

YOUR *Scottish* WEDDING

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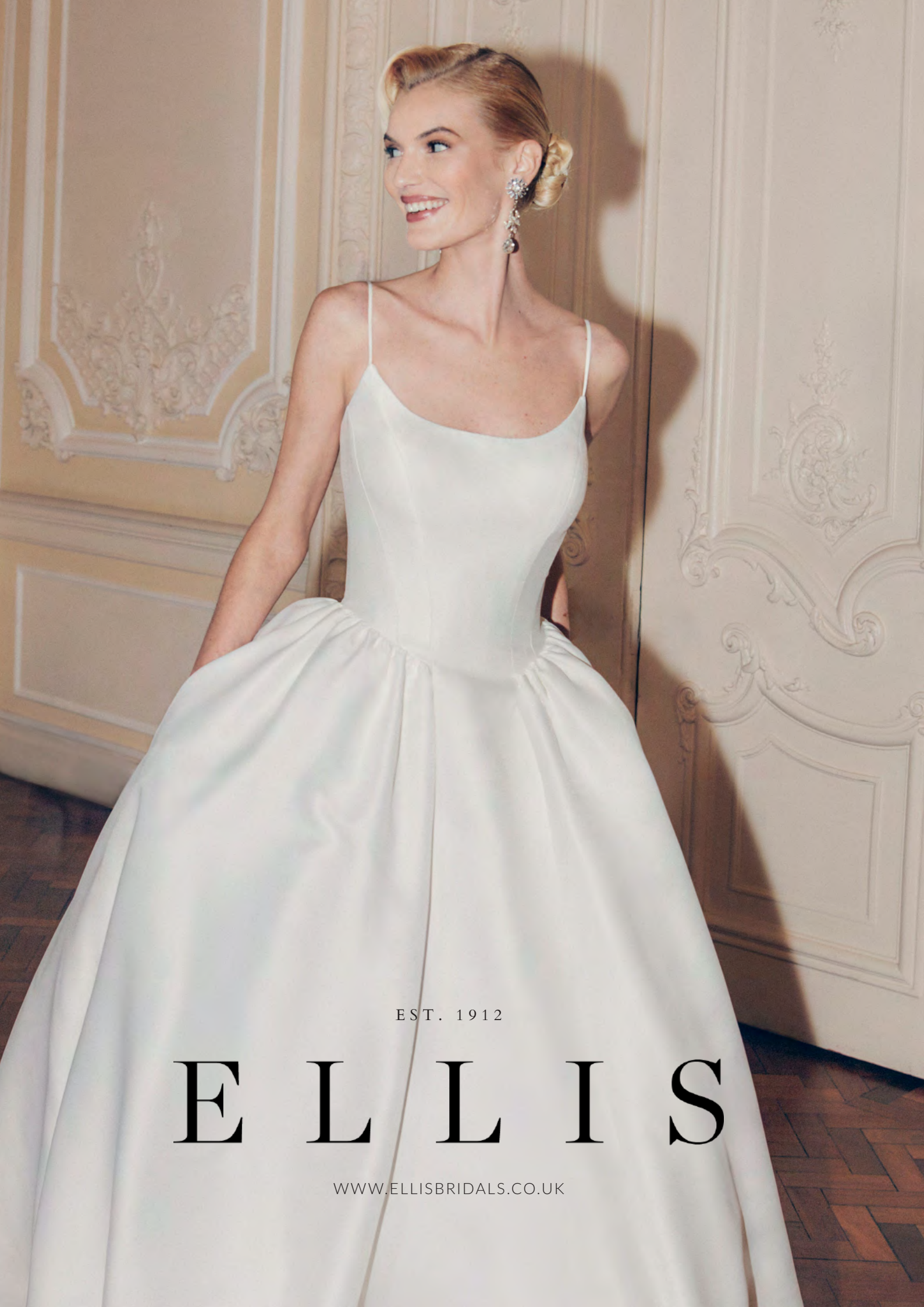
82
pages of
BRIDE
+
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fashion

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YSW tours
dreamy
Scottish
venues

ISLAND 'I DO'!

The Agency: Unfiltered's Kirsten
marries husband Adam in Majorca



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WELCOME to Your Scottish Wedding



I was recently asked, “Is there ever a day you don’t think about weddings?” Lesley, our director, and I were chatting to celebrant George McLean on Fuze Ceremonies’ *Say I Do* podcast, and my simple answer was, of course, “No”. Because, as everyone who is connected to the Scottish wedding industry will tell you, it’s not something we switch off from. It’s a constant. From the first

Instagram scroll of the morning in bed with a cup of tea, spying out cool trends and celebrity nuptials, to selecting the latest round of real wedding features and organising photoshoots, weddings consume the YSW team. And I suspect that’s something we have in common with you!

It’s been a particularly busy few months preparing this issue. We’ve been travelling all over Scotland visiting gorgeous wedding venues, meeting suppliers and attending shows and events. Writer Claire Muir was Aberdeenshire-bound to spend the night in glorious Cluny Castle and I got to sample the delights of both Fife’s Balbirnie House Hotel and Lynnhurst on the outskirts of Glasgow. Meanwhile, Ashleigh Dougall was lucky enough to stay in Virgin Hotels Edinburgh’s Eve Branson Suite. While it may sound like a summer of gallivanting (and believe me, we know how lucky we are to call this our job), we’ve been checking out exactly how these venues can deliver your dream day. Wee tip: if you visit Lynnhurst, make sure you see the colour-coordinated dance floor lights in their full glory.

Then, of course, there’s this issue’s three beautiful photoshoots. We spent a perfect summer’s day at Dunglass Estate with model Euan garbed in this season’s must-have Highlandwear. And in July the sun was still shining on us when we took to Teasses Estate armed with of-the-moment bridalwear, model Emily, and a very talented glam squad. Wait until you see the results!

And if you’re wondering just how the bridal boutiques select the dresses that grace their rails, I got a little behind-the-scenes insight when I visited Opus Couture, the same boutique where cover girl Kirsten from *The Agency: Unfiltered* found her stunning Berta dress. Read on to see how you can steal her style, plus we’ve got all the wedding planning tips you need, whether you’re just starting out or on the home straight.

See you next issue,

Katie x

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MAKE-UP

Stacey Toner

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Miguel Arranz Photography

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CONTENTS

September
25

44

Blooming beautiful



Laura A. Tilman Photography



Laura A. Tilman Photography | James Porter & Son

134

Say 'I do' to sparkle

14 YOUR WEDDING COUNTDOWN

Let our step-by-step handy checklist guide you through your planning

18 IN THE KNOW

We've rounded up all the news, special offers and dates for your diary from across the country

32 HOW EXACTLY DO YOU GET MARRIED?

From working out what order you walk down the aisle in to deciphering that all-important paperwork, Jennifer McLaren's got your go-to guide

36 'I DO' DIARIES

It's Lynn and Gary's final column before their big day and we introduce new couple Sarah and Ali

38 WEDDING DRESS SHOPPING: UNFILTERED

Cover star Kirsten Coakley from *The Agency: Unfiltered* lets us in on her shopping experience at Opus Couture



Del & Jayjay Weddings



Fashion

42 ASK THE EXPERT

Our columnist Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture explains the perfect fit and how to get it

44 INTO THE GARDEN

Prepare to swoon over stunning dresses and equally stunning flowers as we take to the walled garden at Teasses Estate for this issue's photoshoot

70 DRESS CODE

Writer Claire Muir asks bridal boutique experts to share all their dress-shopping secrets

74 THE BIG INTERVIEW

This issue we're chatting to Jackie and Megan from Kudos Bridal Dunfermline and discovering the key to this award-winning boutique's success

76 SAYING YES TO THE DRESS

Editor Katie sits in on a very exciting appointment at Opus Couture and discovers exactly what goes into selecting the boutique's dresses

Groom's Room

84 GO BOLD

Colour can make a real statement in your wedding day tartan

88 LORD IT UP

Discover suave looks and head-turning tartan in our shoot at Dunglass Estate

112 FINISHING TOUCHES

These fabulous accessories will really elevate your groomsware look

Mums

126 SUPER-CHIC

We discover how mums can up the style ante at their son or daughter's wedding

222

Dreamy wedding
weekender

Be Inspired

134 RAISE THE BAR

All that glitters can make the difference between a good wedding outfit and a great one!

152 BRIDAL BEAUTY

Scent can be so evocative so let us choose your wedding day picks, from the perfume to the diffusers

168 PREPARE FOR YOUR HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Sure, you want a fabulous wedding - but find out how you can build a lasting marriage

170 CROWD PLEASERS

Our guide to all the best wedding entertainment



Laura A. Tipton Photography

88

Must-see
groomswear

Your Wedding Day

178 BACK HOME

182 ISLAND DREAMS

186 WOODLAND ROMANCE

190 FAMILY AFFAIR

194 BLOOMING GORGEOUS

202 PICTURE PERFECT

Photography is a huge part of your wedding day so find out exactly what you can expect

Honeymoons

206 WHAT TO PACK

Your honeymoon essentials round-up starts here

Your Scottish Venues

210 VENUES NEWS

From refurbishments to fresh new packages, here's all you need to know

216 MAKE IT LAST

Don't want your wedding to end? Extend the day to a weekend in one of these amazing venues

222 A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

Helen and Finlay first met at work and start their happily ever after at Achnagairn Castle & Estate

228 YSW ON TOUR - CLUNY CASTLE

Claire Muir finds out why being queen of the castle is absolutely the right decision for your wedding day

236 IT'S A VIBE

Yasmine and Riki's love blossomed in lockdown, culminating in a gorgeous wedding at Carlowrie Castle

246 YSW ON TOUR - VIRGIN HOTELS EDINBURGH

Ashleigh Dougall explores the super-cool and contemporary venue in the heart of the Old Town

250 MARRY IN STYLE AT PEEBLES HYDRO HOTEL

From intimate micro-weddings to grand affairs, this elegant venue can host your dream day

254 WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Our 'I do' diaries couple Jess and Alex are married! See all the gorgeous details from their day at Bachilton Barn

266 YSW ON TOUR - BALBIRNIE HOUSE HOTEL

Katie Bletcher discovers just why this Fife gem scoops awards time and time again

272 UNFORGETTABLE

Nenah and James bought stunning wedding venue Ladyburn House the same day they got engaged!

280 YSW ON TOUR - LYNNHURST

Katie Bletcher falls for this elegant mansion near Glasgow

Garden party
wedding vibes



Chloë Sidey Photo

208

The perfect venue

Hayley Fraser Photography



115

Finishing touches

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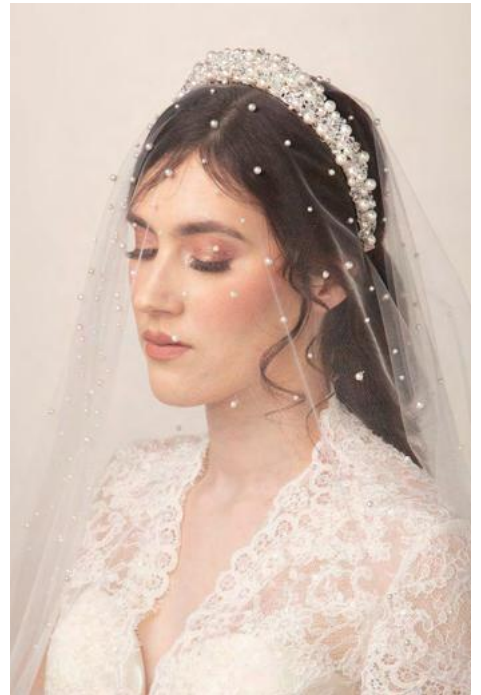
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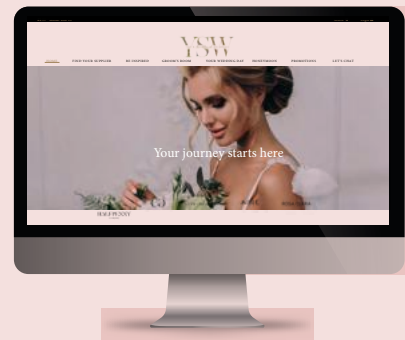
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YOUR wedding COUNTDOWN

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

- ☐ Set your budget
- ☐ Check out potential venues with *Your Scottish Wedding* and visit your shortlisted ones
- ☐ Make your guest list
- ☐ Make sure you follow us on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok @yoursctishwedding 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

2 Over a year to go

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

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



3 6-9 months to go

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

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

1-3 months to go

*This is where the fun
really kicks in!*

- ☐ 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 outfits dry cleaned
- ☐ Select images for your wedding album
- ☐ Send thank you cards



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

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www.gwenne.co.uk

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white strapless wedding dress with a sweetheart neckline and a full skirt, stands in an ornate room. She is looking over her shoulder towards the camera. The room features large, ornate wooden doors with gold-colored decorative panels. A small table with a lamp is visible in the background. The floor is covered with a patterned rug.

Gwenne

Gwenne Broxburn
brides@gwenne.co.uk

Gwenne Edinburgh
edinburgh@gwenne.co.uk

In the KNOW

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

For the love of lace

Mirka Jankowska of Mirka Bridal Couture says her latest designs were inspired by lace.

"It all began with the fabrics – delicate, intricate patterns that captured my heart at first sight. For each carefully selected lace, I designed a dress with a style and silhouette that would perfectly complement its texture and character. This process gave rise to a series of boho-inspired gowns – a style very close to my heart, combining freedom, comfort and feminine lightness. Airy, flowing, with long sleeves or optional detachable sleeves, these dresses are perfect for the romantic bride. They look stunning at boho-style weddings, garden ceremonies, beach celebrations and many other beautiful settings."

However, the collection is not limited to boho. "One standout piece was created in a completely different style – elegant, sensual, made from luxurious lace that immediately caught my attention," Mirka adds. "Designed to embrace the feminine figure, with a long, graceful train and delicate sleeves, this gown is ideal for the modern bride dreaming of a wedding in a luxurious hotel, a palace, or a sophisticated venue. This collection was created with a love for detail, exquisite fabrics, and the dreams of future brides in mind."

MIRKABRIDAL.COM



Karen Campbell Photography

Autumnal vibes

Whether you're dreaming of spooky autumnal vibes or a celestial spring celebration, the Witchy Wedding Fayre at BAaD in Glasgow on Sunday 9th November is the perfect place to find inspiration for your magical day.

She Bloomin' Gathered will be there showcasing beautiful dried flower designs – the perfect option for couples who want something a little different. Did you know dried flowers are not only sustainable but also last long after the confetti has settled?

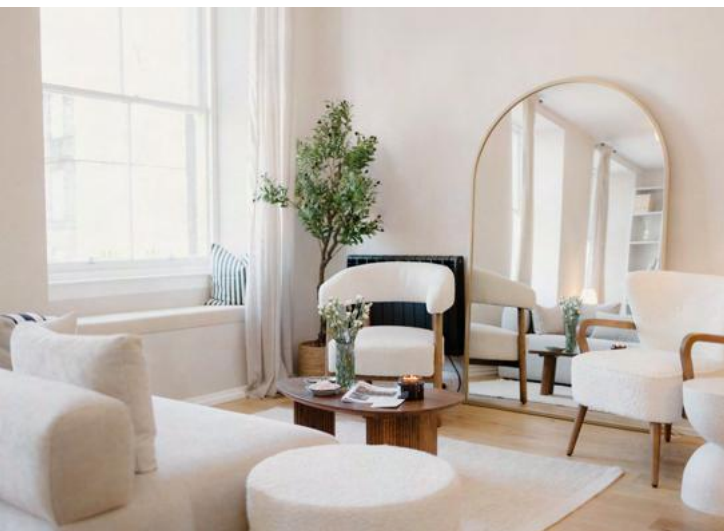
From wild bouquets to enchanting flower crowns and table arrangements, dried flowers add an ethereal touch that's as unique as you are. And the best bit? They become a keepsake of your day, ready to display at home or share with loved ones.

Come along, soak up the vibes and see for yourself how dried flowers can make your wedding truly unforgettable.

SHEBLOOMINGATHERED.COM

DID YOU KNOW?

Dried flowers
are not only
sustainable but
last long after
the confetti
has settled.



Experience to remember

As your personal wedding concierge, the team at Jasmin French is dedicated to making your special day unforgettable. From the moment you book they will be by your side every step of the way, offering guidance, support, and expert advice to ensure your wedding planning journey is seamless and stress-free.

Jasmin French welcomes not only the bride but the entire bridal party and friends to join in the celebration! To make this experience even more memorable, the team invite you to enjoy a glass of bubbly as you discuss every detail, from your colour theme to your dress, your partner's outfit, and everything in between. It's important that every aspect of your wedding day is flawless, so you can walk down the aisle feeling confident and radiant. Whether it's bridal hair and make-up, skin prep, beauty services, venue sourcing, or entertainment ideas – the list goes on. The team look forward to welcoming you to the beauty bridal space and being a part of your special journey!

JASMINFRENCH.CO.UK

New ranges

Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers will be introducing a small selection of women's pieces for hire, starting with the University of Edinburgh tartan in capes and skirts. There are plans to introduce more garments and tartans gradually.

GNK is also refreshing the tartans in its hire collections. Flodden Tartan – created to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Flodden – is one of the exclusive tartans joining the ranges, with more to be announced soon.

NICOLSONKILTMAKERS.COM

Laura A. Tilman Photography





Stylish new surroundings

Beaten metal ceilings, rock-effect walls and one of the most sought-after views in Edinburgh – welcome to Orkney jewellery designer Sheila Fleet's brand new store. We were invited to the launch of the gorgeous new boutique on Hanover Street at the start of the summer, and the interior design is as beautiful as the jewellery it showcases. You may be in the heart of the city centre, but stepping inside feels like being transported to the islands with tactile surfaces echoing some of the themes found in the jewellery itself.

Our favourite part has to be the area in the first floor windows, set aside for private appointments, where you can choose that all-important ring! We can just imagine excited-to-be-weds sitting overlooking the National Galleries with a coffee or a glass of fizz selecting their wedding jewellery.

SHEILAFLEET.COM

A little help

Nicky Mullen from Starca Designs is launching a new service for couples keen on a bit of DIY. Having noticed a surge in people wanting to design their own stationery and wedding pieces, Nicky wants to help clients who don't know where to start. She's calling it DIT – Do It Together – and it sounds like a fab idea. Watch this space!

FACEBOOK.COM/STARCADESIGNS



On the move

Exciting news – Freja Designer Dressmaking is on the move to a new location in Edinburgh!

The award-winning boutique is known for its stunning bespoke bridal dresses, bridesmaid

dresses and outfits for mothers of the bride and groom.

You will be able to find Mette and her team at 40-44 Rose Street Lane North, Edinburgh, EH2 2NP very soon. Keep an eye on their website and social media for the official moving date.

FREJA-FASHION.CO.UK

Familiar faces

Tune in to the recent *Say 'I Do' With Fuze* podcast, which features YSW's very own director Lesley Traynor and editor Katie Bletcher. Lesley and Katie joined Fuze brand ambassador George McLean to talk about all things weddings, from bridalwear to draping, celebrants to content creators and everything in between. We hope you enjoy listening!

Meanwhile, did you know every couple who chooses to be married by Fuze Ceremonies and The Fuze Foundation plays a role in supporting charities, as a portion of their wedding fee is donated to support good causes? The Fuze Foundation recently announced its first quarter 'give back' presentation to MND Scotland and Beatson Cancer Charity of £2,872. The Foundation donated £800 to each charity with additional fundraising by Fuze celebrants Julie Murray and Sam Conroy.

FUZECEREMONIES.CO.UK



'D3589' from
Essence of Australia



Kudos to you

Kudos Bridal Dunfermline's newest season of dresses from Luna Novias and Alma Novia will be arriving in store by September. The team chose the styles in Barcelona back in February and they can't wait to finally be able to share them with their customers!

Assistant manager Megan Carberry says, "All these new styles mean that we're, once again, hosting a Sample Sale to make space on our rails. For the weekend of 25th-26th October we'll be opening our doors and giving brides-to-be the chance to grab themselves the bargain of the year with no appointment necessary. We have over 100 dresses up for grabs at amazing discounts so make sure you don't miss out!"

Finally, Kudos Bridal Dunfermline is looking forward to hosting its final Open Night of the year on 5th December between 6pm and 8pm. The Open Evenings have been a real hit this year and this one will be a great way to kick off the festive season. Pop along and browse the rails with no obligation ahead of booking your bridal appointment in the New Year. Megan adds, "Brides have loved having the chance to ask us anything and get to know us ahead of their appointments so it's definitely not an event to be missed!" >>

KUDOSBRIDAL.CO.UK

A royal honour

Jeweller James Porter & Son has had many proud moments across its 165-year history – but seeing a piece being worn by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was truly unforgettable.

During the official naming ceremony of HMS Glasgow earlier this year, the princess wore a specially-commissioned sterling silver brooch, designed by the team in Glasgow. The brooch was inspired by the crest of HMS Glasgow and aimed to capture something of the ship's strength, the city's identity, and the beauty of Scotland's natural landscape. It features a depiction of St Kentigern, the patron saint of Glasgow, framed by the Scottish thistle.

Fifth generation managing director Simon Porter

explains, "We wanted to create a brooch that felt elegant and meaningful, drawing inspiration from the thistle and from Glasgow's rich heritage. It was an absolute honour to see HRH The Princess of Wales wearing the brooch we designed for this historic occasion. Set against the navy backdrop of her dress, it truly stood out – an incredibly proud moment for our entire team."

This project reflects the values that have guided James Porter & Son since its founding in 1858: craftsmanship, collaboration, and a commitment to design that tells a story. For a family-run business that has proudly served generations of customers from its home in Glasgow's Argyll Arcade, this royal connection is most certainly a milestone to be treasured.

JAMES-PORTER.CO.UK



Individual designs

Introducing the Halo collection from Baba-C Designs. Available in any height, these can be a real statement piece or chic and understated. The designs are crafted in such a way that they look equally beautiful from the sides as well as the front.

Take 'Cheri' for example, featuring pearls with crystal highlights – both classic components that complement any look. Meanwhile, 'Loretta' is a jewel encrusted piece with many different shapes of stones for maximum light reflection and sparkle. The range features a myriad of choices in terms of detail, height and width and as each design is individually created, it can be as unique as you are.

Baba-C also design veils and each piece is handcrafted to order so you can coordinate your veil and headpiece with your gown. It really is all in the detail!

Catch Baba-C Designs at the Scottish Wedding Show (11th-12th October) as well as Fenwick Hotel, Kilmarnock on Sunday 14th September.

BABA-C.CO.UK



Something new

Fennes Jewellery has welcomed a new collection! The Laura Ashley range is a beautiful idea for bridesmaids, brides or just because! The full collection can be viewed on the Fennes Jewellery website. You can also catch the team at Rothies Halls, Glenrothes on 7th September from 11am-3pm.

Fennes Jewellery has also discovered a popular and sentimental way for old jewellery to find a new lease of life.

A recent bride had a wedding band that belonged to her gran, along with other diamond set rings. Removing the diamonds and setting these into her gran's wedding band created something very special indeed, becoming a wedding gift that is both 'something old' and 'something new'!

FENNESJEWELLERY.COM



The glow up!

David Grant Simpson Photography specialises in wedding and elopement photography in Glasgow and throughout Scotland and we love his advice to couples

considering eloping in Scotland. He's excited to announce his website has been given a rebrand, so now's a great time to find out more about what David does and check out all the new content.

DAVIDGRANTSIMPSON.COM

Sweet deal

Philippa Rose Cake Design, the Angus-based business that creates show-stopping custom cakes for weddings all over Scotland, is serving up a special offer for YSW readers.

For just £675, you get a beautiful white three-tier cake with wave ruffles on the bottom tier, stencilling on 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.

PHILIPPAROSECAKEDSIGN.CO.UK



It's showtime

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

SEPTEMBER

7th – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition, Rothes Hall, Glenrothes

14th – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition, Village Hotel, Glasgow

21st – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition, Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling

28th – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition, Best Western Plus Keavil House Hotel, Dunfermline

OCTOBER

5th – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition, Macdonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa, Falkirk

5th – Luxury Scottish Wedding Show, Sheraton Grand, Edinburgh

11th & 12th – The Scottish Wedding Show, SEC Glasgow

19th – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition, Norton House Hotel & Spa, Edinburgh

26th – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition, Glasgow Westerwood Hotel & Spa, Cumbernauld

NOVEMBER

9th – The Witchy Wedding Fayre, BAAd, Glasgow ■



Raini Rowell Photography

Alternative weddings

The talented Caroline of Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry and Hair Stylist has added a new side to her business for more alternative brides. Runes and Rouge is for brides (and non-brides!) who want to do something a little different from the more traditional looks.

"Runes and Rouge is more a creative alter ego – it's just 'express yourself the way you want to,'" explains Caroline. She can do anything from pagan, colourful sparkles and gothic to special FX and fantasy.

Over on her regular page, Caroline is also offering a Dermalogica facials discount for brides who book make-up with her. Keep a look out for hen pamper parties too!

CAROLINESTEWARTMAKEUPARTISTRY.CO.UK



**RAZZMATAZZ
WEDDING EXHIBITION**



**THE RAZZMATAZZ
WEDDING EXHIBITION -
GLASGOW**
14/09/25
Village Hotel, Pacific Drive,
Glasgow, G51 1DB
11am to 3pm

**RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING
EXHIBITION STIRLING**
21/09/25
Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling, FK9 4LA
1pm to 4pm
Fashion Show 2.30pm

**RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING
EXHIBITION DUNFERMLINE**
28/09/25
Best Western Plus Keavil House
Hotel, Dunfermline, KY12 8NN
11am to 3pm
Fashion Show 1pm

**RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING
EXHIBITION FALKIRK**
05/10/25
Macdonald Inchyra Hotel &
Spa, Falkirk, FK2 0YB
11am to 3pm
Fashion Show 1pm

**THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING
EXHIBITION - EDINBURGH**
19/10/25
Norton House Hotel & Spa,
Newbridge, EH28 8LX
11am to 2pm

**RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING
EXHIBITION CUMBERNAULD**
26/10/25
Glasgow Westerwood Hotel & Spa,
Cumbernauld, G68 0EW
11am to 3pm
Fashion Show 1pm

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.



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WWW.THE-RWE.COM





Kudos Bridal Dunfermline



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www.kudosbridal.co.uk



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www.pamelajaynesbridal.co.uk



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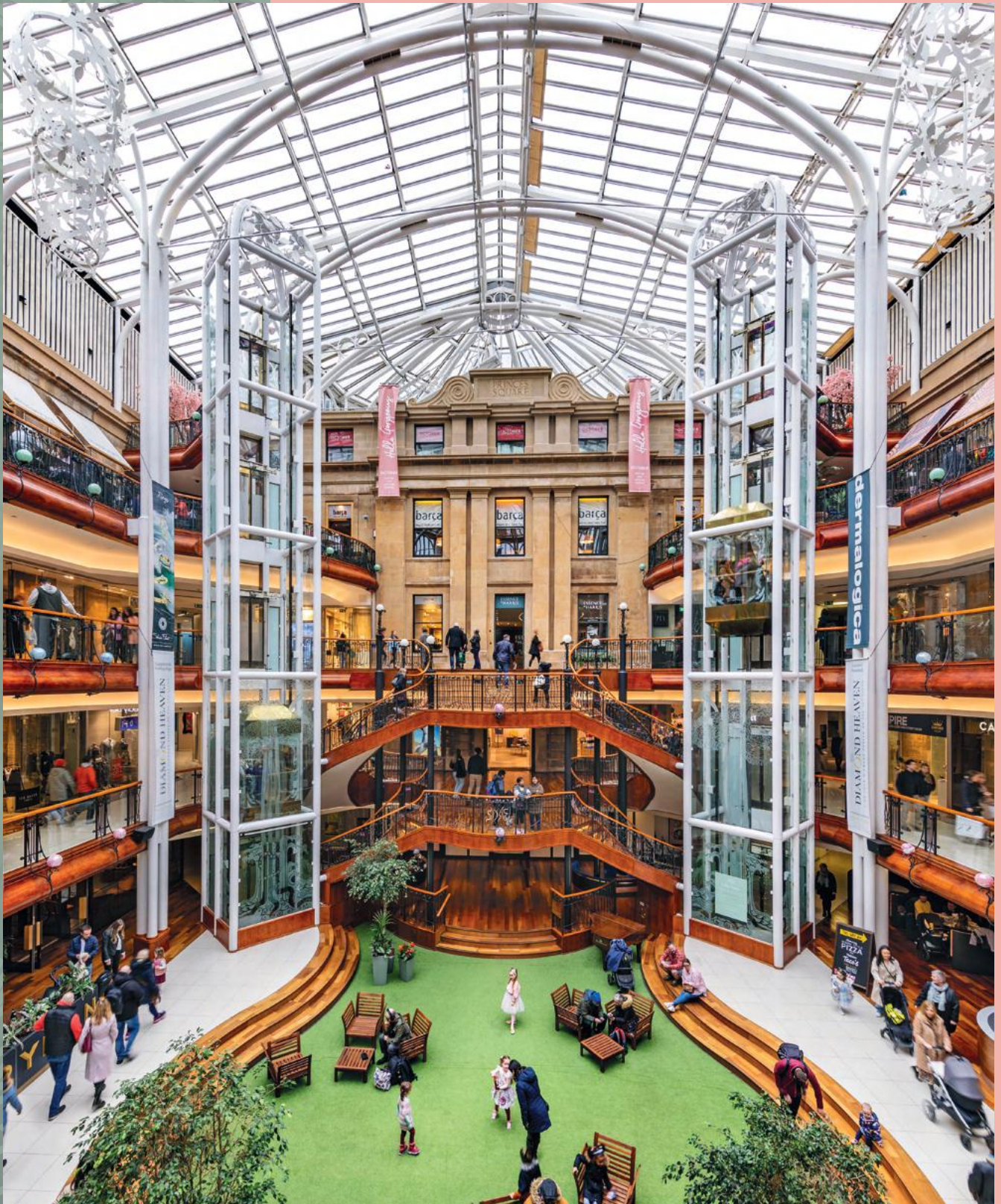


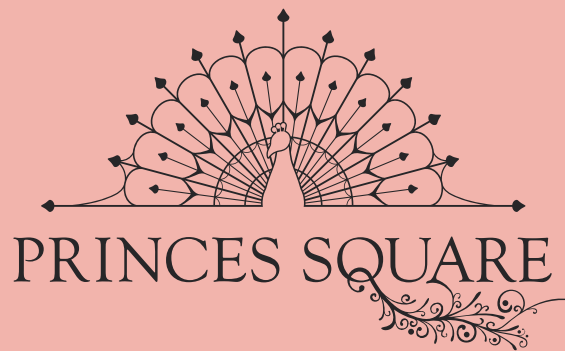
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TOP TIP

“Set a reminder for three months and one week before your wedding to prepare your forms, so they’re ready to be submitted.”

CLAIRE WATT, HUMANIST
SOCIETY SCOTLAND

HOW EXACTLY

do you get married?

Your go-to guide

Wondering how to plan out your wedding ceremony to ensure everything's in place for a successful day? **Jennifer McLaren** gets the lowdown from the experts...

Start with the basics It's personal

When a couple first gets in touch with the person they are choosing to be their celebrant, they will try to get to know them a little. Simon Houston of Fuze Ceremonies says, “The most helpful thing I feel I can do is ask the couple: ‘How do you want your wedding to feel: fun and relaxed? Romantic and intimate? Lots of laughs or full of meaning?’

“Once they know the answer to that, I can help shape every part of the ceremony around them. That way they immediately feel it's personal and it lets them know I am there for them from the very start, right through the process – not just an officiant but someone who can help them to shape the whole experience.”

Choose the vibe

Paul Browett, The Scottish Celebrant, adds, “I like to get to know my couples and to know the vibe and the tone – what they want to achieve from their day. I would say the majority of my couples are looking for something fun, something relaxed, something personal. For me, that's really important – to try and get that tone that they want to achieve.

“A lot of people think the ceremony's the boring bit before the party, whereas I want to blow guests' socks off. I want to make it where the fun begins.”

Your choice

Humanist Craig Flowers of Independent Humanist Ceremonies advises, “Don't feel overly pressured by anyone else, this is your wedding and we'll do it your way. It doesn't have to be all the bells and whistles. If you want something simple, then that's fine. However we have loads of options and it's best to explore them all.”

Lindsey Mason Ross of Humanist Society Scotland adds, “The first thing I like to do is to provide some reassurance. I remind couples they've chosen a great team – and I'm part of it now! On the day, your suppliers (me included) will work together seamlessly so you can relax and enjoy every moment.”



Paul driving his
couple in style

Photos With Paige

James Porter & Son



Laura A. Tiltman Photography



Lou Rob Photo

Make a statement!



Moments to cherish

John Clark Photos

Walk this way

When it comes to making an entrance, there are traditions couples tend to follow – but these are by no means set in stone.

Craig explains, “Traditionally, it happens in order of importance or seniority. Flowergirls or pageboys, followed by bridesmaids, maid of honour, then bride and chaperone. Thankfully, we no longer live in a world where a bride is property to be handed over – some couples enter together, a bride can wait for a groom if they wish and there are, of course, same sex weddings. There is no right or wrong! It’s all very much up to the couple.”



Reflect you

When it comes to the entrance, Simon adds, “There is no right or wrong and there is no official rule with this one – but there are very much traditional options most couples tend to want to go with.”

Once guests are seated, Simon will announce the groom who will wait at the front with his best man or best person and the groomsmen/groomspeople, or the ushers. Once everyone is seated and the music begins, the bridesmaids will walk in.

Simon goes on, “They will often be followed by, or – depending on the age of the children – accompany the flower children or pageboys. Then finally the bride will walk in, accompanied by the person who is giving them away, often the father of the bride.

“That’s the classic and most traditional way, but it can change. I have officiated at weddings where both partners walk in together and also where the bride walks in alone, unescorted.

“There’s no ‘should’ here — you can absolutely do the traditional thing, but you can also make your entrance reflect you.”

Special moment

Katie MacDonald of Humanist Society Scotland says, “Other than writing their own vows, the ‘big entrance’ moment is something I find couples do worry about. There’s a lot of tradition around weddings – you might picture the groom waiting at the top of the aisle with a best man, awaiting the bridesmaids, then the bride, accompanied by her dad. Absolutely lovely if that’s a tradition or ‘moment’ that’s important to you. But families can be complicated, not everyone wants to be ‘given away’. Traditional can feel patriarchal and heteronormative to some. The honest answer is there are no rules. But we do need to get you in the room somehow...”

“Recently I had a bride walk the full aisle length of Glasgow University Chapel alone – absolutely stunning. At another wedding, a couple who shared a long relationship wanted to share that moment and take the steps together. Everyone standing and cheering for them walking in was magic. My advice would be do what feels right for you. Smile. And pick a good tune!” >>



Ceremony rituals

There are so many rituals and symbolic gestures to consider incorporating into your ceremony. Craig and Simon enjoy traditional elements like handfasting and drinking from the quaich. Paul also favours this and rather than whisky, he will encourage the couple to choose a drink that means something personal to them.

Lizzie Edgerton of Humanist Society Scotland personally loves the oathing stone. “Not because it’s showy, or elaborate, or sentimental (it’s not), but because it manages to be something simple and quietly meaningful, with just the right amount of novelty to stop things getting too soppy,” she explains.

Historically, couples placed their hands over a stone as they said their vows, grounding their promises, rooting them in something solid and real. After the ceremony they can take their stone home, leave it near where they got married or – if they’re close to a body of water – throw it in.



Corinne Moffat Photo

Important paperwork

It’s crucial couples follow the timelines and legalities involved in getting married.

The all-important M10 forms need to be submitted 29 days before the wedding – and ideally a lot earlier. You can return them from up to 12 weeks before the ceremony.

“If the legalities aren’t observed it isn’t a legal wedding!” warns Craig. Paul continues, “It’s quite important that couples must do it themselves. In Scotland, you have to willingly enter into marriage and you have to show that you want to get married. So you must fill in the M10 paperwork yourself – and that’s a form each. It’s important that the same person does not fill in both of the forms.

“They submit these to the registry office closest to where they’re getting married along with supporting documents to prove they are who they say they are.”



Marriage schedule

On the week of the wedding the couple has to collect the marriage schedule that will be signed on the day. This must be signed by the couple themselves (in their pre-marital names – not any new names!) Two witnesses must also be present on the day. They need to be over the age of 16, and also signatories must be sober! The person officiating the ceremony also signs.

Get it right

Claire Watt of Humanist Society Scotland explains, “Understanding the legal process and timeline is essential for every newly engaged couple. One of the most important aspects of wedding planning is obtaining your Marriage Schedule – without it, your celebrant cannot legally marry you.”

She goes on to say that to ensure everything goes smoothly couples should know exactly what information the registrar requires and what documentation needs to be submitted. The window to submit your forms is relatively short, and although the process isn’t particularly difficult, it can easily be overlooked among the many tasks on your wedding to-do list.

Simon agrees, adding, “Especially when I ask the couple if they know where their birth certificates are and they look blankly at each other! To me, it is really important to help couples avoid last-minute panic around legal paperwork.

“A lot of newly-engaged couples don’t realise that the legal part of the wedding is totally separate from the fun side of it and the party planning. And because it’s Scotland – where humanist weddings are legally binding – it’s essential they get it right. I guide them every step of the way and remind them that missing deadlines can delay or even prevent legal marriage.”

If you are having a civil marriage ceremony, the registrar conducting the ceremony will bring the marriage schedule with them for you to sign. For religious or humanist ceremonies, the couple must ensure they have it.

Paul explains, “You’ve got three days to hand it back into the registry office where you collected it from. That’s when they’ll process the documents, and once it’s all logged in the database, they send the couple out a marriage certificate in the post.”

“It manages to be something simple and quietly meaningful.”

LIZZIE EDGERTON, HUMANIST SOCIETY SCOTLAND

The ceremony

Simon explains that the legal part of the wedding ceremony in Scotland is the Declaration – or legal vows. These can be flexible in their wording, but the couple must each say one, clear legal statement to each other. “They need to cover something like: ‘I accept you as my lawfully wedded husband/wife/spouse/partner in marriage.’ Once those legal words have been said, I’ll formally declare them married.”



Handy checklist

Claire Watt of Humanist Society Scotland shares her top five tips for stress-free legal planning...

1. Download and review the MIO form and guidance notes well in advance of the deadline. This will help you understand exactly what's needed and when.
2. Set a reminder for three months and one week before your wedding to prepare your forms, so they're ready to be submitted.
3. Gather all required identification documents ahead of time to avoid last-minute scrambles.
4. Choose your witnesses and let them know in advance.
5. Remember to collect your Marriage Schedule as specified by the registrar – and don't forget to bring it with you to your ceremony venue!

In tune

Music can play an important part in a marriage ceremony, creating a particular vibe. Many couples opt to have a piper, either as their guests enter the venue, or when the ceremony is over. Outfits such as a string quartet or a harpist can play before, during and after the ceremony. Dee McLaren of band Splendid Gentlemen, explains that couples should consider the mood or setting they wish to create for their ceremony – and beyond. This way, they know what kind of band or performer would suit the different aspects of the day.

Dee explains, “Music is essential to creating mood and it should complement and work with the other aesthetics of your wedding. A harpist or string quartet would be much more relaxing and add an element of class, that perhaps a singer or duo might not. But a singer or duo might add more excitement to the mood. Instrumental music is more background, to let your guests mingle, whereas anything with a singer is slightly more intrusive and demands more attention from the listener.”

Make an entrance

Walking down the aisle is a big part of any ceremony, so it's a good idea to put some thought into the song or instrumental music you choose.

Traditional classical pieces such as Wagner's *Bridal Chorus* or Pachelbel's *Canon in D* remain popular, while modern tracks include Christina Perri's *A Thousand Years* or John Legend's *All of Me*.

Instrumentals

Instrumental versions of songs are also featured in many of the weddings we write about at YSW, with tracks like Elvis Presley's *Can't Help Falling in Love* making regular appearances.

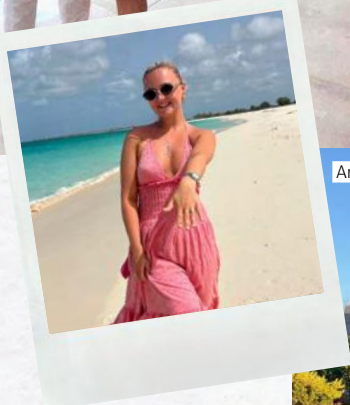
According to Dee McLaren of band Splendid Gentlemen the music you pick always makes a statement – so try to be as personal as you can. He says, “While the first dance later is typically a romantic song, an entrance song can be something like the band the two of you first saw together. I saw a couple come in once to the *Star Wars* theme, which was undeniably cool. There's so much scope to express yourselves as a couple.” ■

'I do' DIARIES



Sarah & Ali

They started as high school sweethearts and now they're planning a seriously chic wedding!



Sarah and Ali were just teenagers when they first met at a Young Enterprise event at her school, St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh. Ali was visiting from his school, George Watson's College, and the pair hit it off.

Fast-forward to their twenties and the couple were searching for that all-important piece of jewellery. "We decided to go ring shopping together as it's a big purchase to make on his own and Ali wanted to make sure he got the ring that I would love!" smiles Sarah. By then they were living in London and looked in a few shops there but nothing felt right. But during a trip home to Edinburgh for Christmas they made an appointment at Daniel Henderson Jewellers. "I absolutely loved that day," recalls Sarah. "I didn't want it to end! Daniel was amazing too. I loved the fact it was a small family business." While some brides-to-be like to be surprised with a sparkler of their other half's choice, Sarah would advise everyone who's thinking of getting engaged to go try them on with their partner beforehand. "I found the whole experience wonderful," she says. "I'll never forget it." However, while she whittled it down to three she loved, she ultimately let Ali decide.

Perfect proposal

It was then a question of when and where and Ali nailed a jaw-droppingly beautiful proposal during a trip to Antigua for Sarah's mum's 60th. Ali whisked his other half away to neighbouring Barbuda for the day and proposed on Princess Diana Beach. "I had a feeling it was going to be the day!" she remembers. "He proposed on the beach with no one around – it was amazing." After that crucial 'Yes' Ali took Sarah to Nobu (somewhere she'd always wanted to try – "It was so, so special").

They enjoyed a couple of hours indulging in their newly-engaged status in a private cabana, followed by lunch where they were seated next to Robert De Niro! "I couldn't believe it! The whole day felt like a dream." The couple then returned to Antigua and celebrated with Sarah's parents and sisters.

Start the planning!

While Sarah briefly considered getting married abroad she realised how much she likes to be in control and wouldn't feel as on top of things organising an overseas wedding. Plus, when she asked Ali where he wanted to say 'I do' the answer came back as Scotland!

Both Sarah and Ali spent a lot of time going to Gullane with their grandparents when they were younger so it felt homely to start the search for their wedding venue at nearby Archerfield House. "As soon as we got there, we knew it was the one!" she says. They secured their July 2026 date that day.

They have also organised a number of other suppliers including photographer Ricky Baillie, videographer Scott Mackenzie and their content creator. "I wasn't sure at first if I'd do this but after seeing I Do Content Creation on TikTok I was obsessed!" Sarah admits. "I'm so excited to have her film at our wedding." Next on the list is deciding on the style of flowers Victoria McArdle will arrange for them – "I've got so many ideas. My Pinterest is filling up fast!"

And they have chosen a humanist celebrant with a sweet connection to the family. Tim Maguire married Sarah's step-sister-in-law and they felt it would be a great fit for him to marry them too. Then a few months after Sarah and Ali tie the knot he will conduct Ali's dad's ceremony. "Keeping it in the family!" Sarah laughs.

Archerfield House

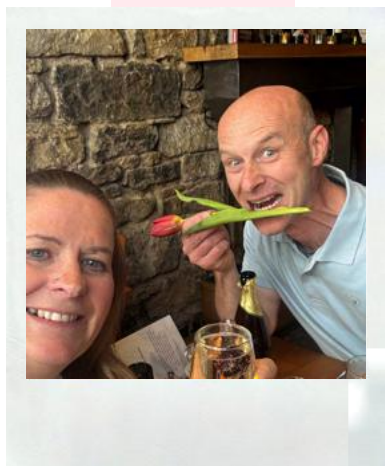


Look out for Sarah and Ali's next update in the January 2026 issue of YSW!

As Lynn and Gary share their final column, we introduce new couple Sarah and Ali

Lynn & Gary

In their final column the couple reflect on what being married will mean to them



We've been following Lynn and Gary's wedding planning journey ever since he proposed with a cute Haribo place-holder ring on the beach at St Andrews, and now this is our final catch-up before the big day. The couple had already been together for 23 years and at the time Lynn admitted she never thought they'd be getting married. But with a year and a half of life as a fiancée under her belt she's reflecting on what it will mean. "I am looking forward to being married and to calling Gary my husband," she smiles. "It does sound a bit surreal to be honest as I never thought we would get married. It's even funny buying cards saying 'fiancé' on them!"

Lynn plans to take Gary's surname and that's going to be another big change. "Saying Mrs McGee sounds funny when said out loud. I wonder if

I will get used to it! It also means I will have the same surname as the kids. The only one that will have my surname is the dog!" she laughs.

Planning process

Lynn and Gary have given themselves around 20 months between the engagement and the big day to plan their dream wedding at Bocclair House Hotel and they've learned a thing or two along the way. "There is so much involved in planning a wedding that I never realised," says Lynn. "There is so much to choose from. I have got everything booked and I am worried I have missed something now the day is getting closer. We just want everyone to enjoy their day as much as we will."

The couple have planned so much to entertain their loved ones we're not in any doubt their guests are going to love it! From a string quartet and piper to a magician and a sax player, there's no chance their loved ones aren't going to enjoy themselves all day.

All of this of course is down to Lynn and Gary's meticulous planning and they have some pearls of wisdom for other to-be-weds. "Decide on what you would want for your big day and make sure you shop around as there are so many suppliers and options to choose from. Make sure it is what you want as

planning a wedding is expensive and you want to make sure you get it right," says Lynn.

Final prep

Now they're in the last few weeks before their October wedding day there are a few little jobs left to do, including Lynn's hair and make-up trials with The Bride to be... and Makeup by Leigh Blaney, and they've also arranged a pre-wedding shoot with their photographer Laura A. Tiliman.

Lynn has also lost an amazing 2.5 stone and is now a bit concerned her dress won't fit so she needs to arrange a new fitting. "I am feeling a lot better for it though," she says. "It has been a hard struggle sometimes as you have good and bad days and you don't want it to take over, but I am glad I have done it."

With everything falling into place they are excited about the final countdown. "We are both looking forward to enjoying our day and celebrating with our family and friends," smiles Lynn. "After all, they have been waiting a while for this day." >>



WEDDING DRESS SHOPPING: unfiltered

TV's **Kirsten Coakley** talks us through finding The One

As co-founder of Aquarius Creative, the social media, marketing and influencer company at the heart of the BBC's *The Agency: Unfiltered*, Kirsten Coakley née Cameron is used to organising big events. And dressing the part for them too. But when it came to the star's own wedding to her husband Adam, dress shopping was on a whole other level.

Kirsten and Adam married in the picture-perfect Son Marroig in Majorca in May, with a legal ceremony at The Exchange in Glasgow beforehand. She officially tied the knot in an elegant, unembellished number with detachable lace sleeves which she admits to only ordering a few nights before. That was because she'd already found a very special number for the Majorcan wedding at Opus Couture and wanted to keep it for the main event.

And what a dress it was! "I knew I loved the brand Berta and Opus are the only stockist in Scotland so it was a no-brainer," Kirsten explains. "I originally tried on dresses for part of our show. I loved a Berta dress then but the one I eventually chose wasn't out yet. When I went back for the second time it was one of the only dresses I tried on – I loved it instantly!"

In fact, Kirsten realised months later after she had picked her beautiful lace dress with its collar detail that it was the only one she had saved on her TikTok before she started looking – "Meant to be."

Kirsten attended her Opus appointment with all her bridesmaids, her mum and mother-in-law. "They all loved the dress and there were some tears, so that confirmed it was The One," she smiles. However, there were still some tweaks to be made to transform her chosen gown into her dream dress. "The back was exposed and that didn't feel right for my venue so we added lace to the back and also added a clip-on train to enhance the look," she explains.

All of the changes were overseen by Opus' business manager Susan Lightbody and Kirsten was full of praise for her. "My shopping experience was amazing from start to finish," she says. "Susan was incredible and made me feel at ease. It was like nothing was a problem! It was so nice spending time with her over the months and finalising all the details on the dress."

With her decision made, Kirsten unfollowed all other bridal boutiques so she wouldn't overthink it or be tempted by other dresses – "Even though I was completely in love with mine."

The big reveal

When their Majorcan wedding day arrived Kirsten chose to accessorise her Berta gown with a pair of Jimmy Choo heels gifted to her by her friend who officiated the wedding, along with her grandma's wedding ring for her something borrowed. "Then I just went for diamond earrings as I wanted to keep it simple as my dress was so amazing," she says.

And the verdict? "I felt amazing in the dress," she recalls. "Everyone's reactions were so nice! I've never had such lovely comments from everyone. It was quite overwhelming"



Kirsten and her girls getting the bride-to-be treatment during a very special dress shopping appointment.



Turn to page 182 to see all the beautiful details from Kirsten and Adam's stunning wedding

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Ask the expert

Rachel Scott Couture

Rachel lays out just how to get
your dress to fit perfectly

Having something made entirely bespoke and designed to fit to perfection generally isn't something we're used to anymore. And without question, full-length dresses and cinching corsets definitely aren't the norm!

Ready-to-wear clothing has allowed - and encouraged - us to move entirely away from having clothes individually made for us. We're also generally choosing looser and looser clothing as a styling choice - almost anti-fit. But with that, our understanding of the process has waned, so it makes complete sense that when you choose your wedding dress and have it fitted, there will be a lot of new elements to get your head around!

Whether it's a classically-fitting structured corset ballgown or a whimsical boho number, your wedding dress will be the most thought-through, precise outfit you've ever worn. Fit and shaping are on a whole different level of importance, and you'll have to take into account aspects you may not have considered. Even the fact that it's likely going to be full-length means hem lengths (and avoiding trip hazards!) become a new fitting element you're suddenly going to have to think about. You may be a seasoned wearer of a fab summer maxi-dress, but the chances are your wedding dress will take a little more manoeuvring!

What physical fit elements should I take into account?

Make sure you test out that you can be the person you want to be on your wedding day.

Are you a wild dancer who simply must be doing cartwheels on the dancefloor? Then check if you can move your arms. On the other hand, do you even care if you can't?! Maybe the dress you've found is so entirely suited to your personality and makes you feel so amazing that you really don't care if you can't move your arms freely - and that's OK!

Fit is crucial. Design is crucial. But make sure it's *your* design and fit, not just a list of what you can and can't physically do in your wedding dress. How do you want to feel in your dress? What do you want to do?

You can be as practical or impractical as you like on this one. I think shoes always give a good comparison since it's one we can all relate to when it comes to comfort and practicality. (And also, I just love shoes!) I think we can generally agree that high heels are not designed with physical comfort in mind, right? However, anyone who knows me knows I live in stilettos, and I love my heels so will naturally feel more 'comfortable' in those,

whereas for someone else that's a complete nightmare. Don't change your personality on your wedding day! Flat shoes might be 'physically' comfortable, but if you're not feeling 'psychologically' comfortable then your guests are going to see it written across your face! But also, if you're a trainers-wearer 24/7 don't change to heels.

What about styles that are apparently harder to move in?

I bet you've heard that fishtail dresses restrict movement, right? Well, it certainly wouldn't be the first time I've seen one of my brides doing the splits on the dance floor in their fishtail wedding dress! Or stage diving. And then there's the video of one recent bride playing rounders in her fully corseted dress with highly



Meggy Mac Photography





Rachael
wearing bespoke
'Manoir' by
Suzanne Neville



FD Young Photography

tailored long sleeves that you could argue restrict movement. The way she hit that ball and ran to the next base, she was managing just fine!

Road test your dress and don't overlook any niggles

Yes, the fit of your dress will change once it's in your correct measurements, but will that be enough? Trust your instincts. It's all too easy to brush aside those niggles at the early stages of dress shopping – "It'll be fine once I've lost weight," or "it'll be fine with the sculpting underwear."

If you've got a worry, don't ignore it. Say it out loud and get answers one way or another! There is always a solution – and that solution might just be a little more information and knowledge from the bridal shop. When you're trying on a shop sample it won't fit correctly. It's probably too long or maybe has panels at the back. This isn't something you're used to so it's ok to feel a little out of sorts. Take your time! Any good bridal retailer will want you to do that too.

And definitely consider these questions: Can you sit down? Does it feel too heavy? Does it not feel heavy enough? Is it feeling tight across your tummy?

Should I take my size into account when choosing my wedding dress?

No! It always makes me wince a little when I hear clients have been told they should limit their choices based on anything physical. You're not a set of measurements. You're a human being! Find a dress that makes you happy. One that clicks naturally with your personality and a dress you know you'll feel relaxed and confident in. The rest

of the technical 'measurement' stuff is the easy bit (for us anyway) that's about measuring correctly, having your dress made-to-measure and really perfecting the final fittings.

Measurements and choosing a size

Talk to the team at your bridal shop. Ask them questions and get their advice. The more we know, the better the outcome!

Taking measurements is a technical skill and accuracy is everything – particularly if you've chosen a fully made-to-measure dress. You'll be amazed at the in-depth range of measurements we take, and they're not only to get a record of your body shape, but also posture, angles and asymmetry.

If you've gone for a standard size dress option, then we always consider what final alterations and fitting might be needed. Make sure you're happy that you'll still achieve a super neat fit without compromise. Body length, bust cup size and proportions in particular are measurements that really can't be, or are much harder to adjust once your dress is made.

What if I lose weight?

Tell us as soon as you can! When you're ordering your dress, let your bridal shop know if you're planning a drastic shape change. Check if it's possible to order a smaller size or delay taking measurements until a date closer to your wedding.

At Rachel Scott Couture we can confirm orders with our designers without committing to measurements until much further down the line. It's a huge advantage for us and ensures we can offer plenty of flexibility and the ultimate fit accuracy.

That certainly isn't an option with a lot of bridal shops and designers though, so check before assuming. Equally though, it may be an option to order a different size compared to your current measurements. Talk it through and, of course, be sensible with it!

Don't forget the final fittings and trust the process

Your dress is always going to need some level of tailoring once it arrives, such as tweaks to hem length, sleeves, straps and bodice. These final fittings sculpt your dress to suit you.

If you've chosen a standard size, your boutique will have matched you to the closest size based on your measurements and final fittings will be to tailor that into your bespoke shape.

Made-to-measure – our preferred approach at Rachel Scott Couture – is when your dress is made entirely from scratch exactly to your measurements. But even then, final fittings will still apply.

It's important to bear in mind that your measurements are not static. You do things like bend, twist and breathe (maybe less in a full corset!) and your ribcage can expand by more than a dress size with each inhale! The fabric your dress is made from can also affect fit. Is there a stretch to it? Is the corset fully boned or is it panelling and elastic construction? If there is no built-in structure the fit needs to be shaped around your bra or sculpting underwear.

This is why final fittings are so crucial. The process can seem daunting and definitely new, but don't rush it! To you, what might seem like an impossible adjustment could be incredibly simple to an expert seamstress. Although equally, what might seem like an easy hem, could be massively complicated! At the risk of sounding like a broken record – fit is everything so take the time to get it right!



Orla wearing
bespoke 'Verdi' by
Suzanne Neville

Into the garden

Sleek, fashion-forward bridalwear
stuns against the backdrop of
beautiful blooms





'Attika' dress (POA) by WONA with satin edge veil by Opus (POA), both **Opus Couture**. Silver earrings with an 18ct yellow gold plate set with cubic zirconia, designed by Sif Jakobs (£259), **Fennes Jewellery**. Traditional 3mm wedding ring in 9ct yellow gold (£306) and contemporary 0.40ct solitaire diamond ring in 9ct yellow gold (£2,147), both **Sheila Fleet Jewellery**. Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**. ➤

PHOTOGRAPHY | **Laura A. Tilman Photography**
VENUE | **Teasses Estate, Leven**





'Sasha' dress by Danielle Frankel (£3,100), **Rachel Scott Couture**. Silver Tidal earrings (£140), silver cubic zirconia ring (£206) (design also available with diamonds and in 9ct and 18ct gold and platinum with varying prices) and silver honeybee ring (£90), all **Sheila Fleet Jewellery**. Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**. >>

THIS PAGE: 'Eloise' dress and veil (both POA), both **Mirka Bridal Couture**. Silver with an 18ct gold plate pearl huggie hoop earrings designed by Sif Jakobs (£129) and 3mm wedding ring available in yellow and white gold, platinum or palladium (from £295), both **Fennes Jewellery**. Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Romantic A-line 'Chiloe' gown with flowing gathered tulle, elegant and sensual bodice with transparent tattoo-effect lace embellished with 3D floral appliqué by Pronovias (£1,795), **Kavelle Couture**. 'Eden' tiara (£320), **Baba-C Designs**. Pearl huggie earrings and gold ring, **Fennes Jewellery** (as before). >>









'India' dress and veil (both POA), both **Mirka Bridal Couture**. 18ct yellow gold oval 2ct rub-over diamond engagement ring (£3,095), 18ct yellow oval rub-over diamond eternity ring (£4,125) and 9ct yellow hidden halo drop earrings (£3,550), all **James Porter & Son**. Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**. >>

'Noa' by Danielle Frankel (£6,200), Rachel Scott Couture, Silver jewellery by Sheila Fleet Jewellery (as before). Bouquet (POA), The Greenshed Flower Studio.





'DC6115' gown with full pearl bodice by Danielle Couture (POA), Pamela Jayne's Bridal. 'Cheri' tiara (£265), Baba-C Designs. Pearl huggie earrings and gold ring, Fennes Jewellery (as before). Bouquet (POA), The Greenshed Flower Studio. >>



'Sedna' by Pronovias (£2,195), **Kavelle Couture**. Delicate bridal tiara with vintage statem for a gypsophila look (£95), **Emma Rose Jewellery**. Gold jewellery by **James Porter & Son** (both as before). Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**. »







OPPOSITE PAGE: Cat-eye draped satin sheath 'Camille' dress by Maggie Sottero (POA), with detached ruched tulle Grace & Goddess sleeves (£140) and ultra-sheer two-tier 138" Richard Designs 'C686A' veil with extra-long blusher layer (£160), all **Kudos Bridal Dunfermline**. Cubic zirconia earrings and gold wedding ring, from **Fennes Jewellery** (as before). Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**.

THIS PAGE: 'Florence' 3D embellished dress (£2,700) with lace-edged veil (£290), both **Carolyn Baxter Bridal Couture**. Gold rings (as before) and Honeycomb petite stud earrings in 9ct yellow gold (£270), all **Sheila Fleet Jewellery**. Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**. >>



'44388' dress with pearl detailing at bodice by Sincerity Gowns (POA), Pamela Jayne's Bridal. Tiara by Emma Rose Jewellery and pearl huggie earrings, Fennes Jewellery (both as before). Bouquet (POA), The Greenshed Flower Studio. >>





'Petra' pearl dress (£3,300) with Mikado cape (£650), both **Carolyn Baxter Bridal Couture**. Freshwater pearl bridal comb (£55), **Emma Rose Jewellery**. Platinum 3ct brilliant diamond twist shoulder engagement ring (£2,995) and platinum diamond twist wedding ring (£825), both **James Porter & Son**. Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**. >>





THIS PAGE: '8027' by Stella York (£1,200), Isobel Florence Bridal. Gold jewellery by Sheila Fleet Jewellery (as before).

OPPOSITE PAGE: 'Leilani' dress with sleeves by Maggie Sottero (POA), with lace-edged single-tier veil by Opus (POA), both **Opus Couture**. Platinum rings and Recarlo Anniversary love earrings (£4,995), all **James Porter & Son**. Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**. >>





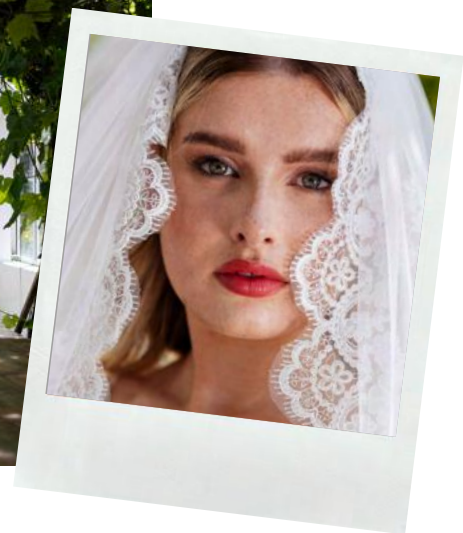


'Gretchen' by Randy Fenoli (£2,400),
Isobel Florence Bridal. Gold
jewellery by Sheila Fleet Jewellery
(as before). Bouquet (POA), The
Greenshed Flower Studio. >>



Classic long 'Soren' wedding dress crafted in Mikado, featuring v-neckline, v-back, straps and a side slit by Luna Novias (POA), with Grace & Goddess 'AVL0189' embroidered lace veil with coloured vine details and 3D floral appliques (£440), both **Kudos Bridal Dunfermline**. Silver jewellery by **Sheila Fleet Jewellery** as before. Bouquet (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**. »





Get *THE* look

Walking through the door of the walled garden at **Teasses Estate** in Fife feels like stepping into *The Secret Garden*. Our shoot took place in early July when the garden was in full bloom and utterly magical.

Just imagine having this secret garden exclusively yours for an oh-so-romantic wedding. You can say 'I do' outdoors, in the Victorian greenhouse or the Garden Marquee, then wander the paths for fabulous photos among the flowers before celebrating in the marquee or greenhouse – just follow in our model Emily's footsteps! **Contact Teasses Estate directly to enquire about holding your beautiful wedding here.**

Steal her style

Lori of **Lori Walker Makeup Artist** created an editorial look that focused on fresh, glowing skin and a statement lip. "Emily has naturally freckled skin and a softness that called for a less-is-more approach," says Lori. "The brief was to keep things refined and radiant, enhancing rather than masking."

She prepped with Glow Recipe Watermelon Glow PHA + BHA toner, followed by Plum Plump hyaluronic cream

before applying Charlotte Tilbury Hollywood Flawless Filter sparingly to the high points of the face for a natural glow. She then used Face Atelier Ultra Foundation Pro to provide a skin-like finish before adding subtle warmth with the Rodial Bronze Glowlighter. "It became a hero product of the day. It layered seamlessly over foundation, creating a bronzed, sun-kissed glow that didn't move, fade or go patchy – even after a long shoot in warm conditions and 16 dress changes."

Minimal powder and Face Atelier Ultra Matte Spray helped control shine, while soft eyes contrasted with a bold lip to complete the look.

Mane attraction

Rachel Winton from **AMMazing Team** created two styles for the shoot, starting with soft, romantic waves with a centre parting and volume at the crown. "It's perfect for those who love Hollywood curls but want something more relaxed," she says. Maria Nila Shaping Heat Spray and the GHD Curve tong achieved the look.

She then styled a loose, low wrap-around ponytail, slicked back from the centre with unstructured volume at the crown. "The Maria Nila Texture Spray added body to the hair to avoid a sleek finish, keeping the style cool and casual," adds Rachel.

Blooming marvellous

"Taking inspiration from the sweeping flower beds at Teasses, I gathered the flowers in a scooped-up wildflower style," says florist Helen Hardman from **The Greenshed Flower Studio**. "I wanted to highlight the romance of the flowers and the garden, so kept everything loose and relaxed with lots of jiggle!"

Helen's bouquets (all POA) included garden rose, achillea, cosmos, scabiosa, foxglove, nigella, snapdragon and many more. She adds, "There were some fragrant beauties in these bouquets - including the seasonal sweetpeas and ambling roses. Everything was seasonal and locally grown just minutes from Teasses Estate!" **Helen's elopement packages start from £200.**



FLOWERS

The Greenshed Flower Studio

HAIR

Rachel Winton from AMMazing Team

MAKE-UP

Lori Walker Makeup Artist

MODELS

Emily Vass @Colours Agency

PHOTOGRAPHY

Laura A. Tiliman Photography

VENUE

Teasses Estate ■





Get in touch directly with all of our suppliers to discuss how they can create your dream wedding looks.

Dress CODE

From timeline to alterations, our bridal boutique experts share the secrets to finding The One with **Claire Muir**

Q: When should I start shopping and what do I need to do before the first appointment?

Mette, Freja Designer Dressmaking:

We don't need a year but, in my opinion, starting a year from your wedding date is perfect. This means the temperature is the same as it will be on the big day, your skin tone is the same, and the light and the flowers in season are the same. It can be hard to plan a Christmas wedding in June because we feel differently in different seasons. Before going to an appointment, think how you want your wedding to feel. Sophisticated city sleek? Romantic cottage core? It's great to have a starting point. Consider the dresses and clothes you feel good in. Do you love a high neckline? Or always cover your arms? Perhaps your partner always compliments one specific body part, and you may want to enhance that. A Pinterest board helps me to see what kind of person you are and if you're not sure where to start, pin lots and lots! After a while you'll start to eliminate certain styles, features or colours and refine those that stand out for you.

Q: We've opted for a 'shotgun' wedding. How can I find the perfect gown in record time?

Rachel, Rachel Scott Couture: Don't panic and definitely don't compromise! Your wedding dress has to be entirely perfect, no matter your timescale. So, don't let anyone scare you into thinking you just have to 'make do.' We work really closely with our designers and every piece is made in their own studios. So, we can adjust timelines



Rachel Scott
Couture



Freja Designer
Dressmaking

Catching the Moments Photography

to make sure you get the perfect dress, whether you have months, weeks or just days! Never be afraid to ask about sample sale options too. We always have sample dresses to take away the same day.

Q: I love statement dresses but can you dance or even sit in a super-tight or massive-skirted dress?!

Megan, Kudos Bridal Dunfermline:

Definitely! But bear in mind that something heavily corseted isn't going to feel as comfortable as something with less structure. Often, boning can be flexible so it will move with you to a certain extent and allow you to sit. If it's super-tight through the hips, make sure you've tested sitting down during alterations! When it comes to big skirts and trains, most gowns can be bustled to take care of any issues.



Kavelle Couture

Laura A. Tilman Photography

Q: How much impact do accessories have on the overall outfit?

Kavelle, Kavelle Couture: The finishing touches should never be an afterthought. Things like veils, jewellery, shoes and hair accessories complete a look and help you feel like yourself on the day. But it's hard to visualise these things separately so I encourage brides to try them on with the dress. When you see the full look come together, it just clicks and that's always special. I have a real soft spot for hairpieces, tiaras and combs because they're such a key part of the overall style. We take a lot of care in creating them – every piece is made to suit the bride. Whether it's a delicate floral comb for a relaxed outdoor wedding, a bold statement piece for a city celebration or something soft and timeless with pearls or crystals, it has to feel like something that reflects her personality.

Q: Do I store my dress at home? And how do I get it to the venue?

Mirka, Mirka Bridal Couture: Most brides pick up their dress one or two months before the wedding, after all the final alterations. This gives time for

last minute adjustments while keeping the dress safe and ready. At home, keep it on a padded hanger (to support the weight), in a cool and dry place (no direct sunlight, heat or humidity) and in a breathable garment bag to prevent moisture build-up. And don't try it on too often – you don't want accidental stains! For a very delicate or heavily beaded gown, lay it flat in a box lined with acid-free tissue paper. When travelling with your dress, pack it carefully to keep it safe and wrinkle-free. The garment bag will keep away dust, dirt and damage but if you need to fold your dress, place layers of acid-free tissue paper between folds to prevent creasing. Flying? Most airlines let you hang it in a closet in the cabin or fold it gently and place it in the overhead bin. If it has to go in checked luggage, use a sturdy box designed for wedding dresses, packed with plenty of padding and tissue paper. Finally, no matter how far you've travelled, steam it at your venue. Bring a travel steamer or arrange for a professional service.



Opus Couture

In the Name of Love Photography



Mirka Bridal Couture

Amali Studios



“Never be afraid to ask about sample sale options.”

RACHEL

Q: I've never been to a bridal boutique before! What's the etiquette?

Susan, Opus Couture: We always recommend one appointment per day to avoid overwhelm. This allows you to focus, try on dresses without rushing and make thoughtful decisions. Spacing boutiques out over different days provides clarity and prevents decision fatigue. Getting married is something you'll remember forever so treat your bridal appointment(s) the same way. Bring those who are your personal cheerleaders; the ones who know you, love you and want to share in this magical chapter of your life. It's not about having a crowd; it's about having the right people. »

Q: I like the idea of a second dress. When should I change, and how long should I factor in for it?

Carolyn, Carolyn Baxter Bridal

Couture: I'm really passionate about working with brides to create transitional looks. Many like the idea of showcasing a second look for the comfort factor but let's face it, who doesn't just love a costume change?! I enjoy creating designs that can be adapted by adding or exchanging accessories, like taking off an overskirt and/or adding a bow and sleeves. Separates are also good for combining two looks. You can change one skirt to a shorter style, or go for trousers and get the best of both worlds. When to change is a personal preference but when it's time to dance can be a good point. Grab your bridesmaids and take half an hour to refresh and take in the day so far.

Q: How do you pee in a wedding dress?

Pamela, Pamela Jayne's Bridal: There are lots of gimmicks, from popping an IKEA bag under your dress to sitting backwards on the toilet. But it depends on the person and the dress... and possibly how much prosecco you've had! Most trains can go over your less-used arm, which takes away most of the fabric and you can pee with ease. Check beforehand that your venue has assigned a dressing room with a toilet, or a disabled loo, to you. And remember you can take your bride tribe in to help you – it's a real bonding experience!



Carolyn Baxter
Boutique

Q: Does everyone need alterations? And if I want to be a certain shape for my big day, what size should I order?

Julia, Isobel Florence Bridal: Not everyone needs alterations – but many brides get small adjustments. The most common is length, to make sure the dress is perfect for walking down the aisle and dancing the night away. You might also want a few tweaks depending on your body shape. Our advice is always to fit a dress to your body rather than fitting your body to a dress, and we encourage buying in your current size or one up. Although losing weight is something lots of brides want to do (and they want a dress in their goal size) it's far more important that the gown is comfortable on the day. Remember, most dresses can be taken in a few sizes but letting out to create a larger size can be more difficult – and more expensive. ■



“I’m passionate about working with brides to create transitional looks.”

CAROLYN

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The BIG interview with

Jackie Kelso and Megan Carberry of Kudos Bridal Dunfermline

After 18 years in business, **Kudos Bridal Dunfermline** reveals what's next – and shares the key to the award-winning boutique's success



'D4332' by
Essense of
Australia

“So many
brides return
to us as part
of a new
bride-to-be's
entourage.”

MEGAN



l-r: '9848'
and '9852' by
Sorella Vita

YSW: What makes Kudos Bridal Dunfermline different when it comes to customer experience; what's your USP?

Megan Carberry: The variety of styles from international designers, such as Essense of Australia, Luna Novias, Alma Novia and Maggie Sottero, but also our service. Many brides come to us through word of mouth. From sisters to friends, it's always fantastic to see so many brides returning to us as part of a new bride-to-be's entourage. We always try to make every experience memorable and we love knowing someone has enjoyed it so much that they've recommended us to friends and colleagues.

YSW: So, how do you decide which designers are right for Kudos and who isn't a fit?

Jackie Kelso: It's important for us to offer our brides high quality gowns from well-known designers at fantastic prices. Those factors are at the forefront of any decision I make. My background in couture dressmaking is invaluable in the shopping process and plays a large part in choosing the best gowns for Kudos.

Each buying season we look for on-trend, fashion-forward styles that equally bring something different to our rails. On that note, we are so excited to bring in Rosa Clara's Martha Blanc range later this year. This new capsule collection was created with curvy brides in mind – we just had to snap a few of them up when we spotted them in Barcelona.

YSW: After almost two decades in business, how have trends evolved?

MC: Funnily enough, wedding dress trends are quite circular. Lace goes in and out of vogue, and Basque waistlines are fashionable again after their popularity in the 1980s and 1990s. It's clear that everything comes back around eventually!

The big difference we've seen in the past few years, though, is that more brides are prioritising comfort above anything else. It's something we've always preached – that being comfortable on your wedding day is key – and it's refreshing to see so many customers now embracing this and leading with it themselves.

YSW: What are your favourite bridalwear trends right now?

JK: It's difficult to pick favourites but we're loving jacquard prints and textured fabrics. Plus, minimalism has been so on-trend for the past year or so, and this brings something different and exciting.

One of our standouts from this year's Kudos collection is Essense of Australia's 'D4304'. She's timelessly elegant but her satin jacquard fabric brings such a modern twist!

YSW: Which celebrity bride would you most like to dress and why?

MC: It has to be Zendaya. Her red carpet styles are always some of my favourites and I can't wait to see how her love of fashion translates into a wedding look. Whether it's something unique or classically bridal, she'll look amazing!

YSW: What's a Kudos bride like?

MC: We always say our brides are the best in the world! Fashion-forward modern romantics, they're mostly looking for a timeless style with a modern twist and want to feel comfortable and relaxed in it. And we can't wait to help them find it!

YSW: What kind of experience do you hope they'll have at Kudos?

JK: Our intimate team means it's easy to get to know brides well and they quickly feel like part of the Kudos family. We want every bride to feel comfortable and confident, and we'll always go the extra mile to find a dress that's as unique and special as each person.

YSW: You've won a host of awards, including the Your Scottish Wedding Award for Best Bridal Retailer in 2022. What do you think accounts for your success?

JK: Our customer service is really what sets us apart. Finding your wedding dress should be a wonderful experience that you remember for life and we make sure this is the case for every single person who shops with us.

Being closely involved with every step of your dress journey, even after purchase, we get to know each of our brides incredibly well. We think this personal approach is what sticks with people, and what prompts them to nominate us time and time again. We appreciate them more than words can say!

YSW: What's next for Kudos?

JK: After more than 18 years in the bridal business, Michelle's long-overdue retirement beckoned and that means our Edinburgh store has closed. It's bittersweet but we are excited to put our whole focus into Dunfermline – and hopefully our reputation will continue to bring Edinburgh brides our way. We're planning some exciting events and awaiting the arrival of our newest collections. And, of course, we'll keep giving each and every bride a service that's second-to-none. ■



“It’s an
absolute
privilege to
be involved
in a couple’s
wedding
plans.”

JACKIE

YSW
visits



Kenya and her 'maids find the dream dress



In the Name of Love Photography

SAYING YES *to the* DRESS

Katie Bletcher discovers how the Opus Couture team finds dream dresses for all their brides

“**E**very reaction you’ve had in it is everything we know is right.” So says Susan Lightbody, the business manager at Opus Couture. I’m sitting in the boutique on one of the hottest days of the summer, looking on as bride-to-be Kenya twirls in the stunning gown in question, amid the excited squeals of the four of her six bridesmaids who were able to come along. She’s back in dress number two of the seven she’s tried, after it became apparent the last five were all being compared to this one. “I don’t want her to take this off,” says one of her girls, and you can tell by the huge smile on Kenya’s face that this is The One!

This is her first appointment trying on dresses for her wedding at The Corinthian, and another booking elsewhere is quickly cancelled. All that remains is for Susan to measure her so they can order the right dress and snap an “I said yes to the Opus dress” pic, thus beginning the process towards walking down the aisle in the perfect dress. I say begin, but as Susan explains, the journey starts before the bride-to-be sets foot in the West Kilbride boutique.

I’m spending the day at Opus Couture, seeing exactly what goes into helping their brides look and feel incredible. Right from when brides begin their search, they can follow Opus Couture on their social channels and join the private Couture Chat. When I visit in July, Opus is preparing to launch a new service where, once a bride books their initial appointment, they will also book a pre-appointment call with Sarah from the team. This gives them the opportunity to discuss any likes and dislikes, whether or not they want to discuss budget in front of friends or family during the appointment, or any other confidential matters. Then, 48 hours before the appointment, they will receive a little questionnaire to help home in on the vision.

“We also like to see pictures, so when they come in, we’ll



start with a consultation and say, 'Show us your pin board,' so we have an idea of the overall vibe," explains Susan.

"We pull the dresses we think will work and then it's quite collaborative, with us asking how they feel, what they like."

During this appointment, the team also ensures they show options of shapes and styles that perhaps the bride hasn't considered. "Sometimes you need to compare and contrast," says Susan. "And then sometimes your inner bride has her own voice, and it's important we look at how you want to look, not what you *think* you should look like."

She ought to know. Susan's been working at Opus Couture for 18 years after studying garment technology at Clyde College, followed by fashion at Edinburgh School of Art. She always leaned towards more theatrical garments, so bridal was a perfect next step. "You see the detail and the beadwork, the lace, the cuts, the shapes," she says. "And each year it develops."

Top of their game

Watching Susan carry out the initial consultation with Kenya, it's clear she knows the boutique's rails inside out. And with 150 to 200 gowns to choose from in-store, and that many again in the outlet, she needs to. Of course, none of these dresses are here by chance, but have been painstakingly selected by the team.

Buying normally takes place at Barcelona Bridal Week or in New York, where new collections are shown. From watching the designers' models sashay down the runway, they decide which gowns to buy in for the new season. However, it's not a case of just buying the bestsellers or the fanciest, Susan says. "We're buying them for the women we are dressing. All of the women who come through our door are different, and we need to be prepared to dress them all." The team analyse what they have on their rails before they go buying, to see what they need for each separate style, while also listening to what their brides are asking for.

With their decisions made, it's back to the boutique and a waiting period of up to six months for the new collections to arrive. In that time, Trunk Shows can be a real help, when they are able to bring in a certain designer's entire new collection for a weekend to show brides what's on the way.

Ensuring perfection

With the new season's offering decided, it doesn't mean brides are limited to these gowns. Thanks to their in-house sewing room, the team at Opus Couture are able to offer customisation on so many of the dresses, and appointments with new brides come with a reminder that things can be changed or adapted. If they like the buttons of one dress but the sleeves of another, alterations can be made. Remember, this is a collaborative process.

Then once the decision is made and the order is placed, the bride-to-be will wait around six months before her own dress arrives, with fittings beginning around 12 weeks before the big day.

In between these initial appointments, fittings and alterations, the teams are kept busy quality-checking each dress that arrives, ensuring every Opus bride looks phenomenal on her wedding day. A feeling summed up by Kenya as she heads to brunch with her 'maids. "I'm so excited, it's everything I envisioned." ■



In the Name of Love Photography



Groom's Room





Dunglass Estate | Laura A. Tilman Photography

Holyrood tartan, fully hand-sewn traditional kilt, made in-house (£850 - £1,000), set of detachable front pockets (£300), belt and buckle (£90), vest in Sloane midnight pure wool (£550 for vest and jacket), exclusive 'GT' antique cufflinks (£40), Charles Tyrerwhitt shirt, navy paisley tie from John Lewis (£20), exclusive lightning bolt kilt pin only available with 21st Century Kilts, green and navy mixed Lochcarron socks (£30 per pair) and Joseph Cheaney Trafalgar Capped Derby boots in black calf leather (£525), all **Geoffrey Tailor & Kilt Maker** and **21st Century Kilts**. 6mm plain wedding band available in 9ct and 18ct yellow or white gold, palladium or platinum (starting from £700), **Fennes Jewellery**, Baltic MR Classic silver green strap watch (£560), **James Porter & Son**. Buttonhole (POA), **Trudi Todd Flowers**.

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Brian's best woman Steph joined the couple for their menu tasting at Dunkeld House Hotel



videographer and a cake – were left until last. “Classic procrastinator behaviour!” he laughs. But they’re all now firmly in place.

The super-fun parts

It hasn't been all about wedmin though. They enjoyed an afternoon at their beautiful venue, Dunkeld House Hotel, for a menu tasting with their best friend (and Brian's best woman), Steph. “We had our own room and were treated like royalty as we tried out all the delicious dishes. This has made it impossible to narrow it down to our final selection!”

While their overall vision has stayed the same, recent weddings they've attended have sparked new ideas.



Wedding ring shopping at Cartier

“Everyone genuinely seems so happy to help make our big day special.”



Selecting wedding scents at Penhaligons

In his WORDS

In his latest YSW column, groom-to-be **Philip** shares epic outfit updates, fun-filled stag plans and a little planning hiccup

Team YSW is delighted to report that Brian and Philip are loving wedding planning so far – largely thanks to one groom's can-do attitude. “I'm lucky that Brian is a very organised guy who, once he gets an idea in his head, must follow through and complete his to-do list immediately,” smiles Philip.

They headed to The Scottish Wedding Show early on and ticked lots of things off the list, including décor and entertainment. Meanwhile, Philip's trio of tasks – organising a dog chaperone for Jones, their beloved Schnug, plus a

“Being guests made us think, ‘Ooh, let's pinch that little touch,’” admits Philip. “They've helped us level up the day in ways we hadn't thought of.”

Outfit-wise, the ‘nice day for a white wedding’ theme means they'll be wowing guests in matching white tuxedos. “We've seen the ones we want. We just need to get fitted now and we can't wait to see the full look.” But – plot twist! – before the dancing starts, there'll be an amazing outfit change. “Brian's going full black tux and I'll be swapping into an all-black kilt ensemble – tartan, shirt, socks, the lot,” Philip explains.

Whoops!

The only difficulty so far has been overlooking hair and make-up for the best women. Cue a slight panic but it's now sorted, and they're fully focused on the positives. The gents agree the best part of the journey so far has been the enthusiasm and support from suppliers. (“Everyone genuinely seems so happy to help make our big day special – it's a lovefest!”) But they've also enjoyed sharing the whole experience as a couple. “I've loved the late-night chats with Brian, coming up with new ideas while curled up on the sofa.”

Last thing on the agenda for now? The stag – and it's been the hardest thing to plan. They've agreed on a joint do; probably a weekend in Manchester for good food, drinks and some fun activities. “It's not my usual scene,” admits Philip, “But as Brian says, I can have a quiet night in anytime!”

Last tasks for this column: A trip to London for their wedding rings, wedding scents and wedding shoes... sounds like the perfect getaway! ■

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Go BOLD

Thinking of donning a kilt on your big day?
Jennifer McLaren discovers why grooms
should consider colour...

Tartan is woven into Scotland's cultural identity, so wearing it for a special occasion such as a wedding day is a great way to honour either the groom's Scottish heritage, or the country's longstanding relationship with the colourful textile.

Originally worn by Highlanders to identify different Scottish clans, it was generally quite bold and vibrant, but now more modern tartans are also available in greys or muted tones. With so many different shades to choose from, remember that going bold can mean making a statement of your own. Hamish Robertson, director at Eight Yards tells us, "Choosing a vibrant tartan brings energy and personality to your wedding day and that's exactly what we're about. It's something a simple black or navy suit just can't match. A bold tartan makes a statement, sparks conversation, and creates lasting memories, all while honouring centuries of tradition. Tartan remains a true fashion favourite thanks to its timeless heritage and its ability to evolve. And sometimes, it's as simple as this – go bold or go home!"

Howie Nicholsby, creator and director of 21st Century Kilts says, "Having dressed thousands of grooms over my 40 years in the industry, the happiest are those who have been guided by their fiancée. Colour and shades are personal to couples. Often clan tartans have more choice available than the ones they are familiar with from the past. It is best to visit a reputable kiltmaker to be guided through the spectrum of choices – clan, family, district, Irish county, and fashion tartans, and the wide range of checked tweeds."

Gordon Nicolson of Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers adds, "Traditional tartans have always been colourful and on your special day, you want to be the best-dressed, don't you? Strong, vibrant tartans always photograph so much better than monochrome designs, so make sure the images captured reflect how momentous the occasion was!"



Huntsman tartan is one of Eight Yards' favourites - they designed it themselves!"



Key colours

Howie strongly recommends concentrating on the groom's outfit before choosing the bridesmaid dresses and flowers. He explains, "The couple should see the kilt as a lifetime investment, beyond their big day." Meanwhile, Gordon recommends discussing colourways with your partner to avoid clashes. "Marrying the tones of each party's outfits and accessories is a beautiful way to celebrate their celebration of union. Floral decoration and embellishments might highlight a particular strip in the tartan, while the attendants' dresses or ties might mirror the base colour. Have fun with it – and enjoy the process as well as the memories captured."

Hamish advises starting with a key colour from the bridal party. "Pull an accent shade from the dresses or florals, then look for a tartan that echoes or complements it. Whether it's a deep blue, burgundy, or green, it's that shared thread that ties everything together."

Hamish is also a great believer in letting the tartan do the talking! "Rather than matching everything to the kilt, use it as the anchor. Echo its tones subtly through buttonholes, linings or ties for a coordinated look that feels considered, not overdone."



Bright and beautiful

Howie has some favourite bold and bright tartans; "I love Hunting Stewart, it's historical and a 'Public Tartan,'" he says. "The Weathered 7 Muted Colours are my own preference. An absolute legendary tartan is the Bruce of Kinnaird from 1822, claimed to be Vivienne Westwood's favourite. It is stunning."

One of Gordon's favourites carries special meaning. He says, "We love Hunting Nicolson Muted, which is a new, refreshed version of our own clan tartan, inspired by Mrs Nicolson's favourite colours. Aquamarine blue and rich magenta are introduced to a more muted green, underpinned by black with the familiar highlights of gold and white found in Hunting Nicolson Modern, Ancient and Weathered tartan variations. The result is dramatically different, yet remains true to the established patterns commonly recognised as Nicolson Clan Tartans."

Look dapper in the muted Hunting Stewart tartan

Eight Yards' favourite bold and bright tartans right now are perfect for grooms looking to make a statement. They include Glen Affric which Hamish describes as, "a tartan rooted in mystery and meaning." "Discovered preserved in a Highland peat bog and dated to the early 1500s, it's considered the oldest true tartan ever found in Scotland, predating the traditional clan system as we know it," he says.

Then there's Huntsman – "a tartan we're proud to call our own." Hamish says, "Designed by Eight Yards and woven here in Scotland, its subtle marled base, a soft green and yellow blend called Yucca, creates a beautifully muted canvas. Over that, we've layered deep rust reds, warm ochres, black and brown accents to form a tartan full of styling potential."

The team at Eight Yards has helped grooms create stunning outfits around the different threads of the design. Hamish goes on, "One of our favourites featured a peat-brown tweed jacket with yellow buttonhole stitching, a rust-red lining, and golden accent threads that pulled out the brighter elements of the tartan in a way that stood out with class and somehow subtlety." Huntsman is available in Eight Yards' rental collection but is also a popular choice for those looking to invest in something uniquely theirs. >>

Geoffrey Tailor & Kilt Maker
and 21st Century Kilts



"A bold tartan makes a statement."

HAMISH, EIGHT YARDS

Chloë Sidey Photo



Our 'I do' diaries groom Owen wore Hunting Stewart tartan on his big day!



“Don't be shy to stand out.”

JAMES

Sense of pride

When James Hamilton tied the knot with wife Nenah at their beautiful venue Ladyburn House & The Garden Pavilion in Ayrshire, he worked with the team at Kilts 4 U's Prestwick store to create a bespoke full Highland kilt outfit. He explains, “I wore the Ross Hunting Weathered tartan, which struck the perfect balance between traditional and modern. My jacket was a Ben Mhor in Harris Tweed – a beautifully cut piece with flat epaulettes, real staghorn buttons, and tartan trim details. The buttonholes had a contrasting thread, and the lining was a rich rust-orange satin that added a touch of character and warmth. Underneath, I wore a Harris tweed waistcoat, which I think added a lovely Scottish dimension to the overall look. The waistcoat elevated the outfit and gave it real depth.

“On my feet, I wore brown day brogues – smart, classic, and comfortable. The real standout accessory was my bespoke Highland cow sporran, which added a bit of fun and personality while staying firmly rooted in tradition.”

James loved how the overall look merged classic and contemporary styles. His outfit

was inspired by the theme of his and Nenah's day, with the wedding taking place outdoors on the beautiful grounds of their very own venue.

“It was important to me that the outfit felt both traditional and bespoke – something rooted in heritage, but with a modern edge. The rust-orange satin lining added that pop of warmth and individuality, subtly elevating the whole look. The entire ensemble complemented the setting beautifully and felt very personal to the day.”

James' advice to grooms planning their wedding day outfit is, “Be bold. Be brave. Make it your own. It's your big day too – you want to shine, and your outfit should reflect you. The bride has her dress moment and this is your opportunity to stand out and shine alongside her. There are so many incredible tartans out there so step away from the norm and explore something a bit more distinctive – you might be surprised by how much it resonates with your personality. For me, I wanted to create a look that no one else would have. That was a huge part of the appeal. Pick something that speaks to you, don't be shy to stand out and you'll walk taller for it.” ■

Turn to page 272 to see James and Nenah's gorgeous wedding



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PHOTOGRAPHY: Laura A. Tilman Photography
VENUE: Dunglass Estate, Cockburnspath



Handmade 8yd kilt by Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers using Auld Scotland Selkirk Tweed by Lochcarron of Scotland (£795), Clay Pot handknitted jersey by Anne Stewart Knitwear, using New Lanark Yarn (POA), linen stock shirt by Elgar (POA), leather and horn day sporran by Margaret Morrison (£225), brass stag's head kilt pin exclusively for Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers by Norman C. Milne (£125), Hebridean Forest hose by House of Cheviot (£55) and Stornoway Leather & Lovat Tweed brogued boot by Chatham (POA), all **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers**. Hamilton American Classic Boulton Quartz watch (£690), **James Porter & Son**. 6mm plain wedding band available in 9ct and 18ct yellow or white gold, palladium or platinum (starting from £700), **Fennes Jewellery**. (Worn throughout.) »





Holyrood tartan, fully hand-sewn traditional kilt, made in-house (£850 - £1,000), set of detachable front pockets (£300), belt and buckle (£90), vest in Sloane midnight pure wool (£550 for vest and jacket), exclusive 'GT' antique cufflinks (£40), Charles Tyrwhitt shirt, navy paisley tie from John Lewis (£20), exclusive lightning bolt kilt pin (only available with 21st Century Kilts), green and navy mixed Lochcarron socks (£30 per pair) and Joseph Cheaney Trafalgar Capped Derby boots in black calf leather (£525), all **Geoffrey Tailor & Kilt Maker** and **21st Century Kilts**. Baltic MR Classic silver green strap watch (£560), **James Porter & Son**. Buttonhole (POA), **Trudi Todd Flowers**. >>



Handmade 8yd kilt by Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers using exclusive Flodden Commemorative tartan woven by Lochcarron of Scotland (£795), Lovat Nicolson tweed jacket and waistcoat exclusively by Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers (£625), muted red wool straight tie (£30), brass cantled coyote sporran with leather tassels by Margaret Morrison (£395), brass stag's head kilt pin (as before), Reiver Firethorn hose by House of Cheviot (£55), bog oak and brass top sgian dubh by Black Boar Knives (£225) and brown leather Goodyear welted ghillie brogues (£125), all **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers**. Hamilton watch (as before). Buttonhole (POA), Trudi Todd Flowers. >>








8yd Strathclyde District tartan, fully hand-sewn traditional kilt with garter flashes, made in-house (£850 - £1,000), Crail-style jacket and vest in Sloane midnight pure wool (£550), exclusive 'GT' antique cufflinks (£40), Charles Tyrwhitt shirt, Vivienne Westwood tie, goat hair sporran (£560), Celtic Art silver sword kilt pin (£160), tartan hose tops (£300), sgian dubh (POA) and Joseph Cheaney Trafalgar Capped Derby boots in black calf leather (£525), all Geoffrey Tailor & Kilt Maker and 21st Century Kilts. Buttonhole (POA), Trudi Todd Flowers. »



Weathered Patriot kilt (from £629), air force blue tie (£17), Lovat green Crail jacket and waistcoat (£459), light grey sealskin Pride of Scotland dress sporran (£320), Pride of Scotland brown leather day brogues (£125), imitation sgian dubh (included in hire package) and Lovat green kilt hose (from £20), all **McCalls Highlandwear**. (Hire full outfit from £145 or buy full package from £1,429.) Buttonhole (POA), **Trudi Todd Flowers**. »





A full-length portrait of a man standing outdoors on a gravel path next to a stone wall. He is wearing a traditional Scottish kilt outfit. The outfit includes a light green Harris Tweed jacket and a matching waistcoat over a white shirt and a green and blue plaid tie. He is also wearing a blue and green plaid kilt, a white sporran with a silver metal top and three tassels, and green knee-high socks with brown leather brogue shoes. A small boutonniere is pinned to his lapel. The background shows a stone archway and green foliage.

The Harris Tweed jacket and waistcoat (from £749) blend Hebridean heritage with modern edge. Match it with the statement-making Alchemist 8-Yard kilt — heavy swing, deep pleats, timeless tartan (from £699). Next-level finishing touches include Lovat green kilt socks (£19.99), Alchemist tie (£39.99), bleached nutria sporran (£399), brown day brogues (£120), Alchemist flashes (£39.99), thistle leaves kilt pin (£29.99) and pewter thistle cufflinks (£29.99), all made in Frank's Gold Room at **Kilts 4 U**, where legacy meets bold design. Baltic watch (as before). Buttonhole (POA), Trudi Todd Flowers. >>

Heritage Collection Huntsman jacket and waistcoat in peat (£780), Heritage Collection Huntsman kilt (£700), standard collar shirt (to hire), ruby red tie (£28), stag and thistle copper cantle sporran (£565) with dark tan, antique link chains (£28), thistle copper kilt pin (£26), elm, brass and bog oak with Wild River Forge blade sgian dubh (£325), peat socks, ruby red garters (£28), and tan scout shoes (£110), all Eight Yards. >>









Exclusive Weathered Pride of Scotland kilt (from £629), matching exclusive Weathered Pride of Scotland tie (£30), brown tweed Crail jacket and waistcoat (£459), brown musquash Pride of Scotland dress sporran (£360), Pride of Scotland brown leather day brogues (£125), imitation sgian dubh (included in hire package) and brown kilt hose (from £20), all **McCall's Highlandwear**. (Hire full outfit from £155 or buy full package from £1,649.) Hamilton watch (as before). Buttonhole (POA), **Trudi Todd Flowers**. »



Moss Clunie jacket (£500), MacCallum Modern kilt (£650), standard collar shirt (to hire), MacCallum Modern tie (£30), light tan brogue design sporran (£220) with dark tan antique link chains (£28), horn kilt pin (£38), burr elm and brass on a Wild River Forge blade sgian dubh (£325), Lovat green socks, MacCallum Modern garters (£26) and tan scout shoes (£110), all **Eight Yards**. Baltic watch (as before). Buttonhole (POA), **Trudi Todd Flowers**. »





Old-school tailoring meets modern cool in the Cashmere Sherriffmuir jacket and waistcoat (from £799). Pair it with the bold alternative-pleat Old Scotland kilt - a fresh spin on heritage (from £650). Finish the look with standout details: Old Scotland tie (£39.99), staghorn crown kilt pin (£34.99), bleached nutria sporran (£399), brown day brogues (£120), cream socks (£19.99), Old Scotland flashes (£39.99), crafted in Frank's Gold Room at **Kilts 4 U**, Hamilton watch (as before). Buttonhole (POA), **Trudi Todd Flowers**. »





Behind *THE* scenes



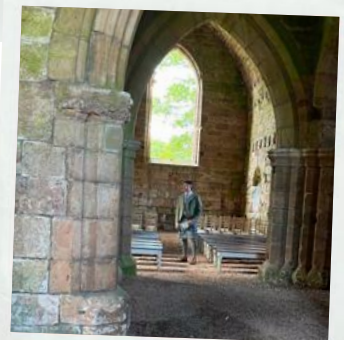
Robert Burns certainly wasn't exaggerating when he described **Dunglass Estate** as "the most romantic sweet place I ever saw." The beautiful East Lothian estate boasts everything from a rugged coastline and ancient woodlands to the picturesque semi-ruined 15th-century Dunglass Collegiate Church and (equally picture-perfect) resident farm animals. It's every inch the scenic Scottish estate, but on the June day of our shoot, you could have been forgiven for thinking we were in Italy, especially as we entered the courtyard with its mature olive trees and honey-coloured stone.

Of course, there was no mistaking Lothian for Lombardy as soon as we started to fill our rails with beautifully-tailored Highlandwear. The brief for this edit was muted tweeds and tactile textures and our contributors certainly delivered, with outfits that ranged from relaxed tradition to modern cuts and interesting designs.

Add to that a range of gents' buttonholes from Trudi Todd Flowers (all POA), and we were spoilt for choice when it came to styling our model Euan.

And then there was the setting itself. Dunglass Estate is one of those venues that gives couples so much flexibility when it comes to how they say, 'I do.' They can choose to marry outdoors or in the historic Stable Yard room, or that stunning church! Everywhere you look at Dunglass there's a gorgeous photo opportunity; from the courtyard and the meadow, to the monument with its views out to sea. We should know. We explored every corner of the estate!

Then, once you've got the perfect couple shots, kick back and indulge with all your loved ones in the purpose-built Dunglass Pavilion before retiring to the elegant Seaview House for the night or the Treehouse honeymoon suite. You'll love it! **Contact Dunglass Estate directly to enquire about holding your gorgeous wedding here.**





BUTTONHOLES
Trudi Todd Flowers

MODEL

Euan Anderson

PHOTOGRAPHY

Laura A. Tiliman Photography

VENUE

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Finishing TOUCHES

One of the best things about wearing a Highlandwear outfit is the way you can personalise it with beautiful accessories that really elevate the overall effect. Then complete your wedding day ensemble with a well-considered watch, wedding band and cufflinks, and a spritz of your favourite scent.

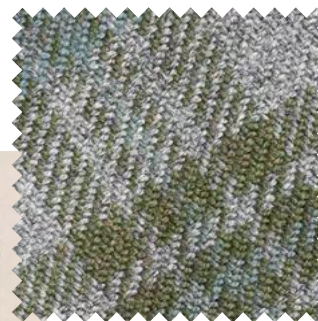


Stag and thistle copper dress sporran, handmade in Scotland with natural raccoon fur, suede lining and pewter stag tassels (£565), Wild River Forge sgian dubh, one-of-a-kind with elm, brass and ancient bog oak, complete with handmade leather sheath (£325), stag knot copper kilt pin, cast in pewter with Celtic knotwork and a copper finish (£26), Manx Hunting Ancient tartan tie, handmade in Scotland (£30) and Barker Spencer Oxford brogues, hand-stitched in Northampton from polished calf leather with full leather soles (£299), all **Eight Yards**. Matrix 4mm band in 9ct rose gold (£688), **Sheila Fleet Jewellery**. Botanical white and sage invitation with gold wax seal and ribbon (POA), **Jenna B Stationery**.



Ancient blue Lewis hose (£54), Black Isle pastel mink dress sporran (£515), staghorn walnut kilt pin (£30), staghorn walnut bottle opener sgian dubh (£77), brown day brogues (£120) and exclusive Weathered Pride of Scotland tie (£30), all **McCalls Highlandwear**. Seiko Presage Acacia Cocktail Time watch (£520), gold mother-of-pearl inlay cufflinks (£1,465) and yellow gold 5mm court wedding ring (£595), all **James Porter & Son**. »





Did you know Kilts 4 U also offer a womenswear and accessories range? Head to yourscottishwedding.co.uk to find out more.



Antique stag and thistle silver fox sporran (£379.99), emerald Celtic enamel kilt pin (£21.99), Spirit of Loch Ness tweed tie (£29.99), weathered real staghorn sgian dubh (£74.99), Spirit of Loch Ness hip flask (£39.99), all **Kilts 4 U**. Frederique Constant Moon Phase watch (£995), silver domed cufflinks (£210) and platinum brushed bevelled edge wedding ring (£1,275), all **James Porter & Son**. Sannox 50ml eau de parfum (£58), **ARRAN** Sense of Scotland.



Groom's Room

Beaver sporran with 'GT' antique cantle and chain included (£455), Beaulieu copper socks (£100), handmade sgian dubh with Damascus stainless steel blade, msosa wood with bog oak handle (£290), staghorn kilt pin (£75) and brown leather belt with 'GT' antique buckle (£90), all **Geoffrey Tailor & Kilt Maker**. Baltic MR Roulette Watch (£560), black enamel and diamond cufflinks (£415) and Zedd black zirconium and platinum ring (£525), all **James Porter & Son**. Miller Harris Oud Éclat 100ml eau de parfum (£190), **Rachel Scott Couture**. »





Brass cantled coyote sporran with leather tassels by Margaret Morrison (£395), Black Boar Knives sgian dubh with hand-turned thuya burl wood handle and Damascus blade (£285), Norman C. Milne artisan brass stag's head kilt pin, designed and crafted exclusively for **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers** (£125), Thistle Shoes camel leather brogues with Goodyear welted sole (£125), Muted red Nicolson tartan herringbone weave tie (£35) and flashes (£30) both exclusive to **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers** and Gleann Rìgh Lovat green kilt hose (£20), all **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers**. Eau de parfum (as before). ■





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A woman with blonde hair styled in a bun, wearing a large, wide-brimmed straw hat with a blue ribbon. She is wearing a teal, off-the-shoulder, floor-length dress with large, layered fabric flowers on the shoulders. The dress has a draped waist and a pleated skirt. She is standing in a room with white curtains and a white wall with decorative panels.

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The Modern matriarch

It's been almost a decade since my husband and I tied the knot and a lot has changed in the wedding world, says **Claire Muir**. But one thing that hasn't evolved much is what mothers-of-the-bride and groom ask when it comes to choosing what to wear – What's on trend? And how can I look like a stylish, modern mum? Here, the experts explain all...



Jumpsuit by Couture Club, £695 (available in cobalt, raspberry and cream)

“Mums certainly don't want to look mumsy,” confirms Louise Brown at Catwalk Falkirk. “But they still want to look like ‘mum’, as opposed to a guest. It's a fine balance and our designers have nailed it. All their pieces are designed to make you feel radiant and confident on the big day.”

Louise adds that Catwalk styles balance timeless sophistication with modern flair. “There's always that ‘something special’ to elevate the look – beautiful beaded detailing, off-the-shoulder necklines, drape backs, flattering fit and flare, and pencil skirts. As weddings continue to evolve, so do the fashion choices for mums who are no longer confined to traditional looks.”

At Bear Necessities in Auchterarder, Maggie Robbins says the vast amount of choice, combined with the fact today's mums are more adventurous than ever, means mothers-of-the-bride and groom can wear pretty much anything. “Women are aspiring to stay younger, not get older. Often, they're going to the gym and doing Pilates, yoga or running, and they look incredible.”

“Feminine, classy and a wee bit sexy.”

MAGGIE, BEAR NECESSITIES



Floral hi-lo hemline dress by Fely Campo, £785 (made to order)

Trends for today – and tomorrow

When handpicking stock, Maggie says you “can't really beat looking feminine, classy and a wee bit sexy,” and she's noticed feminine vibes are big for 2025/26. “I've been blown away by what's coming through. Everything is simple – yet it's not. Expect gorgeous fabrics with subtle sparkle, and block colours instead of prints. We've got some stunning jumpsuits in statement hues like royal blue, red and lime green. Of course, there are always softer shades – pale mocha, blush pink, pale blue and lovely sea mist colours.”

Meanwhile, Fiona Wilson at Frox of Falkirk thinks 2025/26 is all about sophistication, timeless elegance and creating truly iconic looks. “From structured tailoring to soft feminine florals, these trends redefine what it means to be the ultimate wedding style icon,” she says.

And silhouette-wise, it's all about elevated structure. She adds, “Spanish designer Fely Campo designs silhouettes that celebrate form and confidence. Clean lines, dramatic sleeves and cinched waists – her designs are ideal for all women's shapes who want to make a subtle yet powerful impact. Gabriela Sanchez's Irresistible Collection also dazzles with their clever use of peplums, illusion necklines and layered skirts.”



Blue dress by Irresistible, £565 (also available in fuchsia)

Accessory essentials

Next up, headwear is being reimagined this season, according to Fiona. “Think less ‘fascinator’ and more ‘sculptural elegance’ because accessories aren’t just add-ons – they’re part of the statement,” she says. “Oversized corsage pins and headpieces are trending, and there’s a vibrant spectrum of dyed shoes and bags to complement your outfit.”

Alternatively, Louise suggests that simple jewellery, and neutral shoes and bags will help maintain a balanced look. Meanwhile, Maggie recommends jewellery in pastel colours, which we love the sound of at YSW.

Finishing touches

When it comes to hair styles for the big day, Fiona says we’re having a moment of blending tradition with soft drama – strictly without giving ‘overdone’ vibes. “Think low and elegant chignons, glossy waves and side-parted bobs,” she says.

And make-up? It’s all about enhancing natural beauty with radiant skin, satin finishes and a focus on the eyes. “Expect to see soft smoky lids in earth tones, paired with well-groomed brows and peach-toned blushes,” Fiona continues. “Lips go soft and plush – rosewood, mauve and classic nude tones dominate.”

The last word

Ultimately, Maggie reminds us that “all women are different” and it’s important to buy according to your body shape and what feels good. “When you find your outfit, you need to be excited, thinking ‘I can’t wait to wear this,’” she urges. “You don’t want something that’s going to have you waking up in a cold sweat at 3am because it’s not right. Don’t buy a worry, you get them for free – that’s what I tell my customers!”

“Accessories aren’t just add-ons – they’re part of the statement.”

FIONA, FROX OF FALKIRK

John Charles dress in peacock, £649



Veni Infantino jumpsuit with over-skirt in royal blue, £659



Be Inspired





The Fa
Dunmore
001 24x

Laura A. Tiliman Photography
Diamondfire silver shell pearl
and cubic zirconia drop earrings
(£120), Fennes Jewellery.
Envelope from stationery suite
by Jenna B Stationery.



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9ct white gold three-stone engagement ring with oval 0.60ct pink sapphire centre with 0.10ct brilliant-cut diamonds on either side (£850), 9ct white gold wedding ring with a discreet shape and a straight line of 0.20ct F/G colour, VS clarity diamonds (£920), Diamonfire silver shell pearl and cubic zirconia drop necklace on adjustable chain (£110), Diamonfire silver shell pearl and cubic zirconia drop earrings (£120), and Diamonfire silver shell pearl and cubic zirconia tennis bracelet (£239), all **Fennes Jewellery**. 'Rosa' halo-style band with pearl twists, AB and blush crystals with small glass blush beads (£265), **Baba-C Designs**. Beautiful floral blush invitation with gold accents and gold wax seal (POA), **Jenna B Stationery**.



Perla headpiece by Halo & Co (POA), Opus Couture. Secret Hearts diamond stud earrings in 9ct rose gold (£287), Secret Hearts diamond pendant necklace in 9ct rose gold (£191), Matrix 0.25ct diamond ring in 9ct rose gold (£1,834) and Matrix 3mm band in 9ct rose gold (£515), all Sheila Fleet Jewellery. Invitation and envelope (as before). Perfume bottle engraved by Jenna B Stationery (contact them directly for price). >>





Platinum 0.25ct claw-set wedding ring (£975), pink sapphire oval halo engagement ring (£2,595), Recarlo diamond hoop earrings (£1,740), 2.50ct tennis bracelet (£1,995) and diamond circle pendant necklace (£1,195), all **James Porter & Son**. Flower and pearl detail hair comb and tiara (both POA), both **Kavelle Couture**. Pretty hand-painted vows book, reserved sign and fan (all POA), all **Jenna B Stationery**.





Light pink pearl jewellery set (£75), light pink pearl and cubic zirconia bracelet (£55) and light pink flower comb (£95), all **Emma Rose Jewellery**. Pretty hand-painted vows book and reserved sign (both POA), both **Jenna B Stationery**. >>





Sage green teardrop jewellery set (£75), leafy bridal bracelet (£40) and sage thistle and rose comb (£125), all **Emma Rose Jewellery**. Botanical white and sage invitation with gold wax seal and ribbon (POA), **Jenna B Stationery**. After the Rain 15ml eau de parfum (£21), **ARRAN Sense of Scotland**.





Lunar diamond small pendant in 9ct yellow gold (£1,512), Lunar diamond petite stud earrings in 9ct yellow gold (£881), Matrix 0.25ct diamond ring in 9ct yellow gold (£1,795) and Matrix 3mm band in 9ct yellow gold (£461), all **Sheila Fleet Jewellery**. Stephanie Browne 'Chloe' pin set (£160), **Rachel Scott Couture**. Geometric acrylic invitation mixing sharp angles with playful foliage designs and complementary menu card from 'Plant One on Me' collection (both POA), **Starca Designs**. After the Rain perfume (as before). »»



A pair of earrings is shown against a light blue background. The earring on the left is a pear-shaped peridot earring with a silver-toned metal setting. The earring on the right is a round peridot earring with a silver-toned metal setting and a butterfly back. A small portion of a green fabric is visible in the bottom right corner.



2mm plain yellow gold wedding ring (£435), Toi et moi emerald and pear-cut engagement ring (£2,795), emerald cut hoop earrings (£565), yellow gold line bracelet (£3,575) and yellow gold line necklet (£5,950), all **James Porter & Son**. Stephanie Browne 'Zara' comb (£350), **Rachel Scott Couture**. Botanical sage vows book with ribbon (POA), **Jenna B Stationery**. After the Rain perfume (as before). >>

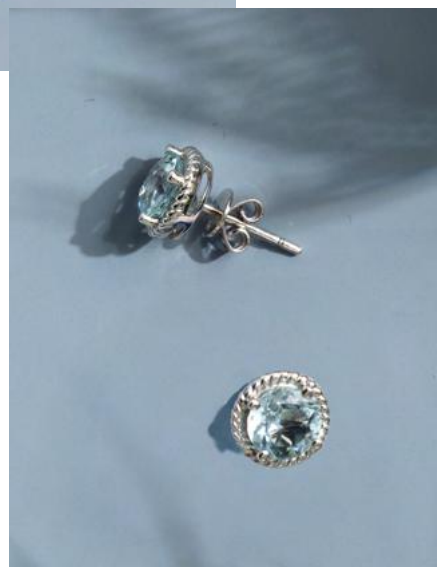




Offset fancy tiara wedding ring (£995), heritage cut three-stone engagement ring (£3,295), heritage cut stud earrings (£1,695), five-diamond white gold bangle (£4,095) and heritage cut diamond pendant necklace (£2,050), all **James Porter & Son**. Ivory & Co Odyssey tiara (POA), **Kudos Bridal Dunfermline**. RSVP and info cards taken from a navy boxed invitation (POA), **Starca Designs**.



9ct white gold pear-shaped London Topaz ring with diamond shoulders, three brilliant-cut stones in a triangular setting (£750), 9ct white gold shaped wedding ring with 0.16ct F/G colour VS clarity diamond (£940), 9ct white gold aquamarine round-cut 1.35ct in a rope design on an 18" chain (£520), 9ct white gold aquamarine round-cut 1.59ct in a rope design stud earrings (£490), Diamondfire silver, navy blue and white cubic zirconia claw-set tennis bracelet (£429), all **Fennes Jewellery**. Ivory & Co pearl blossom clip and Ivory & Co 18-piece pearl hairpin set (both POA), both **Kudos Bridal Dunfermline**. Dusky blue half-arch pocketfold invitation featuring custom acrylic initials and a curated set of arch-shaped insets in varying sizes, each embellished with delicate illustrations from the 'Curves & Kisses' collection (POA), **Starca Designs**. Jo Malone perfume (photographer's own). >>





Primula Scotica cubic zirconia stud earrings in forget-me-not blue enamel (£106), Primula Scotica petite cubic zirconia pendant in forget-me-not blue enamel (£107), Primula Scotica stretch bracelet in forget-me-not blue enamel (£123), Matrix 3mm band in Sterling Silver (£98) and Matrix blue topaz ring in Sterling Silver (£158), all **Sheila Fleet Jewellery**. Forget-me-not hair vine with pearls, rhinestones and beautiful crystal beading shaped into delicate flowers (£230), and three bluebell hairpins with crystal and pearl beading with small lucite bluebell shaped flowers (POA), both **Baba-C Designs**. Dusky blue trifold invitation, including a stunning frosted acrylic invitation nestled alongside a delicate venue illustration, exuding enchanting fairytale vibes from the 'Blue-tiful Beginnings' collection (POA), **Starca Designs**.

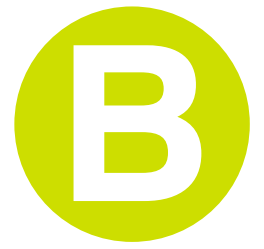




Light blue sapphire jewellery set (£75), light blue sapphire bracelet (£55), light blue sapphire and flower comb (£125), all **Emma Rose Jewellery**. Bespoke vellum envelope, delicately printed with elegant white roses that softly reveal the modern acrylic invitation within, sealed with a bespoke blue thistle wax emblem from the 'Botanical Veil' collection (POA), **Starca Designs**. Perfume (as before). ■



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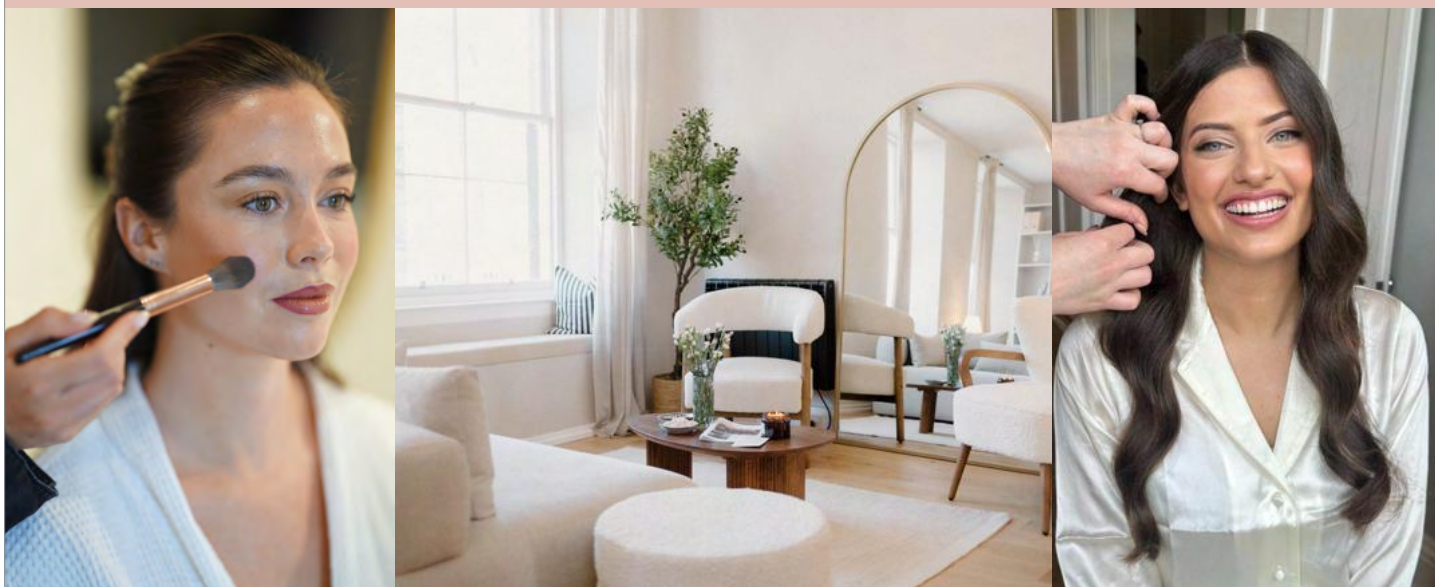
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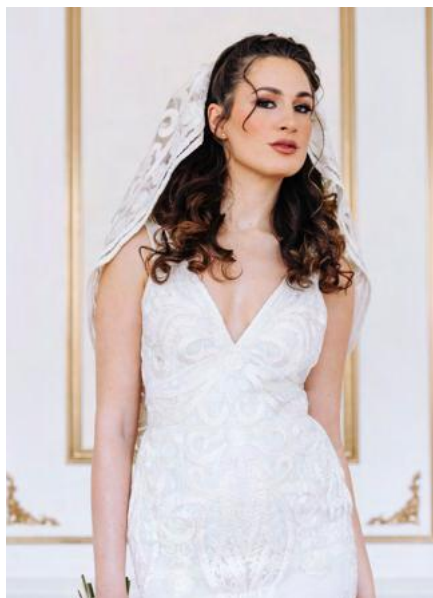
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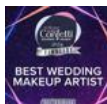
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Scent can be so evocative, taking you back to a certain time and place. That's why selecting particular scents for both yourself and your wedding space allows you to capture that 'just married' feeling for the future



“Instil a sense of peace while elevating your whole wedding day experience.”

1. Hebridean Dreams Reed Diffuser 200ml (£65). **Ishga**

Inspired by Ishga's signature lavender, rose geranium, juniper and lemongrass oils the Hebridean Dreams diffuser creates a soothing atmosphere, perfect for your ceremony and evening reception. Calm any wedding nerves with this relaxing aroma and instil a sense of peace while elevating your whole wedding day experience. Plus, you'll love how beautiful the iridescent cut glass diffuser bottle looks.

2. Restful Pillow Mist (£24). **ESPA**

First things first, before you even begin your wedding morning beauty regimen let's start with a great night's sleep, and guard against unwanted dark circles. Spritz this dreamy spray on your body, bedlinen and the air around your bed before sleep and let the soporific scents of lavender, clary sage and eucalyptus soothe you and help you drift off.

3 Rejuvenating Frankincense Hydrating Cream 50g (£38). **Neal's Yard Remedies**

As every MUA will tell you, flawless make-up begins with a great base, and you can trust this hydrating cream to lock in moisture and leave you with super-soft skin. Delicately scented with frankincense, this moisturiser is reminiscent of summer holidays and you can feel it smoothing and tightening the skin, without being oily or overly heavy.

4. Myrica Muse eau de parfum 100ml by Miller Harris (£140). **Rachel Scott Couture**

Choosing your wedding perfume is so important. Every time you wear it afterwards will transport you back to your special day. If you like your perfume fruity, you'll love this captivating scent by Miller Harris. Bayberry (myrica) and strawberry blend with pink pepper and tangerine head notes while heart notes come from recycled rose and patchouli natural oils extracted from the by-product of an initial extraction, making this seductive scent both sustainable and gorgeous. >>



5. After the Rain eau de parfum 50ml (£58). **ARRAN Sense of Scotland**

If you prefer a slightly more floral scent with notes of citrus definitely consider this one. After the Rain evokes the fresh and uplifting scent of an Arran garden following a rainstorm and is light and feminine, blending rose petals, floral citrus and notes of sandalwood. This fragrance won't overpower but *will* last all day.

6. After the Rain 35cl Candle (£35). **ARRAN Sense of Scotland**

Nothing creates a romantic atmosphere quite like candlelight but instead of opting for basic pillar candles why not enhance the moment with this gorgeous, scented offering from ARRAN Sense of Scotland? The After the Rain candle harnesses the brand's signature scent to create a fresh citrus fragrance with base notes of warm and earthy sandalwood, bound to uplift your wedding day.

7. Mandarin, Rosemary, Bergamot and Cedar Bath Soak (£22). **Dook**

Before you even consider your first spritz of perfume, start your wedding morning well with an indulgent soak in these invigorating hand-blended salts and essential oils from Scottish company Dook. Simply add a handful to a warm bath and relax into your big day. The citrus notes of mandarin and bergamot blend with the herb and woody undertones to enliven and set you up for the day.

8. Hebridean Dreams Candle 9cl (£19). **Ishga**

We're in love with the Ishga diffuser but if you prefer your scent to come from candles, dot a handful of these little gems around your venue to unleash the company's heavenly scent. The lemongrass and rose geranium blend brings a light-hearted summer vibe and with up to 10 hours' burning time they'll last from your walk down the aisle to the very last dance.

9. Cedar and Bitter Orange Salt Soap (£10). **Dook**

Your wedding day demands soft and glowing skin so complement those Dook bath salts with the team's favourite soap, combining invigorating citrus with warm woody notes and the secret ingredient, coriander essential oil. Other winning components include organic coconut oil and raw organic shea butter to moisturise and nourish your skin, while French pink clay removes impurities, leaving you with silky soft skin.



“Ishga's heavenly lemongrass and rose geranium blend brings a light-hearted summer vibe.”

10: Aromatherapy Essential Oil Diffuser Starter Kit - Soothing (£95). **ESPA**

Trust ESPA to create an electric diffuser that releases fine plumes of your chosen essential oil. Just tuck it in a corner to disperse your chosen wedding scent. We've been trialling ESPA's soothing signature blend, designed to relax and bring serenity with its myrrh, sandalwood, rose geranium and frankincense blend – the perfect background aroma to your dream day.

11. English Lavender & Calendula Hand Lotion 200ml (£20). **Neal's Yard Remedies**

While the focus may be on the perfect wedding make-up glow, don't neglect your hands. After all, they're going to be on display for some pretty important photos. This lightweight hand lotion instantly conditions your skin, while aloe vera and calendula soothe. Add to that mood-boosting botanicals and your hands will be left scented with a rich yet delicate aroma. ■



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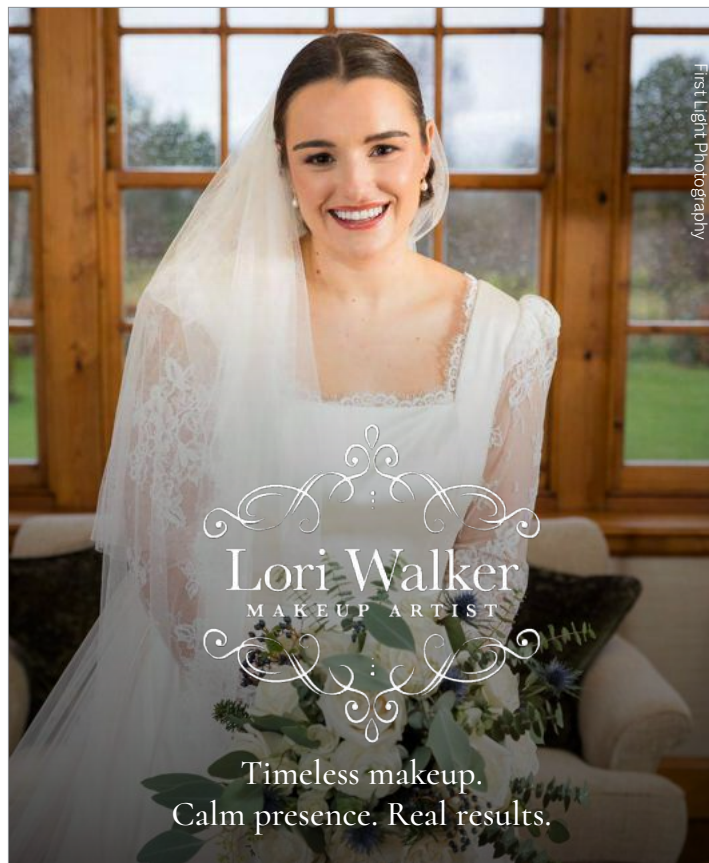


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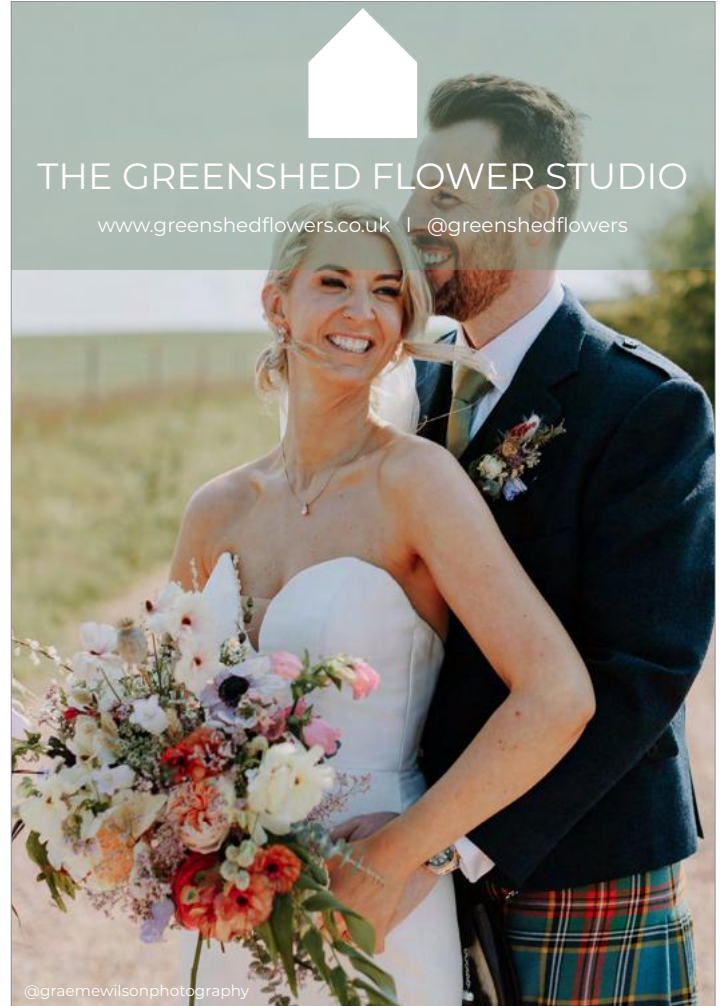


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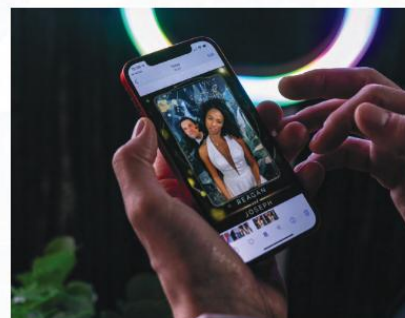
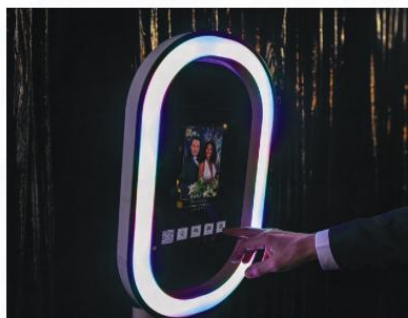


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Prepare for your happily ever after

Of course you want the perfect wedding day, but it's worth taking time to plan for the marriage beyond

If you're deep in wedding prep, you may find yourself getting mildly obsessed with napkins, seating plans and RSVPs. All of which are, of course, important, but sometimes they can distract from thinking about how married life could look. "Most couples spend more time planning flowers and favours than preparing for what comes after the vows," says Eileen A of 'Til Truth Do Us Part.

The new venture is a pre-wedding experience designed for couples who want more than just the perfect day and want to prepare for life after the vows. It aims to give them the tools to grow together and learn how to communicate clearly, drop the masks, take responsibility and build a marriage that's honest, real and built to last.

"I began 'Til Truth Do Us Part after experiencing the chaos of my own emotional blind spots," explains Eileen. "What followed was a deep shift into honesty and self-awareness, which naturally led me to listen closely to couples before their weddings. I recognised a major gap in the market for truth-based relationship preparation, which has proven deeply impactful and in high demand."

'Til Truth Do Us Part offers private sessions, workshops and luxury weekend intensives for couples who want more than a beautiful wedding – they want a marriage built on genuineness, authenticity and a lack of pretence with each other. "This is where emotional clutter gets cleared, masks come off, and you stop performing love and start living it," says Eileen. "We guide couples through genuine conversations most people avoid before the rings go on."

While the business is based in Grow Hair and Wellness in Bo'ness, the team offers both in-person and online sessions. The weekend intensives are usually held in Scotland, but they also work with couples all over the world via video call. "Wherever you are, if you are ready to grow together, we will meet you there," says Eileen.

And it doesn't matter what stage you're at. Whether you're early in your wedding planning or just weeks before the big day when the pressure kicks in, you can access 'Til Truth's help at any time. "Both are powerful entry points," adds Eileen. ■



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Crowd pleasers

Looking for some inspo for your post-ceremony entertainment?
Jennifer McLaren discovers what's trending with couples tying the knot...

One are the days when a glass of wine and a vol-au-vent was the extent of keeping your wedding guests occupied. The list of wedding entertainment and ways to capture your day is ever-growing, with so many options to create the ultimate fun and memorable event.

From content creators who will record all the key moments for your social media platforms to personalised cocktails, Champagne towers, magicians, caricaturists and oyster shuckers – there's never a dull moment to be had! We caught up with some suppliers to get the lowdown on what's hot at the moment.

Get creative

Roni Hyslop of All Wrapped Up Events Scotland wedding planners says, "We have been helping our couples get creative and incorporate their favourite drinks into their big days! We have had everything from 'His and Hers' cocktails to 'His and Hers' beer taps where guests can just help themselves to a pint when they want one."

Roni goes on to say that slushie cocktails, baby Guinnesses in prosecco glasses, Champagne towers or just pimping up your prosecco can really liven up your drinks reception. "Who can say no to a frozen margarita or pouring a pint of ice-cold beer in the sun to enjoy while your photos are being taken?" Roni goes on. "We have a collection of drinks carts, Champagne bowls and beer buckets that all help to make a great focal point for after your ceremony. The carts can be dressed to complement the theme of the day and then can be repurposed later in the day. Uses range from a memory table with lost loved ones' photos to a candy bar or guest book station!"



Love story

Nicky Mullen of Starca Designs helps couples create wedding newspapers, which can usually be found sitting on the chairs for guests arriving, or on tables with names attached. Content can include the couple's love story and how they met, a list of bridal party members, a timeline of the wedding day, an 'in memory' section for lost loved ones, thank you messages for guests, and fun facts about the couple, along with some puzzles or quizzes. The size can vary between one double-sided sheet to a four-page paper and Nicky can create bespoke newspaper titles for her clients.

Nicky explains, "I think due to the drop in religious ceremonies and the need for an order of service, these have been more popular. It's a fun way to let guests know more about the couple and it also fills in some time between them going off to have their photographs taken."

"Who can say
no to a frozen
margarita in
the sun?"

Animal magic

During the transition between the daytime and evening portions of the wedding, there is an array of entertainment for guests to enjoy. Many interactive catering companies offer experiences such as oyster shucking, serving fine Scottish produce to guests.

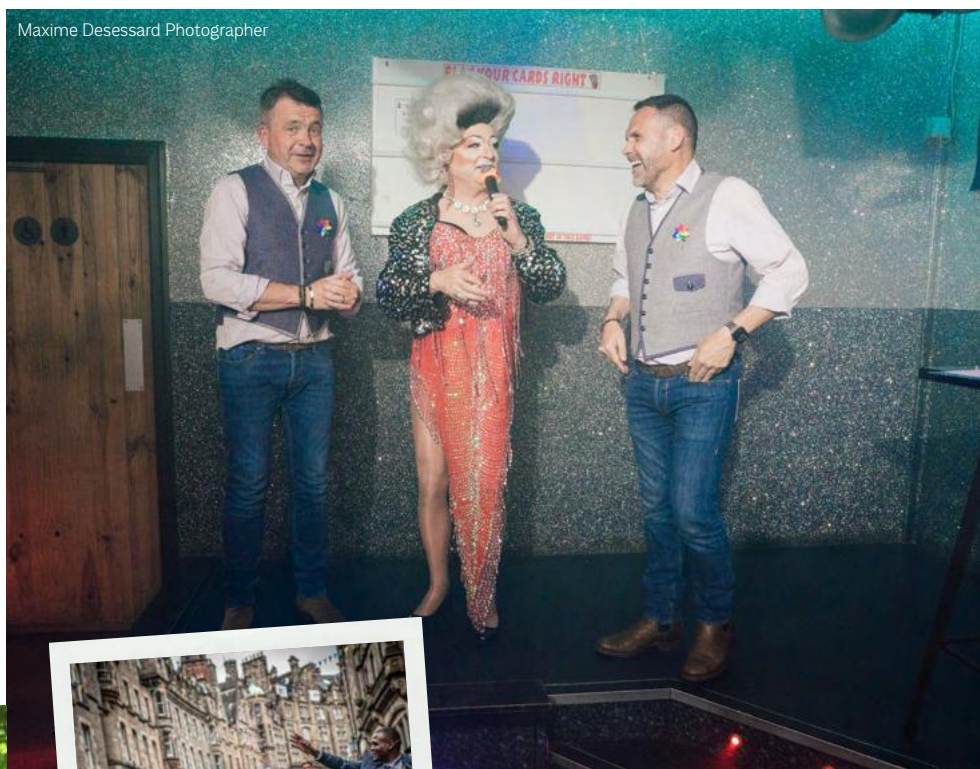
Meanwhile, animal-loving couples might opt for a visit from alpacas, with guests being allowed to pet and feed the gentle creatures. They will even come out of their pen for some special photos with the newlyweds!

At Kinlune House in Angus, special wedding packages include an *Outlander*-inspired wedding on top of Kinlune Hill, complete with Highland pony!



Aylwin Pillai

“A joyful, crowd-pleasing way to keep the energy high.”



Maxime Desessard Photographer



Geebz Photography

“It's a fun way to let guests know more about the couple.”

Immersive experiences

Wedding planner Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki has first-hand experience of what kind of things couples are choosing for their wedding entertainment. He and his team have seen a few trends and ideas become increasingly popular with couples lately – all centred around creating fun, immersive guest experiences and memorable transitions throughout the day.

Oskar says, “Artists like Whathannahdoes and Holly Sharpe have been sketching guests live during receptions – with the portraits becoming either personalised favours or a unique design for the couple’s thank you cards. It’s interactive, elegant and incredibly memorable.”

Oskar adds that a recent inclusive wedding featured drag entertainer

Sally Saint Scot to host games like Lip Sync Extravaganza and a Treasure Hunt during the ‘comfort break’ between dinner and dancing. “Sally even sang the first dance live with the band – such a joyful, crowd-pleasing way to keep the energy high.”

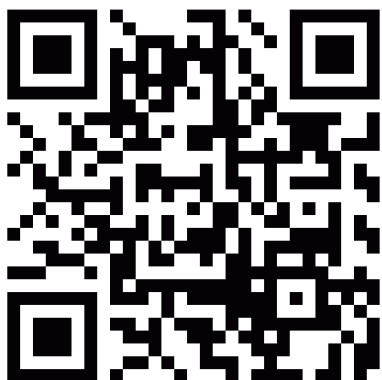
Oskar goes on to say The Saltire Street Band gave a spectacular New Orleans-style moment, parading guests from the ceremony to the reception through the streets of Edinburgh’s Old Town – all dancing along behind the music. “A total highlight for locals and tourists alike!”

The team has also created relaxed musical lounge settings where talented guests could step up and perform during the evening and has seen a rise in glitter face painting during the evening transition. “It’s a fantastic way to mark the shift from formal to fun!” Oskar smiles. ■

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Back home

*Kathryn Hutchison
& Ryan Gauld*



A winter castle wedding packed with style, fun and special Scottish touches

DATE: Saturday 14th December 2024
VENUE: Drumtochty Castle, Auchenblae
PHOTOGRAPHY: Apricot Tree Weddings

As far as action-packed proposal plans go, footballer Ryan scored 11 out of 10 after popping the question during a romantic stay on Tofino Island in Vancouver, Canada. “We stayed in a beautiful resort and he had this whole day planned full of activities,” explains Kathryn. “In the morning we went surfing (a hobby we picked up when we lived in Portugal during the pandemic) followed by a boat trip to do bear watching – and, ironically, we ended up seeing one for

free in the car park of our resort at the end of the day! The evening ended with a relaxing beachfront sauna, cold water swimming in the ocean and a sunset proposal! I was completely oblivious the entire day and it’s a memory we’ll cherish forever.”

Making plans

Choosing a venue topped the to-do list and they knew instantly that, despite living in Canada, they’d tie the knot back home in Scotland. A winter wedding in a castle felt right and they viewed a few before



“It felt
right to
sparkle.”



realising that Drumtochty ticked most of their boxes. “We wanted to feel at home for the weekend; somewhere that felt very traditionally Scottish. Plus, we had a lot of guests coming from different countries and wanted to host them all on one estate,” says the bride.

They decided on a moody, romantic theme, and trusted floristry and décor specialists Gloam to bring it to life. “We had antique gold and crystal-cut glass candlestick holders with purple velvet ribbons and tapered candles in soft rose, muted mauve and dark plum shades. The linens and napkins were warm-toned and the menus had matching purple bows. For the flowers, we gave Kate creative control and adored what she did. She even emailed me a ‘bouquet recipe’ after the wedding so I could remake it in the future – such a sweet touch.”

Planning from afar, they kept DIY details to a minimum but couldn’t resist a few personal touches. Kathryn made wax seals for the invitation envelopes and decorated a letterbox for donations on their wedding day in lieu of gifts. (They raised money for animal shelters they’d volunteered at while in Portugal.) They also made the location-themed table plan together. “Each place had a picture of us there and revealed why it was important,” Kathryn explains. “And, as huge fans of *Friends*, we incorporated lots of references to the sitcom throughout the day.”

The bride shopped for her big day look in Scotland with her mum and sister, searching for the timeless, elegant and understated dress of her dreams – that she could accessorise to the max with diamonds! “For a winter wedding it felt right to sparkle and I started with some extra sequins on the gown. I added white gold diamond cluster drop earrings, layered with specially-made diamond studs, and a dainty diamond tennis bracelet. I wore a crystal comb for the ceremony and swapped it



“Andrew set a relaxed tone.”

» for a headband in the evening. Finally, I'd always known I wanted to be married in Manolos and went for 'Nadira' in ivory satin, complete with asymmetrical crystal leaf embellishments.”

Celebrations begin

The wedding weekend kicked off with a pre-wedding party at Drumtochty, complete with winter-themed cocktails from 10 Dollar Shake, and Kathryn enjoyed a relaxing wedding morning – maybe a little too relaxed, she admits, as she was late to the ceremony! She walked (a little nervously) down the aisle to *Caledonia*, played live by Cairn String Quartet and the couple married in a humanist ceremony.

Despite neither of them claiming to be great public speakers, Kathryn and Ryan wrote their own vows. “It was important to say our own words to each other. Surprisingly, we were calm, and definitely owed that to our celebrant Andrew who set a very relaxed tone.”

The newlyweds, their guests and the string quartet moved into the magnificent reception rooms for prosecco, wine and beer – and lots of activities! As well as advice cards for the couple and a photo



booth, there was a large wipeable crossword puzzle with questions about the pair. “The ceremony had hints to the answers, so those who paid attention did well, and we had a mix of questions that only our family or only our guests from abroad would have known. This meant everyone got chatting to figure the puzzle out.”

The team at Drumtochty served a traditional choice menu that included haggis, especially for the overseas visitors! And there was a beautiful three-tier cake (each layer a different flavour) adorned with vintage piping and figurines of the newlyweds' dogs.

Party time

After a set of speeches that were both funny and heartfelt, evening guests arrived and nine-piece band The Soul Establishment took to the floor – but that wasn't all! This was one fun-packed reception, complete with disco balls, neon signs and 3D cut-outs of their four-legged friends. The guests got involved with a sparkler tunnel before enjoying fireworks and a performance from alternative bagpipe band Drums N' Roses. “We had guests from all over, so we wanted to incorporate some Scottish fun. It was so lively, and the dancefloor was busy all night,” smiles Kathryn.



Dream team

BAND

The Soul Establishment, Drums N' Roses

BRIDE'S DRESS

'Emerald' from Rebecca Ingram by Maggie Sottero at Emma Roy of Edinburgh

BRIDE'S CAPE AND COMB

Lace & Favour

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

Beaverbrooks, Monte Cristo

BRIDE'S VEIL

Richard Designs

BRIDE'S SHOES

Manolo Blahnik

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

True Brides at Sarah Louise Bridal, Blush Bridal

CAKE

Rosewood Cakes

CELEBRANT

Andrew D Scott Celebrant Services

DÉCOR AND FLOWERS

Gloam

ENTERTAINMENT

The Guest Factor

HAIR

Haircreatedbycourtney

MAKE-UP

Steph Milne MUA

STATIONERY

Cartalia

STRING QUARTET

Cairn String Quartet

VIDEOGRAPHY

KLS Wedding Films



“We wanted to incorporate some Scottish fun.”

**PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

“Roaring open fires, tartan aplenty, the warm winter sun and a rock 'n' roll pipe band at the epic Drumtochty Castle. I can't think of a better way to showcase a Scottish wedding to international guests. I don't think I stopped smiling the whole day!” ■

SEAN, APRICOT TREE WEDDINGS

Island dreams

*Kirsten Cameron
& Adam Coakley*

DATE: Saturday 26th May 2025
VENUE: Son Marroig, Majorca
PHOTOGRAPHY: Miguel Arranz Photography



From BAFTA-winning TV star to blushing bride, Kirsten's sunset celebration in Majorca with husband Adam was nothing short of perfect

As co-founder of Scotland's largest influencer agency and star of BBC reality show *The Agency: Unfiltered* (which has racked up over two million streams don't you know!), Perth-born Kirsten Cameron knows a thing or two about creating the perfect moment. So, when it came to planning her wedding to Adam

(who proposed on the beaches of Tulum in Mexico), it was guaranteed to be absolutely unforgettable.

With her strong event planning background, Kirsten knew exactly what she wanted. Initial ideas were focused on Ibiza but after discovering Son Marroig (a historic museum with views to die for) in Majorca, the couple knew it was something special. "I loved the setting, the dramatic aisle and the sunset. And we both really love Majorca," explains the bride.

Planning a destination wedding while running a successful business and filming the third series of her hit show wasn't easy though. "It was very stressful towards the end," admits Kirsten. "But everything turned out perfect on the day."

Without a specific theme or colour scheme – "I changed my mind multiple times!" – Kirsten went with a classic, romantic vibe to match her elegant venue. Creative by nature, she added lots of DIY touches, from personalised fans and tissues to disposable cameras and cute tambourines with the initials of each of the couple's 85 guests. "I created and printed all the menus, as well as the place cards and bar menus, and we vinyled a lot! For favours, I wrote everyone a personal letter they could open on the day. There were a lot of happy tears."

When it came to her dress, Kirsten knew she'd find The One at Opus Couture and after ticking that very beautiful box (head to page 38 to read all about it!), it was on to dressing her seven best gals. "My sister Lauren was my maid of honour. The other six included my niece Rhia, my business partner Amy, Stacey (who helped me stay calm and organised throughout), Abbie (who helped out massively and did some bridesmaids' make-up) and other friends who've been really good to me over the years."

A long-time fan of the label Odd Muse, Kirsten was delighted when they launched bridesmaid dresses. "I really loved buttermilk lemon and there was a style for all their stunning figures."

Adam, meanwhile, donned a dashing Forbes suit and his squad consisted of his best pals, his brother, his brother-in-law and Kirsten's brother.

The day before the wedding, the to-be-weds hosted a totally lush and ultra-Instagrammable Seashells and Wedding Belles-themed party. Later, Kirsten retreated to The Belmond Residencia Hotel with her sister, her niece and Amy. "I've never stayed in a more beautiful place. It really set the tone for what was to come," she remembers. >>

"I wrote everyone a personal letter."





“I loved the setting.”



The big day

Full of nerves when she woke, she had a bath, used her favourite body mask and lined her tummy with breakfast and mimosas. Her morning was “beautiful” but she admits she’d have loved to completely banish those pesky nerves!

Kirsten’s emotions were still getting the better of her as she watched her little girl, Acé, walk down the aisle first – and who could blame her? Pass the tissues, please! “I couldn’t stop crying and had to keep pausing to dab my tears. And it wasn’t just Acé – my dad looked amazing and the violinist was playing Elvis’s *Can’t Help Falling In Love*.”

Having legally tied the knot back in Scotland, best pal Reece conducted the ceremony where the duo shared vows they’d written themselves. “I felt emotional but wanted to get the nice words out because Adam really is an amazing guy.”

After the ‘I do’s, the newlyweds served their favourite cocktails – Aperol Spritz and Frozen Strawberry Daiquiri – and chilled out with their guests, mingling and listening to Elliot G Sax. Outside caterers provided a delicious wedding breakfast (a sit-down dinner comprised of their fave dishes) and there was a selection of “short but meaningful, funny and emotional” speeches from Kirsten, her sister, Adam, Kirsten’s dad and the best man. The bride explains, “I know it’s not common for a bride to speak but I wanted to give a big thanks to my amazing mum. I always think mums don’t get much credit on the

wedding day! I read it from my phone and, typically, it ran out of battery so I had to speak from the heart. But I kind of loved that.”

Sax player Elliot got the party started again and Tartan Entertainment hosted the rest of the evening’s festivities. “Euan from Tartan Entertainment was absolutely amazing. He brought the atmosphere, good vibes and unreal songs. Everyone was dancing the full night and I think I burned about 1,000 calories,” laughs Kirsten.

Looking back, her wedding highlight is simple: “Everyone you love being in the same place, all having the best time. It was a day I wish I could relive again and again.”

Her advice for future brides hinges on enjoying the experience as much as possible. She says, “Don’t stress about the small things and make sure you have fun as you’ll be gutted once it’s all over!”

What’s next?

Kirsten’s wedding journey didn’t end there, though. Reflecting on the planning process, she says seeing her vision come together was the best part – but admits doing it on her own was really tough: “I wish I’d got a wedding planner to cut some of the stress.”

Now, enter her latest business venture, Weddings by Aquarius, which covered the couple’s Glasgow and Majorca weddings. It offers a fresh approach to wedding planning with a focus on content creation, making sure every moment is perfectly captured for couples to treasure, stress-free. We can’t wait to see Kirsten’s beautiful bridal storytelling!



BRIDE'S DRESS

Berta from Opus Couture

BRIDE'S SHOES

Jimmy Choo

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Odd Muse

CELEBRANT

Reece Donnelly

CONTENT CREATION

Weddings by Aquarius

ENTERTAINMENT

Elliot G Sax, Tartan Entertainment

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Forbes

HAIR

Clara Tinks Hair, Charissè Nailen Hair

Artistry

MAKE-UP ARTIST

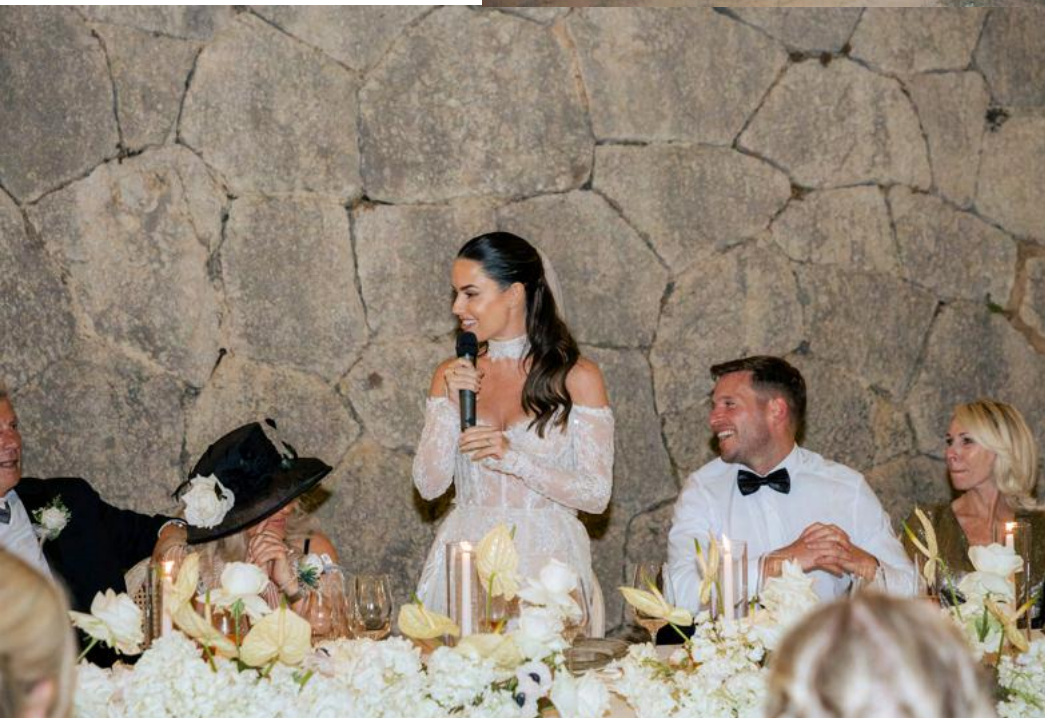
Stacey Toner, Abbie Blyth

VIDEOGRAPHY

Big Day Energy



“Everything
turned out
perfect.”



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“What made Kirsten and Adam's day so unique was the way they incorporated their Scottish identity into the soul of Majorca. Their love was so genuine and joyful, and it felt like the whole landscape celebrated with them. Photographing their wedding, with that stunning light and heartfelt atmosphere, was an absolute dream.”

**MIGUEL, MIGUEL ARRANZ
PHOTOGRAPHY** ■

Woodland romance

Roma & Rory



Roma and Rory ensured both of their cultures were represented in their stunning rustic wedding

DATE: Saturday 31st May 2025
VENUE: Culdees Castle Estate, Muthill
PHOTOGRAPHY: Mark Quinn Photography

There's nothing more heartwarming than a truly thoughtful proposal and Rory certainly delivered when he took his partner Roma back to the beach at Forvie Nature Reserve where they had their second date. It may have been raining but it was perfect, and he even managed to propose against a backdrop of seals, one of marine biologist Roma's favourite animals.

The couple's bespoke wedding rings by Aberdeen jeweller Megan Falconer further deepened their connection to this special place. "Our bands were textured by one of

Megan's hand-made hammers that uses rock from the same coastline," Roma explains.

After a month of basking in the newly-engaged glow, Roma and Rory got down to planning and from the outset they knew it wasn't going to be a "standard wedding package by anyone's book". A fusion of both their cultures was essential, and amazing music was one of their top priorities. Roma first spied Scottish-Indian band Unison Anthems on Instagram and she loved their high-energy mix of bagpipes and Indian dhol drums. "I thought it was an amazing way to fuse two musical cultures together," she says. The couple made a provisional booking



“These are the parts of the day you’ll never forget!”



before hitting upon the perfect venue, Culdees Castle Estate. “It was a new developing wedding venue, which gave us the opportunity to do something a little more unique,” recalls Roma. They fell in love with the ancient trees, the castle backdrop and the woodland setting. “The on-site chickens, goats and peacocks also gave it extra appeal!”

Culdees owners Tracey and Rob were eager to help them realise their vision, building a mandap structure for the Hindu ceremony and allowing an open flame as part of that ceremony.

Woodland vibe

Roma and Rory opted for a colourful wild, woodland-inspired aesthetic. Florist Kirsty of Fern Floristry

understood their brief for a foam-free design of big and bold blooms combined with softness perfectly, balancing strong colours with pastels and lots of different textures, shapes and greenery. “The florals and greenery on the day were just stunning, so abundant and beyond anything that we could have imagined,” says Roma.

The couple followed their Hindu ceremony with a humanist one, held in front of the mandap, using the florals to frame this ceremony before it was deconstructed. Kirsty then repurposed all the flowers for the wedding breakfast, including an incredible arrangement around their sweetheart table. “It was as if Rory and I were sitting in our own garden, looking out at all of our guests,” smiles Roma. “It was just beautiful.”

Kirsty even returned the next morning to create posies for guests from all the flowers, meaning they could be enjoyed for as long as possible!

Roma also worked closely with their stationer Martina from Pleasant Pheasant who adapted her existing Culdees artwork into a bespoke stationery suite.

Dressed to impress

Roma is originally from South London - one of the best areas to shop for Indian outfits - and went home to search for her wedding clothes with her mum. For her ceremony outfit she initially tried slightly less traditional, mixed-colour lehengas before surprising herself and falling for a more traditional red outfit.

Then for the evening, she customised a botanical sequined lehenga by adding butterfly sleeves, green details and a lemon-yellow underskirt for a dreamy woodland feel.

A sense of peace

Despite planning their big day in just a year, Roma and Rory found time to relax with a couple of their closest friends in the castle’s hot tubs the night before the wedding. Roma had loved her Mehndi ceremony earlier in the week, undergoing seven hours of henna art, and Rory thankfully staved off bad luck, finding his name hidden in the intricate design before the wedding!

On the morning of the wedding Rory recalls being hit by a momentary wave of emotion, quickly replaced by excitement. Roma was unexpectedly nervous too, until ➤



“It was just beautiful.”



the doors opened and she saw Rory, who had surprised their guests by wearing a traditional Indian sherwani. Then she felt peaceful walking down the aisle to an instrumental piece from one of her favourite British-Indian rom-coms.

Their Hindu ceremony included meaningful customs such as a knot-tying which was mirrored later in a handfasting as part of the humanism one. And during the humanist proceedings Roma surprised her mother-in-law by wearing a tartan sash she had gifted her.

Rory made a quick outfit change into Highlandwear before they walked into their humanist ceremony together to *I Love the Rain the Most*, enjoying the irony as it poured throughout, stopping briefly as they were pronounced husband and wife. In fact, rain seems to have followed them through every significant step of their relationship, from their second date, to moving into their home in the midst of Storm Babet!

They wrote their own personal vows for this part and their humanist celebrant included drinking from the quaich, made even more personal as Rory's parents had gifted Roma's parents the quaich when they first met.

Time to celebrate

Following their ceremonies, guests were treated to delicious Indian canapés that catered to all dietary requirements – crucial for Rory, who is coeliac. “With my condition I’m often quite anxious when I go out to eat, so I wanted to make sure on one of the most important days of our lives I didn’t have to worry,” he explains.

Luckily their amazing chef, Praveen Kumar from Tabla restaurant in Perth, had everything covered. They first discovered him at a farm shop and Roma remembers thinking, “This tastes like something I would eat at home.” They served



a buffet-style wedding breakfast, followed by samosas and pakoras as a late-night snack and everyone was raving about the food. “We were sending people away with handfuls of samosas because they had eaten so much during the buffet.” The couple's cake designer also came up trumps, creating a delicious gluten-free wedding cake which didn't compromise on flavour or quality. “It was amazing!”

The atmosphere was electric, and the guests certainly worked up an appetite, dancing the night away to Unison Anthems' fusion of Western and Punjabi beats before the DJ introduced the non-Scots to a spot of ceilidh dancing. Roma's American cousins told her “This is a dream!”

Looking back

From their sweetheart table to out-of-order speeches and surprise moments, Roma and Rory's wedding was deeply personal and heartfelt. Rory recalls sitting at dinner, looking out at all their guests laughing and chatting. “Alongside marrying Roma, this is what people talk about when they say these are the parts of the day you'll never forget – all your loved ones together in one place, and having the best time,” he says.

And now they're married Roma says that there is a feeling of peace. “It feels right that we're married. We've lived together for several years already so this was the natural next step for us - we couldn't be happier.”

**BAND**

Unison Anthems

BAR TEAM

Mobile Measures

BRIDAL MEHNDI

Henna Art by Aroosa

BRIDE'S OUTFITS

Nitika Gujral and Opus Atelier,
both at Sequinze

CAKE

Lightly Whipped

CUPCAKES

Nell's Bakes

CATERING

Tabla

DÉCOR AND LINENS

Gordon's Cater Hire

DJ

Urban Disco

FLOWERS

Fern Floristry

GROOM'S SHERWANI

Circular Threads

GROOM'S KILT OUTFIT

Georgian Dress Hire

HAIR

Silver Lilly

HINDU PRIEST

Rakesh Bhatt

HUMANIST CELEBRANT

Linda Babbs

MAKE-UP

Sophie Alexis

RINGS

Finnies, Megan Falconer

STATIONERY

Pleasant Pheasant

"It feels right that
we're married - we
couldn't be happier."

**PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"I'm a photographer who
loves colour, the more
vibrant the better. Throw
in music mash-ups and
Indian food and it doesn't
get much better. Roma and
Rory's wedding day was a
joy to photograph." ■

**MARK, MARK QUINN
PHOTOGRAPHY**



Family affair

*Demi Duncan
& Ryan Dey*



DATE: Saturday 8th March 2025
VENUE: Balbirnie House Hotel, Markinch
PHOTOGRAPHY: Lewis Cannon Photography

This couple's all-white theme made for a stunning country house hotel wedding

Demi and Ryan met on New Year's Eve 2017 in a local bar. "We didn't know one another but seemed to have mutual friends. This is how we began speaking and it all unfolded from there," says Demi.

After seven years together, Ryan proposed while on holiday with their little boy, George. After the engagement, finding a venue was top on the planning list. "I felt the whole vibe for the day and style would naturally take off once we knew where we were getting married."

The couple instantly fell in love with Balbirnie House Hotel and its traditional Georgian style. "It was gorgeous and the best part was that it had a modern feel, too, which was right up our street being the young-ish couple we are!"

Demi originally wanted neutral tones, soft stone colours, whites and beiges. However, after seeing some inspo online she soon fell in love with the idea of an all-white wedding with small hints of black throughout.

She also thought she wanted quite a plain dress but once she started shopping her vision changed. She visited some shops with her bridesmaids, and then with friends, finding it so overwhelming she just couldn't focus on what she wanted. "I ended up going shopping by myself a few weeks later to Eleganza Sposa in Glasgow. The ladies there were incredible and extremely knowledgeable."

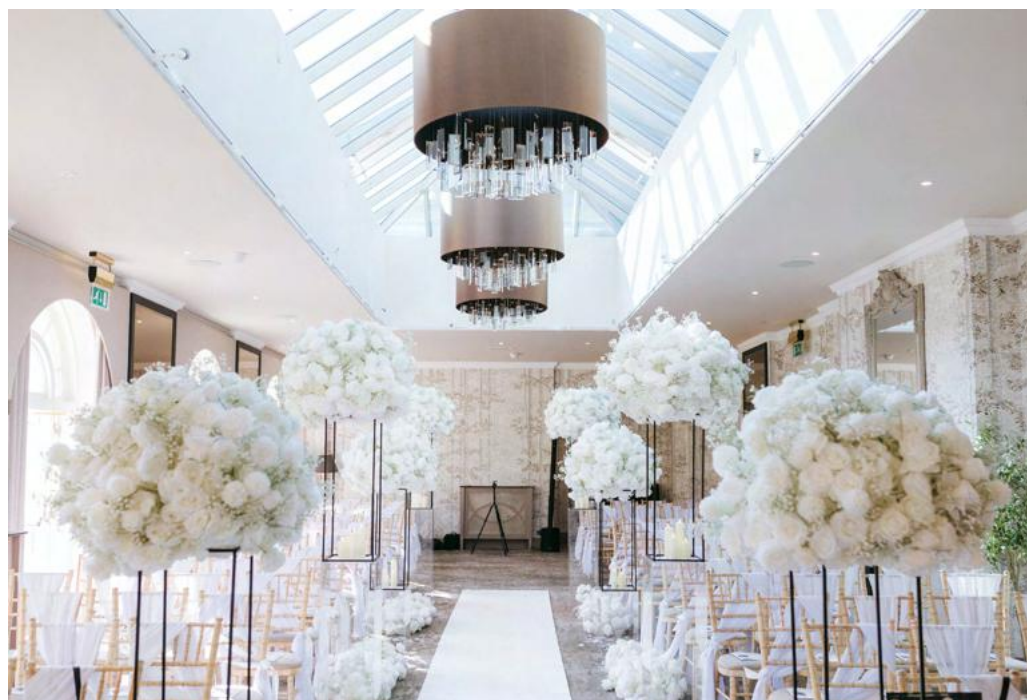
Demi chose her bespoke dress in March 2024 but when she returned for alterations a couple of months before the wedding, she realised she had fallen out of love with it. "I was devastated as I knew how much I loved it at the time," she recalls. "I couldn't understand what was going on and why I was feeling like this. I ignored the feeling but when I collected my dress one week before the wedding, I cried when I got home and told Ryan how I didn't love it anymore. Ryan called Eleganza directly and spoke with Rachel. She immediately invited us back through the same day and promised to find me another dress and have it turned around in time for our wedding the following week. It was the first dress I tried on and she was absolutely gorgeous! A Martina Liana dress, lots of small dainty pearls, sweetheart neckline, sleeves that pulled on and off, body-hugging, buttons down the back all the way from the corset tie up the back to the flare of the dress." Demi's new dress thankfully matched the cathedral veil she'd already chosen and she accessorised with bow detail Badgley Mischka shoes. »

"My dress was absolutely gorgeous."



“From the moment I met Demi and Ryan, I could tell by their attention to detail for both their ceremony script and overall wedding day plans that it was going to be truly magical. And I didn’t mind being upstaged by their adorable little son, also named George, during the ceremony. Priceless.”

GEORGE MCLEAN, FUZE CEREMONIES



Great morning

Demi’s sister Chelsey was maid of honour and Ryan’s sister Steff was bridesmaid, with both wearing black satin dresses chosen from different shops. Meanwhile, Ryan wore a Celtic brown tartan kilt with a tan jacket to match his brown shoes. The groomsmen all wore the same – as well as a mini version for their two-and-a-half-year-old son, George! The men’s wedding party consisted of Euan – Ryan’s best friend and best man – groomsmen Steve, Ryan’s brother-in-law and his best friend Liam as well as Demi’s Dad, Stuart, and Ryan’s dad, David.

Demi and Ryan stayed at Balbirnie the night before with their family members and wedding party, enjoying a meal in the library downstairs along with some drinks. Demi woke up feeling quite nervous, but once she had a little breakfast, she felt much better. She says the morning was “incredibly chilled”. “We had music on, prosecco, face masks. I was so excited but also just very chilled out. The bridesmaids and I exchanged gifts – it was lovely. It’s like all my stresses and worries just disappeared. Ryan had a great morning, too – he was in his room with his groomsmen and our little boy. He soon became nervous as the guests arrived, though.”

Demi walked down the aisle with her dad to *Can’t Help Falling in Love* by Elvis Presley, piped by Dean Saunders. “I felt great, I just looked at all my guests as I entered the

room. I couldn’t believe they were all here for us and the effort they’d made too – they looked stunning!” When Demi caught her first glimpse of Ryan, he looked nervous, but still managed to let out his cheeky smile, relaxing after seeing his bride.

Party atmosphere

The couple chose a humanist ceremony as they wanted it to be fun and personal. “George was amazing, we cannot recommend him enough, he blew us away. He goes above and beyond, ensuring all is personal and he made us feel like the only couple he’d ever married.”

After the ceremony, there were drinks and canapés followed by a delicious wedding breakfast for their 111 guests. During the speeches there was a toast to Ryan’s late mum, Heather, whose birthday was the same day as their wedding.

The evening festivities began at 4pm when the DJ kicked off the tunes. Demi and Ryan also did a little DJ battle, each choosing three songs leaving it up to their guests to chant who was the best – with the bride emerging victorious.

“We wanted a party atmosphere. Ryan and I loved a party before we settled down, bought our house and had our little boy. We wanted nothing short of a big, huge party for our wedding day and, my goodness, did we achieve that! The music was great, it was all our personal choices, and the guests rarely sat down all night. I provided flip flops for everyone and just as well I did as they all required them due to being on the dance floor all day and night!”



BRIDE'S DRESS

Martina Liana at Eleganza Sposa

BRIDE'S SHOES

Badgley Mischka

BRIDE'S HEADWEAR

Eleganza Sposa

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Coast, Six Stories

CAKE

Liggy's Cakes

CELEBRANT

George McLean, Fuze Ceremonies

DÉCOR

Pretty Little Details

DJ

Paddy Gordon

FLOWERS

Bonnyrigg Flowers

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Highland Kilt Connections

HAIR

Laura Paterek

JEWELLERY

Pandora, Lily & Roo

MAKE-UP

RFM Beauty

PIPER

Dean Saunders

RINGS

ROX, Beaverbrooks, Goldsmiths

SAXOPHONIST

Gay on Sax

STATIONERY

Etsy

TRANSPORT

William Hunter Loanhead

VIDEOGRAPHY

Danny Rizzo



"The guests
rarely sat
down all
night."



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"The ceremony
was breathtakingly
beautiful. Thanks to wee
George it transcended
a marriage of two, and
also celebrated Demi
and Ryan as Mummy
and Daddy." ■

**LEWIS, LEWIS CANNON
PHOTOGRAPHY**

Blooming gorgeous

*Rebecca Chalmers
& Owen McManus*



DATE: Saturday 21st June 2025
VENUE: Earls Hall Castle, Leuchars
PHOTOGRAPHY: Chlöe Sidey Photo



“We both
fell in love
with the
venue.”



This couple shared
their beautiful
wedding day with
family and friends
at a stunning Fife
castle

Rebecca and Owen first met at school in St Andrews where they shared a class together, then later worked together at Pret A Manger in the town, where Rebecca is now a manager.

After four years together, Owen popped the question just a few days before Christmas while they were on a visit to Edinburgh in December 2023. “He proposed in our hotel room at Ten Hill Place. I got an early present when he got down on one knee!”

They booked Earls Hall Castle first followed by suppliers like photographer, band, celebrant, hair and make-up. “We both fell in love with the venue. The gardens of the castle sold it for us as the flowers had beautiful blooms and the topiary garden was magnificent.” They settled on a rustic theme and decided on sage green and blush pink for the colour scheme. Meanwhile, DIY was a big feature with Rebecca’s dad, Brian, making a rustic crisp wall and kind family friends painting and personalising a secondhand children’s sweetie cart. “We did all of the table decorations ourselves and made our table plan using a frame we bought online. We filled it with photos from our engagement shoot and the seating plan,” Rebecca explains.

Family friend Ruth and her children, Lily and Abbey, gave the couple the perfect gift by making all of their cakes. For favours, they created Golden Snitches out of Ferrero Rocher sweets for *Harry Potter* fan Owen and gave each guest a National Lottery scratchcard. Meanwhile, all of the bouquets and buttonholes were crafted from artificial flowers.

Wow factor

Rebecca visited Madison Rose Bridal in Kirkcaldy with her mum, Catherine, mother-in-law and her two sisters. “I tried on around six or seven dresses and got a better idea of what I wanted, but failed to find The One the first time I visited.”

After attending a second appointment, Rebecca finally chose ‘9908’ by Allure Bridals: “I thought I wanted a lace fitted dress that was not off the shoulder, however I fell in love with an A-line style dress with a satin skirt. The dress had detailing in the bodice to give it the wow factor – and it was off the shoulder!”

Rebecca’s mum bought her a floor-length veil with little pearls throughout and she wore a simple pair of heels (later swapping them for white fluffy slippers that said ‘bride’ over them because who doesn’t want to wear slippers on their wedding day?). She had four bridesmaids – maid of honour, >>





“We felt
so much
love.”



Chelsea, a long-term best friend, Eve, who is Owen's brother's fiancée, and her two nieces Taylor and Lily. “I wanted them all to be comfortable on the day so I let them pick their own bridesmaid dresses that they felt their best in as long as they fitted with the colour scheme of blush pink and sage green.”

Owen had his brother Ryan as his best man, with cousin Liam and two good friends, Ryan and Kyle, taking on the groomsmen duties. He and his groomsmen wore kilts in Hunting Stewart tartan, along with a grey jacket and grey waistcoat with traditional black kilt shoes. They hired the kilts from Slaters in Dundee.

The night before, Rebecca, Chelsea and Eve slept at Eve's house. “We had a couple of glasses of wine before getting a good night's sleep. Chelsea also gave me a ‘letters to the bride’ book and there were plenty of tears reading this. It was such a lovely, thoughtful gift.

“Neither Owen or I felt nervous the morning of the wedding. We were both just excited to see each other I think! I slept like a baby, again the most chilled-out bride ever!”

Owen was driven to the venue in his dad's black vintage Ford Mustang. Meanwhile, Rebecca and her dad arrived in the red Volkswagen Beetle of a family friend.

Incredible feeling

The bride admits to a “tiny wobble” as she was about to walk down the aisle with her

dad but managed to pull herself together. “I surprised Owen with the song *Married Life* from the film *Up* and there were a few tears from us both when it started playing. It was a magical moment and I couldn't take my eyes off Owen.”

The couple chose a personal ceremony as neither are religious. “Our celebrant Steven spoke about our journey, how we met, how Owen proposed and added the perfect amount of humour to the ceremony. We performed the hand fasting tradition by tying the tartan from Owen's kilt and my favourite tartan (Black Watch) together.”

“Everything from walking down the aisle to having our first kiss as husband and wife was magical. We were surrounded by our loved ones knowing that they were there for us and we felt so much love. Mingling afterwards and getting to speak to everyone was amazing as they were so happy for us and it was just an incredible feeling.”

Afterwards there was a drinks reception for their 53 day guests followed by the wedding breakfast, before an additional 130 guests arrived for the evening festivities in the marquee.

“It was a massive party! We had a photo booth in the evening, which was really popular. The evening food consisted of chips, cheese, curry sauce, chip butties and chilli with nachos,” Rebecca smiles. “The atmosphere was incredible, everyone was having a great time, the band really set the tone of the evening and people were up dancing all night. Lots of smiles.”



BAND

Atomic

BRIDE'S DRESS

'9908' by Allure Bridals from
Madison Rose Bridals

BRIDE'S SHOES

Shein

BRIDE'S HEADWEAR

Madison Rose Bridal

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Pretty Lavish, Ever-Pretty UK

CELEBRANT

Steven Sim of Independent
Humanist Ceremonies

FLOWERS

Designs by Diane

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Slater Menswear

HAIR

Ladies Lounge Hair by Lisa

JEWELLERY

Abbott Lyon

MAKE-UP

Jordan Petrie

PHOTOBOOTH

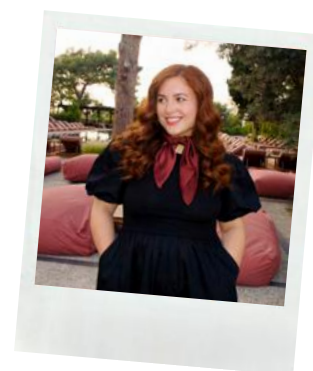
Gavino's Photoboosts

RINGS

Malcolm Antiques



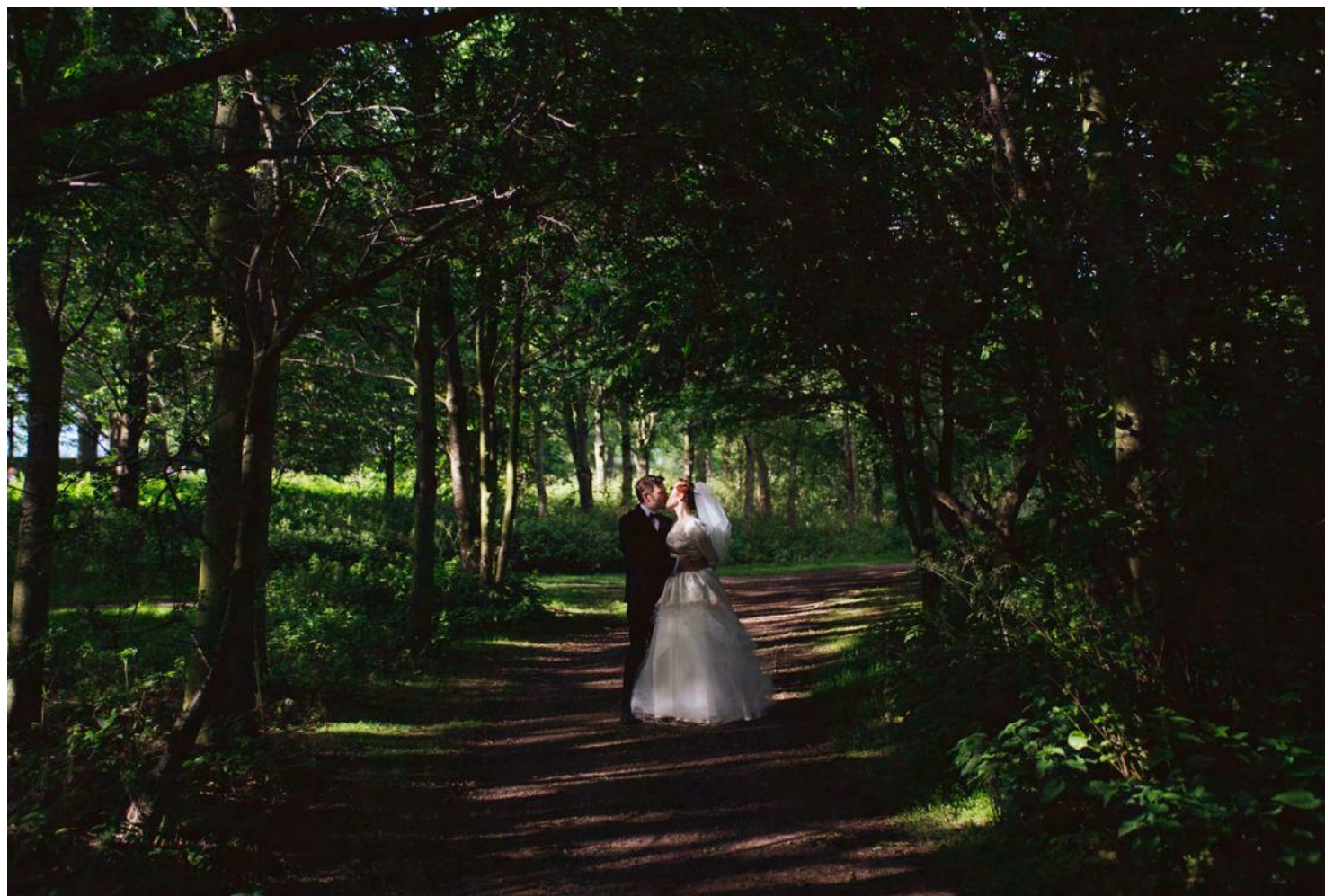
"I couldn't
take my eyes
off Owen."



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Rebecca and Owen's wedding was an absolute joy to photograph from start to finish. With a beautiful outdoor ceremony in the gardens of Earls Hall Castle, plenty of playful moments between the two of them, and a big, love-filled party with all of their friends and family to end such a special day!"

**CHLÖE, CHLÖE SIDEY
PHOTO** ■



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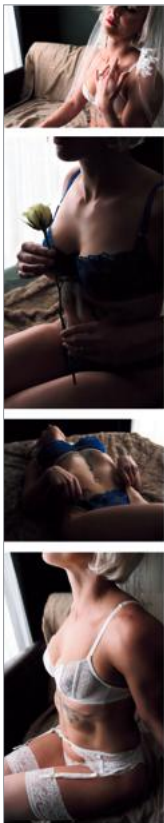




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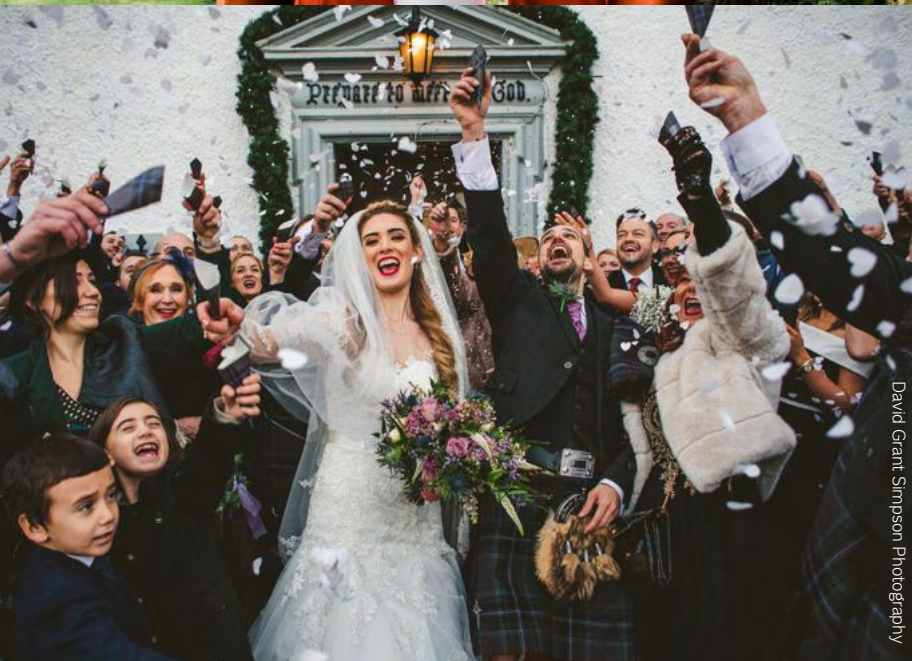
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Picture PERFECT

Photography is an important part of your wedding day – and a big investment, too.

Jennifer McLaren speaks to the experts to find out what you can expect before, during and after the big event ...



David Grant Simpson Photography

When first setting out to find your wedding photographer, it's time to do a bit of research – and a whole lot of

looking! David Grant Simpson of David Grant Simpson Photography suggests taking a good look through their website and asking yourself; do the couples look natural and are their personalities coming across in the pictures?

“It's important to find someone that you'd be happy to spend the day with as you will have a lot of time with your photographer on the day.”

Allan Forrester of Biggar Picture Photography is a firm believer in making sure you get to meet your suppliers before booking – particularly those that you will spend a lot of time with. “Do your research online, socials and speak with your venue or friends for those important recommendations,” he advises.

Hayley Fraser of Hayley Fraser Photography says it can be a tough choice with so many talented photographers out there. “Look at everyone's portfolio and decide what style you like best, then narrow it down once you have found a style you like. We focus on candid documentary photography that captures your personality.”

Make it formal

While securing a booking can vary from photographer to photographer, the process generally remains similar. Allan explains, “After meeting and agreeing we are a good fit, I charge a small deposit at the time of booking along with some paperwork to make sure I have all the correct details and, of course, the booking agreement gets signed by all parties to make it all formal. Make sure you read the Ts&Cs as every supplier looks for different things to be in place, from a meal being supplied to how far they will travel.”

Hayley says, “Once you have decided to go ahead we send the invoice for the deposit and the contract. Everyone will have a different way of working, but we ask for the final balance to be paid on the first of the month before your wedding date.”

David adds, “I like to arrange a Zoom call after receiving an enquiry so that we can chat over their plans, get to know the couple and to give them an opportunity to see if I would be the right fit for their day. If they'd like to book, I send over an online contract to be signed and an invoice for a £250 deposit. The balance is due four weeks prior to the wedding.”

At ease

Pre-wedding photoshoots are becoming more popular and Allan incorporates them into all of his packages as standard. “They really help set everything up for the wedding day,” he explains. “From getting to know you both a little better so the craic is on point, to finding out how comfortable you are in front of the camera, the pre-wedding shoot is such a powerful tool.”

Hayley explains, “It can be really helpful, especially if you’re feeling anxious about the photos. It’s also a nice way to get to know your photographer a bit more and can put you at ease. It’s also super-fun and you can use your images to create all sorts of fun things for your wedding day like newspapers or save the dates.”

While David says he doesn’t always do them with to-be-weds, they can be useful: “If the couple are a little anxious about the photoshoot on the wedding day, it’s a good opportunity for them to get to know how I work and to get to know me. The good thing about this is that our rapport is already established and it makes things a little smoother on the big day.”

Group shots

Once you have your photographer locked in, it’s good to think about your must-have group shots. Hayley says, “We send you a form to complete with your group shot list included. We always give a little guidance for this. Don’t worry about all the other key moments as photographers have that covered – but a group shot list is usually handy and can make the process more efficient on the day.”

“I always ask for a list of group shots and ask the couple to try and keep it to ten different combinations,” adds David. “Try to keep it to immediate family and bridal party... the more groups you have, the longer it takes. I also suggest that we could do group shots with friends etc after dinner when everyone is a bit more ‘loose’ and up for having some fun.”

Allan adds that it means you’re unlikely to forget anyone. “This would be so easy to do if you were having to think of the different combinations on the spot,” he says. “We certainly don’t want your auntie not talking to you because you forgot her!”

And when it’s time for the couple to leave their guests for their photoshoot, our photographers try to ensure they aren’t away for too long.

David says, “I personally want to ensure that the couple have as much time with



Hayley Fraser Photography

their guests as possible. The timings would all depend on the venue and the locations that we wish to visit – but I don’t like to take them away for any longer than 30 minutes.”

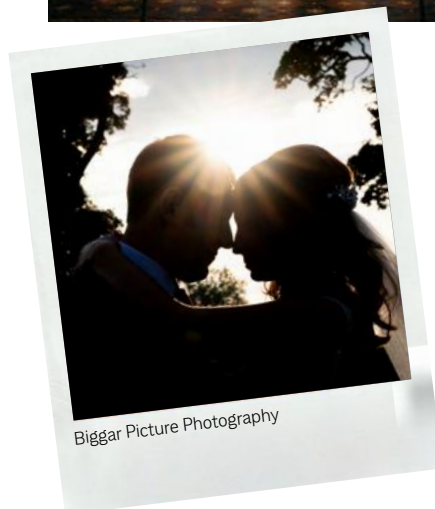
“This is a big variable,” Allan says. “I am a firm believer in trying to give you a good amount of time with your guests on the wedding day whilst still making sure we capture the important shots.”

Hayley adds, “Every photographer is different but we try not to steal you away too long so that you can still have time to enjoy the day with your guests. It can also depend on location and travel but we usually take 30-40 minutes for the couple’s shoot and then go back out at sunset for 10 minutes if the light is good.”

Memorable moments

Remember your photographer will be working hard on the day to capture all your memorable moments. While many don’t stipulate they require a meal in their contracts, it’s important that they stay fed and watered so that their energy levels remain high. Consider asking if they need to have a meal at your venue, or check that there’s somewhere close by where they can grab a bite while the wedding breakfast is underway.

After the big day is over, our photographers say they will try to get some preview images over to you within a few days of the wedding. Final galleries can take anything from around three to ten weeks to allow for editing and depending upon the number of photos taken – because there can be thousands! ■



Biggar Picture Photography



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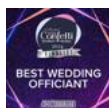
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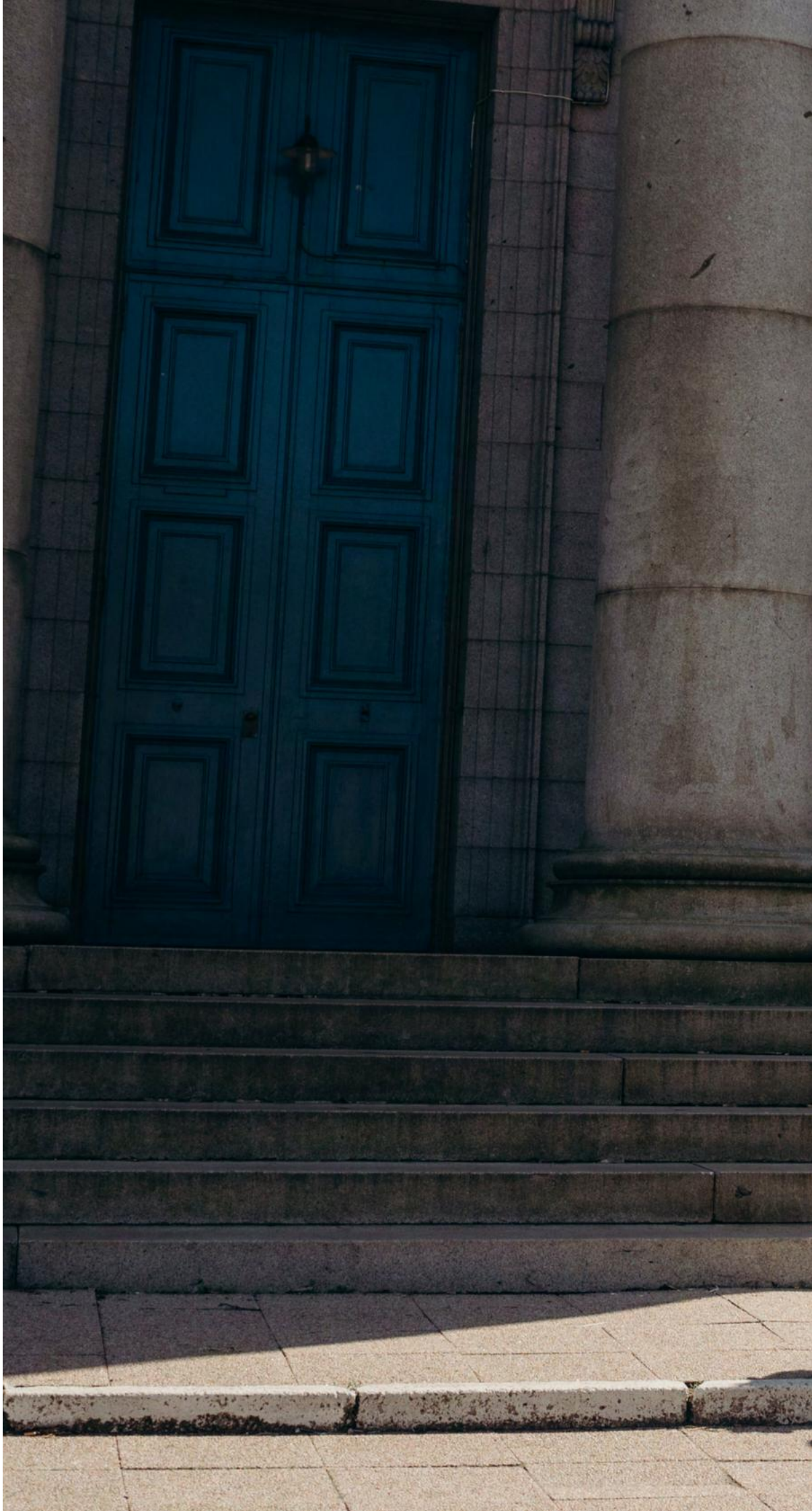


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Your Scottish Venues





Your Scottish Venues

NEWS & PROMOTIONS FROM ACROSS SCOTLAND



Lena Sabala Wedding Photographer

A new era at Mar Hall

After a very special £20 million transformation, Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort has officially reopened and it's well worth a visit! The five-star country estate hotel has a vibrant new identity that blends Scottish heritage with whimsical, storytelling design. Just 10 minutes from Glasgow International Airport, the Victorian mansion now has 74 luxurious rooms and suites (loads of space for your VIP guests!), two restaurants and two bars. Beyond this, there are plenty of enticing grand spaces and hidden nooks to discover – a photographer's paradise, we think! To-be-weds can choose from four stunning spaces: the Garden Pavilion for outdoor luxury, intimate Edwardian charm in The Den and the Drawing Room, or the contemporary Morton House ballroom. The Gallery, complete with a marble-topped champagne bar and grand piano, sits at the heart of the venue and would host a beautiful drinks reception. Looking for the last word in luxury? Book exclusive use and celebrate your love privately in the impressive 240-acre estate!

MARHALL.COM

Get intimate at Dunglass Estate

For couples wanting a wee wedding with all the trimmings, run don't walk to Dunglass Estate. Its new all-inclusive intimate wedding package is designed for 28 guests and includes the historic church or Stable Yard room for your ceremony, then the Dunglass Pavilion for your reception. You'll also get exclusive use of the beautiful Seaview House (including the lush Rotunda honeymoon suite) and the three Courtyard Cottages for two nights, sleeping all 28 guests. Expect a top-notch three-course meal and canapés with drinks courtesy of Platter and Pop, plus all the essentials like staff service, cutlery, crockery and glassware. At £12,200, the East Lothian venue is available for midweek dates only in February and March, and between October and December. Looking for extra styling? Grab the add-on décor package for just £1,000.

DUNGLASSESTATE.COM



Jen Owens Images

**DÉCOR
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The new and improved Seamill Hydro

Seamill Hydro has unveiled its completely reimagined Firth Pavilion wedding suite following a whopping £750,000 transformation and it's totally wowed us. The stunning seaside hotel on the Ayrshire coast has created something truly special, with floor-to-ceiling windows framing unparalleled views of the Firth of Clyde and the Isle of Arran. The new wedding space simply oozes opulence and grandeur, and you'll find it's full of lovely sumptuous textures, rich tones and refined finishes that come together to create a modern, luxurious vibe that just fits with the natural beauty of the



panoramic seafront backdrop. Oh, and they've gone and added two new bars too! Interested? Seamill Hydro's 2026 wedding diary is now open and you can book a tour, complete with a complimentary glass of fizz.

**SEAMILLHYDRO.CO.UK/WEDDINGS/
BOOK-A-SHOWROUND**



ZibiZ Photography

A new venue to discover

Kinclune, a luxurious exclusive use venue in the breathtaking Angus countryside, has literally just opened its doors to to-be-weds and we're obsessed! A total fairytale setting, the meticulously restored stone steading offers sweeping views of the Vale of Strathmore and gorgeous spaces galore. You'll find The Party Barn with its soaring vaulted ceilings and space for up to 120 guests, as well as The Arches (suitable for ceremonies or receptions) and an enchanting private courtyard that's

got seating and fire pits. So romantic! Couples get exclusive use of both the house and barn for two or three nights, with accommodation for up to 28 across Kinclune House and the three cosy cottages. FYI, as an award-winning nature-friendly estate, there are loads of beautiful outdoor ceremony spots to choose from, whether on the house lawn with panoramic views, in the courtyard or deep in the serene woods. For something truly unique, the team even offers *Outlander*-inspired weddings on top of Kinclune Hill, complete with a Highland pony! >>

KINCLUNE.CO.UK

All-inclusive luxury at Macdonald Houstoun House

Macdonald Houstoun House, which sits in West Lothian, has a new Deluxe Wedding Package and it's got just about everything you could ever need! Designed for couples who want a stress-free planning process, the package is for 50 guests and prices start from £7,500 in 2025. This includes full day room hire, a piper, a ceremony package with your choice of arch and aisle decorations, chair covers, table centrepieces and stationery. You'll also get a menu tasting beforehand, plus a three-course wedding breakfast, prosecco for toasts, half a bottle of wine per person, a DJ and a dancefloor. But that's not all – there's accommodation for you the night before and night of the wedding too! Larger guest list? Add extra loved ones from £125 per person, with evening guests at £10 each.

MACDONALDHOTELS.CO.UK/HOUSTOUN-HOUSE



A new restaurant at Brig o'Doon

Brig o'Doon House Hotel's new restaurant, Tales, opened in June and we're pretty excited! The stunning new dining space is the final chapter of the hotel's £2.5 million transformation and takes its name from the storytelling heritage of Robert Burns, who wrote some of his most iconic pieces nearby on the Brig bridge. When it came to pulling the menu together, the South Ayrshire venue brought 80 foodies to the magnificent ballroom for tasting sessions – what a great idea! And visually? It's a dream. The 80-cover romantic dining space takes inspiration from old world forgotten libraries with an earthy and burgundy colour palette, gold accents and comfortable oxblood leather seating. And did we mention the signature dried floral chandeliers by Fleur De Galerie? Swoon! The stunning purpose-built wraparound extension shows off sweeping views of the River Doon through floor-to-ceiling windows, plus there's a year-round outdoor terrace for al fresco dining. Perfect!

BRIGODOONHOUSE.COM/BOOK-TABLE



Alastair Ferrier Photography



A wedding package with a twist at Cardrona

The dreamy wedding packages for 2025/26 have been released by Scottish Borders venue Cardrona Hotel, Golf & Spa – and inside you'll find some extra special, unexpected touches to make your wedding day even more magical. Starting from just £3,960 for 40 guests or £4,950 for 50 guests, you'll enjoy exclusive venue hire, a menu tasting for the two of you, post-ceremony prosecco, a three-course meal, more prosecco for toasts, half a bottle of wine each, chair covers and ties, professional DJ entertainment and gorgeous overnight accommodation on your wedding night. The best bit, though? A complimentary golf buggy will whisk you away for wedding photos – so cute!

MACDONALDHOTELS.CO.UK/CARDRONA



Whitney Graham Photography

Romance at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum

With twilight weddings in demand right now, couples searching for the perfect place to say 'I do' at dusk will be happy to hear The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway has a new package especially for this style of celebration. Imagine exchanging vows in the tranquil gardens then raising a glass of bubbly as the sun

sets... Bliss! Afterwards, you'll take over the museum and café space for a lively reception, from 6pm until midnight for up to 150 guests. Venue hire costs £800 and your package includes a dedicated event manager to guide you through the planning process, plus use of the gardens for photos, stylish table linen and napkins, personalised menus to suit your wedding style and access to the fully licensed bar. Also, as a wedding gift, couples tying the knot here get a year's membership to the National Trust for Scotland.

NTS.ORG.UK/WEDDINGS



Our Dream Photography

Twilight weddings at The Caves

The Caves, nestled in the vaults below the capital's South Bridge and part of Unusual Venues Edinburgh, has launched a special package for couples who want to say 'I do' in a candlelit evening ceremony. To-be-weds looking for something a bit different can invite up to 150 guests and you'll get exclusive use of the venue, a friendly wedding coordinator, house lighting, atmospheric pillar candles throughout, a fully-stocked bar and complimentary WiFi. Packages start from £6,000 for Friday weddings in 2025 with a mandatory catering credit of between £3,000 and £4,000, depending on the date. The venue is licensed for civil, humanist and religious ceremonies, and your timings will run from 5.45pm through to carriages at 1am. ■

UNUSUALVENUES.EDINBURGH.COM

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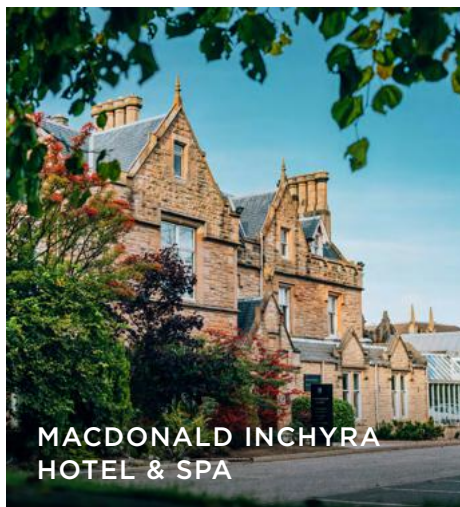
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Make it LAST

Why limit your celebration to one day when you can create an unforgettable wedding weekend? More and more couples are embracing extended celebrations, hiring beautiful Scottish venues not just for their big day but for entire wedding weekends – or longer. And why on earth not?! It's a wonderful way to spend quality time with your

VIPs, especially those guests travelling from afar, while making the most of Scotland's incredible venues, landscapes, activities, cuisine and more. Whether you want to start the party early with chilled out spa days and competitive golf rounds or keep celebrations flowing with post-wedding feasts and adventures, these spectacular Scottish venues have you covered...

⬆ Marine North Berwick

Just 30 minutes from Edinburgh by train, Marine North Berwick offers couples the best of both worlds – a peaceful coastal retreat with urban accessibility, ideal for weekend wedding celebrations. We recommend starting at The Spa, taking advantage of the thermal suite, indoor-outdoor hydro pool and invigorating cold plunge to banish pre-wedding nerves. The venue's private putting green is perfect for wedding morning fun, though serious golfers may prefer nearby championship courses. After you're married, there's still plenty to do – host a relaxed post-wedding barbecue on the grounds and soak up the gorgeous views or head out for adventure. Go wild with paddleboarding or, if you're feeling tender, opt for a gentle coastal walk or boat trip to Bass Rock.

MARINEANDLAWN.COM



« Cardrona Hotel, Golf & Spa

A special escape in the Scottish Borders, Cardrona has extended celebrations down to a tee. Golf enthusiasts will love the 18-hole championship course, perfect for pre- or post-wedding rounds... Or both! Meanwhile, those who fancy some pampering can soak up serene vibes in the spa. Get really big day-ready here or unwind the morning after with the most indulgent of treatments. Cardrona's relaxed surroundings are perfect for continuing celebrations with your loved ones – will you choose a boozy brunch, a scenic barbecue or a refined afternoon tea? Adventure-seekers will love to hear there's an on-site activity centre. Take it easy and fish by the River Tweed or go more thrilling with quad biking, 4x4 off-road driving, abseiling and circus skills training!

MACDONALDHOTELS.CO.UK/CARDRONA



« » Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort

Recently reopened following an incredible £20 million renovation, Mar Hall is just minutes from Glasgow and boasts its very own par-70 championship golf course, a luxury spa (that's partnered with renowned Scottish skincare brand Ishga to bring you the most blissful experience possible), a swimming pool, a gym, saunas, steam rooms, an outdoor spa garden with heated loungers and dining options to die for. Oh, and did we mention the specially-curated experiences on offer, designed for exploration, discovery and indulgence? From falconry, clay pigeon shooting and axe throwing to distillery tours and helicopter trips, nothing is too much for the venue's concierge team. Never mind a wedding weekend, we want to move into Mar Hall for the foreseeable, please! »

MARHALL.COM

» Culdees Castle Estate

A spectacular Scottish castle set within private parklands, and boasting enchanting interiors, impressive grounds and luxury glamping cabins, Culdees is levelling up the wedding weekend experience for small elopements and grand gatherings alike. The romantic venue has a huge range of event spaces (from the powder room and private chapel to the Champagne turret and whisky snug) that can be used on your big day as well as pre- and post-event. We love the idea of dinner the night before in the serene Glass Roof Courtyard, saying 'I do' in a rustic ceremony in the outdoor woodland area, then partying the night away in the glorious Garden Pavillion. The morning after, spill out onto the lawns and take in the Highland backdrop over brunch. Bliss!

CULDEESCASTLEESTATE.COM



Willow & Wilde

Jon Pow Photography



Victoria Photography

» Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa

For a truly legendary wedding weekend, the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews offers the perfect blend of romance, luxury and heartfelt hospitality. You'll be tying the knot in the Home of Golf, with the world's most famous course on your doorstep. But if pampering is more your vibe, indulge at the award-winning Kohler Waters Spa. Alternatively start your day with a refreshing stroll along the iconic West Sands Beach or an invigorating dip in the North Sea! Then head to one of the six bars and restaurants for your rehearsal dinner (or celebratory feast the day after). We love the recently refurbished Road Hole Restaurant, stylishly showcasing the best of Scottish cuisine with epic views. PS, the Road Hole Bar, which boasts more than 250 whiskies, is a must for a post-wedding nightcap.

OLDCOURSEHOTEL.CO.UK



« Strone House

This beautiful new venue (a luxuriously renovated historic house that accommodates 18 guests) is already making waves – literally – with its spectacular location. Perched at the head of three meeting lochs, Strone House offers a dramatic wedding day backdrop and an exciting destination for a longer celebration. For chilled pre-wedding vibes, walk in beautiful Glen Massan or try fishing. And once you're married, get adventurous! Go boating and kayaking on the lochs or head to mystical Pucks Glen for gorge walking. Feeling competitive? There's quad biking, clay pigeon shooting and golf too. As for the big day, host your intimate nuptials in the mansion or opt for a larger marquee wedding in the glorious grounds. Nothing is too much here – two recent guests arrived by helicopter! ■

STRONEHOUSESCOTLAND.CO.UK



Brodie Castle



Hill of Tarvit

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Mar Lodge

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Culzean Castle

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Mar Lodge

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Venues

A Weekend TO REMEMBER

*Helen Germanis
& Finlay MacQuarrie*



DATE: Saturday 12th October 2024
VENUE: Achnagairn Castle & Estate, Kirkhill
PHOTOGRAPHY: Del & Jayjay Weddings



From the first day of work to the first day of the rest of their lives and beyond, Helen and Finlay were meant to be



“Just the right colour.”

When Helen and Finlay headed off to start graduate roles at an Aberdeen oil and gas company, they knew it was going to be a season of fresh starts career-wise. But little did they know, they’d meet their forever person that day too! Nine years later, Finlay completely surprised Helen with a proposal while they were touring around Iceland in a campervan. “I didn’t expect it at all,” she remembers. “He designed my engagement ring at 77 Diamonds using diamonds from his mum’s engagement ring. It was so special.” They knew they wanted as many of their guests as possible to stay with them on the big day so started looking for a venue that could accommodate lots of people... and they found a total gem! “Achnagairn was exclusive use and all our 110 guests could stay on-site. It felt like a big house party! The venue is beautiful with the most amazing ballroom and the staff couldn’t have been more helpful. They made everything a breeze.”

As such, Helen didn’t find planning that stressful. But she does admit she’d have been lost without all her lists! Their theme – autumnal with browns and burnt orange – evolved naturally as they pieced everything together. And they kept the décor pretty simple because “the venue speaks for itself.” They did create some special items, though, to personalise the celebration, like plectrums and coasters with The MacQuarries on them.

What to wear?

Helen knew the style of dress she’d like before she started shopping and, although she tried on a huge variety of gowns, she ended up with

exactly what she thought she’d get – something quite different to your typical wedding dress. “It was a lovely experience and it was very difficult to choose – but I love the fairytale/boho-style one I decided on,” she says. She added a veil with crystal detail, then some special pieces of jewellery – earrings gifted from Finlay on the morning of the wedding, her mum’s pearl bracelet and her mum’s sapphire engagement ring, which was her ‘something blue.’

Her five bridesmaids (there were originally six but one unfortunately couldn’t make it due to a poorly newborn daughter), made up of close friends and family, wore multi-way dresses in two styles. “They suited the girls perfectly and were just the right colour,” adds Helen.

The groom went all out, treating himself to a new kilt made in the MacQuarrie 1815 variant, and a tailored jacket and waistcoat. He finished off his look with a pair of Loakes, similar to what his dad liked to wear before his passing.

Wedding weekend

The couple had the venue from Friday until Monday and kicked the celebrations off with a laid-back dinner for those staying in the main castle. “This allowed everyone to meet and get to know one another. I had to be dragged off to bed about midnight by my bridesmaids,” laughs Helen.

After sleeping like a log, she enjoyed a walk around the grounds with her sister, then a relaxing wedding morning where everything went smoothly and everyone was ready in plenty of time. As her walk down the aisle loomed, she felt some nerves but excitement was definitely the over-arching emotion. And when the time came, despite having previously worried she’d be stressed walking in front of so many people, she barely noticed anyone because she was so fixed on her hubby-to-be. They tied the knot in a humanist ceremony “with just the right amount of humour and reflection,” and opted not to write their own vows in case they forgot what to say! Thankfully all went smoothly and everyone »



“The
venue
speaks for
itself.”



toasted to the newlyweds with prosecco and beer. The Lunchbox Boys provided all the food for the day and the couple filled the menu with food that they love – whilst making sure to include something for everyone.

“The speeches were fantastic – perfectly pitched and a nice length,” Helen explains. “My dad’s was so special; hearing him talking about me growing up and how glad he is Finlay’s joining our family. Finlay’s was lovely, thanking everyone and telling stories that brought tears to people’s eyes. His brother Robbie’s wasn’t too harsh as he’s getting married this year and Finlay is his best man!” Afterwards, local band Northward took to the stage, playing a mix of ceilidh and covers. “They were high energy and the dance floor was never empty. The reception was fun!”

Party on

The joy continued the next day with a delicious feast and entertainment from two bands. Now they’re married, the couple feel great. “It’s hard to explain but we feel more of a unit,” they say. Thinking back to the planning days, they agree the toughest thing was getting responses back on time and trying to sort bedroom allocations, making sure those sharing would know each other and would get on. The best bits? “Seeing your vision come to life – and having all your friends and family together for a weekend. We couldn’t stop smiling!”



BAND

Northward Music

BRIDE'S DRESS

'Mayfair' by Halfpenny London

CATERING

The Lunchbox Boys

DÉCOR

Eva's Covers

FLOWERS

Trudi Todd Flowers

GROOM'S JACKET AND WAISTCOAT

Kilts 4 U

GROOM'S KILT

MacGregor and MacDuff

HAIR

Suzanne McMahon

MAKE-UP

Gillian Hoban

RINGS

Ian Gallacher Jewellers

STATIONERY

Etsy

“We couldn’t
stop smiling.”



“The reception
was fun.”



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“We loved the fact that there were no trends at this wedding, and Helen and Finlay allowed their personalities to shine through naturally. They combined their love of music with plenty of great food, drink and entertainment, making the wedding a joy to capture.” ■

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YSW on tour Cluny Castle

Tucked away in 200 acres of Aberdeenshire countryside, **Claire Muir** discovered the ultimate exclusive use fairytale setting



When only a castle wedding will do but you also want super-relaxed vibes and space to party all weekend, Cluny Castle is the one.

This magnificent 16th-century mansion – a family home that's been lovingly transformed into a seriously special yet relaxed venue – is completely hidden behind sweeping parkland. Driving up the long tree-lined driveway, I waited with bated breath to catch my first glimpse of those majestic turrets. And the big reveal didn't disappoint. I knew instantly Cluny would be a photographer's (and to-be-weds'!) paradise.

The castle's rich heritage and impressive architecture create a dramatic backdrop that instantly impresses. We're talking stained glass windows, a private courtyard entrance and perfectly manicured lawns – but the interiors are just as special.



What's on offer?

I couldn't wait to hear more about the historic castle and quickly learned Cluny was built way back in 1604, then remodelled in the 1820s. Now, its owners welcome couples looking for privacy, luxury and grandeur – and loads of freedom to create the wedding of their dreams.

Here, you get exclusive use of the castle and grounds, plus beautiful overnight accommodation for up to 28 (rising to 30 in 2026). Whether you're planning a wee wedding or a party for up to 300, the Cluny team is all about adapting to your vision.

The 120-seater chapel, which sits within the castle itself, took my breath away. And I loved that additional guests at bigger weddings can sit elsewhere in the house (the public rooms are nothing short of incredible!) to watch remotely.

Receptions happen directly under the romantic chapel, in the parquet-floored Tenants' Hall. You'll get 94 in here for dinner and 110 for dancing, and a bar tucked in the corner so the dancefloor is never empty! This felt like a real party room – intimate yet sociable with great acoustics.

For grander guest lists, a marquee behind the pond has space for up to 400 with the castle as a stunning backdrop. An outdoor ceremony is also an option and it's worth noting nothing's really off limits here, whether that's fireworks, four-legged ring bearers or anything else your heart desires.

And there's more...

Exploring the rest of the venue was no mean feat and I was glad to have the lovely Natalie to guide me! Our home for the night was the private West Wing apartment, which has five bedrooms on the first floor and loads of rooms

to relax and party downstairs, from the welcoming open plan living/dining/kitchen to the games room and cosy snug. The self-catering set-up means you can treat the castle like home, which we definitely did, complete with an indulgent afternoon tea courtesy of Hudsons Catering!

The West Wing is usually the groom's base whilst the bride takes over the elegant castle bedrooms. Uist is a YSW fave – perfect for prep with its gorgeous natural light. And overlooking the grounds, you'll see guests arriving too.

What also sets Cluny apart is the sheer level of service (no matter your vision, Natalie and her team are obsessed with making sure everything runs seamlessly) and exclusivity – the venue only hosts a select number of weddings each year. Getting married here really feels like a privilege reserved for a limited few. And with a minimum two-night stay, you have the perfect excuse to draw out your celebrations. Think fun gatherings the night before and leisurely brunches the morning after.

One last thing... Did you know Cluny's offering doesn't stop at weddings? Its impressive credentials include standing in for Balmoral in *The Queen* and hosting everyone from King Edward VII to Billy Connolly. Wow!

If this sounds like the venue for you, Cluny Castle is taking bookings for 2026 onwards. **And it's worth noting a ground floor disabled access bedroom will be available from next year.**

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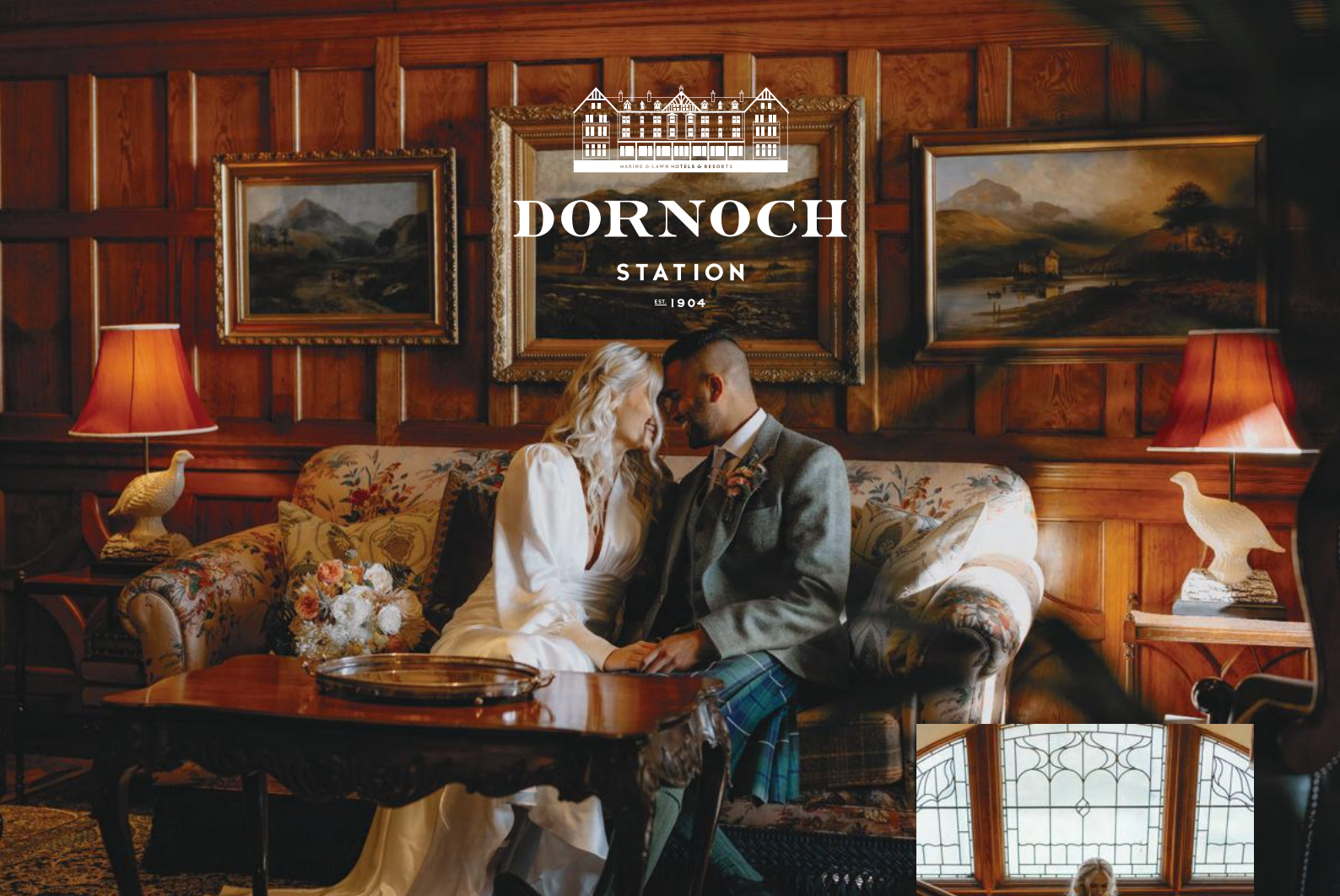
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Edinburgh, Lothians & The Borders

It's a **VIBE**

*Yasmine Petrie
& Riki Smith*

DATE: Thursday 27th March 2025
VENUE: Carlowrie Castle, Kirkliston
PHOTOGRAPHY: Chlöe Sidey Photo





Love that blossomed in lockdown and led to an elegant castle wedding



“The wings made the dress feel complete.”

After meeting while working at Forgan's St Andrews, there was an instant spark and it wasn't long before Yasmine and Riki knew marriage was on the cards – especially when the pandemic played a part. “We went into lockdown not long after getting together and it just made sense for Riki to move in. Neither of us wanted to be apart, especially when we didn't know how long it would last,” explains Yasmine.

A sentimental proposal followed on New Year's Day 2023 at Pittenweem harbour where Yasmine's grandad's ashes are scattered. Initially she thought he was joking but when Riki got down on one knee and asked “Do you think he'd let me marry you?” it clicked and she knew it was really happening!

Making plans

Gentleman Riki gave his bride-to-be full control over the venue and although they viewed a couple that ticked her boxes (somewhere modern where no one she knew had been married), Yasmine had known Carlowrie was the one as soon as she saw it on Insta. “From the Highland cows on the drive to the castle and its interiors, nowhere else compared. Plus, the team were amazing.”

Because the castle itself is so colourful, Yasmine opted for a muted colour palette of champagne, ivory and black, and had ‘understated’ in mind when she went dress shopping. “I didn't want my dress to be too in your face, but it had to be enough to make an impact,” she explains.

“I only went to one shop (Amy King Bridal in Kirkcaldy) and chose a figure-hugging gown with a low back, a beaded bodice and matching slits on the side. If I'd seen it online,



I wouldn't have picked it – and Amy almost didn't pull it for me but I'm so glad she did. It felt different when I put it on and it matched my brief exactly.”

Having always known she didn't want a veil, Yasmine started searching for a cape. But on discovering the Australian brand Made With Love (before she'd actually found her dress) she knew she wanted a pair of their wings. “As much as I loved my dress as it was, the wings made it feel complete,” she smiles.

Wedding weekend

Yasmine, her bridal party and her children, Matthew and Rosie, stayed at Carlowrie's Gate Lodge the night before the wedding – “We told the kids we were going for a little holiday at the castle before the wedding, which made it so fun and exciting for them!” – while Riki and his groomsmen stayed at the Dakota Hotel.

Having slept like a baby, Yasmine felt free of both stress and nerves in the morning. It was excitement only for this bride – until she could see and hear the guests arriving. “That's when my stomach started to do flips!” she laughs.

Her mum walked her down the aisle to a violin version of *You Are The Reason* by Calum Scott and the couple married in a “completely personal” humanist ceremony, which they admit was the best part of their day. “Becoming Mr and Mrs Smith after two years of planning was just so special and our celebrant Lucy was the kindest soul ever. She put everything into our ceremony and I'll never stop recommending her!”

Fizz, canapés and live music followed, and everyone was entertained by wedding artist and illustrator Whathannahdoes. “People are still speaking about how much they loved her, and the fact they got to take something home with them!”

The newlyweds and their 72 guests enjoyed an indulgent choice menu from Carlowrie. Then, instead of a traditional tiered cake they opted for a whole table of them! Victoria sponge was the ‘cutting cake’ and the other four were family favourites – red velvet for ➤



Yasmine, cherry and pistachio for Riki, carrot cake for Matthew and rainbow for three-year-old Rosie. The speeches went without a hitch (and included a legendary karaoke performance from maid of honour Hayleigh) before 20 more guests joined for the rest of the celebrations – and Yasmine donned her second gorgeous gown of the day.

Sax o'clock

“The reception was a vibe,” remembers Yasmine. “Our first dance was Steven Sanchez’s *Until I Found You* and, as nervous as we both were, it was just perfect. We had a DJ for the whole night and a sax power hour, which was such a hit. There were heart glasses and glow sticks, and everyone was dancing and having so much fun. I’d do anything to relive it and enjoy it again!”

On that note, the couple would advise to-be-weds to “take in every single minute because once it’s done, you’ll miss it so much!” They did just that, sneaking off for ten minutes right after saying ‘I do’ to soak everything up and breathe before greeting their guests.

“Also, don’t stress about the small stuff,” adds Yasmine. “Because if you have the right people and suppliers around you, they’ll make sure you have the best day ever. We’re so glad we had our photographer, Chlöe, and content creator, Emma. We booked Emma right at the start of planning and watching her footage from other weddings in the lead up made me so excited. On the day she was the ultimate hype woman and before we’d even left Carlowrie the morning after, we had hundreds of clips from her of our day.”

Now they’re married, Yasmine and Riki are often asked how it feels, and they always say it’s no different to before. “But it *is* different,” she admits. “Even though nothing has changed day to day, we have the same name now we’re married, and it just feels like we’re closer than ever.”

“Nowhere
else
compared.”



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Abbie Johnstone of Kirkham Hair

MAKE-UP

Stacey Whittaker Make Up Artist

MUSICIANS

Side by Side, Elliot G Sax

RINGS

Goldsmiths

“We’re
closer
than ever.”

“The
reception
was a vibe.”



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“Yasmine and Riki’s day was stunning from start to finish. The day was filled with so much love and joy, even when battling with the unpredictable Scottish weather! Yasmine finishing the night with a surprise outfit change was just the perfect finishing touch to their day!”

**CHLÖE, CHLÖE SIDEY
PHOTO**



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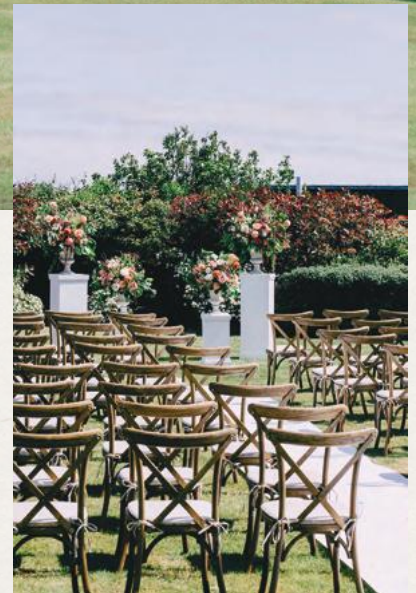
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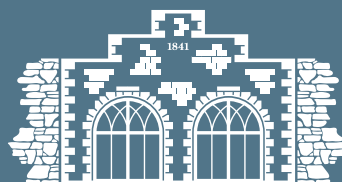
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Virgin Hotels Edinburgh

If you're searching for a cool, contemporary wedding venue in the heart of Edinburgh, Virgin Hotels Edinburgh ticks every box, says **Ashleigh Dougall**



I was lucky enough to experience Virgin Hotels Edinburgh just as a couple would on their big day – and I left completely in love with it.

Tucked away on Victoria Street, just above the Grassmarket, this stylish hotel offers the perfect mix of modern luxury and historic charm. There's even a private entrance on Cowgate, reserved just for weddings, which instantly makes the day feel more exclusive.

From the moment I stepped inside, I understood why couples are drawn here. The hotel's bold red staircase greets you right away – a dramatic, eye-catching backdrop that's perfect for wedding photos. I could already imagine how stunning a white dress would look against it.

Timeless architecture

The building itself has a fascinating history. Originally the India Buildings, constructed in 1864 for merchants and later used by the city chambers, it's now beautifully restored, combining timeless architecture with Virgin's signature style.

I stayed in the Eve Branson Suite, and it's easy to see why it's a favourite for bridal prep, featuring a gorgeous double make-up vanity, a spacious lounge where bridesmaids can relax with a glass of bubbly, and a luxurious king size bed tucked inside the spire of Greyfriars Church. Romantic, serene and effortlessly elegant, it offers the perfect setting for those special pre-ceremony moments.

And let's not forget the men. While the bridal party gets ready, the groom and his groomsmen are often found enjoying a wee dram in the stylish Commons Club Bar.

Whether you're planning a smaller celebration or a big bash, Virgin Hotels Edinburgh can cater for everyone. For intimate weddings, the Commons Club Kitchen has two private rooms that hold up to 40 guests – ideal for a smaller party or a relaxed pre-wedding dinner.

For a grander affair, Greyfriars Hall is an unforgettable choice. Once a medieval church, it now hosts both ceremonies and receptions for up to 100 guests. I was blown away by the

soaring ceilings, stained-glass windows, and the magnificent chandelier. The space is dramatic yet warm – perfect for a truly memorable 'I do'.

Beautifully designed Photography options here are endless. Every space is beautifully designed, from the chic Scarlet Lounge and quirky Funny Library to the ultra-stylish pink marble hallway. Each one offers a different vibe. And for those golden hour shots? Head up to the Roof Terrace, where the views over Edinburgh's Old Town are simply magical. This space can also be used for a drinks reception if the Scottish weather plays along.

One of the absolute highlights of my stay was the wedding tasting menu. Every dish was crafted with care, packed with flavour, and presented beautifully. Couples get to enjoy this special preview at the Eve Restaurant – just another thoughtful part of the planning journey here.

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(Emma & Bruce)

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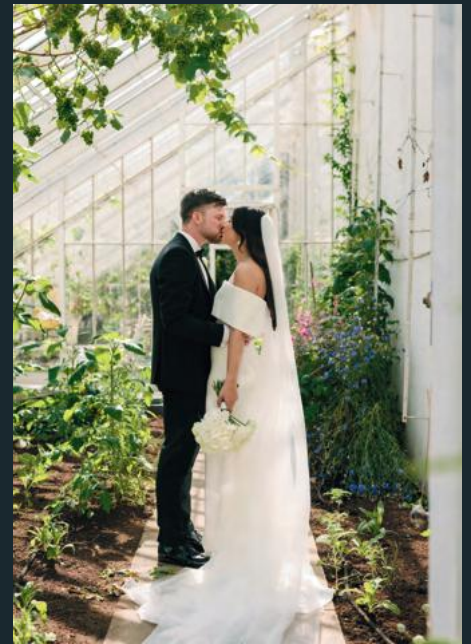


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Marry in style at Peebles Hydro Hotel

Whether you say 'I do' in a grand and elegant wedding, or opt for something more intimate, the experienced team will lovingly create the day of your dreams

Tucked into the rolling hills of the Tweed Valley, just 22 miles from Edinburgh, Peebles Hydro Hotel gives a touch of something special in the Scottish Borders. Offering a blend of traditional and modern elegance, it's a venue that's mastered the art of hosting weddings that feel as effortless as they are unforgettable.

Whether you're planning a grand celebration for 200 or dreaming of an intimate ceremony, Peebles Hydro offers a scenic, flexible, and personal experience. And with just one wedding per day, every couple enjoys the undivided attention of the passionate and experienced team.

A setting that speaks for itself

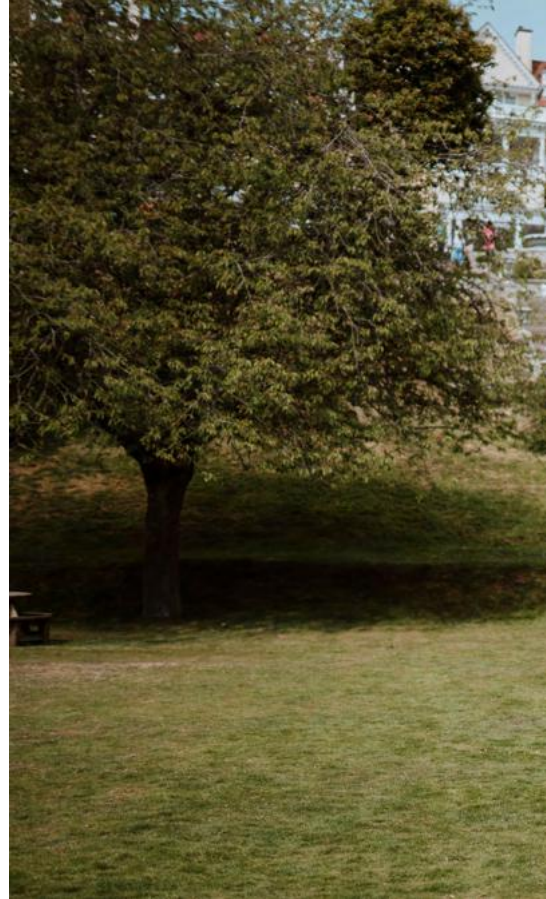
Peebles Hydro makes for a stunning first impression. Set in a 30-acre estate, with a stunning Victorian façade, the hotel offers settings to suit every wedding style. Couples can choose from a variety of rooms, each with its own character. The Ballroom, with its feature-length skylight providing plenty of natural daylight, fairy-lit backdrop and grand proportions, is perfect for larger weddings - accommodating up to 200 guests. For something more refined, the Regency Suite offers bright, panoramic views and timeless elegance, perfect for small and intimate weddings of up to 60, while the Bannockburn Suite, steeped in history with incredible murals, wood panelling, tartan fixtures and the original fireplace, lends itself to small and intimate weddings of up to 70.

Perhaps what's most compelling about Peebles Hydro is its balance. It's large, but never impersonal. Whether you're dreaming of something formal and refined or relaxed and family-focused, the venue adapts to your vision, not the other way around.

And with flexible spaces, carefully thought-out packages, and a team who treat your celebration like their own, it's no wonder couples keep coming back - often to toast anniversaries, baby showers and birthdays in the same place they said 'I do'.

Packages to suit every couple

A wedding at Peebles Hydro is tailored to give you exactly what you need and want. The packages offered allow flexibility, while still including the thoughtful touches that will make your day feel special.



The Signature Wedding

Package includes everything from welcome drinks and canapés, to a four-course wedding breakfast with wine, toast fizz, and a menu tasting for four.

There's also accommodation for the couple the night before and the wedding night itself, exclusive use of two function rooms, and discounted guest rooms.

The Hydro Wedding Package

delivers style and value in equal measure, and includes welcome drinks, a three-course wedding breakfast with wine, and toast fizz. A Signature Room on the wedding night for the happy couple is included, as well as exclusive use of two function rooms, menu tasting for two, and discounted guest rooms.

The Intimate Wedding Package

is perfect for those planning to elope or looking for a small, intimate wedding shared with just a handful of loved ones. Ideal for those with 2 – 20 guests, this package includes welcome drinks and canapés, a four-course wedding breakfast with wine, toast fizz and exclusive use of either the Bannockburn or The Regency.

“Peebles Hydro offers a scenic, flexible, and personal experience.”



Wedding menus showcase the very best of Borders produce, with seasonal flair and crowd-pleasing flavours. You'll work closely with the talented chefs to create a menu that matters to you – from canapés to the main event, right through to a final feast to end the day just right: think fish and chip cones, mini haggis suppers, and more.

Say 'I do' with a signature brew

Tell your love story through your own personalised gin, distilled on-site at Peebles Hydro's award-winning 1881 Distillery.

As part of your wedding journey, you and your partner can work with the in-house team to create your very own bespoke gin - blending botanicals that reflect your personalities, story, or shared tastes. Presented in beautifully labelled bottles, it makes the perfect wedding favour for guests, adding a special, personal and unique touch to your celebration. ■



“No wonder couples keep coming back.”



Fife & Tayside



Whatever *the* weather

*Jessica England &
Alex Green*



DATE: Saturday 14th June 2025

VENUE: St John's Kirk, Perth and Bachilton Barn, Methven

PHOTOGRAPHY: Joanne Clenaghan Photography



It poured for most of Jess and Alex's wedding day but nothing could dampen their spirits!

Jess understandably "wasn't best pleased" when partner Alex disappeared off to buy golf clubs just hours before they were due to host 10 friends. Little did she know he was actually sneaking to Bradley's Jewellers in York to

choose the stunning sapphire and diamond ring he would propose with under a beautiful waterfall in Thailand. How romantic!

The couple were introduced by Jess' cousin Anna and her fiancé Will shortly after Jess moved to Yorkshire, and 18 months later, they were engaged! Within two weeks of the proposal most of their wedding suppliers were booked – "We were determined to have the highly recommended Killer City Sound, who on the night blew our socks off". A lull followed before a last-minute dash to sort the smaller details. And as if planning a wedding wasn't enough, the couple also bought and moved into a new home just a month before the big day — but with supportive families, everything came together.

Special place

Another thing that helped ease the stress was their choice of reception venue, Jess' beloved family home, Bachilton Barn. "It has been in the England family for five generations and my father James decided to diversify away from the challenges of livestock farming by transforming it into a stunning and picturesque wedding venue surrounded by the beautiful Perthshire countryside."

Bachilton's blank canvas layout allowed Jess – a flower lover – to bring her vibrant, colourful vision of seasonal June florals to life, with help from amazing friends and family. Her bridesmaid Pip, of Pip's Painting, hand-painted the stationery, from invitation designs to table names, inspired by game animals. Alex's cousin created a complementary sign with their names and wedding date to hang above the cake Jess' sister Amelia baked, and Jess' dad kindly commissioned a circular bar, which became a great feature in the venue.

Then All Wrapped Up Events Scotland and family friend Emma Niven transformed the venue, with Emma's stunning floral arches and displays capturing Jess' dream aesthetic.

Meaningful moments

Jess, Alex and their helpers spent "two manic days" turning the venue around before kicking off the weekend's celebrations with fizz and nibbles at Jess' parents' home. Alex and his ushers then headed to the local pub, leaving Jess and her six bridesmaids (sisters Isabella, Amelia and Eliza, and school friends Pip, Phoebe and Cristina) to relax with a home-cooked meal and plant a sausage for good luck!

The next morning they woke to rain thrashing down the windows, but excitement soon took over. "I loved watching all the girls get glammed up and they looked just as excited as I was," remembers Jess. "The rain was pouring but nothing was bringing down the good vibe energy."

Jess found her dress during a last-minute appointment at The White Collection in Glasgow, after trying three boutiques in Edinburgh the day before. "I instantly >>

"I instantly loved it!"





“It poured but nothing was bringing down the good vibe energy.”



loved it!” she says. “I felt nervous, just in case there were other options out there. However, we said yes!” She styled her minimalist, full-skirted dress with a beautiful lace topper jacket and veil, earrings gifted by her parents, baby blue block heels, and her mum’s pearl headband – her ‘something borrowed’.

Family traditions

Jess was driven to St John’s Kirk in Perth in her great-grandfather’s Rolls Royce. The church holds deep family meaning as Jess’ grandparents were married there and she and her sisters were christened there.

As soon as the organ and bagpipes started playing *Highland Cathedral* Jess’ nerves kicked in, but it was actually one of her favourite parts of the day. “I had played that moment over in my head for the whole 18 months leading up to the wedding and the atmosphere was incredible.”

The couple were married by Jess’ old school chaplain Jonny Wylie whose calm, light-hearted and humorous approach made the service enjoyable and memorable for all. Jess admits to being surprisingly shy saying her vows, but Alex spoke confidently and clearly, putting her at ease. “It was a lovely moment!”

Unmatched vibes!

Back at Bachilton Barn, guests were greeted by piper Craig and a string quartet before enjoying delicious drinks and canapés. And catering to a 190-strong guestlist, comprised predominantly of farmers, Platter & Pop had their work cut out, but they nailed it. Beef was always going to be on the menu and the

team also served a Scottish-style amuse bouche, introducing many of the English guests to haggis. “They loved it!”

Jess’ dad opened the speeches, setting a high bar, before Alex spoke. “He reminisced on how it all began and wasn’t scared to bring up some funny stories,” smiles Jess. “Many have complimented how amazing his speech was which made me very proud!”

After dinner it was on to Jess’ highlight of the day, their first dance to *Take My Hand* by Skerryvore, sung live by her sister Ella and accompanied by the band and piper for that “added personal Scottish touch.” “As soon as the bridesmaids and ushers popped the confetti and the tempo picked up, everyone was dancing with us! It was a moment to remember forever!”

Then it was a case of forcing the English into swinging each other round in a ceilidh and dancing to some bangers until ending the night with *Loch Lomond*. “The vibes and energy that everyone brought was truly heartwarming,” remembers Jess. “I think because the weather was so awful nobody ventured outside which kept everyone within the bar area and dancefloor. Another highlight was being lifted up on shoulders and watching everyone singing and dancing – seeing everyone so happy, loving every minute with Alex and I.”

After a whirlwind three years – including a wedding, job switch, a dog and buying their first home – Jess reflects, “I’m so grateful to have married my best friend and am just excited to settle into married life and making our new home ours.”



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BRIDE'S DRESS

'Georgiana' by Elysee Enzoani at The White Collection

BRIDE'S LACE TOPPER JACKET AND VEIL

Josephine Scott at The White Collection

BRIDE'S SHOES

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VIDEOGRAPHY

Cam Media

"It was a moment to remember forever!"



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Jess and Alex had such a beautiful day and they really made it their own. Their creativity really showed with the décor and florals which is one of my favourite things to capture at weddings. The fashion was exceptional too – from the morning suits to Jess' stunning dress and the guests' black tie dress code – it was a real pleasure for me to be a part of."

**JOANNE, JOANNE CLENAGHAN
PHOTOGRAPHY ■**





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At the heart of Culdees wedding experience is the Garden Pavilion, a new addition space designed for larger celebrations. Overlooking the estate's breathtaking gardens, this elegant space is perfect for bigger weddings, where guests can dine in style and dance the night away in a setting that blends romance with timeless charm.

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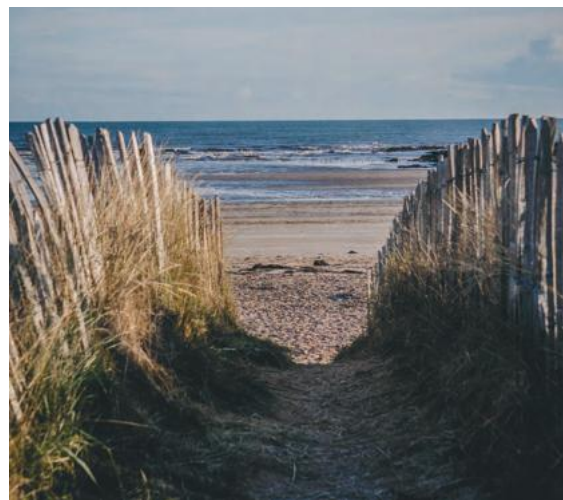


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Balbirnie House Hotel

Old world elegance meets relaxed modern charm in this Georgian gem, as **Katie Bletcher** discovers



Lifetime Photography

Some wedding venues carry a certain prestige, and Fife's Balbirnie House Hotel certainly earns its reputation. Set in 400 acres of rolling parkland near Markinch, Balbirnie is a world-renowned wedding venue that frequently takes top prize, both nationally and internationally. In fact, it was crowned World's Best Wedding Hotel for the fifth time at the Haute Grandeur 2024 Global Hotel Awards. So, is it worth the hype?

In a word: absolutely. Ideally located between Edinburgh and St Andrews, the A-listed Georgian mansion immediately impresses with its grand portico entrance. Stepping inside it's so easy to see why the hotel has earned so many accolades.

Dating back to 1777, the main building is brimming with elegant charm, from the grand staircases and lunette windows to the marble fireplaces. But Balbirnie isn't stuck in the past. The owners have renovated extensively, as well as adding the Millennium Extension which blends effortlessly with the original building, mirroring those iconic Georgian windows. Inside the extension houses the light-filled Orangery and spacious Millennium Ballroom – perfect for large-scale celebrations.

Choose your style

Just one of Balbirnie's attractions is the choice of two ceremony settings. Located in the heart of the old mansion, The Long Gallery underwent a refurbishment in January and is the more traditional space for your vows, with its lunette windows and trompe l'oeil features lending cathedral-like elegance. Decorated in

neutral tones with gorgeous parquet flooring, it accommodates up to 100 guests.

Next door, the West Wing houses the Library, Drawing Room and terrace, and is exclusively yours, providing stylish break-out areas.

Meanwhile, the East Room, with its soft gold and teal palette, offers a perfect spot to mingle with guests or to catch your breath with your new husband or wife once everyone has been called into dinner.

If you prefer a slightly more contemporary ceremony space, you'll love the Orangery. An extensive skylight and floor to ceiling windows give it an outside-in feeling, while the light fixtures and furnishings are so chic. With a capacity of 150, it retains all the elegance you'd expect of a Balbirnie wedding.

On to the evening

During my visit I got to see the Ballroom in all its glory, with the LED dance floor and fairy lights illuminated. This is where the wedding breakfast and evening festivities are held for up to 216 guests, complete with garden views and cocktails on draft.

Balbirnie offers six wedding packages, each including the use of its Chiavari chairs, white linens, glassware and flatware, and an extensive menu compendium to choose from with everything from scallops and rump steak to dietary requirement options. And trust me, the food is outstanding – though, coming from a kitchen that produced two *Bake Off: The Professionals* alumni, that's hardly surprising.

Let's go outside

Indoors Balbirnie offers picture-perfect photo opportunities at every turn. However, if the sun does shine on your wedding, make the most of the mansion's beautiful gardens. The lawn is surrounded by pretty, well-tended flowerbeds and would be gorgeous for an outdoors ceremony (you can make the decision to wed in or out up until noon). Then you'll love exploring all the outdoor 'rooms' that trail into the woods, having your photos taken on the swing, or adding your love lock to those of all the other couples who have married here – an enduring reminder of your incredible Balbirnie wedding.

You can take on Balbirnie on an exclusive use basis by booking all 31 bedrooms plus the courtyard apartment which sleeps 12.

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Nicola Campbell Photography



No wedding venue is perfect, however ...

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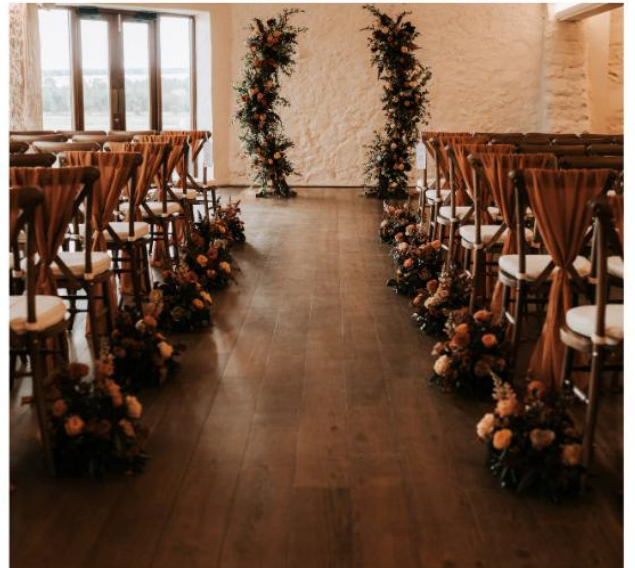
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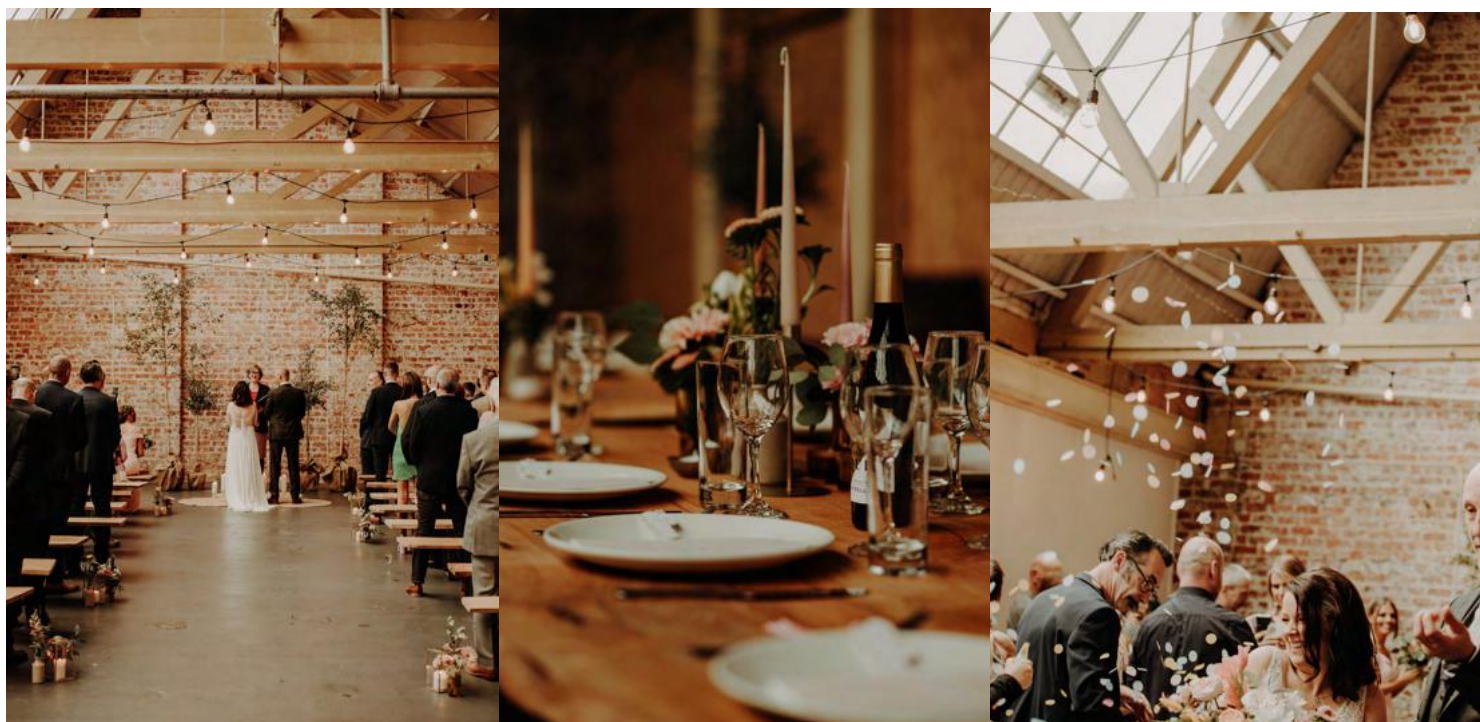
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Unforgettable

*Nenah Favelle
& James Hamilton*

DATE: Saturday 14th June 2025
VENUE: Ladyburn House & The Garden
Pavilion, Kilkerran
PHOTOGRAPHY: Lauren Stirling Photography



This couple wed in a stunning botanical-inspired ceremony at their very own venue in South Ayrshire



“It was unlike anything I’d ever seen.”

For Nenah and James, founders and owners of Ladyburn House, their love story is completely intertwined with their beautiful country house. “It was more than a venue for us – it was always the place we were meant to say ‘I do’. That’s why we created it with so much intention,” smiles Nenah.

The couple first met via online dating and after calling and texting, their first in-person date was climbing Ben Vrackie near Pitlochry. “Quite the challenge considering I was recovering from serious injuries from an accident,” Nenah recalls. “But something told me to go, and that decision changed everything.”

James proposed on their third anniversary in December 2023 at Cromlix House in Dunblane, with his son Ralphie by his side. “It turned out to be a triple celebration: our anniversary, the proposal, and the very same day our offer on Ladyburn House was finally accepted,” Nenah smiles. “We feel incredibly grateful that Ladyburn House is not just our home, but the heart of our shared vision – an exclusive use venue that is a place of connection, celebration and soulful hospitality.”

From the beginning, they envisioned getting married under the majestic oak tree and hosting their celebration in the new Garden Pavilion marquee, a feature they built and launched especially for their wedding and future couples to enjoy. Their biggest priority was to create a celebration that truly reflected them. James says, “It was important that the day felt like us – relaxed, heartfelt, and meaningful. I’m proud of what we created at Ladyburn, not just for our wedding but for the couples who’ll celebrate here in years to come.” And Nenah adds, “We wanted the entire day to



feel grounded in nature and full of meaning for us and our guests.”

“We were inspired by a palette of soft botanical elegance, with tones of dusty rose, sage, and ivory. These colours not only reflected the natural beauty of the gardens and surroundings at Ladyburn but were also intentionally aligned with our new brand identity for the Garden Pavilion.”

Beautiful botanicals

Nenah knew she wanted a dress that felt ethereal and romantic, but also a bit wild and grounded in nature. “I was drawn to fabrics with movement, soft silhouettes, and unique detail – nothing too traditional or structured,” she says. “I worked with personal stylist Tanya from Suki Style. She had pre-selected the most stunning gowns, all aligned with my botanical and romantic vision.

“It was at our final stop that I found the dress. The moment I stepped into it, my mum – who was visiting from Australia – burst into tears, and we both just knew it was The One.

“It was a delicate, botanical-embroidered gown with sheer sleeves and a gentle scoop neckline and a train. It featured a soft overlay of floral vines trailing down the fabric, which felt like it mirrored the garden landscape at Ladyburn. I chose it because it looked and felt like a garden come to life – whimsical, elegant, and deeply connected to the land on which we were getting married. It was unlike anything I’d ever seen and felt completely ‘me.’”

Nenah kept accessories minimal to let the embroidery speak for itself. She wore vintage-inspired pearl earrings, a diamond tennis bracelet gifted by her mum and a soft veil that added a touch of dreaminess, without detracting from the detail of the dress.

Her one bridesmaid was lifelong best friend and former business partner, Alexandra Hill. “We’ve shared over 25 years of friendship, and there was no one else I could imagine standing by my side. She travelled all the way from New Zealand to be there, which made it even more special. I wanted Alex to feel completely herself on the day, so I let her choose her own dress. She picked a beautiful cornflower blue gown that suited her perfectly and happened to coordinate beautifully with the best man’s kilt – it all came together effortlessly.”

James wore a full Highland kilt outfit made bespoke by Kilts 4 U. His look included an olive tweed jacket and waistcoat, and a rare ginger »



Highland cow sporran. In his wedding party were best friend Scott and 12-year-old Ralphie.

"We had a family dinner in Ladyburn the night before – it felt grounding, calm, and full of love. I woke early with a mix of excitement, nerves, and emotion that had been building for days – I was completely full of feeling. There were definitely tears, happy ones, as the reality of the day sank in. It was overwhelming in the most beautiful way. We started the morning with a big group breakfast at the house, which was so lovely."

Sacred moment

For Nenah, walking down the aisle was like "stepping into a sacred moment – but with a twist of last-minute magic." Just five minutes before she was due to walk, there was a break in the weather, and James made the spontaneous call to move the ceremony outside under the oak tree! "It was a whirlwind shift, but one that brought so much excitement. Despite the sky threatening to close in again at any moment, it felt like the universe held space just for us."

Nenah was walked down the aisle by Ralphie while their string quartet played *The Secret Wedding* from the film *Braveheart*: "It wasn't just meaningful – it was unforgettable. Seeing James waiting under the tree, surrounded by our people, with Ralphie by my side, felt like the most sacred, love-soaked moment of my life."

Their ceremony was conducted by humanist celebrant Alexis McKenzie and James surprised Nenah by inviting Scottish poet and author Donna Ashworth to read out her poem *I Choose You*.

A delicious wedding breakfast celebrating Scottish produce was designed in collaboration with in-house chef, Callum Dow and served to their 50 day guests. A further 25 joined them for the evening festivities.

"We had the most magical evening reception under the Garden Pavilion, which felt like a garden-party-meets-festival-vibe. As the sun set, the space came alive with soft lighting, laughter, and music. We kicked things off with a lively ceilidh, and it wasn't long before everyone was up on the dancefloor – from the kids to the grandparents!"

Nenah adds, "For us, Ladyburn House was more than a venue – it was the heart of our love story. Now, it's ready to hold space for others to write their own."

With exclusive use weekends, on-site luxury accommodation, and the new Garden Pavilion marquee, Ladyburn House now offers a truly personal wedding experience in the heart of South Ayrshire.

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Dirty Mutts

FLOWERS

Tass Floral Studio

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Kilts 4 U

HAIR

Eleven Eleven Salon

MAKE-UP

Laura Dewar MUA

RINGS

Flawless Fine Jewellery

STATIONERY

Love, Beth

STRINGS

Strings Con Amore

Turn to page 86 to read all about James' experience of creating the perfect outfit with Kilts 4 U

“We were inspired by a palette of soft botanical elegance.”



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“Nenah and James' day was a beautiful blend of heartfelt moments, happy tears, and endless laughter shared among loved ones. Every detail was a reflection of Nenah's impeccable style and thoughtful touch. As a photographer, it was an absolute dream to capture.” ■

**LAUREN, LAUREN
STIRLING PHOTOGRAPHY**



LADYBURN

The Garden Pavilion



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At the heart of Ladyburn is the Garden Pavilion — a light-filled sailcloth marquee made for unforgettable ceremonies, celebratory feasting, and dancing under the stars. The house accommodates 18 guests in 9 all-ensuite bedrooms, elegant lounges, a private spa, yoga studio, and botanical interiors, offering a true home-from-home for you and your favourite people for a wedding weekend to remember.

Owners Nenah and James recently married at Ladyburn, bringing their own love story to life beneath the majestic oak tree and filling the space with joy, flowers, and music. Now, they welcome other couples to do the same — to make the place their own, if only for a weekend.

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Lynnhurst

Katie Bletcher delights in this
elegant venue near Glasgow

You know the time-honoured wedding adage; 'Something old, something new'. Arriving at Lynnhurst in Johnstone on a gloriously sunny Sunday in May the saying couldn't be more fitting. This beautiful venue combines old Victorian charm with chic and contemporary new features, giving couples the best of both worlds.

The building itself is made up of two separate Victorian mansions, connected by a modern extension that houses The Lowland restaurant and a number of bedrooms. We're visiting at the end of a wedding open day, and although wedding venue coordinator Kerry-Ann has spent the day showing to-be-weds around Lynnhurst, her enthusiasm is infectious.

We start our tour outside the top mansion which is dedicated to weddings, and with its separate entrance you'll feel like you and your loved ones are tucked away in your own private setting. A red carpet will be rolled out and you can have a piper, your dog – or even Highland cows (yes, it's been done!) to greet your guests.

Inside there are all the Victorian features you could wish for, from the mosaic floor to the stained glass. Then the cocktail bar takes on a more 20s vibe, with painted panelling, a beautiful chandelier and a mirrored bar. But the pièce de résistance has to be the gilt-framed USB TV. You're encouraged to personalise all aspects of your day here and guests will be treated to a slideshow of photos sharing your love story as they enjoy a tipple. Simply plug in your USB stick.

Just off the cocktail bar you'll find the conservatory, another great space for guests to mingle or have fun in a photo booth perhaps.

The main event

When it comes to saying 'I do' at Lynnhurst, ceremonies are held in the modern ballroom and you'll love how light and airy it feels. This room can accommodate weddings of up to 150 day guests, but if your numbers are slightly more modest the area can be partitioned by a curtain, creating a more intimate feeling.

The hotel provides an elegant cream aisle carpet and Chiavari chairs as standard for ceremonies, and you're free to add as many extra details as you please. Lynnhurst has a recommended list of suppliers to help you plan your day, while the ballroom's neutral tones mean it lends itself to any colour scheme or style.

One touch I just love here is this alternative ceremony option. If you don't fancy having just one person walk down the aisle, double doors on facing walls of the ceremony space mean you can each enter from opposite ends and meet to exchange vows in the middle. This is a particularly popular set-up with same-sex couples.



ImacImages Wedding Photography

“Imagine
walking down
the aisle to
the sound of
a fountain
playing.”

Or why not hold your ceremony outside in the beautiful mature gardens? Couples make the call at 10am on the wedding day whether to marry inside or out. Just imagine walking down the aisle to the bandstand with the sound of a fountain playing in the background before posing on the love swing or the bridge over the pond for your photos. Then, at night, the bandstand is lit with fairy lights and uplighters for those romantic shots. And why not have your guests form a sparklers arch?

So much choice

When it's time for the wedding breakfast guests are called back into the ballroom where Lynnhurst's flexible approach comes to the fore. The dividing curtain is pushed back to open up the space and you can decide between a traditional top table, a round top table, and a sweetheart





table for just you two. Or if your guest list only runs to 30 we love the idea of seating everyone on one large U-shaped table.

The hotel offers various wedding packages, including a midweek option. And when it's time to party you're going to love the fact you can set the lighting to whatever colour suits your scheme best. Plus, there's a spinning disco ball and the option to hire the hotel's LED dance floor. What's not to love?

Luxury calling

We stayed in Lynnhurst's honeymoon suite, the Cashmere Suite, during our visit and it's so beautiful you may just find yourselves wanting to slip away early! Brides who arrive the night before typically stay in the Wallace Suite upstairs and get ready with their squad there. (Your make-up artist will love the natural light afforded by the double-aspect windows.) Then at noon the bride is taken to the Cashmere Suite to get into her dress, and this is where you'll get those amazing first look photos with your parents or bridal party.

While the bedroom is a thing of beauty with its elegant furnishings and gold touches, it's the bathroom that really raises the bar. We're talking sunken whirlpool bath (the staff will draw it before bedtime), walk-in rainfall shower and mirrors and



marble everywhere. You can even have a complimentary end of night cocktail in the bath. I recommend the passionfruit martini.

Extra touches

One of my favourite rooms in the whole hotel, however, has to be the Powder Room. This gorgeous space sits just off the ballroom and is perfect if you need to touch up your make-up or to change your shoes or dress. The groom can even get dressed here in the morning. It's your space to use however you need.

To find out more about weddings at Lynnhurst contact them directly:

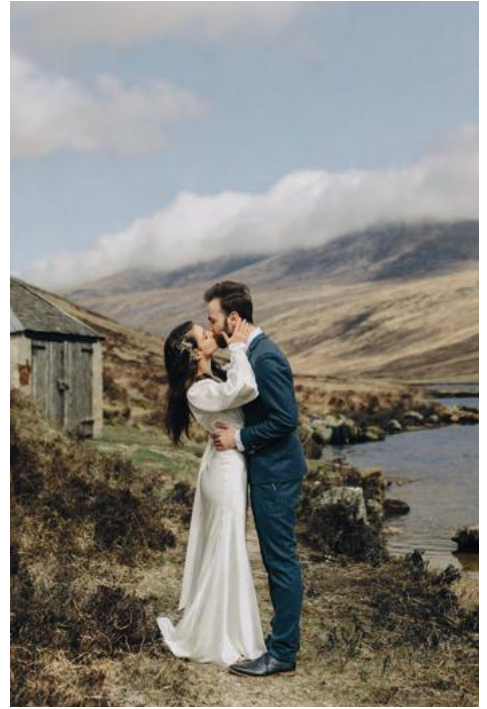
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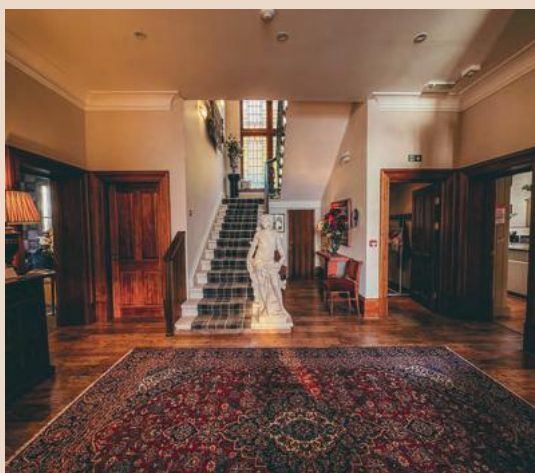
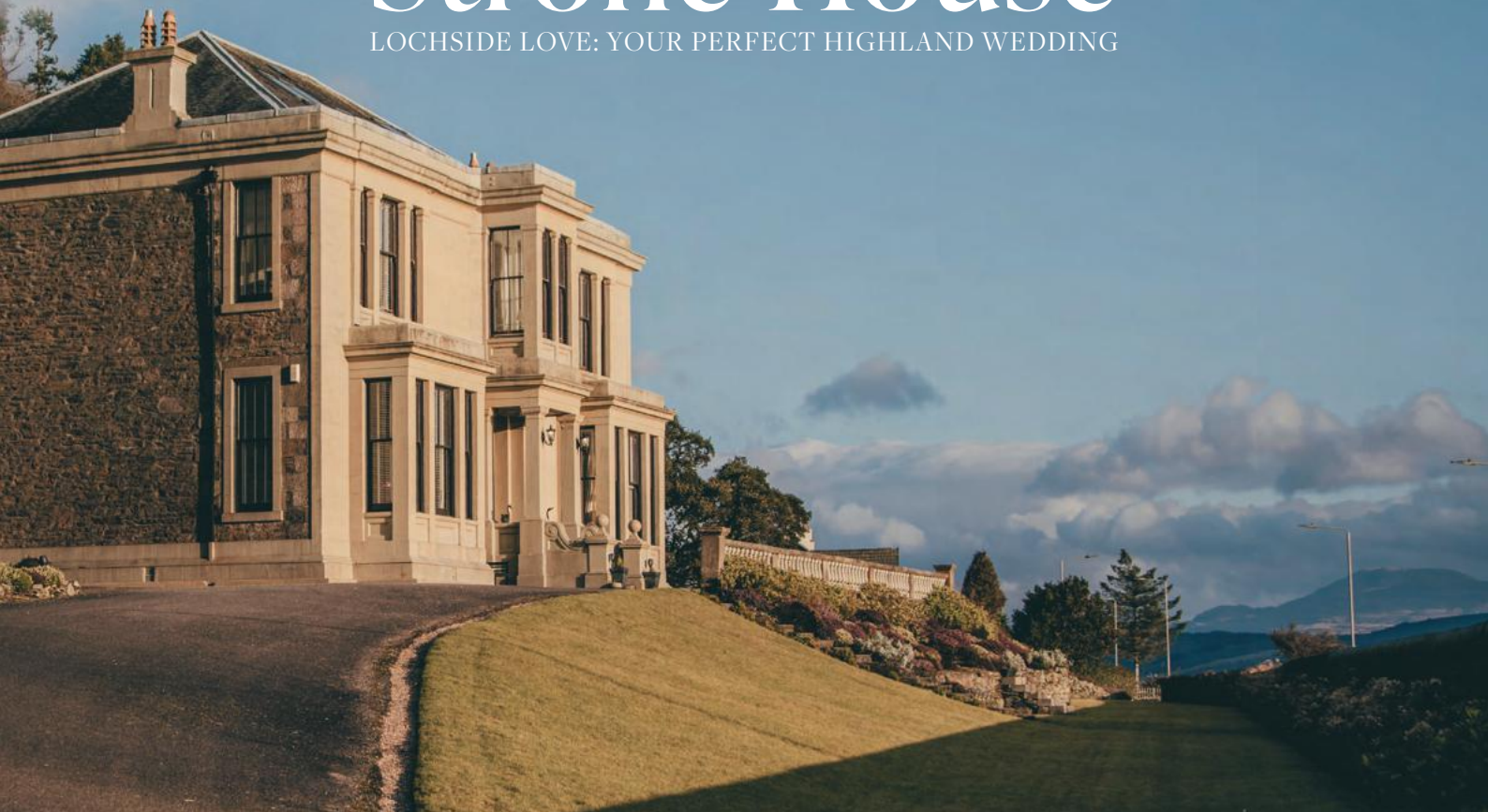
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Advertisers Index

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ACCESSORIES

Baba-C Designs	13
Carolyn Baxter Bridal Couture	4
Freja Designer Dressmaking	26
Gwenne, Broxburn	17
Gwenne, Edinburgh	17
Isobel Florence	27
Kavelle Couture	5
Kudos Bridal Dunfermline	25
Mirka Bridal Couture	7
Opus Couture	9
Pamela Jayne's Bridal	26
Rachel Scott Couture	26, 124, 292

BRIDAL DESIGNER

Carolyn Baxter Bridal Couture	4
Demetrios	3, 6
Ellis Bridal	2
Freja Designer Dressmaking	26
Mirka Bridal Couture	7

BRIDAL RETAILER

Carolyn Baxter Bridal Couture	4
Gwenne, Broxburn	17
Gwenne, Edinburgh	17
Isobel Florence	27
Kathleen Richmond Couture	4
Kavelle Couture	5
Kudos Bridal Dunfermline	25
Mirka Bridal Couture	7
Opus Couture	9
Pamela Jayne's Bridal	26
Rachel Scott Couture	26, 124, 292

BRIDESMAIDS

Freja Designer Dressmaking	26
Gwenne, Broxburn	17
Gwenne, Edinburgh	17

Isobel Florence	27
Kavelle Couture	5
Kudos Bridal Dunfermline	25
Mirka Bridal Couture	7
Pamela Jayne's Bridal	26
Rachel Scott Couture	26, 124, 292

CAKE

A Bonnie Wee Cake	161
Carol James Cake Design	160
Infinite Indulgence	161
Julie Scrumptious Cake Design	160
Katie's Cakes	159
PR Cakes	160
Philippa Rose Cake Design	159
The Kilted Cake Company	159
YiShi Cake	158

CELEBRANT

Fuze Ceremonies	204
Independent Humanist Ceremonies	205
The Humanist Society for Scotland	205
The Scottish Celebrants	204

DANCE LESSONS

Learn2WeddingDance	174
--------------------	-----

DANCE FLOOR

Social Jungle	167
---------------	-----

DECORATORS

All Wrapped Up Events Scotland	169
Social Jungle	167
Style in Detail	162
V-State Events	163

DEPARTMENT STORE

Princes Square	30 & 31
----------------	---------

EQUIPMENT HIRE

2ICC Group	164 & 165
All Wrapped Up Events Scotland	169
Social Jungle	167
Style in Detail	162
V-State Events	163

FILMMAKERS

V.I.P Wedding Films	200
---------------------	-----

FIREWORKS

2ICC Group	164 & 165
------------	-----------

FLORIST

Cherry Blossom	157
La Luna Florals	157
Rook Botanics	157
She Bloomin' Gathered	158
The Greenshed Flower Studio	158
Trudi Todd Flowers	157
V-State Events	163

GROOMSWEAR

21st Century Kilts	83
Eight Yards	87
Geoffrey Tailor & Kilt Maker	83
Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers	80, 117
Kilts 4 U	110 & 111
McCalls Highlandwear	81

GROOMSWEAR ACCESSORIES

21st Century Kilts	83
Eight Yards	87
Geoffrey Tailor & Kilt Maker	83
Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers	80, 117
Kilts 4 U	110 & 111
Louilly Makes	117
McCalls Highlandwear	81

GROOMSWEAR ON DAY FITTING SERVICE

Kilts 4 U	110 & 111
-----------	-----------

GROOMSWEAR TAILORING

21st Century Kilts	83
Eight Yards	87
Frank's Gold Room at Kilts 4 U, East Kilbride	110 & 111
Frank's Gold Room at Kilts 4 U, Hillington	110 & 111
Frank's Gold Room at Kilts 4 U, Prestwick	110 & 111
Geoffrey Tailor & Kilt Maker	83
Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers	80, 117
McCalls Highlandwear	81

HAIR, HEALTH & BEAUTY

AMMazing Team	155
Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry & Hair Styling	150
Fairmont Spa	150
Helene Milne Makeup Artist	150
Jasmin French Weddings	151



Laura A. Tiliman Photography



Laura A. Tilman Photography

Kirsty MacPherson Hair & Make up Artist	I55
Kohler Waters Spa at The Old Course	I48
Lori Walker Makeup Artist	I55
Lustre Bridal	I48
Make-up by Leigh Blaney	I5I
The Bannatyne Group	I46 & I47
The Bride to be...	I49

HONEYMOONS

We Travel To..	207
----------------	-----

JEWELLERY

Emma Rose Jewellery	I32
Fennes Jewellery	I32
Gemini Clay Studio	I32
James Porter & Son	I33
Sheila Fleet Jewellers	I30 & I3I

LIGHTING

2ICC Group	I64 & I65
Social Jungle	I67

MAGICIAN

Lorenzo Magician & Dramatist	I66
------------------------------	-----

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

'Til Truth Do Us Part	I68
-----------------------	-----

MUMS OUTFITS

Bear Necessities	I25
Catwalk	I23
Frox of Falkirk	I20
Gina Smart Boutique	I2I
John Charles	I18 & I19, I22
Rachel Scott Couture	26, I24, 292

MUSIC

Capella String Quartet	I74
Devotion Weddings	I75
Hireaband	I72 & I73
Kris Barclay Songs	I75
Piping Services Scotland	I75
Splendid Gentlemen	I75
The Brave Ceilidh Band	I74

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

Hireaband	I72 & I73
-----------	-----------

PHOTOBOOTH

Blushbooth	I66
Social Jungle	I67

PHOTOGRAPHER

Apricot Tree Weddings	I78 - I8I
Biggar Picture Photography	200
Bonnie Pictures	200
Chl�e Sidey Photo	I94 - I97, 236 - 239
Craig & Eva Sanders Photography	20I
Danielle Leslie Photography	220 & 22I
David Grant Simpson Photography	234 & 235
Del & Jayjay Weddings	I76 & I77, 222 - 225
Hayley Fraser Photography	20I, 208 & 209
Joanne Clenaghan Photography	254 - 257
Joy Story	270 & 27I
Laura Tilman Photography	40 & 4I, 78 & 79, I28 & I29, I98 & I99
Lauren Stirling Photography	272-275
Lewis Cannon Photography	I90 - I93
Mark Quinn Photography	I86 - I89
Miguel Arranz Photography	I82 - I85
Photos by Zoe	252 & 253

STATIONERY

Jenna B Stationery	I56
Starca Designs	I56

VENUE

Achnagairn Castle	226
Bachilton Barn	268
Balbirnie House Hotel	267
Boclair House	287
Brig o'Doon	284 & 285
Brisbane House	283
Brodie Castle	2I9
Broxmouth Courtyard	244 & 245
Cardrona Hotel Golf & Spa	2I4 & 2I5
Carlownie Castle	249
Cluny Castle	229
Crutherland House Hotel & Spa	2I4 & 2I5
Culdees Castle	263
Culzean Castle	2I9
Dalmeny Park	284 & 285
Dornoch Station	233
Drumossie - Macdonald Hotels	2I4 & 2I5
Dunglass Estate	240 & 24I
Eden Lesiure Village	282
Fasque Castle	230 & 23I
Forest Hills Hotel & Resort	2I4 & 2I5
Forgans	262
Fruin Farm	286
Ghillie Dhu	243
Hetland Hall Hotel	284 & 285
Hill of Tarvit	2I9
Houstoun House - Macdonald Hotels	2I4 & 2I5
Innes House	232
Kinclune House & Steading	260
Knipoch Hotel	227
Ladyburn House	276 & 277
Lochside House Hotel Spa & Lodges	284 & 285
Macdonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa	2I4 & 2I5
Macdonald Hotels & Resorts	2I4 & 2I5
MacGregor's Barn	282
Manorview Hotels	287
Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort	289
Marine North Berwick	242
Marlin's Wynd	248
Mar Lodge	2I9
National Trust for Scotland	2I9
Oran M�r	286
Peebles Hydro Hotel	250 & 25I
Pittodrie House - Macdonald Hotels	2I4 & 2I5
Pratis Barns	260
RAD group	284 & 285
Radstone Hotel	284 & 285
Rufflets St Andrews	26I

Seamill Hydro Hotel	284 & 285
Strone House	28I
Teasses Estate	258 & 259
The Caves	248
The Cow Shed Crail	262
The Dougarie Boathouse	280
The Rowantree	248
Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa	I48, 264 & 265
The Weaving Shed	269
Trump Turnberry	288
Unusual Venues	248
Virgin Hotels Edinburgh	247
Winton Castle	248

VENUE STYLING

All Wrapped Up Events Scotland	I69
V-State Events	I63

WEDDING FAIRS

Braehead Wedding Exhibition	I6
Luxury Scottish Wedding -	
The Sheraton Grand Edinburgh	I2
Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition - Cumbernauld	24
Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition - Dunfermline	24
Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition - Edinburgh	24
Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition - Falkirk	24
Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition - Glasgow	24
Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition - Stirling	24
The Scottish Wedding Show	28 & 29
The Witchy Wedding Fayre	39

WEDDING PLANNER

All Wrapped Up Events Scotland	I69
Luxury Scottish Wedding	I2
The Wedding Guru - Oskar	I69



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