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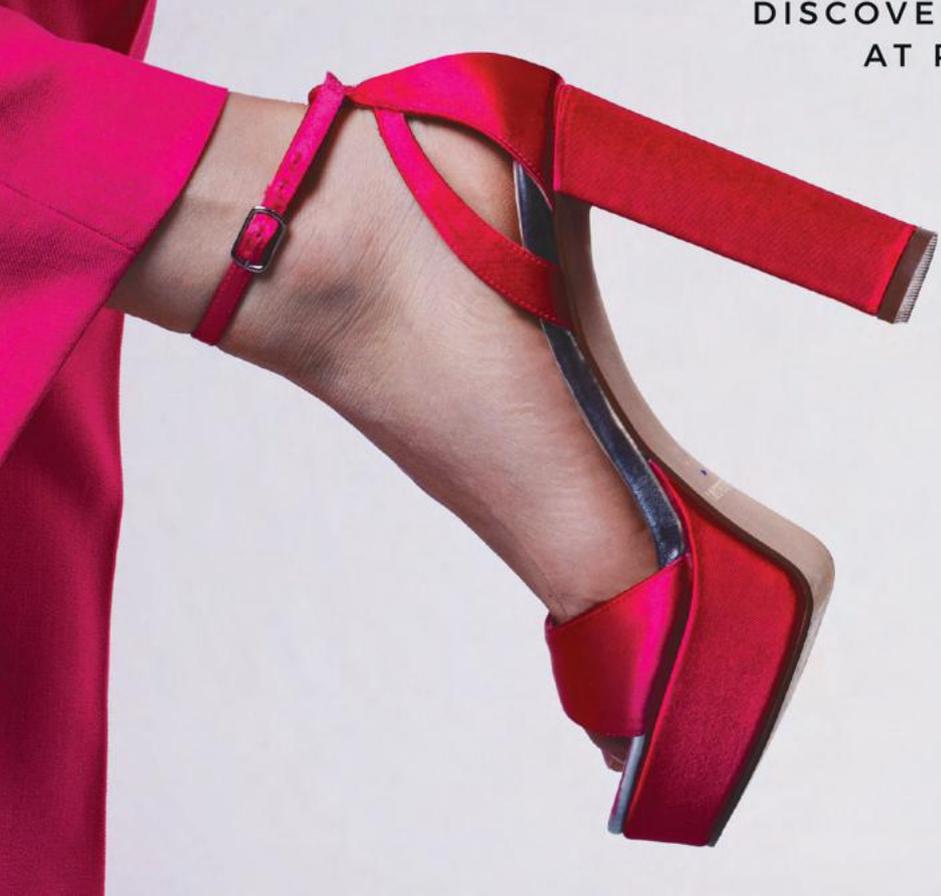
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the aisle in
this season's
must-see looks



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Find out more about
our collaborative
photoshoot on
page 54

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WELCOME to Your Scottish Wedding



Hi and Happy New Year! And an extra special welcome to the January issue if you just got engaged over the festive period. I hope you've been fully embracing that "I'm a fiancé(e)" excitement!

Of course once you come back down to earth there's the small matter of planning a wedding. Luckily, we're here to guide you through your journey and we've been busy travelling across the country for photoshoots, venue visits, the second Your Scottish Wedding Awards (see more on page 40) and discovering all the latest trends and industry news.

On a personal note, I also celebrated my tenth wedding anniversary with a weekend in Copenhagen with my husband. Marking a decade got me thinking back to our wedding and how much has changed in the intervening years. I loved everything about our day but there's been a marked shift in how weddings are done, not least the sheer amount of options.

That choice is something we're celebrating in the next 280 glossy pages. I feel that 'versatility' has become one of my go-to words when describing everything from bridal fashion to floral arrangements. You just have to flick through the pages of our photoshoot at Virgin Hotels Edinburgh to see that flexibility front and centre. We're definitely in the era of overskirts and detachable sleeves and I'm all for it! Fancy changing up your bridal look as your day progresses? The simple addition or removal of one item can make such a change.

And versatility isn't restricted to bridalwear. On page 98 we celebrate the extension of what was traditional "groomswear" to being a valid option for anyone. Flexibility of roles is another thing we discuss in our feature, *She's the one*, where we explore real couple's decisions to have loved ones who wouldn't be the traditional choice, act as their maid of honour, best man or bridesmaid.

Another word never far from my lips is 'maximalism' with the rise of the 'more is more' wedding, showcased in the photoshoot at Trump Turnberry Resort that's gracing our front cover. The hotel teamed up with Opus Couture, photographer Eva Sanders and a host of high-end suppliers for this shoot celebrating wedding luxury in all its glory.

But if all-out glam isn't for you (or your budget) there are so many other ways to say 'I do'. Just turn to page 204 for all the latest on twilight weddings that limit the time but not the fun. You see, flexibility again at the heart. Happy planning,

Katie x

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Bridal Makeup

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Rebecca Donaldson

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Eva Sanders

VENUE

Trump Turnberry Resort

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January 24 CONTENTS

54
The last word



Eva Sanders

74
Let's shop



Suzanne Neville

12 YOUR WEDDING COUNTDOWN

Have our helpful checklist to hand to keep your wedding planning on track

18 IN THE KNOW

Keep up to date with all the latest news, wedding shows and special offers from across the country

'I Do' Diaries

32 THE LOWDOWN

Our four couples are talking us through the all-important bookings and engagement shoot fun

36 TENDER LOVING WEDDING STYLE

Our guest columnist Rachel of Tender Loving Style blog is married! And she and husband Brian are sharing their honeymoon journey

Your Scottish Wedding Awards

40 MEET THE 2023 YSWA WINNERS

All the winners and news from November's glittering awards ceremony

48 THE YSWA STYLE FILES

If you're needing some fashion inspo for your Big Day look no further than our chic wedding suppliers

PAGE 248

WIN
a luxury overnight stay for two at The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa

WORTH
£1,000

Fashion

54 MODERN LUXE

Luxurious Trump Turnberry Resort teamed up with international model Rebecca Donaldson, multi-award-winning bridal boutique Opus Couture and a host of high-end suppliers for this insanely beautiful shoot by photographer Eva Sanders

64 SHE'S IN FASHION

Bridal boutiques and top designers pick out all the latest trends you need to see

70 THE BIG INTERVIEW

She scooped the bridal designer accolade at the 2023 YSWAs and now Mette Baillie of Freja Designer Dressmaking opens up about her inspiration and what drives her

74 ASK THE EXPERT

Just starting your dress shopping journey? Don't book anything until you've read our bridalwear columnist Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture's advice

76 DRUNK IN LOVE

We took to the uber-cool Virgin Hotels Edinburgh for our styled bridalwear and groomsweat shoot, showcasing all the latest aisle-ready fashion

Groom's Room

98 WEAR IT YOUR WAY

Listen up! Groomsweat can be for anyone, whatever their gender

100 IN HIS WORDS

Columnist Lee marries fiancée Louise this year and they've been busy with invitations, kilt shopping and even panning for their wedding ring gold

Mums

110 BY MY SIDE

When your mum's your BFF or your dad's your best mate why not have them as your bridesmaid or best man?

Be Inspired

120 INSIDE SCOOP

We visited St Andrews' Sheila Fleet Jewellery gallery to get the wedding accessories lowdown from manager Joyce Haynes

122 WEDDING WINS

Dee Dental Paisley let us in on the treatments that make all the difference to your w-day confidence

128 BRIDAL LOOK SORTED

Top make-up artists and hair stylists tell us how to achieve the must-have bridal looks this season

146

All in white



Laura A Tilman Photography

136 THE PERFECT SERVE

We discover all the ways you can treat your guests to mouthwatering menus

138 COME DINE WITH US

Saltire Hospitality cater to all your senses and they're sharing their success story

146 FLIGHTS OF FANCY

Cluny Castle was the perfect backdrop to showstopping cakes, beautiful stationery and some out-of-this-world floral set-ups and tablescapes

170 FOCAL POINT

I bet you look good on the dance floor... and these photographers are there to capture all the moves

176 VIEW FINDER

Fern Photography have been scoping out wedding venue gems and they share some of their faves with us

Your Wedding Day

180 BEACH VIBES

184 SQUIREMAN ADVENTURES

188 PRETTY DIY

192 GOTHIC GLENCOE

Your Scottish Venues

198 VENUES NEWS

Keep up to date with shows, refurbishments and special offers

204 MARRY ME AT TWILIGHT

These gorgeous venues bring all the fun for your evening ceremonies and celebrations

208 GOT YOU COVERED

If a DIY wedding isn't your vibe these six wedding locations can help organise everything

212 HIGHLAND FLING

Jessica and Adam created a gorgeous sailcloth tent wedding day at Burgie House near Forres

220 LET'S DANCE

Bethany and Tease fused their cultures in this fun Scottish/Ghanaian celebration at Broxmouth Courtyard

230 YSW ON TOUR – BEAUTIFUL BROXMOU

We fell in love with Broxmouth Courtyard, staying in its pretty honeymoon Lodge by the Loch

238 PERFECTLY PLANNED

Claire and Oliver held an intimate ceremony with just their mums in The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa's penthouse

244 YSW ON TOUR – SEASIDE LUXURY

We were truly spoilt, sampling all the delights of Fairmont St Andrews

252 MY EVERYTHING

Our columnist Rachel and husband Brian married in a gorgeous wedding at Cornhill Castle

268 FEELS LIKE HOME

Bride Katie fell for Cromlix before she'd ever met husband Liam!

180

Life's beachy



Rebecca Carpenter Photography

64

Diamonds and pearls



192

Gorgeous Glencoe



Joy Story

SG

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DEMETRIOS

demetrios.com @demetriosbride

YOUR wedding COUNTDOWN

1 Let's get started *Before you get carried away with the finer details, decide on the where, when and how much*

- Set your budget
- Check out potential venues with *Your Scottish Wedding* and visit your shortlisted venues
- Make your guest list
- Make sure you follow us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok @yourscottishwedding for all the inspo you need
- Buy wedding insurance
- Listen to YSW's *Let's Talk Weddings* podcast wherever you get your podcasts
- Join the YSW Wedding Chat Room
- Decide what type of ceremony you both want



While it may feel a bit awkward, chat to your parents as they may want to contribute to your budget

3 6-9 months to go

Start getting creative and fine-tuning the details of your theme or colour scheme

- Finalise your décor ideas – do you need to hire a professional to bring it all together?
- Book your florist
- Order your wedding cake
- Buy your wedding rings
- Book your honeymoon
- Organise your outfit fittings
- Post invitations
- Book transport for the wedding party and guests if necessary
- Book accommodation for the wedding party if necessary
- Register for your wedding gift list

2



Over a year to go

This is the time to make the big bookings and secure the suppliers who will deliver your dream day

- Book your venue
- Book your celebrant
- Book your photographer
- Book your videographer
- Start the search for your outfits and those of your wedding party
- Send your Save the Dates
- Research caterers, if you need one
- Book your band, DJ, ceremony music and drinks reception entertainment
- Book hair and make-up trials

4



5 Last week to go!

The countdown is truly on now

- Collect your Marriage Schedule
- Pack for your honeymoon
- Decorate your venue the day before if possible
- Print name cards, seating plans and menus

1-3 months to go

This is where the fun really kicks in!

- Finalise your table plan
- Enjoy your stag, hen, steno or hag do!
- Submit Marriage Notice (M10) forms no later than 29 days before the wedding date
- Buy gifts for your wedding party
- Attend your menu tasting - yum!



6

After the day...

The wedmin doesn't stop after you say 'I do'

- Return your Marriage Schedule within three days of the wedding
- Get your outfit dry cleaned
- Select images for your wedding album
- Send thank you cards



Did you know you can set up your very own Wedding Planner at yourscottishwedding.co.uk? ■

Pamela Jayne's Bridal

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0751111356

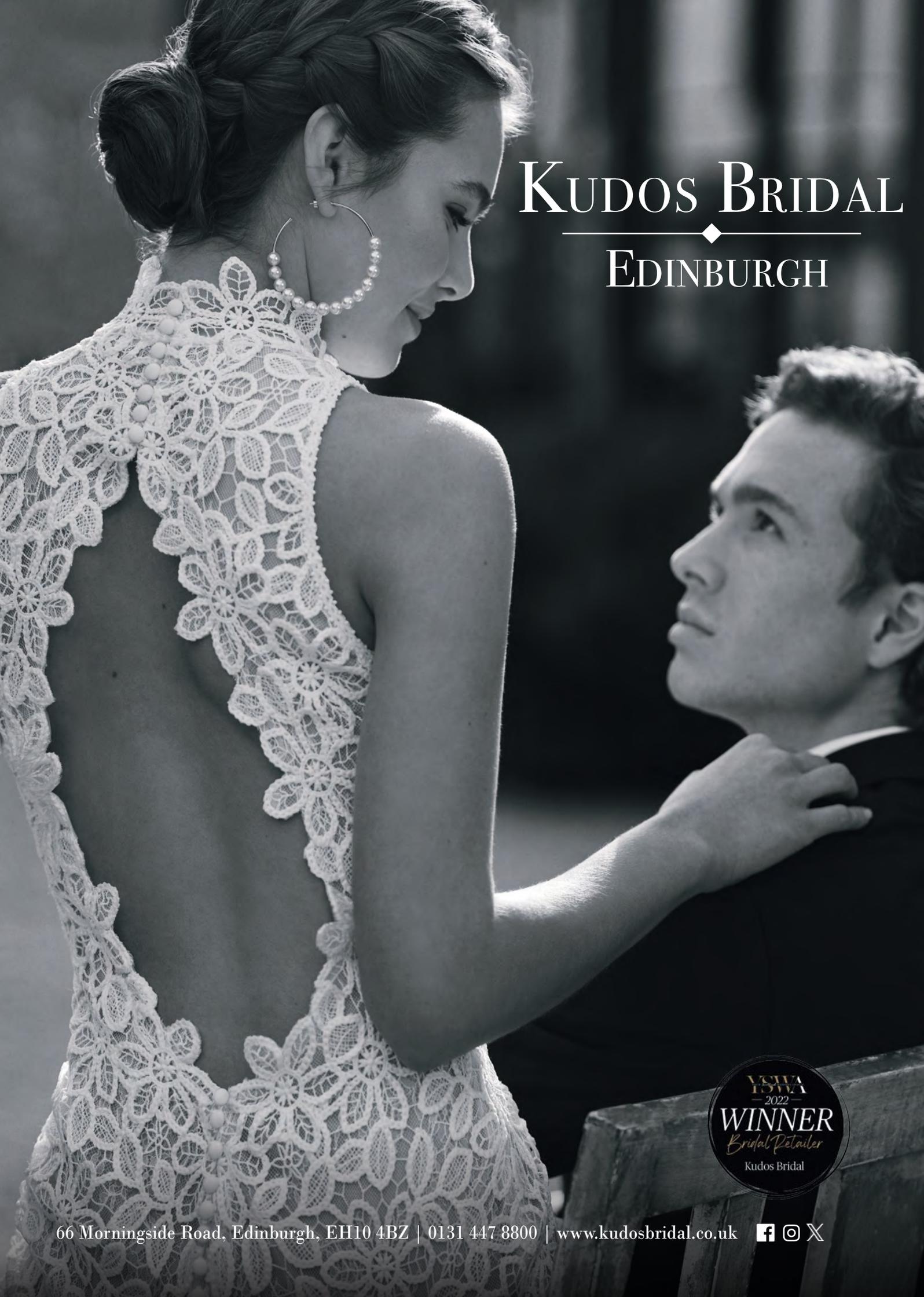


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UPCOMING SHOWS

JAN 07	THE HAMPDEN WEDDING SHOW ↘ Hampden Park 11.30am - 4.00pm
JAN 21	THE DREAM WEDDING SHOW AT LAGGAN ↘ GG's Yard, Laggan 11.30am - 3.00pm
JAN 27&28	THE EDINBURGH WEDDING EXHIBITION ↘ Murrayfield Stadium 11.30am - 4.00pm
FEB 04	LANARKSHIRE WEDDING EXHIBITION ↘ Hamilton Park Racecourse 11.30am - 4.00pm
FEB 10&11	THE BIG DUNDEE WEDDING EXHIBITION ↘ The Caird Hall 11.30am - 4.00pm
FEB 25	PERTH WEDDING EXHIBITION ↘ Perth Racecourse 11.30am - 3.00pm
MAR 03	THE ABERDEEN WEDDING EXHIBITION ↘ The Beach Ballroom 11.30am - 4.00pm
MAR 17	TROON WEDDING FAYRE ↘ Troon Concert Hall 11.30am - 3.00pm
APR 20	AYRSHIRE WEDDING EXHIBITION ↘ Trump Turnberry 11.30am - 4.00pm

For more information: www.starkagency.co.uk

In the KNOW

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

Hey, Sisterhood!

Love the satin gown Sophie Habboo wore to her sister's wedding? You'll be delighted to hear that celeb fave Sisterhood has arrived at Sophia Grace Couture! It's worth noting that if you bought your bridal dress from the boutique, you'll get a 10% discount on gowns for your gals – and, for a limited time only, bridesmaid dress purchases come with a complimentary Katie Loxton Bridesmaid pouch (worth £22.99) for each of the 'maids you've bought for. P.S. The luxurious boutique is now a premium stockist of Wona Concept (a fashion forward brand with classic styling and bang on-trend designs) plus has gorgeous new arrivals from Enzoani. SOPHIAGRACECOUTURE.COM



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GET 10% OFF
BRIDESMAID
DRESSES

Aussie designs

Australian-born Madi Lane Bridal wedding dresses are inspired by the modern bride and exude flawless construction. So, if 'The One' for you is a gown that effortlessly merges romantic femininity with contemporary design, Gwenne Edinburgh's newest arrivals should be top of your list to try when you hit the shops. However, the Edinburgh and Broxburn-based boutiques offer a whole host of other big names in bridal, including Justin Alexander, Ronald Joyce, Mori Lee, Sincerity, Sophia Tolli, Lillian West and Evie Young.

GWENNE.CO.UK



Australian-
born Madi Lane
Bridal dresses
merge romantic
femininity with
contemporary
design



Introducing Alta Moda

Making luxury bridalwear affordable, Demetrios Bridal has unveiled its 2024 Alta Moda collection, designed for iconic brides who want to make a statement on their special day. The collection aims to redefine bridal elegance, offering two distinct concepts that cater to Demetrios' clients' diverse tastes and

personalities. For the bold and unconventional bride, there are luxurious short gowns; a perfect second look for the after party, radiating a chic and modern vibe. And for the alternative gothic romantic bride, there are striking black gowns that encapsulate a sense of mystique and regal allure. Which will you pick?

DEMETRIOS.COM



Doing good

Edinburgh-based The Wedding Guru – Oskar doesn't just make wedding planning a breeze – the company is also firmly focused on supporting important causes and has picked its 2023/24 charities. Owner Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki says, "Couples looking to work with the team on wedding plans or ceremonies will be glad to know that part of our fees will be donated to the two chosen causes equally, using love to make the world a better place together. Wedding Wish Makers helps terminally ill couples in Scotland make their wedding dreams come true and as little as £100 can cover the cost of marriage notices and a marriage certificate in Scotland. VOW for Girls, on the other hand, works to provide tuition fees for full-time education, boarding and transportation for young women at risk of child marriage around the world."

THEWEDDINGGURUOSKAR.CO.UK

Alastair Ferrier Photography



KraKow Love Photography

More stylish than a selfie

Festive period engagement? Firstly, congratulations – you're in the right place! Secondly, you're going to want to look up Struve Photography's website because there are mini-engagement sessions on offer during January and February. You'll get a lovely 30-minute photo session celebrating your big news and once-in-a-lifetime images ready to share on socials or pop on your wedding website. Owner Kristin Sharp assures couples there'll be no "stuffy studios or weird awkward poses" and it'll be "more stylish than a phone selfie." We love the idea of this relaxed mini-session!

STRUVE.PHOTOGRAPHY/MINI-ENGAGEMENT-SESSIONS/ >>



Take a breather

Humanist and spiritual care organisation Celebrate People has launched a series of events where to-be-weds can take one day to breathe and spend time together talking about your wedding with those who know the industry inside out. "It's an opportunity to really think about what your joint hopes are for your wedding day. You can also share ideas with other couples, create your vows and try out symbolic gestures, like warming your rings, handfasting, sharing a quail and more," explains celebrant and pastoral care lead Gerrie Douglas-Scott. Interested?

The first two events, on 25th February and 31st March between 10.30am and 4.30pm, are open for booking. The cost is just £90 per couple and includes a home-made lunch and expert facilitation from Gerrie and her spouse Susan, the co-founders of Celebrate People and the first women married in Scotland.

It's worth noting that for anyone feeling a bit overwhelmed with wedmin, the organisation's listening and counselling service is always available.

CELEBRATEPEOPLE.CO.UK

"It's an opportunity to think about your joint hopes for your wedding day."

GERRIE DOUGLAS-SCOTT

Glam gals

Looking for the perfect cool girl bridesmaid dresses? Look no further – Ellis Bridal has Kelsey Rose Bridal 'maids gowns in a luxe shimmer fabric that oozes relaxed glamour from head to toe. Available in three colours (champagne, rose gold and silver) with added internal construction for a comfortable and flattering fit, it's ideal for a stylish mix and match look for your best gals. The collection will be available online only, offered in sizes six to 18 and priced at £199 per dress.

ELLISBRIDALS.CO.UK



Geebz Photography



Oranges and pineapples

As the year begins, Freja Designer Dressmaking continues to expand its versatile range of wedding outfit fabrics, all developed with a concern for the environment. "There's new stuff coming in all the time," smiles owner Mette Baillie. "Obviously there is bamboo, which grows faster and needs less water in production than cotton, but my suppliers have also shown me fabrics made from pineapple, orange, lotus and milk. Book an appointment and come and see. You'll be very surprised by the variety and quality!"

FREJA-FASHION.CO.UK

More to see at Mirka

If you've been swooning over Blue by Enzoani bridalwear or Rewritten bridesmaids' dresses (beautiful, quality fabrics and stunning modern designs at incredible prices), you'll be delighted to hear that Mirka Bridal Couture is now a proud stockist of both. Said to be "bridesmaid dresses you will actually want to wear," Rewritten's collection is available to mix and match in a range of colours and styles, from floaty wrap-style numbers to slinky slip dresses. We liked!

MIRKABRIDAL.COM



It's a date

If dramatic cuts and breathtaking silhouettes are your vibe you're going to want to book an appointment at Kavelle Couture in January. The Edinburgh boutique welcomes the much-anticipated arrival of Viero Bridal's latest collection, a symphony of timeless elegance and modern allure. Mark your calendars for the exclusive trunk show taking place at the store from 12th to 22nd January. This limited-time event promises a first-hand glimpse into the artistry and craftsmanship Kavelle brides can expect.

KAVELLE.COM



Moving on up

Fife's award-winning cake maker Cherry On Top is on the move, heading further north from Burntisland to the village of Markinch. "After 12 fantastic years it was time to move to a large, self-contained studio space with an emphasis on going net zero," explains owner Claire Sara. Ready to welcome couples from 2024 onwards, Claire will now be able to cater for a larger number of north Fife venues while continuing to upskill and keep her finger on the pulse of cake trends.

ACHERRYONTOPSCOTLAND.CO.UK



Wedding planning 101

Wedmin giving you a headache? All Wrapped Up Events Scotland is here for those who need a helping hand! The company's Bridal Boot Camps will take place in January, February and March, giving to-be-weds the chance to come together with their bridal party/family and an expert team. Owner Roni Hyslop says, "We spend up to three hours chatting all things wedding; helping with their planning, styling, timeline for the day, sourcing suppliers... You get the picture. The time is yours and we go with the flow." YSW couples pay a discounted rate of £150 and Roni adds that you don't have to be at the start of your planning journey. "Some couples come six weeks before their wedding to make sure they've not missed anything. Afterwards, most couples come back saying it was the best investment they made because we helped save them stress, time, money – or all three!"

ALLWRAPPEDUPSCOTLAND.CO.UK >>



Heatwave Highlandwear

After lots of requests for a lightweight kilt and jacket for summer weddings in Scotland or nuptials abroad, Kilts 4 U has spent two years carefully creating its latest tartan – Ivory Sands. The company's 14th exclusive tartan is the result of working closely with weavers, kiltmakers and dry cleaners, then carrying out months of testing. "It's finally here and was on autumn 2023 catwalks, ready for 2024 weddings," explains owner Iain Carlton. "The cloths have been designed to be truly fit-for-purpose and are 25% lighter than standard kilt and jacket cloths available for hire and purchase. We truly believe that after all the research and development this will fill the gap in the market, providing a stunning and stylish outfit that retains the look of a traditional kilt with a unique twist."

KILTS-4-U.CO.UK

Fuze fundraising

Fuze Ceremonies and the couples they've married raised an impressive £4,946 during the humanist organisation's half year partnership with Beatson Cancer Charity and Alzheimer Scotland. Plus celebrant George McLean dug out his running shoes and raised £450 more by tackling the 2023 Glasgow Men's 10k for Beatson Cancer Charity! This comes as humanist and non-Christian ceremonies continue to grow in popularity – Fuze reported that there were 10,548 recorded in 2022, in comparison to 6,664 religious marriages.

FUZECEREMONIES.CO.UK



One sweet offer

Crumbdillyumptious is offering lucky to-be-weds who book their cake (provided it's three or more tiers) before April a mouthwatering freebie – a styled dessert table worth more than £150! Couples can choose package A (20 iced sugar cookies, 20 meringue rose pops, 20 Rice Krispies marshmallow treats and 24 brownies or blondies) or B, which contains 24 cookies, 20 iced sugar cookies,

20 truffles and three flavours of fudge. They will design and style the table to match your wedding theme or colours then throw in menu cards and some extra sweets. More of a sweet tooth? Opt for a larger dessert table package (we're talking donuts, cupcakes, scones, mini cakes, cupcakes, macarons and much more) and simply take £150 off the price. This yummy offer is available on a first come, first served basis and spaces will be held for those who pay the £50 booking fee.

CDUCAKES.CO.UK

Treasure trove incoming

Rachel Scott Couture has announced it's opening the doors of its new boutique this January - an evening wear, bespoke accessories and perfume shop on Edinburgh's Queensferry Street. A very welcome addition to the beautiful flagship store on Dundas Street, you can expect the same couture, made-to-order service but for new and exciting occasionwear pieces from designers like Suzanne Neville, Temperley London and Vivienne Westwood - great for MOB and MOG, 'maids and guests' outfits. Get in touch to book an exclusive appointment now!

RACHELSCOTTCOUTURE.CO.UK



Paying for your ceremony – explained

Did you know that when you marry with the Humanist Society Scotland (HSS) your membership fee to the organisation is included in the price? You can expect to pay around £483 for a wedding ceremony through HSS, which includes two-years' membership of the Society (membership for a wedding couple is £93 plus a £5 admin fee when you're ready to secure your date – this is equivalent to a non-refundable deposit) as well as the fee charged by your celebrant (based on HSS' guide fee of £385). That's not all – being a member guarantees you someone to marry you if an emergency or illness befalls your chosen celebrant, even at short notice, and at no extra cost. Need to postpone? If your chosen celebrant isn't available on your new date, you can choose from others. There's nothing like having peace of mind, is there?

HUMANISM.SCOT



Sample this

If you're looking to bag a bridal bargain make sure you make an appointment for the Opus Couture annual sample sale from 26th - 29th January. Appointments for the West Kilbride boutique's sale must be booked via their website and if you find your dream dress among the samples you could get up to 70% off.

In other news, Opus now has their stock gowns from the Maggiore Collection from Berta Couture available to try on in store. Berta Couture is exclusive to Opus in Scotland so if you have your heart set on being a Berta bride make an appointment via the website, or call or email.

OPUSCOUTURE.CO.UK



It's showtime

Diaries at the ready, there's a host of wedding shows coming up in the next few months. Grab your squad, meet suppliers and stop by to meet team YSW.

JANUARY

- 7th** – The Hampden Wedding Show, Hampden Stadium
- 21st** – The Luxury Scottish Wedding Show, Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh
- 21st** – Paisley Town Hall Wedding Fayre, Paisley Town Hall, Paisley
- 21st** – The Dream Wedding Show, Laggan
- 25th** – Wedding band showcase, The Park Hotel, Kilmarnock
- 27th and 28th** – Edinburgh Wedding Exhibition, Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

FEBRUARY

- 1st** – Wedding band showcase, The Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew
- 4th** – The Lanarkshire Wedding Exhibition, Hamilton Park Racecourse
- 4th** – *Edinburgh Wedding Directory* showcase, Virgin Hotel, Edinburgh
- 10th and 11th** – The Big Dundee Wedding Exhibition, Caird Hall, Dundee
- 17th and 18th** – The Scottish Wedding Show, SEC, Glasgow
- 25th** – The Perth Wedding Exhibition, Perth Racecourse

MARCH

- 2nd and 3rd** – Edinburgh Wedding Fair & Fashion Show, O2 Academy, Edinburgh
- 3rd** – Aberdeen Wedding Exhibition, Beach Ball Room
- 17th** – Troon Wedding Fayre, Troon Concert Hall and Town Hall

APRIL

- 20th** – Ayrshire Wedding Exhibition, Trump Turnberry
- 21st** – Meadowbank Wedding Show, Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh
- 28th** – Kelso Wedding Show, Borders Events Centre, Kelso

MAY

- 4th and 5th** – The Wedding Exhibition, Braehead Arena, Glasgow ■



THE LUXURY SCOTTISH WEDDING SHOW

Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh

Sunday 21st January 2024

12pm - 4pm



Register for admission at
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*'I do'
diaries*





'I do' DIARIES



Hayley & Saul

With less than a year 'til their wedding at Silverwood, Hayley's former job as a wedding coordinator means they're taking everything in their stride



While Hayley McNeill and Saul Kennedy had known of each other before, it wasn't until she moved home to Aberfoyle after a few years in Glasgow that they got talking properly. "I bought a flat that needed to be renovated and when it came round to getting my TV satellite fitted my dad suggested Saul and his dad's company," explains Hayley. "After that we just started messaging each other. We have known of each other longer as Saul's sister is married to one of my close friends from school but we never really crossed paths until that day."

That was back in April 2021 and after that their relationship went from strength to strength, with their son Leo being born in July 2022 and the couple getting engaged that Hogmanay. "All very quickly but we both said when you know it's right you just know, and we both aren't getting any younger!" laughs Hayley.

Not that this bride thought a proposal was a given. "After us having Leo the discussion of marriage never really came up as we were just happy as a little family," explains Hayley. "The only thing I said to Saul was, if you do ask me make sure it's before I'm 40." So that Hogmanay while they were enjoying a quiet evening

at her parents' home, Saul surprised her by getting down on one knee at the bells. "I'm not into big extravagant proposals so this was just perfect, with my parents there," she says. "Saul picked the ring himself and did a great job; nothing too flash or blingy as that's just not me."

Hayley used to work as a wedding coordinator and before that she was an event manager with MacDonald Hotels, planning all the weddings, so naturally she knows exactly how to approach her own Big Day. "It's my passion, I just love it, so now having to plan my own wedding is very surreal," she says.

With her background, she knows how quickly your ideal date can get booked up so she and Saul prioritised looking at venues. "We came across Silverwood during our initial search but due to it being a bit further away we went to view some closer venues," says Hayley. "After a few weeks searching and looking at different venues, we went up to Silverwood and immediately fell in love with it. Having the country barn-style was something we wanted but also the fact there are so many options on where you can have your ceremony depending on the weather helped us make our decision." With their venue chosen they selected a September wedding date this year and have booked humanist celebrant Gillian Stirling of Thistle Ceremonies to officiate.

After the date and space were finalised, they have been busy booking Sunshine Photography for their wedding photos and videography, their band, caterer, bridesmaid dresses from Ever Pretty, and hair and make-up by Kirsty McPherson. "The wedding planner in me was on the case from day one to get all the major things booked ASAP," laughs Hayley.

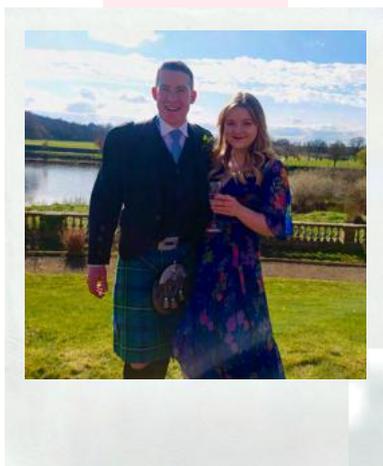
"The wedding planner in me was on the case to get all the major things booked ASAP."

HAYLEY

This issue we're introducing two new couples while this is the last column from our other two before their weddings!

Vivienne & Greg

She's used to creating other people's bridal lingerie but now Vivienne and her fiancé are turning their attention to their own wedding day!



she says. "As cheesy as it sounds, I saw his lovely smile and sparkly eyes from across the dance floor and just wanted to talk to him. The rest, as they say, is history!"

The couple had been together over nine years and Greg knew the perfect spot to pop the question. Vivienne's family went to Playa Blanca in Lanzarote every year when she was a child and it seemed the ideal location for this super-romantic moment. "Greg proposed to me on the coast at the Castillo del Aguila," remembers Vivienne. "He got down on one knee underneath the stars and asked me. It was so perfect. Playa Blanca is a special place for me. It holds some really happy memories and now I have yet another to look back on!"

Not wanting a long engagement, Vivienne and Greg quickly got looking for the perfect venue. They weren't keen on the idea of saying 'I do' in a hotel setting and fancied somewhere they can put their own stamp on. "Being a joiner and a lingerie designer, we always have creative ideas in mind so we didn't want anything too traditional," she explains. "I have a gigantic family (and therefore a humongous guest list) and we've booked the Kingsfield Barns in Linlithgow. They have plenty of room, they had our preferred day of 20th July 2024 and best of all, their communication has been absolutely fantastic."

Vivienne was brought up Catholic and

"I saw his lovely smile and sparkly eyes from across the dance floor and just wanted to talk to him."

VIVIENNE

Greg in the Church of Scotland, though he admits to being less spiritual than her. They initially thought they would have a Catholic wedding but then changed their minds. "We went for an interfaith minister so my Catholic faith can be acknowledged," says Vivienne. "We will most likely have a reading or a blessing." Not marrying in church means they won't have to move 180 people from the ceremony to the barn.

The couple has also wasted no time and booked two more top suppliers with Fallon's in charge of the catering and Joy Story handling the photography. It's going to be an exciting few months watching how their plans take shape! >>>

Otherwise known as Miss Vivienne, Vivienne Lynch is the creative power behind Miss Vivienne Lingerie, a luxury brand based in the Scottish Borders. As the CEO of a lingerie line she of course is well-versed in creating beautiful bridal offerings, with her 'Helena' collection being featured in the pages of the September 23 issue of YSW. And now Vivienne gets to foray further into the wedding world, as she and fiancé Greg Colvine start planning their own celebration.

The couple first met at a nightclub in Galashiels. Vivienne had moved from Glasgow to study fashion in September 2013 and she met Greg that November. "I approached him, which was pretty unusual for me but I'm so happy I did,"



Rachel & Nicola

The couple are on the final countdown to their big day!

With their March wedding just around the corner the excitement is definitely building for our brides-to-be Rachel and Nicola. Ever since they first got engaged this pair has been super-organised and now that they're on the final countdown they've been busy tying up loose ends and making their final bookings.

When we last spoke to them, they shared how their wedding party was definitely going to be kept in the family with Nicola's sister Laura and Rachel's sister-in-law Jen taking on the bridesmaid duties, and their nieces Murrlyn and Emily will be acting as their cute flower girls. The brides have now collected their ink blue Angelique Lamont bridesmaid

dresses which will tie in with the rustic theme they've planned for their Big Day at the beautiful Bowfield Hotel and Country Club. The couple has also been busy picking out their wedding blooms from Marlene's Flowers to fit with the scheme. They've opted for matching bouquets with a mix of white roses and gypsophila.

With the women of the wedding party sorted, they've also

turned their attention to the men, and they've ordered kilt outfits in the Silver Highlander tartan for their ushers, brother and brother-in-law Chris and David, from Kilts 4 U. Their little nephew George will also be the ring bearer on the day.

And keeping family at the heart of their preparations, Nicola's auntie Jeanie has been in charge of creating their invitations. "These are all done now and sent out and we love them," she says.

When we caught up with the women, they had recently had a Teams call with their DJ Stephen Bennet of Beyond Entertainments.

"We're definitely getting excited now!"

NICOLA

"It was a just a general chit chat about what to expect and then he will have more of a plan regarding specific music we want closer to the time," explains Nicola. The brides were also looking forward to the all-important cake tasting with their supplier of choice Special Days Cakes. And they had picked up their wedding rings. They returned to Chisholm Hunter for Nicola's – the same place they chose Rachel's beautiful engagement ring. Meanwhile Rachel has chosen her wedding band from Fraser Hart.

Time out

While it's been all systems go on the wedding planning front, the couple did take some time away from the bookings, purchases, and spreadsheets to meet their wedding photographer Isaac Craig for a pre-wedding shoot at Chatelherault Park in Hamilton. "We loved it and it was great meeting the photographer pre-wedding," smiles Nicola. "We got on with him really well. We're definitely getting excited now!" says Nicola. And we can't wait to hear all about their wedding day soon.



Isaac Craig Photography



Isaac Craig Photography

Erin & Callum

It's not long to go until this couple's wedding at Colstoun House in April and they took a break from planning to return to their special place



Jen Owens Images

“You can never have too much dessert, right?”

ERIN

Do it yourself!

Apart from all the bookings they've been focusing on the DIY list, making giant paper flowers for their ceremony backdrop and their top table décor. “Our list has certainly grown arms and legs but we are having so much fun making it all together!” says Erin. “We're currently in the process of finishing our wedding website, and our invitation illustrations are being done, which include our cat Cheddar. We cannot wait to see the finished result!”

Big day out

With the wedding looming, the stag and hen do's are imminent but so far all they know is the date. Their separate parties have been planned for the same day before meeting up at night. Callum has his heart set on a day at the rugby for Scotland v England while Erin has her flares at the ready for an ABBA-themed hen do! Hopefully they get their way! >>

Wedding admin has been full steam ahead but Erin and Callum took some time with their photographer Jen Owens Images for a pre-wedding shoot. Working as a wedding coordinator, Erin has known Jen for years. “As soon as we were engaged she was the first person we contacted,” smiles Erin. “It had to be Jen!” For their engagement shoot they took her to Aberlady Bay, the place they got engaged and even got a shot in the exact spot Callum got down on one knee! “It was so much fun,” Erin continues. “We adore Jen's style and passion and we are so excited to have her with us on the Big Day!”

The last few months have been busy securing their final suppliers. “To save any stress or disappointment we booked everyone we really wanted within the first year,” says Erin. “We honestly have the best group looking after us for our special day, including some friends within the industry – we cannot wait to see our special day come to life because of them.”

Fun house

Erin and Callum want their vibe for the day to be “just fun” and have put all their focus into making sure their guests are entertained. To inject that fun they're

bringing in The Little Margarita Truck, because, as they say, who doesn't love tequila?! Guests can enjoy a tippie while playing lawn games and listening to Glasgow Piano Man – John Rankin who will play throughout the ceremony and meal. “We also have the incredible Cheryl Morrice from Paint My Love Story creating individual portraits of all our guests... and so much more!”

And speaking of the meal, they've chosen Mackenzie's Catering to provide all the food. “We decided on a choice menu for starter and main but being big dessert people, we couldn't choose just one pudding so opted for a trio for everyone,” says Erin. “You can never have too much dessert, right?” Despite the emphasis on pudding they've decided to go for a wedding cake of cheese so have opted for a charcuterie style evening buffet with pies.



Jen Owens Images



Tender Loving Wedding Style

Here's to Honeymoon!

Big news, our guest columnist **Rachel** and her other half **Brian** are married! So in one final column she's sharing all their honeymoon fun.

Newlywed VIPs

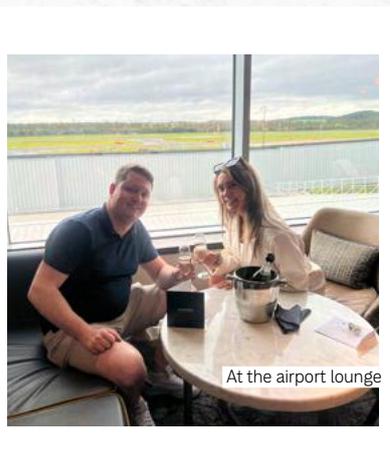
To start off the honeymoon VIP-style, it was straight to Edinburgh Airport's Aspire Lounge at Gate 16 (executivelounges.com). As soon as we arrived, the team couldn't do enough to help and we secured a table by the window. After the whirlwind of wedding planning, the big day itself and then two days of frantically packing, it felt amazing to finally be sitting in the stylish lounge, complete with all the complimentary drinks and delicious food we could want! 100% recommend as the perfect way to begin the newlywed adventure.



The Chophouse Malta

When we started planning our honeymoon, we looked at all the usual suspects.

The Maldives, Mexico, Dubai... They all look amazing, but it just wasn't 'us'. It got us thinking: what type of trips do we enjoy the most? City breaks with an option to relax at a pool or beach were always our favourite types of holiday so we got to work on narrowing down exactly where to go. The first destination we both landed on was Malta, where we got engaged. Booking a slightly different area to stay in for one week, we knew we wanted to be away a little longer so started looking at flights out of Malta and settled on an additional four nights in Valencia. Here's what we got up to...



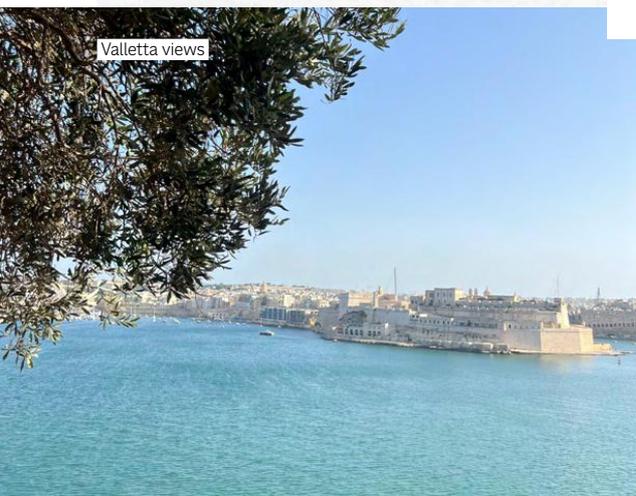
At the airport lounge

📍 Malta

Room with a view
We decided to upgrade to a Privilege Suite at Mercure St Julian's and it was worth it for the massive balcony alone!



View from our Malta balcony



Valletta views

"We returned to the exact spot where we got engaged."



Valencia

📍 Valencia

We had never been to Valencia before, but the MYR Hotel Marqués House (myrhotels.com) had great reviews and was situated perfectly. The hotel's bar, Café Madrid, is actually where Valencia's famous cocktail, the Aigua de València was originally created so, of course, we had to have one (or two). The boutique hotel also has a beautiful rooftop terrace with views of Valencia's stunning architecture.

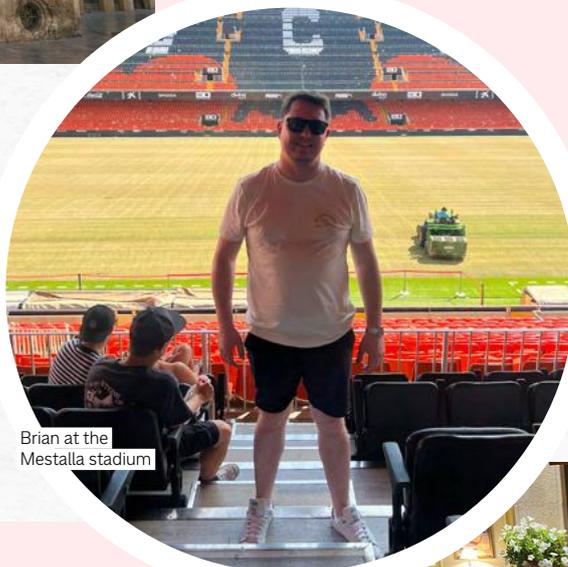
Roaring 20s!

Before we left Malta, we had booked Voltereta Manhattan (volteretarestaurante.com) after seeing the restaurant on TikTok. On arrival to what looks like a book shop, you're then 'transported' through the (light)years before arriving in '1920s Manhattan'. The food was 10/10 too, as well as the live music and staff all wearing 1920s inspired uniforms.

On the ball

We mostly ate and drank our way around Malta and Valencia, but we did make some time to do a tour of Valencia CF's famous Mestalla stadium under Brian's insistence which was actually a really nice morning. There we go: the start of married life and we're all about the balance!

Taking a moment of calm along the street from the hotel, enjoying the stunning architecture of Valencia – perfect!



Brian at the Mestalla stadium

Part of the club

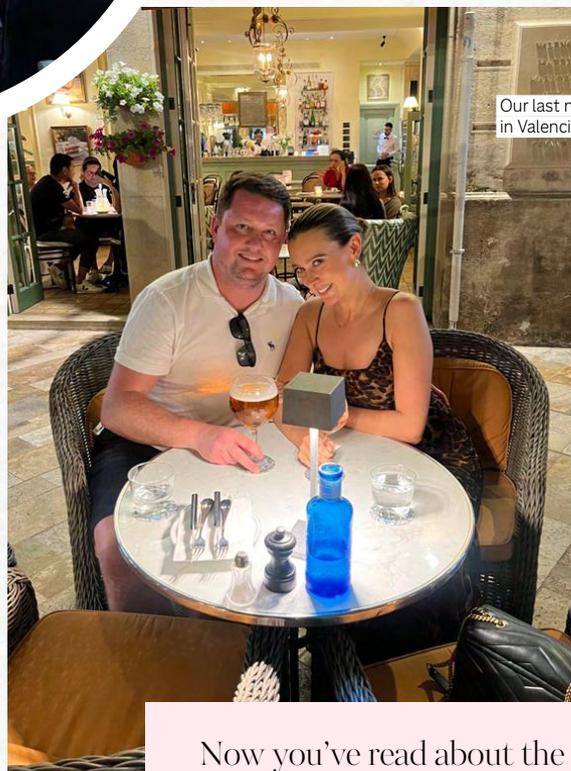
If you're visiting Malta, a day at the Café Del Mar Beach Club (cafedelmar.com.mt) is a must. We decided to book the VIP sunbeds, complete with your own service button to order drinks or snacks – the dream! We booked lunch here too which was delicious. It's the perfect place to stay all day and is the best place in Malta to watch the sunset. One of our favourite days of the whole trip!

Back to our spot

We got the boat from Sliema over to Valletta and returned to the exact spot where we got engaged in August 2018. Sitting on the same bench in the Lower Barrakka Gardens, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea now as husband and wife felt such an amazing moment!

Fine dining

One of our bridesmaids gave us a voucher for the Chophouse (chophouse.com.mt) which is where we went for dinner the night we got engaged. It was as fabulous as we remembered! We also had a spectacular meal at Michelin Plate recognised restaurant, Fifty Nine Republic (fiftyninerepublic.com). Located beside the majestic Grandmaster's Palace, the setting and entire experience was incredible. Another must-do for honeymooning in Malta.



Our last night in Valencia

Now you've read about the honeymoon turn to page 252 to see all the perfectly planned details of Rachel and Brian's gorgeous wedding. ■

PROUDLY PRESENT

WEDDING SHOW CASE



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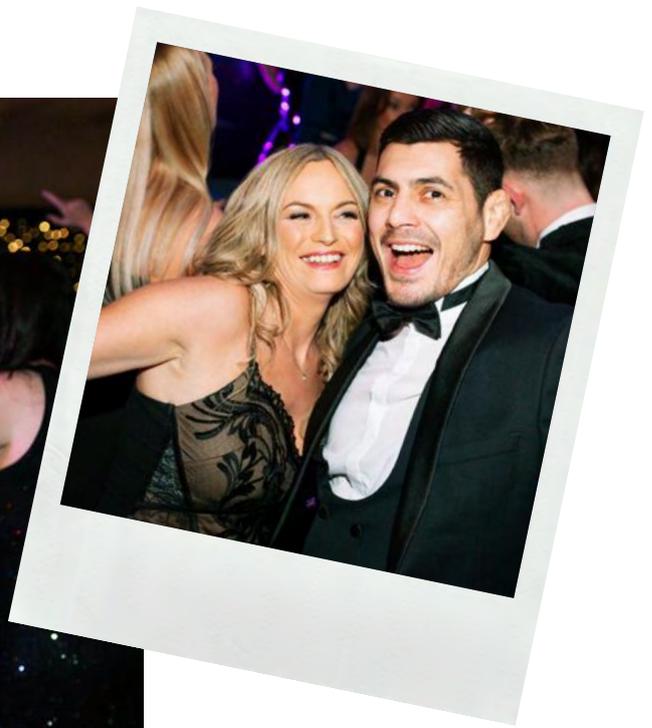
**EXCLUSIVE DESIGNS
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YOUR UNIQUE STYLE**

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is shown from the side, looking towards the left. She is wearing a white, off-the-shoulder wedding dress with long, flared sleeves and a high slit. The dress is made of lace and has ruffled details. She is standing in a garden with green foliage and white flowers. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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Meet the winners of the — 2023 —

YSCWA YOUR *Scottish* WEDDING AWARDS

From first-class entertainment and wedding-worthy fashion to the awards themselves, here's your complete rundown of YSWAs

Following on from the success of the inaugural Your Scottish Wedding Awards in 2022 we once again threw open the doors of the DoubleTree by Hilton Glasgow Central to welcome the cream of the Scottish wedding industry for a night

of glitz and glamour. It was a chance to catch up with colleagues from across the country and celebrate all that is truly great about the world of weddings in Scotland.

The festivities kicked off with pre-dinner drinks while guests were treated to music from The Scottish Jazz Collective and had great fun striking their best poses on the enchanted garden swing and the 360-degree photo booth provided by Social Jungle.

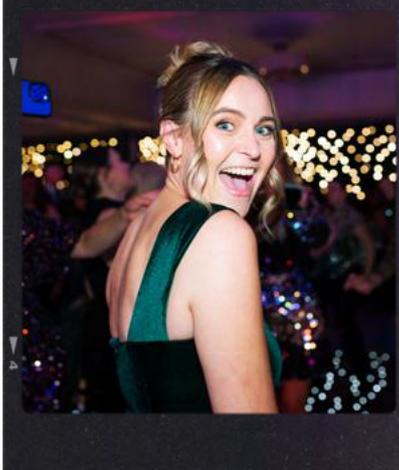
Then it was time to enter the ballroom that had been beautifully dressed by V-State Events and 21CC Productions before the main event kicked off. The Sunday Gospel Choir, just one of four acts provided by the awards' title sponsor Hireaband, got us all in the mood to party with an awe-inspiring set before sax player Rich Gordon took to the dance floor and had everyone on their feet. Then it was time for dinner.

Much-loved star of stage and screen Elaine C Smith reprised her role as compère this year, to introduce each

awards category and announce the winners. However, she also took time to pay tribute to all the shortlisted finalists who had been whittled down from over 13,700 entries, all of which had been nominated by their couples in recognition of their exceptional customer service. Our panel of expert judges then had the unenviable task of poring over submissions from the shortlisted candidates and selecting the winners.

The Your Scottish Wedding Awards are run anonymously, and all nominations were checked and verified, and then cross-checked with the marriage register in Edinburgh. This year's judging panel was made up of Drew Rutherford and Tom Goodfellow of Luxury Scottish Wedding, Nicole Mitchell of Braehead Wedding Exhibition, George Gilchrist-Grodnicki of *Edinburgh Wedding Directory*, Alexa Scott of Stark Agency, Duncan McConchie of Scottish Wedding Industry Alliance, Tsitsi Lynn Makuni of The Scottish Wedding Show and Simon Morgan of *Grampian Wedding Directory*. The panel all adhered to strict rules, judging submissions anonymously to ensure the integrity of the process. We are grateful to all of them and the award sponsors Social Jungle, 21CC Productions, V-State Events, DoubleTree by Hilton, Laura A Tiliman Photography and J Thomson, along with title sponsor Hireaband who ensured that following the awards the dance floor was jumping, as keyboardist Alan Ryden and DJ Simon Boyle had guests partying into the wee small hours!

So, without further ado, here are the winners of the 2023 Your Scottish Wedding Awards... >>





« **BRIDAL DESIGNER**
Freja Designer
Dressmaking

The judges felt designer Mette Baille of Freja Designer Dressmaking had clearly illustrated that the company tailors each option to the individual while going above and beyond to ensure brides feel supported, comfortable, and confident in a non-judgemental safe space. Mette said, "I'm so happy. It means a lot. We've tried to make a safe space for anyone. We welcome any age of bride, any size of bride, anyone from the LGBTQ+ community. We tailor everything to them, so they don't have to go looking."

CAKE DESIGNER »

The Kilted Cake
Company

The judges praised Alison McCabe of The Kilted Cake Company for putting her own family values into the business model, which shone through. Alison said, "This is just so incredible to have won this, in an amazing group of cake makers. It's an absolutely incredible moment for my business and my couples who put me here. What an award to win in the Scottish wedding industry."



« **CATERER**

Saltire Hospitality

This company was praised for consistently delivering phenomenal food with impeccable service. The judges said, "There is a clear commitment to offering bespoke catering with a focus on local provenance and sustainability." Speaking of their win, Saltire Hospitality's wedding and private event coordinator Kate MacDonald said it was all down to teamwork. "We're such a tight-knit family and a family company," she said. "We put in all this hard work. This means everything."



CELEBRANT >>

Fiona Flanagan – IHC

The judges highlighted winner Fiona Flanagan's humility and the fact that she let couples be the centre of attention instead of taking the limelight herself. She told us, "I thought I was just coming here tonight to have an amazing night, meet some pals and cheer on some colleagues. I want to say 'I love you' to all my couples. I have the best couples in the world."



<< EQUIPMENT HIRE

Ivory Tower Weddings & Events

The judges attributed this company's success to "keeping a constant eye on the latest trends and always having new offerings for their clients." Speaking after collecting the award Laura Kidd said, "It's just fantastic. It's such a competitive category and in hard times it's good to get recognition. Thank you so much to our couples for voting for us."

FLORIST >>

The Greenshed Flower Studio

Florist Helen Hardman's dedication and passion were recognised by the judging panel. She told us, "My business has been my baby and I've put my heart and soul into growing it - and to have that effort recognised and applauded not only by my

lovely couples but by industry leaders too is just amazing. The other florists in the category are people that I've looked up to and have inspired me for a really long time - to be nominated alongside them is a privilege in itself. So, I'd like to say a big well done to everyone else as well." She added a "huge, great big, ginormous thank you" to her couples for trusting her vision and skills.



<< GROOMSWEAR AND GROOMSWEAR TAILORING

Kilts 4 U

It was a double whammy for Kilts 4 U who not only scooped the award for Groomsweat but also for Groomsweat Tailoring and their company motto "No matter what – fix it" was highlighted by the judges who called it "a great motto for this passionate and dedicated company." Sally Carlton from the company said, "We are a family business, and we really, really care about what we do. We make it happen. No matter what goes wrong we will do whatever to make it happen. We have never in our whole time of doing business let anyone down." >>



» **MAKE-UP ARTIST**

ARK Bridal Makeup

According to the judges the feedback for this company was wonderful and they left wonderful memories with their brides. Speaking of her win, Amy McCann said, "It's amazing. Honestly, I've worked so hard for this this year. I've really put the work in. This is the cherry on top. Obviously, every day is amazing when you work in weddings."



« **MUSIC**

Sneaky Treacle

Stewart and Craig "Dougsie" from the band had performed at a wedding in Aberdeen the night before the awards and made it down to Glasgow in time to pick up their win. "All day we've been saying we're going to have a great night no matter what but when it came to the crunch, we looked at each other and we thought we want to win," said Dougsie. He added that they make a huge point of ensuring all their couples have a great night, something that was highlighted by the judges who said, "Music and making people happy is clearly a vocation for this band."



» **MUMS' OUTFITS**

Catwalk

With nearly 20 years of experience Catwalk was lauded not only for their outstanding customer service but for their investment in an online future, growing their customer base into Europe and beyond. Owner Pauline Spiers

said, "I think people think because we won in the past, we will win again but the more you win it the more prestigious it feels. It means the world. It's been hard times with lockdown, but we've got the biggest team ever of 15 and they are all here tonight."



« **STATIONERY**

Starca Designs

The judges said Nicola Mullen from Starca Designs won, "for going above and beyond and for not only looking after herself, but also the wedding industry as a whole. The support and sense of family is amazing with this supplier." Nicky told us, "I didn't think we had a chance. The hard work paid off. A big thanks to my couples. This is for them, it's not for me."





« **VENUE STYLING**
JAM Events

JAM Events stood out and had great testimonials about how professional they were, with nothing missed and delivering on the vision. Mhairi Glasgow from the company paid tribute to her “amazing” team and said, “This means everything to me. I’m so excited, it’s unreal.”

WEDDING SPECIALIST »
NJE Firework Displays

Norman Donald of NJE Firework Displays said they were overwhelmed by their win. The judges said the company had shown resilience, care and dedication in the growth and success of their business and he said the win was, “unexpected but we’re over the moon.” We can’t thank our couples enough,” he added. “It makes our job worthwhile. We love what we do and we’re so passionate about it.”



« **VENUE WEDDING PLANNER**
Kirsty Grant at Lochside House Hotel

Kirsty Grant was praised for not just making each couple’s dream come true but for learning a brand new language to ensure she could communicate with the bride’s friends and family and put them at ease. “Printing the menus in Polish too was an excellent touch,” the judges added. However, Kirsty said her award was not just about her. “It’s about my whole team,” she said. “I genuinely believe that.” »





« WEDDING PLANNER
Timeless White Weddings

Timeless White Weddings' attention to detail and staying ahead of trends was lauded as they accepted their award. Emma Matthews from the company said, "It makes me so proud of my team and everything I've done for the last 14 years since I started out. The wedding planner is nothing without the industry behind it. As a wedding planner we're just the glue that sticks it all together."

EDINBURGH VENUE »

Cairns Farm Estate

Cairn Farm Estate's 'farm to fork' weddings concept was lauded, especially how it carried the idea through all elements including coordinating with the resident farmer and décor inspired by the surrounding fields. The team told us the win meant everything to them. "We've all put hard work and effort into it. It's just awesome. The couples are what it's all about."



« FIFE AND TAYSIDE VENUE

Pratis Barn

The team's dedication to its couples and a sustainable approach really shone through, helping Pratis Barn scoop the win in the Fife and Tayside region. Patrick Gilmour from the venue said, "It means the world. This is so special for us. It was such a surprise when we first got the email. We've got the whole team here and it's a night to celebrate everyone's hard work. It's a team effort."

» **GLASGOW VENUE**

Cornhill Castle Hotel

The judges said, "This company is a great example of a business with the climate and community at the heart. There's a real focus on net zero and the setting up of a charitable foundation as well as sharing a percentage of annual profits with the team." And general manager Thomas Ryan dedicated the win to all the team, past and present. "It's not just for the venue but the wider group at Manorview and for all we do for hospitality."



» **HIGHLANDS AND ABERDEENSHIRE VENUE**

Achnagairn Castle

There was an abundance of glowing reviews for Achnagairn Castle which scooped the best venue award for the Highlands and Aberdeenshire venue. According to the judges, "Their wedding couples complimented all the staff saying how amazing they were and that they couldn't do enough for them. The food and the location are so special, as well as them delivering a spectacular wedding day." And Marina Huggett from Achnagairn told us, "I just think our couples are the centre of our world. That is what we are all about. Escape the ordinary. We want to create magical experiences that are bespoke, not packages." »



Other winners who couldn't be there on the night...

ACCESSORIES

RedRocks

BRIDAL RETAILER

Aimee Bridal Couture

BRIDESMAIDS

Sophia Grace Couture

FILMMAKER

VIP Wedding Films Scotland

HAIR STYLIST

Lisa Ivone Hair

PHOTOGRAPHER

Patrick Alexander Photography

TRANSPORT

MET Wedding Cars

STIRLING VENUE

Glenbervie House Hotel

» Gorgeous in gold

Jennifer of Jenniflower Photography looked statuesque in this stunning yellow Shein gown while her friend Trudi of Trudi Todd Creative Florist brought the glam in her sparkly Quiz number.



» Head-turner

Anyone who's been married by humanist celebrant Paul Browett knows you can rely on him to bring the style to special occasions. From his finely curled moustache to his wide array of suits and kilt outfits, he's always impeccably turned out.



» Going green

Helen of The Greenshed Flower Studio dressed her wee bump to perfection in this gorgeous green velvet Oasis gown. Sophie of Platter and Pop also stunned in green in her crossover strapped dress by Vesper.



» Bridal inspo

When you're a cutting-edge designer the pressure is on to deliver a showstopper and Mirka of Mirka Bridal Couture didn't disappoint! We're in love with her tailored underdress and ethereal overlay that's ready for the aisle.



» Wedding white

If you can't wear white to a wedding awards ceremony when can you? Sam from Platter and Pop was bridal goals in her Club Elle London dress.



The **YSWVA** YOUR Scottish WEDDING AWARDS style files

If you're looking for inspo for your 'maids, MOB and MOG, groomsweat or even bridal look the Your Scottish Wedding Awards always delivers. This year's partygoers upped the glam for the 2023 ceremony

« Stylish separates

Becky from Becky's Flowers ensured all eyes were on her in this gorgeous tulle skirt and cropped top combo from her go-to boutique, That Special Day. Just imagine a white incarnation of this for your big day!



» Tremendous tartan

Drew Rutherford and his husband Tom Goodfellow, (both of Luxury Scottish Wedding) were styled for the evening by the expert team at Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers – looks worthy of their positions on the YSWA judging panel.



» All that glitters!

Mette of Freja Designer Dressmaking put all her talents on display with this bespoke number. That oversized bow reflects one of our fave bridal trends, paired with sequinned appliqué.

» Black tie with a twist

Judge George Gilchrist-Grodnicki of *Edinburgh Wedding Directory* and husband The Wedding Guru - Oskar looked dapper with Oskar sporting a Cavani suit and George in a custom outfit by Anjalis Boutique.



» Classic LBDs

If you're looking for an elegant and classic look for your 'maids take inspiration from Pippa of Philippa Rose Cake Design (far right, wearing Godiva) and Cait of All Wrapped Up Events Scotland (right, in Boohoo) with their perfectly tailored silhouettes. And for an off-shoulder version, we're in love with Susannah of Platter and Pop's Club Elle London offering (above).



« Great Scot!

When your family owns award-winning groomswear outfitters Kilts 4 U you can expect to rock the latest in cutting-edge Highlandwear. Lee Carlton's Ivory Sands kilt outfit was a breath of fresh air and would be the perfect look for a summer wedding or overseas celebration. ■

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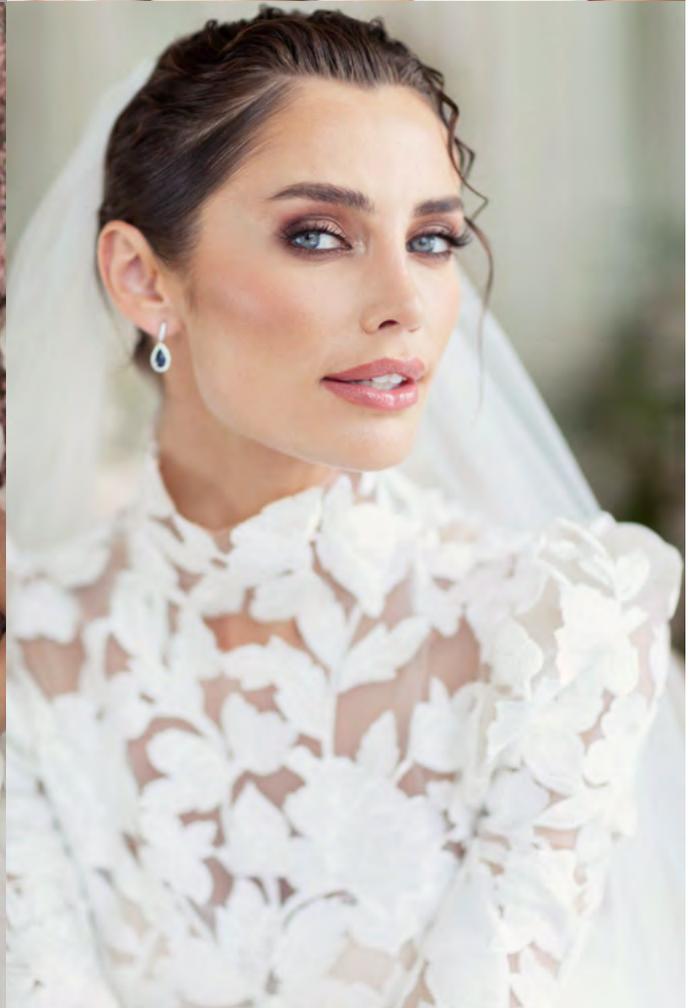
Virgin Hotels Edinburgh – Laura A Tilman Photography
'Nebula' dress (POA), and satin opera gloves (£330),
both by Vivienne Westwood and 'Valley' headband
(£600) by Halfpenny London, all Rachel Scott Couture

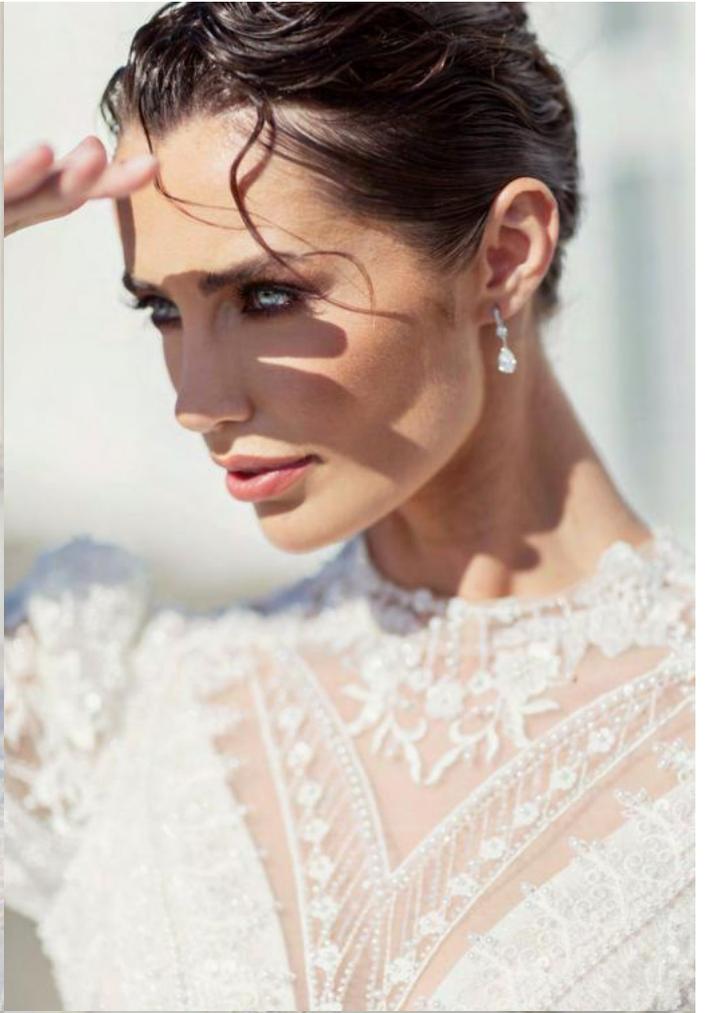
VENUE | The Trump Turnberry Resort
PHOTOGRAPHER | Eva Sanders

Modern LUXE

A team of wedding suppliers pushed the boundaries on this stunning shoot to showcase maximalist weddings in all their glamorous glory



















“At Opus we pride ourselves in offering our brides the very best in the business with many of our designers exclusively stocked with us here in Scotland. For Rebecca we chose dresses by Provonias, Berta and Wona, which we felt worked beautifully with the elegant backdrop of Turnberry and her beautiful timeless look.”

Celebrity hairdresser Pamela Docherty and wedding make-up artist of the year Louise Ballantine went for styling evoking the 90s ‘Supers’ with Rebecca, creating a look reminiscent of Helena Christensen or Christy Turlington. We’re in love with that wet-look up-do! The styling was completed with luxurious diamonds, pearls and gems, courtesy of jewellers Laings.

Event and floral designer to the rich and famous Jordana Events created a set-up worthy of the venue’s opulent surroundings, taking to Turnberry’s vast ballroom, the crown jewel of the hotel, with these jawdropping installations. Crystal candlesticks with muted pink candles were set amongst the roses and foliage that flowed right across the table and down to the floor while a further installation part-framed the ballroom doors. Highlighting a slightly more contemporary design, Jordana combined roses and blush-tinted gypsophila for a softer look that complemented the elegant ballroom, bathed in natural light.

Shalene adds, “We absolutely adored this shoot. It really encapsulates the best of the best across the wedding industry and, of course, provides an insight into the luxurious world of the Turnberry bride. We think the final images are truly special.”

Get *THE* look

Leading lights of the wedding industry came together for this very luxurious shoot at Trump Turnberry Resort

Festoons of roses worthy of any fairytale wedding, glittering gems and chandeliers, and super-high-end bridal fashions were carefully curated for this styled photoshoot. And considering the shoot in question was the new campaign designed to showcase the ultimate in wedding luxury at The Trump Turnberry Resort we wouldn’t expect anything less.

The campaign coincides with the five-star resort on the Ayrshire coast reporting a spike in large-scale luxury wedding bookings from across the UK and beyond so what better way to exhibit the maximalism theme than calling on some of the UK’s most esteemed wedding suppliers? Turnberry’s assistant director of group sales & events Shalene Breen explains the inspiration for the campaign, fronted by international model Rebecca Donaldson and shot by talented photographer Eva Sanders who encapsulated the luxurious world of the Turnberry bride.

“The new campaign is a celebration of our long-standing trusted suppliers, and over the years we have worked together on some of the UK’s most wow-factor weddings,” she says. “Rebecca was the perfect choice for the face of the Turnberry bride with her Scottish roots and elegant timeless beauty, plus she has international appeal having featured this year on the cover of *Marie Claire*, *Vogue* and *Elle*.”

Among the suppliers Turnberry turned to was the multi-award-winning Opus Couture who brought on-trend feathers and overskirts, sparkling semi-sheer gowns, statement bows and chic appliqué for Rebecca’s various looks. “When we were curating ideas for the dresses for the shoot we knew we wanted the gowns to feel chic and luxurious but we also wanted to push the boundaries around what people conceive as typical bridal fashion,” explains Susan Lightbody from Opus.

“We wanted
to push the
boundaries.”

**SUSAN LIGHTBODY,
OPUS COUTURE**



DRESSES
Opus Couture

FLOWERS AND DÉCOR
Jordana Events

HAIR
Pamela Docherty

JEWELLERY
Laings

MAKE-UP
Louise Ballantine Luxury
Bridal Makeup

MODEL
Rebecca Donaldson

PHOTOGRAPHY
Eva Sanders

VENUE
Trump Turnberry Resort ■

She's in FASHION

It's a new year and with that comes renewed energy for wedding planning, especially one of the most fun elements – dress shopping! With that in mind, we've asked top designers and Scottish boutiques to let us in on the bridal trends they predict we'll all be lusting after this season...



THE TREND

Textured lace

We know, we know, lace has always been a key bridal player but this year it hits a bit different. "Lace is always a huge trend in bridal design but 2024 is bringing us a different spin on things with textured appliqué and 3D embellishments," explains Megan at **Kudos Dunfermline**. "One of our favourites gowns this season that shows this off best is Maggie Sottero's 'Ladonna'. We love the all-over detail and definitely feel like it's a modern take on the lace wedding dress trend!"

"This dress is just fabulous on all sizes."

PAMELA JAYNE'S BRIDAL



THE TREND

Away from the plunge

While deep plunging necklines have been all over the bridal catwalks the last few seasons, we're starting to see a move away from them. Pamela at **Pamela Jayne's Bridal** says many of her recent brides-to-be are starting to look for something else. "The girls we have had in, especially those with a curvier bust are loving the dipped, almost straight necklines, as it minimises, while supporting their chest," she says. Pamela loves this Sincerity Bridal offering which is proving very popular with her brides. "It's a satin figure-hugging dress with pearl embellishment and it's so versatile as the straps can be worn on or off the shoulder. This dress is just fabulous on all sizes too."

THE TREND

Detachable elements

The desire for versatility remains strong with brides leaning towards dresses they can switch up throughout their day with a change of sleeve or perhaps the removal of an overskirt. "This year most of our designers have showcased in their collection gowns which feature several looks," says Naydene of **Sophia Grace Couture**. "Think detachable train, sleeves, bows or straps. I just love this as brides can remove detachable elements for their evening reception and mix up their bridal look. 'Elmira' by Calla Blanche, which we now have in the boutique, is the perfect example."



THE TREND

Time to split

In many ways bridal fashions are undergoing a bit of a swing back to simpler silhouettes – but with a twist. Gwenne of Edinburgh and Broxburn-based boutiques **Gwenne** is welcoming this new trend. "It's timeless with a split," she says. "Dresses are looking more classical and

timeless with clean lines and good structure but a wee touch of modernity with the addition of a split. There are a lot of splits coming in and in dresses you would not normally expect a split to be in." Gwenne is particularly loving this beautiful 'Harper' gown from Justin Alexander with its off-the-shoulder neckline, buttons down the back and daring split. >>

THE TREND

Halter neck dresses

A firm favourite of our editor Katie who wore a halter neck to her own wedding 10 years ago, this is a look we're so happy to see again. And Rachel of **Rachel Scott Couture** agrees. "One trend which stood out this season is – halter necks!" she says. "We love this trend for a summer wedding, as it's flirty and romantic but still sophisticated, and there are so many options from our designers. Suzanne Neville's 'Handel' dress features a gently gathered bodice for some texture, while Sassi Holford offers a more minimal, tailored option with her 'Harriett' dress, both of which feature soft A-line skirts. Alternatively, for a slinky slimline take, there is Halfpenny London's timeless 'Cheryl' dress (pictured) which can be customised and styled through its long ties!"



THE TREND

All that sparkle!

Who doesn't love a bit of sparkle, especially for a winter or early spring wedding. Whether you decide on a bit of subtle diamanté or all-out glitter effects, this trend is sure to bring a smile to your face and Mirka at **Mirka Bridal Couture** expects it to be a popular look. "I predict glitter, sparkle and shine to be the next big thing!" she says. "Be it super glossy silks or heavily beaded fabrics, we are slowly entering back into the more opulent style in bridal."



Laura A Tilman Photography

THE TREND

Beautiful and bespoke

Creating bespoke outfits for individual weddings is what designer Mette at **Freja Designer Dressmaking** is all about, tailoring to specific requests, themes and locations. "It could be forest weddings, weddings on tall ships, elopements, or wherever your passion takes you," she says. "That is all lovely stuff and this is where the whole wedding industry is going."

While each wedding is unique, she is seeing the emergence of certain popular trends. "We think there will be a lot of colour coming in in different ways with floral trims, coloured ribbons, tartan, or all over pastel colours," she tells us. "This will also cover the mothers of the bride." And she adds that there have been a few requests for dropped waists, echoing a 20s and 30s style. "These are very glamorous flapper styles, with minimalist, uncomplicated, neatly cut designs."



THE TREND

High necklines

While off the shoulder gowns and detachable sleeves and straps seem to have ruled the roost for the last few seasons high necklines are making a return, a trend Michelle at **Kudos Edinburgh** predicts will be big this year. "The one we think encapsulates the trend beautifully is 'Dublin' by Rosa Clara," she says. Its guipure lace gives the mermaid dress a modern feel. "The high halter neckline and the keyhole back accentuate height and create a gorgeous silhouette," says Michelle. "Perfect for any season!"



Good Luck Wolf Photography

"I predict glitter, sparkle and shine to be the next big thing!"

MIRKA BRIDAL COUTURE



THE TREND

Two in one

So often we see brides opting for a wee costume change after their ceremony or before the evening reception begins but we love it when one hardworking dress offers two different looks, a trend favoured by **Opus Couture**. Susan from the West Kilbride boutique highlights the 'Tiffany' gown by Enzoani as a great example. "This sleek Mikado gown has a split and overskirt for a chic look," she says. "With the trend for having two dresses, this gown offers it all without having to change. We love the drama of having the overskirt for ceremony and photographs, then removing it in the evening for a sexy nighttime look to dance the night away."

THE TREND

Nostalgia

2024 promises a fusion of modernity and tradition with many brides stepping down the aisle in gowns which showcase daring slits that add an edge to classic styles. According to Kavelle of **Kavelle Couture**, "From thigh-high to asymmetrical, these sultry details add a touch of allure to the classic bridal silhouette. Brides are now empowered to showcase their individual style while maintaining the elegance that defines a wedding gown." And among those silhouettes Kavelle says we'll see a resurgence of the minimalist looks that defined classic 90s fashion; "Sleek slip dresses and subtle nods to iconic bridal looks from that era, offering a nostalgic yet timeless appeal for modern brides seeking a touch of vintage elegance on their special day."



'Ribelia' by Pronovias



YSW'S TREND WATCH

We've been keeping our finger on the bridal fashion pulse. Here's what we're in love with right now...

Stunning silhouettes

Sleeves are still enjoying a huge moment, whether you opt for a cute capped version, detachable ones or a set that's guaranteed to make a real statement.

However, if you're not feeling that much coverage then we urge you to embrace the spaghetti strap. Keep them super-skinny, as seen in 'Lordes' by Savannah Miller (2) or in this 'Roxy' Halfpenny London mini (9), which, btw, showcases another of our favourite trends – the super-short wedding dress.

Draping has also caught our attention and we love this cross-body cut and halterneck in Ellis Bridals' 'Megan' (4) and Aire Barcelona 'Sagall's' (5) ever-so-subtle ruching.

And you don't have to wait for the wedding to start getting dressed up. How sweet is this hen party 'Aubrey' dress by Charlotte Mills (10)?

Finishing touches

We've also had a close eye on gorgeous accessories with our love affair with pearls and bows showing no sign of abating. Whether it's a cluster pearl strap on a cute block heel (courtesy of Rainbow Club (8)) or a cute organza ribbon strap on the Charlotte Mills 'Juniper' heel (7), we're obsessed.

Speaking of Charlotte Mills, our editor Katie paid a visit to The Aisle Edit, the bridal department store on the outskirts of Manchester that's headed up by the shoe designer. With a whole room devoted to ensuring you're beautifully shod, it's a shoe lover's paradise but there was much more to take in. Katie was down for the in-store launch of Carrie Elizabeth Jewellery, a stunning line with plenty of pieces for your Big Day. How cute are these constellation drop earrings (3)?

Staying closer to home though, we've also been to the Sheila Fleet gallery in St Andrews and this 'Matrix' bangle (6) is a winner with our team. ■



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The BIG interview with

Mette Baillie of Freja Designer Dressmaking

From making dolls' clothes in her native Denmark to heading up her own Edinburgh atelier, YSWA winner **Mette** has always put the individual at the heart of her designs

Good Luck Wolf Photography



“Your clothes
should
enhance how
you move.”



John Clark Photos

Your Scottish Wedding: Did you always know you wanted to be a designer?

Mette Baillie: Yes, for as long as I remember clothes and the “language of clothing” has been on my mind. My mum says she can't remember me ever playing with my dolls, I just made them clothes. I also played with those cardboard dolls you made outfits that hooked on and even made a cardboard Mary Quant collection.

I made my first outfit for myself when I was nine; a *Little House on the Prairie*-style grey pinstriped skirt and waistcoat. I felt amazing in it. It was a bit ‘out there’ but this made me understand clothes can make you feel a certain way, can give you confidence and energy. And it can make people perceive you completely differently to how they would in another outfit.

Part of my fascination was how garments move on the body and how you move in different clothing. Your clothes should enhance how you move and not restrict you. I always ask my clients to walk up and down our “aisle” to see how they move in the clothes. Anyone fiddling with their clothes is not happy and there is something we need to fix.

YSW: Your designs take in everything from tweed jackets to mother of the bride outfits but when did you start in bridalwear?

MB: My first wedding dress was my own back in 1994. I graduated as a designer in 1998 and did my dissertation on Scottish estate tweeds. When I came to Scotland,

I thought I was going to have a shop with ladies' tweeds. Then somebody asked me to make their wedding dress, and I loved it. The rest is history!

YSW: What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in bridalwear?

MB: I have been making wedding dresses commercially for 24 years, (actually a little before when I worked in a couture house in Copenhagen). Weddings have changed so much. When I started, most were organised by the parents and generally were very similar to what they had had.

Now, it's completely different. Weddings are so individual and couples plan a wedding which aligns with their values. This is so wonderful. Perhaps they love the great outdoors so the wedding will be in a favourite outdoor location. The wedding outfit then perhaps needs to accommodate some hiking.

All these couples are our favourite kind of people. And for those people it would often not make sense to buy a dress from a wedding dress store, which has been produced in a manner that would not align with their values. This is where we come in. We source as sustainably as we can. We offer living wage and good work conditions to our all-female team, and we are producing everything in our city centre location.

YSW: How would you describe the Freja Designer Dressmaking bride?

MB: A Freja bride has an eye on her environmental impact, is super-far forward in terms of what is on trend

and is a super-cool creature who is not intimidated by an industry which can come across as a bit superficial and shallow. She has her own values and has grit and tenacity to get the wedding and the dress that suits her body type and shape.

Freja brides also do not always feel catered for in the more commercial wedding dress environments. This can be because she is older, taller, bigger, smaller or has specific requirements for her dress. Perhaps she sees herself as part of the LGBTQ+ community. For years we have been shouting about our safe and supportive environment – there is no judgement.

YSW: Do you have a favourite gown you've designed over the years?

MB: I have so many. The dresses I love are the ones where the bride's ideas of her wedding, her values, her partner's values, their venue, their decorations, body-type and personality all align in the dress.

YSW: What is your best tip for brides searching for their wedding dress?

MB: Keep an open mind. You can make a Pinterest board, pinning flowers you love, decorations, hairstyles, and dresses obviously, and spend some time taking a lot in. Also search for people with a similar body type and colouring to you. Perhaps look at red carpet dresses which are often more on trend than a lot of bridalwear. After a while you will start to see where your style ideas are going. Take into consideration the venue and imagine yourself there.

YSW: What do you wish brides knew before they embark on having a bespoke dress designed?

MB: The one thing that frustrates me is when people say, "I could never get a dress made because I don't know how it will turn out." We have lots of stages, where we can change and direct things, and we really welcome the dialogue through the fittings. All of that is just part of the process.



Good Luck Wolf Photography



Fern Photography

“We source as sustainably as we can.”

YSW: You worked on a project recently to raise the profile of non-binary weddings and awareness of how the wedding industry can provide a more inclusive service. How important was it to be part of that?

MB: This has been a wonderful learning experience. I've had so many experiences with brides who just had slightly different requirements than the "normal" bride and feel they have not been taken seriously.

When civil partnerships, and later same-sex marriages, came into play we started getting a lot of requests. Then a close friend transitioned to become a woman and I realised a whole new layer of issues that brought on the clothing front. I felt really sad that these wonderful and usually really private people struggled so much to both get clothing that fitted their bodies and whichever gender identity they had, but also to get the "bridal experience". We got together with our wedding friends Fern Photography and made a documentary about non-binary bridalwear. Everybody deserves to give and receive love and celebrate love with marriage, and to have a joyful and respectful time while planning their wedding.

YSW: Who is the one celebrity bride you wish you could have designed for?

MB: I am so classic in my style, I would have loved to be part of the

three Danish royal weddings which I remember, and I would have loved designing for Meghan. I adore her style and body shape. I love old style icons, like Debbie Harry and Princess Diana. I recently saw Dakota Fanning in *Equalizer 3* and commented on how she wasn't tiny and held herself really well and had a lot of charisma.

YSW: What's next for Freja Designer Dressmaking?

MB: I would love to say we had massive plans to take over the bridal world but that is not the case! We have been in business 24 years and have totally nailed what we love doing. We love to dress the individual, to work with them and their brief. This is what we do well and what we love.

We really want to focus on areas not currently represented in the wedding world. We truly believe we have started this change in the industry, we are there now for the hard graft. ■

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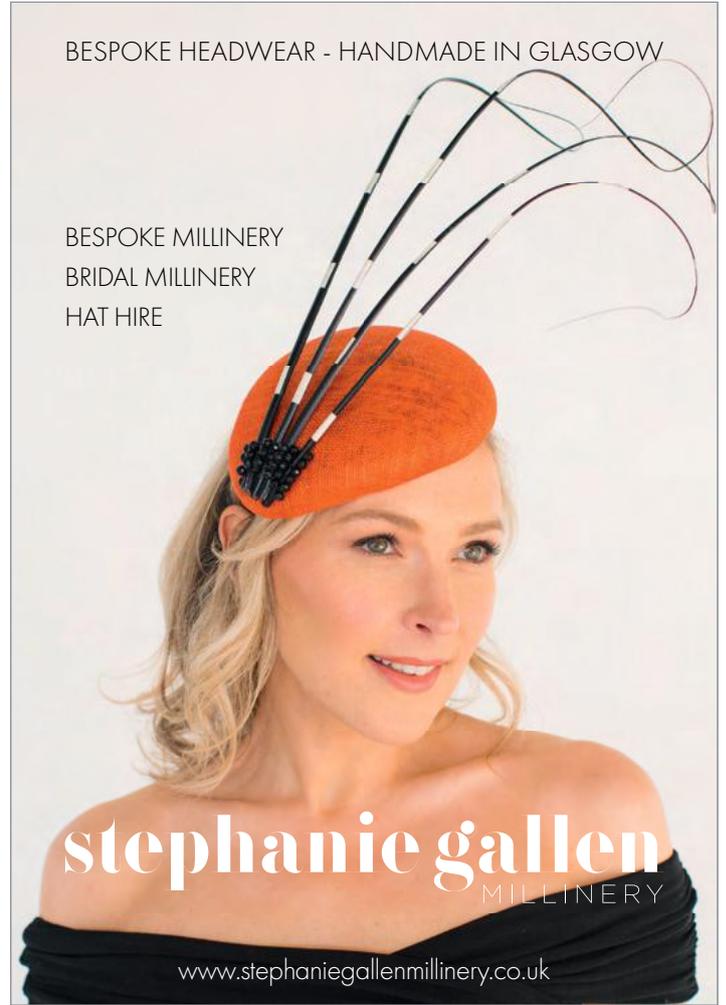


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Kirsty Stroma Photography



Ask the expert

Rachel Scott Couture

unpicks everything you need to know about finding the perfect wedding dress and the dream shopping experience

When it comes to that classic perception of wedding dress shopping there are two types of people – those who can't wait to indulge and those who can't bear the thought. One thing both have in common though is they want to have a positive experience throughout the process.

So what can we do to start you on the right road to that great experience and finding the perfect dress?

First step – don't just look at dresses!

When you think of doing wedding dress research, chances are you'll naturally focus on the garment itself – looking through photos, videos and designers' online profiles. What shapes do you like? What fabrics?

Well I'm here to tell you the most important thing is actually to prioritise other elements of the shopping story above just the physical outfit (and I've got some amazing dresses in my shop so I don't say that lightly!)

Whether you're massively excited to look at *all* the dresses or are horrified at the thought of trying on more than two, to truly get the right dress you need the right experience.

You've got years of experience shopping for your normal wardrobe so you know which designers you like or don't like, which shops are guaranteed winners, and I bet you could pretty much buy a pair of jeans blindfolded! But when it comes to bridal shops it's important to recognise you will be starting from scratch and doing research will give you not only the best end dress result but also the best experience.

Finding the right retailer

Remember not all bridal shops are the same. If you visit one place and realise they're not your style (of dress or of experience) don't panic. The next shop might be right up your gorgeous dress street. Before you visit shops, give them a phone, email, and ask questions. Maybe see if you can pop in for a chat? Take the time to ensure you're going to the right place, with the right styling and the right experience.

At Rachel Scott Couture we love to chat and get to know a bit about you before you come in so we can find the right journey to the right dress. Buying a wedding dress should be an experience and not just a transactional purchase. By chatting things through you'll discover if you want to buy from someone on a one-to-one basis. Or would you rather rummage through rails and choose yourself? Do they do quick turn-around? And what about sizing, fittings and styling options? You'll find out the things that are important to you and where your priorities lie, making your dress choosing easier. We offer free-of-charge preliminary consultations where you can come in and meet us and learn about how we do things (differently!).

'Valley' headband and 'Periwinkle' veil, Halfpenny London



'Puccini' dress, Suzanne Neville



Halfpenny London 'Wonder' collection illustration





Geography

It may initially seem logical to start looking at the shops closest to you but Google maps doesn't know what type of dress style you like, your budget or your beliefs on sustainability. Your time is precious, your wedding dress shopping experience is even more precious so don't risk the disappointment you'd feel if you're actually a vibrant theatrical diva but you're stuck in an appointment at a boutique which only showcases slimline, boho, understated gowns - all because it was the nearest location.

Also consider if your chosen retailer will enable you to add your own bespoke flourishes. Are they open to enjoying that creative design process with you?

Do you work shifts and need to do appointments outwith normal working hours? And it's not just initial appointments but throughout the process with fittings when you're in the busy run-up to your wedding. We offer fitting appointments outside standard hours.

We also have our own in-house seamstress to complete the work, whereas a lot of retailers won't offer that option. If that's the case, you'll need to allow time to research and source your own external seamstress - potentially not a quick task so make sure to ask in advance so you can plan ahead!

Budgets

It's often a subject we shy away from but again, to get the right experience and therefore the right dress, you need to be sure the shops and designers you're going to fit within your ideal. I always emphasise to clients that discussing budgets openly is just as important as me knowing if you're allergic to silk or must have your arms covered for religious reasons (or to cover a 'granny-still-doesn't-know-yet' tattoo!) The more detail we have the better.

Be confident to say no

You are the person who knows you best! Bridal sales assistants may have plenty of knowledge of their designers, their styles or what's 'on trend' but that shouldn't dictate the look you go for. I would never assume to start styling a bride until I've got to know a little about them as a person (and it's amazing how quickly that can happen!)

Use the sales assistant's knowledge as a tool to help you find your own personal look, one that fits your personality, not a body shape mould or what's in the 'trendy this season' rule book.

This is so much more than a fashion exercise. This is your iconic moment. It's crucial you get the right look to give you the right feeling on your wedding day.

If you like something, say so - if you don't like something, say so! I promise no good sales assistant will be upset. In fact they'll relish that opportunity to help fine tune what they offer next.

Cost versus experience

What if more than one shop offers the same designer you like? Pricing should generally be roughly the same across retailers but do you feel one shop is more your vibe than the other? Are you getting an enhanced personal service? Really

think about who will give you the most amazing experience. It may be worth travelling a bit further to not only get the physical dress of your dreams but also the best overall experience.

Finding the right designer

You're going to be looking at a range of designers that you're likely never to have heard of before, and that may initially seem overwhelming. Remember don't put yourself under pressure to know everything about them in advance. Simply getting an overview of a designer's styling is a perfect starting point. The specifics of skirt shape, fabric, colour etc will all become apparent once you start trying on - for the moment though, ask yourself if the designs are generally heading in the right direction for you?

If you spot a specific designer range that catches your eye, find the nearest stockist and contact them for more details. Keep it open ended, ask them to tell you about the designer, the styles, the way they work - good retailers will know you're starting from scratch so will always be wonderfully open to providing information.

Final homework

Be careful about thinking of wedding dress research as purely being about looking at dress pictures. There's so much more useful information available to you that can help ensure you get your perfect dress and your perfectly bespoke dress experience. ■



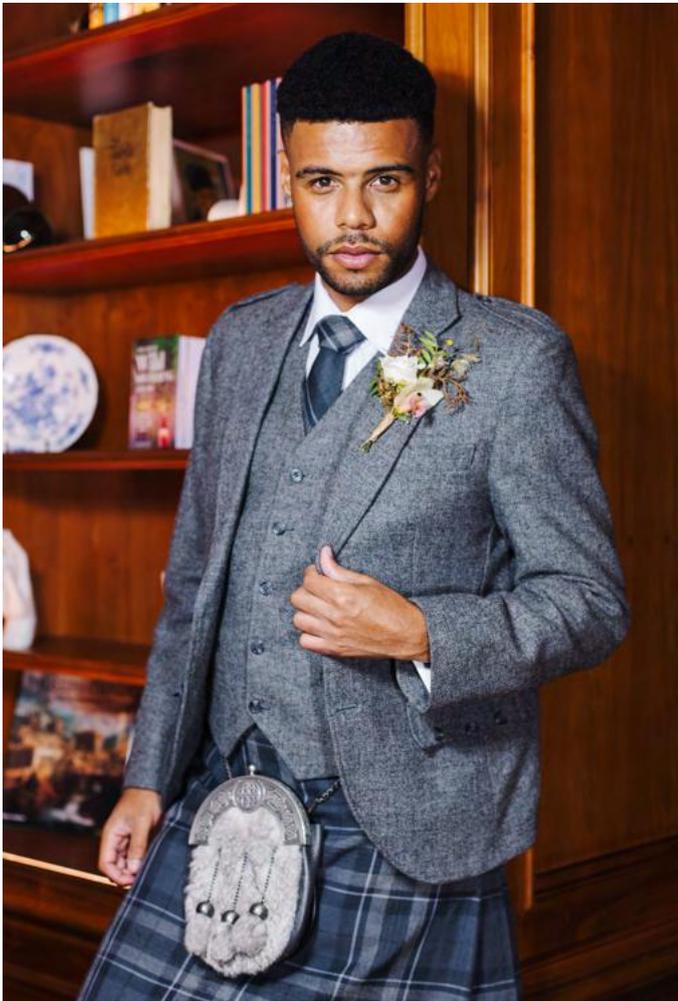
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VENUE: Virgin Hotels Edinburgh

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Hotels Edinburgh was
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OPPOSITE PAGE: Gillian - 'Bailey' dress with revealed shoulders and feather details (POA), Mirka Bridal Couture. Pearl tiara by Arianna (£145), Pamela Jayne's Bridal. Red and pink bouquet with 'Red Naomi', 'Bourbon Street' and 'Sweet Avalanche' roses (POA), Moss & Blossom Floral Studio. THIS PAGE: Gillian - as before. Chris - Scottish national team tartan kilt with matching waistcoat and jacket (all made to measure), blue shirt, red tie, horse hair sporran, ghillie boots, Kilberry Bagpipes handcrafted sgian dubh (all POA), all Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers. Buttonhole with dried bougainvillea and red sedum (POA), Moss & Blossom Floral Studio. >>



OPPOSITE PAGE: Chris – Spirit of Loch Fyne kilt outfit (from £145 to hire & £1,299 to own), Kilts 4 U. Buttonhole with lisianthus and grasses tied with rustic wire (POA), Moss & Blossom Floral Studio. Gillian – **BOTTOM LEFT** - 'Querubi' dress by Rosa Clara (£2,170), Kudos Edinburgh. Silver summer breeze pearl enamelled leaf sprig clip by Ivory & Co (POA), Kudos Dunfermline. **BOTTOM RIGHT** - 'Wellesley' dress with detachable sleeves by Suzanne Neville (POA), Rachel Scott Couture. Hair clip as before. **THIS PAGE:** Gillian – dress and hair clip as before. 'Valentina' veil by Peter Langner (£1,100), Rachel Scott Couture. >







OPPOSITE PAGE: Chris - Modern Wallace tartan trews (made to measure), velvet evening jacket (made to measure), red braces, black wing collar shirt, red self-tying bow tie and black Gordon Nicolson brogues (all POA), all Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers. Gillian - 'Kalea' dress by Rosa Clara (£1,950), Kudos Edinburgh. 'Odyssey' statement pearl cluster band by Ivory & Co (POA), Kudos Dunfermline. Gloves (stylist's own). THIS PAGE: Gillian - 'Alice' sequin dress with revealed back (POA), Mirka Bridal Couture. Pearl and diamante tiara by Twilight Designs (£110), Pamela Jayne's Bridal. Bouquet as before. >>





OPPOSITE PAGE: 'Sasha' by Wona Concept A-line gown with capped sleeves featuring floral lace and embellished with beads and crystals (POA), **Sophia Grace Couture.** White bouquet with 'Shade of Belge' roses, lisianthus, 'White Onesta' dahlia and grasses (POA), **Moss & Blossom Floral Studio.** **THIS PAGE:** Fitted mermaid 'Casilda' gown featuring delicate beading over Chantilly lace with detachable straps by Luna Novias, and satin and organza laser cut flowers with pearl accents comb by Richard Designs (both POA), both **Kudos Dunfermline.** >>



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE:
The Spirit of Loch Tay kilt
outfit (from £145 to hire and
£1,299 to own), Kilts 4 U.
Buttonhole as before. >>





'Penni' dress in ivory/mocha by Madi Lane (POA), Gwenne. 'Odyssey' statement pearl cluster band as before. Long bow veil with crystals (£88.50), Kudos Edinburgh. Bouquet as before.



Chris - Clunie Burn tartan kilt (from £499), Silver Contemporary jacket and waistcoat (£399), Chinchilla dress sporran (from £315), lilac tie (£17) and Pride of Scotland brogues (£109). (Hire full outfit from £105 or buy full outfit package from £1,189), all **McCall's Highlandwear**. Buttonhole as before.
Gillian - Crepe mermaid 'Carola' gown with delicate lace bodice, dramatic train and detachable sleeves by Luna Novias (POA), **Kudos Dunfermline**. Bouquet as before. ➤



THIS PAGE: Gillian High-necked gown by Mori Lee (£1,450) and pearl and diamante tiara as before, both Pamela Jayne's Bridal. Chris Exclusive Midnight Pride trews (from £199), matching cut on the cross waistcoat (£125), matching bow tie (£35), velvet dinner jacket (from £200), Pride of Scotland brogues (£109). (Trews full outfit package starts from £669), all McCalls Highlandwear.

OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP LEFT: 'Nebula' dress (POA), and satin opera gloves (£330), both by Vivienne Westwood, both Rachel Scott Couture. TOP RIGHT, BOTTOM LEFT AND BOTTOM RIGHT As before. >>





THIS PAGE: 'Mimi' gown in ivory/ mocha with detachable balloon sleeves by Evie Young (POA), Gwenne. Floral comb and bouquet as before.

OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM RIGHT Chris trows outfit as before, Gillian Black dress by Phoenix Gowns (£1,350) and star tiara by Arianna (£130), both Pamela Jayne's Bridal. TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM LEFT as before. >>



'Jazz' sheath gown featuring 3D floral lace and a hint of sparkle with matching soft tulle overskirt (POA), Sophia Grace Couture.





Get THE LOOK

We had so much fun exploring Virgin Hotels Edinburgh for our bride and groom styled photoshoot

Stepping through the doors of Virgin Hotels Edinburgh in the Old Town's Victoria Street it's almost impossible to believe this was once the nightclub Espionage (the scene of more student nights out for our editor Katie than she'd care to admit!) You can just about see the footprint of the old watering hole's meandering corridors and endless rooms but thankfully that is where it ends. Now, everywhere you look all is chic and contemporary with playful décor details and elegant furnishings. Don't get us wrong, the hotel's famed Scarlet Lounge has all the feel of a club, but a really, really upmarket one.

And with so many exciting nooks and crannies to explore, Virgin Hotels made an exciting backdrop to our shoot, not least the epic Greyfriars Hall. With all that exposed stone and the vaulted wooden ceiling, it would be the perfect wedding location.

Our shoot brought together all the must-have looks and trends gracing the bridal boutiques and groomswear outfitters this season. We're talking

feathers, sparkles, trows and velvet jackets.

Hair and make-up artist Caroline Stewart was on-hand for our 'bride' Gillian's glam and she used Nip + Fab Hyaluronic Fix Extreme4 jelly eye patches and Simple water boost hydrating moisturiser "to get the skin glowing and hydrated. These products don't have any harsh chemicals, they aren't too oily and can be used for all skin types." She started with a natural look using an eight-hour cream and Laura Mercier's illuminating primers to give a glowing base and then intensified the look as we progressed using products including Tarte Cosmetics bronzers, Urban Decay eye primer potion in 'Sin' and Charlotte Tilbury's famed 'Pillow Talk' lipstick, followed by 'Coral Kiss'.

Moss & Blossom Floral Studio provided the gorgeous bouquets and buttonholes for the shoot with the white looks incorporating the likes of 'Shade of Belge' roses, lisianthus and grasses while the red and pink ones had a super-contemporary feel using 'Red Naomi', 'Bourbon Street' and 'Sweet Avalanche' roses in the bouquet and dried bougainvillea and red sedum in the buttonhole.

Watch out for our model Chris really working those trows on our socials!



FLOWERS

Moss & Blossom Floral Studio

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry & Hair Styling

MODELS

Gillian Cheung and Chris MacRae

PHOTOGRAPHY

Laura A Tiliman Photography

STYLIST

Euan Spiers

VENUE

Virgin Hotels Edinburgh ■

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Wear it *your way*

As we see more and more women and non-binary people searching for groomswear for their wedding, **Claire Muir** gets the lowdown from those pioneering this look



Turning tradition on its head

Claire Bell and **Joanne Beacham** wanted to experience the outfit process as a couple, so picked their attire together and got ready alongside one another on the wedding morning

“We really wanted to express our style and personality in what we were wearing but knew to do that we’d have to approach groomswear companies. We found one that offered a personal service with a private consultation. This meant it was just us and the tailor, discussing our vision and whether it could be brought to life. Thankfully it could and we topped it off with custom Converse trainers. Wearing what we wanted to wear and not what would

traditionally be expected was the best thing we could have done. The confidence from being comfortable in our own skin shone out of both of us – we could be ourselves in front of everyone that we held close. Our wedding party loved our choices, and we wanted them to be as comfortable and happy as us. The best women were told to wear whatever they wanted to stand by our sides and the rest wanted to wear kilts. My brother joked that we looked lovely in our treds whilst the men were all in skirts. We loved this and it felt like we really were turning tradition on its head!”

When you think of Scottish groomswear the image that pops up might be a good-looking chap in a

kilt. Alternatively, you might conjure up an equally suave gent who is suited, booted and ready to say: ‘I do.’

However, there’s also a significant number of female and non-binary people who embrace these looks on their big day. We’ve featured lots of real weddings of couples where either one or both of them turned to groomswear outfitters for their wedding look, instead of the bridal boutiques.

In fact, at Edinburgh Tailoring Company a large proportion of their business comes from this community.

Owner Chris McGowan explains, “It’s important you feel like yourself and not like you have to dress like the ‘male’ or the ‘female’ you perhaps don’t identify as.”

As some of our featured couples admit, the shopping process can be anxiety-provoking and Chris advises that prep is key. He recommends getting in touch with the business you plan to visit so they have an understanding of who you are before you arrive and, while still at home, scour socials for inspo. He says tweed and lambswool-based outfits have dominated in the last few years with green and burgundy being the big colours – but there’s been a recent shift towards pastels. “They’ll look incredible but, again, anyone can have just about anything made,” adds Chris.



David Ruff Photography

«“At Kilts 4 U it’s all about getting a couple married. And if highlandwear is their choice we will do all we can to make their dream outfit a reality.”

IAIN CARLTON, KILTS 4 U

Made for me

Knowing her wife-to-be would look beautiful in a dress customised to her body, ‘masc’ woman **Lindsey Amato** wanted to find her equivalent

“As a masculine-presenting female I was never going to be wearing a wedding dress and was dead set on a suit, or something along those lines. Then my partner, Susanne, suggested we look at a kilt because she’d get to pick a dress and all the accessories so why shouldn’t I do the same? I made an appointment with Kilts 4 U to enquire but having never done anything like this before and knowing the kilt is traditionally worn by men I was extremely nervous. Catherine put me right at ease, though. She assured me that females wearing kilts had been growing in popularity and as soon as I found out about the bespoke option I was sold. She took time to go over everything, from the thread for the stitching to the style of buttons, and we customised my whole outfit. Not being a fan of too much tartan, I went for a tweed front with intermittent tartan pleats at the back, paired with a full tartan plaid. We added a matching tie, tartan detail on my blue tweed jacket and tartan inserts on the brogues. Every little detail was covered and the whole outfit was tailor-made for my shape and size. It can be difficult to feel good in something masculine but the cut and style was perfect. I would definitely encourage more females to look into traditional groomswear. Wear what makes you feel amazing.”

Happy, safe and comfortable

We covered **Han and Jennifer’s** nuptials (Scotland’s first queer Jewish wedding, don’t cha know!) last issue and this time Han is back to talk outfits

“First, I’d like to note that each trans and/or non-binary person’s experience of their gender is different and for me, the term non-binary helps me express the fact that I never felt quite right being assigned female at birth. I often use terms like non-binary and transmasculine to describe my experience of being perceived as a woman for most of my life; feeling a close adjacency and love towards womanhood yet feeling not comfortable with the idea of being locked into one of two binary genders. Instead, I like to see myself as an integration of feminine, masculine and nondescript pieces – and I leaned towards a more traditionally masculine outfit in my wedding apparel. Before shopping, I studied photos of gay, lesbian and trans weddings, and found a lot of inspiration looking at butches and transmasculine people in suits. I



Fern Photography

browsed lots of different stores (and brought friends who showered me with lots of praise, making the experience much more fun and exciting) before choosing my suit – formal trousers, a button-up shirt, braces and a bowtie. I also bought smart dress shoes online, and added a tartan scarf and brown trench coat for photos outside. I chose these pieces slowly, trying to curate a look with which I felt most comfortable. To anyone interested in wearing apparel that doesn’t feel like it’s ‘for you’, I would say to do it! Your wedding is your special day, and you feeling happy, safe, and comfortable is what matters most. I was really excited to shop in the men’s section and I’m glad I was able to experiment with different looks.” ■





In his WORDS

Our columnist **Lee Thomas** and his fiancée **Louise** are forging ahead with wedding planning – they've even panned for their wedding ring gold!

In his last column Lee told us he had had crossed a lot of major bookings off the wedding to-do list. He and Louise found their dream venue in Auchen Castle, and they're set to marry there this October. From the start they were struck by the venue's attention to detail and were super-impressed when on their last trip they were surprised with a Champagne tower. "On my first visit, I briefly mentioned I might like one on

the day, but to be honest I had completely forgotten," says Lee. "This was another five-star gesture from the team."

Their chosen wedding package means many elements are taken care of so recently they've been concentrating on making memories.



Treasured moments

Wanting to add special meaning to their rings they decided to incorporate some Scottish gold – "If it's good enough for kings and queens, it's good enough for us!" smiles Lee. He booked a day's gold panning with The Museum of Lead Mining at Wanlockhead. They arrived on a wet and gloomy morning but threw themselves into the task, with a crack team of instructors at a secret location. "By the end, we had collected a small amount of gold each and were over the moon," he says. "We had so much fun." With their precious gold secured they'll be working with a jeweller to incorporate it into their wedding bands.

Be our guest

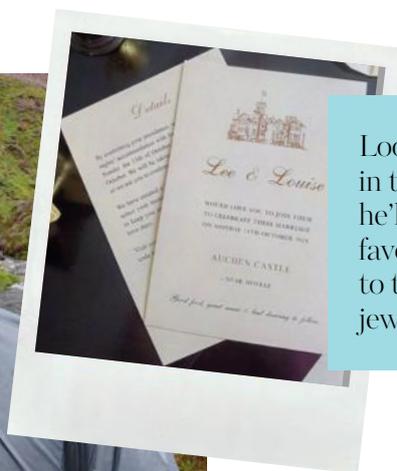
After fine-tuning their guest list, it was on to invitations. "Louise had decided who we were going to use after meeting a lovely husband and wife team at a wedding show. Their company, Com Bossa Luxury Wedding Invitations, was exactly what it said on the tin, luxury but without the luxury price tag. We loved having a picture of Auchen Castle on the invitations." Lee and Louise added a QR code that takes guests directly to their wedding website where they can RSVP and choose menus.

For an elegant finishing touch the couple decided to have a go at wax sealing their invitations. "I can neither confirm or deny whether a few glasses of wine were involved, and I made a bit of a mess of it to begin with, but we had fun doing it together," smiles the groom.

Do I even have the legs for a kilt?

From the beginning Lee has been keen on wearing a kilt, but being a Welshman, he thought it may be frowned upon. After speaking with "every Scottish person I know" and being given the green light, he decided to take the plunge and best man Tony booked an appointment at Kapital Kilts in Linlithgow. "I have never worn a kilt before and felt overwhelmed before going to visit Mark but what he doesn't know about kilts isn't worth knowing!" Lee enthuses. "Over a few visits he made me feel comfortable and together we found exactly what I was looking for. As I'm buying the outfits for Tony and me, we wanted to add our own personal touches and got to decide every last detail – cuffs, pocket angles, collars, buttons, linings, stitching – a complete bespoke service."

And while Lee says it feels like he's "trying to break the enigma code" to get a hint of what Louise's dress is like, he knows she was very well looked after at Eleganza Sposa who made her feel like a queen. ■



Look out for Lee's column in the May issue where he'll tackle cakes, wedding favours and adding their gold to their wedding rings with jeweller Timothy J Sharp



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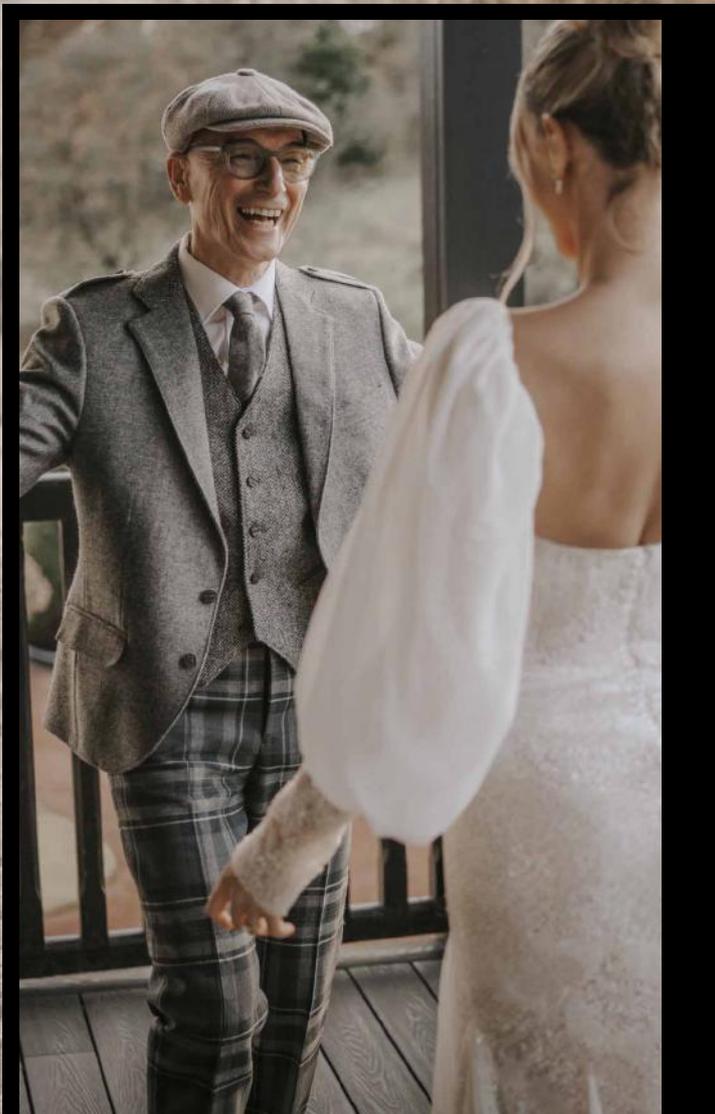
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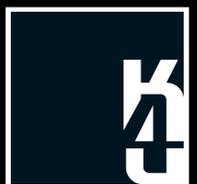
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She's *the* One

With more and more couples choosing to throw out the traditional rule book of which loved one fits which role in their wedding, **Jennifer McLaren** shares some heartwarming stories...



Sinead Firman Photography



My best mate

Charlotte Alderson married husband Ben on an unexpectedly warm and sunny day in Edinburgh at the beginning of April last year. She describes her mum, Karen Young, as her best friend – so it was only natural to ask her to be bridesmaid on her special day!

With three brothers and lots of great pals, Charlotte wasn't ever going to have an easy task choosing a wedding party. In the end, mum was definitely the word – and she also had three 'brides-mates' who helped to organise her fabulous hen do.

"I just thought 'what is a bridesmaid?' and a bridesmaid is the person that you lean on the most," Charlotte explains. "My mum is my best mate, I speak to her all the time and as we were going on, it just made perfect sense."

Karen, meanwhile, was surprised when Charlotte asked her to be bridesmaid: "I did think initially it was a sweet gesture that Charlotte was making – I didn't realise until a bit later that she really meant it as a bridesmaid and she wasn't just doing this to keep me happy. It took a while to just sink in and it made what was obviously going to be an emotional day even more emotional."

Charlotte adds: "I always think that the father of the bride gets quite a lot of chat on the day so it was nice to be able to honour my mum in that way, because they both got a shout-out."

Karen wore a stunning magenta Fely Campo dress from Catherine's of Partick along with a matching hat. Charlotte had wanted bright colours and surprised her mum with a vibrant bouquet, which complemented the dress beautifully.

"My mum is my best mate. It made perfect sense."

CHARLOTTE

Charlotte says that dress shopping had to be with her mum, because she has such great fashion sense. And in the run-up to the day, Karen was always one step ahead, from finding the perfect pair of earrings for Charlotte to borrow, to conjuring up a stylish silk head scarf for her daughter to wear on the way to the wedding in a chic red convertible that demonstrated this wedding truly was a family affair. The car belonged to Karen's parents and her brother and his wife decorated and brought it down for the ceremony.

Charlotte says the rest of the day went smoothly thanks to the excellent team at Prestonfield Stables, and Karen says it was all about going with the flow: "I was always looking out for Charlotte, but as a mum you do that anyway."



What to wear?

Louise Brown of Catwalk, Falkirk, says they've had many mums walking their daughter or son down the aisle over the years and that finding a spectacular mum's outfit rather than a traditional bridesmaid dress would be the best way to go if you were planning to have a mum as a bridesmaid or MOH.

"In our experience, most mums of the bride or groom want to complement the colour tone of the bridal party but if mum is also stepping in as MOH or if gran is the fun 'flower girl' then there might be a little more pressure to tone in while still standing out," she explains.

"A huge trend for summer 2024 mums is floral prints and there is an abundance of choice in the new and exciting Veni Infantino collection. Choosing a print to match the other bridesmaids' colour with the addition of a headpiece could be an option. There is also the option of a longer style with the chiffon floaty skirts to make sure you're elegant for the ceremony but dance floor ready for the party!"



Beautiful memories

Gina Williams of Fuze Ceremonies was celebrant at Charlotte and Ben's wedding, describing the day as "incredible".

Gina recalls: "When I met Charlotte and Ben to discuss their wedding and Charlotte told me she had asked her mum to be her bridesmaid, I thought it was such a lovely gesture. It was clear they have a wonderful relationship and what could be more perfect than having your mum beside you as your rock and support for your wedding preparations and on your big day?"

"On the day, Charlotte's mum was super-organised and seemed one step ahead, making sure Charlotte had everything she needed. Your mum is going to be your biggest cheerleader and only wants the best for you. I'm sure Charlotte must have felt confident that her mum would have everything covered, and as a result she was a very calm and relaxed bride. And what beautiful memories to be making together as a mother and daughter!"

"From the moment Charlotte arrived at Fettes looking effortlessly classy in a headscarf and sunglasses, in a fabulous open top bright red sports car, she was so calm and full of fun," Gina goes on. "Karen ensured Charlotte's dress and veil were all sorted just prior to the

ceremony, and again I recall how calm everyone was. It was such a joy, and I'm sure that was largely down to Charlotte and Karen being so at ease in each other's company."

As a celebrant, Gina has seen lots of couples involving parents and step-parents in their ceremonies. "It's such a great honour to bestow on your loved ones and so amazing to have them included. There are so many options and I find couples are often keen to have the mums included, maybe because dads generally do the speeches or walk the bride down the aisle."

She's had mums involved in unity candle lighting, doing the pouring for the drinking from the quail and mums acting as the couple's witnesses. "How lovely that their names will forever, through the passage of time, be present on the Marriage Schedule," she says.

It's Gina's role to assist each of her couples in creating their perfect ceremony. "I always ask if the couple would like to involve others in the ceremony, as this is such a special way of making family and friends feel included in the celebrations. I confess that I'm very pro-mums being included, as they will undoubtedly have made an extra special effort with their outfits and are hopefully feeling fabulous!" >>

Moments to cherish

Sarah Graham married husband Nathan at Bachilton Barn, Perthshire, in December 2020. They had originally been scheduled to wed in April 2020, but a matter of weeks before, the UK went into lockdown.

While they were able to reschedule, there were still restrictions on guest numbers. Having already postponed once, the couple decided to proceed with a wedding consisting of immediate family only, dubbing it their “wee wedding”. Their celebrant was Maureen Kettle from the Humanist Society Scotland.

With family such a key part of the day, Sarah takes up the heartwarming story of her beloved gran Edith Henderson, who has sadly now passed away.

“My gran was the most caring, kind and amazing woman and the true matriarch of our family. It was very important for me to have her attending our wedding. In our original wedding arrangements for April 2020, my gran was attending as an all-day guest. However, when our date shifted, there were limitations on guest numbers,” she says. “As we settled on only having immediate family attending – and as my gran was my sole living grandparent at the time – it became clear that I wanted her to become more involved than an all-day guest. Two out of my three original bridesmaids could not attend with restrictions in December, so I decided to ask my gran to become my sole bridesmaid on our special day.”

“Her initial reply was: ‘but I’m 86-and-a-half!’”

SARAH

Sarah wanted to ask the question in as special a way as possible and growing up had always enjoyed writing poems for Edith whenever there was a family occasion like a birthday or anniversary. She wrote about all the things Edith had done for her over the years, placing capital letters in each line to spell out ‘BE MY BRIDESMAID’. “I wish I could have caught her reaction on camera as her initial reply was: ‘but I’m 86-and-a-half!’” Sarah recalls.

Although Edith was surprised, she was also pleased as she revealed to Sarah that she had never been a bridesmaid before, and that it was “better late than never”.

“To this day, that is a memory that is very special to me and I will cherish that moment with my gran Edith forever,” Sarah says.

On the day, Edith wore a beautiful pink dress with a navy blue blazer, navy shoes and a navy blue hairpiece. “It meant so much to me sharing our special day with her as my bridesmaid, and the fact that she was happy and willing to do so wholeheartedly showcases how much of an amazing gran she was.”

Victoria J Photography



Rogues & Queens Photography

Simply the best

Keiron Weston from Renfrew is one half of our ‘I do’ diary couple Amber and Keiron, who tied the knot at Boclair House Hotel, Glasgow on 30th October last year.

The wedding was always set to be a family affair, with loved ones involved in all aspects of the day (including the couple’s daughter, Daisy-May, who was flower girl). The couple also featured on our *Let’s Talk Weddings* podcast series.

When it came to choosing who to have by his side as best man, Keiron was in no doubt it would be his dad, John.

“I’ve got a small circle of friends and two best mates – and I would class my dad as my third best mate. He’s done a lot for me over my life and we’re pretty close. We go to the football nearly every weekend and I’m constantly over at his watching football, so it just felt like the right decision.”

John was involved in planning their stag trip to Liverpool and was up for wearing matching camel gold-coloured velvet blazers with a black lapels on the day.

Kieron purchased a card from Etsy to ask John to be best man: “He first asked ‘can I be your best man?’ and I said ‘I don’t see why not!’ I think he was pretty chuffed.” ■

“It just felt like the right decision.”

KEIRON



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WINNING wedding jewellery

Joyce Haynes, manager of St Andrews' **Sheila Fleet Jewellery** store, talks us through picking your wedding day gems

How often have you heard the adage 'People buy from people?' That's certainly the case with Joyce Haynes. Before she became manager at St Andrews' Sheila Fleet Jewellery store she was already a fan of the jewellery. In fact, when we meet she's proudly wearing a large 'Reef Knot' pendant by the designer. "It's my wedding jewellery," she explains. Joyce and her husband married on the famous West Sands beach and celebrate their 10-year anniversary this year.

That was years before the store opened its doors on 17th May 2021 and Joyce already had a number of Sheila Fleet pieces of her own. Her love of the designs must have shone through when she wrote to Martin, the Sheila Fleet managing director, to see if there were any opportunities on the eve of the store's opening.

The gallery is one of five Sheila Fleet stores and numerous stockists across the country, and back in October the designer celebrated 30 years in business. So what accounts for Sheila Fleet's ongoing popularity? "The uniqueness of the jewellery and the enamel attracts people," says Joyce. "And because it's made in Scotland."

With its colourful enamel-work and designs inspired by nature and Sheila's Orkney home, the jewellery is instantly recognisable, and a popular choice with to-be-weds. But with so many options, choosing 'The One' could be difficult. For those coming alone to select an engagement ring, Joyce advises, "Think about who you are buying for, what kind of style they normally go for, and if they have dropped any hints. Think to the future and how will the wedding ring sit alongside it?"

Couples who choose the engagement ring together often pick their wedding rings at the same time. "We are led by them and it's quite diverse what people are choosing," Joyce says. "Rose gold is popular again and a lot of people are opting for silver, as opposed to gold."

The finishing touches

Of course, wedding jewellery doesn't stop at rings. Like Joyce herself, you can accessorise your big day outfit with a pendant, necklace, bracelet or earrings from one of the Sheila Fleet collections. Crystal tends to be a popular choice, while many brides favour the River Ripples design. You can add a personal touch to any of Sheila's designs, whether it's choosing an alternative gemstone or enamel colour. The company can also engrave your wedding jewellery or rings, with many couples choosing to include their initials or wedding date.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for special items to be made.

A little thank you

It's not just the happy couple in need of some sparkle of course. Sheila Fleet jewellery is an excellent choice for your 'maids, especially with the option to tie the enamel in with their dresses. "We advise the couple bring some dress fabric and we can match the enamel to it," says Joyce. The Primula Scotica collection is a particular favourite for bridesmaids, with enamel petals in the perfect shade. And when it comes to gifts for mums, couples tend to choose little pieces like pendants or earrings, with the Pentland collection a perennial favourite.

Whichever piece you choose, you'll know your wedding jewellery has a special tale and will provide the finishing touch to your Big Day look. ■



Primula Scotica
Diamond Small Stud
Earrings in 9ct
Yellow Gold (£455)

River Ripples
Diamond Ring
in 18ct Yellow
Gold (£991)

Mill Sands 15-link
Necklace in 9ct
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(£2,482)

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WEDDING wins love your smile

It's said your smile speaks louder than words, and **Dr Dinah Naasan** of **Dee Dental Paisley** reveals which treatments can get you wedding ready!

In May 2019, Dinah took the reins of an established dental practice in Paisley, marking the inception of Dee Dental. "Our unwavering commitment is to deliver the highest calibre of care across all facets of our private clinic, spanning routine check-ups to cutting-edge cosmetic treatments," she explains. "I envisioned a practice that would stand out, one where our patients could receive dental care free from anxiety and relish the welcoming environment we've cultivated." Dee Dental provides a high-quality, family-friendly dental clinic, offering all kinds of services from professional teeth whitening to facial aesthetic treatments.

When it comes to individuals planning their wedding, Dinah advises that the dental treatments often depend on their personal preferences and the specific changes they wish to make to their appearance. She explains, "Invisalign is a top choice for many brides and grooms who want to achieve a straighter, more aligned smile before their wedding. It allows for discreet orthodontic correction, ensuring they feel confident and photo-ready on their special day. Composite bonding is another favoured service, particularly for those seeking to address minor imperfections in their teeth, helping achieve a more aesthetically pleasing smile in time for their wedding." Dinah adds that teeth whitening services – both in the clinic and at-home options – can help brides and grooms achieve a dazzling, picture-perfect smile to showcase in their wedding photos.

All of these treatments can do wonders for their self-esteem. "When

individuals see visible improvements in their teeth and overall smile, they are more likely to feel confident and less self-conscious about their appearance," Dinah adds.

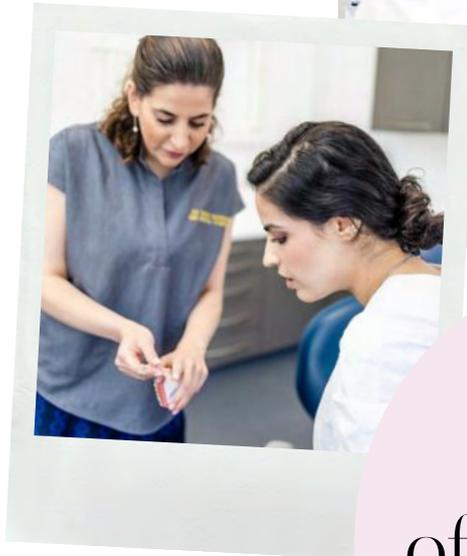
Some to-be-weds may also consider facial aesthetic treatments such as facial rejuvenation or dermal fillers and Profhilo to create a more youthful and refreshed appearance. "These treatments can boost their confidence and enhance their overall look for the wedding day," says Dinah.

All in good time

It's important to remember that some procedures can take a bit of time, so there are timescales that customers should consider when contemplating what to choose. "The duration of treatment can vary depending on the type of service and the individual's specific needs," Dinah explains.

"Professional teeth whitening can often be completed in a single visit to the dental office. Some at-home whitening kits may require a few weeks for optimal results."

Other treatments such as orthodontic braces can last for one to three years (depending on the severity of the orthodontic issues). Dental implant procedures usually involve multiple stages and can take several months to complete, while facial aesthetic treatments are typically visible within a few days to a week. However, the full effect may take a couple of weeks to become apparent. "Plan these treatments at least a few weeks before your wedding," Dinah advises.



3 of the Best

Invisalign

Popular for those looking to achieve a straighter, more aligned smile without the need for traditional braces. These clear, removable aligners are discreet and comfortable, and ideal for correcting teeth misalignment before your wedding. This treatment can take several months to a couple of years, so start well in advance.

Teeth Whitening

Professional teeth whitening is a quick and effective way to brighten your smile before your big day. Stains and discolorations can be removed, and your teeth can be several shades whiter in just a single dental visit – or a few weeks with at-home kits.

Composite Bonding

This is a versatile and minimally invasive cosmetic treatment. It's ideal for addressing minor imperfections such as chipped, stained, or misshapen teeth. The procedure involves applying a tooth-coloured resin to the affected teeth, reshaping and restoring their appearance.

deedentalpaisley.co.uk

Always remember to consult with a dental professional to create a personalised plan tailored to your specific requirements and timescales. ■



“Dee and the whole team are amazing, everyone is lovely and really attentive and very professional... when I first walked in I was really nervous, but in minutes all my nerves were laid to rest. I'm so glad I came to Dee Dental to start that journey.”

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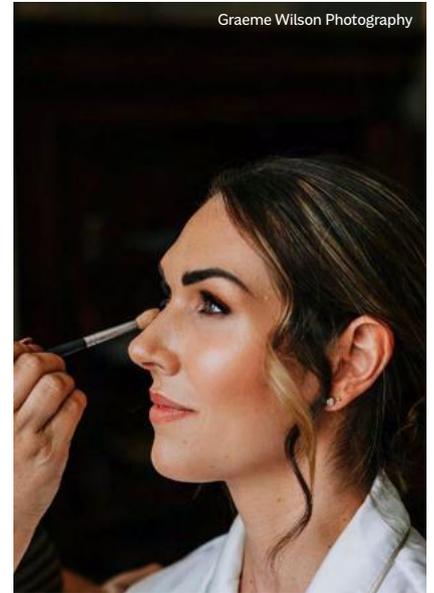
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Maureen Crolla, The Bride to be...

What's your fave bridal look right now? A very popular look this year was the boho wave.

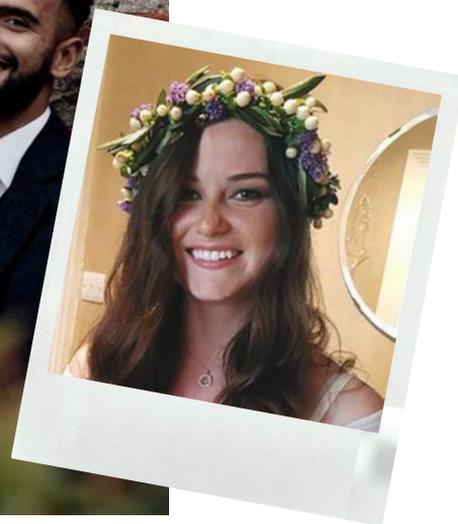


And what should brides ask for to get this on their wedding day? Ask your stylist for loose, soft and romantic curls.

Maureen's hero products for this style: I apply Colour Wow Raise the Root Thickening Lift Spray on dry prepared hair, not just at the root but throughout the hair lengths on each section. Then I use my Jose Eber iron to add movement, giving the hair lift, texture and staying power. The finish is relaxed with Colour Wow Pop & Lock, which gives shine and allows separation.



Pretty Flamingo weddings



Nail the bridal look

Grab a cuppa and get comfy because Scotland's hair, make-up and aesthetics experts are about to tell all, from the trusted pieces of kit they have at every wedding to this season's key looks and how you can achieve them yourself or with the help of your pro



Lisa Blishaa, Honey + Violet

What's your fave bridal look right now?

It has to be 2023's most requested style – the mid-high twist bun.

And what should brides ask for to get this on their wedding day? Ask for volume created at the crown, face-framing pieces left out around the front and a French twisted braid at the nape of the neck, secured with an elastic band and kirbies. Your stylist should then take the top pieces and shape them into a mid-high bun, placing and securing it but leaving soft, hanging pieces over the twist.

Lisa's hero products for this style: Cloud Nine hair straighteners, Wella Professional Eimi Flowing Form (a smoothing hair balm), A boar-bristle backcomb brush and Wella Performance hairspray.





Kirsty MacPherson,
Kirsty MacPherson Hair
and Make Up Artist
What's your fave bridal look
right now?

I love the low messy textured bun shapes. They're great for adding bulk and height, even to fine hair.

And what should brides ask for to get this on their wedding day?

Request a textured top and a textured bun and, if you like, face framing which is nice on this style.

Kirsty's hero products for this style:

I'm a big Moroccanoil fan. I especially love the Dry Texture Spray, which instantly gives the hair grip and texture to play with. And the Smoothing Lotion is a must for frizz or flyaways, giving you a nice clean finish.



Apricot Tree Photography



A MUA's must-haves

If you're looking for a complete make-up kit revamp, you've come to the right place because Caroline Stewart of Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry and Hair Styling has shared her full list of hero products with YSW. Pens and notepads (or maybe just Apple Wallets) at the ready, gals...



Pre-wedding facial care: Dermalogica will get your skin healthy and make-up-ready. Then pop on some Nip+Fab Hyaluronic Fix Extreme4 eye patches on your wedding morning to hydrate and reduce puffiness

Primer: Laura Mercier Pure Canvas Illuminating or Hydrating Eyeshadow primer: Urban Decay's Eyeshadow Primer Potion in 'Sin' - I love to stop lids creasing

Foundation: Illamasqua Skin Base Foundation or Laura Mercier's tinted moisturisers

Concealer: Tarte Cosmetics Shape Tape™

Eyeshadow palettes: Inglot Freedom

Eyeshadow (where you can make your own palette) or Tarte Cosmetics eyeshadow palettes

Eyeliner: Inglot AMC Gel Liner, which is amazing and doesn't budge!

Lashes: Ardell Lashes have the comfiest out there - no black band so they're lightweight

Blusher: Illamasqua or Inglot

Highlighter: Laura Mercier

Loose setting powder: Laura Mercier's are fab, and so is the Illamasqua one

Lipsticks: My collection includes Charlotte Tilbury, MAC, Illamasqua and many more!

Setting spray: Urban Decay - they do original, glow, matte and vitamin options >>>

“Wispy lashes are nice and natural yet effective.”

SHARON, LUSTRE BRIDAL



Leigh Blaney, Make Up by Leigh Blaney

What's your fave bridal look right now?

My go-to look is always glass-like skin. I try my hardest to get that filtered, perfect look for each of my brides.

And what should brides ask for to get this on their wedding day?

Like I advised my bride Sophie Cheung (pictured), skincare and prep is so important. Sophie really looks after her skin and did even more leading up to her big day. I began by moisturising and prepping the skin before starting with the eyes where we went for 'bridal smoke' (as opposed to 'going out-out smoke')! It's enough to showcase the eyes but not overly done. With the skin hydrated and ready for its base, I used Charlotte Tilbury (CT)'s Wonderglow and

Hollywood Flawless Filter to add some glow. Then I used a mix of Make Up For Ever skin base and some Beautiful Skin foundation by CT, plus Cream Contour Beauty Wand (and the peach matte version for her blush). Next, I set the skin and popped some highlighter on the prominent points. I finished the look with Body Glow products and some liquid bronzer, then set it.

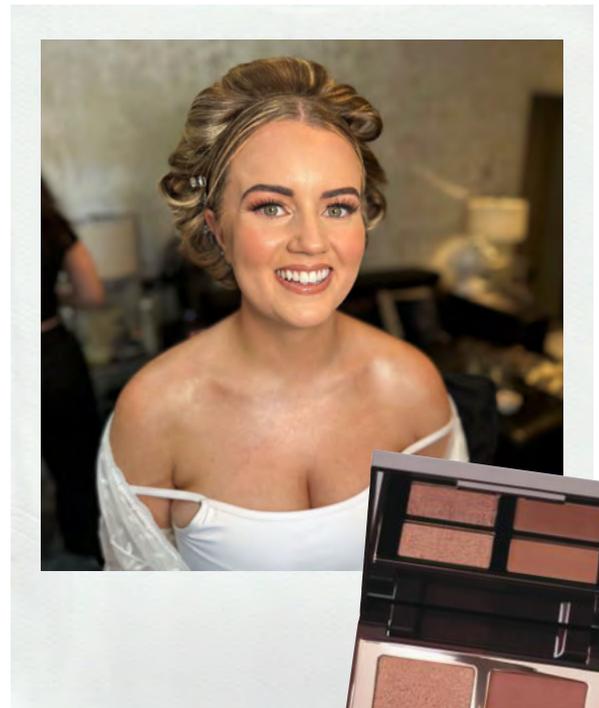
Leigh's hero products for this vibe: I'm a Charlotte Tilbury (CT) original. I've used these products from the beginning and swear by them. For Sophie, I used the CT Pillow Talk Dreams palette and Patrick Ta's nudes palette. Tatti Lashes in style 'bridal glam' were also essential – I love that wedding collection.

Sharon Cuthbert, Lustre Bridal

What's your fave bridal look right now? It's got to be a fresh, glowing look with soft neutral tones – brown, gold and nude eyes are in high demand. False lashes are still hugely popular and with this one (pictured) I used wispy lashes, which are nice and natural yet effective.

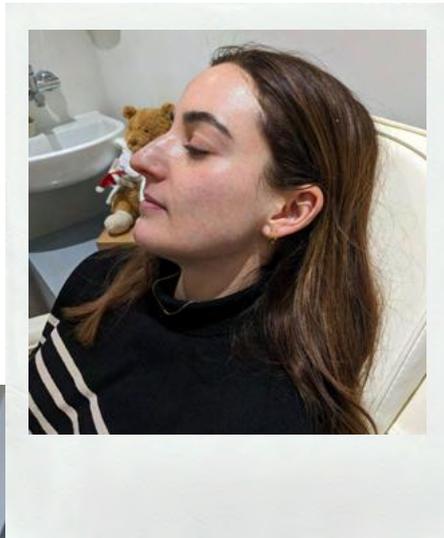
And what should brides ask for to get this on their wedding day? Go for key words like skin focus, glowing base, romantic, elegant and timeless.

Sharon's hero products for this vibe: Firstly, Mac Studio Radiance Primer. Next, Charlotte Tilbury's Hollywood Flawless Filter. Finally, Laura Mercier's Translucent Loose Setting Powder. Bridal make-up has to last all day and photograph well, and this is a genius product!



Your 'tweakment' journey

With all eyes on the happy couple and photos that last forever, it's no surprise that brides are picking their upcoming nuptials as the perfect time to get the 'tweakment' they've always lusted after. Here's what's topping the most wanted pre-wedding lists of Scotland's aestheticians...



“Team with a personal skincare plan.”

CLAIRE NARRIE

so the treatment phase is complete and it's just a case of maintenance on the lead-up to your wedding.

“Seventy Hyal 2000 is my favourite injectable. It's given over the course of three months (once each month) and its high quantity of hyaluronic acid promotes natural collagen and elastin formation, hydrates the skin, and leaves it with a beautiful glow. Different amounts can be used depending on your needs – for contouring or shaping, for example – but regardless, the results are natural and amazing! Again, you'd want to start this as early as possible, working with a qualified practitioner and a regulated clinic.”

**DR CLAIRE NARRIE,
INFINITY SKIN CLINIC
EDINBURGH**

Prep work

“My two favourite treatments are the High Frequency Facial and Seventy Hyal 2000. High Frequency can be used for a one-off deep cleanse facial (leaving the skin fresh and glowy for the big day) or over a block of sessions to treat something like acne, fine lines, dark circles, enlarged pores, skin tightening or cellulite. There's no downtime with this treatment, and it's painless and relaxing. Plus it works really well when teamed with a personal skincare plan; something I can prescribe for my clients. I'd recommend starting this as early as possible



Wedding journey

“We offer bespoke wedding packages, tailored to individual needs and it's usually three to six months pre-wedding when we start the treatment journey. Many clients want to smooth fine lines and wrinkles while rejuvenating their skin and eyes so it's no surprise that our most sought-after package – The Ultimate Skincare Package – ticks all these boxes. It incorporates an anti-wrinkle treatment to smooth fine lines and wrinkles in the forehead, frown and crow's feet, plus provides an injectable skin booster, like Prophilos (an award-winning product that restores volume and firmness, improves skin structure, deeply hydrates and stimulates four types of collagen growth). For ultimate impact, brides can add another award-winning product, Lumi Eyes. This is a tissue stimulator especially for the eyes, offering deep hydration and rejuvenation; effectively reducing dark circles, brightening, and smoothing fine lines and wrinkles.”

**VIKKI SOLOMAN, VIKKI SOLOMAN
AESTHETICS** ■

Emma Pruteanu



“Many clients want to smooth fine lines and wrinkles.”

VIKKI SOLOMAN

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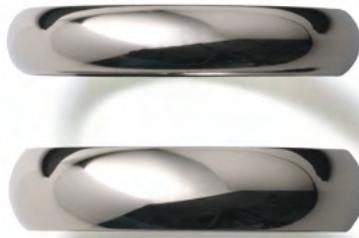
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- that every wedding is the same and not personal...
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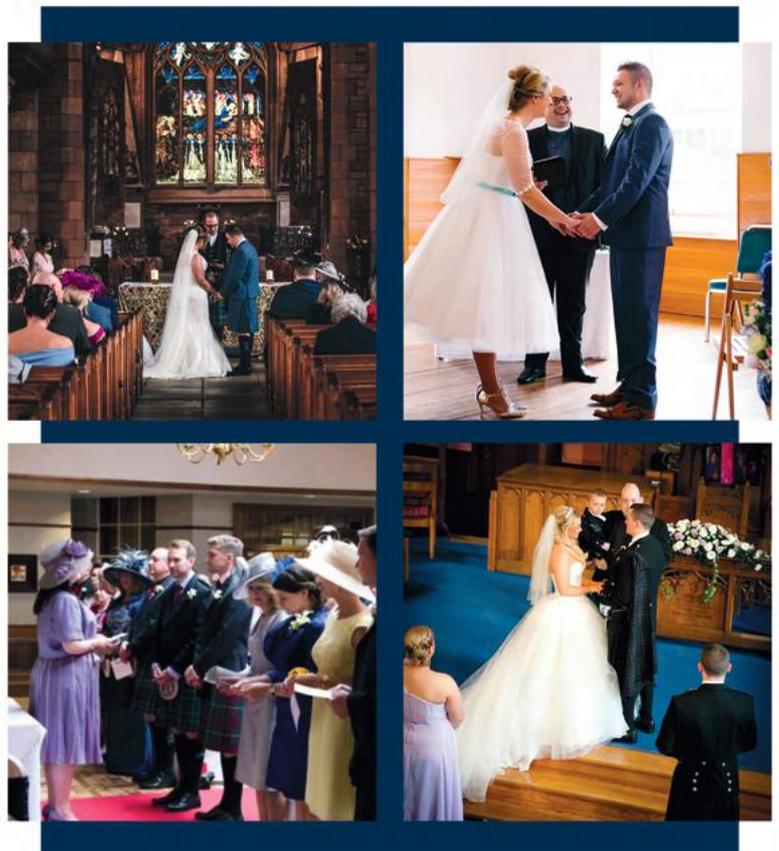
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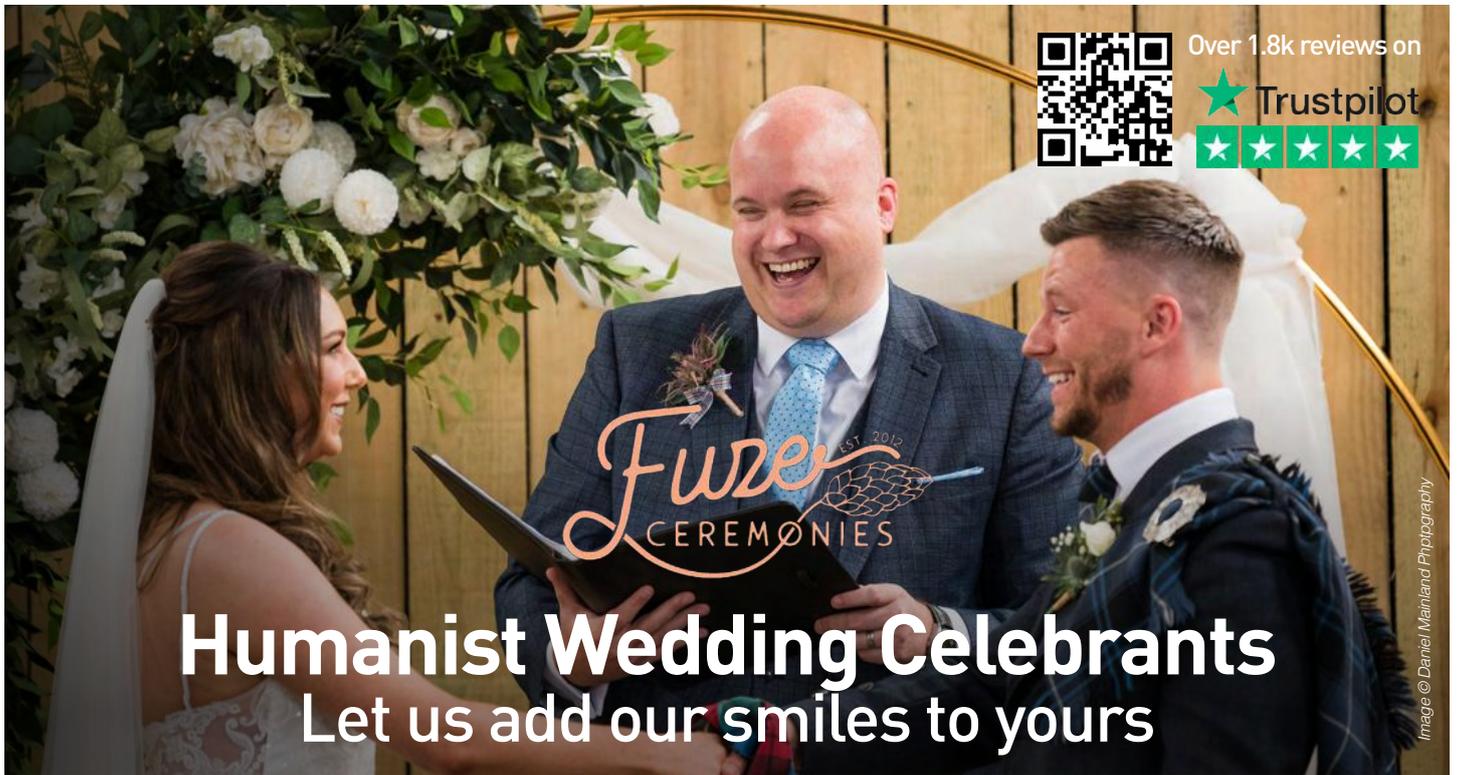


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The perfect serve

Food plays an important part in any wedding celebration, so it's good to know the experts have it all in hand.



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The choice is yours

Saltire Hospitality, a family-owned and operated catering company, consistently exceeds wedding dining expectations in the heart of Edinburgh and beyond. Providing a luxury hospitality experience, it's also the preferred caterer for a number of the most prestigious venues in Scotland.

Saltire Hospitality's wedding team says couples are feeling less confined and more relaxed about their wedding dining options, and catering can be shaped to suit their unique day. "We can do your traditional three-course wedding breakfast, but we do get a lot of couples choosing us for our bespoke menus," says wedding and private event coordinator Kate MacDonald. "These can be inspired by their first date, or a dish with a certain nostalgia to it – or even particular flavours."

Set and bespoke menus are crafted exclusively from a fine selection of fresh, local, and seasonal ingredients sourced from great suppliers. Popular additions include intermediate courses such as palate cleansers or cheese boards. For younger guests there is a toddler menu, a kids' menu, and adults' plates can also be adapted to suit older children.

Complement your meal with curated wine selections or whisky pairings. Talented mixologists can also create bespoke cocktails to make your wedding day truly special!

As the sun sets and your celebration continues, Saltire Hospitality offer sharing platters, impressive grazing tables, full hog roasts and can even create stunning champagne towers.

Saltire Hospitality pride themselves on being 'more than an award-winning catering company' and they can cover everything from the hire of tables, chairs, crockery, and table linen to serving staff. Not to mention their full bar services for your drinks reception, meal and evening celebrations.

Your every wish

With beautiful grounds and gardens, a historic house, charming chapel, stunning private dining rooms and endless photo opportunities, Cromlix in Stirlingshire is a storybook backdrop for your special day.

Food and drink play an important part in the wedding celebrations and executive head chef Darin Campbell and his team are passionate advocates of using locally-sourced produce and only the finest ingredients. Throughout the seasons, they work with the gardeners who oversee the kitchen garden as well as artisan suppliers to bring the finest Scottish produce to every plate.

Whether you wish a formal, sit-down dinner or a more relaxed, casual approach, the team will work with you to ensure every detail is just right. Menus are crafted to fit around the couple's wishes and traditional sit-down, three-course wedding breakfasts can be created as well as casual bespoke menus with a more informal style.

Couples booking their wedding with Cromlix can enjoy a complimentary tasting and sommelier, Sarah, can offer a bespoke wine pairing with the menu and create special cocktails to enjoy in the hotel's beautiful bar area if required.

There is also a selection of delicious canapés and evening buffet menus on offer.

For the nights before or after the celebrations, Cromlix can offer full private dining in the Garden Room (which sits up to 24) and Study (which sits up to 10).

Crafted for you

An award-winning luxury country house hotel located between Edinburgh and St Andrews, Balbirnie House is a stunning setting for your wedding day celebrations.

Combining great food, beautiful surroundings and the best Scottish hospitality, Balbirnie's wedding dining options are constantly reviewed and appraised, keeping clients at the very centre of the planning. In addition, correct provision is always made for guests who are vegetarian, vegan, non-gluten containing, along with any other dietary requirements.

"Here at Balbirnie we offer a wide selection of perfectly prepared set menus, these consist of classic, elegant and indulgent choices – something to suit all our clients!" says Balbirnie wedding planner Leah Kinnes.

Delicious lunch options are on offer for the wedding parties while they're getting ready for the big day. Following the wedding ceremony, the couple and their guests will be served a mouth-watering array of canapés.

Balbirnie's online menu compendium is a great way to see what's on offer and menu tastings can also be arranged to

sample some of the dishes on the set menu, as well as a selection of wines!

"Most Balbirnie weddings do commence with a celebratory pre-wedding dinner the night before the big day. This usually applies to all residents who are staying in the hotel on the night before the occasion itself, outside guests are also welcome," Leah says.

"We have a selection of fabulous buffet options for a much more relaxed and sociable occasion or set seasonal menus from our main restaurant for a more formal celebration. During our summer months we offer superb barbecue options on our south-facing lawns."

Balbirnie's executive head chef Kristofer Currie says the team also strives to use local and seasonal produce as much as possible: "When in season, all of our berries used in the 'pimp your prosecco' and our ever-popular Eton mess come from Fife growers, and are supplied by Raith Fruit of Kirkcaldy. Our beef is sourced from Fife farms wherever possible by our award-winning butcher John Gilmour and is dry aged to a minimum of 35 days. We also use John Henderson of Glenrothes for all of our chicken. Even our sea salt is from the East Neuk in Fife!"

"We offer superb barbecue options on our south-facing lawns."



Drink up!

At a time when provenance is everything how good would it be to be able to tell your guests their drinks were actually produced at your wedding venue? That's what could happen when you choose to marry at Philiphaugh Estate near Selkirk. The brand new walled garden venue opens its gates this spring and we reckon it'll be pretty special to marry outdoors among the apple blossom in the orchard. Then imagine serving your loved ones apple juice (or apple-flavoured cocktails!) from that very same orchard.

Fancy something stronger? Why not brand your own gin or vodka from the estate's on-site distillery and serve on the day, or send your guests home with them as favours? ■



Come dine

WITH US

Let **Saltire Hospitality** cater to all your senses with their award-winning hospitality



How many times have you been at a wedding hungrily watching for the next plate of canapés? Or been a dutiful bridesmaid following the couple's precise set-up instructions of where to place what hired tableware the night before the wedding?

If these scenarios leave you dreading feeding your wedding guests consider calling on Saltire Hospitality, a luxury hospitality company that understands the importance of creating a remarkable all-encompassing culinary experience. The company won the Your Scottish Wedding Awards caterer award for the second year in a row at the 2023 ceremony and is trusted as a recommended supplier by prestigious venues throughout Edinburgh and beyond. With such accolades, the family-run business attributes its 23 years of success to consistency, uniqueness, and innovation. "Our approach is to be more than an award-winning caterer," explains Saltire Hospitality's wedding and private event coordinator Kate MacDonald. "We aim to be a luxurious hospitality experience. We go above and beyond what you see on your plates. We want to take the stress off you and create the perfect day you imagine."

An all-round luxury experience

Don't fancy having to hire in waiting staff, crockery and linen separately? With Saltire Hospitality you don't have that worry. "By providing our very own well-polished events managers and staff, crockery and table dressings, all the way

to your specialised mixologist you can rest assured knowing Saltire Hospitality is here to help," says Kate. "Our ethos is simple; to provide memories with every mouthful."

The approach

Sounds like a culinary fairy godmother. If this has whetted your appetite, what's next? Saltire Hospitality specialises in offering bespoke menus and following your initial inquiry you'll receive their Wedding Collection which details various serving styles and alternative dining experiences. You'll then have a video call with a dedicated wedding expert who will delve into all things wedding, from canapés to late night snacks, getting to understand your unique preferences.

Next, the wedding team will provide you with a detailed quote and if you decide Saltire Hospitality's 'The One' you'll experience a private menu tasting to savour your favourite dishes from the menu or explore bespoke ideas and then give feedback. "We're here to accommodate any changes or adjustments to ensure your menu is perfectly aligned with your vision," says Kate.

Menus as unique as you

In the past you could pretty much guess any three-course wedding menu in advance, but things have changed. "We've observed an exciting trend in mixed service styles," says Kate. "Many couples are now opting for a combination of plated courses with additional palate cleansers and intermediate courses, often complemented by the inclusion of visually stunning sharing dessert boards, creating a grand and impressive spread. These modern interpretations not only make a visual statement but also infuse an element of fun and excitement, allowing us to introduce creative and surprising elements to each bite."

It's not just the food that's undergone a reinvention. Saltire Hospitality has

also noticed an increased interest in the drinks options. "While classic champagne towers are undeniably elegant and timeless, the current trend for adding bespoke cocktails, couples' cocktails and wine-paired menus further elevates the overall dining experience," Kate adds.

Locally sourced and sustainable

Another way Saltire Hospitality ensures it is in step with its couples is by sourcing all ingredients locally. Culinary director Bran Jankovic personally handpicks all the suppliers based on their ethical practices, quality of their products and their proximity to Saltire Hospitality's operations. "Knowing the precise source of our produce is vital as firstly, it allows us to guarantee the highest quality and freshness for our wedding menus, and secondly, it aligns with our commitment to sustainability, ensuring our sourcing practices have a minimal impact on the environment," says Bran. "This philosophy is also of great importance to couples. Many are not only looking for delicious and beautifully presented dishes but also wish to support local businesses and reduce the environmental impact of their wedding."

So, you can rest easy your hospitality is adhering to stringent sustainable practices while savouring the overall vibe. "It's all about creating a truly unforgettable and immersive dining experience that reflects the unique tastes and personalities of each couple," says Kate. ■

To find out more head to Saltire Hospitality's new website saltirehospitality.co.uk







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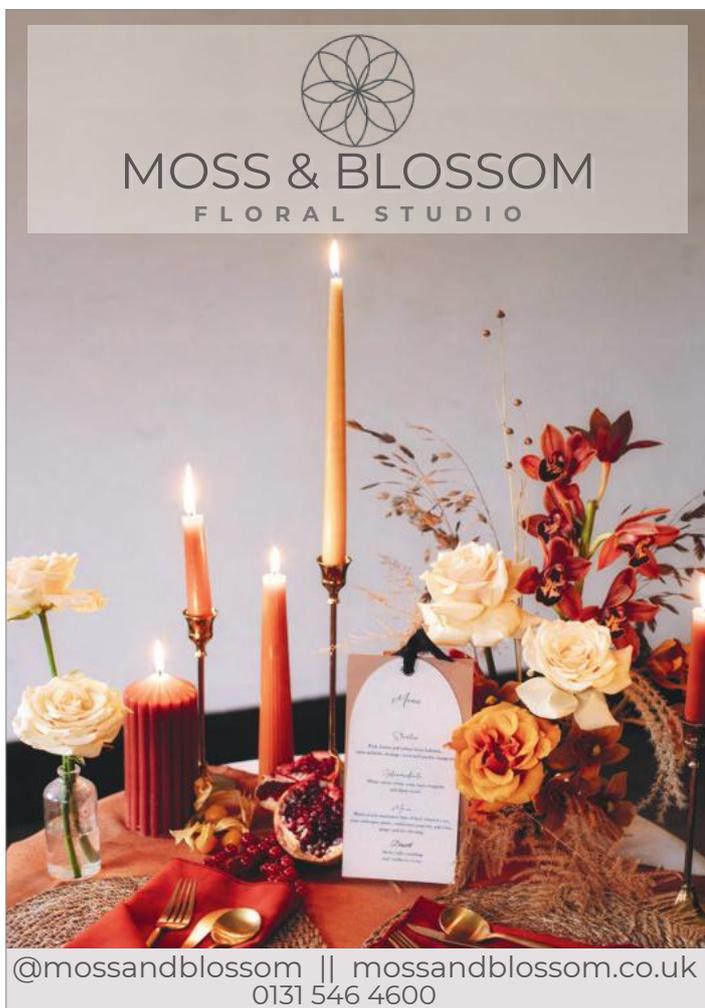


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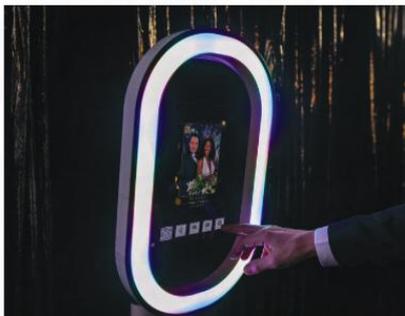


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All of our photographs are from weddings and events by 21CC Group Ltd. There are no fake or stock photos here! Main photo by Vincent Lamb Photography

Flights *of fancy*

Take inspiration from these beautiful blooms, jaw-dropping cakes and stunning stationery from our shoot at Cluny Castle, Sauchen



Elegant five-tier cake (POA), The Kilted Cake Company, florals by Moss & Blossom Floral Studio, props and furniture by All Wrapped Up Events Scotland. >>



PHOTOGRAPHY: Laura A Tiliman Photography
VENUE: Cluny Castle



Colour pops

Nestled against the bay window of Cluny Castle's Tenants' Hall, Carla Castagnola of **Moss & Blossom Floral Studio**, set up this beautiful tablescapes underneath suspended fluffy fern flower clouds. Indoor wedding receptions are typically held in the Tenants' Hall and our creative suppliers allowed their imaginations to run wild for three themes across this impressive space.

"These floral arrangements feel like a wild garden gone crazy," says Carla. "They recreate the effortless charm of nature with a unique blend of orange tulips, calming lavender, sweet peas and soft pink garden roses, all with a bold and stunning colour palette!" She employed Ikebana pin frogs to support different heights and falling elements in the arrangements and **Starca Designs** provided the beautiful 'Pastel Meadow' stationery for this look. All the tables, chairs, the peacock chair, linen, easels, cutlery, glassware, tableware, candlesticks and candles throughout this shoot were provided by **All Wrapped Up Events Scotland**. Contact them directly to see how they can create your wedding décor look.

Carla's tablescapes provided the perfectly whimsical setting for cakes by **The Kilted Cake Company** (previous page) and **Crumbdillyumptious** (opposite page). For her showstopping five-tier cake Alison McCabe from **The Kilted Cake Company** says the white background of the cake along with a single colour block tier allows all of your beautiful design features to really stand out. She says, "Incorporating colour and texture through the use of florals and rice paper allow for great depth and movement in any classic cake design."

On the opposite page Kerry Wardlaw from **Crumbdillyumptious** created this stunning pale yellow four-tier cake with a beautiful variety of handcrafted sugar flowers and foliage. From delicate stamens to feather-light petals these blooms are amazing!



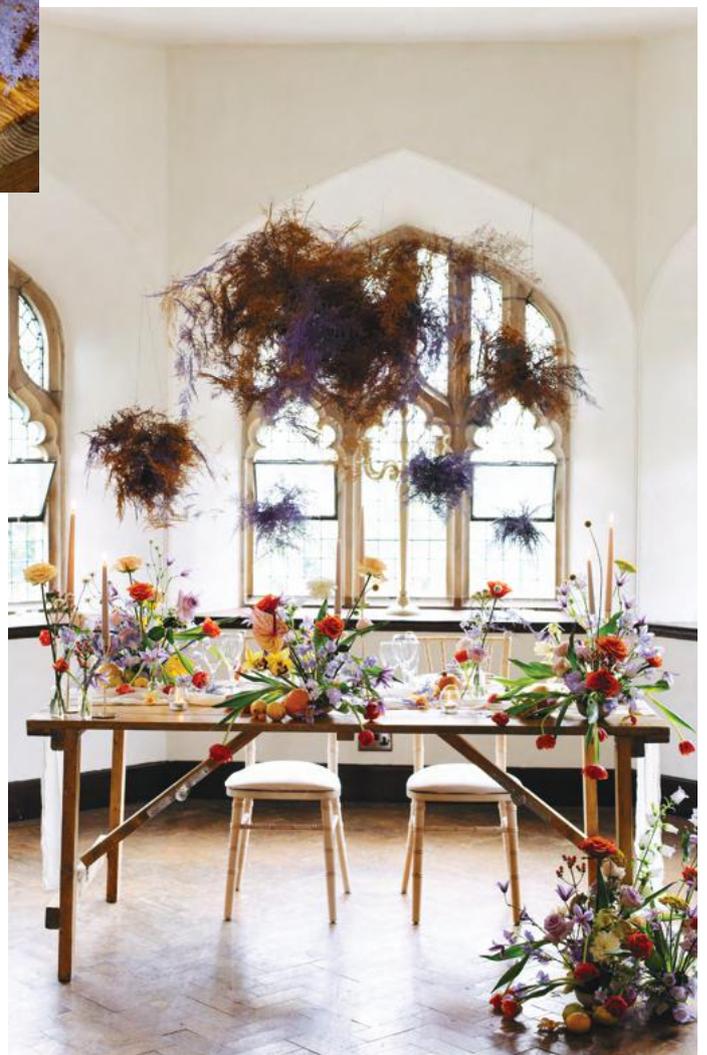


OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT: Pastel Meadow collection pick a seat sign (POA), Starca Designs with meadow look florals by Moss & Blossom Floral Studio. Contact them at [@mossandblossom](https://www.instagram.com/mossandblossom) to discover how they can create a similar look for your wedding.

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT: Pastel Meadow collection place card (POA), Starca Designs.

THIS PAGE: Four-tier yellow cake with handcrafted sugar flowers and foliage (POA), Crumbdillyumptious. >>





OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT: Pastel Meadow collection angled pocket invitation holding a coordinated invitation decorated with a bespoke tag embellishment and eyelet (POA), Starca Designs. >>



THIS PAGE Five-tier elegant 'Grace' cake adorned with sugar roses and lisianthus (POA), Philippa Rose Cake Design.

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT Polar Luxe frosted invitation (POA), Starca Designs.



All things white and beautiful

Helen Hardman of **The Greenshed Flower Studio** took the “white, white and more white” brief very seriously using a mixture of dried and fresh florals including honesty and teasels with gypsophila, rose, snapdragon, stock and lisianthus. She fixed a stunning arrangement to one side of **All Wrapped Up Events Scotland's** on-trend peacock chair (opposite page). Just imagine posing for your couple's photos with it! However, we love how well it complements **Philippa Rose Cake Design's** showstopping five-tier elegant 'Grace' cake adorned with sugar roses and lisianthus. The sugar blooms (pictured in detail bottom left) are so realistic it's impossible to tell the difference between them and Helen's fresh florals!

Helen chose striking gold-edged charger plates and black candlesticks with crisp white linens from All Wrapped Up's portfolio for her chic tablescape, set beneath the gorgeous suspended installation which employed the use of structural blooms, twigs and dried elements. Contact The Greenshed Flower Studio directly to discover how Helen can create a similar wedding look for you.

Starca Designs' stationery worked perfectly in this set-up with a choice of the 'Polar Luxe' collection, printed on frosted acrylic with white fonts (pictured below), the 'Gyp Collection' frosted acrylic invitations and the elegant 'Swan Lake' collection, adorned with a feather trim and wax seals. And we love the 'Polar Luxe' place settings with individually laser etched names. These would make a gorgeous keepsake for your guests.

From one statement cake to another, **The Kilted Cake Company's** offering (next page) is a beautiful example of a modern wedding cake design. This clean, sharp all-white cake features a mix of different cake shapes and heights while draped detailing and pearls give a contemporary look. ➤





Elegant and modern all-white wedding cake (POA), The Kilted Cake Company. >>



OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT
Polar Luxe table plan, TOP
RIGHT, Swan Lake collection
place card, BOTTOM LEFT,
Polar Luxe place setting and
BOTTOM RIGHT, Gyp collection
frosted acrylic invitation (all
POA), all Starca Designs. >>







Terracotta tones

Our shoot took place in October and the burnt orange leaves outside at Cluny and the light and mood in the Tenants' Hall and private chapel were perfectly echoed in this final theme. On this page and the opposite **Moss & Blossom Floral Studio** teamed up with **All Wrapped Up Events Scotland** and **Crumbdilyumptious** to create this effective sweetheart table set-up, complemented by the eye-catching 'Autumn Archways' menu from **Starca Designs**. Carla says, "With their earthy and natural flair, these one-of-a-kind terracotta arrangements add a touch of cosy elegance to your special day. The uniqueness of burnt orange orchids, cream roses and dried grasses add a personal note to each piece." Roni Hyslop of All Wrapped Up adds, "I love how just the simple addition of a rattan mat or coloured napkin can help bring a theme alive!" Crumbdilyumptious' sweet two-tier cake used textured terracotta icing with abstract gold leaf and an eye-catching floral arrangement.

On the following page Helen of **The Greenshed Flower Studio** used dried hydrangea, rushes, eucalyptus, strawflower, teasels and more in her striking design. "I felt like my terracotta was definitely the darker, moodier sister to Carla's!" she says. **The Kilted Cake Company's** autumn cake completed the look. "Orange and gold tones make a beautiful pairing when it comes to autumnal cake designs," says Alison. "The addition of abstract stenciling, gold leaf, silk ribbon and dried flowers showcase a classic and bold statement look."



OPPOSITE PAGE: Two-tier cake with textured terracotta icing, gold leaf and floral arrangement (POA), Crumbdillyumptious
OPPOSITE PAGE AND THIS PAGE: Flowers by Moss & Blossom Floral Studio and furniture and props by All Wrapped Up Events Scotland. THIS PAGE Autumn Archways menu (POA), Starca Designs. >>



THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT - floral arrangements by The Greenshed Flower Studio, five-tier autumn cake (POA), The Kilted Cake Company. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT, TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM RIGHT, floral arrangements by Moss & Blossom Flower Studio and furniture and props by All Wrapped Up Events Scotland. Top left, Autumn Archways place name and menu, TOP RIGHT, Autumn Archways double layer arch invitation, and bottom right, Autumn Archways welcome sign (all POA), all Starca Designs. ■





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Focal point

From first dances and ceilidh jigs to spectacular shape-throwing and final flings, we asked some of our fave Scottish photographers to share their most-loved dancing pics

Your wedding album will be filled with so many sentimental shots – raw emotion from the ceremony, the sheer romance of your couple shoot and loads of belly-aching laughs at the speeches. But you should definitely make space for some fun photos too. And one of the best times to capture these pics is in the evening, once those dancing shoes are on! By this time most people will have had a tippie or two, started to let their hair down and be up for really getting involved. From the inevitable comedy of ceilidh dancing to the tender moments like dad/daughter dances, your photographer will be sure to document heaps of special moments.



« ^ “This is one of my favourite photos from a recent wedding as it shows the joy of people sharing the couple’s happiness. In this instance, there was also a great feeling of intermingling cultures – Maria is from Venezuela and she spontaneously started to dance with one of her bridesmaids in traditional fashion. Ben and all his family were thrilled, enjoying the moment while clad in their traditional Scottish tartan.”

MATT, FERN PHOTOGRAPHY



«“Sophie and Guy hired an incredible band, The Fabulous Hurricanes, and I honestly don't think I've seen a dancefloor like it in all the years I've photographed weddings. In fact, I think the ceilidh was the calmer element of the night! Everyone was throwing shapes, there was a conga line led by the saxophonist and there was a fantastic dance-off where Sophie's bridesmaid did the worm. This was one of those nights where the photos show those 'you definitely had to be there' moments.”»

KRISTIN, STRUVE PHOTOGRAPHY

“I love the energy of this picture so much. The vibrancy of the colours and the joy on Gordon and Michael's faces really sums up their entire day. There's no better way to end an incredible wedding than to immerse myself on the dancefloor and capture the liveliness of all the shape-cutting. I constantly needed to hold myself back from joining in!”

DAVID, DAVID GRANT SIMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY



» “I loved this wedding at Carrick Castle Estate. Love and friendship were all around, and every photo in the couple’s album tells this story. This one is all about friendship; the groom and the groomsman summing up the fun and laughter that went on throughout the day (before I headed to the beautiful waterfall with the bride and groom).”

ROSALEEN, ROSALEEN BONNAR PHOTOGRAPHY



SEE KRISTIN AND MARK'S FULL WEDDING ON THE YSW WEBSITE.

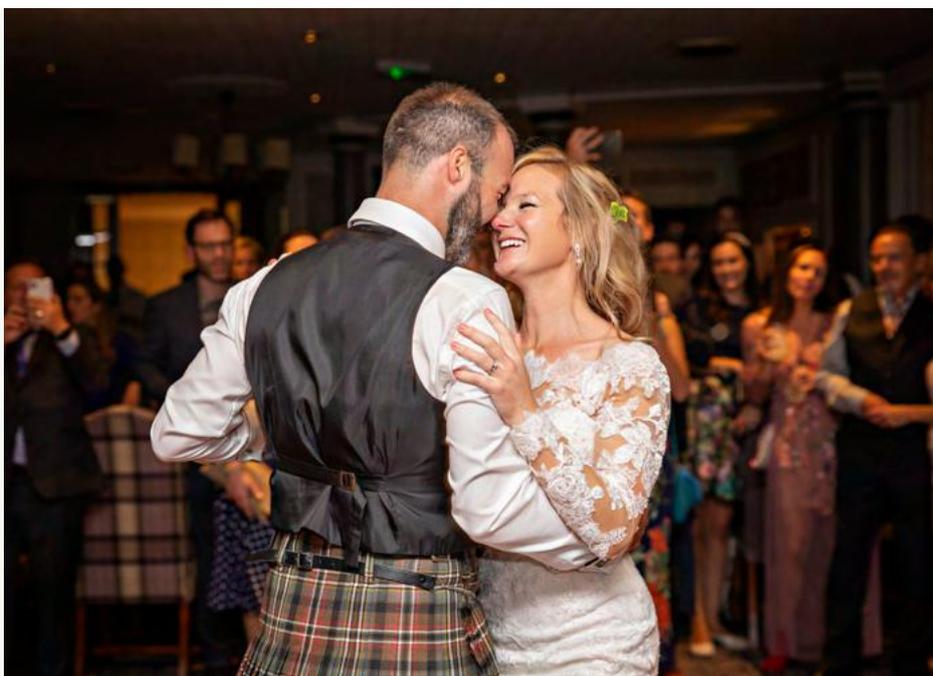


« “One of the best parts of a wedding reception is seeing the generations enjoy the celebrations, and Mark and Jacqueline’s was no different. This grandma just loved being surrounded by all of her grandchildren in one place for one evening and it was such a delight capturing the joy on her face when one of her grandsons took her for a dance. So precious.”

ANNA, ANNA FRANCES PHOTOGRAPHY

» “Capturing Rachel and Andrew’s surprise choreographed dance was an absolute delight! I’m baffled about when they found time to learn it, especially considering Rachel’s extended absence producing and directing *Blue Planet 2* in the Arctic!”

JENNIFER, JENNIFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY





» “For their big day at Cornhill Castle, Gillian and Charlie had arranged for Clanadonia drum and pipe band to surprise their guests after the first dance.

The atmosphere in the room kicked up a good few notches as two pipers and three drummers arrived with a thunderous wave of tribal music. The energy was electric with everyone in the room on their feet clapping, stomping and dancing along. Then Gillian and Charlie were hoisted onto their guests’ shoulders to party in the air!”

ALLAN, BIGGAR PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY



⤴ “The joy in this photo from Laura and Andrew’s Roodlea Barn wedding is palpable. Laura and Andrew had the best day and he just had to pick her up and spin her around during the first dance. It was completely unprompted, and I just loved it. I think I cried as well as Laura!” ■

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Viewfinder

Fern Photography's Dan Rannoch and Matt Dale share some of their favourite Scottish venues to capture

Dan and Matt first met while working as event photographers at Edinburgh's Beltane Fire Festival in 2011 and that very same year they formed Fern Photography, and shot their first wedding on the banks of Loch Awe in a small forestry village. "From the very beginning we've been photographing intimate weddings in a personal and authentic style," says Dan.

Since then the duo have captured couples' days in the distinctive style they describe as "colourful, vibrant, intimate and authentic images that focus on you both as a couple and the community who witness your wedding." Since they started, their photography has taken them all over Scotland and beyond and they love it, especially "being a part of such an important milestone in a couple's lives."

Their wedding photography also gives them the opportunity to discover "inspiring" new venues. "It means that we have a fresh perspective and it feeds the creativity," says Dan. With that wealth of experience they're sharing some of their favourite Scottish wedding venues here...

« Off the beaten track – Finlarig Castle

"This was a cute and very personalised wedding. The couple, Camille and Baptiste, had travelled from France to get married within the ruins of Finlarig Castle. They described their wedding as 'little, but full of love!' It was such a romantic place to get married."



∨ King or queen of the castle – Dundas Castle

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⤴ Rustic and rural – Papple Steading

"Gabby and Stewart chose to get married in East Lothian in the rolling hills and rural setting of Papple Steading farm house. It's exquisite inside and glorious outside."



« City Centre
vibes –
Edinburgh
City Chambers

“Weddings in the city offer so much flexibility. Olivia and Luke had their ceremony in the City Chambers then we hit the town for photos, including this one taken in a wynd off the Royal Mile. After the photos we all headed to Deacon Brodie’s for a pint to celebrate with their family. It was intimate and relaxed and lots of fun.”

And here are
just three
more of their
absolute faves....



Prestonfield House is
“historic and intimate.”

Small and
intimate
– Culzean
Castle »

“There were six people at Julie and Stephen’s wedding. It was intimate, warm and joyful. The wedding took place at Culzean Castle and we couldn’t have hoped for more wonderful places to photograph the couple’s wedding day in.”

*NB Due to a planned refurbishment Culzean Castle is not taking bookings for 2024/5 weddings.



Harelaw Farm is
“rustic and rural with
some of the best staff
we’ve worked with.”

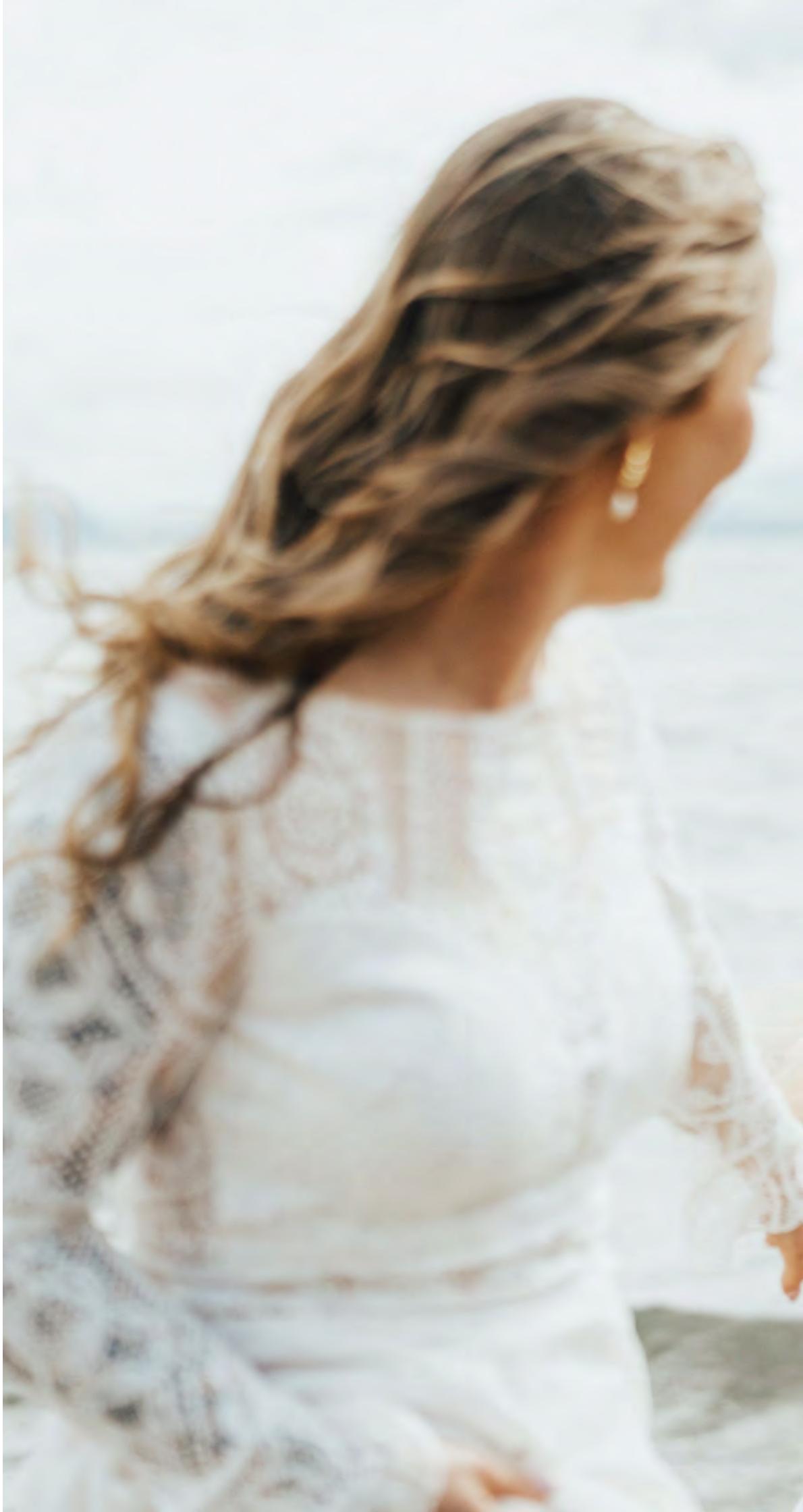
« Nature
lovers’
haven –
The Byre at
Inchyra

“This is a great barn wedding location with beautiful grounds for an outdoor ceremony and excellent space indoors for dancing too. So many opportunities for photographs.”



Cambo Estate is
“glorious and elegant.”

Your Wedding Day





Beach

*Kelly Ann Walsh &
Urszula Czerobska*

VIBES



DATE: Saturday 12th August 2023

PHOTOGRAPHY: Rebecca Carpenter Photography

VENUE: The Kingswood Hotel, Burntisland



“Made for my body.”



A trio of cultures and traditions blended together to make one joyful day

After first locking eyes on the dancefloor, Ula planned a magical proposal to Kelly in her native country of Poland during the new year fireworks – then Kelly

proposed to Ula shortly after that, organising a pretend surprise birthday party for her. “We wanted each other to experience being proposed to,” they remember.

Keen to continue going through things together, the duo headed to Mirka Bridal Couture to start their outfit search... And quickly realised they’d not need to go anywhere else! “We were hooked from the beginning with her designs and choices, and loved the private experience,” explains Kelly, who liked the idea of a corset-style top, fitted waist and flowy skirt. She got exactly what she wanted with ‘Grace’, a beautiful lace made-to-measure gown that would be part of Mirka’s 2023 collection. Meanwhile, Ula’s vision was delicate and boho with sleeves and she opted for a customised version of the ‘Skye’ dress. “Mirka was amazing throughout,” she smiles. “Seeing the dress develop at each appointment was very special and it felt like it was made for my body.”

Dream team

Whilst Mirka was working her magic, the brides were knee-deep in organising their big day. “Ula is the DIY person and I got into wedding planning, watching lots of videos for inspiration because I didn’t want to miss any ideas,” says Kelly. “Our day embodied who we are so it was a beach vibe with a boho theme. Neutral and natural; relaxing and free... Just like us!”

Being careful with the amount of time they put into the DIY details (“I think we probably could have managed more but we didn’t want to push it,” admits Kelly), the pair made their own welcome signs, table names, table plan and favours, whilst a friend helped with the bigger wooden pieces like the rustic ‘Mrs and Mrs’ sign. Meanwhile, florist Carpe Diem took care of the finishing touches, like table décor and the “absolutely gorgeous” flowers, which the newlyweds used in their garden afterwards.

Having hoped for an outdoor ceremony, Kelly and Ula were disappointed when they realised rain was on its way – but all was well. “We can’t control the weather after all. I tried to do some mindfulness, which didn’t work for where my energy was so opted for a 20-minute cardio workout. Don’t ask me why but it helped calm my nerves!”

Saying ‘I do’

Kelly walked down the aisle first and was so happy to see Ula coming towards her, especially because Edwina Hayes was singing for them. “We saw Edwina at an acoustic club years before and instantly fell in love with her song *Feels Like Home*. I still remember Ula holding my hand while we watched her live and I told Edwina that night I may just contact her to sing at our ceremony if we were ever to get married. So, our dream came true and it was more emotional than we ever thought; >>



“It felt like we were in a dream.”

a really special moment for both of us.”

They were married by celebrant Dorothy Nowak, who is part-Polish and conducted the ceremony in a way that both Kelly and Ula’s families could understand – but the thoughtful brides also made a book with translations to make sure the Polish entourage could fully follow everything. “Dorothy really understood how relaxed we wanted our day to be and during the ceremony she got a bit emotional when she told the part of the story where ‘Kelly proposed back’. Our (professional, fun and loving) photographer, Rebecca, said she’d never seen a celebrant do that before and it made us even more sure we’d made the right choice.”

After the ceremony, the newlyweds snuck off with Rebecca and videographer Calum for a beautiful, romantic photoshoot. “The sun came out and we ran to the beach to dip our toes in the water. It felt like we were in a dream,” remembers Kelly. When they returned it was time to eat and they’d worked with the venue to create a special menu. “Because of our cultures (Kelly being Filipino and Scottish, and Ula being Polish) the wedding coordinator suggested a fusion afternoon tea, which included Filipino chicken soup, Polish savoury pastries and some shots of cold Polish vodka – we couldn’t have had our speeches without them!”

Sticky fingers

Next up was the cake cutting and they’d sourced it from the best coffee shop in

their hometown. “We love Marzena’s cakes and we loved our wedding cake too. But we weren’t the only ones – our wedding coordinator mentioned some of the children had stuck their fingers in and had a lick! So we laughed, stuck our fingers in and took a photograph. On the day you just let go of things like that and our wedding was fun, light, silly and joyful.”

The rest of the evening consisted of live music, dancing, silly wigs, blow-up guitars, more Polish vodka shots and lots of food. “We had external caterers set up stalls with sushi, satay platters, and Japanese-style gourmet food, and we’d bought lots of Polish cooked meats from a local butcher. They hung on a wooden station decorated with ivy and sunflowers, and guests could help themselves – they cut slices of meat, added a gherkin and got a wee shot of vodka. A very Polish vibe! To top it off, we decorated a sweetie cart with our favourite snacks to satisfy our loved ones’ sweet teeth.”

“It felt like a new year sort of party with everyone really relaxed and up for having fun. We finished the night with a handful of us drinking vodka and singing outside the venue. It was such a laugh.”





BAND

The Columbus Soul Band

CELEBRANT

Dorothy Nowak of Humanist Society
Scotland

CAKE

Merchants House Cafe

DÉCOR AND FLOWERS

Carpe Diem Floral Design

EVENING BUFFET

Kokushe

HAIR

Susan Gourlay

KELLY'S DRESS

'Grace' by Mirka Bridal Couture

KELLY'S EARRINGS

Debbie Carlisle

MAKE-UP (KELLY)

Jodie Maguire Make-Up Artist

MAKE-UP (ULA)

Nadia Doriano Hair & Make Up

SINGER

Edwina Hayes

ULA'S DRESS

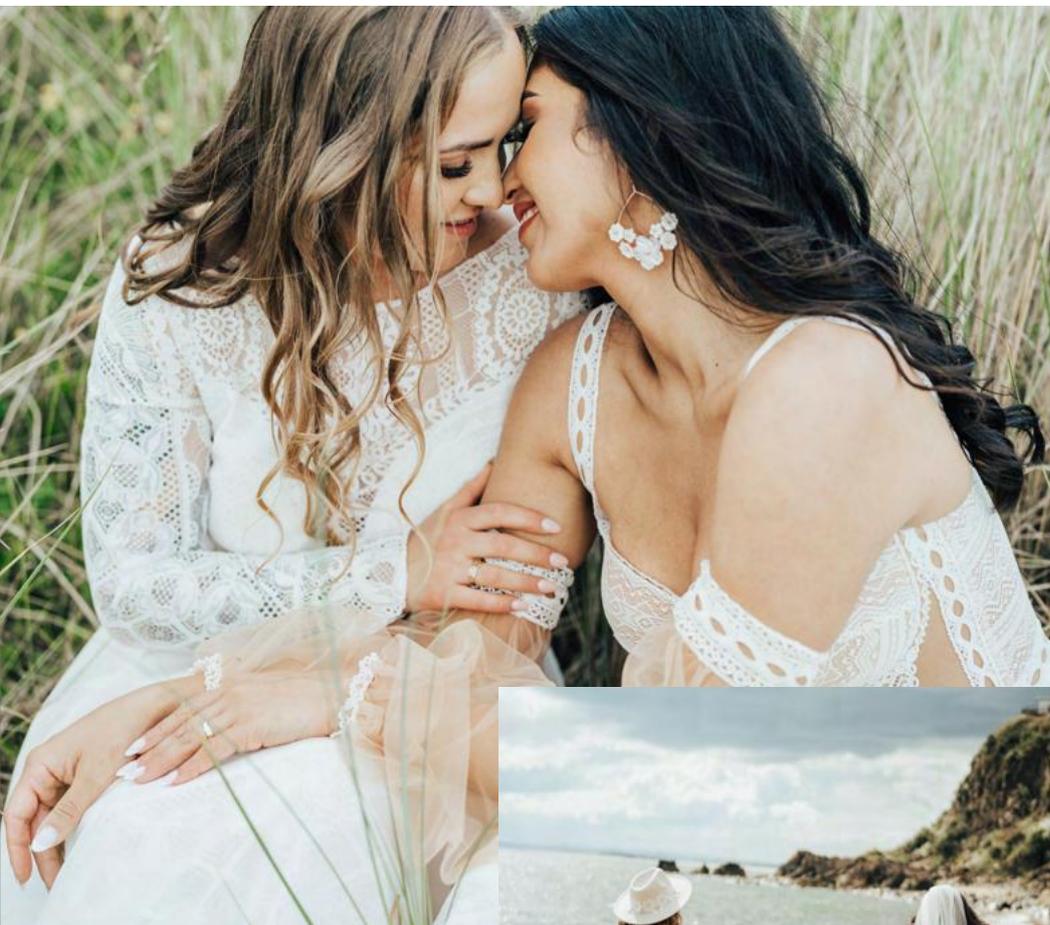
'Skye' by Mirka Bridal

ULA'S HAT

My Accessories London

VIDEOGRAPHY

Calum Keelan Video Productions



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“This wedding was an absolute joy to capture from start to finish. I laughed, I cried, I danced. The love, connection and relationship Ula and Kelly have is electric and truly special. It's something very rare that photographers get to experience and capture, and I did that day.”

**REBECCA, REBECCA
CARPENTER
PHOTOGRAPHY ■**



“Neutral and natural; relaxing and free.”

Squireman adventures

*Sara Coleman
& Stewart Squire*



DATE: Friday 14th October 2022

PHOTOGRAPHY: Photography by Emilie

SECOND SHOOTER: Siobhan Diamond Wedding Photography

VENUE: Fingask Castle, Rait

This couple's wedding day was brimful of fun and laughter as they celebrated at a beautiful castle in Perthshire.

After meeting one another in a local pub back in 2006, Sara and Stewart had no idea of the adventures that lay ahead. Ten years on, Stewart proposed to Sara while they were travelling together in Toronto. "We don't like to rush things," Sara laughs. And it's just as well, because the arrival of the pandemic (as well as their baby son!) meant their plans changed more than once. "Our original date was October 2020. We pushed this back a year and then ended up pushing it back a year again so that we got our final date in

October 2022," Sara explains. "We knew we wanted a big party and had a few guests who were coming from abroad so were happy to wait until that was possible. This ended up being quite a good thing as I fell pregnant in 2019 and had our son, Cole, in 2020." Sara adds that their chosen wedding date meant that Cole was at an age where he was able to enjoy and participate in the day.

The couple's priority was for their wedding day to be joyful and memorable and they quickly fell for Fingask Castle as their venue. Sara didn't have a theme in mind, only brightly coloured flowers to go along with the fun they had planned.



“My dress just made me feel amazing when I put it on.”



Friends know the couple as The Squiremans (a hybrid of their surnames) and Sara's wedding ring has the phrase 'Squireman Adventures' engraved inside as they have always loved going on adventures together. To ensure their guests had a memorable night, they hired a photobooth and set up their very own Squireman Games arcade complete with retro games machines.

Highlight of the day

Sara wasn't sure what style of dress she wanted and had initially visited a few shops with her lifelong best friend and bridesmaid, Jade. But she admits she didn't find anything she loved. Then she discovered she was pregnant. "I had planned to visit a few places in Dundee where I live but then ended up falling pregnant so chose Innate Bridals because they had said that if I chose a dress then didn't like it closer to the day (post-baby incase my body shape had changed) they were happy for me to change the dress," Sara explains.

Fortunately, she didn't want to change her Essense of Australia gown: "My dress just made me feel amazing when I put it on. It had lovely detail on it and I loved the way it fell at the back."

When it came to accessories, Sara's shoes were a real highlight of the day. "My sister sent me a link to a bride wearing shoes with the groom's face on them and it made me laugh so much that I had to do the same! I bought a heeled pair and flat pair from a company online and was so chuffed when they arrived. They made me smile (and laugh) every time I looked at them." Sara also wore a jewelled headband and borrowed earrings and a bracelet from Jade that she had worn to her own wedding. >>



“I wish we could do it all again!”



There were four bridesmaids: Sara’s sister and three of her best friends, as well as a flower girl. Each bridesmaid was given a budget so they were able to choose their own navy dress. “They were all completely different and they all looked great! I loved that they were all able to suit their individual style,” she says.

Stewart wore his own kilt in his family tartan and hired a jacket and waistcoat, while Cole got an outfit to match. Stewart had two best men, two ushers as well, and his mini best man, of course!

A personal touch

The night before the wedding, Sara and her bridal party stayed in cottages in the grounds of Fingask Castle. She slept quite well and woke up feeling very excited. She recalls that walking down the aisle to *Marry You* by Bruno Mars felt quite surreal: “Cole was in front of me so I was mostly watching him to make sure he behaved and didn’t stop half way. It’s a fun, upbeat song that makes me smile, and this was the vibe we wanted for the day! During the ceremony,



when we were signing the register, we played a song that Stewart had written for me for my 40th birthday.”

They chose a humanist ceremony to give it a more personal touch. They didn’t write their own vows but had a lot of input so that it told their story. Afterwards, there was a drinks reception followed by a barbecue buffet as a nod to the year they lived in Australia, and a cake table, courtesy of local company the Lass O’Gowrie. “It was everything we wanted and more,” Sara says. And to his delight, Cole even got a turn on

the microphone during the speeches.

An additional 40 guests came at night for the reception party, with a few ceilidh numbers thrown in for the international guests. They hired a pizza van and also arranged for crisps and dip to be served on the tables.

“It was great fun! For many people, it was the first big event they had attended since lockdown and everyone was up for a great night. The dance floor was full all night and there were a lot of laughs,” Sara says, “We had such a great day, I wish we could do it all again!”



“We knew we wanted a big party.”



“Everyone was up for a great night.”



- BAND**
Manhattan
- BRIDE'S DRESS**
Essence of Australia at Innate Bridals
- BRIDE'S SHOES**
yescustom.com
- BRIDE'S HEADWEAR**
Amazon
- CATERER**
Delicious Catering, Fallone's
- CAKE**
The Lass O'Gowrie
- CELEBRANT**
Gary J Smith of Humanist Society Scotland
- ENTERTAINMENT**
GD Photo Booths, GO2 Event Hire
- FAVOURS**
Cancer Research UK, The Bridal Gift Boutique
- FLOWERS**
The Rosebud
- FLOWER GIRL DRESS**
ukflowergirlboutique.com
- GROOM'S JACKET AND WAISTCOAT**
McCalls Highlandwear
- HAIR**
Hair About Town
- MAKE-UP**
Annie Voigt Hair and Make-up
- RINGS**
Stephen Henderson The Jeweller
- STATIONERY**
Occasions by Rebecca
- TRANSPORT**
Smith and Sons Coaches
- VIDEOGRAPHY**
I Do Videos (Kieran O'Rourke)



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“Sara and Stewart are such a lovely couple and they were just a joy to photograph, along with Cole. I really loved the added extras they had on the day, especially the arcade, very cool!” ■

EMILIE, PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILIE

A romantic wedding photograph of a couple in a forest. The bride is wearing a white lace gown with a long train and a flower in her hair. The groom is wearing a white shirt and a red tie. They are embracing and looking at each other. The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

Pretty DIY

*Samantha Cleminson &
Jonathan Hemingway*

DATE: Wednesday 7th June 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Anna Frances Photography
VENUE: Slogarie Estate, Castle Douglas

Dream team
Sammy and Jon
put their all into
creating a relaxed,
fun and ever-so-
personal wedding

Having just
14 weeks
to plan a
wedding
may
terrify some couples
but, fortunately, high
school sweethearts Jon
and Sammy have been

together since 2005 and make a truly awesome team. “Sammy was very unwell in 2022 which meant a lot of time in and out of hospital. We only really got the all-clear from her consultant to go ahead and organise a wedding in February... Then we got married in June! Doing it together was the most fun thing about planning. Sammy loved creating the handmade aspects and personal touches while I kept an eye on the spreadsheets and liaised with suppliers,” explains the groom.

A week-long wedding

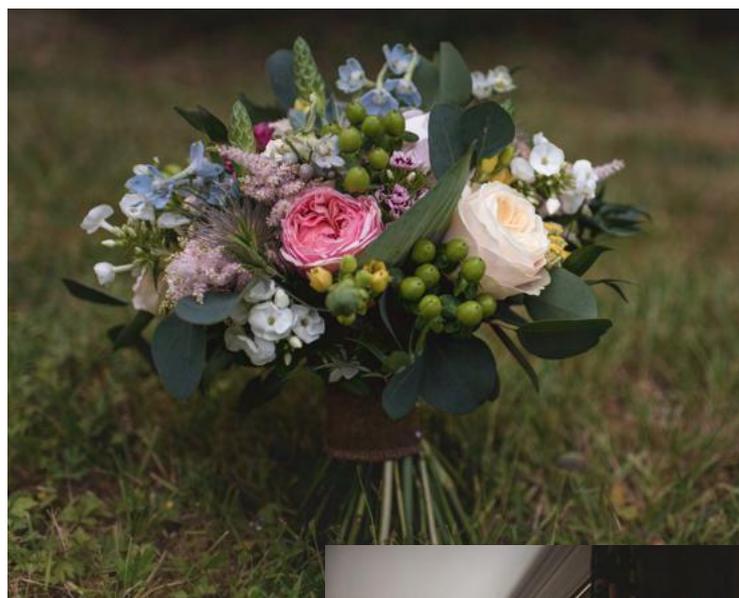
The pair always knew they wanted a small guestlist and Slogarie Estate was the perfect destination for a few days away with 28 of their family and friends. Having exclusive use of the accommodation meant everyone could be together for the whole Monday to Friday celebration, and the intimate venue just happened to have the most beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces too. They added loads of natural materials, plenty of personal touches and bursts of pink, their son Eli’s favourite colour at the time. “The whole thing was pretty DIY,” says Sammy. “There was a slight hexagon theme, inspired by the hexagon-shaped diamond in my engagement ring. This was used in the invites, which I hand-painted, the clay place settings for the wedding breakfast (made by me and my mum) and our hexagon-shaped lanterns.”

Taking advantage of the season, the couple made confetti with dried petals from their garden while Sammy’s mum took rhubarb from hers and turned it into flavoured gin favours for the guests. She also crafted wooden planters and filled them with succulents for the centrepieces, signing table and reception. Finally, they pulled together activity packs to keep the children busy and prepped DIY cocktails for the big day.

Final details

The three days before the wedding involved a lot of work but Jon had a clear plan of what needed to be done and when, and friends and family chipped in too. “We could have used a wedding planner or selected a less-DIY venue but that’s not what we wanted. All the hard work and effort really was worth it,” smiles the bride.

Although she was still busy organising in the morning, Sammy made time to get herself wedding-ready with the help of hairdresser Morgan and make-up artist Alex. “When I met Alex for my trial, I admitted I hate people in my personal space and find having my make-up done stressful. But on my wedding >>



“I felt
comfortable
and
relaxed.”





“The menu was thoroughly enjoyed.”

day I felt comfortable and relaxed. She adjusted everything effortlessly when I changed my mind following my trial and I was so pleased with the result.”

The final detail, of course, was the dress and as someone who is very indecisive, Sammy was delighted to find the shopping experience was much easier than expected. “Being a mum, I wanted a practical dress so I could pick up my son for a cuddle and crouch down to talk to him. I only really felt comfortable in two dresses and knew straight away which one I wanted to wear,” she remembers. She accessorised her “easy to wear” ivory gown with sentimental jewels then added a beautiful gold and pearl brooch from her late auntie to her bouquet.

Happy family

Sammy enjoyed walking down the aisle, delighted to see happy faces and beautiful weather, whilst Jon was excited to see his wife-to-be approaching. “I felt like I’d been waiting for that moment for a long time!” he laughs. The ceremony was relaxed, informal, personal and super-inclusive of Eli who was Jon’s best man and “performed admirably despite never having been to a wedding”. He’d pre-decorated the ties used for the handfasting and helped warm the rings by passing them around the guests, whilst the couple had chosen songs and readings that meant something to them.

Afterwards, celebrations took place in the walled garden with prosecco, photos and playlists. Later, everyone enjoyed



garden games in the sunshine and took a woodland walk to where Jon had hung some photographs of the couple’s life together to date – so sweet. Caterer Lee from Fika Café in Penrith had worked with Jon and Sammy to create a “not too traditional” menu with a starter inspired by their travels together and a dessert that Jon made for Sammy when she visited him at university. “He easily adapted the menu for gluten-free, vegetarian and dairy-free, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.”

After a surprise speech – “The plan was not to do any but Jon changed his mind, saying a short thank you and surprising everyone by singing and playing *The One* by Kodaline on guitar,” – the chilled atmosphere continued into the evening. “We went for a walk to see the sunset, lit some sparklers and made s’mores over the fire pit, which we served with Baileys. There was a lot of laughter and we loved that we had time to spend with all our guests, as well as time together.”





BRIDE'S DRESS

Essense of Australia

BRIDE'S EARRINGS

Lace & Favour

BRIDE'S SHOES

Be Mine at ASOS

BRIDESMAID'S DRESS

Sabine Midi Dress from Billy J

CATERING AND FLOWERS

GreenWheat Florist & Fika Café

CELEBRANT

Janice Bannister of Humanist Society
Scotland

CAKE

Wheat-Out!

GROOM'S OUTFIT

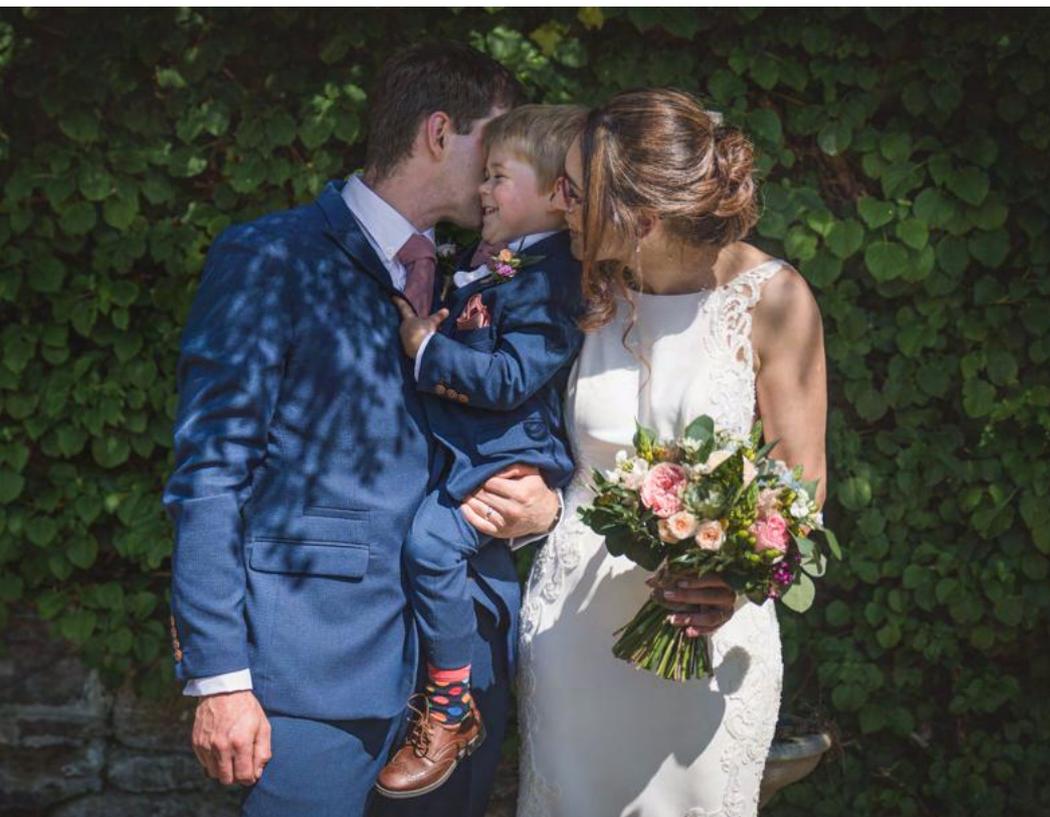
Marc Darcy

HAIR

Morgan Marchi Hair Stylist

MAKE-UP

Makeup by Alexandra



“There was
a lot of
laughter.”



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“I knew this was going to be special when I heard all about Sam and Jon's plans. There were so many personal touches, making it feel very unique. Of course, the venue was stunning for such an occasion and the beautiful weather was just perfect. It was such a pleasure to be part of it.”

**ANNA, ANNA FRANCES
PHOTOGRAPHY ■**





DATE: Monday 12th June 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Joy Story
VENUE: Ralston Cairn, Ballachulish

Gothic GLENCOE

Fiona Ross & Ross Maitland



“Our priority was making sure we did exactly what we wanted.”

A great reminder that wedding planning doesn't need to take forever, Fiona and Ross had just 15 weeks between their engagement and their romantic, relaxed elopement in the wild...

After many years together, Fiona figured marriage wasn't part of her and Ross' plan – “Things were amazing as they were” – so she was pleasantly surprised when he announced he really wanted them to tie the knot. The couple picked her ring together (a sapphire teardrop stone

with smaller diamonds on each side) but Ross wanted the proposal to remain a surprise.

“It was glorious weather, so we took a last-minute trip to Glencoe and Ross proposed at the top of the Devil's Staircase,” remembers the bride. “I had no idea it was coming, and it was beautiful and perfect. Planning-wise, our priority was making sure we did exactly what we wanted – that and how quickly could we do it!”

Just us, please

After a bit of Googling the pair found Wee Wild Weddings (a group of wedding suppliers who work together to create swoonworthy Scottish elopements in the wilderness) and knew the collective would be perfect for the secret elopement they had in mind. “We didn't want traditional, and we wanted to get married somewhere outdoors and beautiful. We love Glencoe and got engaged there so it was the perfect choice.”

The couple's vision was relaxed and very 'us', which meant being very comfortable and incorporating witchy, gothic hints throughout. Fiona started with making sure her bride style was totally on point. “I 100% thought I'd buy a black dress or at least black and white; something gothic. I was open to most things but didn't think I wanted anything too 'bridey.’” She admits it was daunting to hit the shops because she's “not a sample size” but she immediately felt at ease and took advantage of the assistant suggesting lots of gowns she'd never have thought to try herself. And guess what? The dress Fiona chose was nothing like she imagined she'd go for! “It was off-white with lace and blush pink floral detail. I knew the flowy >>





“The biggest cause of stress was trying to keep it a secret.”

boho vibe would look incredible in the hills of Glencoe.”

Not quite the gothic look she'd envisaged... But the spaghetti straps and plunging neckline made sure her tattoos were on show, and she added jewellery that had a "til death" theme – an amethyst coffin necklace and an anatomical heart necklace, complete with matching earrings and rings. Blush pink Doc Martens, a funky matching bag and an "immense flower crown" tied together the relaxed, natural style she was after ("We joked that I wanted to look like a sacrifice at Midsomer!") and her custom hand-painted jacket was the most incredible finishing touch.

Not to be upstaged by his other half, Ross looked suitably dapper in a stunning black and red checked suit, a pink floral tie, a stylish pocket square (instead of a traditional buttonhole) and a pair of socks with Fiona's face all over them!

All in all, the couple found the planning process fun... Although Fiona did feel that trusting that everything was running smoothly in the background was a challenge! "The wedding was for us and we didn't have anyone else trying to shoehorn their opinions in. We picked everything then just had to wait for the day. The biggest cause of stress was trying to keep it a secret. It was lucky we only had to keep quiet for weeks, not years."

Saying 'I do' in the wild

The couple woke up super-excited on the big day, especially when they realised the sun was shining. It was a very leisurely morning with a breakfast hamper and an intimate moment together making a spell jar for love.

"This is something I'm into but Ross got really involved too. We made the jar together, set intentions for the wedding and sealed the jar with smiles on our faces," explains Fiona.

Rather than walking down the aisle, the to-be-weds hiked up to Ralston Cairn holding hands and "smiling like idiots" before their intimate ceremony with just three others – their humanist celebrant Claire and two suppliers (photographer Sarah from Joy Story and Lesley, Fiona's MUA) who doubled up as witnesses. They had written their own vows and made it even more personal by adding some special quotes at the end before concluding the ceremony with a drink of Nick Offerman's Lagavulin whisky from a quaiich to cheers their new adventure.

After a hike there's nothing better than some hearty fare to refuel and these newlyweds got just that and more with their wedding breakfast picnic from Scottish Wild Picnics. "It was honestly amazing and fed us for about two days," smiles Fiona. "Bread, cheeses, smoked venison, roast beef, smoked salmon, chicken, jams, chutneys, fresh fruit, cream, chocolate sauce, brownies, biscuits and Victoria sponge in a jar." The evening was a super-chilled wedding reception for two, consisting of a few champagnes, dancing on the deck and a little hot tub before bed... What more could you want!?





BRIDE'S DRESS

Melissa Sweet at David's Bridal

BRIDE'S JACKET

Shobee Scribbles

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

As Above Jewellery, Vivienne Westwood

BRIDE'S SHOES

Dr. Martens

CELEBRANT

Claire The Humanist

FLOWERS AND FLOWER CROWN

Posies and Pots

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Skopes

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Pamper & Polish

PLANNER

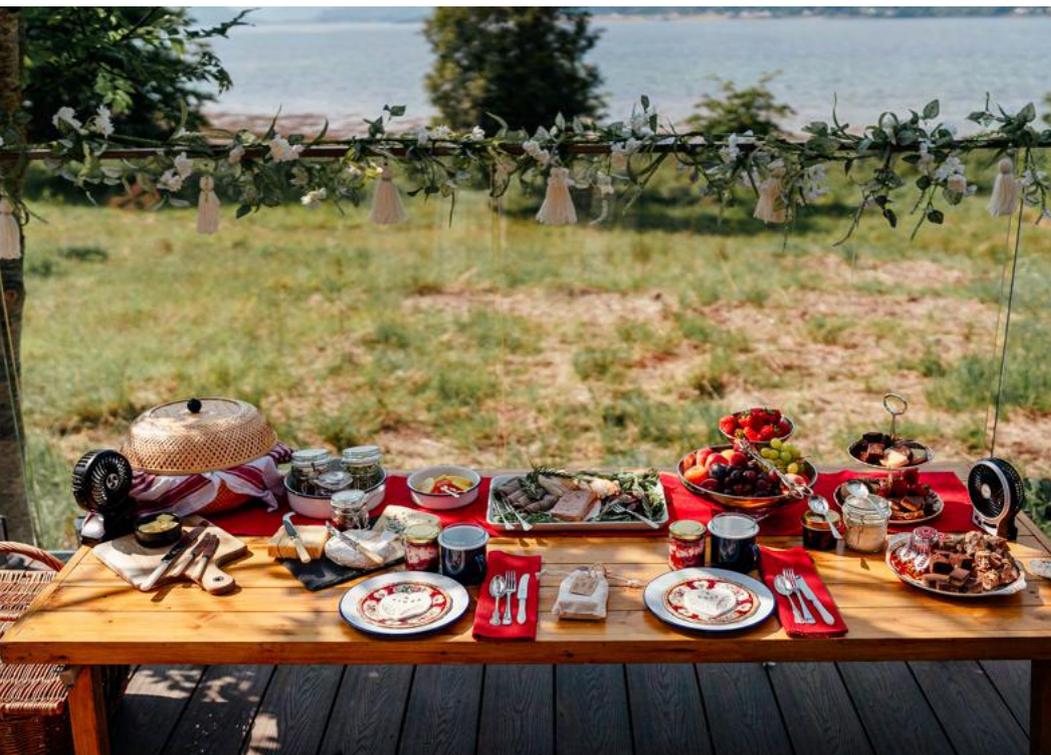
Fin Flükra

RINGS

Fraser Hart Jewellers

WEDDING BREAKFAST

Scottish Wild Picnics



“We joked that I wanted to look like a sacrifice at Midsomer!”



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“Fiona and Ross had the sunniest, most glorious mountaintop ceremony. It was perfect. Ross' howl down the glen after they were pronounced married was amazing! These two are cool as anything and it was a privilege to be a witness to their elopement.”

SARAH, JOY STORY ■



Your Scottish Venue





Your Scottish Venues

NEWS & PROMOTIONS FROM ACROSS SCOTLAND



Joanne Clenaghan Photography

Perthshire packages galore

Check your calendar - Bachelton Barn in Perthshire is holding its open day on Sunday 28th January. Three brand new seasonal wedding packages have been launched starting from £2,940 as well as a brand new full weekend wedding package, including three nights on the farm in Bachelton's accommodation, seven breakfast hampers for all properties, a highland games event on the Sunday after your wedding and complimentary fizz on the wedding day.

There's also a new elopement package for up to six guests, including accommodation, fizz, breakfast hamper, bouquet and buttonhole, and a dinner box from £3,015. The choice is yours!

BACHILTONBARN.CO.UK

More is more at Trump Turnberry Resort

Nestled on the breathtaking Ayrshire coastline, The Trump Turnberry Resort has launched a new wedding campaign, espousing the luxury 'more is more' wedding trend. The days of micro-weddings by necessity are thankfully behind us and the five-star resort is now reporting a spike in large-scale luxury wedding bookings from across the UK and beyond.

And where better to celebrate in style? The resort's ballroom - known as the crown jewel of the hotel - is the largest luxury ballroom in Scotland and can provide the ultimate setting for a chic and lavish celebration for up to 500 people. "When it comes to hosting a luxurious wedding there is no request or demand that is too much for our team," says Trump Turnberry's assistant director of group sales and events Shalane Breen. "We pride ourselves on exceptional attention to detail and our facilities offer endless opportunities to create and execute the wedding of your dreams. Over the past 12 months we have seen an increase in international wedding bookings



Eva Sanders

over a three-day period, and this extended wedding concept allows our guests to maximise their experience at the resort and take advantage of our multi-award-winning golf, spa and leisure facilities, all culminating in a truly unforgettable experience."

However, if your guestlist is slightly more intimate than 500, the hotel boasts a number of smaller suites suitable for a minimum of 80 guests.

And to truly take advantage of this epic venue why don't you embrace the all-out maximalism vibe and arrive in style by chopper, landing on Turnberry's very own helipad? Think of the photos.

TRUMPTURNBERRY.COM

Keeping it chic

Lots of exciting news from The Busby Hotel in Glasgow, with a new-look honeymoon suite as well as some chic interior upgrades for the venue's main function suite. The Buchanan Suite, the honeymoon suite at The Busby Hotel, has had a glow up which includes a brand-new luxurious extension. Inside the room, the interiors have been upgraded to create a romantic, elegant space. Soft taupe tones and sparkling chandelier lighting feature throughout. In addition to the super-king bed, there's a corner sofa, table and chairs and dressing area – with an en-suite shower room to the rear.

Meanwhile, the new extension features a large whirlpool spa bath with sky-light above it, a back-lit mirror, which is also a bluetooth speaker, a cosy fireplace, a day bed sofa, smart TV, and cocktail making equipment with complimentary cocktails! This suite is included in the wedding packages at The Busby and it sounds like an amazing place to end your wedding day!

The Busby Suite – the hotel's main function suite – has also received an interior upgrade. This room gives direct access to a private twinkle-lit balcony, which is for exclusive use during a wedding.

THEBUSBYHOTEL.CO.UK



Carlo Paloni Photography

Gorgeous Ayrshire venues

If you're on the hunt for wedding venues in Ayrshire then definitely pay The Waterside Hotel and sister hotel The Gailes a visit soon. The Waterside in West Kilbride hosts its wedding fayre Sunday 25th February 12pm - 4pm when you can view the stunning Kyle Suite with its views to Arran and meet a host of incredible suppliers. Check the website to book your tickets.

Then on Saturday 2nd March at the hotel's showcase you can view the Ailsa Lounge all set up for a wedding. To make an appointment



Carrie Roy Photography

call 01294 824418 or email events@watersideayrshire.com.

Further down the coast in Irvine, The Gailes Hotel wedding fayre takes place on Sunday 3rd March 12pm – 4pm when you can view the beautiful Lagavulin Suite, wedding pavilion and rooftop conservatory set for a wedding, and meet suppliers.

The following week, on Sunday 9th March, The Gailes is also hosting a wedding venue showcase that's by appointment only. To book an appointment, call 01294 204040 or email events@simpsinns.com
WATERSIDEAYRSHIRE.COM
GAILESHOTEL.COM



Bluesky Photography

Intimate and tranquil

Rosebery Estates has introduced Tranquil Ceremony Hideaways – and they sound amazing! Escape the hustle and bustle and immerse yourself in the serene ambiance of two new intimate wedding ceremony locations, The Walled Garden near Dalmeny House and The Lending Library at Rosebery House.

Discover a secluded sanctuary for your vows, tucked away in The

Walled Garden. Surrounded by nature, it's an intimate space with no distractions – just imagine saying your 'I do's' amidst vibrant flowers, with the gentle buzz of bees!

Alternatively, step into the historic Lending Library within the grounds of Rosebery House for a classic and cosy ceremony. Picture exchanging your vows beside a crackling fire, surrounded by the warm glow of candlelight. It's the perfect place for bookish romantics who appreciate its charm.

ROSEBERYVENUES.CO.UK



Next stop, Dornoch!

Located in Dornoch, a small seaside destination in stunning Sutherland, Dornoch Station reopened at the end of last year. Originally The Dornoch Hotel, dating back to 1902, it is now part of the Marine & Lawn brand.

Since the acquisition in 2022, the property has undergone extensive renovations and now features 89 spacious guest rooms and all-new public spaces.

It's also just a short walk from the first fairway of Royal Dornoch Golf Club, the crown jewel of golf in the Scottish Highlands.

Put all of this together and it's the perfect setting for a Highland wedding, with beautiful scenery, historic architecture and picturesque interiors. >>

MARINEANDLAWN.COM/
DORNOCHSTATION

Secret Garden

An exciting new wedding location opens this spring. Selkirkshire's Philiphaugh Estate once boasted the second largest walled gardens in Scotland and now the Strang Steel family will welcome couples to marry here. Imagine walking down an outdoor aisle lined with apple trees. Think of the photos with apple blossom in springtime or shining red fruit later in the season, not to mention the pretty borders and climbing roses that will form your wedding backdrop.

The family has lovingly created a secret garden where couples can say 'I do' before a marquee reception beside the apple trees. Couples are treated to a sample of the estate's own apple juice when they view Philiphaugh and the trusted bar suppliers are adept at mixing it into wedding cocktails!

The head gardener has plans to grow blooms in cutting flower beds for wedding bouquets, while botanicals grown here can be incorporated into your wedding gin or vodka you can help make at the on-site distillery.

If this sounds like your ideal day get in touch with them to organise a viewing.
PHILIPHAUGHESTATE.COM



Rob Gray Photography



Elliot Counce Photography

Roses are red

Historic Crathes Castle in Aberdeenshire is looked after by the National Trust for Scotland, and it has launched a stunning new space that sounds ideal for outdoor weddings.

After over a decade of planning, reconstruction work and planting, the redesigned Rose Garden is now available for private hire.

One of eight 'rooms' in the castle's internationally-known walled garden, the Rose Garden provides a more modern take on a traditional Victorian rose garden. This additional ceremony location adds to the venues Golden Garden and Great Hall, giving couples more choice and flexibility to create a bespoke and personal wedding day.

Following the ceremony, drinks receptions can be held on the croquet lawn, next to the castle, before being piped to dinner in either the castle, which seats 40, or The Horsemill – a dedicated event space which can host wedding breakfasts for up to 80 and evening dances for 120. Meanwhile, East Lodge, a self-catering cottage located at the entrance to Crathes Castle, has two bedrooms and can sleep up to four guests.

**NTS.ORG.UK/VENUE-HIRE/
CRATHES-CASTLE/WEDDINGS**



Frances J Smith Photography

A date in Glasgow

If you're interested in Citation in Glasgow's Merchant City for your wedding here's a date for your diary. Citation's wedding open day will be held on Sunday 28th January 12pm - 4pm. It will be a great opportunity for you to explore this stunning venue (which was once the Old Sheriff Court building) and meet the wedding team as well as some of their wonderful wedding suppliers. The event is free to attend so rally your friends and family for a sneak peek.

CITATION-GLASGOW.COM

Estate weddings

Located in the heart of East Lothian, the exclusive-use venue of Dunglass Estate sits within 5,000 acres of

stunning landscaped grounds and has been renovated to include a bespoke wedding pavilion, an indoor and outdoor courtyard and luxury onsite accommodation.

Couples are sure to love the elevated honeymoon treehouse, and remember to check out the authentic 15th-century Gothic church overlooking the sea, once described by Robert Burns as "the most romantic sweet place I ever saw."

If you'd like to discover more, Dunglass is hosting its annual open day on Sunday 24th March 2pm - 5pm. There will be a range of suppliers exhibiting on the day with the estate open in its entirety, giving you the chance to explore what's on offer.

DUNGLASSESTATE.COM



By Rhea

Suite dreams

Cluny Castle is thrilled to announce the completion of a recent renovation with the introduction of a new luxury ensuite bedroom – Balblair – along with the full upgrade of another ensuite bathroom.

This impressive Aberdeenshire venue now boasts seven beautiful ensuite bedrooms on the castle's second floor and can now accommodate up to 28 guests throughout the castle and West Wing apartment. Perfect for your wedding party.

The new accommodation has been carefully modernised and decorated in a traditional style that reflects Cluny's distinct Scottish identity that is luxurious yet retains a welcoming and relaxed charm.

With comfort and luxury in mind, you will find exquisitely comfortable beds, sumptuous linens, indulgent fluffy bathrobes and certified organic luxury toiletries in all rooms. Not forgetting the incredible views over the grounds – you may never want to leave!

CLUNYCASTLE.COM

Laura A Tiliman Photography



Simply the best!

Balbirnie House Hotel in Fife has once again scooped prestigious accolades after being named the best wedding hotel in the world at the international Haute Grandeur

Awards. It also picked up the best country hotel on a global level, and best classic hotel and best function venue hotel in the Europe category.

The beautiful Georgian mansion near Markinch is one of Scotland's landmark hotels, and has enjoyed three decades under private ownership and personal supervision. In that time it has played host to thousands of Scotland's special private and corporate events, and weddings. A huge congratulations to the team!

BALBIRNIE.CO.UK

Natalie Holt Photography



Did somebody say spa?

The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa is an iconic wedding venue in the romantic town of St Andrews, set on the beautiful North Sea coastline with stunning vistas. Their award-winning Kohler Waters Spa has recently been refurbished and is the ultimate pre-wedding pamper spot for you and your wedding party.

Fancy trying out a Kohler Waters Signature Massage or a hot stone massage before experiencing the 20m indoor swimming spa pool, hydrotherapy pool steam room, refreshing ice fountain, cold plunge pool and sauna?

You can also book a showround via their website and experience the luxury firsthand.

OLDCOURSEHOTELWEDDINGS.CO.UK

Andi Watson Photography



And relax...

Cromlix, the five-star country house hotel in Stirlingshire owned by Andy Murray and his wife Kim, has received planning approval for the conversion of an existing building into a wellness cottage.

The building, which is located in the 34 acres of woodland surrounding the hotel, will be converted into a wellness space for guests to enjoy a range of spa treatments in the tranquillity of the forest. It is planned to open in the autumn.

Last year, Cromlix was completely refurbished in a three-month project to upgrade all bedrooms, bathrooms and common areas including the restaurant and bar.

Treatments in the wellness cottage will be in collaboration with Edinburgh-based skincare brand MODM, who currently supply handmade vanity products used throughout the hotel, and a range of other luxury beauty partners. Guests will be able to book individual or couples packages including facials, manicures, pedicures and massages. Sounds like bliss! ■

CROMLIX.COM



Remember Tomorrow Photography

A day for You Made by Us

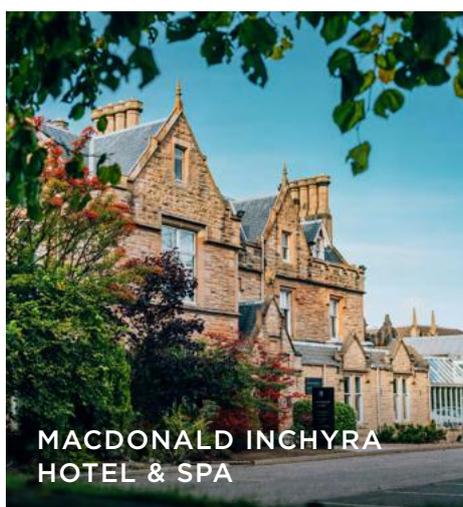
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Marry ME AT twilight

Inspired by the post-pandemic wedding parties hosted by those who married in micro-ceremonies due to restrictions on numbers, twilight weddings are the next big thing – and we're not talking about vampire movies here! We mean nuptials that take place later in the day, giving you loads of time to get ready (every bride's dream, right?) and letting your photographer take advantage of the dreamy dusky backdrops. If this is ticking all your boxes, check out six of the best Scottish venues for marrying at dusk...

∨ Fyvie Castle

With its romantic and opulent vibes (we're talking rich tapestries, elegant drapes, large oil paintings and handsome wood panelling) Fyvie Castle is ideal for a dramatic evening wedding that your guests won't forget anytime soon. A true fairytale venue, the enchanting castle is steeped in myth, legend and folklore, and sits in the heart of Aberdeenshire. For a grand Scottish castle welcome at dusk, the National Trust for Scotland team can arrange for flame torches on arrival and a piper on the roof. Then your guests can enjoy drinks in the castle before letting their hair down in the 19th century Racquets Court in the grounds. Oh, did we mention how dreamy the castle looks when it's floodlit at night?

**NTS.ORG.UK/VENUE-HIRE/
FYVIE-CASTLE/WEDDINGS**



Eva Sanders



∧ Hill of Tarvit

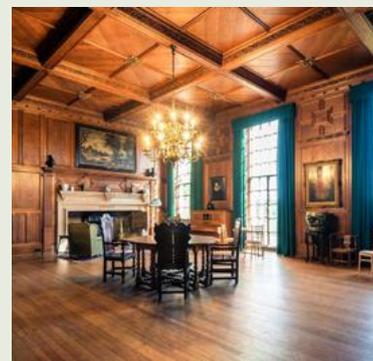
Twilight weddings need a warm and cosy feel – and Hill of Tarvit is it. A National Trust for Scotland property, the Edwardian mansion lies deep in the Fife countryside and lends itself to a fun, festival-style wedding. For nuptials later in the day, treat your guests to a glorious drinks reception on arrival in the Great Hall and Terrace then host your party in a marquee or tipi in the picturesque grounds. Talking of which, Hill of Tarvit's unique golf course is a definite added bonus – especially if the groom and his guys have some time to kill during the day whilst the bride's squad takes advantage of the extra time to get ready!

**NTS.ORG.UK/VENUE-HIRE/
HILL-OF-TARVIT-MANSION/
WEDDINGS**

∧ Trump Turnberry

Let us set the scene... Romantic sea views, an iconic lighthouse and that beautiful dusky light that happens at only a certain time of day for a limited time. Yes, your photographer is going to thank you big time when you tell them you're having a twilight wedding at Trump Turnberry! And once inside, you're going to feel like you've landed in the lap of luxury. So, choose which enchanting rooms to use (we love The Caledonia Ballroom with its sparkly chandeliers and chic outdoor terrace) and take advantage of the utterly sumptuous accommodation, as well as the beautiful on-site spa and legendary links golf course – perfect for a relaxing wedding morning.

TRUMPHOTELS.COM/TURNBERRY



∨ The Bonham

If your twilight wedding is also going to be an intimate wedding, we have just the place for you – especially if you're planning a classic, elegant theme. The Bonham is the last word in luxury and recently benefited from a multi-million-pound refurbishment. No expense was spared on the sophisticated Dean Suite where weddings with 15 - 40 guests take place,

THEBONHAM.COM

surrounded by handsome wood panelling, original fireplaces and oversized bay windows – all the Victorian townhouse vibes. Going even more intimate? The Snug (cosy and secluded with rich décor) has a capacity of eight. PS newlyweds get access to leafy Drumsheugh Gardens; a beautiful setting that's perfect for a stroll or photo session under the stars.



Fraser Cameron Photography



∧ Citation

Proudly pioneering the twilight wedding trend, Citation has a specific package for those who'd prefer a relaxed start to the day then a night jam-packed full of celebrations. And not only that, have you seen the iconic building itself? It's grand and imposing yet ever-so-romantic, and those twinkly fairy-lit columns would look picture perfect as your guests arrive before your evening ceremony. Despite the shorter timescale, the twilight package still gives you exclusive use of the chic city venue and access to Pauline Muir, the wedding coordinator of dreams! You also get post-ceremony prosecco and canapés, a DJ, a full finger buffet for later and lots of added extras, from aisle décor and chair sashes to personalised stationery.

CITATION-GLASGOW.COM

Duke Photography



» Unusual Venues Edinburgh

Could there be more fitting venues for a magical and romantic twilight wedding than Edinburgh's trio of hidden historic gems – The Caves, The Rowantree and Marlin's Wynd, all of which are nestled underneath the city with countless flickering candles warming their stone walls and vaulted ceilings? Full of character, drama and moody lighting the three spaces can accommodate between 40 and 150 guests depending on the time of day – and each has its own unique charm. Thinking practically, being in the heart of the capital (not that you'd know it once you step inside) means your guests will be sorted in terms of transport and accommodation, and your photographer will love you – Royal Mile photos at dusk? Yes please!

UNUSUALVENUESEDINBURGH.COM



Brodie Castle



© Karen Thorburn Photography

Mar Lodge



Glencoe

© ABrightside



Hill of Tarvit

© Rankine Photography

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Fyvie Castle

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Photo by Fraser Young Photography

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» Arniston House

Steeped in more than four centuries of heritage and family history, Arniston House is a picturesque, timeless setting for your wedding day; an exclusive use venue that will take your breath away.

Arniston hosts just 10 weddings per year. This is to ensure the grounds are in pristine condition for each event and to allow the team to be wholly focused on every one.

Venue hire packages start from £5,000 and extend to £20,000 depending upon the type and how many days you wish to book. This includes event management

services for all functions on the estate, including coordination with all the couple's other suppliers and vendors.

Arniston maintains databases for preferred and approved providers and vets any suppliers who have not been prior to couples booking them. Meanwhile, the team can consult separately on the full service destination event planning and management service, which offers end-to-end event management and coordination customised to meet the individual needs of each client.

ARNISTONHOUSE.COM



Got YOU COVERED

Planning a wedding is a big job, so it's just as well there are some amazing Scottish venues offering all-inclusive packages that can take away much of the stress. Sit back, relax, and let the experts do their thing ...

» Carlowrie Castle

Weddings at Carlowrie Castle are always a spectacular event. The dedicated team look after their couples every step of the way, offering unique and luxurious wedding packages that are bespoke and tailored to their needs.

A full winter wedding package includes exclusive use of Carlowrie Castle – the Bar, Marble Room, Piano Room and The Orangery for the ceremony, meal and reception. Then there's a three-course wedding meal for 60 guests – including a glass of prosecco on arrival, and for the toast. And there's a choice of canapés for the drinks



Stacey Clarke Photography

reception and some late food served for guests in the evening.

They provide a piper for your arrival and during the reception, a DJ for the evening reception and a luxury continental breakfast for all residential guests. How could you possibly resist?

CARLOWRIECastle.CO.UK

» Fairmont St Andrews

Perched atop the cliffs on the east coast of Fife, Fairmont St Andrews definitely guarantees your wedding will have the wow factor. And this distinguished world-class resort really can do it all. Offering three wedding packages, all cater for the important details of your day, such as a dedicated events manager, stationery, chair covers, wedding breakfast, bedroom suite for the night of the wedding, master of ceremonies and 20%

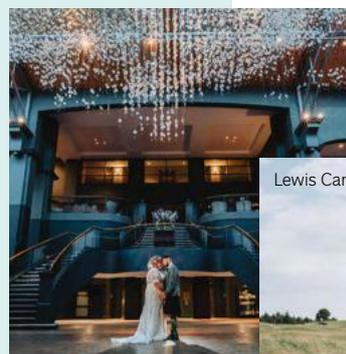
discount on golf and spa.

Celebrate with the help of head green keeper Johnnie, who is also the in-house piper. He's piped all over the world – even for the late Queen!

With packages starting from £129 per person, there are also luxury additions that you can select to give your guests a dream day. The team will have you covered and ensure everything is exactly how it should be.

Fairmont can also assist in arranging wedding cakes, along with other items thanks to their amazing recommended suppliers list.

FAIRMONT.COM/ST-ANDREWS-SCOTLAND/



Lewis Cannon Photography



» Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club

Celebrate the beginning of your lifetime together and say 'I do' in the most enchanting of settings of Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, nestled within 1,000 acres of Scottish countryside, yet only 20 minutes from Edinburgh's bustling city centre.

Dalmahoy offers an idyllic backdrop with stunning views, delectable cuisine, and a choice of modern and period spaces to suit your preferred wedding style and help you create beautiful memories.

A variety of packages are available, and the incredible Morton package – starting from under £12,000 – includes features to ensure your day is nothing short of magical with a Champagne drinks reception, floral table centres, evening buffet and top table draping.

There is also an enhancements list, which includes a choice menu upgrade, traditional Scottish piper, chair covers and ties, groom's room package, and a room for the bride and bridesmaids the night before, allowing for a relaxed and seamless run up to the Big Day.

DALMAHOYHOTELANDCOUNTRYCLUB.CO.UK



Imac Images

» Boclair House Hotel

This glamorous 1920s-style Tudor gothic mansion in Bearsden, west of Glasgow, oozes style and sophistication, from the exquisite grand ballroom with private bar and unique suites to the beautiful landscaped gardens.

It's certainly a stylish and magical place to say 'I do' – and as an exclusive use venue, everything Boclair has to offer is just for you on your big day. Offering a bespoke wedding package for 50 guests that starts at £7,350, you can expect ceremony room hire, canapés for guests and even a wedding cake! You'll enjoy a three-course meal, a floral package, candelabra centrepieces, an evening buffet for 100 guests, a complimentary overnight stay in the luxury honeymoon suite and a wedding DJ for your evening festivities.

Other features include the hire of the venue's wedding post box to store your wedding cards, personalised table plans and menus, a red carpet on arrival and a toastmaster – what's not to love?

BOCLAIRHOUSEHOTEL.CO.UK

» The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa

Enjoying a truly iconic setting, The Old Course Hotel Golf Resort & Spa in St Andrews overlooks the famous Old Course, Swilcan Bridge and beautiful West Sands Beach.

Offering packages to suit all budget ranges, the Forever package (from £200 per person) has you covered, from complimentary menu tasting for two people with an overnight stay, a selection of chef's handmade canapés to accompany your drinks reception on the day, a three-course wedding meal and a complimentary 4 ball

for a 9-hole round of golf at the Duke's Golf Course the morning of the wedding.

And if you fancy going all out there's the luxury Eternity package (from £465 per person) which includes everything you could wish for, including an Old Course suite for the newlyweds, along with two Old Course rooms for two nights. You'll enjoy a private pre-wedding dinner for up to 14 guests, and on the day of the wedding an eight-course banquet followed by Couple's Cocktails to get the evening reception started! ■

OLDCOURSEHOTELWEDDINGS.CO.UK



John Pow Photography



Aberdeen, Grampian, Highlands & Islands



Highland FLING

*Jessica Moran
& Adam Smyth*

DATE: Saturday 20th May 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Catriona Parmenter Photography
VENUE: Burgie House, Forres

Locally sourced ingredients and décor that reflected their rustic surroundings played centre stage at Jessica and Adam's wedding

When it comes to romantic proposals, this music-loving groom got it spot-on. "Adam proposed to me on Arthur's Seat with a homemade ring crafted from guitar strings," remembers Jessica. "It was perfect!"

The couple first met at a party through mutual friends and after a couple of months of hinting, they were match-made and hit it off right away. They'd been together 18 months by the time of the proposal but, knowing his other half well, Adam left it to Jessica to choose her own engagement ring. They worked with Jenny Blossom Jeweller to source the perfect salt and pepper diamond, and then designed the engagement ring and wedding rings around the stone.

DIY dreaming

Jessica is from Inverness and wanted to have a proper Highland wedding so they scoured the north for a venue where they could design their own wedding day and bring all their friends and family together. Adam wanted to replicate the vibe of a great Viking hall. "However, it proved to be tricky to find one in the Scottish Highlands," smiles Jessica. Eventually they hit upon Burgie House and were blown away by its setting, rustic charm and the freedom of having the house and grounds to themselves for five days.

With their venue secured, the theme easily fell into place and they booked a Wills sailcloth tent through Elegant Pitches to complement the beautiful grounds. "The colour scheme



“My friend described my preferred aesthetic as ‘woodland nymph!’”

was white and green with rustic details, taking inspiration from the gardens and countryside around Burgie House,” says Jessica.

They added personal touches like an embroidered table runner from the bride’s great-grandmother on the signing table and homemade sloe gin favours, courtesy of Jessica’s dad. Friends also sourced log slices for displaying the cakes - one of which was made by Adam’s mum.

Looking back, Jessica says planning was the most stressful thing she’s ever done. “I would definitely hire a wedding planner if I could go back in time,” she recalls. But they poured all their efforts into beautiful DIY details that transformed their wedding tent. Jessica arranged the table flowers, designed the wedding programme, and created a site map of the grounds along with activities for the littlest guests including a fun-filled children’s teepee. Then Caroline from Wild Blossom created the bouquets, floral hoops and the wedding arch.

Into the woods

Jessica had a clear idea for her bridal look. “I wanted something to look ethereal and off-white, with embroidered botanical details,” she says. She actually discovered her dress online from Still White, a site where brides resell their gowns. “As soon as I tried it on, I knew it was the right one,” she says. “I loved the way the flowers and leaves embroidered on the dress connected to our woodland setting. My friend described my preferred aesthetic as ‘woodland nymph!’” She accessorised with a bespoke cape by NutMeg Bridal and pearl and moonstone studded earrings.

It’s showtime

Waking up on their wedding morning the couple admit to being very tired after working hard to bring their wedding vision to life. Then for non-Scot Adam the fun kicked in, “messing up” putting on >>





“I would definitely hire a wedding planner if I could go back in time.”

his kilt and greeting guests, while Jessica was busy dealing with an accidental rip in her gown. “Thankfully, the day was saved by my friend Dannie who works in theatre costume and was able to do an emergency repair,” she says.

When the time finally came to walk down the aisle to her maid of honour Sarah playing *Time after Time* by Cyndi Lauper, Jessica was quite overwhelmed. “It was so meaningful to have her play and she also did an amazing job of keeping the crowd entertained as I was delayed,” she says.

The couple had created their personal ceremony with their humanist celebrant Ailie Macleod. “Our favourite part was hearing the things we loved about each other for the first time in front of our family and friends,” says Jessica. “Definitely hard not to cry.”

Time to party!

Following the ceremony, guests were treated to crémant de Loire, beer and cocktails served by James’ Speciality Coffee Bar. James had crafted personalised cocktails



using Scottish spirits and local ingredients which went down a storm. Then it was over to a delicious wedding breakfast, courtesy of Event Boxes. “The menu was all local Scottish produce, most of it foraged or grown by Alec,” remembers the bride. “We wanted to have Scottish venison and salmon to reflect the produce of the Highlands.”

The couple included a game of ‘wedding speech bingo’ in their speeches to keep guests entertained. Jessica recalls, “The highlights for me were my maid of honour Sarah giving the most beautiful and hilarious speech and Adam’s speech, which was perfect and made me cry.”

Full Tilt Ceilidh Band then kept the dance floor full with a ceilidh that was “total chaos and

absolutely wild.” The bride adds, “The disco ball was sparkling, cocktails were flowing and the party went on into the wee hours.”

From those in the know

While marriage hasn’t changed much for the couple, they love the memories of their wedding weekend and spending time with their loved ones. Now their big day is over, they have some sage advice for other to-be-weds. “Start by sitting down together and making a list of the things that are important to you both, whether that’s the location or number of guests or how relaxed the day is,” says Jessica. “Then shorten that list to the things you absolutely cannot compromise on.”



“The disco ball was sparkling, cocktails were flowing and the party went on into the wee hours.”



“Our favourite part was hearing the things we loved about each other for the first time in front of our family and friends.”



BAND

Full Tilt Ceilidh Band

BAR

James' Speciality Coffee Bar

BRIDE'S CAPE AND DRESS ALTERATIONS

NutMeg Bridal

BRIDE'S DRESS

Willowby by Watters at Still White

BRIDE'S SHOES

Coast

CAKES

The Potting Shed Tearoom and groom's mum

CATERING

Event Boxes

CELEBRANT

Allie Macleod of Humanist Society Scotland

FAVOURS

Bride's dad

FLOWERS

Wild Blossom

GROOM'S OUTFIT

McCalls Highlandwear

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Andrea Maxwell

MAID OF HONOUR'S SUIT

Coast

RINGS

Jenny Blossom Jewellers

SAILCLOTH TENT

Elegant Pitches

STATIONERY

Atelier Rosewood



POTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“Jessica and Adam put together a wonderful wedding day. Jessica's artistic eye could be seen in all the beautiful and personal details. We had the opportunity to explore the gardens that not only created a wonderful backdrop for photographs but were full of birdsong, a real highlight for guests and the couple to enjoy as part of the day.” ■

**CATRIONA,
CATRIONA PARMENTER
PHOTOGRAPHY**

CLUNY CASTLE
SECLUDED | MAJESTIC | ENCHANTING



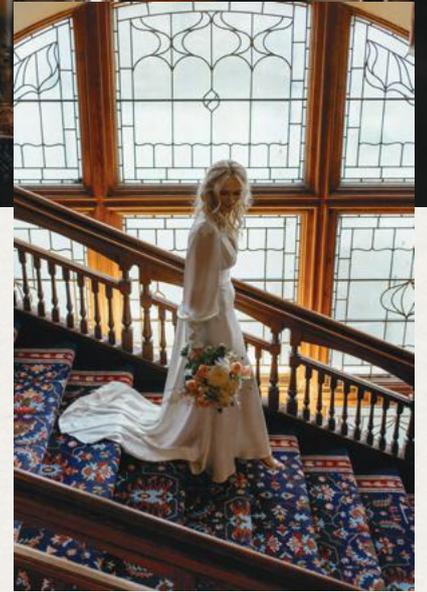
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Carlowrie Castle - Ricky Baillie Photography.
To see more from this styled photoshoot
with Sophia Grace Couture head to the
[Your Scottish Wedding website](#)



Edinburgh, Lothians & The Borders

Let's *Bethany Sinclair & Tease Otoo* DANCE



DATE: Tuesday 11th July 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Bethan Rose Photography
VENUE: Broxmouth Courtyard, Dunbar



This couple's wedding day was a true celebration of both their Scottish and Ghanaian cultures, filled with family, friends and fun.

a train and narrowed down the search," she says. "We had a lot of fun exploring a couple of shops in Edinburgh and trying on the dresses. None of those were 'The One' but they helped me know what I did and didn't want."

She eventually found the ideal dress from Wed2Be in Glasgow – a fitted, mermaid style with a low back. "It has some details on the straps and down the dress. Very simple and absolutely beautiful. I had the absolute joy of wearing my friend's veil – who I was bridesmaid for the year before – and she was also my bridesmaid."

Bethany chose simple white heels for the daytime, then later changed into her Sketchers so she could enjoy the evening ceilidh. She also had a Ghanaian dress to change into halfway through the reception and she wore it for the rest of the night.

There were four bridesmaids – her two sisters and two friends – and their dresses were a gorgeous burnt orange to blend in with the traditional kente cloth. "They've all had huge impacts on my life and I knew they'd make the day so fun and stress-free," Bethany smiles. "I wanted all my bridesmaids to feel super-comfortable on the day, so went with A-line dresses with short floaty sleeves." Bethany also chose dried flower bouquets which could be kept as mementos of the day.

Meanwhile, Tease's brother was his best man and two friends were groomsmen. They wore suits with a subtle tartan style and also kente cloth to bring in both Scottish and Ghanaian cultures. Tease wore a traditional Ghanaian outfit for the marriage ceremony then changed into his suit for the reception.

The day before the wedding was spent decorating the venue followed by an evening wedding rehearsal at the church. Bethany slept well and was ready to "get going and get married" when she woke. "We had a lovely morning! The hair and make-up girls made >>>

Bethany and Tease first met in 2016 when Bethany moved to Aberdeen to study and she began attending the same church as him. First they were friends, before they began dating in 2020. After two-and-a-half years together, they got engaged in October 2022. "Tease proposed to me at Loch Morlich in Aviemore as this has always been one of my favourite places," Bethany says.

The couple were only engaged for nine months which meant there wasn't a lot of time to get everything organised. They knew they wanted a venue close to Edinburgh with a unique vibe, and Broxmouth Courtyard ticked all the boxes. "It's such a stunning venue and had the capacity to hold all the guests we wanted to invite," Bethany explains. They invited 80 day guests and a further 60 at night.

As Tease is originally from Tema in Ghana, the couple also wanted to incorporate the country's traditional kente cloth, which is known for its beautiful bright colours. DIY details also played an important part. "We have lots of creative friends who helped make all this happen," Bethany says, "The wedding arch, the centre pieces, décor and favours were all DIY." Friend Kirsty Crawley made all the invitations and for favours, Bethany handmade personalised s'mores for everyone to enjoy at the fire pits in the evening.

Simple and beautiful

Bethany found dress shopping an enjoyable experience. "I knew I wanted a fitted dress with



"I had the absolute joy of wearing my friend's veil."



the morning very relaxed and everything went smoothly and to time. My bridesmaid prepared a buffet breakfast to nibble on throughout the morning and had plenty of coffee and Buck's fizz!"

On arriving at Edinburgh's Palmerston Place Church, Bethany walked down the aisle to a very unique song. "My very good friend Beth Dempster wrote a song for us and sang me down the aisle. It was very special and personal," she says. At that moment she felt overwhelmed with lots of emotions, "But once I saw Tease I felt totally relaxed. It also helped having my nephew run over to say hello!"

Another special touch was that Bethany and Tease's ceremony was conducted by her dad Colin. "My dad is a recently retired minister and had married my siblings already, so it was my turn," she explains. "Both Tease and I are Christians and we really wanted to keep God at the centre of our ceremony. My dad led the service and we had our friends leading the worship, so it really felt like a family wedding. It was very personal to us and also felt very relaxed with lots of laughs throughout. Tease's sister did a reading and his dad did a prayer. We held the ceremony in the church I grew up going to so lots of people showed up to the ceremony who I had grown up with and it was amazing to see."

Afterwards, refreshments were served by some of the members of the church and there was a drinks reception and canapés at Broxmouth. In the evening there was a ceilidh band, s'mores by the fire pits out in the courtyard, some Ghanaian dancing and an evening buffet of traditional Ghanaian food.

"We are loving married life as it just feels so right," Bethany smiles. "Although I loved our wedding it's so nice to be this side of it and building our life together as Mr and Mrs."

"We held the ceremony in the church I grew up going to."



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“I wanted all my bridesmaids to feel super comfortable.”



“My very good friend wrote a song for us.”



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“This wedding will be engraved on my heart for many years to come. Bethany and Tease have this lovely, down-to-earth, inclusive attitude which meant that the day was one of celebration amongst friends. When saying goodbye to the happy couple, I was sure to let them know that I had never seen a wedding party dance quite like it. It was phenomenal.” ■

BETHAN, BETHAN ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY



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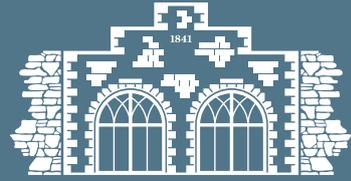


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YSW on tour Beautiful BROXMOU

Katie Bletcher enjoys an indulgent stay in the honeymoon lodge at Broxmouth Courtyard



Waking up to heavy snow the day of our visit, the trip to Broxmouth Courtyard looked touch and go for a while. But the snow cleared and we turned into Broxmouth Park by Dunbar just after sunset. Driving past the courtyard itself – all lit up in preparation for a wedding the next day - we arrive at the estate's honeymoon cabin, the Lodge by the Loch, and it's so pretty!

Tucked away on the edge of the wood, the lodge with its kitchen-living room, bedroom, and shower room, is only a short walk from the courtyard festivities, yet far enough for an ideal honeymoon hideaway. Stepping inside, it's super-cosy and beautifully furnished with plenty of tasteful prints and plush velvet cushions.

Our visit coincides with my husband's birthday, and we arrive to cake and champagne – a touching example of the Broxmouth team's attention to detail.

It may be dark, but we can't resist trying out the lodge's hot tub on the veranda before making our way into Dunbar to the Bayswell Hotel – run by Broxmouth's owners – for a tasty dinner, drinks and more birthday cake!

The next morning, we wake to a skiff of snow and we can finally take in our uninterrupted view over the lake and the sea beyond. What could be more romantic than starting your day with a soak in the hot tub, looking out on a spectacular snowy scene?

After breakfast we head to the courtyard for a show-round with Drew the sales manager, whose enthusiasm is infectious. Looking at the stable buildings which date back to 1841 it's difficult to believe that only a few years ago there were tumbledown roofs and the cobblestones were completely hidden beneath a carpet of grass.

Owners Simon and Susan began the restoration in 2021 and stepping through the vast glass doors into the Stables Gallery where ceremonies are held you can see it's been a labour of love. The light-filled space retains the character of the original building with exposed stone, a beautiful arched window at the top of the aisle, and a minstrels' gallery – ideal for your photographer or a string quartet. Eye-catching statement pendant lights hang from the ceiling, and you'll love the reclaimed herringbone flooring from the south of France. It runs throughout the venue, tying the old and new elements of the building together effortlessly.

For a wedding in the colder months, there's a playfully decorated bar, but in the summer months you can head straight into the courtyard for your drinks reception. The acoustics outside are brilliant and I can just picture a sax player getting the party started.

The Stable Gallery and Courtyard Dining Room each have capacity for 160 guests and when you hire Broxmouth Courtyard there are so many wedding elements on-site, making your planning all the easier. You can choose from lime-washed chiavari chairs or French bistro style ones, round tables or trestles, and you'll adore The Little Bubble Bar tuk tuk that's a permanent feature. I also love the year-round dining room ceiling greenery, allowing you to keep the rest of your décor minimal if you like. There's also a bridal dressing area and a recommended suppliers list – though you're not limited to it.

All catering is done in-house, led by the excellent head chef, Gregor. Couples typically offer their guests a choice of two starters, two mains, two desserts and a dietary option but if you have a specific menu in mind you can work with the chef on something bespoke.

Weddings at Broxmouth Courtyard are run on a two-night hire basis with the three dog-friendly courtyard cottages included, allowing you to relax with your loved ones the night before. You could cook for yourselves or why not get the team to lay on a barbecue? And you'll love that Cedar Cottage includes a room with a keg and pool table – perfect for grooms to hang out the morning of the wedding. Plus, they can keep an eye out for the resident albino squirrel that lives behind the cottages!

There are more accommodation offerings on the estate in the five-bedroom Bridge House and the four-bedroom Head Gardener's Cottage, with South Lodge and West Lodge currently under renovation. Just two more reasons to book this stunning venue for your wedding. ■



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*Claire Bankier
& Oliver Hay*



DATE: Monday 11th September 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Tony Marsh Photography
VENUE: Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa, St Andrews

With the beach as their backdrop, Claire and Oliver said 'I do' in the Old Course Hotel's penthouse with only their mums as their witnesses

After two wedding dates postponed due to the pandemic, Claire and Oliver were hoping for third time lucky – but knew they wanted to minimise the risk of any stress this time around! So, the first thing they did was hire a wedding planner, and they struck gold when they found Kimmie at LITU. “Kimmie had fantastic access to exceptional suppliers and great ideas,” smiles Claire. “Trying to decide on a location was tough. I really wanted a wedding

near the beach, so she recommended the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews.” Once there, the experts within the venue suggested they tie the knot on the penthouse balcony, which overlooks the golf course and West Sands beach. Turns out it was the perfect place for this bride who admits that without Kimmie she'd never have known the space was a possibility.

The pair's original plan was a larger celebration in Ascot – “We used to live there so it had a lot of sentimental meaning” – with extended family,



“We’ve solidified our commitment to each other.”



but after a move back to Scotland they opted for something smaller, with only their mums as witnesses. Claire describes the theme of the wedding as “simple and fuss-free” with the neutral colour palette and florals following suit. “I had a couple of ideas for the flowers and Oor Fleurs added eucalyptus to the bouquet, which I absolutely loved and thought was a bit different.”

Dress... Tick!

When it came to sourcing her bridal couture, that box was already ticked because Claire had bought her dress back in 2020 for their original wedding date. “I went to Olivia Cameron in Falkirk with my mum and I believe the dress I chose was the second or third that I tried on. It was very classic and had a band around the waist, which gave a beautiful silhouette. It also had a deep V-neck that I felt modernised it a lot.”

Fortunately, it had been safely stored, it was still in perfect condition and she still loved it... which meant she could dedicate time to updating her look with accessories! Claire arranged to have a jacket made by Alan Hannah in London (organised by Charlotte Grace Bridal in Scotland) and ordered a bespoke Swarovski crystal elevated headband from LELET NY, then added a Gucci high heel pump and some elegant jewels from Tiffany & Co. Finally, Claire’s sewing superstar mum made her garter – what a special sentimental touch.

After achieving her goal of a stress-free planning process – “Laura at the Old Course and Kimmie were fantastic at planning and the attention to detail was unbelievable,” says the bride – the couple kept the chilled vibes going the night before the big day when their parents arrived. They walked over the golf course then refuelled with dinner from the eclectic international menu at the Swilcan Loft, one of the hotel’s impressive restaurants. The bride and >>



“I really wanted a wedding near the beach.”



groom decided to stay away from alcohol, which they thought was key in feeling fresh for the next day.

Waking relaxed and excited, Claire had a lovely time getting ready, confident that her right-hand women, Laura and Kimmie, were taking care of everything. “I knew if something was to go awry, they would sort it and I probably wouldn’t have even known.”

Delighted to be getting married, and to see her husband-to-be waiting on the balcony, Claire walked down the aisle to the beautiful sound of the clarsach (a small version of a harp) and knew for sure they’d done the right thing in planning a small wedding. “Although I like attending big weddings, it was never ‘me,’ or what I imagined. I wanted the focus to be the marriage with a beautiful ceremony. And if I had a big wedding, I would have felt quite overwhelmed and lost focus of what the day was about.” They found the vows (classic words recommended by the registrar) a little nerve-racking but managed to get through it with just a few tears!



Romantic celebrations

Afterwards they toasted to their newlywed status with Laurent Perrier Rosé and standard Laurent Perrier before heading out with “fun and professional” photographer Tony Marsh to capture some special moments around St Andrews. Later, they enjoyed the ultimate intimate wedding breakfast for two; a top class menu carefully pulled together by the Old Course Hotel chefs then served by a private butler in the luxurious surrounding of the penthouse suite. How lush!

“Finally marrying the love of my life after being together for 13 years was wonderful,” remembers Claire. “It feels like

we’ve solidified our commitment to each other.” Reflecting on the experience, she couldn’t be happier that she hired some expert help. Claire would urge others to do the same if they don’t know where to start or lack the motivation to plan their own nuptials – regardless of the size of their wedding. “It made a huge difference to me and how I enjoyed the whole experience. All my memories from the day and planning are lovely with no stress as I knew everything was taken care of. It meant I could enjoy choosing my shoes and headpiece, and going for fittings, without worrying about finding a photographer or hairdresser too. I just went with it and trusted Kimmie’s experience and contacts.”

“Oor Fleurs added eucalyptus to the bouquet.”



“All my memories from planning are lovely.”



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PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“We had such fun. Come rain or shine St Andrews always is fabulous with so many great backdrops.” ■

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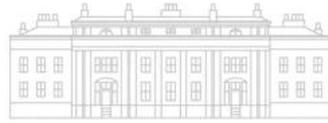
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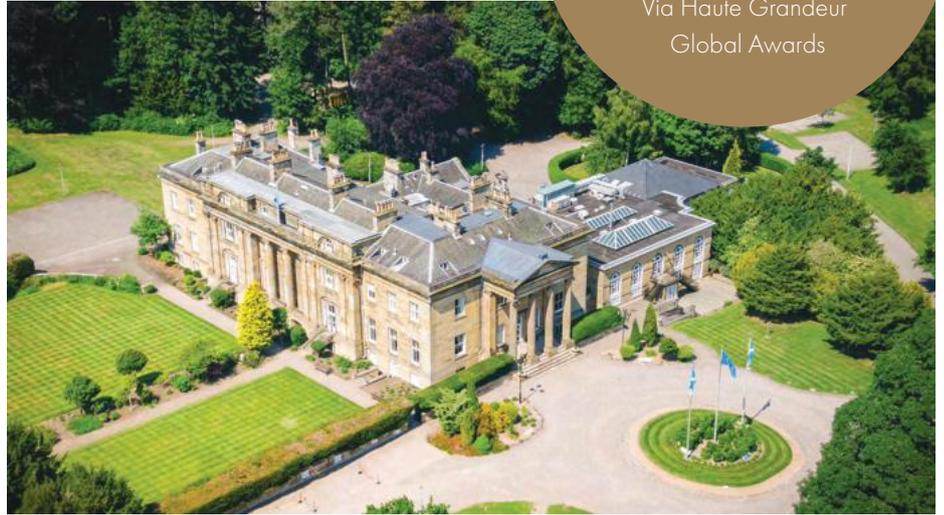


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YSW on tour Seaside LUXURY

Head of editorial **Katie Bletcher** falls in love with Fairmont St Andrews all over again

Turning into the Fairmont St Andrews' drive never fails to take my breath away. The whole bay opens up in front of you with views over the historic town. While I've long been an advocate of the hotel's spa, this is my first overnight stay and my husband and I are excited!

We're greeted by the friendly concierge before finding our gorgeous Deluxe Seaview Suite. The room is sumptuously decorated in restful grey hues with plush green velvet furnishings and the bathroom is a thing of beauty. We're talking huge rainfall shower, separate bath, and luxurious marble.

These Deluxe Seaview Suites are offered to couples on their wedding night, but with their open-plan layout and double aspect windows they have all the space for your dress - and the natural light brides and make-up artists will love for getting ready the morning of the Big Day.

Time to relax

We don't have time to kick back just yet though as the spa is calling. Tucked underneath the double staircase - the perfect location for wedding group photos - it has long been my happy place. While my husband is whisked away for his first ever massage, a blissful Active Nutrients Glow Facial awaits me. My therapist starts with a deep cleanse, before using a special light to show me what areas



need attention. Nearly 40 years old and I'm still troubled with an oily t-zone, so she recommends an ESPA witch hazel toner. Then she works with various masks, a Foreo device and gua sha stones to promote that longed-for glow.

After an hour of facial heaven, we sample the pool and sauna, the perfect spot to relax ahead of your wedding celebrations. And, with the Fairmont boasting two PGA and champion golf courses, all wedding packages also receive a discounted golf rate.

We round off our evening with dinner in La Cucina, just one of the hotel's dining options. The first-floor Italian restaurant, with its views over the cavernous atrium and the eye-catching suspended 'Zephyr' sculpture, is the perfect treat. And of course, I take advantage of our seaside location and indulge in divine scallops in nduja butter.

Decisions, decisions

Couples can choose from three packages at the Fairmont for weddings with a minimum of 50 adult day guests, as well as the intimate and intimate plus packages for those with 10-49 guests.

The hotel only operates one wedding per day, held on Saturdays and Sundays, and the Events Space has rooms for all wedding sizes. The smallest spaces can accommodate weddings of up to 50 guests, while the Robert Louis Stevenson



Suite, with its beautiful French windows overlooking the bay, has space for up to 140 guests. The largest weddings (maximum 350 guests) are held in the Robert Burns ballroom which can be partitioned, allowing you to screen your band until after dinner. An elegant neutral palette has been employed throughout, making the rooms suitable for any wedding décor.

Outdoor ceremonies take place on the terrace or between the trees while an eight-seater golf buggy will take you round in style for photos. The eighteenth hole is a particularly popular spot and golf fans should note, it is possible to marry in the clubhouse (depending on the time of year). Believe me, the views here are to die for.

All you need

Certain things come as standard in the hotel's packages including banquet chairs with white linen, a moveable bar which can be set up for your drinks reception in the atrium or the ballroom foyer, and even use of the hotel's grand piano.

Being a five-star venue, certain extras can also elevate your day. There's an on-site helipad if you choose to make your grand entrance via chopper. Or how about entertaining the kids with a film in the John Barbour Auditorium? And although the food here is exceptional, for cultural wedding celebrations an external caterer can be accommodated in a section of the hotel's kitchen.

Room to stay

Come bedtime there's plenty of room for guests with accommodation ranging from junior suites up to the presidential Kingdom of Fife suite, and even two self-catering manor homes. And you'll love to hear your wedding package includes an anniversary overnight stay, so you can come back and celebrate again! ■



Rahul Khona

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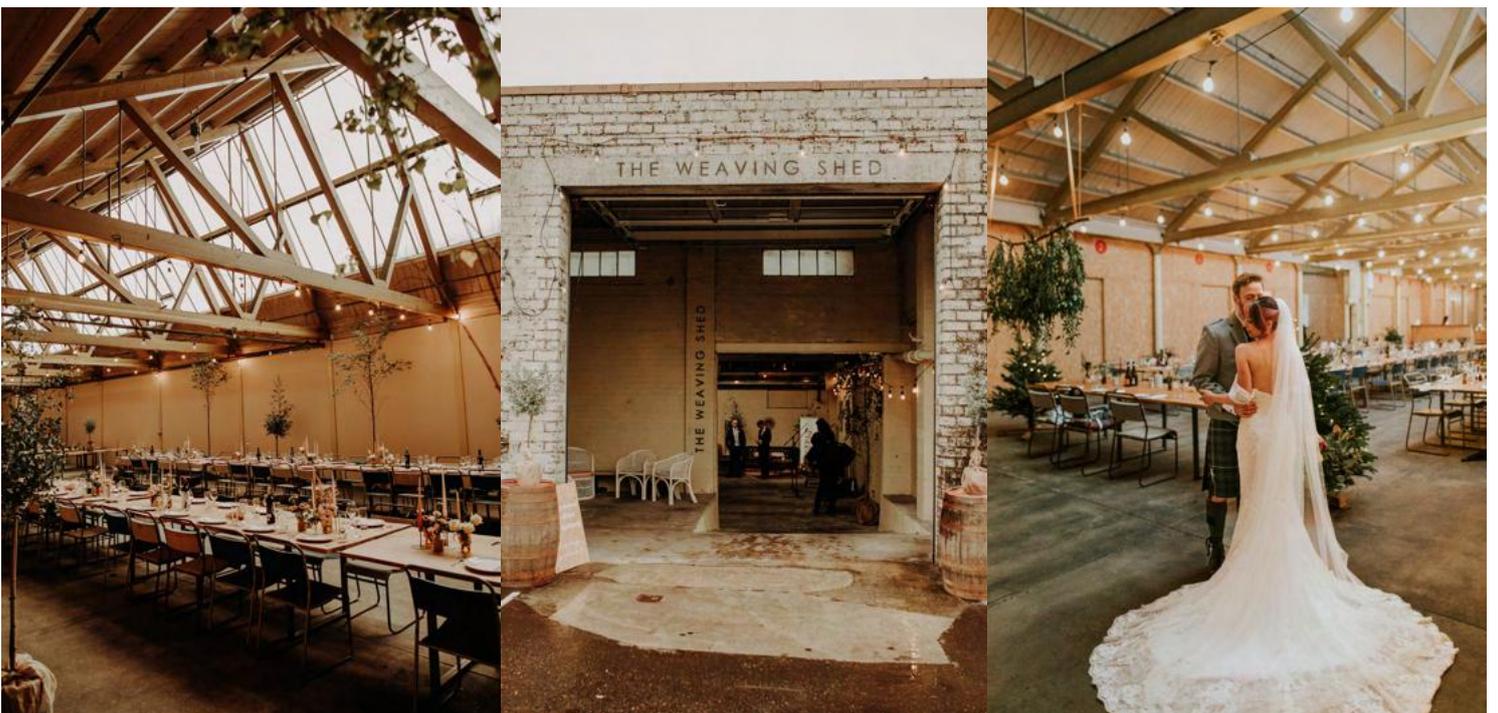


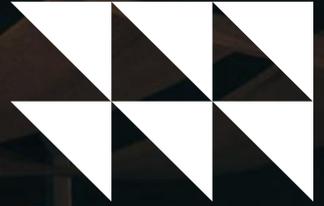
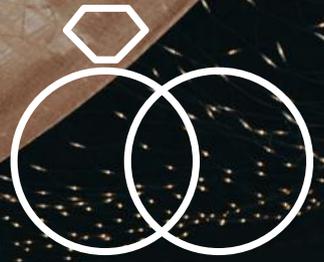
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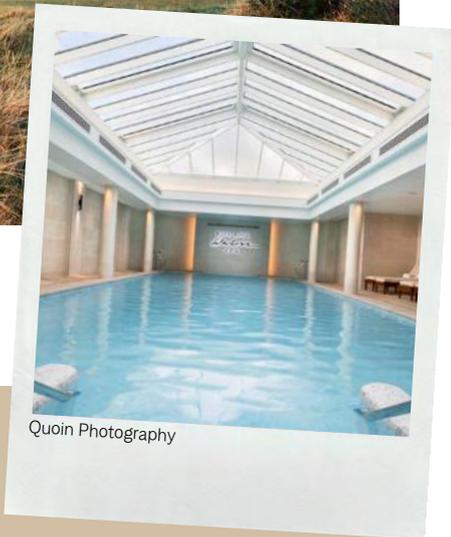
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When it comes to dining, the hotel boasts seven bars and restaurants, including the Swilcan Loft, Road Hole Restaurant and its very own pub, The Jigger Inn – the perfect 19th hole stop-off after a top-class round of golf. Speaking of which, you'll find The Duke's Golf Course along with the Golf Academy nearby. But if you're more into time dedicated to relaxing, you'll love the on-site Kohler Waters Spa, the only one of its kind outside the US. Unwind in the recently renovated spa complex and allow the specialist therapists to work their magic with an indulgent treatment.

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Closing date is 23.59 on 30th April 2024. To participate in the competition you must email your answer to editorial@yourscottishwedding.co.uk and agree to your details being passed to The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa. The prize consists of an overnight stay for two in an Old Course-facing room, a one-course lunch for two in the Kohler Waters Spa Café, a 50-minute custom massage per person in the Kohler Waters Spa, dinner for two in either the Swilcan Loft or Road Hole Restaurant with a bottle of wine and full Scottish breakfast. The winner will be drawn at random and notified via email, to arrange delivery of the prize. Dates are subject to availability, (black-out dates apply). This prize is non-transferable. Upgrades are available subject to availability.

*Your Scottish Wedding is the media partner of this competition and is not responsible for the delivery of the prize. The arrangement of the prize will be between the winner and The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa. Entrants must state whether they are happy for their email address to be passed to The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa for marketing purposes. Head to the website for full terms and conditions ■

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The Burrell Collection - FD Young Photography

Glasgow, Loch Lomond & the South West



DATE: Saturday 16th September 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Robert Lawler Photography
VENUE: Cornhill Castle, Biggar



MY everything

Rachel Lawler & Brian Goldie



Our guest columnist Rachel and her new husband Brian finally tied the knot in a simply gorgeous castle celebration

created a lot for friends and family so it was natural for me to go for it! I also personalised a lot of things myself, like my guestbook, feather champagne glasses, tassel table names and things like the pearl gift bags for my bridesmaids.”

Takes me back

Dress shopping was one of Rachel’s favourite days ever. “At the time, we were still getting married in 2021 so it was exactly a year to the day that we went shopping and it felt so exciting. I’d worked with Lisa and Jacqui at Melle Cloche on lots of wedding shoots and always loved the team and the shop.” Rachel fell for the ‘Cambridge’ from Sottero & Midgley by Maggie Sottero. “As soon as I put it on, everyone gasped and I just felt so good in it!” she remembers. “The back detailing is just spectacular – I felt amazing in it.” She accessorised with a floral edge long veil, teardrop earrings and a Swarovski gold tennis bracelet gifted by her mum. Her chosen fragrance for the day was Christian Dior Dioriviera Eau de Parfum. “I always wanted a scent that I will only ever wear on special occasions so it takes me back to my wedding day.”

Rachel had four bridesmaids with sister Beth as maid of honour. “I knew I didn’t want ‘traditional’ bridesmaid dresses and fell in love with the champagne-coloured Vesper dresses. All the girls loved them.” Brian wore an Oban Mist tartan kilt, grey tweed jacket and plaid, all from MacGregor and MacDuff. His brother, Iain, was his best man and he had four groomsmen.

The couple also lucked out with Rachel’s talented uncle who happens to be a wedding photographer! “I wouldn’t have had anyone else to capture my day. His style is very in-the-moment so it was amazing to see the photos and all the little details he got we didn’t even know about!” Meanwhile, Lauren from Social Brides Club was on hand to capture moments especially for social media.

The night before, they held a rehearsal dinner with the wedding party and gifts were exchanged >>

Rachel and Brian first met in 2010 while out with mutual friends. They all headed to a club and decided against turning up in a large group in case there were issues getting in. “Brian and I ended up being a pretend couple and walking up together. Who would have known we’d end up together for real and married!” Rachel recalls. After six years together, Brian proposed in 2018 in the Lower Barrakka Gardens in Malta. “As we sat overlooking the beautiful Mediterranean Sea, he suddenly was down on one knee! It was honestly a blur, I was so excited!”

Finding the perfect venue was top of their planning list and back then Rachel was a full-time wedding writer. “I’d been to lots of amazing venues but Cornhill Castle always stood out. We went for an overnight stay a few weeks after we got engaged and just instantly knew it was our venue.”

The couple originally planned to wed in September 2021 but decided to postpone at the beginning of 2021 when Covid restrictions were still in place. Rachel’s sister’s wedding had also moved from 2020 to 2022, so they settled on 2023 for their day.

Rachel chose a minimal colour palette with black, white and champagne, knowing she wanted it to be timeless with lots of personal touches. “I created all of my stationery, from the invitations to the table plan. I love designing stationery and have





“I’ll never forget that moment, finally getting to marry my person.”

to avoid the morning bustle. While Rachel slept fairly well she admits to waking feeling a little shocked the day had finally arrived! She had a great morning getting ready with “lots of laughing, champagne and beauty prep.” She also organised a mini dress reveal for her bridesmaids and Brian’s mum.

An emotional day

Rachel walked down the aisle with her mum to Samantha Harvey’s cover of *Can’t Help Falling In Love*. “My dad passed away eight years ago, so it was a very emotional day. On my bouquet, I had a charm with his finger print so he was with me as my mum walked me down the aisle,” she says. “Locking eyes with Brian when he turned round just made me feel calmer yet more excited. I’ll never forget that moment, just seeing everyone smiling back and finally getting to marry my person.”

The groom’s party emulated Brian’s beloved Newcastle FC, walking in to the team’s match day entrance song *Going Home: Theme of the Local Hero*. Rachel describes the ceremony as “really personal with lots of humour as we both wanted a true celebration”. Their celebrant Raymond gave a blessing at the start and Rachel, her sister, Brian and Brian’s brother all shared sips of prosecco from a quaich. Then at the end of the ceremony, the newlyweds exited to Barry White’s *You’re My First, My Last, My Everything*.

A drinks reception followed where their 120 guests were entertained by sax player Chris Hardie, who also provided entertainment during the meal. Then the evening celebrations kicked off with the couple taking to the dancefloor for their first dance, a cover of Aretha Franklin’s *You Send Me*, performed by their band Ernest.

After five years of planning every last beautiful detail of their day Rachel’s wedding highlight was simply saying ‘I do’. “Our ceremony just felt like a complete dream and I felt so proud to finally get to be Mrs Goldie. Standing there in front of all our loved ones and becoming husband and wife was just the most perfect moment for us.”



BAND

Ernest

BRIDE'S DRESS

Maggie Sottero at Melle Cloche

BRIDE'S SHOES

Ralph Lauren

BRIDE'S HEADWEAR

Rainbow Club

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“Our ceremony just felt like a complete dream.”



“We both wanted a true celebration.”



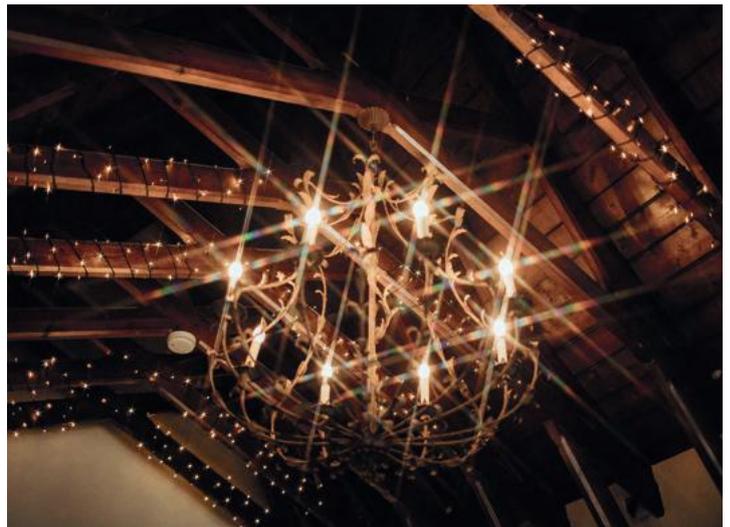
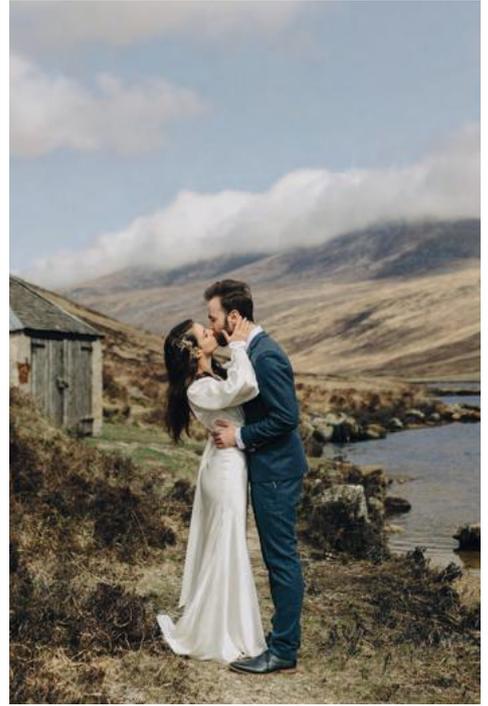
PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“It’s always a privilege to be at the heart of anyone’s wedding. All the more so when it’s your beautiful niece who you’ve watched grow from a child. To be involved in one of her happiest days was a real honour.” ■

ROBERT, ROBERT LAWLER PHOTOGRAPHY

THE DOUGARIE BOATHOUSE

ON THE SCOTTISH ISLE OF ARRAN

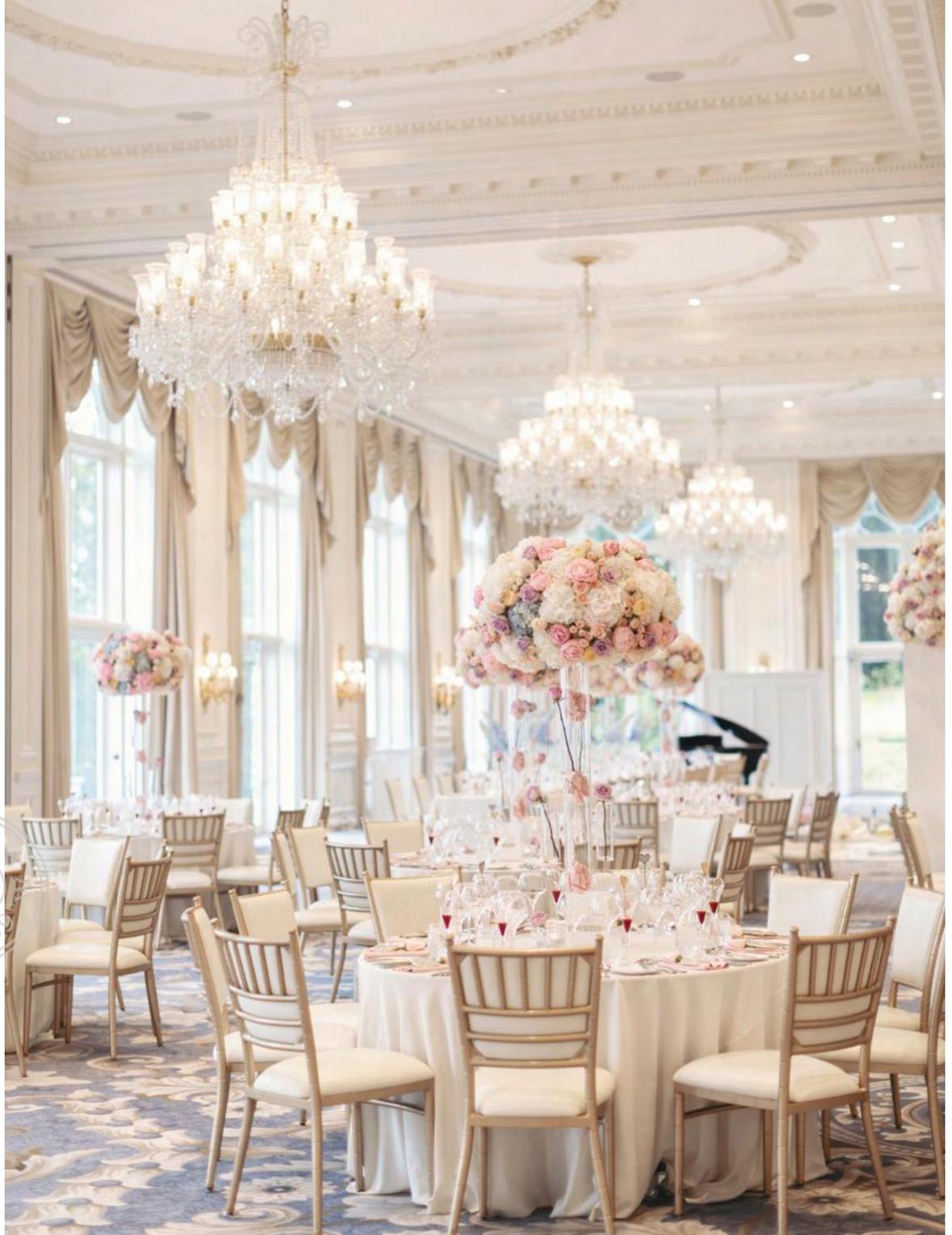


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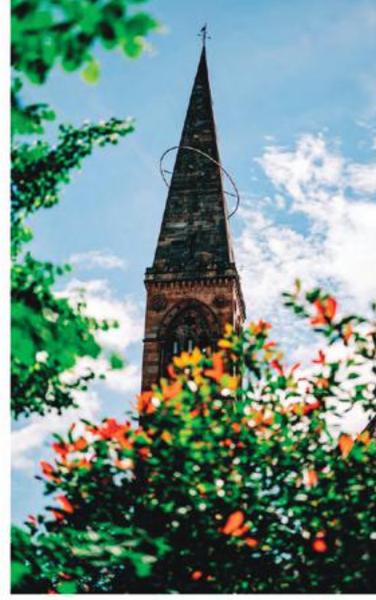
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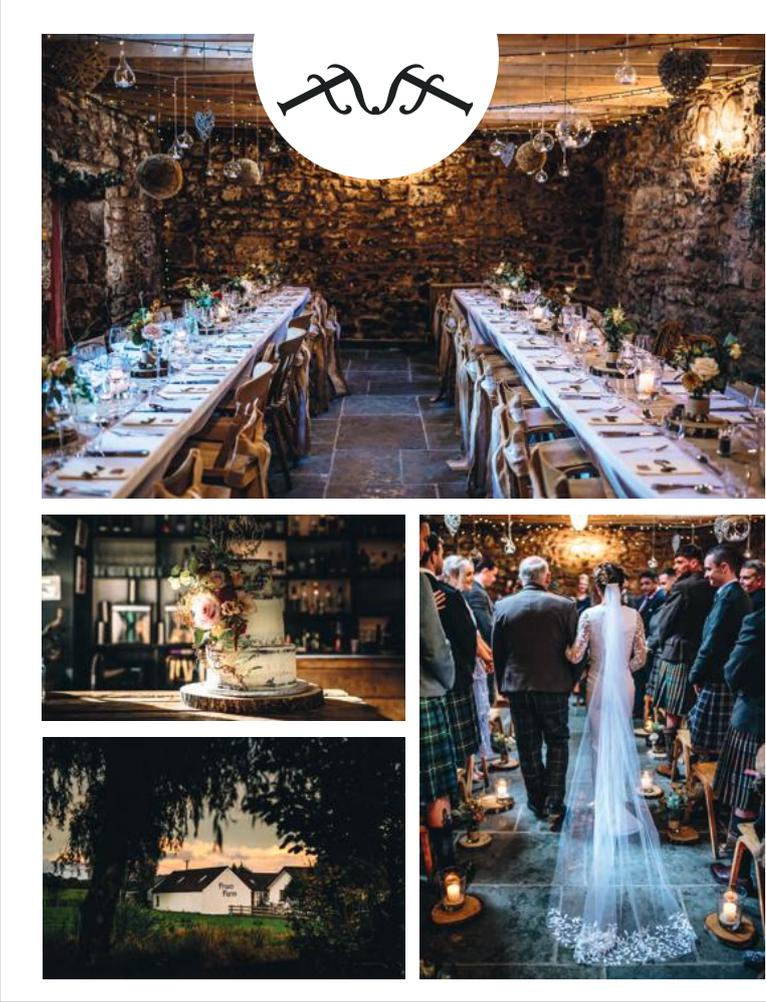
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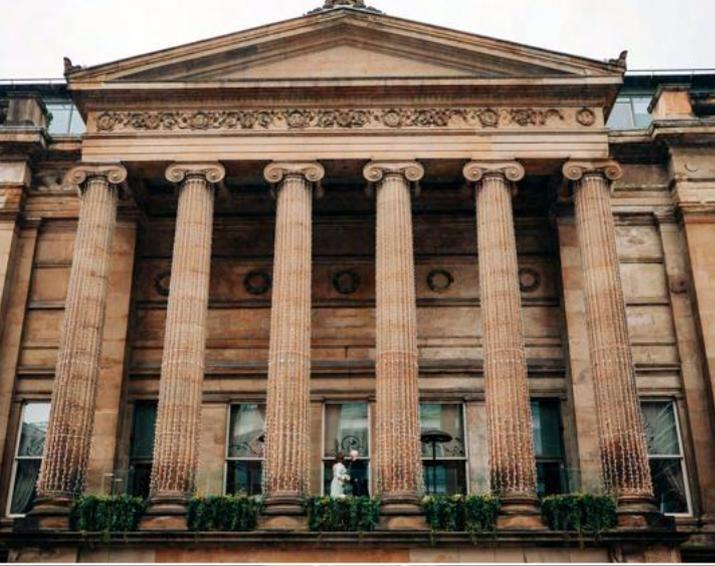
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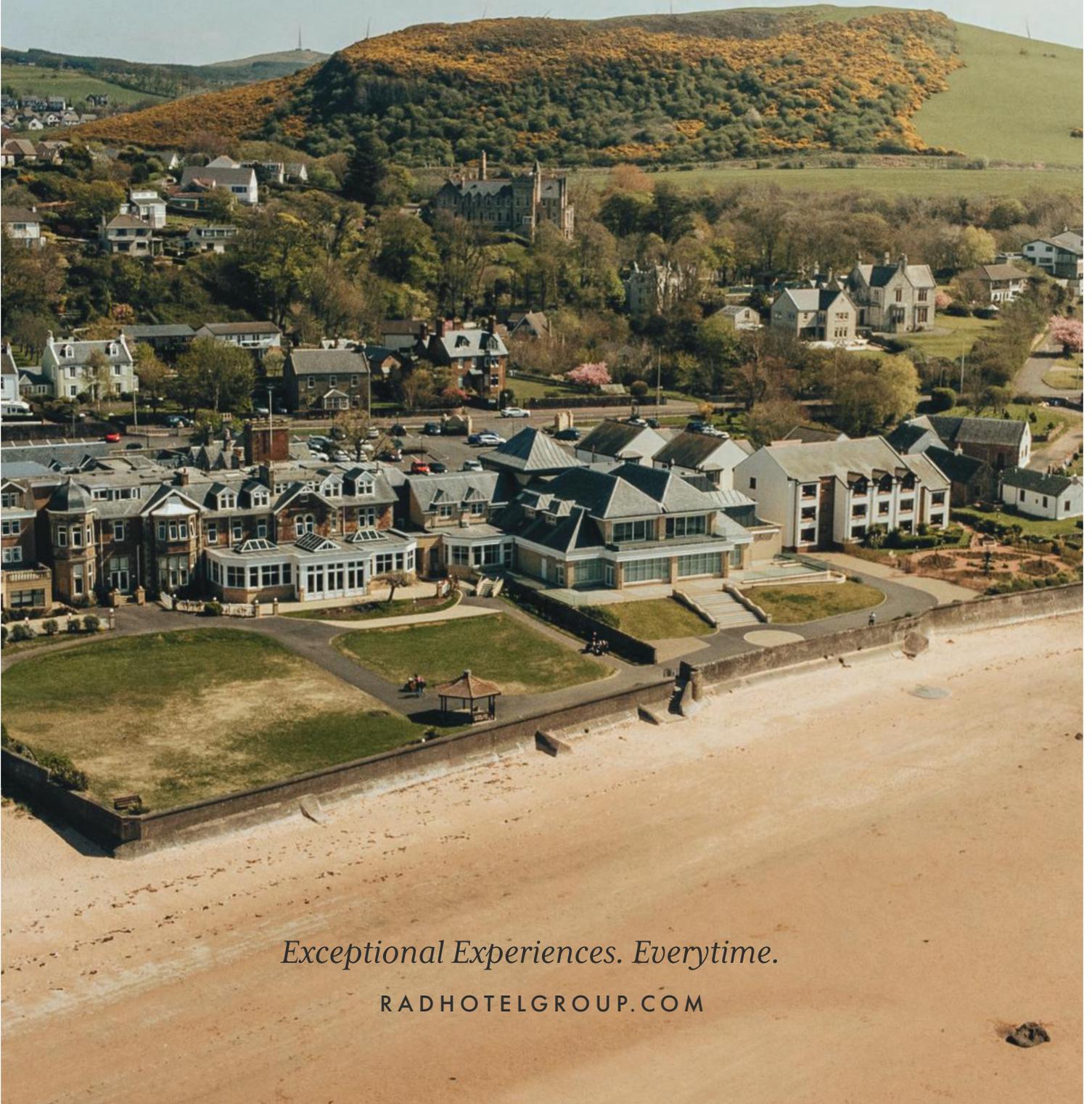
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*Katie Mckay
& Liam Deboys*



DATE: Saturday 25th March 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Fotogenic of Scotland
VENUE: Cromlix, Kinbuck



Cromlix was the perfect place for Katie and Liam to host 40 of their faves for the whole weekend as they said 'I do'

went down a treat after the meal. "It was super cheap to make. We just bought a large tub of mints and made them up ourselves." Not wanting to leave their evening guests out, they put together mini sweetie packs; one that said 'Bride's favourite' (full of foam shrimps and bananas) and the other labelled 'Groom's favourite', filled with blue and pink fizzy bottles. Finally, Katie made a slipper station for the ladies' bathroom so that guests in high heels could dance the night away pain-free – so thoughtful!

Happy coincidence

After screenshotting the same dress three times, Katie realised she'd better hunt it down and try it on. So she did, and it was 'The One.' "It was understated, comfortable and very me. One thing I don't have is curves but this dress gave me the silhouette I've always wanted."

For her girls, she wanted something modern, midi and "not typical bridesmaid style." She found two she loved on the John Lewis website that were essentially the same colour but ever so slightly different styles. And the best bit? "My bridesmaid, Jenny, has actually worn her dress again to another wedding as a guest and this was exactly what I wanted. Classy, elegant, comfortable and something that they would want to re-wear," says Katie.

For those not familiar with Cromlix, the luxe venue gives to-be-weds exclusive use for the whole weekend and this couple took full advantage, hosting an evening of food and drinks with their bridal party and family on the Friday night. With full run of the property, the girls had breakfast in the Billiards Room on the wedding morning (accessed via a secret door from Katie's room), keeping their distance from the groom. And all was calm and chilled until Katie put on her dress and had a visit from her dad. "Seeing his emotion set me off and I just couldn't stop crying. I was in floods walking down the aisle and we don't have a single photo where my face isn't contorted with tears!" >>

After meeting back in 2015, doctors Katie and Liam's first date came years later in a speakeasy in Dundee. Conversation came naturally and both had a great feeling so date two followed, in an Italian where half of Katie's main course ended up down the front of her top! The third date, which involved an over-done steak, settled it – the pair were meant to be, and the rest was history. Four years passed and, amidst the pandemic, Liam surprised Katie with a private proposal in their living room, complete with a delivery of afternoon tea and bubbles.

The pair wanted to tie the knot in March as that was the month they were engaged and they quickly locked it in at Cromlix, the place where Katie had always dreamed of getting married – and the only venue they visited. "I went for afternoon tea with my best friends for my 21st birthday and knew from that day on I'd get married there. I hadn't even met Liam yet!" she laughed.

"When we visited together, it was perfect. We instantly relaxed and felt so well looked after. It emanated the feeling of home and was the perfect size to host our family and bridal parties. We loved the cosy fires and the décor, which we didn't need to add anything to." With no theme in mind, the couple was inspired by colour-filled Cromlix and Katie picked bridesmaid dresses that matched a lot of the décor.

They couldn't resist a few DIY details, though, and made favours – packs of mints that said their names, the date and 'Mint to be' on them, which

"We just listed our priorities and aimed for them."





They opted for a humanist ceremony and chose to include their couple story, their relationships with the bridal party, a reading by one of the bridesmaids and a poem written by Liam's dad. Having put a lot of thought into their vows, it's no surprise that saying them was highly emotional for the pair. "It meant so much to us both."

Spoiling the VIPs

Treating their guests well was important and there were bubbles and beer on tap post-ceremony, plus a bride's and groom's cocktail (Pornstar Martini and Old Fashioned) available from the bar. The hotel's Chez Joules restaurant took care of the catering and, again, the menu was chosen with the guests in mind. Meanwhile, the cake was made by Katie's talented school friend, Elle. "Her three-tiered masterpiece included white chocolate and raspberry; Biscoff, and lemon drizzle. Our guests raved about the cake and we almost didn't get a slice. Luckily, I hid a few in our bedroom for the end of the night. Best decision ever!"

A further 70 people joined for the evening and the newlyweds saved the speeches for after their arrival. The first dance followed, then there was a ceilidh and a lot of fun – in fact, the hotel said a few days later it was the most cocktails they'd ever sold in one day!

Reflecting on the planning process, Katie found putting their stamp on things to be the most fun part – "The wedding industry can be quite overwhelming as you can have pretty much anything now. We just listed our priorities and aimed for them" – and would urge others to enjoy the process and celebrate every little thing.

"If you're feeling overwhelmed, have a look online and pinpoint your likes and dislikes," she adds. "It'll start to come together and you'll see a pattern develop."

"Seeing his emotion set me off and I just couldn't stop crying."



“Understated,
comfortable
and very me.”



“Luckily, I hid a few slices of
cake in our bedroom for the
end of the night.”



BAND AND DJ

The Jiggers

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'Alma' by Savannah Miller from Anne Priscilla Bridal

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

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BRIDESMAID DRESSES

John Lewis

CELEBRANT

Melanie K. Leckie of Humanist Society Scotland

CAKE

the.cake.diet

FLOWERS

Lavender Blue

GROOM'S OUTFIT

MacGregor & MacDuff

HAIR

Heather Robertson from AMM Hair and Makeup Team

MAKE-UP

Stephanie McDowell Makeup

RINGS

Mr Harold & Son

VIDEOGRAPHY

Fotogenic of Scotland



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“Katie and Liam were good looking, funny, easy going and madly in love. Their friends and family were a pleasure to work with and there was a huge range of emotions to be captured. The new, bold Cromlix interior design served as a frame for our vivid photographs from this stylish wedding.” ■

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Advertisers Index



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ACCESSORIES

Elegance of Perth	115
Freja Designer Dressmaking	73
Gwenne Broxburn	29
Gwenne Edinburgh	29
Kavelle Couture	7
Kudos Bridal, Dunfermline	25
Kudos Bridal, Edinburgh	15
Opus Couture	5
Pamela Jayne's Bridal	14
Rachel Scott Couture	4, 73 & 280
Rainbow Club	2
Sophia Grace Couture	10
Stephanie Gallen Millinery	73 & 115

BRIDAL DESIGNER

Demetrios	11
Ellis	3
Freja Designer Dressmaking	73
Kelsey Rose	50
Mirka Bridal Couture	39

BRIDAL RETAILERS

Gwenne Broxburn	29
Gwenne Edinburgh	29
Kavelle Couture	7
Kudos Bridal, Dunfermline	25
Kudos Bridal, Edinburgh	15
Opus Couture	5
Pamela Jayne's Bridal	14
Rachel Scott Couture	4, 73 & 280
Sophia Grace Couture	10

BRIDESMAIDS

Freja Designer Dressmaking	73
Kudos Bridal, Dunfermline	25

Kudos Bridal, Edinburgh	15
Mirka Bridal Couture	39
Pamela Jayne's Bridal	14
Sophia Grace Couture	10

CAKE DESIGNERS

Crumbdillyumptious	142
Philippa Rose Cake Design	142
The Kilted Cake Company	143

CATERER

Saltire Hospitality	139
---------------------	-----

CELEBRANT

Celebrate People	133
Fuze Ceremonies	135
Independent Humanist Ceremonies	134
The Humanist Society for Scotland	135

CHURCH

The Presbytery of Forth Valley & Clydesdale	134
---	-----

DANCE LESSONS

Learn2WeddingDance	167
--------------------	-----

DANCEFLOORS

Social Jungle	144
---------------	-----

DECORATORS

All Wrapped Up Events Scotland	140
V-State Events	141

DENTISTRY

Dee Dental Paisley	123
--------------------	-----

EQUIPMENT HIRE

All Wrapped Up Events Scotland	142
Social Jungle	144

FABRIC RETAILER

The Dress Fabric Company	73
--------------------------	----

FILMMAKERS

V.I.P Wedding Films	174
---------------------	-----

FIREWORKS

2ICC Group	145
------------	-----

FLORIST

Cherry Blossom	140
Moss and Blossom Floral Studio	140
The Greenshed Flower Studio	140

GROOMSWEAR

Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers	96 & 97
Kilts4U	102 & 103
McCalls Highlandwear	101

GROOMSWEAR ACCESSORIES

Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers	96 & 97
Kilts4U	102 & 103
McCalls Highlandwear	101

GROOMSWEAR FITTING SERVICE

Kilts4U	102 & 103
---------	-----------

GROOMSWEAR TAILORING

Franks Gold Room at Kilts4U, Hillington	102 & 103
Franks Gold Room at Kilts4U, Prestwick	102 & 103
Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers	96 & 97
McCalls Highlandwear	101

HAIR, HEALTH AND BEAUTY

AMM Hair and Make Up Team	124
Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry & Hair Styling	125
Dee Dental, Paisley	123
Fairmont Spa	127
Helena Milne Makeup Artist	124
Honey & Violet	127
Infinity Skin Clinic	127
Kirsty MacPherson Hair and Make up Artist	124
Lustre Bridal	126
Makeup by Leigh Blaney	126
Pamper & Polish	126
The Bride to Be	125
Vikki Soloman Aesthetics	125

HONEYMOON SHOPPING

Princes Square	26 & 27
----------------	---------



Laura A Tiliman Photography



Eva Sanders

JEWELLERY

Sheila Fleet Jewellers 118 & 119

MAGICIAN

Lorenzo 167

MILLINERY

Elegance of Perth 115
Stephanie Gallen Millinery 73 & 115

MUMS OUTFITS

Catwalk 107
Condici 114
Elegance of Perth 115
Freja Designer Dressmaking 73
Frox of Falkirk 109
Gina Smart 113
Ispirato 108
John Charles 106
The Dressing Rooms 115

MUSIC

Amarone Music 165
Capella String Quartet 164
Cartyle 163
GeO Gospel Choir 164
Hireaband 162 & 163
Piping Services Scotland 165
Shimmy Grand Ceilidh Band 167
Sneaky Treacle 163
Splendid Gentleman 165
The Scottish Jazz Collective 165
Trueloves 162
Wireless 162

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

Hireaband 162 & 163

PHOTOBOOTHS

Social Jungle 144

PHOTOGRAPHER

Anna Frances Photography 174 & 188-191
Bethan Rose Photography 220-223
Biggar Picture Photography 174
Catriona Parmenter Photography 212-215
David Grant Simpson Photography 168, 210 & 211
F.D.Young Photography 252 & 253
Fern Photography 176 & 177, 196 & 197

Fotogenic of Scotland 270-273
Jenniflower Photography 175
Joy Story 168, 192-195, 238 & 239
Laura A Tilman Photography 169
Photography by Emilie 184-187
Rebecca Carpenter Photography 178 & 179, 180-183
Ricky Baillie Photography 218 & 219
Robert Lawler Photography 254-257
Rosaleen Bonnar Photography 168
Struve Photography 175, 268 & 269
Tony Marsh Photography 240-243

STATIONERY

Starca Designs 142
Love, Beth 142

VENUE

02 Academy, Edinburgh 234
Arniston House 233
Aviemore - Macdonald Hotels 202 & 203
Bachilton Barn 244
Balbirnie House Hotel 245
Barnbogle Castle 234
Boreland Loch Tay 249
Brig O'Doon 264 & 265
Brisbane House 260
Brodie Castle 206
Broxmouth Courtyard 230-231
Cadrona Hotel, Golf & Spa - Macdonald Hotel 202 & 203
Cairns Farm Estate 224
Carlownie Castle 227
Carlton Hotel 264 & 265
Citation 265
Cluny Castle 216
Crathes Castle 206
Cromlix 274
Crutherland House Hotel - Macdonald Hotels 202 & 203
Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club 226
Dalmeny Park Hotel 264 & 265
Dornoch Station - Marine and Lawn Hotels & Resorts 217
Drumossie - Macdonald Hotels 202 & 203
Dunglass Estate 229
Eden Leisure Village 262
Fairfield Hotel 264 & 265
Fairmont, St Andrews 246 & 247
Forest Hills Hotel & Spa - Macdonald Hotels 202 & 203
Fruin Farm 264 & 274
Fyvie Castle 206
Haddo House 206
Hetland Hall 264 & 265
Hill of Tarvit Mansion 206
Houstoun House - Macdonald Hotels 202 & 203
Inchyra Hotel & Spa - Macdonald Hotels 202 & 203
Lochside House and Spa Resort 264 & 265
Macdonald Hotels 202 & 203
Mar Lodge 206
Marine North Berwick 225
Marlins Wynd 226
wNational Trust for Scotland 206
Oran Mor 263
Philiphaugh Estate 233
Pittodrie House - Macdonald Hotels 202 & 203
RAD Group 266 & 267
Radstone Hotel 264 & 265

Rosebery House 236
Rosebery Steading 236
Rosebery Venues 236
Seamill Hydro 266 & 267
The Bonham 228
The Busby Hotel 261
The Caves 226
The Dougarie Boathouse 258
The Gables Hotel & Spa 262
The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa 250 & 251
The Rowantree 226
The View Ardlui 275
The Walled Garden at Philiphaugh Estate 235
The Waterside Hotel 264
The Weaving Shed Studios 248
Trump Turnberry 259
Unusual Venues of Edinburgh 228
Virgin Hotels Edinburgh 237
Winton Castle 236



Laura A Tilman Photography

VENUE STYLING

All Wrapped Up Events Scotland 142
VState Events 141

WEDDING DAY DRESSING

Gold Hour with Kirsty MacPherson 137

WEDDING FAIRS

02 Academy Edinburgh Wedding Fair 69
Braehead Wedding Exhibition 28
Edinburgh Wedding Showcase - Virgin Hotels Edinburgh 38
Kelso Wedding Show 72
Luxury Scottish Wedding Show 24
Meadowbank Wedding Show 72
The Aberdeen Wedding Exhibition 16 & 17
The Ayrshire Wedding Exhibition 16 & 17
The Big Dundee Wedding Exhibition 16 & 17
The Dream Wedding Show at Laggan 16 & 17
The Edinburgh Wedding Exhibition 16 & 17
The Hampden Wedding Show 16 & 17
The Lanarkshire Wedding Exhibition 16 & 17
The Perth Wedding Exhibition 16 & 17
The Scottish Wedding Show 51
Troon Wedding Fayre 16 & 17

WEDDING PLANNERS

All Wrapped Up Events Scotland 142
Luxury Scottish Wedding 24
Oskar - The Wedding Guru 207
The Edinburgh Wedding Directory 72 & 207



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