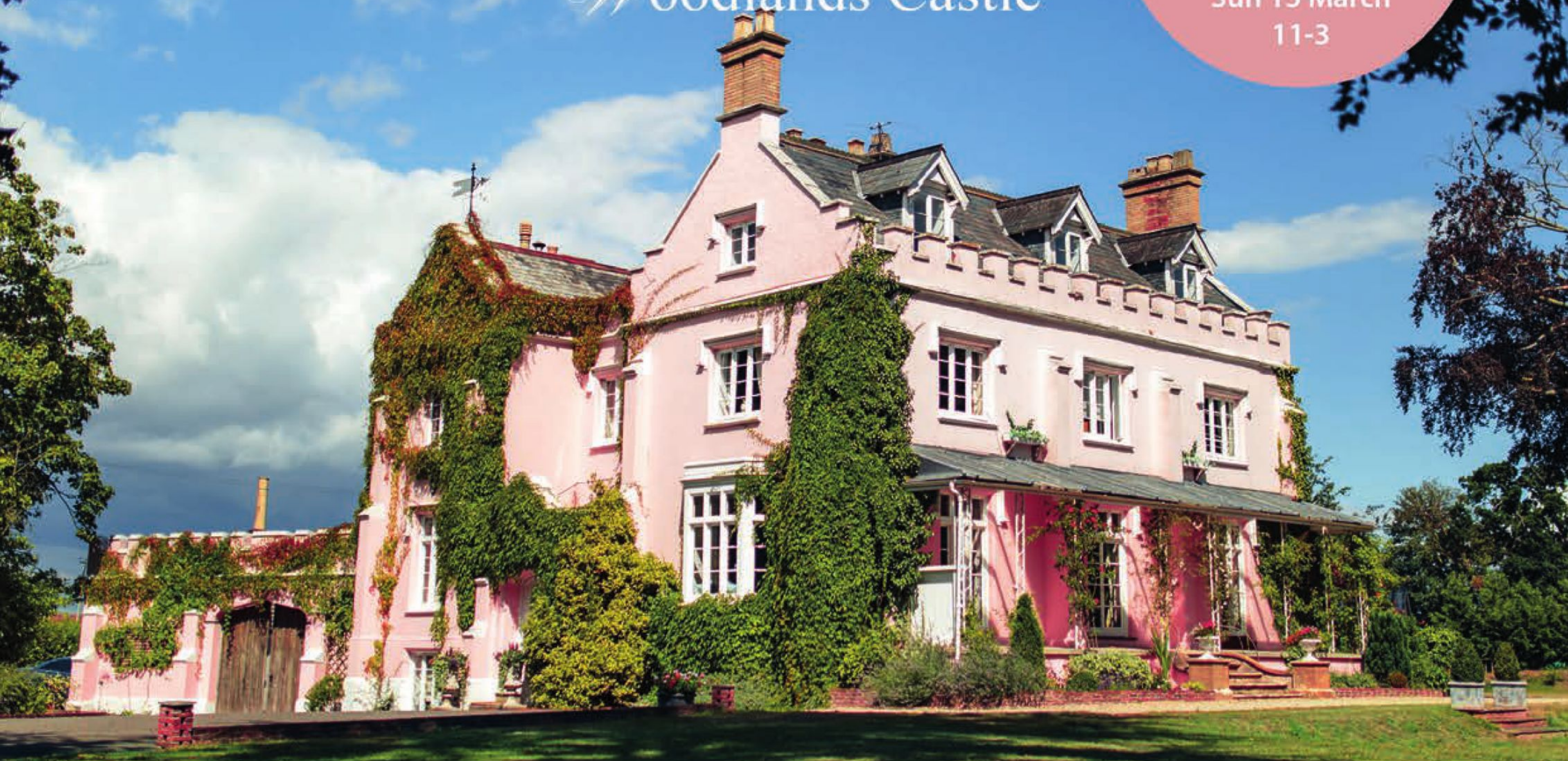
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The *art* of romance

This photo shoot takes its creative inspiration from the Dutch masters

Images courtesy of Venetia Norrington Photography

This deeply romantic styled shoot credits its artistic direction to the masters of Dutch painting. Rich florals in pinks and greens are accented with atmospheric dark candles, while metallic elements add a luxurious touch. At the centre is a bride in a dreamy gown paired with a showstopping sequinned jacket. Everything has an opulent, high-end feel thanks to the talents of the creative team behind it. Enjoy!







CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS SHOOT:

Photography | venetianorrrington.com
Shoot coordinator | hanasnow.co.uk
Bridalwear | themewsclyfton.co.uk
Accessories | hermioneharbutt.com
Jewellery | nicholaswylde.com
Hair | hobbs-style.co.uk
Make-up | ninanorman.co.uk
Menswear | menshire.co.uk
Cake | thisisanna.co.uk
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Gift it

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



Editor's favourite

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



Stylish maids

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

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



BEST FOOT FORWARD

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



Fashion focus

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

NAME IT

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

Melanie



PICK YOUR OWN

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

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

EDITOR'S PICK

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



What lies beneath

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

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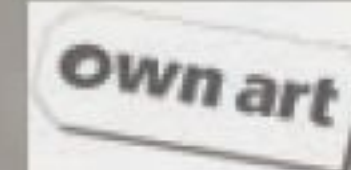


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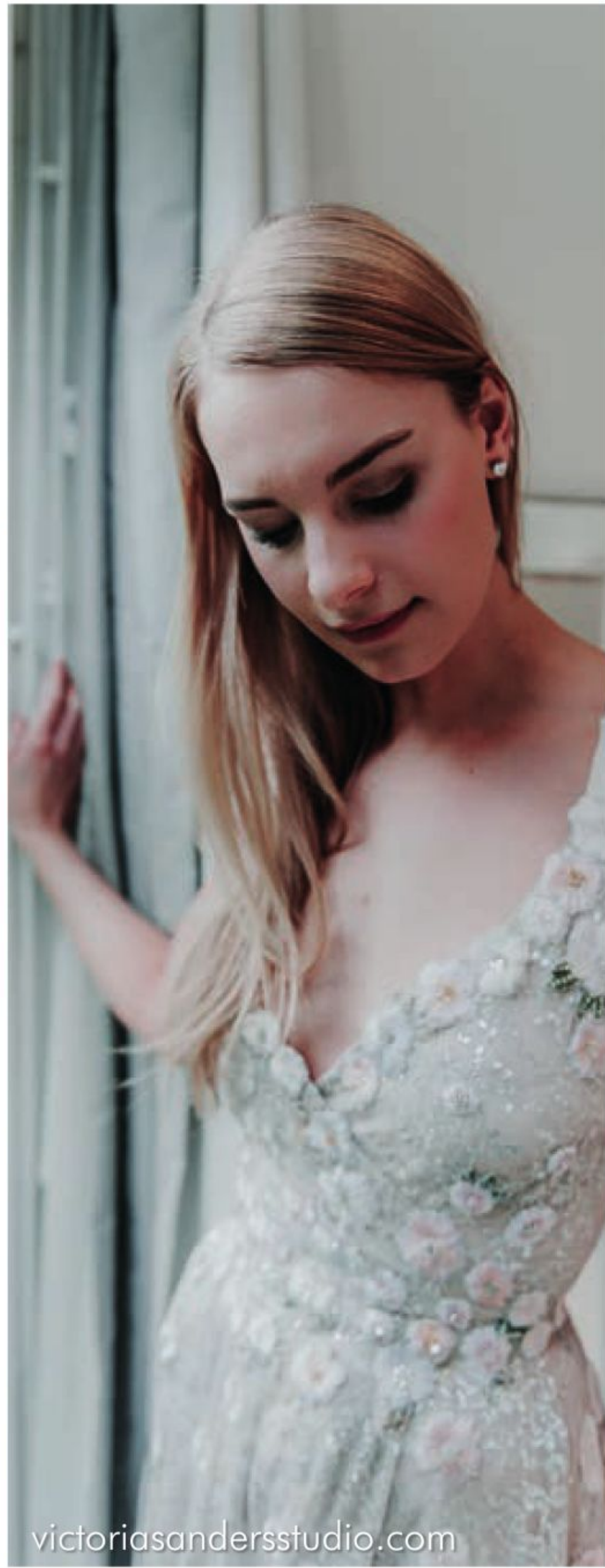


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Dare To BARE

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





Green amethyst
pendant necklace,
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monicavinader.com



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



Rainbow pastel clutch bag,
£40, dunelondon.com

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



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



Pink scarf, £95,
marc-cain.com



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

Wedding guests will love this
season's sweet selection of
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Powder blue off-the-shoulder dress,
£195, theprettydresscompany.com



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Into the blue

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two-piece, £370,
graceloveslace.com



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



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



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



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



10/10

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



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

Danielle x

Danielle Harvey, beauty editor



Brush it off

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

BEAUTY BUZZ



THE FACE HAS IT

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

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

HONEY, HONEY

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



PERFECTLY BAKED

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

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

MIGHTY MULTITASKING

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



BE KIND

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

♥ BRIGHTEN

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

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

♥ HYDRATE

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

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

♥ CALM & SOOTHE

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

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

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

GOING GREEN

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

DAY TO NIGHT

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

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

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

SAVING PLANET EARTH

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

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

BRONZED BEAUTY

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

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

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



ABSOLUTELY FLAWLESS

I don't wear a lot of make-up normally. How do I create a perfect big-day look while still feeling like me?

Even if you're not confident with make-up, it doesn't mean it should cause you any stress. Great skin will always show off your beauty look to its best, so follow a daily cleansing routine and include regular exfoliation.

On the day, start with a Smashbox or Estée Lauder primer, followed by a long-lasting foundation such as Estée Lauder Double Wear mixed with a tinted moisturiser or cream highlighter for a radiant appearance. Apply in minimal layers and buff each one – try The Body Shop brushes for brilliant quality and price. Add concealer, then dust with translucent powder before using a cream blusher on the apple of the cheek with light contouring and a touch of highlighter.

For the eyes, think neutral or pale pink tones; the Naked Palette by Urban Decay works every time! Next, add natural lash extensions or several fine coats of waterproof mascara. Lightly smudge eyeliner into the lash line and finish with a soft shadow blended under the eye for a subtle, romantic feel.

Choose a natural lip colour and add a dab of gloss to the centre to make your lips pop. Finally, set everything with a finishing spray.

Jane Dare | Eye Do Makeup | eyedomakeup.co.uk



FIX UP, LOOK SHARP

My husband-to-be is very fashion conscious. What new trends and styles will get him looking dapper?

The brilliant *Peaky Blinders* is still a huge menswear influence for 2020. Think tweeds, checks and mix-and-match waistcoats. For a classic option, try opting for a traditional tweed base colour in brown, green or navy or make it playful in a brightly coloured overcheck. A contrast-colour waistcoat underneath finishes the look and provides a change of pace for the evening reception. This style is perfect for the whole party as multiple shades give flexibility when choosing outfits to appeal to everyone. We offer a variety of suits in slim, regular and tailored fits so the whole party looks and feels great.

Accessories are coming to the forefront of groom's dressing from the classic tie, cravat or pocket square to the bolder pocket watch, tie pin and baker-boy cap. All these will add that Thomas Shelby vibe.

**Charlotte Jackson | Suit Direct
suitdirect.co.uk**



THE ONE THAT I WANT

There are so many make-up artists to choose from. How do I find the person that's right for me?

I believe the most valuable way of searching for a great make-up artist is through word of mouth from someone you trust. The likelihood is if they rate them, you will too! I'd also suggest talking to artists at any wedding shows or venue open days you go to in order to not only get a feel for their work but also how you get on with them personally. Your chosen expert will be working very closely with you and getting you ready on the most important day of your life, so it's important to be relaxed in their company.

I would have a good search online and in magazines; social media is also a good way to scan through portfolios. Finally, I'd suggest taking a look on The Wedding Industry Awards website to find the best suppliers in your area. After winning two awards myself, I've found it gives brides the accreditation to prove that I can provide a first-class service.

Jessica Mills | Jessica Mills Make-Up | jessicamillsmakeup.co.uk



Nature's Kitchen Super Protein Skin Boosting Anti-Ageing Moisturiser, £26.99, Lovelula.com

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

– **Melissa Barker**



TRIED AND TESTED

Babe Night, £28, missguided.com

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

– **Danielle Harvey**



Marble Luxe 9-Piece Make-up Brush Set Black & Gold, £45, lilyengland.com

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

– **Kelly Andrews**



Coco & Eve Sunny Honey Bali Bronzing Foam, £29.90, from uk.cocoandeve.com

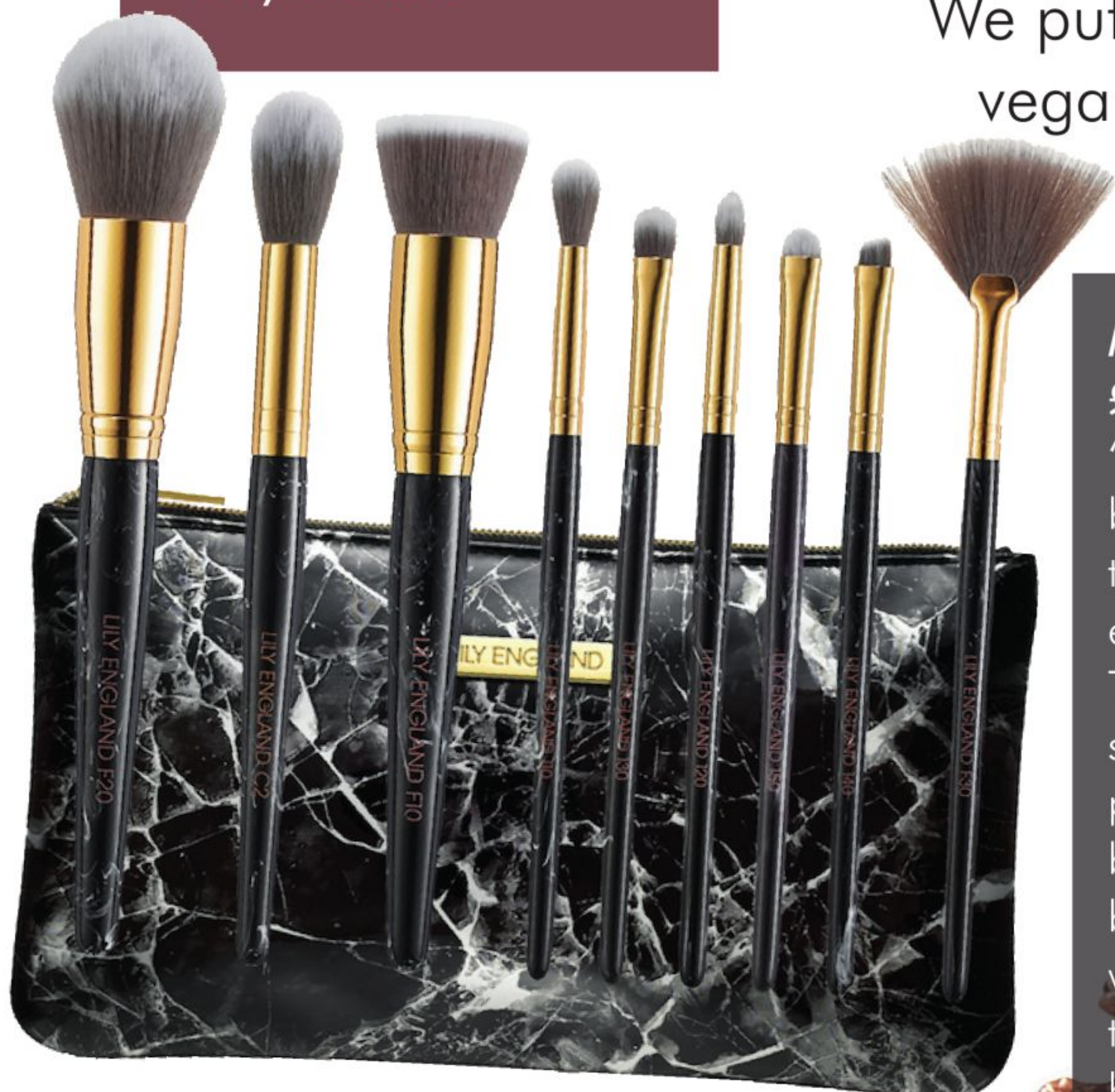
"I love Coco & Eve's iconic hair mask as it does wonders for my locks, so I was intrigued to see if my skin would get the same nourishing treatment with its new bronzing foam. It adheres to its vegan ideals and is packed with lovely natural ingredients. The foam is lightweight and easy to apply with the rather luxurious velvety mitt. It develops in two hours and leaves your skin with an almost airbrushed look thanks to its Cellushape™ formula, which promises to hydrate and firm the skin. The thing I don't like about normal fake tan is

that tell-tale biscuity smell, but the summery mango and guava scent of this product means no one will know your secret."

– **Hannah Faulder**

SEAL OF APPROVAL

We put to the test the latest
vegan-friendly products



MUA Essential Eyeshadow, Ember, £1.50, muastore.co.uk

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

– **Olivia Gibson**

Kimberly Sayer Cellular Extract Eye Lift Gel, £31.70, Lovelula.com

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

– **Sarah Reeve**



UP, UP and away



blossomandbonephotography.com

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

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

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

THE SILHOUETTE IS EVERYTHING

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



blossomandbonephotography.com

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

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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

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

CAREER HIGHS

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

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

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

TOP TIPS

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

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

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

GIRL POWER

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

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

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



Find out more at vickilordhair.com

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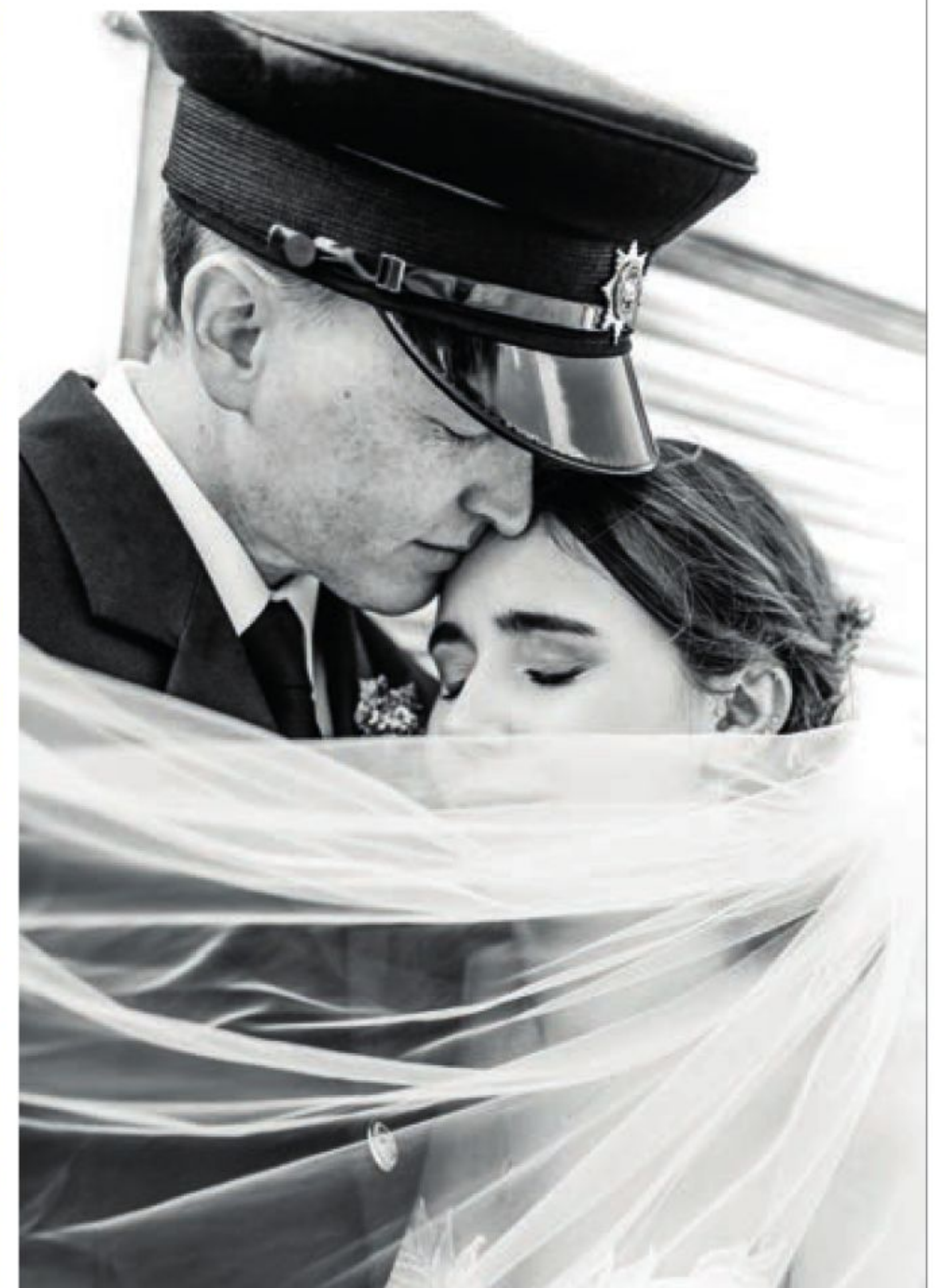
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Rebecca Casey

PHOTOGRAPHY



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PURPLE REIGN

A collaborative shoot showcasing this stunning shade
Images courtesy of Rebecca Casey Photography

With a brief to create a set of images that reflected nature but still packed a colourful punch, we love how these photos showcase dainty, feminine details revved up with the most fabulous purple palette. "Being the colour of royalty, purple is a very indulgent shade," planner Lauren of Lauren Alexander Weddings says. "Accented with gold details, vintage crockery and flickering candles we created an opulent feast for the eyes."

The backdrop of the Old Milking Parlour at Cavokay House was ideal; the blank-canvas space meant the super-talented local team could let their imaginations run wild. Everything was captured by Rebecca Casey Photography in her signature light and airy style, giving a whimsical edge to the shoot.







CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS SHOOT:

- Venue** | oldmilkingparlour.co.uk
- Photography** | rebeccacaseyphotography.co.uk
- Planner and stylist** | laurenalexanderweddings.com
- Bridalwear** | emmadee.co.uk
- Accessories** | [instagram.com/tobeadorned](https://www.instagram.com/tobeadorned)
- Hand-painted leather jacket** | opheliarose.co.uk
- Bridesmaids' dresses** | heartfeltvintage.co.uk
- Hair and make-up** | abbeyjavesmakeup.com
- Crockery, tableware and props** | loveslanevintagehire.com
- Cake** | daintybakes.co.uk
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- Stationery** | dottheatelier.co.uk
- Horse box bar** | thirstybuffalo.co.uk
- Catering** | pieminister.co.uk

KEEPING WATCH

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

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

Priced £499 from hourtime.co.uk



FROM THE WAIST UP

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

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



Read all ABOUT IT!

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



Showers forecast

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

From The Groomsmith collection these mini shower gels are certain to refresh and revive you, priced at £5, from marksandspencer.com



BEST FOOT FORWARD

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

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

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

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

Super hero

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

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





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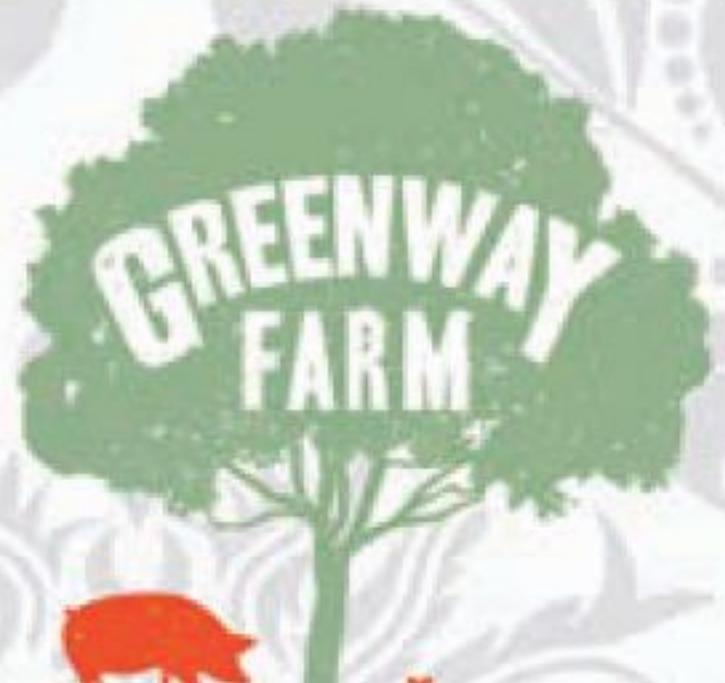

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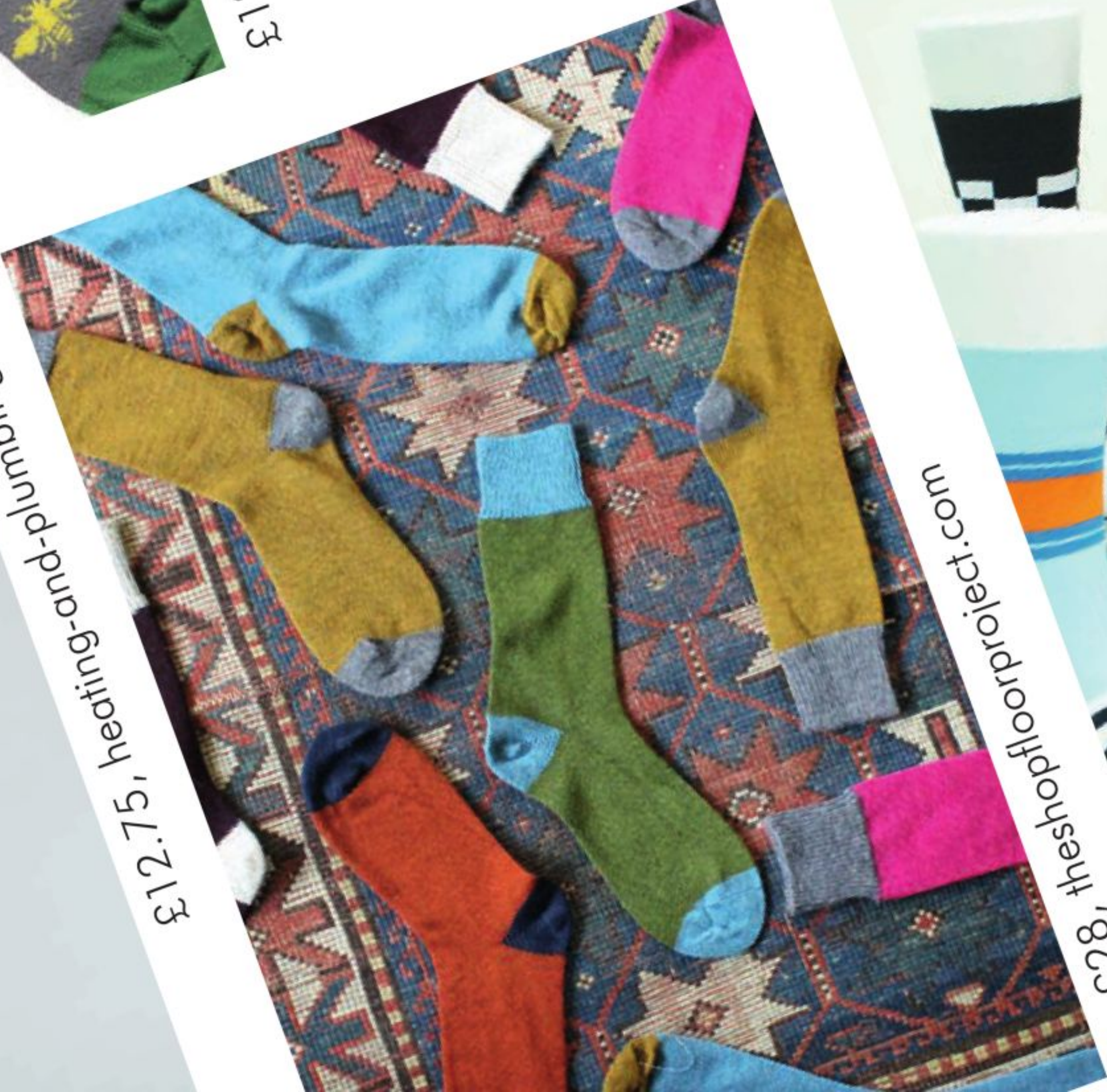
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BRITISH

BEST FOOT FORWARD

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

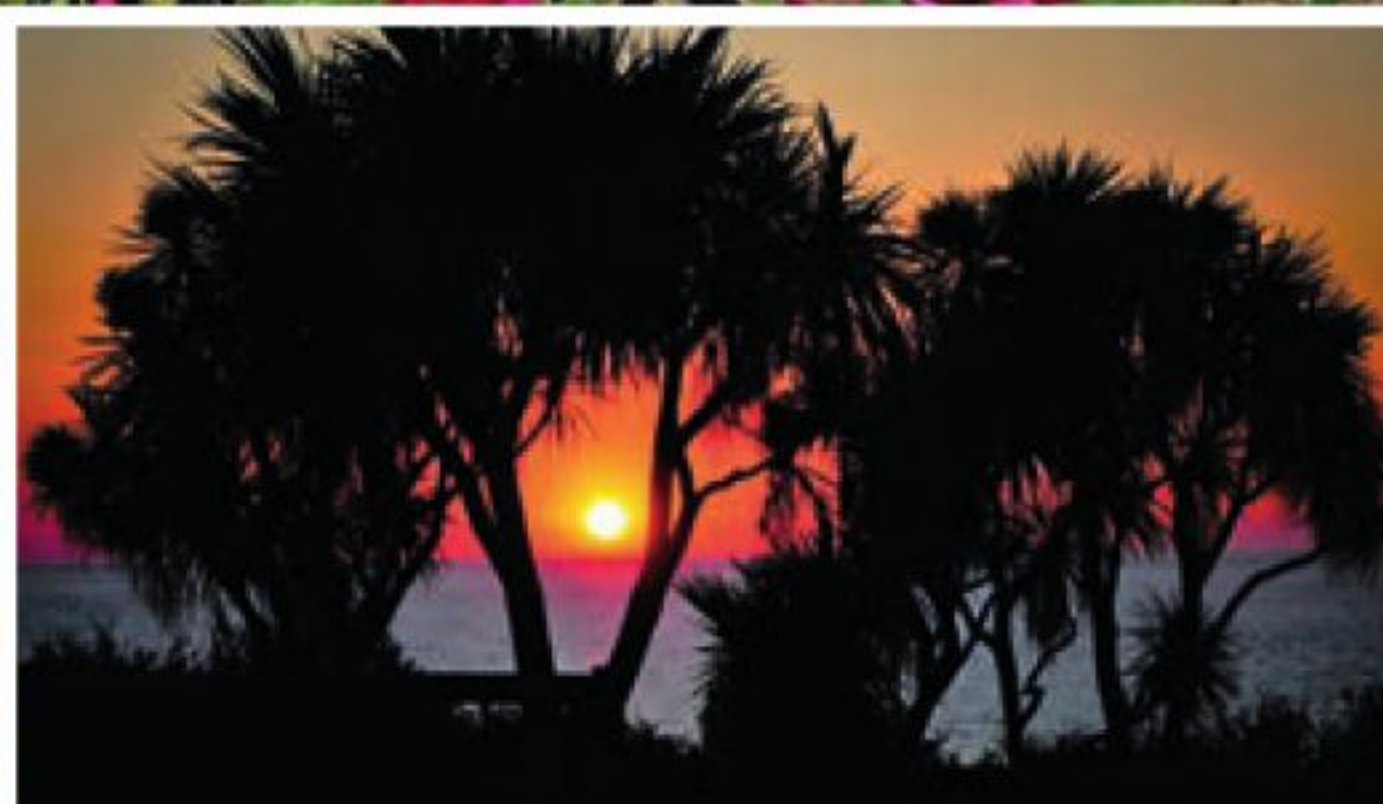
However, one of the most notable reasons to invest in a quality pair of shoes like these is that you'll be giving the groom and his groomsmen something they can cherish forever.

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

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HOT TOPIC

Our experts solve your dilemmas

SPRING INTO ACTION

Q We want a pretty springtime feel to our wedding. What flowers and styles would you suggest?

This season evokes pastel colour designs in a traditional style alongside soft linens, pinks, peaches and whites. Consider a beautiful hand-tied bouquet with white avalanche roses, cream and pink lisianthus and baby blue eucalyptus to finish.

For your centrepieces, I'd suggest tall, flowing arrangements with calla lily brasilica, eucalyptus cinerea, alstroemeria gigi cream and pistache foliage alongside cream amaranthus and David Austin Keira roses. Team this with long or short stem vases filled with pink peonies and white avalanche roses in the middle of the tables, which allows guests to chat and interact over dinner while admiring your gorgeous florals.

Anya Hutchinson | Flowers by Anya
flowersbyanya.co.uk

GREEN WITH ENVY

Q What new venue styling trends can we incorporate into our 2020 wedding?

Heading into 2020 with the fresh start of a new decade, we are becoming more conscious of our environment, and this awareness is being reflected in current wedding trends.

Keep it classical while bringing the outside in using a palette of sage green and white with accents of clear glass items. I also love vintage glassware as it gives an injection of colour to the table. Collect it yourself or hire it and embrace its eclectic nature with different sizes, textures and colours. Quite often handmade, it's a lovely nod to artisans of years gone by. It's a great idea to reuse and recycle products that we already have, making it current and helping to look after the planet at the same time.

Chloe Kennedy | Kennedy Events & Weddings
kennedyevents.co.uk





BOHEMIAN DREAM

Q We're going for a relaxed bohemian theme for our wedding but we don't know where to start with our flowers – what do you suggest?

We always emphasise the importance of making your day exactly what you dreamed of. Start off by creating an inspiration moodboard to home in on your colour palette and help you pull together all the boho styling and floral designs that catch your eye; this could be on Pinterest or a physical moodboard. Things to look out for would be table décor and entrance arrangements as well as bar and seating area props. You may want to consider suspended florals; these will create real wow factor when your guests first enter. Everything you choose should be influenced by your venue and the look you aspire to achieve.

Your moodboard should also contain varieties of flowers you love and what kind of bouquet you'd like. For example, what shape or size and what the greenery-to-floral ratio will be like. Taking into account your theme, I'd recommend our full foliage crowns for your bride tribe for a pinch of understated boho charm – they look incredible in photos!

Finally, think about a budget for your florals by clarifying what's important to you and your partner. This will help your florist to plan and give you the best outcome on your special day.

Jennifer Maynard | Parker and Peony Flowers | parkerandpeonyflowers.com

BE BOLD

Q We're having a bold and vibrant wedding. How can we inject this into our cake design?

A great way to add a pop of colour is to use sugar flowers to bring your cake to life. Any shade or type of bloom can be made so you're not tied into seasons. If the flowers are super-realistic, then it gives extra wow factor for your guests when they find out they're edible.

Another way to create a bold design is to opt for an unusual base colour such as black. This creates a dramatic look and gives a great contrast against bright flowers. You could also consider a gold abstract design to give a metallic touch or create texture with ruffles.

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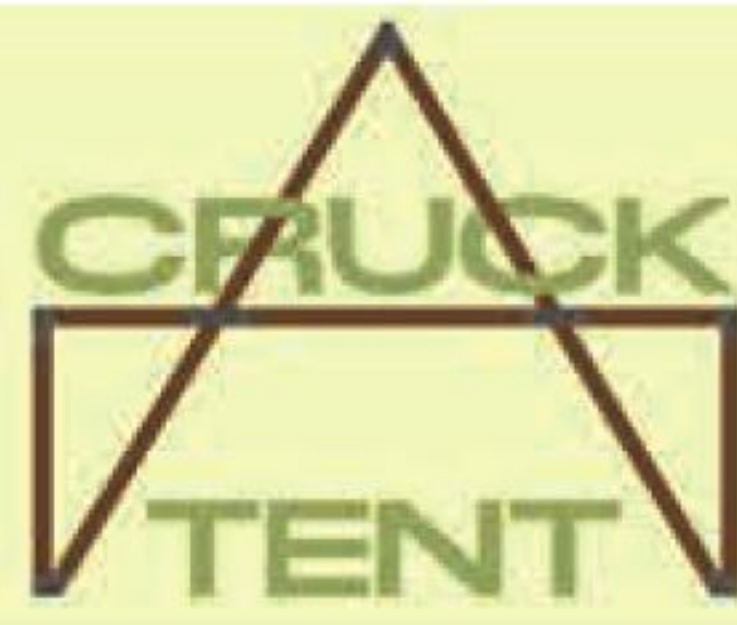
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The stunning Greek island of Rhodes is perfect for newlyweds seeking a relaxing getaway.

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

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

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

For further details about Lindos Village Resort & Spa, visit lindos-village.gr

YOUR CARRIAGE AWAITS

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

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

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

Sprat & Winkle is priced from £425 for three nights. To book, visit mulberrycottages.com

HONEYMOON *News*



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

BEACHSIDE BLISS IN ST LUCIA

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

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

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

Visit theromanticholiday.com to find out more



Bright ideas

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



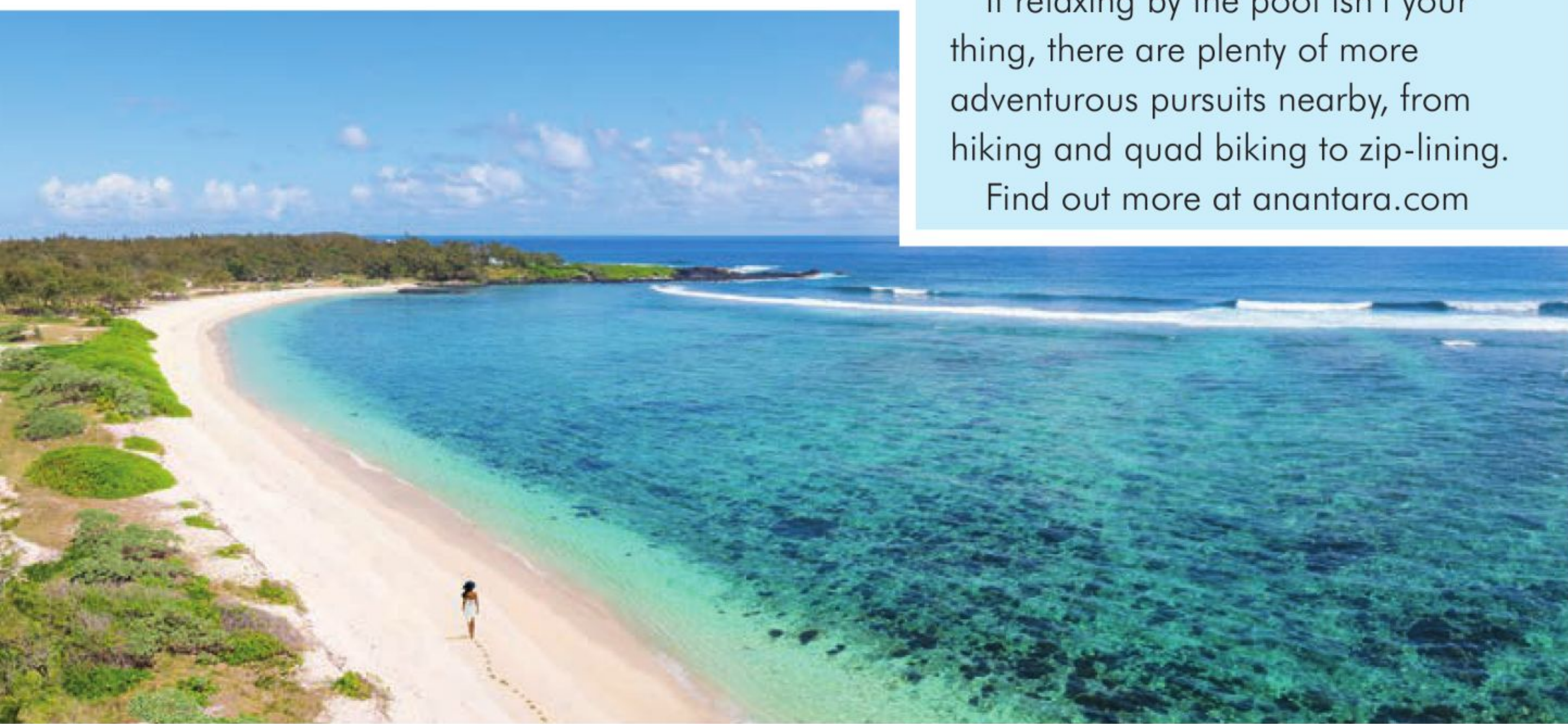
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

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

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

Find out more at blakeshotels.com/offers/behind-closed-doors



EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA

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

For further details visit hayesandjarvis.co.uk



TREAT YOURSELF

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

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

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

Find out more at anantara.com

KUONI'S TOP 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find out more at kuoni.co.uk



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ME, YOU AND THE FAMILY TOO

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



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

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

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

Reaching our elegant Penthouse Suite,

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

MY HIGHLIGHTS

♥ **A private boat charter**
llautsanfrancisco.com

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

♥ **Open-air yoga at Zen, Body & Mind**
zafirohotels.com

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

♥ **Wine tasting at Bodega Ribas**
bodegaribas.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Georgina Cassels was hosted by Zafiro Hotels and stayed in Zafiro Palace Hotel Alcúdia and Zafiro Palace Hotel Palmanova. For more information, visit zafirohotels.com



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SWISS MARVEL

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



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

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

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



COME DINE WITH ME

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

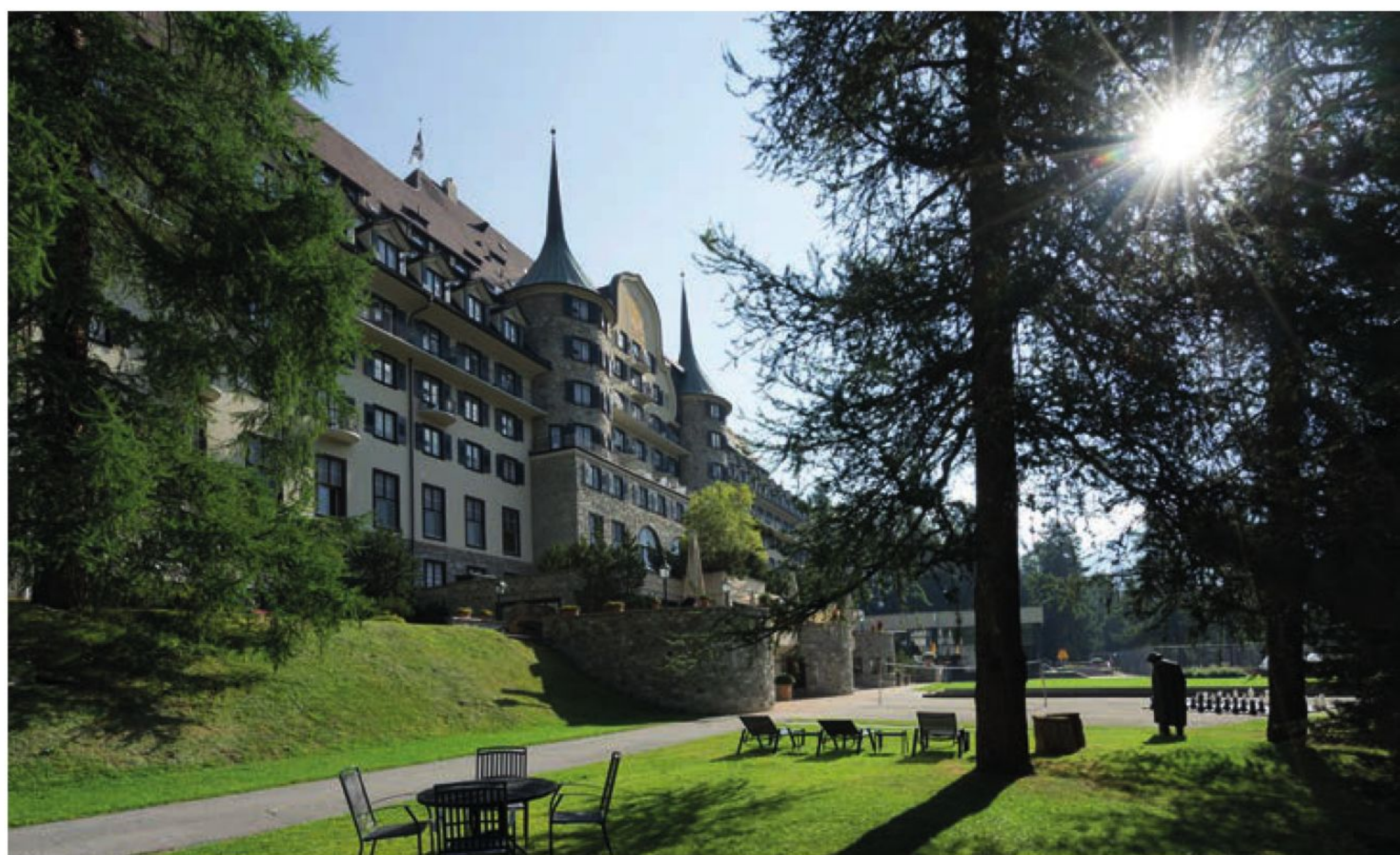
For me, however, the best meal of the entire trip was at Suvretta's Grand Restaurant, a breath taking room with incredible panelling, carved solid oak columns and elaborately decorated cassette ceiling. There I enjoyed a warm lobster salad with Amalfi lemon and green asparagus, followed by a saddle of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

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

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

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

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



BOOK IT

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

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SETTING *sail*

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

1

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

THE STUNNING SOUTH PACIFIC

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

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

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



2

BEAUTIFUL BORDEAUX

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

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

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

BREATHTAKING CANADA

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

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

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

WILDLIFE WATCHING IN THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

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

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

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

4

HONEYMOON

ENCHANTMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE

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

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

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

6

DISCOVER AUTHENTIC INDIA

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

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

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

7

5

WITNESS THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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