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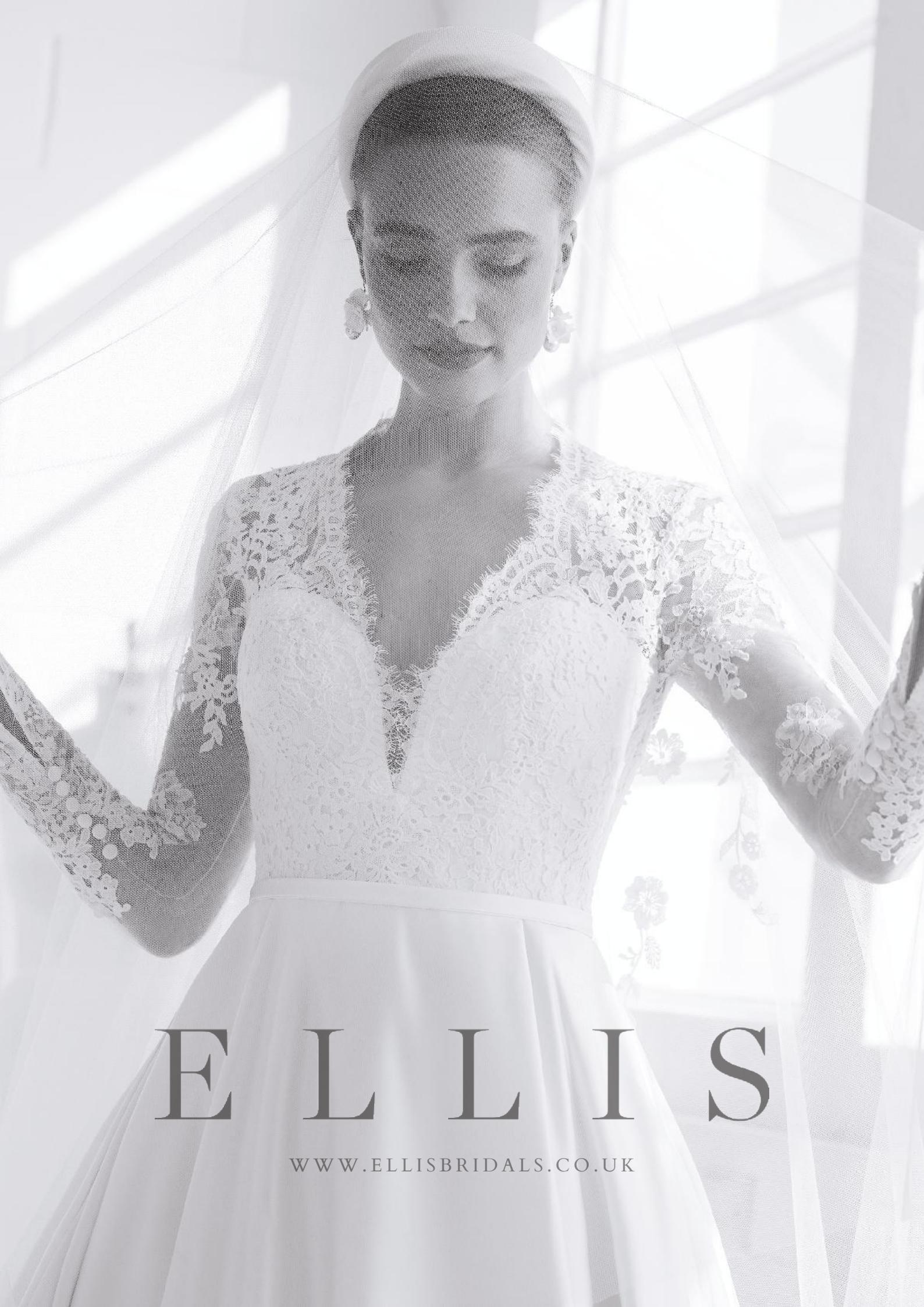
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WELCOME

to Your Scottish Wedding



There's a lot to be said for a social media detox. I'm writing having just returned from a long weekend away

with my best friends and our families in the wilds of Northumberland. The wifi didn't come up to scratch and phone signal was pretty non-existent, and so three glorious days of enforced no phones ensued. And we had a ball. Endless scrolling through image after image of perfection was replaced by great chat and scrambling about after the kids. In fact, with our phones all but redundant we took hardly any photos.

Which got me thinking about the photos we do share. So often they paint a picture of perfection and blissful happiness. There's rarely a picture capturing a bride's frustration as the wedding car breaks down or her nervous partner pacing as they're told it'll be another 10 minutes. Those of course are the big day incidents beyond our control but what if you're starting your day with a family situation that's less than ideal and threatening to spoil those "perfect" photos? On page 18 writer Claire Muir asks just how do you plan a wedding when your parents don't get on? Because sometimes even a wedding isn't enough to get warring parents to set aside their differences. Claire speaks to the experts who tell her just how you can then negotiate wedding photos, speeches and the dreaded top table.

And that's not the only potential wedding dilemma we've packed into this issue. From dress shopping when you're dealing with a bloated IBS tummy to working out just how

to go to the toilet in your fitted couture gown - the struggle is real - we've got all the help you need on page 50, while you'll find answers to your hair and beauty-related qualms on page 69.

In between the problem-solving features we've loads of inspiration to help you plan the wedding of your dreams. We've got three sets of engaged industry insiders, sharing their dreamy Plan B wedding moodboards (p28), Scottish style blogger Rachel Lawler imparts her wisdom on taking on Maid of Honour duties (p48), 11 newly-weds let us in on their gorgeous weddings and Laura of Devine Bride shows you how to avoid dress regret on page 22.

Back in March I also got to meet two of our real YSW brides Nina and Ruth who joined us for a fun afternoon at Macdonald Houstoun House Hotel for a glorious hair and beauty photoshoot, along with Nina's mum and Ruth's friend. Check out the stunning results captured by Laura A Tilman Photography (p60). And we're not forgetting the grooms. Our dedicated Groom's Room section has everything you guys need from finding the perfect wedding outfit accessories to tackling wedding planning head-on. And don't forget we've got page upon page of dream venues to explore.

So put the kettle on and cosy down to enjoy. Happy planning and see you next time.

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WIN

Fancy bagging a luxurious "Treat Your Partner" one-night stay package at Duisdale House Hotel, Skye? Head to **page 152** now to enter our amazing competition with Sonas Hotel Collection



Moving on UP

Chic boutique Sophia Grace Couture has expanded to bring you even more dreamy bridal looks



Sophia Grace Couture has become something of a bridal institution since it first opened its doors in part of a former bank building in Haddington over six years ago. Since then, brides-to-be have been making the pilgrimage to the East Lothian town in the hopes of finding The One. And it's hardly surprising it's become a must-visit boutique. In this chic and luxurious setting, to-be-weds can pore over rails from sought-after designers. Sophia Grace Couture is the exclusive stockist in Scotland of Calla Blanche, White April, Zavana and Zavana Couture. And you can also come up close and personal with gowns by renowned designers including Enzoani and Paloma Blanca.

If that wasn't enough, brides have found the perfect dresses for their bridesmaids here, while it's also a go-to for prom and evening gowns.

Then last October owner Naydene Commins received the keys to the rest of the elegant building and quickly got to work, spending three months transforming it into the ultimate bridal shopping destination. "I had a vision of what I wanted to create and therefore carried out most of the work myself," says Naydene. "I can now add

demolition to my skillset!"

Within the new space Naydene had six rooms to overhaul, along with a rather sad looking staircase. Undaunted, she worked seven days a week as walls were knocked down and floors were ripped up. "The existing part of the boutique is very glamorous and spacious," she says. "Therefore, I wanted to take this theme into our new Styling Suite."

The style files

Now the new spaces are finished and fabulous, Naydene and her team have a lot more room to play with. The new bridesmaid and evening suite is a dedicated space where brides can bring their bridesmaids to view and try the stunning collection in their own private space. "This room has a real personal, luxurious and fun feel about it," says Naydene.

"It's a luxury space where, as the name suggests, brides can be styled"

Naydene



Upstairs you'll also find the boutique's seamstresses, meaning brides can have all their fittings and alterations carried out on-site. Those who are on the point of deciding on their dream dress can also have any customisation queries answered there and then.

But it's the gorgeous new Styling Suite which is the jewel in Sophia Grace Couture's already glittering crown.

"It's a luxury space where, as the name suggests, brides can be styled," explains Naydene. "The room is very chic and has gorgeous accessories, from bridal hair combs, veils and gifts, not to mention our stunning collection of Badgley Mischka shoes."



All Sophia Grace Couture brides receive a complimentary styling appointment in the suite or the main boutique when their own gown arrives. But you don't need to have purchased your dress here. For a small booking fee any bride can visit the Styling Suite to try on accessories. They're even invited to bring their own gown to try on and see the entire bridal look.

VIP treatment

Sounds pretty special doesn't it? But if you want to elevate your bridal experience even further you can. "All our brides are treated like VIPs," says Naydene. "However, brides who would like that little bit of extra time with their dedicated stylist can book our VIP package in our Styling Suite." This service, complete with fizz and sweet treats, was something offered before on certain days in the old salon but now with the Styling Suite, you can book a VIP package any day.

What are you waiting for?



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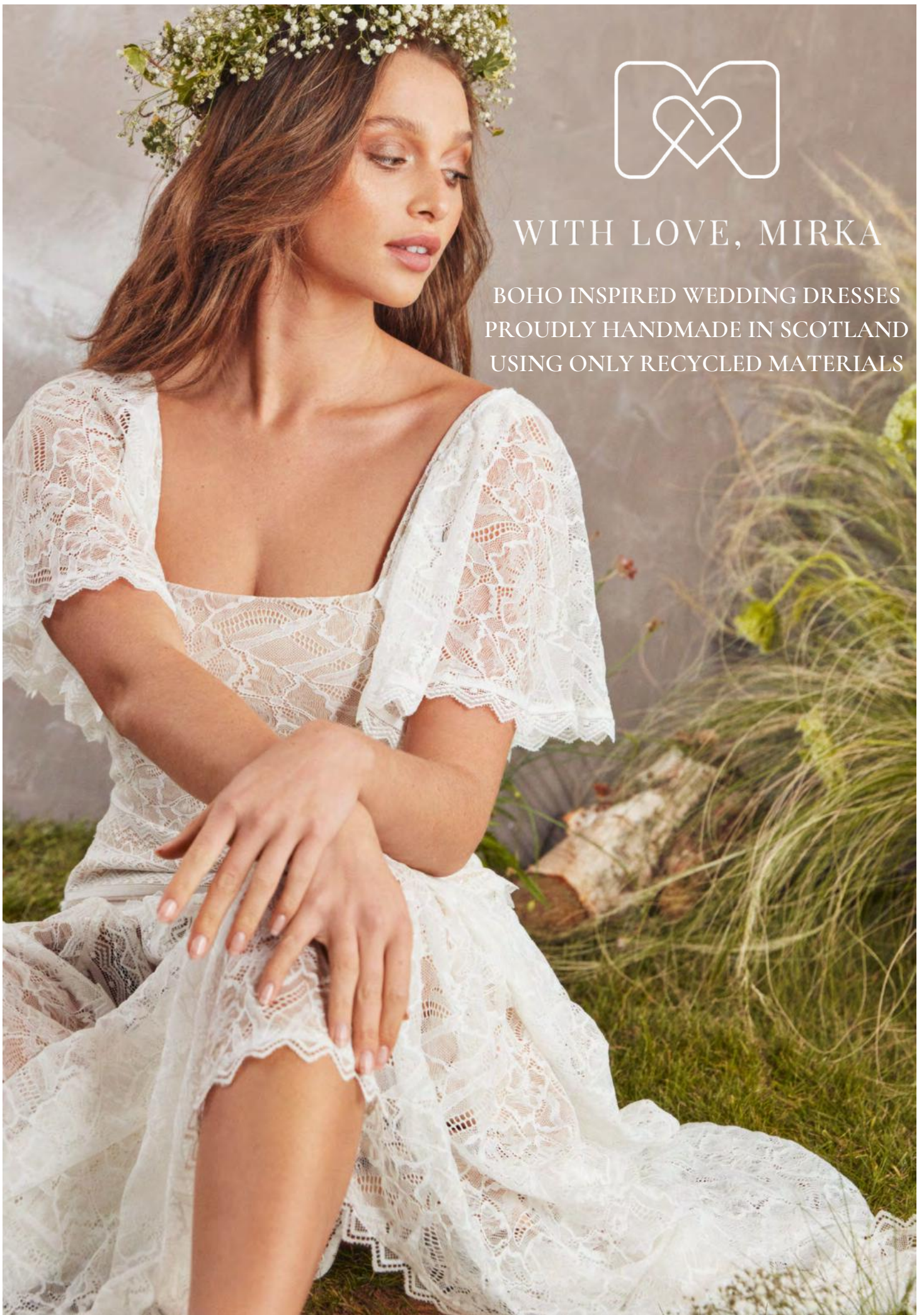
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In the know

For all the latest news from the Scottish wedding industry, we've got you covered



THE GLOW-UP

If you're looking for a luxury bridal shopping experience, you'll be excited to hear **Sophia Grace Couture** in Haddington has undergone an extensive expansion and revamp, and it's every bit as gorgeous as you'd expect. The bridal boutique previously only occupied one section of the former bank building, but owner Naydene

Commins received the keys to the entire building last October and has worked to bring her vision for a beautifully feminine and chic setting to life.

The boutique is the exclusive Scottish stockist of designers Calla Blanche, White April and the Zavana Couture and the Zavana Bridal Collections, alongside bridal stalwarts like Enzoani, and Sophia Grace Couture has also been helping brides dress their 'maids for years.

With the new space you can shop your entire wedding look. Once you've found your dream dress, head to the fabulous new Styling Suite to select all your bridal accessories. **Turn to page 12 to find out more.**

FIND 'THE ONE'

Fuze Ceremonies celebrates 10 years of creating magical and bespoke wedding ceremonies and they're shaking up how couples can find their perfect celebrant. Fuze ambassador George McLean says, "We've listened to our couples and created an industry-leading live availability calendar facility so it's now even easier to see who is available, read their profiles, arrange a chat and book directly online. It's that simple."



ON THE MOVE

After 17 years in the centre of Dundee, **Lorraine Law Designer Jewellery** has moved to a new purpose-built studio in the city's District 10. The business will now predominantly focus on working directly with customers to create beautiful pieces of jewellery including bespoke wedding rings, engagement rings and recycled pieces made with old jewellery. We love the idea of reworking a family heirloom into something you genuinely love.



MODERN DAY ICON

Fancy having your very own Carrie Bradshaw moment in a Vivienne Westwood wedding dress? Though obviously without the wayward groom or that blue bird! The 2022 bridal collection by the design icon has arrived and you can check it out for yourself, exclusively in Scotland at **Rachel Scott Couture**.

Whether you opt to dance down the aisle in something short and sassy like 'Venus', go for full structured corsetry like 'Camille' or this covetable off the shoulder number 'Freyja', you'll love poring over the entire bridal collection.



FRESH NEW LOOK

Have you started your hunt for your dream dress yet? Make sure you book an appointment at **June Brides Glasgow**. The Eglinton Street boutique has had a fab revamp, with beautiful new chandeliers installed to really illuminate the gorgeous gowns, plush new velvet couches and gold drinks and display cabinets to cater to the three different styles of bridal consultation - btw we love the sound of the Ultimate consultation where you and four guests will be treated to cocktails and nibbles while you try on beautiful dresses. What's not to like?




And make sure you check out the new collections in the boutique from Casablanca, Beloved by Casablanca and Le Blanca by Casablanca - with everything from romantic fairytale to fitted and feminine. And later this year the new Ellis Bridals collection is arriving instore with classic inspired gowns finished with feminine modern details.



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How do you host a wedding when your parents DON'T GET ON?

From wording invitations to walking down the aisle, Claire Muir gets expert advice on getting around tricky family situations to ensure the day of your dreams is just that

DOING THE GROUNDWORK

First things first - getting the word out! Historically, wedding invitations came from the bride's parents but it's now pretty normal for them to come from the couple themselves - ideal if the bride's parents are no longer together. Next up, couples with complicated family dynamics can avoid unwelcome plus ones by addressing each and every invitation directly to the person invited. For extra security, look into an electronic RSVP service that'll limit responses to one per submission.

Hitting the bridal boutiques may be anxiety-inducing if you've not got the traditional entourage (step-mum or step-siblings on the scene?) but there are some solutions. Make memories on

separate shopping trips or, if time is of the essence and you fancy yourself as a peacemaker, ask for a joint jaunt. "You could ask your mum and step-mum to put their differences aside for a day. You'll know yourself if it's possible," says Mirka Jankowska at Mirka Bridal Couture."

"You could ask your mum and step-mum to put their differences aside for a day. You'll know yourself if it's possible."

Mirka Jankowska



Houston House Hotel. "Show her your mother's dress and ask her to stick to a specific colour and style," she says. "This can help when it comes to the photos."

But who gets ready with who? You may get on better with your step-mother but feel having your mum for wedding morning prep is the 'right' thing to do, for example. Caroline suggests inviting both if possible. "Alternatively, have one get ready with you and the other take part in a different part of the day. Might she like to be a witness? Consider asking for your dad's advice, too."

TIME TO GET MARRIED

When it comes to ceremony logistics, wedding planners have seen it all and Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki of The Wedding Guru - Oskar can vouch for that. His overarching advice? Don't stick to tradition if you don't feel like it's you. "I've had grooms awaiting their brides to walk in together, brides walking down alone, both parents walking the bride or the couple's children walking with their mum. You want to feel like you're getting the right support for you."

Keep the vows conflict-free by allocating seating and embracing the age-old tradition of having 'sides'. Got three sides altogether? Just add a second





Alastair Ferrier

aisle! “My husband and I had our mums walking us down the aisle simultaneously,” says Oskar.

Ceremonies can be a time to show appreciation for family members and with so many elements, from readings to the ring handover to setting up drinks from a quaich, you can choose a symbolic role for each person you’d like to be involved.

SAY CHEESE!

Your photographer won’t know your family and its politics so it’s going to come down to you here. But a little prep work and you’ll get a smooth session. Prepare a detailed shoot list in advance and allocate responsible people to help organise it on the day. Consider different locations for each group you want photos with, too.

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Table plans make to-be-weds groan at the best of times but rest assured, top tables rarely have the traditional set-up anymore, according to Caroline – and sometimes they don’t even exist! “How about a sweetheart table just for the newlyweds? You’ll get to spend some alone time together, which is super-important.”

When it comes to parents and their partners, Oskar suggests having each couple host their own table to the front of the top table. But if one has a partner and the other doesn’t, just have a chat. “Ask both sides about

their expectations. It’s all about compromise. And if you want them all at the top table, keeping them at opposite ends could be a solution.”

Arranging the rest of the room to ensure a war-free



zone is possible, says Oskar. “Do you remember Monica’s flags table plan from *Friends*? Ask the venue for a sample table plan and use colour-coded tabs to group guests by colours,

“Ask both sides about their expectations. It’s all about compromise. And if you want them all at the top table, keeping them at opposite ends could be a solution.”

Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki

then start placing tabs around the tables to see how it flows.”

Traditionally, there are three wedding speeches (the father of the bride, the groom and the best man) but, like everything else, why stick with it? “I’ve had weddings where the couple opted for no speeches, which is fine,” says Caroline.

Consider how comfortable people are



with public speaking. Why force your shy dad if he’d be happy walking you down the aisle and letting your mum do the talking? If the parents’ situation is just too complicated, Oskar suggests asking a sibling to do the ‘family’ part.

PARTY TIME

As the sun sets and the booze kicks in, inhibitions will be lowered, especially after a day of being on best behaviour. “If you strongly foresee things easily getting out of hand, consider hiring security to help you handle the situation – but make your family aware of it,” says Oskar.

If such serious measures aren’t needed, allocate ‘conflict mediators’ in advance so you’re not pulled into uncomfortable situations. “People within the bridal party who know the situation and are happy to step in will help,” advises Caroline. “And make sure your event co-ordinator is aware.”

Ultimately, though, the more planning, honest conversations and precautionary measures before the wedding, the less stressed you’ll feel on the day. And don’t be afraid to pre-warn family members. “Remind them this is your special day and that you expect them to treat it with the respect it deserves,” adds Caroline.



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Devine Bride on...

Dress regret and anxiety post-pandemic

Based in East London for over 10 years but originally from Glasgow, Laura Devine of Devine Bride offers pick and mix wedding planning, helping cool couples to plan their wedding in a more flexible and fun way. With over 180 weddings and events under her belt, Laura knows what's worked, what's not, and what's fun! Here she shares her expert insight into wedding dress shopping and what to do if you've fallen out of love with it.

"Your dress is a strange purchase; and like everything in wedding planning, most couples have never done it before! All the emotions, planning, budgeting, and thoughts you have around your big day are completely new territory from a mental health aspect.

Getting your head in the right mindset for trying your dress on (and actually wearing it on the day) will be a big factor in any anxiety you may feel, too. The last few years have been A LOT. So, it's ok if you have mixed feelings about a dress you fell in love with two years ago, or a dress you had to try on alone, or a dress

you thought might be right for summer and now your date has changed. Things change. People change. Your body might have changed. But that's ok, and it's completely normal.

Firstly, it's ok to keep window shopping. It may help you remember why you fell in love with your dress - or realise that it's not quite right for you now. Secondly, try it on again and again - does it still fit properly? Does it make you feel good? Take it to a trusted alterations service. They will be able to advise

on fits and tucks, lengths and seams, and cuts and sleeves, even if you aren't sure yourself. A small change can make a big difference, so this can really transform your dress and might be the difference between you loving or loathing it - especially if it doesn't fit properly; whether it's post-pandemic, post-baby, or just that you've changed your mind.

Lastly, is it comfortable enough to

wear for a minimum of 12 hours? Your wedding day is a marathon, not a sprint! It's a long day. Will it withstand your season, venue, ceremony,

dancing? If the answer is no but you still love it, you may want to think about setting extra budget aside for a second dress. A change of dress might just be the energy refresh you need. As quite often, it's the feeling of being trapped or stuck with the dress you bought a while ago that is unsettling - rather than the dress itself.

And if you have really grown to hate it... that's ok. Don't suffer. Your wedding day (and 3,000+ photos) will forever be tarnished by the memory that you didn't love it. Don't stress, there are plenty of resale sites where you can reclaim at least some of the expense. There's the obvious Ebay and Vinted, but also some other specialist stores like Cudoni, Still White, Bride 2 Bride and Bridal Reloved. And if you're feeling charitable, I would also highly recommend Brides Do Good, whose profits go towards empowering women and ending child marriage.



Then you can get on with finding your dream dress that you feel amazing in, because that's the only thing that matters. Don't let anything stand in the way of enjoying every bit of fun you've planned (and paid for) on your wedding day."

Follow Laura @devinebride

'I do' diary

Brides **Debbie** and **Sophie** share all the final planning and dress details with us



Debbie & Andrew

Debbie and her fiancé Andrew got married on 2nd April in Edinburgh's iconic Balmoral Hotel

Debbie and Andrew have been sharing their planning adventure with us from telling us how they found their perfect venue, to Debbie's dress and all the beautiful décor they planned. We caught up with Debbie in the final stages of preparation...

We're both super excited and can't wait to celebrate with all our friends and family," she said. "My only nerves are that I'll be emotional on the day and Andrew will be late! Initially I was scared Covid restrictions would be put on again, but fingers crossed that all seems fine!"

Although they were in the final stages of planning when we spoke, that didn't mean the to-do list was light. Debbie had been to see her own dress when it arrived in the boutique - "I was nervous I wouldn't like it and that it would be too big for me but I still love it." Favours also still had to be sorted and they were in the midst of finalising their honeymoon to Mexico, but ever the planner, Debbie wasn't one to delegate. "Haha, I'm defo taking control," she laughed. "I even ordered the favours for my hen do!"

There were still be a few things to do but when we caught up they were at the stage of some really fun perks. To get her bridal beauty on point Debbie enjoyed a spa day and luxury facial at One Spa at the Sheraton recently before another spa day at The Balmoral with her mum and bridesmaids for facials and bubbly. The things brides have to do to get wedding ready!

The couple also went for their fabulous wedding menu tasting back in February, to fine-tune it all. "It was amazing!" said Debbie. "The venue really spoiled us! We had a private room overlooking Edinburgh Castle with a bottle of Champagne and both the wines we will be serving on the day." Sounds like the perfect way to get excited for your wedding!



To catch up with the rest of Debbie and Andrew's wedding planning journey head to yourscottishwedding.co.uk and look out for all the details and pictures of their wedding in the September issue.



Sophie & Chris

Sophie and Chris tie the knot this August at Venacher Lochside

This couple got engaged last April and are all set for their intimate wedding by the water this summer. The big news this issue is Sophie's found The One! This English bride may be travelling north of the border to marry, but she kept her dress shopping experience local, finding her beautiful Sincerity gown at Serenity Bridal in Colchester, Essex. "I was not expecting to walk away with a dress that day at all," she smiles. "It's actually the opposite of what I thought I was going to go for. It's very plain and classic but the fit is gorgeous."

In fact, Sophie admits she wouldn't even have picked out her dress but was persuaded to try it on by her sister-in-law Jade. "It's so funny because I literally looked at the dress and thought that's not for me," she says.

Sophie started dress shopping with a set idea of what she was looking for and ended up with something completely different. She thought she was going to be really fussy and find it hard to find a dress she'd love so scheduled to visit other boutiques too. "A previous store that I visited was lovely, but I just kept picking out little things about all the dresses that I would change."

Stepping into Serenity she had zero expectations of finding her dress but was having a lovely time with her cousin Amanda, sister-in-law Jade and mother-in-law Mel. "I really didn't think I would find it emotional when I found the one but we did all have a cry," says Sophie. "Overall, it was a lovely and exciting experience. When I tried on the dress with a veil I definitely got a feeling of 'Oh wow, I'm actually a bride!'"

As for the dress? This bride's giving nothing away before the big day. She's already bought the shoes and doesn't think she's going to wear much jewellery so the next task is deciding if she's going for any sort of headwear.

Whatever she decides, Sophie is relishing wedding planning with Chris. "It's actually so much fun and it's nice that we're doing it together so I don't have to do it all on my own and be bridezilla!"



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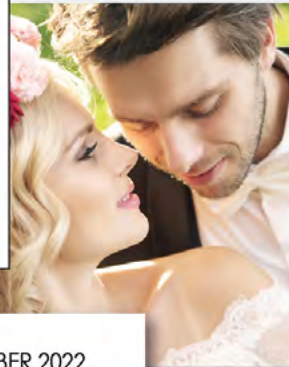
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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SEPTEMBER 2022

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Hampden Stadium

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Hampden
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Show



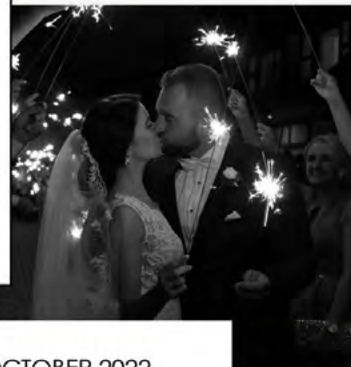
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Musselburgh
Racecourse
WEDDING SHOW



OCTOBER 2022

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OCTOBER 2022

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How would a *wedding expert's* dream day shape up?

Hauntingly happy

Gary and Corinne of Good Luck Wolf Photography are enchanted by the idea of a rustic, autumnal wedding with a dramatic nod to the spooky season

Having been to a wedding or ten in their time (including that of pals Laura and Leo which proved hugely inspiring), Glasgow-based duo Good Luck Wolf Photography, Corinne McShane and Gary Thermo, had absolutely no trouble pulling together a polished vision for their upcoming nuptials at boho barn venue Harelaw Farm on 29th October.

"The theme is Halloween gothic chic so there'll be loads of deep, autumnal décor, candlelight and subtle, spooky elements, from eerie skulls to dead flowers. It'll be a traditional running order but we do have a few secrets lined up!" smiles Corinne, who'll stay at the venue the night before whilst Gary is at home prepping their cats, Ziva and Zelda, for their roles in the big day.

If money and logistics were no object, you may expect their plans to be radically different. But for this pair, the real thing is pretty close to the dream do! They'd tweak the date (Halloween, of course!) but choose the same rustic venue and use on-theme décor to really nail that dark, moody vibe. The duo's dream ceremony would be conducted, as planned, by their friend Claire the Humanist - "We want a celebration of us and everyone who helped us get to this point," explains Corinne - and later, they'd dance the night away to alternative rock, pop, punk and a touch of heavy metal.

"I'm thinking acrobats and a sword swallower... Perhaps a fire eater and a lion tamer? The lot!"

Their dream wedding, however, would be all about enhancing the theme and making memories. "It'd be a full-blown Halloween extravaganza where guests don their spookiest attire and enjoy all sorts of eccentric entertainment. I'm thinking acrobats and a sword swallower... Perhaps a fire eater and a lion tamer? The lot! We'd invite every single person we could - and have time to chat to each and every one of them. Weddings absolutely fly in and there's never enough time. Memories are the most important thing to us."



Yumpkin (£8), hotelchocolat.com

Gold-plated healing stone Carnelian ring (£15), accessorize.com



Red, gold and black crystal tiara (£250), thebritishcrafthouse.co.uk



Cat letterbox biscuit (£10.95), biscuiteers.com



A Bonnie Wee Cake

Black bat wreath (£9.99), gingerray.co.uk



Halloween wreath (£25), dibor.co.uk



Set of 3 black dripping wax TruGlo candles (£26.99), lights4fun.co.uk



goodluckwolf.co.uk

Time to supercharge your wedding inspo as three industry insiders share their absolute dream moodboards, from fire eaters and lion tamers to an Alice in Wonderland tea party at a French chateau and an ethereal celebration in the Algarve

Mediterranean Marriage

Make-up artist Louise Ballantine of LUX fancies a rustic Portuguese wedding in a familiar setting

Louise and her husband Scott actually tied the knot in an intimate ceremony at Glasgow's 23 Montrose Street last December but at the time of going to press were preparing to host their dream wedding reception at Trump Turnberry to celebrate in style. "The theme is ethereal, romantic and whimsical with whites, creams and some dusky hues of blush," Louise shares. Having already exchanged their legal vows, the couple are having a blessing from their best friend, the actor Craig McGinlay, who will tell their story, before they share their own promises to each other and light a unity candle.

The whole day already sounds like a dream and we can't wait to see photos, but if it could be any other way Louise has a pretty epic plan B in mind. "I feel really lucky to be getting married at one of the most beautiful resorts and we love spending time at Turnberry so that really is the dream," she says. "However, another dream venue that's completely different would be in Portugal at the old town Praia da Luz where I've been going since I was six months."

Louise would stick to a traditional, but non-religious ceremony in her Portuguese dream, and include vows, poems, and a unity candle, but absolutely no drinking from the quail. "I'm not the best at pretending alcohol or shots are nice so I would probably end up screwing up my face at how bad I thought it was!" she says.

The theme for this imaginary wedding would be rustic and ethereal with floaty natural textures and the colour scheme would differ slightly from her wedding IRL, with greenery and vineyard vibes.

Guests would be entertained with a magician or pianist and live singers, bringing the Latin American vibe and smooth soul music, mixed with acoustic pop.

"If I had the confidence I would do a speech to my groom, my family and friends"

And the one thing Louise would love to include in her dream wedding? "If I had the confidence I would do a speech to my groom, my family and friends," she says. "However, I just don't see myself being able to do it as I can be quite shy in large groups and my emotions would 100% take over."



The church of Nossa Senhora da Luz in Praia da Luz, Portugal



Berdine sprays of pearls hair comb (£50), **Liberty in Love**



Giorgio Armani Upton linen suit jacket (£1,600), **mrporter.com**



Berta - **Opus Atelier** is the exclusive stockist in Scotland



Pillar hurricane (£140), **LuxDeco**



Green ruscus foliage artificial garland (£16.99), **Ginger Ray**



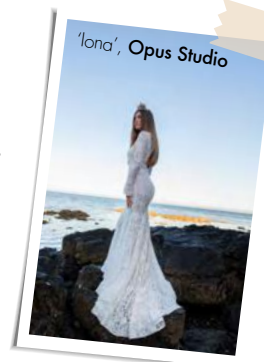
Cream satin cowl neck slip dress (£84.00), **True Decadence**



Pembroke champagne coupe, set of four (£65), **Soho Home**



Rosewood Cakes



'lona', **Opus Studio**

Luna silver buds headpiece (£285) by **Halo and Co** at **Liberty in Love**



Escape to The Chateau



Sunny' Dried Flower
Buttonhole (£16), Mary
Elizabeth Flowers



Chateau de la Motte Husson | Marie Marry Me

Erin Gardiner of The Merchants Hall in Edinburgh dreams of a French wedding with that certain *je ne sais quoi*

Erin and her fiancé Callum are planning their 2024 wedding at the beautiful Colstoun House. After eight years together, Callum proposed at the duck pond at Aberlady Bay - one of their favourite places growing up - before they celebrated at the restaurant where he first asked her to be his girlfriend. "It was very us," she remembers.

Erin works as the events and marketing co-ordinator at wedding venue, The Merchants Hall so has a definite idea of what she wants for her own big day. The couple will say "I do" in a humanist ceremony and plan to make things personal by including a tree planting ceremony. "The area I grew up in is a tree scheme with all the streets named after trees," she explains. "When we got our own home, we got really into gardening so we're going to plant a myrtle or olive."

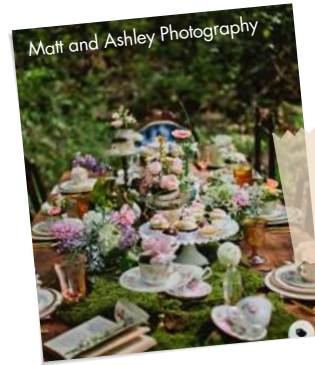
"If it wasn't Disney, it would be the chateau from Escape to the Chateau"

They're already planning a dreamy day but if they could opt for any alternative (and if Erin had her own way!) it would be a Disneyland wedding. "It's not Callum's thing so if it wasn't Disney, it would be the chateau from *Escape to the Chateau*," she says. "It's the dream of anyone who does weddings to have your own chateau one day."

When it comes to the styling of this dream chateau wedding Erin says she's not "all about elegance" but favours a more home-crafted, rustic look with an emphasis on pastel shades.

For their real wedding, this green-fingered couple are going to grow and dry the flowers for their arrangements. Anything they can't grow themselves they'll get from the local flower market. Erin loves that this eco-friendly option means guests will be able to take them home. In her dream wedding scenario then, she would have an *Alice in Wonderland*-style tea party with teacups filled with the dried flowers. And the cups that don't have flowers would have cute cocktails with "drink me" signs. Sticking with the tea party theme, there would be lots of dessert options too.

And what music would it be for this relaxed dream wedding? A ceilidh of course, bringing a Scottish flair to France.



Matt and Ashley Photography



A Bonnie Wee Cake



Pink Cocktail Glasses Set Of 4 (£59), Audenza



Marinold Cakes



'Willi', Savin London - Eleganza Sposa
is the exclusive stockist of Savin London in
Scotland



The Candy Corn dried flower baked blossom autumn wreath (£48), The Happy Blossoms



Havana goblet, set of four (£48), Soho Home



'Alice plays croquet' vinyl wall sticker (£74),
Oakdene Designs



Selection of dried
flowers, Dunelm Mill



Chateau de la Motte Husson
Claire Macintyre Photography

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The **BIG** interview with True Bride's Georgia Flynn

She grew up around wedding dresses, so working as True Bride's creative project manager is a natural fit for Georgia. Here she shares her love of all things bridal with *Your Scottish Wedding*

Your Scottish Wedding: How did you first start working with True Bride? Had you always worked in bridal before or how did you decide this was the direction you wanted your career to take?

Georgia Flynn: I actually grew up around the bridal industry and wedding dresses, so it's something I've always known. I never thought I'd want to end up working in the industry, though, until I tried it and just fell in love!

YSW: How did the True Bride brand start?

GF: True Bride was born in Brighton in 2005 with the goal of creating designs for everybody. With a distinctive flair for creating original, stylish dresses we filled a gap in the bridesmaid market; the wide range of colours, designs and sizes captured brides' imaginations and became the cornerstone for the brand. Today, we have four bridal and four bridesmaid collections that the True team believe have the versatility and charm to inspire a vision true to each bride and their unique love story.

YSW: How would you describe the True Bride style? What sort of bride wears True Bride?

GF: We create gowns that express the bride's individuality with the use of classic silhouettes that always have a unique twist. We believe passionately that we are designing more than a dress; we are creating the experience for every woman to feel their most

beautiful and fabulous on their wedding day. The signature True Bride look is encapsulated through the timeless but contemporary nature of our dresses, with a style that is always memorable and that you feel your best in.

YSW: The True Bride brand incorporates a variety of different lines; with True Bride, Nicki Flynn by True Bride, True Curves and Brighton Belle in bridal, as well as the different bridesmaid lines. Do you have a favourite?

GF: I will always hold a very special place for the Nicki Flynn by True Bride range. This collection was started when





Chicago

our founder Nicki Flynn decided she wanted to create a selection of personal designs featuring the details, silhouettes, and styles she'd dreamed up over decades working and designing in the bridal industry. The dresses in this range all hold a special quality and are now designed and created with Nicki in mind.

YSW: How important is it to the company to have the True Curves line for plus size brides and are there any special traits or constructions tricks to make those dresses every bit as flattering as the other lines?

GF: We spent years developing the True Curves collection, talking with retailers and brides alike so we could create the dresses plus size brides actually want. Each dress is fitted with our luxury construction that was designed for this range to flatter, enhance and support where

needed, and we also developed a specific size chart to ensure an unparalleled fit. We refuse to compromise on design - exemplary style, cut and construction are at the core of who we are as a brand, and this shows through more than ever in our Curves collection. Just because a bride is curvier it doesn't mean she wants anything other than the look, and we make sure to deliver. From



Sardinia

Gatsby glam beading, dreamy waterfall style beaded cape sleeves, plunging V-neck fronts and dramatic lace trains, our True Curves collection has something for every bride.

YSW: Where did the inspiration come from for the 2022 collections?

GF: We really took little bits of everything! Some dresses are built around their movement and fluidity and the soft lines of the styles whilst others take that dramatic bohemian detailing and give it a modern edge. We've also been inspired by the simplicity people have talked about this last year, taking it back to basics and building it back up again. We've had the time to really look at what we want to create for our brides, and I think the passion of our team really shows through in every aspect of this collection.

YSW: Do you have a dress from the new collection that's your own personal favourite?

GF: Can I have two? If so, it's Monaco and Boheme!



Wilde



Wilde

YSW: Who is the one celebrity bride you wish True Bride could have designed a wedding dress for?

GF: I mean, it's got to be Grace Kelly, right?

YSW: What's your all-time favourite True Bride wedding dress?

GF: Sardinia from the Nicki Flynn by True Bride collection.

Think True Bride might be your dream designer? You can shop the brand here:

Blush Bridal

CKS Bridal

Da Wedding Shed

Kudos Bridal Edinburgh

Sarah Louise Bridal

The Finer Detail

The Bridal Boutique
(True Bridesmaids only)





PHOTOGRAPHY: Oli and Steph Photography



Into the wild

From bell tents to gorgeous stationery and a fabulous feast, there's plenty of food for thought in this stunning Glencoe styled shoot, by Ella Mai Elopements and captured by Oli and Steph Photography, proving you can elope exactly how you want



*“Glencoe is one of Scotland’s most popular elopement destinations, which is evident with its breathtaking landscapes of mountains, lochs, and forests,” says Ella of **Ella Mai Elopements**. “It really is just the perfect spot to have a wild Scottish elopement and so this was one of my main inspirations behind creating this styled shoot. I’m a big believer that elopement days should be completely about the couple and all their favourite things, which was another big inspiration – to showcase what could be possible for their elopement; a beautifully styled bell tent picnic with a delicious spread of food and drink, with the stunning background of sweeping mountains. Completed by the stunning contrast of colours with the flowers, adding a pop of pinks and oranges, against the muted colours of Glencoe.”*







PLANNER/ STYLIST

Ella Mai Elopements

CELEBRANT

Gary J Smith Humanist Celebrant

FLOWERS

B.Bonnie Flowers

CATERER & TABLE STYLING

Platter and Pop

BELL TENT

The Slumber Tent Party Co

SIGNAGE

Daydreamer Creative Studio

STATIONERY

Wedding Artwork by Daria

MODELS

Becca + Grant - @lipstick_and_late_nights
@g_nut_butter

RINGS

Sarah Brown Jewellery

HEADPIECE

Saint Beth Official

SUIT AND DRESS

Models' own



Ask the expert

Rachel Scott Couture

unpicks the jargon surrounding just how your wedding dress is made

With endless weird and wonderful new wedding dress terms to learn, it can seem a little daunting but don't worry, our expert columnist Rachel is here to guide you through

"It's always normally my default to encourage brides to abandon the jargon and the rules when it comes to choosing their wedding dress but equally, you still need to be entirely confident in whatever you're signing up to so a little knowledge can go a long way.

Knowing your options on how your dress is made, where it's made, what bespoke design options you have and ensuring the perfect fit are all things you'll need to talk through with whoever you're trusting with your most precious, once-in-a-lifetime dress.

So let's get you armed with a brief understanding behind a few key phrases to ensure you feel confident enough to make the right choices and to ask questions!

HOW IS YOUR DRESS GOING TO BE MADE?

Couture - Definitely a term that's always close to our hearts! Stemming from the original French word for 'tailoring' and 'cloth cutting', it essentially means the highest quality of cut, tailoring and fit. It represents something entirely custom made to the highest quality standards, using only the finest fabrics and utterly flawless construction techniques.

Made to order - Your dress will be constructed for you after you have placed your order.

This term would still apply whether the 'rack' is right in front of you in the shop or it's in a warehouse or factory storage. You're choosing a dress from styles that have already been made basically. This version of buying is most like high street fashion shopping as you'd know it, (often referred to as 'ready to wear') where stocks of dresses are made ahead of the season so customers can purchase and wear instantly.

HOW WILL WE GET THE RIGHT FIT?

Standard size - Dresses are made using a predetermined set range of sizes. (eg size



This term can technically apply to both construction on a mass industrial scale as well as on an individual artisan basis.

Depending on the level of designer, where and how the dresses are made and their chosen working methods, your dress can be made to order using either a standard size pattern or (in the case of the higher level couture designers we work with) using your own 'made to measure' pattern.

Not to be confused with 'Made to order' - Made to measure is a dress made exactly to your measurements. Made to order simply means your dress is 'made' once you 'order'.

Off the rack - A rail of pre-made dresses you can choose from. Most likely to be a range of standard sizes.

10, 12, 14). Each designer/manufacture will create their own size chart to work from so remember it may be that a size 12 from one designer will be quite different to a size 12 from another.

This is why it's important to have an expert bridal consultant measure you and listen to their guidance on what size is best. The type of fabric, shape and style of dress can all have an impact on what size is best. Be guided by the measurements, not by the size on the label - the size you choose in a t-shirt, blouse or pair of jeans won't always be the same as a sculpted corseted gown!

Made to measure - A new pattern is created from scratch based exactly on your own measurements. It would of course follow that a made to measure dress can only be made if you're also



Rolling in Roses
PHOTO: Zach & Grace

These final adjustments will ensure your dress fits you in exactly the way you want it to look and feel. It will potentially include things like the hem length being walkable (or danceable) in your chosen shoes, the straps sit neatly, corsetry is as tight or loose as you prefer and the dress flows across the body in exactly the way you want it to (AND any enhancing bust cups are sneaked in, shhh...we'll not tell!)

standard across all bridal designers and manufacturers. Depending on the type of design changes you're looking for though, even with 'off the rack' dresses, some creative retailers might be able to personalise your gorgeous wedding dress so it's always worth an ask!



'Cheryl'
by Halfpenny
London

having your dress made to order but, to be clear, it is possible to have a made to order dress without having it also made to measure.

I'm a bit of a perfectionist when it comes to fit so we tend to opt for the full made to measure service where at all possible.

"I'm a bit of a perfectionist when it comes to fit so we tend to opt for the full made to measure service where at all possible."



'Gabrielle' by Suzanne Neville

Toile - Pronounced more like twa-al, although lots of my clients call it a twirl (probably due to my Scottish accent pronouncing it)! It's sometimes also referred to as Calico due to the fabric most often used. Basically, it's a practice version of your dress made in a cheaper alternative fabric before your actual glorious fabric

is cut and the final dress constructed. It's used as a mock-up to test out the pattern, design choices and fit of measurements.

It is highly likely that, if you opt for a toile as part of your dress construction process, it'll be made to measure too. You'd attend a toile fitting appointment prior to your dress being cut and finished, allowing for any fitting adjustments and/or design changes to be confirmed and tweaked before your dress is completed."

Alterations and fittings - When your dress arrives in store (THE most exciting thing EVER!), you'll need final fittings to make sure it fits to total perfection. Due to the inherent pliable nature of fabrics and the natural changes in body shapes, your dress will always need some level of tweaking. That will apply even if you've opted for a made to measure and toile fitting service (Although there is potential with those services that your dress will need fewer adjustments).

HOW WILL WE GET THE RIGHT DESIGN?

Design changes - You might want to change something about a style to make it right for you, perhaps adding sleeves, changing the shape of the neckline or shape of the skirt, exchange fabric types, colours or placement of detailing. Although we have the added flexibility of being able to offer design changes right from the pattern stage, it is not

A full-page photograph of a woman in a white lace wedding dress, holding a bouquet of greenery, standing in a field with a misty background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

With Love, Mirka
*A new
approach*



Top bridal designer Mirka Jankowska claims she was born holding a needle and thread and after creating her first bespoke evening gown at 16 she knew a career in design beckoned. With over 30 years in the bridal industry, creating gowns that are as comfortable as they are beautiful has always been at the centre of her work. And now with her new brand, With Love, Mirka, making the right ethical choices is also of paramount importance.

“The last couple of years made me look at the world differently,” Mirka tells us. “I saw nature that revived when we stopped

destroying it for a while. Out of concern for our planet, I decided that my new brand needs to be made sustainably, there was no way I could justify any other way for a new product to enter the market. We have worked with manufacturers to create the most beautiful laces using recycled materials and I made a conscious choice to keep production here in Scotland.”

The result is a collection of stunning gowns with some seriously bohemian vibes. Just check out that bespoke recycled lace.

Where to buy...
Mirka Bridal Couture



Tender Loving Wedding Style

Top Scottish style blogger Rachel Lawler of *Tender Loving Style* shares all on her recent Maid of Honour duties

'Love is patient' - and just as well with Covid halting so many wedding plans since 2020! I was so delighted for my little sis, Beth, and her new husband, Greig, who finally got their big day after a two-year postponement. I was honoured to be their Maid of Honour, so I thought I'd share 5 things I'd recommend to anyone on MOH duty...



1. Pack a 'Just in case' kit

Maybe it was the former stylist in me sneaking out, but I knew I wanted to put together a 'just in case' kit for the big day for any last minute emergencies. I popped in a mini sewing kit (don't forget safety pins which can totally help pull up a stubborn zip), blister plasters, deodorant, mints, mini scissors, travel size perfume and a box of kirby grips. Luckily no sewing kit was needed, but it felt less stressful knowing we had all bases covered!



2. Stick to PJs and robes everyone can wear again

Let's be totally honest: a set of PJs stamped with 'bridesmaid' isn't going to be your go-to pair post-wedding. Instead, Beth bought us all pink striped silky robes and - by sheer coincidence - the bridesmaids had already decided on the exact matching PJs! We also picked up pink crop tops for the morning so it was easier to get changed after hair and make-up.

"The night before the wedding, we gave Beth a book filled with plenty of memories and notes."



3. Write a note

The night before the wedding, we gave Beth a book filled with plenty of memories and notes. Myself, each of the bridesmaids, my mum and Greig's mum each wrote a note for Beth to read alongside their favourite photos of them with the bride-to-be. I bought a pink scrapbook from Hobbycraft and decorated it with gold letters in Beth's new married name then stuck a pink envelope on each page so the notes could be folded in. Safe to say, Beth loved it and there were plenty of happy tears. 100% better for the night before the wedding, though - no ruined wedding day make up!

4. Take videos

One thing I'm super glad I did was take videos throughout the night before and wedding morning. It's been so lovely looking back on those little moments that sometimes get forgotten, from getting ready in the morning to putting on Beth's fave childhood film on her last night as a Miss (*Parent Trap*, FYI). I put all the videos into a separate folder and shared them with Beth so she has them too.

"One thing I'm super glad I did was take videos throughout the night before and wedding morning."



5. Don't forget a playlist

The 6.45am alarm to start hair and makeup was early (especially after a few proseccos the night before!) so we all made sure we'd created a good playlist for the wedding morning. We had all Beth's favourites and even some throwbacks to our Steps and Spice Girls days with plenty of 90's tunes just before Beth's dress reveal! The venue had a Bluetooth sound system all set up so it's totally worth checking the set-up before you get there, just to make sure you don't need a speaker.

I can hardly believe my little sister is now a married lady - it's made me even more excited for my own big day! The countdown is officially on...



Time to **BANISH** *those bridal hang-ups!*

*Let **Claire Muir** and some of Scotland's best bridalwear experts put your mind at ease with answers to the questions you're embarrassed to ask your bridal boutique but need to know...*

As a bride who chose her wedding dress based on the fact it was high-necked and high-backed (in case of spots on those areas - something that rarely happened to me but was a top worry nonetheless) and had a full skirt to hide the inevitable bloat (our wedding breakfast was a burger bar, need I say more?) I really wish there'd been an article like this around when I was getting ready to tie the knot. Don't get me wrong, I adored my dress. It was absolutely 'The One' - the one picked from a very small selection of 'body suitable' options I'd given myself, that is. Had I been able to somehow ease those anxieties and try every style under the sun, I wonder what the end result would have looked like...

As I got talking to Megan Carberry, assistant manager at Kudos Bridal in Dunfermline, she assured me that bridal consultants often meet women armed with a multitude of body hang-ups. "Everybody has at least one," she points out. "But you should never be scared to try on your dream style because of your insecurities."

Instead, it's all about finding an outfit that wows you so much that you forget about them! Megan suggests trying a little bit of everything until you feel 100% comfortable. "You should be able

to envision slipping into your gown on the morning of the wedding and feel like you can completely relax with no worries!”



Nicole Milano - available at Pan Pan Bridal

At Pan Pan Bridal, Huda Abdulgader recommends not thinking too much about the different styles until try-on time. And when faced with concerns she's full of reassurance and understanding whilst encouraging her clients to keep all options firmly open. “For the bride's comfort, I would always support her by recommending dresses that would give her ease of mind,” she says. “However, I also assure them there are other ways to deal with skin changes or spots. Don't be afraid to try those ‘dream styles.’”

What if...

According to Megan, there is no such thing as an embarrassing question in bridal boutiques. “There'll always be someone, from your consultant to your seamstress, who will have an answer for you,” she says. So, let's dive in!

What if I don't know what to wear under my dress?

Huda: “Don't be afraid to ask. It can be really difficult to find a bra that doesn't show under the dress so buy a few (keep your receipts) and bring them to your fittings to try on. Knickers can be a pain but you'd be surprised what's out there for fitted dresses. Sometimes we advise brides to not wear knickers because every pair shows some kind of line. And to be honest, no-one is going to know unless you tell them!”

What if I hate my arms?

Megan: “This might sound completely crazy but sometimes sleeves aren't the right thing to go for. Sleeves as part of a wedding gown are designed to be looked at and admired so you may find that instead of covering your problem areas, you find yourself drawn to them a little more. Maybe try an off-the-shoulder style instead? This way you still get cover where you want it but your insecurities aren't being highlighted.”

What if I'm prone to spots or redness on my back and chest?

Huda: “There is some fantastic body make-up to give good cover-up and treatments that can help with spots. Treat yourself and help your skin on the lead up to your wedding. If you go a little red, guests won't mind, and photographers can edit areas you feel uncomfortable with.”



Aire Barcelona - available at Kudos Bridal

What if my IBS makes me super-bloated?

Megan: “Think about an A-line style. These gowns are fitted to the waist and either come in a soft, floaty skirt or a ballgown bottom that will disguise a multitude of tummy problems. If you'd like to stick to fitted, go for a style with a stretch lining that will move with you throughout the day without being uncomfortable. All over detail will also help camouflage any bloating, rather than a plainer style.”

What if I need the toilet?

Megan: “It sounds bizarre but go backwards - there's no need to invest in any fancy contraptions! Instead of awkwardly trying to hold your train up behind you and risking the dreaded dip in the bowl, walk on to the toilet instead. If you have a fuller dress, chances are you'll be wearing a hoop so use this to your advantage - hold the hoop and your dress will rest inside.”



Essence of Australia - available at Kudos Bridal

What if my period is due?

Megan: “It's always good practice to have an ‘SOS kit’ on hand - how about a little box in the bathroom at your venue? Pads, tampons, paracetamol... Even a small sewing kit in case of any wardrobe malfunctions. There's no such thing as being too prepared.”

Bothered by BO? Don't be!

“One of the main causes of BO is a build-up of bacteria around hair follicles so get a wax a couple of days before your wedding - and make sure a trusty bridesmaid adds a mini deodorant to your survival kit for the day! If you sweat excessively, ask at the chemist for something stronger to put on the night before your wedding. Just make sure to read the instructions fully as these can cause irritation if not used properly.”

Kayleigh Powell, Blushes & Bows at LMQ Hair and Beauty

Mamma mia!

Depending on the number of children you have, shopping for your mother of the bride or groom outfit could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Here's how to make the most of it!

GETTING STARTED

First things first, you'll be starting in a great position if you make sure to do plenty of research before booking appointments. Look at styles and designers on boutique websites to see the latest collections and check out social media. You'll find videos of new arrivals plus photos and testimonials from 'real mums'. "The best recommendation for customer experience is always word of mouth so have a look at some bridal blogs and check out customer reviews," suggests Louise Brown at Catwalk, an award-winning independent ladies' boutique in Dunfermline.

She advises that most boutiques operate by appointment only so it's worth planning ahead and booking in early, especially if you're looking for a weekend visit. "Most boutiques only carry one in a size, so I'd recommend coming in early when the deliveries arrive for the widest choice of styles in your size. The fabulous new collections arrive at Catwalk from early June for the autumn/winter season and spring/summer collections arrive January/February time."

That said, finding your mother of the bride or groom outfit should be a happy experience



so don't rush in. "We recommend you only start this when you are ready to purchase your special outfit," says Georgea Scobie, buyer at Gina Smart Boutique, which boasts one of Scotland's largest collections of special occasionwear. "There's no point trying on lots of dresses when you're not yet in the position to buy as stock changes frequently."

Christina Sigerson, owner of Mia Bella, a "mum's specialist" in the heart of Glasgow city centre, agrees: "Chat with friends and workmates may be filled with what you may or may not be wearing for the big day, but try not to feel pressured into the shopping experience."

Six weeks pre-wedding is the very latest she'd recommend leaving it to start the search, bearing in mind that your outfit may need to be ordered and you'll have delivery times to factor in, plus potential alterations when you do get your hands on it. Not to mention sourcing headgear and other accessories to match - and potentially visiting a few boutiques across Scotland to make the most of the shopping experience!

"Sometimes mums need to make sure they've seen everything there is to see before committing to their chosen gown," says Christina. "We always encourage our customers to visit other stores if they don't have a gut feeling that the dress they like/love is for them."



John Charles - available at Catwalk



Veni Valentino - available at Catwalk

HITTING THE SHOPS

First, don't go alone - assemble a trusted shopping squad! "We are always very honest with our customers, but they don't know us and we feel it's important to have the opinion of a good friend or a close family member to give their thoughts on what you try on," explains Christina.

Keep your circle small, though, she says; "We advise against large groups visiting with our clients as this can cause confusion. After all, human nature means we all have different opinions and sometimes this can cause a conflict of opinion and make your choosing experience difficult."



In terms of prepping yourself, keep your make-up minimal and wear a good fitting nude bra and comfortable underwear. Got a specific shoe or size of heel in mind to team with your outfit? Bring it, or anything else that'll dictate the style of outfit you need for the big day.

"Leaving jewellery at home is a good idea as often you will be asked to remove to avoid snagging outfits," adds Georgea, who urges MOB's and MOG's to bring one more crucial thing with them. "It really is best if you come with an open mind. Often, we find it's what you may not necessarily expect that is 'The One!'"

WHAT OUTFIT IS RIGHT FOR ME?

With a huge variety of colours, styles and fabrics it can be daunting searching for the perfect outfit, especially if you're wondering about the rules around different styles

for different body shapes... But there are no rules according to the team at Mia Bella! "We like to start customers off by reaffirming what shapes suit them and more importantly what they feel most comfortable in."

At The Dressing Rooms in Grangemouth (the destination sale boutique for Catwalk Falkirk) owner Pauline Spiers agrees. "Most ladies know 'The One' when they put it on," she says. "They look good and feel confident and comfortable in it. It's best to come with an open mind and try different shapes and colours on, and we do advise on what we think would flatter their figures."

Trend-led? Beautifully feminine fit-and-flare styles with soft chiffon skirts or hi-low hem lines are sought after this season, as are chic, fitted knee-length designs with Bardot necklines and delicate beading, says Louise. For a more relaxed look, try an elegant trouser suit. And if you want to stand out from the crowd, she suggests incorporating "special features" like the cape shoulder or drape back for a touch of drama.

What about accessories? "We are seeing a trend for smaller quirkier headpieces this season but we do love a big showstopper hat," says Pauline. "It can depend on the venue as many couples are opting for destination weddings this year."



Q: Do I need to run my outfit choice past the other MOB/MOG - or the bride?

A: No one likes to upset the apple cart and often lovely mums are keen to ensure their outfit is on point for everyone, not just them - complementing but not clashing with the other MOB/MOG and toning in with but not matching the bridesmaids, for example. At Mia Bella, Christina recommends talking, talking, and more talking to ensure you're happy with your chosen style on all fronts. "We think it's best to have an open line of communication with the other mum and bridal party," she says. "That way everyone has a fair idea of what colours are involved and a visual picture can build. While searching for your outfit, this will help you make colour choices that complement others within the bridal party."

"We think it's best to have an open line of communication with the other mum and bridal party"

Christina, Mia Bella



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Beauty **QUEENS**

*Posing in the early spring sunshine at
Macdonald Houstoun House Hotel,
our YSW real brides Nina and Ruth
look gorgeous in our hair and
beauty photoshoot*

PHOTOGRAPHY: **Laura A Tilman Photography**





Ruth & Emilou

When Ruth married her husband Emmanuel at Carlowrie Castle she went for not one but two beautiful bridal looks, switching it up from a stunning form-fitting Martina Liana dress to a more vintage Eliza Jane Howell gown at night. Friend Emilou joined her for a girls' day out at our photoshoot on location at Houstoun House.

Check out Ruth's beautiful wedding at yourscottishwedding.co.uk

OPPOSITE PAGE Contessa headpiece (£295), **June Brides Glasgow**; necklace, Ruth's own; Arianna robes are made to order and available to purchase from **Sophia Grace Couture**. THIS PAGE Top Left, Emilou peach blossom hair comb (£125) and satin kimono (£117), both **June Brides Glasgow** and Ruth as before, Top Right, Emilou as before, Bottom Left, Antigua side comb (£75), available at alwaysthebride.com and in store at **Sophia Grace Couture**, Bottom Right, Ruth wearing Antigua side comb and Arianna robe as before.



THIS PAGE Diamanté circlet (POA), **June Brides Glasgow**, Georgia lace veil (£175), available at alwaysthebride.com and in store at **Sophia Grace Couture**, Arianna robe as before. OPPOSITE PAGE Clockwise from Top Right, Daisy chain headband (£85), alwaysthebride.com and in store at **Sophia Grace Couture**, Middle Right, daisy chain headband and Arianna robe as before; Bottom Right, Nina wears daisy chain headband and Arianna robe as before with Amara teardrop hoop earrings (£58), alwaysthebride.com and **Sophia Grace Couture**, Latta wears Arianna robe, Art Deco jewellery set (£80), alwaysthebride.com and **Sophia Grace Couture**; Rose pearl comb (£210), **June Brides Glasgow**, bracelets, Nina and Latta's own, Middle Left, Latta jewellery set and robe as before.

Nina & Latta

Nina and husband Vishal married last June at Glasgow City Chambers before a traditional Indian wedding ceremony at Om Hindu Mandir the following day. Nina did her own hair and make-up (with the help of some tutorials), so it was a real treat when Kayleigh from Blushes & Bows at LMQ Hair and Beauty gave her a boho-inspired makeover, complete with tousled plait. Her mum Latta joined in the fun, going for a relaxed mother of the bride look.

Turn to page 116 to read all about Nina's gorgeous two-day wedding celebration.



Behind the scenes



On location

Macdonald Houstoun House Hotel was the setting for our photoshoot and check out the golden hour sunlight photographer Laura captured in the beautiful gardens. The 16th-century country retreat sits in 22 acres of woodlands just west of Edinburgh and the grounds are just gorgeous.

And Houstoun House is also a perfect setting for your wedding. The mansion house is brimming with character and charm and you can host up to 200 of your nearest and dearest in the Houstoun Suite ballroom.

macdonaldhotels.co.uk/houstoun-house



Bohemian revolution

Kayleigh Powell of Blushes & Bows at LMQ Hair and Beauty has 12 years of experience within the industry.

She created Nina's relaxed boho look using MAC prep and prime base before applying Laura Mercier foundation and YSL concealer. She used the MAC and Huda palettes on both Nina and her mum Latta for their bright and natural eye make-up.

Kayleigh styled Nina's hair into a relaxed and tousled high plait while Latta opted for a low side bun.

lmqhairandbeauty.com



Bring the glamour

Caroline set up Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry in 2010 and she hasn't looked back since, making brides across Scotland gorgeous for their weddings. With Ruth's make-up we wanted to create a really glamorous, radiant look and Caroline started with a Laura Mercier illuminating primer before using Illamasqua skinbase foundation, blush, highlighter and gel liner. Tarte Cosmetics palettes were used for her eyes before Diva and Everlasting Charlotte Tilbery lipstick finished the look.

For Emilou's bridesmaid look we wanted an old Hollywood glamour look so Caroline loosely curled her hair, pinning it back with the peach blossom haircomb from June Brides Glasgow.

carolinestewartmakeupartistry.co.uk

Strike a pose

Photographer Laura A Tiliman is an international fashion, wedding and portrait photographer based in Scotland.



ammteam.co.uk

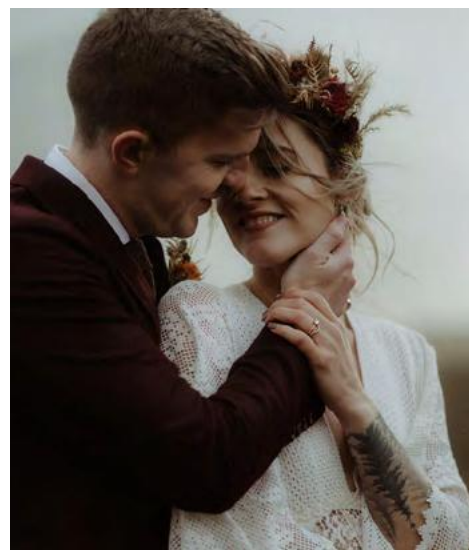
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Suzi Li Photography

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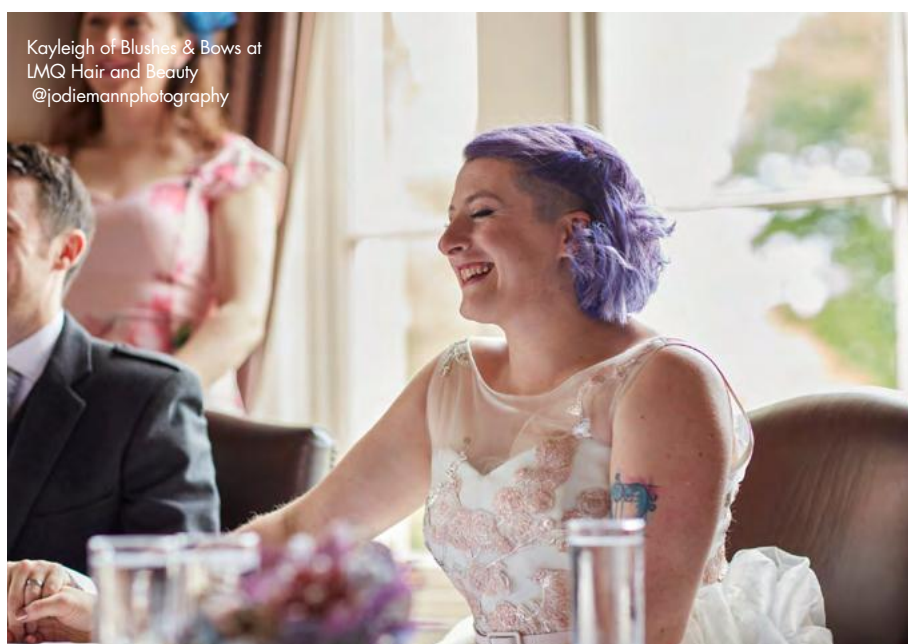


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Hair, and make-up 101

From avoiding acne to nailing this year's key wedding hair trends, we put your most-asked questions to **our beautification experts**



Kayleigh of Blushes & Bows at
LMQ Hair and Beauty
@jodiemannphotography

Q: How can I make sure my skin is in the best condition possible?

"Skincare is crucial months ahead. We recommend a good cleanse, tone and moisturise routine. A good serum, plus hydration for under the eyes and lips is recommended also. Always wear an SPF and avoid sunbeds or heavy sunbathing."

Maureen Crolla
The Bride to be...

Q: How can I cover acne scars?

"There are a range of options to improve scarring, like peels, laser and dermaplaning treatments, if you can afford to treat yourself. But just exfoliating and keeping your skin hydrated will improve its texture."

Caroline Stewart
Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry and Hair Styling

Q: What about acne itself?

"Start a face massage routine ASAP - you'll see and feel changes quickly. It helps the skin become healthier without the use of topical products. I also recommend simplifying your skincare routine. Don't add in new products or chop and change as you'll just confuse the skin. You'll possibly also need some lifestyle changes. Look into diet, stress and hormones rather than just products."

Lesley McCormick
Pamper & Polish

Q: My skin is generally good but what if a pesky spot pop ups on the big day?

"Spots aren't a problem. Pop some neat lavender on it and keep your skin well-hydrated."

Laura Dawson
Laura Dawson MAKEUP

Q: I sweat when I'm nervous. What can I do?

"Whether it's sweat, tears or bubbles gone wild, I always make sure I have the right primer for your skin type. That means your foundation has a good platform to stick to. Waterproof-based products and setting sprays prevent make-up running or smudging, too."

Kayleigh Powell
of Blushes & Bows at LMQ Hair and Beauty

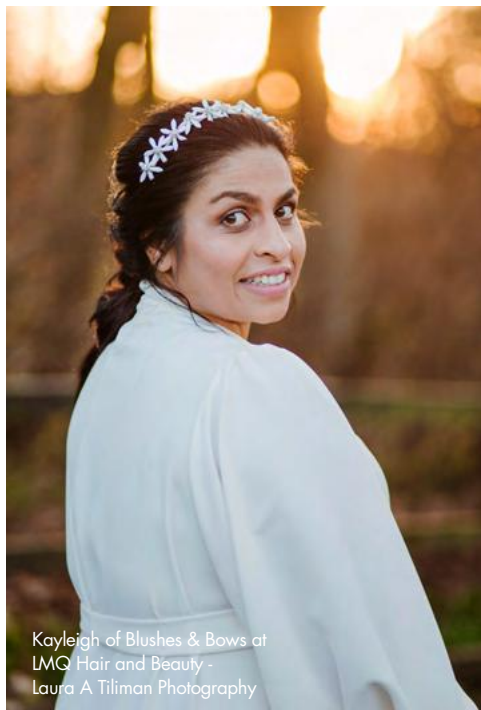
Q: I know nothing about make-up. How can I pick the right MUA?

"Narrow down to the ones that have pictures on their social media of the type of make-up you like. We all have our own style and favourite products. Your MUA should be approachable - you want to feel you can express your thoughts and ideas."

Lesley
Pamper & Polish



Pamper & Polish
Suzanne Li Photography



Kayleigh of Blushes & Bows at
LMQ Hair and Beauty -
Laura A Tilman Photography

Q: I'm a big fan of the natural look but will it still be flawless at the end of the night?

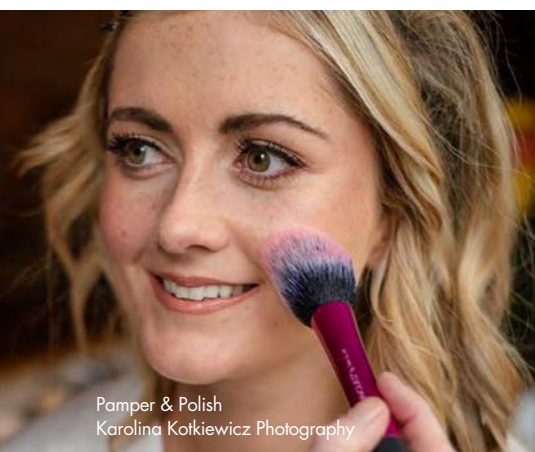
"Of course! The right application of minimal products can make just as much of an impact as a full face of foundation."

*Kayleigh
of Blushes & Bows at LMQ Hair
and Beauty*

Q: Fake tan - how can I avoid looking like I've been Tangoed!?

"Do your research and test before the day! I'd highly recommend a lotion (a professional application will last up to 7-10 days so great if you're going straight on honeymoon) and not a spray tan. Lotions are activated when applied and go down into several layers of your skin so are less likely to rub off on the dress. However, a spray tan is water-based, sits on the first couple of layers of your skin and is more likely to rub off."

*AMM team
AMM Hair and Make Up*



Pamper & Polish
Karolina Kotkiewicz Photography

Q: I'm prone to blushing and don't want to look like a beetroot at the altar. Help!

"A little extra coverage or colour corrector will help with this."

*Caroline
Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry and
Hair Styling*

Q: How long will my bride squad need to get ready in the morning and how can we make sure it goes smoothly?

"We'll keep you right. But generally, allow for 45-60 minutes per person for each service and give the bride an hour for each. We often like to prep the bride's hair first then start her make-up in the middle. There'll always be time at the end for touch ups before you head down the aisle."

*Maureen
The Bride to be...*

"Ensure your bridal party have ideas about what they like and don't like. Have hair washed and dried (but not straightened) either the night before or the morning of the wedding so it's ready to be styled."

*AMM team
AMM Hair and Make Up*

Q: I'll have my children getting ready with me. How can I get them involved?

"Some fresh flowers in their hair can look beautiful and a little sparkle on their cheeks and lips will help make them feel and look as special as they are!"

*Maureen
The Bride to be...*



Kayleigh of Blushes & Bows at
LMQ Hair and Beauty -
Laura A Tilman Photography

"Even if they're not getting their make-up done, I like to make them feel special by sitting them up on my chair to pretend they're getting a little bit of glam!"

*AMM team
AMM Hair and Make Up*

Q: My mum is mid-menopause. How can I help her look and feel her best on the big day?

"It's crucial she keeps cool to avoid feeling flustered. Keep a window open and how about gifting her a cute little handheld fan? They're lifesavers and discreet - mine looks like a perfume bottle."

*Laura
Laura Dawson MAKEUP*

"I'd do her hair and make-up last, and recommend she has some face powder with her. That way, she can dab away any flush then softly remove shine with the powder puff."

*Lesley
Pamper & Polish*

Q: When should I get beauty treatments before the big day?

"Attend to your nails, tinting and waxing the week leading up to the wedding so everything's fresh but be careful not to introduce anything new to your skin."

*Laura
Laura Dawson MAKEUP*

Q: 2022 wedding beauty trends... Tell me all!

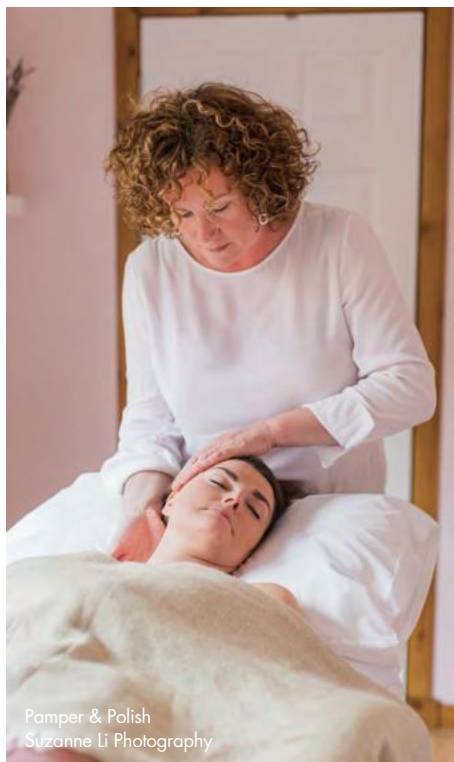
"Skin is everything this season. The gorgeous, natural, sheer application is what everyone wants. Go for gloss lips rather than full lipstick. And hold the winged liner - 2022 is more about soft lashes and brows. Blush draping is worth knowing about. It basically means you contour or create more dimension using blush instead of a darker contour shade. It's youthful, pretty and very effective."

*Laura
Laura Dawson MAKEUP*

Q: And what's hot in wedding hair?

"Natural hairstyles rather than traditional updos. I've been working on soft, boho waves, half-up looks and bouncy, voluminous blow dries."

*Lesley
Pamper & Polish*



Q: There are so many gorgeous hair ideas. How do I decide?

"Organise a wedding hair trial. Bring pictures of your dress so we can see the shape, detail and back of the dress. And we'll work out how to style it at the front to suit your face shape."

Caroline

Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry and Hair Styling

Q: How can I look after my hair in the lead-up?

"It all starts from the inside so consider nutritional supplements or a well-balanced diet to ensure new hair growth is at its best. To maintain your gorgeous locks, use salon-quality products, and enriching shampoos, conditioners and treatments. Keep heat use to a minimum and always use a heat protection spray when drying, straightening or curling. Although you may be trying your best to grow your hair, regular trims will ensure split ends don't travel up your length."

AMM team

AMM Hair and Make Up

Q: When should I get my hair done before the big day?

"It completely depends on you and the style and colour of your hair. Do you like your hair best two days or two weeks after it's been done? If you're looking for a big change, we recommend a minimum of three to six months depending on the extent of the change."

Kayleigh

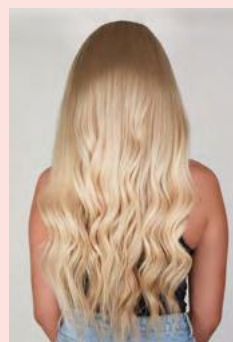
of Blushes & Bows at LMQ Hair and Beauty

GREAT lengths

As Will Smith's Oscar's altercation with Chris Rock over this baldness joke aimed at Jada thrust alopecia into the spotlight, we got the lowdown from Lilly of Lilly's Hair on why wigs are one of the coolest new wedding hair accessories for all brides.



"Many brides with alopecia or those undergoing chemotherapy opt for a wig - but so do brides without hair loss because it's convenient, easy to style and comes with lots of choices. You get a new, confidence-boosting hairstyle in minutes without any commitment and you'll feel in control as you choose the cut, colour, texture and length. Unlike hair extensions, wigs come off in seconds and don't damage your hair."



Imagine having your hair styled the night before and knowing it'll last all day? You could start with longer hair in the morning and change to a bob in the evening or have a couple of wigs in different colours and styles.

Considering a wig? Figure out how you want your hair to look (Classic or sexy? Long or short? Curly or straight? And what about colour?) and factor in your dress style and wedding theme. The right fit is important so schedule an appointment two to three months before the big day, especially if you want custom-made. A full lace wig takes up to six weeks to make because they're completely hand-tied and we need a few days to colour it."

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Groom's Room

Fern Photography

Best foot forward

When he married wife Rosemary in the capital, groom Ian Drever was positively dashing in his floral suit and slip-on shoes - but, unfortunately, he spent the following few days hobbling...

"The shoe situation was funny," smiles Ian. "I needed to convince a few people that no socks and comfy shoes would look good - and it did. But I should have worn them in beforehand. Instead, they went on right out of the box because I wanted them to look good. Everything happens for a reason though, and the situation did lead to some of my favourite wedding photos!"

Word to the wise - teeny, tiny socks are available! And always carry plasters.



Belgravia Black Velvet Dress Slipper
(£54.95), **Moss Bros**

Spirit of Loch Tay (£299), **Kilts 4 U**



Silas (£100), **Dune London**



Zen Houndstooth Brogues (£75), **Slater Menswear**

Nothing polishes off an outfit quite like a stand-out pair of shoes

And that goes for your wedding day too, gents! From high-street to high-end and edgy tartan brogues to destination wedding loafers, we've rounded up the very best of what's out there right now...



Shire (£95), **Dune London**



Ollie Brogues (£69), **Slater Menswear**



Stone (£115), **Dune London**

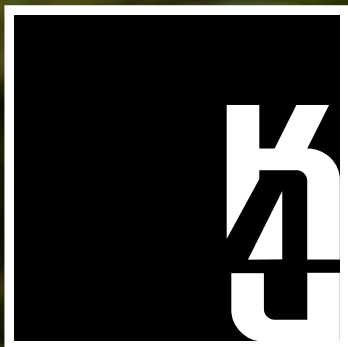
Thistle Shoes' brown ghillie brogue (£110), **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers**



Shawl (£105), **Dune London**



Vegan Chilli Chelsea boot (£99.99), **V.GAN**



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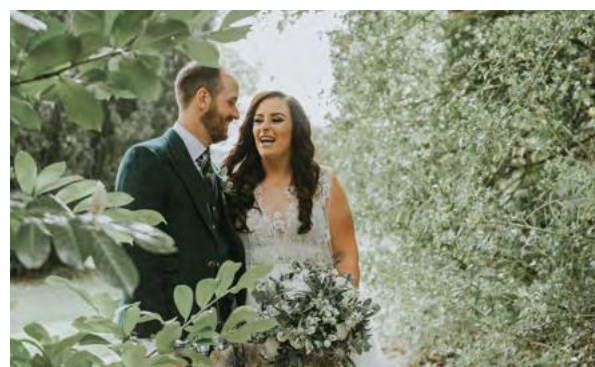
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Gordon's beloved tractor played a starring role - parking it right outside the hotel!



PHOTOGRAPHS: Karol Makula Photography

Teamwork!

All too often wedding planning can be seen as the bride's domain, but newlywed **Gordon Connelly** shared the load

Back in the day, when a couple got engaged, it was all too normal for the bride to be the centre of attention. "Show me the ring," and "Have you thought about your dress?" became standard conversation starters. In fact, many men didn't get a look in.

Thankfully things have changed with more men now taking an active role (and interest) in wedding planning - we applaud the guys who pull their weight! Guys like Gordon, who married Hollie - the owner and artistic director of June Brides Glasgow - last May. While there were certain things he left to Hollie, in other elements he took the lead. And he had a rough idea of how he wanted the wedding to be - "Relaxed, outdoors (if possible) and a good party."

First up, they had to find the ideal setting for the wedding they had in mind, and after visiting various venues, they fell in love with Dalmeny Park House Hotel. "I loved our first visit when it was still

well under renovations and very much a building site," remembers Gordon. "We both knew straight away this was our venue and I loved seeing it through its different stages and final completion."

With the venues booked, tree surgeon Gordon got to work on some décor. "I wanted something unique and special to me, so I felled a birch tree and cut slices from the wood to make the centrepieces for our tables," he says.

Boys' time

Wedding planning became a good chance for Gordon to catch-up with best man Jon who helped him in the serious job of finding the right music. "I really wanted to be involved in the type of music or band we had so we took on the very difficult task of visiting band showcases while enjoying a few beers in the process," he smiles.

Dressed to impress

As Hollie was having her bespoke dress made by top bridal designer Demetrios, Gordon had to make sure his own outfit was up to scratch and headed to Frank's Gold Room at Kilts 4 U. "I knew from the start what I wanted and had already chosen my tartan - the dress Gordon,"

he says. And this groom received plenty of help from Iain of Kilts 4 U, along with Hollie, choosing the right tweed and colours and all the finishing touches. "They helped pull me out of my comfort zone and I ended up with a look better than I could have imagined," says Gordon, who even had tartan inlay shoes made to match.

The challenges

While Gordon was happy to rise to the challenge of wedding planning, it wasn't all plain sailing, thanks in part to Covid-19. In fact, the couple had to postpone twice. "There was so much uncertainty and it put a lot of stress and pressure on us," he admits. "And writing and memorising your own vows is also pretty stressful!"

"If you can make it through planning a wedding together (a three times Covid postponed wedding at that) then you can certainly make it through anything together!"

You can check out all the beautiful details from Gordon and Hollie's wedding at yourscottishwedding.co.uk

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Perfectly groomed

PHOTOGRAPHS: Ross Alexander Photography



All too often the emphasis is on women's beauty prep and the bridal outfit ahead of the big day, but what about the guys? **Katie Bletcher** takes a look at how you grooms can up the style ante and speaks to the men who perfected their wedding day ensemble.

Paul and Steve married last year at Newhall Estate and they certainly pulled it out of the bag to create their two stylish looks, complete with cufflinks branded with their own bespoke wedding logo.

Despite Paul being an Englishman, Steve managed to convince him he could get away with wearing a kilt and they both headed to Kinloch Anderson to get measured up for their complementary outfits. While Paul got the full works, Steve was delighted to fit into the kilt he's had since he was

21! Then the two guys opted for their own unique looks, accessorising with different sporrans, brogues and ties.

With their wedding outfits sorted, these two creative grooms started to get personal, adding special touches to really make their outfits stand out and have something to remember from their day. They had created a logo combining their initials which they incorporated in everything, from their stationery to their table plan and even masks made for guests. "We both had custom facemasks made with the same tartan as our kilts by MacGregor and MacDuff," says Paul.



"However, everyone commented on the 'branded' facemasks we had made for all our guests. Many of them still use them, and it's a lovely reminder of the day every time we see one."

Then as a surprise to Steve, Paul commissioned wedding cufflinks and bathrobes for them both, again branded with their personal logo. "I left them as

a gift for Steve to open when he woke up on the morning of the wedding," says Paul. "The bathrobes were a real indulgence but helped to add to the feeling that it was a really special day. We actually still use them every day." Talk about a wedding present to remind you of your big day every day!

"The bathrobes were a real indulgence but helped to add to the feeling that it was a really special day."

Paul



Re-charge Black Pepper Eau De Parfum (£120), moltonbrown.co.uk

Another element that has lasted beyond their wedding is the scents they wore. "We're not the most cosmetically minded so we both went for our standard aftershave scents that

we've used for a while - Molton Brown Re-charge Black Pepper for Steve and L'Occitan for me," says Paul. "We use these most weeks, so again, it's a nice reminder of our wedding!"

Read all about Paul and Steve's wedding on page 124

*All these
— little —
things*



Stag kilt pin in antelope finish (£24.99), Kilts 4 U



Twisted stag kilt pin with real horn inlay (£29.99), Kilts 4 U



Hand-made sporran with choice of sporan bag (from £299), Kilts 4 U

PHOTOGRAPHS: SG Mark Photography



Ooh, suits you

We love it when a groom pays attention to every detail of his outfit, and you've got to hand it to Ian Drever. When he married wife Rosemary at The Timberyard in Edinburgh, he looked incredible. From his immaculately tailored floral suit to the slip-on shoes/no socks combo (for more on that turn to page 74) and magnificent beard this was a wedding lewk. Ian, we salute you.



"I always knew I didn't just want to look your typically dressed groom," says Ian. "As smart as they look, I always felt they never stood out in a crowd. Naturally my dress sense is a bit bolder and I don't really mind looking a bit out there. I always fancied a floral suit." Rosemary took a little convincing to get onboard, but it was one of the few things he had his heart set on.

Going with such a strong statement, Ian knew it had to be just right. "There's a very fine line between stylish and tacky with floral suits," he says. "But I have a few and always find Twisted Tailor do amazing bold looking stylish suits." He found his own suit there but dressing his best men and ushers proved problematic. "We couldn't find anything to match so had to buy them all my suit trousers as well," Ian explains. "Some of the boys needed a bit of convincing, others were very keen, but it all came together well and I'm really proud of how it turned out."

Looking good

Rosemary had lined up a friend to do her and her bridesmaids' hair on the morning of the wedding and Ian decided he'd treat his boys to the same VIP attention and hired his favourite barber to call in. "He always does a really good job with my beard and it really



distracted everyone from the long wait to the wedding and gave everyone the good feeling of just fresh out of the hairdresser," he says. "It was honestly one of my favourite bits of the day getting ready with all my favourite people, treating them to a fresh trim and setting the mood."

Wanting to look his best, Ian had his beard cut and styled and finished with a little Mo Bros beard oil. "I tend to stick to sweet flavours," he says. "I'm really enjoying their vanilla and mango flavour."



Heathergem handle sgian dubh (£86.50),
MacGregor and MacDuff



Light grey snowdrop
rabbit dress sporran
with Celtic design cantle
 (£425) from Black
Isle Pewter, "Strathly"
sgian dubh (£70) and
"Albany" pocket watch
 (£105), both The Sgian
Dubh Co, all from
Stewart Highland

Heathergem square
dye cufflinks (£41),
MacGregor and MacDuff



Fox dress sporran with
Celtic design cantle
 (£475), from Black Isle
Pewter, Celtic shield
design cufflinks (£15),
from the Sgian Dubh
Co, and purple satin tie
 (£10), all from Stewart
Highland

WATCH *yourself*

"A watch is such a special gift because it can hold so much sentimental power," explains Jason Monaghan, CEO of luxury watch company JJ Monaghan. "Everything else you wear on your wedding day either gets returned to the hire shop or stored in the back of the wardrobe rarely gazed upon. Wearing a watch you were gifted on the biggest day of your life is a constant reminder of the love you hold for one another."

JJ Monaghan Watches have a range of different offerings, but Jason says the Endeavour collection has been popular with grooms. "If there's one day you want to look and feel your very best it's your wedding day, and with its polished retro cushioned case and its perfectly contrasted dial, it commands your guests' attention while you forget

Call us traditional but we reckon nothing makes a more, ahem, timeless wedding present than a watch.

you're wearing it due to its supremely comfortable leather strap." And Jason says a good watch can elevate your wedding outfit, making it look put-together and planned out. "You want your watch to be an extension of your wedding outfit," he says. "Its aim is to enhance, rather than overpower it."

But what if you want to make your w-day watch even more special? There are ways of personalising it, according to Jason. All the JJ Monaghan leather strap watches can have a monogram in gold or silver added to the strap while the stainless-steel band options can have monograms added to the watch box.

And if you're wanting to extend the love to your best men and ushers, it'll look pretty damn cool to all rock up in matching watches. Plus, you'll always

have them to remember the guys who were with you front and centre. "Months after your wedding, meeting your groomsmen in the pub wearing your matching watches reinforces that special bond and lets you all reminisce about your wedding," says Jason.



JJ Monaghan Watches

'Monaco' watch by TAG Heuer, Rox



Our **"I do"** diary bride Debbie married fiancé Andrew last month and we caught up with her in the run-up to the big day. Debbie had planned an amazing surprise for him. "I got him a Tag Heuer Monaco watch as a wedding gift from the lovely people at Rox," she told us. "It will be a huge surprise for him as he's always wanted one."

Time to *chill*

Once you've put in all the hard work to get your cool wedding look down, make sure you enjoy the getting ready process. A lot is made of the big day morning for women, with whole hours dedicated to hair and make-up and the obligatory glass of fizz, so don't miss out. Whether you get ready with your guys at someone's house, head to the barbers for a freshen up or have a wee nerve-steadying drink with your mates, it's important to take that time together.

We love the Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club's Grooms Room package where the team transform

the 18th century Dalrymple Room into the ultimate gents' retreat to hang out with your guys and family before the ceremony. Along with buckets of beer and buffet food while you get ready, they can organise all sorts of fun activities. You could go simple with gaming stations and kilt styling or elevate the experience with whisky tasting, table tennis, foosball or even a round of golf or some archery to make the most of your wedding morning. You can even extend the fun to the wedding eve for some quality time with your boys. Treat yourself!





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Struve Photography



Diamonds are FOREVER

What is it about these precious rocks that captures our hearts, and how do you find your perfect stone? Katie Bletcher asks those in the know

"Diamonds are forever," "diamonds are a girl's best friend" or, to quote Nicole Richie, "true friends are like diamonds - bright, beautiful, valuable, and always in style." We've been lauding the benefits of these beauties for centuries, often imbuing them with certain characteristics, so is it any wonder, they're the go-to precious stone for engagement rings? After all, as Emily Wan of jewellers Laings says, "Diamonds are one of the earth's most precious creations and today are used as symbols of love, commitment and triumph."

Traditionally a groom would prepare to spend three months' salary on an engagement ring. That expectation may have changed but the sentiment still stands. This is the most important piece of jewellery you're ever likely to wear, (apart from your wedding band of course). So just how do you find the perfect sparkler?

One starting point to help is the "4Cs" - cut, colour, clarity and carat weight. "These are the globally accepted standards for assessing the quality of a diamond and have great influence in creating the fire and sparkle that makes us fall in love with these enchanting stones," explains Emily. Price therefore will be largely determined by how a particular diamond is measured by jewellers and diamond graders.

However, remember they act purely as a guide. As Lesley Elder of jeweller John McKay says, "It is important to the client only if they are looking for a specific colour, clarity, carat or cut of diamond." Using them simply as a guide, let's take a quick look at how the 4Cs are determined...



Cut

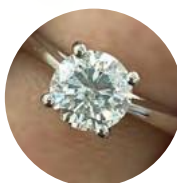
Platinum 0.50ct G SI2 brilliant cut diamond halo ring (£3,200),
Laings

The cut of a diamond has five grades; excellent, very good, good, fair and poor. "When buying diamonds, I always look for excellent or ideal as the cut is the most overlooked of the 4Cs but the one which determines the beauty and lustre," says Lesley. "When you opt for very good you are sacrificing some brilliance." Emily agrees. "The sparkle of a diamond is determined by its proportions, symmetry and polish," she says. "Differences in cut greatly impact the beauty, aesthetic appeal, and value of a diamond."



Colour

18ct white gold 0.47ct cushion cut yellow diamond ring (£2,435),
Laings



Platinum 0.70ct round brilliant cut diamond ring (£2,800),
John McKay

Colour actually refers to the absence of colour in a diamond. "The perfect diamond will have no hue and will resemble a drop of clear water," says Emily. "The colour grade measures the degree of colourlessness in a diamond, beginning at D (colourless) and ending at Z (light colour). The most desirable diamond colour is D, with no yellowish hue present, and complementing the brilliance of a well-cut diamond." Laings typically work with diamonds that are near colourless to colourless.

However, Lesley warns that diamond grading is not a science. "In a typical diamond lab the stone can be passed to as many as 20 graders before it's certified," she says. "There is a scale and most jewellers like us will have a set of master stones which is used for determining the colour the same as a diamond lab."

“Inclusions are natural birthmarks in a diamond that occur during its formation.”

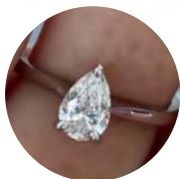
Emily Wan, Laings



Clarity



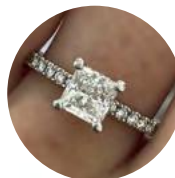
Isabella 18ct yellow gold 0.21ct brilliant cut diamond three stone ring (£1,600), **Laings**



Platinum 0.70ct pear cut diamond ring (£3,995), **John McKay**

Clarity is a qualitative metric that grades the visual appearance of each diamond,” says Lesley. “The fewer inclusions and blemishes a diamond has internally, the better its clarity grade will be.” Clarity is measured on a scale beginning at ‘flawless’, referring to stones that have no visible inclusions under a 10x magnification, according to Emily, and the scale ends at ‘included’ where inclusions - “natural birthmarks” - are clearly visible under the same magnification.

Carat



Platinum 1.50ct princess cut lab grown diamond ring (£3,324), **John McKay**



Platinum and yellow gold 1.03ct I VS2 radiant cut diamond ring (£8,925), **Laings**

Carat indicates the weight of a diamond, not to be mistaken with the size. Lesley says if a client requires a larger stone, John McKay will call upon several diamond dealers to obtain a selection that suits the budget they wish to work with.

Laings can also deliver an array of different carat weights, ranging from 0.30ct to 3 carat and above. But Emily says weight isn't everything. “The overall appearance and beauty of a diamond should carry more importance, favouring a well-cut and colourless diamond to determine the desired sparkle,” she says.



Follow your HEART

Now you have a basic understanding of the 4Cs it should help you decipher some of the labelling when shopping for that all important rock, but remember this is purely a guide. It may help explain the differences in price but ultimately you have to go with the ring you want to see sparkling on your finger for the rest of your life.

“A couple should be led solely by their heart,” says Lesley. “A diamond certificate will give you every detailing regarding a diamond except the most important one which is the sparkle and brilliance, and beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” Emily agrees. “No two diamonds are the same and it is still important to choose a diamond you feel drawn to and fall in love with,” she says. “The 4Cs guide you to the characteristics of your diamond, and determine the fire and brilliance of the stone, but ultimately, each unique personality of the stone will allow you to follow your heart in deciding.”

“A couple should be led solely by their heart. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.”

Lesley Elder, John McKay



Hot topic lab-grown diamonds

Would you opt for a created rock?

Thinking back 10 years to when my then fiancé took me engagement ring shopping the subject of lab-grown stones came up. A decade ago I think it's fair to say there was a certain stigma around rocks that hadn't been mined and ultimately I was swayed by the sales assistant at the time. My own ring is a sapphire encircled by 12 little diamonds (à la Lady Di). I was shown an array of different rings and stones, both mined and created, but mined won out in the end.

Given the same choice today though, I wonder would I have decided the same. Lab-grown gems are definitely gaining popularity, and Lesley at John McKay has seen a strong shift in people's buying. "Within the industry

there was a lack of education at first," she says. "There was a degree of snobbery but it's swinging the other way. We are dealing now with a generation that's more socially responsible," she says. "It takes 250 tonnes of soil to be mined to get 1 carat of diamond. Lab-grown diamonds are kinder to the environment." And Dundee-based jeweller and designer Lorraine Law agrees. "People are starting to research the ethics," she says. "The new generation are more aware. We're getting into about 30% lab-grown."

But will a lab-grown stone still have the same lustre and appeal? "If you're testing it with a thermal laser there's no way to tell if there's a difference between lab-grown and mined," Lorraine assures. And Lesley says they are "chemically

and optically identical" and will still stand up to all the 4Cs measurements.

New life

If you want to go down the environmentally-friendly route it's worth bearing recycled diamonds in mind too. "A lot of the diamonds we use are recycled and haven't been recently mined," says Lorraine. "There's nothing wrong with them. People may have traded up and gone back to the diamond dealer with a half carat wanting a carat. Once it's been mined it's there and available, so recycling is another way of being ethical." And remember, you can imbue your ring with great personal sentiment if you take the stones from a family heirloom and have them redesigned.

Life in colour

Diamonds may be the go-to stone of choice but they're not everyone's thing. So, what are the popular coloured gemstones right now? "Sapphire and ruby are always a popular choice, radiating a distinct and mesmerising charm that lends them perfectly to those looking for a unique engagement ring," says Emily. "These desirable gemstones sit directly under diamond on the Mohs scale of hardness at number 9, making them durable enough to wear as an engagement ring."

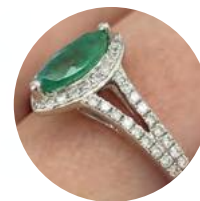
Blue tanzanite and orange or pink morganite are also on trend according to Lesley. "But we still see a far greater percentage of diamonds to coloured gemstones."

18ct white gold 5.43ct ruby and 0.40ct diamond ring (£8,200)

Laings



9ct white gold marquise cut emerald and diamond ring (£775), **John McKay**



18ct white gold 1.16ct pear cut sapphire and diamond cluster ring (£3,440)

Laings



Teal sapphire engagement ring (POA), **Lorraine Law**

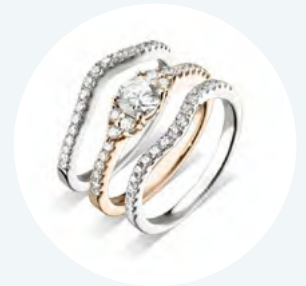


Salt and pepper diamond ring (POA), **Lorraine Law**

And remember, not every diamond looks like a classic white diamond. "Salt and pepper diamonds are popular according to Lorraine. These natural stones would previously have been cast aside when the raw diamond was being cut. "In the past a lot of them would have been classified as inferior because they were so included," says Lorraine. "Now people are looking at them in a different way. They've got character and it's making the best of everything that comes from the natural diamond."

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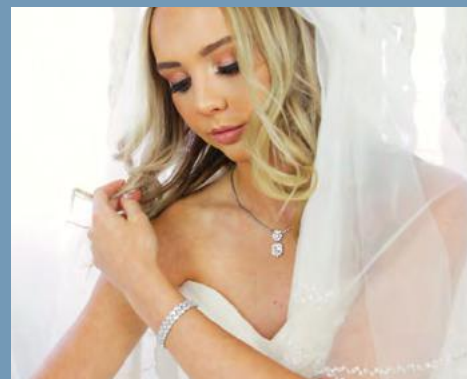
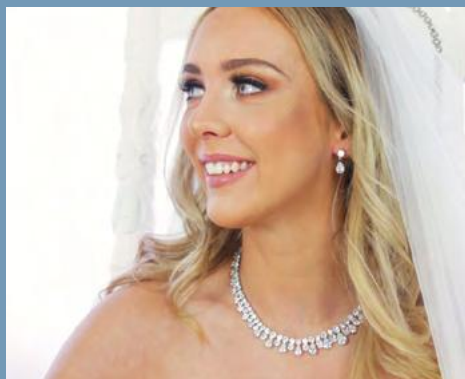


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Food for thought



Clachan by Ballintaggart
IMAGE: A.M Baxter



Clachan by Ballintaggart
IMAGE: A.M Baxter



Saltire Hospitality



Clachan by Ballintaggart
IMAGE: A.M Baxter

Weddings which resemble pre-pandemic celebrations are back on the menu and with that, the chance to treat your friends and families to a proper festive feast. **Katie Bletcher** finds out just what's on trend and what you should be serving up

Food is so often at the very heart of life's great celebrations. Imagine Christmas without a proper spread or Easter without the eggs. But in the immediate aftermath of the initial lockdown the first couples to wed weren't able to share a meal with friends, and even when guestlist numbers crept up, Covid restrictions put paid to the popular family style feasts and sharing platters.

Now that the measures have all but disappeared, you're free to treat your guests to the proper slap-up wedding breakfast you've always dreamed of. So just what should be on the menu to ensure your well-fed guests are talking about your food and drink for years to come?

Eat your heart out

"Maximalism" is a term we're hearing a lot of this year and when it comes to wedding food it's become something of a byword for being a bit more extravagant with your menu. Couples, whether they had to postpone their wedding or not, are taking the opportunity to enjoy that extra

course or to upgrade to Champagne instead of Prosecco. "I get a lot of couples asking for a palate cleanser or choosing from our Premium Selection so I do think, especially with postponed weddings, couples are really pushing the boat out!" says Kate Dobson, wedding planner for Saltire Hospitality.

A swing towards providing your wedding guests with the very best is a trend Rachel Rowley of destination events catering and The Cook School by Ballintaggart is also seeing, even if it means sticking to smaller numbers. The company prides itself on providing restaurant quality fare to real food lovers and instead of doing set menus offers different options, ranging from a three-course wedding breakfast all the way up to an elevated tasting menu of six or seven courses, though those indulgent feasts tend to be reserved for weddings of 10 - 15 people. "We are definitely seeing a trend where people's budget hasn't changed that drastically but their thoughts on numbers have," explains Rachel. "Instead of 120 they are having

60 or 70 so they are then having lobster instead of prawns."

Treating a smaller more exclusive guest list to really superb food is also the ethos behind the new Wine and Dine Weddings concept espoused by Edinburgh's McLarens on the Corner. These intimate weddings are for couples who want to enjoy quality time with family and friends over delicious food. Siobhan Leith of McLarens says, "It's now ok for food to sit front and centre."

Season's eating

Seasonality and provenance have become of paramount importance for couples and caterers alike in recent years with more and more to-be-weds concerned with the wider impact of their wedding menu. "Using local suppliers and seasonality of the food is always a huge thing couples mention to me when they are looking at our brochure," says Kate. "Provenance is so importance to us here at Saltire Hospitality. We work really closely with all our suppliers. We are lucky that in Scotland we have access to



Clachan by Ballintaggart
IMAGE: A.M Baxter

Saltire Hospitality



Clachan by
Ballintaggart
IMAGE:
A.M Baxter

so many incredible food suppliers. Our culinary director Bran Jankovic personally hand-picks our suppliers and our wedding couples love to hear about this."

Ballintaggart has recently teamed up with the Blair Atholl estate to create Clachan by Ballintaggart. The new three-night wedding package for more intimate weddings, will revolve around an old 18th-century farmhouse barn with a strong emphasis on high quality food which takes full advantage of the Perthshire and wider Scottish larder. "People who go to Clachan by Ballintaggart want a beautiful venue and they can have beautiful wild venison, they can have salmon cured with local whisky and they get beautiful Perthshire berries," says Rachel. Not that you'll find a strawberry on the Clachan by Ballintaggart menu in September when they simply "don't taste good!"

And while seasonality and provenance have been growing in importance in recent years, Rachel reckons lockdown encouraged more

people to think locally and shop locally.

Family style

I remember in December 2020 while preparing for the government-stipulated Christmas dinner with only one other household, listening to debates on the radio about the most Covid-secure ways of serving the festive feast. People were encouraged to bring their own cutlery and portion everything individually. The family-style shared platters that pre-pandemic had become such a joy at wedding breakfasts had almost overnight become a relic of the past.

But now Kate says engaged couples are relishing the idea of a return to the good old days, "Our wedding couples are just super excited to be finally celebrating their big day with their friends and families and food is such a big part of the wedding day, the family style or sharing meats and sides is hugely popular right now!"



Sip sip hooray!

Spare a thought for the non-drinkers and designated drivers who'll be attending your wedding, writes **Dawn Stafford**. In years past, they were offered flutes of orange juice - imagine spilling that on your dress or white shirt! - or more recently, Elderflower pressé (equally sticky.) But these days there's plenty of other options so they won't have to drink the same as the wee ones, or have their beverage choice be the topic of conversation.

Sipsmith Gin has just launched an alcohol-free spirit, Freeglider, that can be served with a tonic water, or as a spritz or cocktail, and it's delicious! This is an adult-tasting drink, crafted with juniper, citrus, and capsicum to replicate the warmth you'd sense from a G&T, and it's perfect for the drinks reception, toast, or as a refreshing long drink after the dancefloor.

You can easily find a range of non-alcoholic champagne and prosecco alternatives these days and most venues will be happy to add some bottles for your toast. Other alcohol-free drinks to consider include Scotland's first non-alcoholic spirit Feragaia and Leith-based Jump Ship Brewing's Yardarm gluten-free and alcohol-free lager.



Plant-based perfection

Meet the couple who hosted an all-vegan wedding banquet

David and Scarlett fell for Winton Castle's blend of "grand and intimate" from the moment they stepped inside. It was the perfect venue to host their Scottish-Chinese wedding.

The couple had a strong idea of the format they wanted their big day to take. "David and I wanted to have a fairly traditional Scottish ceremony with rings, kilts and a handfasting," explains Scarlett.

"We also wanted to incorporate Chinese elements so we had Chinese wedding favour boxes filled with Chinese snacks, some Chinese decorations and a Chinese poem during the ceremony." They also incorporated a traditional tea ceremony after the wedding breakfast, kneeling as a couple in front of both sets of parents and serving them tea while receiving a blessing.

Another element they were dead set on was serving an excellent vegan menu to their guests. Caterer Jo's Kitchen provided the most amazing vegan buffet. "She also made vegan canapés and her mushroom arancini was out of this world," remembers Scarlett. "David's uncle (not a vegan by any stretch) couldn't stop raving about them!" High praise indeed!



PHOTOGRAPHY: Tony Marsh Photography





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The *ULTIMATE* guide to keeping your guests *amused*

All the way from *A* to *Z* there's never been so much choice when it comes to entertaining your guests, writes Claire Muir. Prepare to be inspired!

A is for... Advice cards

Keep your guests busy while they're waiting to be fed and encourage them to share words of wisdom for the newlyweds.

C is for... Caricatures

Quirky caricatures, penned by the likes of **Neilsart** or **The Kilted Caricaturist**, can be a great ice-breaker - book your illustrator for the drinks reception, evening or both. "Interaction with guests watching is as much fun as with the victims being drawn," says The Kilted Caricaturist, Tony Docherty. "They also get a reminder of the special day."



"Interaction with guests watching is as much fun as with the victims being drawn"

The Kilted Caricaturist,
Tony Docherty

E is for... Exciting experience

How impressed would your guests be if an eagle or owl flew over to deliver the rings to a (pre-trained!) best man? Bespoke birds of prey wedding services, from interactive flying demonstrations to up-close-and-personal photo sessions from the likes of **Elite Falconry**, will guarantee the wow factor.



Jade Esson Photography

B is for... Bouncy castle

You may think they're just for children's birthday parties but actually, adding inflatables to your wedding entertainment repertoire will earn you brownie points with big kids and little ones.

D is for... Dancefloor

Are you ready to sparkle and shine? Then bring your venue to life with your very own twinkly dancefloor! Check out Glasgow-based **Party Booth's** glam LED dancefloors, available in different styles and sizes to suit your wedding vibe.

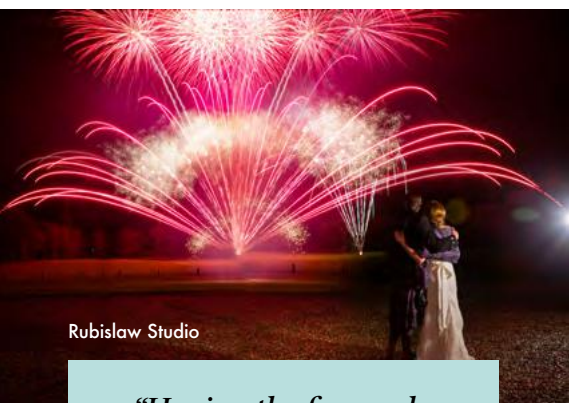
F is for... Fabulous

So naturally we have two fab ways to enhance your celebrations! Firstly, create a relaxing atmosphere with a firepit. Owner of **Firepit Hire Scotland**, Alister Reid explains, "Our special wedding package includes fully-insured firepit rental with an insured attendant, marshmallows to toast and a selection of blankets to keep guests extra cosy." Then round-off your wonderful wedding





with a professional pyrotechnics display that'll captivate your guests from the first firework. For something really spectacular Chris Sharp, sales assistant at **2ICC Group**, recommends a pyromusical display.



Rubislaw Studio

“Having the fireworks fully choreographed to your favourite piece of music lifts an already amazing display to a whole other level. It’s also a great way to personalise your display.”

2ICC group

G is for... Garden games

From the vintage classics (rustic ring toss, skittles and croquet) to giant Jenga and super-sized Snakes & Ladders, a gorgeous range of garden games will keep the masses occupied while you sneak off for photos.

H is for... Hog roast

The sight of a scrummy, succulent turning roast always gets people talking and **Highland Spit Roasts** offer sizzling options for outdoor and indoor weddings. Yum!

J is for... Jokes

How about breaking up the speeches with a wedding day comedian? It'll get guests talking... And maybe even participating!

I is for... Ice cream cart

What's better than a cool ice cream on a hot summer's afternoon? Pick your flavours (the finest Italian ice cream or a classic Mr Whippy?) ahead of time and watch your guests roll up on the day.

K is for... Karaoke

Save this one for later into the evening and you're guaranteed hilarious results!

L is for Light-up letters

Whether you go classic with an XXL set of LOVE letters or get creative with tabletop illuminated letter hire, these sparkly statement pieces will prove their worth the moment you check your Insta stories!



Lisa Gibb

M is for... Magician

It'll already be the most magical day ever but how about adding an illusion or two? Fringe Festival regular Lorenzo '**Renz**' Novani loves performing at weddings, amazing crowds with playing cards and incidental objects like phones, coins and bottles. "Can you imagine the faces of your guests as a stranger walks up to them, picks up their empty bottle and pushes it through the solid table? Better still, some tricks are customisable and can be made completely unique to your wedding," he explains. On request, Renz can also do a 10-minute session just for the happy couple.

N is for... Not what you'd expect

When falling waiters, frustrated chefs and secretly placed wedding guests all suddenly reveal themselves as professional entertainers, you realise the element of surprise is everything for **Singers Secreto**. Manager Stephanie Strachan explains, "Our director, Conor Taggart, and a small number of performance colleagues noticed there was often a lull during the meal at weddings and they decided to change that. After working hard to create an act to engage guests of all ages, they were soon surprising and delighting couples across the country with their dynamic performances. We always aim to get napkins in the air and start a party that guests won't forget any time soon."



Singers Secreto

O is for... OMG, there's a celebrity in here!

If your other half has a long-time celeb crush or there's an in-joke with your squad of pals, why not schedule in a guest appearance with a lookalike on your big day?

R is for... Roaring 20s

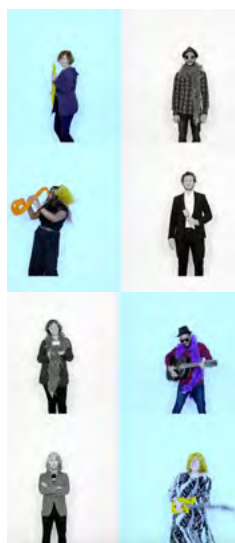
We love a theme at *Your Scottish Wedding* and the Gatsby era is one that's never going to get old.

T is for... Talent

How about showcasing some specialist musicians? We're thinking bagpipes on arrival, a string quartet while they wait for the 'I do's, an acoustic guitarist at canapé time and a harpist for chilled mood music during the meal.

V is for... Video

If interactivity is important to you, you're going to love Boogie Box's digital flash mob vids! "It's set up like a photo booth and guests pop in to record short sequences of movements that turn into to a fun-filled digital memory," says Constant Vigier at **Boogie Box**. FYI, there are hen party options too - in a professional dance studio with a little choreography and a lot of props!



Boogie Box

P is for... Photobooth

These need no introduction... They're a guest magnet! Be sure to put your own spin on the experience, though - personalise your backdrop, props and booth exterior.



Manta Ray Events

U is for... Unique

Beautifully unique, **The Little Margarita Truck** will wow your guests with their frozen margaritas, sangria and the total gorgeousness of their bijou truck!

W is for... Winning

Fun rounds of blackjack, roulette and poker can provide hours of entertainment. At **Manta Ray Events**, Matt Lee says, "Everyone gets a fun money voucher personalised in advance by the happy couple, usually with their wedding date or a special message. Just hand it to one of our professional croupiers and you get a stack of chips. At the end of the gaming period the highest earner/chip leader gets a bottle of champagne and a winner's plaque."



Manta Ray Events

X is for... X-rated piñata

Excess energy even after a night on the dancefloor? Get your guests to take a swipe at an adult-only piñata, filled with mini-bottles of booze, luxury chocs and cheeky wedding favours. Kids around? Get them their own!

Y is for... Your very own red carpet

Make your guests feel like VIPs with a dramatic red carpet and let the posing begin!



Fruin farm

Z is for... Zoo animals

Not all guests have to be human - how about having an animal as your ring bearer? **Fruin Farm** in Helensburgh offer alpacas and woolly llamas for hire and they're a big hit for guest selfies, too!

From Hireaband ?

**Scotland's Best Bands at
Your Fingertips!**

Let's Go!



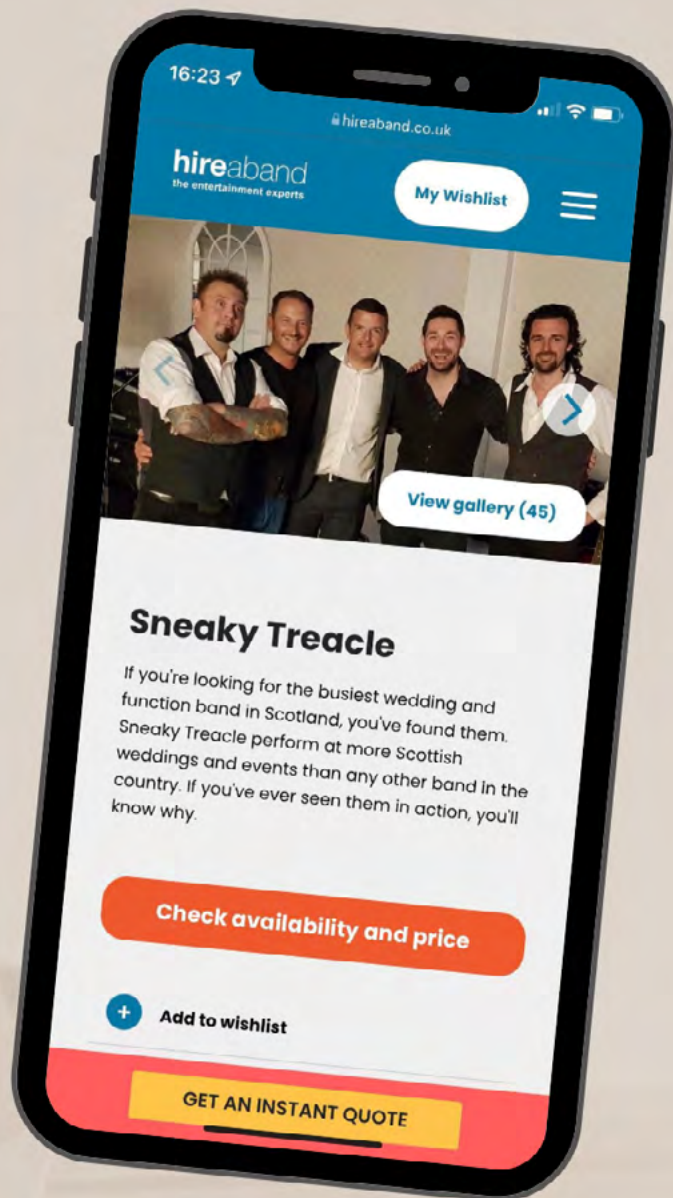
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How to choose YOUR *perfect* wedding music

Claire Muir quizzes the experts on how couples can best decide which musical acts they need throughout the day - and how you can keep these choices personal to the two of you

With a husband-to-be who was uber-into music, I knew we'd have no problems sorting out our wedding tunes. The only potential issue would be having far too many fave songs to squeeze into one day, especially as we'd asked guests to share requests on their RSVPs, too.

Thankfully, hiring an exclusive-use venue for two nights made space for extra musical accompaniments. On Friday night the bridal party mingled to a selection of chilled but cheesy songs and those who stayed over on Saturday were treated to a 90s Britpop-filled afterparty playlist.

Not everyone has had their wedding

*"It's your wedding
so that means it's all
about you and that
should be reflected in
your music choices"*

Gerad McArthur
GeO Gospel Choir

music in mind for years or endless inspiration at their fingertips, though - and that's OK says Gerad McArthur, director at GeO Gospel Choir, which performs modern songs with a gospel twist. "It's your wedding so that means it's all about you and that should be reflected in your music choices," he says. "The importance of music on the day depends on what role it plays in your life.

The attachments we make to music and how a song can literally take you back to the moment you met someone."

Where to start

There's no doubt about it, music is a critical part of any big day - "Music sets the whole atmosphere for a wedding," says Siobhán Rodger, director and musician with Amarone Music - and it deserves some careful consideration.

At Hireaband, Del Cotton is no stranger to supporting couples with wedding music. "You could copy Her Majesty the Queen and be wakened on your wedding day by a piper! The same piper could pipe you and your guests into the ceremony. Prior to and post-ceremony is perfect for classical music, from a string quartet or harpist - or uplifting music from a choir. At your reception, your piper is back on duty to welcome you, and while you're being photographed you could entertain your guests musically while they await your return."

Top tip from Del? Check if your evening band would offer an acoustic daytime set too to save on double the travel costs. Meanwhile, if you want your reception to go on into the wee hours (Iam is the latest Del recommends), hire a DJ for after the band. "You get all the banging tunes that it's hard for a live band to recreate," he explains.

While some may go all out with music, others may be budget-conscious or just not that into it. Here, Gerad says



Amarone at Carlowrie Castle



Splendid Gentlemen



goodluckwolf.co.uk



your bare minimum or “stand-out moments” will be your ceremony and first dance. “These are key moments for people when reminiscing and both revolve around music. There is nothing more sentimental and exciting for newlyweds than these lasting memories and they can be very much enhanced by live music. Lyric content is so important too.”

“Many couples ask their guests for their favourite tracks and add them in. That’s one way to guarantee a full dancefloor!”

Roni Hyslop
All Wrapped Up Events
Management

Finding your vibe

At Splendid Gentleman, a Scottish wedding band with a twist, Dee McLaren says to start by looking around. “There’s plenty of agencies and bands so don’t just book one at the first showcase you go to. Ask friends for recommendations too.”

Siobhán suggests looking at the options available and seeing which suppliers offer the kind of music you think will suit the feel of the day. “Have a look through their song lists, picture your venue, imagine yourselves in your wedding outfits and listen to some demos. You’ll find the perfect music that will give you memories to last a lifetime.”

When you’ve found the one (or ones!), Dee advises taking a look through the band’s repertoire and picking out a few favourites that you definitely want played. “This helps

to give us an indication of what your musical taste is like and a starting idea on how to build a set,” he explains.

Keeping costs down? Tell your story through music and create your own playlists, suggests Roni Hyslop at All Wrapped Up Events Management. “Many couples ask their guests for their

favourite tracks and add them in. That’s one way to guarantee a full dancefloor!” If you go for this option, help your wedding planner or event co-ordinator out by remembering to clearly label which part of the day each playlist is for.

So, is it a case of picking a theme and sticking to it all day? Or would a little mix and match work? “I don’t think you need to restrict yourself to one style,” says Gerad. “If the couple are very opposite individuals, having different styles only complements their day in the same way they complement each other.”

What’s hot right now?

According to Del, trends come and go but he has noticed a big increase in ceilidh bands and those that feature a live saxophone. “Sax players with a DJ or backing tracks performing an Ibiza-style set is very much in demand. But one thing that never changes is interest in bands with very strong vocals.”

Looking to do something different? “We’ve had everything from singing waiters to spontaneous singsongs at dinner,” says Roni. “One groom even delivered his speech in song form. At another wedding, the couple hired a band and while they were on their break, the bride’s father’s band took to the stage and did a set.” She also recalls a couple of weddings where the festival-loving newlyweds had different bands take to the stage throughout the day, T in the Park-style.

That said, Del warns that being too quirky could leave out many of your guests. “There is such a wide variety in any wedding reception audience that it’s wise to try and cater for everyone.”



GeO Gospel Choir’s *top five tips* for ceremony music

1. At the time, it may feel like it takes a lifetime to walk down the aisle but realistically most bridal marches last about two minutes maximum. So, make sure you choose your favourite part of the song.
2. We advise couples to choose two songs for the signing of the register. You need to get settled, have pictures taken, deal with the legalities, pose again, then move back into position, and the last thing you want is an awkward silence after your song finishes.
3. The couple’s exit should be a moment of celebration so pick something upbeat to walk out to.
4. Consider a special moment during your ceremony to make it unique. We’ve performed a ‘pre-bridal’ march song for the bridesmaids then a different song for the bride. Another couple requested gospel hymns and a favourite of ours is for ‘secret singers’ to pose as guests then burst out in song mid-ceremony.
5. It’s your wedding day so make it personal and do YOU!

music for MOSHERS

Self-confessed Goths Corinne McShane and Gary Thermo are going with “**all things rock and heavy**” for their autumn 2022 wedding. We found out more...

Q: How did you decide what to include?

A: We've seen some amazing DJs (shout out to Gerry Lyons!) but we both love live music and knew we wanted a band. We spoke to the amazing Aurora who were thankfully free on our day. The music we've chosen is personal to us, from nerdy video game music to rock that'll raise a smile.

Q: What are your plans for ceremony music?

A: We're not sure what Corinne is walking in to but there'll be piano versions of video game music and songs we love from musicals during the signing of the register.

Q: And the evening reception?

A: We love rock, pop, punk and heavy metal but know that's not for everyone, so our band suggested including rock versions of classic songs too. We'll also have a ceilidh because a Scottish wedding without a ceilidh is like a day without sunshine!

Q: Any other toe-tapping opportunities during the day?

A: We've slowly been curating a playlist of ambient music with the help of our friends - you can share a collaborative playlist on Spotify so people can add to it. It's cool because it'll be there forever, and we can revisit whenever we want.



The ultimate mix of music

With their love of music one of the key factors in bringing to-be-weds Amber Hollinger and Keiron Weston together, it's no surprise they want to keep their choices super-personal. “We're very open to listening to new musicians and although we definitely don't agree on it all, we understand where each other is coming from when we get excited about a song,” smiles Amber.

There's no clear theme or vibe for their wedding day music because, quite simply, they love a bit of almost everything! “It'll be a mix of our favourites throughout our growing up years, songs with a place in our hearts and fun ones for night-time.”

The meaningful songs will mostly feature in the ceremony, and they've already decided to play *She is Love* by Parachute before Amber walks down the aisle, followed by *Tennessee Whiskey* by Chris Stapleton for her big entrance. “Not only is this one of the songs that helps our little girl sleep but when I hear it, it reminds me of the stages of getting to know Keiron,” she says.

Things will get bouncier as the day goes on with the evening reception set to feature Abba and Elvis classics, early 2000s R&B and hip hop, and a mix of emo and indie tunes from the couple's teen years. “We also want to add some line dancing in there - the likes of Shania Twain, Johnny Cash and Dolly Parton. And maybe I'll even get the *Cha Cha Slide* on because nothing gets the party going like a song with a dance routine!”

You can read all about Amber and Keiron's wedding plans in their “I do” diary on yourscottishwedding.co.uk

jo and liam photography

Want to see what Corinne and Gary's dream wedding would look like?

Turn to page 28



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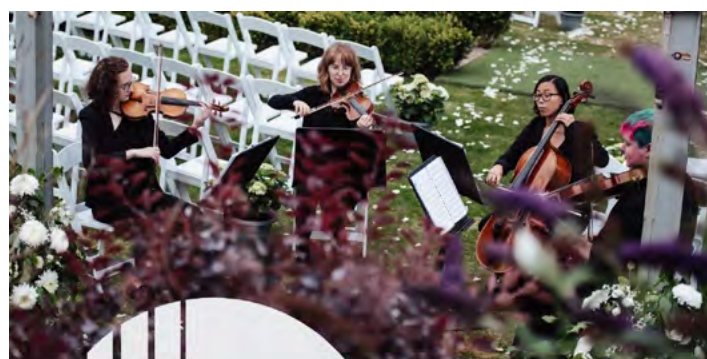
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Your Wedding Day





Ross Alexander Photography

A full-page wedding photograph of a couple standing in a stone archway. The groom, on the left, is wearing a dark blue tuxedo with a white shirt and a dark bow tie. He is leaning in and kissing the bride on the cheek. The bride, on the right, is wearing a white lace wedding dress with a long train and a sheer veil. She is holding a large bouquet of red and white flowers. The background is a stone wall with arches, and the lighting is soft and warm.

From the heart

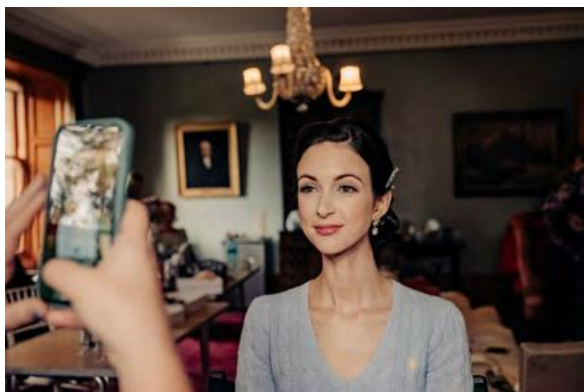
*Zahaan Pinto
& Linnie Duncan-Parry*

DATE: **Saturday 30th October 2021**

PHOTOGRAPHY: **Dan from Fern Photography**

SECOND SHOOTER: **Sinéad from Fern Photography**

VENUE: **St Salvator's Chapel, St Andrews and Cambo Estate, Kingsbarns**



Linnie and Zahaan included family heirlooms and elements from both of their cultures to imbue their wedding day with sentimental meaning

Sparks flew the first time Linnie and Zahaan met at a friend's birthday but as she'd lost her voice there wasn't much chat. Then a few days later, Zahaan spied his future wife at the bar at a charity ceilidh. "Not a stranger to cocktails he smoothly asked the barman to make whatever she was having and was taken aback to discover he would be drinking whisky for the rest of the night," Linnie laughs.

Seven years later Zahaan proposed during a trip to Australia with a ring he'd designed and had made in Mumbai. Linnie's super-personal engagement ring set the tone, with both bride and groom going on to wear family heirlooms. Zahaan's wedding ring is his father's original one from the 1980s while Linnie's band belonged to his great-great grandmother Cecilia.

The family influence on their wedding didn't stop there. The couple chose to marry at St Salvator's Chapel in St Andrews, where Linnie's parents were married. "We are both from Catholic

families, so it was always going to be a Catholic Church ceremony," she says. And having their ceremony in St Andrews, nearby Cambo Estate was the perfect find, with many guests commenting on its *Downton Abbey* vibe - "It was just so unique and full of character, so grand yet also so informal and welcoming."

Keeping with Cambo's style, they opted for a timeless theme with lots of botanical elements and nods to their heritage. An autumnal navy, deep pink and burgundy colour scheme evolved, and they added hanging foliage and plenty of candlelight to Cambo's glass-roofed courtyard to enhance the feeling of bringing the outside in. The couple included DIY touches, including the Indian chintz table runners Linnie made alongside her mum and mother-in-law to-be.

There was always going to be an international element to this wedding with many guests due to fly in from overseas. The couple's priority was to

be married surrounded by loved ones but planning during the pandemic, they also didn't want to put their lives on hold indefinitely. They eventually took the difficult decision to cut their guest list in half and ended up having their talented videographers Wild Call Films livestream their ceremony to those who couldn't come.

10 OUT OF 10

One honoured guest who did make it in the nick of time however was Zahaan's brother and best man who had repeatedly been denied permission to travel from Melbourne. "In an incredible stroke of good fortune, he received clearance to attend a mere 72 hours before the wedding," remembers Linnie. The rest of Zahaan's 10 groomsmen came from destinations including Canada, Germany, and Singapore. While he admits 10 seemed like a "ridiculous" number, each person was important to him. "He maintains 11 men in matching tuxedos make for great photos!" adds Linnie.

While the men looked incredibly suave in their tuxedos, Linnie opted for a custom-made A-line gown in ivory Chantilly lace from Rowanjoy. On the day, she accessorised with pearl and diamond earrings and a diamond bracelet and bangles from her mother-in-law, while her stepmother placed a Turkish nazar - evil-eye talisman- inside her dress for good luck. And to finish the good omens, her mum and maid of honour presented her with a sixpence to hide in her shoe, along with her late grandmother's brooch for her bouquet - "so she could be with me on the day."

MARRIED AT LAST

Linnie used to sing in choirs for weddings, so the couple knew they wanted one for their own and the University of St Andrews Chapel Choir obliged with a rendition of Hubert Parry's *I Was Glad* as she walked down the aisle. "It felt surreal that it was finally happening after nearly three years of planning and not knowing if it was ever going to happen," says Linnie. "I was so happy seeing everyone there together and seeing Zahaan grinning at me at the end of the aisle."

Saying their Catholic rite of marriage vows felt natural to Linnie - "There was a certain weight in those words, knowing they had been said for generations before."

CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES!

Back at Cambo, a string quartet entertained everyone with a mix of classical music and modern pieces like Maroon 5's *Girls Like You* in the *Bridgerton* style Linnie loves. Then it was time for their unexpected highlight, following their bagpiper Fergus down the grand staircase and into the candlelit wedding breakfast in the courtyard with friends and family thunderously clapping along. "It was magical" says Linnie.

Edinburgh School of Food and Wine served up a fantastic personalised three course menu before everyone moved into the main reception room for speeches. "Having them in this way created a lovely informal atmosphere," remembers Linnie.

When the party returned to the courtyard, the atmosphere was "easy-going and fun" with everyone dancing away to the Saltire Street Band followed by DJ Justin McEwan. The couple had filled the bar with drink and after the staff and DJ left it turned into a bit of a free for all. "Friends got behind the bar themselves which was really fun," says Linnie.

Looking back, she says being married "feels right" and advises other couples to not sweat the small stuff when planning. "Guests don't remember all the smaller details so those are just for you to have fun with."

"Having a dependable wedding planner on the day was a huge support. Roni and Cait from All Wrapped Up were worth their weight in gold."

Linnie





PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Linnie and Zahaan's wedding was elegant and stylish. I really enjoyed spending the day with them and their family and friends, who were all wonderful people to be around. Their venue was extraordinarily beautiful and the portraits we took around the walled garden at sunset were some of my favourites of the year."

Daniel
Fern Photography



BAND

Saltire Street Band

BRIDE'S DRESS

Rowanjoy Bridal

BRIDE'S SHOES

Rainbow Club

BRIDE'S VEIL

Britten Weddings

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Coast

CEILIDH BAND

Norloch Ceilidh Band

CELEBRANT

Fr Michael Galbraith of the Parish of St James, St Andrews

CHOIR

University Chapel Choir of St Andrews

DJ

Justin McEwan

DONUT TOWER

Cuckoo's Bakery and Krispy Kreme

FAVOURS

royalsweets.co.uk and Tewaris

FLOWERS

Snapdragon Edinburgh

GROOM'S SUIT

Suitsupply

HAIR

AMM Hair and Makeup Team

HOG ROAST

Oink

MAKE-UP

Sophie Alexis Make-up Artist

STATIONERY

Cartalia

TABLE RUNNER FABRIC

VellanaFabrics on Etsy

VIDEOGRAPHY

Wild Call Films

WEDDING PLANNER

All Wrapped Up

WELCOME BAG

The Conscious Candy Co and Camy Wafers

Just the two of US

*Emily Howard
& David Volpenhein*



DATE: **Wednesday 22nd September 2021**
PHOTOGRAPHY: **Bernadeta Kupiec Photography**
VENUE: **Neidpath Castle, Peebles**



Coming all the way from America to elope in a magnificent Scottish castle... Could Emily and David be any more romantic?



It was pretty much love at first sight when Emily first locked eyes on David. “I loved how he laughed easily and often, and how at peace I felt near him. We kissed under the stars and stayed up all night talking,” she smiles.

Eight years later, they were engaged (David proposed with his grandmother’s breathtaking 100-year-old Art Deco-style ring) and first on Emily’s list was making “an adorable bullet journal I would undoubtedly abandon a few months into planning!”

The pandemic was a big factor while organising their wedding - and it provided the perfect excuse to elope. “We are based in Atlanta, Georgia, but David works for the US branch of a UK company,” explains Emily. “He spends

several months of the year living and working there and, as I’m lucky to be self-employed, I go along as well. Knowing we’d be in the UK, I looked at castles to rent on Airbnb - something we’ve done on trips before. I spotted Neidpath Castle and my imagination sort of exploded!”

WOODSY, ETHEREAL AND ROMANTIC

She fell in love with its wildness, its history and its landscape, and adored the idea of “exchanging sacred vows in a centuries-old place.” She adds “My mom convinced me to pull the trigger. She’s been on ‘team elopement’ for years!”

The Scottish setting inspired artist and author Emily’s dress search and her gown simply had to be visually

interesting. “As an artist, colour is always on my mind. The colour scheme of the wedding was ultimately determined after I bought my dress!”

With the venue, date and dress ticked off, the rest of the details fell into place. But elopement planning from another country provided tricky - especially when restrictions around legal documents meant the couple had to pivot and marry legally before David left the US. “We had to break our wedding timeline into three acts: The legal minimony in Atlanta, true trysting in Scotland and a celebration in Cincinnati,” explains Emily, who is currently planning their big, formal gathering at home for friends and family.

SAFELY IN SCOTLAND

The day before the wedding, it was off to Peebles Hydro Spa for a pamper then back to their very own castle for the night. Too excited to sleep well – “It felt like Christmas morning!” – they decided to watch the sun rise together over the hills as they sipped steaming cups of coffee. After Emily’s hair appointment and visit to Fountain Flower in Peebles where she put together her own bouquet, the pair wrote their vows in the castle’s chapel. “It was a pretty relaxing morning,” Emily remembers.

She walked down the aisle in the great hall of the castle (which required little décor other than pews peppered with tealights to representing family and friends at home, and a celebratory banner designed by Emily) with *Unst Bridal March* by Bonnie Rideout playing.

The spiritual ceremony was performed by an interfaith celebrant, Morag Cameron. She made it personal yet sympathetic to the setting, incorporating Scottish traditions. “I loved every single moment of our emotional ceremony, particularly our vows,” says Emily. “I knew it would be special; that I’d feel a shifting

underneath me, but Morag really put a sparkle on the whole ceremony. I felt a lot of things in the moment and gratitude was the strongest. I was grateful for the moment, for David’s love, for the beauty of the space and the day, for my parents’ support, and for the hope of our future together.”

After the ceremony, the newlyweds had “a little reception for two,” cutting their cake and popping champagne. “When our photographer left, candles still alight, we had our first dance in the chapel to Nickel Creek’s *Out of the Woods*.”

The epitome of romance, they were served a mouthwatering dinner at a beautiful candlelit table in their chambers; feasting like royalty on decadent delights like sourdough bruschetta with wood pigeon, parmesan-crusted salmon steak and partridge breasts with poached pear and blue cheese sauce.

Ending on a sweet note, they toasted to the day and enjoyed some big slices of wedding cake. “It was just wonderful to sink into the royal fantasy for an evening in our very own castle. What a beautiful way to mark this chapter of our lives together.”

“Don’t be afraid to change your plan because it can turn out better than you ever imagined. If you get to end your day with the one you love, it’s a success.”

Emily





BRIDE'S DRESS

Savin London at White Lace & Butterflies Bridal Boutique

BRIDE'S CAPE VEIL

Noon on the Moon

BRIDE'S EARRINGS

BlingBaddaBoom

BRIDE'S EAR CUFF

DeavogStudio

CATERERS

Tweed Valley Venison

CELEBRANT

Morag Cameron

CAKE

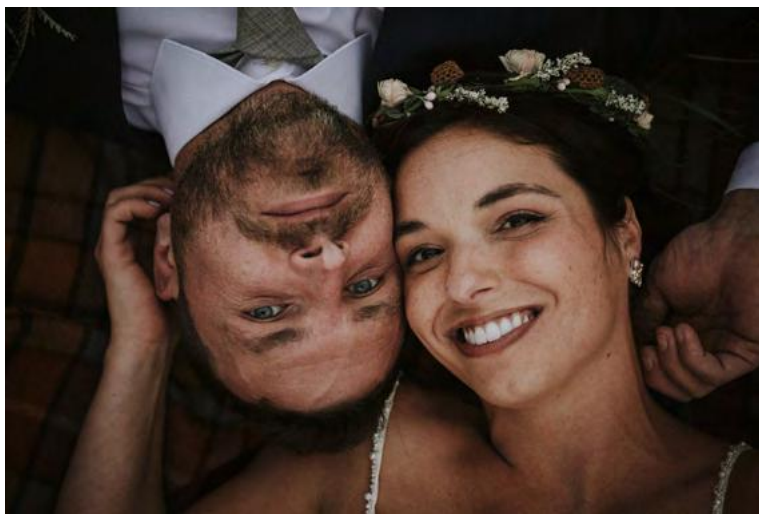
Cakes by Nikki Sloan

CAKE TOPPER

wireworksuk

HAIR

Karen at Neil Maclean Hair Studio



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Emily and David had Neidpath Castle for a few nights for themselves. Moreover, they had a key to that lock and that was really amazing. We could explore almost any room. Their ceremony was very emotional, from wedding rings and tying a knot, to their intimate vows to each other."

Bernadeta

Bernadeta Kupiec Photography

At last

*Nina Balwant
& Vishal Magon*



DATE: Friday 4th & Saturday 5th June 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY: In the Name of Love Photography

VENUE: Glasgow City Chambers & The Ivy, Om Hindu Mandir & The Regent Brasserie



The night before her wedding, Nina was too excited to sleep - and quite rightly so...!

“Since meeting up to finalise our new home in May 2019, I hadn’t seen Vishal in person, only through Facetime. Words can’t express how excited I was feeling to finally see him,” remembers Nina. The couple met earlier that year - “thanks to today’s technology, we both went fishing and found our catch of the day” - and after six months of long-distance dating (Nina was in Leicester; Vishal in Scotland) they knew they wanted to take their relationship further. Covid got in the way, of course, but eventually they couldn’t face any more time apart. They set two dates for June 2021 - one for a civil ceremony and the other for a traditional Indian wedding celebration.

Of course, that meant two dresses! “I wanted a white dress for the civil

ceremony so I tried different styles to see what would suit my shape,” explains Nina. “It was so tricky to choose but ‘The One’ fitted like a glove, showing curves in all the right places. For the Indian wedding I wanted a pastel theme. After visiting the second shop, I placed the pale golden Indian lehnga before me and looked in the mirror. It too was ‘The One’.”

The couple incorporated as many DIY elements as possible into their wedding. The night before the wedding, Nina’s cousin created her bouquet and the bride’s mum made the buttonholes, including a special one for Vishal. On the day, the pair’s family decorated their vehicles and became chauffeurs whilst Nina bravely

did her own hair and make-up for both ceremonies. “I followed tutorials for advice and did a practice run the night before. It was the perfect romantic glow.”

THE FIRST LOOK - IN A LONG TIME!

With just ten guests including the bride and groom - “Not just because of the pandemic but because we wanted an intimate wedding” - their civil ceremony took place at 23 Montrose Street. Exhilarated, animated and energised, Nina walked down the aisle to *At Last* by Etta James. “Vishal was waiting for me in full Scottish attire. Seeing him for the first time in months, I was smiling from ear to ear.”



After the “short, sweet and intimate” ceremony it was on to The Ivy where more guests joined for a celebratory lunch. Then with happy bellies, the couple went their separate ways to do some final Indian wedding prep.

BEAUTIFUL TRADITIONS

The following day, fifty guests joined the couple at the bright, vibrant Om Hindu Mandir as they were blessed and married in the traditional Indian way. Vishal arrived wearing a Sehra, a headdress that wards off the ‘evil eye’ and prevents the groom seeing his bride pre-ceremony. Nina’s mum marked Vishal’s head with kumkum, a red powder, and he broke the sampan (a small clay pot), symbolising a willingness to overcome any obstacles they may face.

Once Nina arrived, the happy couple

exchanged beautiful rose garlands - a ritual known as ‘Jaimala’ that shows their acceptance of one another - and the meaningful Hindu traditions continued. The priest began the ‘Angi Puja’, igniting the fire and welcoming the fire God, before they began the ‘Mangalghera’ (circling the sacred fire) in prep for their vows.

Then, as husband and wife, it was time for the ‘Sapta Pada’. “This is the most important ritual of the whole ceremony,” explains Nina. “Hindu philosophy says if two people walk seven steps together they become lifelong friends. Each of our steps signified a different aspect of marriage we hope to uphold together.”

Afterwards, it was on to The Regent Brasserie for a delicious array of starters, mains and desserts. “This venue was chosen by Rishi, Vishal’s brother who

has personally catered for many events. He was the perfect man to decide on the menu and chose a fantastic banquet to suit every palate.”

The couple opted for a tower of individual sponge cakes, which meant Nina and Vishal could pick a selection of their favourite flavours - and ensure some were gluten-free and vegan.

Covid restrictions meant there was no DJ, dance floor or outside entertainment. But for Nina that didn’t matter as they had each other. “Both families enjoyed eating, talking and drinking without face masks on. It was magical, electric and loud!”

The highlight of her night, however, was Vishal’s speech. “He’s very reserved and avoiding public speaking is his forte. But not that evening. He surprised all of our guests and really rose to the occasion,” she smiles.



“Being married feels fantastic. I’d recommend it to everybody”

Nina



BRIDE’S DRESS

Bajaj Fashions, Dresses 2 Impress U

BRIDE’S JEWELLERY

Bipin Jewellers, Jadin Jewellers

BRIDE’S SHOES

New Look

CAKE

Sponge Cakes

CELEBRANT

Antonio Reilly

FLORAL NECKLACES

Flower Fusion

GROOM’S OUTFIT

Andaz Couture, Slanj Kilts, Slater Menswear

WEDDING RINGS

Lumbers Jewellers



PHOTOGRAPHER’S CREDIT

“Nina and Vishal got in touch with me two weeks before their special day. From the start of our conversation, I knew it going to be a fantastic day! It was my first Asian wedding and what a fantastic experience I had. I was so impressed how energetic, colourful, happy, and family-orientated the ceremony was. I really loved being their wedding photographer and capturing all the happy vibes.”

Olesja

In the Name of Love Photography

In the garden

Louise Hunter
& Frankie Kelly



DATE: Friday 28th May 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY: The Gibsons

VENUE: The Walled Garden at Strathtyrum

You can't beat a rustic tipi celebration with stunning, statement florals, and we promise Louise and Frankie's walled garden wedding won't disappoint...

Having been together since 2014, Frankie bravely proposed to Louise in 2019 on the rope bridge at Carrick-a-Rede in Northern Ireland and quickly replaced her Haribo ring - "He knows I'm clumsy and had a high chance of dropping the real one over the side of the bridge," laughs Louise - with a diamond solitaire

on yellow gold from an antique jeweller in Edinburgh.

With a flexible, blank canvas venue top priority for Louise, the couple booked a tipi wedding in The Walled Garden at Strathtyrum. "The garden is very atmospheric, and having the tipi meant I could DIY the décor to our tastes. We



from friends. A trip to Hobbycraft had her sorted for easels and light-up letters, whilst her sister whipped up the tablet favours and a friend poured the candles.

More decorative details were added by the tipi company, then lots of beautiful blooms provided the perfect finishing touch to Louise's handiwork. "Flowers were so important given the plain nature of the tipi and Narcissus really made it all come together. Everything looked amazing without me having to specify exactly what went where. They knocked it out of the park!"

On the big day Louise woke at 6am, plagued with panic that she'd forgotten something! "That's the problem with a DIY wedding," she laughs. Fortunately, a big coffee sorted her out and everything

ran smoothly from there. Bridal prep took place at her parents' house with The Gibsons capturing special moments. "It was great having the two of them as it allows you to capture things happening in different places. They were so good natured too, dealing with 12 small children and the notoriously late Kelly family!"

Finally, it was time for Louise to slip into her dress, a classic style that she'd made her own with a bespoke belt - and the first one she'd ever tried on. When it came to her bridesmaids (her cousin, Iona, and sister, Emma) Louise had wanted to make sure they felt confident in whatever they were wearing so she dictated the colour and left them to pick the style that best suited them.



also got to choose our own suppliers without any restrictions," says Louise.

Known for loving a nautical theme, the bride found mussel shell place cards on Etsy and let her creative juices flow from there. She picked up napkin rings online, scoured local antique shops for vintage bottles and inherited glassware

“The tipi company was so friendly and helpful. It was a really efficient set-up and take down, and we were able to make changes right up until the last minute. I felt like they cared as much as we did about everything going smoothly.”

Louise

Arriving at the fairy-lit tipi she'd poured her heart into personalising, Louise walked down the aisle to the sounds of the Cairn String Quartet, firmly focused on getting to the end where Irishman Frankie was waiting, all kilted up. “He'd been wanting a kilt made for a while, in a tartan with Irish connections if possible.” He added a tweed jacket and accessories - and got his groom squad to follow suit. “I wasn't sure they'd go for kilts being Irishmen but they were good sports and looked great,” remembers Louise.

The pair opted for a light-hearted but meaningful humanist ceremony, peppered with special stories. “It was really important that it was personal to us and our relationship. But we didn't write our own vows because we like the sentiment of the traditional ‘for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health’ wording. For us, those words epitomise what marriage is about.”

After an al fresco champagne and prosecco drinks reception - “There was a long discussion and we decided to serve both!” - the thick, east coast



haar took over and celebrations continued inside the cosy tipi. The wedding breakfast was varied to cover a variety of tastes (from traditional roast beef to people with dietary requirements to young children) and was followed by a selection of speeches that combined humour and sentiment in the best way possible. “Frankie was very emotional talking about his family,” explains Louise. “With them in Ireland and us in Scotland we miss them a lot and don’t see them as

much as we’d like. It was nice for him to be able to tell them this!”

For the bride, it’s impossible to pick just one single highlight of the wedding day but she admits she did really love the planning stage, from décor ideas to dress shopping. “However, the planning memories ultimately fade away and enjoying the day is the most important thing. We had an amazing time that we’ll remember forever. We now have a wee baby and we’re enjoying life as a family together.”



BRIDE’S BELT

Eleganza Sposa

BRIDE’S DRESS

Suzanne Neville at Eleganza Sposa

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Sorella Vita from Sarah Louise Bridal

CATERER

Patrick Gilmour Event Catering

CELEBRANT

Sandy Caldwell of Humanist Society Scotland

CANDLES

The Wax Jungle

ENGAGEMENT RING

Goodwins Antiques

FLOWERS

Narcissus Flowers

GROOM’S OUTFIT

Kirk Wynd Highland House

HAIR

Spoiled Hairdressing

MAKE-UP

Annie Voight Make-up

STATIONERY

Confetti Designs

STRING QUARTET

Cairn String Quartet

TIPI

Special Event Tipis

TRANSPORT

Carriages of Scone

WEDDING RINGS

Daniel Henderson Jewellers

PHOTOGRAPHER’S CREDIT

“With things still being up in the air with Covid at that time, I felt quite emotional at seeing most of their loved ones were able to make it over for their wedding day. I was truly happy for them.”

Scott and Chantal

The Gibsons



Summer loving

*Paul Swinton
& Steve Wilson*

DATE: Saturday 24th July 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY: Ross Alexander Photography

SECOND SHOOTER: Rogues and Queens

VENUE: Newhall Estate, Carllops

Design-minded Paul and Steve thought of everything, from their wedding logo down to personalised luggage tags for their overnight guests

From the moment they got engaged, Paul and Steven knew the venue they picked for their wedding would have to be able to accommodate a proper celebration that would stretch beyond the big day itself. They wanted to be able to savour the moments and were also nervous about being the centre of attention. “Making it feel more like a fun weekend away was key!” explains Paul.

This romantic groom had proposed to Steve on his 30th birthday during a holiday to Japan. They were staying in a suite at the Park Hyatt - the famous setting for *Lost in Translation* - and so celebrated in true Bill Murray style by drinking old fashioned in the rooftop bar.

Back home, the search for the venue was on but after viewing Newhall Estate they quickly discovered nowhere else compared. “It became the yardstick against which we marked all our subsequent viewings,” says Paul. “It’s beautiful, exclusive-use, has a variety of spaces to use through the day, and has plenty of accommodation so we could have all our nearest and dearest with us for the whole weekend.”

But it wasn’t all plain sailing. Covid restrictions forced them

to delay their wedding by exactly a year and sadly they lost a few suppliers. The restrictions by the time of their new date still limited dancing and indoor entertainment. Luckily however, Paul is an event producer and he put his skills to use - and took a big gamble on the Scottish weather - to source outdoor furniture and lighting and adapt their catering and entertainment to suit an al fresco festival style.

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE DETAIL

Architect Steve also brought his creative flair to the table when helping to plan their wedding. Describing themselves as not “particularly ‘floral’ people” they devised a simple, modern, and elegant vibe with a navy blue and cream colour scheme with hessian accents. They both got to work handmaking all their invitations and creating personalised luggage tags and survival packs for guests who were staying over. Paul and Steve also created a wedding logo “which adorned virtually everything”, made their own signage and sourced outdoor games like hoopla and a coconut shy to add to their festival vibe. And empty bottles of gin and whisky filled with fairy lights made gorgeous table centrepieces.



Steve had always wanted his groom to wear a kilt but Englishman Paul thought it would be “sacrilege”. However, having lived in Scotland for 17 years he eventually decided he could be classed as Scottish and forgiven for wearing a kilt. Steve smiles, “I was so glad I managed to wear down Paul!” Decision made, they headed to Kinloch Anderson to be fitted for matching jackets and socks and then went their own way when deciding on tartans and accessories. Steve was chuffed he still fitted the kilt he got when he was 21! Then for the ultimate personalisation, the grooms had bespoke cufflinks made with their wedding day logo.

LAST MINUTE PREP

The night before the wedding Paul, Steve, their families and closest friends enjoyed an informal dinner before keeping it traditional and going their separate ways. Steve slept like a log in one of the estate cottages while Paul tried the amazing bridal suite. However, he barely slept. “I was too nervous and excited, and I was in true event planning mode, going over my to-do list.” Eventually he gave up and got up at 5am to do all the set-up tasks.

The couple were piped down the aisle together, by Roddy the Piper playing *Highland Cathedral*, for their outdoor ceremony in the walled garden. “It was a gloriously sunny day and it was such a lovely sight to see all

our friends and family gathered in the amazing gardens looking back at us,” remembers Paul. “I might have welled up a little!”

Paul and Steve opted for a humanist ceremony and were full of praise for their celebrant Candice Dillen. “She was incredibly professional and organised but had such a great personality and sense of fun.”

Following the ceremony, guests played fairground games while two musicians from the band played background music. Then the fun continued during the speeches - particularly when their parents poked fun at their hatred of ironing! And Steve got the best surprise when the BBC news-style speech by one of his “best people” cut to a Zoom link to one best man - who was “trapped” in New Zealand - so he could give his speech.

After dinner the entire wedding headed back outside for a “simply magical” reception. The lawn was dressed with flaming torches and festoon lighting, the band The Jets played a stripped back gig and Jim the Magician entertained the guests.

Looking back, Paul says they ended up having a very different wedding to what they originally envisaged but it was so much better! But the highlight was marrying each other. “It was never something that either of us imagined would be possible, and we feel so lucky to have been able to have done so!”

“Walking down the aisle together, hand in hand was amazing. We could feel the love and encouragement from all in attendance”

Paul





BAND

The Jets

BUNTING

Etsy

CAKE

Cuckoo's Bakery

CATERER

The Orde Food Company

CELEBRANT

Candice Dillen of Humanist Society Scotland

CUFFLINKS

Morgan and French

FACE MASKS

MacGregor and MacDuff

FAVOURS

The Fudge House, Macallan
and Edinburgh Gin

FLOWERS

Newhall Estate

GROOMS' JACKETS AND

WAISTCOATS AND PAUL'S KILT

Kinloch Anderson

MAGICIAN

Jim the Magician

OUTDOOR FURNITURE AND LIGHTING

360 Event Hire

PAUL'S BROGUES

Grenson

PAUL'S TIE AND POCKET SQUARE

OTAA

PIPER

Roddy the Piper

PROPS AND CARNIVAL GAMES

Northern Prop Hire

STEVE'S SHOES

Loake

TRANSPORT

Coach Hire Edinburgh



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT



"Paul and Stephen came to me after, sadly, their original photographers were unable to do their wedding and luckily I had their date free. We had a quick chat, clicked straight away and the rest is history. Their wedding will stay with me forever; the sun was shining, the vibes were relaxed and positive and it was a wedding where you could feel how happy everyone was for Paul and Stephen. Obviously, all weddings are happy but this wedding had all the feels. A memorable moment from the day was watching Paul trying to make his speech, he tried but the words just couldn't come out without the floodgates opening so Stephen (Mr Cool,) stepped in like a knight in shining armour to make a perfect speech for Paul. They're a perfect couple and I was so chuffed to be part of it all."

Ross

Ross Alexander Photography

Relaxed and rustic

*Kathryn Brackenridge
& Michael Anderson*

DATE: **Saturday 15th June 2019**
PHOTOGRAPHY: **Pocket Square Photography**
VENUE: **Knockraich Farm, Fintry**



After falling in love with the cosy, rustic vibe at Knockraich Farm, Kathryn and Michael added a few handmade details to make the space their own

After ten years together and a romantic birthday proposal at the Falls of Foyers near Loch Ness, Kathryn and Michael knew from the off they wanted their wedding to be rural, rustic, relaxed - and peppered with personal DIY details.

They took their time exploring marquee and barn-style venues then came upon Knockraich Farm near Glasgow, which felt just right. "We thought the bothy for the ceremony was cosy and rustic, the reception shed was a good size and the grounds were ideal for an outdoor drinks reception. There's a lovely family feel to the farm and everyone we dealt with was incredibly warm and helpful," smiles Kathryn.

BECOMING THE BRIDE AND GROOM

With the venue in the bag, the bride spent a day shopping for her outfit with her mum and two bridesmaids - her childhood best friend and sister-in-law-to-be. Upfront from the outset about wanting a style that would break a bit from tradition, Kathryn headed for Unbridaled in Ayr. "This was definitely the right place to go," she says.

"The owner, Emily, knew the dresses so well and picked out my final choice."

The gorgeous backless boho bridal gown, with its floral lace straps, beautiful silk skirt and unusual detailing, fitted Kathryn like a glove and showed off her silhouette perfectly. She finished the look with a full-length, draped veil made by Elizabeth Wallace, who had done her dress alterations, and accessories that came with a touch of nostalgia. "I wore jewellery I've had since I was a teen apart from some last-minute Swarovski earrings bought two days before."

Keeping to the relaxed, bohemian theme, she kitted her girls out with an on-trend skirt and top combo whilst husband-to-be Michael donned the kilt he'd been gifted for his 21st birthday. His Anderson tartan provided the inspo for the theme of the flowers and décor, which the couple added their own personal touch to. "We made our own wedding invites, rustic decorations and table plan," says the bride who admits to "reorganising the seating plan about ten times overnight" the night before the wedding!

“Take a moment to step back and enjoy the planning phase. It only happens once.”

Kathryn

They'd hired lodges near the venue to stay in with the wedding party and Kathryn was up before the crack of dawn! It was worth it though as she got to spend that early morning time with her three young nephews. “That helped to keep me calm,” she laughs. “It was lovely having all our wedding party in one place, popping in and out for hair, make-up and cups of tea. It was the relaxed atmosphere I'd been hoping for.”

Although she didn't have a hair trial until the week of the wedding, Kathryn felt she was in safe hands with Emma Scott - and she couldn't have been more right. “I loved the relaxed look she achieved for myself and the bridesmaids. She was really lovely to have around on the morning of the wedding, too.” Not one for normally getting her make-up done for events, and really keen on avoiding heavy coverage or anything too glam, Kathryn found make-up artist Heather Snowie was “perfect for our look.”

VOWS THAT MEAN EVERYTHING

Prepped and preened, she took to the aisle as a family friend played the piano. Kathryn and Michael tied the knot in



a humanist ceremony - something the couple felt fitted well with the values they wanted to take into married life. "It's so easy to forget why the day is happening when you're planning it," she says. "Saying our vows reminded us what was important and why all our guests were there. It was a special moment."

After a drinks reception featuring delicious Katy Rodgers ice cream made from milk from the herd on Knockraich Farm it was onto the summery wedding breakfast, served on beautifully styled trestle tables. Organised by Bespoke Catering - "the best thing about planning was attending the food tasting!" - the feast was a barbecue packed with meaty, fishy and veggie options as well as loads of mouthwatering sides.

A relaxed and joyful reception followed with a ceilidh band inside and lawn games outside. Little ones donned the capes from their goodie bags and ran around as mini superheroes whilst the grown-ups gathered around the cosy fire pit - and we're not surprised! It came complete with a taco station, a whisky table, sparklers and s'mores... What more could you need?

Reflecting on their big day, the couple (who are now proud parents to baby Eleanor) said that "the ceremony was perfect, the weather stayed sunny, the food was delicious, the speeches hit the right notes, the band was superb and our guests were a delight."



BAND

Drams Ceilidh Band

BRIDE'S DRESS

Chic Nostalgia at Unbridaled Boutique

BRIDESMAID OUTFITS

Monsoon, WED2B

CATERING

Bespoke Catering & Events

CELEBRANT

Jude Williams of A Quiet Revolution

FLOWERS

The Secret Garden

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Slanj Kilts

HAIR

Emma Scott Wedding Hair

MAKE-UP

Heather Snowie Bridal Makeup Artist

RINGS

Rivoli Jewellers

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Michael and Kathryn had such a beautiful day, absolutely everything was perfect. Great weather, amazing décor and the Tin Shed at Knockraich Farm was the ideal venue for it. Everything was just a dream to photograph!"

Neil Jarvie

Pocket Square Photography





struve photography



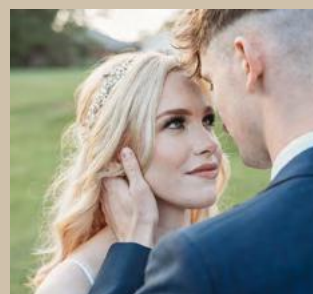
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Samantha Clyne

— WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER —



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"OH. MY. GOD!
THESE ARE JUST GORGEOUS!"

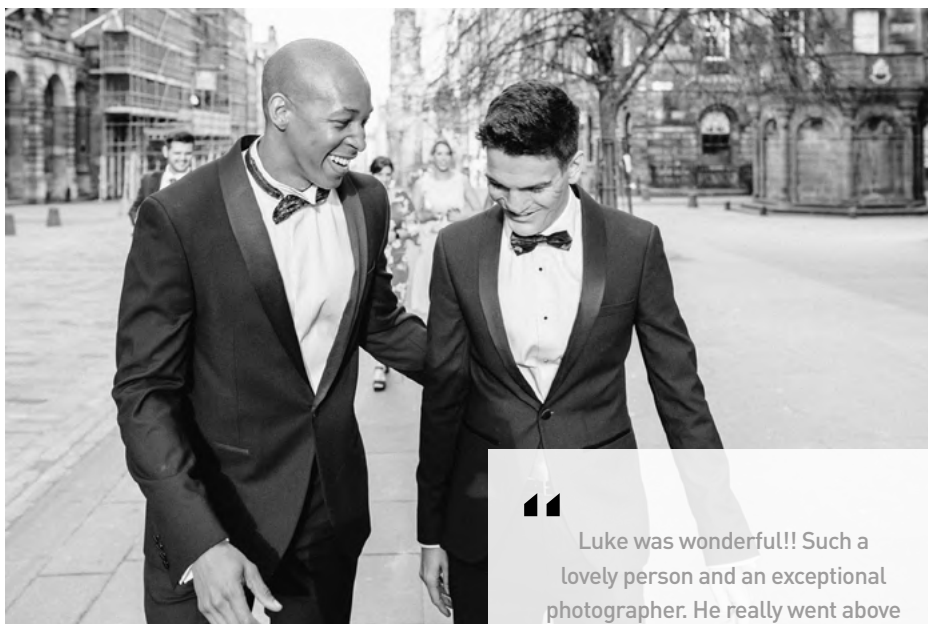
"ROSS, WE DON'T KNOW WHERE
TO BEGIN, WE'RE SPEECHLESS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

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OF THE DAY AND OUR
PERSONALITIES PERFECTLY!
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“

Luke was wonderful!! Such a lovely person and an exceptional photographer. He really went above and beyond to capture the spirit of our day and we can't thank him enough for the fabulous photos that will help us remember it. 5* in every way - would definitely recommend.

”

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www.lukebennettphotography.com

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Your Scottish Venues







Edinburgh calling!

Get the **insider scoop** on planning a chic capital city wedding

Wedding expert couple George and Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki give us the insiders' guide to Edinburgh weddings.

From the cobbled streets of the Old Town to the Georgian splendour of the New Town, and the sweeping views from Arthur's Seat, the options for an incredible Edinburgh wedding are endless. But just why should you consider Auld Reekie for your big day? Wedding planner Oskar – otherwise known as The Wedding Guru - Oskar - and his husband George, who runs the *Edinburgh Wedding Directory*, tied the knot here themselves and have a wealth of experience planning and

advising on city nuptials, so who better to ask?

"Firstly, it's a capital city and therefore a prime location full of first-class talent with everything you could dream of, and more!" explains Oskar. "We've got it all from waterfront beaches to city centre hills offering panoramic views, and on every corner you'll find iconic and historic backdrops for your dreamy photography."

When only a Scottish castle will do, George says you'll find a long list of them within 30 minutes of Edinburgh Airport. And speaking of transport, Edinburgh has major links with rail connections from the far north to London, making it easily accessible for guests.

Where to start?

Edinburgh Wedding Directory is a great starting point. It brings together top local talent from in and around the city and is a font of knowledge. It also collates the best local wedding deals and preferential offers, helping you make those all-important savings.

Daytripper!

Want to make an extended celebration? Let your guests hit up some of the city's finest attractions like **Royal Yacht Britannia**, **The Royal Highland Show**, **underground city tours** and even **skiing in the Pentland hills**.



Order of service

For the uninitiated, a one or two-year engagement may seem like loads of time, but Oskar and George warn you need to secure some elements as soon as you can. "Venues and caterers definitely get booked fastest and honestly, it's hard to book the rest without a venue and a date," says George. "One-man businesses such as video/photo suppliers, celebrants and entertainment will likely be able to offer one slot per day," he adds, so again, secure them quickly.

Interestingly, a recent shortage of supply with hair and make-up specialists, means this is another category to book quickly. And don't be fooled into thinking getting married is the same whatever time of year you say "I do". "Floristry is the one to look out for as seasonality and increases in flower costing pushes the demand for bespoke and luxury suppliers," Oskar adds.



Avoid the pitfalls

Want to know the one drawback to marrying in Edinburgh? Everyone wants to be here and apart from the fabulous tourist attractions, it also plays host to events of national and global significance. "Accommodation can be tricky during peak seasons in terms of availability and cost," warns Oskar. "Major festivals during the summer months and around Christmas fill the city centre, often three to four times its population which has impact on its infrastructure, services and connectivity."

But don't be put off. "There is always an opportunity, from photography, to accommodation and eateries, so organising a wedding during these times (as long as it's not city centre) shouldn't be "too problematic," says George. "Just be relaxed and flexible."



GEORGE AND OSKAR'S *Must visit* WEDDING PHOTO LOCATIONS

1. CALTON HILL
2. ARTHUR'S SEAT INCLUDING THE RUINS OF ST ANTHONY'S CHAPEL
3. ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS
4. WEST PRINCES STREET GARDENS – THE ICONIC ROSS FOUNTAIN FEATURED IN CELINE DION'S MUSIC VIDEOS!
5. THE SHORE - HISTORIC PORT OF LEITH
6. THE VARIOUS CASTLES AND STATELY HOMES THAT SURROUND THIS CITY ARE BRIMMING FULL OF CULTURE AND BEAUTY!



Join **Edinburgh Wedding Planning** private facebook group to gain knowledge, inspiration and share your journey!



BORN TO (RE)WILD

We adore Kinkell Byre, the exclusive converted barn near St Andrews but now there's even more reason to love it. The prestigious venue has been awarded a £27,000 grant from the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund to 'rewild' its farmland, enabling tree and hedgerow planting and wetland creation to encourage the return of native plants, insects, bees, birds and larger animals.

kinkellbyre.com



FRESH INK

As part of their wedding packages Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club takes care of all your on the day stationery, from personalised place cards to table plans and menus, making another element of wedmin that bit easier. The hotel has recently teamed up with new supplier Magenta Ink Calligraphy and we're loving her chic designs.

dalmahoyhotelandcountryclub.co.uk

YES CHEF!

Foodies listen up. Inverlochy Castle Hotel is bringing an exciting new offering to the table with Seasgair by Michel Roux Jr. Inspired by the castle's history when the inimitable Mary Shaw ran the kitchen, world famous Chef Michel and Inverlochy's own head chef Coalin Finn, have created

this interactive new concept where guests will enjoy a mouthwatering five-course menu with produce from locally sourced artisans. You can stay in the dining room or join the 10-seat Mary Shaw table in the library where they chefs will tell you more about the dishes.

inverlochycastlehotel.com

RIGHT FOR THE JOB

We all know the nerves of starting a new job so spare a thought for Caroline McGlynn, Macdonald Houstoun House Hotel's wedding co-ordinator. Caroline and her now husband's wedding was cancelled due to Covid so she booked Houstoun House as a replacement, having never visited it before. Then a week later she applied for a job there as part of their wedding team. "During my interview I commented on how magical the place was and mentioned that I had actually blind-booked it for my own wedding," she remembers. "The general manager then took me and my fiancé, who was waiting in the car, on a full show round, and we knew that we had made the right decision. It was definitely the most memorable job interview of my life!"

macdonaldhotels.co.uk/houstoun-house



Andy Allan Photography

date for
your diary

*Sunday
15th May*

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club is hosting its next wedding open day on Sunday 15th May from 12-4pm. If you fancy taking a look around the grand baronial manor and all it has to offer, make sure you put the date in your diary. Turn to page 166 to read all about head of editorial Katie's amazing recent stay!



Hugh McCusker

BANNOCKBURN HOUSE

How do you fancy saying "I do" where Bonnie Prince Charlie once had his headquarters? Bannockburn House is a unique new wedding venue with a special place in history and it's oozing with character. The A-listed 17th-century mansion set in its own 26-acre estate was a home for centuries until 1960, before falling into a state of disrepair. However, the local community took over in 2017 and as part of the overall masterplan, "Weddings at Bannockburn House" now offers couples the chance to marry somewhere totally unique.

You could marry in the historic Laign Hall with its ornate ceiling, pose for photos in the romantic Charlie room and party in the Victorian extension. If your guestlist is extensive though, take full advantage of all that outdoor space and erect a marquee in the grounds.

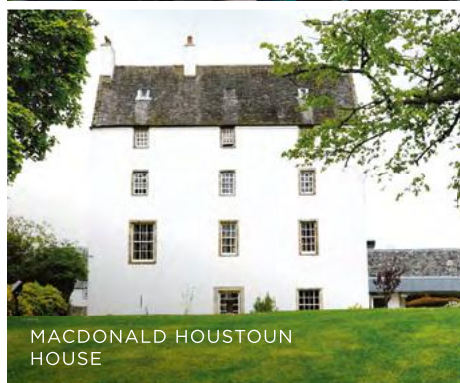
bannockburnhouse.scot/weddings



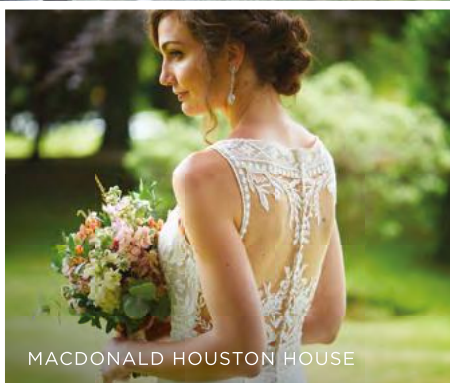
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MACDONALD
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BARNs & Byres

*These four stunning venues have everything you need for a **relaxed and rustic wedding***



Cara Frew Photography

Bachilton Barn

Celebrate in style and complete privacy

Set in 700 acres of beautiful Perthshire countryside, Bachilton Barn is the ultimate setting for a proper get-away-from-it-all wedding. You'll have the exclusive-use venue all to yourselves with access the evening before for set up. And when it comes to the décor, you can let your imagination run wild here. The light-filled barn is white-washed throughout inside, making it the perfect blank canvas to style however you feel.

Flexibility is key with four unique spaces inside, ranging from the large Barn (with capacity for up to 190 for your ceremony), to the smallest room - the Lochy - which is an ideal spot to hold a drinks reception, greet your guests or even stage an intimate ceremony or wedding breakfast. We love the canopied ceiling of the Barn with twinkling fairy lights, while the adjacent

Bachilton, with its original stone walls, boasts the best view of the gazebo, pond and the rolling Perthshire hills. You're spoilt for choice when it comes to saying 'I do' inside, but if the weather's playing ball we recommend an al fresco ceremony.

Want to know one of the best bits? The venue includes on-site cottages and two yurts so you can either choose a package offering venue, yurts and cottages (sleeping up to 40 people), or a venue and yurts package. We love the idea of spending your first night as newlyweds in one of the cool Mongolian-style yurts. And your wedding fun doesn't have to end there. There's plenty of scope for pre or post-wedding celebrations like a barbecue, Highland Games, quad biking and air rifles. Anyone for some just married archery?

bachiltonbarn.co.uk

Fruin Farm

Llamas and alpacas are included!

Want a little wedding wow factor that's guaranteed to be a conversation starter? The resident llamas and alpacas at Fruin Farm have got to be the ultimate ice-breaker, not to mention the cutest. You can even treat your guests to an alpaca walk round the farm. Then, once your friends tear themselves away from them, they can properly appreciate this gorgeous venue. Set in five acres of beautiful countryside, amongst the foothills of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, Fruin Farm is a dedicated exclusive-use venue that specialises in intimate, relaxed weddings for a maximum of 60 guests.

Prepare to fall for the rustic

charm of the barn here, while the view of the hills and loch from the glass-fronted steading is simply breathtaking. The beauty of it being exclusive-use? You don't have to choose between the two spaces. Instead, you can create a totally bespoke wedding and perhaps marry in one and dance in the other. And couples now have the freedom to bring in their own caterers, who will have full use of the venue's commercial kitchen.

Then when you're ready for bed, sneak off to the beautiful on-site bridal suite with its own free-standing bath and stunning views down to Loch Lomond.

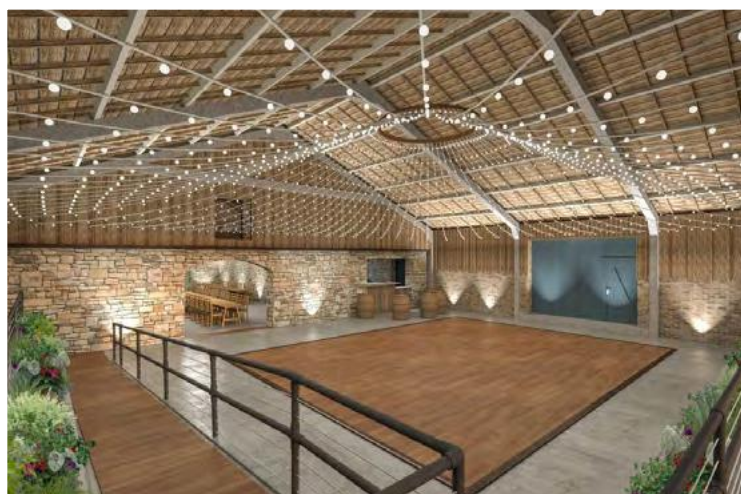
fruinfarm.co.uk



PHOTOGRAPHS: Natalie Holt Photography



Photography 78



Rossie on the Earn

Be among the first to marry here

Your photographer is going to love you when you tell them you've booked Rossie on the Earn. Opening this spring, this new rustic dream of a venue has all the photo opportunities you could wish for. The magical 30-acre garden alone is brimming with picture-perfect spots, from the delightful sunken garden and the delightful summerhouse to the array of majestic mature trees.

When it comes to your ceremony, the charming Forgandenny Parish Church is less than five minutes' walk away. Then after your vows, you and your guests can walk through the secret gate and stroll back into the main garden for your drinks reception. However, the gardens themselves would be the perfect setting for saying "I do" or the newly-renovated blank canvas barn, with its four interlinking rooms. We love all the traditional features here, including original stone walls, cattle troughs, raised walkways and an inviting fire. There's room for up to 160 guests, allowing you to celebrate in style! And when the party winds down the farmhouse and cottages mean 16 of your loved ones are able to stay over.

rossie.info

Kinkell Byre

Host up to 450 guests in rustic surroundings

Built in the 1700s as a winter home for cattle, the atmospheric Kinkell Byre is brimming with rustic charm. Sitting on the coast, just outside St Andrews, the byre boasts uninterrupted views of the North Sea and across the beautiful Fife countryside.

Kinkell Byre has been hosting weddings and events since 2003 so the experienced staff will be on hand to give you as much or little advice as you want, allowing you to personalise your wedding at this gorgeous blank canvas. While most weddings here range from 100 to 120 guests, there's plenty of space for up to 450. Alternatively, if you want to keep things more intimate, the space is flexible and wedding of 60 are not unusual.

The entire space is exclusively yours throughout your day, with four areas to choose from. You could use Ian's Shed for smaller ceremonies or for an entrance area, while the long shed is perfect for drinks receptions, and ceremonies are typically held in the Tattie Shed. Then the huge dancefloor is capable of accommodating dinner and dancing with no need to push back the tables - ideal!

kinkellbyre.com



Photos by Zoe



Nikki Leadbetter Photography

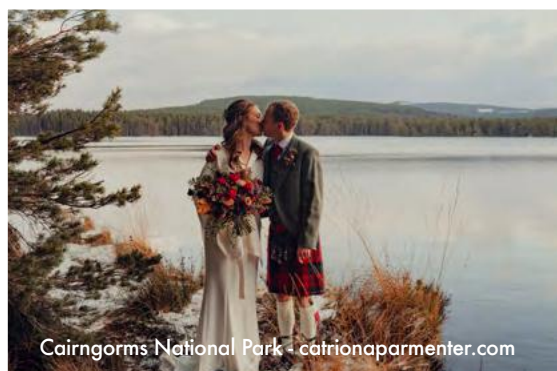
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Aberdeen, Grampian, Highlands & Islands



The perfect palette

*Katie Milne
& Scott Cooper*

DATE: Saturday 30th October 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY: Christie Johnston Photography

VENUE: The Schivas Steading, Ellon

This bride's love of autumn colours set the tone of their beautiful wedding

Katie's family and friends know her so well that her décor choices were no surprise when she started planning her wedding to Scott. In fact, her love of burgundy is so well known, when she chose her bridesmaids Abby and Vicki, they both laughed and said there was no need to ask what colour their dresses would be! Team that with rose gold and Katie's wedding colour palette fell into place.

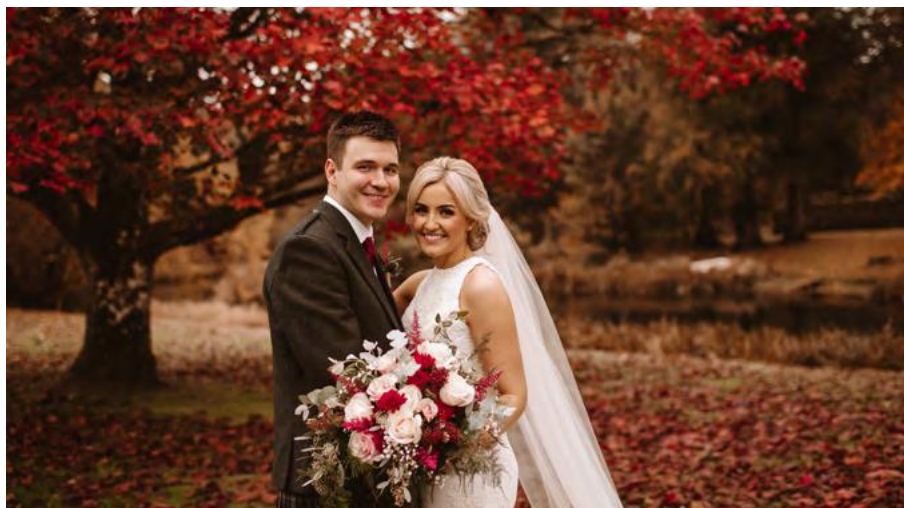
Katie met fiancé Scott in December 2015 and their first date went so well they ended up going out the next two days too! After two years together Scott totally surprised Katie during a weekend away to Newcastle. "Unbeknownst to me, he had been in touch with the hotel and arranged for the room to be decorated with balloons, petals, chocolates and champagne," she smiles. "The best part was he managed to include our gorgeous little dog Frankie! Scott sent a photo of Frankie to the hotel with a message attached saying 'Mummy, will you become Mrs Cooper?' It was absolutely perfect!" Aww!

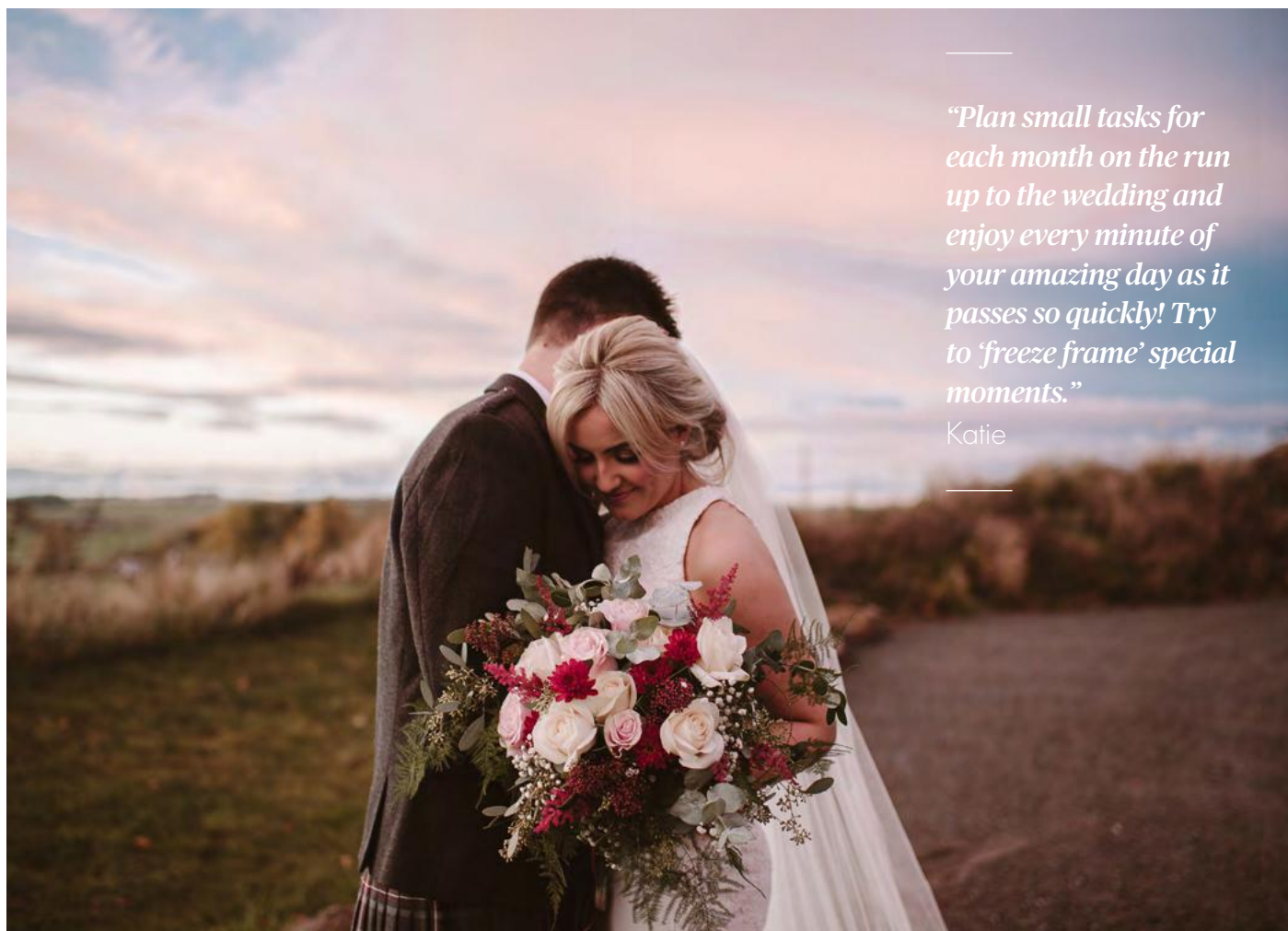
As well as her beloved burgundy, Katie also loves autumnal colours, so

it was only natural that an October wedding was on the cards and they fell in love with the character of The Schivas Steading, with its blend of old and new. "It was simply stunning," remembers Katie. "It was a converted steading with a glass extension offering unrivalled views of the Aberdeenshire countryside. The chance to have our first dance literally under the stars was a huge selling point." The couple wanted to ensure the wedding felt relaxed and informal, so the steading was the perfect setting.

ALL UNDER CONTROL

Despite having to delay their wedding by an entire year because of Covid, Katie and Scott took planning in their stride, enlisting the help of amazing suppliers from early on. "We were really fortunate to have a wonderful events stylist, Amy at Cymbeline, who helped us set up our blank canvas," explains Katie. "An early visit to our florist was so worthwhile as I felt she could almost see inside my head and was able to visualise my ideas perfectly." And Katie's a woman who likes a list, so she loved seeing everything come together.





“Plan small tasks for each month on the run up to the wedding and enjoy every minute of your amazing day as it passes so quickly! Try to ‘freeze frame’ special moments.”

Katie

While some brides spend months touring boutiques, Katie took just one attempt to find her dream dress, falling in love with the very first dress she tried on; a beautiful Enzoani halter neck. She accessorised with Dune London shoes, pearl earrings from her grandparents and, of course, her favourite rose gold bracelet.

Sticking with their plan to have a lovely, relaxed wedding, Katie spent the morning being pampered with her girls, wearing matching dressing gowns. “As my make-up artist and hairdresser are such good friends everything ran so smoothly and we didn’t feel rushed,” she says. “It was surprisingly relaxing and not as rushed as I had imagined it might be.”

Walking down the aisle - and braving a flight of stairs in her dress - Katie couldn’t stop smiling. The couple’s friend Amanda played a piano version of Coldplay’s *A Sky Full of Stars*, evoking memories of the first gig they went to. Their Humanist celebrant Lesley Yule delivered a beautiful and personal ceremony, which they felt represented them as a couple. Then Amanda played



Justin Bieber's *2U* as they signed the register. "It has such lovely lyrics and meant a lot to us both," says the bride.

Katie remembers being so proud of Scott's speech while her dad's rendition was "so lovely" and best man Jordan had everyone in hysterics. Then it was time for the evening reception and the atmosphere was "buzzing!" The couple's first dance was Kygo's *Firestone* before everyone else took to the dancefloor. "It was so lovely to see everyone really enjoying themselves," says Katie. And as Frankie the dog had been such an integral part of Scott's proposal, it was only fitting for their pooch to make an appearance in the evening!

Katie is still excited getting used to her new name and they both love referring to each other as "my husband" and "my wife". And they adored their wedding day. "It was amazing to have all of our favourite people together in one place," smiles Katie. "It really was the day of our dreams."



BRIDE'S DRESS

Enzoani at Blush Bridal

BRIDE'S SHOES

Dune London

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Sorella Vita

CAKE

Cakes by Kirsty

CATERER

Country Flavours of Alford

CELEBRANT

Lesley Yule of Humanist Society Scotland

DÉCOR

Cymbeline Events

FLOWERS

The Flower Shop in Peterhead

HAIR

Michelle Reid Hairdressing

MAKE-UP

Steph Milne MUA

STATIONERY

Love Paper Co

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Autumn is my favourite time of year to shoot in so this gorgeous wedding was a complete dream for me. Their late October date was the prime time for beautiful autumnal photos at the House of Schivas. Had it been any earlier or later we probably wouldn't have gotten all of those amazing colours on the trees. Mr and Mrs Cooper were so natural in front of the camera and I knew when I met up with them for their pre-wedding shoot I would be doting over their wedding gallery."

Christie

Christie Johnston Photography



WIN

*one-night
"Treat Your Partner"
package at Duisdale
House Hotel, Skye*

worth £500 with
The Sonas Hotel Collection

Skye is one of the world's most famous islands - and one of its most romantic. Its legends, history, culture, and scenery have made it a byword for romance. And if you fancy treating your other half to a special getaway here, make sure you enter this exclusive competition.

The Sonas Hotel Collection - the multi award-winning group of three luxury hotels on Skye - has launched its "Treat Your Partner" package at Duisdale House and is offering one lucky engaged couple the chance to win the perfect hideaway on the Misty Isle.

The package includes a candlelit four-course gourmet dinner in its 2 Rosette restaurant, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in a deluxe room, and a bottle of Champagne on ice on arrival. The winner will also receive a bouquet, box of handmade chocolates, rose petals on the bed and a late checkout of 1pm.

The package is ideal for newly engaged couples, or for your honeymoon, minimoon, anniversary celebration or special birthday.

Duisdale commands breathtaking views over the Sound of Sleat to the Knoydart peninsula. Romance is always in the air as weddings and honeymoons are a speciality at any time of the year.



What's included?

The lucky winners will be treated to the amazing "Treat Your Partner" package for two at Duisdale House Hotel.

The prize includes:

1 night stay in a deluxe room with breakfast

An amazing candlelit four-course gourmet dinner

Champagne on ice on arrival

Flowers, handmade chocolates and rose petals on the bed

Terms & Conditions:

Closing date is 31st August 2022. The winner will be drawn at random and notified thereafter. This decision is final. The winner will receive one night's "Treat Your Partner" package as described, worth a minimum of £489. The prize is valid until 31st March 2023 (except December 2022). It is subject to availability and must be pre-booked (blackout dates apply). All other expenses will be charged at normal rate. Travel is not included. Prize is not transferable or refundable. The winner must be 18 or over. Other terms and conditions may apply. "Your Scottish Wedding" is the media partner of this competition and is not responsible for the delivery of the prize. The arrangement of the "Treat Your Partner" package will be between the winning couple and The Sonas Hotel Collection.

Sonas Collection, Skye Tel: 01470 373737 www.skyehotel.co.uk/weddings

www.kellyredinger.com



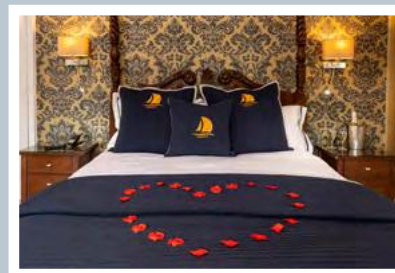
How to enter

To enter simply answer the following question:

What is the meaning of the Gaelic word "Sonas" in English?

Send your answer, both your names and the date of your wedding to editorial@yourscottishwedding.co.uk

Applications must be in by the closing date of **31st August 2022** and the prize must be taken by 31st March 2023.





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Get married in style in front of all your friends and family at one of The Sonas Collection's three luxury hotels

The Isle of Skye has long captured the imagination of die-hard romantics, with countless couples making their way over from the mainland to say "I do". And with rugged landscapes and breathtaking views, it's no wonder the Misty Isle makes so many to-be-weds' shortlist of elopement and micro-wedding venue contenders.

But Skye weddings are about so much more than just intimate affairs. In fact, with so much natural beauty to explore and the world-famous Highland welcome, what better place to stage a

showstopping wedding on a grand scale? On the Isle of Skye, you have the freedom to hold a beautiful country house wedding for up to 120 guests with world-class views, and The Sonas Collection should sit at the top of your list for consideration.

Boasting three separate hotels across the island, The Sonas Collection has everything you could wish for when planning your dream wedding. You can feel confident that you will receive only the very highest standard of personalised service and, with numerous Scottish Hotel Awards to our name, you can also depend on our unrivalled experience in delivering top-



Kelly Redinger Photographer

class weddings.

Here at Sonas, we offer a choice of three luxury wedding venues; Skeabost, Duisdale and Toravaig, each with their own individual personality but all with the same warm island hospitality and a passion for sharing local produce. So, whether you want to hold a wedding for 40 of your nearest and dearest, or a much larger day for up to 120 guests, you can truly have the pick of your favourite venues with us!

To assist with your current plans, we have created complete packages to take care of it all for you.

Though designed

to encompass all the details for a perfect day, if you have something special in mind, simply allow us to bring your vision to life by booking your personalised in-person or virtual viewing with our Wedding Specialists.

Rest assured that if you choose one of our award-winning venues, we will be on hand to assist with the preparation of your special day.

What's more, all our hotels are set in their own private grounds offering the perfect setting for those all-important wedding photos. After all, you've chosen Skye for your wedding, and you want to take full advantage of those views.



Choosing your perfect Sonas venue

With the **Sonas Collection**, you truly are spoilt for choice, so just how do you decide which of our three luxury hotels is right for your dream wedding? Take a look at what they each have to offer.

Toravaig House Hotel

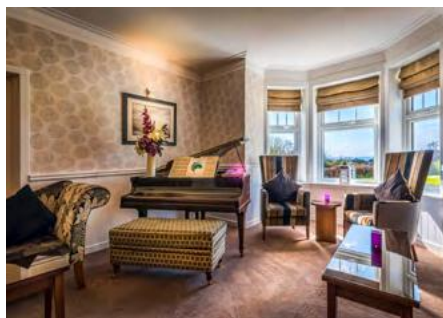


Ella Bruty Illustrations

Toravaig is the collection's Hebridean Gem, nestling on the hillside in a stunning coastal location overlooking the Sound of Sleat. The hotel creates an intimate home from home feeling but with the added benefit of luxurious bedrooms, all named after Hebridean Islands.

This elegant hotel has many times been named "Romantic Hotel of the

ADVERTORIAL



Year" at the Scottish Hotel Awards, and it's easy to see why. Toravaig's elegant lounge and cosy dining room make it a dream backdrop to your 'I do's and you'll have various spots to choose from when it comes to deciding on the perfect location for your ceremony. You could exchange vows in front of a roaring fire, head outdoors into the private gardens, or opt for a patio wedding.

You can even hire Toravaig exclusively for a private house party and have the run of the entire hotel. The hotel can accommodate weddings with up to 40 guests, making it ideal for a weekend wedding getaway.

Duisdale House Hotel

Duisdale began life in 1865 as a Victorian mansion and although the beautifully landscaped gardens and historic exterior remain, inside you will discover a modern and stylish boutique hotel, the perfect destination for your romantic wedding.



Ella Bruty Illustrations

Set within 35 acres of gardens and boasting stunning views, it has twice been winner of Scottish Hotel of the Year, a ringing endorsement for couples interested in marrying here. At Duisdale you can marry in our conservatory or on the garden deck, against the backdrop of the Sound of Sleat. You could also say 'I do' in the pretty private garden.

If you're thinking of venturing slightly further afield, the hotel also offers a popular castle package for couples wanting to have an evening ceremony at the iconic Eilean Donan Castle nearby.



Wherever you tie the knot, Duisdale can accommodate your wedding reception for up to 100 guests - including 22 bedrooms when you take the hotel on an exclusive-use basis - allowing you to gather all your loved ones together for a proper celebration.

Skeabost House Hotel

Located seven miles from Skye's main town of Portree, Skeabost is the largest of the Sonas Collection's hotels and enjoys a jaw-dropping location.

Set on the shoreline of Loch Snizort, the instantly recognisable, white-washed mansion is the epitome of elegance. Expect spacious lounges, wood panelling and Victorian grandeur with a



contemporary twist. It even has its own nine-hole golf course.

At Skeabost you can choose to marry on the picturesque patio or down by the loch on the pier, or why not step inside to the bright and airy conservatory or the wood panelled dining room? With 23 acres of picturesque woodland, you'll have your pick of picture-perfect wedding locations, and the hotel can accommodate weddings for up to 120 guests and offers 20 bedrooms on an exclusive or non-exclusive basis.

The historic Dunvegan Castle is also a stone's throw away and Skeabost often plays host to wedding receptions after the couple say "I do" in a ceremony at the castle.

However you choose to marry at Skeabost, you'll enjoy luxurious and relaxed surroundings, guaranteed to impress your guests.



Ella Bruty Illustrations

Want to find out more?

Contact us on 01470 373737 or email weddings@sonascollection.com

CASTLES

*Brimming with history, you can exchange vows in impressive surroundings in these four **stunning venues***



Fingask Castle

Literary fans will love this one

A rural and romantic Perthshire venue, you'll feel like the king and queen/king and king/queen and queen of the castle here as you cast your eyes over the River Tay to the Kingdom of Fife. Big wedding parties will love to eat, drink and dance in the spectacular pavilion, a modern and fully decorated space that's super-flexible. You'll get up to 200 guests in the Pavilion - or an impressive 250 by using its handy extension.

If you're going for a larger celebration, you'll be delighted to hear that the much-loved castle is set on a small estate that's peppered with fully equipped self-catering cottages and luxury potting sheds - there's space for up to 70 of your guests. Meanwhile, the bridal suite offers rooms for three couples (ideal for accommodating everyone during wedding prep) to stay in the lap of luxury. Simply sink into your sumptuous four poster bed and soak up the grandeur of the original paintings and furniture that surround you.

Looking for something smaller? The historic castle itself is perfect for intimate weddings of up to 40 - and, FYI, The Long Gallery has been called one of the prettiest rooms in Scotland. Outside, lose yourself in the magic of 'Scotland's surrealist garden'. You'll find spectacular topiary staggering across the lawn, bumping into stone globes, marble balls and even a figure of Alice (in Wonderland). You'll find other literary and historical characters scattered among the pleasure gardens, which date back to the 17th century... Literary buffs and photographers are going to love it here! fingaskcastle.co.uk



Sherbrooke Castle Hotel

Live it up in this city castle

Set in stunning grounds in a leafy suburb on the Southside of Glasgow, this magnificent castle has been transformed into a luxury four-star hotel. Hosting just one wedding per day, the rich red sandstone castle and its private gardens will be all yours.

There are suites and packages to suit one and all so go intimate or invite up to 200 of your nearest and dearest. Either way, rest assured you'll be treated like a VIP, from your complimentary wedding

stationery to a wedding breakfast made with only the finest Scottish produce. As the evening draws to a close, the hotel's accommodation combines traditional grace with modern efficiency - opt for a beautifully appointed room that's steeped in history or go for one of the contemporary suites.

Just ten minutes from Glasgow city centre, you couldn't be more connected but saying "I do" nestled in this historic haven, you'll feel anything but.

sherbrookecastlehotel.com

Kilmartin Castle

This venue has all the charm

When travelling around Scotland, Stef and Simo couldn't find a castle to stay in that really 'felt like a castle' once inside. But when they stumbled upon Kilmartin Castle, they knew they'd found something special - life-changing in fact! In 2018, they left their jobs and headed to Kilmartin to create the Scottish castle experience they'd hoped to find as travellers themselves. And in 2019 they completed the exciting restoration, offering a sumptuous bed and breakfast experience unlike any other.

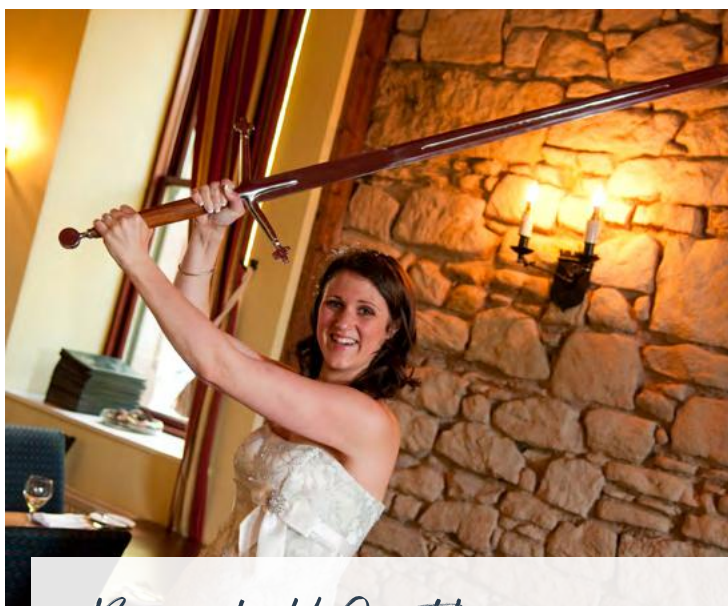
But why not take it a step further? This imaginatively and luxuriously renovated masterpiece is available for exclusive hire and would be just perfect for your relaxed and intimate micro-wedding. Kilmartin is rustic yet extravagant, grand yet cosy, and sleeps 10 exclusively for a minimum of three nights. Alternatively, it'll fit eight for a B&B takeover for at least two nights. You're really going to love it here.

We've completely fallen for the romantic atmosphere in the candlelit dining room, complete with original stone walls and a barrel-vaulted ceiling but must admit that, set in wild and unspoiled Argyll on the breathtaking west coast of Scotland, you'll find as much beauty and splendour outside Kilmartin Castle as you will inside.

kilmartincastle.com



Bill Baillie Photography



Broomhall Castle

The one with a rich history

History buffs will love the tales of Broomhall Castle near Stirling, built in 1874 and architecturally influenced by Balmoral Castle, the Queen's official Scottish residence. When the Johnstone brothers (whose business was ship building and wool mills) fell out, the younger of the two built the castle with a tower from which to look down upon his elder brother. Unfortunately, their business fell into decline, and they sold up to an Italian riding school. Four years later, the castle became Clifford Park School for Boys.

During the Second World War, while the schoolmaster and boarders feasted outside, the castle went up in flames - a strategy that meant German planes bombing the Clyde shipyards could fly out over the Ochil Hills, guided by light of the burning building. Extensively damaged, the ruin was finally rebuilt in the 80s and used as a nursing home. The last part of its journey came in 2003 when the current family refurbished it with hosting in mind.

Now, the baronial mansion can be exclusively yours, whether you're having a small wedding or one with up to 100 day guests - and a further 50 in the evening. Those who wish to stay can choose one of the 17 beautifully furnished, en-suite rooms.

broomhallcastle.co.uk



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"In the week following our nuptials, my phone has been overrun with messages from friends and family who had the most wonderful things to say about Winton - and, more specifically, Winton staff."

(Meg & Scott from Atlanta)



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Boho vibes

*Leanne Shirley
& Rhys Darg*

DATE: **Wednesday 20th October 2021**

PHOTOGRAPHY: **Iris Art Photography**

VENUE: **The Old Millhouse, Dalkeith**

Despite setting the date for just three weeks after he got down on one knee, wedding planning was uber-chilled for dapper Rhys and his elegant, boho bride Leanne

After meeting in the gym where they worked as personal trainers, London-based Leanne and Rhys had been together for eight years when he proposed. "We were camping on the Isle of Mull and he asked me to marry him in a private cove surrounded by trees," explains Leanne. "We'd actually already



jokingly asked Rhys whether we could make it happen when we were visiting Scotland,") the pair speedily set a date for just three weeks after the proposal... on Scottish soil!

SMALL AND PERFECTLY FORMED

They quickly fell in love with The Old Millhouse, a luxurious and peaceful venue on the banks of the River Esk - perfect for a wee wedding. "We didn't tell anyone apart from the six people who came (our parents, siblings and newborn niece, Indi) to keep the wedding as stress-free as possible. We wanted a really relaxed day, just about us and our love for one another."

With such an intimate celebration, they kept décor simple and added

personal touches here and there. "When Rhys proposed on the beach we decided to find some pebbles for our table names so they meant something to us and our guests."

Meanwhile, Leanne had a clear vision of the look she wanted (boho bride all the way) but was worried she'd struggle with the little time she had. Luckily, she nailed it, finding a preloved Spanish designer dress down south. Backless with draped cuffs and a subtle chain, her gown was the perfect companion for the flower crown she'd always dreamed of - and a signature hat! "I love wearing hats so found one on ASOS and attached some of my dress material for the post-ceremony photos." She topped off her outfit with funky ankle boots and changed into Vans for dancing.



decided a few weeks earlier that we wanted to get married. So, I really wasn't expecting to get a proposal. It was a lovely surprise!"

Deciding there was no time like the present ("We'd been travelling around the UK and, pre-proposal when we'd decided we wanted to get married, I



"I felt great waking up on my wedding morning, next to my husband-to-be. We sat in bed with coffee writing thank you notes to the family members that would be spending the day with us."

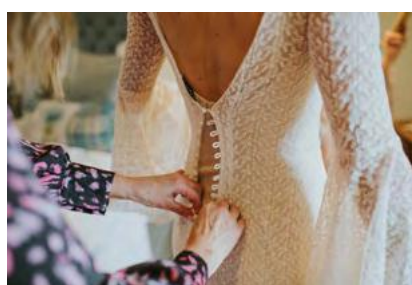
Leanne

After a chilled-out planning process, the relaxed vibe continued. The day before the wedding consisted of a leisurely family walk, then a dip in the hot tub. And on the wedding morning the couple both remember feeling great! Bucking tradition, they kicked off the day together watching a video Rhys had made of their couple journey. "We all sat around sipping champagne in our pyjamas and watching our most precious memories on the big screen. Then we scooted off to our separate rooms to get ready."

AN ULTRA-EXCLUSIVE GARDEN PARTY

Leanne arrived at the outdoor ceremony with *Beyond* by Leon Bridges playing and her husband-to-be looking on. "I was blissfully happy," she remembers. They had a humanist ceremony personalised with a few Scottish traditions and their own vows. "I can't even describe the feeling you get standing there listening to the one you love saying their vows. It was amazing."

Afterwards, the close-knit party celebrated with champagne and canapés prepared by a private chef. The talented Nicola Pearce also created the couple's "perfect wedding menu" by pulling together their favourite dishes and adding her own stunning flavours for a showstopping finish.



Putting their own spin on the speeches, the newlyweds had all six guests say a few words during the meal. "We had pauses between courses and each person had their turn. Each one brought tears to our eyes - in a good way! We'll cherish everyone's words forever."

Onto the evening, and it's safe to say the less is more philosophy followed for their guest list and décor was dispensed with.... This wee wedding party knew how to rock a dancefloor!

LOOKING BACK

Reflecting on their speedy turnaround, Leanne and Rhys have absolutely no regrets. "We're so happy we had the day we did at such short notice and we're so, so happy to have been married in Scotland. It will always be a special place for us," smiles Leanne. "The best bit about organising the wedding was talking to all the people that were going to pull together our perfect day because it made it feel real. We'd advise other couples not to think too much about planning - just book it! Then be selfish and have the day you want!"

**BRIDE'S DRESS**

Otaduy at Rock the Frock
Pre-Loved

BRIDE'S HAT

ASOS

CELEBRANT

Alex Moore of Humanist Society Scotland

DÉCOR

The Old Millhouse

FLOWERS AND FLOWER CROWN

Ivy & Thistle

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Marc Darcy

GROOM'S SHOES

Barbour

RINGS

Anvil and Ivy

**PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"I loved the natural and genuine vibe of the wedding. Leanne and Rhys picked one of the most atmospheric venues in the area and it matched their personalities perfectly. I loved how close to nature everything was and how effortlessly beautiful they were! Adored every minute of this intimate wedding."

Justina

Iris Art Photography





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YSW on tour | To the manor born

Head of editorial Katie Bletcher explores all the delights of Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club



I've a real sense of familiarity as I arrive at Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club. Although this is the first time I've actually visited, over the years I've written about countless couples who've chosen to say "I do" here. And it's so easy to see why.

Arriving in the beautifully landscaped grounds I'm struck by just how peaceful it is here. Dalmahoy is just 20 minutes from Edinburgh city centre and conveniently placed for the airport, yet you'd never know it. From the manicured golf courses and surrounding grounds, to the beautiful lake behind the grand manor house, there's a feeling of being worlds away from the city throng.

Inside, the décor is an effortless blend of the mansion's period charm with more modern design. I'm escorted to the grandly named Her Ladyship's Room, passing a glittering chandelier that forms

the focal point of the central staircase, and it's immediately obvious why this is the hotel's honeymoon suite. The room sits on the top floor of the manor and three large windows flood it with natural light. The four poster bed is huge and oh-so-comfortable and there's an enviable bathroom, complete with deep bath and rainfall shower. You'll also love the amazing view over the lake and beyond to Edinburgh Castle.

Your wedding your way

Just one of the beauties of getting married at Dalmahoy is the flexible approach. The hotel only ever hosts one wedding per day and it's up to you just how you shape yours. There are two wedding packages to choose from - The Earls is perfect for more intimate gatherings with up to 50 guests within one of the Manor House suites, while The Morton package is for larger weddings of up to 250 in the impressive modern Dalmahoy Suite. The neutral décor here gives you the freedom to style your wedding however you want, and the lighting trestles can be set to any colour, while partition walls can divide up the space, making it more intimate before your evening guests arrive. And couples who have their hearts set on a church ceremony will fall for the delightful St Mary's Church in the grounds.

If you want to get married outdoors though the lawn is ideal with the house serving as a gorgeous backdrop. But mindful of the changeable Scottish weather, the team at Dalmahoy always book out the suite too, just incase you need to switch. And sticking with the flexible approach, if you want to bring in food trucks, prosecco carts or even a mobile escape room you're totally welcome to.

Post-ceremony drinks receptions are held in the sumptuous boardroom on

the first floor. The major draw here has to be the doors that open out onto the exterior double staircase, meaning you can take your drinks reception outside onto the terrace below.



The added extras

Being a golf resort hotel it's only natural that there's a dedicated wedding golf buggy - she's called Wendy btw - to drive you around the grounds for your photographs. And that's not all in terms of extras. With 215 bedrooms, the hotel is perfect for large guestlists. They'll love the swimming pool and fitness suite and, of course, the chance to play a round of golf.

And if you want to go all out for a wedding wow factor, there's always the possibility to arrange a fireworks display in the grounds.



Good news if you want to wed on a Sunday. You'll get a **10% discount** and there's also a reduced price for winter weddings from October to March





DALMAHOY

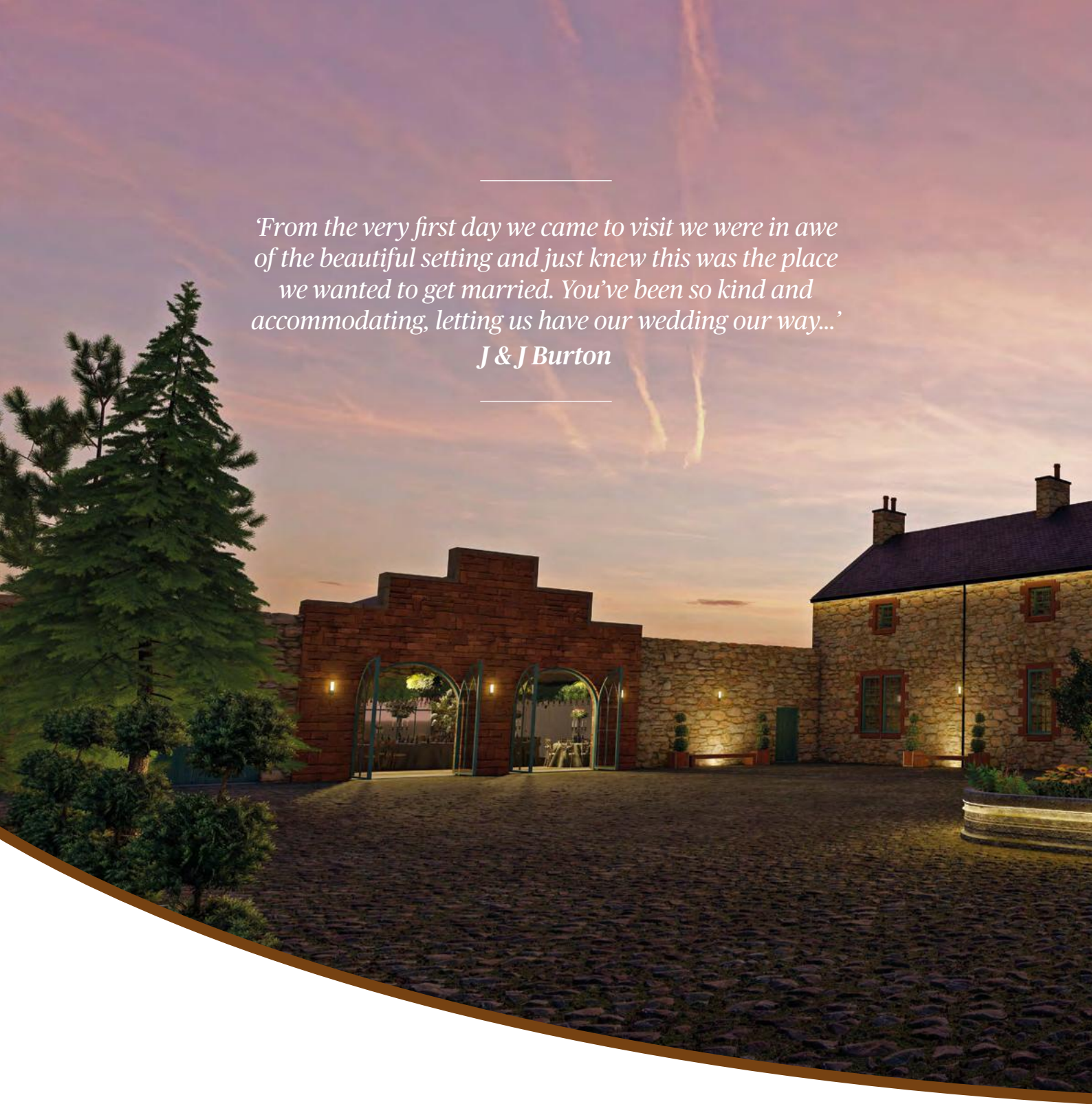
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dalmahoy.co.uk



*'From the very first day we came to visit we were in awe
of the beautiful setting and just knew this was the place
we wanted to get married. You've been so kind and
accommodating, letting us have our wedding our way...'*

J & J Burton

BROXMOUTH COURTYARD

Broxmouth Courtyard is being restored into a rustic, yet ultra-luxury space, tailor-made wedding venue, coming wedding season 2022. Whether you're planning an intimate ceremony or a lavish reception, it really is the perfect venue to make your wedding day truly remarkable. With magnificent gardens, woodland, and lake, we offer an abundance of choice for your dream ceremony. With accommodation for up to 50 guests and flexible catering packages, **it is the perfect wedding getaway.**



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When only the grandest setting will do for your “I do’s” **check out these stunners**



Karol Makula Photography

Lifetime Photography

Balbirnie House Hotel

This award-winner will tick all your boxes

Think Balbirnie House and the word “luxury” instantly springs to mind. This stunning Grade A listed Georgian mansion has been voted Hotel of the Year at the Scottish Hotel Awards 14 times in 16 years and Haute Grandeur Best Wedding Hotel on a global level, bearing testimony to the all-out grandeur you can expect here. Built in 1777 and nestled within 400 acres of beautiful parkland near the village of Markinch, Balbirnie is ideally situated between Edinburgh and St Andrews and believe us, you can be guaranteed the wow factor for a wedding in opulent surroundings.

This flexible venue can accommodate up to 216 guests for a wedding banquet and an impressive 250 for an evening reception. You’ll love the options to say “I do” how and where you want. The Millennium Ballroom is the perfect setting for larger ceremonies. Beautiful lunette windows on three sides bathe the room

in natural light and this is also where most of the hotel’s wedding breakfasts are held. If you want to soak up the true history of this stately home though, The Long Gallery is the stunning main ‘central’ room of the original house and comes complete with Georgian lunette windows, arched ceilings, and trompes d’oeuil painted into the ceiling coves. We love The Orangery’s mirrored tinted glass ceiling and floor to ceiling windows that take full advantage of views over the parkland. But if the weather holds up, why not head out onto the beautifully manicured lawns for your ceremony?

What luxurious setting would be complete without beautiful bedrooms to retreat to at the end of the night? You’ll find 31 individually designed bedrooms at Balbirnie, combining period features and modern amenities. What more could you wish for?

balbirnie.co.uk

Elsick House

Live it up in your own private estate

Tucked away within 1,500 acres of private parkland, Elsick House is something of a hidden gem. Home to the late Duke of Fife and his forebears the Bannermans, this stately home is ideally situated just eight miles south of Aberdeen, yet you’ll feel totally secluded in your own private estate for your wedding. Couples who say “I do” here get the run of this exceptionally beautiful mansion house and its grounds for the whole weekend.

While the oldest part of the house dates back to the 13th-century, newly refurbished interiors blend the old and new seamlessly and you’ll love the light and airy reception rooms that have capacity

for up to 35 dinner guests. The 11 individually decorated bedrooms, including the elegant bridal suite, mean you and up to 20 guests can call Elsick your home throughout your wedding.

Larger celebrations are accommodated in the marquee which is located within the south facing walled gardens and you’ll have plenty of room for up to 200 guests. But if the weather is on your side, an outdoors ceremony is a must here. The beautifully manicured gardens are a huge draw. You can exchange vows on the lawn or in the secret garden with your guests looking on from beneath the stunning rose arch.

elsick.co.uk



Jonathan Addie Photography

Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort

Live it up in style with everything you could dream of

If you're looking for the last word in grandeur, make sure you pop Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort on your shortlist. Situated in a 240-acre ancient woodland estate just 10 minutes from Glasgow Airport, this five-star mansion dates back to 1828, and believe us when we say it's jaw-droppingly beautiful.

You'll have a choice of luxurious banqueting rooms here, all of which enjoy stunning views of the River Clyde. Intimate weddings of up to 40 guests are held in the oak-panelled Kilpatrick Suite. The floor to ceiling Edwardian arched windows frame the view of the rolling Kilpatrick hills perfectly, providing a romantic backdrop for your day. For larger weddings of up to 150 for your ceremony the Burgundy Suite is charming. Situated just off the hotel's impressive Grand Hall, it oozes charm and FYI, your photographer will love a shot of you framed by the huge windows. The elegant Morton Hall Ballroom which sits within the hotel's grounds is guaranteed to impress up to 150 of your nearest and dearest with its stunning crystal chandeliers. And then there's the beautiful Garden Pavilion (capacity 300). The light and airy space comes complete with a heated decking area, meaning you can take your celebrations outdoors and drink in those views or, perhaps, a fireworks display.

marhall.com



Logie Country House

Relax in stunning surroundings

Voted Best Scottish Aberdeenshire Wedding Venue, it's easy to see why couples are drawn to Logie Country House for their big day. Situated just 16 miles west of Aberdeen, the distinctive private country house, which was originally built as a fortified castle in 1680, is set in 130 acres of beautiful grounds, with estate lands which date back to 1492.

There's no doubt the setting is luxurious but there's nothing pretentious about Logie Country House and you'll be welcomed warmly for your wedding. The house is available on an exclusive-use basis for two days, and nights mid-week or three days and nights over a long weekend, giving you the perfect excuse to draw out your wedding celebrations, enjoying the indoor swimming pool, cinema room, hot tubs and there's even a private island.

When it comes to the main event, Logie is ideally set-up for weddings. Completely renovated in 2006, there's a cosy atmosphere to the house, regardless of the grandeur. The newly-built ballroom is a perfect setting for your wedding, accommodating up to 150 day guests. Or smaller weddings of up to 50 can be held in the dining room. And remember, there's plenty of space for 50 guests to stay over for a proper weekend-long celebration.

logiecountrypool.co.uk



THE WEAVING SHED



Unique industrial wedding venue in the heart of Dundee. The spacious and naturally lit venue, for up to 200 guests, has separate areas for the ceremony and reception with more intimate spaces for drinks, socialising and entertainment, making it a truly flexible venue. Exposed brick walls, festoon lighting on wooden beams create the charm of a barn style wedding but in an easily accessed city location making this the perfect setting for your wedding day.

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Bachilton Barn - Tony Marsh Photography



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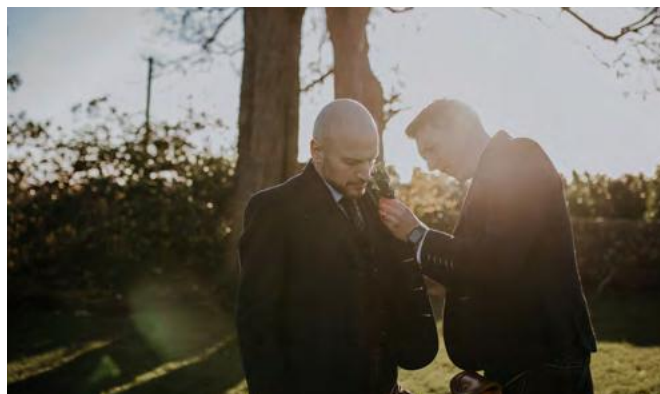
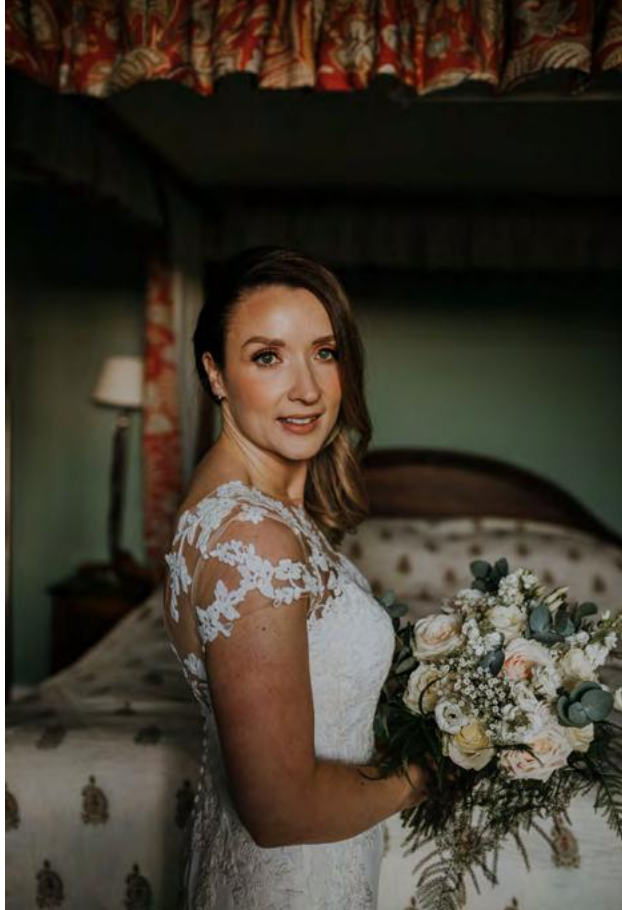
Fife & Tayside

Whatever the weather

*Mairi Lawson
& Scott Grant*



DATE: **Saturday 27th November 2021**
PHOTOGRAPHY: **Photography by Emilie**
VENUE: **The Rhynd, Leuchars**



After two postponed wedding dates not even the effects of Storm Arwen and a power cut could stop this couple from finally getting hitched

It was a case of perfect timing when Scott and Mairi first got together. They met through a mutual friend in the Beer Kitchen in Dundee, but only after their original plans had fallen through. She was meant to be out the night before and he had planned to be in Edinburgh.

Skip forward two years and the couple were midway through a USA road trip when Scott proposed at the Grand Canyon, with a ring he'd designed himself - with help from Dundee jeweller Lorraine Law. "I picked it up about a week before we left for the USA and had it in a pouch, stuffed in a pair of socks!" he remembers. Once Mairi had said "yes" it was only fitting for the couple to return to Lorraine Law for their bespoke wedding rings.

Scott and Mairi planned to try for a baby before they tied the knot and before little Josh was born the only aspect of their wedding they had

booked was their venue, The Rhynd. "It seemed to make sense to figure out where it would be and then we could hope that everything else fell into place with a small child around taking up our energy and attention!" remembers Mairi.

The couple wanted a blank canvas venue they could do whatever they wanted with and admit The Rhynd's free corkage was a big selling point. "We wanted to be able to treat our guests to a free bar for as long as possible and drink what we knew they'd like," says Scott. "The best weddings are always the ones where the drink is flowing!" They fell in love with the venue's rustic vibe and decorated with wooden "tree-ish" features and lots of candles.

A HITCH OR TWO BEFORE I DO

Like so many couples, Scott and Mairi were forced to postpone their wedding

not once, but twice, because of the pandemic. Despite the ever-changing situation and one groomsman Dean testing positive on the morning of the big day, they handled it like pros.

But even with their final wedding date in touching distance it still wasn't plain sailing. The day before their wedding, Storm Arwen hit the UK causing all sorts of travel disruption for guests. One friend managed to squeeze onto the last flight before they were cancelled, another couple had their boat from Belfast cancelled so had to switch to a Liverpool crossing, while one of the bridesmaids Sarah had a long and dangerous drive up from England. And far from having a relaxing night herself, Mairi, along with her bridesmaids, was layered up trying to keep warm thanks to a power cut in the farmhouse which meant the temperature dropped to just 4 degrees.



When the morning of the wedding arrived, Mairi's farmhouse was still without power so she and her girls popped to one of the bridesmaid's auntie's house in St Andrews for hot showers and then were moved to another house on The Rhynd's farm for all their wedding prep. Hair and make-up was two hours late in getting started but luckily the hair and make-up artists were completely chilled and took it all in their stride.

Walking down the aisle to Fleetwood Mac's *Songbird* in her stunning Finlandia dress by Pronovias - only the fifth one she tried! - you would never have known what a stressful morning Mairi had had. "I was calm and happy," she says. "It was so good to see Scott and Josh and everyone's smiling faces!"

The couple married in a personal humanist ceremony with their celebrant

Sarah Morrison ensuring plenty of audience participation. They wrote their own vows and admit there were a few wobbles getting their words out.

The speeches were equally sentimental. After Mairi's dad took everyone on a journey "talking about the environment, wars, spoons and forks" - Scott raised the bar for any groom-to-be in the room, revealing a book he'd written for his bride. Earlier in the year Mairi had released her first children's book; *Mairi Moo is Starting School* about a highland cow that was worried about starting school. "I'd often joked to Mairi - the human, not the cow! - that Scotty Moo should be a feature and it inspired me to write *Mairi Moo Gets Married* which traced our story up to the wedding day," he says. Scott even got in touch with Mairi's illustrator to produce the final book with huge images displayed

by his right-hand men. Good luck trying to top that speech guys!

Mairi and Scott treated their guests to a beautiful sharing banquet as well as an open bar with everything from pints to prosecco and vodka, gin and rum - "Guests were very much able to fill their boots!"

Then when the band started up it felt like a proper pre-pandemic wedding. "There was lots of terrible dancing," laughs Mairi. "It felt like a party with lots of love in the room!"

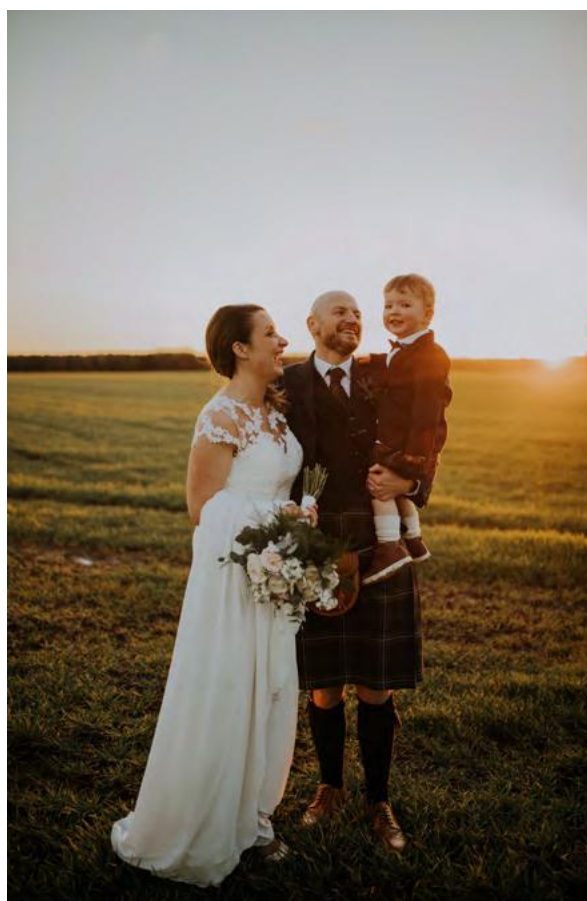
Now they've finally said "I do" Scott has important advice for to-be-weds; "Start early, don't plan during a pandemic, try not to pick a date the day after a massive storm, if planning to decorate your venue with a child running about - don't - make sure they're out of the road so you can just crack on!" Words of wisdom!





“The highlight was finally getting married and seeing everyone together again. It had been a while!”

Mairi



BRIDE'S DRESS

Pronovias at Perfect Bridal Rooms

BRIDE'S EARRINGS

WTG Henderson

BRIDE'S SHOES

Rainbow Club

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

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CATERING

Jo's Kitchen

CELEBRANT

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FLOWERS

Acanthus Florist

GROOM'S OUTFIT

8 Yards

HAIR

Anya Did My Hair

MAKE-UP

GlamRox Scotland

RINGS

Lorraine Law

VIDEOGRAPHY

AD Media

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“I absolutely love shooting chilled weddings with chilled couples and Mairi and Scott are just that! Their wedding was so beautiful with loads of little details. They're such a lovely and relaxed couple, we had a great laugh on the day. One of my favourite things (that I've not seen at any other wedding) was how Scott published a book for Mairi and surprised her during his speech - so special!”

Emilie Gray

Photography by Emilie





Bachilton Barn

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"It was the only venue we looked at..."

"We actually booked the venue before we were even engaged..."

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Photo: Joanne Cienaghan

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THE MANSION *of* FOUR SEASONS

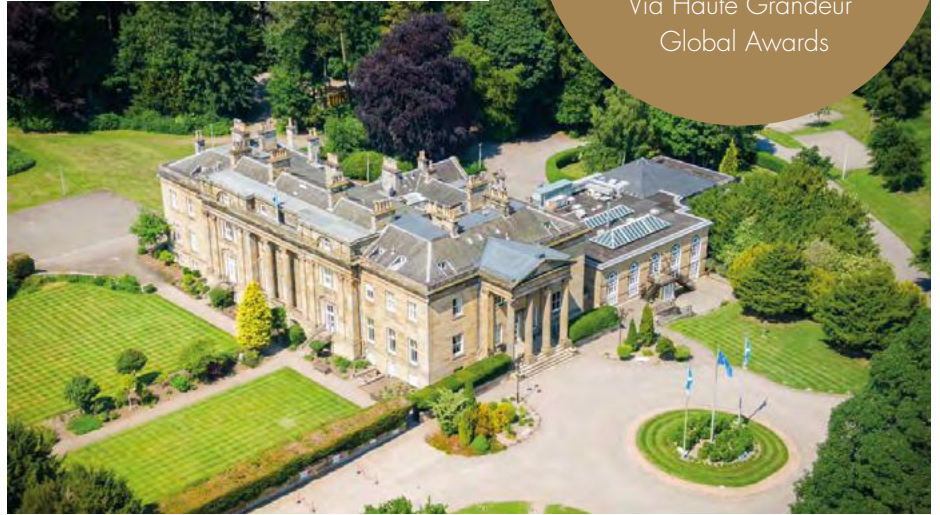


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HOTELS

Looking for a real touch of luxury on your wedding day? **These four stunning venues have everything you need to get hitched in style and treat your guests to the ultimate day out**

Toravaig House

You'll fall for the enchanting Isle of Skye here

Rugged landscapes, medieval castles, quaint fishing villages, a rich history and simply outstanding scenery... Who wouldn't want to tie the knot on the ever-romantic Isle of Skye? And it just so happens we have the perfect place for you... Say hello to Toravaig House, a luxurious boutique hotel within a collection of three family-owned hotels on the island.

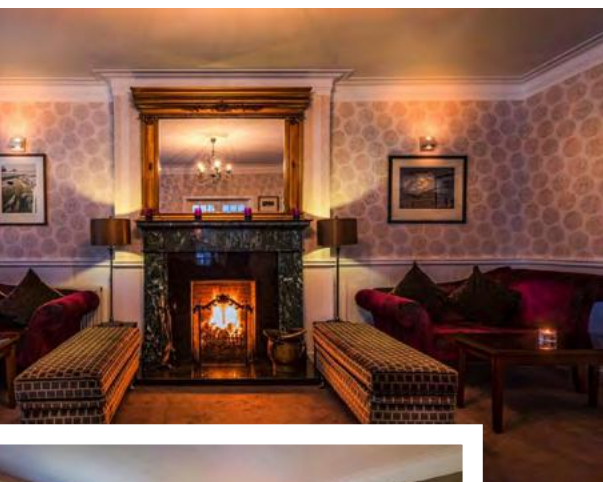
Nestled on the hillside in a stunning coastal location overlooking the Sound of Sleat, this characterful Hebridean gem has been crowned Scottish Island Hotel of the Year at the Scottish Hotel Awards many times. And with its individually designed bedrooms, award-winning culinary offering, bar stocked with local whiskies and roaring open fire, it's no surprise.

Ideal for intimate weddings of up to 40 guests, you'll find it's the perfect

venue for that home from home, house party celebration vibe. You can exchange vows in the charming lounge, within the beautifully manicured private gardens or on the outdoor patio then feast on the finest product from the larders of Skye - if you're a pair of foodies, you'll love that Toravaig's exquisite restaurant is a two AA Rosette holder. When dancing comes to an end, rest your newlywed heads in one of the nine elegant bedrooms, all named after Hebridean Islands.

Considering an elopement? Be sure to check out Toravaig's Just The Two of Us package! From the chilled champagne and handmade chocolates to the candlelit dinners, we've fallen head over heels for this super-special and ultra-romantic offering!

skyehotel.co.uk/toravaig



Inglewood House

Prepare yourself to be spoilt in the beautiful bridal suite

Designed to be the ultimate indulgence, from its super king-sized bed and luxurious down duvet and pillows to the grand en-suite bathroom with its magnificent roll top bath, the honeymoon suite at Inglewood House certainly has the wow-factor. And that's before you even consider the grand, stone balcony overlooking the front lawn - the perfect spot for photographs during the wedding day or for a relaxed and private breakfast the following morning.

The rest of the venue, a stunning

Jacobean mansion house that's been transformed into a luxurious, boutique hotel and spa, is just as impressive. There is a selection of spaces, from the Grand Hall to the beautifully restored conservatory, for your ceremony - and the ballroom for a reception to remember.

Set in Alloa, just ten minutes from historic Stirling and 40 minutes from both Edinburgh and Glasgow, Inglewood is a great central Scotland venue - handy if guests are coming from all over.

inglewoodhouseandspa.co.uk



Enterkine Country House

Enjoy the best of both worlds

Love the idea of a romantic barn venue but adore the thought of having every possible wedding detail tended to by a hotel team? Then you're going to want to hear all about Enterkine House Hotel's oak framed glass barn! The first of its kind in Ayrshire, this beautiful bespoke building can host weddings from just 50 to an impressive 300 and has breathtaking river and countryside views. Handcrafted with natural, sustainably sourced material the bright barn strikes the perfect balance of being rustic yet luxurious. The open plan space means loads of blank canvas flexibility and there's even a terrace with a balcony. Photo opp alert!

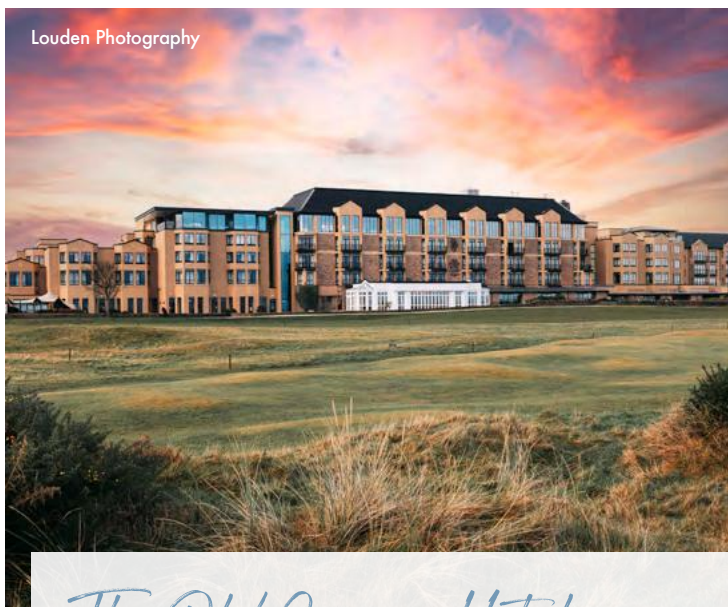
For smaller celebrations of up to 60, The Garden Room is the definition of modern elegance. Your guests will love the private bar and if the sun is shining, the love seats in the landscaped garden. Should they wish a room for the night, there are six lavish period-style bedrooms in the main house, plus lodges and a converted farmhouse on site.

One more thing - general manager Fiona Trousdale has been at Enterkine for 18 years. Having planned hundreds of weddings for happy couples, there's nothing she doesn't know about the venue. You couldn't be in safer hands!

enterkine.com



Louden Photography



The Old Course Hotel

This one comes complete with a legendary backdrop

Did you know that Scotland's Old Course Hotel is the perfect destination for golf, fine dining, spa and wellness experiences and weddings? From a fairytale formal event for hundreds to a relaxed exchange of vows for just your closest family and friends, you're guaranteed a day to remember in this truly iconic setting in the romantic town of St Andrews.

As you'd expect from a prestigious AA five star resort the spaces in which to marry are multiple - and marvellous. The light-filled conservatory seats up to 190 and it's not just a stunning room, it also boasts the legendary backdrop of the famous Old Course and its landmarks. With glittering chandeliers and a separate bar area, move on to the ballroom for dinner and dancing in style. Alternatively, get creative with the newly extended Hall of Champions, which offers flexible layouts for up to 450 guests. You'll find all the boxes are ticked here - a dedicated entrance, a reception area and an outside terrace for celebratory drinks in the sun.

For smaller weddings, The Boardroom overlooks the famous courses and the West Sands beach, whilst the library will see you saying your vows while steeped in history. For outdoor nuptials, take a look at the hotel's West Deck...

oldcoursehotel.co.uk



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FUN in the sun

Caitlin Adair
& Fraser Tait

DATE: Saturday 5th June 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY: David Long Photography

VENUE: Hartree Estates, Biggar

The best things come to those who wait, and Caitlin and Fraser's quirky, outdoor tipi wedding is living proof...

Planning, postponing and replanning a wedding during lockdown wasn't always easy for Caitlin and Fraser - "The day of our non-wedding was a really tough one," she remembers - but when they finally got married, it was all worth it.

THE PERFECT VENUE

The couple chose majestic Hartree Estates for their ultra-personal, laid-back wedding and decided it was 'The One'

before they even visited. "I couldn't make up my mind between an old Scottish building or a castle, or an outdoor, woodland venue - Hartree had them both," explains Caitlin.

Despite initially having "no idea what we wanted or should be doing," it didn't take the pair long to realise steering away from tradition was important. For them, it would be all about representing their couple style and creatively incorporating



Instead of table numbers, there were “table symbols,” which were all about the couple and things they’d done. “We had a hot air balloon table, a Marvel table, a campervan table and one named after our dog, Loki. Their place settings were mini-campervan photo holders with a snap of us with each of them, so they could take away a happy memory.

“And everyone got a can of either Coke or Fanta to toast to us as a married couple. It was a nod to a long-standing joke from a notorious speech Fraser gave at my 21st birthday!”

Most of the dreamy boho décor was conveniently supplied by Hartree but Caitlin added her magic touch with multicoloured lanterns and floral-filled gin bottles. When it came to the bouquets, her love of wildflowers was reflected, and the pew-ends, cake and signing table were adorned, too.

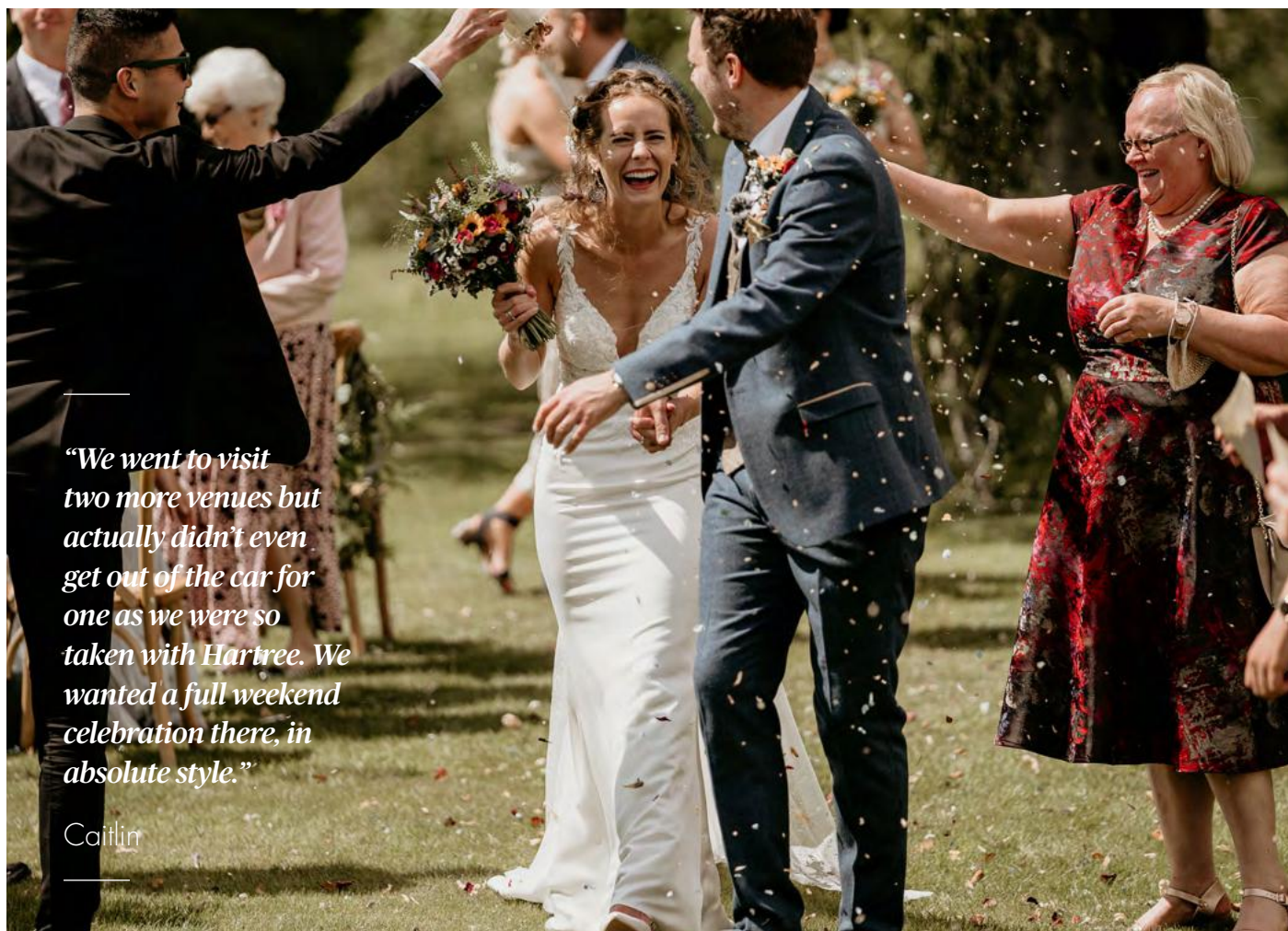
ON THE DAY

Hartree’s spectacular accommodation was a big attraction as it meant the full wedding party could stay on-site. They had a celebration the night before the wedding then split off into their own quarters for a night cap or two - ladies in the penthouse and gents in the lodge.



as many of their favourite things as possible!

Of course, that meant loads of DIY details! “I made our invites and save the dates, and we worked together on the table plan and personalised bottle labels. My family designed the blackboards and we got friends and family to bring games we could play outside.”



"We went to visit two more venues but actually didn't even get out of the car for one as we were so taken with Hartree. We wanted a full weekend celebration there, in absolute style."

Caitlin

After a fun morning getting glammed up, there wasn't a dry eye when Caitlin's entourage saw her in her Dando London dress, funky up with silver boho-style earrings, a rose gold arm cuff and a blue anklet. "It was almost entirely opposite to what I thought I wanted... And I felt amazing in it!" she laughs.

Her bridesmaids were effortlessly stylish in floaty, high-necked jumpsuits, their soft stone shade providing the perfect backdrop for brightly coloured bouquets and shoes.

"Buzzing" to be finally walking down the aisle to Fraser (who was suited and booted, complete with a signature bowtie), Caitlin loved their fun and interactive ceremony. They'd booked Brian Hawkins as soon as they spotted his three-piece suit and pocket watch in his picture on the Humanist Society website and were glad they did. "He sent us some fun homework, including three promises to one another that we kept secret until the day. We ended up with one being the same, about Sherlock and Watson. Everyone thought we'd planned it!"



After a quail of Jura and lots of happy tears, it was onto the drinks reception (where the flash-singing-mob, a surprise pulled together by the newlyweds' friends and family, was a big hit!) and dinner.

The feast, crafted by Pickled Haggis, comprised giant sharer boards filled with the couple's fave dishes. "Some were from our travels, like black pepper noodles, and some we just love, like the giant pile of fries and wings, and the huge bowls of smashed avocado. The centrepiece was a hanging swordfish kebab that made the whole thing look spectacular."

Not fans of dessert (or cake - they opted for a delicious-looking cake of cheese) it was ice poles and ice creams for pudding, which went down a treat.

With no dancing allowed, the speeches became the main source of entertainment, and they were advised to make them last. "Our best man really stuck to that advice but luckily he was hilarious, and some crowd participation really made it work."

"The word of the day was 'happy,'" adds Caitlin. "Everyone was feeling it, and everyone has said it when we've spoken to them since."



BRIDE'S DRESS

Dando London at Amy King Bridal

BRIDE'S HAIR VINE

Kate Dillon Designs

BRIDESMAID JUMPSUITS

River Island

CATERER

Pickled Haggis

CELEBRANT

Brian Hawkins of Humanist Society Scotland

FLOWERS

The Secret Garden – Floral Designs by Lynn Murphy

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Tom, Dick and Harry Menswear

HAIR + MAKE-UP

Lilly Lu Hair & Beauty

VIDEOGRAPHY

r7cmedia



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"You can tell by the photographs that they are such a fun-loving, energetic couple. Their choice in venue was fantastic. Hartree Estates is amazing with huge grounds to explore and loads of interesting, photogenic scenery."

David

David Long Photography

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www.fruinfarm.co.uk




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garden PARTY

Words by
Claire Muir

When the sun comes out in Scotland, you know you're going to want to make the most of it, especially if it's on your wedding day! So, venues that offer you the chance to celebrate in the great outdoors are definitely worth considering, whether you'd like to spend your whole day with Mother Nature or just a short spell in the sun to say 'I do'. From festival wedding playgrounds and fairytale-esque walled gardens to grand stone circles and iconic mountain views, take your pick from these splendid Scottish venues with gorgeous al fresco spaces in which to celebrate your love...

Macdonald Pittodrie House



Glenbervie House & Country Estate

Everyone wants their big day to be magical and at Glenbervie House you'll discover the perfect venue comes complete with an unparalleled and exquisite backdrop of rolling countryside. How about arriving in style - horse and carriage or helicopter, anyone? - and getting married on the expansive and beautifully manicured lawns? We're getting all the *Bridgerton* vibes right now... The spacious, outdoor terrace is a luxurious, natural setting for your

drinks reception and you'll find it leads directly into the grand Drawing Rooms - one of the options for hosting your wedding breakfast (couples marrying on a grander scale can dine in the stunning Glenbervie Suite with its large picture windows overlooking the enchanting countryside and golf course). Head back out to the terrace for drinks at dusk and top off the al fresco feels with sparklers!

glenberviehousehotel

Arniston House

Steeped in more than four centuries of heritage and history, Arniston has been home to the Dundas family since 1571 and is still a private residence today. Outside though, you'll find endless options for a glorious garden party. The house is hugged by beautiful gardens, woodland, parklands, groomed agriculture and meadows, and you can rest assured everything will be picture perfect - the venue limits the number of weddings it holds to make sure the grounds are in pristine condition for each event. With capacity for 60 to an impressive 600 guests, choose from the stunning Orangery, the romantic walled garden, the newly landscaped marquee site, or the sprawling North Field. Self-contained with its own parking, the unique North Field is large enough for you to dream up a whole 'wedding village' if you wish. We're thinking bell tents, tipis and fireworks to rival 5th November!

arnistonhouse.com



Kinnettles Castle

As this delightfully secluded estate opens up in front of you, you'll definitely get a feel for just how gorgeous a garden party would be here. With its storybook-style turrets and towers, Kinnettles Castle provides the most elegant backdrop whilst the 44 acres of picturesque rolling gardens - complete with some of the oldest trees in Scotland - offer loads of scope for celebrating outdoors. Tie the knot on the charming terrace (but make sure all eyes are on you because guests will get carried away appreciating the hilly views!) then party the night away under opulent chandeliers in the Kinnettles marquee. There's space for 140 at dinner and more in the evening, and this blank canvas provides the perfect balance of being outside with a little overhead security. PS, wildlife enthusiasts, head to the rear of the castle grounds for stag spotting...

kinnettlescastle.com



Skeabost House Hotel

Tying the knot couldn't be more special than on the romantic Isle of Skye. The wild, breathtaking scenery looks like it's straight out of a blockbuster movie - just made for wedding photos in the great outdoors! In the centre of the island, you'll find Skeabost House Hotel, which began life as a hunting lodge in 1871. Now, original features are complemented by modern furniture and fabrics, including tweeds in eye-catching colours - hosting your wedding here will be all about enjoying the enchanting ambience that oozes luxury, style and Victorian grandeur. Most importantly, though, the 20-bedroom hotel sits in 23 acres of woodland on the edge of a loch with views out to sea and crofting hamlets. So, whether it's an outdoor ceremony, a garden party drinks reception or a display of fireworks to end the night, this idyllic retreat and its jaw-dropping location will guarantee you a backdrop to remember.

skyehotel.co.uk/skeabost

Turin Castle

For an exclusive-use venue where the sky's the limit indoors and out, look no further than the five-star Turin Castle in Angus. Built in 1659 and relocated stone-by-stone in 1907, the simply exquisite country mansion and its grounds cater for wee weddings or those with up to 80 guests. Here, weddings are an extra special, occasional event and it's all about providing a truly bespoke service, whether that's a fairytale-style celebration in the frost-tinged gardens or summer nuptials with cool drinks on the terrace. Twenty acres of sweeping lawns boast majestic views of the surrounding rolling hills but our favourite spot has to be the grand stone circle - perfect for a romantic ceremony. Being rained off, however, would be no bad thing! Say 'I do' in opulent surroundings and enjoy the luxurious spaces, from the games room, music room and cellar bar to the tartan drawing room and atmospheric library.

turincastlescotland.com



Macdonald Pittodrie House

As far as Aberdeenshire venues with breathtaking scenery go, Macdonald Pittodrie House takes some beating! The picturesque setting has an impressive 2,400 acres of stunning grounds but it's the unrivalled view of the much-loved Bannachie hill that really seals the deal for Pittodrie House being one of the most romantic venues in the area - make sure you pop outside at sunset with your photographer for some magical shots. The rest of the ancient grounds make for a fairytale al fresco wedding setting - how about a ceremony in the romantic walled garden? With extensive outdoor space, the wedding party can also enjoy a range of exciting activities during their visit, from archery to clay pigeon shooting. And for anyone who wants to arrive in a memorable fashion, there is even an area to land a helicopter!

macdonaldhotels.co.uk/pittodrie-house





Macdonald Aviemore

Set in the heart of Aviemore and the Cairngorms National Park, Macdonald Aviemore Resort is surrounded by an abundance of breath-taking scenery - perfect for an extravagant outdoor wedding with the mountains in the background. How about getting wed against a backdrop of the Craigellachie Nature Reserve? Inside, there's a choice of intimate to extravagant wedding suites that can accommodate weddings from just the two of you to 350 people effortlessly. You'll also find an onsite chapel used for religious or non-religious ceremonies, suites with views of the Cairngorms and options for marquees and tipis in the grounds. The award-winning venue (Resort Hotel of the Year at the Scottish Hospitality Awards 2019) also has a choice of three four-star hotels and woodland lodges to accommodate all your guests.

macdonaldhotels.co.uk/aviemore

Cambo Estate

Set in the UK's sunniest region and tucked in the woods on the stunning Fife coast sits this unique family home, built for parties - inside and out! Cambo couples have exclusive use of the historic house and its lush lawns so where and how you celebrate (classic country house wedding or informal festival vibes?) is entirely up to you. In fact, you can even change your mind on the day to make the most of the Scottish sun. And with these dedicated

outdoor spaces, why wouldn't you? The walled garden is just dreamy for a summer ceremony of up to 200 whilst the fairy-lit courtyard is the ultimate indoor/outdoor party venue - you can seat 120 here for dinner. Afterwards, hit the al fresco dancefloor at The Party Woodland, Cambo's very own magical festival space. If you need us, we'll be in the fairy light tunnel...

camboestate.com

Marc Millar Photography



Hartree Estates

If you'd like to say 'I do' in an unforgettably spectacular outdoor location - but with the comfort of somewhere equally as dreamy to dash into should the heavens open, Hartree Estates is the place for you. The idyllic Scottish Borders venue offers a truly beautiful countryside location where the sunshine shimmers on the lakes and the stunning, expansive grounds provide plenty of space to explore with your photographer, not to mention the grand

backdrop of Hartree House making you feel like royalty as you say your vows on the lawn. As darkness falls, the space comes into its own - think log fires, lanterns and fairy lights galore. Feeling chilly? The chic tipis are a great way to take shelter whilst still enjoying the outside vibe. As romantic as they are enchanting, they come with all the essentials as well as every luxury you can imagine, from open fires to vintage leather chesterfield sofas.

hartree-estates.co.uk





A full-page photograph of a wedding couple, Abbie Mitchell and Haaris Waheed, sitting on a white, ornate sofa. Abbie is on the left, wearing a long, flowing, light-colored gown with a lace-like pattern and holding a bouquet of flowers. Haaris is on the right, wearing a white kurta with a dark blue shawl draped over his shoulders. They are both smiling at the camera. The background is a large, ornate floral arrangement in shades of pink, white, and gold, with a central panel featuring intricate carvings. The overall atmosphere is elegant and celebratory.

So much FUN

Abbie Mitchell
& Haaris Waheed

DATE: Saturday 9th October 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY: McLellan Photography

VENUE: The Parsonage at Dunmore Park

Taking the best of Scottish and Asian wedding traditions and adding a large helping of party spirit, Abbie and Haaris' wedding is a vibe

After meeting at work and a year of dating, Haaris proposed to Abbie at a waterfall in the Lake District. "He set a camera up on a tripod pretending it was just to take a nice couple of photos there and as the timer went, he got down on one knee," she remembers. Back home, they set about planning their Asian/

Scottish fusion wedding.

With two cultures coming together, the main focus was to pull lots of tradition from both sides and bring it together in a way that celebrated both heritages. The bride explains, "It was important for us to show my side of the family what an Asian wedding was like and Haaris' side of the



Victorian grandeur and contemporary design - after being bowled over by its photo opp-galore grounds and the abundance of space for guests to stay over.

Abbie thinks trying to decide what to include in the wedding was the most difficult part of planning - "There are so many things out there now for weddings and everyone has different advice" - but as she got into the swing of things, found the excitement of ticking things off and booking suppliers to be the most fun part.

Armed with a long list of what she didn't want in a wedding dress but no idea whether to opt for a traditional white gown or something "a bit more Pakistani-inspired", Abbie headed to the bridal boutiques with her mum and

sister. But she needn't have worried about decision-making - her eagle-eyed sister had actually already found 'The One'!

"Before we went to Bijoux Bridal she'd messaged the girl and asked for it to be brought out for me. So, when I arrived it was hanging up in the changing room. It was absolutely stunning." Putting her own stamp on her glistening gown was important, though, and she added a selection of custom-made jewellery and a 'to me, from me' treat - a pair of Gucci sandals!

With Haaris' culture in mind, Abbie's three bridesmaids sparkled in beautifully embellished mauve gowns - a perfect complement to the traditional Pakistani attire her in-laws would be wearing.



family a Scottish wedding. For many, it would have been their first time seeing either."

THE PLANNING BEGINS

Following the fusion theme, they booked The Parsonage at Dunmore Park - an exclusive private home that blends





As for the groom, he combined the cultures by wearing a bespoke sherwani (a traditional Pakistani wedding suit) during the day and a kilt in the evening.

THE BIG DAY

Abbie stayed at Airth Castle the night before the wedding with her bridesmaids and mum and remembers waking up with “instant butterflies.” She adds, “I don’t think it really sunk in that I was the bride until I was standing in my dress ready to walk down the aisle!” She admits feeling anxious as everyone watched her arrival but as she started to see how happy they all looked, the nerves disappeared.

A humanist ceremony was the natural choice, given the couple’s different backgrounds. And luckily a close family friend of Abbie’s, George McLean of Fuze Ceremonies, was on hand to do the honours. “George absolutely smashed the ceremony. It was funny at times but also thoughtful and touching. He cares so much about what he does and the

passion really comes through.”

After toasting to the newlyweds with mocktails, the guests were treated to sharing platters of Pakistani food - when they weren’t already up dancing between the tables, that is! “Everyone was in full party mode from right after the ceremony,” smiles Abbie. “We had a fantastic DJ who created an amazing vibe and had the dancefloor full all night - but people were even up dancing between courses at dinner. It was so much fun.”

The new Mr and Mrs made a statement on the dancefloor too, though, wowing their 130 guests with a choreographed first dance. Although that was a special moment for Abbie, she admits her biggest highlight was the epic dance-off. “The DJ split up Haaris’ and my guests so that everyone could have a turn of going into the middle. Every time I think back to it, I have the biggest smile on my face.”

“I’d advise other couples to focus on the fun when planning! People will always remember how good the DJ or any other entertainment was - including yourselves!”

Abbie



“When Abbie and Haaris asked me to be their celebrant it was an instant yes. Abbie’s mum and dad are close friends of my wife and I, and I’ve known Abbie all of her life. Creating and delivering a ceremony for close friends is always that little bit extra special but Abbie, her sister and her parents are more like family, so it was even more special. Abbie and Haaris are a wonderful couple, so in love and their fusion of cultures is just perfect.”

George McLean
Fuze Ceremonies



PHOTOGRAPHER’S CREDIT

“Abbie and Haaris’ wedding day was a fantastic celebration of love between a really wonderful couple. I particularly liked the way two cultures blended together on the day and created an epic party in the evening. The dancing started long before the couple had even done their first dance!”

Martin
McLellan Photography



BRIDE’S DRESS

Morilee at Bijoux Bridal

BRIDE’S JEWELLERY

Arrested Metal

BRIDE’S SHOES

Gucci

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

boohoo

CATERING

Saffron Events UK

CELEBRANT

George McLean of Fuze Ceremonies

CAKE

3D Cakes

DÉCOR

Bespoke Touches

DJ

KROWN Entertainments

FLOWERS

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GROOM’S OUTFITS

Junaid Jamshed by Janan & Donna Maria
Bridal and Kilt Hire

HAIR

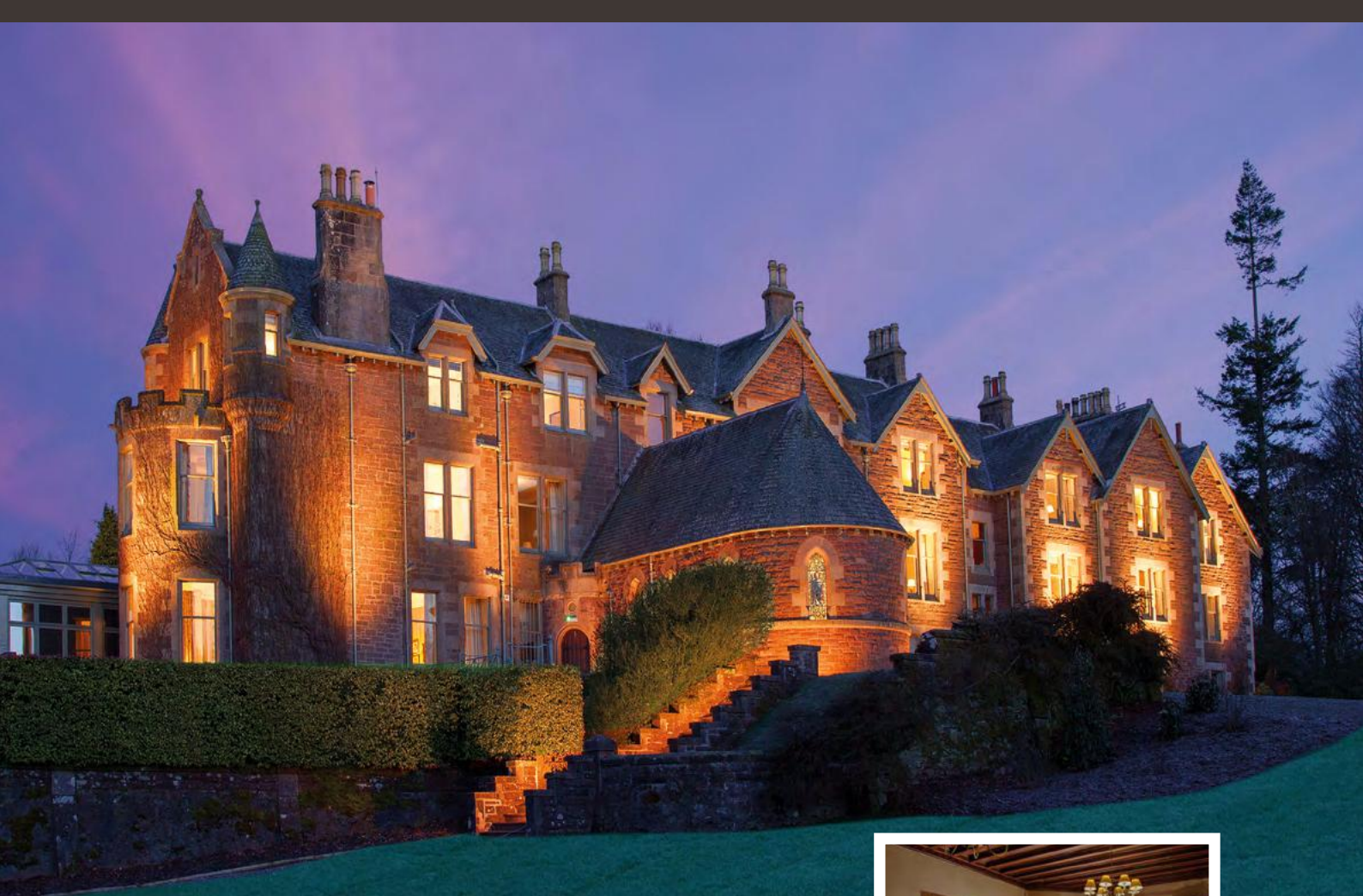
Stephanie McKinlay at Lux

MAKE-UP

Tina Kelly Beauty

VIDEOGRAPHER

UG Videography



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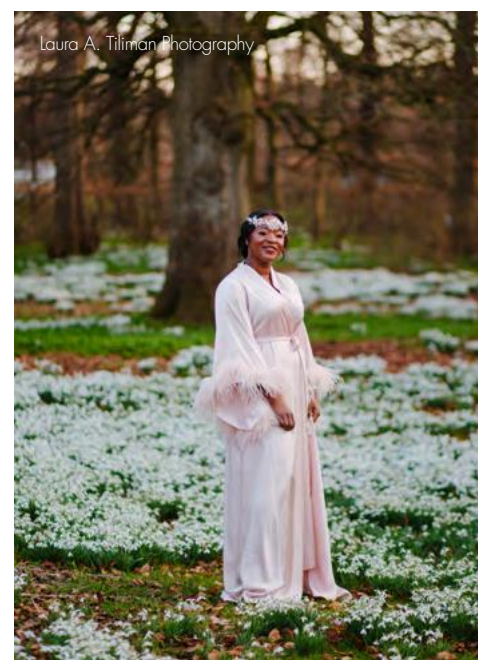
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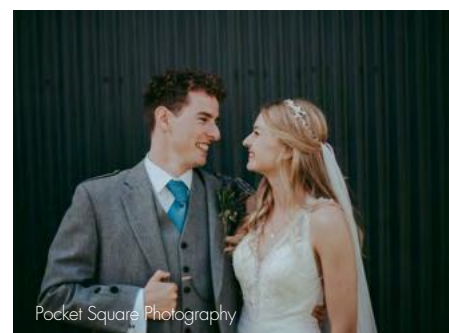
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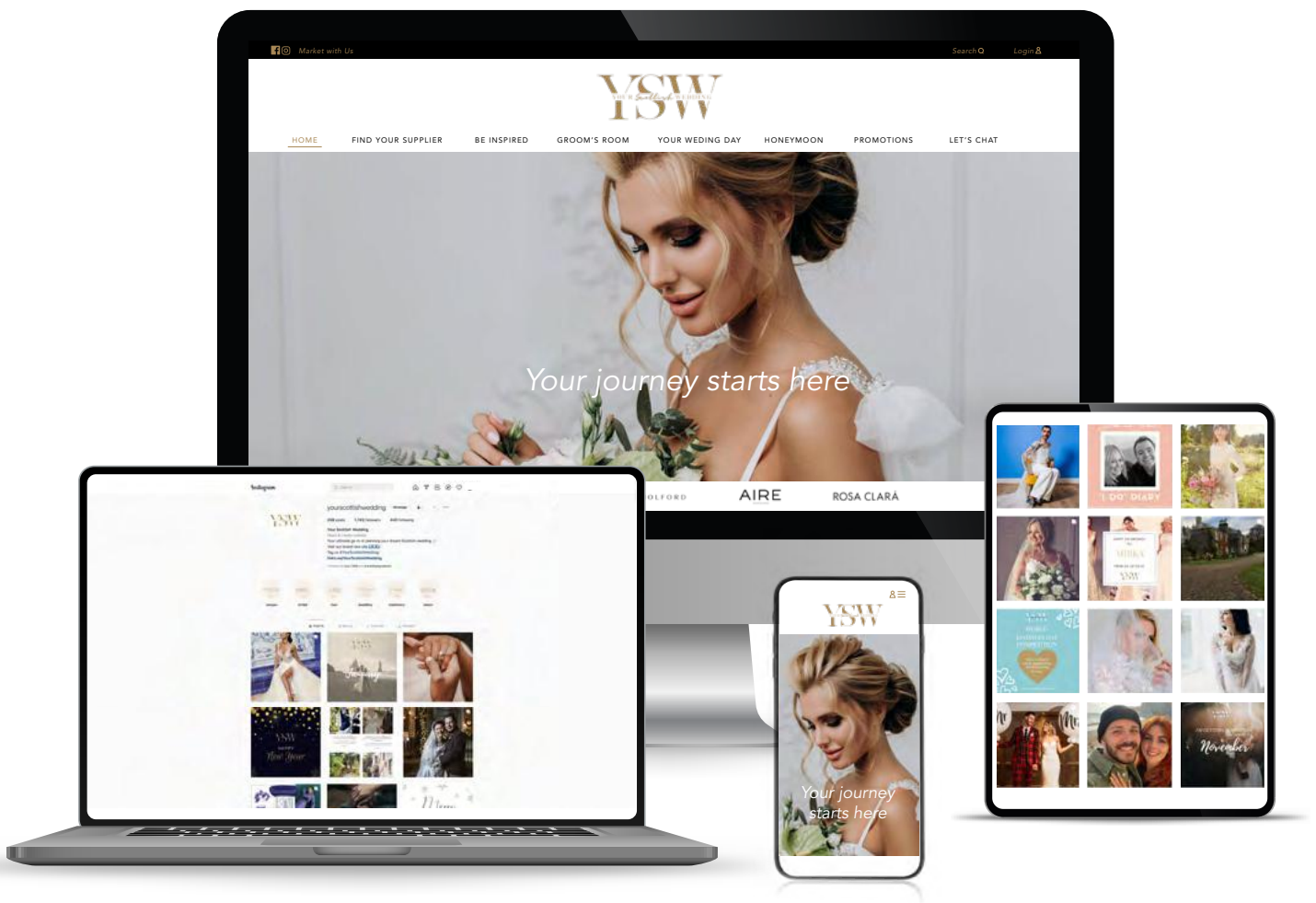
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