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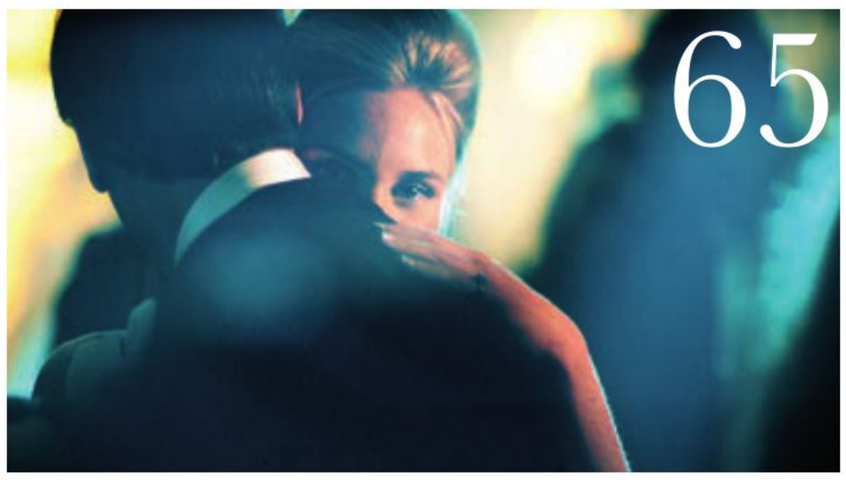

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EDITORIAL
01376 535 611
Georgina Cassels | **Editor**
georginac@county.wedding
Danielle Harvey | **Managing Editor**
Melissa Barker | **Grooms Editor**
Kelly Andrews | **Beauty Editor**
Hannah Faulder | **Honeymoon Editor**
Claire Ridley | **Fashion Editor**

DESIGN
01376 535 616
artwork@county.wedding
Graphic Designers
Sarah Hill | Stephanie Hodder
Vicky O'Connor | Sarah Young
Production Assistant | Lorna Butcher
Digital Marketing Coordinator
Katie Laley

Web Development Manager
Stuart Weatherley

ADVERTISING
Sales & Events Director
Sarah Ellis | 01376 538 490
sarahm@county.wedding
Account Manager
Karen Elrick | 01376 538 486
karene@county.wedding

Subscriptions
01376 514 000
subscriptions@county.wedding

ACCOUNTS
01376 535 616
accounts@county.wedding
Accounting Manager | Derrick James

@CountyWeddingMagazines
@CountyWeddings
@cwm_wedding

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kd EVENTS & PUBLISHING
cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

Bursting with big-day promise

As buds burst into blossom and us Londoners peel off the layers, there's much to see and do in the capital. Indeed, this issue, we've been touring some of the best venues from east and west – turn to page 25 to read about the newest spaces from Newham to Ealing.

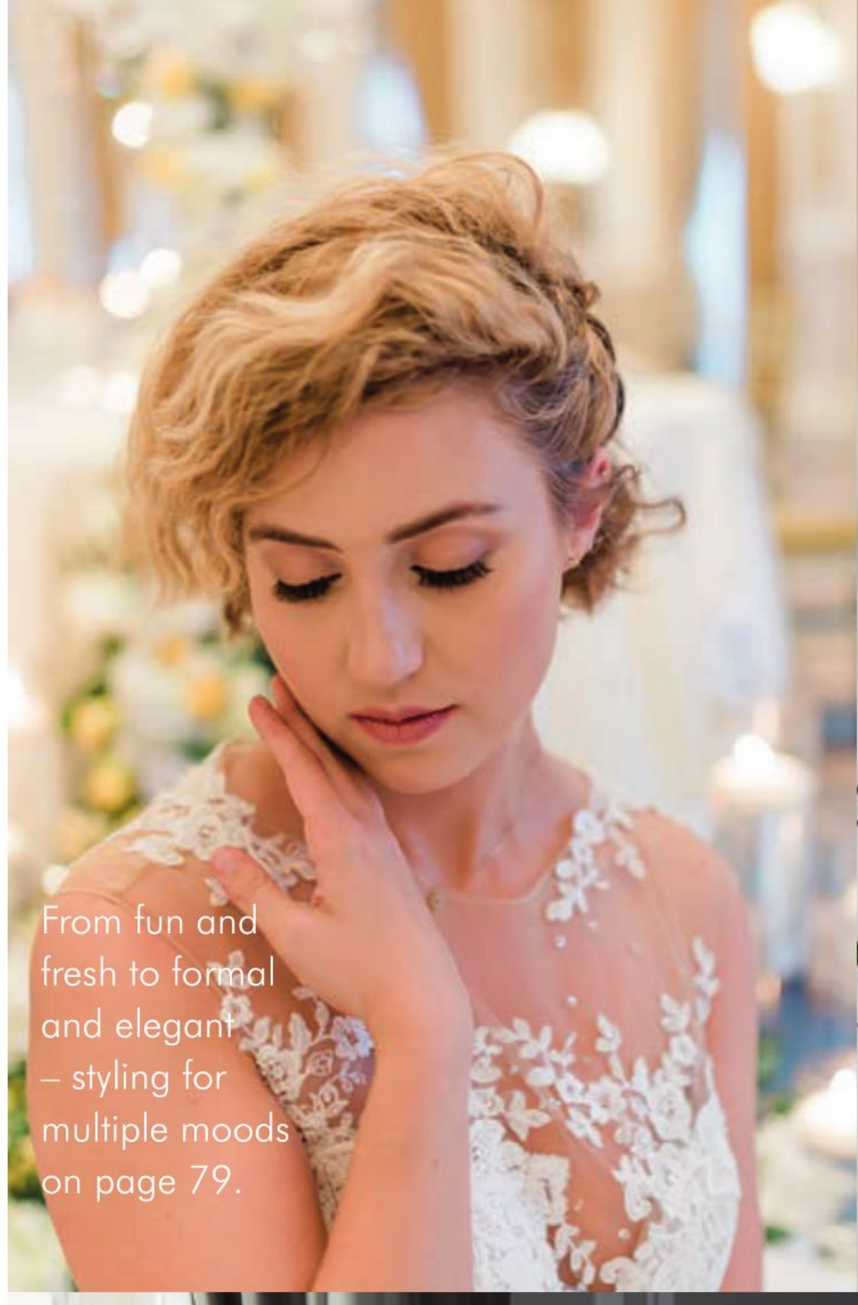
And talking the promise of summer, our Indian Summer shoot on page 19 is choc full of inspiration for those looking to bring a little warmth to their big day – even if the British weather isn't cooperating quite yet.

We've also quizzed the city's best photographers over on page 65 to help you find the one, plus we've scoured the metropolis' ateliers and boutiques to put together some fabulous transitional looks that will take you from ceremony to last dance (page 73).

So pull up a chair, pour a brew, and happy reading!

Georgina x

Georgina Cassels, Editor



Hello summer – this stunning Indian-summer-themed shoot on page 19 shows us how to bring warmth to a wedding, whatever the weather.

From Pizza Hut to a London pub. We're here for Chloe and Adam's relaxed London vibe. See more from page 45.

Looking for a photographer for your big day – turn to page 65 to meet six of London's best

A shared love of junk food took Sarah and Lee from colleagues to couple – turn to page 51 to find out more.

Catch up on all the latest wedding news from across the city on page 9.

Duncan Swan

Award Winning Magician & Mentalist

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WOODLANDS PARK

HOTEL

COBHAM, SURREY

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

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Laurence & Ella Photography

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SPRING A-DING-DING

Chi Chi London has launched a new range of bridalwear for Spring / Summer 2020. The collection comprises wedding dresses, bridesmaids gowns, guest outfits and accessories in soft pastel tones – frills, beading and bows feature throughout the collection. For more information or to view the range, visit chichiclothing.com

WEAR IT OUT

Bridal designer Halfpenny London has extended its offering to the bridal party. The Halfpenny London Sister collection is steeped in designer Kate Halfpenny's signature ethos of versatility and individual expression and has something for everyone – from separates to dresses and even a jumpsuit. "They've all been designed to be worn on the wedding day and then incorporated into your wardrobe afterwards to wear again and again, styled in your own unique way," says Kate. The collection will be sold exclusively online with three colour options available: Dirty Pink, Pewter and Navy. For more information, visit halfpennylondon.com

Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from around the city

A CUT ABOVE

With 2020's peak season approaching, we've been keeping our eye on the latest looks and trends to rock the wedding world. Bradley Deeming, stylist at London's Salon64, has shared his predictions for the hairstyles we won't be able to get enough of this year.

"I predict 2020 will further push the year of the grunge," says Bradley. "Undone and tastefully messy dos with a strong shape; 2019 heralded the return of all things 1990s and, I think, this trend will follow through to 2020 in a more Rock'n'Roll fashion. The 'Shag' haircut was a popular look in the 1990s and early 2000s. Maximum layers and choppy sliced ends worn in different lengths will take centre stage and replace or even evolve our current beachy looks. Currently at Salon64, I'm receiving several requests for more layers as well as a huge rise in curly fringes. This, for me, is the start of the 'Shag' revolution."

For more information on the salon, visit salon64.co.uk

RELATIONSHIP HISTORY

Hilton London Hyde Park has produced a new video to showcase its history and character. The film, which showcases the hotel past and present, stars Belgian couple Nadine and Daniel Ghys, regular guests who have been visitors to the Bayswater Road hotel for more than 25 years. The Grade II listed venue is built for grand romance with its stained-glass windows and prime location. "We wanted to highlight what an amazing building this is and its fantastic history but also how we strive to make this a home away from home for our guests," said Rohan Poyrekar, director of operations at Hilton London Hyde Park.

To find out more about this big-day space, watch the video on YouTube or visit hilton.com

BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Grooms-to-be take note – the search for your pre-wedding grooming needs is over. Meet Adam, a contemporary grooming brand with some seven ateliers spread across the capital.

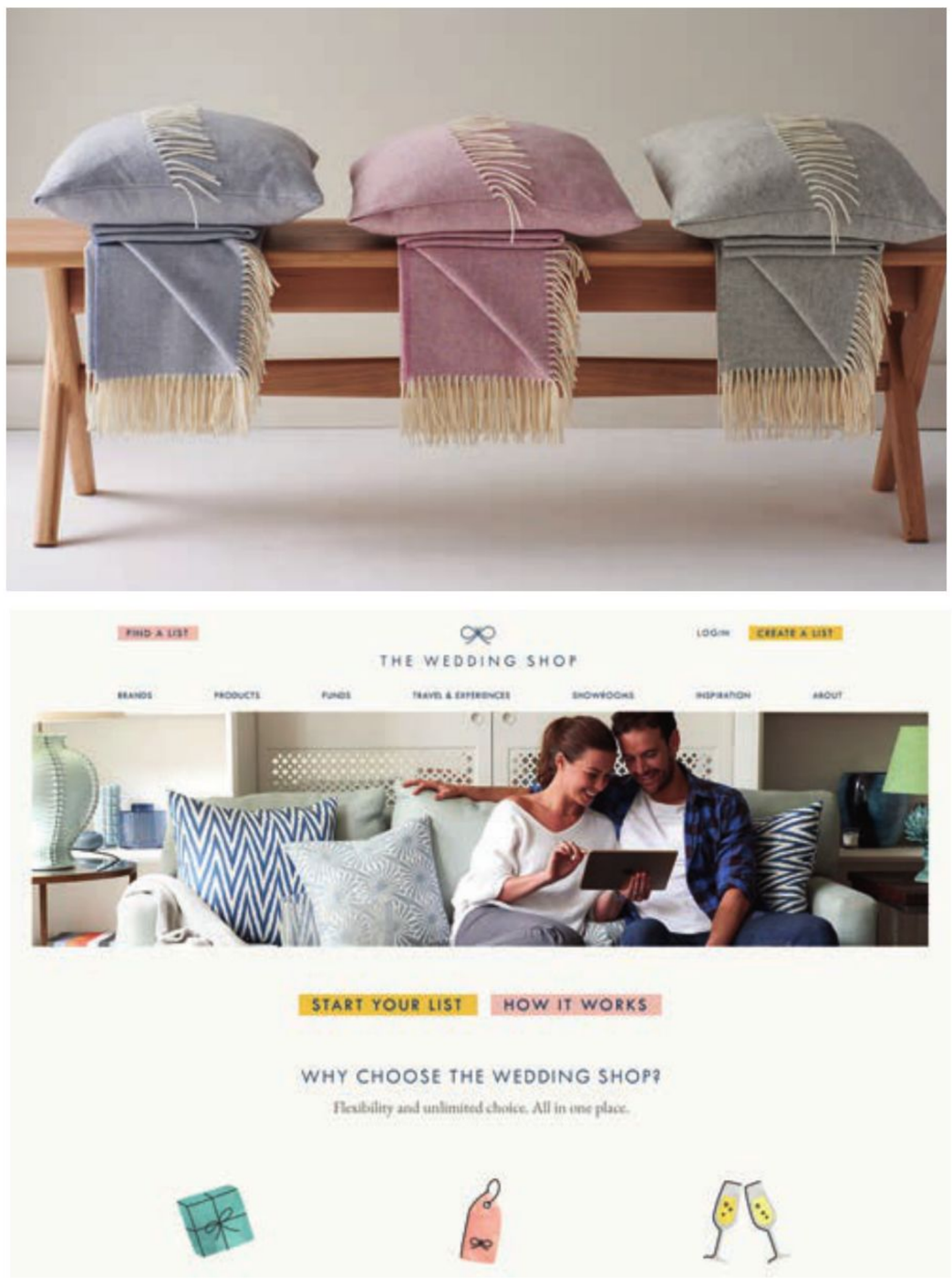
The award-winning brand has pioneered a new grooming experience, which isn't about the latest trend or bygone era; it's simply about stepping in to a contemporary, uncluttered space, indulging in the artful hands and discerning eyes of their highly-skilled barbers, and walking out feeling restored while simultaneously looking both sharp and polished.

Take a break from wedding stress with a freshly brewed Turkish coffee, an expertly crafted old fashioned or perhaps a Japanese whisky on the rocks from the atelier's in-house bar (all complimentary). Services start from £25.

For more information, visit adamgroomingatelier.com

BLUSHING BRIDE

The Wedding Shop has launched its own homeware range. Conceived in celebration of the retailer's 30th anniversary, Blush & Blue brings together everything the gift list service has learnt about its couples' deepest desires in a collection of beautiful homeware. Think thoughtful, impeccably made pieces designed to be enjoyed and cherished for a lifetime. From stylish essentials such as blissfully-soft bedding to celebratory glassware and timeless tableware, each Blush & Blue product works seamlessly together for a relaxed, contemporary feel. For more information, visit weddingshop.com

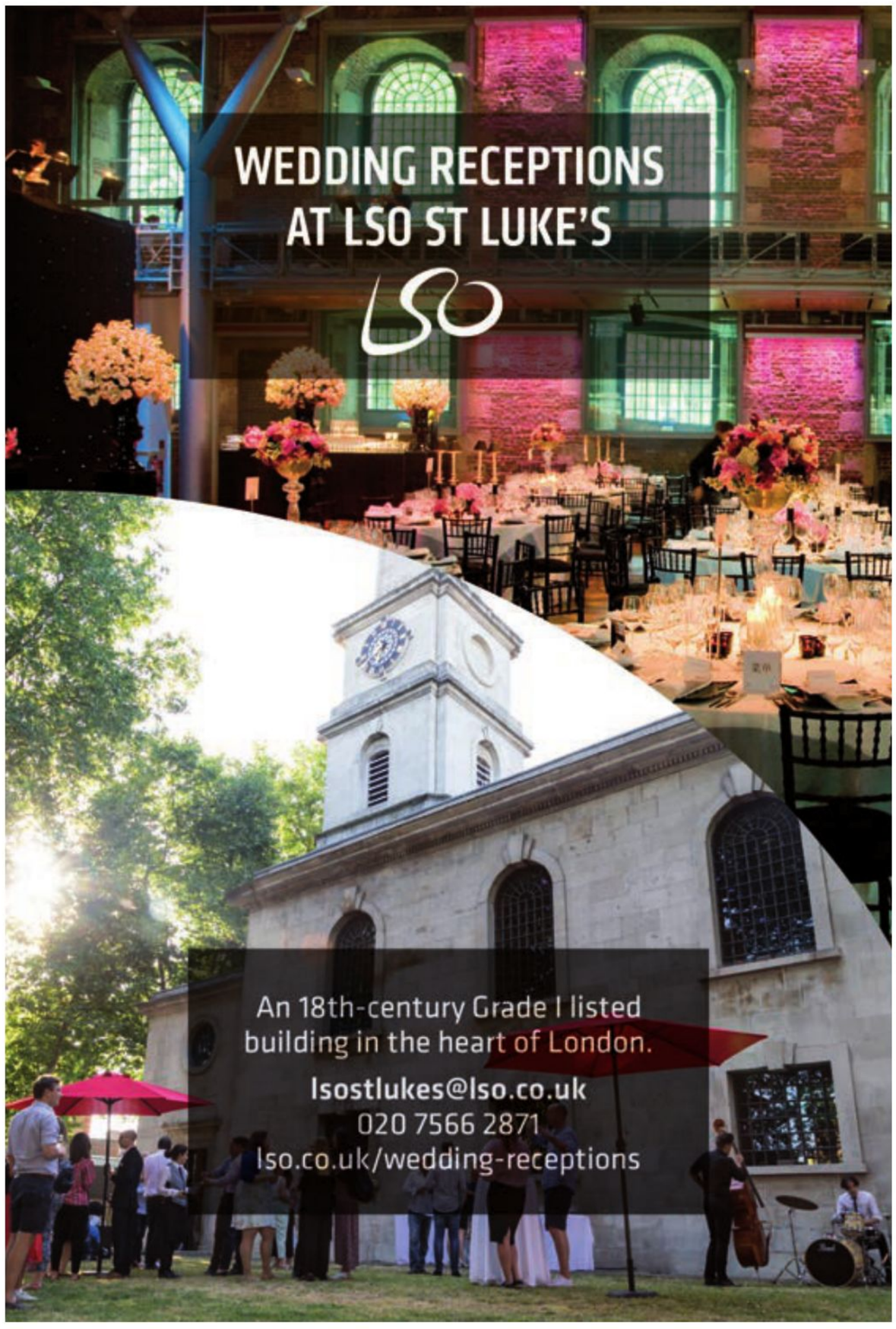


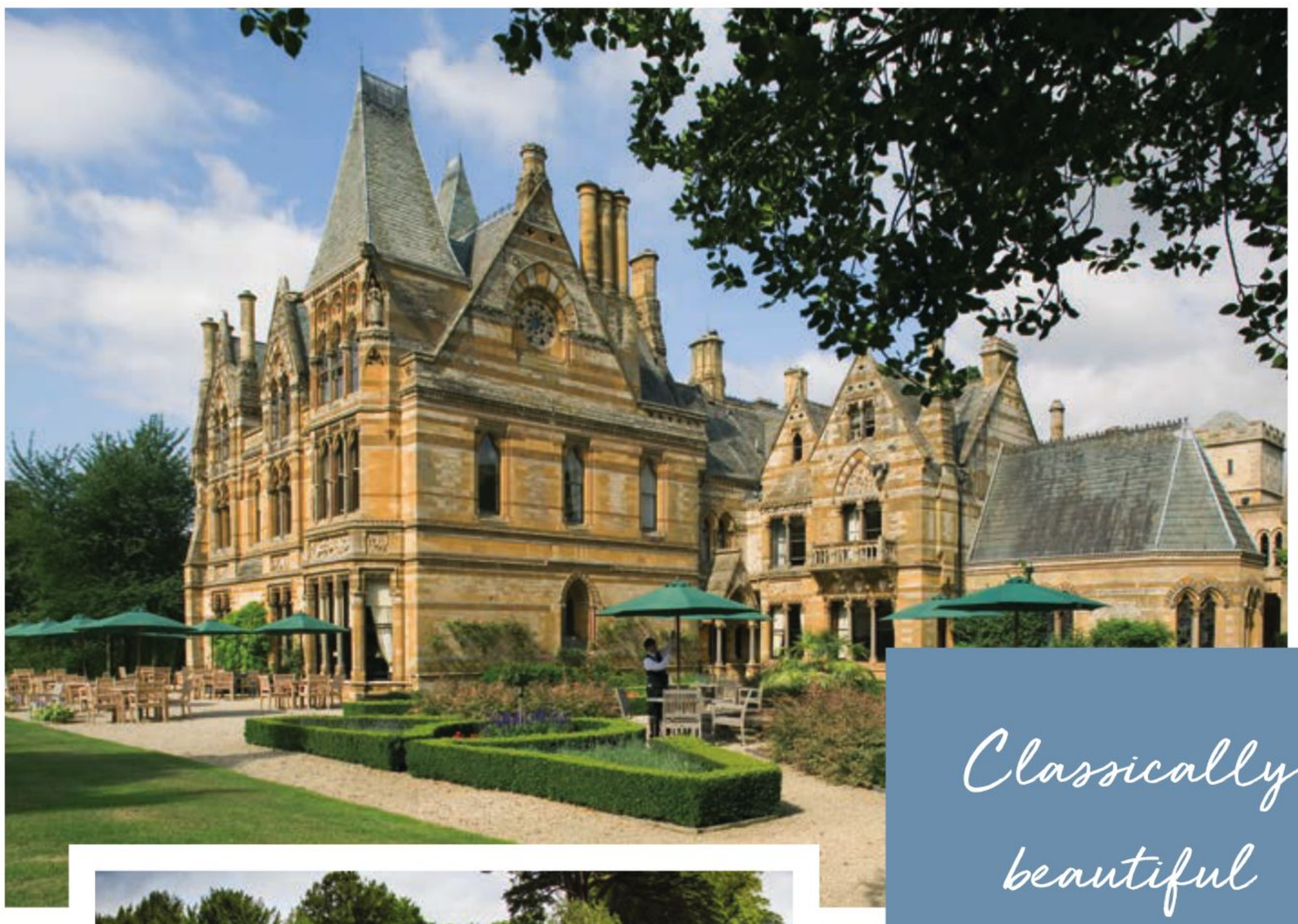
RING THE CHANGES

London jewellery brand E.C.One has launched a range of engagement rings for men. Handcrafted in a choice of nine carat, 14ct or 18ct recycled gold or platinum, the ring features an organic faceted texture on top which adds a touch of modernity to a traditional band. Underneath, a hidden engraving reads 'Marry me?' – a touching personalised message for you and your partner.

"After 23 years in business, we've come to know what men want from their jewellery and it's often something simple with a twist," commented E.C.One founder Joe Skeates. "Off the back of this experience, we've created the Marry Me men's engagement ring which we believe suits the style and needs of today's modern men, and would be perfect for anyone proposing to the man in their life this year."

A certified B Corporation, E.C.One creates sustainable jewellery from ethically sourced materials. Men's engagement rings start from £945. For more information, visit the Exmouth Market store or view the range online at econe.co.uk





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Stunning views of the Surrey Downs

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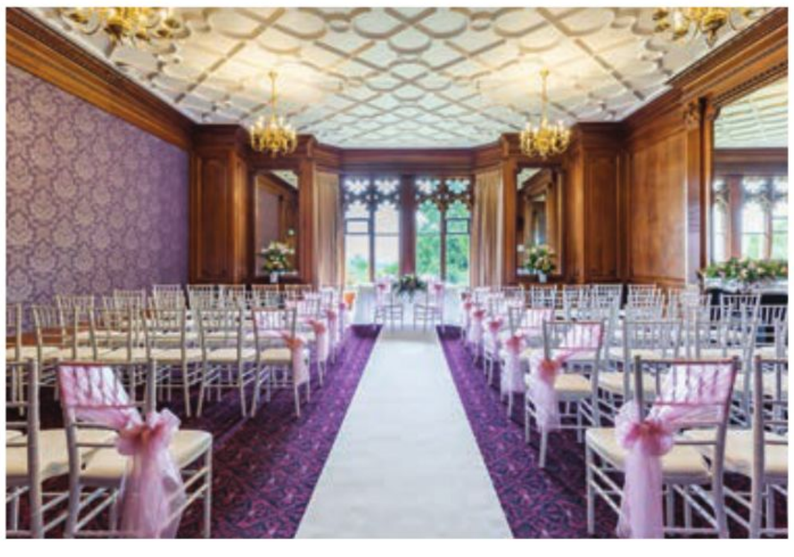

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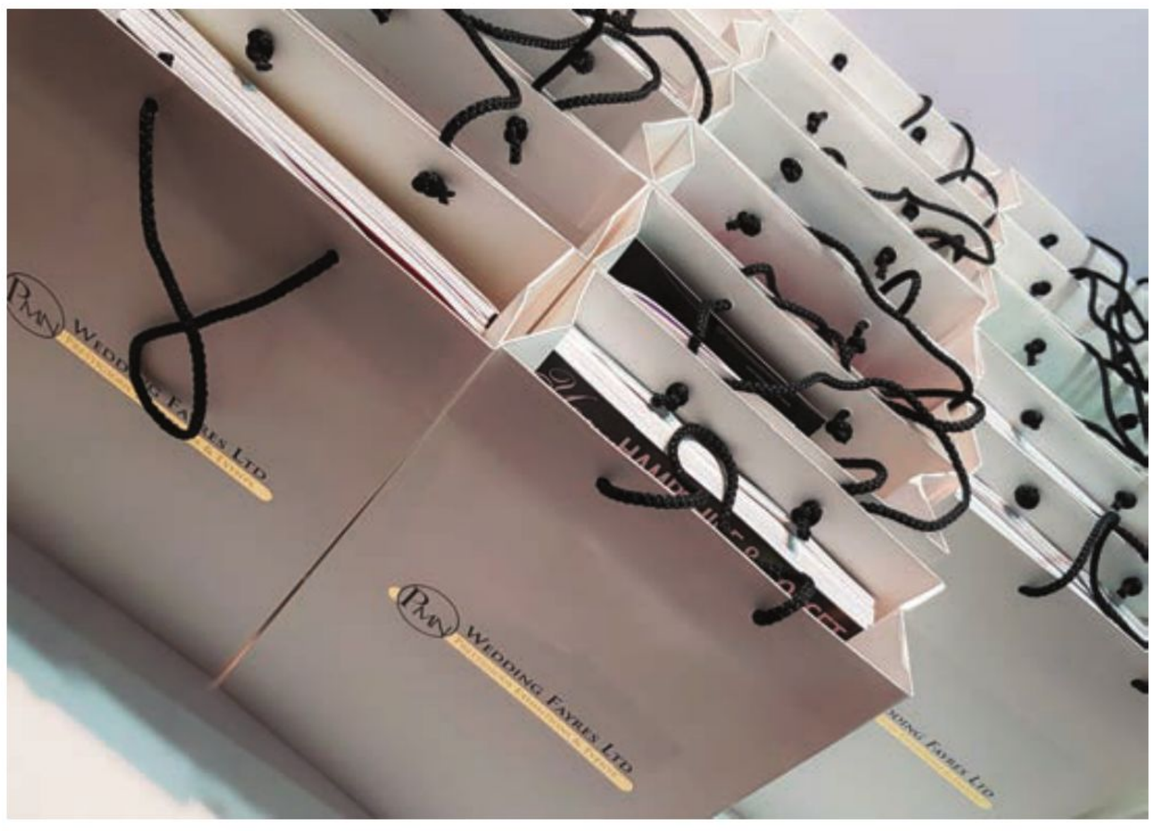

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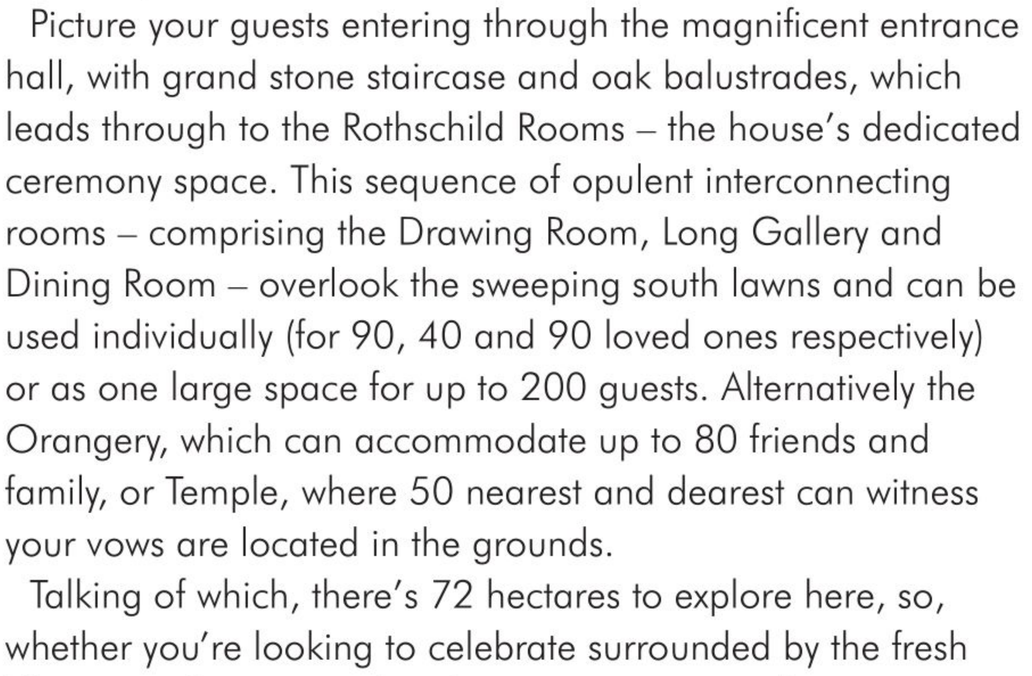
From manor houses to plush hotels, you'll find a wealth of wonderful venues in these western boroughs



GUNNERSBURY PARK

Throughout the centuries, Gunnersbury Park House has been witness to the most sumptuous parties, and after a £21million restoration, it's now ready to lend its magnificent Grade II* backdrop to celebrations once more.

Picture your guests entering through the magnificent entrance hall, with grand stone staircase and oak balustrades, which leads through to the Rothschild Rooms – the house's dedicated ceremony space. This sequence of opulent interconnecting rooms – comprising the Drawing Room, Long Gallery and Dining Room – overlook the sweeping south lawns and can be used individually (for 90, 40 and 90 loved ones respectively) or as one large space for up to 200 guests. Alternatively the Orangery, which can accommodate up to 80 friends and family, or Temple, where 50 nearest and dearest can witness your vows are located in the grounds.

Talking of which, there's 72 hectares to explore here, so, whether you're looking to celebrate surrounded by the fresh blossoms of spring, in the glorious summer sunshine, amongst the rich colours of autumn or the bright, crisp frost of winter, the ever-changing beauty of the park and water features will provide stunning surroundings.

Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 020 8825 6060 | ealingvenues.co.uk

PITZHANGER MANOR & GALLERY

Once the country retreat of Sir John Soane, one of Britain's most extraordinary architects, Pitzhanger Manor stands as a lasting testimony to his skill and imagination as an artist. Recently restored, this venue screams romance thanks to its grand Georgian façade, intimate rooms and stunning gardens.

There's a wealth of ceremony spaces on offer here from the Georgian Eating Room, which can seat up to 100 loved ones to the outside courtyard, known as the Colonnade, where 25 nearest and dearest can look on as you say 'I do', or the Conservatory, which overlooks the garden and seats 32 guests. The same spaces are available for receptions, or why not host your wedding breakfast in the on-site restaurant, Soane's Kitchen, which can accommodate 120 friends and family, or 200 partygoers for a less formal affair.

Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 020 3994 0967 | pitzhanger.org.uk

WE LOVE… The hand-painted Chinese wallpaper in the Upper Drawing Room is just dreamy. Book before 31st May, 2020 and *Your London Wedding* readers can take advantage of a free fizz reception.

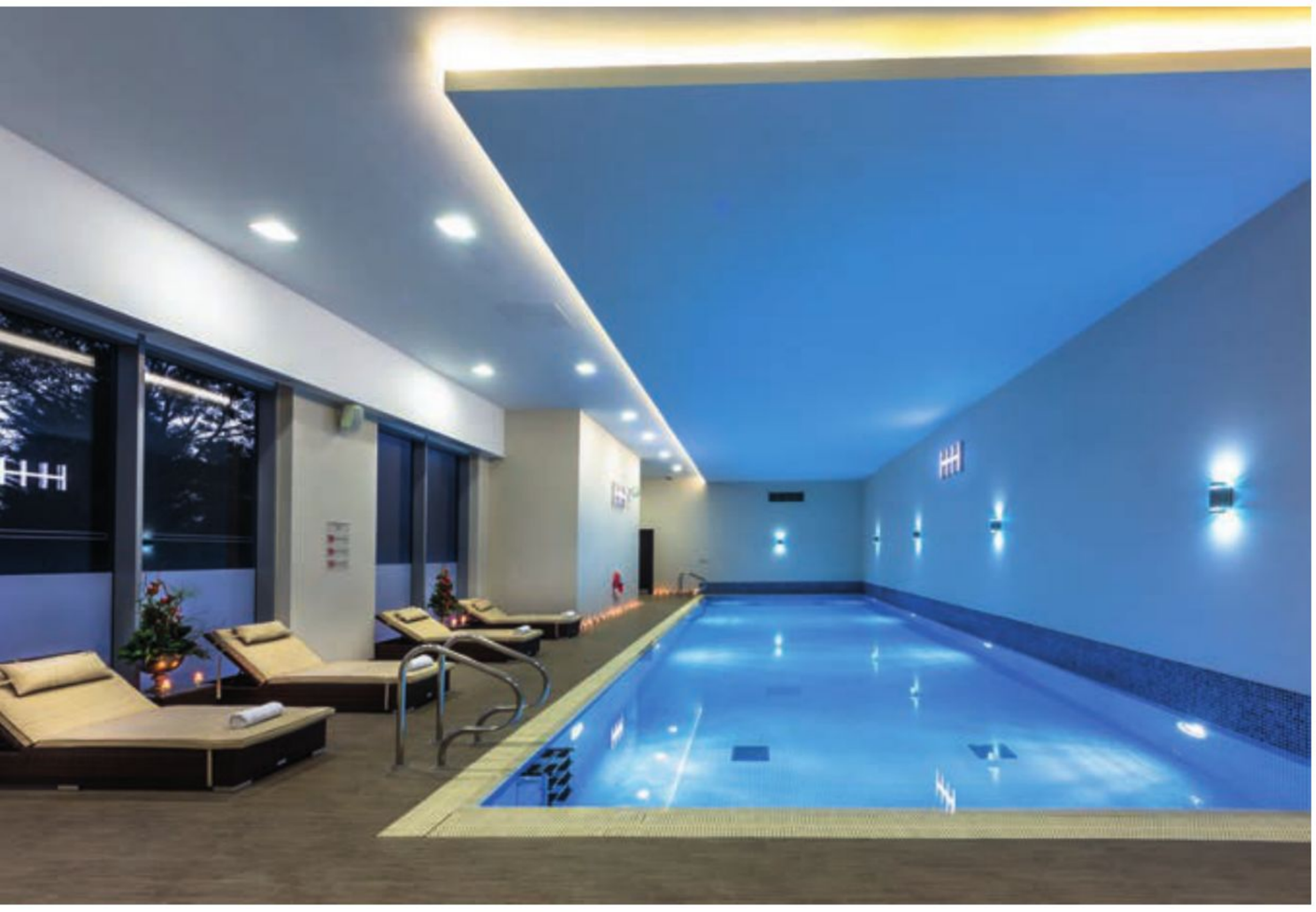
BRENT CIVIC CENTRE

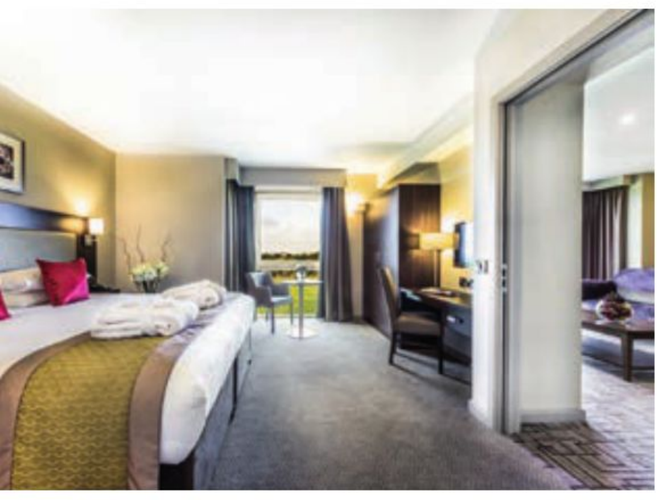
A hop, skip and a jump from the iconic Wembley Stadium, Brent Civic Centre offers modern, spacious surroundings with natural daylight, off-white décor, chivari seating for 100 guests and a display of fresh flowers.

Tie the knot in the Ceremonies Suite, which features a flower arch, flower wall and LOVE letter lights and can seat up to 100 guests. There's a series of spaces on offer for receptions too, from the Wedding Canopy Gardens to the Grand Hall, Winter Gardens and Bridge on the first floor, where an impressive 1,000 friends and family can celebrate your nuptials, or the Ampitheatre and Foyer.

For al fresco dos, there's a series of terraces on offer not to mention the Paul Daisley ceremonial gardens, nearby Love Spot and Wembley Arena Fountains for those all-important photographs.

Ceremony licence? Yes
Contact: 020 8937 1010 | brent.gov.uk





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Boasting one of London's largest modern banquet spaces with capacity to accommodate up to 1,000 diners, Heston Hyde Hotel is ideal for larger celebrations. What's more, the hotel's events space offers a separate entrance and heated canopy and complimentary parking for more than 200 cars. There's 303 rooms on-site for overnight guests, and the hotel is handy for Heathrow to boot, not to mention Stockley Park and Chiswick.

Ceremonies take place in the Chamberlain Suite, while the Foyer and it's adjoining outside, heated patio area with retractable roof is ideal for drinks receptions.

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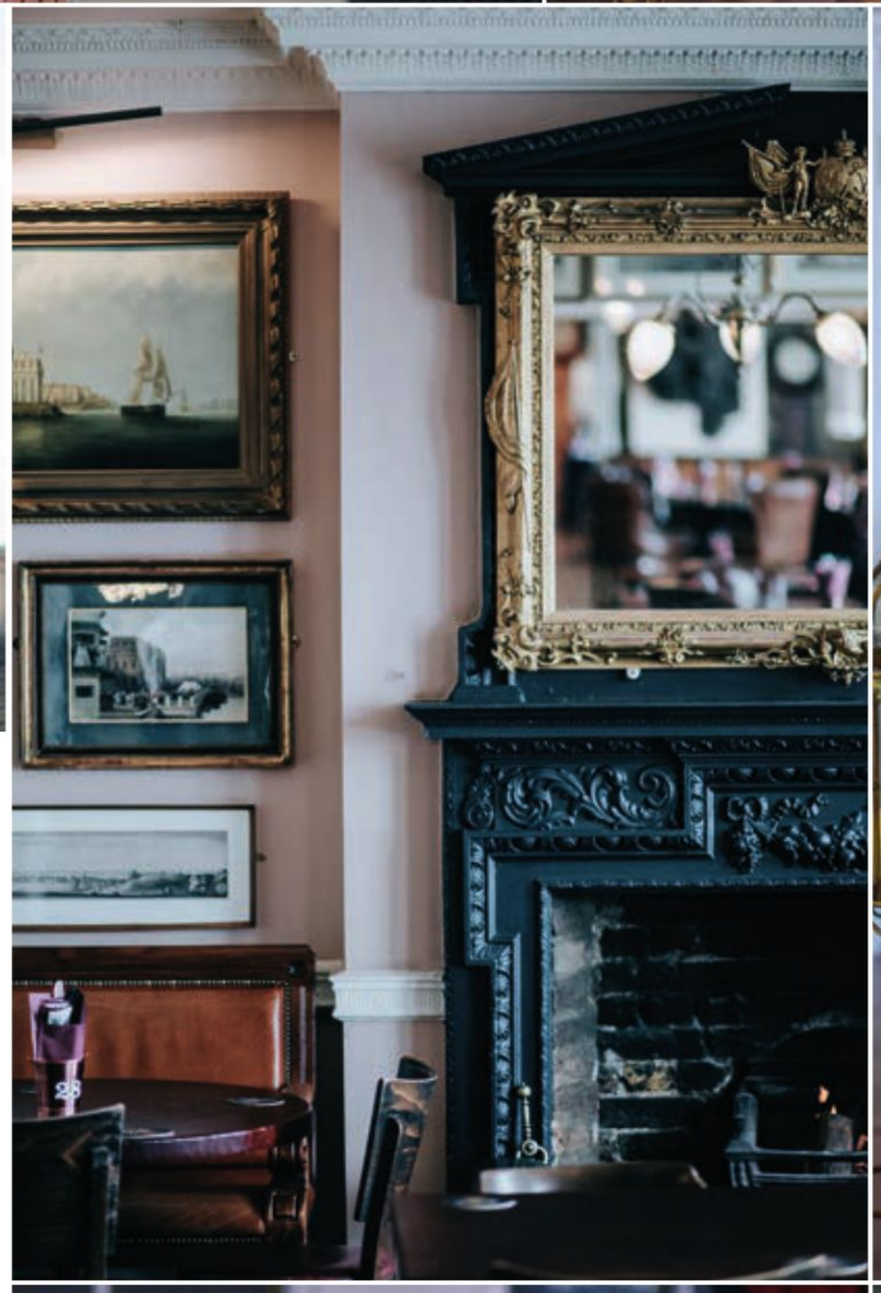
"Pleasant summer warmth will lift the mood of many a weather-beaten Brit." – John Hammond

AN Indian SUMMER

Bask in the tropical colour palette and rich detail of this Indian summer-inspired shoot

Images courtesy of Fleur Challis Photography



An Indian summer is a term often used to describe a warm, calm spell of weather in autumn. Although the phrase is commonly used in England, it's said to have been first coined by the Native Americans in the late 18th century.

After a disappointing summer, the belated good weather is always welcome, so it is warmly received. For the purposes of this styled shoot an Indian summer might be considered more of a state of mind, than a forecast. Taking the theme both figuratively and literally, this crack team of suppliers created a stunning scene using a warm colour palette of fuschia pink and ochre and series of Indian motifs. Greenwich's Trafalgar Tavern was dressed for the occasion with a series of eye-catching mala (traditional Indian garlands), floral displays, ornate lamps and lanterns and tassels-galore. The theme carried right through into the bride and groom's outfits with the bride's dress nodding to the theme with voluminous sleeves, a tassel back and mandala detail. And the attention to detail didn't stop there, even the place holders were dressed with cinnamon sticks (a spice native to India and known for its warmth) while the elegant cake picked up the colour scheme with its tumbling floral design.

While we all wait for our first summer to arrive, let us indulge in this preview of the second summer to come…

THE DREAM TEAM

Venue, trafalgartavern.co.uk | **Photography**, fleurchallisphotography.com | **Styling**, theweddingowl.com
Dress, felicitywestmacott.co.uk | **Bridal accessories**, @adornbyashley | **Make-up**, sharonowensbridalmakeup.com | **Hair**, @lalo_lauralouisahair | **Bridesmaid's dress**, matchimony.co.uk | **Suit**, @thekentweddingcentre | **Cake**, @simplyirresistiblecakeslondon
Flowers, mimifleur.co.uk | **Lamps**, tablelamphire.co.uk | **Stationery**, @ribbonsnwren | **Linen**, specialoccasionlinen.com
Charger plates and cutlery, @angels_and_gypsies | **Maid-of-honour outfit**, @yourfairymaidofhonour | **Video**, tdhmedia.co.uk
Models, Eve Wray (@misseviewray), Piyush Nigam (@piyushnigammusic) and Rocky the dog.

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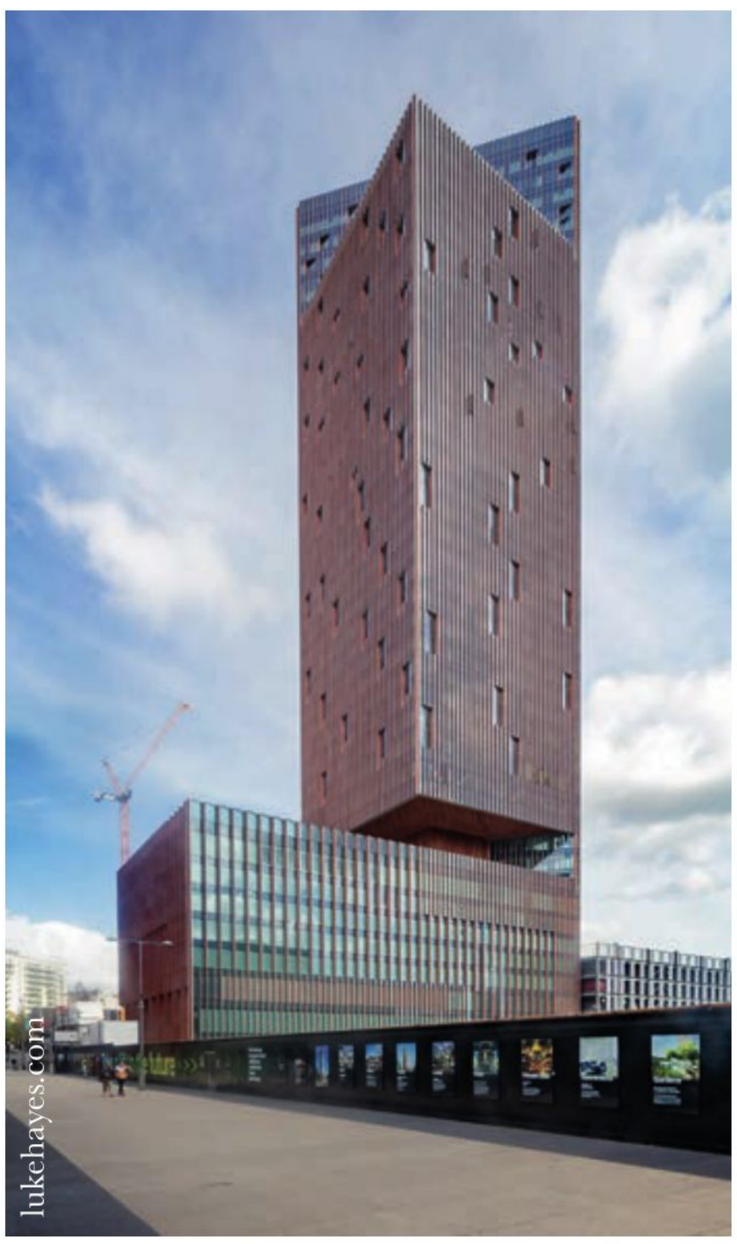

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Braintree CM77 8PD
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White Roding CM6 1RQ
SUN 19 APR

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WEST HEATH
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Sevenoaks TN13 1SR
SUN 29 MAR

HEVER HOTEL
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Edenbridge TN8 7NP
SUN 19 APR

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Buntingford SA9 0AA
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Worthing BN13 3UN
SUN 5 APR

GHYLL MANOR
High Street,
Horsham RH12 4PX
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CLOCK BARN HALL
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Godalming GU8 4AY
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All things bright AND BEAUTIFUL

Kyriaki and Arran chose an Art Nouveau psychedelia theme for their non-traditional Greek big day

Images courtesy of James White Photography

Kyriaki Karadelis, 35, married Arran Goodchild, 41, at Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church of All Saints followed by a reception at Glasshouse on the Lock, Holiday Inn Camden Lock on 17th August, 2019.

Having met through OKCupid, Kyriaki and Arran chose a gig in Camden Town for their first date. "After the gig, we worked our way down the other pubs and music venues on the high street," remembers Kyriaki. "The conversation flowed really easily; we had Vietnamese food. Suddenly it was gone midnight and we were the last ones left in the Lock Tavern. It was a Tuesday – so a school night and we had to run to catch the last tube. Arran was determined not to be 'friend-zoned' and kissed me in the underground."

And that event-packed night set the tone for Arran's proposal too; the groom-to-be planned a geocaching adventure for his future bride around their home in Archway. "I had to follow visual clues that took me to the old Archway Tavern, Stoneleigh Terrace, Highgate Library and, finally, Parliament Hill where Arran had buried an old film capsule containing his proposal," explains Kyriaki. "It was a desperately romantic, cheeky and fun plan that was very nearly scuppered by the lawn mowers that had been out on Hampstead Heath that very morning. After a fair amount of digging in mounds of sticky grass clippings – the treasure hunt turning a bit more *Time Team* by this stage – we found the capsule and Arran got down on one knee. He'd stashed a bottle of champagne and a couple of glasses in his bag in advance."

CAMDEN CALLING

As the couple started planning in earnest, they ruled out a destination wedding in Greece where Kyriaki was born, and, instead, decided to tie the knot in Camden where they'd first met and enjoyed many nights out. "We loved that the Glasshouse was on the canal and near Camden Lock. We visited on a sunny, crisp winter's day and all the colours of the bustling market were mirrored in the canal against an azure blue sky," Kyriaki remembers. "When we walked out of the venue, without saying a word, we made a beeline for the canal boat tour company across the bridge, having each thought that we wanted our guests to arrive by barge. At the time, we didn't actually know that there was a Greek Orthodox Church just upstream – it still amazes me how it all came together."

Drawn to the bright colours and music this area is famed for, the couple chose to emulate the 1970s music poster style known as Art Nouveau psychedelia for their theme. "We wanted our wedding to be fun and colourful," explains Kyriaki.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL

This translated into table centrepieces made from 45" records, each a single the couple loved, teamed with brightly coloured floral arrangements and streamers and garlands galore.

The Glasshouse on the Lock, Kyriaki reveals, went above and beyond to help them realise their dream day. "They printed our tableplan and place names in the same Art Nouveau font I'd downloaded for our invitations and even ordered cobalt blue chair ribbons specially for the day. I'd told them it wasn't important and they could use the baby blue ones they had already but they were determined. You don't often see that level of care."

The couple also adhered to a series of Greek traditions as a nod to Kyriaki's heritage, ordering tulle pouches from Athens for their Greek 'boubouniere' favours, serving olives on board the canal boat as the guests travelled between ceremony and reception and a magnificent Greek buffet at the reception with souvlaki, salads and seafood, as well as a traditional Hellenic cake.

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Kyriaki searched high and low for a dress that fitted both her budget and her dreams, "I went as far as getting up at 6am to drive to a warehouse on an industrial estate in Port Talbot, Wales," she admits. "In the end, I found *the one* at Bridal Reloved, which is about five minutes' drive from my parents' house."

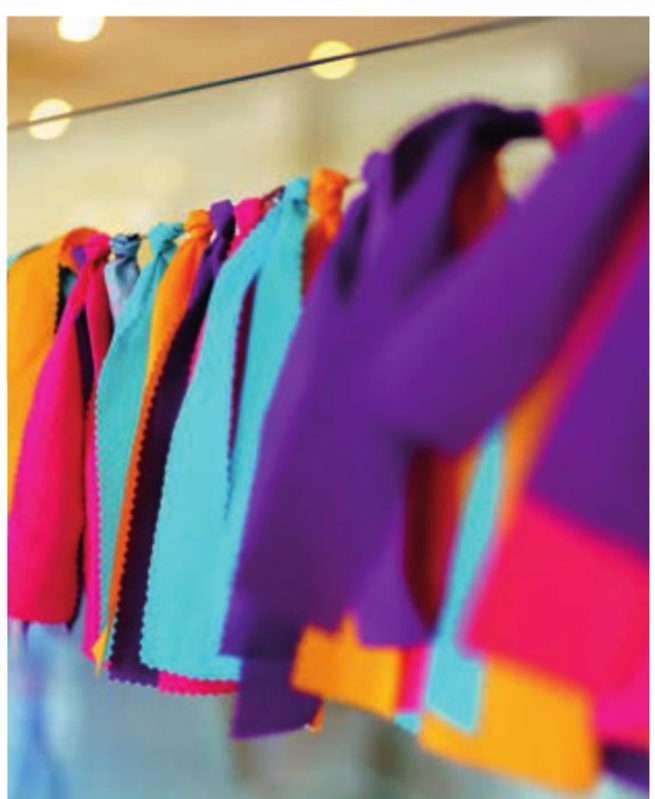
Kyriaki accessorised with a hairpiece made by her florist, as well as a bespoke cape, handmade by Adorn by Ashley and Irregular Choice shoes.

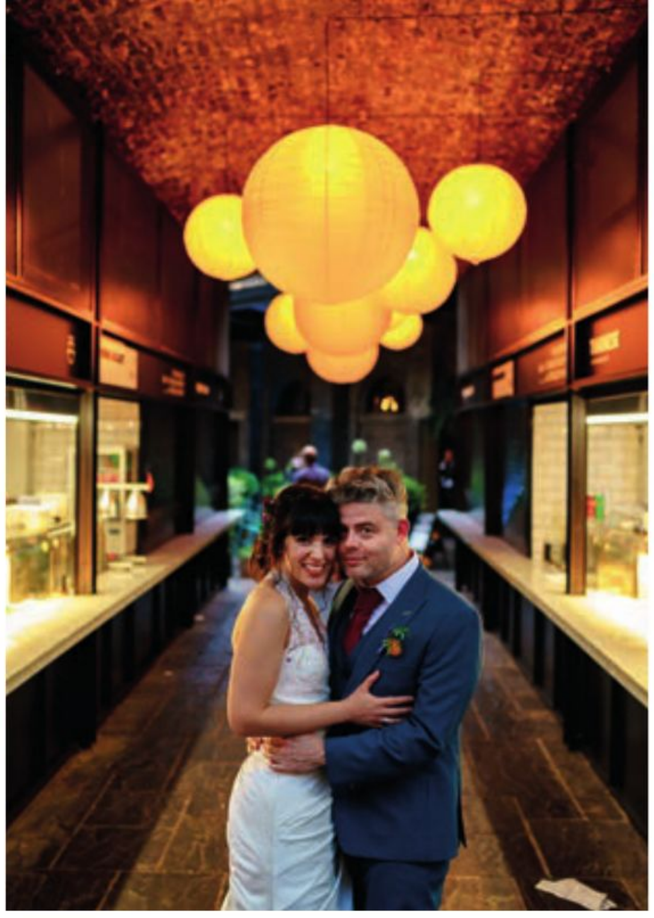
Arran, meanwhile, chose a teal three-piece suit from the Moss Bros Tailor Me range, with a paisley-print lining (a nod to the couple's theme).

The groomsmen were briefed to wear a blue suit, while the bridesmaids were asked to choose their own dress or outfit. "No need to be telling women I love what they can and can't wear," Kyriaki laughs.

On the day, Kyriaki walked down the aisle to an acoustic guitar and viola arrangement performed by Arran's friends and fellow band members. "Arran is shouting 'half an hour late' at me as I tell you this," Kyriaki admits. "He's also reminding himself that he married a Greek and we don't do timekeeping. In fact, when he arrived at the church half an hour before the noon ceremony was supposed the start, the priest said 'you're early for 2pm!' When Arran informed him it was at noon, he simply said 'good to know, good to know'."

For the evening do another friend debuted his wedding and party band, Flamingo Jukebox, learning to play the theme tune from *Zorba the Greek* from scratch for the couple's first dance, followed by a duo of DJs – accompanied by a spectacular live oil-light show by Astral Projections which filled the room with psychedelic colours and patterns.





KYRIAKI AND ARRAN'S CONTACTS

Photographer | James White Photography | jameswhitephotos.com
Ceremony venue | Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church of All Saints | gocas.org
Reception venue | Glasshouse on the Lock, Holiday Inn Camden Lock | hicamdenlock.co.uk
Bride's dress | Bridal Reloved | bridalreloved.co.uk
Bride's accessories | Adorn by Ashley | adornbyashley.co.uk
Bride's hair and make-up | Emma Rosenkowitz | emmarosenkowitz.co.uk
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Party PEOPLE

Chloe and Adam planned a relaxed day with a London vibe

Images courtesy of Emma Hare Photography

Chloe Pardell, 32, married Adam Ding, 33, at Marylebone Town Hall followed by a reception at The Rose on 31st August,019.

It was love at first sight for Adam when he first clapped eyes on Chloe. "Around 16 years ago she worked as a waitress at a Pizza Hut in our home town," he remembers. "I used to go in with a few of my friends after football training and there she was one day serving us. She knocked me for six; I thought she was unbelievably beautiful. It only took me 12 years to get up the courage to ask her out and now here we are."

Luckily, once he'd surmounted that first hurdle, Adam was quicker off the mark with his proposal, popping the question on Halloween not long after they'd made it official. "I got her with a trick-or-treat: a Haribo Starmix jelly ring in one hand, the proper engagement in the other," he reveals.

The couple set to planning their big day, choosing to tie the knot in London. "We both love living in London and wanted that to be a huge part of our day; we tried to use independent suppliers as much as we could," notes Adam. Indeed, with incredible views over the River Thames, a pub they'd visited several times was the natural choice to host the reception. "We love the view and central location," says Chloe. "We also love the wallpaper – so much so, it was the inspiration for our wedding cake." Here, Chloe tells us more about their big day…

We wanted an informal vibe, the venue had to be fun and good for a party – The Rose fitted the bill perfectly.

Our cake was designed to echo the pub's décor – we added splashes of gold and gold dinosaur toppers.

We had lots of balloons – mainly foil animals to tie in with our gold animal place holders – as well as a gold foil curtain. Many became people's dance partners as the evening progressed!

Adam designed all our stationery – we chose a spectacular pink and orange colour palette to fit with the brights theme.

We travelled between venues in a flower-decked car from Karma Kabs – the seats were lined with beautiful Indian fabric and there was even a chandelier inside. The journey was so special – a chance to be together and take it all in.

My bridesmaids wore maxi wrap dresses from Flounce London in gold.

I chose a sequin top and skirt from Belle & Bunty. It fitted the fun vibe we wanted to create for the day.

We chose bright colours for our flowers, tied with velvet ribbon.

"We both love living in London and wanted that to be a huge part of our day; we tried to use independent suppliers as much as we could."
– Adam

Adam wore a bespoke suit from Moss, teamed with a Asos tie and personalised tie clips.

Music was a huge part of our day and our DJ was brilliant – the dancefloor was packed from start to finish.

CHLOE AND ADAM'S CONTACTS

Photographer | Emma Hare | emmahare.com
Ceremony venue | The Old Marylebone Town Hall | adaytoremember.london
Reception venue | The Rose | therosepublondon.co.uk
Bride's dress | Belle & Bunty | belleandbunty.co.uk
Bride's accessories | The Bobby Pin | thebobbypin.co.uk
Bride's hair and make-up | Bex Standing Smith MUA | @bexhairandmakeup
Bridesmaids' dresses | Flounce London | @flounceldn
Groom's suit | Moss Bros | moss.co.uk
Bride's rings | Rachel Boston Jewellery | rachelboston.co.uk
Flowers | Vanilla Rose | vanillarose.co.uk
Cake | Ruby the Cake Artist | rubythecakeartist.com
Transport | Karma Kabs | karmakabs.com
Videographer | Confetti Weddings | confetti-wedding-videos.co.uk
Balloons | Occasions | occasionspimlico.co.uk
Entertainment | Wedding Jam | weddingjam.co.uk
Stationery | Designed by the groom | adamding.co.uk

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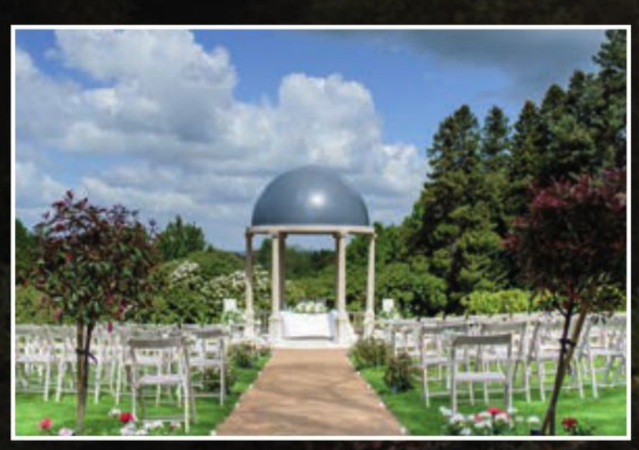

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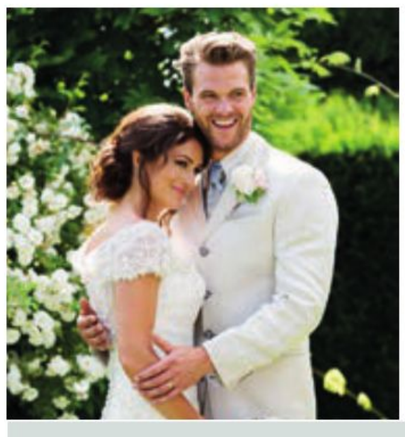


SLICED EVENTS

SHORT AND *sweet*

Sarah and Lee prioritised fun, food and drink for their informal big day

Images courtesy of Siobhan H Photography

Sarah Beattie, 44, married Lee Thomas Pegram, 48, at The Old Marylebone Town Hall, followed by a reception at The Marylebone Bar on 19th October, 2019.

They say the key to a lasting marriage is shared interests – and, if that's true, we can see a long and happy partnership ahead for Sarah and Lee. "We met at work," Sarah reveals. "We were colleagues for a long time, got on really well and shared the same sense of humour and a love for fizzy Haribos and Maoams Stripes!"

Indeed, the couple's love for guilty pleasures inspired Lee's first proposal plan, although he had a last minute change of heart, as Sarah explains, "Lee was planning to propose at home over a breakfast of Dr Pepper, beef Monster Munch and a Dime Bar (classy) but we went for a spontaneous after-work drink at the Landmark Hotel just before Christmas, ended up staying for dinner and he took advantage of the beautifully romantic location."

With just under 10 months to plan their big day, the pair were determined to keep it simple. "The emphasis was on fun, food and drink and less on the formalities of a traditional wedding," explains Sarah. "No drawn-out day – just an afternoon of exchanging vows and getting down to the nitty gritty of eating, drinking, dancing and laughing with those we loved around us."

With the 'guest experience' firmly in mind, the couple started to search for easy-to-reach venues. "We opted for a register office service; keen to have somewhere romantic but with history and a bit of Rock'n'Roll quirkiness – The Old Marylebone Town Hall fit the bill," Sarah recalls. Ceremony venue secured, the couple turned to a suitable location for their reception. "We researched bars in the vicinity that fit with our fun, cocktail-style party theme. The Marylebone Bar was ideal – it was relaxed and slightly unusual," says Sarah. The couple booked a red Routemaster to transport guests between the ceremony and reception, where drinks and a buffet-style wedding breakfast awaited.

All the more time to enjoy the entertainment, which was plentiful in keeping with the couple's theme. A magician wowed the crowd while a popcorn machine kept the little ones busy and a coterie of props and hats went down well with all.

#OOTD

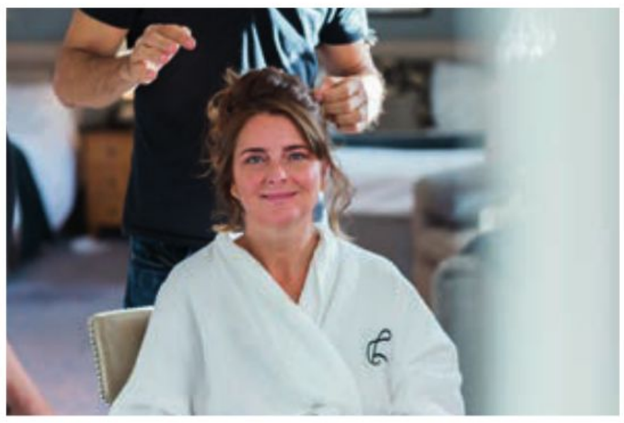
With an emerging baby bump to accommodate, Sarah chose a vintage lace tea dress for the day. "It wasn't my original choice but it suited the venues and theme and the moment I put it on, I felt like a million dollars," she reveals. Meanwhile, Lee chose a three-piece, navy suit teamed with a bespoke pocket square featuring St Pancras station. Sarah's eight-year-old son walked her down the aisle in a royal blue suit with lollipop pocket square while a string trio played Peter Gabriel's *Book of Love*. "I was terrified that I wouldn't be able to control the tears when I heard the bridal march and I'd be a blubbering wreck throughout the ceremony," laughs Sarah.

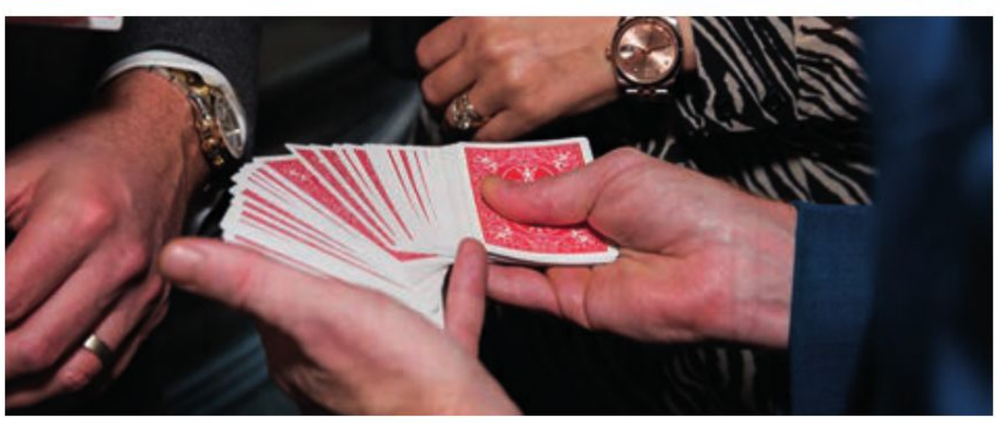
IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL

As a sustainability professional, Sarah was keen to minimise waste and avoid over-consumption, so she carried a simple bouquet of white roses, freesias and foliage, which was later laid on her grandmother's resting place. The same blooms were used for buttonholes and arranged in jam jars placed throughout the reception venue.

And as a nod to their love of junk food, the couple eschewed the traditional cake in favour of a tower of Krispy Kreme donuts, crowned with a personalised wooden topper, which doubled up as pudding.

Indeed, those donuts came in handy for what we think must be one of the most Rock'n'Roll exits we've ever heard of, "We moonwalked out of the reception to *God is a DJ* by Faithless, grabbing a couple of donuts on the way and jumping straight into a Black Electric Cab to be whisked away to Heathrow," Sarah laughs.





SARAH AND LEE'S CONTACTS

Photographer | Siobhan H Photography | siobhanhphotography.com
Ceremony venue | The Old Marylebone Town Hall | adaytoremember.london
Reception venue | The Marylebone Bar | themarylebonelondon.com
Bride's dress and accessories | Bride and Groom Kent | brideandgroomkent.co.uk
Bride's hair | Stefan Krt | krthairdesign.com
Bride's make-up | Make Up By Hayley Smith | @twilight_zone_7785
Groom's suit | Ted Baker | tedbaker.com
Flowers | Gainsborough Flowers | w1florist.co.uk
Cake | Krispy Kreme | krispykreme.co.uk
Transport | RedRoutemaster.com | redroutemaster.com
Momentum Coach Hire | momentumcoachhire.com
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Entertainment | Blue Topaz Music | bluetopazmusic.com

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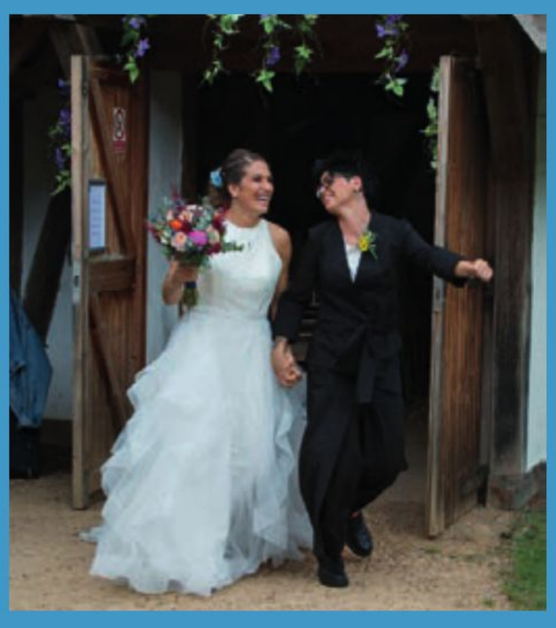

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TOP 10

10 tips for planning your dream sustainable wedding

Celia Gaze is the founder of The Wellbeing Farm, and says, "As we're getting more conscious about our environment and how we can protect it, the idea is also flooding the wedding market, as brides are looking for a lush wedding day that doesn't cost the planet. As a venue that has always had a green centre, here are our 10 top tips if you're planning a sustainable wedding..."

1

DITCH THE PALM BEACH WEDDING IN FAVOUR OF SOMETHING LOCAL

This may be an obvious one, but it's a good starting point. As nice as those pictures of destination weddings look, think of all the air miles to fly everyone over, and then transport from the airport... that's a lot of CO_2 emissions. With that in mind, if your venue is accessible by public transport, even better.

PLAN A VEGETARIAN OR VEGAN MENU

One of the biggest trends is cutting out a lot of meat and other animal products from your diet. Whilst your wedding has been considered the one day you can indulge, this now doesn't mean that you can't splurge on taste without cutting out the meat. Even as an omnivore, some of the nicest food I have had is vegetarian and vegan. If your menu is seasonal, organic, or uses fair trade ingredients, or a mixture of all three, even better!

2

3

SPEAKING OF SEASONAL, KEEP YOUR FLOWERS SEASONAL TOO

Seasonal flowers save the air miles, there's no need to import tulips from Holland in the middle of September. Also start thinking about what you are going to do with the flowers afterwards, and if your florist avoids using foam in their arrangements, that's a big fat green thumbs up. If they are also supplying confetti, look at a kind that is bio-degradable.

4

Think about transport

If your venue isn't easy to get to via public transport, instead of a million cars arriving at your venue, think about hiring a coach from a suitable meeting point e.g. the hotel your guests are staying at; this will hopefully cut down a lot of emissions even before your big day starts.

5 USE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS OR SECOND-HAND PROPS FOR YOUR DÉCOR

One of our biggest features for our brides is our Prop Shed, which holds every kind of decorative prop you can imagine: saving time, money and the planet as everything is reused from couple to couple. Some brides like to use bits they've picked up themselves – afterwards, think about donating to other brides for their day.

6 ASK YOUR VENUE ABOUT ITS GREEN POLICY

A big note when looking around venues is looking at its bar – if they are still using plastic straws, that's a big no-no! Do they recycle everything on-site, use local suppliers, grow their own produce and have they cracked down on single-use plastic, among many other measures.

7 *Find local suppliers*

From your cake to your DJ, using suppliers who are local to you/ your venue is key to making your wedding sustainable and keeping your wedding's carbon footprint down. Venues should have a list of recommended suppliers on their websites, who are all local to the property.

8 CONSIDER SUSTAINABLE FAVOURS

Think about not just what you want them to be, but also how they are packaged. Stay away from the plastic toys and trinkets, and cellophane wrapping that cannot be recycled. If there is an animal, environmental or sustainability charity that means something to you and your partner, a donation favour to that charity would be a good choice.

9 DRESS UPCYCLE

Why not donate your dress to a charity shop to make an impact long after the big day – this also applies to the bridesmaids' dresses too if you're looking for a green wedding! Also, keep away from silk and other materials that come from animals.

10 IS YOUR STATIONERY SUSTAINABLE?

As pretty as the save-the-date invitations and other stationery looks, think about using invites made from an ethically sourced or recycled material.

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EXPECTATIONS GREAT EXPECTATIONS

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

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

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

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

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

ON THE DAY DELIGHTS

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

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

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

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

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

Sarah x

Sarah Ellis, Sales and Events Director County Wedding Events.

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Love at *first sight*

Finding a photographer can be daunting – that's why we've set up six speed dates with London's top 'togs – read on to find *the one*

Fiona Kelly, Fiona Kelly Photography

fionakellyphotography.com | 07879 455 932

Tell us about your background – how did you become a wedding photographer?

I started my career as a graphic designer and photographic art director working for fashion and lifestyle brands. My photography business began 10 years ago and from the start, my style has been influenced by my background in design. I find inspiration in the small things; light, nature, design and people. I love beautiful paper and gorgeous packaging.

What's your favourite London venue and why?

This is one of the hardest questions to answer! London is filled with amazing venues that offer everything from quirky and creative to uber elegant. The one venue I always love going back to is Queen's House in Greenwich. It's the most amazing building with really interesting nooks for photos. It's right next to Greenwich Park and the River Thames. Queen's House is one of those places that, regardless of the weather, is always photogenic.

And your favourite area of the city to shoot in?

I'm torn between choosing the wonderful green areas of London, such as Regent's Park, and its iconic architecture and landmarks. I've been lucky to work in many amazing venues and locations across London.

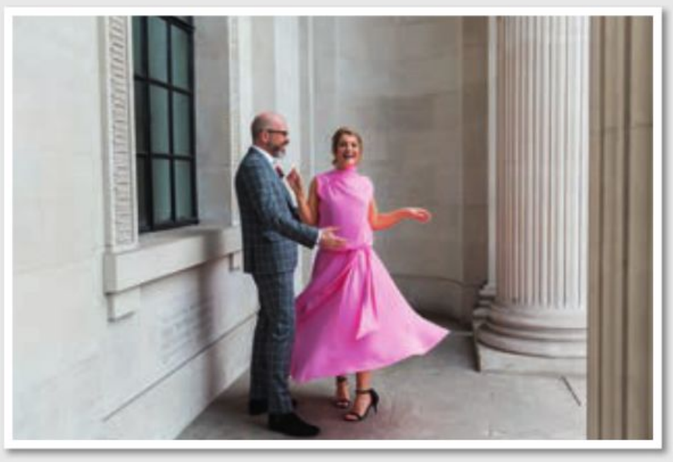
What's your favourite part of the job?

Without a doud, it's working with the couples who choose me to photograph their day. I love to find out how they met and what's important to them.

Siobhan Hennessy, Siobhan H Photography

siobhanhphotography.com | 07809 575 460

Tell us about your background – how did you become a wedding photographer?



I was a picture editor for a top photo agency for almost a decade, art directing editorial shoots for UK and international magazines, and shooting events around London. During this time, I developed a strong eye for composition, honed my technical skills and learned to work at a fast pace, which has translated really well to my wedding photography.

How would you describe your photography style?

My style is modern and fresh with an editorial edge. Wedding photographs become more precious as time goes on, which is why it's important for me to create meaningful images capturing the story of the day, the emotional moments and the feelings that can instantly transport you back to it.

What's your favourite London venue and why?

I love stylish, minimal venues with lots of natural light and The West Reservoir Centre in Hackney ticks all of those boxes. It's a very modern, industrial venue with a real sense of space – plus, the views across the water are fabulous.

And your favourite area of the city to shoot in?

The great thing about London is that you're never far away from a perfect backdrop. You can find the coolest urban settings or a beautiful natural spot within minutes. One of my favourite places to shoot is around Notting Hill; I love the pastel colours and elegant houses.

Douglas Fry, Douglas Fry Wedding Photographer

douglasfry.com | 020 7193 9446

Tell us about your background – how did you become a wedding photographer?

I started out as a physicist at Imperial College London, then spent five years in the army, two years cycling round the world before setting up as a freelance press photographer, shooting for *The Times*, *Independent* and *Observer*. A couple saw my byline in a newspaper and asked me to shoot their London wedding; nervously, I agreed. Ten rolls of film later, I was hooked and have now shot more than 500 weddings in 25 years – I enjoy every one.

How would you describe your photography style?

I shoot weddings on very fast lenses by Leica, the incredible 50mm standard lens opens up to F0.95 which means I can shoot any dark winter wedding lit by candle light with no flash. It preserves the ambience of the wedding, and doesn't interfere or distract the couple or guests in the slightest. In summary, a documentary style on the world's best cameras and lenses.

What's your favourite London venue and why?

That's a tough one; I've shot at Syon Park for many years and its celebration room is one of the most elegant in London. Post ceremony, the guests collect in the quad for drinks while the couple walk down the famous long gallery for photographs, and then make their way down to the large conservatory. For more intimate dos, I really like Two Temple Place with its majestic dining room.

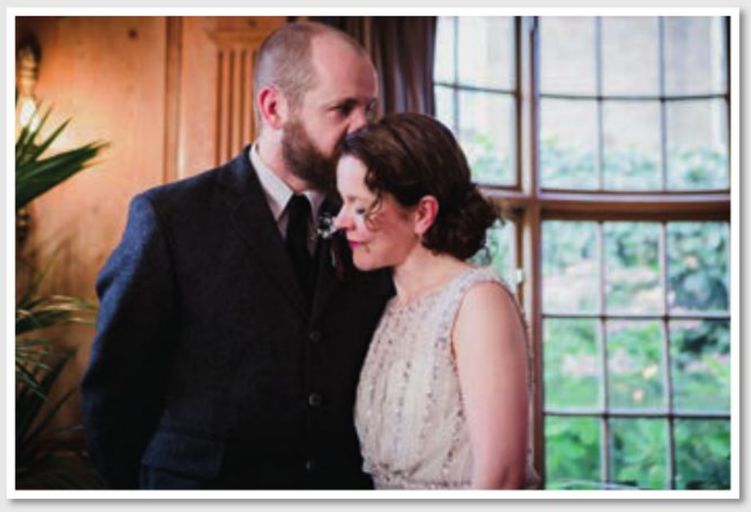
And your favourite area of the city to shoot in?

Chelsea presents endless possibilities with its mix of coloured houses and interesting shops and restaurants all along the King's Road.

Davina Paterson, Image Bliss Photography

imagebliss.co.uk.com | 07770 055 576

Tell us about your background – how did you become a wedding photographer?



I picked up my dad's Olympus OM10 when I was seven-years-old and I've wanted to be a photographer ever since. I remember talking about it in my school careers day and getting blank looks as they couldn't help me. I went on to study art and design with photography. As for weddings themselves… I shot a friend's big day and absolutely loved it – the rest is history.

How would you describe your photography style?

Story telling. I love to document the day so that, when couples look back, they can re-live it.

What's your favourite London venue and why?

Really I love any London pub with a relaxed vibe. However, Shoreditch and Hackney are throwing up some amazing spaces now; Core Clapton is a beautiful, bright space. And you can't beat an iconic London landmark either.

And your favourite area of the city to shoot in?

You can turn down any street in London and find something wildly different – so it's hard to choose just one; but I love to shoot on Hampstead Heath.

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Belinda Burton, Belle Photo Journey

bellephotojourney.com | 07891 390 297

How would you describe your photography style?

My style is a combination of natural reportage photography and fine art portraiture. I love to capture the natural and unstaged expressions of joy, anticipation, excitement of the couple and people around them. I tend to be relatively 'invisible' and capture the events and moments as the day unfolds. However, when it comes to wedding portraitures, I would gently guide the couples to make sure we have some natural but flattering photos.

What's your favourite London venue and why?

It's a difficult choice but I would probably say Cutty Sark. It's visually stunning, filled with treasures, spacious with multiple levels for different impact, and right by the waterfront.

What's your favourite part of the job?

The people element is one thing that keeps me smiling in my job. Not everyone is lucky enough to be in a job surrounded by happy people. I love meeting people and am more than pleased to be an important part of the big day.

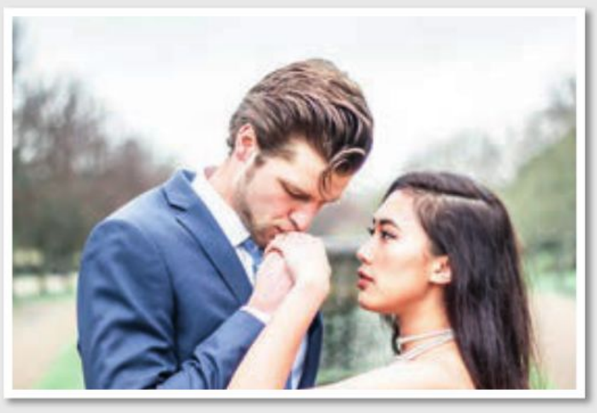
What are your top tips for nearlyweds?

Write down three things you love most about your other half and put it somewhere easily accessible. Then, if you're ever really mad at each other, look at your list and remind yourself why they're *the one* for you.

Genevieve Hawks, Queen Bea Photography

queenbeaphotography.co.uk | 07376 157 985

Tell us about your background – how did you become a wedding photographer?



I've always had a passion for photography, and got through a steady stream of cameras in my youth – several of which I broke as I took them *everywhere*. I wish it had clicked (pun intended) sooner that I could turn my passion into a business as that would have been more exciting than the law degree and subsequent journalism qualification that I put myself through.

In May, 2018 I married my wife, Emma, after a five-year engagement. After the wedding, having spent years researching photographers, their styles etc, I began to wonder if it was something I could do. And once we got back from our honeymoon, I began to set up Queen Bea Photography.

How would you describe your photography style?

I would say I fall under the 'documentary' style of wedding photography. I like to keep things as natural and unposed as possible – and fun

What's your favourite London venue and why?

I love Chelsea Old Town Hall for a number of reasons. First, it's around the corner from where I live and I like getting to know other London wedding suppliers. I think the obligatory confetti shot on the steps is such a quintessentially 'London' wedding photo too, and I love that

And your favourite area of the city to shoot in?

That's a hard one. I've lived all over London and have so many favourite places. However, I recently did an engagement shoot in South Kensington and had such a lot of fun. It was great seeing somewhere I spend a lot of time through a completely different lens (apologies for another pun). There are so many great, iconic places to shoot in around there, and we took some around Cromwell Road, Exhibition Road, and inside the Natural History Museum.

What's your favourite part of the job?

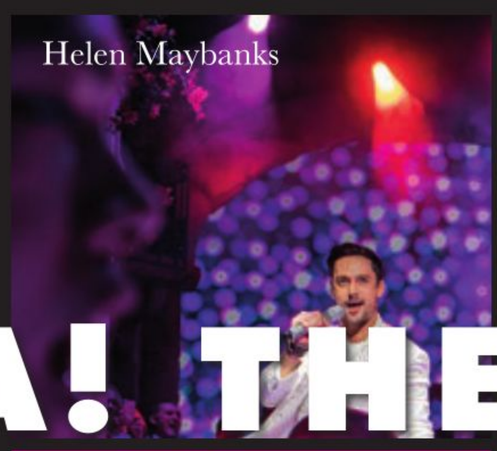
I love, love, and that's why I enjoy photographing weddings so much. I'm a huge romantic, and weddings are so full of fun, they just make me smile.

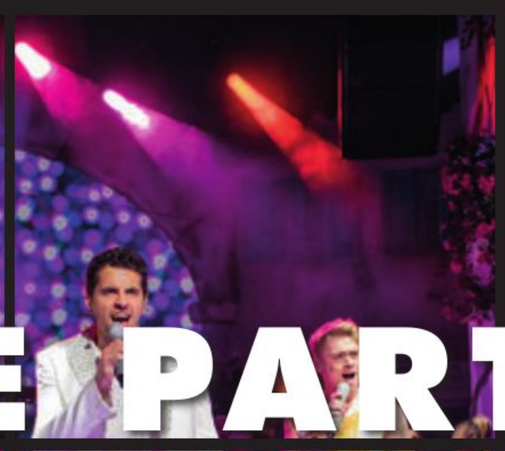
PARTY IN THE CAPITAL

We put two London hen dos to the test

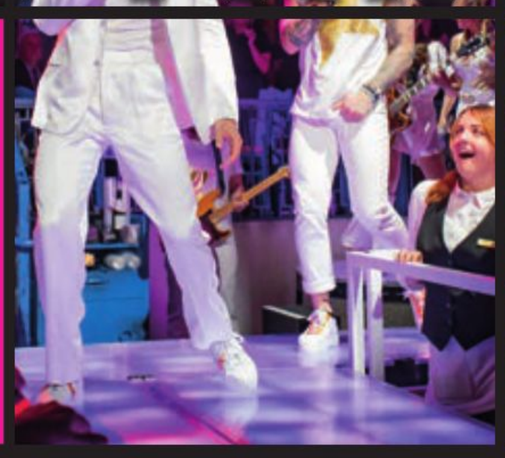
Whatever your taste, there's not much that the capital can't offer in terms of hen do celebrations. Hannah Faulder got to check out two of the best experiences – oh, the hardship – one you can invite your nan along to and the other, well, maybe not…

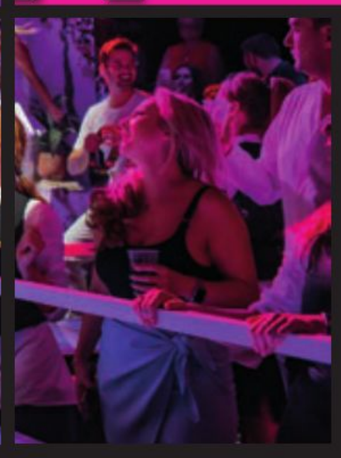
Helen Maybanks


Helen Maybanks



MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY





I'm a firm believer that there are two types of people in this world: people who love ABBA and people who won't admit they love ABBA. I am well and truly in the first camp – in fact, obsessed is probably the correct term for my adoration of the Swedish fab four – so my expectations were very high for this event.

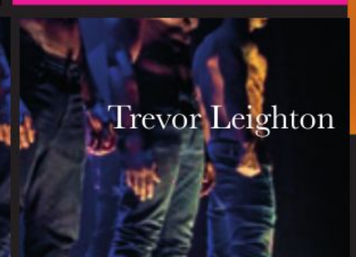
Billed as an immersive entertainment experience that puts guests at the heart of the action, I couldn't quite picture how this was going to pan out and all I knew was that we would be getting dinner while watching a *Mamma Mia*-inspired show. Arriving at the O2 with my sister (another ABBA nut), we walked through the big blue doors and suddenly we were on a Greek island in a pretty courtyard complete with fountain, olive trees and walls draped in bougainvillea, instead of London on a dreary Monday night. From the moment we took our seats in Nikos' Taverna, that was it; I was swept up in the brilliant and slightly ridiculous magic of it all. The free-flowing wine probably helped.

Everyone was so into the show that they probably could've got away with mediocre food, but in truth it was delicious. The four-course gourmet meal of tasty Mediterranean fare was incredible – the bread and olives alone were to die for. And as for the show, it was just one huge incredible party – we all laughed, cried and sang along with our new found friends – and we weren't just observing, everyone was part of the action. I challenge anyone to not start dancing; we were up mid-mouthful at many points if *Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!* or *Dancing Queen* were somehow shoehorned into the plot. The joyous atmosphere was totally infectious.

At the end of the show, they roll out a huge stage and a disco starts up. My sister and I were devastated to leave but we had to get the last train home, which we soon found out had been cancelled, and with that we were back down to earth with a thud. If you don't like ABBA, the price tag may terrify you. If you do, it's worth every penny.

Visit the website mammamiatheparty.com

MAGIC MIKE LIVE


Trevor Leighton

When I told people I was going to see Magic Mike Live I got a lot of giggles and some funny looks. If you're a millennial woman, there's a good chance you've seen the film (or at least, fast-forwarded to the good bits), so you probably have an idea of what the live show will entail. What Channing Tatum's extravaganza actually provides though is a somewhat more friendly experience. I won't give the premise away (although let's face it, we're not here for the story), but let's just say that the female MC is very much in charge of the situation, and we as audience members are reaping the benefits of a more feminist approach to a traditional strip show.

We arrived at the Hippodrome Casino, which is perfectly located in Leicester Square for those who want a night on the town afterwards, and are directed to the venue and order a drink right to our seats. The show is around an hour and a half, but it goes by in a flash of tanned skin and oiled muscles. The dance moves range from a bit saucy to one routine with a female dancer that verges on indecent, but the general feel-good vibe of the evening and the comedic styling of the host stop it from careering into tacky.

I have to say, I haven't laughed so much in a long time. My friend and I were screaming and whooping along to the show – and this was a school night! I can just imagine a Saturday night with a group of your best girls and you could bring the house down. I have to mention the audience participation, as it is a big part of the show. I was slightly terrified at the prospect of this beforehand, but when you're in the moment the nerves go out the window. My friend even sat on a piano and had a hunky man serenade her! It feels like a totally safe and inclusive environment, but if you're really not up for a lap dance, just say the safe word "unicorn" and you'll be passed by. Not that we saw many people using the safe word, except for a very embarrassed looking Alex Jones from *The One Show*. All in all, this is riotous, naughty fun best consumed with copious cocktails and your best friends by your side.

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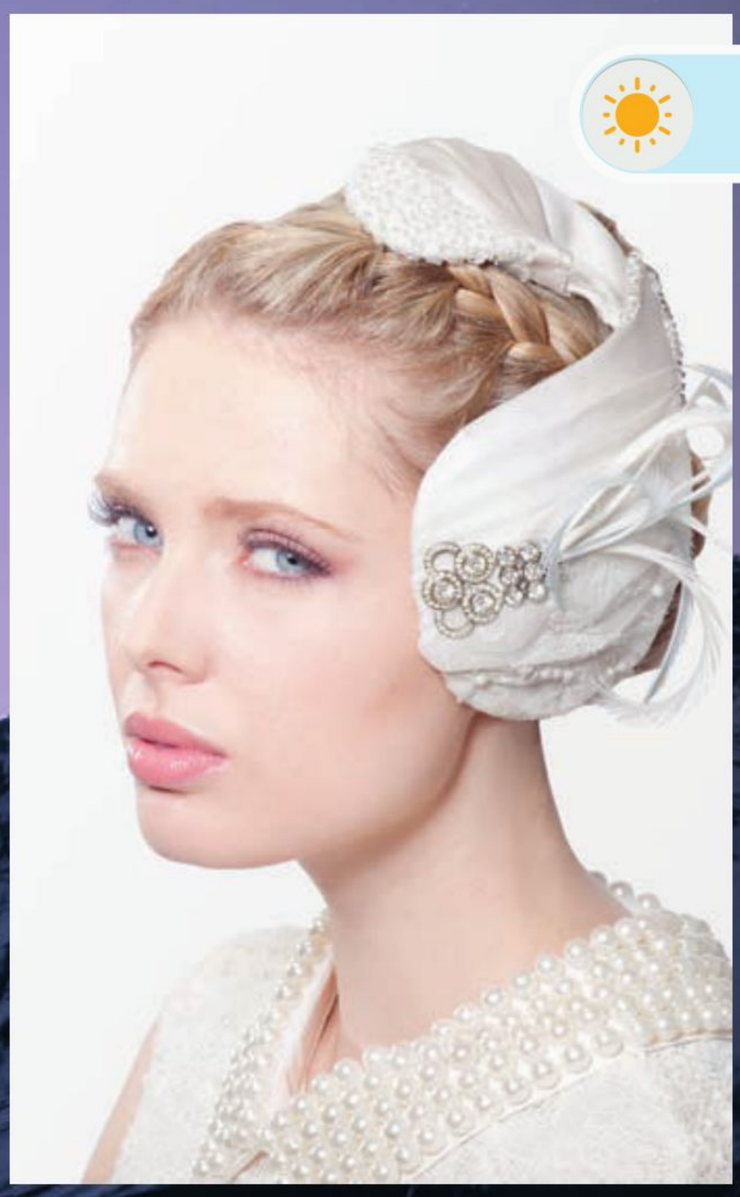
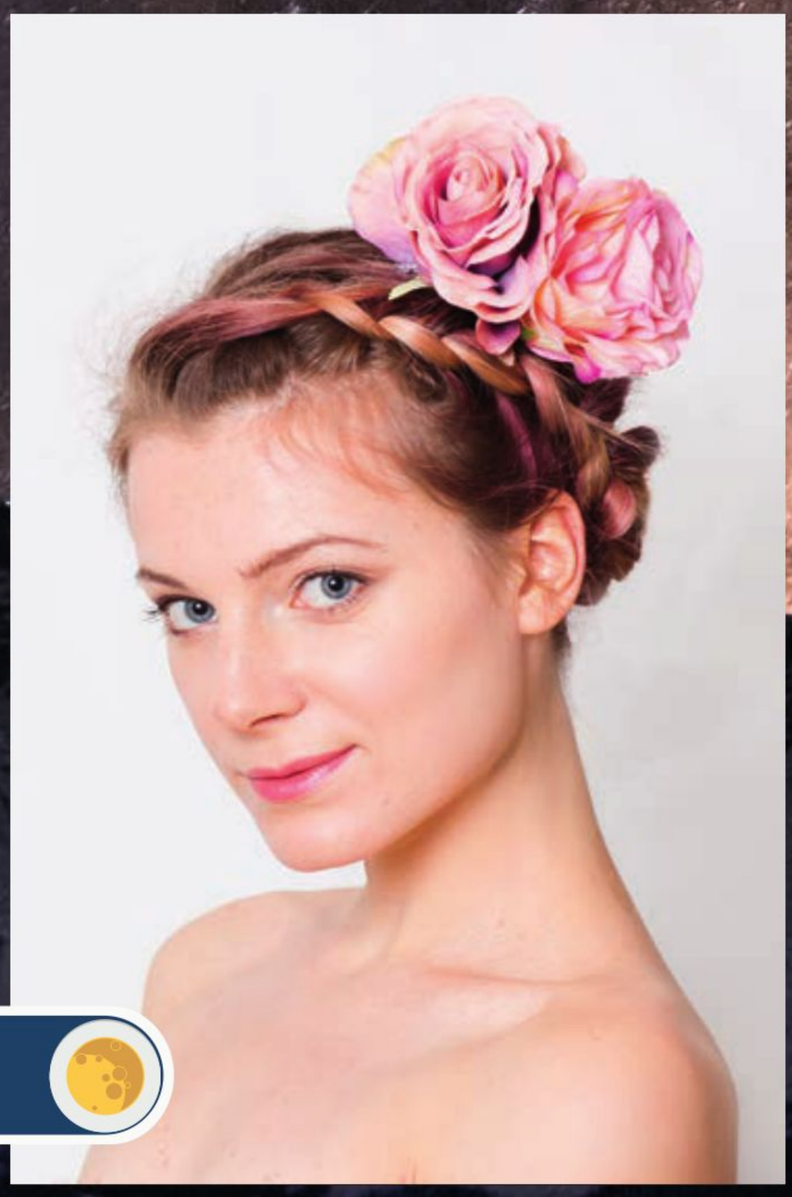


"Surprise all your friends and family by switching your look up between the ceremony and the reception. These two moments are equally as important but very different. The first, serious and formal, the second celebratory and glamourous." Katherine, Katherine Elizabeth Millinery



"If you're planning on changing dress from ceremony to reception, then skip the necklace and focus on an elegant pair of transformable diamond earrings instead. They're luxurious, versatile and convert effortlessly from studs to drops to highlight and accessorise your different looks and necklines." – Gary Ingram, The Diamond Store

"Three-dimensional botanical accessories are very much in Vogue this year. Whether a statement headband or flowers dotted throughout, fun, floral accessories are going to be everywhere this season. Be sure to choose a hairstyle that can be easily adapted – you don't want to waste too much of your special day having a restyle."
Cathy Worth, Twisted Glamour

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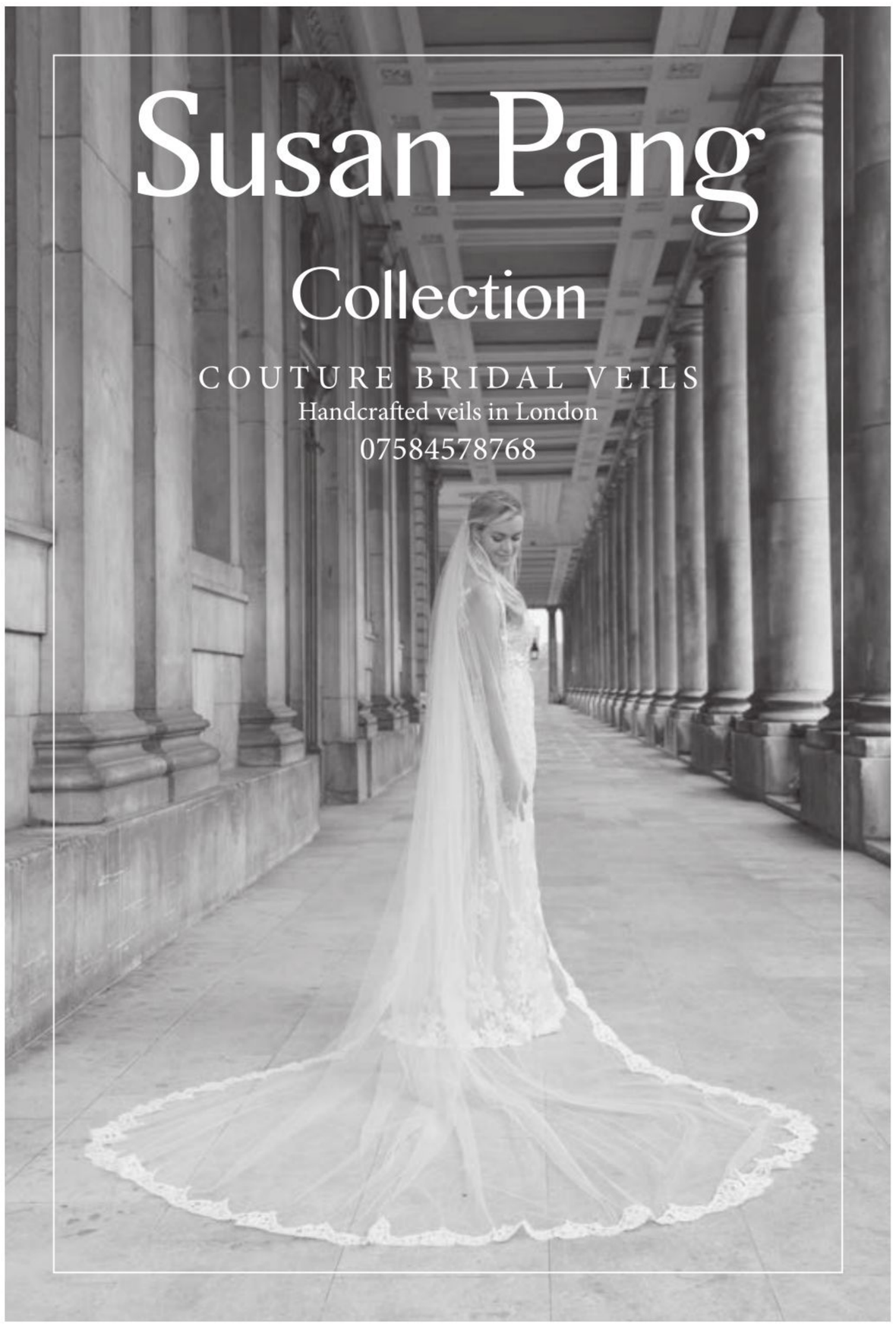

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Images courtesy of Eva Tarnok, Lucy Davenport, Lloyd Dobbie and Tino Antonou. Wedding Planner: Cristal Olivier

"Moving from discreet sparkle to evening chandeliers can make a world of difference." - Emma Canning, Brilliant Inc

"Veils are often discarded after the ceremony and never worn again. For that reason, we designed a new concept in bridalwear; the Vic is a veil that can be worn for the ceremony before being transformed into a cape for the reception. Bespoke embellishment adds a personal touch." – Susan, Susan Pang Collection

CONTACTS:

Brilliant Inc, brilliantinc.co.uk | Katherine Elizabeth Millinery, katherineelizabethhats.com | Olivier Laudus, olivierlaudus.com | Susan Pang, susanpang.com | The Diamond Store, diamondstore.co.uk | Twisted Glamour, twistedglamour.co.uk

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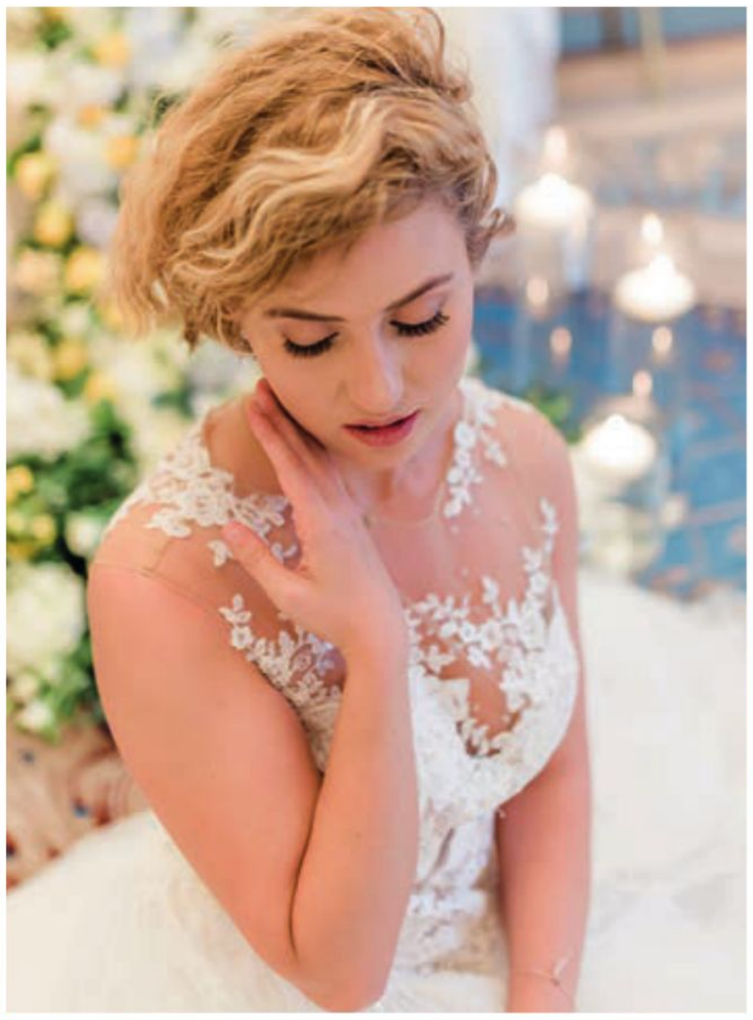
A landmark occasion

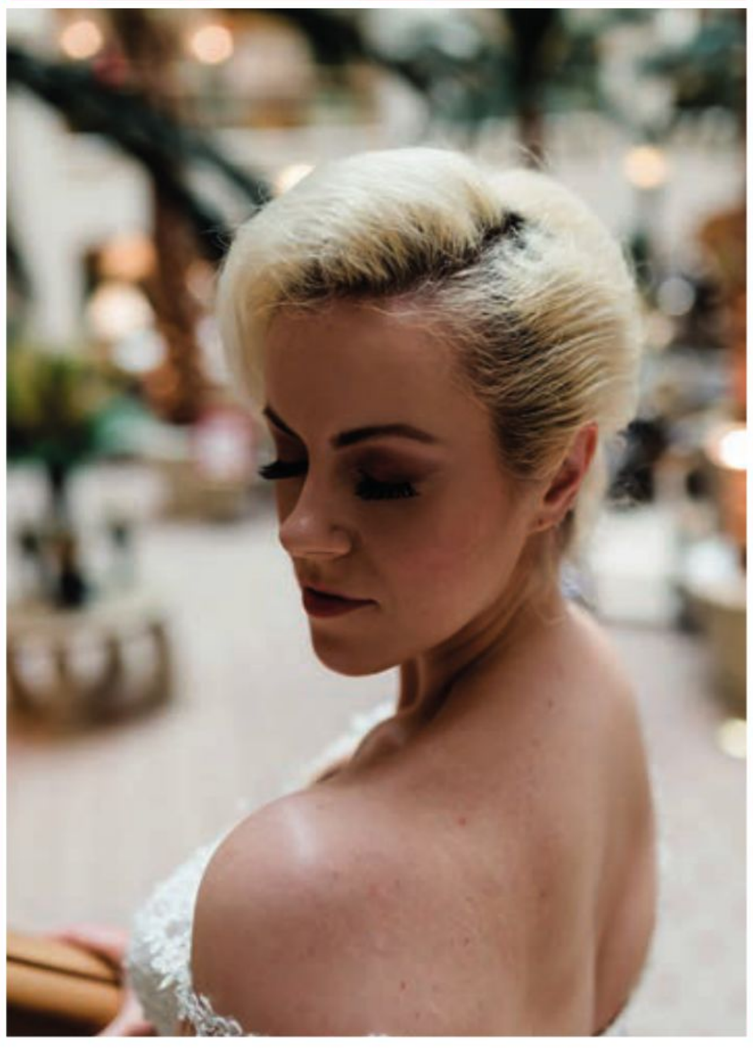
Pink or blue? Why not have two? This crack team of London suppliers created a series of looks at The Landmark London

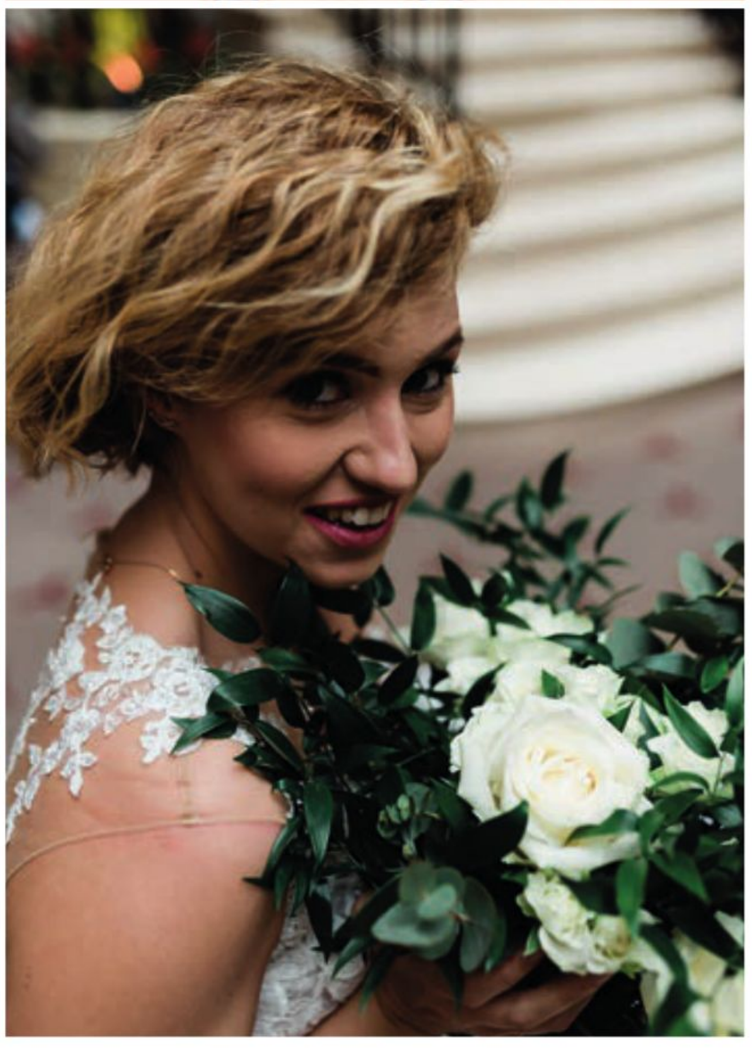
Images courtesy of Leana Catherine Photography

Can't decide on a theme or single colour scheme? Well, as this shoot proves you can have it all – just, maybe, not all at once. If your reception venue offers multiple spaces, simply dress each to suit the different time of day. Indeed, luxury event planner Jacqueline Kennedy and her crack team of London suppliers styled various function rooms at The Landmark Hotel, London to demonstrate how a big-day spectacular can progress from a fun and frivolous high tea to an elegant, formal dinner – and, of course, how your bridal look can be switched up to complement each occasion.

"Pink weddings are trending and no wonder; there's a rebellious, sexy appeal to this gorgeous, feminine tone," explains Jacqueline. "Here, we dressed the room for a champagne afternoon tea with balloon sculptures designed to wow, and tables laid with statement glasses and crockery from Jones hire. For the evening do, however, we chose a more intimate, romantic look and feel for The Empire Room, keeping the styling simple and elegant with shades of blue."







CONTACTS:

Styling, concept and coordination, jacquelinekennedy.co.uk | **Photography**, leanacatherine.com | **Venue**, landmarklondon.co.uk **Dresses**, bridesdogood.com | **Hair and make-up**, israrana.com | **Shoes**, lucychoilondon.com | **Flowers**, lux-occasions.com and nbflowers.co.uk | **Balloons**, balloonista.co.uk | **Stationery**, bigdaydesigns.co.uk and juniorwolf.co.uk | **Favours**, sugarboxevents.com **tableware**, joneshire.co.uk | **Models**, Rae, Natalie, Denisa, Sinead and Charlotte.

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LET'S celebrate!

Jane Barbeary, Member of the Associations of Independent Celebrants, shares what's new in this increasingly popular service

You've named the date, booked the venue, and decided what to call your twitter hashtag for the big day... but the important bit, the actual promises you make to the love of your life, are pretty much the same words used by every other couple getting hitched.

There's not a lot of wriggle room for clergy or registrars to really personalise a ceremony to reflect you, as a couple. The laws that govern marriage date back to 1836, and the language used in ceremonies remain in line with those traditions.

There's something comforting about familiar wording and ceremony and, if that's what you prefer, then that's a great choice. But if the words don't feel personal and relevant to you, there is an alternative. Modern celebrants write and deliver bespoke ceremonies that tell your story as a couple. We can't legally marry you – yet – the Law Commission is currently looking into that – but what we can do is give you a truly unique and personal ceremony that you, and your family and friends, will remember and cherish for many years to come. We can also write and deliver civil partnership ceremonies, wedding vow renewals and baby naming ceremonies, to your specifications.

It's worth knowing that the Law Commission has decided that the marriage laws are not keeping pace with modern Britain, and need to change. They're looking at making the system simpler, fairer and cheaper. As it stands you can only marry in a church, register office or approved venue. The commission says this can be restrictive and expensive, and it's looking to remove some of the red tape to give couples more choice, whilst still maintaining the dignity of marriage. If the changes go ahead, you could get married on water, in a field or in your own back garden!

They're also considering changing the rules to allow humanists and independent celebrants to conduct legally binding ceremonies in England and Wales. That's hopefully to come but right now, once you've done the legal bit which can be inexpensive at a register office midweek, you can go ahead with your ceremony your way! It's also not a requirement to exchange rings when you complete the legal formalities, so that can also be done with your celebrant.

Your ceremony can be as simple or as extravagant as you'd like it to be. If you're stuck for inspiration, celebrants have lots of it. You can have guests giving readings, live music or favourite songs played. You might want to include children, pets or join the latest

trend of hiring in alpacas as ring bearers!

We will write your entire ceremony, including your vows or promises to each other, once you've told us all about your story. Some couples prefer to write their own vows, but would like the celebrant to read them aloud. It's entirely up to you, there are no hard and fast rules. We can deliver a ceremony anywhere that's special to you both. It could be a forest glade, a stately home or the pub garden.

There are many 'symbolic actions' you can include in your ceremony, if that's what you'd like. These are becoming increasingly popular and are a great way of getting your guests involved too. Here are just a few examples you might want to ponder over…

JUMPING THE BROOM

This is an ancient tradition used in many cultures in past centuries, when couples literally jumped over a broomstick together to marry. The 'leap of faith' symbolises how much you love each other, as you jump into your future together. Two guests can hold the broom a few inches off the ground. The couple close their eyes, everyone counts to three, and the guests lower the broom to the ground as the couple jump over it.

SAND CEREMONY

This symbolises the coming together of two individuals to make one loving couple. Two glass vases of coloured sand are poured into a third vessel to symbolise the blending of your lives together. Just as the coloured grains can no longer now be separated, so your lives are now as one.

HANDFASTING

This is a traditional Celtic ritual and it's the origin of the expression to 'tie the knot'. You hold hands, usually at the pulse points, and the celebrant ties them together, loosely, with ribbons or braids. This signifies the binding of your lives together. The type of braid used can be very personal, so for example if you met at school, you might want to use an old school tie, or particular colours that have significance to you. This can be a good point in the ceremony to make promises or vows to one another.

LOVE LETTERS

You put your feelings for each other on paper. You then read it aloud or give it to your partner or celebrant to read. Alternatively, you could put them in a memory box, seal it, and open it on your first anniversary. A lovely way to remember your special day.

RING WARMING

Before rings are exchanged they can be passed around your guests on a small cushion or in a box. Each guest holds them for a few seconds and makes a silent wish for the couple. When the rings are returned, they hold all the love and hopes for the future from family and friends.

STONE CEREMONY

In past centuries couples couldn't always afford wedding rings, so they cast a stone into a nearby river or ocean to symbolise staying together as the water ebbed and flowed throughout their lives.

In the absence of any handy water nearby, you can toss stones with your names etched on them into a bowl of water. They can be retrieved later and taken on honeymoon where hopefully you'll find some water!.

UNITY CANDLES

Candles represent light and hope, and lighting one together symbolises your union, and hopes for the future.

So it really is all up to you. Working together with a trained celebrant can make your day unique, personal, fun and best of all a memory to live with you, your family and friends forever. The Association of Independent Celebrants list celebrants across the UK. Most will be happy to talk through your ideas free of charge before you make your decision. Let's do it……. let's celebrate!

Contact: Jane Barbeary – Member of the Associations of Independent Celebrants
07821 187 193 | Jane.barbeary@outlook.com | nuptials-and-naming-ceremonie.co.uk

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CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

WEDDING SHOWCASE

and launch of a new bridal collection by Bruce Oldfield

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH,

11AM-4PM

Chelsea Physic Garden are thrilled to be joined by the iconic dress designer Bruce Oldfield, in hosting their first wedding showcase.

On what is sure to be a memorable day, the event offers an opportunity to view the launch of an exquisite new bridal collection by Bruce Oldfield and experience the enchanting garden in a unique way.

The Garden team have opened up their little black book of 'go to' suppliers who will present an array of options in order to plan a perfect and memorable day, and visitors will be able to sample canapés; delight in elegant floral displays and sip chilled prosecco whilst wandering throughout the magical garden.

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Shoes by Dune London, pink dress by Phase Eight and ivory dress by Warehouse.

HIGH STREET HOT LIST

Fashion favourites Warehouse has announced the launch of an exclusive bridal edit for the new season. The 19-piece collection offers a range of silhouettes in soft chiffon and satin fabrics using a muted colour palette of baby pink, navy, and ivory. They feature simple yet chic details, with vintage-inspired dresses, floral prints, fluted sleeves and back details. Prices range from £79 to £89. To shop, visit warehouse.co.uk warehouseuk

Phase Eight has revealed a new capsule bridal collection consisting of luxury designs with affordable price tags all under £500. There's a nod to the glamorous era of the 1920s with an ivory fringed dress, and this pretty blush tulle style, plus coordinating hats and fascinators. To shop, visit phase-eight.com phaseeight

Shoe experts Dune London unveil the new 20-piece footwear collection alongside an exclusive range of matching clutch bags. Brides will love the jewel trims, ribbon ankle ties and sparkling details. Prices start from £130 for shoes and from £60 for bags. To shop, visit dunelondon.com dune_london

SAY 'YES' TO THE DRESS

Contemporary fashion brand KITRI has launched its debut bridal collection, a nine-piece selection of fun, feminine dresses and jumpsuits. Prices start from £195 for this *Fontana* style, and range up to £245. The pieces feature draped hems, exaggerated sleeves and cascading ruffles. There's choices for an engagement party or pre-wedding dinner too, and bridesmaids will also love the fashionable styles.

Designer, founder and creative director of the brand Haeni Kim says, "We received requests for playful, wearable and affordable bridalwear from our customers since the launch of the brand so I'm very excited about our capsule bridal collection. We have designed a selection of dresses and jumpsuits that will be perfect for many occasions surrounding a modern wedding. It's such an honour to be a part of someone's wedding and we can't wait to see how our customers will wear them."

To shop, visit kitristudio.com kitristudio

FASHION *focus*

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

EDITOR'S PICK

This dusky pink ribbon and lace bodysuit is from the new Muse by Coco de Mer collection and is the perfect pick for your wedding night and honeymoon. Prices range from £20 for a thong to £120 for a slip, and pieces are available in sizes 30D-F to 36B-F. To shop, visit coco-de-mer.com cocodemeruk

Sisterhood

Kate Halfpenny, the talented designer behind the luxury Halfpenny London bridal brand has launched Sister, a bridesmaid collection with prices ranging from £70 to £295. Multiple styles are available in soft fabrics and three colourways – pink, pewter and navy. Kate says, "The Sister collection has something for everyone – from my signature separates to dresses and even a jumpsuit. They've all been designed to wear again and again, styled in your own way." To shop, visit halfpennylondon.com halfpennylondon

Editor's choice

Dress your little ones in the latest styles from French designer childrenswear brand Marie-Chantal.

This blue floral printed dress called *Eve* is the perfect pick for a spring wedding, and others include pretty pastels in gingham and tweed.

To shop, visit mariechantal.co.uk mariechantalchildren

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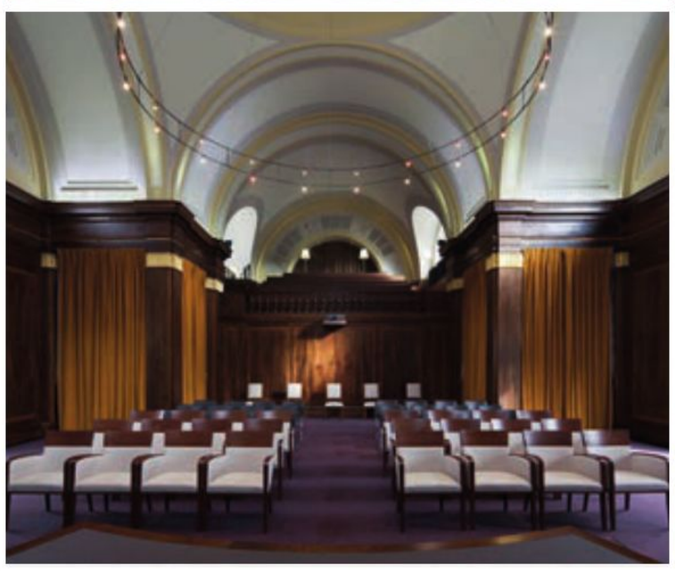

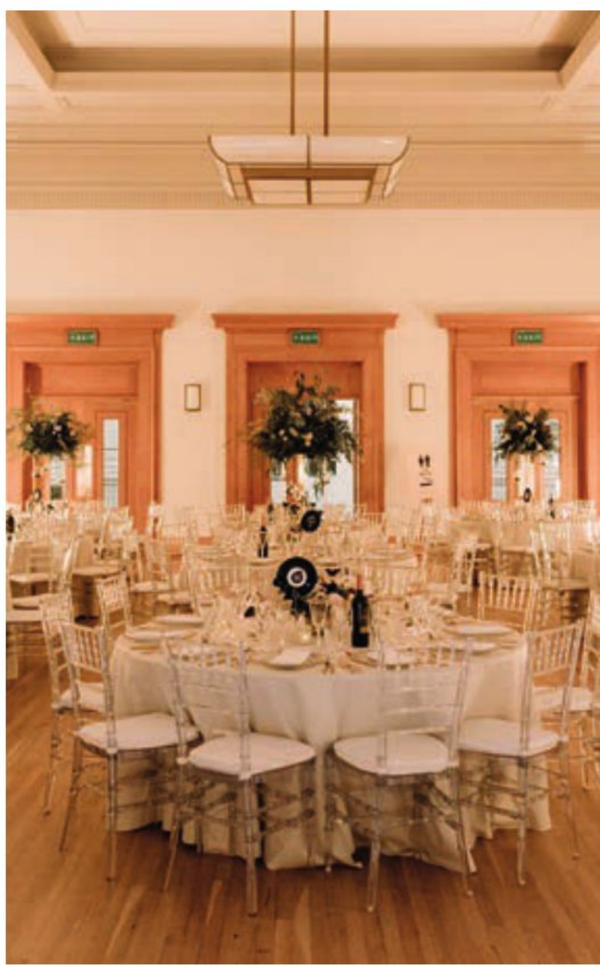

Hackney

One_shoulder

suzanneneville.com

Fun and frivolous

These flirty styles are setting the trends for 2020

Long sleeves

adriannapapell.com

Halterneck

catherineparrybridal.com

Oversized bow

alanhannah.co.uk

Short and sassy

justinalexander.com

Embellished back detail

clairepettibone.com

Vintage-inspired sleeves

kitristudio.com

Short sleeves

elbethgillis.com

Bib-front

katyakatya.co.uk

Slip dress

warehouse.co.uk

Shirt-style jumpsuit

kitristudio.com

Feathers

demetrios.com

Plunge neckline

jesuspeiro.com

Chic jumpsuit

charlottebalbier.com

Fringing

phase-eight.com

Elegant cape

jennypackham.com

Tulle detail

kelseyrose.co.uk

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These elegant styles can be worn as they are, or teamed with pretty shrugs or statement chokers for maximum impact

Madelyn dress with collar by elbethgillis.com

CHIC AND *strapless*

Aerial by charlottebalbier.com

Anais by clairepettibone.com

Style no 014 by demetrios.com

Margot by Kelly Faetanini at elliesanderson.co.uk

Bianca by jennypackham.com

Fern by alanhannah.co.uk

Style no 058 by jesuspeiro.com

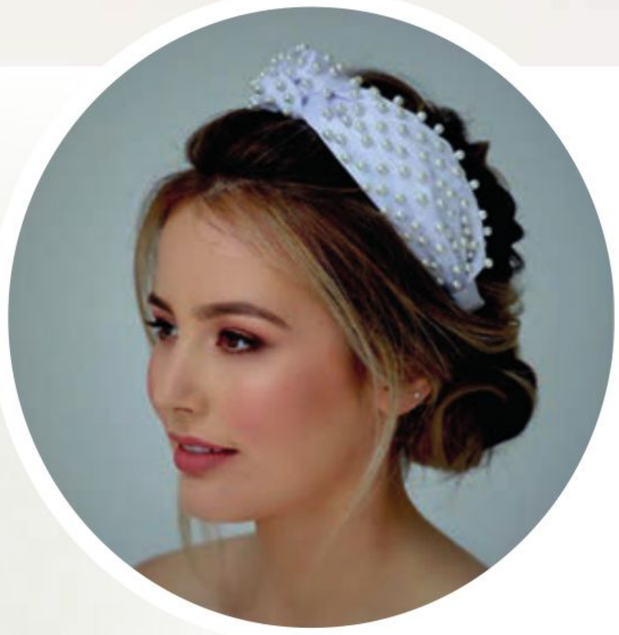
Rose by whistles.com

HEADLINERS

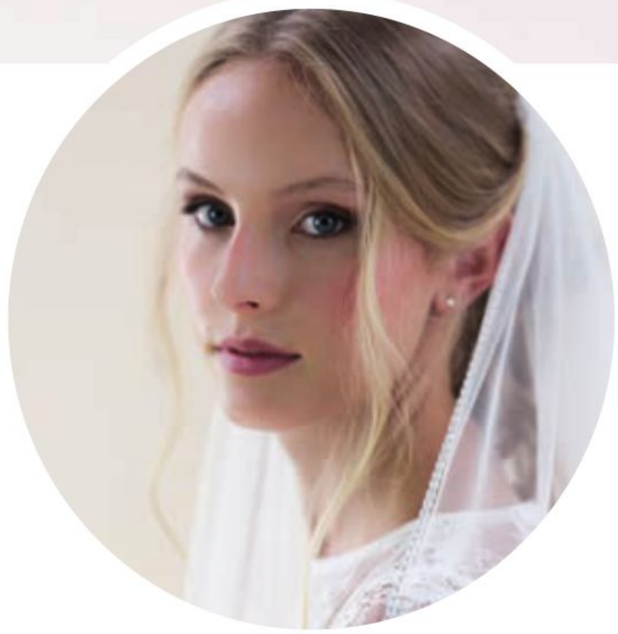
Hair clips, bands and accessories were spotted at the recent bridal catwalk shows. Get the look with our Insta-worthy selection

Headdress, from a selection, mervebayindir.com

Tiaras and veils spotted at demetrios.com. For similar, try richard-designs.com



White silk pearl headband, £59, aliceandblair.co.uk



Veil, £175, rainbowclub.co.uk

Pearl-encrusted headband, £23, chichiclothing.com

Fascinator with ivory flowers, £35, phase-eight.com

Hair slides, from £19 for set of four, aliceandblair.co.uk

Headband featuring large flower, from a selection, uk.accessorize.com

Set of three hair slides, £15, oliverbonas.com

Cream knot headband, £4.99, newlook.com

Pearl-effect beaded hair clips, £12 for set of two, crown-love.com

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IN PURSUIT OF WELLNESS

STILL London, the non-toxic, cruelty-free, vegan and environmentally friendly nail studio, has now launched a regenerating and protecting hand balm. With marine algae extract, lupine peptides, olive oil derived squalane, shea butter, cocoa butter and soya wax this potent formula regenerates, protects, moisturises and firms the skin.

There's also a new cuticle oil available where grape seed and evening primrose oil work seamlessly with a Norwegian algae extract, vitamin E and tea tree to asorb quickly and heal the skin naturally.

The hand balm is priced at £23 and the cuticle oil at £18. Both are available from still-london.com

Glow-givers

Blending natural extracts and cutting-edge science, Scientia Skincare utilises no less than 23 oils sourced from all around the world, including morning seed oil from Uganda, and wild carrot oil from France, which deliver maximum skin health while boosting wellbeing. The first exciting products to launch from this brand are the Dawn and Dusk Elixirs, formulated to give you your daily and nightly dose of radiance.

Priced at £32 each from scientiabeauty.com

WELL LIT

This highly-pigmented, three-in-one highlighter creates a perfectly radiant glow that will take you from ceremony to celebrations. This super-versatile micro-fine powder is easy to apply to cheeks, brow bones and décolletage for a quick all-over radiance. You can play it safe with a natural shimmer or make a statement by creating a multi-dimensional strobing effect.

This convenient make-up bag hero in Sahara is actually an ombre of Kevyn Aucoin's three best-selling highlighters, Candlelight, Starlight, and Sunlight. In this case, three is most definitely not a crowd!

Available from spacenk.com, priced at £30.

Beauty BUZZ

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

Crystal clear

If hours of traipsing around wedding shows and agonising over budgets has left you in need of a bit of R&R, this will come as music to your ears. LLIO's Crystoil helps with those little moments in life where you can finally enjoy some you-time, aiding sleep, boosting energy and enhancing the mood. You can invoke Crystoil's power in two ways: shake the bottle and add a few droplets to a bath, or massage all over before stepping into a warm bath or shower. The lush passionflower, apricot and rosehip oils make for deliciously soft nourished skin.

LLIO will be donating £1 of every sale to Winston's Wish, a charity giving hope to grieving children. Priced at £45, check out llio.love

A ROSY GLOW

Looking to achieve that natural dewy flush of colour for your wedding day? The folk at Beautaniq Beauty have just the thing. Introducing the Butter Cheek & Lip Balm. This cream blusher blends seamlessly into cheeks using nothing more than the warmth of your fingertips, and doubles up as an effortless lip colour. Crafted with 90% natural plant-based oils to nourish, condition and hydrate the skin, it simultaneously bestows a gorgeous, creamy radiance. Available at beautaniqbeauty.com it's priced at £12.50.

Sustainability, solved

Disposable face wipes are a thing of the past with the sustainable, vegan-friendly and cruelty-free Face Halo. These microfibre pads remove your make-up and lightly exfoliate the skin in just seconds. Face Halo works with water helping the clever HaloTech fibres, which are 100 times finer than human hair, to get to work on removing even the most stubborn make-up. Reusable, the Face Halo can be machine washed up to 200 times, meaning it's a cost-effective way of looking after your skin and it helps the environment. Around these parts we call that a win-win!

The Face Halo Original is priced at £17.99 and is available from Beauty Bay, Boots, Selfridges and Harrods. Check out facehalo.com

STRESSED SKIN SOLUTION

Cannabooster Detox from French holistic skincare brand Ho Karan (meaning "I love you" in Breton) is a clarifying, brightening and energising serum – a real skin saviour. Rich in potent terpenes, it helps to detoxify, clarify and create a formidable shield against the harmful effects of pollution. It's gentle on stressed skin, hydrating, nourishing and protecting.

As its name implies it contains the trending plant extract CBD, which has calming, anti-inflammatory and sebum balancing effects. So unsurprisingly this wonder-ingredient is being championed as the latest wellness hero.

Find out more at hokaran.com

FAREWELL SPLIT ENDS!

Let's be honest, a dry and damaged barnet is not the look for your wedding day, so, now's the time to banish split ends for good. Check out BondiBoost's Rapid Repair range. Start your haircare routine with Rapid Repair Shampoo (£22.50). Formulated to repair split ends, reduce breakage and seal cuticles, it delivers a boost of essential oils rich in antioxidants, vitamins and amino acids. Follow with Rapid Repair Conditioner (£22.50), which improves signs of damage. Then, finish by applying 1-2 pumps of the Rapid Repair Serum (£22.50) for softness and shine. Hey presto – damaged hair is a thing of the past. Easy. Available at boots.com

COLOUR WITH CARE

Founded by French sisters, and beauty experts, Hamida and Yasmine Smatti, L'Atelier Green is a breathable and bio-sourced polish that cares for your nails. After helping countless beauty fans to repair nails damaged by acrylics, gel manicures and toxin-filled varnishes, they saw first-hand the need for a product that not only gave the desired colour, shine and long-lasting effect, but that also nurtured nails and cuticles.

The debut Naked Nails collection boasts breathable properties, which help to bring your nails back to full health. Enriched with high-performance, organic and active ingredients, the lacquers stimulate nail growth and repair damage without sacrificing glossiness and longevity.

Priced from £15.99, see the website lateliergreen.com

Step it up

If you simply don't have time for a complicated multi-step skincare regime, help is at hand. Designed to streamline your routine in a fast-moving world, Frances Prescott's multitasking natural skincare will have your complexion big-day ready in no time. With the Tri-Balm (£46) and Tri-Spritz (£45) all you need are two simple three-in-one steps.

The luxurious facial balm cleanses, exfoliates and moisturises in one solid stick bursting with botanical oils. Meanwhile, the spritz works to aid cellular repair, protect against pollution and set make-up.

For further information see francesprescott.com

BEAUTY SLEEP

The must-have beauty accessory for flawless skin and hair is a pillowcase, but not just any. The Gingerlily Beauty Box contains a 100% silk pillowcase for the ultimate in luxury that allows you to reap beauty benefits while you sleep. Soft and seamless, the A-grade mulberry silk adjusts to the temperature of your body and is naturally hypoallergenic, ideal if you suffer with allergies or have sensitive skin. Thanks to its high protein content, this fabric doesn't absorb moisture, so it helps to prevent wrinkles, while keeping skin hydrated and hair glossy.

Available in silver grey, nude, ivory and white, they're priced at £59 each and available from gingerlily.co.uk

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A CALMING *influence*

We put these soothing saviours to the test, perfect for beating wedmin stress

Sanda Aromatherapy Eye Pillow, £22, sandafeelgood.com

"I'm in love! The eye pillow is simple, yet so versatile, and great to have on hand for times when you feel like you need to stop and take a few moments. I put it through its paces and tried it warm first of all. Just 30 seconds in the microwave is plenty. The heat releases the amazing aroma (mine is rose and cardamom), which enhances the whole experience. I popped on a five-minute mindfulness meditation and shut out the world.

"The next night I tested the cold experience – 20 minutes or so in the freezer does the trick. After a tense day it calmed my head and soothed my tired, contact lense-wearing eyes. I can't wait to try it in the summer when itchy hayfever eyes kick in." – **Kelly Andrews**

Amphora Aromatics Relaxing Bath Oil 100ml, £6, amphora-aromatics.com

"I love a bath. Any excuse to get me in the tub, I'm there, and I have to say, I've tried a lot of bath oils. So, I was eager to dive right in with this Relaxing Bath Oil from Amphora Aromatics.

"I truly believe this is the best bath oil I've ever tried. It has exactly the right combination of a heavenly aroma that's not too overpowering, and nourishment, without being greasy. My skin felt instantly balmy and fragrant, which lasted throughout the following day to boot." – **Danielle Harvey**

Sanatio Naturalis Frankincense Essential Oil 10ml, £26, sanationaturalis.com

"I had to dig deep at the back of the cupboard to find my essential oil diffuser to test out Sanatio Naturalis' Frankincense Essential Oil, but I'm glad I did! Distilled from wild-growing tree resin in Somalia, it has an exotic, spicy scent. Without being overbearing, it filled my room with a deliciously heady fragrance that was the perfect backdrop to some me-time. The strong smell is brilliant for focusing the mind and it's been shown that inhaling frankincense reduces your heart rate and blood pressure – so if you're feeling the stress of wedmin, it's definitely worth a whirl." – **Hannah Faulder**

Tisserand Aromatherapy Total De-Stress MoodFix Mist 100ml, £9.45, tisserand.com

"I can't promise this handy spray will work miracles when it comes to tackling a hectic lifestyle, but what it does do is allow you to stop, if only for a minute, and just breathe. A quick squirt provides a comforting mist of calm when the going gets tough and the blend of geranium, orange and nutmeg natural pure essential oils smells great too!" – **Sarah Reeve**

Kyushi Jasmine, Lavender & Cedarwood Face Oil 30ml, £39, kyushi.co.uk

"The first thing I noticed about this face oil was the earthy smell that filled the room. Kyushi recommend placing three drops into the palms of your hands, gently rubbing them together and cupping over your nose and mouth before taking some deep breaths, as the mindful application is as important as the product itself. I did find it had a calming effect, and it smelled divine. It also made my skin feel incredibly soft and hydrated. I recommend using it before you go to bed for a long, restful sleep." – **Melissa Barker**

Q&A

We quizzed boutique owner Valentina Mihalcea on bridal fashion

1) Tell us about your boutique

Nivaldo is a bridal boutique, based in Harrow, specialising in wedding gowns, occasion wear (bridesmaids and flowergirls dresses and outfits for mother-of-the-bride/ -groom), veils and accessories. Our range spans more than 400 designs and thanks to our team of in-house designers, all our dresses can be customised. We're very proud of our designs and our name is synonymous with quality materials – lace, guipure, satin, tulle, beads and Swarovski crystals among them. We aim to deliver *the one* for each of our brides-to-be.

2) What's your advice for brides on the hunt for *the one*? Any dos and don'ts?

Do:

- ❤ Have a budget in mind but be flexible
- ❤ Be open minded
- ❤ Take advice from experts
- ❤ Do your research before you start shopping
- ❤ Decide on any 'must-haves'
- ❤ Start the search at least six months before the wedding

Don't:

❤ Give up on your dream – if you can't find it, customise it!

3) Which is your favourite area of London and why?

Central London for its beauty, variety, choice, multiculturalism and diversity. London is a place where even the wildest dreams can come true.

4) What's trending for 2020 weddings?

Bridal fashion has shifted recently with a massive emphasis on comfort and fresh styling. Some brides are still after a timeless silhouette while others are seeking out more relaxed designs but they all want something special and extraordinary.

5) Talk us through your most requested bridal look...

One of our most popular looks is a lace dress with a cathedral-length train. The other trending style is a lace bodice combined with an A-line skirt in soft tulle.

Contact | 020 8426 0777 | nivaldo.co.uk

Davy's Wine Vaults, located in historic Royal Greenwich, brims with unique character and charm featuring carefully restored original features, antique curiosities and historic wine artefacts. With a spacious bar and dining area, outdoor terrace, two private rooms and a separate function area with its own bar, Davy's Wine Vaults is the perfect venue for weddings big and small.

A: 161 Greenwich High Road, SE10 8JA T: 02088587204 E: EventsDWV@davy.co.uk W: www.davy.co.uk

ONLY TIME WILL TELL

BOSS Watches has launched three new products. The Vela Collection includes statement-making timepieces that were inspired by open skies, urban streets and broad horizons.

Each watch seamlessly combines aesthetics with performance and signature features such as water resistance, glow-in-the-dark markers and engraved backs. Designed to accompany grooms-to-be on the biggest day of their lives, each one has a stainless steel chronograph with a masculine bracelet.

To find out more, visit bosswatches.co.uk

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Chester Barrie has launched a new range of men's formalwear. The AW19 Collection features old classics and new and improved accessories, including bow ties, evening suits, shirts and handkerchiefs. The semi-bespoke gentleman's tailor is located in London and offers both ready-to-wear and made-to-measure options.

To see more, visit chesterbarrie.co.uk

Read all ABOUT IT!

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

Grand plans

Award-winning suit company, Master Debonair has unveiled plans to open six new stores across the UK in 2020.

The fashion firm currently has boutiques in Bolton, London and Chesterfield and a separate showroom in Tyneside. It's become a favourite with grooms-to-be looking for stylish yet affordable suits and accessories.

Check out masterdebonair.com for more.

GOING GREEN

London-based company, Bluebuck has released a new collection of sports trunks and briefs manufactured using Seaqual – an eco-fabric made from recycled plastic waste.

The collection combines the brand's eco-sustainability mission with green fashion. The range has a sleek, sportive cut, and is designed for more adventurous men who want a durable undergarment without compromising on comfort.

Priced from £22–£29 from bluebuck.net

Oh-so handsome

We love Murdock London's latest range of gift sets. Ideal for grooms-to-be, each collection is made in England using the finest products. The range is designed to offer quality and effective daily essentials that encapsulates the heritage of Great British grooming, along with the sought-after style of the modern gentlemen.

Our favourite is the Bailey set, priced at £50, it comes with a beard shampoo, moisturiser, oil and luxurious comb.

To see more, visit murdocklondon.com

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STEP INTO *spring*

We've rounded up our favourite products to help you create the ultimate seasonal look

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£35, foxandchave.com

£45, davidwatson.uk

£59.95, remusuomo.com

£100, joebrowns.co.uk

£99.99, tkmaxx.com

£24.99, gettingpersonal.co.uk

£199, newgateworld.com

£22, villageleathers.com

£110, dunelondon.com

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TIME'S TICKING

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1. £59.99, gettingpersonal.co.uk
2. £89.99, tkmaxx.com
3. £30, riverisland.com
4. £250, newgateworld.com
5. £240, thewatchhut.co.uk
6. £449, hugoboss.com
7. £690, mauricelacroix.com
8. £224.99, timex.co.uk

WIN!

A LUXURIOUS FIVE-NIGHT HONEYMOON TO OMAN

Enter now for your chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the incredible Salalah Rotana Resort in Oman

WORTH £3,000

Rotana Hotels & Resorts has partnered with County Wedding Magazines to offer one lucky couple a luxurious five-night honeymoon at Salalah Rotana Resort in Oman.

Set against a beautiful backdrop of lush vegetation, rolling mountains, golden sands and crystal-clear waters of the Indian Ocean, the five-star resort provides a tranquil setting that's ideal for those looking to unwind.

Whilst staying in one of the resort's Deluxe Ocean View rooms, the lucky couple can wake up with spectacular views across the water and enjoy coffee in the sun from their very own private terrace or balcony. Complimentary half-board dining will ensure the winners are spoilt for choice at both breakfast and dinner at Saffron restaurant.

As well as relaxing on the private golden beach, the newlyweds will also be treated to a couple's spa massage at Zen the Spa, the perfect way to unwind after a hard day spent in the sun.

Salalah Rotana Resort is ideally located in the Salalah Beach destination – one of the most breath-taking natural settings in the Sultanate, between spectacular mountains, freshwater springs and tropical scenery, where wildlife and frankincense trees can be marveled.

The waterfront resort's 422 rooms and suites are built around waterways, whisking guests away to a coastal utopia. The resort prides itself on providing five-star opulence synonymous with the Rotana brand, infused with traditional Omani hospitality. With four restaurants, the resort offers the perfect mélange of East-meets-West hospitality.

With its state-of-the-art facilities, couples can keep fit at Bodylines Fitness & Wellness Club, take a dip in the swimming pool or relax and rejuvenate at Zen the spa at Rotana.

Salalah Rotana Resort

THE PRIZE

- ❤ Five-night stay
- ❤ Half-board basis
- ❤ One couple's spa massage
- ❤ Return airport transfers in Oman

HOW TO ENTER

Which ocean does the Salalah Rotana Hotel overlook?

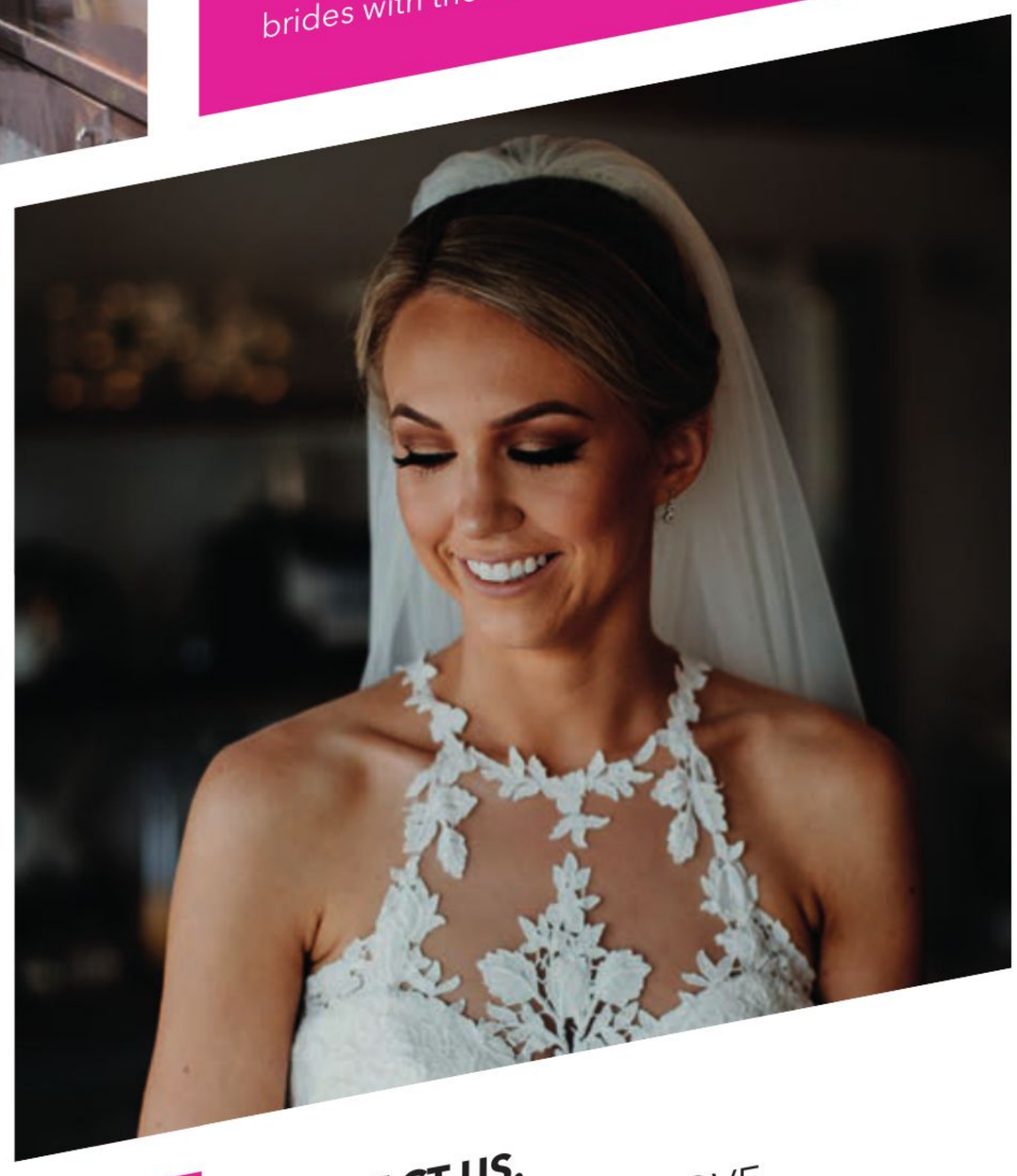
Enter online at yourlondon.wedding

The closing date is 5th June, 2020. Terms and conditions apply. Please see our website for details.

WE ARE YOUNG LDN

Nestled in the heart of Notting Hill, Young LDN is changing how things are done and redefining what skincare is to the Gen Z and Millennial population. A far cry from stuffy Harley Street clinics, Young LDN offers the best-in-class treatments from leading aesthetic experts that champion youth and inspire confidence. Young LDN provides the young (and young at heart) with a relaxed, informal yet highly-effective destination for all skin and beauty concerns.

Founded by Sue Carroll who was searching for a destination to help her own Gen Z children with their skin concerns, Young LDN was started as a studio where everyone from teenagers through to skincare fanatics can feel comfortable. Young LDN are proud to have helped many brides with their wedding skin journey.



My experience with Young LDN has been incredible from beginning to end. I came to them for a complimentary consultation, as my wedding was coming up and I was really unhappy with my skin. I found that I had developed cystic acne all along my jawline and chin. At the consultation we talked through my problems and skincare routine. Then came up with some suggested treatments which would help, and the results have been phenomenal. Not only has my skin completely cleared, but it is the best it has ever looked. The Young LDN team are phenomenal. From the moment you walk in you are made to feel so welcome, and they clearly care about getting serious results. I got married a couple of weeks ago and have never felt so confident – so a massive thank you to the team!

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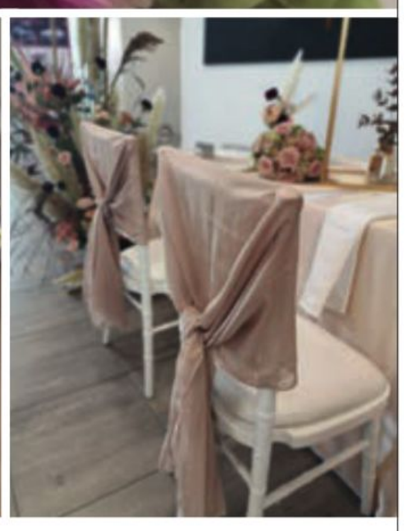

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www.signum.events SignumEvents

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL

From fabulous flowers to tartan touches, our experts are on hand to solve your wedding woes

FLOWER POWER

We're planning our big day and want our flowers to reflect the contemporary, boho vibe we're going for but have no idea how to pull together a brief for our florist. Which blooms should we be requesting and what arrangements would you advise?

Louise says: As a florist, we're often asked to create flowers for many different themes. My absolute favourite would have to be boho. This style calls on bohemian and hippie influences: think long, flowing dresses, floral crowns and lots of free spirit.

Indeed, the essence of boho is creativity, so ask your florist to play around with lots of different textures and colours combined with fabulous flowing foliage. Pampas grass, dried flowers, herbs, succulents and even feathers work well together to create the perfect boho look alongside other natural elements such as wood and stone. In terms of fresh flowers, blooms such as hypericum, craspedia, amaranthus, sedum, anthurium and astrantia are often recommended.

For the bridal party, think mismatched buttonholes and cascading bouquets while jam jars filled with an abundance of wildflowers will lend that 'just picked' look to your table décor. For the ceremony and drinks reception, floral dreamcatchers and grounded arches capture this style perfectly.

Meet the experts: Chiswick-based Pot Pourri Flowers is owned by floral designers Louise Smith and Dominic Hughes.

Pot Pourri Flowers | potpourriflowers.co.uk | 020 8994 5045

LET'S DANCE!

I love the idea of a lit-up dancefloor but I have no idea about the logistics of having one installed on the day. Can you talk me through installation – does it have to be a flat floor and do you need a plug socket? How long does it take to build?

Doville says: On average, we estimate that a white LED starlit dancefloor takes 30 minutes to install but each event is a little different so our aim is to have it laid within an hour.

The surface has to be flat and dry. Uneven floor surfaces may result in the LEDs not working properly, as the panels may lose connection. LED dancefloors cannot be laid directly onto grass or outside.

One power socket is required to provide a power supply for the dancefloor.

Meet the experts: Doville Kulikauskaite is the owner of London-based hire company Dancing Floors.

Dancing Floors | dancingfloors.com | 07403 362 624

WHAT LIES BENEATH?

My hubby-to-be's family is Scottish and we'd love to honour their heritage on our big day. However, I'm afraid neither of us are overly familiar with the custom surrounding wearing a kilt – can we choose any colourway? Are there any other considerations to take into account?

Paul says: Most specialist kilt stores should have a comprehensive range of hire tartans and accessories that cover the most up-to-date wedding colours. Even if you do opt for a specific tartan, you can always play around with the jacket style and colourway. Choose from the traditional Prince Charlie or Argyle or a more contemporary shape, both will be available in a range of shades from plain black, grey and navy to the new tweeds for a less formal look. You can personalise the look further with special accessories, such as your own style and colour of socks, shirt, tie and kilt pin.

Most stores will be able to make a kilt in most clan tartans – even better, some offer a 'hire before you buy' option, so you, the client, will get to wear the clan tartan or the tartan choice and colour for the special day, with an option to buy after the event.

I'd always advise visiting a couple of stores to browse their range, pick the brains of the friendly and knowledgeable staff and try a few things on.

Meet the experts: Director of kilt hire service Eight Yards, what Paul Swadzba doesn't know about kilts isn't worth knowing.

Eight Yards | 8yards.co.uk | @eightyards

THE ART OF GIFTING

We've lived together for years and have all the toasters and plates we could need. Ideally, we'd like our guests to contribute to a bespoke piece of art – but we're not sure how to phrase this on the invites. Any advice?

Georgina says: Couples are often hesitant to let their guests know what they'd really like as a wedding gift for fear of appearing too demanding or insensitive. This fear is more often than not totally unnecessary however – wedding invitees understand that the days of gifting household essentials are over and they would like nothing more than to give something to the happy couple that they truly want and will cherish for the rest of their lives.

A bespoke piece of art is a wonderful idea as a special gift and it's best to be quite direct on the invitation to let guests know that this is what you'd like and exactly how they can go about contributing towards this. Setting up an online gifting site is a practical solution.

It's always a nice touch to follow up with a thank you card or e-card to let your guests know what you have bought with their contribution. In the case of commissioning a bespoke piece of art, using this as the cover illustration on a card is the perfect way to do this.

Meet the experts: Georgina Khachadourian is the founder of Pullman Editions, a Pimlico-based company that designs, commissions and publishes striking original posters, which capture the enduring appeal of Art Deco.

Pullman Editions | pullmaneditions.com | 020 7730 0547

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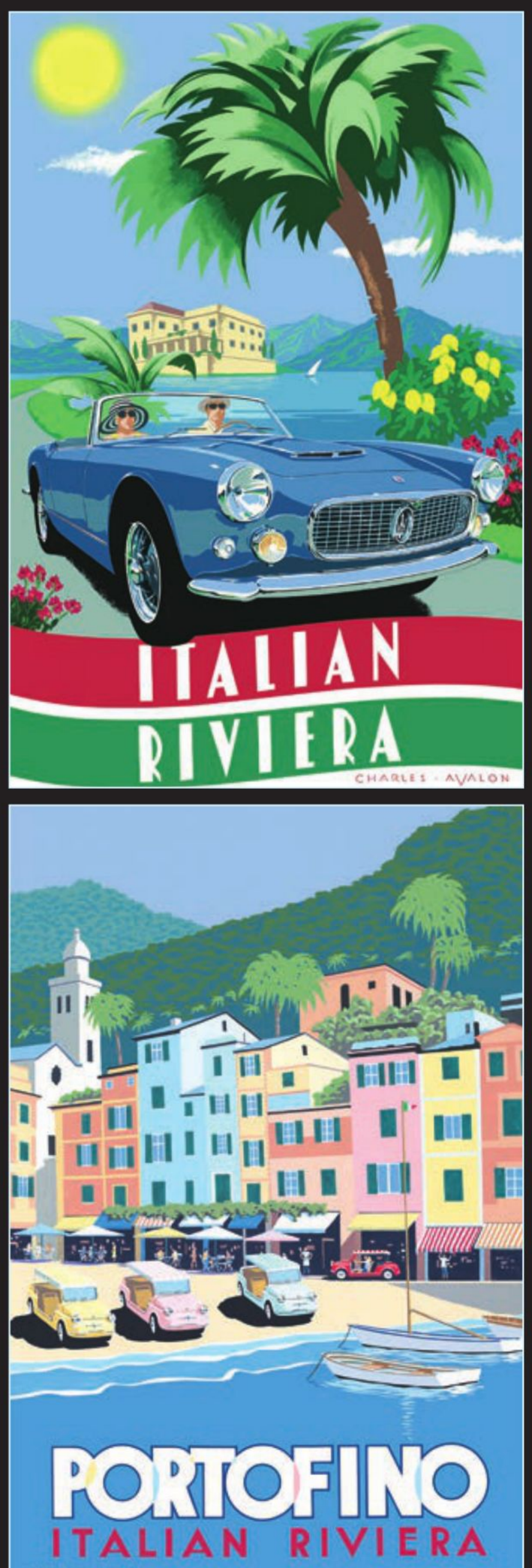

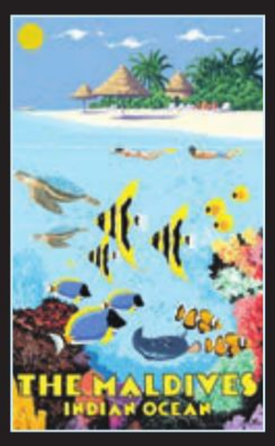

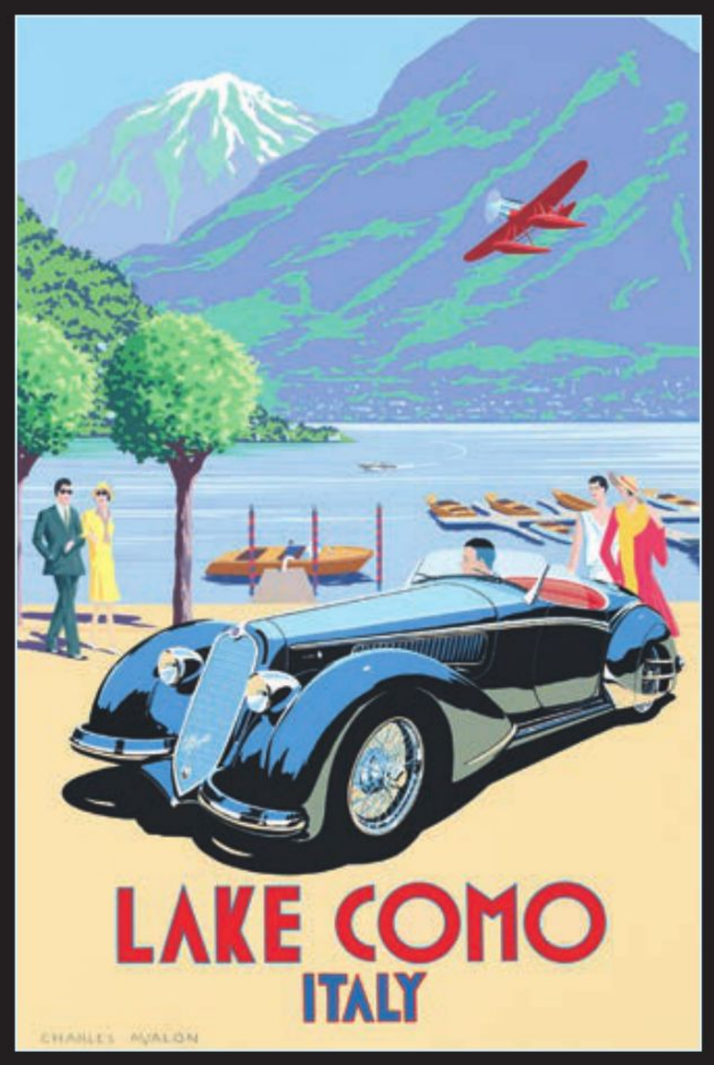

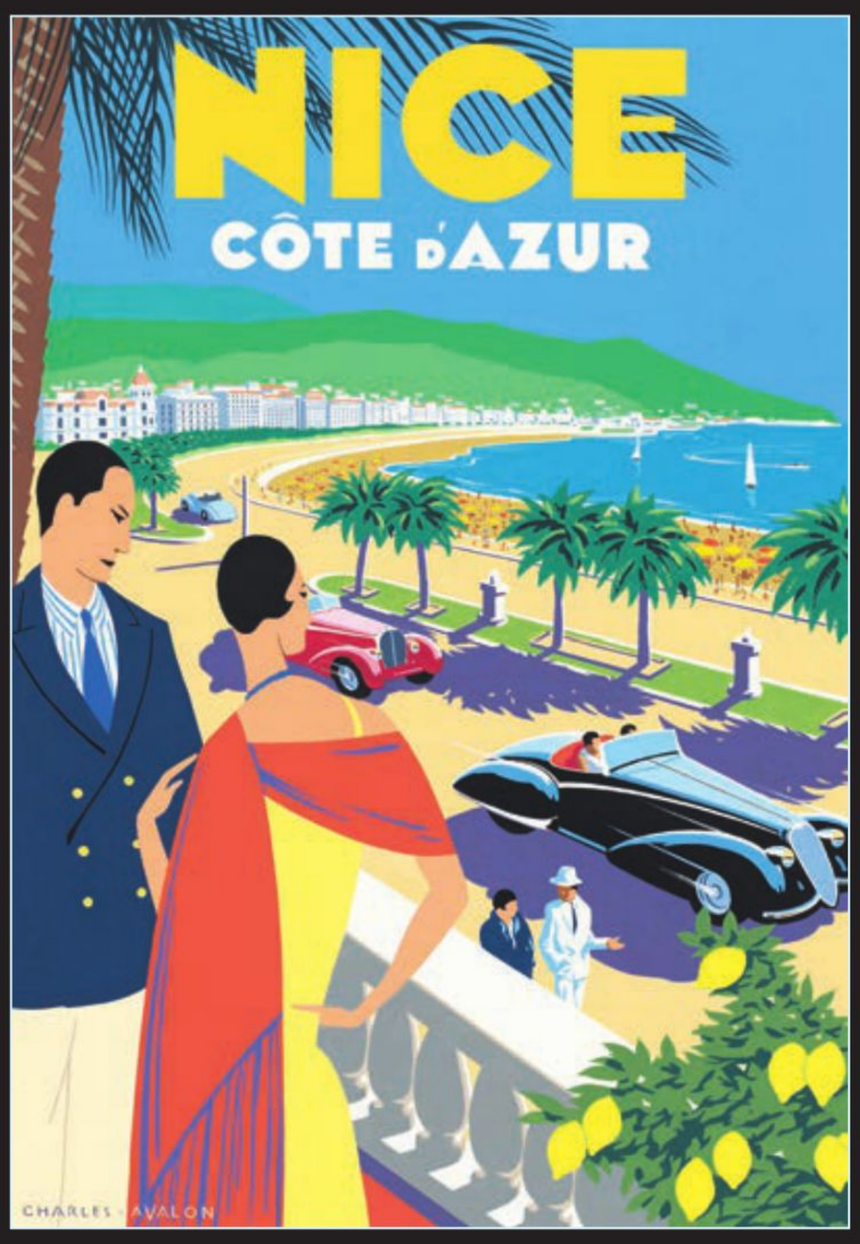

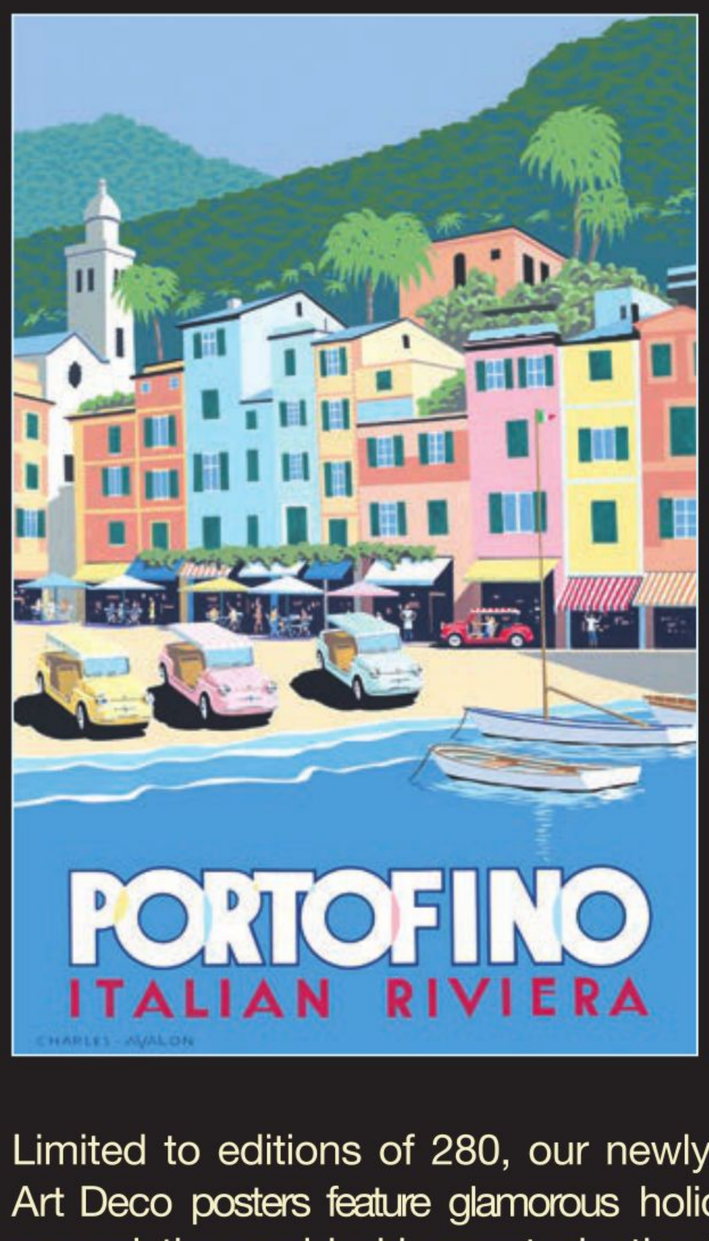

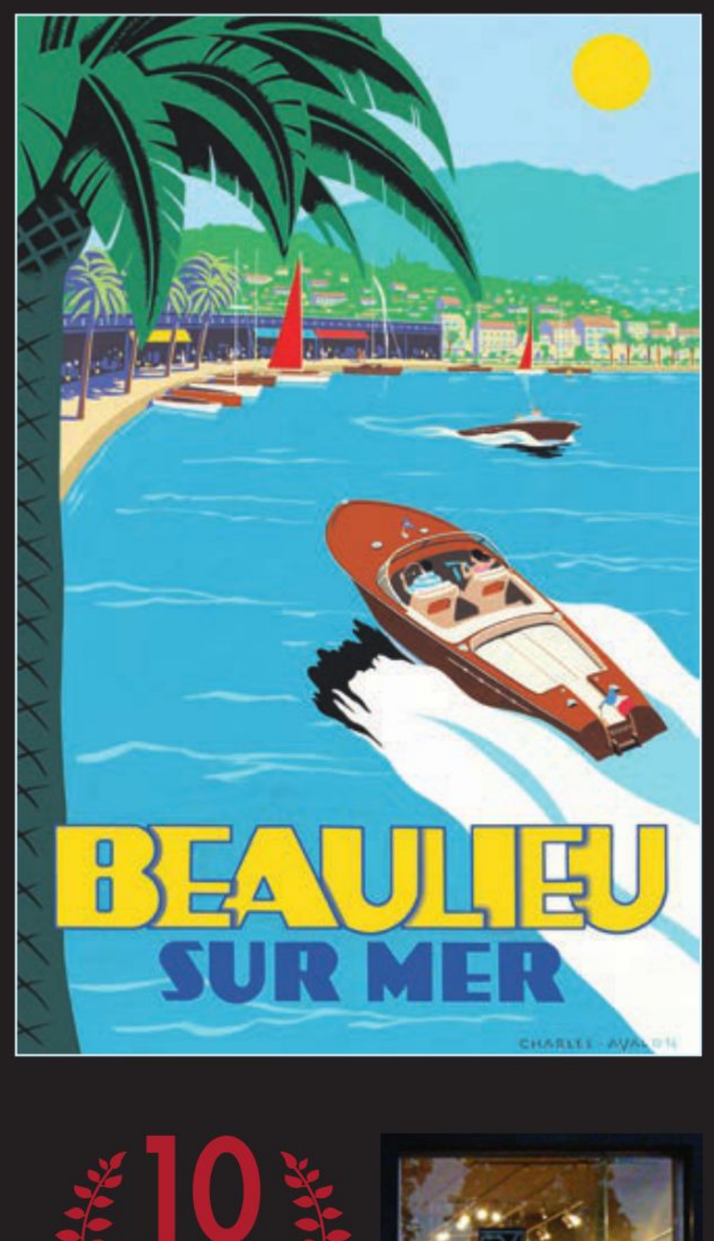

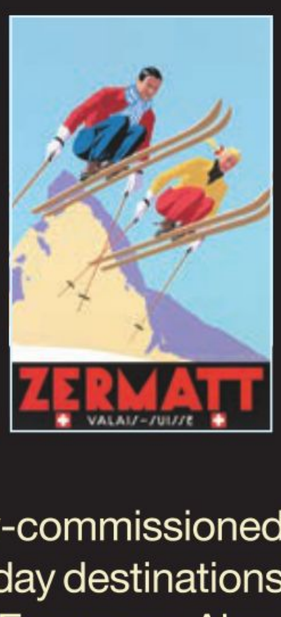

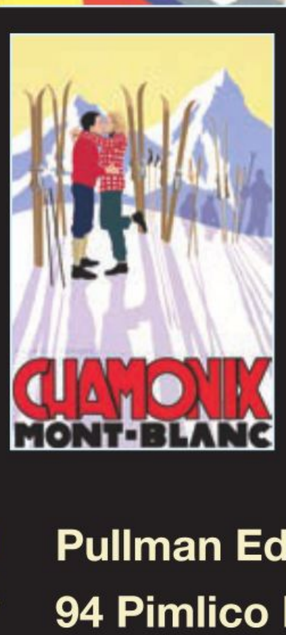

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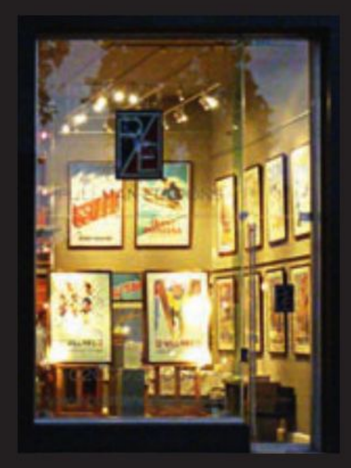

Our central London gallery

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View and buy online at www.pullmaneditions.com

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Scottish menswear: From contemporary to traditional Highland wear, kilts, tartan suits & trousers, if you're looking to dress to impress in a splash of tartan then look no further than our store. Our custom made section is vast offering a choice of many tartan mills cloth & Scottish tailored jackets, with a range of stunning kilt accessories. We do an excellent hire kilt outfit range from children around 3 to larger & tall men.

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Phone: +44 (0)1382 227 800
Email: dundee@8yards.co.uk

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www.8yards.co.uk

PICTURE-PERFECT PARADISE

The private Maldivian-owned boutique island resort of Baros has won the title of World's Most Romantic Resort for the seventh consecutive time at the annual World Travel Awards. Voted for by industry professionals and travellers from across the globe, it certifies its places as one of the top honeymoon destinations. General manager Ibrahim Shijah says, "This award maintains Baros' status as a Maldivian legend and furthers the significant impact of the resort within the international luxury market around the world."

To highlight its romantic offerings, the resort has launched its Romantic Moments package. Including a private candlelit beach dinner, a couple's massage and a spectacular sunset cruise, it makes the ultimate honeymoon retreat. Visit baros.com

A WILD MINI-MOON

You can journey across South America, Asia and Africa at Kent's authentic safari park Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve. We love that guests can now enjoy some peace and tranquility under the stars in The Bubble, a 180-degree panoramic lodge with stunning views across the 600-acre reserve. Couples can also take their romance to new heights with a once-in-a-lifetime hot-air balloon ride over Port Lympne and the surrounding countryside. After a day exploring the reserve, why not enjoy a romantic dinner at its Moroccan Courtyard or Bear Lodge Restaurant before heading back to your quirky accommodation. For more information, head to aspinallfoundation.org

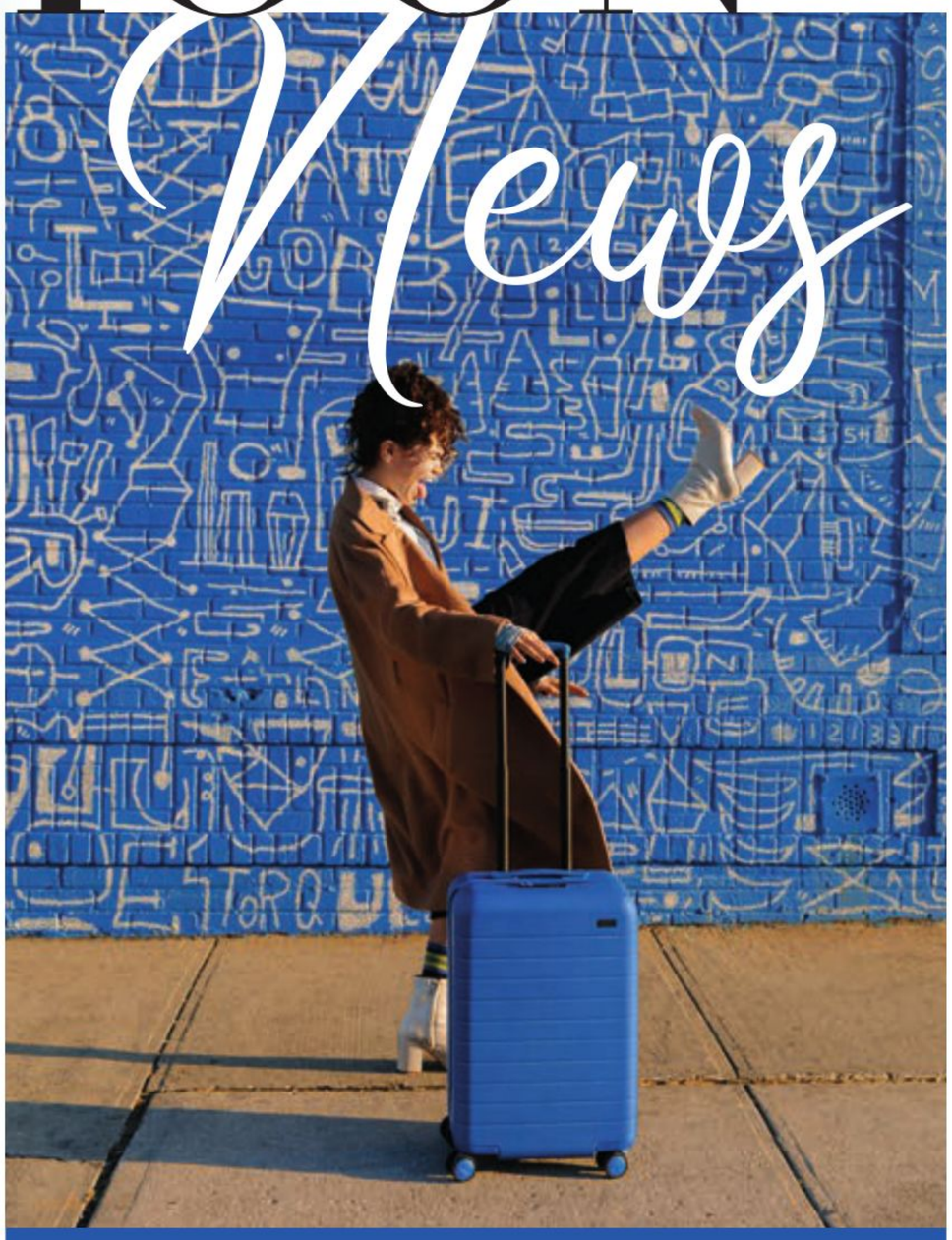
HONEYMOON News

Travel editor Hannah Faulder reveals her top honeymoon destination picks and travel essentials

HOT HOTEL OPENING FOR 2020

I love a short-haul flight, so MarBella Collection's MarBella Elix on mainland Greece is a 2020 hotel opening I'm very excited about. The third hotel to join the portfolio and the first outside of Corfu, it will be perched above the beautiful Karavostasi Beach in the Parga region, looking west towards Corfu and Paxos. Couples arriving after the June 2020 launch will be able to marvel at the outstanding natural beauty, the inviting golden coastline and crystal-clear waters.

Within an hour's drive of Preveza Airport, the hotel can also arrange boat transfers from Corfu, which is ideal for those looking to twin with the MarBella Collection's two properties on the Ionian island. Book your honeymoon here, and you can expect luxurious accommodation, incredible scenery, exhilarating activities and delicious dining. Check out marbellacollection.gr



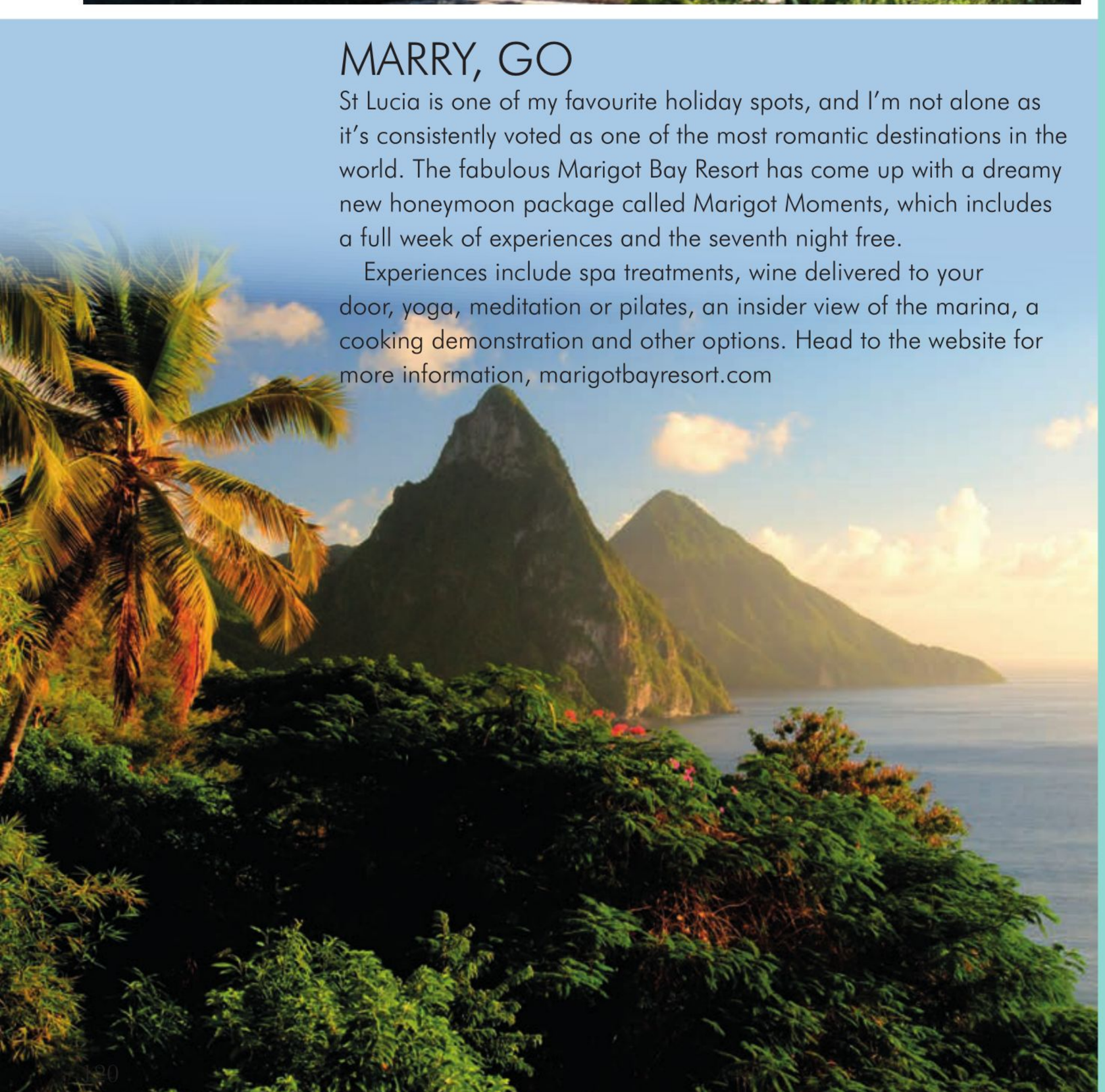
A classic case

Anyone else loving the 2020 Pantone Colour of the Year Classic Blue? It's evocative of vast skies and deep blue waters so it's ideal for travelling, and Away have hit the nail on the head with its limited edition Colour of the Year Collection. See the range at awaytravel.com

WINE TIME

Legacy wine estate Boschendal in South Africa's Cape Winelands introduced the country's first tented wine experience in March 2020. Wine-loving honeymooners can stay in one of seven luxury serviced tents in the heart of the 4,500-acre working estate and vineyard, offering a one-of-a-kind perspective on its staggering landscape.

The property is dedicated to conserving its natural biodiversity and guests have the opportunity to become a part of the landscape that cultivates the exquisite produce found in its restaurants and wine cellar. To find out more, visit boschendal.com



MARRY, GO

St Lucia is one of my favourite holiday spots, and I'm not alone as it's consistently voted as one of the most romantic destinations in the world. The fabulous Marigot Bay Resort has come up with a dreamy new honeymoon package called Marigot Moments, which includes a full week of experiences and the seventh night free.

Experiences include spa treatments, wine delivered to your door, yoga, meditation or pilates, an insider view of the marina, a cooking demonstration and other options. Head to the website for more information, marigotbayresort.com

KEEP ON MOVING

With the Olympics just around the corner, you might be getting in the sporty mood. If you and your partner are more likely to be running on the beach than snoozing on it, then these active honeymoon picks are for you…

❤ Mountain biking in Mauritius. The Mauritius Tour Beachcomber 2020 is held 30th April to 2nd May and consists of four stages over a total distance of 195km. The challenging route allows cyclists to soak in their stunning surroundings. Book at beachcombertours.uk

❤ Running in Victoria Falls. The Victoria Falls Marathon in Zimbabwe is definitely a bucket-list event. Taking place in July, participants will be running alongside incredible scenery, amazing wildlife and one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Book at africaalbidatourism.com

❤ Diving in Fiji. Sign up for the THIRDHOME Adventure's Jean-Michel Cousteau's Fiji Island Hideaway Adventure in September to spend a week on a private island with guided diving and snorkelling alongside the world-famous oceanographic explorer and his expert marine biologist. Book at adventures.thirdhome.com

❤ Wild swimming in the Seychelles. Eager to try the wild swimming trend but the cold UK water's not for you? Dip your toes in at the five-star Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort & Spa and swim or snorkel along the 650-metre coral trail. Book at seychelles.hilton.com

❤ Stay active at sea. The launch of Blue World Voyages in 2021 will see the world's first active lifestyle cruise take to the Mediterranean with two decks dedicated to fitness, sports and wellness. There will also be a seawater pool, which will be lowered into the ocean so guests can swim alongside the ship. Book at blueworldvoyages.com

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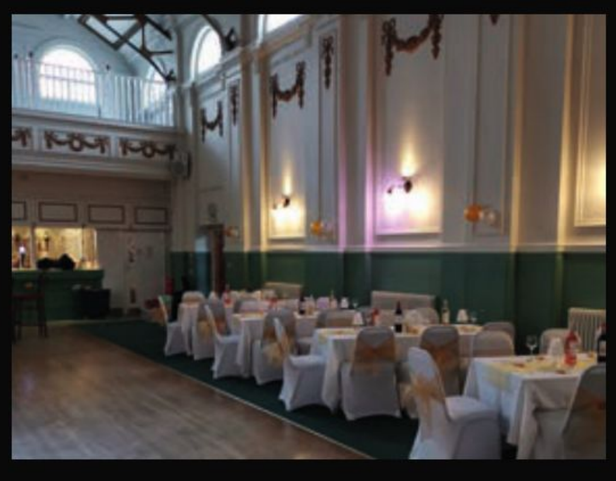

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MOROCCAN *magic*

Hannah Faulder discovers that whatever you want from your honeymoon, you can find it at Mazagan Beach and Golf Resort in Morocco

If, like me and my husband, you want to spend your holiday ticking off activities but your partner wants to lounge by the pool, then Mazagan Beach and Golf Resort in Morocco might just be your ideal honeymoon destination. Year-round sun: tick. Action-packed activities: tick. Fun with the kids: tick. Luxury: tick – there's not much this place doesn't offer. And it's not by accident. Everything is meticulously planned and designed to cater to your every need within its 250 hectares of paradise.

A snappy three-hour flight, plus a one-hour transfer from Casablanca Airport, and you'll find yourself winding down Mazagan's grand driveway and seeing the resort emerging from its lush grounds in all of its decadent Moorish glory. As the only destination of its kind in Morocco, you might just find yourself rubbing shoulders with royalty and celebrities – I'm basically BFFs with Dougie from McFly now.

You can expect to find traditional Moroccan influences alongside contemporary luxe – think ornately carved doors, colourful lanterns, textured rugs and mosaic tiles. There are 13 restaurants and bars, a huge spa, the most glamorous gym imaginable, an 18-hole golf course and North Africa's biggest casino.

STAY

It's always a little disorienting arriving somewhere after dark, and the stylish but seemingly endless corridors of Mazagan heightened the confusion. I didn't need to worry; within a couple of minutes, a friendly chap with a walkie-talkie (who had clearly been sent to find the lost Englishwoman with too much luggage) was guiding me to my room. This was the level of service I came to expect here. Once inside, I was met with the most enormous marshmallowy bed, a spacious bathroom and floor-to-ceiling windows – in

the morning, these revealed incredible views across gardens and the secluded 9km beach beyond. I was told that if you're awake early enough (I wasn't), you can watch the resort's herd of rescue horses take their morning gallop across the deserted sands. Beautiful (I imagine).

Within the walls of Mazagan, you feel untouched by the outside world. The feeling of serenity is in every corner of the resort, which is especially incredible considering there are 500 rooms here. Sometimes I could walk around for 10 minutes and not bump into another soul.

EXPERIENCE

This place goes all out when it comes to experiences and activities. I'll confess that I'm a total wuss, so looking at my itinerary and seeing quad-biking, zip-lining and horse-riding did send me into a mild panic. However, I'm pleased to report I stepped out of my comfort zone – and I'm so glad I did! First up, I was introduced to the sassy Caramel, my noble steed for the hour. We rode along the practically deserted beach in the sunshine with the sound of the waves lapping on to the shore – what an incredible moment and an absolute must-do for honeymooners.

Next up, we jumped on some quad bikes and whizzed along the beach in hot pursuit of our guide, who took us to see an incredible shipwreck protruding from the water. He was also our personal photographer, getting snaps that made my group look like the most badass girl band of all time! After this, I had caught the action bug, and flinging myself down a zip line at high speed through the trees was the next logical step.

Bringing things back to my normal pace, we wandered through the idyllic grounds to the spa, where, in a moment of madness, I decided against the planned full-body massage and instead opted for the hammam. The authentic Moroccan bathing ritual was certainly an experience! First off, you sit in an incredibly hot steam room where a lady washes you down with eucalyptus oil. Next, she showers you and lays you on a huge marble plinth and scrubs your skin with a mitt, which is akin to sandpaper. Then you're showered again, smothered in a mud mask, wrapped in a towel and left to bake on the plinth. The end result: seriously smooth skin! I felt like a newborn baby, and I've been recommending a – frankly bizarre – hammam to anyone who'll listen.

EAT

Foodies will love the choice of 13 restaurants and bars here. There are two huge buffets offering everything you could possibly want alongside high-end eateries that specialise in different cuisines. For breakfast, it's worth heading to Olives and sitting by the pool, where fresh food, soft music and elaborately served mint tea all add to the chilled-out vibe.

One evening, we opted for the elegant Sel de Mer, which serves the finest seafood. Fellow veggies, don't despair! They whipped me up a yummy quinoa stack and vegetable pasta. I'd also recommend the rustic charm of La Cave for warming French fare.

LOVE

The final evening was spent looking out at the setting sun, cocktail in hand, watching the golden rays twinkle across the waves. It was a perfectly romantic time to reflect on a trip that offered everything honeymooners could want: adventure, luxury and unadulterated romance in equal measure.

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

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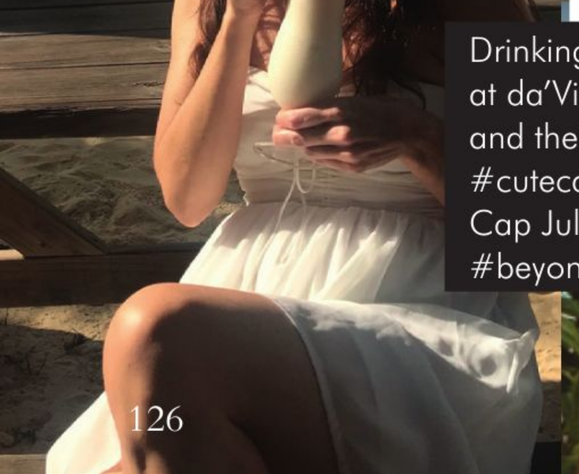
A TASTE OF PARADISE

Editor Claire Ridley travelled to the island of Anguilla in the Caribbean to discover what this popular honeymoon destination has to offer

Enjoying #qualitytime at Curtain Bluff #curtainpics



When the opportunity arose to experience what's new for 2020 on this luxurious island in the Eastern Caribbean, I packed my passport and bikini and was ready to fly! The lure of its 33 pristine beaches with powder-white sand and clear turquoise sea – regularly voted some of the best in the region – along with the promise of some winter sun had me jumping on board the Virgin Atlantic flight from London Gatwick bound for the British West Indies.

It's a good idea to break the journey with a one-night stopover in Antigua. Curtain Bluff is a spectacular all-inclusive resort set against the backdrop of not one but two palm-fringed beaches – Bay Beach and Surf Beach. I stayed in a stunning one-bedroom, split-level Bluff Suite boasting panoramic sea views from the terrace.

Honeymooners can while away the day in a hammock or snorkel around the reef to discover a rich variety of sea life. For active types, there's scuba diving, waterskiing and basketball, all included in the room rate, while those wanting something more relaxing will love the spa treatments available in the private couple's treatment room.

The Seagrape restaurant offers beachfront dining, while the plantation-style Tamarind Restaurant is located in a more secluded setting, both served by the most extensive wine cellar in the area – be sure to ask for a private tasting.

Wish you were here

Boarding the inter-island Trans Anguilla Airways flight (prepare for a very small plane!), I was excited to touch down on this small yet perfectly formed jewel of the Caribbean where I was greeted by Colwayne from the Anguilla Tourist Board and whisked off to visit the Valley Street Festival, a vibrant introduction to the local arts and crafts scene. A 20-minute massage here from Big Joe really helped me to recover from the flight and relax into island life where, as the locals say, you should 'make time to lime' (hang out!)

Next up was a scenic tour of this honeymoon hotspot pointing out areas of interest including The Valley (the capital city) and Crocus Hill (the highest point). Lunch at the Bayside Grill beach bar at da'Vida Restaurant & Spa was my first introduction to Johnny cakes – a doughnut-like savoury snack – and the local mahi-mahi fish giving me some much-needed energy for a two-hour afternoon kayaking tour from Crocus Bay to Little Bay with Liquid Glow. Through the clear-bottom kayaks I spotted tropical fish and even a turtle as we paddled along the sapphire shores, stopping for a snorkel around the cliff edge at the secluded Little Bay. Honeymooners will love the romantic night kayaking tour they offer, where you get the chance to see turtles sleeping at the bottom of the ocean.

It was soon time to check into the redesigned, award-winning CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa located on Rendezvous Bay that was to be my home for the next three nights. It's a glamorous white building with azure blue touches and a Mediterranean feel mixed with Caribbean flair (think of the architecture in Santorini and you get the idea). KazBar, the lounge area in the lobby, is a Moroccan-inspired space furnished with pops of bright colour, ideal for relaxing with rum and tapas while enjoying the live music. All 91 suites (including the Beachfront Junior Suite where I stayed), seven villas and two penthouses have been recently renovated and boast a bright coastal feel.

This super-stylish resort promises a gourmet-dining scene where guests can enjoy tastes from around the globe, including authentic Anguillan food created by new executive chef Juan Bochenski. He uses local ingredients and sustainable practices, and dishes include sushi and sashimi at the award-winning Japanese restaurant Tokyo Bay.

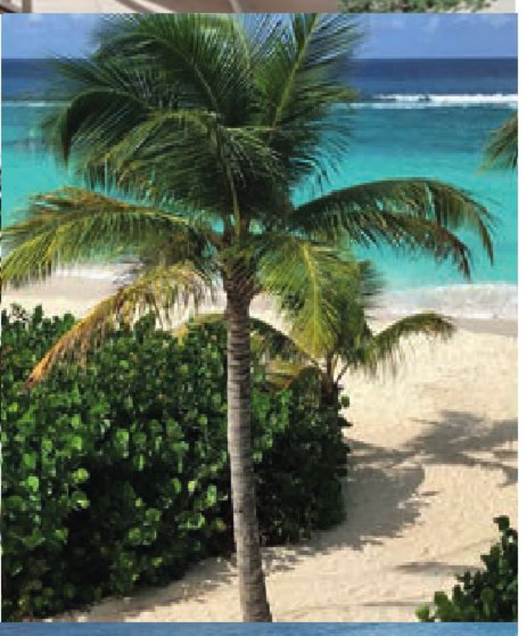
After a dip in the pool and some much-needed sunbathing time in a private cabana, it was time to get ready for dinner at Maundays Club located at dreamy resort Belmond Cap Juluca. Here, I sampled the tasty Peruvian menu including the mouth-watering Caribbean fish ceviche.

This romantic hideaway nestled on Maundays Bay offers Insta-worthy snaps at every turn and by day, the resort's turquoise VW Campervans and vintage-style bicycles allow for easy viewing of the grounds. A horse ride along the beach at Meads Bay on Tosh, proudly led by owner Zambezi, was a highlight and is suitable for riders of all levels. Check out the sunset excursions; great for honeymooners.

Drinking a #coconutcocktail at da'Vida Restaurant (left), and the #infinityedgepool and #cutecampervans at Belmond Cap Juluca (right) #anguilla #beyondextraordinary

#horseriding on the #beach #meadsbay #belmondcapjuluca

Admiring the #seaviews and #infinitypool at Zemi Beach House Hotel & Spa and CuisinArt (left)



#donotdisturb in the #stylishrooms and #spa at CuisinArt (below)

#grilledlobster at the Sunshine Shack

Beyond the beach

Breakfast at Mosaic at CuisinArt certainly didn't disappoint, with the banana bread, coconut muffins and reviving smoothies so delicious I just had to order seconds. The restaurant features an open kitchen and wrap-around bar and is also open for dinner. After a swim in the ocean and enjoying the soft sand between my toes, it was time to be transported to the jaw-droppingly beautiful Shoal Bay East. (The easiest way to travel around the island is with Premier Taxi and Tours). This stunning stretch of sand is home to the Zemi Beach House Hotel & Spa boasting infinity pools and picturesque vistas. To say I ate well here was an understatement, with mahi-mahi tacos and hand-crafted coconut mocktails on the menu at the Zemi Beach Club. This was followed by a therapeutic massage at the zen-like Zemi Thai House Spa before enjoying the spectacular sunset that this island is well known for.

That evening, I headed for dinner at Café Celeste inside the colonial-style Malliouhana resort simply oozing with glamour and Caribbean charm, perched on the stunning Meads Bay. Highlights on the menu include red snapper, conch curry served with coconut dumplings and yummy plantain fritters.

Another day in paradise

Fully immersed in island life, I enjoyed an early morning yoga and meditation session followed by a refreshing dip in the healing waters pool in the Spa by CuisinArt. This tranquil spot is home to 16 treatment rooms, including a couple's suite featuring an outdoor Jacuzzi, where a heated bamboo massage and aqua massage are on the menu. The Scrub Blend Bar experience isn't to be missed, giving guests the option to make their own spa product to take home with them, and other more adventurous activities include aquatic kickboxing, stand-up paddleboard yoga and tennis (with lessons available). There's also a fun cookery class to learn how to make Portuguese petiscos and a rum and cocktail-making lesson.

Golf enthusiasts will love the 18-hole Greg Norman Signature Design Championship course, the only one on the island, situated close by on the resort's sister property, The Reef by CuisinArt. This oceanfront boutique hotel boasts 80 rooms and suites built across four beachfront buildings and an open-air lobby. Foodies will love The Yacht Club Restaurant, opening on to the feature pool, serving breakfast and dinner while Breezes Beachfront Restaurant & Bar offers a lounge-style atmosphere for lunch and dinner. Sundowners are a must-try at Santorini at the Clubhouse, also open for lunch.

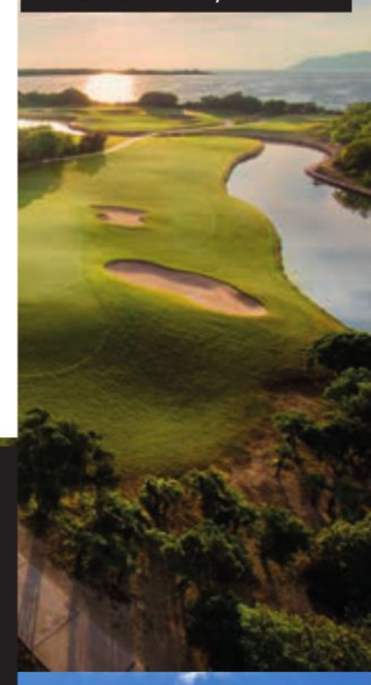
There's a cool party vibe at this hotel with regular live DJ sets around the pool and poolside treatments available to book through Spa to You.

Next up was a visit to the colourful Arts & Crafts Center in the West End, a treasure trove of island trinkets including conch shells to take home. From here, I headed to the Sunshine Shack beach bar and grill perched on Rendezvous Bay, a short stroll along the beach from CuisinArt, where I tucked into the delicious grilled lobster accompanied by the local Carib lager. It's well worth the walk and you're encouraged to scribble a message with your name on the shack before you leave.

Coming to the end of my magical trip, as the sun went down, the wonderful team at CuisinArt arranged for me to experience some private dining at the water's edge at the Beach Bar & Grill where I enjoyed an amazing array of food and live music. I departed Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport with a smile on my face that lasted the entire way home – this tropical paradise, one of the best-kept secrets in the Caribbean, will always hold a special place in my heart ♥

#freshseafood and a #romantic ambience at Café Celeste (above and below)

Practising #yoga and #golf at CuisinArt (above and below)



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Romantic GETAWAY

Olivia Gibson reviews the Castle Hotel Windsor

I didn't quite realise how incredible my stay would be at the Castle Hotel Windsor, throughout the trip my partner and I created amazing memories full of happiness, laughter and relaxation. Maybe it was the charming décor, impeccable service or the fact that Windsor Castle is nestled right opposite the hotel – creating the perfect backdrop.

When the chance to visit the establishment first arose, I immediately jumped at the opportunity. For a while, it's been on my bucket list to visit the UK town but something would always come up. But not this time, the stars aligned and next thing I know, my bags are packed and I'm on my way.

The hotel was first built in 1528 and was previously known as The Mermaid Inn serving as a bar for the town's 1,000 residents and is now one of the oldest buildings in the area.
After being lovingly restored, the hotel still boasts elegance of its rich and fascinating history left behind.

Throughout the hotel, many features highlight the venue's story such as the Pennington Penny which was an in-house token issued by George Pennington back in 1656. I loved how the authentic essence of the venue has been kept and highlighted with some original features, when you look closely stories start to come alive.

PURE INDULGENCE

When stepping through the doors for the first time – and thinking how amazing everything looked – friendly staff quickly greeted us and took their time to explain the local area with the best places to see – they couldn't have been more helpful!

With 108 rooms available ranging from suites, superior and the classic rooms, there's something for everyone. Inside our room we found a 40-inch flat-screen TV, White Company toiletries, minibar and iron. After a long week, I was very excited to try out the queen size bed which was covered with Egyptian cotton. It was so comfortable that I ended up having a nap! Once I had awoken from my slumber, we headed off for a romantic walk around the area and discovered plenty of independent boutiques, clothes shops and cafes – we walked around in comfortable silence just enjoying each others' company. As we visited in winter, the night drew in early leaving the dark streets beautifully lit.

TO DINE FOR

We couldn't fault our dining experience at The Marco Pierre White restaurant located in the hotel and I must say, it's one of the best meals I've ever had – and I'm not exaggerating! The service was faultless and I have told everyone about it. For starter I had Mr White's Scotch Egg which tasted divine, the egg inside was cooked to perfection. For main I opted for The Governor's Fried Haddock and Triple Cooked Chips, a simple dish which is my personal favourite and I wasn't disappointed.

After dinner we headed off to the bar where we enjoyed plenty of cocktails, my favourite was the classic daiquiri and spent our time relaxing on the comfortable chairs, it was so lovely to be able to spend time together without any distractions.

After having a lovely rest, we started our day with a great breakfast. It was a buffet-style set-up with choices of hot foods or continental. My partner says the blueberry muffin was his favourite, I would have loved to try some but I was so full-up!

While eating, guests could watch the changing of the guards right outside the window, it was impressive and there was an excited buzz all around – it was like a movie scene!

It was sadly time to leave; we both loved this hotel so much and will be booking our next trip back later this year!

Discover more about the venue here: castlehotelwindsor.com

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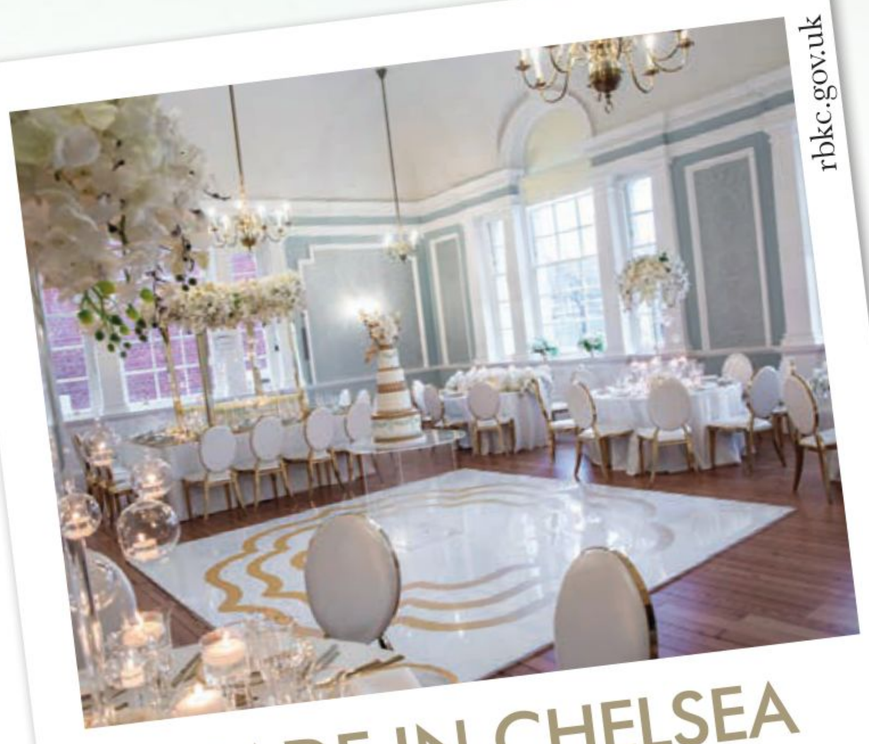

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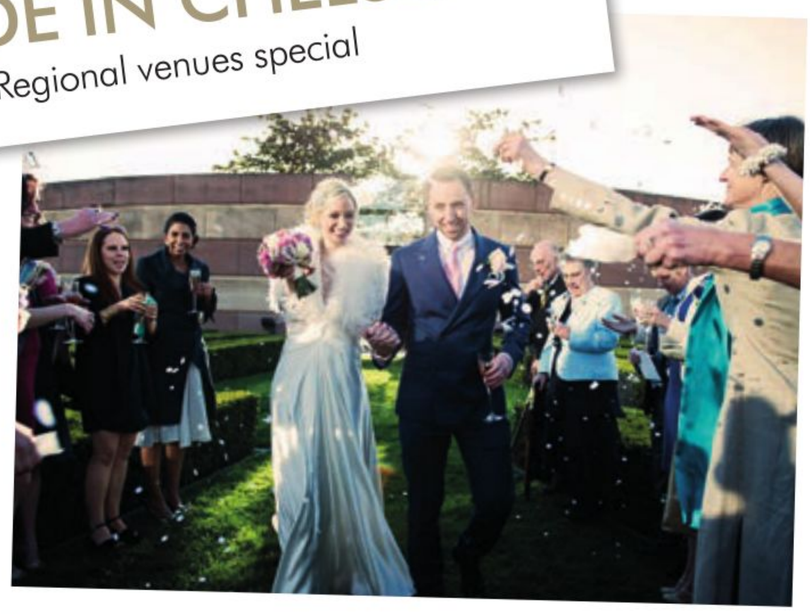

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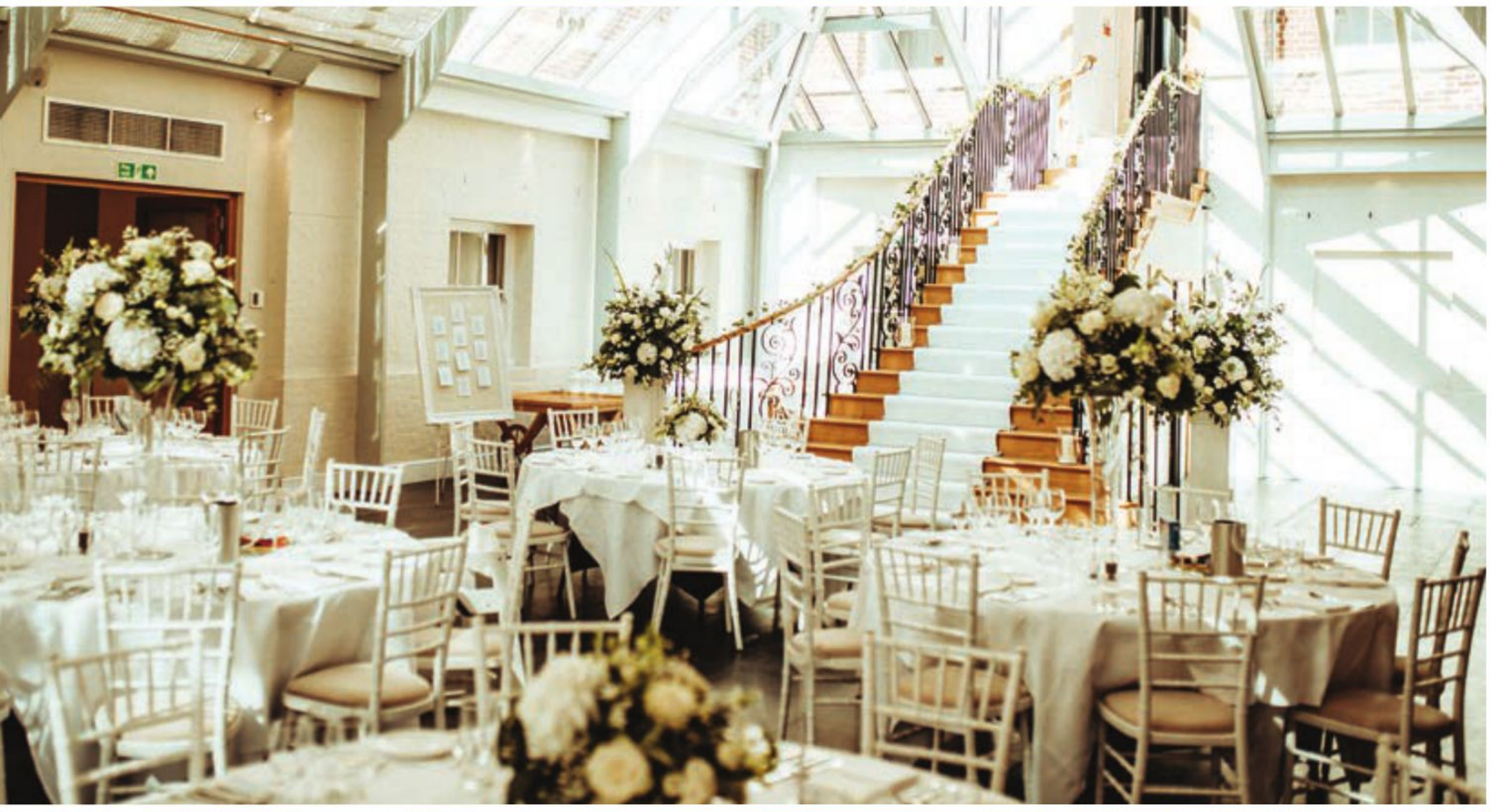

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