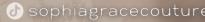






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WELCOME to Your Scottish Wedding



hink of the most memorable weddings you've been to and I bet there's a checklist of elements that have made them stand head and shoulders above the others. Heartfelt and personal vows will always win me over, along with infectious music that packs out the dance floor. Good food ensures a noteworthy occasion, especially an eye-catching cake that

tastes every bit as good as it looks. And then there are the flowers. While I appreciate beautiful blooms are not a major priority for every couple, for me a gorgeous hand-tied bouquet or big blousy installation will always set the tone for a special day. And if you happen to share my love of all things floral, you're going to love this issue of *Your Scottish Wedding* which is filled with breathtaking blooms and expert advice on selecting the perfect flowers.

Back in May we assembled a team of supremely talented florists, a stationery expert, décor specialists and cake designers to create three diverse tablescapes for our photoshoot at Arniston House. We let our suppliers loose with the themes; a Mediterranean medley, a celebration of all things pink, and in keeping with the stately home setting, a *Bridgerton*-inspired look. The results are simply stunning and the difficulty will be in selecting just which theme to take inspiration from!

In July we turned our attention to another stately home, this time heading to Mar Hall Hotel, Golf & Spa Resort for not one, but two styled photoshoots, and once again impressive florals were front and centre. Not only did we get to explore the beautifully manicured gardens but had another three fabulous florists creating arrangements to perfectly showcase the very latest bridal and groomswear trends. Then in Jennifer McLaren's feature *Seasonal stems* (p136) she talks to the experts on how your choice of blooms can impact your wedding's green credentials. And of course our regular features on real life couples' weddings have even more ideas for you to emulate!

As ever, this issue brings you all the news and upcoming events from across the country to help your planning journey run as smoothly as possible and we've been on the road again, visiting both Marine & Lawn North Berwick and Bachilton Barn to sample two very different venues and their wedding offerings. So settle down and enjoy – it all counts as planning!

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WIN

your wedding dress and shoes with Opus Couture and Cruise Glasgow

> **WORTH** £1,500

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Hannah and Sam's wedding was a celebration of glorious food, pretty flowers and lots of love





MIRKA

BRIDAL COUTURE

BRIDAL COLLECTIONS AND BESPOKE DRESSES HANDMADE AND DESIGNED IN SCOTLAND



YOUR 1112 VICOUNTDOWN

Let's get started

Before you get carried away with the finer details, decide on the where, when and how much

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



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





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
- \square 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





Last week to go!

The countdown is truly on now

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

1-3 months to go

This is where the fun really kicks in!

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





After the day...

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

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

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



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VIP Experience

Treat yourself to VIP tickets and enjoy a little touch of luxury. Our VIP visitors get fast track entry, a glass of bubbly, Clarins goody bag, access to the VIP Lounge, seats in the front two rows of the Catwalk Show, and more!

Let's Talk Tying the Knot

Join us for a curated programme of drop-in talks and Q&As covering various aspects of your wedding day - and importantly your wedding planning. With industry experts and trendsetters guiding you through everything from your first steps to finishing touches.

Live Band Showcase

How do you pick a wedding band without seeing them perform live? It's a trick question – you don't have to! At the Live Band Showcase, you can see some of Scotland's leading musicians performing live on stage.

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If you're opting for an outdoor wedding venue then we've got a whole area dedicated to the quirky ideas that will really make your wedding stand out. There's something for couples with even the biggest imaginations!

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a wedding dress from Opus Couture and a Cruise Personal Shopping service voucher to spend on shoes

or more than 20 years Opus
Couture has been a go-to
destination for brides with their
hearts set on finding 'The One'.
Owner Sharon McPherson has
over 40 years' experience in the wedding
industry. She and the rest of the talented
team at Opus Couture painstakingly select
designer gowns from around the world to
help you find the bridal dress of your dreams.

From Berta to Maggie Sottero, Enzoani to Pronovias and Sharon's own Opus Studio label and the Opus Be Beautiful collection, the rails at Opus are lined with gorgeous gowns to suit every bride-to-be's style. But don't worry if you don't yet know what that style is. The team will help you whittle down what you're looking for in a dress and discover the one you can picture wearing on your big day. Then, when you find the right dress, Opus can sort any final adjustments or customisations, all within the beautiful store.

And now the boutique, which recently won an award for the 2024 best bridal retailer, is offering an amazing prize for one lucky *YSW* reader to choose their dream wedding dress, worth up to £1,000.

What's more, Opus Couture has teamed up with Glasgow Cruise's Personal Shopping Suite, which is offering a £500 voucher to spend on designer wedding shoes. One lucky winner will meet Elena from the Cruise suite who will help them try on plenty of styles and find the heels to sashay down the aisle in!

What's included?

One lucky winner will get to choose their dream wedding dress from Opus Couture before complementing it with gorgeous designer shoes from Cruise Glasgow.

The prize includes:

- A designer wedding dress from Opus Couture valued at up to £1,000. The winner gets to choose from a selection of world-renowned dress designers.
- ■£500 voucher to spend in Cruise Glasgow's Personal Shopping Suite. The prize includes an appointment to try on designer wedding shoes in the personal shopping suite.

Florist/Décor | Jordana Events
Hair | Pam Doc Hair
Jewellery | Laings
Make-up | Louise Ballantine Luxury
Bridal Makeup
Model | Rebecca Donaldson
Photography | Craig & Eva Sanders
Venue | Trump Turnberry
Videography | Cherrytree Films



How to enter

Simply answer the following question:

Opus Couture is located in which

Ayrshire village?

Send your answer, your name and telephone number to editorial@yourscottishwedding.co.uk. You must also let us know if you agree to your email address being passed on to Opus Couture and Cruise Glasgow for marketing purposes. Entries which fail to agree to this will not be included in the prize draw. Applications must be in by 23.59 on 3Ist December 2024. The prize must be claimed by 30th June 2025.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Closing date is 23.59 on 3lst December 2024. To participate in the competition you must email your answer to editorial@yourscottishwedding.co.uk. By entering you agree to Opus Couture and Cruise Glasgow using your data for marketing and sharing it with involved parties. Entry implies acceptance of these terms. The *Your Scottish Wedding* giveaway winner will be selected randomly and will be notified by Opus Couture.

Opus Couture prize: A wedding dress, to be claimed by 30th June 2025, is for new customers over 18 and not applicable to current orders. Prize value is up to £1,000, no refund for lower-priced dresses and extra cost for higher-priced ones. The winner bears fitting, alteration, and accessory costs. The prize is non-transferable, non-refundable, with no cash alternative. Additional terms may apply. Cruise prize: £500 voucher to spend in Personal Shopping Suite in Cruise Glasgow. The prize is non-transferable, non-refundable or extendable and only applicable to the package detailed and is valued at £500. Cruise Glasgow will be in touch to arrange an appointment. Additional terms may apply.

* Your Scottish Wedding is the media partner of this competition and is not responsible for the delivery of the prize. The arrangement of the prize will be between the winner and Opus Couture and Cruise. Entrants must state whether they are happy for their email address to be passed to Opus Couture for marketing purposes. Head to the website for full terms and conditions.

OPUSCOUTURE.CO.UK / CRUISEFASHION.COM ■





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In the INOW

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

A whole host of new gowns

Opus Couture, the luxury wedding dress shop in Ayrshire, has welcomed a new designer from the other side of the world. Dresses from Australian design house Champery Couture are all about high-end couture, meticulous craftsmanship and contemporary styles. That's not all, though. Brides on the hunt for 'The One' can also browse the new Privée collection from well-known brand Berta at Opus. This line sees the designer return to her original inspiration and aesthetics, offering gowns that represent classic and timehonoured silhouettes. **OPUSCOUTURE.CO.UK**

22 | YOUR Scotlish WEDDING.CO.UK



Planet-friendly wedding stationery please!

Nicky at Starca Designs has seen more requests for recycled wedding stationery and couldn't be happier to shout about the benefits of this thoughtful trend. She is aiming to become more eco-conscious and has launched some new brightly coloured invites featuring recycled card and paper. Nicky says, "Opting for recycled card and seeded paper is a powerful choice that combines environmental responsibility, aesthetic beauty and a memorable experience for guests. There's a huge range of colours and they can be used in lots of designs." She explains that using recycled card lessens the impact on forests, decreases waste, saves animal habitats and consumes less energy than alternative choices - not to mention the beautiful rustic charm the product offers. Meanwhile, seeded paper gives your guests the option to support sustainability by turning a wedding memento into flowers or herbs. "Instead of discarding the stationery, guests can plant it," adds Nicky.

FACEBOOK.COM/STARCADESIGNS





Fancy sweet treats through your door?

Luxury wedding cake design studio YiShi Cake has launched a dedicated taster box for two - and is offering YSW readers a special discount using the code YSWIO. As part of this lavish to-be-wed experience, the offering features a selection of YiShi's six most popular flavours - or your own choice. Owner Denise explains, "For a small fee of £50 (which includes postage within the UK), you can enjoy next day delivery, allowing you to savour the cakes in the comfort of your home stress-free." It's a great opportunity to sample the flavours and make an informed choice for your big day, but it would also make a sweet surprise for your partner during wedding planning. "Down the line, it'd make a lovely wedding anniversary gift," adds Denise. YiShi Cake's 2024/25 diary is now open with limited availability and the taster box is available once a month (except during peak wedding season).

YISHICAKE.COM≫

SKI GYKE M

Danielle Frankel dresses

arrive in Scotland The Rachel Scott Couture team is ever so excited because they're about to be one of only two Danielle Frankel stockists in the UK - and the only one outside of London. Rachel, a self-confessed fabric geek who had long admired Danielle's exquisite fabrics and textiles, saw them in real life and knew she had to have them! "Stylewise, think effortlessly elegant and beautifully timeless," she says. Prices range from £4,000 to £12,000 and brides-to-be can browse the collection at the boutique's first Danielle Frankel

trunk show between 27th and 29th September.

More of a Suzanne Neville gal? You're in luck because she'll be in the boutique on 25th and 26th October to mark the arrival of her latest collection. Expect first looks at the newest pieces and the rare opportunity to design your own bespoke dress.

PS, Rachel's eveningwear store has just welcomed a coloured made-to-order couture collection from Vivienne Westwood. Tell your MOB and MOG ASAP!

RACHELSCOTTCOUTURE.CO.UK





New boozy flavour at Cumbernauld cake designer

Carol James Cake Design has introduced a delicious and patriotic new flavour, which will be showcased at wedding shows later in the year. Owner Carol says, "Tipsy laird is my take on the traditional Scottish dessert. The cake is made of Drambuie-infused sponge, orange-flavoured buttercream and homemade raspberry jam. The finishing touch is to scatter it with toasted almonds. And it's absolutely delicious!" Carol adds that it's the perfect cake for a Scottish-themed wedding (especially if you add lots of sugar thistles) but, of course, it's definitely one to keep away from the kids' table! Couples keen to sample a slice of tipsy laird will find Carol at the Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition at MacDonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa and at The Scottish Wedding Show – both events take place in October. "I'm looking forward to chatting all things cake, showing some beautiful creations and sharing some delicious samples," she adds.

> FACEBOOK.COM/ CAROLJAMESCAKEDESIGN

"Check out our Sample Suite."

SOPHIA GRACE COUTURE

All the news from Sophie Grace Couture

Haddington-based bridal boutique Sophia Grace Couture has just introduced an exquisite collection from Alberto Palatchi, full of classic styles with a modern twist. But that's not all – Enzoani's Love gowns have also arrived (another stunning collection that embodies grace, beauty, and timelessness, celebrating simplicity), and the WONA Concept Gemini 2025 Collection is on its way – feminine with a hint of glam and totally on-trend. All that said, Naydene at the boutique advises budget-savvy

brides or those in a rush to find their dream dress have options here too. "Check out our Sample Suite where you can find designer wedding dresses at up to 70% off," she says. "Gowns in this suite are either new discontinued samples or our own ex-sample gowns in great condition. Choose from designers like Calla Blanche, Enzoani, Allure, Zavana Couture and many more. If you see a dress you love, though, act fast and book an appointment as there's only one of each sample available." PS, There are accessories with big discounts too - right now all Badgley Mischka and Bella Belle shoes are priced at £89, saving you up to £140 on designer styles.

SOPHIAGRACECOUTURE.COM



Try your luck with Botany & Brass

Couples who still need to source their wedding florals and accessories should head for the Botany & Brass stand as soon as they get to The Scottish Wedding Show (you'll find show details on the next page!) because owner Paula will be offering one lucky winner a £100 voucher. All you need to do to enter is scan a QR code and, of course, while you're there it's a super opportunity to swoon over the beautiful products, from bouquets to buttonholes and centrepieces to room décor. **BOTANYANDBRASS.COM**





A fabulous milestone worth celebrating

YSW sends huge congratulations to the lovely team at occasionwear boutique Catwalk, who are celebrating an incredible 20 years in their store on Princes Street, Falkirk. Owner Pauline Spiers opened the doors in August 2004 with her sister Louise and the business has gone from strength to strength. "We stock many of the most sought-after designer mother of the bride collections, such as Veni Infantino, John Charles,

Condici, Ispirato and Veromia. We have customers travelling to us from all over the UK to find the perfect outfit for their son or daughter's big day," says Pauline. Renowned for exceptional customer service, Catwalk has plenty of awards under its belt - most notably being two-time winner of the Mums' Outfits category at the Your Scottish Wedding Awards. For this, Pauline credits her amazing team of dedicated staff who she says work hard to achieve their shared goal of providing the best possible shopping experience for mums and wedding guests.

CATWALK-FALKIRK.CO.UK

Celebrants doing good – all round

Fuze Ceremonies has revealed its 2023/2024 fundraising total and confirmed it'll continue to support the same charities next year. The Scotlandwide directory of celebrants has raised almost £10,000 for Beatson Cancer Charity and Alzheimer Scotland and earlier this year Fuze's Morag Webster (chair of The Fuze Foundation) and George McLean (brand ambassador of Fuze) met with charity representatives to reveal the impressive total

to reveal the impressive total [pictured]. Fundraising efforts came from a variety of sources, from legal wedding ceremony fee donations to Morag's daring sponsored skydive. Not just doing good with philanthropic work, Fuze is clearly putting in a great performance for its couples because its 2,000th review just arrived on Trustpilot. With thousands of people taking the time to leave positive words about the organisation, Fuze has been ranked as 'Excellent' by Trustpilot.

FUZECEREMONIES.CO.UK ≫



"A dazzling smile starts here."

DEE DENTAL



Aidan Shahbazkhani/The Social Cow

Best of both

Splendid Gentlemen, the Scottish wedding band that prides itself on doing things a little differently ("We try to steer clear of as many cheesy things as we can," laughs songwriter, performer and manager Dee McLaren) has launched a new package for to-be-weds to consider. Normally the three-piece only offers a DJ set as an add-on, on top of the usual four-hour slot for those whose venue has a license until 1am. However, the new Best of Both package gives couples... well, the best of both worlds! "If you're struggling to decide between a band or DJ, why not have both?" continues Dee. "The new package offers an hour-long DJ set within the four hours we'd normally perform. This means they get all the benefits of having a live band as well as having any songs we can't play still included in their wedding - for no additional cost."

SPLENDIDGENTLEMEN.CO.UK

New groomswear store

Luxury bespoke tailor Suited & Booted Glasgow has opened its first store outside of the Middle East, on Glasgow's Montrose Street. Founded in 2017 by Scottish entrepreneurs Ryan Smith and Calvin Smith, Suited & Booted is dedicated to craftsmanship and meticulous attention to detail. Dillion Arthur from the new store explains, "Offering everything from classic traditional three-piece suits to tuxedos and contemporary styles, the expert team provide a unique and personalised experience to help you create the perfect look. With ready-towear options and a turnaround of four weeks for fully bespoke tailoring, Suited & Booted offer something for every groom's style and wedding theme."

SUITEDANDBOOTEDDUBAI.COM

Get your teeth wedding-ready

Dee Dental Paisley is offering YSW readers a free teeth whitening intro. Principal dentist Dr Dinah Naasan says, "Our comprehensive consultation will assess your oral health and discuss the best teeth whitening options to help you achieve a brighter, more confident smile". And did you know the clinic also offers an exciting range of skincare products? ZO Skin Health is formulated with the highest quality ingredients and backed by cutting-edge research, all geared towards helping you achieve a radiant, healthy look. Whether you struggle with acne, hyperpigmentation, signs of ageing or simply want to maintain your natural beauty, ZO Skin Health can meet your needs. "Visit us today to explore our skincare range and take advantage of our free teeth whitening consultation. Your journey to healthier skin and a dazzling smile starts here," adds Dinah.

DEEDENTALPAISLEY.CO.UK

Floral trend alert! Glasgow-based florist Cherry Blossom has been telling

Glasgow-based florist Cherry Blossom has been telling *YSW* what's on trend for 2024-25 weddings and guess what – there's a comeback! "Floral arches are making a huge comeback with lots of couples including them in their ceremony décor," explains Laura at Cherry Blossom. "They make a beautiful backdrop and are an instant focal point at a wedding. Plus an arch is a super-sustainable piece of décor because it can be moved and reused after the ceremony. A lot of couples like it sitting behind them at the wedding breakfast."

FLOWERSBYCHERRYBLOSSOM.CO.UK



At's showtime

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

© SEPTEMBER

Ist – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition, Dunblane Hydro, Dunblane

21st – Wedding Open Day, Dalmeny Park House Hotel, Barrhead

29th - Wedding Experience Open Day, The Exchange, Glasgow

© OCTOBER

6th – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition Inchyra Hotel & Spa, Falkirk

6th – Luxury Scottish Wedding Show, The Sheraton Grand, Edinburgh

6th – Quirky Wedding Fayre, Eden Leisure Village, Cumbernauld

6th – Wedding Fayre, Fairfield House Hotel, Ayr

19th & 20th - The Scottish Wedding Show, SEC, Glasgow

24th – Wedding Experience Open Day, The Exchange, Glasgow

27th – Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition, DoubleTree by Hilton Glasgow Westerwood Spa & Golf Resort, Glasgow

Keep up to date with all events on the YSW website



RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION



RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION DUNBLANE HYDRO Sunday 1st September 2024 11am to 3pm Newly engaged and looking for inspiration

in your wedding planning process? The

Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition are thrilled to invite you to the stunning Doubletree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro on Sunday the 1st of September 2024 11am to 3pm. Starting at 11 am come and join us for a free glass of bubbles or tea/coffee on arrival including a Free Goody Bag. Don't forget your complimentary copy of Your Scottish Wedding Magazine from our media sponsors YSW. Our Catwalk show starts at 1pm with the fabulous Pamela Jayne's Bridal, Charlotte Grace Bridal, JH Kilt Hire, Harmony Bagpiping and the wonderful DJ Sean Hanlon - The Wedding and Party Specialist. They will be joined with over 40 Wedding Industry Suppliers many of which are Award Winning and Award Nominated.

We have an entertainment showcase running throughout the event with the excellent Madison Wedding Band, Dynamix Productions and Claire Grehan Signer performing throughout the event.

RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION -INCHYRA

Sunday 6th October 2024 11am to 3pm

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Starting at 11 am come and join us for a free glass of bubbles or tea/coffee on arrival including a Free Goody Bag. Don't forget your complimentary copy of Your Scottish Wedding Magazine from our media sponsors YSW.

Our Catwalk show starts at 1pm with the fabulous Pamela Jayne's Bridal, JH Kilt Hire, PiperDan and the wonderful DJ Sean Hanlon - The Wedding and Party Specialist. They will be joined with over 40 Wedding Industry Suppliers many of which are Award Winning and Award Nominated.





RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING Exhibition -Westerwood

Sunday 27th October 2024 11am to 3pm

One of our newest venues the Razzmatazz Wedding Exhibition are thrilled to invite you, for the first time, to the stunning Doubletree by Hilton Westerwood in Cumbernauld on Sunday the 27th of October 2024 11am to 3pm.

Starting at 11 am come and join us for a free glass of bubbles or tea/coffee on arrival including a Free Goody Bag. Don't forget your complimentary copy of Your Scottish Wedding Magazine from our media sponsors YSW.

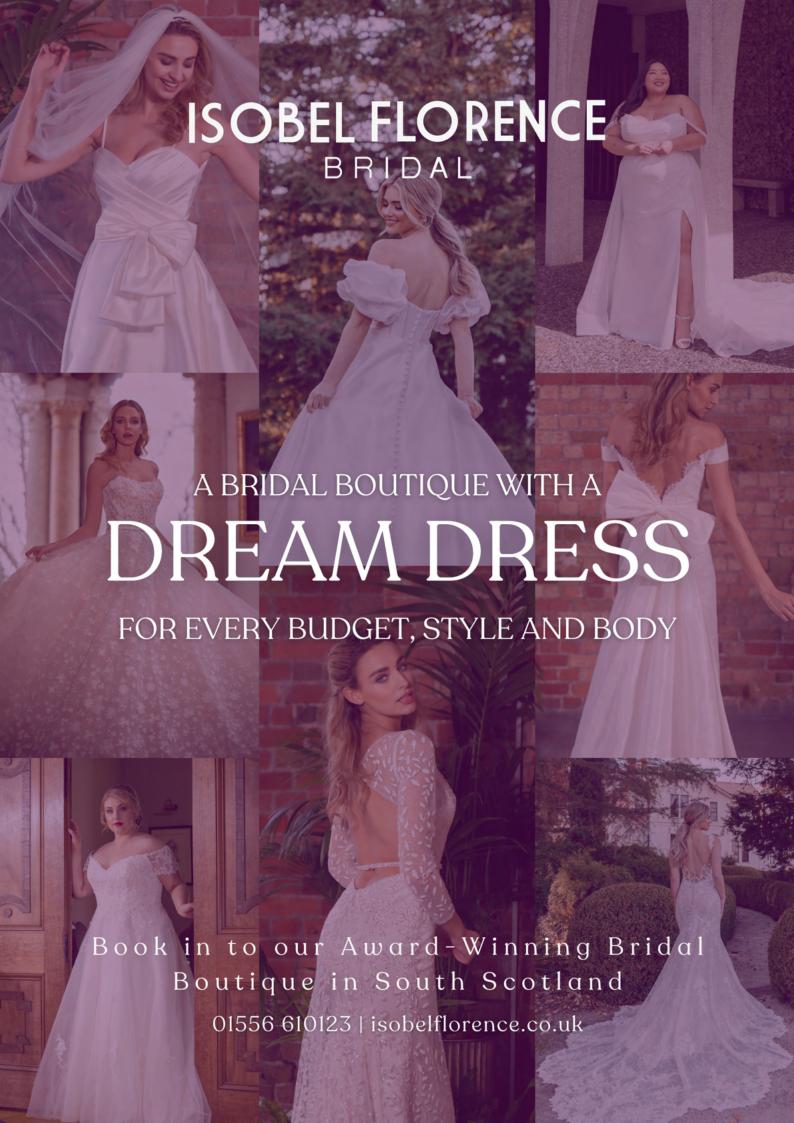
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ANDREW@THE-RWE.COM // 07568347672









vent planning has been listed among the five most stressful jobs in the world and at *YSW* we can totally vouch for that because organising a wedding is a major project! You're about to be managing budgets, expectations, travel, deadlines, suppliers and so much more – usually alongside other life and work responsibilities. Plus, it's something most people have never done or even dabbled in before. So, where do you start?!

"They need an idea at the beginning of which elements are important to them, who is important, what style of wedding they want and, more than anything, what they're comfortable spending. This determines how many they can invite and what locations they can consider," advises Kimmie Brown of award-winning wedding and event consultancy LITU.

In other words, as soon as the dust settles on the engagement celebrations, sit down with a pen and paper and explore your non-negotiables, compromises and preferences.

"I can tell if one [partner] is taking over!"

KIMMIE

LET'S GET STARTED

From the all-important budget to weekly wedmin check-ins, here's all you need to know for a stress-free start to wedding planning

Who does what?

"I always do a call with the couple and can tell if one doesn't want to deal with the planning... Or if one is taking over!" laughs Kimmie.

Meanwhile, wedding planner Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki of The Wedding Guru – Oskar, says to explore your strengths and weaknesses early on, take on tasks that work best with your skillset and keep in touch. He always advises blocking out time for weekly wedmin catch-ups – put your phones away, fill up your fizz and focus on blitzing that to-do list. "Wedmin checkins also ensure it isn't just one of you getting overwhelmed; you take the responsibility of working through it all together," Oskar explains.





Money talks literally

Often the elephant in the room, most planners recommend looking at your budget ASAP. "First, identify your savings then add on any support you might get from family (more on that in a moment). Finally, decide what you hope to save before the wedding. Experts recommend you shouldn't borrow more than you can repay in one year – but only if you have to," says Oskar.

With a figure in mind, look at your must-haves, wants and nice-to-haves – and earmark how much you're willing to spend on each. But unless you work in the industry or have been heavily involved in planning someone else's big day, it's unlikely you'll be up to speed on wedding photography costs or what you can expect to shell out on booze for 150 guests. So, ask for advice from family/friends who have done it before or check out comparison websites.

Before you get to that point though, you need to tackle the

"Everyone needs to plan to some extent."

HAYLEY

often-awkward issue – family contributions, says Oskar. "In this day and age, it isn't inappropriate to ask both sets of parents if they would like to support your wedding plans financially. But remember if you ask for support, you might need to give out some control and consider the people who support you in the decision-making."

One more must for the early days... Wedding insurance. Because we'd all like to hope that nothing goes wrong, but what if it does? And in the grand scheme of things, wedding insurance will cost less than your wedding cake!

TOP TIP

"Setting up a dedicated, wedding email address you can both access will save so much time and frustration. You'll avoid scrolling through thousands of emails or being missed off a reply when you both want to be included in the conversation."

OSKAR





Here's how project manager Hayley kept on top of everything ahead of marrying Jamie at Melville Castle...

"I use spreadsheets at work to track actions, budgets and reporting so am fairly experienced. But anyone can download and use ready-made Excel templates. Spreadsheets felt better than a physical planner because it was easier to edit elements as things inevitably changed throughout the process. I also had a quick access folder on my laptop for all wedding correspondence.

"The spreadsheet had a budget tracker (what was due to pay when and a spend vs budget comparison), an on-the-day timeline (great for the venue, hair and make-up), and briefing documents for suppliers. A good example of this was flowers – I documented all my ideas to explain my vision. It felt easier to do this visually than explain over a call.

"Being super-organised helped me feel more at ease but others may prefer a more relaxed approach. You do what feels right for you. That said, everyone needs to plan to some extent as you're the central point between all your suppliers.

"One last tip: Although it seems like I had control, make sure both you and your partner choose things that are important to you. I led on music and décor, for example, and Jamie took charge of food and wine."



Ido'DIARIES



Hayley & Saul

This couple is letting their décor reflect their early dates



Tith her professional background in wedding planning Hayley has found organising her own wedding to Saul pretty straightforward. "To be honest I've not found anything particularly stressful and I think that's down to my experience," she tells us. "I've absolutely loved looking at different ideas for décor and can't wait to see it all come together on the day." She also pays tribute to her fabulous group of girls who have been by her side with the decisions, while Saul has had a lot more input that she expected. "This has been nice as I know sometimes the grooms just let the brides make all the decisions!"

Those choices include their pick of décor and the couple is opting for a Harry Potter theme – "but not full-blown Harry Potter," laughs Hayley. "Our first date nights were watching the films as we were just coming out of Covid and we couldn't really do the whole proper date thing. Saul was staying at his dad's so I mentioned I was having a Harry Potter night as I'm a big fan of the movies and books. He came down and that was it!" And in honour of Hayley's old horse Milly attending the wedding, (see more in the May 2024 issue of YSW) there will be some references to the bride's love of horses.

Overall the décor will go down a rustic route to tie in with their rural venue at Silverwood Resort in Perthshire. Hayley is including a lot of DIY details to make it all more personal. "Let's just hope it all looks ok on the day!" she laughs.

"Keep track of everything you spend as it can slowly creep up on you."



The one thing this bride has been grappling with is the table plan and deciding who sits with whom. However, Hayley and Saul are lucky that they don't have any dramas to deal with or avoiding having to sit certain people together.

In the weeks leading up to their big day they were busy chatting to their band to sort out their first dance and other requests. Hayley and her mum were also looking forward to their hair and make-up trials to try to settle upon the final look.

When we caught up, the bride and groom were also looking forward to their hen and stag parties but had decided to keep things relatively low-key. Hayley opted for a long weekend in Glasgow but beyond booking accommodation with some of her old bosses in hospitality, the rest of the party was being left in the hands of her girls.

As their wedding day draws near Hayley and Saul have some final advice for other couples-to-be. "Set yourself a realistic budget and keep track of everything you spend as it can slowly creep up on you," she says. "Also enjoy the planning stage and don't overthink things too much as even though it doesn't seem it, you will be more organised than you think."



The big day is drawing near for four of our couples who have been sharing their planning journeys with us

Vivienne & Greg

This creative pair were busy nailing the décor when we caught up with them before their summer wedding



▼ peaking to Vivienne and Greg in the weeks running up to their July wedding it was obvious it was all systems go to get the décor on point for their big day at the Kingsfield Barns in Linlithgow. "With our venue being a blank canvas, this is a lot to do (which I don't mind whatsoever because it means we can have it looking exactly how we want!) said Vivienne. Luckily their jobs as a designer and a joiner mean they had all the tools they need. "I have made custom stickers for our confetti bags to match our stationery, I've been painting our table number stands, I've begun cutting our napkins from the most beautiful lilac linen and we have cut and started to paint all of our MDF bits and pieces," explained Vivienne. "We have three double arches which will be at the top of the aisle. Greg built the coolest welcome sign that

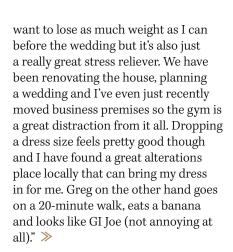


doubles as our postbox, we've got our gigantic donut wall ready for its dowels for when we arrive at the venue and, after I mentioned that it might be nice to have a matching arched cake stand, Greg made one within 24 hours!"

Family and friends really mucked in to help bring everything together and they also agreed to take on some special jobs. "We asked my sister's stepdaughter Tess to read a poem my Gran wrote years and years ago as a gift to my other Gran and Papa for their anniversary," said Vivienne. "We've also asked our friend Al to be our MC! His fiancée Vikki is doing all our flowers too, which is really special. We are feeling very grateful for our fabulous friends and family."

However, it wasn't all work. When we caught up with her, Vivienne let us in on the regime keeping her on an even keel on the run-up to the wedding. "I've been going to a PT once a week since February," she said. "Of course I'd be lying if I said I didn't

"We are feeling very grateful for our fabulous friends and family."





Look out for some serious DIY-ing when we carry full details of the big day in the January 2025 issue



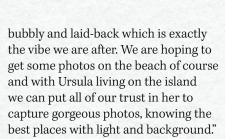
Lauren & Gavin

It's all systems go now for Lauren and Gavin's September wedding at The Dougarie Boathouse



auren and Gavin hadn't been engaged long when they discovered they had won their venue hire in the *Your Scottish Wedding* competition with The Dougarie Boathouse. The couple quickly set a date to say 'I do' at this stunning venue on Arran at the start of September, and with such a tight turnaround it's been full steam ahead. They fell for their venue and are looking forward to showing their 60-strong guestlist, which includes family travelling from Australia, around Arran.

Since we last spoke to them Lauren and Gavin booked the extremely talented Ursula Kelly to capture their big day. "She's already on the island and was recommended by the venue," says Lauren. "After a quick chat on the phone and a peek at her photos we knew she was the one. On the phone she sounded



An additional benefit of booking Ursula is her partner Jim is a videographer – he actually did all the promotional videos for Dougarie Boathouse. "We can honestly say we have landed well and are super-excited to see what pictures and videos they capture for us on our special day," says Lauren.

Gavin and Lauren love a good party and have opted for a DJ to provide their wedding reception soundtrack. "I'm sure there will be a variety of music from Taylor Swift (Gavin's a massive fan") to GBX!" Lauren laughs. "We can't wait to party with our family and friends. For during the day Lauren has turned to Binky Blue, a band made up of fiddle player Rianna, who she first met at work, and her brother Jared on guitar.

"We can't wait to party with our family and friends."

LAUREN



Visiting The Douglas Hotel - where they will stay throughout their wedding weekend - during a trip to Arran in July

Another big booking the couple has confirmed is their celebrant. They've opted for Robbie Sharp of Humanist Society Scotland to conduct their ceremony, which will include drinking from a quaich. "We wanted someone light-hearted and fun and Robbie's page on the website certainly caught our eye with his introduction video of him bungee jumping named 'This is me," says Lauren. "He seemed down to earth, funny and a good laugh!" >>>

Keep an eye out for all the details from Lauren and Gavin's island wedding

Jade & Daniel

In their final column before their November wedding the couple let us in on the finer details





aving met working at Dundee Rep theatre Jade and Daniel knew they wanted it to play a leading role in their wedding and are delighted to be able to say 'I do' on the main stage this November. From the beginning they've been clear they want their big day running order to resemble a performance, right down to the in-house snacks. "Guests will arrive and mingle in the bar from 4.30pm where there will be ushers handing out complimentary ice creams," smiles Jade. "The auditorium doors will open at 5pm and guests will be asked to take their seats and then I'll make my entrance around 5.30pm. After the ceremony we will take photos with guests on the stage and then they will go down to the restaurant for drinks and nibbles while Daniel, myself and the wedding party take pictures around the theatre, in the paint shop and wardrobe."

The wedding will be very much a Rep family affair with Alastair More Photography, who works in the theatre's marketing team, in charge of capturing their day. Then two of their former colleagues from their time working as ushers, will take on the role of – you guessed it

- ushers for the wedding, and the front of house manager from their theatre days will run the day. Then Jade's long-term friend and colleague from the Engage department, which works to give people across Scotland access to the creative arts, is going to be her flower girl!

With that job decided, Jade's best friend Taylor will step up for bridesmaid duties. "Initially I had planned a huge wedding party with my mum, sisters and nieces, and their kids, but the cost was beginning to sky rocket and because we have to make a previously unplanned trip to London in July we had to trim back." Taylor clearly knows her bestie well, having planned the best hen do in Glasgow at Halloween. "We are going to see *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* all dressing up!" says an excited Jade.

Daniel admits he's not so up for a big shindig. "For the stag, I'm not really one for doing... things!" he explains. "I'm considering just renting a cinema screen and connecting up a console for a games night with a couple of people."

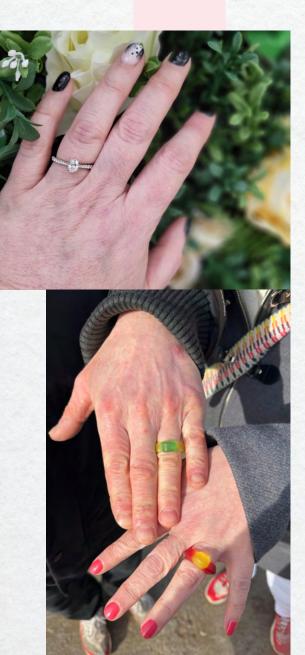
The groom's stag may still be up in the air but he's now sorted the perfect outfit for their autumnal theme, opting for the Cullin of Skye tartan with its orange, green and red tones, and a brown Arrochar Crail jacket from Highland Kilt Connections. The entertainment is also sorted with more friends stepping up. "During the ceremony my friend Calum, who is one half of local theatre company Elfie Picket Theatre (and a very talented musician) is going to be playing music on stage," explains Jade. "When I walk down the aisle it will be to an instrumental of *Lonely Day* by System of a Down which will be played by my son Phoenix on piano and Calum on guitar. Then for the first dance Taylor and Calum (both parts of Elfie Picket Theatre) will perform a version of *Wicked Game* by Chris Isaak."







After over two decades together this proposal was a complete surprise



ynn and Gary first met through friends years ago and he definitely made an impression. "I remember Gary's chat-up line was, 'My best friend is a model!' laughs Lynn. "We have been together ever since."

That was 23 years ago and Lynn admits that she never thought she was ever getting married. "Life took over with the house and kids and you forget about yourself," she says. "But now it is time for us and we are looking forward to it and enjoying the planning."

Gary chose to propose on the beach at St Andrews on the 2nd March with a Haribo place-holder ring. "I had no idea at all so it was a huge surprise, but I do think my best friend and daughter were in on it," remembers Lynn. "We celebrated with my best friend and her husband in St Andrews with fizz and a meal and the celebrations continued all weekend."

Then it was time to replace the Haribo ring with the real deal and they went shopping the next weekend. "After a very long process I found two rings that I loved and Gary picked the ring out of the two and I totally love it. I cried in the shop!" says Lynn. They decided on a stunning oval cut diamond with diamond shoulders from Chisholm Hunter and it's just beautiful.

The couple lost no time and started planning, with their initial idea of a small wedding quickly evolving. The wedding is now going to be a lot bigger than they had originally intended and they soon

> "Gary picked the ring out and I totally love it. I cried in the shop!"

LYNN



found the perfect venue. "After visiting a few that we liked we fell in love with Boclair House and we have booked it for October 2025," says Lynn.

Lynn and Gary have a clear idea of how they want their day to be and plan to make it "a day that everyone will remember." They add, "They've been waiting a long time for a wedding." And the couple have booked a humanist celebrant they know will oversee the type of ceremony they want, Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki from Fuze Ceremonies. "We would like a more relaxed and funny ceremony and Oskar is perfect for that," smiles Lynn.







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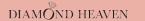


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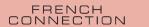


DOWER*HALL



ESSENCE ** HARRIS

EVERYMAN







KURT GEIGER





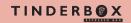




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'Fresco' by Galia Lahav Photography by @chescolopez







"There is a growing emphasis on sustainability."



The BIG interview with the family behind Kavelle Couture

Kavelle Couture first opened in 1991 when designer Jaspal Landa began creating bespoke dresses. Over 30 years on, the boutique is going from strength to strength, with Jaspal's children Tony and Kavelle working with her to help brides realise their wedding dress dreams

Your Scottish Wedding: You've been in the industry since 1991, Jaspal, but how did you get started in fashion and then make the move into bridalwear?

make the move into bridalwear? Jaspal: My journey began with making children's waistcoats, curtains, bedding, and really anything that could be sewn. I was always out with the sewing machine, creating outfits for friends, family, and even the whole street. After that, I turned to eveningwear and custom outfits, which quickly gained popularity for their elegance, intricate details, and craftsmanship. The move into bridalwear was a natural progression. I found immense joy in crafting gowns for one of the most important days in a person's life. The transition was driven by a desire to bring my vision of unique, personalised bridal fashion to life, and it has been an incredibly rewarding journey ever since. YSW: The boutique is now in its third home, having moved from two premises in Edinburgh's West End to the current gorgeous store in the New Town. You have followed your mum into the business, Kavelle. Did you always know you wanted to work with her? Kavelle: I was mesmerised by my mother's skill from a very young age. I was just 8 when Jaspal started the business,

skill from a very young age. I was just 8 when Jaspal started the business, and by the time I was 15, I was already working with her. Watching her passion and dedication to her craft left a great impression on me, and it felt natural to follow in her footsteps continuing a legacy but also about being part of something that has been a significant part of my life. I have a deep passion for design and style,

and I love working with brides-to-be. It's essential to me that every bride, regardless of her shape, size, height, or budget, looks and feels beautiful and valued. My goal is to empower women to be confident and to feel and look incredible on their special day.

YSW: Kavelle Couture has been on the go for over 30 years. How do you account for your longevity and ongoing success? Kavelle: Our longevity and success can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to quality, personalised service, and innovation. We prioritise understanding our clients' desires and translating them into exquisite, custom-made gowns. In our store, we believe every bride deserves a gown that truly reflects her unique style and personality. That's why we offer flexibility to change and adapt any design, ensuring you never have to settle. Whether it's adjusting the fit, altering the details, or customising elements to match your vision, we are dedicated to making sure your gown is a perfect reflection of you. We understand every bride is different, and we are here to make your dream dress a reality without compromise. Additionally, staying attuned to fashion trends while maintaining our unique style has allowed us to evolve with the industry. Our loyal clientele and word-of-mouth recommendations have also played a significant role in sustaining our business. YSW: What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in that time?

changes you've seen in that time? Kavelle: The fashion industry has seen a tremendous shift towards inclusivity and diversity, which we wholeheartedly embrace. Brides today seek gowns that reflect their individuality and personal style rather than conforming to traditional norms. Technology has also revolutionised how we design and connect with our clients, making the process more interactive and collaborative. Additionally, there is a growing emphasis on sustainability, which is a positive change we are actively incorporating.

YSW: How would you describe the Kavelle Couture bride?

Kavelle: The Kavelle Couture bride embodies a distinctive blend of sophistication, boldness, and individuality. She is confident and embraces her unique sense of style, seeking a gown that reflects both her personality and personal taste. She is typically drawn to opulent designs with intricate detailing, luxurious fabrics, and modern yet timeless elegance. She appreciates high fashion and often looks for statement pieces that stand out and make a memorable impact. Above all, she desires a gown that not only complements her beauty but also allows her to express herself fully on her special

YSW: Do you have a favourite gown in store right now?

Kavelle: Currently, one of our favourite gowns in the boutique is 'Carrie' by Galia Lahav, a stunning 3D floral lace gown (pictured above). A strapless trumpet bridal gown that captures your unique style, it features intricate three-dimensional lace, delicate flower details, and a flared skirt that commands attention. The attention to detail and the way it flatters various body types make it a standout piece.

YSW: What are your best tips for brides searching for their wedding dress?

Kavelle: First and foremost is to have fun! You are creating history. Start your search early, keep an open mind, and focus on what makes you feel confident and beautiful. Regardless of what your shape or size you should feel like the most beautiful, confident, and comfortable version of yourself. It's important to try on different styles to discover what suits you best. Trust your instincts. Remember you've been dressing yourself your whole life. You will know when you are wearing The





One! Don't be afraid to express your unique style. Most importantly, cherish the experience.

YSW: Who is the celebrity bride you wish you could design for?

Kavelle: As a designer, the celebrity bride I would be thrilled to dress is Zendaya. Her fashion sense is both daring and sophisticated, allowing for an incredible range of creativity and expression. Her ability to effortlessly transition between classic elegance and bold, avant-garde makes her an ideal muse for a truly memorable wedding gown. Crafting a dress for her would be an exhilarating challenge, one that celebrates her unique beauty and the confident, trend-setting persona she brings to every red carpet. This would be a chance to create a piece that not only complements her striking presence but also sets a new standard in bridal fashion.

YSW: When you're designing a bespoke gown where do you begin? Kavelle: We begin with a consultation to understand the bride's vision, style preferences, and any specific elements she envisions for her gown. We discuss fabrics, silhouettes, and details, drawing inspiration from various sources, including the bride's personality and the wedding theme. I will sketch out designs, show different fabric samples, drape fabrics and create ideas from simply using pins and fabrics, allowing the bride to

visualise the design. This collaborative approach ensures the final gown is a perfect reflection of the bride's dream.

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

Kavelle: Each gown we create holds a special place in our hearts. However, there is one gown that stands out – a custom piece designed for a bride who wanted a fusion of traditional and contemporary elements. The intricate lacework, combined with modern silhouettes, resulted in a timeless and breathtaking gown.

YSW: Along with your own custom designs, you carry a range of renowned bridalwear names. How do you decide which designers to stock?

Kavelle: We carefully curate our selection of designers based on their craftsmanship, unique style, and alignment with the Kavelle Couture brand. We look for designers who share our commitment to quality and have a distinct creative vision. The goal is to offer our brides a diverse range of styles that cater to different tastes.

YSW: What are your biggest influences when deciding what designs and styles to carry?

Kavelle: Our primary influences come from our clients' feedback, global fashion trends, and our own creative intuition. We attend international bridal fashion shows and keep a close eye on emerging trends and designers.





















PURE whimsy

Live out your fairy tale dreams with floaty skirts and feather-light sleeves



'Katniss' by Wona (POA), **Opus Couture**. Flowers by **Braw Blooms**. See page 64 for more details.























Get 1^{THE} 100K

t's totally up to you what style of wedding you want, but sometimes having so much choice can make honing in on 'The One' dress more difficult. Which is why for our photoshoot at the majestic Mar Hall Hotel, Golf & Spa Resort with its picture-perfect spaces and delightful gardens, we decided to curate not one but two looks to help you decide.

First up we wanted to embrace this season's love of structured styles with a heavy emphasis on corsetry and clean lines, and we enlisted **Cherry Blossom** to create stunning floral arrangements that would reflect that vibe. Laura Jardine of the company says, "The brief had lots of large blousey blooms which gave a structured yet soft romantic feel. We decided to use a variety of mainly big-headed flowers including dahlias, large garden roses and hydrangeas to create the soft texture." Tall delphiniums

added height while foliage was kept to a minimum allowing the large blooms to be the focus.

For our second contrasting look we focused on soft laces and floaty tulles with billowing sleeves and skirts for a whimsical vibe. Complementing these bridal confections, Louise Davies of Braw Blooms wove her floral magic. "I knew instantly we would want to ensure the designs had a light, airy and natural look to them, with a slightly ethereal feel, but still with some real showstopper stems included to add impact," she says. "We used lots of lovely grasses and locally grown flowers including agrostemma and cornflowers, alongside some super full delphiniums." Contact Cherry Blossom and Braw

Contact Cherry Blossom and Braw Blooms to find out how they can help you create these looks for your wedding.

From dewy to chic

For both of our models we wanted to build up the hair and make-up from a more natural look with loose hair in line with the whimsical theme, to something a bit more glam and structured.

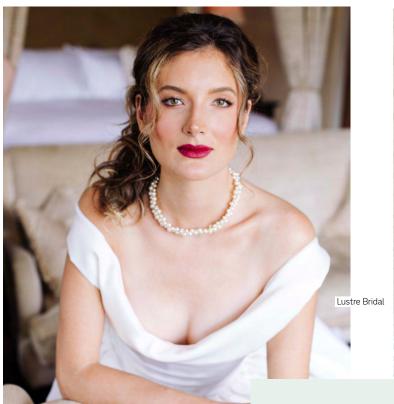
Make-up artist Sharon Cuthbert of Lustre Bridal worked with hair stylist Maureen Crolla of The Bride to be on Kathryn. "First up was a soft and glowing makeover, fitting the popular ethereal look," says Sharon. "This was about creating a fresh skin base and I used Charlotte Tilbury's Hollywood Flawless Filter to achieve this." Sharon added

subtle hues from the Dior Backstage eye palette 001 to Kathryn's upper lid, with a little depth along the lower lash line. A soft pinch of blush with a slightly higher placement on the cheeks finished the look.

Maureen began work on Kathryn by blowdrying through Wow Raise the Root for extra volume and texture. "I added some highlighted clip-in real hair extensions, then created some fun funky movement with my Jose Ember irons," she says.

As the shoot progressed, Maureen undertook alternative looks from a messy ponytail to a tousled up-do, and finally a sleek classic low down chignon.

At the same time Sharon opted for deeper tones on Kathryn's face, eyes and lips including a few of her kit staples; Charlotte Tilbury's Airbrush Bronze, Dior Backstage eye palette 003 and a



Lustre Bridal

Host your dream day here

variety of lip shades, ranging from soft neutrals to a bolder lip. "The secret is to keep it classy!" says Sharon. "Avoid using harsh tones and clashing shimmers with shines.

Our other model Skye has the most beautiful natural curls and freckles, features our professionals wanted to really showcase. Rachel Victoria from ARK Bridal was in charge of makeup and wanted to make the most of those freckles. "We kept the skin to a light coverage using Charlotte Tilbury Beautiful Skin to even her skin tone, then used Made by Mitchell Curve Case to contour and blush her cheeks and a few individual lashes on her outer corners to enhance her natural lashes," explains Rachel. "We also went in with Iconic London's Champagne Liquid highlighter to give that glow from within."

Rachel built up the make-up to the bolder look using a strong lip colour with plum undertones to make her blue eyes stand out and used a hint of eyeliner and a few extra lashes to frame her eyes.

Skye's natural corkscrew curls were a pleasure for Maureen who added short clip-in extensions and soothed her hair with Kerastase Elixir Ultime Serum, and used a small GHD styling wand to give definition to each curl. "There's a definite knack when working with extremely curly hair. I love it!" she adds.





FLOWERS

Cherry Blossom, Braw Blooms

HAIR

The Bride to be

MAKE-UP

ARK Bridal, Lustre Bridal

MODELS

Skye Geddes, Kathryn Regan

PHOTOGRAPHY

Laura A Tiliman Photography

VENUE

Mar Hall Hotel, Golf &

Spa Resort ■

She's in

FASHION

Recent fashion moments have had our hearts a-flutter with special note going to Celine Dion at the Olympics and Ms Swift's bridal-worthy Eras tour vibes. If you're equally obsessed with these looks you'll love their many bridalwear iterations. Read on as designers and Scottish boutiques select their biggest trends...

THE TREND

Texture

Interesting textures have dominated the A-list looks this year so far with one of our standout moments coming from Diane Kruger in crinkled fabric Prada at the Cannes Film Festival. And it's a look we're loving in bridalwear too. "This season we love texture!" says Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture, who has picked out this gorgeous 'Rainey' dress by New York-based designer Danielle Frankel. "Think high quality, luxe fabrics with hand crinkling and pleating to create lustrous movement and interest. If you like the photo you'll

love seeing it move!"

THE TREND

Bows

Think bows have to be cutesy? Think again. The current trending bow packs a punch for a real showstopper feel. Hayley from **Madison Rose**

Bridal has picked out one dress that really does the bows trend justice.

"We're in love

with 'Raven'

from the latest
Blu by Morilee
collection," she
says. "This gown
is extremely on-trend
with the upcoming craze
for bows." Not only this,
'Raven' is convertible,
as the bow sleeves are
detachable, giving the
bride two looks in one.
We think this gown
is very elegant and
timeless, with a modern
and fun twist."

THE TREND

Corsetry

It's official. Corsetry is huge right now. Just cast your mind back to the striking corsetted looks on the Met Gala red carpet at the start of May. From Kim Kardashian in a custom Maison Margiela offering to Elle Fanning in her glass-look Balmain gown, corsets were coming in hot. And this year corsetry is having a bridalwear moment. "Our top trend is corsetry and we love 'Genesis' from the new Wona Concept collection," says Susan at Opus Couture. "We love the combination of high neck, long sleeve lace with the corsetry. We saw it at Barcelona Bridal Fashion Week and we fell in love!" And for another corseted look with a completely different silhouette Susan loves this 'Merveilleux' gown by Pronovias, complete with peplum.



THE TREND

A twist on tradition

Mette of Freja Designer **Dressmaking** creates everything bespoke for each one of her brides so you know you will get exactly what you are looking for when you choose her to design for you. However, she says there has been a decided shift towards a bit of drama lately. "We have worked on very minimal dresses for a couple of years now," she explains. "This is still the case.

But now I feel they must have some level of drama, or wow! We have made many variations on the classic wedding dress with a more contemporary feel, as well as trousers and tops, and many jumpsuits. We love incorporating traditional wedding dress features such as the cape detail that flows to the back instead of a veil."

poster girl and coin belts supreme. Well boho is back, albeit with a slightly chic is set to be a major trend for autumn 2024, Photography | Catching the Moments Photography MUA | Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry & Hair Styling from Isabel Marant, Rabanne, and Chemena Kamali's debut at Chloé driving the revival of this beloved noughties style," of boho chic is fueled by a desire for freedom and self-expression, echoing the spirit of the 1970s. This trend stands in stark



THE TREND

Boho chic

Remember at the turn of the century we were all obsessed with the boho vibe? Sienna Miller was our and gladiator sandals ruled more grown-up look. "Boho with key runway influences says Mirka of Mirka Bridal Couture. "The resurgence contrast to the restrained elegance of recent 'quiet luxury' styles, particularly

resonating with a collective longing for freedom and movement."

Mirka says we can expect boho chic bridalwear to evoke the carefree spirit of the late 2000s but with a more sophisticated, mature feel. She says, "Brides can look forward to flowing silhouettes, long sleeves, delicate lace, and softer fabrics; offering a sense of comfort, romanticism and freedom on their special day. Our 'Ines' gown embodies the boho chic trend with its timeless boho-feminine design, featuring a flattering low V-shaped bodice, lightweight flowy sleeves, and a skirt with flowing chiffon panels that beautifully elongate the figure and allow for effortless movement and a sense of freedom." Stevie Nicks eat your heart out! ≫



THE TREND

Short dresses

Do you know it's already over two years since Kourtney Kardashian wed Travis Barker in her super-mini corset dress by Dolce & Gabbana? And our love of a short wedding dress is still going strong, not least because it gives you freedom and options to switch up your look. Michelle of Kudos Edinburgh is an advocate of this look, citing Australian designer Wendy Makin's 'Lexi' dress with its matching overskirt as her favourite example because you can cover up in the overskirt for your ceremony before making a dramatic change. She says many brides would love to have a short, fun dress to dance the night away in, but would feel sorry to be taking off their wedding dress before the day is over. "So, for the bride who wants the best of both worlds, we love this 2-in-I style from Wendy Makin," she says. "With the overskirt on (pictured below), it is a classic and luxurious bridal gown. Removal of the overskirt creates a real moment of drama, and leaves the bride free to show off her moves in a stunning modern style."



"We love this 2-in-1 style from Wendy Makin."

MICHELLE, KUDOS EDINBURGH

THE TREND

Appliqué Bridalwear's love of appliqué

shows no sign of waning any time soon and Bri of Edinburgh and Broxmouth boutiques Gwenne is a fan of one specific way of wearing it. "One particular Fall 2024 trend is the use of appliqué creating 3D floral detailing throughout the dress," she says, picking out 'Yoneko' by Ronald Joyce as one dress that exemplifies the look perfectly. "It shows this trend through the cap sleeves creating femininity and softness yet it's structural within the Mikado fabric."

THE TREND

Basque waistlines For the uninitiated you may think

you're looking at a traditional corset

but the Basque waistline extends slightly beyond the waist and creates a more triangular shape at the base of the bodice. "One of my favourite trends for this season has to be the return of the Basque waistline!" enthuses Megan of Kudos Dunfermline. "I absolutely love the silhouette it gives and it is so flattering on all body shapes. We've seen this come through from all of our designers but some of my stand-outs have to be Maggie Sottero's 'Bennet' (pictured left) and 'Derrick' (above). 'Bennet' showcases beautiful exposed boning for that corseted look, button details and a flattering square neckline." And the beauty is you can choose to pair the top with either a fitted sheath skirt or a full A-line.

But if you want to rock a Basque waistline in a full-on ballgown look, then 'Derrick' is the dress for you. "Her full satin skirt emphasises the flattering Basque waistline and I absolutely love the plunge neckline!" says Megan. "She's also available in a gorgeous brocade fabric for any bride looking to embrace another one of this season's trends."

WATCH

During May's London Bridal Week we had the pleasure of attending the launch of Andrea Hawkes' new 'Flourish' 2025 collection at The Sun Street Hotel. We loved getting up close with the fresh new designs which put draping, hand-painted silks, drop waists and statement bows at the forefront. We're obsessed with the mix and match separates, liquid silks and the square-necked boned corsets, evocative of the period dramas that have the whole YSW team talking. And what about switching up your look from day to night with this fun

TREND

minidress?



Ask the expert

Rachel Scott Couture

This issue **Rachel Scott Couture** tackles wedding dress shopping by numbers

"You really have to love your dress exactly as you are." umbers. We are all obsessed with them, from the number of followers you have on Instagram or TikTok, to getting that new 'PB' on your workout, to the number of calories you have consumed that day (and no, we don't think you need to squeeze into that smaller dress size!).

No matter the brand, the style, or the occasion we all worry about numbers... even for our wedding day. Without fail, whenever a bride walks into our store, there are always numbers on their mind, whether it be dress size, age, budget or timeframes.

We have been conditioned to pay great attention to some numbers, but in all honesty, they often don't mean anything when it comes to your dress shopping experience. So, I'm going to lay it all out for you, what numbers matter and what really don't when it comes to finding your dream wedding dress.

Don't let dress size dictate your vision!

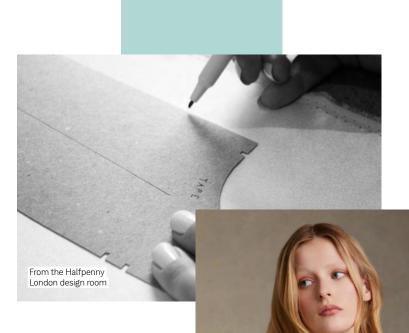
It's no surprise that the most common number brides get fixated on is dress size. We have, in recent years, become much more aware of sizing and its lack of consistency and inclusivity across brands, countries and markets. It makes something as simple as buying a pair of jeans near impossible.

Through years of buying high street clothing, we have all become experts in fudging the lines of fit. You might rule out certain styles due to ill-fitting seams, waistlines sitting too high or low, or opt for fabrics with stretch to accommodate a bust and hips. One thing we hear far too often is 'I'd love to wear that but not with my figure'. Now imagine, instead of having to buy a style or size that compensates for the lack of perfect fit, you could have something made to your exact measurements and the way you actually want it to be – suddenly all those limitations are eradicated!

We are also often asked 'What style would you suggest for my shape?' and that is something I simply do not subscribe to, especially because we don't need to worry about it when size isn't an issue.

My team and I have a diverse fashion background ranging from textiles to tailoring to garment design, and the one thing we can all agree on is that a dress size really means nothing these days. From one brand and designer to another, sizing is already drastically different, with different size charts, construction methods and fabrics all playing a part.

One reason we love working with the designers that we do is that we can opt to go fully made to measure with our dresses, meaning there are zero compromises! For us, making something fit is just a technicality, so your style options really become limitless!



'Andi' dress



Now we definitely don't do these numbers!

We often hear the words 'older' or 'mature' bride, but I want to make it clear that you are just a bride! And actually, we love this demographic, because they are often less driven by fads and trends, knowing exactly what they don't want - which helps us to find exactly what they do.

We very much believe in a wedding dress matching a bride's personality as opposed to any predetermined idea of what is appropriate for a 'mature bride'. Similar to when brides ask the, 'What dress should I wear for my body shape?' question, it really isn't as simple as ticking boxes. And let's be honest, where would be the fun in that?!

Timetrames

You might have heard the horror stories of, 'You haven't found your dress yet? You need to have bought it at least a year in advance!' Well, I can't speak for all bridal shops and designers but I know that our quickest ever turnaround, from order to delivery, was one week for an entirely made to order dress. I'm not suggesting that you plan to leave it that late, but my point is not to let anyone rush your decision, and make you think you need to order something you aren't 100% sure of just to avoid walking down the aisle in your birthday suit!

Budget

One of the most important numbers for you and us to help you find the right dress, but one that people often feel uncomfortable talking about. First of all, this is a no judgement zone! This is just as important for us to know as if you need to have your arms covered to hide a tattoo, or if you are allergic to silk. This is one that we need to know to be able to steer you in the right direction and get you your dream dress in the most logical way for you and your budget.

Appointments and who to bring

'Andi' dress

- Danielle Frankel

We always tell our brides to bring whoever they need to be able to make the best decision for them. This can be drastically different for everyone. Some brides will want their entire bridal party and close family to be a part of the process, needing that feedback to feel secure in their decision, whilst others would find that entirely overwhelming! At the other end of the spectrum, some brides prefer a more focussed approach opting to have an appointment on their own so they can be super-efficient and work out the right direction for them, before inviting friends and family to share their opinions.

For this reason, we don't like to impose any rules when booking in to try dresses, and are extra flexible with our appointment options, from early morning to late evening, seven days a week to allow you to find a time that suits you and anyone else you need at your appointment!

In terms of actually making your decision, everyone is entirely unique, and some people might choose their dress instantly and can wrap everything up in one appointment, whilst others might need two, three of four to find that sweet spot.

Measurements

Your measurement appointment is going to give the designer everything they need to be able to make your dress from scratch to fit perfectly. We are definitely conditioned to be afraid of this word and probably avoid it at all costs, but in exactly the same way as dress size means nothing, this is just a tool to get you your dream dress! Measurements do NOT have to be taken on the day of your purchase either! We always tend to hold off until much closer to your wedding date, so that we're as accurate as possible and you're not worrying. So don't put off finding your dress to slim into a smaller size, or 'get into shape', because you really have to love your dress exactly as you are - and changes to your shape or size will be accounted for in your dress timeline.

How many fittings will you need?

Ah, fittings, the homestretch in your wedding dress experience! We are very lucky to have a fabulous seamstress in-house, who will take care of any last little nips and tucks. These are usually small alterations that can account for any changes needed to make your dress fit precisely and effortlessly!

You might wonder why you would need something like this when you have ordered a made to measure gown, and quite simply it comes down to the fact that we are all a little wonky from everyday living. For example, one shoulder might need to be slightly tighter than the other to keep it in place, or your weight might have changed slightly since your measurements were taken.

At the very least, you usually need your hem to be taken up to the perfect length for your wedding shoes.

The most important number?

Remember the most important number at the end of the day is number one, YOU, the bride! Do what is best for you and what will make you look and feel the best version of yourself on your big day.









Looking SHARP

Go suave and sophisticated in a tuxedo, tartan trews or full Highland dress

PHOTOGRAPHY: In the Name of Love Photography VENUE: Mar Hall Hotel, Golf & Spa Resort

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE: Blue Buchanan kilt (tartan from Lochcarron weavers using Scottish wool sourced locally), Lovat Mill Hawick navy tweed jacket and waistcoat, antique grey fox dress sporran, brown ghillie brogues, peat hose, blue shirt and brown tie (available to hire from £155 or buy from £1,545), all Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers. Buttonhole by She Bloomin' Gathered. For more details on all flowers in this photoshoot see page 89. ≫



























































s it even a wedding if you don't complete your groom's look with a stylish buttonhole or floral pocket square? Florist Lyndsey Samuel of She Bloomin' Gathered specialises in dried flower design and embraced our brief of earthy tones with autumnal touches. "It's right up our street," she says.

Not only did Lyndsey create our groom Fabricio's accessories but also styled these fabulously bold arrangements which could be attached to her cool gold frame (the perfect backdrop to your vows) or repurposed around Mar Hall. "We went with gorgeous pampas grasses and preserved eucalyptus in a variety of styles and tones to create a gorgeous base," she explains. "We then added some mustard dried flowers and peach and dusky pink roses to give a soft relaxed but modern feel to the arrangements. We adore a bit of asymmetry and had lots of fun putting together these pieces. Our job was to showcase and shine a light on all the grooms out there. By designing

gorgeous buttonholes and pocket squares to complete his looks, we hope we showed how important flowers are for the men too." And we love that with the arrangements being composed of dried flowers they last beyond the big day.

Contact She Bloomin' Gathered directly to discover what they can create for your day.



FLOWERS
She Bloomin' Gathered
MODEL
Fabricio Pimpim
PHOTOGRAPHY
In the Name of Love
Photography
VENUE
Mar Hall Hotel, Golf &
Spa Resort ■





In his WORDS

With his wedding to **Louise** just around the corner, our columnist **Lee** reflects on planning

hen we first spoke to Lee he was in the newly-engaged bubble and was excitedly telling us all about his initial hopes to marry at the picturesque St Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe. Since then, there have been a few twists and turns – not least booking the beautiful Auchen Castle where he and Louise can host both their ceremony and reception. "We fell in love with St Conan's but logistically it wasn't possible," says Lee. "I'm still not ruling out a secret second wedding there. Perhaps with an evening blessing with only us, the vicar and 2,000 tealights!"

With Auchen Castle booked, the couple gave themselves just under two years to plan and as their October wedding

draws near, Lee is looking back on the process. "It's my last column before the big day and I'm nervous, but that's OK," he says. "I have thrown myself at this wedding to ensure I take as much stress off Louise as possible and run it like a military operation. I'm sure I've heard words like 'Groomzilla' bandied about!"

By giving themselves plenty of time



to prepare the couple have been able to formulate a plan, though as Lee says, "No plan survives first contact and things will change." He adds, "Things you have had your heart set on might not be possible and you will need to go back to the drawing board, overcome emotions and change budgets. It's brutal at times." Having enough time, however, has allowed Lee and Louise to enjoy the process and add extra thoughtful touches, like the wedding newspapers they will have delivered to their guests' rooms on the morning of the big day.

One important aspect he urges to-be-weds to figure out quickly though is the budget. "Have one!" he says. "I have lost control of mine and if I was Chancellor of the Exchequer I would be sacked."

Since we last caught up Lee and Louise have been busy doing their final cake tasting with Sweets by Ola and agreeing on their flowers with Bell's Florist of Wishaw. As a special touch they are getting the castle stairs decked out as part of their floral arrangements, while Dumfries-based The Wedding Room will be supplying all the décor and finishing touches, including a 4ft chocolate fountain.

"I have also tackled the major thorn in my side; the wedding favours!" adds Lee. "These have driven me round the bend and we have decided to have scratch cards where each guest will win a drink. I'm still not happy but I've changed my mind more times than I care to think about and have a garage of random purchases." This includes 80 sets of Fred Perry toiletries which will now be put in the guests' bedrooms!



With this being Lee's final column, we'll leave the final words to him with a special message for his bride... "To my future wife Louise, nothing has made me happier than the adventures we have had together and the memories we have made. Thirteen years we have been together and I would not change one thing. I really feel like I have won in life. You have the kindest heart of anyone I know and I feel nothing is impossible when you are by my side. It is hard to put in words how much I love you, but I will try and show you each day, for the rest of our lives."















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Dressed to impress

Want your wedding day outfit to wow but not entirely sure how to wear all the elements? Leave it to **Kilts 4 U**'s on the day fitting service



t Kilts 4 U they've seen it all. From kilt pleats worn at the front to grooms showing a bit more thigh than their guests were banking on. With so many elements to a traditional kilt outfit, it's understandable that things can go wrong. But you can cut the stress and eliminate the fashion faux pas by booking the company's on the day fitting service. Instead of panicking on your wedding morning, let a member of the Kilts 4 U team come to your venue and dress you and your wedding party.

The service was launched two years ago due to customer demand and Selina Carlton from the company explains just why it began. "Many guests in our groomswear parties have never worn a kilt outfit before and need professional help to make sure they look perfect for all the photos. After all, this day has sometimes been three or four years in the planning."

Bridal dressing services are now in high demand and Selina and the team want to ensure grooms receive just the same level of attention to detail on their big day. "Many grooms across a wide spectrum order the service," she explains. "Kilts can be a little more challenging and we never forget it's the biggest day for both people getting married. How many days in your life are you in the spotlight as much as on the day you get married?"

You could order the service just for yourself and your main men, but Kilts 4 U will always rise to the occasion. "We recently facilitated an American wedding at an iconic Scottish venue for 46 family members and groomsmen," Selina recalls. "The couple and their whole family were delighted and considering the whole thing was arranged digitally, we were very proud of the whole achievement."

The on the day fitting service starts at £350 depending on the size of wedding party to be dressed and the distance to be travelled by the expert dressers who will send you down the aisle looking fantastic, confident every pleat is in place.





kilts-4-u.com/fitting-guide/ on-the-day-fitting-service ■



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groomed

Pre-wedding self-care isn't just for brides. We discover some ideal treatments for grooms wishing to look their best

onna Nelson of
Alchemé Beauty has
noticed an increasing
number of men
inquiring about
wedding packages
over the past few years. "Since
introducing Medik8 treatments at our
studio, we've had a significant influx of
grooms eager to start their skincare
journey for the big day," she explains.
"To raise awareness of these services,
I've added a dedicated section for men
on our website."

Donna adds that we are all becoming more aware that self-care before a wedding is a universal practice, not just for brides-to-be. "Social media platforms have played a significant role in highlighting the importance of skincare and self-care for everyone involved in a wedding, including grooms, bridesmaids, and even guests," she adds. "Over the years, skincare brands have also advanced and expanded their marketing to target a broader audience, emphasising that self-care is beneficial for all genders. This shift in focus has helped normalise and encourage the idea that everyone deserves to look and feel their best on such a special occasion."

Getting ready

In preparation for the big day, Donna recommends a consultation to discuss her client's skincare goals for the wedding. "This initial meeting will allow us to address any specific concerns and create a tailored plan," she says. "Facials are always beneficial, and peels can be an excellent way

to rejuvenate your skin. Ensuring your skin is in optimal condition will help make your wedding photos look stunning."

Donna adds that it's never too early to start the skincare journey. "I would say around six months before the wedding date is a great start."

Meanwhile, Dr Claire Narrie of Infinity Skin Clinic in Edinburgh says the best way to ensure glowing skin before the big day for brides and grooms is to get into an easy, achievable skincare regime which you can start as early as possible prior to the big day. She explains, "I often feel less is more when it comes to skincare so get to know what kind of skin you have and even go for a consultation to ensure you are using not only the right products but also at the right time of day! I have lots of patients that come to me just for this."



Mint and Jasmine Photography

"Everyone deserves to look and feel their best."

DONNA, ALCHEMÉ BEAUTY



Choose your treatment

In terms of active treatments, Claire says clients may wish to consider injectables versus non-injectables. The Seventy Hyal 2000 hyaluronic acid skin booster can be injected into the face, neck, lips or hands to give a beautiful glowing and hydrated appearance to the area.

Meanwhile, high-frequency microneedling is popular with all her wedding clients. "Either on its own or in combination, it has amazing effects on stimulating collagen production and is great at giving glowing, smooth skin with target effects of reduced pore size, reduction in fine lines and wrinkles, and also significant improvement in acne. This is usually completed as a block but most of my patients always want to continue after the wedding as they love it so much!"





An outfit for every theme





Whilst your wedding attire should be a meaningful representation of your identity and individuality. there's no harm in coordinating it with the vibe and style of your big day too. Claire Muir talks through some of our fave theme/outfit combos, complete with top tips from Scotland's groomswear suppliers...

Recreate this look

Anderson Weathered kilt (from £599), Prince Charlie jacket and three-button waistcoat (£395), Pride of Scotland white rabbit sporran (from £320), McCalls Highlandwear.

Classic and traditional wedding

"I bought my kilt back in 2019 and have tended to wear it with a blue tweed jacket and waistcoat. But I was looking for a different style for my own wedding to Hazel at Enterkine House Hotel. I liked the idea of a classic, traditional look all-black groomsman attire and my Anderson tartan kilt (a quintessentially Scottish tartan) differentiating me as the groom rather than a tartan plaid. The bridesmaids all wore black too... Clearly we were mourning the end of our single life! I looked online and really liked the Black Isle modern tartan from McCalls for the groomsmen. So then it was just the matter of picking a jacket for us all.

It was a toss-up between the Crail or the Prince Charlie but the Prince Charlie seemed a lot cleaner and complemented my kilt more. I wore a white sporran and hose to pick up those aspects of the Anderson Weathered Tartan (the groomsmen wore black sporrans and hose) and I had a kilt pin made by Jess MacDonald Brass. It was of the Isle of Arran as that's where we got engaged. I absolutely loved the finished look and felt I achieved the classic Highlandwear style I was after. I felt about a foot taller wearing the ensemble and got so many compliments." - Mark Anderson, McCalls Highlandwear groom



Recreate this look

Exclusive Hunting Pride of Scotland trews (from £215), Prince Charlie jacket and waistcoat (£399), gold cravat (£30), black Pride of Scotland day brogues (£115) (full outfit package from £725, hire only from £87), McCalls Highlandwear.





«Outside wedding

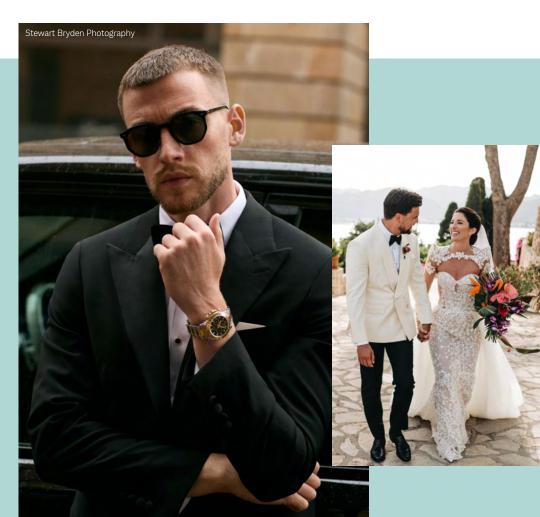
"Nadia and I had a traditional wedding at Drumtochty Castle, and I chose tartan trews for style and comfort. We planned to head to Cairn O'Mount with our photographer to capture some pictures on the hill and I was keen to be comfy (and practical!) so we'd get the best images possible. Also, Nadia is Scottish and I'm English so we felt the trews were a nice way to meet in the middle. On the day they looked so smart and were exactly what we had pictured alongside the kilts in the same tartan. The colours in the Hunting Pride tartan were perfect with the bridesmaid dresses, our décor and the green backdrops we wanted for lots of our photos." - William Curr, McCalls Highlandwear groom

Black tie wedding»

"A black tuxedo is widely regarded as the ultimate black tie attire for grooms due to its exceptional mix of formality, elegance and timelessness. It has enduring appeal, characterised by sharp design and classic details. And its association with formal events lends a sophisticated and polished edge to the wedding; suitable for both classic and modern ceremonies." – Dillon Arthur, Suited & Booted Glasgow

Recreate this look

Two-piece tuxedo in super I50s wool, paired with tailored Italian cotton shirt, tuxedo studs and satin bowtie (tuxedos start from £I,225), Suited & Booted Glasgow.





Recreate this look

St Mirren FC full kilt outfit (from £1200, hire only from £135), Slanj Kilts.



«Sports fan's wedding

"You don't need a connection to a clan to wear a clan tartan. But there are other tartans – and other connections too! A sports tartan is a popular option, like this St Mirren FC kilt. It works well with a light grey or charcoal jacket and waistcoat. We can do custom trousers in this tartan too, which looks great with a black velvet evening jacket."

- Calum Grant, Slanj Kilts

Rustic and laid-back wedding "If close family and friends are all you need,

you're planning to wed, dine and dance all in one special location, the food is hearty and the whisky selection has been hand-picked by yours truly, chances are you're having a chilled day with a rustic vibe. Outfit-wise, it's likely you'll want to honour tradition and heritage but put something together your own way. Think investment pieces you'll love a little more each time you wear them, a harmonious weave of natural hues and a luxurious printed shirt that'll make people smile. No tie - it's not necessary. Introduce enough formality to mark the occasion with a classically-tailored tweed waistcoat; subtle flecks and checks will bring the base tones to life. No need for a jacket as it would only waste its day on the back of a chair. Go cool with the sporran, add a pair of sturdy boots and finish the look off with a sentimental final touch - a kilt pin, maybe?" - Louise Nicolson, Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers

Recreate this look

Made-to-measure handmade kilt in Isle of Skye tartan (from £595), made-to-measure Nicolson tweed waistcoat (from £225), made-to-measure shirt in Liberty fabrics (POA), tweed day sporran (£25), brass stag kilt pin (£95), House of Cheviot kilt hose (£45) and ghillie boots (from £125), all Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers.





«Country estate wedding

"Timeless elegance, incredible historic architecture, perfectly manicured grounds and an unmistakable sense of grandeur that can't quite be replicated anywhere else... A country house wedding exudes a certain vibe - and it's one you should consider replicating style-wise. Nothing says refined country estate like sporting a bespoke outfit, made to your exact measurements and design choices at Frank's Gold Room, Kilts 4 U's exclusive kilt outfit service where you get to choose every last detail. Grooms get a comprehensive consultation to understand their preferences before each piece is meticulously crafted to your exact specifications, ensuring a perfectly-fitted and truly unique garment that'll harmonise with the elegant ambiance of your handsome venue. And bespoke accessories, including custom-made sporrans and brogues, will complement your sophisticated look perfectly." - Abbey Arthur, Kilts 4 U ■

Recreate this look

Look I: Black thistle alternate pleat contrast kilt outfit (from £1,599) or kilt only (£799), antique thistle fox dress sporran (£399.99), Hebridean charcoal grey kilt hose (£14.99), black leather comfort brogue (£129.99), all **Kilts 4 U**.

Look 2: Tyron kilt outfit (from £I,499), or kilt only (£575), copper thistle brown beaver dress sporran (£399.99), Hebridean brown kilt hose (£58.99), stag horn sgian dubh (£79.99) and tan leather brogues (£129.99), all **Kilts 4 U**.

Destination wedding > "Traditional kilts are typically made from thick

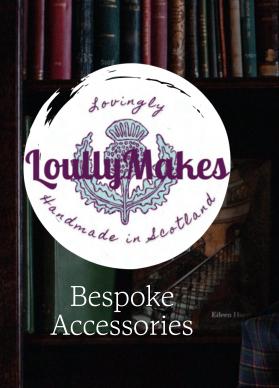
"Traditional kilts are typically made from thick wool, which can make them too warm and uncomfortable in hotter climates – not ideal for a stress-free wedding day! So, we collaborated with our master weavers and tailors to perfect the Ivory Sands kilt outfit, which incorporates new fabric technology to reduce the weight by 25%. It keeps you cool and comfortable without sacrificing quality. The stunning cream hue is perfect for weddings abroad and is available for bespoke, made-to-measure purchase or flexible hire, exclusively from Kilts 4 U stores." – **Abbey Arthur, Kilts 4** U

Recreate this look

Ivory Sands kilt outfit (buy from £I,299, hire from £I80), natural seal sporran (£225), tan leather luxury ghillie brogues (£I35), all **Kilts 4 U**.







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SHEAD TURNERS

Want to know the current MOB and MOG trends? **Jennifer McLaren** asks the experts to share their styles of the moment

f it's time for you to begin the search for the perfect outfit for the wedding day, then you'll want to check out some of these style recommendations by top Scottish occasionwear boutiques. Shopping for an outfit should be an enjoyable experience and it's also an ideal time to try some new styles to see if you fall in love with any for your wedding look. Let the experienced staff assist in finding what's best for you.

According to our experts, off-the-shoulder Bardot styles are a popular trend right now – and if you thought fishtail dresses were just for brides, then think again! Or how about opting for a cape overskirt for some red-carpet glam? Remember, we're all different shapes and sizes, so be sure to pick out something that not only looks good on you, but feels good too!

THE TREND

The cape overskirt

Louise Brown from

Catwalk says, "One
of our favourite trends
this season is the
fitted pencil with cape
overskirt. There's a
range of fabulous bodice
shapes, fabric and colour
options, which all team
perfectly with this fun
modern look.

"The feminine movement from the overskirt adds an extra touch of drama and top table 'wow'!"





ABOVE: Veni Infantino '9923I9' - fitted full-length dress with attached A-line cape skirt in magenta, featuring a beaded illusion neckline and cap sleeves (£659). Headpiece (POA), both **Catwalk**.

LEFT: Veni Infantino '992348'- full-length fitted dress with A-line cape skirt attached and a stunning embellished lace bodice with sheer 3/4 lace sleeves in dusk. Also available in teal. (£659). Headpiece (POA), both **Catwalk**.

THE TREND

The fishtail

Natalie Rock from **Frox of** Falkirk says, "The 'IR7533E' is a stunning fishtail dress. We have this in store in petal pink or pistachio. It's a very figure-flattering style with floral embellishments on the bodice. The fabulous matching hatinator also has a bow of fabric from the dress to tie in perfectly."

new AW Irresistible collection. Available in petal pink or pistachio. Matching hatinator available, (both POA), Frox of Falkirk.

THE TREND

The cocktail dress Rachel from Rachel Scott Couture

says, "This season we are seeing structured cocktail-inspired dresses that are timelessly tailored to give you the versatility to wear again and again. Designers such as Vivienne Westwood and Suzanne Neville boast the added bonus of internal structure that sculpts, meaning you don't need to worry about bra solutions and shapewear!"



THE TREND

The off the shoulder

"Off shoulder and Bardot is a very popular trend in 2024, and we are being asked more often for the colour green," says Natalie of Frox of Falkirk. "The Gabriela Sanchez dress has embossed fabric and is classic, elegant and stylish."

> Green off the shoulder Gabriela Sanchez dress (£695), Frox of Falkirk.

Suzanne Neville dresses from top to bottom - 'Positano', 'Messina' and 'Novara' (all POA), all Rachel Scott Couture.







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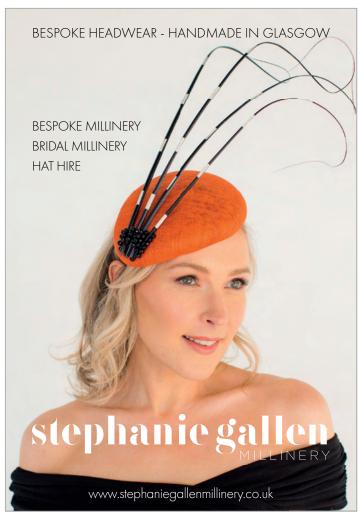






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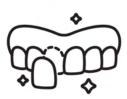
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Veneers



Composite Bonding







\$ beauty timeline



s soon as you get engaged, there's so much to do - but how early should you start to think about booking your make-up artist (MUA) and beginning your skincare regime? Leigh Blaney of Make-up by Leigh Blaney explains, "I have a three-year diary... and some prime popular dates and bank holidays have been snapped up for 2027!" Leigh says it used to be more common for MUAs and hair stylists to be booked just a year before the wedding, but now it's all about priorities. "Some brides work around the availability of their MUAs and hairstylists before they choose their date. It's all about what's important to each bride," she says.

At YSW we frequently speak to couples who know from day one

From finding a make-up artist to booking your trial and treatments, we've got your pre-wedding beauty all planned out!

who they need on their dream team to pull together their perfect day and we always say if you know who your wished-for suppliers are book them in as soon as you secure your wedding date and venue. Amy McCann of ARK Bridal agrees. She says, "If you have a make-up artist in mind that you love, get in touch with them ASAP to see if they have your date free. All businesses differ on how far in advance they open their diaries. We open a year in advance but some will open two to three years in advance."

If you don't already have a preferred MUA then all of our experts suggest doing some research on social media, looking up testimonials and reviews. And of course leafing through the pages of YSW or heading to our website is always a good start! "You could also book in for an occasion make-up before booking (if they offer this service) to explore their style and personalities before committing," Amy suggests. And don't forget to think about budget and find a MUA who aligns with your price range.



Lustre Bridal

Once you have found your chosen make-up artist it's time to book a trial to see exactly how your w-day look will play out. We reckon it's a good idea to pop this in the diary to coincide with a night out or other special occasion. After all, what's the point in having your make-up professionally done if you're going straight home to sit in your jammies?!

Amy usually recommends trials between one to three months before the wedding day so clients have the clearest picture in their mind of what they envisage for their look. "Some brides elect to have a trial just for them and some bring along a bridesmaid or mum for a second opinion – or for them to have a trial too. We advise not bringing too many people along as not all artists are able to accommodate this and you don't want to be overloaded with opinions. Yours is the only one that truly matters!"

Leigh says the year of the wedding is her preference for a trial. "Make-up trends and products change and update constantly. I leave it to my brides about who gets a trial. Brides are essential for trials, but I usually suggest they ask who else wants one and who's happy waiting until the day."



Twelve to six months to go

When there's still a little while to go, it's a good idea to settle on your skincare regime. Amy says, "We usually advise seriously thinking about skincare and aesthetics treatments a year in advance. Sensitivities can occur in any case and the closer you are to the wedding, the harder it may be to recover your skin in time!"

Leigh explains, "I always suggest going to a skin specialist and starting a really good skin regime around a year before the wedding and sticking to that. It's personalised to you and your needs. Don't do any quick-fix TikTok trends. Be good to yourself and be kind to yourself."

TOP TIP

"Make hydration your top priority, drinking lots of water and eating as healthily as possible."

When to stop treatments

Knowing when to stop your beauty treatments is just as important as when to start. Leigh says to be led by your specialist and not to panic a month before the wedding and do things you've never had before. "You might take a reaction. So give yourself the right amount of time. If you're not sure, don't do it."

And remember to leave yourself plenty of time for any other beauty treatments, sticking to a cut-off date. Amy says, "Your last facial would ideally be a week before, aesthetic treatments around two weeks before, waxing one week before and nails/ spray tanning two days before your wedding day."

If you're not already in the habit, remember to apply sunscreen daily to protect your skin and make sure you're starting with the best possible base on your wedding day.





Last few days!

With a matter of days until the wedding, our experts say to prioritise self-care. Leigh advises putting aside a full day for beauty appointments like tans, nails and waxing. And Amy adds, "Make hydration your top priority, drinking lots of water and eating as healthily as possible."

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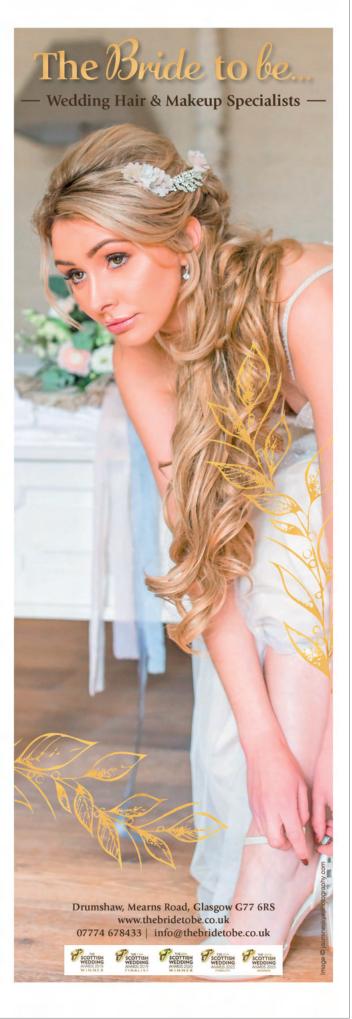
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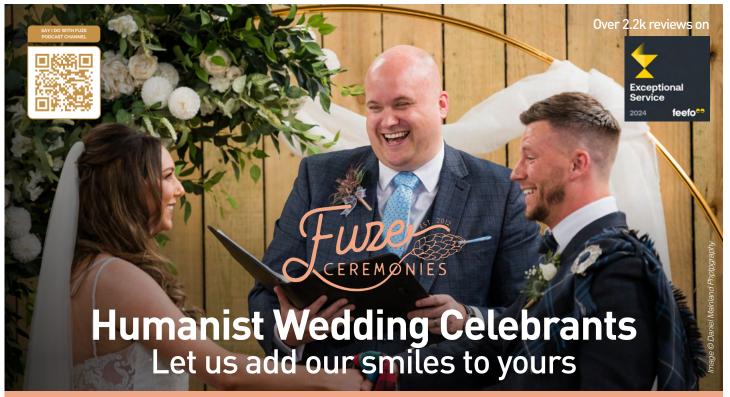
















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Ceremony myths

id you know there are actually no prescribed vows in Scottish marriage ceremonies? In other words (no pun intended!) you don't have to promise to do anything - least of all 'honour and obey' your other half. The only must is a few words that Scots Law insists upon ("I [name] accept [name] in marriage") as you exchange rings, should you choose to do so... More on that later! With all this in mind, YSW quizzed Scottish celebrants on other common myths. So, let's cut through the superstitions and misconceptions and get to the heart of what you need to know as you prepare to wed...



The myth:

You can't mention religion in humanist ceremonies.

The reality:

"A humanist wedding is all about the couple; making the ceremony reflect them as far as is possible so I allow religious readings if they want that. Not all humanists and organisations would, however, so ask early on if it's important to you. This situation often comes up because the couple wants a humanist ceremony but their family are keen to include a religious

element. This is a good compromise that keeps everyone happy. I don't do the religious reading – one of the guests will and, normally, the honour is taken on by one of the loved ones who prompted the inclusion of religion. A popular choice for a humanist ceremony is a reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (12:31 – 13:8)".

GORDON BOND, INDEPENDENT HUMANIST CEREMONIES

The myth:

You have to include symbolic gestures and exchange rings with your partner.

The reality:

"Some to-be-weds think that if you're to be married by a celebrant you have to include symbolic gestures, such as handfasting or drinking from the quaich. They also think you must exchange rings. But that's not the case. Whilst symbolic gestures and exchanging rings are still really popular and make for a meaningful part of many wedding ceremonies, they do not have to be included. Like all things in your ceremony (apart from the legal declaration, of course) the content is completely up to you! Instead of exchanging rings some couples pin tartans onto each other's clothes, exchange watches or get tattoos." **GARY SMITH, HUMANIST SOCIETY SCOTLAND**

The myth:

Keen to-be-weds can get engaged then legally marry the next day.

The reality:

"The idea that a couple can get engaged one day then get married the next is quite common when they aren't aware of the legal process. For this reason, I always outline the legal requirements (which are very important and kick into place three months before the wedding date) on my first meeting with a couple. They can only enter into marriage, unless in exceptional cases such as a terminal diagnosis, within three months of their wedding date by submitting Marriage Notices to the Registrar in the district they are getting married in (it's important to highlight that this is where they're tying the knot, not where they live)! These notices are what most couples come to know as M10 forms and they can be downloaded from the Official Registrars website. The Marriage Notices need to be completed by both of you, then submitted usually with your birth certificates plus an admin fee (currently £45 each) - 10 to 12 weeks prior to the wedding date, and no later than 29 days before your special day. I always recommend contacting the registrar beforehand to make an appointment."

NORRIE FLOWERS, INDEPENDENT HUMANIST CEREMONIES





Elliot Caunce Photography



The myth:

A guest can stop a ceremony by responding to a variation of "If anyone can show just cause why they may not be lawfully wed, speak now or forever hold your peace".

The reality

"This phrase, or one similar, was actually said in every ceremony until very recently so it's a very new myth! There was always the chance that somebody might be forced into a marriage they didn't want, or that parents or other legal guardians were opposed to a marriage. And given that it was possible for people simply to declare their intention to marry and do so, it was a sensible precaution. The reason we don't have to do it in a humanist ceremony now is that we know our clients better and can make the judgement ourselves about the nature of the marriage. I can't imagine anyone would choose to marry in a ceremony where they have to explain why they love one another if they weren't absolutely convinced that this was precisely what they wanted to do." TIM MAGUIRE, CELEBRATE PEOPLE

The myth:

You're not allowed to see your other half on the wedding morning.

The reality:

"Many things that used to be a nono for ceremonies are allowed (and encouraged and celebrated) now. Seeing one another before the vows is one of those things. Some couples now organise 'first look' photos while others spend the night before and/or morning of the wedding together, getting ready for the big event. As celebrants we're in the lucky position of seeing and hearing pre- and post-ceremony plans like this from our couples and one of my favourite new traditions is a 'first touch' experience. Couples getting involved in this popular trend stand at opposite sides of a cornered room or corridor, ensuring they can't see one another. Anticipation and excitement fill the air as their hands grasp one another, like Nica and Madeline [pictured] who had a first touch before they married at Lochgreen Hotel in Troon. Without sight it means so much whilst preserving the 'big reveal' moment on the aisle."

GEORGE MCLEAN, FUZE CEREMONIES ≫

Read more about Nica and Madeline's special day at Lochgreen House Hotel on the *YSW* website!





The myth:

Your chief bridesmaid and best man should be your witnesses.

The reality

"The law states that your two witnesses can be anyone, provided they're sixteen or over and able to understand the legal declarations. Traditionally, couples opted for the best man and bridesmaid. But as they're already a key part of the wedding, choosing other loved ones can be a great way to give them a role. We advise choosing people who would be honoured and thrilled that you thought of them. It could be a parent, a grandparent or someone else who's influenced your life. And my suggestion would be to consider not telling them - or anyone! Keeping this secret until the ceremony can create a really special moment, like the magic that happened during Gail and Craig's wedding [pictured]. I'd said: 'Witnesses at a marriage ceremony have to be special and today's witnesses are incredibly special. These two amazing people have been married to each other for over 60 years and everyone in their family loves them so much. Gail and Craig would be honoured if Craig's grandparents. Alistair and Grace, would be their witnesses.' At that moment in the wedding video, Craig's grandad can be heard saying: 'Aw Grace, they must think an awful lot of us.' So, never waste a chance to create more love in a room." **JENNIFER BUCHAN, HUMANIST SOCIETY SCOTLAND**



Short, sweet and still oh-so-personal

When they tied the knot on 9th September 2023 at Prestonfield House in Edinburgh, Kelly Mackay and Grant Lindsay avoided the standard exchange of vows. Kelly tells us why...

"Grant was absolutely terrified of talking in public (much to everyone's surprise!) and was worried about mixing up his vows. Thankfully, we'd chosen Tim Maguire of Celebrate People to conduct our ceremony and he was able to suggest a perfect alternative, which felt right for us. He advised we each write our interpretation of our love story; how we got on from our first date to our wedding day, vowing to love each other forever. We did this, sent them to Tim and he picked out key points to address our guests with. On the day he told our story in third person - in a very unique and humorous way - which made for very happy listening. We finished with easily repeating the crucial promoted words (legally declaring that we accepted one another in marriage) and that was that! Even though we didn't make any promises of our own, Tim asked our guests to make some to us - guest vows - which made everyone feel part of the ceremony.

Tim made us relive beautiful and from a different perspective. I'd highly recommend this

marriage vow method if anyone is feeling nervous about their ceremony. The guests laughed hard; there were loads of happy and reflective tears, and it set a personal and loving tone for the rest of the day. It also made a talking point for guests while we were busy with Tony Marsh, capturing amazing photographs

"Funnily enough, later in the day my 13-year-old son, Leon, put Grant and I to shame for avoiding the vows. Sadly, my dad had passed away the year before and as well as giving me away, Leon did the first speech at the wedding breakfast. He addressed 150 people, most of whom he'd never met, with confidence and ease!"

Tony Marsh Photography







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Nicky Mullen of Starca Designs shares her passion for wedding stationery

icky Mullen started up her Starca Designs stationery business after a long period of ill health. "As a distraction I would lose myself in designing cards and gifts. I taught myself so many techniques and I just became obsessed. People started to see the things I was making and I had requests coming in thick and fast. When I started on weddings, I knew this was where my heart truly lay," she explains.

And Nicky has certainly found her true vocation as she's also picked up awards for her designs - including the 2023 Your Scottish Wedding Award for stationery. She can create stationery for weddings as well as other special events such as christenings, graduations, engagements - you name it! "I am overwhelmed by the success of Starca Designs, it is just a dream come true. I am so appreciative to everyone who helps me do what I love," Nicky goes on.

Clients are at the heart of Nicky's business and her main priority is making them happy. She also believes that trust and loyalty are the foundation of any successful relationship with clients and fellow suppliers. "I always aim to give excellent customer service - calming wedding nerves and worries along the way. Due to this I have formed friendships with clients long after their weddings have passed."

Nicky gives her all in order to achieve outstanding results for her clients: "To see their reactions to products really makes my day." She also loves the opportunity to collaborate with her fellow wedding

suppliers, which can be really inspiring: "I believe in the saying 'teamwork makes the dream work!""

One-stop shop

Starca Designs can provide all aspects of luxury wedding stationery, from save the dates, invitations, table plans, welcome signs, table names, place names and orders of service, to all of the little things like gift boxes, robes and cards. "I am like a one-stop wedding shop, and always adding to my portfolio," Nicky smiles.

Nicky will also guide couples through the process from start to finish. Generally, after initial contact has been made, she will arrange a chat to discuss design requirements, explain the process and timescales, then send quotes for all of the products.

Clients will go on to receive locked files showing the design/layout/wording and fonts for their stationery. Any changes can be made within two rounds of free changes. After final approval and payment, the standard turnaround is between 14 and 21 days!

"In our industry, trends and products change regularly so I am committed to constant growth and learning. I believe in challenging myself, seeking feedback, and constantly looking to improve both personally and professionally," Nicky explains. "I thrive on innovation and creative thinking. I approach challenges with an open mind, always looking for new and inventive ideas. I am completely self-taught in everything I do, and I am always looking for the next thing to get my head stuck into."



BEST SELLERS

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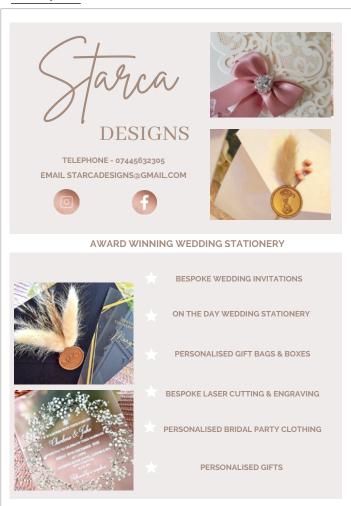
"My top selling products of the moment focus hugely on the acrylic trend. Acrylic invitations come in various colours and I can print any design on them. I love to make these personal to my clients' vibe for their day."

2. Dimensions

Nicky has also seen a rise in the popularity of 3D acrylic for signs, which really stand out and definitely have the wow factor!

3. Traditional

"I am also seeing card pocketfolds creeping back in, decorated with wax seals and dried flowers," Nicky says. "I do love a variation of styles. It's like Christmas Day to me when I get all of the new stock in to create for my couples!"





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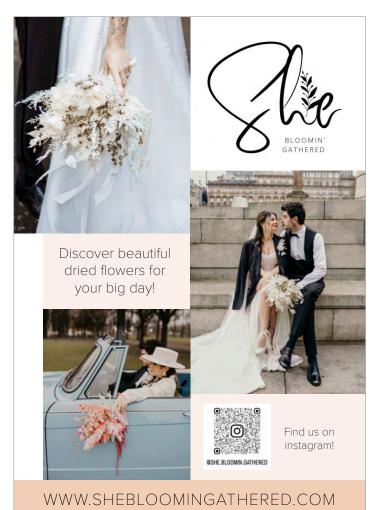




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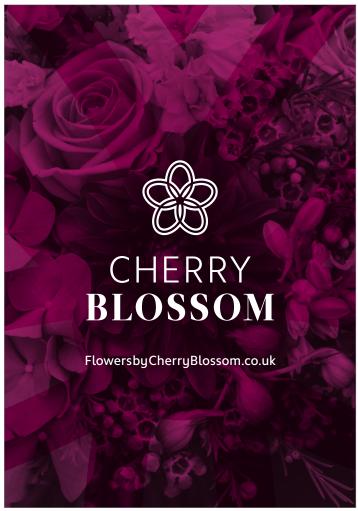
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Seasonal

Sustainability is becoming more of a focus for couples. **Jennifer** McLaren discovers how you can start to make your special day a bit greener with seasonal flowers

id you know the carbon footprint of an average UK wedding is the equivalent of driving a car around the world twice? That's 14.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide! However, from ditching paper invitations in favour of digital ones to choosing caterers who source local produce, there are lots of ways to make a difference. And when it comes to picking your wedding flowers, seasonality can play an important part in keeping things sustainable - and hopefully affordable, too.

Carla Castagnola from Moss & Blossom Floral Studio uses high quality locally-sourced and homegrown flowers. She explains, "Choosing seasonal flowers is a decision that will benefit the look

"It's definitely a win-win situation."

CARLA, MOSS & BLOSSOM

of your wedding, the environment and your budget. It's definitely a win-win situation that, as wedding florists, we need to emphasise! By opting for flowers that are naturally in season and locally grown you're choosing the freshness of higher quality flowers, stronger and longer lasting stems and fuller more impactful blooms - all while supporting the local economy and sustainable practices. Seasonal flowers are typically more affordable because of their abundance, but also because those flowers didn't require all the additional costs involved in off-season growing or long distance transportation."

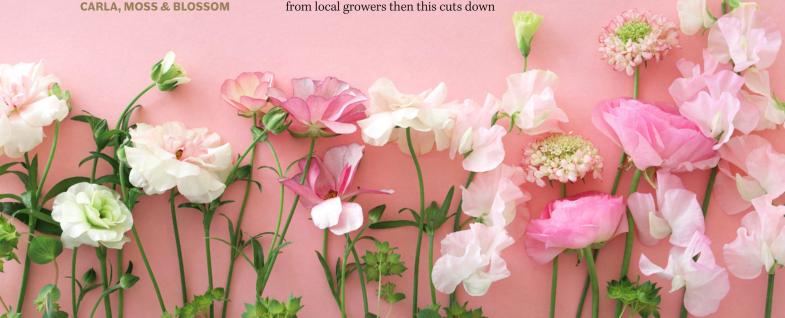
Laura Jardine of Cherry Blossom agrees. "Trying to source flowers out of season can mean flowers travelling a long distance as they may need to be sourced further afield," she explains. "Using seasonal blooms reduces their carbon footprint. Overall, using seasonal flowers means the quality of the flowers and freshness will be at their height, therefore the flower head will be larger and will last longer."

Helen Hardman of The Greenshed Flower Studio adds, "If you can source

on air miles too - there has been a big focus on food miles in the media, but not much consideration for flower miles. A lot of imported flowers are grown in far flung places - Kenya, Columbia and Ecuador, for example."

Multi-purpose designs

Louise Davies of Braw Blooms says cut flowers have a huge environmental impact and while the flower industry has a long way to go to reduce this, work is already being done to make a difference. She suggests couples may wish to consider repurposing flowers from the ceremony for the reception, "There are so many great options and this is something I encourage my couples to do as it means we create multi-purpose designs and therefore reduce the need for more flowers!" She goes on, "Speak to your florist about how the flowers can be bundled up and given away after the big day so it's not just one day they are being enjoyed for."







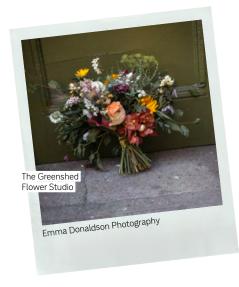


Louise also says couples can consult their florist about using foam-free mechanics for arrangements, which is better than floral foam that's harmful to the environment.

Changing seasons
Carla says each season brings its own

Carla says each season brings its own magnificent selection of flowers, so try to be open to what's available at the time of your wedding. "I know that sometimes your heart is set on a particular flower, but I would recommend being open to being surprised by the blooms that are around on your wedding day. I think flowers mark a time, a specific season, and a special day! That's the beauty of flowers."

Helen says a couple's decision on their choice of blooms will depend upon how particular they are about what flowers go into the bouquets and displays. "Some people feel very sentimental about certain flowers – and rightly so, everyone has a favourite flower," she says. "If you know that spring flowers are your favourites, then try to book a date that will fit with that. Peonies are probably the most requested flower



"The blooms are at their biggest."

- their blousy bloom is the epitome of bridal romance for lots of people." She continues, "If you are a bit more relaxed about the flowers that will make up your bouquet and décor, then let your florist work within a general colour scheme or mood. They will be able to source flowers that will fit the bill and look their absolute best for you."

Louise adds that by using seasonal flowers, you are choosing flowers that will be in their peak at that time. "You'll find that the colours are at their most vibrant, the blooms are at their biggest and most bountiful, the smells are typically so much more fragrant than imported flowers and that they are going to provide a beautifully natural feel to your day," she says. "Of course, your florist would love to help you have peonies any time of year but not only would that be really quite difficult, it also would mean a huge impact on both your budget and on the environment."

And here's a super-romantic bonus. Louise says, "Every year on your anniversary, you will have a flowery reminder of your day as you see those seasonal blooms bursting into life. You could even ask your florist to provide a bouquet every year as a lovely gift for your partner!"

Nature's bounty Helen says the start of the year

presents some real floral gems, "Things like hellebores, ranunculus, anemone, tulip and narcissi – which has one of the most beautiful fragrances, in my opinion. Ranunculus are supremely fluffy and I am often asked if they are in fact a peony! So perfect if you love that big blousy look but it's a little early in the season. I think tulips can be quite overlooked, but you can get some incredible varieties that will change how you view them.

"Early summer arrives with the sweet scent of lilacs on the trees, and peonies. One of my favourite flowers at this time of year is a corncockle – they are delicate yet have strong little ≫







trumpet-like flowers, and are great for adding some wildflower height popping out of your bouquet.

"High summer into autumn is the time of year with most floral availability – everything from focal flowers such as roses, snapdragons and dahlias, to 'filler flowers' like ammi and cosmos, which tend to be a little more bouncy and fluffy. Winter is harder for fresh flowers – but it's also when British eucalyptus is at its absolute best."

Louise adds, "For spring, flowers start to burst into life after those winter months and we will want to consider all the gorgeous choices including narcissus, tulips, anemones and ranunculus. Those peonies will also be starting to make an appearance towards the end of the season, as we head into summer.

"For summer, you really will have an abundance of seasonal flowers available – the types of stems include freesias, garden roses, dahlias, delphiniums, cosmos and zinnias. Autumn is another wonderful month for seasonal flowers as the cosmos and dahlias continue well into October but we also see things like chrysanthemums, sunflowers, amaranthus and rudbeckia. You may also start to see the addition of more textural elements including berries and bracken.

"For winter, I love when couples lean into the opportunity to focus on the excellent selection of wintery foliages and textural elements that we can use, that reflect this season so well. I should add that there are also still wonderful options flower-wise to use in the winter months, including hellebores or snowdrops."

Something magical

Laura reminds us that some flowers will cross over into other seasons – depending on how harsh the weather has been. "For example, this year the peony season started earlier and has finished earlier so it's important to keep an open mind and be guided by your florist," she says.

Carla says every flower has an amazing variety within its family. "Double tulips that look like peonies, chrysanthemums that look like dahlias and ranunculus that fly like butterflies," she says. "When thinking of sunflowers, don't stop at the big yellow flowers – think about delicate burgundy sunflowers with white and pink shades. Let your florist surprise you!" And Helen adds, "My advice would be to trust your florist. We live and breathe flowers and will create something magical for you, no matter the season."



Ever considered dried flowers?

Lyndsey Samuel of She Bloomin'
Gathered specialises in dried flower
design. She explains, "Over the past
few years dried flowers have enjoyed
a resurgence in popularity and I can
absolutely understand why. They are
so interesting and unique and can
create a really stunning atmosphere
at weddings.

"Everything we do as consumers has a carbon footprint and more and more couples are interested in how eco-friendly or sustainable their wedding is. I am very focused on post-consumption use and love that choosing dried flowers really does go some way to addressing this area of sustainability."

Lyndsey can recall watching the fresh flowers she had at her own wedding 13 years ago wilting by the end of the day. "It was a terrible waste," she says. "I couldn't help but feel a bit devastated at the money we had spent. There are lots of sustainable advantages to choosing dried flowers as they require less water and are lighter to transport. There is also an increasing number of local growers taking advantage of couples' desires for this option. Working more with local British florists is a key goal for She Bloomin' Gathered as we enter our third year of business and extend our bespoke wedding service."

Dried flowers last and you get to keep them for years to come. "We always plan what you will do with your flowers after the big day. You may decide to gift them, display them in your home or rework them into a stunning wall hanging," says

Lyndsey. She has also started offering bespoke floral pieces for hire. "This option works so well for centrepieces and larger aisle backdrops and allows couples to make the most of their budget."

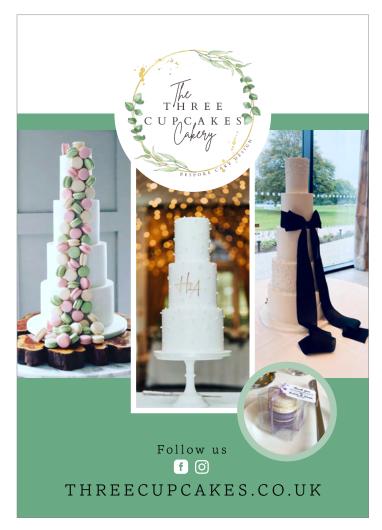


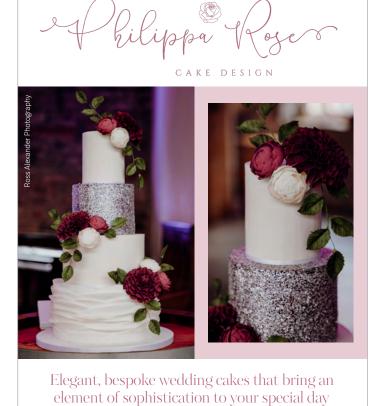
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PHOTOGRAPHY: Laura A Tiliman Photography VENUE: Arniston House, Gorebridge



Mediterranean medley

Arniston House's gorgeous Orangery with its stone walls and floor-to-ceiling windows was the magical location for this photoshoot. All that natural light was a photographer's dream. Just imagine hosting your wedding here, with up to 50 guests if you choose to hold both ceremony and meal in the Orangery, or up to 160 guests for just the ceremony! (For larger weddings you will need to hire a marquee to accommodate your meal and evening reception).

Florist Helen from **The Greenshed Flower Studio** collaborated with Roni and Cait from **All Wrapped Up Events Scotland** to create this gorgeous Mediterranean tablescape. "I love travelling in the Mediterranean, and absolutely adore stumbling upon little hidden gardens in back streets – always a bit ramshackle with lots of pots and cascading bougainvillea," Helen says. "To create this look in Greenshed wildflower style I imagined having dinner in an Italian Nonna's garden – lots of herbs and little vases of garden flowers popped on the table. I recreated a cascading wall of flowers down the sides of the table to meet more pots on the floor and out the door."

Helen kept the look informal, using plants from her own garden – chive, sage, oregano, rosemary, campanula and ivy – complemented by seasonal orlaya, anemone, ranunculus, peony, rose and nigella. "The key to this look is to work with what you have and it will always look natural."

All Wrapped Up Events Scotland helped complete the look. Roni says, "We always think of warm earthy tones when we think of the Med. Beautiful ceramics and terracotta pots bursting with colourful blooms need a natural base of ivory and sage cheesecloths with wooden cross-back chairs to add to the rustic feel." Rattan placemats and a mixture of glass and gold candlesticks with ivory candles complemented the look and provided the perfect setting for some amazing wedding cakes. Contact The Greenshed Flower Studio directly to discover how they can create a similar look for your wedding.





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Playful pinks

Glasgow-based Botany & Brass specialises in silk and dried flowers for weddings and events and florist Paula from the company approached the pretty in pink theme with a real sense of fun. "I wanted to create an arrangement that could be repurposed within a wedding," she says. "This specific piece could be used on a plinth initially to dress the ceremony aisle or at a welcome sign and then be repurposed within the reception space as a table centrepiece."

As we shot this look in summer Paula used different varieties of silk peonies amidst delicate, pretty dried foliage "to create a soft, feminine look." She says, "I added a cheeky pop of colour with the coral peonies because life should be fun! Adding in two tones of candles to dress the table just adds to the playfulness. It's an awesome balance of formal and fun."

Again, All Wrapped Up Events Scotland collaborated on the super-pretty tablescape. "Here we let the shades of pink speak for themselves by pairing the centrepieces with a crisp white tablecloth and accents of gold from the chargers, cutlery and candlesticks," says Roni. "Blush pink napkins and assorted coloured candles brought out the different shades of pink in the floral arrangement."

Contact Botany & Brass directly to discover how they can create a similar look for your wedding. ≫

Menu

Main Chicken or Beef

iticky Toffee Pudding

























Regency romance Arniston House is the ideal location for a Bridgerton theme,

providing inspo for couples captivated by the Netflix smash. As fans will know, no *Bridgerton*-worthy story is complete without a Regency-era orangery! Carla, of floristry company Moss & Blossom Floral Studio which focuses on seasonality and fragrance to enhance the freshness and multi-sensory experience, created this look. "Having the chance to recreate the opulent Regency-era style was a dream!" she says. "Bridgerton has a style like no other - romantic, extravagant and fantastical; and what better way to bring all that to life than through flowers." Peonies and garden roses were the focal flowers with their elegant and voluptuous blooms evoking Bridgerton's extravagance. Breathtaking blue tulips added a touch of drama and playfulness, and provided a colourful contrast. To complete the early 19th century style, Carla added Moss & Blossom Floral Studio's signature flair with textures and heights using moss and asparagus fern. "Every piece was designed to be effortlessly elegant with layers that give a sense of movement and drama." Our Bridgerton theme was actually realised across two setups with All Wrapped Up Events Scotland collaborating. The first look used the backdrop of the stone walls and alcove. "When we think of Bridgerton we think of cool, calm blues and white, cut glass and understated elegance," says Roni. She and Cait used a plain blue cloth with accents of gold coming from the glass charger plates and cutlery.

The second set-up made the most of the Orangery windows with a round table covered in a gorgeous floral-patterned overlay, with matching chair drapes. "Gold chargers, cutlery, candelabra and chiavari chairs gave our table an air of splendour," adds Roni.

Contact Moss & Blossom Floral Studio directly to discover how they can create a similar look for your wedding.









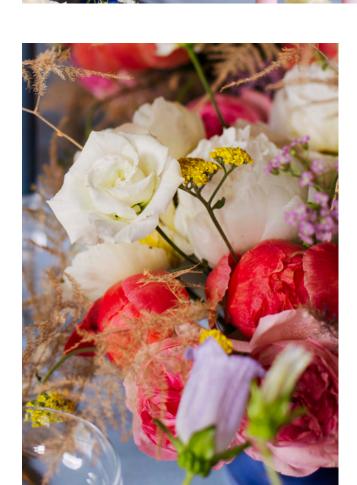












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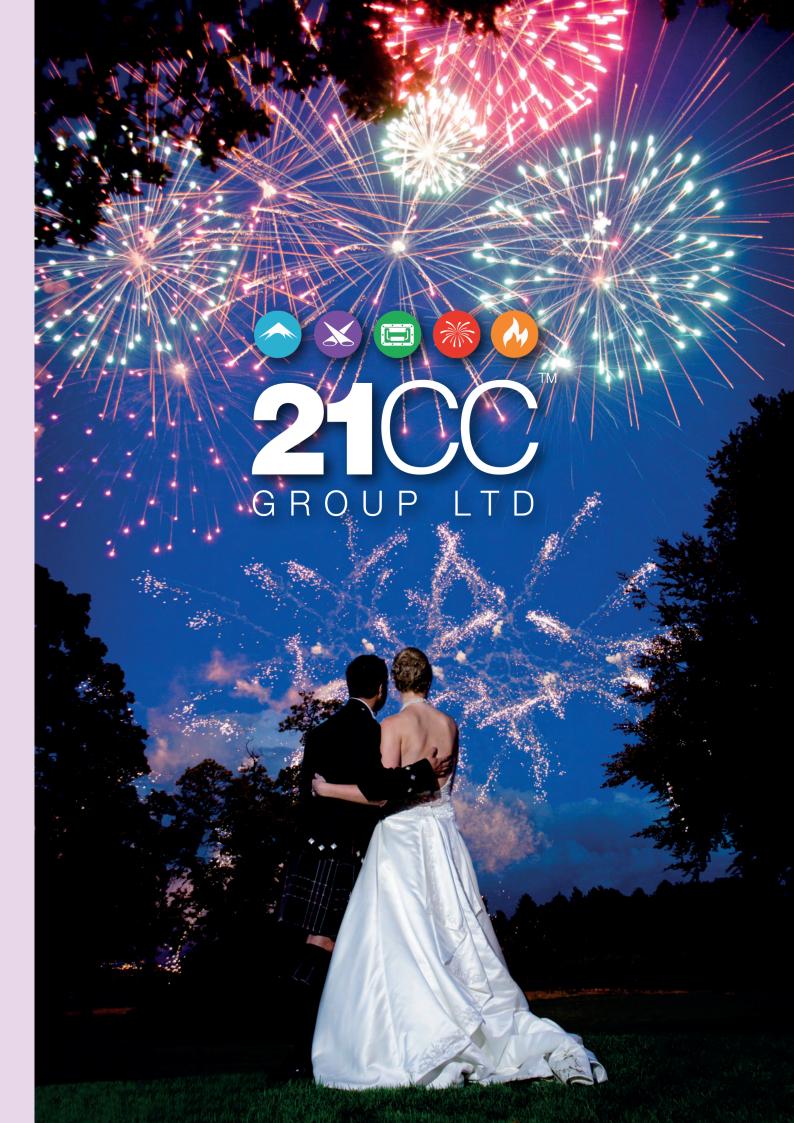
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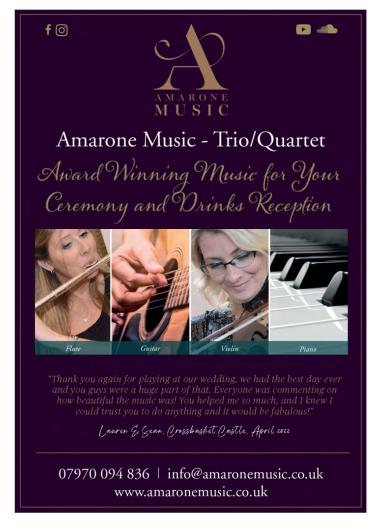
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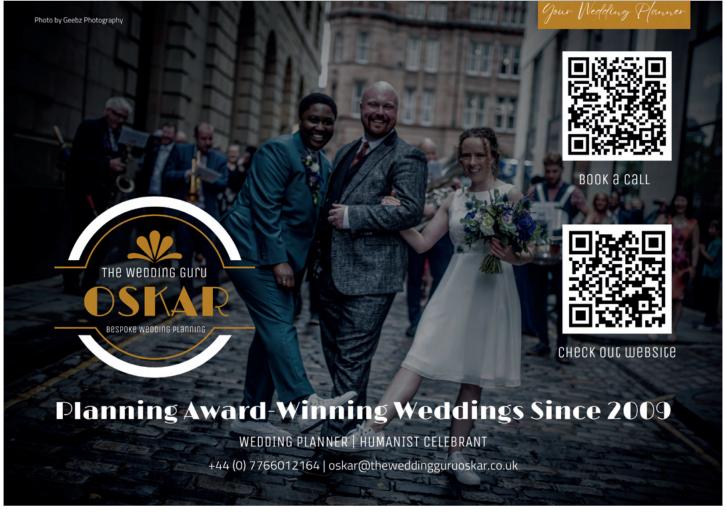




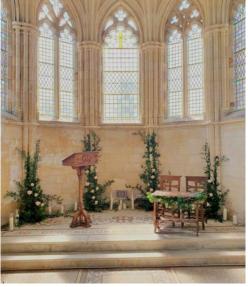














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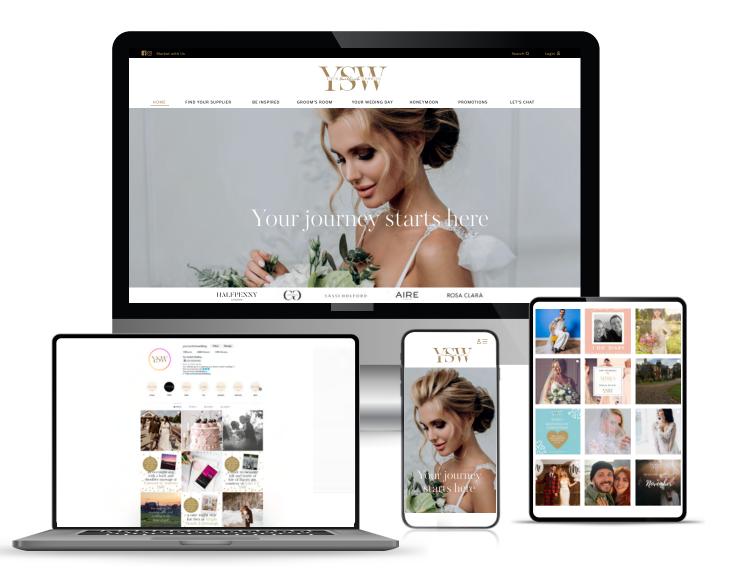
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Focal point

While some photographers love setting up a beautifully positioned formal photo, others live for capturing candid shots that showcase all the raw emotion. Here, Scotland's talented photographers share some of their favourite wedding guest reaction pics...

ccording to good old Google, the average person feels up to 400 emotions per day. Whilst the jury is out at Team YSW about whether that's true or not (are there even 400 emotions out there!?) we reckon your wedding day would be the perfect time to test this theory out. From surges of nerves and excitement in the morning, to pure elation as you say 'I do', to peacefulness and joy as you toast your marriage, your emotions will be all over the place – in a good way, of course! But it's not just you who'll have big feelings. Your guests will too, and once your wedding photos arrive you'll see exactly what we mean...



≪ "It's hard to beat a good ceilidh for some special reactions.
Even better when half the room has no idea what they're doing! I love to stick around for a lot of dancing to capture these fun and unguarded moments."

EUAN, EUAN ROBERTSON

EUAN, EUAN ROBERTSON PHOTOGRAPHY



♥ "It was a very special day, filled with emotion. The couple's families had travelled to Fort William from all over the world, especially for the ceremony. The moment I captured was taken shortly after the ceremony as the bride's mum was taking a look at her daughter's wedding ring. However, she could barely see it through her tears, which set the bride off too! It was an emotional moment and I was really happy to see such a lovely bond between the two women."

≪"One of the best things about weddings is sharing emotions as you bring together all the special people in your life. This is especially important if you've moved away from where you grew up and don't often get to go home. This photo shows how people of all ages love a wedding and reminds us that these celebrations are all about connecting with your loved ones."≫ MATT, FERN PHOTOGRAPHY

"Celebrations are all about connecting with your loved ones."

MATT, FERN PHOTOGRAPHY





↑ This groom's grandad was so overwhelmed with emotion. He'd tried to say a few words to let everyone know how special the groom was to him and how happy he was, but he couldn't get the words out and eventually succumbed to his happiness in a torrent of tears. It was such a lovely moment. I was so glad I caught this snap of one of the bridesmaids and his wife comforting him. The photo shows the range of emotions during a wedding, from grandad's happy tears to the smiling and applauding guest in the foreground."

ALLAN, BIGGAR PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY

» "I love this picture because of how the guests were left in stitches as the best man's speech took an unexpected turn. His hilarious anecdotes and witty remarks about the groom sparked waves of laughter and joyous surprised faces".

LAURA, LAURA A TILIMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



≫ "Dad was warned prior to entering the room not to cry... But as soon as he saw Heather, he couldn't contain his tears. It was such a cute moment frozen in time!" JENNIFER, JENNIFLOWER

PHOTOGRAPHY





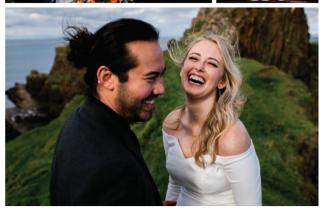
A "This has always been one of my favourite images for guest reactions. Every single person in the frame is looking right at Demi and her dad, and smiling as they walk down the aisle. I just love seeing the emotions everyone is feeling in this moment. I'm so lucky to get to capture it, and preserve those smiles and emotions forever!" SARAH, JOY STORY ■



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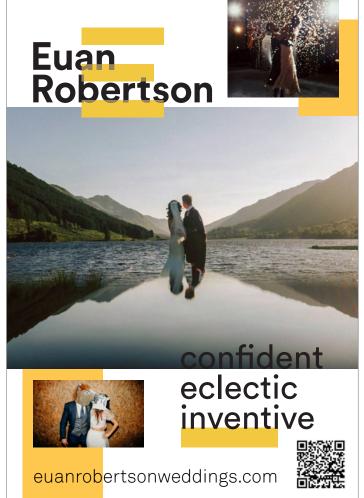
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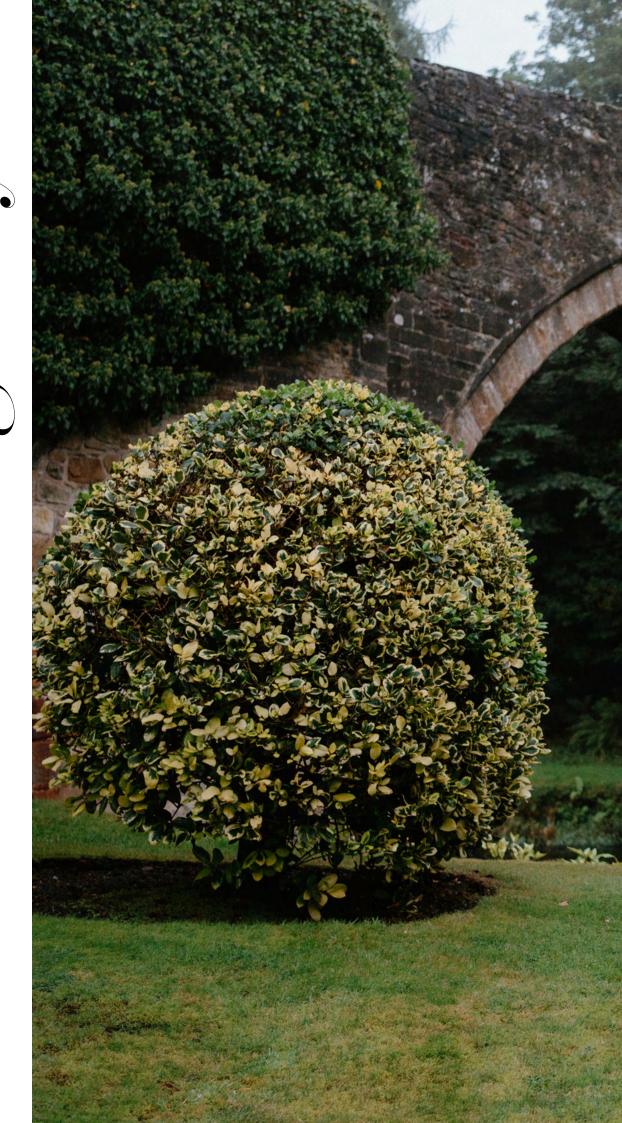
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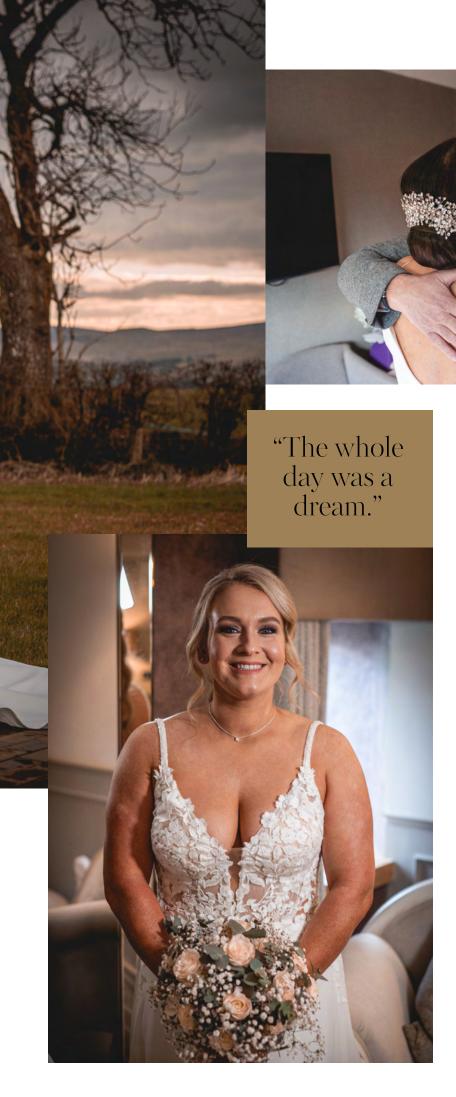
Nicola and Rachel channelled rustic wedding vibes in a timeless ceremony held at a gorgeous Renfrewshire hotel icola and Rachel met on Tinder, spending hours chatting during their first coffee date. After five years together, Rachel proposed at the Lodge on Loch Lomond. "She had the room set up beautifully with an album of photos from when we first met and on the last page it was blank and said 'Will you marry me?," says Nicola. "I looked up and Rachel was down on one knee. It was so emotional. I loved it!"

Nicola's big sister Laura was previously a wedding coordinator so

she was able to keep the couple right from the word go. Their first bookings were venue, décor, celebrant, and DJ!

"We were looking for a more rustic venue – but not a barn," Nicola explains, "We were keen for a hotel so that our family and friends could stay. As soon as we walked into Bowfield we fell in love with it. It was perfect, especially in terms of size as we didn't want it too big."

To tie in with the vibe of the venue, they went for a rustic/woody theme that included greenery and lots of fairy lights!



The dress hunt

Both Nicola and Rachel found their perfect gowns on separate shopping trips to One of a Kind Bridal Outlet in Hamilton. "I knew I wanted an A-line dress and had a rough idea of the top half – but everything definitely changes once you try them on," Nicola explains. "I went shopping with my mum, Rachel's mum and our two bridesmaids. I initially did feel very overwhelmed as it was such a big decision but when I found my dress I immediately felt at ease and knew that it was The One."

Her dress was low cut with thin straps. "I felt amazing in it and it was so comfortable. The dress was 'off the rack' so it was from last season, which I kind of liked because it was unlikely anyone would have it!"

After a lot of consideration, Nicola decided she didn't want to wear a veil. "I kept jewellery simple, however at the last minute I got the amazing Emma Rose Jewellery to make me an unreal headpiece which was exactly what I was looking for."

Rachel, meanwhile, didn't know what kind of dress she wanted. "I went with my mum. I tried on every style and went through a good few options before finding my dream dress." It was strappy, low-cut and flowy at the bottom. "It also had a train which definitely surprised Nicola," she laughs. "I had diamante straps added to it to thicken them. I kept everything else minimal, wearing my gran's wedding jewellery and small diamonds in my hair."

The couple had two bridesmaids, Nicola's sister, Laura, and Rachel's sister-in-law, Jen. "We wanted to keep our bridal party small and it was important for us to have family as part of our big day," Nicola says. "We booked an appointment at Angelique Lamont and fell in love with a dress there. It was a lovely deep blue colour which was amazing for the time of year the wedding was. The girls looked unreal. It was really important for us that they were comfortable and it was a dress they loved as much as we did."



An amazing feeling The night before the wedding, close family all

The night before the wedding, close family all stayed over at the hotel and enjoyed a meal together before Nicola and Rachel went their separate ways to chill with their respective mum and bridesmaid.

In the morning, they were both surprisingly calm. "We both loved it. It was very chilled and we spent time with our bridal party whilst getting ready. We didn't really feel that stressed until it came to the ceremony – that's when the nerves kicked in."

Nicola recalls, "I could feel my heart beat out of my chest. Rachel walked down first so I could hear the music and was so nervous. When I saw her, though, I felt amazing. And Rachel said she was so excited."

They walked down the aisle to a slowed down version of *Sweet Child O' Mine* by Guns N' Roses. "This is a song that means a lot to Rachel and her dad so we always knew we would use it. We had a singer called Laura Murray who was fab."

The couple aren't religious and chose to have



a humanist ceremony. "We loved how personal it was. It was about us and our story and that's exactly what we wanted," Nicola says.

After the ceremony, their 70 guests enjoyed drinks, canapés and a magic show. A further 50 guests arrived for the evening reception, which featured entertainment from DJ Stephen Bennett who "kept the dance floor full". Nicola also surprised Rachel with a sax player. "At one point we both were looking around thinking 'this is crazy, this is our wedding."

"The whole day was a dream. If we could pick one moment (aside from getting married) it would be the DJ battle where we were behind the decks looking at all our guests, who were having the best time!"

Nicola says having the help of Laura meant the stress of planning was kept at bay. "We found the last four to eight weeks were the most overwhelming having to finalise everything."

She adds, "We are best friends and now wives and we couldn't be happier. Marriage has just brought us closer, even though we never thought we could get any closer. We wish we could do it all over again!"





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Dynamic Frame Wedding Films



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

Nicola and Rachel brought so much fun and joy to their special day which I think reflects well in the images. I had such an amazing time with not only them but their family and friends.

It was an absolute pleasure to be chosen to capture their big day". ■

CRAIG. ISAAC CRAIG **PHOTOGRAPHY**





Amna and Gary stuck to a simple and classy brief for their elegant wedding in the heart of Ayrshire



"I could feel myself getting married in it." ight months doesn't sound like a lot of time but this couple managed to plan the most beautiful and heartfelt September wedding after only booking their venue that February. Amna and Gary first met "the old fashioned way" on a night out. Then after three years of dating he proposed to her on a family holiday in Menorca and they launched into wedding planning.

From the very start they had a clear idea of how their wedding should be. "I wanted our guests to enjoy our special day so I knew I wanted the venue to be amazing and the entertainment and food had to be too," says Amna. However, it took them to look at a lot of venues across Scotland before they found the perfect setting for their 'I do's'. Brig o'Doon House Hotel was the last one they visited and as soon as they walked in they knew straight away it was The One.

With the location settled on, the couple set about creating a celebration with a "classy and simple" theme and while Amna admits to being very laid back, she credits Gary with being in charge of the all-important spreadsheet. "It was crucial for the planning as we had to keep track of who we had contacted and what we still needed to do," she remembers. "Sticking to budget was the

hardest part but we didn't have much time to add extra things on which meant we had to make quick decisions."

Despite the short timeframe Amna loved seeing their vision come to life and speaking to their different suppliers. And she had her talented maid of honour make her wedding invitations – "as I'm super picky".

Decision made

Time was again of the essence when it came to Amna's dress shopping experience and while initially she thought she wanted sleeves, her appointment at Opus Couture completely changed her mind. "This was a last-minute appointment I had made with no expectations and it was perfect," she smiles. "My two bridesmaids went with me and Opus made the day so special." Her stylist Sophie was amazing and found the perfect Maggie Sottero gown. "It was a dress that I never knew I wanted but loved it as soon as I saw it," Amna says. "I wanted something simple and timeless and when I tried it on I knew it was The One as I could feel myself getting married in it."

By my side

Amna describes her five bridesmaids as her "support system". Sadly one of them, Shannon, who is in Australia, couldn't make the big day but instead sent Amna their favourite scent - La Labo, Santal 33 - to wear on her wedding. And Amna's pregnant maid of honour gave birth the week after the wedding, but was there by her girl's side the whole day – "in heels – superwoman!" Rounding off her wedding party, Amna had her two little nieces as flower girls. "They stole the show," she smiles.

The excited bride may only have got four hours of sleep the night before the wedding but it was all systems go from 6am on the big day with hair and make-up starting early for a house full of girls.

Walking down the aisle to violinist David ≫







"As a wedding celebrant, witnessing their love story unfold was such an honour and the incredible Brig o'Doon backdrop

just added to the magic."

JOHN LEO SCOTT, FUZE CEREMONIES

Laing of Capella String Quartet playing Adele's *Easy on Me*, Amna felt emotional but excited. The couple had chosen a humanist ceremony and wrote their own vows. "I felt proud and a little bit emotional but Gary was very emotional saying his and there wasn't a dry eye in the room," smiles Amna.

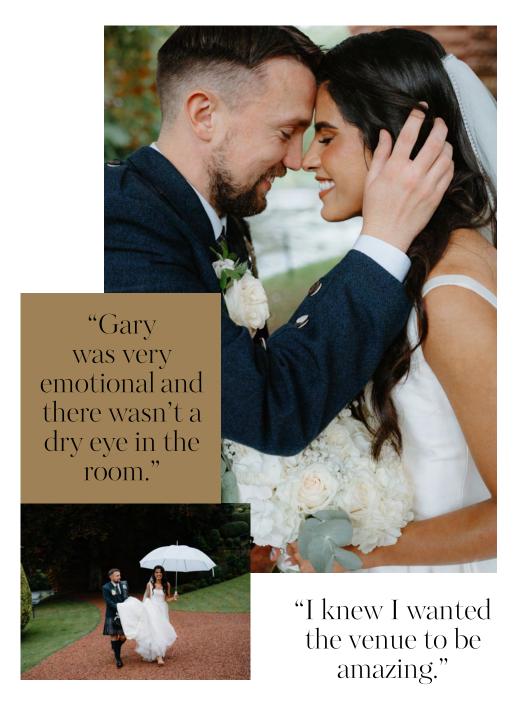
A whole lot of love

Guests were treated to the very best service for the rest of the day, with Los Perros band providing the entertainment during their drinks reception. "They were amazing and learned Billy Ocean's *Red Light Spells Danger* for us which the crowd loved," Amna recalls.

Gary got emotional again during his speech, sparking a lot of tears in the room before it was time for their "amazing" evening reception. "The staff couldn't have done enough for us and I felt like a queen," says Amna. "Everyone was dancing and there was just a lot of love in the room."

Now they're married Amna says people ask her a lot how it feels to be a wife. "I would say it just feels like before but you feel more like an adult in some ways (haha)." And to couples planning their own wedding she says, "Enjoy it, before you know it the day comes to an end. I didn't believe others when they said that to me but it really does."









BAND

Los Perros

BRIDE'S DRESS

Maggie Sottero at Opus Couture

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

CELEBRANT

John Leo Scott of Fuze Ceremonies

DÉCOR

Jam Events

DRINK TOPPERS

Manifest Design

FLOWERS

Sunflower Design, Jam Events **GROOM'S OUTFIT**

MacGregor & MacDuff HAIR

Nicola McMillan Hair **MAKE-UP**

Alexandria McNairn, Ambreine

Makeup Artistry **STATIONERY**

VIDEOGRAPHY

Fyne Films **VIOLINIST**

David Laing of Capella String

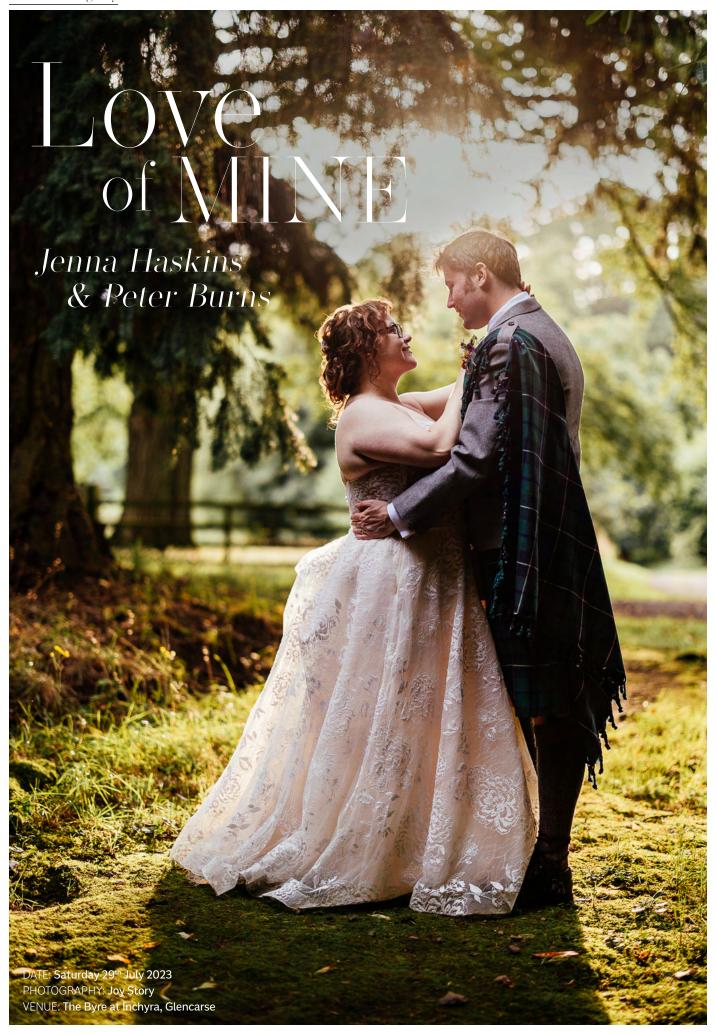
Quartet



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Amna and Gary's wedding was perfection! Amna exuded elegance with her timeless look and their bridal party brought the energy! In typical Scottish style it lashed it down all day but this definitely did not dampen any spirits and we had the most amazing day celebrating their love." ■

CONNOR, CONNOR BARRETT PHOTOGRAPHY





This couple celebrated their incredible love story in the picturesque setting of a rustic barn in Perthshire

enna met Peter on Tinder in 2014 while she was studying for six months at the University of Glasgow. "We felt so at ease with each other right from the first day," Jenna explains. Unfortunately, she only had two months remaining in Glasgow before having to return home to Massachusetts in the United States.

Initially they chose not to try a longdistance relationship, but after staying in touch and seeing each other again, they decided to give it a shot.

After over seven years together (five of them long-distance) Peter proposed in October 2021 at Woodlands Glencoe, on the deck of one of the riverbed lodges. "With the soft rush of moving water behind us, he got down on one knee with our dog, Moose, by his side. It was the easiest question I've ever answered!" Jenna recalls.

They planned for a long engagement and their first priority was booking a venue. "My second priority was booking a harpist. My parents had a harpist at their wedding 30 years ago, and I was determined to book one as a surprise for my mom. I came across Sam MacAdam and her repertoire absolutely blew us away."

Jenna spied her ideal wedding venue long before she and Peter became engaged. "I started looking at wedding venues around Scotland... and swiftly and strongly fell in love with the Byre at Inchyra. The exposed stone, the warm wood, the walled garden. It was like a fairy tale." When Jenna finally showed it to Peter, it was love at first sight for him too. "It was the only venue we viewed, and it remains the most beautiful wedding venue we have ever seen."



"A joyful and proud moment."

"I was smitten"

Jenna always pictured herself in a big ballgownstyle dress but, while shopping in the US, the style just didn't feel right. Moving on to a small boutique, that's where the magic happened!

"I had been pretty adamant that I didn't want a dress with 'stuff' on it (patterns/texture, etc). However, the second I put it on and saw myself in the mirror, I knew [it] was completely and totally correct." Jenna's dress was by Christina Wu, an A-line sweetheart ballgown with a corset-style bodice, floral beaded lace pattern, and thin beaded straps that crossed across the back. "I was smitten. I couldn't stop swishing it from side to side, twirling around, putting my hands in the pockets, and staring at the textured and sparkling beading."

To accessorise, she wore white leather Taos sneakers – for comfort as well as practicality! She added a veil with a beaded trim that matched the beaded waist of her dress. Meanwhile, florist Briar Rose Design made a hair comb to go above the veil.

Jenna had two bridesmaids and two bridesmen (brothers Ben and Kyle) along with a flower girl and ring bearer. The bridesmaids' deep green-blue dresses blended perfectly with the "Inchyra blue" barn doors.

Peter and his groomsmen wore kilts in Modern Douglas tartan and Peter also decided to wear a plaid. His wedding party included Eamonn, his best friend from school whom he has know for 29 years.

"In an American wedding, the night before is your rehearsal dinner. Everyone in the wedding party gets together and rehearses the ceremony. Since we had a mix of American and Scottish people in our wedding party – and would be doing a mix of American and Scottish traditions for the ceremony – we decided to do a casual version of a rehearsal dinner so that everyone would feel prepared and comfortable," Jenna explains. "This way, everyone knew ahead of time what they needed to do, and what the space looked like. Then we went for dinner at the nearby Glencarse Hotel, which was absolutely incredible."





"It was like a fairy tale."

Blue skies

Jenna woke around 6am to the sound of thunderous pouring rain on the skylights in the bridal suite. "I was a little disappointed, as we had really hoped for an outdoor ceremony, but this is Scotland after all, and we already had a back-up plan to move the ceremony into the stable room of the byre." But by some miracle, by the time the hair and make-up team arrived, the rain had cleared, the sun was out and the sky was turning blue.

The aisle in the walled garden is a stunning tree-lined path and Jenna walked down to *I Will Follow You into the Dark* by Death Cab for Cutie, played on the harp. "My dad and I chatted a little during the walk, until we came closer to our guests and I could see Peter and Moose at the altar. Then I couldn't stop smiling," she recalls.

The couple chose a humanist ceremony, loving the way it involved the retelling of their story. "After so many years apart, we never take anything in our relationship for granted, but especially physical closeness. It didn't escape us that this would be the only time in our lives that our family and friends were all gathered in one place. We felt overwhelmingly happy and grateful to be holding hands and exchanging rings in front of them."

Once the ceremony finished, Jenna and Peter stayed in the walled garden to take photos, while their 70 guests were directed up to the main byre for canapés and drinks. They also had table and lawn games like Jenga, Cornhole, Bocce and giant Connect Four for everyone to enjoy.

DIY played a big part in the day, from Moose's tartan bow tie (made by Jenna's mom) to a salvaged door containing the table plans, and even the lawn games.

There was a DJ for the evening reception and lots of fun and dancing. "Overall, it was such a joyful and proud moment for us to stop and look around and see everyone talking, laughing, and dancing together. So many of these people had never met and most likely never would again, but we were able to bring them all together for one very fun party to celebrate the love we had forged over the last nine years."







BRIDE'S DRESS

Julie's Bridal Boutique, Massachusetts

BRIDE'S SHOES

Taos Footwear

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Azazie CATERER

Lazy Sunday

CAKE

Rude Cookies

CELEBRANT

Jean Steele, Thistle Ceremonies

DÉCOR

The Byre at Inchyra, Lemonbox Studios

One More Tune DJs DOG CARE

Sal's Pals

FLOWERS

Briar Rose Design

FLOWER GIRL DRESS

TK Maxx

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Slater Menswear

HAIR AND MAKE-UP Pamper & Polish

HARPIST

Sam MacAdam

PIZZA VAN

Dough Man's Land **RINGS**

La More Design, Wedding Rings Direct **STATIONERY**

Clare Elizabeth Designs TRANSPORT

Perth Private Hire, Docherty's Midland

Coaches VIDEOGRAPHY

Sugar 8



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Jenna and Peter had the Scottish summer wedding of dreams! An outdoor ceremony in the sun, lawn games and outdoor drinks, an amazing venue on the most lush estate, and a pizza party to end it on. What a day with the most awesome supplier dream team." ■

SARAH, JOY STORY





A beautiful and personal barn wedding, project managed to perfection



"We're both quite detailfocussed people."

ittle did Helen and Grant know when they took part-time jobs at a catering company during uni, they'd each meet the love of their life - and pick up some tips on how to plan the perfect wedding. Helen explains, "He asked me out on Hogmanay, at five minutes to midnight, in 2009. We'd worked loads of different functions together. The upside of this is that we had a lot of experience of other people's weddings so knew exactly what we wanted for our own... And what we didn't want!"

Keeping tradition going strong, Grant proposed on Hogmanay 11 years later in Helen's parents' garden. "At midnight - and as soon as I said yes - the neighbours sent up fireworks to ring in the new year. It was an amazing and lovely coincidence. We like to pretend they were for us!"

A complete surprise, Grant had got down on one knee with a (stunning topaz and silver) place-holder ring. So, the first priority was choosing the second ring together. Choosing to support an independent business, they headed to Hodgkinson the Jewellers in Glasgow and ended up getting their wedding bands there too as the team was so lovely. Another job off the list!

Serious planning begins
Back to the big stuff and it was time to sort

the guest list and venue. And, at this stage, the forward-thinking couple put together a robust action plan to make sure they stayed on track. "We're both quite detail-focussed people, and both do project management, manage teams

and schedules as part of our jobs, so we had a milestone plan for key dates. We also had an action tracker, a budget and cash flow tracker. We blocked time out in our calendar to focus chunks so it always felt like we were making progress."

Meantime, they'd shortlisted a few barnstyle spaces but the good feeling they felt about Dalduff Farm from the start never left them - and this venue offered the best value for money they'd seen. "Dalduff is fully kitted out, and there was no upselling or hidden costs. We wanted a weekend event so having exclusive use from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon was great (and we brought our guests back on Sunday for a post-party brunch). Talking of which, as big foodies the Dalduff menu choices weren't like anything we'd seen so far - BBQ ribs as a main course option then Korean beef tacos and pizza for the evening buffet was ideal!"

With such a beautiful venue, it didn't take much to make it their own with DIY décor - especially as they had a strong vision of how they wanted their day to look. They based their colours on Grant's family tartan (deep burgundy, dark green and white), and the theme was travel/their love of Scotland. Table names and décor were based on vintage national railway posters and postcards from across Scotland, and the order of service was a train ticket, whilst place cards were vintagestyle luggage tags with passport stamps. The back of these tags became guest book entries - so clever!

Friends and family got involved too, with one pal engraving a map of Scotland on a whisky barrel lid that hung in the entryway to the Dutch Barn. Plain spaces were made more special with tartan cushions sewn by Helen and her mum, flowers and foliage from her aunt's garden, and lots of second-hand vases, lanterns and candles.

Venue sorted, time to style the happy couple! With no ideas in mind (and no prior experience of bridal shopping being the first of ≫







"Grant and Helen started working for me as 16-year-olds and quietly their love for each other grew. They were professional and respected the work/love balance. It was a joy working with them and such an honour to be chosen to marry them."

NANCY BRAID, FUZE CEREMONIES

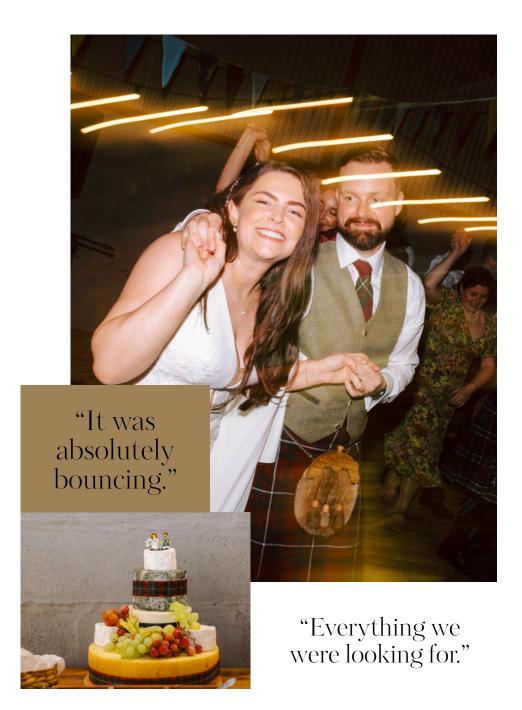
her siblings to wed), Helen headed to the boutiques with her sisters and mum. As soon as she tried on her beautiful, modern yet vintage-style dress, she knew she wanted it – and a cape like the one it had been paired with in the shop. Grant headed to Kilts 4 U and had a bespoke kilt, jacket and waistcoat made, complete with some special touches to make it really stand out.

The big day

Time to get married and who better to do the honours than the couple's old boss at the catering company, Nancy Braid of Fuze Ceremonies? "There was no question we were going to ask her to be our celebrant. It was kind of a full circle moment and the ceremony was perfect," Helen smiles. "We had one of our best friends do a reading that meant a lot and we had a beautiful Orcadian cog borrowed from my cousin (instead of a quaich) that both our mums poured drinks into as part of the ceremony. Grant's dad and my brother were the witnesses, which was really special."

Everyone headed out into the sunshine for drinks before a menu full of meaning. "We chose our meal based on what we felt represented us and our love of food best. We also had a lot of guests with dietary requirements. Dalduff went above and beyond to accommodate all of them, even calling one to make sure they got it right." They also made some special requests for behind the bar – two of Grant's fave whiskies and a few crates of WKD Blue for the bride.

With all 102 guests there for the full day, it was straight into the evening reception (after a lovely set of speeches) and a ceilidh got everyone out of their seats cutting shapes. A disco followed with a mix of pop and club music until the end of the night. "It was absolutely bouncing. Our band said it was the most people they'd had up dancing in a long time."







BAND

The Jim Jam Ceilidh Band

BRIDE'S DRESS

'Cora' by Justin Alexander at Wedding Wise

BRIDE'S CAPE

BRIDE'S HAIR COMB

Lily Luna BRIDE'S SHOES

Monsoon

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

David's Bridal

CELEBRANT Nancy Braid of Fuze Ceremonies

CAKE

Dunlop Dairy, I.J. Mellis, Waitrose

DÉCOR

Fabric Bazaar, Kustom Neon

Falkirk

FLOWERS

J Dunlop Florist
GROOM'S OUTFIT

Kilts 4 L

HAIR & MAKE-UP

Honey Love Makeup & Hair-Up **NAILS**

Tan Oz **RINGS**

Hodgkinson the Jewellers **STATIONERY**

MacGregor-ART

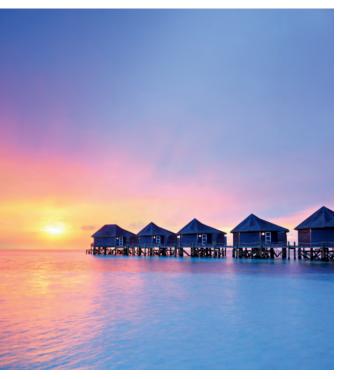


PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Helen and Grant's wedding was full of special moments. They considered every element from the smallest details to the big picture of the day. Dalduff is one of my very favourite venues and a really lovely bunch of people made this a real day to remember." ■









PLANNING YOUR DREAM DAY

WITH THORNE TRAVEL

Planning your wedding and honeymoon with Thorne Travel ensures a seamless and unforgettable experience. As a multi-award-winning travel agency and specialists in weddings and honeymoons, we help you find the perfect destination and venue.

We understand that every couple is unique, and so are their needs. That's why our services include customised travel plans that fit your schedule, ensuring your special moments are celebrated exactly when and where you want. With in-resort coordinators on hand to manage all the final arrangements, you will have peace of mind and the freedom to enjoy your celebration without any stress.

WHY DESTINATION WEDDING?

A destination wedding offers a unique and memorable experience, combining the joy of your wedding day with the adventure of travel. With stunning backdrops such as turquoise beaches or majestic mountains, your special day becomes an unforgettable event.

Additionally, we provide an opportunity to extend the celebration into a mini-holiday, where you and your loved ones can relax and enjoy the destination together. By choosing a destination wedding, you create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind celebration that you and your guests will cherish forever.

With Thorne Travel, you receive continuous support throughout the planning process, allowing you to focus on enjoying your celebration. Trust Thorne Travel to create an extraordinary, personalised wedding and honeymoon experience that you and your guests will cherish forever.







YOUR WEDDING AND HONEYMOON IS PARAMOUNT TO US

- We customise travel around your date. Our bespoke travel services ensure that every aspect of your journey is tailored specifically to your preferred dates. This flexibility guarantees that you can celebrate your special moments exactly when you want, without the constraints of rigid travel schedules.
- Our team of UK-based Wedding Specialists are dedicated to finding the perfect venue that matches your vision and needs. With extensive local knowledge and connections, they can uncover hidden gems and exclusive locations that may not be readily available through conventional channels.
- Collaborating with various suppliers large and small, we can provide you with an unparalleled wedding experience.
- As an independent travel agency, we offer unique benefits that you won't find with larger, more generic travel providers. Our independence allows us to provide a more personalised service, with tailored recommendations and insider tips that enhance your overall experience.
- Being ABTA members guarantees a secure booking experience, allowing you to embark on your adventure with confidence!

We went into honeymoon planning thinking we might do a cruise or go to Greece, but with Thorne Travel's help and advice we have booked the most incredible safari adventure in Tanzania and Zanzibar!

We are thrilled and so excited!

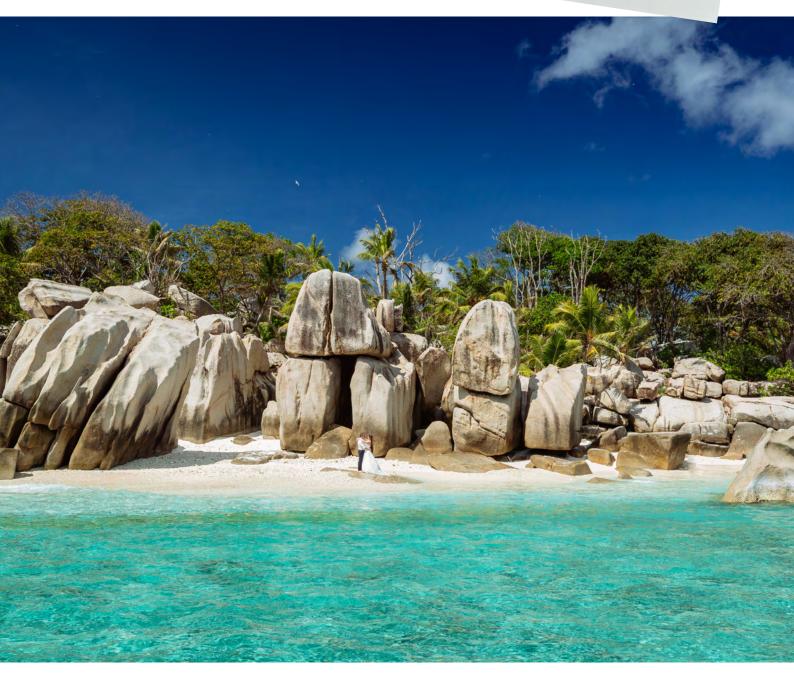
S.Howie



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he Seychelles archipelago is 115 islands scattered across the western Indian Ocean, 115 islands of pristine beauty unaltered since the dawn of time. The islands have long been crowned the world's most romantic destination. It is truly the perfect paradise location for a dream wedding.

Whether in Seychelles for a wedding, honeymoon or just an impromptu romantic break, make a rendezvous with destiny and set your own stage for the most romantic days of your life. Savour tropical pleasures among a friendly, welcoming people, by swaying palms and the silver-soft sands of secret beaches.

What better way to consummate a union then in what many still perceive to be the original Garden of Eden. Home to the unique Vallée de Mai, it is little wonder that lovers are inspired to take their vows and wed in such a gentle and romantic heaven. Your weddings in the Vallée de Mai can be arranged through the Seychelles Islands Foundation, where you can quietly stroll where the legendary Coco-de-mer nut grows high on ancient palms.

From there you could move on to dinning tête à tête with your feet in the sand on a deserted beach and sip exotic tropical cocktails against the backdrop of a crimson sunset. Try your hand at





dancing the moutia, ancient dance of slaves, whose sensuous rhythms beckon from the flicker of a beach fire beneath a lover's moon.

Visit the island of La Digue where time stands still and bicycles hold sway on the pathways to the dream beaches of Grand Anse and Source D'Argent. Or, simply lay back and watch the days and nights slip ever so slowly by from within the luxurious cocoon of a dream island getaway.

A wide selection of hotels, both large and small, as well as a choice of discreet island hideaways, is available for your island-style romantic experience.

Seychelles is a hassle-free wedding destination that will give you nuptials recognised worldwide. Wedding and honeymoon packages are offered by several leading travel agencies, ensuring that your wedding day or honeymoon can be as blissfully romantic and unique as your wildest dreams can conjure.

So, whichever way you picture your ideal wedding to be, come and savour the ultimate in tropical romance! Be swept off your feet by the breathtaking beauty of the world's most stunning islands that offer you diversity, a carefree lifestyle and the services of dedicated professionals whose attention to detail will leave you with the freedom to enjoy the moments of a lifetime.

"Set your own stage for the most romantic days of your life."







uick question? If you could go on honeymoon anywhere in the world where would it be? And what sort of postwedding trip best fits your wish list? Often that word conjures up images of white sandy beaches and kicking back in the sun. But what if that's just not your vibe? We always urge readers to do their wedding their way and the same mantra should be applied to your honeymoon. This is your break so it's completely up to you where you go and how you choose to unwind (or recharge!) after the big day.

Amanda Mckinlay of Thorne Travel agrees and this issue she's handpicked two totally different styles of romantic getaway, including one for couples who really fancy an Arctic adventure. "Honeymoons don't always need to be about sunny beaches," she says. "There is something profoundly romantic about the atmospheric landscapes of the Arctic in winter, which is why many newlyweds are choosing this magical setting for their honeymoon, creating unforgettable memories." Turn to page 210 to check out just one example of a winter honeymoon with all the cosy hygge vibes you'll love. Imagine staying in a rustic log cabin or a glass-roofed igloo that takes in the mesmerising Northern Lights, and spending your days snowmobiling, husky sledding or cross-country skiing.

That's one way to ensure your honeymoon is a bit of an adventure. But adventure comes in all different forms. "If you're the kind of couple who want to make the most of your honeymoon with a once-in-a-lifetime experience, we offer a variety of great adventure honeymoons for you to choose from," says Amanda. "Adventure doesn't have to mean physical exertion; when couples ask about adventure holidays, we always consider what they would like to experience. There is a big difference betweeen adrenaline junkies seeking heart-pumping thrills and couples wanting to visit fascinating countries with rich cultural heritage. Whatever you are looking for, we can find an adventure that suits your desires perfectly."



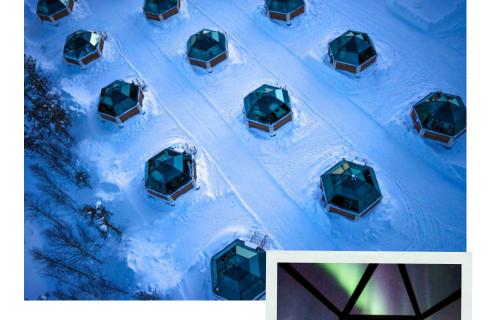
Relax in luxury

All that being said, we know some couples just need to relax after months of planning and all the hype of their big day, and that's when the appeal of an island paradise retreat does kick in. Blessed with perpetual summer and located in the azure waters of the Indian Ocean, it's no wonder The Seychelles are revered as the perfect destination for newlyweds. Made up of 115 tropical islands, the archipelago is home to two UNESCO World Heritage sites, The Vallée de Mai, where you'll find the wonderous Coco-de-Mer growing on ancient palms, and the Aldabra - the world's largest raised atoll.

Why not kick off your honeymoon in style by dining with your feet in the sand on a romantic deserted beach or take a skippered yacht out on the ocean before diving in to explore the diverse nature of the waters around the islands? Whatever pace you choose, The Seychelles offers a breaktakingly beautiful setting for your honeymoon. Turn the page to see more of what's on offer here.







Winter wonderland

Think honeymoon and you could easily find yourself dreaming of faraway tropical islands and warm seas. But if you and your other half favour a cooler climate and the promise of seeing the aurora borealis, this amazing four-day adventure in Finnish Lapland will tick all your boxes.

Amanda of Thorne Travel says, "The Nordics are fast becoming known for their unique, design-driven accommodation and this itinerary combines two of Finland's finest. What's more, they're both on the same secluded site, tucked away in the beauty of Finland's Arctic north."

Flying to Rovaniemi you'll be transferred to the Arctic SnowHotel where you'll spend your first night experiencing the ethereal beauty of this one-of-a-kind hotel. You'll sleep on a transparent bed of ice under expertly carved friezes while sauna visits and hearty Lappish cuisine served by a crackling fire are just the ticket to keep you cosy. Make sure you try the reindeer steak in red wine sauce in the hotel's Kota Restaurant and cap it off with a visit to the Ice Bar for drinks served in frozen glasses. Before you settle down for the night an included tour will introduce you to the SnowHotel's unique construction. And when it's time for bed you'll sleep in an Arctic sleeping bag and even receive a certificate for your troubles. Talk about a momento from your honeymoon!

The following day you'll swap your frozen accommodation for your very own underfloor-heated glass-igloo where you'll spend the next two nights. Lying in bed you can watch the

Northern Lights play out above your head. But there's no need to lie awake all night hoping for a glance of the light show. There's an aurora alarm service that can be turned on to alert you to the midnight colours.

How you spend your days is up to you with plenty of optional winter activities to choose from. Outdoorsy couples will love husky sledding, ice fishing and snowmobiling. There's even a chance to ride a new electric snowmobile – emission-free 'eSleds' – the first of their kind in the Nordics.

For a slightly more relaxed, but still invigorating, experience try out a traditional Finnish sauna or Snow Sauna, where icy walls provide a stark contrast to the hot steam. You could also spend time on a snow-sculpting course to gain an insight into the ice hotel's beauty or you could explore Rovaniemi itself, heading into the town centre with free transfers.

In the evenings you'll love the hotel's spectrally-lit Ice Restaurant, where dishes like roasted elk and braised fish will keep you cosy. If this isn't the perfect winter honeymoon we don't know what is!

This four-day glass igloo and Ice Hotel holiday in Finnish Lapland starts from £1,685pp

Relax and unwind

The Seychelles – those two words evoke countless images synonymous with honeymoon romance. Think pristine white sandy beaches that stretch for miles, crystal-clear turquoise waters and huge skies. And that's before you venture inland to explore the tropical landscapes or discover the local markets and points of architectural interest.

With 115 islands in the archipelago it's no wonder so many newlyweds choose to embark on an island-hopping honeymoon, landing on the isle of Mahé – the perfect jumping-off spot. Renowned for its stunning beaches and secluded coves, you can easily while away the first few days of your honeymoon here. Why not spend a day on a catamaran, coming ashore every so often to marvel at the giant tortoises, before exploring Cap Lazare Nature Reserve and taking in the view of the Indian Ocean from the top of a rocky outcrop?

Then once you've thoroughly explored Mahé (or just taken time to chill on the beach), move on to some of the more remote outer islands including Praslin, an island so beautiful it's been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll love swimming off l'Archipel beach and finding excellent snorkelling spots or even getting to grips with the lush rainforest walks in the Vallée de Mai.

La Digue island is where you'll discover Anse Source d'Argent, one of the most beautiful beaches in the whole archipelago, where you can relax, climb the giant boulders or take an ox cart ride around the island.

And with The Seychelles being billed as paradise on earth you can of course expect luxury accommodation – the perfect way to start married life!



Culture vultures

If the idea of immersing yourselves in the culture of the Far East sounds like the perfect honeymoon adventure for you you'll love the Far East and Elephants holiday, picked out by Thorne Travel. Escape a dreary Scottish November by flying to Hong Kong and kicking off your 21-night holiday with a two-night stay at the elegant Dorsett Mongkok hotel which is nestled between the bustling districts of Mong Kok and Tai Kok Tsui. From here, you're free to explore everything Hong Kong has to offer including mouthwatering food, vibrant culture and exciting nightlife.

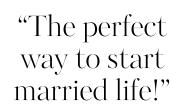
After enjoying all the charms of Hong Kong it's time to board the Celebrity Solstice cruise ship, where you'll spend 12 nights in an oceanview stateroom with an 'Always Included' classic drinks package and wifi. Departing Hong Kong, your cruise takes in top sights including Vietnam's Hanoi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City and Thailand's Bangkok and Ko Samui, finishing in Singapore.

But your honeymoon doesn't end when you arrive in port. You'll then enjoy exploring the idyllic beauty of coastal Khao Lak on Thailand's west coast, just 80km north of Phuket. Staying for five nights with breakfast at the 4-star Khaolak Merlin Resort, you're situated right on the beach with numerous

restaurants just a short walk away. We reckon a trip to the hotel's spa is a honeymoon must.

When you can tear yourself away from the beach it's time to head inland to the Khao Sok National Park for your last three days, staying at the Elephant Hills Jungle & Lake Safari, the luxury tented jungle camp. You'll spend one night at the elephant camp and one night at the lake camp, allowing you to admire the beauty of Asia's largest land animal. At both camps you'll stay in a spacious luxury glamping tent which has all the amenities of a four-star hotel to make your time in the jungle as comfortable as possible.

Activities at the Elephant Hills include spending time with the animals themselves where you can feed them and observe them in their natural habitat, and you could have a go at the canoe safari or the jungle trek. With a full three weeks to explore post-wedding this truly is an adventure of a lifetime! The 21-night Far East & Elephants holiday includes flights and transfers with prices from £5,629pp











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Rooftops and refurbs

The Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa has a lot to shout about in this issue! Excitingly, its newest dining area - the West Deck - is now open atop the hotel for bookings and walk-in guests. The al fresco destination for drinks and light dining was opened to coincide with the longer summer nights and casual get-togethers under the stars. With a variety of cosy seating areas set under a canopy of twinkling lights, the West Deck offers the ultimate vantage point to watch spectacular sunsets or observe golfers from above as they take to the course. Glamorous glass pods extend the space's versatility and allow groups to enjoy a unique private space no matter

The rooftop revamp marks the eighth dining offering within the resort's portfolio. The opening of the West Deck is part of a larger series of food and beverage enhancements underway at the Old Course, which most recently announced the reopening of the Jigger Inn following massive refurbishment. Golf's most famous pub got back to serving customers earlier this year with a refreshed menu designed by the resort's executive chef, Coalin Finn. Updates include an interior décor refresh whilst maintaining original features including the brickwork, signature railway booth seating and signed Major Winners' caps which have returned to their home above the bar.

Lastly, the Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa has received a prestigious Green Tourism Gold Award, solidifying its commitment to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. What a lot of excellent news!

OLDCOURSEHOTEL.CO.UK

New event space

the weather.

Cluny Castle in Aberdeenshire is thrilled to announce the completion of a recent renovation project which has seen the introduction of another event space, The Butcher's Hall. Located directly opposite the Tenants' Hall, it is the perfect space to be used during evening receptions, either for the bar and dancing or during the turnaround time.

In the 1800s, the castle and surrounding buildings were used to form their own little village, which included a dairy, cheese house, stable yard, walled garden, laundry, ice house and butchery. The Butcher's Hall was created with natural ventilation slots engineered through the exterior castle walls so as to keep the meat cool under the castle while being prepared for meals upstairs.

The castle is so excited to have this new flexible space which can be used either on its own or alongside the beautiful Tenants' Hall.

CLUNYCASTLE.COM



Last-minute availability

Arniston House in Midlothian still has some wedding dates available with a mixture of cottage availability on 7th September and 5th October.

The team are also in the process of renovating one of the smaller cottages to become the honeymoon suite and this will be completed in 2025. Exciting times ahead!

ARNISTONHOUSE.COM





Dates still available

Glenbervie House & Country Estate's package for 2024/25 is still available for a few remaining dates – so get your skates on.

The Stirlingshire venue offers luxury package weddings starting at £70pp and some of the highlights include lots of lovely food and drink as well as the fullydressed grand ballrooms or suites, a wedding post box, stylish stationery and a stay in the luxurious honeymoon suite. And check out these cute lodges for your guests. GLENBERVIE-HOUSE.COM



Seaside luxury

Trump Turnberry has launched a new wedding offering, giving couples an elevated luxury experience. Choose from a range of exquisite wedding venues from the grand ballroom, with its sparkling chandeliers and panoramic vistas, to more intimate settings, including the iconic Turnberry lighthouse.

Whether you wish to host just a select few or up to 500 guests you can select your wedding breakfast from a choice of set three-course gourmet dinner menus with a drinks package including a prosecco toast and wine with dinner. There is also the option to upgrade your drinks package, add canapés, select from a variety of evening buffet options and choose additions such as Trump Turnberry signature dinner stationery. You could even have the resort's famous piper to welcome your guests.

To finish the most magical day, newlyweds will spend their wedding night in an Ocean View Deluxe bedroom with a full Scottish breakfast the following morning. And remember, you could spend the days following the wedding (or before) indulging in the activities on offer, such as a round of golf on the championship course or a trip to the spa?

TURNBERRY.CO.UK



Packages for 2025

Citation in Glasgow has launched two new wedding packages for 2025. The all-inclusive package starts at £9,500 for 50 guests and the superior all-inclusive package starts at £II,500 for 50 guests. Both packages are available seven days a week. What's more, there are new bespoke twilight packages for 2025. Sounds good to us!

CITATION-GLASGOW.COM≫

Luxury and opulence
Seamill Hydro Hotel on the scenic west

Seamill Hydro Hotel on the scenic west coast is embarking upon an ambitious renovation project that will transform its Function Suite. The owners, RAD Hotel Group, say the project is due for completion in Spring 2025, with the renovation creating an unparalleled event experience for weddings and celebrations.

The new Function Suite is designed to captivate, featuring floor-to-ceiling windows that offer guests uninterrupted views of the Firth of Clyde and the Isle of Arran. These expansive windows will be complemented by strategically-placed bevelled mirrors, enhancing the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape and flooding the space with natural light.

In a commitment to luxury and comfort, the interior of the suite will boast fresh, opulent fabrics adorned with subtle gold accents, and classic architectural elements.

Seamill Hydro Hotel is also committed to ensuring a seamless transition during this period of transformation.

SEAMILLHYDRO.CO.UK



New venue alert!

Hold the front page! Glasgow's newest exclusive use wedding venue is hosting its first open day on Sunday 29th September. The Exchange on Royal Exchange Square will be open between I2pm to 4pm to showcase what treats it has on offer for to-be-weds.

The venue is based in the upper floors of an A-listed blonde sandstone building in one of Glasgow's most envied locations. Bookings for the venue are already being taken with various packages available, including the Royal Exchange Package which includes exclusive use of the venue, a full food and drinks package for guests with Champagne and lots of additional extras. Interested? We certainly are...

THEEXCHANGEGLASGOW.CO.UK





Quirky wedding show

Eden Leisure Village is hosting the Quirky Wedding Show on Sunday 6th October from Ilam to 3pm. It's the first time the Quirky Wedding Show has been held in Scotland since 2021 and the Cumbernauld venue is very excited to be hosting. Tickets are free and you can sign up at quirkyweddingfayre.co.uk to get the date firmly in your diary. VIP tickets are also available for bubbly and goody bags!

EDENLEISUREVILLAGE.CO.UK

Birthday celebrations

Carlowrie Castle is celebrating 10 joy-filled years since the gorgeous building opened as an exclusive use luxury wedding venue. Built in 1852, the castle was once home to remarkable Arctic explorer, botanist and author Isobel Wylie Hutchison. Since 2014, Carlowrie Castle has hosted hundreds of bespoke weddings and is a popular venue for couples from near and far.

Carlowrie Castle has been named as one of the top eight wedding venues around the world by a leading glossy fashion magazine and staff strive to excel in all that they do. This year, the castle achieved the distinguished B Corp certification for its commitment to sustainability and social wellbeing.

Located just a short drive from Edinburgh, Carlowrie hosts weddings and private events all year round. The castle and estate boasts 21 luxury rooms, extensive gardens, and even a friendly herd of highland cows.

CARLOWRIECASTLE.CO.UK



Lavish suites

Mar Hall Hotel, Golf & Spa Resort is a Grade A listed building known for its timeless elegance and rich history. Seamlessly blending historical charm with modern luxury, the lavish suites have hosted royalty, while a multi-million pound investment from new owners infuses a renewed sense of splendour into the resort.

In recent months Mar Hall unveiled its newly refurbished leisure suite including a state-of-theart gym, a 20-metre swimming pool with saunas, steam rooms, relaxation space, and an outdoor thermal suite. Senior appointments have been made across the resort and plans have been submitted to build 30 luxury woodland lodges within the grounds of Mar Hall's 240-acre estate.

For to-be-weds, the estate offers three distinct function suites that can accommodate intimate garden ceremonies to grand celebrations for up to 300 guests, with menus that showcase the finest local Scottish produce led by renowned chef, Tony Tapia.

Set amidst a championship golf course, Mar Hall is ideally suited for extended celebrations. And located just 10 minutes from Glasgow Airport, it's convenient for welcoming international guests and for your honeymoon departure.

MARHALL.COM



Beautiful Winton Castle in East Lothian is excited to share the creation of two new bedrooms, which has increased the castle's capacity to 20 guests.

The Wallace and Paterson Rooms are named after their famous architects. Located on the top floor of the historic castle, the views from these new rooms are spectacular, reaching beyond the estate over to the Lammermuir Hills.

There are also three self-catering country houses on the estate where guests can stay. We're sold!

WINTONCASTLE.CO.UK







Castle vibes

Beautiful Barony Castle in the Borders is hosting a free wedding fair on Sunday 20th October between I2pm and 3pm. Come and see the castle dressed for a wedding, enjoy free canapés, meet some fantastic suppliers and chat to the

wedding co-ordinator. Excitingly, Barony Castle also has late availability weddings for dates up to 31st March 2025 with a selection of midweek, Friday and Saturday dates available. Prices start from £4,750, based on 50 guests in the Castle package.

BARONYCASTLE.COM

Wedding refurb!

Tinto Hotel nestled in the Lanarkshire countryside is relaunching as a gorgeous wedding venue with lots of exciting developments in the pipeline. One of the traditional country house's function areas has undergone a complete refurbishment and will be unveiled this autumn. The hotel is situated in five acres of beautiful gardens within the breathtaking countryside of the Scottish Borders - a picturesque setting for your

all-important wedding photos.

Ideally located in the middle of Glasgow and Edinburgh and with 40 bedrooms, it makes it the perfect getaway for your guests as well. What's not to love about this fabulous new wedding venue? Sounds like bliss!

TINTOHOTEL.SCOT



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TO THE MANOR BORN

ouples wishing to host a grand affair in a stunning space with a dramatic backdrop, look no further -Scotland boasts an extra special selection of stately homes and manor houses. Think magnificent period architecture, lush sprawling gardens and interesting antique furniture, combined with all the modern conveniences you need to host a fuss-free wedding day - or weekend. Oh, and did we mention the fact there'll be a beautiful ready-made background for those classic, timeless photographs you'll cherish forever? Talking of forever, tying the knot in a venue with such a rich history (more often than not these properties are treasured family homes that are centuries old) means your love story will become part of its story...

* Arniston House

If your heart is set on al fresco or marquee nuptials and you think manor house surroundings are out of the question, think again! Let us introduce you to Arniston House where the team has chosen to host a maximum of IO weddings per year, ensuring the ground is kept in optimum condition for each celebration - and making sure each couple gets the full 'Arniston Experience'. Steeped in more than four centuries of heritage, Arniston has been home to the Dundas family since 1571 and offers the most picturesque backdrop. The countryside retreat has a variety of exclusive hire options, from ceremony-only to a full weekend. Our fave space is the Orangery, a truly idyllic setting that takes up to 160 ceremony guests or 50 for ceremony and reception.

ARNISTONHOUSE.COM





* Balbirnie House Hotel

If seeing that a venue has an accolade or ten gives you confidence, you're going to want to visit Balbirnie House, which has been crowned Scotland's Wedding Hotel of the Year at the Scottish Hotels of the Year Awards an amazing fifteen times. And that's not all - the luxury country house scooped a whole bunch of impressive titles in the 2023 Haute Grandeur Global Hotel Awards too, ranging from Best Wedding Hotel to Best Country Hotel. We can't say we're surprised, though, as this category A listed Georgian 1777 mansion really does have it all. Set in the heart of the Kingdom of Fife, you'll find beautiful surroundings, elegant and romantic ceremony spaces, fine Scottish food and 32 bespoke designed bedrooms - wow!

BALBIRNIE.CO.UK

House & Country Estate

A truly magnificent Victorian manor house and estate in Stirlingshire, Glenbervie House has been sympathetically transformed into a chic and stylish exclusive use venue; simply made for a grand celebration. You'll feel like the lord and lady, or lords, or ladies of the manor as you head up the private, sweeping drive (just add a horse and carriage for extra VIP vibes)! And you'll be in awe as the handsome building comes into view - Glenbervie House combines the elegance and style of times gone by with the luxury and comfort of a modern venue. Our fave ceremony spot? The splendid drawing rooms, complete with beautiful countryside views and patio doors that lead to a glorious outdoor terrace - al fresco drinks reception anyone?

GLENBERVIE-HOUSE.COM

Mar Hall Hotel,Golf & Spa Resort

Timeless elegance, rich history and luxurious suites that have hosted royalty... We're talking about Mar Hall Hotel, Golf & Spa Resort, which sits just 10 minutes from Glasgow Airport (perfect for welcoming international guests, then jetting off on honeymoon) amidst a championship golf course and newlyrefurbished spa and leisure suite. This Grade A listed building blends historical charm with modern luxury.

And we're simply loving the multi-million-pound investment from Mar Hall's new owners, which has given a new sense of opulence to the resort. To-be-weds will find three distinct function suites that can accommodate anything from intimate garden ceremonies to grand celebrations for up to 300. And did we mention the menus which are full of the finest local Scottish produce from chef Tony Tapia? Delicious!

MARHALL.COM



* Haddo House

Tucked away in Aberdeenshire (yet within easy reach of the market town of Ellon) Haddo House is the definition of a grand and elegant stately home. Surrounded by a beautiful terrace garden with colourful and geometric flower beds, to-be-weds will be delighted to hear that Haddo offers lots of flexible spaces for saying their vows. We especially love the library and the drawing room but it's worth noting that the magnificent venue boasts its very own private chapel – how special. After you've said 'I do', Haddo Hall provides an excellent blank canvas for wedding breakfasts with up to I60 guests. There's space for another 90 at night, taking your evening reception capacity to 250 – and giving you the opportunity to really get the party started!

NTS.ORG.UK/VISIT/PLACES/HADDO-HOUSE

» Hetland Hall

Standing proudly in stunning country grounds and offering sweeping views over the Solway Firth and the mountains of The Lake District, Hetland Hall is timeless, elegant and oh-so-luxurious. This stately home is located just outside Dumfries – and minutes from Gretna Green – and caters for up to 160 guests in its Galloway Suite. But getting married in the gardens is an option too, especially if you want to take advantage of those captivating views. Top tip: Check out the opulent Penthouse Suite where you can kick-start celebrations in the chicest of surroundings the night before (make time for a sesh in the lush whirlpool bath!). Then soak up all the good vibes on the morning of the big day with your glam squad.

HETLANDHALLHOTEL.CO.UK





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nts.org.uk/weddings











Taylor Sommerville & Gary Martin

> A classic and romantic castle wedding in Aberdeenshire

riends at school, coupled up at university and engaged (ten years later) during the pandemic, Gary's romantic

surprise proposal in New York was totally derailed by lockdown but that didn't stop Taylor from saying 'yes'. She explains, "He opted for the next best thing - our living room! He had a heart-shaped rock we found at Loch Lomond made into a Christmas decoration and it said 'Marry me' on it. I love Christmas decs and collect them everywhere I go. It was so thoughtful and perfect."

Already an expert

As a creative experiential manager by trade who produces events for a living, Taylor couldn't have been more prepared for organising a wedding. And, reflecting on the process, she says she found it all "absolutely fine". Her only problem was finding the motivation after a day at work to do more planning!

They quickly booked Drumtochty Castle, a venue close to the bride's heart, where the managing director Nikki Curran guided the couple meticulously to ensure their day was perfect. They decided on a classic and timeless vibe for the big day. "I wanted all the florals and décor to feel fitting to the venue and the surrounding area. That meant being impactful and tasteful, and feeling like it was all meant to be there," she explains.

As such, they didn't add a huge amount of DIY details but went super-personal with the flowers – white roses in honour of Taylor's late grandmother, Nancy. They also popped an individualised welcome letter in each of the guest bedrooms before people arrived; a nice personal touch to make those special to them feel loved. "It was a lovely idea but quite a commitment. We were up finishing them until midnight the night before we left for the venue!"

Pre-wedding partying

The couple settled into their castle the night before the wedding, hosting an intimate dinner with close family and bridal party members. Later, more guests arrived for a welcome party in the drawing room.

In the morning she felt good, excited and nervous, loving the hustle and bustle as everyone got ready with a mix of Frank Sinatra and Disney tunes playing in the background. The best part, of course, was slipping into the edgy yet timeless dress she'd unexpectedly fallen in love with -







"Impactful and tasteful."



'Uluru' by Pronovias, which Taylor bought at the designer's flagship store in London.

"I always wanted a dress with a bit of drama, and one that felt fresh but wouldn't date... Probably not the easiest brief but I was very open-minded. The experience at Pronovias was amazing and I ended up going for a dress I didn't love at first look. But when I tried it on I knew it was 'The One." Her sister Robyn was her maid of honour and four amazing friends completed Taylor's bridal squad, dressed in gorgeous sage green ASOS gowns. "I've known them all collectively for most of my life and couldn't imagine getting married without them," she smiles.

As she readied herself to do just that, Taylor recalls feeling like she was on a rollercoaster about to set off; her heart racing with anticipation and nerves yet bursting with excitement. Gary was waiting for her, looking ever-so-handsome in a made-to-measure kilt outfit from MacGregor and MacDuff, and they tied the knot in a meaningful Christian ceremony.

Congratulations!

The newlyweds and their 110 guests then made their way back to Drumtochty where Capella String Quartet played a selection of *Bridgerton*-esque songs. The wedding breakfast followed and the couple loved it. "The chef at Drumtochty is so amazing! We had an asparagus salad starter but also offered the classic haggis, neeps and tatties. The main was fillet of beef, provided by my grandad's butcher shop in Montrose, or fresh seabass. And we finished up with sticky toffee pudding or crème brûlée."

Speeches followed – "The father-of-thebride speech really got me," smiles Taylor – before the happy couple welcomed everyone into the drawing room for a Mr and Mrs (Espresso) Martin-i. We love the play on their new married name, Martin! Then the party kicked off with Euan and Steven from Tartan Entertainment putting on "the most amazing DJ set" and a DJ battle.

Although the dancefloor was never empty, taking a break for the evening buffet (mini macaroni, lasagne and steak pies from Taylor's grandad's shop) was a must. And the perfect final touch for a romantic castle wedding? Fireworks, of course!

Thinking back
Reminiscing about the day, Taylor says it

Reminiscing about the day, Taylor says it couldn't have been more perfect, "My highlight was marrying my best friend in front of our nearest and dearest in a venue that's so close to our hearts. It couldn't have been more perfect. Drumtochty is actually managed by my mum's best friend Nikki, and she was instrumental in making sure it was a success."

Thinking about wedding planning as a whole, her favourite part was seeing everything coming together ("Researching suppliers and finding the perfect fit for your day is super rewarding") whilst the toughest part was the guest list. "It was hard to draw a line," admits Taylor. "The numbers add up and it's so easy to get carried away. My advice to others would be to keep the numbers as small and intimate as you can. I think having your closest friends and family, those who know you both personally and as a couple, makes the atmosphere even better."







BRIDE'S DRESS

'Uluru' by Pronovias at Pronovias, London

BRIDE'S SHOES

Badgley Mischka

BRIDE'S TIARA

Ivory & Co BRIDESMAID DRESSES

ASOS

CELEBRANT

Rev. David Galbraith

CAKE

Love Laura Lane

DJ

Tartan Entertainment

FIREWORKS

NJE Fireworks

FLOWERS

Hay's Flowers GROOM'S OUTFIT

MacGregor and MacDuff

Gemma Taylor Hair, Sabrina Johnston Creative

MAKE-UP

Heather Niblo Makeup Artistry, SnoCreation

MOTHER OF THE BRIDE OUTFIT

Carolyn Baxter

MUSICIANS

Capella String Quartet

STATIONER

Papier

VIDEOGRAPHY

Jst Married Wedding Films



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Taylor and Gary's wedding was like something straight out of a fairy tale! And the pre-wedding party the night before was amazing! Everyone was buzzing with excitement and soaking up the love-filled atmosphere."

DEREK, DEREK CHRISTIE **PHOTOGRAPHY** ■













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Edinburgh, Lothians & The Borders



Take my hand

Erin Gardiner & Callum Boomer

Callum held
their wedding at
a gorgeous East
Lothian estate,
filling it with
fun features to
keep their guests
entertained
throughout the day

Our 'I do' diary

couple Erin and

rin and Callum first met at school, growing up together with the same friendship group. "It took a long time before we realised something else was there," Erin explains, "We started seeing each other in secret (in case anything went wrong, so it didn't affect the group) but after a year of doing so, Callum asked me to be his girlfriend officially at our favourite restaurant, the

Longniddry Inn, and the rest is history."

Callum proposed with a custom-made engagement ring in September 2021 at Aberlady Bay where they used to go all the time growing up. "Our first priority was getting the certain suppliers we knew we couldn't have our wedding without." Erin says. The venue was booked a matter of days after getting engaged. "Colstoun felt completely 'us', relaxed, fun and something a little different. We didn't view any other venues at all, it was always Colstoun! The polytunnel was what won us over – an outdoor ceremony but with cover. We also wanted somewhere we could hire for the weekend and have full control of set-up and décor."

They always wanted a spring wedding so pastels were the theme, as these were timeless, pretty and didn't dictate too much of the décor. Speaking of which, Erin says there isn't much they didn't DIY at the wedding. "We made giant paper flowers for our ceremony, all the onthe-day stationery, the napkins, the table flowers ... We had so much fun doing it together – and I'm shocked we managed it all!"

Dream dress

Erin knew two things about her perfect dress: it had to be pink and have bows! "My shopping experience was perfect!" she says, "Emma Roy and all the wonderful ladies there made everything so easy. They really took the time to understand you and what you were looking for. To be honest, choosing the dress was probably the easiest part!"

Funnily enough, Callum actually had a hand in picking Erin's dress too! "A wee while before going to the











"Colstoun felt completely 'us'."



appointment, Callum and I walked past the shop window and he pointed at a dress in the window and said 'that dress is so you!' ... and that was the dress I ended up buying!"

Erin went for 'Shasta' by Maggie Sottero in blush, describing it as "the dress of my dreams". She accessorised with pearl earrings and a bracelet from Lily and Roo, as well as some blush shoes with bows. She also wore her mum's wedding veil, which she had customised with pearls and embroidery.

Erin's sister Amy was maid of honour and college friend Louise was her bridesmaid. She left the choice of dresses up to them, giving a budget and the colour sage green. "They could choose whatever dress they wanted. They ended up agreeing on the same gown which was a beautiful tulle sage green dress with pearls from ASOS. They looked incredible!"

Callum wore an Isle of Skye tartan kilt with a green tweed jacket and matching tartan tie.

I do!

The wedding party and close family stayed in a big house the weekend of the wedding, going for a meal the night before, then finishing off the evening with a few games of pool and a couple of drinks. "It was so chill and so lovely to share all the excitement with our loved ones," Erin says. "Me and Callum woke together, had a lovely morning and we all ate breakfast together. Then we went our separate ways to get ready!"

And the chilled vibes continued as preparations for the day got underway, "It was so lovely, relaxed and fun. There was no pressure, no flapping, just fully able to take every moment in. We had lunch, a few drinks, good music and the best team getting us ready for the day."

Erin certainly wasn't experiencing any pre-ceremony jitters, "I wasn't nervous – just excited to get down there! My dad walked

me down the aisle and it was a moment I'll remember forever. I got emotional once I saw Callum getting emotional. I was just really excited to show him my dress and see if he remembered technically choosing it – he did, he recognised it!"

Music played a big part in proceedings, all performed by John Rankin, aka Glasgow Piano Man. Erin walked down the aisle to Let's Get Married by The Proclaimers, they signed the register to I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do by ABBA and What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong, and they walked out to We Go Together from Grease!

The couple had a humanist ceremony, wanting something that reflected them and told their story. They also planted a tree – something that will grow along with them.

Afterwards their 70 guests enjoyed a drinks reception and entertainment such as garden games, a live painter and (for the thrill-seekers) a rodeo bull.

"After dinner we had cocktails and Drums N' Roses got everyone bouncing for the party. We then had The Shakers band who had the dancefloor full. Later on we had a wonderful firework show with a lone piper on the roof playing *Highland Cathedral*," Erin smiles. "Everyone was having a great time, relaxed and just full of fun! There was always something to see, do or watch. It was a huge thing for us that everyone was entertained, and I think we pulled that off!"











BAND

The Shakers

BRIDE'S DRESS

Maggie Sottero at Emma Roy of Edinburgh

BRIDE'S HEADWEAR

Lace & Favour

CATERER

Mackenzies Catering

CAKE

Cakes by Kiera

CELEBRANT

Tim Maguire of Celebrate People

DÉCOR Beautifully Covered / All Wrapped Up

Events Scotland

ENTERTAINMENT Drums N' Roses

FAVOURS

Cheryl Morrice Wedding Artist

FIREWORKS

Phenomenal Fireworks **FOOD VAN**

The Little Margarita Truck

FLOWERS

Horseshoe Flowers

GROOM'S OUTFIT Klassic Kilts

HAIR

Erin Kempton

MAKE-UP

Brooke Lilias

PIANO

Glasgow Piano Man

PIPER

The Pickled Piper

STATIONERY

Jessica Woodhouse TRANSPORT

Legacy Cars

VIDEOGRAPHY

Dylan McCafferty Media



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"It was a complete joy to photograph this wedding. Every second was packed with fun and happiness! So many moments jump out – from the gorgeous confetti run to the bucking bronco, and the piper before the fireworks!

JEN, JEN OWENS IMAGES ■





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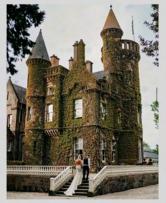












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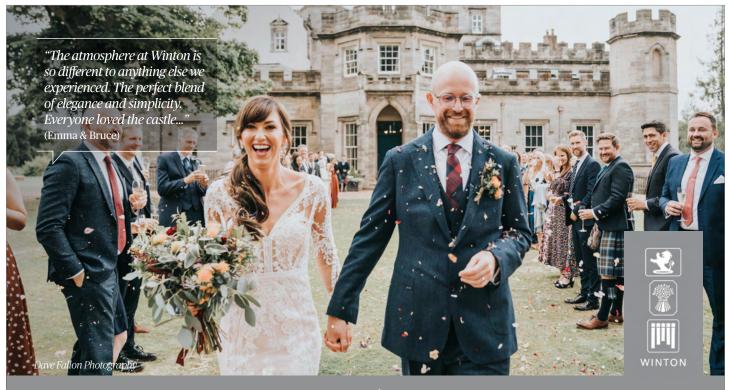


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Elegant on Marine North Berwick

Katie Bletcher is captivated by this charming seaside hotel

icture this - it's the morning of your wedding, you pull back the curtains of your plush hotel room and look across the golf course to the sparkling Firth of Forth. You decide to start the day with a quick 18 holes or, and remember it is your wedding morning, you settle for a few laps of the pool and some relaxation time in the thermal suite.

If this sounds like wedding morning goals to you, then I urge you to seriously consider holding your big day at my home for the night, Marine North Berwick. Or even better, book in for the entire weekend and enjoy treatments in the spa the night before and perhaps a catamaran trip to the Bass Rock the day after to blow away the cobwebs!

Old money elegance

Arriving on a sunny Friday afternoon in June, I'm getting to see this beautiful Victorian hotel at its very best.
Entering on the street-side of the hotel, it's only when you reach the lobby with its huge bay windows that you're treated to a full view of the Forth.

The hotel was reopened in August 2021 after a transformative refurbishment. Owner Marine & Lawn has concentrated its efforts on iconic Victorian-style properties situated next to championship golf courses by the sea, with a design-heavy approach. And believe me, it shows. The hand of a skilled interior designer is everywhere you look, from the eye-catching floral wallpaper to the inlaid wood and dark panelling. The lobby captures the feel of an elegant New England country club with cosy Chesterfield sofas and Windsor chairs arranged in sociable clutches, ideal for afternoon tea.

The ground floor is also home to the stylish Bass Rock Bar, named after the



famously white island you can spy from its windows, and I'm assured this is where wedding guests can be found after the formal festivities.

Next door, The Lawn Restaurant is reminiscent of a classy Edinburgh New Town establishment with statement lighting and fun dog pictures adorning the walls – a fitting reminder the hotel is dog-friendly should you wish your four-legged friend to accompany you down the aisle. Incidentally, this is where you'll begin your wedding march into the adjoining Fidra Suite and Gallery, the hotel's dedicated wedding spaces.

The gallery comes with a private bar and separate entrance, affording you privacy away from other hotel guests. Exclusive use weddings are also possible if you wish to take over the hotel, but if not, there is plenty of space in the Fidra Suite alone, which can accommodate up to 150 guests.

If the weather is on your side however, the walled garden with its views over the four islands is an idyllic ceremony setting. Then after your vows I love the idea of an al fresco drinks reception. Why not tie it in with a friendly game of pitch and putt in the garden before dinner?

Small and intimate

If your guest list is more petite, you'll be thrilled with the lounge where weddings for up to 20 guests are held.

The Library is perfect for a private dinner the night before your wedding, while the snooker room can be reserved for pizza and beers. This is also where many grooms can be found preceremony!

Relax in luxury

I'm joined on this trip by my daughter, and we've been treated to a stay in the gorgeous honeymoon suite. The rainfall shower and separate bath are bliss after our *two* trips to the pool, while the living room with its enviable view is perfect for getting ready before a relaxed dinner. I highly recommend the hay smoked duck, and my charred asparagus starter was heaven. And the best way to top off a fabulous stay? Sitting in bed looking out to sea with a coffee.

The hotel offers one wedding package with opportunities to add upgrades.

Email: sales@marinenorthberwick.co.uk Telephone: 01620 897 300

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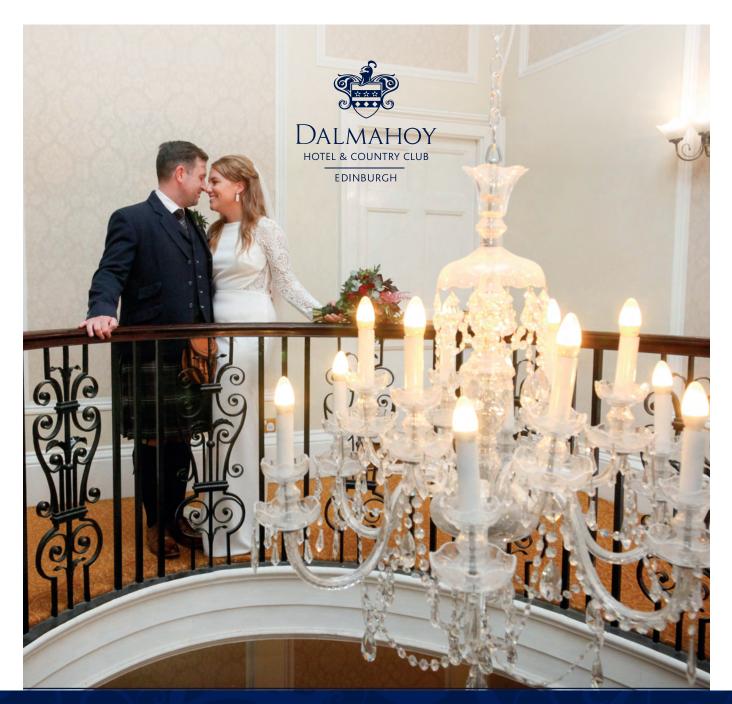
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Backhouse Rossie - Matthew Johnston Photography

Fife & Tayside





Marrying in St Andrews with perfect weather, family and friends - this couple couldn't have asked for more

fter five years together (meeting through mutual friends on a night out in London, then embarking on a three-year longdistance relationship), Andrew proposed to Emma in February 2022 while they were walking by the ocean in their adopted home city of Sydney, Australia.

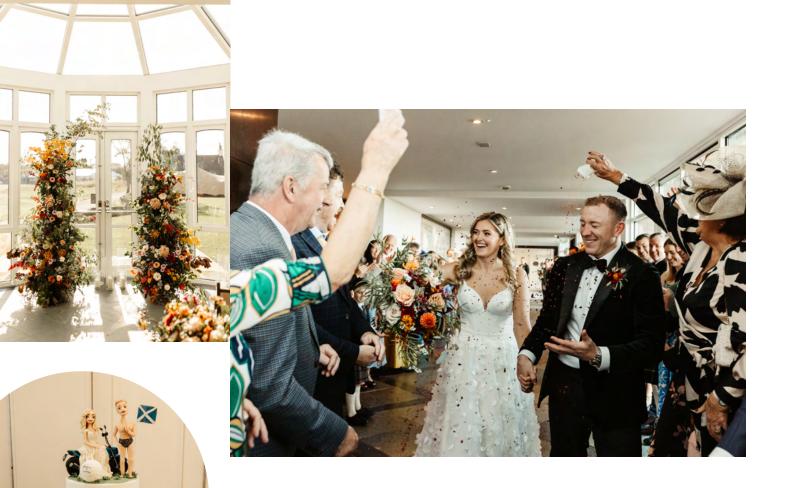
"We were going on holiday the next day and I had an inkling it might happen then, so he caught me off guard just before," remembers the bride. She admits she'd given Andrew quite mixed messages on the type of ring she'd like - "I had no idea what I wanted!" - and was delighted with what he chose; an emerald diamond on a gold band.

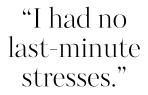
Their first priority was pinning down a location for their special day and, despite it being on the other side of the world, St Andrews was the obvious choice. "It's a very special place for my family, and Andrew and I have spent a lot of time there over the years," says Emma. From there, it took seconds to decide on a venue. "The Old Course is spectacular and was our first thought when we had decided on St Andrews," she says. "It doesn't hurt that Andrew loves golf and the ceremony could take place in the conservatory, which overlooks the 17th fairway!"

Planning from afar
An October date was booked and with living in Australia, wedmin was a little different from the norm. "As we were so far away, we couldn't really have too many DIY elements, which I think helped keep the planning process quite chilled," says Emma. "We were in Sydney until two weeks before the wedding and I'm glad we did it this way as I had no last-minute stresses in the lead up. Plus Jess from the Old Course was incredible at helping me visualise the day and gave me plenty of guidance if I was ever unsure."

Emma had a pretty good idea of where she'd find her dress as her sister had tied the knot in a Suzanne Neville gown and Emma had loved being part of her shopping experience. So, it was no surprise when she made a beeline for the designer's flagship store on a trip to London and found 'The One' (which she bought through Helen Rodrigues Bridal, the only Suzanne Neville stockist in Sydney). "The whole experience was superb. Suzanne is known for her corsetry work and that's what I was looking for. I went with the 'Montage' dress and added an overskirt for the ceremony. It was so intricate and brought quite a lot of drama, so I kept my accessories minimal," she explains.









An early highlight

The night before the wedding, the to-beweds had a few drinks in the Jigger Inn and encouraged people to drop in if they were around. Emma recalls, "This was actually one of my favourite moments of the weekend – it was wonderful to catch up with so many of our guests before everything kicked off."

After a nightcap, Emma had a sleepover with her big sis, then was up and at the venue for 7am, welcomed by clear blue skies and crisp autumn vibes. She and her 'maids spent the morning chilling, having breakfast and getting ready, and she cherishes those memories; the last time she spent alone with them before they went their separate ways post-wedding.

Walking down the aisle, Emma fought back tears and felt "pure joy" seeing all her friends and family and, of course, Andrew at the end. They said 'I do' in a humanist ceremony and opted to give speeches instead of writing their own vows – but this is the couple's one wedding regret. "If I could go back I'd have included short personal vows," Emma admits.

Champagne then flowed and celebrations continued over dinner (a menu Emma's Scotland-based sister had helped choose, along with guidance from Jess at the Old Course) with a spectacular set of speeches, including one from the bride herself. "They're usually my favourite part of any

wedding and I've already watched them all back so many times," she smiles.

Let's dance!

The couple chose to host all 155 guests for the whole day so with no evening guests to wait for, it was time to get the party started – and Emma had the time of her life, dancing all night long. "My dad attended a wedding in 2022 where Corra played and he said we had to have them for our wedding. They played a good mix of ceilidh and covers, including *Beast of Burden* by The Rolling Stones for our first dance."

Reflecting on planning from afar, Emma says they'd have loved to meet more suppliers face-to-face and spend more time in the venue pre-wedding but being able to quickly jump on a call made that far easier – she loved being instrumental in the menu choices and working with Cath at Blue Poppy Florist to decide on the flowers and décor.

The best thing the couple did when planning? Budgeting early on. They say, "We planned so that we could pay off invoices across the 18 months, which eliminated a lot of stress in the final weeks when some of the bigger invoices were due." Emma would also advise couples to plan as little as possible for the morning of the wedding because it goes so quickly and it's such a special time filled with joy and anticipation. "I wish I could rewind to that moment and live it all again," she adds.







BAND

Corra BRIDE'S DRESS

'Montage' by Suzanne Neville BRIDESMAID DRESSES

CELEBRANT

Gary Smith of Humanist Society Scotland

CAKE

Designer Cakes By Paige

DOUGHNUT TOWER Fisher & Donaldson

FLOWERS

Blue Poppy Florist

GROOM'S OUTFIT

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PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Emma and Andrew went above and beyond on the details, making this wedding an utter dream to shoot. From the flowers to the vintage car to the two of them being just the cutest, it was a dream day!"

EMMA, EMMA LAWSON PHOTOGRAPHY ■

YSW Rustic On Bachilton Katie Bletcher spends an idyllic two days tucked away in rural Perthshire Bushing Bachilton Balin



he first time I visited Bachilton Barn I think I fell a little bit in love. We were shooting our September 2023 front cover and the venue's blank canvas aesthetic spoke to my rustic wedding-loving heart.

A year on and it's another gorgeous summer's day (yes, we did have at least one in July) as I drive down the lane. First stop however is not the barn itself but Dovecote Cottage, one of five pretty farm cottages you can hire for guests (or yourselves) over your wedding celebration. And while our home for the next two nights definitely fits the cute cottage feel, it comes with some luxe extras like the hot tub - a must to help you unwind ahead of the big day. Dovecote Cottage is equipped with everything your wedding party or guests could need and the kitchen/living room has all the space and natural light a bride and her MUA could ask for.

I mentioned Bachilton has the blank canvas vibe perfected but there is so much more. The mantra is Bachilton is "the venue that is individually yours" and rest assured that on your wedding day this dedicated team is committed to making everything run smoothly. Bachilton's award-winning coordinator Kayleigh Deans' hotel background means she takes a very hands-on approach. From the day you book she will guide you through, giving you the full benefit of her decade of experience.

And while you may be drawn to the neutral walls and open spaces,



Bachilton Barn has so many extra features included at no extra charge. Fancy some oak barrels to add to the rustic feel? No problem, they have them on-site. Need a PA system? It's included, as are the fairy lights and chesterfield sofas for cosy breakout seating. And thanks to Bachilton's partnership with décor and equipment company All Wrapped Up Events Scotland, your wedding package will include £500 credit to use towards the tables, chairs and décor hire. The blank canvas is beginning to look less, ahem, 'blank'. And, you can personalise the venue and add all the décor touches you wish, with access from either 3pm or 5pm the day before.

Perfect spot

Of course, by the time you come to discussing the finer details you've probably already fallen head over heels. The main entrance leads off the terrace and pond, which look over to the gazebo – the perfect golden hour photo setting - and it's easy to see why so many couples opt for an

outdoor ceremony. That's before you even begin exploring the 700 acres. If the weather is on your side, stay outdoors for an al fresco drinks reception. Why not bring in a cute food truck, a bucking bronco, use the venue's fire pits or even team up with Bachilton's partner Blue Sky Experiences for Highland Games?

Indoor ceremonies are held in the Bachilton space, which has the option to lay out your aisle either towards the back wall or the window. The best bit? There's space for 160 guests in here and again, elements like the arch and barrels are included in the price.

When it's time for dinner, head into the Barn where the draping, fairy lights, chandeliers and barrels elevate the space and set the tone for a fun-filled night. It currently seats 160 for dinner and dancing but the area will be extended to increase capacity to a whopping 200!

There are two more spaces at Bachilton Barn. Cairnies is where your catering team will be based, and the venue has a preferred list of catering suppliers to choose from. Then there's Lochy, a lovely intimate room for wee weddings, a kids' space or perhaps a bridal room to store extra shoes, or maybe a second dress!

Come bedtime it's only a short walk across the farmyard to the two luxury glamping yurts, which each have a hot tub and sleep six – they're included in your wedding package. Plus, there are the five cottages that can be added as an extra. Sounds like the perfect end to the perfect day!



Bachilton Barn runs seasonal wedding packages, and a Scottish package which includes breakfast hampers, Highland games and early access.

Contact the venue to discover more: Email: info@bachiltonbarn.co.uk Telephone: 0I738 505722 Website: bachiltonbarn.co.uk ■



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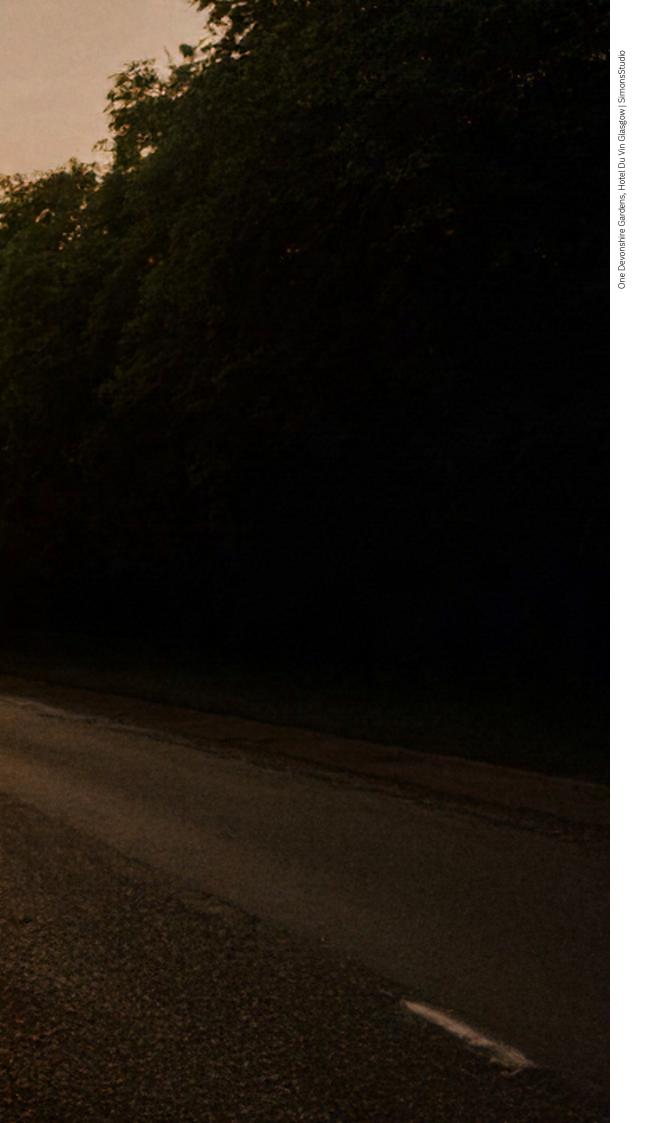
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Glasgow, Loch Lomond & the South West





This couple chose a gorgeous venue by the water in East Ayrshire for a wedding day filled with love and happiness

Date: Saturday 8th July 2023 Photography: Jenniflower Photography Venue: Lochside House Hotel, New Cumnock imee and Ross were first introduced at their friend Jack's 21st – and little did they know he'd end up being an usher at their wedding! After almost six years together, Ross proposed to Aimee at Portavadie Hotel while they were on a staycation to celebrate her birthday.

Their first priority was to get a venue booked and they had a few places in mind – but they'd never been to Lochside House Hotel before. "We took my mum and dad with us to go view it one Sunday and instantly fell in love with it: its views,

the décor, the staff – everything was perfection," Aimee explains.

When it came to a colour scheme, Aimee had originally wanted a pale green for her bridesmaids and detailing, however she later fell in love with a very pale blush pink, which suited the gold and champagne décor at Lochside.

Lucky for these to-be-weds, Aimee's mum loves DIY so she did a lot of making frames and creating little bespoke parts of the wedding, for which the couple were extremely grateful.

And more perfect still, Aimee's mum also works at Falkirk occasionwear





"It's a feeling like no other."



boutique, Catwalk, where owner Pauline Spiers is her best friend. "When I was getting married my mum knew she would find a gorgeous, elegant MOB outfit at Catwalk. And Pauline herself – along with a lot of other guests – were dressed in Catwalk outfits for the day too. There were so many stunning outfits and styles," Aimee says.

A perfect night

The first time Aimee went dress shopping, it was just her and her mum. Next, she went to a trunk show at Eleganza Sposa in Glasgow with her mum, maid of honour and bridesmaid.

"My dress was a fishtail style with a beaded top half, thick straps with an elegant plunging neckline and V-neck back shape, with a long floaty train," she explains. To accessorise, she wore a detailed vine-style headpiece in white with her hair up in a tousled style and a crystalembellished veil tucked underneath.

Her bridesmaids were her four besties and they all picked out the perfect dress together at David's Bridal. "We chose a pale pink, A-line style maxi dress with pockets and low scoop back detail. Then we added pink rose gold belts, which we had sewn on to break up the colour."

Ross and his party wore stylish black kilts with a brown and sand check along with sand-coloured jackets. He had three best men: his older brother Scott and best friends Ryan and Blair. Meanwhile, two other besties Jack and Jordan were ushers.

The couple travelled up to the venue the day before the wedding, enjoying a big meal with close family and friends. "We then had some drinks in our lodge and gave our bridesmaids gifts, and gifts to my mum and mother-in-law – just a perfect night!" Aimee recalls. >>>



She had quite a good sleep and woke at 5.30am, a whole hour before the hair and make-up was due to begin. "I loved my wedding morning," she says. "I was so calm and happy – it was perfect. The girls really made it for me, that will be a core memory forever for me: us all in our robes and slippers, dancing and laughing, knowing we had a huge day ahead of us."

A good feeling
Aimee felt more emotional than she'd

Aimee felt more emotional than she'd expected walking down the aisle. "When I heard the music – and holding on to my dad – it was so overwhelming but a good feeling, knowing everyone you love is in that room waiting to witness such a special moment. It's a feeling like no other."

She walked down to *A Thousand Years* by Christina Perri played by their harpist Mairi Campbell. "We had a super



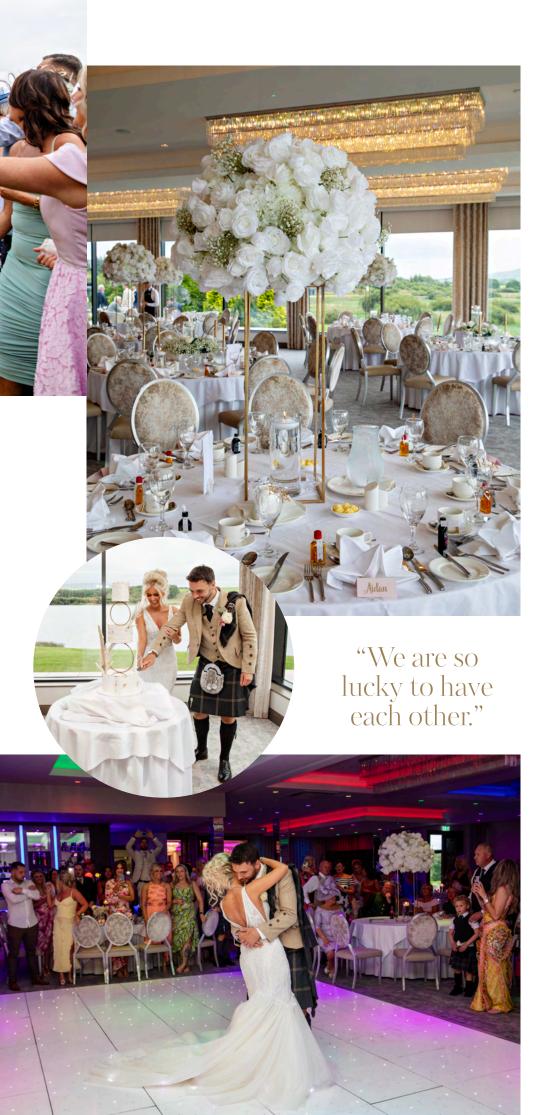


relaxed and understated ceremony with a humanist celebrant because we wanted it to be authentic. We wanted people to feel how we feel – not forced, and a lot of laughs." The couple also wrote their own vows with the help of their celebrant Melanie Leckie.

After the ceremony there was a drinks reception for their 130 guests as well as treats from an ice cream vendor. For the evening reception, the dance floor was full the entire night and it was: "Loud and crazy and fun – that's exactly what I imagined!"

Aimee says the most fun things about planning their gorgeous wedding were making all the decisions and trying on wedding dresses. "I felt like a princess!" she smiles. She adds, "I found the wedding planning slightly stressful – but just because I wanted everything to be perfect. The booking process and organisation was really easy, it's just making sure you haven't forgotten anything," she explains.

The couple are now expecting their first child - a super-happy ending to their story! Looking back, Aimee says her highlight of the wedding was, "When we had our fireworks and everyone we love was around us with sparklers - just a beautiful moment surrounded by love." She adds it feels "amazing" to finally be married. "We would do the wedding again in a heartbeat because we are so lucky to have each other."





BAND

The Soul Establishment

BRIDE'S DRESS

Martina Liana Luxe from

Eleganza Sposa
BRIDE'S SHOES

Be Mine

BRIDE'S HAIR

Naomi Milne

BRIDE'S HEADWEAR

Eleganza Sposa

BRIDESMAID DRESSES David's Bridal

CAKE

Rumours Bakehouse CELEBRANT

Melanie Leckie of Humanist Society Scotland **DÉCOR**

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HAIR

Justine Weir

HARPIST

Mairi Campbell ICE CREAM VAN

Porelli

MAKE-UP

Karen McCallum

RINGS

Mr Harold & Son Jewellers

VIDEOGRAPHY

One3Media



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"The perfect couple at the perfect venue = this photographer's dream! I loved capturing the magic of Aimee and Ross' perfect day!" ■

> JEN, JENNIFLOWER **PHOTOGRAPHY**







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reasons to say 'I do' at BRISBANE HOUSE

Discover just why you should marry at the newly-refurbished coastal venue



Seaside setting and views

This stunning waterside venue in Largs sits directly opposite Largs Bay – the picture-perfect setting for gorgeous sunset photos and post-vow strolls. However, you don't have to be outside to take full advantage of those seafront views. The hotel's ceremony and reception space, the Brisbane Suite, boasts a modern glass front overlooking the bay, with doors leading out to the terrace. What better backdrop to your ceremony than the spectacular views across the Clyde?

In the summer months though, (weather permitting) the front terrace is a picturesque spot for an outdoor ceremony. And Brisbane House's new landscaped walkway to the front of the hotel, designed with stone paving, palm trees and wooden pergolas, perfectly frames the view and makes for gorgeous photos.

Exclusive use weddings from just £2,024

If you fancy having your wedding venue entirely to yourselves and your guests, you'll love that Brisbane House is exclusive use. With all inclusive packages starting from just £2,024, this is excellent value and means you'll see no one but loved ones. The venue has summer, winter and weekday wedding packages to choose from, with some even including your flowers, cake and DJ.

Brisbane House has capacity for up to 130 day guests and up to 200 for your evening reception, but if you're looking at a more intimate guestlist, smaller numbers can be accommodated.

New duplex Caledonian Honeymoon Suite

The brand new suite really has the wow factor! So much so, you won't want to check-out. Set over two floors with premium finishes and breathtaking views, it's what honeymoon suite dreams are made of. The first floor features soft relaxing tones and luxurious fabrics with a king size bed, complete with pop-up smart TV, an en suite bathroom, and glamorous chandelier.

Then climb the eye-catching spiral staircase to the upper floor where you'll find a steamroom shower, bubbling spa bath and bar area. The highlight however, must be the large glass doors, which offer panoramic views from the bath, but also open onto your own private balcony. Where better to kick back with a complimentary cocktail?



Find out more at brisbanehousehotel.co.uk

The Wallace Suite wedding preparation

This brand new suite is the last word! Designed especially for your wedding morning it has everything you need to relax, get pampered and enjoy the countdown to the ceremony including a cosy couch, bar area, smart TV and en suite. Your hair and make-up artists will love the natural light and three dedicated dressing tables.

Recent
refurbishment
Brisbane House has had a complete
glow-up with the Brisbane Suite ceremony
and reception space undergoing a stunning
upgrade. Modern lighting and plush fabrics
create a wedding-ready space that will flex
to many colour schemes and décor plans.
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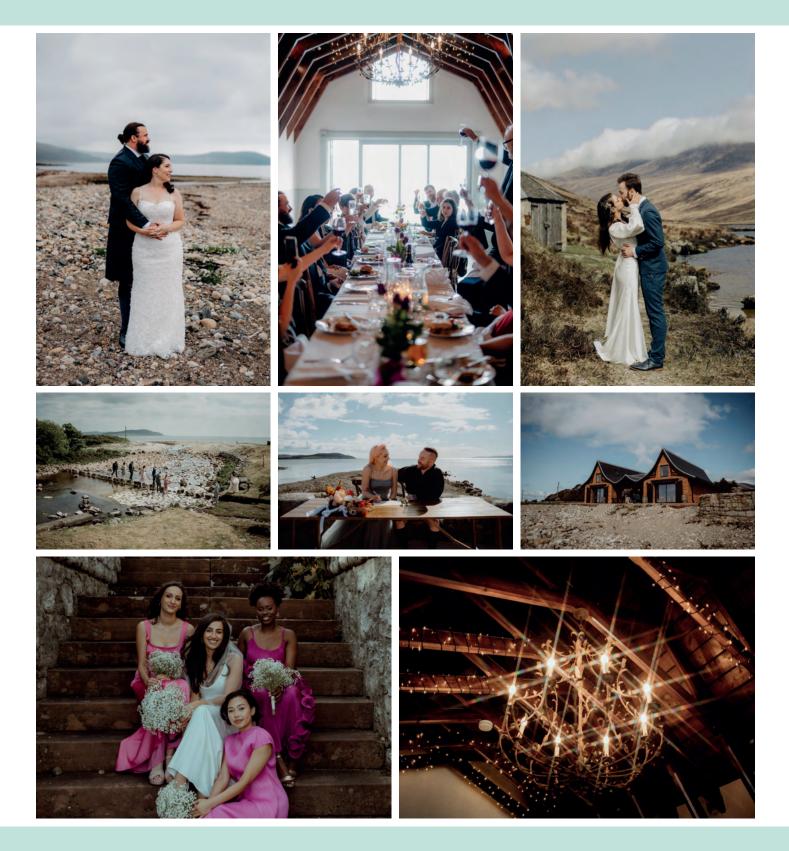
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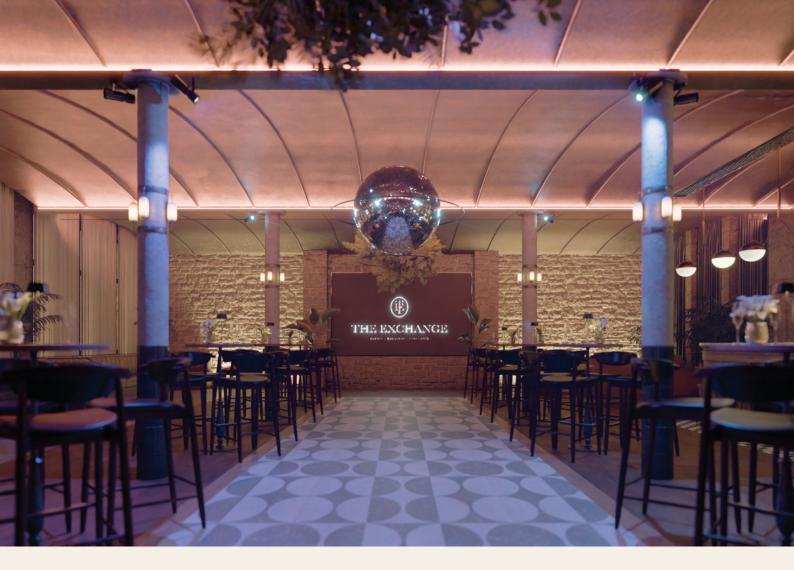
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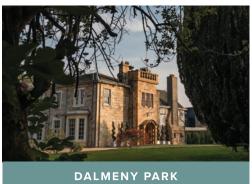




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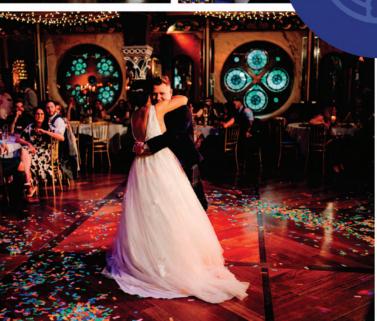
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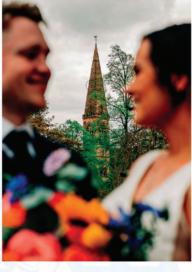














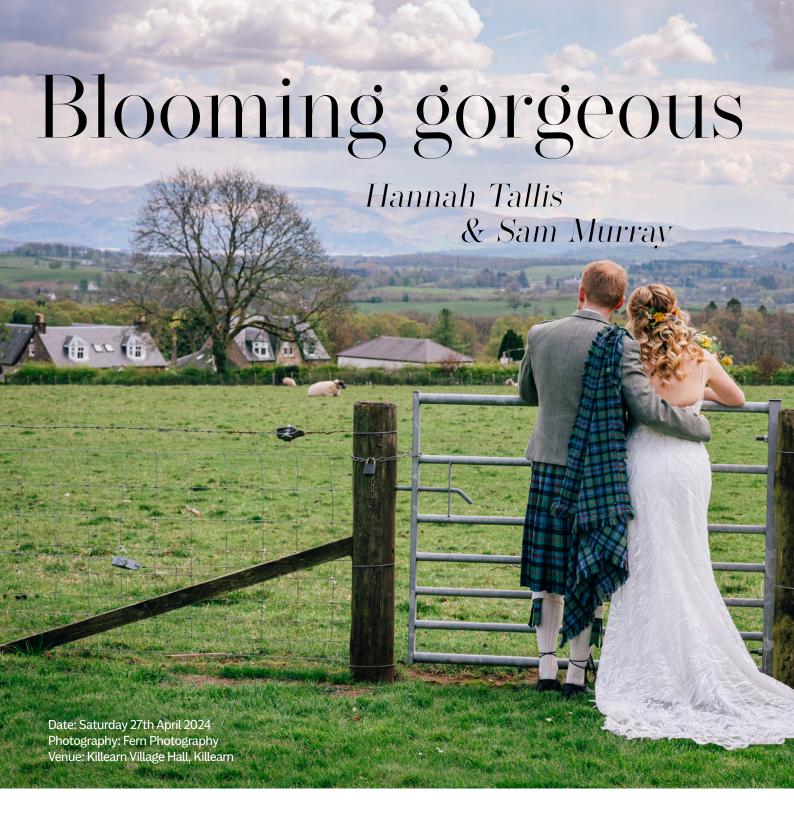
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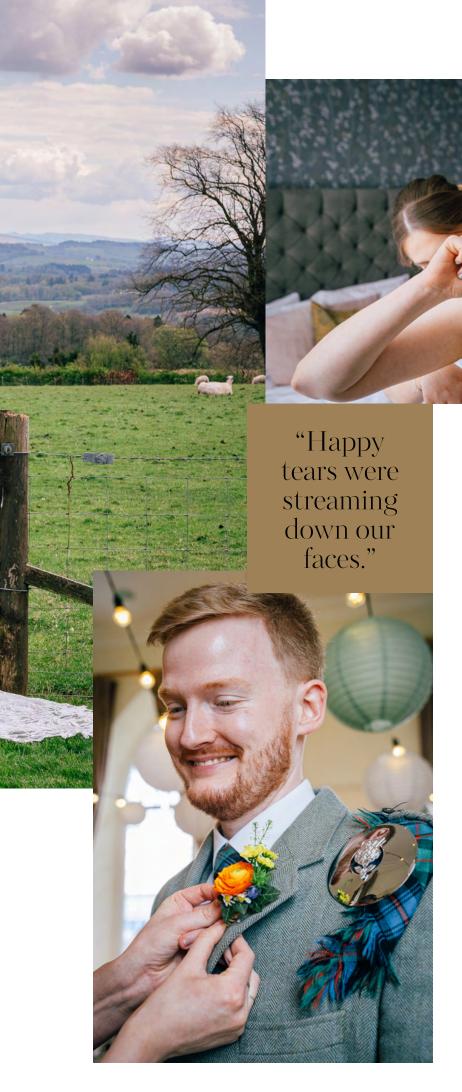
fter a decade together, Hannah and Sam saw tying the knot as a celebration of the amazing relationship they'd built as opposed to 'just a wedding' and wanted to plan a special, joyful day with those closest to them.

Following Sam's proposal (he'd secretly worked with jewellers Blair and Sheridan in Glasgow to design something bespoke – aww!) they settled on a plan to "sort one big thing per month". Finding the right venue and photographer was their priority, and the pair say that meeting "cool and talented" suppliers was the best part of wedding planning.

Killearn Village Hall was the first and only place the couple looked at because once they'd set foot in it, they booked it straight away. Fuss-free and full of natural light, it was the perfect setting to bring their relaxed yet playful wedding vibe to life.

Time for teamwork

Hannah worked with local florist Endrick Blooms who totally nailed her high-level brief of "colourful, meadow-y flowers". Then she got Make Believe Events in to assist with pretty festoon lighting and hanging lanterns. Next, she called upon talented family members for some gorgeous DIY details. "Sam's twin sister



is an artist so she hand-painted our welcome sign and designed other signage. His mum has a pottery business and she made table names that doubled as individual decorations for people to take home as favours."

Hannah set off to explore the bridal boutiques with her mum, her wee sister and a very specific idea of what she wanted – flowy and boho with sleeves. But what she fell in love with was a little different. "My dress was fitted with small straps, a leaf/flower pattern over it and a train. I loved it as it gave me that fitted shape but it still felt boho and unique." She added blue shoes (something she'd had her heart set on from the beginning) and opted for fresh flowers in her hair instead of a veil. The finishing touch was a bespoke salt and pepper diamond necklace; a thoughtful gift from Sam to match her engagement ring.

With family and friends arriving from all over, the to-be-weds arranged a small get-together the night before the wedding but admit that "in classic Hannah and Sam style" they got carried away and ended up with a later-than-planned bedtime! Despite this - and a sub-par sleep due to extreme excitement - the bride was raring to go the next morning. However, she does say she wishes they'd got started earlier so she could have enjoyed a chill in her dress with her 'maids before the ceremony.

Music with meaning

Seeing Sam at the end of the aisle ensured any little regrets turned to joy immediately though, especially due to the meaningful song playing. "We had an instrumental version of *Wash* by Bon Iver. It was Sam's alarm on his phone when we first met, so we'd always wake up to it. It felt super-special," smiles Hannah.

Alan Barr delivered an informal, funny and ≫



personal humanist ceremony – "He was born to do the job he's doing!" – and afterwards everyone spilled out into The Kitchen Window; the beautiful café overlooking Loch Lomond that's attached to Killearn Village Hall.

On that note, the newlyweds can't recommend their caterers enough, "The Kitchen Window were absolutely incredible. Sarah went above and beyond for everyone, to the point she loaned a guest her blouse after her husband had spilt red wine down her outfit! The food was out of this world and the menu was so interesting. It had options I'd not seen at weddings before and was definitely made for foodies, which suited us down to the ground. We love going out for dinner so tasty and interesting food was really important. Even things like serving guests whatever sort of barista-style coffee they wanted after the three-course meal just added that extra, amazing touch."

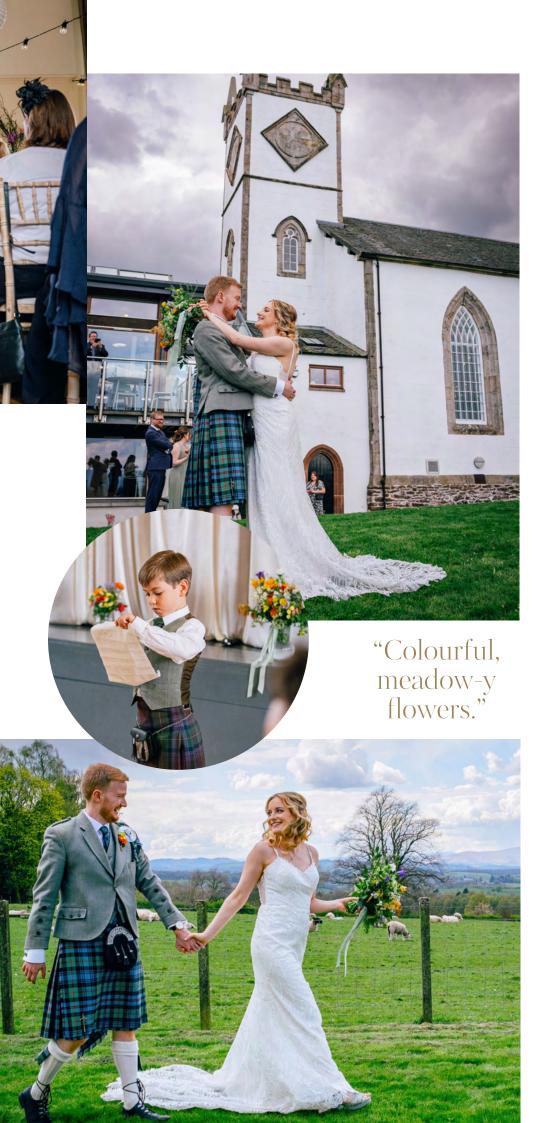


Doing something different

Bucking tradition, both the bride and groom spoke at the wedding breakfast, and they had a joint 'best person' instead of a best man and a maid of honour. Hannah explains, "We wanted a speech from someone we were both close to; someone who could talk about us as a couple. Joanna did just that - and definitely got the room giggling. The absolute highlight, however, was our eight-year-old nephew Xander's surprise speech! It brought the room to tears and was probably the sweetest thing I've ever heard. He did so well."

Big dancing fans, it's no surprise that Hannah and Sam spent the whole night cutting shapes as Astoria played live and, later, The Kitchen Window excelled themselves once again with a buffet and sweetie table. "It was so lively and happy with people dancing and mingling. We honestly wished it could've gone on all night," remembers the bride.

Reflecting on the planning journey, Hannah and Sam felt it was laid-back. And they reckon it's down to being hands-off, letting their trusted suppliers take control where possible. "They're the experts in what they do and if you give them a brief of what you're looking for, they can run with it and come up with something amazing. Being fairly chilled meant our suppliers could let loose a little and everything just came together in amazing ways."





BAND

Astoria
BRIDE'S DRESS

'Neve' by Evie Young at Gwenne

BRIDE'S SHOES

'Charlie' by Esska Shoes
BRIDESMAID DRESSES

CATERING

The Kitchen Window

CELEBRANT Alan Barr of Independent

Humanist Ceremonies

DÉCOR Make Believe Events

FAVOURS

Nell Crawford Arts

FLOWERS

Endrick Blooms

GROOM'S JACKET

Slanj Kilts

HAIR

Ks Glamorous Creations

MAKE-UP

Danielle Dickson Makeup Artist

RINGS

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"Sam and Hannah are super-fun, outgoing, friendly and so in love. The wedding was so perfect for me because of the atmosphere created by all their incredible friends and family. You could tell how much everyone liked them by the amount of happy tears shed." ■

> MATT, FERN **PHOTOGRAPHY**









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