





# MIRITAR BRIDAL COUTURE

BRIDAL COLLECTIONS AND BESPOKE DRESSES HANDMADE AND DESIGNED IN SCOTLAND

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# WELCOME to Your Scottish Wedding



secret, though in actual fact it'll come as no surprise whatsoever to the other members of the YSW team. I am a born rule follower! I'm the woman who will return to her car to double-check she's exactly inside the parking bay, will break out in a cold sweat at the idea of being caught in the wrong lane, and will visibly baulk at the thought of mistakenly sitting in the wrong seat on the train. I put a lot of this need to follow the rules to a tee down to being the daughter of

teachers. However, the one occasion where I actually revel in a little rule breaking, (or at least rule bending), is when it comes to prescribed ideas of how a wedding *should be*. Bar the actual legalities (rules!) there is no need to follow so-called wedding-by-numbers stipulations.

When I caught up with newlywed Jade she told me that one of the things she loves about *Your Scottish Wedding* is that we show there are no rules or set ways of saying 'I do'. She told me that being able to read about other couples' processes was a big help, especially because they were all so different. "It helped for us to see there was no right or wrong way to approach things," she said. And so, she and Daniel married on stage at Dundee Rep Theatre – the place where they met and the only setting in which they could imagine making their commitment to one another. Look out for the full feature on their wedding and all the gorgeous details.

This really warmed my heart, and I love that we can play a part in couples deciding exactly how they want to marry, wear what they want, go where they want and celebrate their love in a way that truly means the most to them.

But what if you're not yet entirely sure what you want and what is right for the two of you? That's where we come in and this latest issue - our Mums' special - is brimming with ideas. So, if you're not sure where to say 'I do' turn to our venues section, which is filled with picture-perfect locations which cater to various tastes and needs. If you're still deciding on a theme or colour scheme, you'll love our latest styled photoshoot at Pratis Barns in Fife where a host of talented décor specialists, florists, stationers and cake designers interpreted four distinct looks to spark some inspiration and provide a starting point for your moodboard. Our real wedding couples likewise demonstrate how you can marry in a myriad of ways, ranging from church ceremonies to glorious garden parties.

And then there's the fashion for your day. Whether you're searching for the bride, groom, mums or 'maids we're here with all the looks. Just turn to our gorgeous photoshoots to see!

So get ready to bookmark the trends and wedding day styles that are right for you. Happy planning!

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# SEZE SEZE



#### 12 YOUR WEDDING COUNTDOWN

Keep our checklist to hand to guide you through wedding planning

#### **16 IN THE KNOW**

Your round-up of all the latest news, wedding shows and special offers from across Scotland

#### 'I Do' Diaries

#### 22 THE COUNTDOWN IS ON

With three of our four couples marrying this summer there's a lot to catch up on

#### Fashion

#### **30 SHE'S IN FASHION**

Dropped and Basque waists are having a moment and the bridalwear experts tell Abbey Deuchars all about this hot trend and others



#### ----

#### **36 COVER GIRL**

Get ready to pore over all the gorgeousness from the Dundas Castle shoot that made our May front cover

#### **40** THE RISE OF THE SECOND WEDDING DRESS

Katie Bletcher gets the lowdown on this phenomenon, and alternative ways to switch up your look throughout the day

#### 44 HOW TO SHOP FOR BRIDESMAID DRESSES

When to start, where to start and how to keep your squad happy

#### **48 ASK THE EXPERT**

This issue our bridalwear columnist Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture unpicks the vast array of wedding dress fabrics

#### Groom's Room

#### **56 IN HIS WORDS**

Say hello to our new columnists, Philip and Brian as they let us in on all their wedding plans

#### **58 TIME TO SHOP**

From your first appointment to the final outfit, Clair Muir talks you through the timeline of finding your perfect outfit

#### **64 FOCAL POINT**

This issue Scottish wedding photographers give us an insight into the guys' wedding morning prep

#### **66 THE GENTLEMEN**

Get ready for page upon page of wedding outfit inspo from our beautiful groomswear photoshoot at Fasque Castle

#### Mums

#### 92 THE BIG INTERVIEW

Catwalk has been a stalwart of the mother of the bride scene for over 20 years and Pauline Spiers from the boutique talks us through their continued success

#### 32

#### **100 MOTHER KNOWS DRESSED**

We headed to Knipoch House Hotel to showcase the very best in mums' wedding fashion

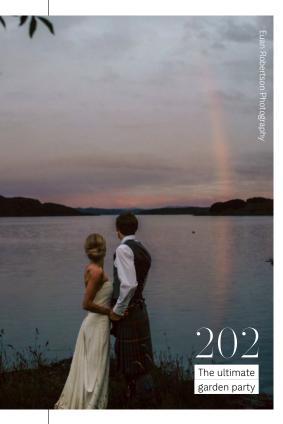
#### Be Inspired

#### **138 BRIDAL BEAUTY**

Our edit of some of the best beauty products out there to get you ready for your 'I do' moment

#### **142 FLORAL FANTASY**

We took one venue and an insanely talented group of wedding suppliers to create four showstopping wedding day looks



#### Your Wedding Day

**194** ONCE IN A LIFETIME

198 BE WITH YOU

202 SUMMER LOVIN'

**206** IN THE HILLS

#### Your Scottish Venues

#### **220 VENUES NEWS**

Keep up to date with shows, refurbs and special offers

#### 226 RUSTIC CHARM

Whether you're into a country byre or a city warehouse, we've curated some of the dreamiest rustic venues in Scotland

#### 232 THE MOST INCREDIBLE PLACE

Jessica and Chris travelled from America to Aberdeenshire for their Bridgerton-inspired wedding

#### **244 IN BLOOM**

Alexandra and Seumas met working at Winton Castle so it was only natural they would marry there too

#### 256 YSW ON TOUR TO WINTON CASTLE

Ashleigh Dougall gets swept up in the fairy tale vibes of this stunning venue near Edinburgh

#### **260 IT'S SHOWTIME**

Jade and Daniel brought their big day back to where it all started at Dundee Rep Theatre

#### **276 IT TAKES A VILLAGE**

Lucy and Stuart's friends helped them create their dream wedding at Queen's Park Bowling Club

#### **286** YSW ON TOUR TO THE DOUGARIE BOATHOUSE

We set sail for Arran and fell hard for this charming and unique setting

#### 290 YSW ON TOUR TO DALMENY PARK HOTEL

Discover just why we reckon you should book a showround at this beautiful setting

#### **296 YSW ON TOUR TO THE EXCHANGE**

We explore this luxurious new venue right in the heart of Glasgow







# WEDDING SHOW

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER | 12PM-4PM THE SHERATON GRAND EDINBURGH

www.luxuryscottishwedding.com/shows LSW



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# YOUR 1119 VOCUNTDOWN

#### 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 ones
- ☐ Make your guest list
- ☐ Make sure you follow us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok @yourscottishwedding for all the inspo you need
- ☐ Buy wedding insurance
- ☐ 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



#### 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

# Start getting creative and fine-tune 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

#### 1-3 months to go

This is where the fun really kicks in!

- $\square$  Finalise your table plan
- ☐ Enjoy your stag, hen, sten 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!

# 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



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(s) dry cleaned
- ☐ Select images for your wedding album
- ☐ Send thank you cards



Illustrations by Abbey Deuchars





# In the KNOW

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

#### Suits you!

McCalls Highlandwear has just unveiled its new range of suits, which can be tailored exclusively to each groom to ensure the perfect fit. Marketing coordinator Levi Bunyan explains, "From just £349 you can select from an extensive collection of cloth, linings, buttons and trims to express your own style. Each garment will be fitted and measured to your sizing and built uniquely for its lucky owner, so the wastage is minimal. It's the very opposite of disposable fast fashion."

MCCALLS.CO.UK





#### Get to know Kudos Bridal

Following the success of its boutique open night in January, the team at Kudos Bridal in Dunfermline are happily planning another on 27th June between 6pm and 8pm. "This is the perfect opportunity to pop in and browse our rails with no obligation," explains Megan Carberry. "You can grab a glass of bubbly and ask us anything ahead of booking your bridal experience."

KUDOSBRIDAL.CO.UK

#### Good news for Fuze

Humanist celebrant organisation
Fuze Ceremonies, through its Fuze
Foundation, has announced its 2025-26
charity partners as MND Scotland and
Beatson Cancer Charity. "Every couple
who chooses to be married by Fuze
Ceremonies and The Fuze Foundation
plays a role in this mission, as a portion
of their wedding fee is donated to
support these causes," explains Fuze
celebrant and brand ambassador George
McLean. So, you can say 'I do' and know
you're helping others too.

FUZECEREMONIES.CO.UK



#### New to Slanj Kilts

Slanj Kilts has just boosted its hire range with two new tartans. Spirit of the Clyde is a rich tartan combining navy blue with maroon, salmon, and a hint of yellow that looks stunning with a midnight blue or peat brown jacket, according to Calum Grant of Slanj. Meanwhile the sophisticated Spirit of Slanj works with a purple or pink colour palette and "looks especially good with a light grey or charcoal jacket."

SLANJKILTS.COM



#### Pronovias sneak peek

Brides-to-be are invited to Opus Couture on 17th and 18th May for an exclusive first look at the 2025 collection from Spanish designer Pronovias. "This collection is designed for the modern bride, and timeless elegance meets bold, fashionforward details," says Adrienne Guthrie from the boutique. With limited appointments available, this exclusive event is not to be missed!

OPUSCOUTURE.CO.UK



#### Discover Demetrios 2026

Demetrios has revealed its new 2026 collections and they're a breathtaking showcase of elegance, craftsmanship and innovation. Expect nods from the past blended with contemporary artistry, resulting in silhouettes that feel both nostalgic and refreshingly modern. Highlights include sculpted Basque waists, rich fabrics and a glorious spectrum of clean looks.

**DEMETRIOS.COM** 



#### Planet-friendly bridalwear

If you're looking for an environmentally-conscious bride or MOB outfit, head to Freja Designer Dressmaking in Edinburgh where owner Mette is boosting her offering of recycled polyesters, organic cottons and other plant fibres. She adds, "We're also able to cater for brides who would like some colour on their wedding dress; either a full gown colour or just a touch."

FREJA-FASHION.CO.UK

#### Italian style

Glasgow jeweller James Porter & Son has become the only Scottish stockist of Recarlo, an Italian brand that specialises in beautiful heart-cut diamonds. Simon Porter from the company says, "As well as stunning rings, they also set these hearts into timeless and classic designs, which make the perfect wedding jewellery. In order to get perfect symmetry on the heart-cut diamonds, they have one left-handed diamond cutter and one right-handed diamond cutter – and they do half the cutting each."

JAMES-PORTER.CO.UK



#### Time for zen

Lustre has announced two new packages to level up your wedding morning. The Platinum package, for the bride only, gives you an extra half hour with owner Sharon for sculpting skin prep and a relaxing facial massage before your make-up. To upgrade your whole gang, Bridal Zen entitles up to eight bridal party members to a seated 15-minute massage; either hand and arm, or foot and lower leg with award-winning beauty therapist Laura who uses breathing and grounding techniques to alleviate stress and anxiety. The best bit? Laura's oil-free lotion won't impact your tan.

LUSTREBRIDALMAKEUP.CO.UK



## Blooming marvellous

Listen up, eco-conscious couples! Award-winning florist Trudi Todd has announced she will be incorporating more locally grown, in-season flowers into her wedding designs. She'll be supporting local growers and also using peonies, dahlias, astilbe and astrantia from her own garden. "By using seasonal, homegrown blooms I'm reducing the carbon footprint of my floristry," she explains.

TRUDITODDFLOWERS.COM



#### Décor dreams

Wedding planners All Wrapped Up Events Scotland invite couples to create their dream wedding tablescapes in their new showroom, choosing from different tables, chairs, linens and more! "Now we have 4,500 square feet we've been adding lots more to our wedding hire collection," smiles owner Roni Hyslop. This includes new mid-oak polished cross-back chairs for 2025, and seven new arches/moon gates too." And YSW readers are invited to their Glenrothes HQ for a complimentary Bridal Bootcamp (worth £250) where the team will go through your wedding vision.≫

ALLWRAPPEDUPSCOTLAND.CO.UK



#### Explore Temperley 2025

Inspired by the glitz and glamour of a bygone era, Temperley London's styles are perfect for the bride looking for something a little different. If that sounds like a bit of you, Rachel Scott Couture will be showcasing Temperley's new bridal collection at its trunk show 24th - 28th September. Get the date in your diary now, gals!

RACHELSCOTTCOUTURE.CO.UK



#### Colour match

Leading Scottish jewellery designer Sheila Fleet OBE has just released the latest additions to her ever-loved 'Secret Hearts' collection, available in red and crystal enamel. But if you're looking for a different colour to match your wedding theme, it's no problem, as Sheila offers a range of enamel colour-ways.

SHEILAFLEET.COM

#### Something special

Made in the Scottish Highlands, Kilts 4 U has revealed its exclusive collection of handcrafted Staghorn sgian dubhs. Each piece is carved from genuine staghorn, meaning no two will ever be the same – but you have six core designs to choose from. A real, functional version of the sgain dubh, complete with a handy bottle opener, it comes with a stylish and protective leather sheath. "Designed for those who appreciate tradition with a modern twist, this piece brings practicality and heritage together," says Stephanie Bristow at Kilts 4 U. KILTS4U.CO.UK



## It's all about the confidence!

Boudoir photographer Susan Wells of Bonnie Pictures is offering YSW readers a 15% discount on her all-inclusive bridal boudoir photoshoot packages; something that makes a special keepsake and/or a very special gift for your partner! Susan explains, "A boudoir photoshoot is a chance to take time for yourself, reconnect with your body and see yourself through fresh eyes. Whether you want to be suggestively seductive or obviously enticing, I guide you every step of the way."

The packages include a hair and make-up session followed by a confidence-building photoshoot! Simply book before the end of June, quoting YSW15. FYI, you'll need to pay a £75 deposit, and sessions can be planned up to six months in advance.

**BONNIEPICTURES.COM** 



#### Make a statement

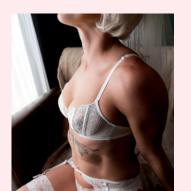
Katherine at Katie's Cakes lets us in on the trending 2025 colours and floral themes, after taking part in a photoshoot at Newhall Estate. "This year is all about white and red," she says and adds that a "less is more" approach can have as much impact as more traditional designs. She says, "White and green is synonymous with elegance and sophistication, and this cake provides a contemporary twist with a more informal arrangement of foliage and long-stemmed statement flowers."

KATIESCAKESSCOTLAND.CO.UK

#### Daily ceilidhs and discounts

If you're on the hunt for your wedding entertainment The Brave Ceilidh Band is showcasing its talents at Stramash in Edinburgh's Cowgate every month between May and August inclusive – and even more dates will pop up in August as the group takes part in the Stramash Daily Ceilidhs (part of the Fringe). If these guys are your perfect fit, take advantage of their summer YSW discount of £50 (on top of an existing £100) for bookings made between May and August.

FACEBOOK.COM/BRAVECEILIDH





#### 2025 bridal beauty

The AMMazing Team have been chosen as stylists for the Scottish Wedding Show catwalk, and director and hair specialist Anne Marie McElroy shares her trend predictions with us. "When it comes to hair, soft, natural styling continues to reign, with brides opting for effortless elegance that shows off their natural beauty," she says. "And for up-dos, the resurgence of '90s-inspired styles is making waves." Likewise, with makeup, the demand for natural beauty continues, "focusing on radiant skin and subtle lashes." She adds, "Blush is taking centre stage, applied high on the cheeks and delicately across the nose for a fresh, youthful glow."

**AMMAZINGTEAM.CO.UK** 



#### Special offer

Philippa Rose Cake Design, the Angus-based business that creates show-stopping custom cakes for weddings all over Scotland, has served up a special offer for YSW readers marrying in 2025. For just £675 you get a beautiful white three-tier cake with wave ruffles on the bottom tier, stencilling in the middle and handmade sugar roses on the top tier. It'll serve 70 guests - and Pippa is throwing in local delivery and set-up too. The offer applies to new bookings only and Ts&Cs apply. PS. Check out the mouthwatering flavour list on her website!

PHILIPPAROSECAKEDESIGN.CO.UK

#### Major milestone

Humanist marriage has been legal in Scotland since 2005 (and equal marriage since 2014), thanks to campaigning by Humanist Society Scotland and others. To celebrate the 20th anniversary and raise funds to continue its campaign work HSS is holding a ceilidh on 20th June 7pm - 11pm at Assembly Roxy, Edinburgh. Tickets cost £20 per person and feel free to come in your wedding dress or kilt!

**HUMANISM.SCOT/EVENTS** 

#### Props to you!

Sophia Grace Couture has been awarded Top Retailer of the Year by Ukrainian bridal label WONÁ Concept. "Over the past two years as a Premium Stockist, we've had the privilege of witnessing WONÁ Concept's incredible growth from a small private atelier to the influential brand it is today; all about celebrating women and their diversity," says the boutique's Naydene Jardine. The designer's stunning White Swan collection has now landed at Sophia Grace. Naydene continues, "The collection is a tribute to the power of individuality, celebrating the freedom every woman holds to shape her life and style."

SOPHIAGRACECOUTURE.COM



#### It's showtime!

Need even more wedding inspo? Then make sure you attend the Braehead Wedding Exhibition 10th and 11th May at Braehead Arena in Glasgow. Tickets start at just £12, with VIP packages available. Come meet over 130 expert suppliers, watch the latest fashions on the catwalks and bag some exclusive offers. And with free parking, great transport links and dining options you can make a real day of it.

**BRAEHEADWEDDINGEXHIBITION.CO.UK** 



#### A sky full of stars

Wedding event company 21CC Group Ltd has launched laser show packages for evening receptions with a wow factor. Rachel Dakers explains, "This creates a breathtaking backdrop from the first dance to the after party. Whether synchronised to music for your entrance, or a beautiful halo around your first dance, or cake cutting. Outside, they can project your names for miles into the night sky." Another new offering, Sparkulars are a completely safe indoor firework effect. "Low fog will have you and your guests feeling like you're dancing on clouds, and our Starbursts will fill your space indoors or outdoors - with millions of glowing points of light in any colour." 2ICCGROUP.COM



#### Absolutely flawless

If you're looking for flawless skin, listen up! Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry and Hair Styling has launched her bridal Dermalogica pro facial packages for the lead up to your wedding. Caroline will work with you on a bespoke package to transform your skin and leave you with a radiant glow. "We'll work with your skin's unique needs, whether it's hydration, acne, sensitivity, dullness or antiageing," says Caroline. "Using Dermalogica's signature face mapping, I'll choose the perfect products to target your specific concerns."

CAROLINESTEWARTMAKEUPARTISTRY.CO.UK/ BEAUTY



## RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION

OUR CATWALK SHOW STARTS AT 1PM







RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING SHOWCASE - VILLAGE HOTEL, GLASGOW Sunday 11th May 2025 11am to 2pm RAZZMATAZZ
WEDDING EXHIBITION
- BEST WESTERN
PLUS KEAVIL HOUSE,
DUNFERMLINE
Sunday 7th September 2025
11am to 3pm

RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION - STIRLING COURT HOTEL, STIRLING Sunday 21st September 2025 1pm to 4pm

RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION - MACDONALD INCHYRA, GRANGEMOUTH

> Sunday 5th October 2025 11am to 3pm

RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING Exhibition - Glasgow Westerwood, Cumbernauld

> Sunday 26th October 2025 11am to 3pm

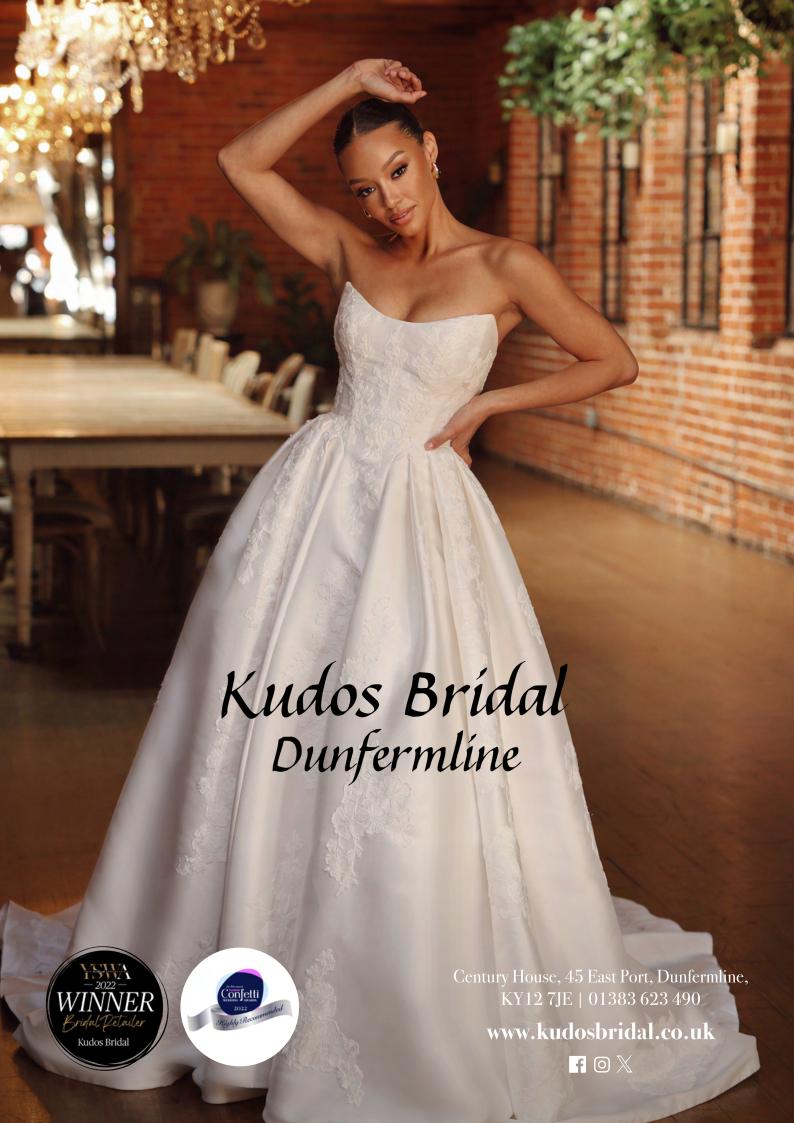
The team from The RWE would love to invite you to our Wedding Exhibitions, which are Free Entry, over the coming months. At our events we have the pleasure of over welcoming over 30 industry suppliers, many of which are Award Winning and Award Nominated, throughout the venue who will be on hand to showcase their products and services for your special day. There is also a welcome drink on arrival, goody bag and your complimentary copy of the latest edition of the Your Scottish Wedding magazine by our media sponsors at YSW.



ANDREW@THE-RWE.COM // 07568347672







# TOO'DIARIES



Rachel & Kenny

Wedding planning has been a breeze for this couple

hen we last caught up with Rachel and Kenny in the January 2025 issue, they confidently told us that everything was booked! And so it had appeared for the couple who discovered their wedding venue Enterkine House only three days after getting engaged. Then when Rachel found her dream dress just three weeks later it would have seemed that most things were falling into place.

However, this is the stage when some extra wee bookings can get added in. The couple initially booked a DJ from Tartan Entertainment to ensure their dance floor is never empty. But since we last spoke, they've upped the ante with some additional music. "We have a sax booked for a power hour at night to keep the party going!" says Rachel. "We went with KD Sax after some great recommendations." For a couple who first met at the disco it only makes sense that there's a proper party at their wedding.

Speaking of parties, with their August wedding drawing near, attention has turned to the stag and hen do's which, and Kenny is taking the boys to Berlin!" the dark about the activities planned so

bridesmaids and the mums will come over for a pizza and Mamma Mia pyjama night to get excited for the next day," she smiles. This is definitely the sort of pre-wedding night Team YSW can get behind. Then they'll all get ready together in the morning.

Rachel is a professional make-up artist with ARK Bridal so it's only natural she will do her own glam in the morning. And, as her ARK girls will be joining the wedding fun in the evening, she has booked Kelsey Barker MUA to do her bridesmaids' make-up.

#### It's all in the name

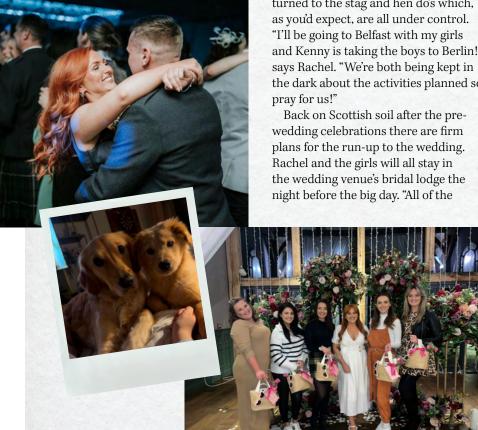
There are also fun plans for the men. "The boys will be travelling up in the morning to get ready in the whisky bar for some cool photos before the ceremony." And this groom has found the perfect supplier for his outfit. "Kenny will be wearing his family tartan for the wedding," Rachel explains. "We are currently in the process of finalising the colour of jacket but he is going for the MacGregor hunting tartan from MacGregor and MacDuff!"

The countdown ito the big day is now seriously on but Rachel and Kenny have taken it all in their stride. "Honestly, it's been a breeze," she says. "With already being in the industry I've been so lucky to have so many professionals as friends to help give me advice. Now we're finalising meal choices and accommodation. My biggest advice to others is it's your day so do what's right for you as a couple and everything else will fall into place."

Rachel and Kenny have also recently had their hands full with a new addition to the family, rescue pup Annie. She joins their older dog Poppy and both girls will be involved in the wedding. They'll even have Annie and Poppy's Prosecco Station named in their honour!

"It's your day so do what's right for you as a couple."

RACHEL



## It's the last column for three of our couples ahead of their summer weddings and the excitement is mounting!

#### R<mark>ebecc</mark>a & Owen

With time ticking down until their midsummer wedding, these two have planning well underway



ebecca and Owen got engaged two Decembers ago during a ∪romantic pre-Christmas break to Edinburgh, and since then it's been all systems go. The Fifers are planning a gorgeous midsummer wedding at Earls Hall Castle with a sage green and pale pink rustic theme and everything's falling into place, including Owen's outfit. Well known for his love of bright colours, it was only right he picked a tartan with a splash of colour. "Owen, his groomsman and both dads will be wearing kilts in Hunting Stewart tartan," says Rebecca. "It's not his clan tartan but he really liked it." They'll team their kilts with charcoal grey jackets and socks, with a green tie to match the tartan. "I'm so glad he's wearing a kilt as he looks so handsome in one!" smiles Rebecca. The couple have used Slaters in Dundee who have provide a stressfree service.

Luckily the rest of the planning process has been straightforward too. "It has been busy for sure but mostly stress-free," says Rebecca. "I think both of us underestimated just how much planning goes into the wedding, but it's been an enjoyable experience. It's exciting seeing our ideas come to life and we can't wait for it all to come together in June." The couple have also had lots of help from family and friends, whether it be tips and advice or practical help.

Another major piece of their wedding jigsaw that has fallen into place since their last column is finalising their ceremony with their celebrant Steven Sim of Independent Humanist Ceremonies. "Steven has really calmed our nerves and really captured our story. We are so excited to share this with our family and friends on our special day," says Rebecca.

They have also booked a photobooth for their guests to enjoy and are planning lawn games to entertain them while they are off for their photos. Rebecca and Owen met their photographer Chlöe Sidey back in March for a brilliant prewedding shoot around the Old Course and on the West Sands beach at St Andrews. "It gave us a chance to practise being in front of the camera and to also capture our beautiful engagement before saying 'I do," she smiles.

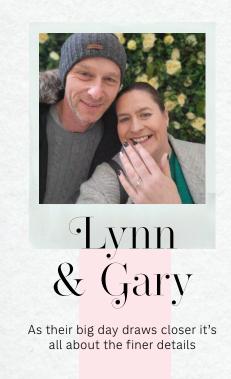
#### Put a ring on it

Owen proposed with a stunning diamond ring he commissioned John at Malcolm's Antiques to make, so it was only fitting that they return to him for their wedding rings. "What is really special about them is we have had our parents' old gold melted down and incorporated so they are very sentimental." Rebecca's diamond-lined ring will fit around her engagement ring while Owen has opted for two thin gold bands with a silver one between them.

And as excitement builds up, the stag and hen do's are also on the horizon. Owen is looking forward to a long weekend's golfing in Malaga, while Rebecca and her girls are heading to Liverpool. "I know no details as I wanted it all to be a surprise!" she says.

After all the partying and final prep Rebecca is hoping for a relaxing night before the wedding, staying at her sister-in-law's house with her sisters, mum and bridesmaids, with a visit from Owen's mum and nana. The groom will be staying in the couple's house with his groomsman and dad. "It will be very chilled with a few drinks planned and an early night for the girls!" says Rebecca. "For the boys, well I hope they will get an early night, but I can see a few beers involved. Hopefully no sore heads in the morning!" Let's hope so!









ynn and Gary have been together for over 20 years and now they're only a matter of months away from officially being Mr and Mrs, wedding planning has ramped up! "We have been busy with booking the last bits and pieces for our big day in October," says Lynn. "I still can't believe that it's this year!"

The couple are marrying at Boclair House Hotel and met their wedding coordinator recently to fine-tune how their big day will play out. "We had a meeting to discuss the menu ideas, the running of the day and, most importantly, the times of everything," explains Lynn. "I have moved a few things about after seeing the original timings to give our evening guests more time to enjoy themselves."

Décor has also been at the forefront of their minds, and they have decided to book Sarah Mae Flowers of Coatbridge to bring their vision to life. "They were fantastic to deal with and we are so happy with what we have chosen. I can't wait to see it all set up on the day," says Lynn.

While the look and running of the wedding itself is under control, they have turned their attention to the other final details, selecting their wedding rings with jeweller Timothy J Sharp. "Tim was so helpful and I picked the perfect ring to match my engagement ring," says Lynn. "Gary also got a nice wedding band with bevelled edges and a brushed centre."

## Taking it in their stride

We've followed Lynn and Gary's wedding planning journey ever since he proposed last March on the beach at St Andrews, and they tell us YSW has been pivotal in their journey to their 'I do's.' "I have found planning the day very straightforward with the help of Your Scottish Wedding," says Lynn. "It is full of fantastic suppliers. And I love the magazine's Wedding Countdown. It can be very daunting planning the day as there is so much to organise and book but it has helped with it all."

"I have found planning the day very straightforward with the help of Your Scottish Wedding."

LYNN



#### Time to celebrate

With most of the big bookings under control, Lynn and Gary can now look forward to their stag and hen do's. We should say parties though, as there are various celebrations in the works! Lynn's maid of honour Lesley and her bridesmaids Caitlin and Erin have been busy planning a weekend retreat for all her close friends to Taymouth Marina at the end of August, along with a separate hen night in Glasgow. "I know it will be a wild one!" she laughs.

Meanwhile Gary's best men David and Gordon are lining up a trip to Benidorm, for the guys. "Going by the look of the itinerary it will be a jampacked few days," adds Lynn. And for those who can't make Benidorm there will be another wee party back in Glasgow. Sounds so much fun!

# Jess & Alex

With their Bachilton Barn wedding only weeks away the countdown is truly on



ess and Alex were super-organised when they first got engaged. In fact, they'd made a few major bookings before they even returned from the romantic holiday in Thailand where Alex proposed. It helped that Jess' family own Bachilton Barn, the gorgeous Perthshire wedding venue where they will say 'I do' this summer, but they've been on top of the other big bookings too. "We have been weirdly relaxed about the whole planning process up to now," explains Jess. "Initially the excitement of the engagement meant we planned all the main elements, especially securing the right entertainment on our desired date. Once that was done there was a bit of a lull."

However, since New Year it's been pretty full on. "We had our catering tasting, we're just about to send out our invitations and meet the minister," says Jess. "It's all go!" One plus point is it means a lot of trips home to Scotland from Yorkshire to see family and the venue, which is undergoing an extension of the main reception room in the run-up to Jess and Alex's big day.

#### Dream dress

In line with the couple's approach to the rest of wedding planning, Jess booked in a lot of dress appointments. "Yes, we did five wedding shops in one weekend

between Edinburgh and Glasgow which I would not recommend as I did find this quite overwhelming." She has always known the style of wedding dress she wanted but funnily enough, when she started looking, she began to stray away from the initial idea and lean towards the complete opposite. "I was warned it does happen," she says.

She found her gorgeous gown in Glasgow's The White Collection on a shopping trip with her mum and granny. She had originally fallen in love with a Rosa Clara gown but quickly realised it wasn't right. In the end she found the exact dress she had pictured herself in, though there was still a wee wobble. "Even though I got the butterflies I did have a bit of an "Oh sh\*t" moment as we were driving home and back-tracked, resulting in another appointment just to make sure!" The follow-up trip confirmed it was The One and she now can't wait to see Alex's reaction when she walks down the aisle.

Enjoy yourself

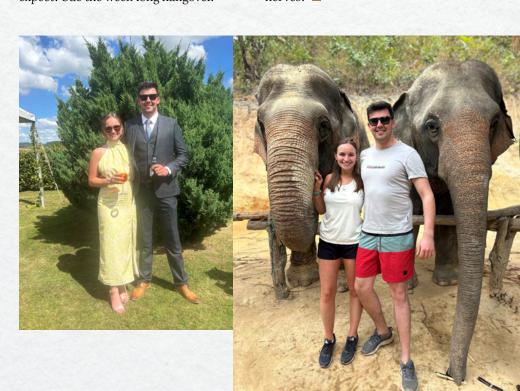
The wedding is only a matter of weeks away now and Jess' sister Ella, who is her maid of honour, has been busy organising her hen party. It was originally a surprise but the secret got out and the bride-to-be is now looking forward to a few days in Lisbon. "Alex is slightly more in the dark," she says. "He made a WhatsApp group with all his friends and then left immediately. The secret destination is still safe! Given that he has been present on a few of his friends' stags already he knows full well what to expect! Cue the week-long hangover."



Wedding bells

With Bachilton Barn being a blank canvas venue, the couple are keen to put their own stamp on it and bring a look that hasn't been done there before. They hope to get organised as early as possible with their set-up and then go for a meal with close friends and family the night before the big day.

Jess will naturally stay with her bridesmaids in the family home that night, with a relaxed picky brunch in the morning while they get their hair done. Meanwhile, Alex and the men will stay in one of the holiday cottages on-site so they are close by for any last-minute tweaks at the barn, and their photographer Joanne Clenaghan can run between both parties as they get ready. Then Alex and his guys will book a nice breakfast somewhere near the church in Perth "to calm the nerves!"



## Pamela Jayne's Bridal

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# s summer approaches, we're

approaches, we're embracing warm weather weddings and all the stunning aesthetics that come with them. For sunny outdoor ceremonies and romantic garden aisles, adopt elegant bridal looks and indulge in one of this season's prominent trends. And even if the sun doesn't shine, (it is Scotland after all), you're still going to want to rock a fabulous wedding day frock.

Abbey Deuchars has turned to top designers and bridal boutiques across Scotland to share their trend predictions on the wedding dress styles set to take over in the coming months. All eyes are on the waist this season as we explore dropped and Basque, plus other hot bridal trends

#### THE TREND

# Dropped corset bodice

Kavelle of Kavelle Couture let us in on her love of this look and the history behind it at the store. "Bridal fashion is constantly evolving, but some silhouettes remain iconic," she says. "One of our favourite trends making a strong comeback is the dropped corset bodice with fuller skirts - a design that radiates elegance, structure and romance. At Kavelle, we still have the original patterns from our madeto-order gowns from the '90s and before, showcasing timeless artistry that never fades.

The dropped corset bodice beautifully sculpts the waist, elongating the torso, while voluminous skirts create a striking yet ethereal look."

A classic look can last a lifetime. If you're searching for a dress you'll still love 20 years from now, this may be the trend for you. "As bridal fashion embraces nostalgia with a bespoke twist, the dropped corset bodice proves that some styles are truly timeless," Kavelle continues. "One dress that embodies this trend is 'Wish' by GALA, by Galia Lahav, a stunning example of how classic couture can be reimagined for today's bride."



#### Dropped waists

Dropped waist silhouettes are a stunning choice for brides looking to accentuate their figure with a style that feels both elegant and timeless. Whether you're drawn to a classic fairy tale look or something with a modern edge, a dropped waist gown is sure to make you feel your absolute best as you walk down the aisle.

One lover of the dropped waist trend is Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture who says, "We're loving this look at the moment and seeing it a lot throughout our designers' latest collections! Combined with a waist-cinching corset, dropped waistlines can really elongate the figure and accentuate your shape." She highlights Sassi Holford's 'Aria' gown which offers a pared back, minimalist take on the dropped waist trend.

#### THE TREND

#### Fairy tale silhouettes Susan from Opus Couture shared with us why fairy tale

Susan from **Opus Couture** shared with us why fairy tale silhouettes are their favourite bridal trend right now. "One trend set to take over bridal fashion in 2025 is the return of dramatic, fairy tale-inspired silhouettes – something we've seen all over the bridal catwalks for the upcoming season," she says. "The bold, statement-making look is everywhere, but what makes it truly special is the balance of elegance and magic that this trend brings. Fairy tale gowns embody opulence while maintaining a soft, romantic feel – exactly how every bride wants to look and feel on their big day. The 'Aberdeen Vida' gown by Maggie Sottero (pictured below) is a perfect example of this, with its stunning lace-up drop waist and voluminous ball gown skirt. This design blends classic romance with a contemporary edge. The structured bodice defines the waist beautifully, while the dreamy layers of fabric add that show-stopping, runway-worthy drama."



"Basque waists offer an incredibly sculptural look."

**JULIA, ISOBEL FLORENCE BRIDAL** 



#### THE TREND

#### Basque waists

There's something undeniably elegant about a Basque or a dropped waist wedding dress. These structured waistlines create a sculpted silhouette that flatters every body type, adding a touch of charm to any bridal look. Julia from Isobel Florence Bridal, tells us why this is their favourite trend in the boutique right now. "These waists offer an incredibly sculptural look for brides and really do give you that princess look," she says. "It's perfect for so many body types and would stun in castle and stately home venues where brides want

to make an entrance!" Julia has picked out the 'Goddess' dress by designer Randy Fenoli (pictured above) which really encapsulates the figure-flattering Basque waist.

And Naydene at Sophia Grace Couture is also in love with the Basque waist, which can be paired with a variety of skirt styles. "Traditionally this is a shape which features on more ballgown styles like 'Bosphor' from WONÁ Concept (pictured below) which we have in the boutique currently," she says. "On our recent buying trips we have seen designers feature this style on fitted silhouettes also."







#### THE TREND

#### Two looks in one

We have a lot to say this issue about the rise of the second dress, (see page 40 for our feature dedicated to whether or not you should indulge in dress number two). But for brides looking to create two dramatic bridal looks with one dress, there are so many options. Pamela of Pamela Jayne's Bridal loves the gorgeous '3395' gown by Morilee for its versatility. "This stunning dress with its detachable sleeves gives you the ideal day and evening look. Taking off the sleeves transforms the dress and helps you keep your cool as you dance the night away!"



"Square necklines can add a regal, vintage feel."

METTE, FREJA DESIGNER DRESSMAKING

#### THE TREND

#### Square necklines

Edinburgh-based designer Mette of Freja Designer Dressmaking is another lover of the Basque waist and has been combining it with many of her other favourite trends right now. "Brocade fabrics, jacquards and other fabrics with rich textures and intricate patterns are gaining popularity, adding a regal touch to wedding gowns, as well as embroidered and floral prints," she says. Square necklines are another of her standout choices, offering both a modern and vintage-inspired look. "Clean and modern, but they can also add a regal, vintage feel which goes well with both the Basque waist and the textured fabrics." Plus, pearl embellishments are also adding a touch of "subtle glamour" to Mette's designs.





#### THE TREND

#### Sustainability

Sustainability is also at the forefront of bridal fashion, with more brides looking for eco-friendly options that don't compromise on style. Mirka Bridal Couture is leading the way with the With Love, Mirka collection, featuring ethically and sustainably handmade gowns crafted in Mirka's Scottish studio. "It's time to move away from mass-produced wedding dresses that are made in another country," says Mirka. Keeping waste to a minimum, her designs incorporate laces and fabrics made from recycled materials, proving that sustainability and luxury can go hand in hand. "Who said recycled lace had to be boring? Our unique designs are both beautiful and comfortable—you won't want to take your With Love, Mirka gown off!" ■

"Who said recycled lace had to be boring?"

MIRKA, MIRKA BRIDAL COUTURE

#### THE TREND

#### Textured materials

One way to add interest to your wedding gown and catch the eyes of your guests is to introduce textured materials. This is a look loved by Megan at Kudos Bridal Dunfermline and there are so many ways you can run with the textured vibe. "We're seeing our designers really embrace textured fabric this season," she says. "From laser-cut Organdy to satin brocades, there's really something for everyone! One of my favourites is Essense of Australia's 'D4I49'. I'm in love with her jacquard print and the fact you can add an overskirt for extra drama!"











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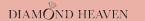


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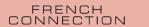


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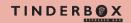




SPACEK









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hey're used to creating unforgettable days for their real-life couples so when a group of talented wedding suppliers get together for a luxury workshop to experiment on a styled photoshoot, you know they're going to capture some inspirational wedding day looks. That's what happened when the newly-launched Modern Luxe Club met at Dundas Castle, near Edinburgh, for their second ever workshop. Lauren Prichard of Social Brides Club was at the helm and lets us in on the inspiration behind this beautiful shoot. "We wanted to create an overall look that was modern and elegant, set against the stunning backdrop of Dundas Castle," she explains. "Our models Rose and Eric are a reallife couple, and this was important to us for capturing their love authentically."

The team wanted a clean and chic bridal look for Rose, with a high-fashion influence. "Talented glam team Sian Hair and Brooke Lilias created a slicked-back bun and cool-toned sultry make-up," says Lauren. "Vintage Chanel earrings and Jimmy Choo heels added the perfect finishing touch of elegance." Rose was photographed in the beautiful lace 'UK24-107' Berta gown from Opus Couture, while Eric looked sharp in a classic white tuxedo jacket from ACS Rental.

Their looks were then switched

up for a more sultry evening look with Rose wearing a silver sequin 'UK24-111' Berta gown and Eric changing into a sleek all-black tux.

The couple's styling was just one element of the full aesthetic where Lauren and the team wanted to combine modern styles and trends with the castle's timeless charm. "The florals were clean white with touches of green, with the design focussing on calla lilies – a big trend right now – and also included double tulips, hydrangeas and hanging amaranthus."

Stationery from Linhay Press featured bold monochrome letterpress and fabric menus to tie in with the clean and elegant feel.

And if you're going for an übercool vibe why would you not add a classic car? "The weather was absolutely perfect, sunny enough to make us wonder if we were still in Scotland," says Lauren. "For the evening portraits we brought in a red vintage Jaguar E-type."

Connor Barrett was the talent behind the camera for these beautiful images. "His editorial and romantic approach perfectly matching our vision, capturing the entire shoot beautifully," says Lauren. "His clean outdoor flash shots were particularly standout, further showcasing his distinctive modern style." Rob at Black Fern Media was also on set to document the day in his modern cinematic style while Social Brides Club captured all the behind-the-scenes content. >>>







"Shooting at the Modern Luxe Club workshop was an absolute dream! High fashion, editorial elegance, and genuine connection, all in one space. My approach is about creating art that feels effortless and luxurious, and this workshop's vision perfectly aligned with that in every way!"

CONNOR, CONNOR BARRETT PHOTOGRAPHY





#### **BRIDAL ROBE**

Nola Grey

CAKE

Copper Rose Wedding Cakes

**CONTENT CREATOR** 

Social Brides Club

DRAPING

Peace in the Neighbourhood

**DRESSES** 

Berta at Opus Couture

**FLORALS** 

Achillea Flower Studio

HAIR

Sian Hair

MAKE-UP

Brooke Lilias Makeup

**MODELS** 

Rose Elise Dahler and Eric Sánchez

PHOTOGRAPHER

Connor Barrett Photography

**STATIONERY** 

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SUITS

ACS Rental

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Richard Designs at Opus Couture

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Modern Luxe Club ■

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## THE RISE of the SECOND DRESS

**Katie Bletcher** explores switching up your bridal outfit and the different ways to achieve an alternative look

his year marks my eleventh in bridal journalism and in those years I've seen many a fashion trend come and go. But every so often you'll see something and know it's more than a passing fad. It's a phenomenon that's here to stay.

Cue the rise of the second wedding dress. When I got married in 2013 it was practically unheard of to switch your gown halfway through, but since then I've attended weddings where brides have removed a billowing overskirt to reveal a sleeker silhouette or changed into one, or even two, completely different dresses to make the very most of their big day and showcase different sides of their personality.

Bridal designer Mette of Freja Designer Dressmaking says the demand for a second dress, or at least a second look is definitely there. "We love making amazing pieces which can transform into serving each part of the wedding day best," she says.

Of course, technically speaking, changing your bridal outfit isn't really new. Kavelle Couture has been dressing brides for over 30 years and Kavelle reminds us, "From the very beginning, a second outfit was a natural part of the wedding day. Traditionally our brides would change into a bespoke 'going away' ensemble before departing their celebrations. This elegant transition allowed them to leave in style, marking the beginning of their new chapter with a fresh and refined look."

Traditions have evolved with brides and their new spouses now staying put to celebrate with their guests. "But one thing hasn't changed," says Kavelle. "The desire for a wardrobe change that reflects their personal style and allows them to move, dance and shine effortlessly."

"Why have one showstopping look when you can have two?"

KAVELLE,
KAVELLE COUTURE

#### Twice as nice

If you've already started wedding dress shopping I hope you're revelling in the excitement of homing in on the gown that epitomises exactly how you want to look and feel. But sometimes we're talking about more than just 'The One'. It could be two dresses that reflect how you want to be at different stages of your day. "A lot of our brides are loving the idea of a second look, both with second dresses, or elements which allow them to switch up their look for the nighttime," says Julia of Isobel Florence Bridal. "Usually this allows them to have that magical princess moment for the ceremony, but switch it up to something more comfortable that they can dance the night away in!"

Susan at Opus Couture agrees that switching dresses is a fun way to change up your look and the feel of the day. "While not every bride goes for a second gown, those who do often want something lighter and more relaxed for the evening, whether that's to make dancing the night away easier, create a more dramatic 'reveal' for the reception, or simply to indulge in another look they've fallen in love with!"

And Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture says she's seeing more second dresses being ordered now than ever before. "Often second dresses are considered when brides are looking for



something easier to party in," she says. "Something with no restricting sleeves or straps that would hold them back, and styles with either a slimmer or shorter skirt to dance the night away in!" And we're no longer counting a demure midi or tea-length skirt as a shorter bridal gown. Pamela of Pamela Jayne's Bridal says brides who opt for a second wedding dress usually want to go with a conservative dress during the day before partying the night away in something more flexible, or more lightweight, and perhaps "super-short". "Brides are going for thigh-high short dresses, which obviously give them an opportunity to show off those stunning shoes they've taken a while to choose," she says.





"Many brides go for something a little more playful."

#### Practically speaking

Aside from wanting to indulge in a different look, there can be practical reasons for choosing a second dress. Susan at Opus Couture cites the example of brides wanting to keep their main dress pristine for a special event later on, like a second wedding celebration abroad.

Similarly Naydene of Sophia Grace Couture says often when their brides opt for a second dress it is because they are having a small ceremony and then a larger celebration days or weeks later. "We find this is the case of brides who are getting married abroad and have a reception back in the UK," she says. "As we have our Sample Suite in the boutique, brides who purchase from our main boutique sometimes purchase a second from our Sample Suite, or purchase two gowns from our Sample Suite."

## What to look for in a second dress

Your wedding dress, or dresses, should always reflect your personal style. However, there are definite trends our experts see in the second dress. "Shorter styles are the go-to for brides considering a second look," Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture says. "Right now we're obsessed with the 'Mini Bagatelle' dress by Vivienne Westwood. It ticks all the right boxes – it's short, fun, flirty and will absolutely have you ready for the biggest night of your life!"

Hemlines are not the only styling elements to consider in your second dress. Naydene of Sophia Grace Couture says the second dress can be a real mixture. "Some brides want to change from a fuller skirt to form-fitting, or others who have a figurehugging dress for their ceremony prefer to have a second gown which has a little bit more sparkle to mix up their evening look," she says. Julia at Isobel Florence agrees, saying second dresses are usually more figure-hugging, sexier and more sparkly. "We especially love seeing beaded and glitter dresses because they shimmer under the lights of the dance floor," she adds.

That sense of fun in the second dress is something Opus Couture sees often. "The second dress tends to be where many brides go for something a little more playful, figure-hugging, or fashionforward," says Susan. "We see a lot of sleek silhouettes - think slinky satin slip dresses or gowns with stunning low backs." In fact, some brides at Opus Couture choose to indulge in fun modern details like feathers or detachable sleeves, while Kavelle adds that choosing to change from the formality of the ceremony provides an opportunity to showcase another side of your bridal personality. "Whether it's a daring fashion statement, a nod to vintage glamour, or a playful party dress, this change allows for a more dynamic expression of personal style," she says. And it doesn't even need to be a dress. You could opt for a sleek, tailored jumpsuit as your second look.

And then there are the brides who can have really practical demands of their second dress, as Mette has found. "As a bride you need to decide what is important, such as covering up for the ceremony, a 'grand entrance' garment, agility for dancing or some specific requirements for the first dance, the ability to ride your horse or play your cello. We have had all the requests!" she says.

# Switch your look without committing to a second dress

f a second dress isn't in your budget or is simply not for you there are still ways to change up your look throughout the wedding day. Megan at Kudos Bridal Dunfermline says, "We've had a handful of brides opt into purchasing a second dress, but this is still the exception to the rule!" Some of those Kudos brides have gone down the second dress route to go for a more slimline dress or a different silhouette for the evening. However, that outcome could also be achieved with one dress. "Many of our designers have embraced additional overskirts and toppers which means that changing your style from ceremony to reception has never been easier," says Megan.

The team at Opus Couture also love a removeable overskirt. "They give you that dramatic bridal 'wow' moment for the ceremony and can be taken off later for a sleeker, more dance-friendly style," says Susan. "Detachable sleeves or capes also work beautifully, offering refined elegance during the day and a more relaxed look in the evening."

And the versatility factor is also keeping Mette busy. "The things we are working on at the moment are some cleverly attached detachable trains, separate detachable sleeves, detachable straps and collars," she says. "Overskirts with long trains which can come off for the evening, and detachable drapes and cape pieces for the shoulders. There are so many options and it's exciting to work out how to do it, so things work well before and after the transformation."

Budget

Budget of course can be a deciding factor in not purchasing a second wedding dress and this is where versatility comes to the fore. Designer

Mirka of Mirka Bridal Couture says, "There are many ways to create a completely different look without having to buy a second dress. Removing a veil is a quick way to change from formal to more relaxed. Consider adding a hair accessory instead, like a flower hairband or clasp to create a different style. Sleeves are becoming more popular and come in so many different forms. If you are choosing sleeves check if these can be detachable as they can change a dress' look instantly." She adds that bustling your train will shorten the dress giving a completely fresh perspective and flow to your gown. "This will also make dancing a lot easier!"

Wherever you get your dress, it's important to speak to your stylist and discover how they can elevate your gown and get it just right. Naydene at Sophia Grace Couture says, "We work with amazing designers who not only have endless possibilities to customise a gown, they can also create the perfect matching overskirt or sleeves. Our designers can change lace on overskirts, or we can make an overskirt work with a gown that does not already have one." Proof then that the dress you initially see on the rail can be dramatically different by the time you get to the ceremony, and different again later in the day.





## The power of accessories

Sometimes the smallest changes can make a huge difference in your overall look. Naydene loves how the removal of sleeves and overskirts coupled with a switch up of accessories can change a day look into an evening look, while Megan at Kudos says, "I also love the way a statement veil can be swapped to a statement headpiece and gloves for party time!"

Jewellery as well can make a huge difference. "We advise a lot of brides to change to a statement chunky necklace for the evening event," says Pamela of Pamela Jayne's Bridal. "Something that makes you stand out and twinkle away on the dance floor." Susan at Opus Couture adds, "Swapping a veil for a statement headpiece or adding bold jewellery such as earrings can instantly refresh your look. Even a change of hairstyle can work wonders in creating that 'evening transformation' moment." Here at YSW we've even heard of brides getting their hair cut halfway through the day!

One accessory that's been gracing all the red carpets of the recent awards season is the neck scarf and it's one super-chic way to bring some glamour to your bridal evening look. Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture says, "We're seeing a lot of accessories being added like neck scarves and opera gloves for outdoor evening do's."

The 'Soyer' by Luna Novias dress, available at Kudos Bridal Dunfermline, styled three different ways.



"Make sure you can change relatively quickly." NAYDENE, SOPHIA GRACE COUTURE

Is it the right choice?

Remember, your wedding day wardrobe is completely personal so you may want to indulge in just one look – and that's ok! "Think about your reasoning for wanting to have a switch up," advises Megan of Kudos. "If you've always dreamed of having a big gown for your wedding but want to be comfortable throughout the evening then definitely consider a second dress. If you have a more fitted dress and would like to switch into 'party mode' then accessories can transform your look entirely without the need for an additional gown!"

Make sure you adhere to your own wishes. "Don't make decisions solely based on the latest trends, traditions or what you feel is expected of you!" Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture says. "Stay true to yourself and make sure you pick styles that you look and feel amazing in." And Susan of Opus Couture agrees. "Make sure it feels natural and comfortable for you," she says. "If a second dress or outfit change feels like too much hassle, focus on easy switch-ups that still create a big impact, like a detachable overskirt or bold accessories. If you do go for a second dress, make sure it's something you truly love and feel amazing in. It should be just as special as your main gown!" Kavelle advocates striking the right

Sophia Grace Couture bride Hazel used detachable elements to switch up her stunning Calla Blanche gown.



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balance between your first and second look, ensuring they're equally memorable. "The key? Selecting a piece that complements your original gown while offering something fresh and exciting. It could be a dress with detachable elements, a dramatic transformation from a ballgown to a short flirty number, or even a sophisticated suit that redefines bridal elegance. After all, why have one showstopping look when you can have two?" Hear, hear!

## Advice from the expert

Having decided that a second dress, or at least a second look, is definitely on the cards there are a few key things to consider. Crucially you need to decide when you want the change to happen. Knowing if you are going to change for dinner or the first dance or later in the night will help you figure out what you want from a second dress. "We also recommend ensuring your wedding planner/venue coordinator and photographer are well aware of the change, even if no one else is, because then you can ensure all eyes are on you when the big change happens," advises Julia of Isobel Florence Bridal. "You also don't want to spend too much of your wedding changing outfits so ensure at least one of your dresses is easy to get on. Two lace-up dresses could leave you missing a good chunk of your wedding!" Naydene of Sophia Grace Couture agrees. "Every bride tells us their wedding day goes by in a flash so if you decide to switch up your look, make sure you can change relatively quickly." The last thing you want is to spend too much time in the bridal dressing room!

## Bridesmaids ASSEMBLE!

**Katie Bletcher** answers all your burning bridesmaid dress questions with the help of the experts

eing asked to be a bridesmaid has to be the ultimate validation of friendship. Nothing quite says besties like those five little words; "Will you be my bridesmaid?" I've been a bridesmaid three times and have the clutch of dresses to prove it. Each experience has been really special, standing by my girls' sides as they say 'I do' and zhuzhing veils. Getting to that stage however can be as difficult as finally getting the girls' trip out of the group chat, particularly when you've a collection of 'maids with different shapes, personalities and expectations.

Luckily, I've been picking the brains of the experts for all the tips you need to help you find your 'maids' outfits, including the time it takes to get you all together in the first place! "We would recommend starting the process around nine months before the big day," says Naydene of Sophia Grace Couture. "Designers need three to five months for delivery and a seamstress needs six to eight weeks for alterations. We advise allowing a couple of months on top of this to give yourself the time to get the girls together (not an easy task!) and to find the perfect dress for everyone." Megan of Kudos Bridal Dunfermline also urges allowing extra time. "Lead times always depend upon designers but for our Sorella Vita gowns they usually fall around four months from point of order," she says. "To take away the stress of shipping delays and alteration times I always recommend giving yourself a full six months." And Pamela of Pamela Jayne's Bridal says allowing nine months gives you time to try different places and styles and avoid having to pay rush costs.

Do your homework

Before you so much as make an appointment it's important to establish a realistic budget. In recent years Pamela has seen people thinking they can get a quality gown for only £50, echoing high street prices. However, she can only offer such low prices on discontinued sample dresses, and on those occasions there will only be one dress per style. Therefore, sample dresses can be best suited to weddings where there is only one bridesmaid or you're mixing styles. Instead, be prepared to spend around £250 per dress. Pamela's bridesmaid dresses range from £200 to £350 with the mid-range coming in at £240 to £270. "You are getting premium dresses," she explains. A premium bridesmaid dress comes with extra lining and support.

At Sophia Grace Couture bridesmaid gowns range from £199 to £299 with the

average cost being £240 to £260, while at Kudos the average cost falls around £260, although dresses start at £199 and range in price up to £350. However, Megan always reminds brides to factor in alteration costs. "It is incredibly rare that a gown will fit perfectly without being tweaked," she says.

Once you've established how much to budget it's time to consider the look. "If you have a colour palette in mind for your wedding, then perhaps keep this in mind when choosing colours of dresses," advises Naydene. "Some brides like bridesmaid dresses to match their own too. It might be neckline, style, colour or fabric."

According to Megan, another starting point is what the groom is wearing. Or if he's wearing a kilt, what colours would work with that tartan? Of if you have already sent out your Save the Dates what colour were they? "Having these in mind will help you build a colour palette that can then be tweaked or guided by what your bridesmaids suit," she says.

When it comes to the silhouette take on board that everyone is a different shape and size. Pamela suggests finding styles your girls will feel comfortable in. For example, in a lower slung dress those with bigger boobs may not feel confident. "Be realistic about what's going to support and fit," she says.







#### Narrowing it down

According to Megan it's important to discuss with your bridesmaids what your expectations are and make sure everyone is on board with your vision. "Be prepared to be a little flexible but always stick to what you want for the day. For example, dreamed of blush pink but your bridesmaids feel washed out? Compromise and choose a shade slightly deeper that will still complement, but don't feel like you need to abandon it entirely."

Naydene advises her brides to decide upon three or four style choices ahead of the appointment. "All of our gowns are on our website," she says. "Sending these to bridesmaids ahead of the appointment is a good idea too."

#### Mix and match

The last decade or so has seen the rise of the mix and match bridesmaid dresses where your girls may choose the same style in different colours or one colour in different styles. "Gone are the days where a party would come in and the bride wanted everyone in the exact same colour and style," says Megan. "It's definitely become a lot more relaxed and individual! Mix and match is an increasingly popular approach. Not all of your bridesmaids are going to be the same shape or size so giving them the freedom to choose a style in a shape they feel comfortable in makes the entire process a lot easier. Our Sorella Vita collection is perfect for this. All of our gowns are available in the same shades to mix and match as long as you are sticking to the same fabrics which creates a cohesive look regardless of style."

Naydene agrees that giving bridesmaids several styles to choose from can ensure they are all comfortable on the day. "At Sophia Grace Couture we promote body confidence. We work with the bride to ensure that all her bridesmaids feel incredible. This could be mix and match styles or suggesting customisation for a specific style."

However, Pamela says that often when the women start trying the dresses on they actually end up going for a unified look. "The main thing is to have them all there for bridesmaid shopping," she says. "It's good to get everyone in the same room so different personalities can look at different things."

Whatever you end up choosing, make your shopping experience fun and revel in getting your tribe together!



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Kudos team has let its expectant mum customers try a fake bump on with gowns to give them a more realistic idea of how it will look!

### Expectations for those expecting

Ah, the age-old issue of dressing pregnant bridesmaids! By my last outing as a 'maid our poor bride had the complication of finding a gown that would suit me, who was 11 weeks postpartum and breastfeeding, one girl who was eight months pregnant and another who was a size six. This was never going to be easy and we settled on an empire-line dress with plenty of space in the skirt. The important thing is to put yourselves in the hands of the experts. "We've been doing this 14 years now so this is nothing new," says Pamela. "With the pregnant bridesmaids we take into consideration what period of their pregnancy they are at."

Naydene says they usually select gowns they know are able to be adapted to a bump or can be easily altered to fit if needed. Megan adds that, where possible, she recommends being measured before you truly start showing. "We know this isn't always possible so for those situations we would focus on measuring your bust correctly and judging your waistline based on previous sizing. I would always suggest sizing up as dresses can always be taken in but letting them out can be an issue!" The Sorella Vita collection also has a limited number of maternity styles to choose from.

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### Ask the expert

## Rachel Scott Couture

Rachel explores how your choice of fabric can shape the final wedding dress



o you know your silk from your satin?
What do we mean by jacquard, organza or jersey? When it comes to wedding dress fabrics there are so many options and alternatives it can become overwhelming. (Even with all my knowledge and training I can find it a lot!) But remember, you don't need to know every aspect. You just need to know that the array of fabric options means plenty of choice and you no longer need to settle or make do!

Fabric options are one tool we can use to help inject bespoke personality into your wedding outfit, and this is something I'm passionate about. It's not always that one fabric is 'better' than another. Instead, it's about the right fabric for the right job. What fabric would give you the right result for the personality of dress you're after?

#### The classics

Historically, there were really only natural fibre options – wool, cotton or silk. It has always been the tradition to wear your absolute best outfit on your wedding day, using the finest fabrics you could afford. Traditionally that meant silk, specifically silk satin, and even more specifically Duchesse silk satin. But what does that actually mean?

Let's break it down. 'Silk' refers to what fibres are used in the yarns of the fabric – the base ingredient. Then there's the 'satin' element. That means how the yarns are woven together to get the type of fabric. Then last but not least the 'Duchesse' element basically means it's heavyweight – how many of the fibre ingredients are packed into the fabric weave. Duchesse satin will always have as many fibres as we can manage in as tightly packed a weave as possible.

But it's not all about natural fabrics. When they were first introduced man-made fibres got a bad rap (perhaps justifiably), but the more technology develops, the better those fabrics become. New fibres and fabrics are being introduced all the time, giving a wider range of options.

I'm all about getting the right fibre or fabric for the right job. So, in the case of silk versus polyester it's no longer simply about opting for silk just because it's

the more expensive, luxurious option. Designers might now choose a polyester to ensure you get the ultimate sleek, flawless finish. As a natural fibre, silk will have inherent characteristic flaws. These are to be celebrated if we're after a texture, but for a sharp line and more even, uninterrupted fabric finish, a man-made fabric could be the better option.



Of course, bridal dresses aren't always about those sleek and flawless finishes. Texture is officially in this season and with my training and background in the science of fibres and fabrics this is something I am revelling in! And this is where it gets interesting (well, it does for me!)

#### Weave versus knit

With the vast majority of bridal fabrics being woven, I'm loving the introduction of a few knitted ones this year. New York-based designer Danielle Frankel has perfected the jersey construction, using a heavyweight cotton to create an incredible drape and velvety soft feel. The combination of cotton fibres and knit construction is so unique and entirely left field when it comes to bridal styling, but for the Grecian draping of Danielle Frankel's 'Milli' dress nothing else would work so perfectly.

#### Satin versus crepe

Back to weave now. Satin and crepe are both types of weave (both can be made with any fibre, whether that's silk, polyester, wool or even orange peel fibres – yes, that's actually a thing). However, the construction of a satin weave is designed to ensure the ultimate smoothness of the fabric finish and allow the maximum amount of light to reflect off the fabric surface in one direction. It's for that reason that you'll see it as shiny and bright. Your eye is picking up lots of light as it bounces off the flat, even surface.

Crepe on the other hand is designed with more ridges, more contours and far less emphasis on smoothness. The light reflects off it in all sorts of random directions with less going straight into your eye. The result therefore is a 'duller', more matte appearance.

#### Organza versus satin organza

Weave types again here. Traditional organza is mostly made from silk or polyester fibres and is known for being sheer, perhaps a teeny bit shiny, and fairly crisp when it folds. It sits out by itself and holds its shape. But adjusting the weave pattern to include an element of the satin weave construction makes the fabric finish a little bit more 'milky' in look and have a far softer, more luxurious drape. Suzanne Neville is the master when it comes to this fabric type. Think of a romantic, flowing drape rather than a theatrical, stick out skirt.

#### It's all about the pattern

Have you come across the term jacquard yet in your wedding dress shopping? By jacquard we mean a textured pattern, most likely floral, woven into the fabric construction. Jacquard goes from lighter weight damask to super-heavy weight brocade. While brocade is more often used for old school curtains and carpet bags, damask is definitely in for bridal this season and Sassi Holford's 'Tatum' dress is a perfect example of effectively mixing a satin weave across the main bodice and skirt before introducing a damask into the floral hemline.

"Fabric options are one tool we can use to inject bespoke personality."

#### Time to experiment

Now you're armed with a little bit of knowledge, you can see how designers can employ all these different fabrics to create dresses with a wide range of personalities. But just what does this mean for you and your dream wedding dress?

I've always admired the way Vivienne Westwood introduces cutting edge, experimental fabrics with wonderful enthusiasm. Some, like their recycled crepe backed satin, stem from their desire to offer more sustainable concepts, while others ensure the wearer gets the most fun and enjoyment out of their wedding outfit. This includes the introduction of stretch threads through their silk satin. Imagine the lustrous sheen of a silk satin but by adding a hint of stretch fibres, Westwood allows a neater than neat fit while still allowing us to dance the night away.

At Rachel Scott Couture we don't just curate dresses or designer collections because they look pretty. To make our cut they need to be technically brilliant with expert couture from the inside out. Fabrics are a crucial part of that.

With the breadth of fabrics at their disposal, designers are less limited and with that liberation they have the opportunity to play, giving you the opportunity to indulge in their playful results!

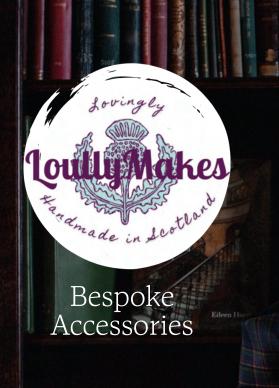
When it comes to fabric, my one top tip is to trust your gut and go with your feeling. Don't try to use logic or justify it. Certainly, don't feel you need to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of fabrics. (Though it will help to know now that a crepe won't cut it if you're after a lustrous number!) Leave me to indulge in the geeky fabric bit. You just focus on enjoying the process and enjoy knowing you've found the perfectly swooshable fabric!











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Groom's Room

Selfie of us viewing Dunkeld House Hotel with our dog Jones.





"All our boxes were ticked... We'd instantly fallen in love."

## In his WORDS

In his first ever YSW column, **Philip** spills the beans on Brian's romantic proposal and their wedding plans so far





hilip Petrie and Brian
Fraser met back in 2014
and, after a first date
that lasted an epic eight
hours, they knew there'd be loads
more to come. Following a brief
stint of long-distance dating
they moved to Glasgow in 2015,
already joking that Brian would
be the one to propose when the
time came. And when he did, boy
did he do it in style!

"Visiting London was a Christmas tradition for us but this time Brian booked a stunning Hilton Canopy, not the much smaller hotel I thought we were going to," Philip remembers. Once inside, they were treated

like royalty with rose petals everywhere and chocolates galore. "Brian said it was because I'd had such a tough year (my number one cheerleader, my mum, passed away in July 2022) but little did I know there was more to come."

Innocent and "totally gullible", Philip fell for the tall tale that they'd been randomly chosen for a private tour whilst enjoying a tipple at London's iconic Shard. And when they returned to their previous spot on the viewing deck it had been totally transformed. "The tourists were gone and there was a red carpet, candles, and a light-up sign that read 'Marry me'. I was absolutely stunned and said yes immediately."

They quickly got into planning mode, having already secured some suppliers by January. And since then it's been smooth sailing with no dramas and just making the most of every moment, which we love to hear.

#### The perfect setting

When it came to finding a venue, location was key. "Our families still live in the northeast and we still have friends in Aberdeen, but our lives are now in Glasgow so we wanted somewhere easy to get to from both cities," explains Philip. A random suggestion from a work pal led to a viewing at Dunkeld House Hotel in Perthshire and the grooms were instantly blown away by the beauty of the luxurious country house, as well as its calm, natural surroundings. "All our boxes were ticked to the point we asked if we even had to visit other venues. In the end, we didn't because we'd instantly fallen in love."

Philip admits that Brian is 'Mr Organised' and has taken care of most things but he's pleased to report that his three big tasks – the cake, the videographer, and a dog chaperone for their Schnug (a pug/miniature schnauzer cross) Jones – have also been ticked off the to-do list!

#### White party

Next on the agenda is outfits and they're going all-in with their beautiful winter white wedding theme. "Because there's no bride to upstage, we're encouraging women to wear white dresses or something monochrome. And we're thinking matching white tuxedos..." We can't wait to hear more!

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## The timeline of, your groom's outfit

f you're buying a new outfit for your big day (and why shouldn't you?!), it's never too early for your first consultation. At Eight Yards, Natalie Hughff welcomes to-be-weds as early as possible to get an idea of what they'd like, whether that's a year or even two years prewedding.

When it comes to actually buying, there are lots of factors at play time-wise – and they're not just to do with the groom! "We recommend leaving a minimum of eight months due to all the elements that need to be taken into consideration," says Alexia Marcella at McCalls Highlandwear. "Think about the season because certain times of year have longer lead times for outfits arriving. And because we want everything to fit perfectly, alterations may be needed, which take time."

Hiring instead of buying doesn't mean you can sit back and chill out though. McCalls recommend making your first visit to the store nine or 10 months in advance of the big day because the numbers of outfits they have available at one time can vary. And Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers has noticed an uptake on hire outfits. "There's now a bigger selection and they're now looking more like what you can purchase, with more choice in jackets, sporrans and other accessories," Gordon explains. "Plus you get others who want to own their own kilt but will hire the rest of the outfit."

Of course, it's not just the groom who'll need to be dressed before you say 'I do'. Sorting outfits for the best man/men and groomsmen/women is usually the responsibility of the happy couple and Lee Carlton at Kilts 4 U recommends getting started a year in advance – especially if you're getting wed in a peak month (April to September) or building your wedding theme around the tartan. "More and more couples are doing this so it really helps with planning to make sure your outfit of choice is available."

Craig Halley at Slanj Kilts agrees, "I always say that if you have the time, then use the time – especially as we operate on a first come, first served basis for kilt hires. And most bridal parties want to book a few kilts in the same style." That said, if a member of the wedding party doesn't fit into a standard size hire kilt or your tartan isn't in stock, the fab team at Slanj can usually make one for the occasion. But weaving a specific tartan can add months to your delivery schedule – and it can be especially time-consuming at busier times.

Claire Muir finds out all you need to know to make sure you pin down the perfect outfit for you (and your wedding party) in plenty of time

"Certain times of year have longer lead times."

ALEXIA, MCCALLS HIGHLANDWEAR



## Got women in your bridal party?

Natalie says there are no restrictions on wearing Highlandwear and she asks the same questions regardless of gender, "If it's a purchase outfit, we can design, style and shape the outfit to them. But we're more limited with hire garments. They're designed with standard sizing and shapes in mind, and breasts aren't taken into account. This doesn't mean to say it hasn't been or isn't done, though."

#### The kids are alright

When it comes to the smallest members of your line-up, the outfit timeline depends on their age. "If you're buying for an older child, over five, their kilt time can take almost as long as an adult," advises Alexia. "But a minimum of three months is recommended and we factor in possible growth spurts with our initial measurements."

When hiring for little ones, McCalls advise a first fitting at least six months before the big day. And to factor in growth, they'll invite you back three to four weeks before the wedding for some final measurements. And for the really, really little ones? McCalls has off-the-peg baby Velcro kilts... So cute!

#### The final touches

Your wedding day accessories (things like sporrans, kilt pins, watches, cufflinks and pocket squares) shouldn't be overlooked – or left until the last minute! In fact, Kilts 4 U advise on these when you book your hire or purchase. "There are three main finishes for accessories – the sporran, sgian dubh and kilt pin are available in chrome, antique or copper. So, the one you pick depends on whether your outfit is traditional or something more contemporary, like tweed with a muted-style kilt and jacket," explains Lee.

Meanwhile, Eight Yards' bespoke
Build-a-Sporran service gives you
complete control over the look, feel
and function. "From selecting premium
materials and choosing your own colour
palette, to deciding on the internal layout
and specific pocket configurations –
every detail is tailored to your vision,"
adds Natalie. "For an extra special touch,
we can even apply laser engraving to the
front or back of the sporran."

And at Slanj, Craig reminds customers that although they keep a lot of accessories in stock there aren't usually any great numbers of each product. So, if you're looking for several of the same item as wedding presents - cufflinks or hip flasks, for example - you'll want to shop early. It's similar if you want a ceremonial accessory (like a handfasting material) to match your wedding party tartan, or if you want to dress up your furry friends in accessories or outfits that match you. Gordon Nicolson has seen a surge in doggy accessories too, as well as couples looking for something a bit different. "Our tartan roses are a bouquet you can use on the day (especially if you're eloping in the middle of nowhere and don't have access to nice, fresh flowers) but keep forever as a decoration and constant reminder of your wedding."

#### Last-minute dot com

For many, pre-wedding prep can mean trying to get to a place where you feel like the best version of yourself and for some this might mean slimming down or bulking up. But, of course, this means your shape could change right up until the wedding and last-minute alterations might be needed.

"The best way to know if you need resizing is if you find your own everyday clothes no longer fit. This is the best alarm bell to know to come in and see us," urges Natalie. Her cut-off point for 'emergency outfit edits' would be 16 weeks before the wedding for a jacket, vest and trews, and four weeks before for a kilt.

Meanwhile, Craig says Slanj can do basic, small adjustments quite quickly, and they stock extender straps for kilts, which give a few extra inches. But more substantial alterations can take a lot longer. "If a kilt needs to be significantly resized, then it has to go into the queue and it can take as long as getting a brand new kilt. It can also be quite expensive as it could involve more work than required to make a new kilt! So, the message remains the same – plan ahead and get started early."



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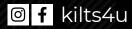
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# Focal point

Scottish wedding photographers share their fave photos of grooms getting big day-ready

hen we think about the wedding morning, the mind usually goes straight to what the bride and her gals are getting up to. But what about the groom(s) as they get prepped and preened, and have fun in the lead-up to saying 'I do'? From getting outside to burn off energy and blitz pre-wedding nerves, to a stiff drink or three with their buds, to the all-important details like tying the tie or affixing the kilt pin, there are so many special moments to be captured – and that's before we even delve into the shots of grooms and the tiniest members of the bridal party... Awww!

≫ "Andrew and his boys were so much fun on the wedding morning. One of his groomsmen is married to a friend of mine and their wedding photos are regularly used for marketing at a well-known wedding venue. So, Andrew was paying extra attention when he was in front of the camera, trying his best to get a similar gig!"

ALLAN, BIGGAR PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY



∧ "I turned up at Cardney Steading to shoot the prep and noticed some people jumping in a lake. I soon discovered it was the groomsmen and asked them to do it as a group so I could get this awesome shot. I think it definitely cured any hazy heads from the night before! I love it because I arrived early and they were just about to head back to their accommodation - my timing was perfect."

DAVID, DAVID GRANT SIMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY



≪ "Adam getting ready while also getting his gorgeous baby girl ready was such a joy to witness. Moments like these are why I love covering both sets of prep. Getting dad all set for his wedding day... priceless memories."

SARAH, JOY STORY



«≈ "There was something timeless about capturing Jo in the quiet moments before his wedding – adjusting his cufflinks, buttoning his jacket – his anticipation and happiness were palpable. As a photographer I love freezing these special, stylish details that tell the story of my couples' celebrations from the start of the day."

LAURA, LAURA A. TILIMAN PHOTOGRAPHY











Driving up to Fasque Castle on a glorious spring morning it was like everything had fallen into place. The daffodils were out, the sun was shining, and we had a rail brimming with beautiful groomswear outfits ready for our styled photoshoot. Our editor Katie last visited the exclusive use Aberdeenshire mansion in November and was blown away by the elegant double-staircase of the Grand Hall and the tasteful décor throughout, not to mention the estate's deer park and cottages. And on the day of our shoot we made sure to explore every inch of this magnificent venue, starting in the ornate library with its masculine hues – the perfect place for grooms to get ready. Fasque is a stunning backdrop to elegant weddings, with room for up to I20 day guests, and up to I60 in the evening. Contact Fasque Castle directly to enquire about holding your wedding at this beautiful venue. >>









DAVID: Six-metre black denim kilt, full structure and hand-sewn finish (£900), black denim detachable front pockets (worn instead of a Sporran) (£300), bespoke Harris Tweed blue and black herringbone jacket and Sloane charcoal waistcoat (£900), exclusive 'GT' antique cufflinks (£40), shirt and tie from Charles Tyrwhitt, 2lst Century kiltpin, not sold separately, socks and garter flashes are included with 2lst Century Kilts, tiger moth II C military style mid-calf Derby boots in black kudu leather (£525), 2lst Century Kilts and Geoffrey Tailor & Kilt Maker. Dried grasses, thistle and lavender buttonhole (prices start from £18.50), Rook Botanics.









































































Exclusive Weathered Pride of Scotland outfit, including exclusive Weathered Pride of Scotland kilt (£639), brown tweed Crail jacket and waistcoat set (£459), Pride of Scotland shirt (£45), matching tie (£30), Pride of Scotland musquash sporran (£365), brown Glenbeg hose (£30), Pride of Scotland brown day brogues (£125). Pride of Scotland package (to buy from £1,649, to hire from £155), McCalls Highlandwear. Delphinium, hellebore and trailing amaranthus were used to create a twist on a traditional buttonhole (POA), Rook Botanics.  $\gg$ 





















Classic meets contemporary in this carefully curated Highland ensemble in Manx Hunting Ancient, which blends subtle earth tones with rich textures and fine finishing touches. The outfit includes Lovat Clunie jacket and waistcoat in soft Lovat blue (£500), traditional eight-yard handmade kilt in Manx Hunting Ancient (£640), standard collar white shirt (£42), Manx Hunting Ancient tartan tie, cut on the bias (£30), luxurious gold pocket square (£25), traditional cream kilt hose (£25), tartan flashes in Manx Hunting Ancient (£28), copper pewter stag and Celtic top sporran with brown/copper fur, crafted from premium leather and pewter with a copper finish (£565), and bold copper stag kilt pin (£26), all **Eight Yards.**.  $\gg$ 











# 





### L-R: Pauline Spiers and sister Louise Brown.



"We love to see women embrace their individual style."



## TheBIG interview with Pauline Spiers of Catwalk Falkirk

Marking over 20 years in the business of helping mums find the perfect wedding outfit, **Pauline** shares an insight into Catwalk's longevity and success

Your Scottish Wedding: Going back to 2004, tell us how Catwalk got started, and what influenced the decision to open the business?

Pauline Spiers: Prior to opening Catwalk, Louise and I worked for our parents for 20 years in the hotel industry. I was 40 when they retired and felt it was the right time for me to start my own business venture.

I've always had an eye for style and love working with the public so when a local shop became available, we felt it would be the perfect opportunity for us to create a destination mother of the bride boutique in Falkirk.

YSW: Catwalk is truly a family affair; do you think this makes a difference when it comes to customer experience?

PS: We are very fortunate to have such a lovely and hard-working team at Catwalk. Most of our staff have been with us for many years and have seen the business grow and flourish over the past two decades. We are like a work family and I think our customers enjoy the fact that we all get along so well together, and it creates such a happy and relaxed atmosphere. I am lucky to work along with my sister Louise, daughter Janine, son Ewan and niece Ailie who all play a pivotal part in the smooth running and overall customer experience of a busy family business.

YSW: It was Catwalk's 20th year in business in 2024. Tell us why it continues to go from strength to strength?

**PS:** The business continues to strive due to the dedication and commitment

of the full team at Catwalk. We offer a huge choice of the most modern and sought-after designers with all the matching millinery and shoes and bags, making Catwalk the perfect one-stop shop. I am so proud of our team and believe their knowledge and friendly, welcoming manner adds to the overall experience, ensuring our customers have a happy and memorable visit. Personal recommendations are a huge factor in our success with many of our customers returning time and time again.

YSW: From John Charles, Veni Infantino, Condici and Ispirato to Lizabella and Veromia to name but a few, how do you decide which designers to stock?

PS: We truly love our current designer collections here at Catwalk and are always in awe of the new styles each season as they're constantly evolving and moving the collections forward. They offer an exceptional quality and cut, which ensures our ladies feel and look amazing. We are always looking for new designers and are excited to introduce a new one, Maisonel, for autumn 2025, so keep an eye on our socials for that.

YSW: What kind of experience do you hope a mother of the bride or groom will have during a visit to Catwalk?

PS: Customer service is what we do best. We truly care about our customers and treat them as individuals, mindful of any insecurities they may have and endeavouring to make their shopping experience a stress-free and enjoyable one. We have a fabulous selection of designers, so they are sure to be spoilt for choice too. Our aim is to ensure they feel confident and special like never before.

YSW: What are the biggest changes you've seen in occasionwear over the years?

PS: Times have changed in the past 20 years and we've seen mums of the bride and groom move towards a more contemporary look that can be worn again. An elegant, well-cut dress with sleeves is a frequently requested look. Women in their 50s and 60s are now dressing in a more youthful way and this is reflected in their occasionwear choices, and we offer this in abundance. Ultimately, every woman wants to feel and look the very best version of herself, and we are here to help and embrace that.

YSW: You've won the Your Scottish Wedding Award three times in a row now. What do you think accounts for your success?

PS: We're very proud to have won Best Mums' Outfits Retailer for the past three years. This is testament to the consistently high level of customer service provided by all the team here at Catwalk. We always go the extra mile for our customers; from their initial contact through to visiting us in-store and after the big day, they are always assured they can rely on us to deliver the very best of personal attention. We would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to all our gorgeous mums who voted for us. We are truly grateful for their kind testimonials and, of course, for choosing Catwalk. YSW: What are your favourite trends

at the moment?

PS: The 'overskirt' design is huge this season and we love how it takes a classic, tailored design to a whole new level, adding movement and a touch of drama. Lots of ladies are looking for a statement standalone dress or jumpsuit/trouser suit that could be worn again for another occasion.

YSW: Tell us more about Catwalk's The Dressing Rooms in Grangemouth?

PS: The Dressing Rooms is Catwalk's



"We offer a huge choice of the most modern and sought-after designers."

destination sale store and it's the ideal place to find a beautiful special occasion outfit at a fraction of the recommended retail price. This allows us to showcase all the new season collections in Catwalk and move any past season styles to The Dressing Rooms at greatly reduced prices. All the information with sizes and prices is on the website: thedressingroomsboutique.co.uk YSW: Is there a celebrity you'd love to style, or whose style you love? **PS**: In a world filled with fashion trends and different styles it's key to find a look that represents your personality and lifestyle. From Catherine, Princess of Wales and Claudia Winkleman, to Prue Leith. we love to see women embrace their individual style and wear it with confidence. Our aim is to encourage our customers to try something

different that makes them feel and look amazing.

YSW: What's next for Catwalk? PS: We have lots planned for Catwalk and exciting new collections in both our wedding and casualwear departments. We're building an inhouse recording area so we can keep creating our social media reels and presentation videos, showing what's new in store and how our styles look on a variety of shapes and sizes, as well as advice on finishing touches like headpieces, shoes and bags. So be sure to follow us and keep an eye on our social media for updates.

catwalk-falkirk.co.uk



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JULIE: Veni Infantino '992406B' A-line beaded tulle dress, decorated in lace and feather motifs on the sleeves and skirt. Available in blush or silver (£749) with matching hat (POA), both Catwalk Falkirk.











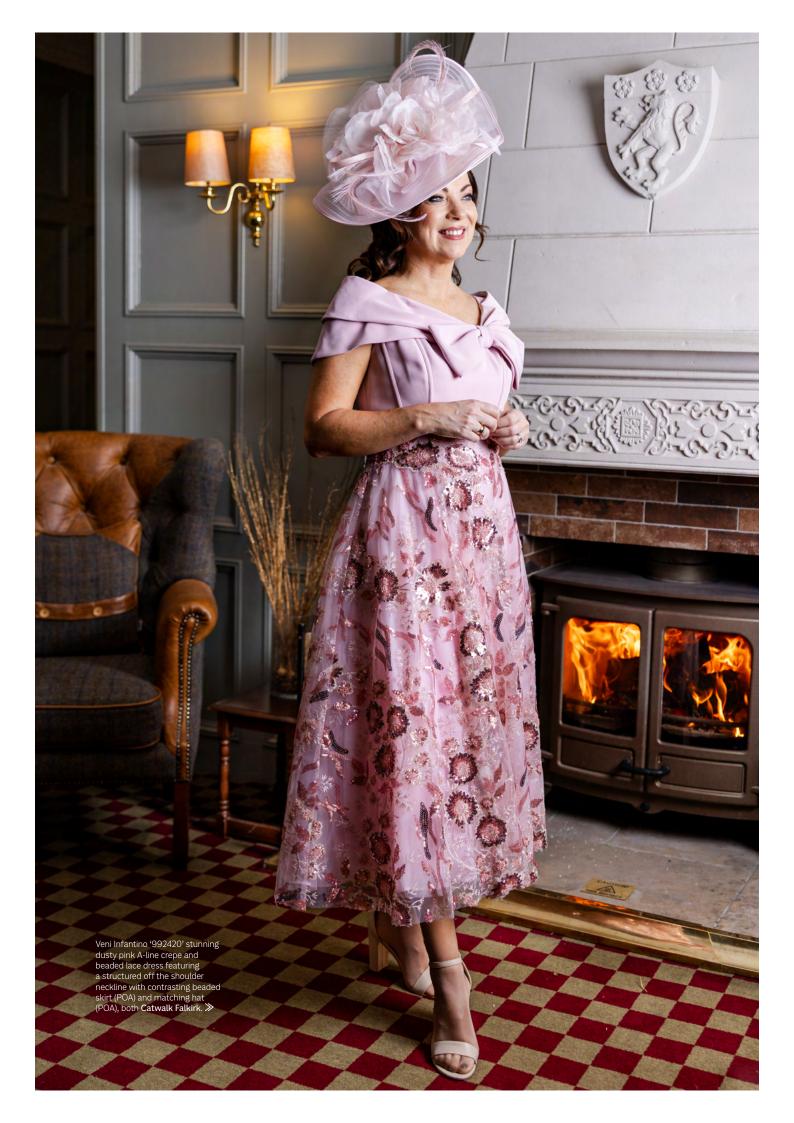








Figure-flattering, floral fit-and-flair dress from the Olvi's Lace collection teamed with headpiece with matching lace fabric bow (POA), Frox of Falkirk. The boutique stocks an array of headpiece styles to match any of their outfits, offering you so much choice.





Elegant and stylish champagne fitted dress with overskirt from the Gabriela Sanchez collection with matching fabric headpiece by Snoxell & Gwyther (both POA), both Frox of Falkirk.



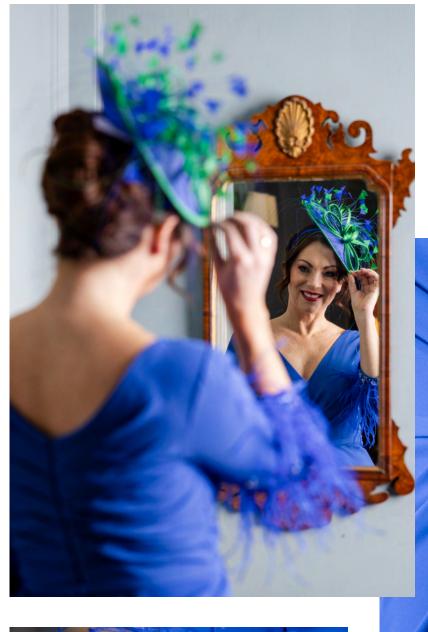




Carla Ruiz full length chiffon dress, perfect for a summer or destination wedding with its bright and bold print, with matching headpiece (both POA), both Frox of Falkirk.  $\gg$ 







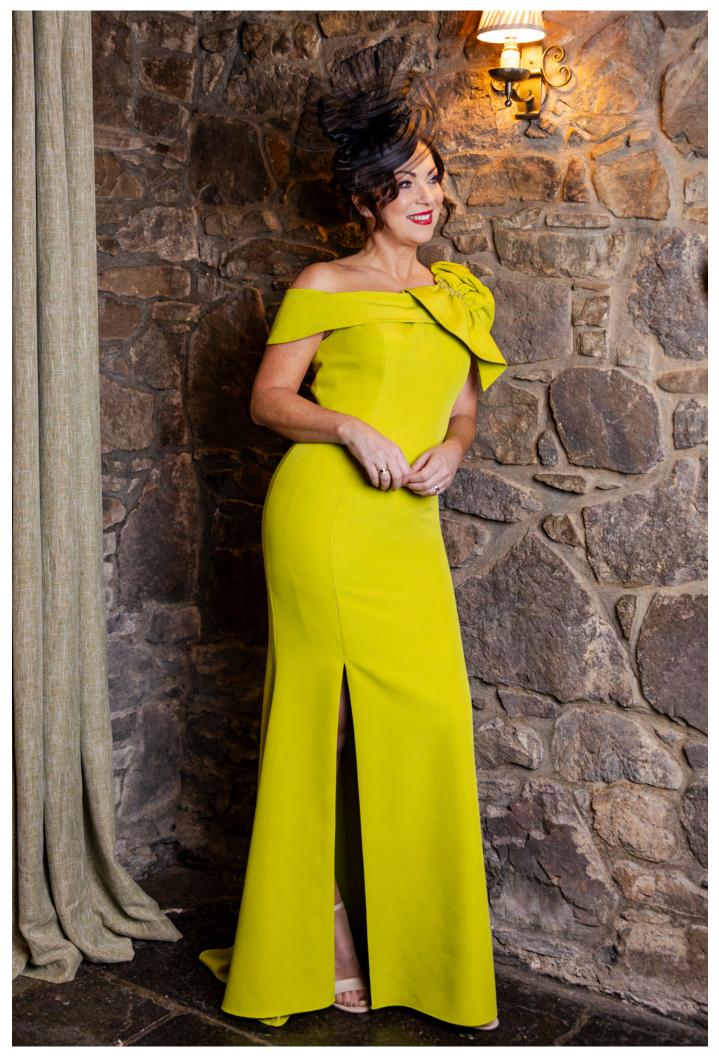


Couture Club long trouser suit in cobalt blue (£645) with cobalt and emerald Maddox fascinator to match (£140), both Bear Necessities. ≫









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Alquema dress and long coat in foggy lavender (£485) with large wisteria-coloured hatinator to match (£175), both Bear Necessities. ≫





# Get 1<sup>THE</sup> 100K

estled on the shores of Loch Feochan, just outside Oban, Knipoch House Hotel provides an idyllic setting for a true Scottish wedding. This family-owned gem, lovingly renovated in 2024, beautifully blends modern touches with its historic charm. Original features like wood panelling, stone walls and fireplaces have been carefully preserved, and it was the perfect backdrop to our mother-of-the-bride and groom photoshoot.

Our glam team for the shoot was comprised of Colleen of Colleen Davidson Artistry, who was in charge of our models Valerie and Julie's gorgeous hairdos, and Caroline of Caroline Stewart MakeUp Artistry and Hair Stylist, who created these beautiful make-up looks.

Colleen got started on Julie, opting

for a soft and pretty half-up look at first, with light volume at the crown and face-framing pieces. "I used my standard sized curling tong to curl the hair away from the face, and used texture spray and volume powder to help create moveable hold for a style that was not sticky or stiff," she says. "The texture and movement in this style was then easily swept up in an effortless, modern version of a French twist. I think the key to creating a more modern updo is to not overthink the placement of the hair. Some tendrils and curls that are a little loose and not all pinned completely into the style makes it super-flattering and not at all stiff or severe."

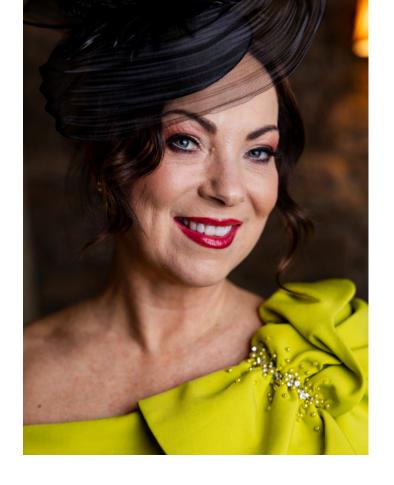
For Julie, Caroline wanted to create a glam look while keeping it soft at first. She used a burgundy tone on the eyes with added eyeliner, coupled with a red/pink toned lipstick from Illamasqua. Then she created a slightly heavier look later in the shoot, going for slightly deeper tones.

Working with Valerie, Colleen wanted a style inspired by a soft, glam wave. "All the hair was curled in the same direction and brushed through to create the flowing waves, but without making them stiff and still being able to run the fingers through to keep it natural and not overdone. We then were able to move the hair around more easily to bring the style over the shoulder, and to allow it to suit a variety of headpieces." Colleen turned to some of her hero products



for the shoot including Schwarzkopf Silhouette Super Hold Pumpspray, and Schwarzkopf Professional OSiS Soft Dust Hair Volume Powder.

For Valerie's make-up Caroline again started with a soft glam look, concentrating on glowing skin and a classic eye look. She says, "I used brighter toned Inglots blushers to really lift and brighten the skin." Then as the shoot progressed Caroline glammed up Valerie's eyes with matte browns and used a pink tone from Charlotte Tilbury on her lips. "I always carry Elizabeth Arden eight-hour cream to hydrate those lips," she adds. Contact Knipoch House directly to enquire about holding your wedding at this beautiful venue.



# **INSIDER TIP**

Caroline has some top advice for mums. "A product I recommend for more mature skin is Laura Mercier hydrating primer," she says. "And use more matte tones on the eyes, although a little shimmer could be added, depending on how glam the mums are."





### HAIR

Colleen Davidson Artistry **MAKE-UP** 

Caroline Stewart MakeUp Artistry and Hair Stylist

# **MODELS**

Valerie Coleman and Julie Gemmell

## VENUE

Knipoch House Hotel ■



# 





# Sheila Fleet.

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# Primula Scotica

### COLLECTION

The tiny Primula Scotica flower is only found in Orkney, Caithness and North Sutherland. Sheila designed her collection to match the actual size of the flower with its five heart-shaped petals. Primula Scotica flowers are purple, but Sheila's silver designs are available in a variety of enamel colours.









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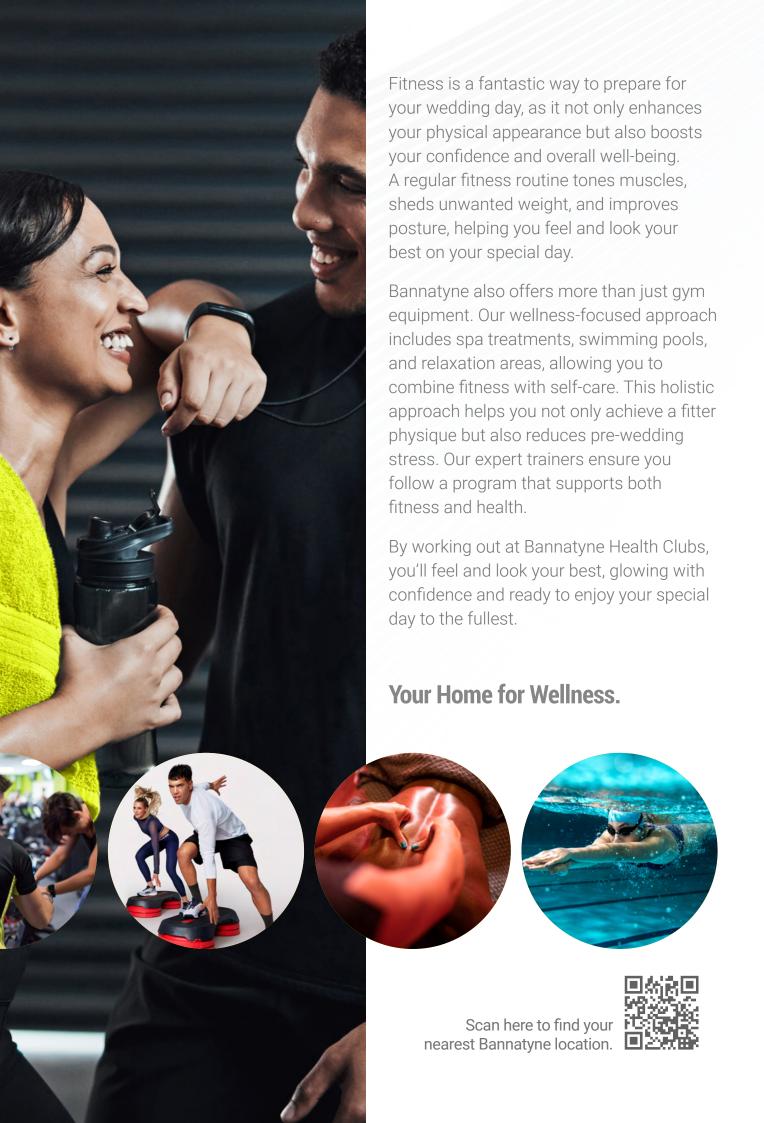






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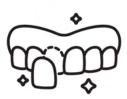
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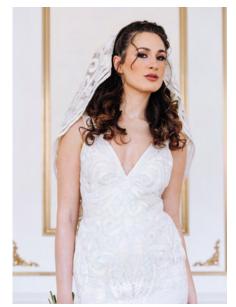








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# The Bride to be...

Wedding hair and make up













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"This luxurious oil is an essential addition to your pre-wedding prep."



Bridal BEAUTY

Whether you're getting wedding-ready or thinking about finishing touches for the day, **Jennifer McLaren**'s got your beauty inspo covered

1

"Set the signature scent that will always take you back to your wedding."

Chloé Love Story Eau de Parfum, 75ml (£113) John Lewis Perfect for a wedding day filled with love and stunning bouquets of blooms, this scent by Chloé has top notes of orange blossom, heart notes of jasmine and base notes of cedarwood that combine to create an unforgettable floral fragrance. All encased in the most beautiful bottle, complete with a pretty pink ribbon.

2

Moroccan Rose Ultra-Moisture Body Oil (£39), REN Clean Skincare This luxurious oil is an essential addition to your pre-wedding beauty routine. With a delicate scent reminiscent of a blooming rose garden, it absorbs quickly while delivering deep hydration. From the first application, it indulges your skin, leaving it so soft and radiant.

 $\Im$ 

ESPA

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ESPA detoxifying salt scrub (£40), ESPA Skincare Whether you plan to spray tan for the big day or are

tan for the big day or are embracing your natural tone, silky soft skin is a must. Use this deeply cleansing body scrub which harnesses the power of natural sea salts, grapefruit, cypress and eucalyptus once or twice a week to banish rough or scaly skin, leaving you feeling intensely hydrated and replenished. PS, it smells heavenly!

4

Gucci Rouge à Lèvres Voile Sheer Lipstick, (£37) John Lewis Channelling all the vintage vibes, Gucci's range of 18 sheer lipsticks come in gorgeous rosebud print packaging with a gold base, as if they were lifted from a 1940s dressing table. This moisture-rich formula gives a lovely luminous shine with a lightweight feel - ideal for a natural wedding makeup look. It can also be used as a blush to create a flush of colour on the cheeks.

# A Vazing TEAM



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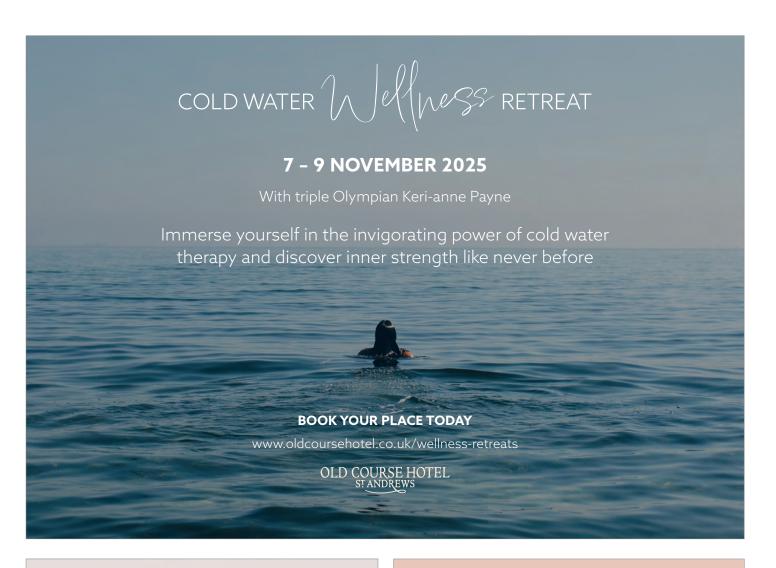
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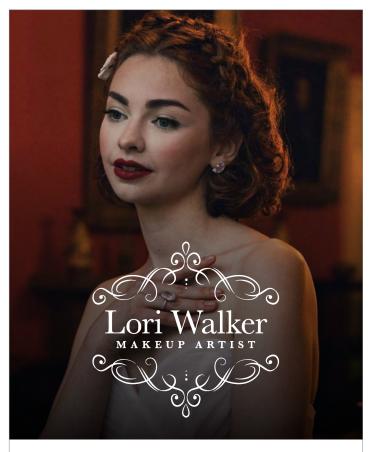


















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PHOTOGRAPHY: Laura A. Tiliman Photography

VENUE: Pratis Barns, Leven



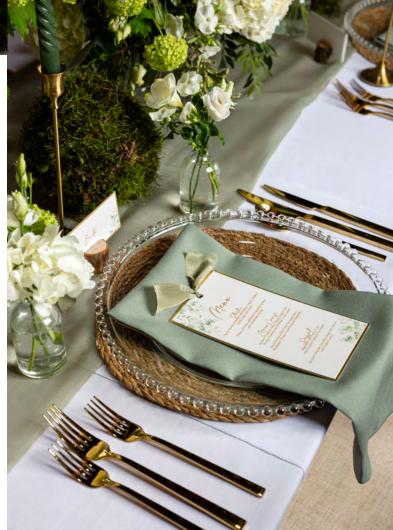
# Raw green botanics

Fresh green botanics is one of this season's stand-out themes so of course we had to include it in our latest styled photoshoot. Our location for this edit was Pratis Barns near Leven in Fife and the venue's Stables, the main ceremony space, was the perfect location for the raw greens look. The space easily accommodates I50 guests to witness your vows and with its bare stone walls, high ceilings and fairy lights, it's beautifully romantic and atmospheric. Plus, there was a definite rustic feel, with the wall's moss blending perfectly with our tablescape. Roni and Cait of décor company All Wrapped Up Events Scotland worked with florist Cherry Blossom to create this stunning look. "Our vision was to keep everything light and fresh, allowing the flowers to pop!" Roni says. Roni and Cait used a white linen tablecloth with rattan placemats and clear beaded charger plates with sage napkins, assorted gold candlesticks and taper candles in shades of green and ivory to keep the table light and fresh and give the flowers the perfect backdrop.

"When deciding what blooms to use to create the raw green look we kept to fresh crisp white spring-like flowers and zesty lime greens," explains Laura of Cherry Blossom. "We used white stock, white lisianthus, white hydrangeas, white fluffy ranunculus, white tulips and the zesty lime viburnum as the touch of green to make the white flowers pop. We knew as soon as we saw the brief we just had to incorporate moss balls, adding to that raw botanic look and helping to create more texture and interest." Laura and colleague Kate decided on a main focal point of a large glass compote bowl with an arrangement, surrounded by the moss balls and bud glass vases with more flowers. "This look can be created for long banquet tables or clustered in the centre of round tables," adds Laura.



144 | YOUR Scotlish WEDDING.CO.UK













YOUR Scotlish WEDDING.CO.UK | 147



Raw green botanics can be interpreted a number of ways and All Wrapped Up Events Scotland and Cherry Blossom decided to switch up their tablescape slightly, with a different second look. Roni and Cait used clear beaded charger plates this time with olive napkins, assorted gold candle holders and candles in shades of green and ivory. Roni says, "We work with our couples to build their own bespoke package to ensure they get exactly the day and décor they want while being respectful of their budget. We quote everything individually, so the couple receive a 'wish list' to choose from. They can also come to the showroom where they can see everything in person and create their own tablescapes." Get in touch with All Wrapped Up Events Scotland to see how they can help create your dream wedding décor.

Starca Designs provided the stationery for this look from their 'Verdant Vows' collection, where fresh greenery meets modern elegance. Nicky from the company says, "This collection embraces lush green hues, paired with clear and frosted acrylic for a sleek, luxurious aesthetic. We used recycled cotton to craft a soft, flowing welcome sign, beautifully elevated with rustic hessian ribbon. Every detail in the stationery is thoughtfully designed, featuring delicate eucalyptus and white rose florals for a timeless, romantic touch."

To create a similar look for your own wedding florals contact Cherry Blossom directly.











### Burgundy and dusky rose

We set up our second theme against the window of Pratis Barns' Shed, where couples typically hold their drinks reception. When used alongside the adjoining Byre the full venue capacity is 250. We love the large windows that take full advantage of the panoramic views across the Firth of Forth. In fact, many couples choose to marry outside before making the IO-minute trip to the beach for photos.

Back inside, décor specialists 22Extra combined a dusky pink tablecloth and burgundy napkins with high end gilt-detailed charger plates, gold cutlery and gold-rimmed glassware. The pièce de résistance however had to be the chandeliers suspended over the table. "I have a little bit of an obsession with chandeliers," 'Tutu from the company laughs. "Fortunately, they're in vogue and work really nicely gracing tables."

Florists Trudi and Susan of **Trudi Todd Flowers** adorned the chandelier frames with creeping foliage. Trudi says the palette of muted burgundy and blush pink tones used throughout the floral arrangements felt "rich, romantic and timeless." "For the pedestal arrangements at the end of the table we chose bigger, blousy blooms and muted burgundy hydrangeas. Quicksand roses with their soft antique blush feel were used and pink Mondial and classic burgundy roses provided a contrast. To bring movement and a subtle fragrance we incorporated varieties of eucalyptus cinerea and poplar."

Trudi continued the romantic mix of textures and tones with delicate astrantia, veronica, roses and cymbidium orchids with a deep wine-coloured centre which provided a refined focal point. To create a similar look for your own wedding contact Trudi Todd Flowers directly on 07815914166.

Jenna B Stationery provided the stationery for this look. Jenna specialises in bespoke design and can hand-paint exactly what couples want. "I went literal and created rose place cards which are de-bossed and have gold calligraphy." She also created beautiful floral patterns for the table number and a pretty board table plan hand-tied to its frame.





152 | YOUR Scotlish WEDDING.CO.UK













THIS PAGE, TOP AND
BOTTOM RIGHT: Multitier 'Burgundy Chic' cake
- an infusion of wintry
burgundy tones with fresh
soft pink spring sugar
florals, complemented
with opulent gold accents
(POA), Katie's Cakes.
BOTTOM LEFT: Rose menu
card and de-bossed rose
place cards (as before).

















## Beachy blues

Pratis Barns' Shed space was the setting once again for our beachy blues theme, though this time the tablescape was set up against the backdrop of one white-washed wall. Roni and Cait of All Wrapped Up Events Scotland teamed up with Helen of The Greenshed Flower Studio to create this gorgeous look. "We paired a white and an ivory chiffon runner with a ruched baby blue one to give the impression of waves and sea foam," says Roni. "Helen added gorgeous driftwood, fab flowers and a nautical lantern and we finished the centre of the table with an assortment of our cut glass candle holders. We had dusty blue, pale blue and ivory taper candles to keep the theme of the colours of the sea." The table was finished with chunky seagrass placemats, gorgeous Coach crockery, and a dusty blue napkin held in a rattan ring.

"I interpreted aspects of the theme very literally!" says Helen. So much so that she foraged driftwood and seaweed as the base for the table centre, complementing it with vase arrangements and freestanding florals in the wood itself. Flowers included larkspur, gypsophila, lisianthus, quicksand rose, nigella, grasses, anemone, hellebore, muscari and campanula. And Helen created another arrangement based on driftwood to adorn the peacock chair. "I kept things delicate with the flowers to contrast with the solid-ness of the wood and to make everything feel light," she adds. "Just as I'd imagine flowers foraged from the seashore to feel. If you love this look, ask your florist for wildflower inspired vases with tall grasses in pastel colours, leading with blues."

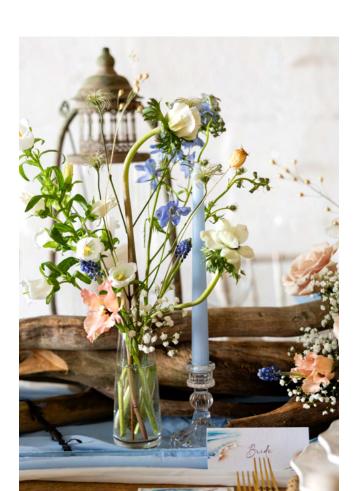
Contact The Greenshed Flower Studio directly to discover













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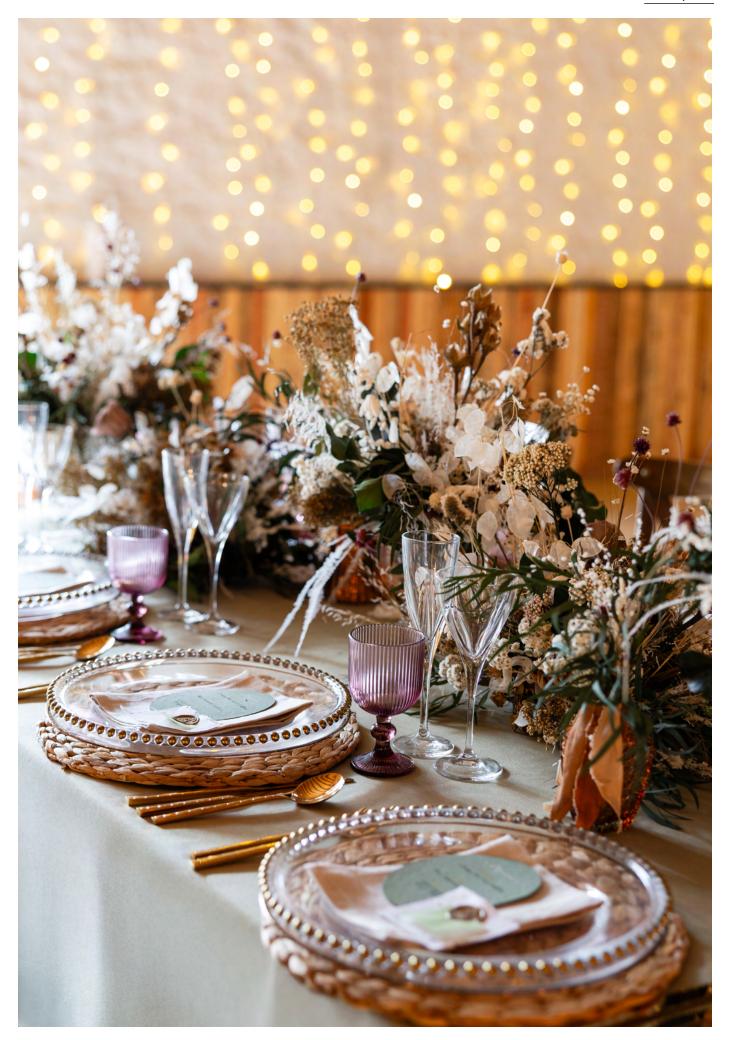


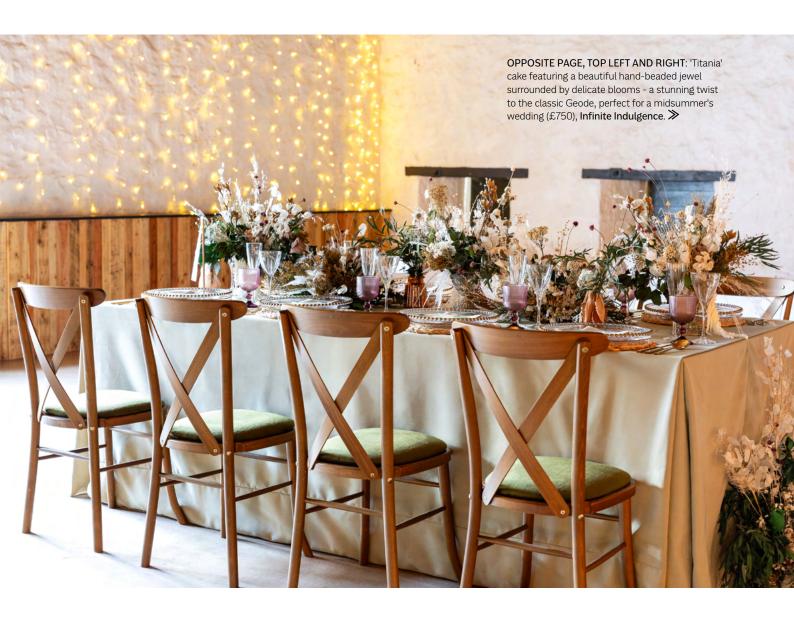












#### Woodland Fairy Tale

We shot the final theme, Woodland Fairy Tale in **Pratis Barns**' Byre, the area reserved for the wedding breakfast and evening reception. This huge space can easily accommodate up to I80 day guests and seamlessly combines the old cattle troughs with newer elements like the fairy lights, dimmable statement lighting and the fully licensed stocked bar. And all that atmospheric lighting helped set the scene for this theme.

Lyndsey, the florist behind **She Bloomin' Gathered**, shares her inspiration and how she interpreted this theme. "Every fairy tale speaks of romance, but a Scottish fairy tale? To me, it conjures a profound sense of history, breathtaking landscapes, and the warmth of heartfelt togetherness. I envisioned flowers that exude a timeless elegance, whispering of days gone by while embracing a fresh, modern charm. A floral arrangement that transcends fleeting trends."

Lyndsey curated a harmonious blend of neutrals, abundant foliage, touches of bronze, with subtle accents of aubergine to add richness and depth. Key ingredients were draping amaranthus, soft edelweiss, dramatic hibiscus, luscious ferns and rich green ivy, all of which provided the perfect base for nude and smoky oak roses. "At She Bloomin' Gathered we specialise in using dried flowers to design and craft exquisite floral tablescapes, from delicate bud vases to full-scale

designs," adds Lyndsey. "Perfect for purchase or hire, every piece is thoughtfully bespoke, seamlessly complementing any theme." Contact She Bloomin' Gathered to turn your floral fairy tale into a dream come true.

'Tutu of 22Extra worked with Lyndsey's stunning arrangements to create a tablescape of rustic beauty using mossy green-seated cross-back chairs, a neutral tablecloth, woven placemats and glass charger plates with gold bead edges. She had brought at least five options of glassware but an aubergine version was selected to reflect the tones of the flowers, while gold cutlery elevated the look and added to the fairy tale element.

22Extra has an inspiring collection of high-end hire items, from furniture and chandeliers, to plinths and glassware, providing everything you need for your big day.

Contact 22Extra directly to discover how they can create your dream wedding set-up.

Jenna of Jenna B Stationery took inspiration from our moodboard with its free and loose florals when creating the stationery. "I thought about a fairy tale book and all the ornate patterns around it," she said. She completed the tablescape with oval menus in sage with gold tones, while her handmade paper place cards with gold wax seals and calligraphy leant a luxurious feel. Finally, the fabric table plan with its hand-painted elements really tied the whole look together.

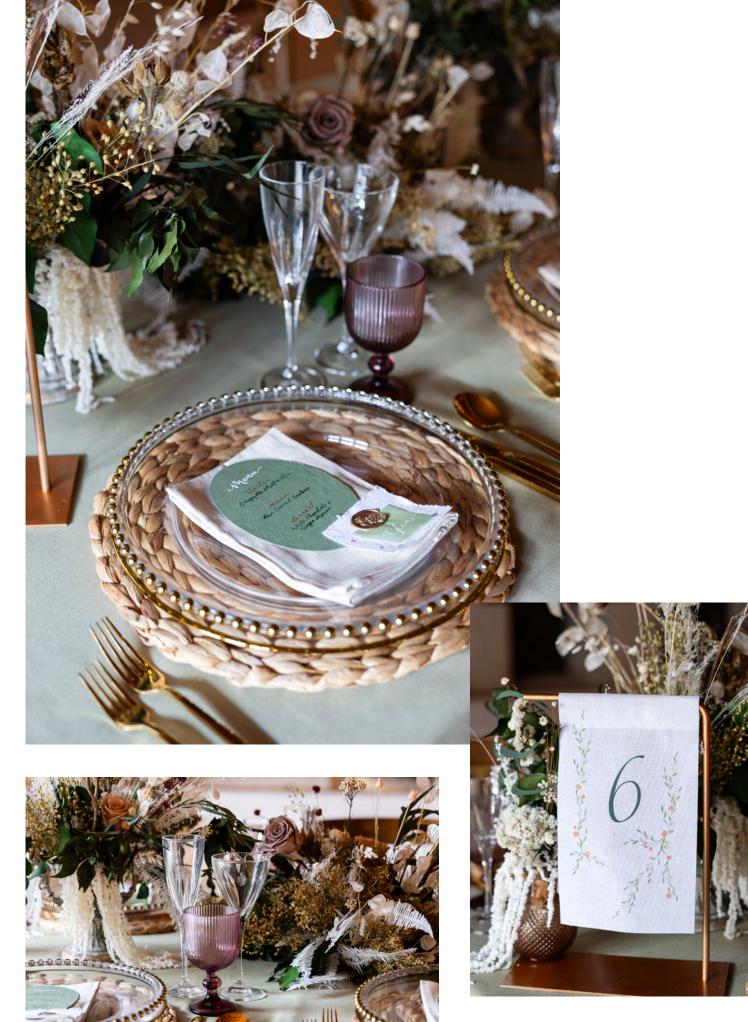






YOUR Scotlish WEDDING.CO.UK | 171





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LEFT: 'Autumnal Vibes' cake featuring a rich green base, intricate textures and vibrant sugar flowers in shades of ivory and burnt orange, beautifully complemented by an acrylic tier filled with fairy lights for a unique and sophisticated touch (POA), Philippa Rose Cake Design. BELOW: Four-tiered cake showcasing that dark-themed weddings can still incorporate different colourways, as forest green, white and a striking gold leaf tier work together. This cake showcases a mix of fresh, silk and dried florals tied together with a luxurious velvet forest green ribbon for a modern-day design (POA), The Kilted Cake Company. BOTTOM LEFT: Fabric table plan (from £95), Jenna B Stationery.



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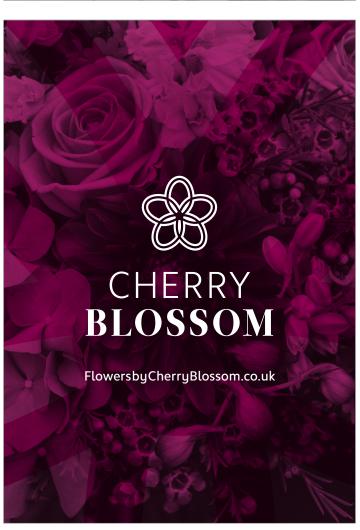
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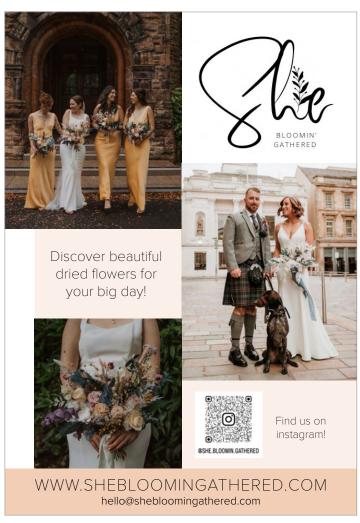






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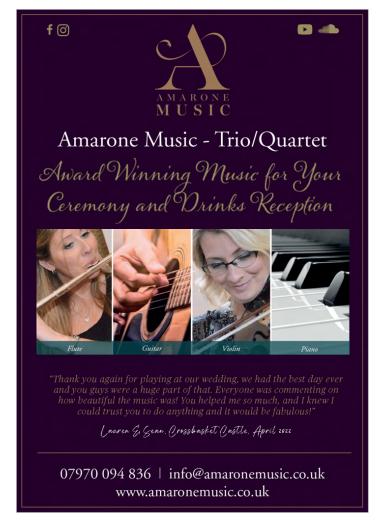
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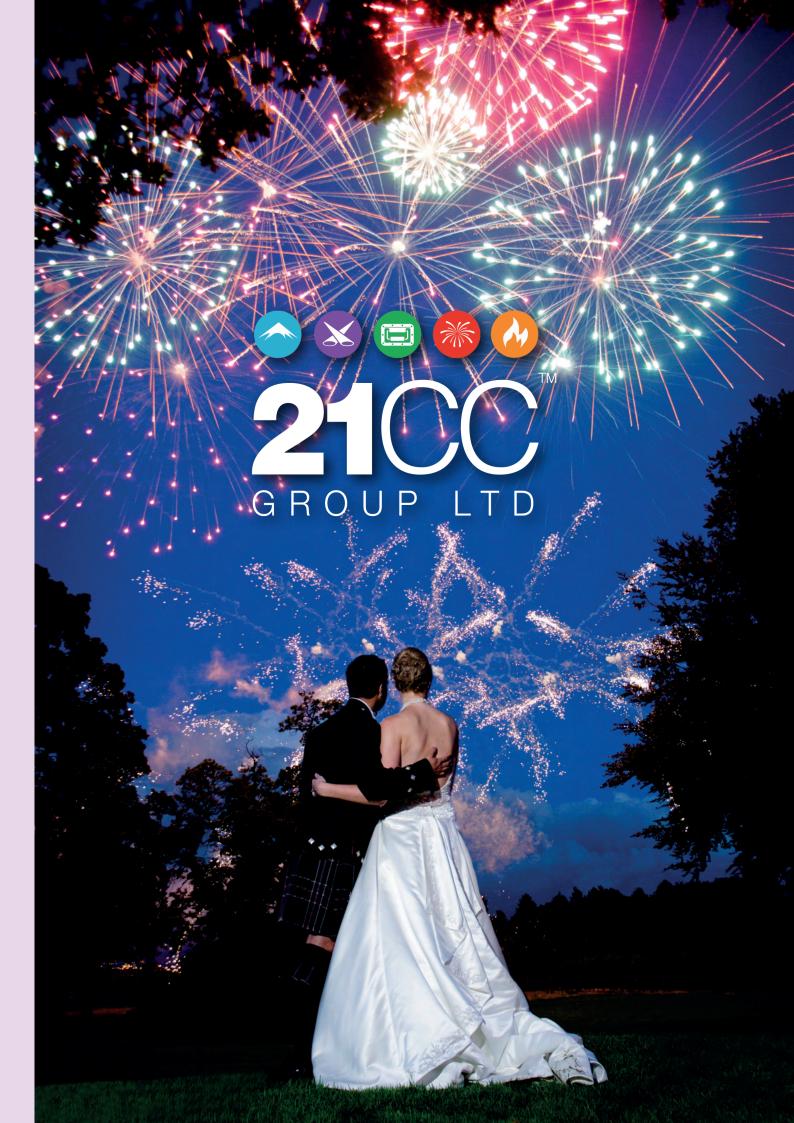














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This couple realised their dream to wed at a Scottish castle, choosing a very famous Highlands venue

DATE: Saturday I7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 VENUE: Ardross Castle, Alness PHOTOGRAPHY: David Grant Simpson Photography or Colin and Shaun Dobson-Fox, a ceremony in a stunning Scottish castle was the perfect way to celebrate over 30 years together. The content creators, who are originally from Wakefield but now live in the Scottish Highlands, are well known for their YouTube channel Foxes Afloat, which began by charting their adventures on a canal narrowboat before they moved to their croft in 2021.

The couple became civil partners in 2006 and converted this to a

marriage licence in 2014 but never had an official wedding ceremony to mark their union. Then in 2023, Colin and Shaun began searching for the perfect venue for a once-in-a-lifetime celebration with family and friends, and found Ardross Castle on their doorstep.

Ardross is now famous for being the castle that features in TV show *The Traitors*, but the pair didn't choose the venue because of this (though they did have fun making some playful nods to the series on the day). "The reason we booked it wasn't anything to do



with *The Traitors*, it was because we wanted a Scottish castle and it was the nearest venue that we could use. We also wanted some privacy and a quiet weekend," Colin explains.

The couple were offered their date, which had come available due to a cancellation, and Colin knew they had to jump for it – leaving only eight months to plan the rest of the details!

"The priority was to make sure that I could get the suppliers for the day," he says. "We managed to get some recommendations and I built a list of who I wanted. I was so lucky that every single one I asked said yes!"

After making their initial bookings they decided to bring in the help of their good friend Vanessa so that she could start looking at the finer details and bring their vision together.

# Roses and thistles

The theme was a mixture of their native Yorkshire and Scotland, and Colin and Shaun achieved this with gorgeous floral displays and buttonholes pairing white roses (Yorkshire's symbol) with Scottish thistles.

Then when it came to what to wear, they planned a visit to MacGregor and MacDuff during a city break to Edinburgh. While browsing, they found themselves taken with the Harris Mist tartan. "I liked it because it was earthy and natural, but it wasn't too modern or flashy. We didn't want to be too dressed up, although we did want to be smart," Shaun explains. They also chose Tarbert tweed kilt jackets and waistcoats along with Harris Mist ties and bespoke tartan ghillie brogues to complete the look.

The day before the wedding, they had an intimate dinner with family and friends with the entire castle and grounds to themselves. Their guests were also excited to be using the same rooms as they do on *The Traitors*!

That night, they stayed together in the same suite. "To be fair, the bed in Ardross Castle is that big it was like sleeping apart anyway!" Colin jokes. "The bedroom was bigger than our house!" Shaun adds with a laugh. ≫



Shaun slept well, but Colin was a bit restless. On the day though, neither were feeling too nervous. "I'd spent so much time planning every single detail with a plan B, C and D! So from the second we arrived on the Friday morning, I knew every single thing that was going to happen. I was actually really chilled," Colin recalls.

The morning went in a flash of final preparations, and while Shaun spent some time with his family, Colin enjoyed a walk. "A friend of mine took me to one side and said, 'while it's quiet, while everybody's busy getting things ready, go and walk around and take it all in now while you can. It was the best bit of advice I got. I spent 40 minutes just walking, watching the people setting up, and just breathing it in and taking it in thinking, 'I'm not going to get this again.' It was the best moment."

# The Great Hall

Shaun's sister Michelle performed the role of his best woman while Colin's best man was close friend Kev Kenny, who built the narrowboat that started their adventures. When it was time for the ceremony to begin, they walked down the staircase together with their best man and





best woman following behind. A local piper piped them along the corridor that contestants use in *The Traitors*, into the Great Hall – the room that normally houses the infamous round table.

Colin and Shaun chose a Church of Scotland ceremony led by Rev. James Bissett, exchanging traditional vows and drinking from a quaich. Afterwards there was a drinks reception and canapés for their 125 guests while the Great Hall was converted for the wedding breakfast.

Next up was Glasgow band Chart Society, who also did some ceilidh numbers and called the dance moves for those guests who weren't familiar with them. For the remainder of the evening, everyone enjoyed the castle, dispersing into its many rooms, having a chilled out night with some delicious supper to keep them going.

"Looking back, the highlight is a photograph of everybody on the steps with the castle in the background and me with my arm in the air shouting 'Yay!' It was just that joy you can see in people's faces at that moment," Colin says.

With guests travelling from England and further afield places like South Africa and Australia, the couple also wanted to ensure they too had a memorable day. Colin adds, "The venue is spectacular. It was a once-in-a-lifetime thing for us. We'd never be able to do anything like this again, so we wanted to make sure everybody had that same experience."





BAND

Chart Society

CATERER

Good Highland Food

CAKE

Cakes by Fiona MacKinnon

**CELEBRANT** 

Rev. James Bissett

FLOWERS

Angela Hunter

**GROOMS' OUTFITS** 

MacGregor and MacDuff HAIR STYLIST FOR GUESTS

Erin Mackay HARPIST

Emma Wright

PIPER

Alexander Mackay

STATIONERY

Hearts & Twine **VIDEOGRAPHY** 

Pretty Little Films



## **PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"When Colin and Shaun asked me to photograph their wedding at Ardross Castle, I didn't hesitate for the chance to return to such an iconic location. I had photographed two weddings there prior to The Traitors, so it was really interesting to return with a new perspective. It was such a great day with two amazing guys and their international guest list." ■

**DAVID, DAVID GRANT** SIMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY





This wedding day celebrated the coming together of different cultures against the backdrop of beautiful St Andrews



"He proposed at sunset."

alia and Insung met via a dating app not long after she moved from Boston, USA to London. After five years together, Insung proposed on Lake Ontario in Canada (they'd moved to Toronto from London a few months earlier). "It was a very sweet surprise and Insung had booked a boat to take us out on the water where he proposed at sunset," Talia smiles. "Our priority was finding a venue in a location that meant something for both of us. As I'm from Boston and Insung is from London we wanted to choose a location where both families could meet and share memories together."

Talia studied at the University of St Andrews and the couple took a trip to the town early in their relationship – both loving it, along with the picturesque Scottish coastline. "We loved St Salvator's Chapel and both of us always knew we'd want to be married in a church. The proximity of the reception venue (Lower and Upper College Halls) to the church was ideal and made things easy for our guests – you just walk across the quad."

As the couple were living in Canada at the time of planning their wedding, having a venue Talia already knew made it easier to plan from abroad. "The events manager at St Andrews, Amanda Morrison, was so incredibly helpful and kind during our initial inquiry call that we felt we'd be in safe hands – which we were!"

Talia loves soft greens, pinks and whites, so there was a range of greens for the bridesmaids dresses, pinks and whites for the bouquets, and whites for the flowers in the chapel and reception. She also decided to add a personal touch by hand-writing a letter for each of their guests which doubled up as a place card. "It took months to write them

all and it was probably the only detail we kept secret from everyone, but it was so worth it."

# Simply the best

Talia and her mum have been fans of *Say Yes to the Dress* for years, so she had some ideas of her own. "I knew I wanted an A-line dress and something simple but beyond that I was pretty open to trying anything. We went to around five shops before we found the dress I chose. I'm not a very impulsive person so even though I knew it was the dress, I slept on it and then rang the next morning to confirm my choice."

She fell for the 'Jessica' dress by Maggie Sottero at Boston Bridal Atelier back home in the US. "It has a gorgeous chiffon ruched bodice with a cowl neckline and lace and beading peeking out. The lace and beading also outlines the low back and the edge of the train. I had the cowl neck on the bodice pinned in just a little bit when I got it tailored so you can see the detail a bit more."

Talia wore a long and simple chiffon veil and a thin belt with pearls and small rhinestones to accentuate the waist of the dress. Her shoes were open-toe heels adorned with little pearls. She borrowed her mum's wedding jewellery, wearing the drop pearl earrings and pearl bracelet she had worn for her wedding.

Midway through the reception the couple changed into Maputas, traditional Congolese outfits. They chose deep blue and burgundy material with a floral design and a gold shimmer across the fabric. "We loved these outfits so much and it was such a nice way to incorporate Insung's culture," says Talia. Her bridal party of eight included four sisters-in-law, three friends from university and a childhood friend.

Insung wore a black floral jacquard tuxedo jacket and black tuxedo trousers and his wedding party consisted of Talia's brother, his three brothers and five childhood friends.

# Good energy The couple spent the day before the wedding

The couple spent the day before the wedding with a ceremony rehearsal and dinner. "We were so excited to spend the time with everyone >>







"It was really special."

and kick off the weekend. While not necessarily relaxing, we wanted to spend as much time with people as possible and it was so much fun," Talia smiles. "I got a good seven hours of sleep, which was plenty as my adrenaline was high from the moment I woke up. I really enjoyed having the first hour of the morning to myself to soak in the fact that we were actually about to get married."

Talia loved every moment of getting ready with her bridal party. "Everyone had such good energy and made me feel really calm and excited," she recalls.

She walked down the aisle to *Canon in D* by Johann Pachelbel, played by the church organist. "I couldn't wait to get to Insung! I thought I might be nervous but it was the most special moment being there with my dad and knowing everyone had come to celebrate and support us. Seeing Insung's face with the biggest grin is something I'll never forget."

The couple chose a Catholic ceremony that was led by Father Michael Galbraith. "In Catholic ceremonies you say specific vows, so we did our own private vows as well the night before. It was really special having this moment just the two of us and being able to share the promises and hopes we have for our future together," Talia says.

In between the church and wedding breakfast, there was a drinks reception outside in the quad for their 100 guests. "Insung and I did our first dance to *Lift Me Up* by Rihanna, I did a first dance with my dad to *Isn't She Lovely?* by Stevie Wonder and Insung's brother sang *Only Wanna Be With You* by Samm Henshaw. We then opened the floor for dancing with *I Wanna Dance With Somebody* by Whitney Houston.

"The atmosphere was so lively! DJ Otiks was so good at reading the room," Talia says. "We had a small break midway through the evening for pizza, doughnuts and cake and after this we re-entered in our Maputas to *Jerusalema* by Master KG. This really kicked off the party! Vibes were still so high by the end of the evening we had an unplanned after party at The Vic in town!"







**BRIDE'S DRESS** 

Maggie Sottero at Boston Bridal Atelier

**BRIDE'S SHOES** 

**BRIDE'S HEADWEAR** 

**BRIDESMAID DRESSES** 

Azazie CAKE

Sandra's Cakes

**CELEBRANT** 

Father Michael John Galbraith

DJ

DJ Otiks

**EVENTS MANAGER** 

Amanda Morrison **FAVOURS** 

Amazon

**FLOWERS** 

Victoria Bloom

**GROOM'S OUTFIT** 

Twisted Tailor

HAIR & MAKE-UP

Suzanne Christine **RINGS** 

Ingle & Rhode

**TRANSPORT** 

Vintage Wedding Cars Fife **VIDEOGRAPHY** 

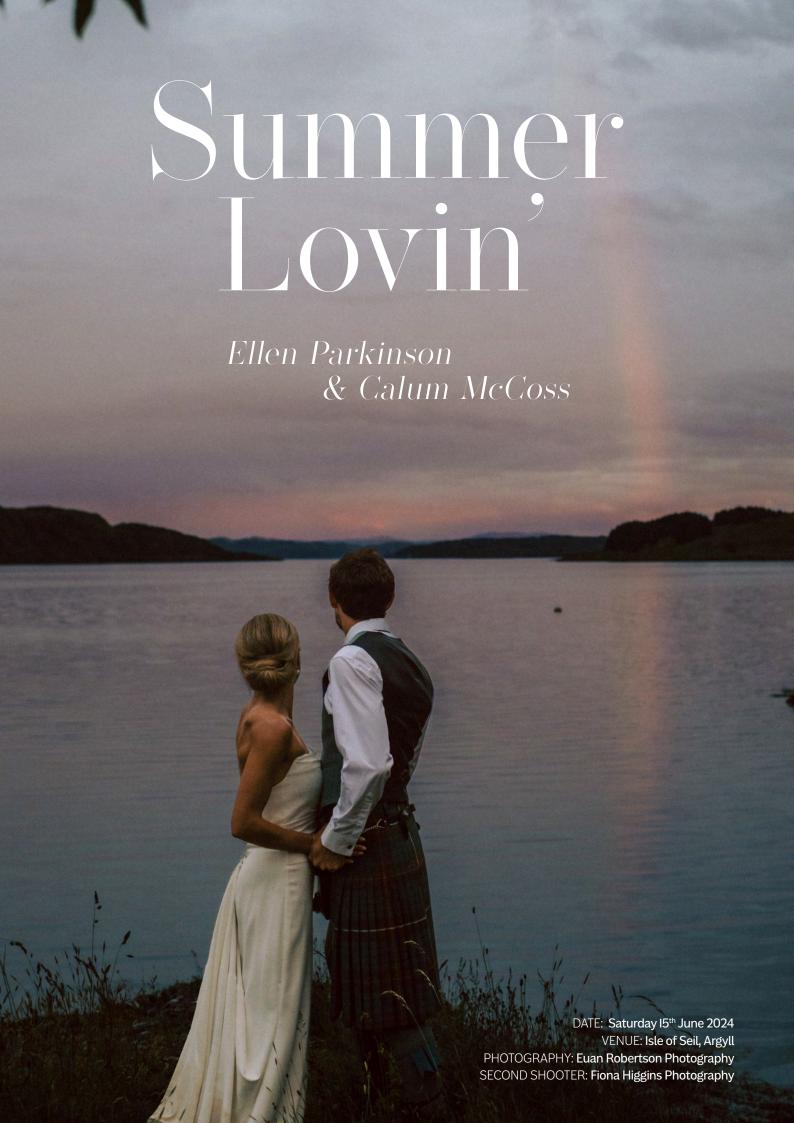
Stag & Doe Weddings

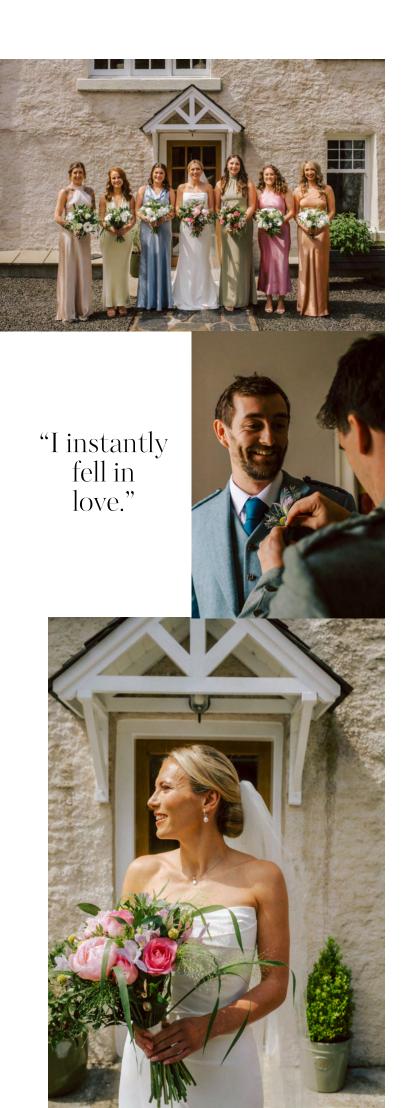


# **PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"With sun streaming through the St Sal's quad I felt so lucky to be a part of Talia and Insung's amazing destination wedding. People had come from all corners of the world to celebrate them and you could truly feel the love in the room." ■

SARAH, JOY STORY





A vibrant, funfilled summer garden party where Ellen and Calum said 'I do'

octors Ellen and Calum met on a med school placement as the pandemic hit, and three years later Calum proposed on Urupukapuka Island in New Zealand in an ever-so-romantic fashion. Ellen explains, "He bought a little boat without telling me and

planned a camping trip at Matariki (Māori new year). We climbed to the top of the hill on the island just before sunrise and he got down on one knee. It was perfect."

The couple, who actually live in New Zealand, knew immediately where they wanted to marry, especially as it would give their wedding budget a big boost. "Calum's parents were kind enough to let us celebrate our special day back in Scotland on the magical Isle of Seil, Argyll," says Ellen. "They have a beautiful place on the water - the perfect backdrop for our ceremony."

Getting creative
They opted for a bright, floral, fun-filled day and brought their summer garden party to life with as many DIY details as they could fit in. Organising everything from afar did mean a lot of late night and early morning calls to the UK plus a hefty baggage fee to get the DIY makes to their venue! But as natural planners they found the process pretty fun.

"We designed our table stationery, wedding breakfast menu and bar menu, as well as the drinks coasters for the reception, which had our dog's face on them," says Ellen. "Our confetti followed a similar theme, bagged up by us and sealed with a sticker of Indie's face on it so it felt like she was with us in spirit. We kept our favours simple - a Tunnock's teacake and mini-Whitakers chocolate bar, which represented our life in New Zealand. We got creative with our bridal party presents - I made earrings for each of my bridesmaids, for example. Our family got involved too with Calum's mum kindly planning ahead and growing bright blooms for our tables to complement our florist's arrangements, and my dad wrote our seating plan on a

# blackboard we got from Virginia's Vintage Hire." Finding The One

Ellen went dress shopping in Auckland with three friends who'd also moved there from the UK and it ended up like a mini-New Zealand hen weekend. They interspersed the boutiques with dance classes, pilates and a spa day - and included the bride's mum on FaceTime to share her "brutal critique" on each gown! Having always had a fitted, halter dress in mind, Ellen didn't get the feels when she tried that style on. Instead, it was a strapless button-up-the-back dress ≫









"We absolutely love our photos."



with a train that the assistant persuaded her to try on. "It was so comfortable and I instantly fell in love," she remembers.

Best friend Ruth had always been earmarked for maid of honour duties and the rest of Ellen's squad was made up of family; her two sisters, Calum's sister and her sister-in-law. Finally, two of the couple's besties from their med school years completed the line-up as adult flower girls. With a colour palette in mind, Ellen started a group chat and asked everyone to choose a shade. From there, it was up to them to find their outfit. "The girls had different styles from different shops and, most importantly, wore something they felt happy and comfortable in. It came together really nicely."

On the eve of the big day, the wedding party arrived to help with the final set-up details before everyone took a dip in the sea. An intimate dinner, prepared by a private chef from Argyll Exclusive, let everyone get acquainted and the cute 'something blue' theme meant everyone had a touch of blue in their outfits.

The following morning was really chilled for Ellen – "We had a fab time eating croissants and listening to music," – whilst Calum found it a little more hectic, making sure everything was in order for the day ahead. Nervous but happy to head down the al fresco aisle, the bride was full of gratitude for the fact that people had travelled so far to see her walk down the garden path and marry Calum.

# After the 'I do's

A confetti arch led the couple and their 100 guests along the driveway to the reception area where bubbles, canapés and garden games were waiting, as well as musician Pippa Blundell who blew everyone away with her beautiful voice. A tasty three-course meal followed, expertly prepared by caterers Scran And Swally between the house kitchen and their outdoor kitchen set-up.

In the evening, a fun-filled ceilidh got everyone in the party spirit and a mac and cheese break ensured everyone had plenty of energy to keep going into the early hours. "It was amazing as everyone was up giving the ceilidh a go and spinning away at pace," says Ellen. "People from the local village even said they thought the music was incredible as it had been heard far and wide... Oops! It was so fun and happy with lots of dancing and smiling. The fact there are very few guest photos from the wedding shows everyone was just too busy boogying away!"

Thankfully photographer Euan Robertson was on hand to capture the couple's day ("What an incredible photographer and human. He helped so much making sure everyone was in the right place at the right time, and we absolutely love our photos,") whilst James at StrangeWorx Productions recorded the vibe perfectly on film. What more could you want?!







## BAND

Drams Ceilidh Band BRIDE'S DRESS

'Marrakesh' by Forget Me Knot at Astra Bridal

## **BRIDE'S JEWELLERY**

Dean & Dust

**BRIDE'S VEIL** 

Astra Bridal

CAKE

Rowan Bakery

**CATERING** 

Scran And Swally, Highland Fold Ice Cream, Majestic Wine

**CELEBRANT** 

Gregor Thurlow-White of

Independent Humanist Ceremonies

DÉCOR

Virginia's Vintage Hire

**FLOWERS** 

Petals of Oban

**GROOM'S JACKET** 

MacGregor and MacDuff

HAIR

Bruce-Low Hair

MAKE-UP

Gemma Mckie Makeup MARQUEES

Present Tents

MUSICIAN

Pippa Blundell RINGS

Naveya and Sloane **TRANSPORT**Go Travel Scotland

VIDEOGRAPHY StrangeWorx Productions

# **PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"When Ellen and Cal told me about their 'back garden wedding' I don't think I understood just how incredible it would be. The setting on the coast of Seil Island was so idyllic, then there was the attention to detail, the fun of the games and the ample midge spray! It was one of the most memorable weddings

I've been a part of." ■ **EUAN ROBERTSON PHOTOGRAPHY** 





Tucked away in the countryside with their favourite people, Lorna and Kenny celebrated their love, their way



"Made me feel like a princess."

orna and Kenny met back in 2013 when they worked at their local swimming pool in Lanark, but it wasn't until 2019 that they became a couple. Just under four years into the relationship, Kenny popped the question at the couple's fave place (Taymouth Marina in Kenmore) with a sparkler from Chisholm Hunter.

A naturally organised person, Lorna got to work straight away and when they found their dream venue they booked a date just 10 months later in April 2024. "We pretty much had all the big things organised by Christmas, then started looking at the smaller things after," explains the bride. "However, I'm one of the worst people at making decisions and I would say that was the hardest part of planning; making sure I was doing things we wanted and liked - and forgetting about everyone else and what they would think! I'd say to other brides to forget about what people may or may not say, and to do what you both want. Ignore what you see at everyone else's weddings too - work out exactly what you want."

This is the place

Rustic and romantic, and boasting the most stunning backdrop of the Pentland Hills, the couple found Cairns Farm Estate embodied everything they were looking for in a venue. "We loved being in the middle of nowhere; in the quiet with beautiful views. The staff were great from the first time we made contact and allowed it to just be us and our guests on the day."

With the modern barn-style space already boasting so many stand-out features, there was no pressure to add DIY details and Lorna kept it simple with her theme. "I'd been obsessed with green and kept telling Kenny 'I'm in my green era!' Plus it was the perfect colour to fit in with the incredible countryside around us." They added their own sweetie table and games for the guests, whilst the bride's mum made tablet for the favours.

Before going dress shopping, Lorna had a specific vision in mind. But after trying on the pure white fitted gowns she'd always imagined wearing, she knew it didn't feel right - and ended up with something completely different. "My dress was big and sparkly and made me feel like a princess, and it wasn't white. The colour was where I'd been going wrong the whole time! My shopping experience was great and although I did get overwhelmed, the staff at Bijoux, especially Rachel, knew exactly how to calm me down and help me." She added ivory Rainbow Club shoes with pearl detailing that tied in beautifully with her jewellery, which had been gifted by her gorgeous bridal party. A hiplength veil with subtle sparkle finished off her daytime look and in the evening she swapped it out for a pretty pearl headband.

# Small and perfectly formed

With a fairly small guest list – "We decided not to stress about the guests and just invite the people that mean most to us," – Lorna wanted to follow suit with her bridal party and surprised her sister and her friend by asking them to do the honours when they went dress shopping. Making sure her gals felt comfortable on the day was her top priority so, provided they stuck to the colour green, they were free to choose the outfit they felt best »







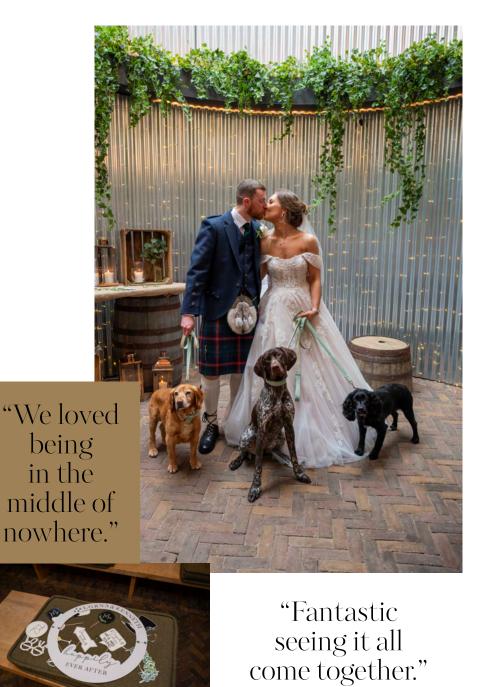
"I'm not the biggest fan of being the centre of attention." in. Meanwhile, groom Kenny donned his family tartan and added a midnight blue Crail Highland jacket and waistcoat, a green tie, a bespoke sporran and black brogues.

Thanks to Lorna's impeccable organisation skills, the wedding morning was relaxing and went without a hitch. "I think everyone, especially my sister, was surprised at how calm I was," she smiles. The nerves kicked in when it was time to walk down the aisle – "I'm not the biggest fan of being the centre of attention so I didn't look at anyone and stared at my feet," – but Kenny was oblivious, remembering only how beautiful his bride looked.

The ceremony was relaxed, enjoyable and funny, and the couple shared "short, sweet and straight to the point" vows they'd written themselves before saying 'I do'. Afterwards, the newlyweds and their 58 guests celebrated with passionfruit martinis, espresso martinis and some games before a fab set of speeches and a wedding breakfast that got loads of compliments. "We had two options for each course, which we picked after a tasting evening put on by the venue's caterers. This was the best idea and made selecting our menu so much easier."

Into the evening

The rest of the night was relaxed as the couple and their nearest and dearest drank, danced, chatted and enjoyed the atmosphere Lorna and Kenny had created. "It was fantastic seeing it all come together on the day," she remembers. "Having all our family and close friends in the one place to celebrate our new chapter was the definite highlight – as well as having our dogs there as part of our day!"







**BAND** 

The Upbeats

**BRIDE'S DRESS** 

'Elstree' from Bijoux Bridal

**BRIDE'S HEADBAND** 

Bijoux Bridal

**BRIDE'S SHOES** 

Rainbow Club

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

That Special Day Bridal CAKE

JappaCakes CATERERS

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CELEBRANT

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**FLOWERS** 

Flowers by Isla

**GROOM'S OUTFIT** 

R & I MacDonald Kiltmakers

**GROOM'S SPORRAN** Lamont Sporrans

HAIR

Lilly Lu Hair & Beauty

MÅKE-UP

Runway Studios Makeup Lounge

RINGS

Chisholm Hunter

**STATIONERY** 

RPC Design



# **PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"Lorna and Kenny's wedding encapsulated four seasons in a day, but they were absolute superstars and embraced it all the way. From confetti shots in a howling gale to donning wellies to venture around the farm, they didn't let the weather stop them from getting the shots they really wanted." ■

**ALLAN, BIGGAR PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY** 



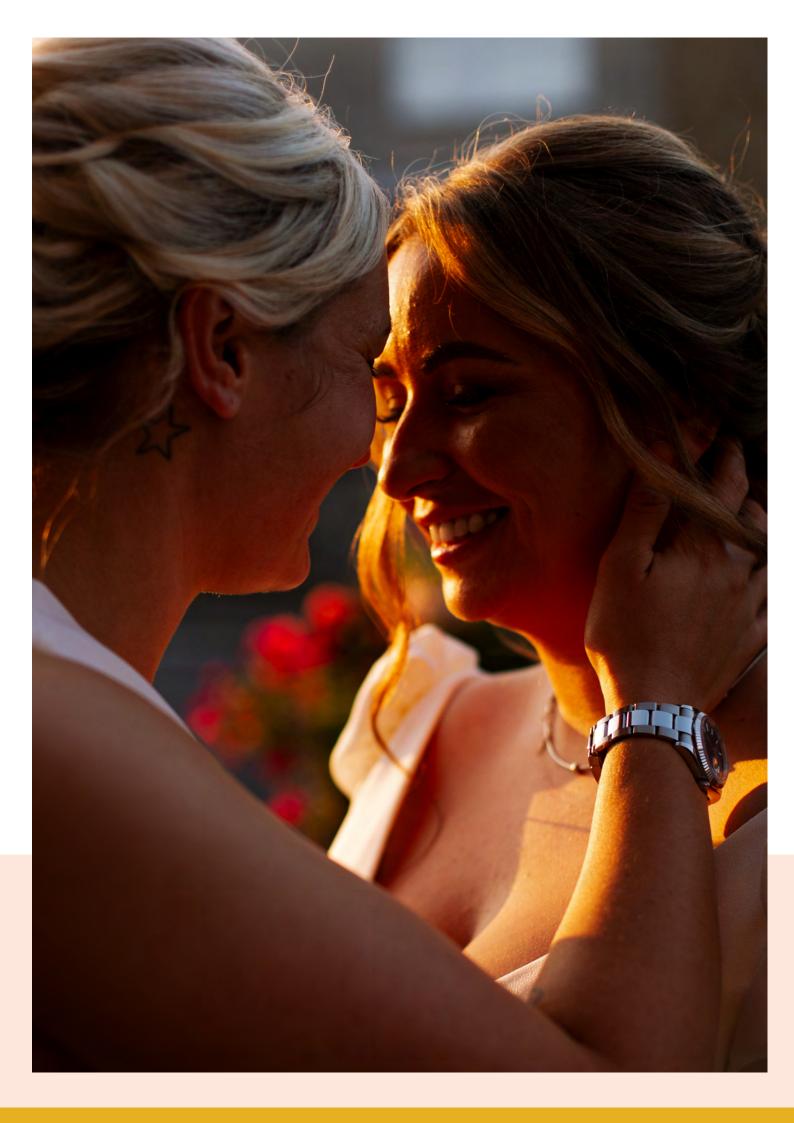






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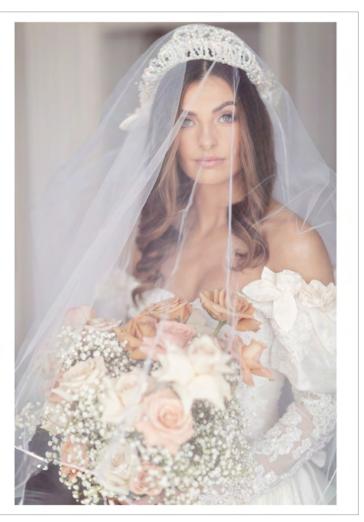








CRAIG AND EVA SANDERS
photography



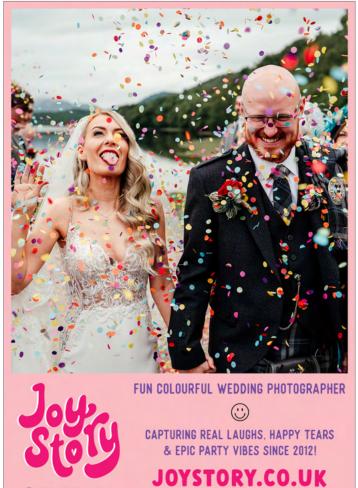




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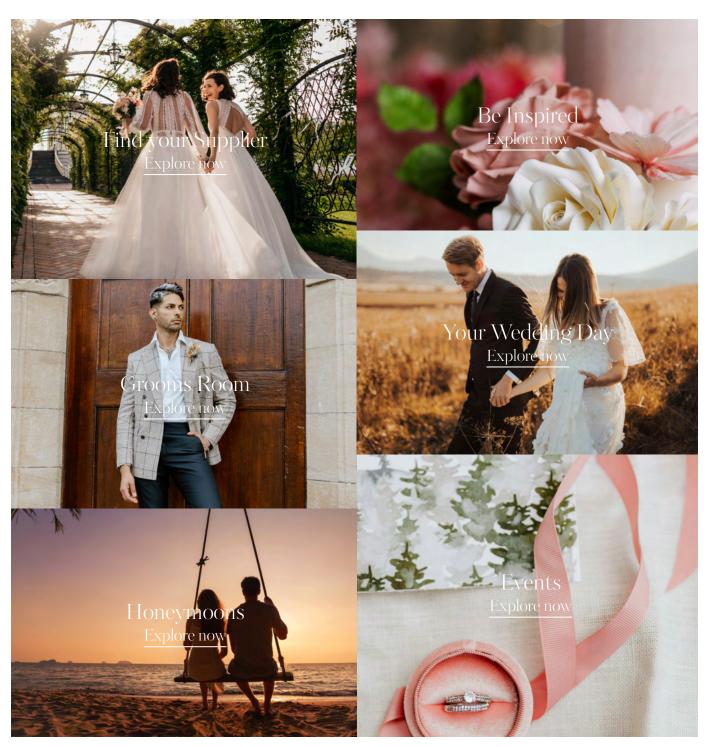
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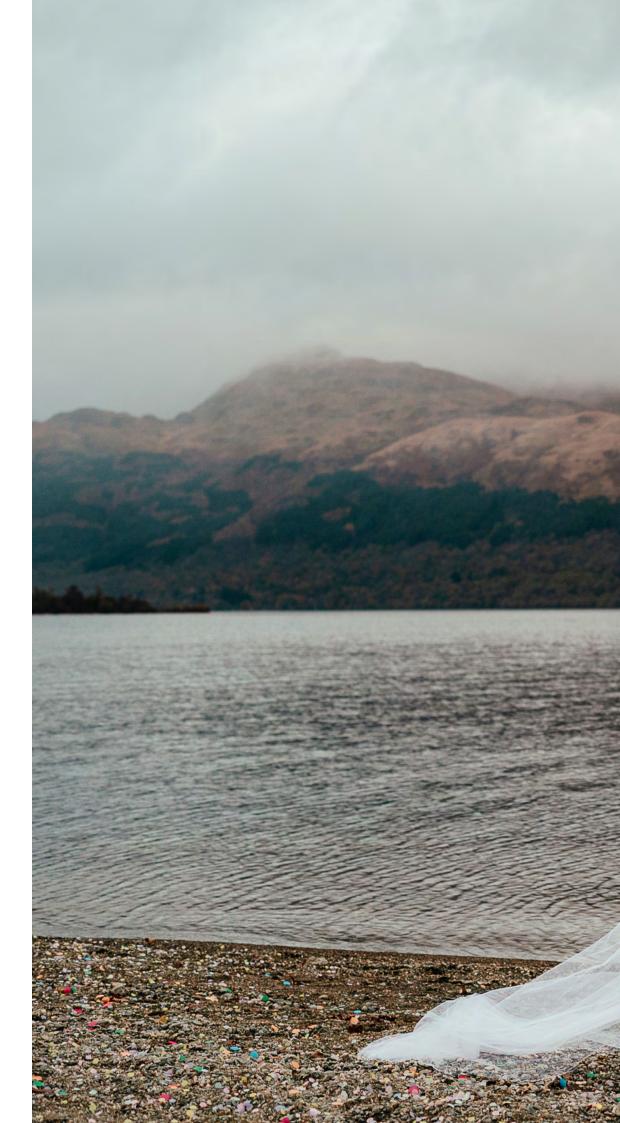
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MARINEANDLAWN.COM



# Exclusive 2026 offer

As we celebrate the start of summer, Pratis Barns has a special offer just for YSW readers – a stunning wedding in 2026! Book your wedding in March or November 2026 and receive an exclusive £700 discount off your venue hire.

Limited dates are available: 21st and 28th March, and 7th and 14th November. This is the perfect opportunity to secure your dream wedding with a special saving.

Don't miss out – get in touch today and quote "LovePratis" to book a personalised viewing and start planning your unforgettable day.

PRATISBARNS.COM





### Luxury wellness

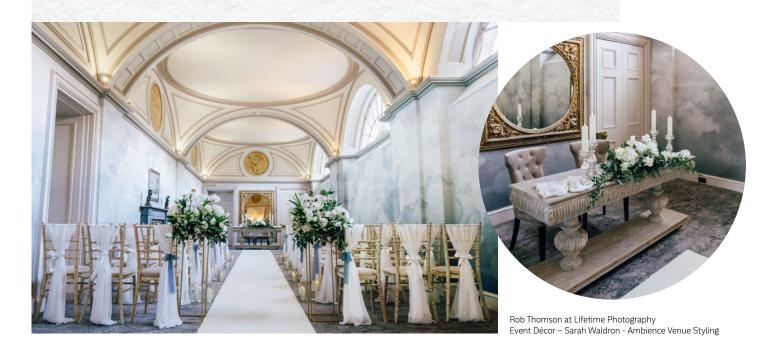
Ladyburn House's Garden Pavilion (an elegant sailcloth marquee) is a stunning new addition to Ladyburn House, designed to blend seamlessly with the estate's natural beauty. Available April to September annually, it offers an idyllic setting for intimate boutique weddings of up to 60 guests. Check out the YSW website for some firstlook images of this beautiful pavilion and to find out more about weddings in this gorgeous setting. Meanwhile, the new spa treatment room has also



just opened, offering a luxury wellness experience for massages and beauty treatments onsite. We're here for it! Make sure you build a treatment or two into your weekend-long wedding celebration at Ladyburn. With private chef dining,

beautiful accommodation and the flexibility to use the different spaces exactly as you choose it's no wonder couples are falling for the charms of this exclusive use luxury venue.

LADYBURNHOUSE.CO.UK



# Stunning restoration Since Balbirnie House opened as a hotel in 1989, the

Since Balbirnie House opened as a hotel in 1989, the Long Gallery has been one of the most popular areas for wedding ceremonies. It is a room that is rich in heritage with an Italianate-palazzo atmosphere on entering.

The restoration of the new Long Gallery has been a full year in contemplation and design progress. The project was delivered by Balbirnie House company director Gaynor Russell, in collaboration with independent consultant Lesley Osborne, who has assisted with many Balbirnie interior design projects over the last decade.

Gaynor says, "We are truly delighted with the end

results. It was a monumental challenge combining respect for heritage with romance for the future. Everything was driven by passion for interior design, and desire to bring such emotional joy for future weddings. With the very careful use of contemporary furniture and fittings, the Long Gallery is now classically timeless for any historic event for our guests and their families. Great care and attention had to be taken to ensure the beauty and character of the original house was not compromised, and it remains a more traditional choice of ceremony room for couples who fall in love with the features of the original house."

BALBIRNIE.CO.UK



### All to yourself

Picture the scene: you have an entire luxury hotel in the Scottish Highlands all to yourself where your wedding unfolds like a dream, framed by breathtaking views and warm, personal service.

Well, that's exactly what Knipoch House Hotel offers couples seeking exclusive use luxury, and its first-ever wedding in December 2024 proved why it's a must-consider venue.

When May and Grant West stumbled upon Knipoch House during a casual coffee stop, they fell in love instantly and booked their wedding on the spot. Their two-day celebration saw guests indulging in exquisite cuisine, dancing to a live ceilidh band, and soaking up the charm of this historic retreat. The couple's intimate-yet-grand affair was flawlessly orchestrated by the hotel's dedicated and award-winning wedding manager, Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki, ensuring a stress-free experience.

Knipoch House Hotel's exclusive use offering means a complete takeover of the hotel, including 26 beautifully appointed and newly refurbished bedrooms, ensuring both luxury and comfort for you and your guests. From classic to deluxe wedding packages starting at £95 per person, every detail is designed to include all the essential elements for a truly unforgettable wedding day.

With sumptuous accommodation, an elegant wedding suite perfect for pre-ceremony prep, and exceptional culinary delights courtesy of head chef Andrew Engledow, Knipoch House is more than just a venue - it's the ultimate Scottish wedding escape.

SONASCOLLECTION.COM/OUR-HOTELS/ KNIPOCH/



# Mid-week offers

Forgan's St Andrews has some exciting news to share with YSW readers.

First things first - they've updated their 'Wee Wedding' brochure and packages for the venue. The 'Wee Wedding' package gives couples the opportunity to have the venue semiprivately for up to 50 guests without having to hire out Forgan's exclusively. And don't miss an amazing mid-week

winter wedding offer for October - December 2025 and January -March 2026 (excluding key dates) where they are offering a reduced venue hire fee of £500 (usually £1,500!) and a complimentary bar tab of £500 to be used on the wedding day. What's not to love?

FORGANSSTANDREWS.CO.UK

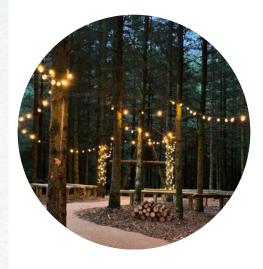
# Twilight packages

Exciting news for couples dreaming of a romantic, twilight wedding. Eden Leisure Village is delighted to unveil its brand-new Twilight Wedding Package, offering an enchanting setting for an unforgettable evening celebration.

Exchange vows in the woodland ceremony area or marquee and as the night unfolds, celebrate in the rustic barn, adorned with twinkling fairy lights and festoons, creating a magical atmosphere for an evening of love, laughter and dancing.

With this new offering, Eden Leisure Village is bringing a fresh and unique experience to couples wishing to start their celebrations later in the day, from 6pm to midnight. If this sounds right up your street, then get in touch with Eden Leisure Village for more details.

**EDENLEISUREVILLAGE.CO.UK** 



### One of a kind

A truly unique and iconic Scottish venue with an enviable location opposite the Botanic Gardens in the heart of Glasgow's West End, Òran Mór has won a string of awards in recent years.

Formerly Kelvinside Parish Church (founded in 1862), it seamlessly blends the awe-inspiring traditional church features with contemporary additions, such as the gorgeous celestial ceiling mural by acclaimed Scottish artist and author Alasdair Gray.

Òran Mór is set to host the Scottish Wedding Convention on 12th June as well as the next Quirky Wedding Fayre on 5th October.

The venue celebrated its 100th wedding last December 2024 and couple Georgina and Gerry described it as "an amazing, one-of-a-kind venue". "It was beautiful, a day of absolute joy and we cannot recommend Òran Mór and the team there enough," they added.

ORAN-MOR.CO.UK





# Exciting developments

Culdees Castle Estate has just completed the renovation of its gorgeous Garden Pavilion – a stunning cruck-framed building

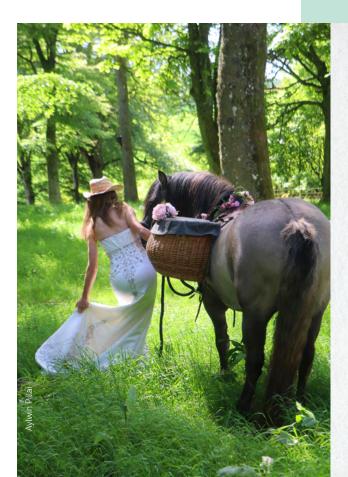


with an enormous fairy-lit ceiling. The room is available for ceremonies, dining and dancing.

But that's not all. Later this year work will commence on an outdoor kitchen adjacent to it so guests can have a pre-wedding day dinner or morning after breakfast.

The team are also building a woodland ceremony area to enhance the venue with a multitude of options to get married. The ceremony area is set within beautiful woodlands. With wooden bench seating for 80, a wicker moon gate and lots of chandelier lighting on the ancient tree paths it's sure to be a magical experience!

**CULDEESCASTLEESTATE.COM** 



# Estate weddings Kinclune House and Estate is

Kinclune House and Estate is a brand new luxury wedding venue set in the foothills of the Angus Glens. Only 45 minutes from Dundee, this gorgeous estate has been lovingly renovated and now includes a baronial mansion along with a Victorian courtyard steading.

At the time of writing, it was preparing for its first wedding and is now taking bookings for 2026 and 2027.

More than £1.5 million has been spent transforming the 200-year-old Victorian barn and courtyard into this stunning venue, with the owners reimagining the 800-acre estate without sacrificing its agricultural roots.

There's room for 120 guests who can enjoy the Party Barn, The Arches ceremony and reception room, and, of course, The Courtyard.

There's also accommodation available for 28 overnight guests in the historic sevenbedroom baronial mansion and its three neighbouring cottages.

Special wedding packages include an *Outlander*-inspired wedding on top of Kinclune Hill, complete with Highland pony. If you want to see it for yourself, the estate is open to viewings – we're already sold! **KINCLUNE.CO.UK** 

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# Rustic CHARM

you've got your heart set on a wedding with a rustic vibe then you'll no doubt be on the lookout for a venue that's brimming with character and charm. Whether it's a lovingly converted barn, steading or industrial building, there are plenty of gorgeous spots in which to say 'I do' and

celebrate with family and friends.

Read on for our handpicked selection of rustic venues with versatile spaces where you can make your mark and plan a super-relaxed day. And with features such as beautiful courtyards, fire pits and fairy lights, it's sure to be a magical experience.

### \* Fruin Farm

Set in the hills around Loch Lomond, only a 40-minute drive from Glasgow, Fruin Farm is an utterly charming countryside venue specialising in small, intimate weddings for a maximum of 60 guests.

You'll have the run of this gorgeous farm for the whole day, with a beautiful bridal suite in which to get ready, a choice of indoor and outdoor settings where you can say 'I do', a fully stocked bar to help get the party started and complimentary firepit and marshmallows to see the night through. There's everything you need to create a bespoke and relaxed wedding at any time of the year, just as you please, with the help of onsite wedding coordinators to ensure your day is stress-free and exactly as you planned.

FRUINFARM.CO.UK



### « The Weaving Shed

Industrial-chic wedding venue The Weaving Shed is located in Old Glamis Factory, a working textile factory with a rich history in Dundee's renowned textile industry.

The venue's industrial architecture, rustic live edge furniture, bars, vintage seating, whisky barrels and festoon lighting provide an excellent and eye-catching setting that never fails to impress. This can be added to, dressed and styled exactly as you wish.

Spread over a large, naturally-lit ground floor area, the thoughtful layout creates an excellent flow for the day's proceedings and ensures a relaxing, fun, enjoyable experience.

The venue accommodates formal and informal dining, with indoor spaces perfect for an indulgent wedding breakfast while the outdoor space lends itself to a more relaxed street food style.

The owners have worked with a host of great suppliers they are happy to recommend, who will ensure your unique and special day goes without a glitch.

THEWEAVINGSHEDSTUDIOS.COM



### « Eden Leisure Village If you're seeking a dreamy wedding venue with a

difference then Eden Leisure Village, situated in the countryside near Glasgow, is a great choice.

Full of rustic charm, the venue offers glamping, spa and salon facilities, leisure activities and is surrounded by nature for a peaceful and relaxed day.

The beautiful covered reception courtyard (AKA The Livery) seamlessly connects the marquee to the barn, and is ideal for a summer wedding.

All the spaces have been thoughtfully decorated and include romantic features like fairy lights, festoon lighting, flowers, and a unique sound system at no extra cost. Couples can also add small additional touches to make it their own.

The venue now also features a stunning woodland ceremony area, perfect for couples seeking a magical outdoor setting – and the gorgeous three-bed chalet is the ideal accommodation for any wedding party.

With its picturesque setting and dedicated team, Eden Leisure Village ensures every wedding is truly unforgettable. ≫

**EDENLEISUREVILLAGE.CO.UK** 

### » Pratis Barns

Nestled in the heart of Fife, Pratis Barns is a stunning example of a traditional covered cattle court, dating back to the late I700s and proudly Grade B listed. This rustic venue radiates charm, offering a perfect blend of historical beauty and modern elegance.

The barns provide a beautiful canvas for your wedding, with versatile spaces you can style as your own - perfect for your ceremony, reception and party. The venue also features charming stables, a walled garden, and 30 acres of grounds, complemented by breathtaking panoramic views over the Firth of Forth.

This 'all in one' exclusive use barn venue includes everything you need: a licensed bar, seating, lighting, heating, wedding décor, and award-winning in-house catering, plus stunning onsite accommodation in Pratis House.

**PRATISBARNS.COM** 





With its twinkling lights and fairy-lit pathways, the castle is set amongst 22 acres of stunning woodland grounds and beautiful vistas.

There are so many amazing spots where you can choose to celebrate your marriage, from the private chapel and glass-roofed courtyard, to the garden pavilion, estate lawns or the woodland ceremony area.

The courtyard is perfect for a drinks reception, while the Whisky Snug or the Champagne turret are ideal spots for the newlyweds to catch their breath on their special day.

Puck's Bar was once a stable with a horse named Puck but now it's a spacious and modern bar for socialising, and the new Garden Pavilion is a gorgeous space for larger ceremonies of up to 300, along with dining and dancing.

There's even a designated smoking and fire pit garden to enjoy after the nuptials. Situated under a canopy of trees, it makes a great chill out area and a space to enjoy toasting marshmallows and s'mores sounds like bliss!

**CULDEESCASTLEESTATE.COM** 





### « Dunglass Estate

Located in the heart of East Lothian, this exclusive use venue sits within 5,000 acres of stunning landscaped grounds and includes a bespoke wedding pavilion, an indoor and outdoor courtyard and luxury onsite accommodation - not to mention the stunning, elevated honeymoon treehouse!

Then there's the atmospheric I5th century Dunglass Collegiate Church. This halfruined church overlooking the sea is the perfect romantic spot for your ceremony. You can also enjoy the magical walled garden, sculptured ancient woodlands and manicured grounds, all ideal for photos!

Dunglass Estate offers a range of on-site accommodation from the largest property, Seaview House, comprising four bedrooms, two en-suites and one family bathroom, as well as beautiful cottages.

**DUNGLASSESTATE.COM** 







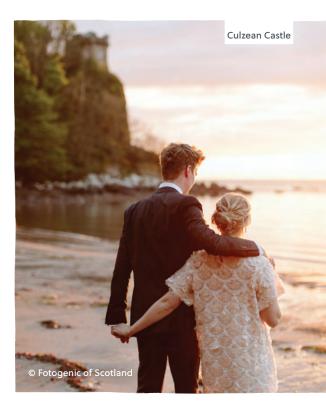


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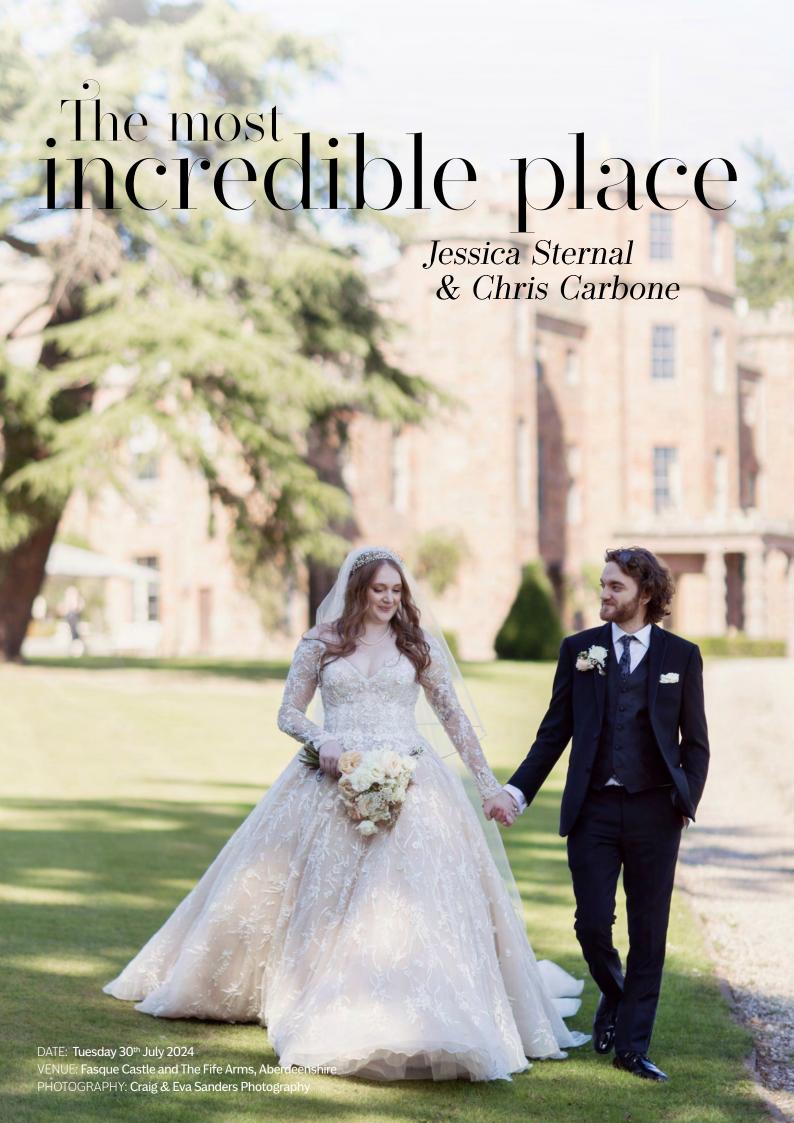






# Aberdeen, Grampian, Highlands & Islands







"It was absolutely gorgeous."



s soon as Chris proposed to Jessica on a trip to Mexico in 2021 to celebrate their third anniversary, the couple knew they wanted a "small but extravagant destination wedding". From their home in America they looked at potential places all over the

world, from Greece and Italy to more tropical climates. But they ultimately fell in love with the "charm and whimsy" of Scotland, which doesn't surprise us one bit!

Organising from overseas, Jessica knew straight away that she didn't want to be super-hands-on about every little detail. "I was pretty much the opposite of a bridezilla so finding a good wedding planner who could take my vision and bring it to life was a necessity. I gave a lot of creative control to Emma at Timeless White Wedding Planning. I'd send her photos or give her my ideas and like magic she made it all happen."

The perfect places

That said, the input of their nearest and dearest was still important and their reception venue was actually a recommendation from Chris' parents who'd stayed there a few years before. "They had nothing but incredible things to say about The Fife Arms in Ballater," explains the bride. "And I'd decided that if we were marrying in Scotland it had to be a castle. Our wedding planner Emma presented us with a few different options near The Fife Arms and we fell in love with Fasque Castle."

With the venues locked in, Jessica moved onto the theme and totally embraced the *Bridgerton* aesthetic. She enlisted the help of décor company 88 Events – "They got the vibe I was going for perfectly," – and florist Gloam, who did an incredible job. "This was the one area of wedding planning I thought was the most important. They completely brought my vision to life and did a wonderful job with the ceremony and the reception."

Knowing her grandmother wouldn't be able to travel to Scotland, Jessica shared her dress shopping experience with her instead. She had the idea of a ballgown with lace sleeves in her mind and although she tried on lots of other styles, the dress she fell in love with was exactly as she'd imagined. "It felt perfect and exactly what I'd been searching for. It was absolutely gorgeous," she remembers. "My grandmother cried seeing me in it and I knew it was The One. It was so special to have that moment with her." ≫











"They completely brought my vision to life."



She accessorised with a tiara, a veil, a pearl necklace and 'something blue' earrings gifted by her mom on the day of the wedding. When it came to footwear, she had a pair of "cute bridal heels" picked out. But they were only ever used in photos because she couldn't help thinking back a few years to being a bridesmaid and having terribly sore feet from fancy shoes! "On the day of my wedding I chose to walk down the aisle in my Scholl sandals and I have zero regrets because I didn't think about my feet once – and you couldn't see them under my dress anyway!"

Whilst husband-to-be Chris was suited and booted in a rental tux, Jessica's girls were dressed on-theme (two in light blue and two in lilac) but she urged them to pick out their own style of gown to make sure they felt good on the day.

### On Scottish soil

Sticking to the American tradition, the to-be-weds hosted a rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, at the Fish Shop restaurant in Ballater, then returned to The Fife Arms for some whisky sampling. The couple spent the night apart and the poor bride, full of nerves and thinking about everything being perfect, only got a couple of hours' sleep. Thankfully though, she woke full of excitement and adrenaline, and didn't feel tired at all! She headed off with her mom and 'maids to get ready at Fasque, enjoying snacks, tea and mimosas. "I was a nervous mess but everything was lovely and everyone was so helpful," she remembers.

The nerves were still there when her dad walked her down the aisle – "I couldn't

believe it was really happening!" – but as soon as she got to Chris and held his hands, they faded away. They said traditional vows in a meaningful humanist ceremony and decided to include some rituals like handfasting and drinking from the quaich. Afterwards, they took advantage of the weather and toasted to their marriage with Champagne while their band played some *Bridgerton* tunes.

Jessica, Chris and their small but perfectly formed entourage of 17 returned to The Fife Arms for a dinner and speeches that varied from "touching and vulnerable" to extremely funny. "After this we relaxed, chatted and spent time together. Some of us sat around the fire in the courtyard listening to music and eating s'mores, which we didn't know weren't a thing in the UK. The staff had to pull some strings for us last minute! Later we went to the Whisky Room and it was so special getting to sit with my closest friends and my new husband, sharing incredible drinks and just laughing and joking around for hours."

### Reflecting

Thinking back to the planning process, Jessica says helping to pick everyone's outfits and seeing everything come together was the most fun part. But the highlight – other than marrying her best friend – was spending four days surrounded by those she loves most. "With our friends and family living throughout the US, they'd never all been together before and a lot of them had never met. Everyone meshed so well and it was the best four days getting to be with everyone in the most incredible place in the world."







### **BRIDE'S DRESS**

Morilee at Ivory & Lace
BRIDE'S TIARA AND VEIL

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

CELEBRANT

Rachel Donald of Humanist Association Scotland

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### **PHOTOGRAPHERS' CREDIT**

"Every detail of Jessica and Chris' wedding was thoughtfully curated, from the elegant styling to the breathtaking floral arrangements that transformed the space into something truly magical.

Their day was a perfect blend of timeless romance and sophistication. What made the day even more remarkable was the family and friends who travelled all the way from the USA. Weddings like these remind us why we love what we do!"

**EVA, CRAIG & EVA SANDERS PHOTOGRAPHY** ■



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This couple wed at the beautiful East Lothian castle where their relationship began, taking inspiration from the garden's seasonal flowers

DATE: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 VENUE: Winton Castle, Pencaitland PHOTOGRAPHY: Tony Marsh Photography SECOND SHOOTER: Holly Johannessen lexandra and Seumas first met in the summer of 2021 at Winton Castle. "I have worked in events at Winton since 2018 and Seumas took on a temporary grounds job that summer. He was waiting for his visa to go to South Africa for his safari guide training (he is originally from Kenya)," she explains.

Alexandra's colleague and dear friend Fay thought they'd make a good couple so she teamed up with the head groundsman Douglas to set them up! After 20 months together – and 10 long-distance – Seumas proposed in March 2023 while on a campervan holiday in Iceland. "One day we went to visit Goðafoss waterfall. As we were walking towards it, the sun was setting over the snow and ice – it looked so beautiful and romantic. Seumas decided to throw a huge snowball at me to put me off the scent! Then when we were in front of the waterfall he knelt in the snow to propose."

Seumas proposed with his greatgrandmother's ring, a gorgeous



vintage art deco-style diamond and sapphire ring from 1926. Liam Ross Jewellery did a beautiful full reset, keeping it as close as possible to the original design but adding a little extra crescent moon detail on the side of the setting for a personal touch.

"Having worked at many weddings before, we wanted to make sure our wedding really felt like it was our own unique day, so we spent a lot of time thinking about what we could do to personalise our celebration. We chose Winton Castle, as it is a place that has been so special to us and we wouldn't have met without it! It's the place where we worked, met and lived, so it only seemed fitting that it was where we chose to celebrate this new chapter with our friends and family."

### Colourful florals

The couple chose the beautiful Walled Garden for their ceremony as it was the place where they first felt a spark between them. They also took inspiration from the flowers in bloom there at that time of year, such as wisteria, forget-me-nots and coral roses.

The theme was a rustic vibe with lots of colourful florals and brass candlesticks, while their artistic friend, Hannah, designed their invitations. They made their table plan using vintage maps of Scotland, Kenya and Iceland, and Alexandra's own watercolours of waterfalls they have visited together in each of these three countries. The bride's talented mother also made their rose and pistachio wedding cake.

### Family connections

Alexandra admits she struggled a bit with dress shopping. "I am quite short (under 5ft) and felt more like a flower girl than a bride in some dresses that didn't flatter my height. However, this was solved when my wonderful Aunt Laura offered me her wedding dress!" Alexandra had been a bridesmaid at her aunt and uncle's Westminster Abbey wedding  $\gg$ 



and she was able to alter her aunt's dress to suit with the help of the wonderful Mette at Freja Designer Dressmaking. "We kept the main corset of the dress, and added on a new skirt with a train, and my favourite – the sleeves using the floral lace from the dress' original train." She completed the look with a delicate floral crown created by their florist.

Alexandra had five bridesmaids and a bridesman, while matchmaker Fay was their witness. The bride's goddaughter, Gwen, was flower girl, and she wore Alexandra's first communion dress, which had been made from her Nanna's wedding dress.

"We went for the mismatched look with the bridesmaids. We made a mood board and divvied up our colour scheme amongst them and they picked their own dresses in their colours, so they matched the florals beautifully."

Seumas had a new kilt made in his Grant Ancient Hunting Tartan and bought his fitted tweed jacket and waistcoat in highland green. His party was a mixture of friends, and his sister Kristina was a groomslady.





The day before the wedding was such a busy one with guests arriving, a rehearsal and setting up that Alexandra found it hard to drop off to sleep. "Waking up on the day I was not tired the way I'd usually be after such little sleep. I think the excitement and being with my friends gave me the energy I needed."

She admits the morning of the wedding was very surreal as Winton is such a familiar place to her, so it felt strange to actually be the bride! "The dreamlike feeling continued all the way to walking down the aisle to John Rae, aka The Pickled Piper, playing The Skye Boat Song, when reality really hit. When I saw Seumas I felt very teary but couldn't stop smiling either, it was wonderful." They chose a humanist ceremony with celebrant Caroline Pearson, who helped the couple remain calm.

After the ceremony there were

cocktails and mocktails as well as Scottish and Kenyan beers. Guests both young and old were also entertained with lawn games like croquet and cornhole.

A lovely wedding breakfast for their 120 guests followed in the outdoors under a stretch tent, before they then headed inside the castle for the evening reception, with a ceilidh in the ballroom and whisky tasting in the vaulted cellar, all topped off with sparklers on the peacock balcony.

Alexandra recalls one highlight of the day that truly made them feel the love. "I do remember a moment during the meal, when Seumas and I were at the top table holding hands and looking out at all of our guests, people who had travelled from all over the UK and Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Kenya and Australia to be there with us. We told ourselves to really let that sink in and appreciate how lucky we were to have them."





BAND

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BRIDE'S DRESS

Freja Designer Dressmaking **BRIDE'S SHOES** 

PinkyPromiseAccs

CATERER

FieldFireFork

**CELEBRANT** 

Caroline Pearson, Humanist Society Scotland

FLOWERS

Secret Garden Events Florist

**GROOM'S OUTFIT** 

Jean O'Rourke Kiltmaker

HAIR

Eireann Roberts Bridal MAKE-UP

Erin Stewart Makeup

**RINGS** Nikki Stark Jewellery



### **PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"We had such a fab day, the rain didn't dampen anybody's spirits - a wonderful couple and I felt privileged to be sharing their day." ■

TONY, TONY MARSH **PHOTOGRAPHY** 





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## Ysw on tour Winton Castle

**Ashleigh Dougall** falls for this spectacular East Lothian venue

couldn't have asked for a more perfect day to visit Winton Castle. With blue skies and the winter sun shining through, I arrived at the venue. Winton is located just five minutes from my home and having driven past it countless times, I'd always wondered what lay beyond the grand gates. Nestled in Pencaitland, the castle is just 30 minutes from Edinburgh – a stunning rural retreat with convenient transport links and nearby accommodation.

As you approach the castle the winding driveway, lined with fields and trees, sets the stage. I even spotted a few Highland cows! Turning the corner, I was greeted by the striking sight of the castle itself with its signature red door.

Inside, a roaring fire awaits – the perfect welcome on a crisp January day in Scotland. Winton Castle's charm lies in its unique blend of grandeur and warmth, making it the ideal wedding venue. Their slogan, "Intimacy on a grand scale," says it all. Hosting only 25 weddings a year, each couple enjoys an exclusive and personalised experience. And since the castle itself remains a family home, it retains that welcoming, authentic charm.

## Make yourself at home

Weddings at Winton are often two or three-day affairs, giving you and your guests plenty of time to celebrate. The day before the wedding various options are on offer, including barbecues, Highland games in the walled garden, and even axe throwing! Then, on the big day itself, couples can choose from two outdoor ceremony areas – the Lower Terrace or the Walled Garden. If the weather doesn't cooperate though, the Drawing Room, with its royal history and capacity for 100 guests, is a perfect indoor alternative.

After the ceremony, your guests will be welcomed in the cosy Octagon, which also features a roaring fire. Drinks on offer include tipples from a range of local breweries; Winton Brewery, Campervan Brewery, and Glenkinchie Distillery, giving your guests a true taste of Scotland.

For the wedding breakfast, couples can choose the elegant Dining Room or set up a marquee on the front lawn. The Dining Room offers round or long tables, with a unique bay-shaped top table for the wedding party. Then after dinner, the room transforms into a dance floor, letting everyone party the night away.

Plenty of space
Winton Castle also offers

Winton Castle also offers accommodation, with 10 elegant bedrooms for up to 20 guests, and additional self-catering houses nearby for 36 more. And you're going to love the spectacular Bridal Suite with a four-poster bed, spacious en-suite bathroom, and plenty of space for the bridal party to get ready.

There is so much more to explore at this venue and I highly recommend taking a tour of it yourself because if you're dreaming of a fairy tale wedding, Winton Castle would be a perfect choice.



To find out more about weddings at Winton Castle contact them directly:

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# Fife & Tayside



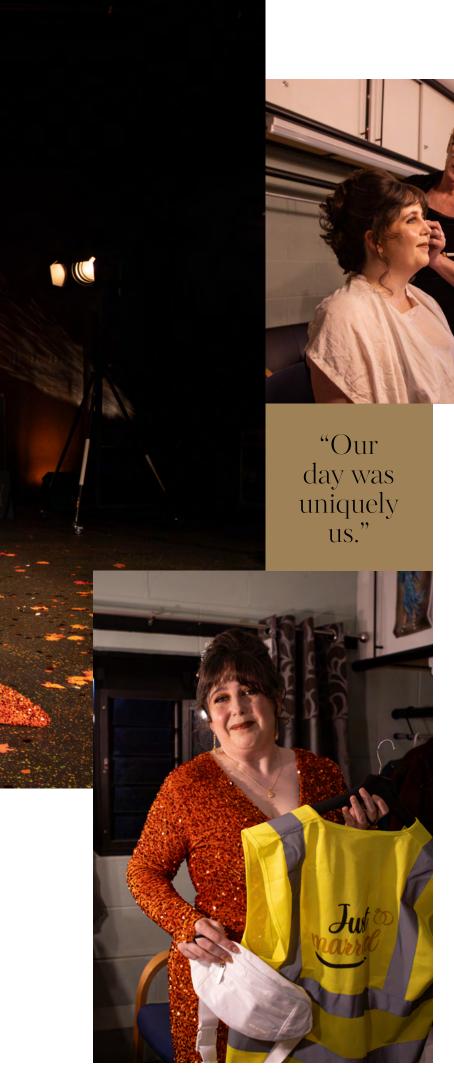


There was nowhere Jade and Daniel would rather wed than on the stage of their favourite theatre

DATE: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 VENUE: Dundee Rep Theatre, Dundee PHOTOGRAPHY: Alastair More Photography ll the world's a stage", wrote William Shakespeare, and our previous 'I do' diaries couple Jade and Daniel's love story played out perfectly against the backdrop of Dundee Rep Theatre. "We met as ushers at Dundee Rep and Daniel proposed to me in the auditorium one night after I had finished working with one of my youth theatre groups," actor and theatre-maker Jade says.

The couple got engaged after seven years together and their priority was

trying to secure a date they could marry at their beloved Rep. "There wasn't a single other place we could think of that really meant anything to us. We knew it would be tricky as we wouldn't get confirmation if we could get it – or know what dates and times until a year before – which meant planning everything else was also on hold until then," Jade explains. "The building and the people who work there are very important to me. They have supported me through a lot and helped me get to where I am now. Theatre is a huge part of our lives.



Daniel worked there for about 10 years before we met each other and I've now been there 10 years myself."

As she began her dress search, Jade envisaged a beautiful flowing number à la Stevie Nicks, but fate had other designs. "The dress I ended up getting was a stunning custom-made gown covered in orange sequins made by the wonderful Christie Wanless for Isolated Heroes, inspired by their 'Ophelia' Maxi Dress. I'd always wanted to own something created by Isolated Heroes as I loved the work Samantha Paton and the team created. It was an added bonus that they were a local small business. The moment I saw the 'Ophelia' dress I was in love. I was considering autumnal colours to match with my engagement ring. It was my maid of honour who convinced me to choose the orange sequins over the Stevie Nicks."

Squad goals
Jade accessorised with some autumnal dried flowers in her hair created by florist Hidden Botanics. "I had a small golden pendant from Regal Rose that was engraved with "Til Death", which I paired with beautiful skull earrings created by Atelier McChang. For shoes I had a pair of knee-high black Dr. Martens which had custom-made heart charms made by the wonderful Kitschy, engraved with lyrics from the song I walked down the aisle to (Lonely Day by System of A Down).

Jade's best friend and long-time colleague Taylor was her bridesmaid and another dear friend, Amanda, was her flower girl! "Because I couldn't be in the Stevie Nicks-style dress I wanted my bridesmaid to be in it instead. It was a nightmare trying to find exactly what I was looking for in the colour I wanted. Eventually we found something that would work from The Hippie Shake that looked beautiful on Taylor. For Amanda we got a beautiful wee dress from Lucy and Yak. My priority was for them to both have something that they were not only comfortable in but that they could realistically wear again and again after the wedding." >>



"Theatre is a huge part of our lives."

Daniel wore a stunning autumnal kilt that was the result of a long search for just the right colour. He also wore a pair of Dr. Martens with his own D20 dice boot charms. Jade's child Phoenix and their friend Calum were in Daniel's wedding party. Phoenix wore a burnt orange bell-bottom suit also from The Hippie Shake and a gorgeous pair of red cherry Dr. Martens heels.

The couple's one big DIY element was the LEGO "cake" they had in lieu of a traditional bake – a massive set of Baraddûr (the Dark Tower from *The Lord of the Rings*) that took Jade, Daniel and Phoenix three days to build. "We still wanted to have the 'cake-cutting' moment, which we managed by saving the last two pieces and adding them together during the reception."

The ceremony was held on the main stage, while they hosted their reception in the restaurant and bar. Jade's colleagues designed the stage with elements from past Rep shows and guests also received a "show" programme.

## A beautiful moment

The day before the wedding, Jade was just arriving home from her hen night in





Glasgow – and there was still some of the LEGO cake to finish! The next morning was all go, off to The Rep early so they could get ready in their dressing rooms.

Jade felt excited and emotional when it was time to walk down the aisle. "I had been imagining what it would be like to get married on the stage but never thought it would actually happen. Even when it was confirmed I still found it hard to believe! Everything looked so beautiful and we were surrounded by the most wonderful people."

The couple's friend Calum played guitar while Phoenix was on piano. They opted for a Humanist ceremony and it just so happened that Daniel's great uncle was a celebrant and very keen to do their wedding. "Having Phoenix play the piano as I walked down

the aisle was a really beautiful moment which I had never even contemplated in all my years of imagining my wedding day," Jade smiles.

Afterwards, there was prosecco accompanied by a specially-made playlist while the wedding party took their photos. Delicious platters were served and instead of cake, the guests were brought ice-creams "usher style". Next there was a pub quiz followed by board games!

"Everyone was just having a good laugh and a chill time," Jade remembers. "Our day was uniquely us and we didn't worry about doing things because it's what was expected or what anyone else would want. When we realised that, it became a lot less stressful and more exciting."





## **BRIDE'S DRESS**

Isolated Heroes
BRIDE'S SHOES

Dr. Martens

**BRIDESMAID DRESS** 

The Hippie Shake **CELEBRANT** 

Graeme Cumming, Humanist Society Scotland

DÉCOR

Dundee Rep Theatre
FLOWERGIRL DRESS

Lucy and Yak

**FLOWERS** 

Hidden Botanics

**GROOM'S OUTFIT** Highland Kilt Connections

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Raymond Uphill-Wood RINGS

Claire Allain Jewellery STATIONERY

Birdhouse 197 **VIDEOGRAPHY** 

Sandie Jamieson



## **PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"I knew the venue intimately. Production photography is my bread and butter and I grew up on stages across Fife so having the opportunity to capture such a uniquely personal wedding for Jade and Daniel within one of Scotland's premiere theatres felt a bit like coming home, with all of my passions uniting in one event. A true joy." ■

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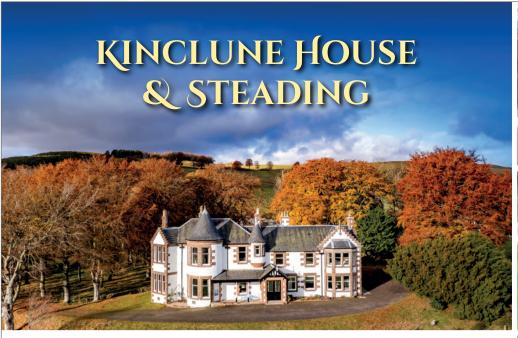




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# Glasgow, Trossachs & the South West



The Exchange, Glasgow





"A vintage gem." A chance meeting that led to a colourful twilight wedding, made with love t YSW we love a romantic backstory, and this one from Lucy and Stuart has all the Sliding Doors feels! The pair originally met at university and didn't hear of one another post-graduation. Then, almost a decade later, they had a chance encounter at Buchanan Street subway

station... "I was rushing for the inner circle train and Stuart was stepping off the outer," explains Lucy. "By sheer chance, we saw each other at the spot where the staircases for both platforms meet. We said hello then I quickly hopped over the divider to give him a hug and I passed him my number. At the time, I wasn't even living in Glasgow, so the encounter felt like a remarkable coincidence."

It was clearly meant to be because seven years later, Stuart proposed on their last day of walking the West Highland Way. A hint at how their wedding plans would go (bringing together all the creative talent in their friendship circle), Stuart had worked closely with jewellery designer and pal Caitlin Hegney to create a truly special engagement ring. And naturally, Caitlin worked on the wedding rings too. Lucy describes them as "more than just jewellery" and adds, "They're personal, meaningful, and a reflection of the love and care that went into making them."

## Getting organised

Most couples say their top priority is finding their dream venue but for Lucy and Stuart, they had something else on their minds – food! With Paesano Pizza in the bag, they booked Queen's Park Bowling Club (recommended by bridesmaid and florist Sarah) and got to work bringing their joyful, slightly 70s-themed wedding to life.

First up, Lucy shared her vision with Sarah who took her "scattered ideas and turned them into stunning floral designs." Everything, from the incredible watermelon and hydrangea ceremony flowers to the tablescape created with anthurium plants, fresh oranges and cut flowers, completely transformed the space and took the pressure off the couple when it came to décor. They simply added DIY details that were mostly sourced from thrift shops and Vinted, and set up by their lovely bridal party.

Another member of the squad, Lucy, got involved by making the wedding cake with her four-year-old daughter – "They figured out how to create a tiered, 70s-style heart cake, spent weeks perfecting the design and absolutely nailed it!" – whilst fellow 'maid Emma worked her magic on the make-up.

With the to do-list in progress, Lucy turned her attention to finding something "vaguely 70s themed" to wear and had a ≫







"Stunning floral designs."



wonderful experience shopping with her gals. In the end, though, she found 'The One' on Vinted for just £21! "It was a vintage gem that felt like it was meant to be," she remembers. "After a few alterations, including removing the underskirt and reshaping it slightly, it was exactly what I'd envisioned. The soft cream colour, the long, puffed sleeves and the elegant high neck gave it a timeless charm. I couldn't have been happier." Lucy finished off her look with stunning custom pearls and earrings, created by her brother's partner, Maisie.

Stuart dug out the stylish kilt he got for his 21st birthday and when it came to dressing the massive wedding party – "I think we had twenty bridesmaids and groomsmen in total!" – the couple were super-relaxed. They didn't bother with a dress code and simply set them apart from the rest of the guests with a bunch of flowers or a corsage.

The big day

Describing your wedding ceremony as "a glorious disaster" probably doesn't sound ideal to everyone but for Lucy and Stuart it felt just right. From the handfasting that didn't go to plan (their carefully tied knots promptly unravelled) to the surprise vows with no response (the couple had decided against vows but Stuart unexpectedly shared some, leaving his bride teary-eyed and speechless) to forgetting that Lucy's step-dad was going to say a few words and essentially ending the ceremony before he got his moment, there was no grand, polished spectacle. "It was a beautiful, hilarious mess," admits Lucy. "There was love, laughter and absolute mayhem. And honestly? We wouldn't change a thing."

A few much-needed glasses of wine followed

before a full-on feast for 100 guests. As well as the pizzas, Lucy had made loads of sides while Douglas from Space Dog Bakery prepared bread and focaccia. "People are still raving about the food! Our friend Douglas truly outdid himself. His talent in the kitchen is unmatched."

Having opted for a 'twilight wedding' starting at 5pm, the ceilidh got into full swing around 9pm – and it was then that Lucy felt like she could finally breathe. She explains, "Suddenly, I truly appreciated everyone was there because they loved us. And I realised nobody minded that some parts of the day had been a hot mess. It was such a relief to let go and just enjoy the moment!"

## On that note...

Now, Lucy has plenty of advice for brides- and grooms-to-be. "Remember that not everyone is a natural event planner. If you're trying to do everything yourselves, you're bound to miss something. So don't hesitate to reach out to friends or hire professionals to take the load off, like we did with the flowers. Asking for help doesn't make you any less capable, it just makes the day more meaningful and stress-free. Plus, our wedding wouldn't have been anywhere near as special without the support of our incredible friends and family. It was their love and hard work that made everything come together so beautifully."

And if something goes wrong? Lucy says to just embrace the mess! "I promise, no matter what happens or how much things veer off course, you'll be laughing about it in six months over a glass of wine. It's those unexpected moments that end up becoming the best stories. So don't sweat it, just enjoy the ride!"







## BAND

DJ @outpost\_sangoma BRIDE'S DRESS

**BRIDE'S JEWELLERY** 

**FLOWERS** 

Rook Botanics

**FOOD** 

Paesano Pizza, Space Dog Bakery

Caitlin Hegney Jewellery



## **PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"Photographing Lucy and Stuart's DIY wedding was an absolute joy! Every detail was filled with love, from the books given as favours to the way their friends and family played such a big role in their day. Laughter echoed through every moment, the food was incredible, and the bright, colourful florals made everything feel so vibrant, unique and full of life. It was the perfect celebration of love, community, and creativity—an honor to capture!"

LAURA, LAURA A. TILIMAN **PHOTOGRAPHY** ■



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## The Dougarie Boathouse

**Katie Bletcher** takes to the Isle of Arran to explore this charming venue





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peaks and rugged
coastline it's easy
to see why Arran
is affectionately

known as 'Scotland in Miniature'. And while it may feel a world away from city life you're little over an hour and a half from Glasgow, making Arran an easily accessible wedding destination for couples charmed by this island idyll.

I'm heading to The Dougarie Boathouse, built by the 11th Duke of Hamilton in the late 1800s on Arran's west coast. Sitting right on the beach and enjoying uninterrupted views of the Kilbrannan Sound, the Boathouse was originally used for entertaining and hosting shoot lunches on the Dougarie Estate, a role it still fulfils today.

However, it underwent a major renovation in August 2021, transforming it into a truly beautiful venue which hosts up to 30 weddings a year. Stepping inside you're instantly hit by that view and the light streaming through the French doors which open directly onto a veranda and the beach beyond. Much of the original dark wood has been replaced with a palette of sea foam greens and neutral tones, while intricate candelabra highlight the curved roof's impressive beamed ceiling.

Indoor ceremonies take full advantage of the vista with larger exchanges of vows of up to 80 guests taking place in front of the French doors, while the space can be partitioned for smaller numbers. The boathouse forms an H-shape and on these more intimate occasions couples can say 'I do' in the central area.

If the weather is on your side though an outdoor ceremony is a must, either in the beautiful turret area on the seaward side or on the banks of Loch Iorsa on The Dougarie Estate. And the estate itself is awash with stunning locations for your photos. Why not go up on the hills, explore the walled garden or the stepping stones?

After the vows you can host a drinks reception either in the bar or on the beach before it's time for dinner and dancing back in the Boathouse.

## All the details

Couples who marry at The Dougarie Boathouse take on a week-long hire with access to the venue at lunchtime the day before. The Iorsa package includes your venue hire, wedding coordination and a three-course meal, while the Hamilton package adds canapés, an evening buffet, a celebrant, piper and your photography. Then there's the option to hire just the venue. However, this is much more than a blank canvas hire as it still includes wedding coordination, furniture and all the crockery.

Room to stay

Come the end of the wedding you and your guests don't need to travel far to bed. Up to 32 can stay across the various accommodation offerings on the Dougarie Estate alone, with two new cottages - The Kennels - coming soon. Additional guests can stay at nearby Kinloch Hotel or in Brodick. I urge you to reserve the estate's two-bedroom Laundry Cottage for yourselves though. I stayed in this delightful cottage just up the hill from the Boathouse and it's simply gorgeous. Firstly, there's that view. Morning coffee tasted that much better sitting in the living room looking out to sea. The cottage itself is beautifully appointed with interesting art and tasteful furnishings throughout. But this isn't a show home. The number of board games alone attest to it being a much-loved home-from-home - the perfect place to stay during your wedding festivities.

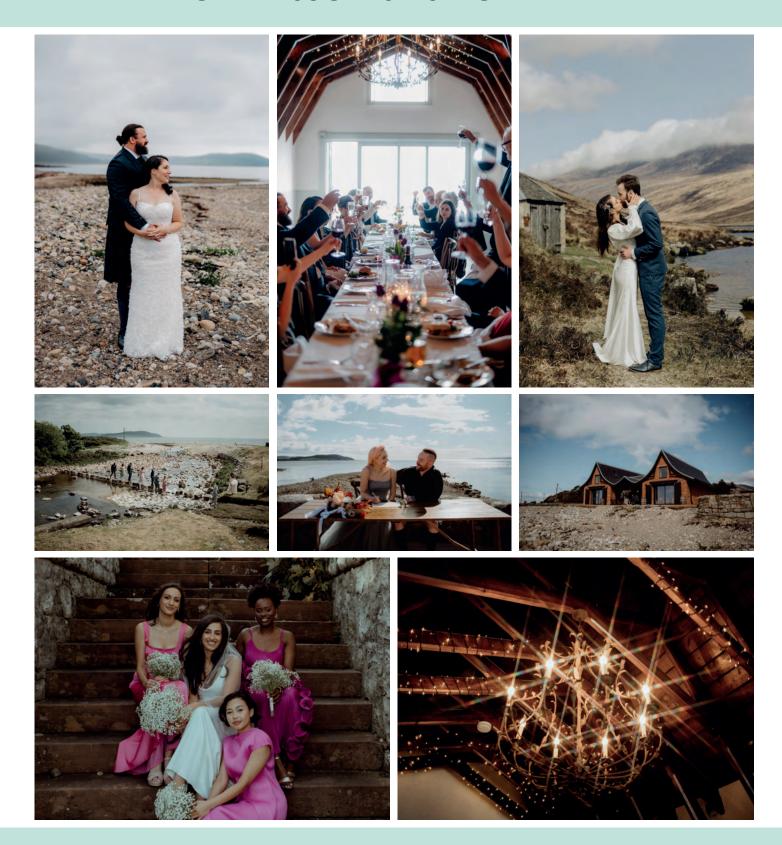
To find out more about hosting your wedding at The Dougarie Boathouse contact the venue directly.

Email: events@dougarie.com Telephone: 01770 840 259 Website: thedougarieboathouse.co.uk



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### YSW on tour Dalmeny Park House Hotel

**Katie Bletcher** revels in the beautiful surroundings and discovers the flexible approach that makes this hotel a real gem



t's a blustery February night when we arrive at Dalmeny Park House Hotel in Barrhead but stepping through the doors of this beautiful listed building the dreich evening is quickly forgotten. We're warmly welcomed by Andrew at reception before checking out our room. I say 'room' but we're actually staying in the Balmoral Suite, the hotel's honeymoon suite, which is every bit as luxurious as a name with royal associations would suggest. Every window boasts views of the three-acre manicured gardens (perfect for your wedding photos) while the suite has been decorated in restful grey tones, offset by vibrant yellows and deep teals in sumptuous silks and velvets. The bathroom with its double sink, whirlpool bath and rainfall shower is beautifully finished in marble and I'm told the separate lounge is the perfect spot for the couple's first look on the morning of the wedding.

This may be the honeymoon suite, but Dalmeny's senior wedding coordinator Laura Grant tells me it's also where her brides get into their dresses, and where photographers get that all-important shot of the gown

hanging from the four-poster bed.

However, the bride's morning typically starts in the hotel's separate dressing room. Dalmeny Park is owned by the RAD Group and everywhere you look you can see the company's luxurious touch, from the gorgeous lighting to the floral wall in the Orchid Restaurant. And it's no different in the dressing room with its hair and makeup stations, feminine décor and dress rail for your 'maids' outfits. There's plenty of space for brunch and drinks to be served too but the finishing touch has to be your very own CCTV link so you can watch your guests arrive (and keep an eye on your other half!).

#### Attention to detail

It's all these little touches that make weddings at Dalmeny Park so special. From your first meeting, the team want to make your day everything you've dreamed of. About 12 weeks before the day, wedding couples are assigned their own coordinator who will be by their side running their wedding from 9am until 9pm, when they will turn over to a second manager. Long before the wedding though they will have ironed out every little detail with

you, down to what colours you would like the lighting to be in the Jasmine Suite – the main function room - and the adjacent Jasmine Lounge. Together with a foyer and the Rose Garden they complete the hotel's wedding offering, and a separate entrance means your day will be completely private. It's also entirely accessible, making it perfect for all your loved ones, whether you opt for the maximum 180 day guests (up to 220 in the evening), or a more intimate guestlist.

Ceremonies are typically conducted in the Jasmine Suite and you'll fall for the mirrored ceiling, opulent crystal lighting and wall to ceiling glass down one side. The team have seen couples really personalise the suite with their décor details but it's equally lovely without. Just add the eye-catching centrepieces from JAM Events for an elegant touch. If the weather is on your side though, the Rose Garden with its bandstand is an oh-so-romantic setting for your vows.

#### So much choice

After the ceremony guests are encouraged to make the most of the beautiful grounds or head into the



Jasmine Lounge. And this is where the hotel's flexible approach comes to the fore with couples free to tailor their drinks packages, choosing what to serve when. Not everyone likes wine and you can offer alternatives like beers, batchmade cocktails or a house spirit.

This flexibility is reflected in your wedding breakfast too. All menus include a soup course and with six wedding menus available, couples are free to mix and match. The hotel doesn't require a pre-order for dietary requirements and come the evening buffet, the flexible approach continues, when you can choose traditional morning rolls or serve up something alternative like cones of chips or perhaps tempura.

We ate in the Orchid Restaurant and if the food served here reflects your wedding meal, you're in for a treat! My salt and pepper chicken starter was absolutely delicious and my friend was raving about her slow braised beef ribeye.

#### Perfect packages

Dalmeny Park hosts between 150 and 160 weddings a year and everything about our stay revealed just why it's so along with a winter package. And if you don't fancy a long engagement there's always the 2025 all-inclusive package for remaining dates this year, which includes everything you need, from your cake to a piper.

It's worth noting the hotel has an extensive recommended suppliers list and it's also dog-friendly for the ceremony and photographs.

#### Make it personal

Julieanne Whyte Photograp

Couples are encouraged to really personalise their wedding, and the hotel has seen everything from newlyweds bringing in alpacas and Chinese lion dancers, to transforming the on-site candy cart into a 'Pimp my prosecco' cart.

And when the celebrations are finally over, remember there are 20 individually decorated bedrooms for your guests.

"The original stained-glass window provides a picturesque backdrop."



To find out more about weddings at Dalmeny Park House Hotel contact them directly:

Website: dalmenypark.com Telephone: 014I 88I 92II Email: reception@dalmenypark.com





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- A glass of house red or white wine to accompany your meal.
- Enjoy an exquisite banquet of three courses plus Tea & Coffee created by our acclaimed team of Chefs. Set menu included in package, supplements apply to a choice menu (pre order required).
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- Additional evening guests will be charged from £12.95pp.
   which will include a hot filled roll for the evening buffet.
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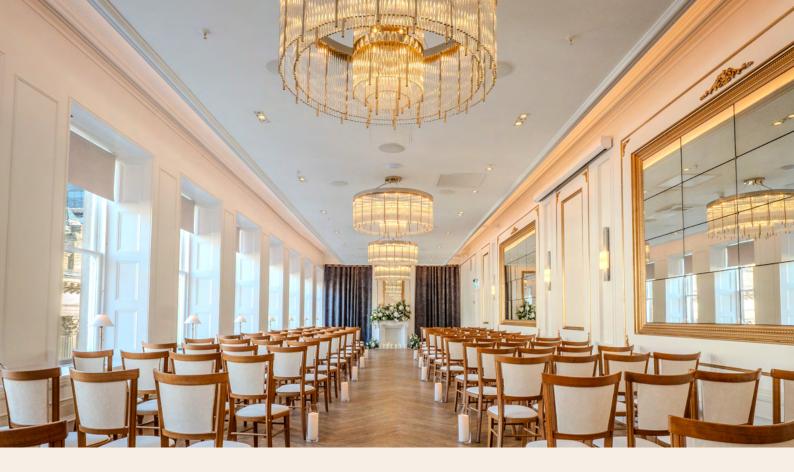




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Photo credit, header image Julie Lamont Photography, and photographer Dougi McMillan



#### URBAN ROMANCE REDEFINED

The Exchange is Glasgow's newest wedding venue, occupying the upper floors of an A-listed blonde sandstone building in the iconic Royal Exchange Square. With four individual rooms, three private bars, and one hidden outdoor terrace, there is a space for every couple to fall in love with. It can host wedding ceremonies for 60 to 140 guests and evening receptions for up to 200 people.

Not only does The Exchange boast the beautiful, naturally lit Gallery, but it also features The Print Room and The Parlour, each room as breathtaking as the next. The timeless event spaces are clean and modern, providing the perfect luxurious backdrop for the beginning of your next chapter in your favourite city. Each space has been carefully and neutrally designed, allowing it to be tastefully dressed to bring your unique wedding vision to life.















# YSW on tour The Lange Exchange of the luxurious of the l

**Katie Bletcher** steps into the luxurious world of the new Glasgow city centre venue



ity centre weddings
have a certain magical
appeal. Couples who
choose to marry in the
heart of the city have
the scope to capture their wedding
photographs against the backdrop
of some very impressive landmarks.
How many Glasgow couples have you
seen immortalise their newlywed
status with a picture in front of the
iconic Duke of Wellington statue? Or
Edinburgh couples wandering among
the tourists on the Royal Mile?

Then there's the style. A city wedding provides the perfect setting for suave grooms to rock exquisitely-tailored Highlandwear or perhaps black tie, while brides have the freedom to push the boundaries and opt for something uber-glamorous and fashion-forward.

Of course, such elegant weddings demand a suitably sophisticated setting. Step forward The Exchange. Located right in the heart of Glasgow, in the corner of Royal Exchange Square, the venue only opened its doors last August but has quickly established itself at the forefront of the city's prestigious wedding venues.

Everything about The Exchange's aesthetic whispers quiet luxury. This is a place to celebrate your love in the most refined manner, with 60 to 140 of your loved ones. (A total of 200 guests can be accommodated at night.)

Occupying the upper floors of the A-listed blonde sandstone building that was once McCormick Printers it boasts enviable views of the square below and The Gallery of Modern Art. Stepping through the impressive front doors you're immediately enveloped in a world of luxury. We're talking wood panelling, art deco-style lighting and plush furnishings - and that's just the entrance hall. Yet in its transformation into a wedding and events venue The Exchange has retained thoughtful nods to its past. The main evening reception space is aptly named The Print Room and still has a slightly industrial feel (with an added disco ball), while one wall of the outdoor terrace still carries printed lettering. Then there's the McCormick Package, one of four wedding packages available.

## Luxury as standard

The Exchange may only have opened last August but its appeal is already established, with 44 weddings in the 2025 diary at the time of writing. Part of that appeal is of course down to the aesthetics. This is a venue that exudes elegance at every turn. From the beautiful herringbone wooden floors and gilt-edged mirrors of the light-filled Gallery where your ceremony and wedding breakfast is held, and the marble of the Exchange Bar, to The Parlour – the haven on the third floor which comes with its very own



"Stepping through the front doors you're enveloped in a world of luxury."

bar, reserved for brides to get ready with their besties or couples to steal a quiet moment – everything has been finished to the highest standard. Add to that the beautiful floral arrangements throughout The Exchange and this is a venue that you don't need to spend extra time and money bringing extra décor elements to. It's perfect just as it is!

Another major draw is that couples are free to choose anything from the menu offering, whatever wedding package they opt for. And let me tell you, the menu speaks for itself. With a heavy leaning towards traditional Scottish fare, local and seasonal produce is at the fore. Fillet of beef and Balmoral chicken are among the most popular choices while there's an extensive list of vegetarian and vegan options too. Many of the dishes are gluten free as standard and The Exchange offers couples a choice menu,





meaning you can send options to your guests with your RSVPs. Then when it comes to the wedding day, the venue will print a bespoke menu for each guest on The Exchange branded paper (they'll also take care of your place cards and other on-the-day stationery), making things as easy as possible for you.

Most of the wedding packages here include canapés and there's also a premium list of canapés to choose from. You could even go all out and impress your guests with oysters! And while Champagne is served as standard at The Exchange and drinks reception packages include a choice of Champagne, bottled beer or soft drinks, you can also upgrade to cocktails.

# Packages to suit everyone

There's a choice of four packages here beginning with the luxurious The Royal Exchange Package. This includes all your food and drink for day guests, exclusive use of the entire venue including The Parlour, a piper for the day, a DJ, drinks miniatures favours and a floral package which includes a top table arrangement, two thank you bouquets and four buttonholes. In fact, this package includes absolutely everything to make for a luxurious wedding and stress-free run-up.

The McCormick Package is a slightly reduced version which includes use of

the second floor. However, you can still hire The Parlour if you wish to use it too. The Twilight Package caters to weddings which begin at 5pm and includes exclusive use of the second floor, a drinks reception, a finger food buffet, DJ and a late licence, meaning the party can go on until 3am instead of 1am. Incidentally, you can opt to extend the late licence to all the other packages.

Finally, the Evening Reception Package gives you use of the Print Room for the evening, allowing you to celebrate in chic style with all your loved ones. There is limited availability for a 2025 wedding at The Exchange. To find out more about hosting your dream day here contact the venue directly:

Email

weddings@theexchangeglasgow.co.uk Telephone:

0141 225 6654

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