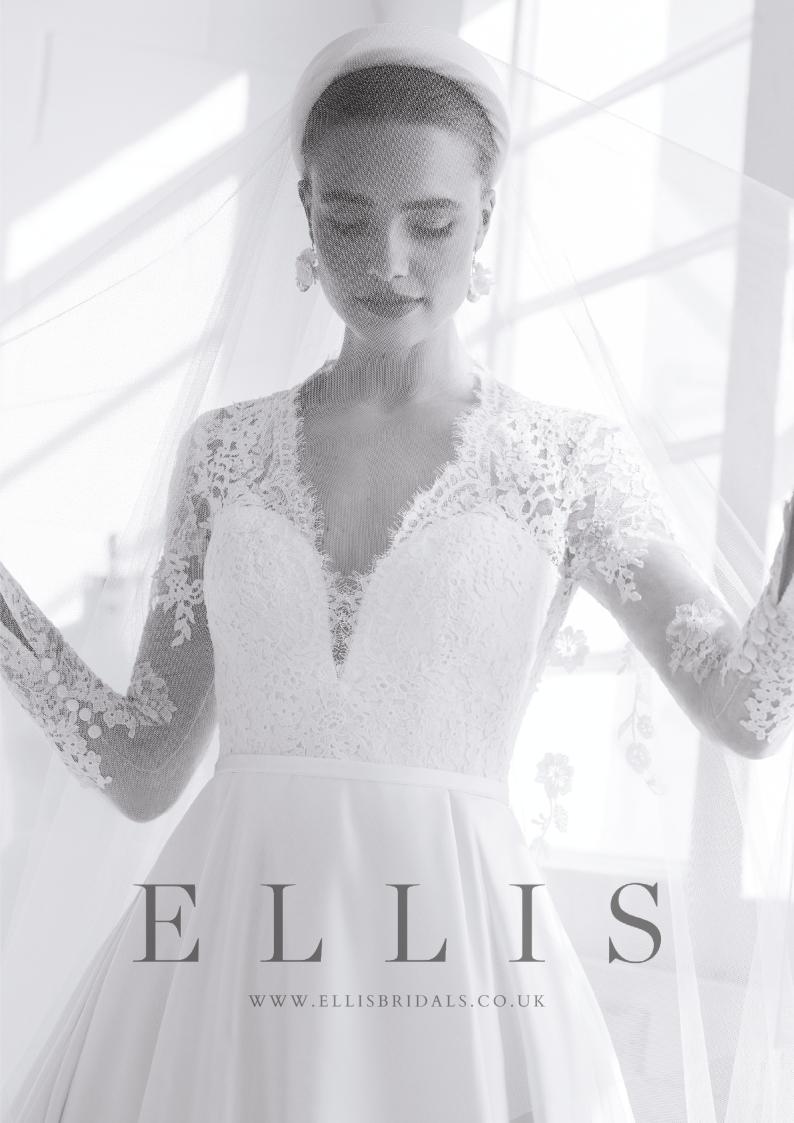
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January 2022



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BEAUTIFUL BRIDAL SHOES DESIGNED FOR THE MODERN BRIDE USE CODE: 'YSW10' AT CHECKOUT FOR 10% OFF



WELCOME

to Your Scottish Wedding



The start of a new year always means big plans for me. Plans to overhaul my fitness, plans to redecorate and

plans to look forward to, with new places to explore (Covid restrictions allowing of course). There's always something heartening about getting stuck into a fresh new project after December's whirlwind, so what better time to throw yourself into wedding planning with renewed energy and the first ever issue of *Your Scottish Wedding* to help?

We launched the YSW website last spring, and we've been overwhelmed with the support from to-be-weds and the wedding industry alike, so I'm so excited to give you a hint at what's to come in the following pages.

The wedding planning landscape has been transformed by the pandemic with two seasons of celebrations effectively being condensed into one. With that in mind, we're asking if it's still possible for newly engaged couples to pull off their dream wedding within a year when venues and suppliers are in such demand (p16).

Sustainability is another theme at the forefront of our minds and we're passionate about providing couples with ideas to help make environmentally sound decisions when it comes to their big day. On page 42 our columnist Rachel of Rachel Scott Couture explores how to shop sustainably for your wedding gown while the need to source sustainable flowers is also at the forefront of Jill Sutherland at Flora Alba's mind (p84).

We've also turned to the experts for wedding planning insight with celebrant Mary Docherty and June Brides Glasgow owner Hollie Connelly sharing their days with us on pages 74 and 108. Plus there's 10 other couples' weddings, with more style and décor ideas than you can shake a stick at! I've really been struck by their resilience, pulling off beautiful and heartfelt weddings in the face of covid restrictions. One couple didn't even see each other between the weekend he proposed and the actual wedding day!

If the dark winter days have you feeling a bit low, check out our pages of the latest bridal and groomswear fashion for some escapism, or pore over the stunning styled photoshoots on pages 58 and 95. And I also caught up with bridal shoe designer extraordinaire Charlotte Mills ahead of the release of her latest collection (p36).

In our *Your Scottish Venues* section you'll find pages of spaces throughout Scotland in which to say "I do". The *YSW* team is bubbling with excitement for the new *Bridgerton* season so Claire Muir has taken a look at some of the gorgeous Scottish regency venues fit for a wedding Simon and Daphne would be proud of (p139), and we've also rounded up some of the coolest new venues and fresh new spaces for your vows. Don't say we don't spoil you! See you next time,

Katie

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19-20 FEBRUARY, SEC GLASGOW

TICK OFF YOUR TO-DO LIST AT THE SCOTTISH WEDDING SHOW!

Assemble your bridesmaids and gather the groomsmen – The Scottish Wedding Show is coming back to the SEC Glasgow, 19-20 February 2022!

The Scottish Wedding Show is Scotland's leading event for couples preparing to walk down the aisle. With 250 of the UK's hottest suppliers offering a wide range of ideas and inspiration to make your wedding day even more special, it's the perfect combination for you and your partner.

As well as the country's biggest selection of wedding suppliers, we've got a host of features to inspire and entertain!

LIVE CATWALK SHOWS





Feast your eyes on the largest bridal collection in Scotland at the Live Catwalk Shows. With wonderful outfits to entice brides and grooms-to-be, their mothers, bridesmaids, flower girls and page boys - it's a show not to be missed! Performances take place at 11.30am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm each day, and will showcase ranges from Opus Couture, Mirka Bridal Couture, Clan Kilts, Joyce Young, Catwalk, Carriages & Castles, Mia Bella, Reeta Fashions, Remus Uomo, and many more*.

* Participants subject to change

LIVE BAND SHOWCASE



There's no better way to pick your wedding band than to see them perform live on stage – so come see them perform live on stage! **The Live Band Showcase** will make a welcome return to the February 2022 show, giving visitors the chance to see leading performers work their magic on stage with their selection of live entertainment throughout the day.

EAT, DRINK & BE MARRIED

Take the weight off your feet and refuel in our **Eat**, **Drink & Be Married restaurant** – grab a bite before you head back out on to the show floor.



FIELD OF DREAMS



For brides and grooms opting out of traditional weddings and choosing to get married in the great outdoors,

our quirky **Field of Dreams** area will showcase all you need to make the dream a reality. With mobile cocktail bars, an ice cream counter and even alpacas – there's something for couples with even the biggest imaginations



VIP EXPERIENCE

And if you want to make your visit even more special, treat yourself to VIP tickets and enjoy fast track entry, a glass of bubbly, access to the VIP Lounge, seats in the front three rows of the Catwalk Show, and more! But hurry – availability is very limited.

TICK OFF YOUR TO-DO LIST AT THE SCOTTISH WEDDING SHOW.
You say "I do", we do the rest.

Find out more and book tickets at www.thescottishweddingshow.com

Advance booking essential. Children under 16 go free.

19-20 FEBRUARY 2022 SEC - GLASGOW

Scottish Wedding

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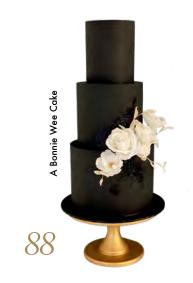
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Fancy winning a fabulous Macdonald Hotel in Scotland? page 138 to find out how





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Celebrating 25 Years in 2022 -



In a post-lockdown landscape where available dates and suppliers are in high demand, Katie Bletcher asks if it's still possible to plan a wedding within a year?

Cast your mind back to the pre-pandemic world. When couples got engaged then budget was about the only consideration for setting their date. Could they afford what they wanted, or would they need time to save?

That was then but now as the industry has to cope with rescheduling postponed weddings, finding a date for a new booking can prove difficult. So what happens if you're newly engaged and still want to plan your wedding within a year? Is it still possible or should you bank on a longer engagement? "Most couples don't want to wait," advises wedding planner Laura Devine of Devine Bride. "Lockdown seems to have had a massive impact on couples now taking life/weddings by the horns! They are shopping around for availability and compromising on season and day of the week to get the wedding they want - or switching up location entirely. They don't want to delay any life plans post-wedding like buying a house, moving country, getting a dog or starting a family."

To-be-weds Adam Smyth and Jessica Moran got engaged in August and soon discovered planning might be more difficult than they imagined. "We decided on a May wedding as spring is my favourite time of year and we just didn't want to wait another whole year," explains Jessica. "Our first priority was securing a venue as we found out we were pretty late in the day according to the wedding calendar. We were definitely worried that we wouldn't be able to get anywhere as so many venues and suppliers had shut due to covid, and it was hard

to find up-to-date information online." The couple knew they were looking at a guestlist of around 100 but found many venues they liked only accommodated under 50. Undeterred,

"Throughout lockdown, I booked mostly 100+ guest weddings for 2022 and 2023,"

The Wedding Guru Oskar

they got creative and were delighted to discover they could pitch a sailcloth marquee in the grounds of their chosen venue Burgie House.

And they're not alone in wanting a big celebration. After

the beautiful micro-weddings in 2020 and 21, planner Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki - The Wedding Guru Oskar says there's now a real appetite for weddings on a larger scale, even if some couples want to keep things more intimate still.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND

So how exactly can you pull off your big wedding within a tight timeframe in the current climate? Flexibility is key. According to Oskar, there is always a way to make it work. "If you've not



got your heart set on a specific supplier and are quite happy to be flexible and work around various scenarios, there are still plenty of opportunities to make it happen," he says. "Arrange it at an unusual venue, potentially lower your numbers if needed to fit within the venue's capacity, hire caterers and work



with a slightly different timeline."

Taking that flexible approach, Adam and Jessica decided they stood a better chance of securing their favoured suppliers if they opted for a Thursday wedding. Even then they were unable

to book their first choice of tent supplier but have been lucky enough to get the photographer, caterer and flowers they want. In fact, the biggest compromise this groom's had to make is hosting his wedding in a country house instead of a Viking hall!

SOCIAL NETWORK

With so many wedding suppliers working flat-out to play catch-up, there's been a real sense of rallying together. "My network has never been tighter for fellow supplier referrals and recommendations to try to help all of our couples plan the day they want," says Laura.

And the backlog of weddings can actually lead to pleasant surprises. Oskar says. "Many suppliers rescheduled dates three, four, five or even more times and therefore the date they might not have had available initially, could have opened up due to postponements."

EXPERT ADVICE

While you may need to hone your organisational skills, try not to lose sight of the end goal. "Assess your priorities and stick to them yet be flexible and open to various scenarios your special day could shape into," advises Oskar. "Don't get disheartened if you first choice supplier isn't available. Reassess and

"A smaller dinner and bigger party is much easier to plan in a short timeframe"

Laura of Devine Bride

move forward."

And Laura has another clever way of getting around the big day, short timeframe scenario. "A smaller dinner and bigger party is much easier to plan (and pay!) for in a shorter timeframe," she says. "A lot of stress around weddings comes with food; table plans, menus, courses, dietary requirements, et cetera. Removing these elements, or the sheer quantity at least, will save you masses of time." Good luck!



SMALL AND PERFECTLY FORMED

Our 'I do' diary couple Sophie and Chris got engaged last April and they're getting married this August at Venacher Lochside. They're actually planning an intimate wee wedding but they've still found the planning process more difficult than they initially thought.

"We knew a venue was priority as we were aware lots of places would be dealing with postponed weddings so we may struggle trying to get the date we wanted," says Sophie. "We got to work with finding a venue right away. We didn't realise just how many things would be booked up for 2022, so the fear soon set in." Many of the places they contacted were fully booked until 2023 which they hadn't expected. Then they got lucky that Venacher Lochside had an August weekend free and a visit to the venue sealed the deal.

Sophie admits that wedding planning has been more intense than they thought. "We have felt pressure in booking the main things such as photographer and venue because we knew how quickly they get booked up and we didn't have lots of time to decide," she says. But the couple are still having fun planning. Keep an eye out for their next 'I do' diary instalment for all their news.

Laura says try to get wedding insurance! That way if your plans do have to change at least you're protected.





Where Preams Begin

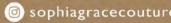


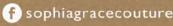
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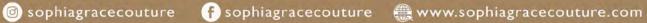
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Tender Loving Wedding Style

Top Scottish style blogger Rachel Lawler of Tender Loving Style asks.

"What happens after saying yes to the dress?"

When it came to dress shopping, I knew one of my must-visit boutiques was Melle Cloche in Glasgow; I just had a feeling I'd find my dream dress there. I knew the owners - sisters Lisa and Jackie - from working with them before and loved their laid back, stylish vibe. I actually said 'yes' to the dress back in September 2020, still

with the intention of my wedding going ahead in September 2021. I took my mum, sister (and maid of honour), my mum-inlaw-to-be and another of my bridesmaids. With free rein of the shop, I picked out the gowns I thought were most 'me'. There were so many gorgeous styles, but the detailing of one particular one stood out even on the rail and it turned out to be my dress! I felt on cloud nine leaving the boutique and FaceTimed my other two

bridesmaids to tell them the good news.

Fast forward almost a year to the day and after a postponed big day and another lockdown and it was time for me to pick up my dress. I was excited to see it again, but SO nervous which I hadn't really anticipated. It feels a little surreal going from trying

on a sample dress in-store to then going to try on your very own dress. I put it on, the curtain was pulled back to show my mum, sister and one of my bridesmaids and I felt a frozen smile on my face. I still absolutely loved the dress, but my mind was fogged with 'what ifs'. What if I don't look myself in this, what if everyone doesn't like it, what if I should be feeling different? I felt so silly, but I felt quite emotionally drained and it was also the first time I felt a little upset about having to move my original date. It just all hit at once!

As soon as I was home, I messaged one of my bridesmaids who got married a few years ago and she totally got what I meant. It's not that you don't love your dream dress, but there's so much

> pressure to feel like you've found The One. After speaking to a few other brides and brides-to-be I realised how many of us feel like that; as if you should feel a certain magical way as soon as you pop that gown on. Now I've had some time to step back and reflect, I now get so excited even taking a peek at my dress - it's like the feeling I got when I first saw it. I guess what I'm trying to say, fellow to-be-weds, is let's

all take the pressure off. There's no set way to feel, no matter how many films or reality shows tell you differently. Feel all the emotions, have a cry if you need to and let go of how you thought you'd feel at certain moments of planning. We've all totally got this!

'I do' diary bride **Debbie** shares her wedding décor details



With the venue and dress sorted, Debbie's letting us in on her décor dreams. "I don't have a wedding coordinator so everything about the day has been our own vision! (Mainly mine, haha!)" Debbie laughs. "I was an event planner in a previous life so I'm a total

Bride-to-be Debbie and her fiancé Andrew are getting married this April in The Balmoral Hotel. Catch up on their planning journey on the Your Scottish Wedding website.

Monica Geller when it comes to details and planning."

Debbie (and Andrew) have decided



on a colour scheme of ivory and plum with her bridesmaids dressed in plum and their flower girl in ivory.

Debbie is entrusting her flowers to the talented Garlands Florist, "Mine will be a beautiful hand-tied bouquet with a natural feel to it in purple and white/ivory tones," she says. "There will be white hydrangeas, white and lilac roses, purple lisianthus, white calla lilies, thistles and a lovely selection of green

foliage." The bridesmaids will carry a smaller version of Debbie's bouquet while she's keeping things simple and classy for her seat ends with a single white hydrangea with purple lisianthus and foliage tied with ribbon. The venue's fireplaces and bay windows will be dressed in trailing arrangements while the guest table centrepieces will be tall arrangements placed on mirrors surrounded by tealights. "This will be in keeping with the bridal flowers but mainly hydrangeas," Debbie says. She's planned a low arrangement on the top table - "To allow us to see all of our guests' lovely faces!"

We can't wait to see photos!



From hot new trends to all the latest news from the Scottish wedding industry, we've got you covered

1. MANY HAPPY RETURNS!



Congratulations to **Pan Pan Bridal** in Edinburgh, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in February! Owner Li Gorman started as a dressmaker and tailor in a small shop on Causewayside before moving to the current store in Buccleuch Street in 2003 to focus on making and selling bridalwear. And she's not looked back since, even branching out to launch the first Pan Pan Couture collection during the pandemic, and taking on a new brand to the boutique; Nicole Milano ('Anghel' dress pictured left).

We caught up with Li to find out the secret to Pan

Pan's longevity. "It's to be passionate about what you do," she says. "Sell your dresses with love. We love getting thank you emails from brides after their wedding, and it is so lovely to see the photos. We feel so lucky to be part of that special day." And Li says the biggest change they have seen is how the digital world has affected the way brides shop, meaning you always have to keep up. But there are a lot of positives. "As an independent store we can reach brides further afield and social media is great to interact with them."

Check out just some of the gorgeous Pan Pan Couture collection on ${\bf page}\,{\bf 30}$

2. SPECIAL OFFER!

Listen up stylish grooms. If you're looking for a fabulous outfit for your big day and fancy bagging yourself a bargain, you're in luck. **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers** is offering *Your Scottish Wedding* readers a whopping 10% off hire orders online and instore until April 30th. Simply quote **SCOTWEDGNK10**.





3. ON WITH THE SHOW!

Psst, want to know one of the most fun parts of wedding planning? Wedding shows of course and The Scottish Wedding Show is back with a bang this year. On 19 and 20 February the show is taking over Glasgow's SEC with everything you need to plan your dream wedding, all under one roof. You'll be able to meet 250 of the UK's leading wedding suppliers plus there'll be live catwalk fashion shows to see the very best and latest bridalwear and groomswear

trends. Don't miss the live band showcase, indulge in a bespoke cocktail or glass of fizz at the cocktail bar and find lots of outdoor wedding ideas at the Field of Dreams. Book your tickets on the Scottish Wedding Show website now.

thescottishweddingshow.com



Dates for your diary

Glasgow's House for an Art Lover is opening its doors for its wedding fayre on **Sunday**30 January 11am - 3pm when you'll have the chance to meet all the venue's preferred suppliers to discuss possibilities for your big day. Then on **Sunday 20 February 11am** - 3pm The Mackintosh Suite will be set up for a ceremony and wedding meal so drop in to scope it out and meet the team.

houseforanartlover.co.uk

The Luxury Scottish Wedding Show is heading to Crossbasket Castle on

Sunday 27 March where you'll find a handselected collection of high-end wedding exhibitors. Head along for a chat with some of Scotland's finest venues and suppliers in relaxed surroundings.

luxuryscottishwedding.com

The Big Big Wedding Fair & Fashion Show is coming to Edinburgh's O2 Academy on 5 and 6 March and it's going to be huge! Meet over 130 exhibitors on the day, grab a great discount and remember it's also a great opportunity to scope out this magnificent venue as a potential space for your vows. academymusicgroup.com

Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club is

hosting its Open Day on **Sunday 20th February** from **12-3pm**, giving couples a chance to take a look at everything this grand Scottish baronial manor house has to offer for weddings. Located an easy 20 minutes from Edinburgh city centre, the hotel is known as Edinburgh's country retreat and believe us, it's a wedding photographer's dream!

dalmahoyhotelandcountryclub.co.uk

Fashion





Three is the magic number





Halfpenny London's 3 collection takes a pared back approach, executing the precision cut and construction of these beauties to perfection. Additional overskirts, bows and sleeves optional...

Where to buy...
Rachel Scott Couture, Edinburgh



Floral fancy

Temperley Bridal's new 2022 Blossom collection is beautifully whimsical with soft draping, delicate applique and stunning statement sleeves.









Where to buy...
Rachel Scott Couture, Edinburgh









Love Conquers All, **Sassi Holford's** 2022 collection, takes the best of 80s style and gives it a Victoriana twist. Inspired by the designer's own brides and drawing on her early collections, it beautifully combines high necks, long sleeves and a new take on lace.



Where to buy...
Anne Priscilla Bridal
Charlotte Grace Bridal
Ivory Grace
Rachel Scott Couture





Designer to the stars **Vera Wang** has joined forces with leading bridal brand Pronovias to bring out Vera Wang Bride, giving women around the world the superstar treatment. Whether you favour a simple sheath or dramatic ballgown, the emphasis is on exquisite tailoring and exaggerated volumes.





Where to buy... Anne Priscilla Bridal Avorio Bridal Kavelle Couture







Inspired by you

Pan Pan Bridal's Li used her free time during the pandemic to bring out her very first collection, Pan Pan Couture. Drawing on her 25 years' experience, she took inspiration from what her Scottish brides past and present want and has named each dress after the first bride to wear it. Sweet.



Where to buy...
Pan Pan Bridal

Laid-back luxury

The Generation IV collection marks a new era for **Ellis Bridals** with clean lines and luxurious details. We're loving the statement sleeves, modern laces and super-cute bows.









Where to buy... Brides of Scotland Perfect Bridal Rooms

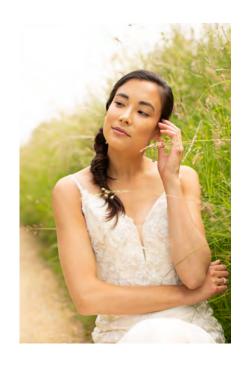


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Modern romance

The new SS22 collection from **True Bride** takes classic outlines and gives them a contemporary twist with shoulder bows, beaded illusion backs and some serious boho vibes.



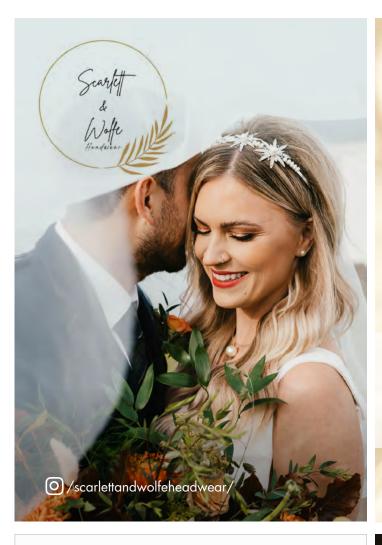




Where to buy...

Blush Bridal CKS Bridal Da Wedding Shed Kudos Bridal Edinburgh Sarah Louise Bridal The Finer Detail





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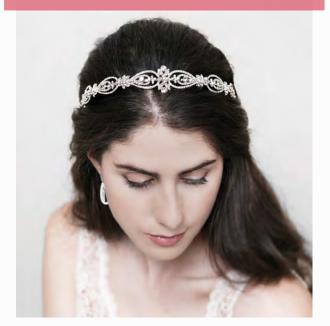




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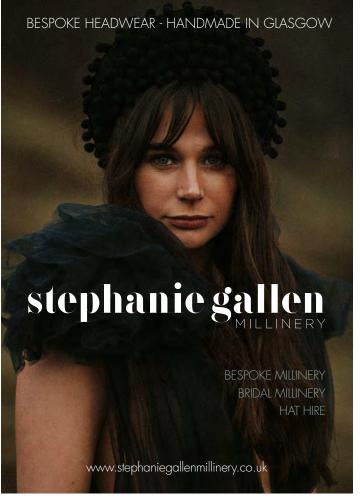
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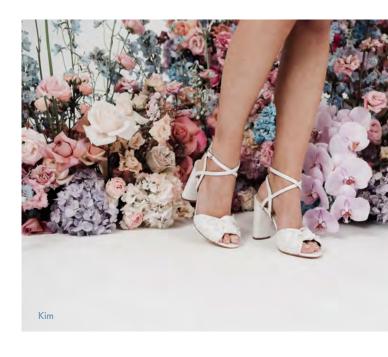
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The big interview with Charlotte Mills

As she launches her highly-anticipated new collection of bridal shoes, the designer takes time out for a chat with *Your Scottish Wedding*



Your Scottish Wedding: How did you first get into designing bridal shoes? We read your first degree show featured bridal shoes but was there a moment when you decided this was the direction you wanted your career to take?

Charlotte Mills: The concept for Charlotte Mills Bridal was conceived when I designed a bridal footwear collection for my final degree show. After graduating from Cordwainers (part of London College of Fashion) my dream to launch my own luxury footwear brand was realised, and fast became a reality in 2014 with the launch of my very first collection.





YSW: We love the way every pair of Charlotte Mills shoes includes the silver sixpence and the quote on the sole. What made you decide these were characteristics you had to include?

CM: When I got married my best friend's mum gave me a sixpence and it was the first time I had come across this tradition - I loved the concept so much I decided I had to add this element to the shoes and then the other things snowballed from there.

YSW: What would you say are the main characteristics of a pair of Charlotte Mills shoes?

CM: Style, elegance, fun while being super comfortable.

YSW: Where do you get your inspiration from?

CM: I get so much inspiration from visiting our factory in Spain, where all CM shoes are made. Going to material suppliers and looking for new heels, components, trims and materials and then building the shoes from there. We also really listen to our brides' feedback and we know what they're looking for, so this plays a big part in the design process.

YSW: Do you have a particular shoe that's your favourite?

CM: I love all our shoes that feature heart designs; a few years ago we had a pink shoe with love hearts on it called 'Charlotte'.

This was my favourite shoe ever. We are actually bringing a very similar one out this February as a Valentine's limited edition style!



Charlotte

YSW: Are you more of a flats or high heel wearer yourself?

CM: I wear trainers so much as I have two young kids and am always running around. But I love heels and enjoy wearing them when I dress up. We are adding sneakers in our 2022 collection which I will be wearing non-stop.

YSW: How do you ensure your shoes are comfortable enough to wear all day?

CM: All of our shoes are designed specifically for your wedding day, when the bride will be stood up for hours, whether that's from walking





brides. We also offer all our styles in both a high and mid heel, allowing brides to choose a heel height they are most comfortable with. Last year we also expanded our range to feature low block heels, for the brides that found our mid heels just a little too high.

YSW: Who's the one celebrity bride you wish you could have designed wedding shoes for and why?

CM: I adore Blake Lively's style and it would be a dream to create something for her. They would be super embellished and high with our new elegant slim block heel.

YSW: What's the inspiration behind the new collection? Do you have a particular favourite from it?

down the aisle, posing for photos or mingling in the evening with all the guests, so comfort is such an important factor when designing all our shoes. Each pair of CM shoes features a specifically formulated latex padding, which has a memory foam effect, this helps prevent the balls of your feet aching. We also only create block heels, not only are they more suitable for different surfaces, such as grass, gravel, cobbled streets and old church tiles but they provide more support and stability for our

CM: For the new collection, we really wanted to build on our brides' favourite styles, we've developed a new curved slimmer block heel, which is a more delicate and elegant take on our signature blocks. After huge success with our pearl styles, we have added a range of different options from understated knot embellished designs to all-out glamour with our pearl encrusted straps and matching clutch bag. My favourite style is 'Kim', named after our amazing brand manager. I love the knot front with the pearl detail and the super elegant ankle straps.





PHOTOGRAPHY: Emma Ryan

LIGHTING: Thomas J Photography

FLORIST: Sassflower STUDIO: Fivefourstudio

MODELS: @ninaleacaine and

@aneelak_1

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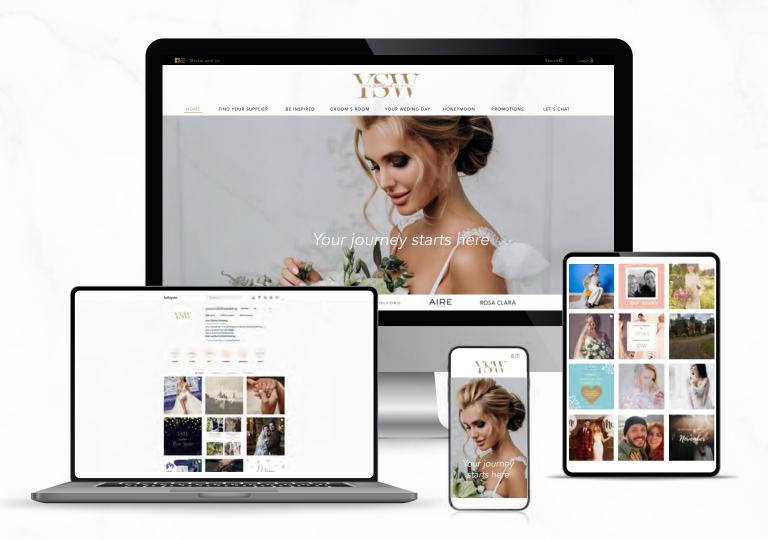
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The new collection is available from the end of January 2022

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Ask the expert

Pachel Scott Conture

Shares all on shopping sustainably for your wedding dress

As the global focus on protecting our planet quite rightly dominates the headlines, our expert columnist Rachel explores just how you can make the best decisions when searching for your once-in-a-lifetime dress

"Sustainability is something we're all thinking about and I for one will never shy away from my responsibility to actively contribute to minimising our impact on the planet.

But what do we mean by sustainability? Broadly speaking, it's about the effect something has on the environment and how we can minimise any negative impact. I'm afraid there's no easy answer to doing the right thing. What we can do is be open to learning, questioning everything and being confident in our own decisions.





So when it comes to your wedding outfit really the important question should be what does sustainability actually mean to you? Are you most concerned about your impact on the environment? Climate change? Workers' rights and welfare? Animal protection?

To help you navigate the endless information here are some points to consider...

NUMBER OF WEARS

The first, rather giant, white meringue of a hurdle is the fact that it's a dress only worn once. At face value, this may make it appear like the ultimate unsustainable purchase. However, it's important to recognise the fundamental differences between bridalwear and 'fast fashion'.

Your wedding outfit is an emotional and highly considered purchase so it couldn't be further removed from fast fashion impulse buying.

I personally love working exclusively in made-to-order bridal as it's inherently sustainable; there's no over production and minimal wastage. With high end couture where you can choose the perfect design, there is no compromise, no waste, 100% thought and commitment.

Then after your big day if it doesn't become a treasured heirloom you could sell it on or donate to charity to let someone else enjoy it?

WHAT IT'S MADE FROM

Polyester definitely takes its toll during production, with high fossil fuel usage and a guaranteed lifetime of more than 20 years - a disaster if it ends up in landfill.

On the flip side, as fibre technology develops, polyester can now be recycled multiple times using up to 40% less energy to produce than original state polyester. A fantastically positive move.

Silk is entirely bio-degradable and created using production methods that



Considering fabric made from the by-products of the juice industry or rose petals!?

Rolling In Roses are masters at working with the most sustainable and environmentally friendly fabrics on the planet.

are inherently organic. However, if your priority is the welfare of the silkworms used then polyester is potentially better? One solution is to consider peace silk which allows the silkworm to live through its entire lifecycle, combining the low environmental impact of production with preservation of the silkworm.

WHERE AND HOW IS IT MADE?

There's far less seasonal change in bridal than normal fashion with many bridal designers launching just one collection a year, allowing for less likelihood of end of line wastage.

However, it's still important to ask where and how your dress is made. Is it being made only when needed or are there warehouses full of stock?

Clever, well thought out cutting techniques can also ensure low wastage (and even then what little offcut waste there is can still be used for embellishments like in Kate Halfpenny's 'Riri' skirt - pictured left - and veils.)

British made is even better as it results in a lower carbon footprint, plus we have tighter control and laws when it comes to standards for garment quality and staff welfare.

CAN YOU OFFSET?

All these options help improve sustainability, but I appreciate these benefits sometimes come at a higher



Sassi Holford donates offcuts to charity and local colleges every year, allowing for zero waste while also supporting future generations

High end couture design ensures low waste since they're only made to order - an option championed by Vivienne Westwood

cost. If raising your budget isn't an option, are you able to instead offset any disadvantages? Could you buy second-hand or sell your dress on? Donate to charity? Choose recycled polyester instead of first run? Can you choose local, rather than buying from abroad?

Whatever you decide, look at the entire process and practices around the garment you're buying. Get the right balance for you, offset any disadvantages and make an informed choice. As Sassi Holford says "Style and sustainability can co-exist, you just need to know where to look."



Blooming gorgeous



Pregnancy and getting married are two of life's big milestones to be celebrated but just how easy is it to dress your baby bump if you're expecting on your wedding day? Katie Bletcher finds out.

Full disclosure; pregnancy was not one of the joyous times in my life. While I was delighted to be expecting and fully aware of how lucky I was, the day-to-day humdrum of growing a baby was not altogether fun. Feeling a bit fragile I felt like a proper hero anytime I had to pull on a fancy frock for an event or hen do, so I'm always slightly in awe of any pregnant bride who manages to look like a goddess on her wedding day. As for those who rock their bridal look when they're only weeks or months postpartum - ladies, I salute you.

We always advise brides to start their wedding dress search around eight months to a year before the day. However, what happens if you need to factor fitting a bump into that special dress. "Having experienced this over the years, our expert advice is the whole experience of choosing your gown should never falter," says Hollie Connelly at June Brides Glasgow boutique. "We simply take into consideration bump or potentially expecting bump and choose styles that will be beautiful, feminine, flattering, but most of all, comfortable for the big day! A bump is always something that should be celebrated, never concealed."

That's definitely a sentiment echoed by designer Mette Ballie of Freja Designer Dressmaking. "It is so so sad to see brides in my shop crying their eyes out because they have lost their waistline," she says. "When so many women struggle to conceive, their beautiful pregnant shape should be celebrated for what it is."

A OUESTION OF SIZE

While these beautiful baby bumps should be a cause for joy, they can change the dress shopping process. "In the first trimester the waist doesn't change much but the boobs go up a couple of sizes, usually very early on," says Mette. "In the second trimester it starts on the stomach. If it is your first baby, then it happens later than if you have had babies before. In the third trimester you start to get big." Sore skin on your stomach and sore boobs may also have to be taken into account and comfort is paramount. "We look at the chosen style of gown and focus on the key areas to ensure a perfect comfortable fit, meaning a bride can sit, enjoy her meal and, most importantly, dance on their wedding day," says Hollie. "We don't want a style that can add pressure to the bump." This usually means playing it safe and going a couple of sizes up, she advises; "After all, a gown too big can always be altered."

The same rule also applies if you're tying the knot in the weeks or months after giving birth. No one wants to feel pressure to fit into a dress that was the perfect size pre-baby.

THE STYLE FILES

You may think opting for a less figure-hugging gown is the way to go but it all comes down to personal taste. Hollie says, "I wouldn't say any bride should ever feel limited in their style of gown, as long as they always anticipate alterations for the perfect fit. Any gown can look fabulous when the correct size is ordered and alterations are carried out." Generally speaking, Freja advises softer fabrics for a big bump, while with a smaller bump you can often get away with a bigger princess cut dress.

Leave alterations as close to the wedding as possible. Interestingly, Mette says, most pregnant brides are bigger at night than in the morning, so make sure your fittings are as late in the day as possible.

EMBRACE THE CHANGES

With the pandemic putting so many wedding plans on hold, we've heard of many brides who've had a surprise bump on their big day or who've actually had their little ones by the time it comes round. Embrace these changes. "My biggest advice is be happy you are pregnant!" says Mette. "Cherish this time. Live a healthy life and know that you can get your shape back after the birth." And Hollie entreats all new mums to be kind to themselves. "Take your time and don't put unnecessary pressure on yourself," she says. "Find a store you feel has a good vibe and trust your expert. It's all about finding a gown that gives you that inner confidence and lets your personality shine through."





When Holly and Paul were planning their July 2021 wedding at Dalduff Farm they hadn't banked on Holly being pregnant with their little boy Rory. But looking back at their wedding photos by Daniel Mainland Photography they're delighted. "It really feels so so special and now we're able to say you were in mummy's tummy at that point!" smiles Holly.

Holly was nearly 23 weeks pregnant when they were married by George McLean of Fuze Ceremonies. "Our pregnancy wasn't planned for the wedding," she says. "However, it made our day so special knowing our little bundle was there with us."

Holly wasn't pregnant when she went dress shopping at Wed2B the August before their wedding and admits there were a few tense moments wondering if it would fit. "But in all honesty, I felt amazing with my little bump and my gorgeous dress," she says. And the fact Holly's capped-sleeve lace gown fitted her so beautifully is down to her mum's talented best friend, seamstress Catherine Tweedie of Sew Dedicated. "I had multiple appointments right up to the week of the wedding making small adjustments to my dress."

And the bride reckons their baby loved the wedding just as much as she and her husband. "I think baby enjoyed our piper a lot," she says. "He kicked as soon as he started playing!"

Turn to page 116 to see all the details from Holly and Paul's gorgeous day.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Daniel Mainland Photography



Wonder woman

I don't know about any other mums reading this but two weeks after having my kids I was still in a strict wardrobe of surgical stockings, leggings and baggy tops. So you've got to take your hat off to bride Tamara Murray who looked stunning on her wedding day to husband Steven at Rosslea Hall Hotel, just 17 days after giving birth to their beautiful wee girl Isla. "We didn't plan on falling pregnant that close to the wedding but I

wouldn't change it for anything," smiles Tamara.

Like so many others, this couple planned their wedding throughout lockdown and had the added stress of Tamara being pregnant at the time. They worried their daughter might not arrive on time for the big day and even when she did, Tamara was concerned the Anna Sorrano dress she had chosen pre-pregnancy wouldn't fit. "I am forever thankful to my past self I didn't get a fitted dress!" she says. "I was so nervous about trying it on after having Isla because it was so short notice to try to sort something else if it hadn't fitted."

Luckily, this bride was back to her normal size after about a week and no changes had to be made, although she had an amazing seamstress check it over a few days before. "I was just superlucky," she says. "Don't get me wrong, my dress was tight but because of the style you would never have known. It was very forgiving."

The couple were married in a Humanist ceremony and their celebrant Marjory Russell of Fuze Ceremonies included a sand ceremony to represent their family coming together. They also had Isla included in their vows. "I'm so thankful that we had her there," says Tamara. "It made the full day more special as family who were travelling for the wedding got to meet our baby. When we look back at our pictures and wedding video we get to see how teeny tiny she was!"



Mum's the word

One of our 'I do' diary brides Debbie Edmond got engaged to fiancé Andrew on Valentine's Day 2020, two weeks after their baby boy Lewis was born. As the couple originally planned on marrying the following April, Debbie started her wedding dress shopping in June 2020. "I didn't really give my body time to recover but I was just super-excited to pick my dress!" she says. However, that's not to say the idea of buying her wedding gown only months postpartum wasn't tough. "I was apprehensive," she remembers. "Full-length mirrors and trying on dresses in front of my gals whilst carrying baby/lockdown weight didn't have a positive impact on mindset at all! I felt really insecure and not like myself in



body or mind." Debbie says she definitely put pressure on herself once she started dress shopping and envisaging her gown.

She had her heart set on the 'Farida' dress by Modeca at first but when she tried it on she knew it wasn't for her. "It just didn't suit my shape," she says. "It was beautiful with the lace detailing and long sleeves, but very fitted."

With the help of Gwenne at Gwenne Wedding Services she changed approach and found a dress that complements her figure. "Even feeling the way I did at that time, I felt great in it as soon as I put it on.

I can't wait to wear it." Since then she's lost over two stone so the dress will have to be taken in.

Only months after finding her gorgeous gown Debbie and Andrew made the difficult decision to postpone their wedding until this year. She was gutted at first but says everything happens for a reason. "I'm in such a happy positive mindset now and I'm really loving our planning journey."



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She's in FASHION

Transform your wedding aisle into your own runway by modelling one of this season's hottest trends

From daring splits to delicate pearls, timeless classics to bang up-to-date architectural designs, these are the wedding looks gracing bridal boutiques and catwalks right now. Designers and Scottish stockists guide us through the trends they're obsessed with this season.

Effortlessly sleek

When it comes to a classic and timeless bridal look, clean lines and exquisite tailoring will never go out of fashion.

Hollie from June Brides Glasgow loves the new Portia gown from Casablanca Bridal's Le Blanc collection. Made from perfect satin, the simple fit and flare silhouette can be accessorised with a minimalistic cape. "We love this gown because sometimes less is more, focusing on the shape and cut of the gown and letting that speak volumes while showing off the bride's figure," says Hollie. "Minimalist fabric choices paired with dramatic accessories is a timeless trend that any bride can appreciate."



"We love 'Adrienne' by **Pronovias**. We love the sleek style, sophistication and glamour whilst still remaining elegant and timeless." *Lauren, Opus Couture*

"I think this wedding dress is stunning in all its simplicity. There is something so lovely about a really simple style in very exclusive material. This is made in a pure silk crepe, and we have made a few different variations on that with silk satin edges, halterneck, and so on, but it remains a beautiful simple line made to fit the individual bride's figure."

Mette, Freja Designer Dressmaking



PHOTOGRAPHY:
Duncan Holmes Photography
MODEL: Lynn Stewart
MUA: Sarah Anne Mitchell



Lisa, Melle Cloche

Let's split

This season's love of the leg split is one we're totally behind. Add a contemporary twist to an otherwise classic look with this on-trend style.



fabric over the structured bodice of the Halfpenny London 'Okotan' corset and skirt to give an effortless glamorous look, while the thigh high skirt split retains chic elegance thanks to the luxurious weight of the draped silk crepe. Perfect for the styleconscious bride looking for a tailored, city wedding look (and potentially one you can wear again since it's separates!)

Rachel, Rachel Scott Couture

Royal associations High necklines are officially in and look super-sophisticated. Emulate Grace Kelly or even Princess Anne with this beautifully demure style.

"Our favourite trend for 2022 is the high neck or mock neck dress. This style of neckline has always been popular amongst royal brides and celebrities. However, it is becoming such a popular look with our brides as it is so elegant. It looks amazing on tall brides but can also work with petite brides. Getting the height of the neck collar right and a sheer fabric or lace collar is key for achieving that elegant regal look."

Huda, Pan Pan Bridal



"Our 'Casablanca' dress is a gorgeous modern bridal gown with a subtle bohemian twist. The combination of the V-neckline and soft A-line shape skirt creates an elegant, flattering silhouette, and the opal beaded belt cinches the waist to really enhance the figure. The all-over metallic lace and waterfall-style cape elevate this style and allow the bride to keep it simple and let the dress do the talking or go all out glam and dress up to the nines."

Georgia, True Bride



Oscar Lili's 'Grace' dress was inspired by the 2022 bridal trend for experimenting with colour and prints. Designer Liliana tells us, "We have a few blush and champagne colour options in our collection but we wanted to create something completely different for our 2022 brides who are stepping away from traditional bridal looks. The Grace dress is an effortless and ethereal style for those Boho brides out there who are planning a unique wedding ceremony; perfect for rustic, woodland or garden settings. We absolutely love the bold wildflower embroidery which creates beautiful contrast and texture - so romantic!"

Bohemian revolution

Will we ever tire of the boho trend? Not likely and bridal designers are still serving up beauties for every whimsical bride's need for a dress to kick back in and dance (or skip across a beach or meadow).

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style rose

"Where covid has brought with it a lot of negativity, it has also seen a rise of on-location and outdoor weddings. Our dress 'Rosa' - part of our With Love, Mirka collection - is perfect for a bride seeking comfort and bohemian flare on their wedding day. It has a perfect juxtaposition of two different lace styles, with the contemporary burnout style rose pattern adding a touch of romance."

Mirka, Mirka Bridal Couture

ATELIER PRONOVIAS



ATELIER PRONOVIAS

Modern bows



"Our favourite bridal trend for 2022 is bows! Bows have made a big comeback, but they are not always your traditional bow - they have a modern twist. Some bows are detachable which gives you the option to change up your look throughout your wedding day. We love style 66212 by **Lillian West** from the Spring Summer 2022 collection with detachable shoulder bow. This amazing, beaded lace fit and flare dress will have you looking out of this world."

Lindsay, Alison Kirk Bridal

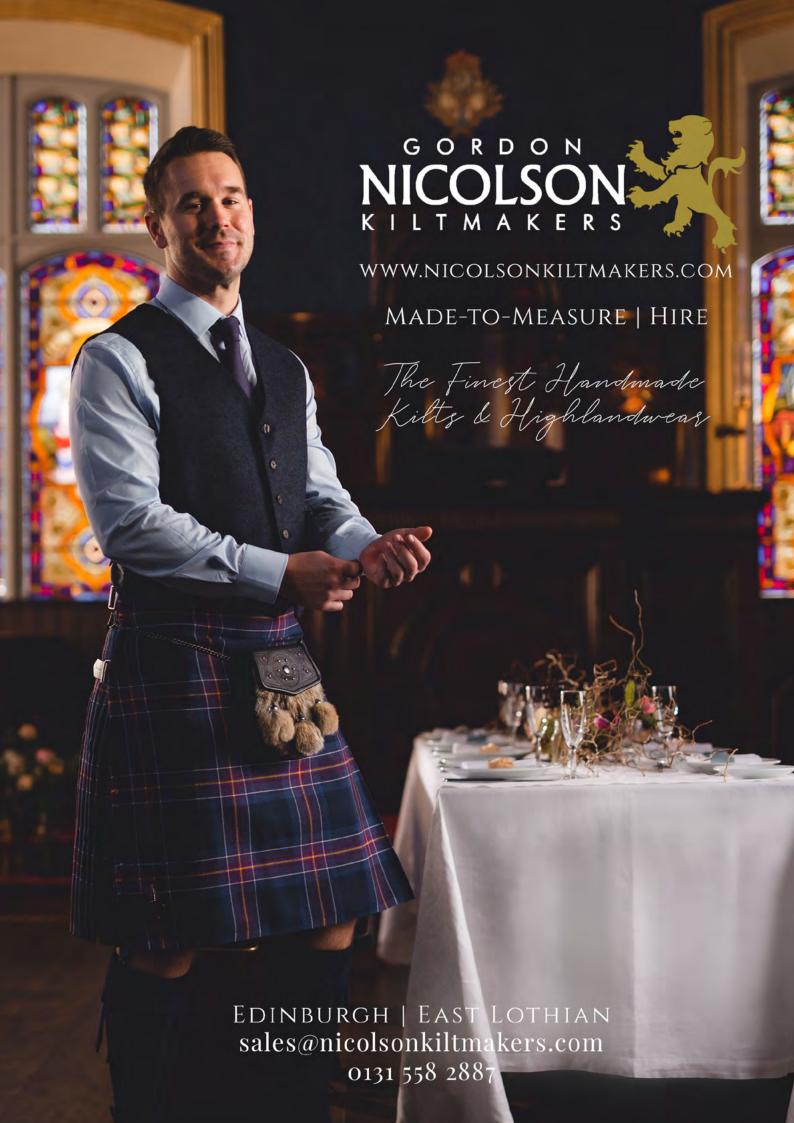
Pearly queens
Pearls will forever add a touch of class to your wedding outfit, and you can go all-out pearlencrusted dress or stick to just hints in your accessories. Pearl hairband anyone?





"The reason I've chosen 'Perla' from the **Casablanca** 2022 collection is simply the exquisite pearl detailing that adorns this gown. Pearl detailing is a key trend for 2022, not only in bridal gowns but also in accessories. We have a fantastic collection of beautiful pearl encrusted headpieces and dramatic veils to complement this look."

Hollie, June Brides Glasgow





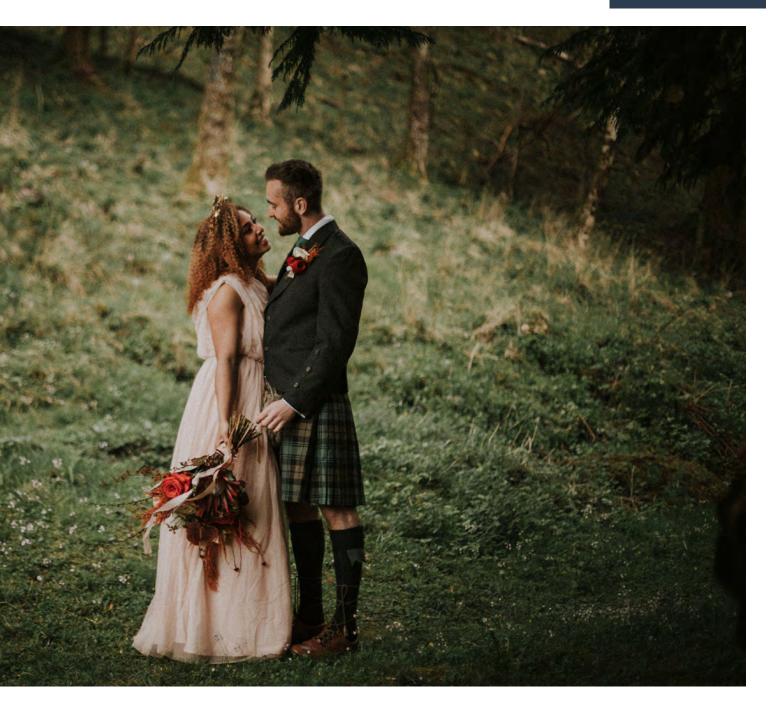
Come away with me

Take inspiration for a romantic retreat to the west Highlands with this beautiful styled shoot by Ella Mai Elopements











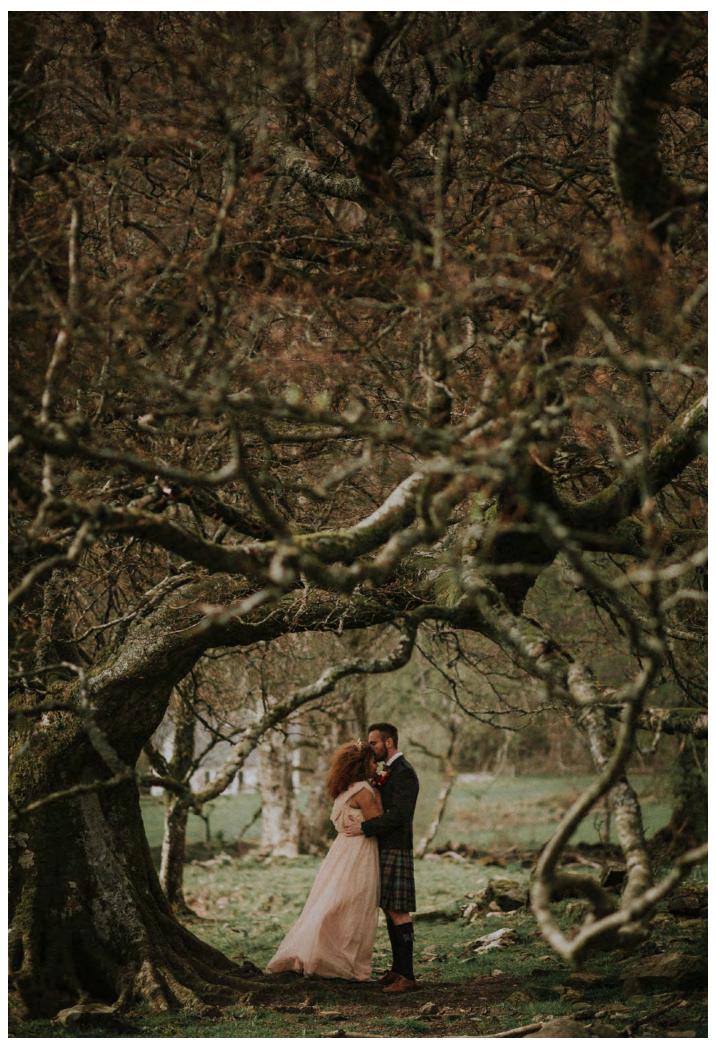
Groom's outfit

 $Charcoal\, Holyrood\, jacket\, and\, waist coat\, with\, Weathered\, Black\, Watch\, kilt.$

Styled with navy hose, sage tie and flashes.

Finished with a full dress sporran and brown ghillie brogues - all from **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers**

 $\hbox{PHOTOGRAPHY: } \textbf{Bernadeta Kupiec Photography}$



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How do you stag do?

Word on the street is that 2022 stag parties are going to be better than ever - talk about making up for lost time! And with January a peak planning time (the combo of the Christmas comedown and the desire to have something to look forward to), it may be worth trying to beat the rush! Claire Muir takes a look at the best ways to stag in Scotland.



Rewind a few years and you may have been hoping to pack your bags and your best men, and head for sunnier climes. But post-lockdown - hello, tricky travel restrictions and people's differing Covid-19-related comfort zones - a stag on Scottish soil is a real option.

In our opinion, that's no bad thing! In fact, you have some incredible options on your doorstep. We've rounded up some of our favourites and we promise, there really is something for everyone...

FOR ADRENALINE-**IUNKIES...**

After a couple of years spent staying in, action-packed outdoor adventures are going to be uber-appealing this year. Plus, being outside is perfect for those who're now extra safety conscious.

"Our activities are all outdoors and appeal to thrill-seekers looking for something a bit different," says Guy McKenzie, who owns Blown Away in St. Andrews with his twin brother, Jamie. "Land yachting, for example, is something most people haven't done before, and it runs all year round."

Making organisation easy, the brothers

will kit you out with everything (even towels!) and they also offer surfing, paddleboarding, SUPertankers (giant paddleboards) and kayaking. Looking for a little friendly competition? Ask about their stag Olympics and Highland Games!

If your groom prefers to be indoors, get the adrenaline pumping with an exhilarating escape room challenge. Get carried away at Escape Hunt in Edinburgh where, after you've (hopefully) beaten the clock, you can celebrate your successes in the lavish VIP party lounge.

FOR A NIGHT ON THE TILES...

If a long-awaited night out is on the agenda, you could do far worse than a Scottish staycation. Whether you're after a Michelin-starred dining experience or a tour of rustic boozers, you won't have to look far.

"Glasgow and Edinburgh boast some of the UK's top-rated nightlife scenes," says Raymond Daffurn, director at Rock Star Party Bus, which offers the perfect place to pre-game in private before you hit the town.



A luxurious venue on wheels, the 24-seater Rock Star Party Bus is superhigh spec. "We have two champagne bars, disco lights, smoke machines, largescreen TVs and a huge surround-sound system," explains Raymond.

"Glasgow and Edinburgh boast some of the UK's toprated nightlife scenes,"

Raymond Daffurn Rock Star Party Bus



FOR SOMETHING **MORE SUBDUED...**

With quality time more important than ever post-lockdown, low-key might be the name of the game - a round of golf, a whisky tour or a day at the races, perhaps?

Alternatively, go for an exclusive hire house with the option to add-on activities. From a luxe penthouse featuring a bespoke cocktail party

(Espresso Martini, anyone?) to a country-style mansion with clay pigeon shooting a stone's throw away, you can really personalise the experience.

Whatever you decide to do, don't forget to get clued up on the basics - get organised early, be budget-conscious and incorporate recovery time for the groom before the big day!





Trend alert: Here come the girls...



Groom-to-be Daniel shares the story of his beautifully personal and romantic proposal

When a couple first gets engaged friends and family are usually waiting expectantly to hear the big story. Did they go down on one knee? Did you cry? And whether you've gone all-out or just found the perfect quiet moment we reckon if you keep it personal to your own little love story, it'll make it super special. Take a leaf out of groom-tobe Daniel Ford's book. He planned the perfect proposal for his partner Jade, incorporating all her loves and popping the question in the ideal spot. Here's how he did it...

Daniel and Iade had been together for nearly seven years when they got engaged last November and although they knew marriage was on the cards, Jade admits to being completely caught off guard. "On the night of the proposal part of me thought 'OMG is this it?" she says. However, she managed to convince herself it wasn't the moment.

Little did she know Daniel had a really personal set-up in place. "I knew I would be proposing at some point for a few years and that The Dundee Rep would be the place it had to happen," he remembers.

"On the night of the proposal part of me thought 'OMG is this it?"

Daniel ordered Jade's beautiful orange sapphire and rose gold ring in August

from Claire Allain Designs using one of her rings and online size charts to work out what he needed. Then he kept hold of it incase an unmissable opportunity came.

Daniel was aiming for a proposal at the Dundee theatre as Jade is an actress and he used to work there too so it has a special place in both their hearts. However, he only managed to speak to visitor services manager Andrew towards the end of October and they managed to involve the stage crew



in the plan. "They were great in helping arrange everything. especially as they were in the middle of setting everything up for the Christmas show," he says. "I wanted to get as close to our anniversary as possible." Proposal day

arrived and

Daniel dropped

their son Phoenix



at his drama class before preparing the big moment on stage. The lights had been set perfectly and he quickly rebuilt the Lego Hedwig model he had taken from home before setting in on stage with the ring. He then texted Phoenix to send lade up to the auditorium. "Most nervous I have ever been in my life!" he says.







Thursdays happen to be Jade's busiest day teaching various classes and volunteering but she had arranged to meet Daniel for dinner after her drama workshop. She was just leaving the theatre when Phoenix said she was needed in the auditorium. "As I entered I saw the stage lights were on and thought it was odd as the actors weren't in," she says. "The stage lights were set beautifully and Daniel was on one knee and the ring was sitting under a Lego Hedwig set. I love the Rep, Lego, Harry Potter and Christmas so it was all pretty spot on!"

Daniel decided not to prepare anything special to say. "I didn't want to throw myself off trying to remember a speech," he says. "In the end I didn't actually have to say anything. Jade saw what I had set up, came up to me to hug me and said, 'Of course it is yes'." The couple are planning to wed around their 10th anniversary in 2024 and we'd say this is one groom who nailed his fiancée's perfect proposal!





Some of Scotland's **best-loved** and most **experienced** celebrants



Tim



Leigh



Susan





Libby



Chris



Sharon



Tom



Sarah



Susie



Gerrie



Carol



Angus



Lenny



Paddy

celebrate

Respect | Love | Equality

A humanist and spiritual care organisation

celebratepeople.co.uk

Wedding celebrants from around Scotland share the readings that will help personalise your ceremony



When you're planning a wedding it's sometimes easy to get caught up in the look of your day. Are you going rustic or getting onboard the neon trend? What's your colour scheme? In all this fine-tuning sometimes the actual ceremony can come as a bit of an afterthought. While you're busy briefing your florist and decorator on the exact vibe you're after, make sure you set aside time to focus on what you actually want to say. And it's not just the actual vows we're talking about. Your wedding service can include a number of special readings that help personalise it and reveal a lot about you as a couple.

But just how do you choose the readings you want to include?. If you're opting for a religious ceremony this can help you whittle down your shortlist and your celebrant will be able to advise. We're big fans of 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. You know the one; "Love is patient, love is kind...." In fact, I had it at my own wedding, and it still brings a smile to my face when I hear it at friends' weddings.

If you're not wanting to go down the Biblical route though there are some readings that have become classics and well-loved on the wedding scene, while other, more obscure, ones can equally imbue your service with meaning. We've asked celebrants across the country to share just some of their favourites to help you choose yours.

First Light Photography

The words of Pelagia's father from Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernières

"Love is a temporary madness. It erupts like an earthquake and then subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have become so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is. Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion. That is just being "in love" which any of us can convince ourselves we are. Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Your mother and I had it, we had roots that grew towards

each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom had fallen from our branches we found that we were one tree and not two."

"In the time-served classics, I'd have to include the words of Pelagia's father. It was only published in 1994, but it's now become so popular that it's one of the readings that Register Offices recommend to their clients. The reason it's so popular of course is that it's so true. [My wife] Susie and I chose it for our own wedding at Monachyle Mhor in 2014, so it's always lovely to hear it being read at someone else's."

Tim Maguire, Celebrate People

Vow by Roger McGough

I vow to honour the commitment made this day Which, unlike the flowers and the cake, Will not wither or decay. A promise, not to obey But to respond joyfully, to forgive and to console, For once incomplete, we now are whole.

I vow to bear in mind that if, at times Things seem to go from bad to worse, They also go from bad to better.

The lost purse is handed in, the letter Contains wonderful news. Trains run on time, Hurricanes run out of breath, floods subside, And toast lands jam-side up.

And with this ring, my final vow:
To recall, whatever the future may bring, The love I feel for you now.

"I love this because it's a real poem, beautifully written and one day your toast really will land jam-side up!"

 ${\bf Brian\ Hawkins, Humanist\ Society\ Scotland.}$

Fiona Thomas, also **of HSS agrees**; "This is one of my favourites, perfect for the end of the ceremony."

Scaffolding by Seamus Heaney

Masons, when they start upon a building,
Are careful to test out the scaffolding;
Make sure that planks won't slip at busy points,
Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.
And yet all this comes down when the job's done
Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.
So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be
Old bridges breaking between you and me
Never fear. We may let the scaffolds fall
Confident that we have built our wall.

"This is one of the first poems Heaney wrote on the subject of relationships and how to sustain their strength. It is an extended metaphor in which a house (the marriage) must be strong and solid. I love this poem because it illustrates that although you will undoubtedly encounter obstacles in your marriage; ultimately these will be overcome because you both know you have put in the work, and that the 'walls' of your relationship are secure enough to weather them."

Sharon Campbell, Celebrate People



Blessing of the Hands by Rev. Daniel L Harris

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy. These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. *And lastly, these are the hands that* even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch."

"This is my favourite I always like to include during the handfasting. Beautiful words talking about how you are holding the hands of your best friend. The last line is lump in the throat stuff every time!"

> Susan Krenbrenk, Fuze Ceremonies.

How Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog by Taylor Mali

First of all, it's a big responsibility, especially in a city like New York.

So think long and hard before deciding on love. On the other hand, love gives you a sense of security:

when you're walking down the street late at night and you have a leash on love ain't no one going to mess with you.

Because crooks and muggers think love is unpredictable.

Who knows what love could do in its own defence?

On cold winter nights, love is warm. *It lies between you and lives and breathes* and makes funny noises.

Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs.

It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy. Love doesn't like being left alone for long. But come home and love is always happy to

It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life, but you can never be mad at love for long.

Is love good all the time? No! No! Love can be bad. Bad, love, bad! Very bad love. Love makes messes.

Love leaves you little surprises here and there. Love needs lots of cleaning up after. Sometimes you just want to get love fixed. Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper and swat love on the nose, not so much to cause pain, just to let love know Don't you ever do that again!

Sometimes love just wants to go out for a nice long walk.

Because love loves exercise. It will run you around the block

and leave you panting, breathless. Pull you in different directions at once, or wind itself around and around you until you're all wound up and you cannot move.

But love makes you meet people wherever you go.

People who have nothing in common but love stop and talk to each other on the street. Throw things away and love will bring them back, again, and again, and again. But most of all, love needs love, lots of it. And in return, love loves you and never stops.

"It's great for dog lovers and light-hearted enough to raise a smile," Kate Strachan, **Humanist Society Scotland**

That Still and Settled Place by Edward Monkton

In that still and settled place There's nobody but you You're where I breathe my oxygen You're where I see my view And when the world feels full of noise My heart knows what to do It finds that still and settled place And dances there with you

"For me, the sense of intimacy as well as the feeling of 'being home', safe, secure, accepted unconditionally and happy just with each other, is what love is. Beautifully captured in just a few words. The power of poetry."

Fiona Scougall, **Humanist Society Scotland**



Come to the Orchard in Spring by Rumi

Come to the orchard in Spring. There is light and wine, and sweethearts *In the pomegranate flowers.*

If you do not come, these do not matter.

If you do come, these do not matter."

"Now, this guy was from the 13th century but his words are still true today. We can plan the big wedding and the cake and the band and the flowers and the cars, but what is truly important is the love and connection between the happy couple, nothing else really matters. And without all that, nothing else is important."

Michael Hines Mackay, **Fuze Ceremonies.**



A Lovely Love Story by Edward Monkton

The fierce Dinosaur was trapped inside his cage of ice. Although it was cold he was happy in there. It was, after all, HIS cage. Then along came the Lovely Other Dinosaur.

The Lovely Other Dinosaur melted the Dinosaur's cage with kind words and loving thoughts.

I like this Dinosaur, thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur. Although he is fierce he is also tender and he is funny. He is also quite clever though I will not tell him this for now.

I like this Lovely Other Dinosaur, thought the Dinosaur. She is beautiful and she is different and she smells so nice. She is also a free spirit, which is a quality I much admire in a dinosaur.

But he can be so distant and so peculiar at times, thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur. He is also overly fond of Things. Are all Dinosaurs so overly fond of Things? But her mind skips from here to there so quickly, thought the Dinosaur. She is also

uncommonly keen on Shopping. Are all Lovely Other Dinosaurs so uncommonly keen on shopping?

I will forgive his peculiarity and his concern for things, thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur. For they are part of what makes him a richly charactered individual.

I will forgive her skipping mind and her fondness for shopping, thought the Dinosaur. For she fills our life with beautiful thought and wonderful surprises. Besides, I am not unkeen on shopping either.

Now the Dinosaur and the Lovely Other Dinosaur are old. Look at them. Together they stand on the hill telling each other stories and feeling the warmth of the sun on their backs.

And that, my friends, is how it is with love. Let us all be Dinosaurs and Lovely Other Dinosaurs together.

For the sun is warm. And the world is a beautiful place...

"This is a cute little story of two dinosaurs, and despite being completely different in character, they fall in love and spend the rest of their lives together. I have been asked to do this reading many times by couples after posting me reading this on my Instagram. I love to do this reading, particularly if there are kids or teens in attendance, as it is fun and also encompasses much of the Humanist philosophy."

Paul Browett, Fuze Ceremonies.

A Lang Promise by Jackie Kay

Whether the weather be dreich or fair, my luve, if guid times greet us, or we hae tae face the wurst, ahint and afore whit will happen tae us:

blind in the present, eyes open to the furore, unkempt or sharply dressed, suddenly puir or poorly, peelie-wally or in fine feckle, beld or frosty, calm as a ghoul or in a feery-farry, in dork December or in springy Spring weather, doon by the Barrows; on the banks o' the Champs d'Elysees, at mid-nicht, first licht, whether the mune be roond or crescent, and ye be o' soond mind or absent, I'll tak your trusty haund and lead you over the haw - hame, ma darlin.

I'll carry ma lantern and daur defend ye agin ony enemy; and whilst there is breath in me, I'll blaw it intae ye.

Fir ye are ma true luve, the bonnie face I see afore me; nichts I fall intae slumber, it's ye I see swimmingly -all yer guidness and blytheness, yer passion.

You'll be mine, noo, an' till the end o' time, ma bonnie lassie, I'll tak the full guid o' ye'and gie it back, and gie it back tae ye: a furst kiss, a lang promise: time's gowden ring.

"This gorgeous, lyrical, and insightful poem is a declaration of intention to love someone under any circumstances. It's about being true to and supporting each other each other 'whether the weather be dreich or fair', through 'guid times' and 'the wurst' times. Choosing a poem or reading to include in their ceremony isn't for all couples - perhaps their family and friends are too shy, or the couple just want their loved ones to be able to relax and enjoy the ceremony. Or perhaps the couple just aren't really into literature. A beautiful option is to include extracts of a poem in their marriage vows to make the vows even more expressive and personal. The Lang Promise works wonderfully for this. This glorious poem also makes for a heartfelt reading by a family member or friend."

Onie Tibbit, Agnostic Scotland Celebrant





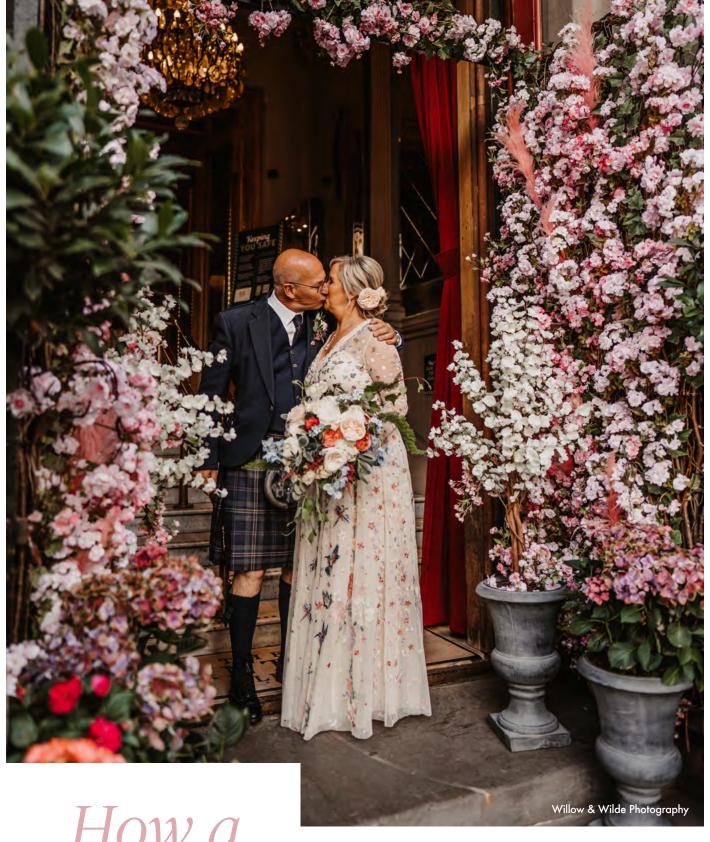




www.fuzeceremonies.co.uk 0800 014 8237

LIVE celebrant availability checker with our 24/7 real time calendar search





How a wedding celebrant gets married

Humanist celebrant Mary Docherty of Fuze Ceremonies involved all her children to ensure her wedding carried special meaning







Mary and Jim were originally due to marry in May 2020 but like so many other couples had to delay. A change of date also meant a change of venue and they fell for The Corinthian with it's light and character. "Also, it was city centre and I'm a Glasgow girl at heart and could picture our wedding photos walking through the streets of Glasgow." GO YOUR OWN WAY

THE LOOK OF LOVE

Mary has been an optometrist for over 25 years and the couple first met when Jim was her patient. "We were friends first," she smiles. "I always looked forward to his annual eye test when we got to catch up."

With Mary Docherty being a Humanist celebrant, she had a very clear idea of

how her and husband Jim's wedding

ceremony would be. While the couple took a while to decide on the look and

vibe of their big day, one thing Mary was

Jim's sons Iain and Alasdair performing

usher duties, and having her sister Kate

and three girls Molly, Olivia and Rosie as

bridesmaids, this truly was a family affair.

certain of was their desire to involve

their children. From her 14-year-old son Leo walking her down the aisle to

The couple had been together for five years when Jim proposed during a weekend away in Edinburgh. "We were going to a special Supper Club at the chef Tony Singh's house," says Mary. "I knew Jim was up to something but as usual he had thought of every detail and made me feel like the most important person on the planet."

Mary looked stunning on her wedding day in her colourful Needle & Thread dress but reveals this wasn't the first gown. She had done the whole bridal shopping experience with her four children first. "I fell out of love with my previous dress and decided I needed to feel really 'me' on my wedding day, even if that meant it wasn't to other people's taste," she says. She ordered her dress with its gorgeous dragonfly and hummingbird embroidery online and immediately felt more like herself. "I tried it on in my room with all four of my children there and they were all like 'Yes! This is really you mum!"



FROM THE HEART

Given her vocation, Mary had naturally been considering her and Jim's ceremony for quite some time. "I think since I became a celebrant almost two years ago, I've always imagined what I would say at our wedding," she smiles.

Everything about their day was planned with family at the heart. The couple rented a six-bedroom house in the West End and enjoyed time with all their loved ones in the run up to the wedding.

On the morning of the big day as everyone else left for The Corinthian it was just Mary left with Leo and she remembers it as an incredibly special time, sitting chatting together. Leo actually did his mum the honour of walking her down the aisle. "I was aware that I would be holding his hand and he never lets me do that in public anymore (he's 14)," she says. "I was savouring that moment. I couldn't wait for Jim to see me, and vice versa, because for the first time in forever I felt truly beautiful."

While Mary asked her friend and fellow Fuze Ceremonies celebrant Evelyn Robertson to conduct their ceremony, she had actually written it herself. "I gave all of my children their own parts to read and they did an incredible job," she smiles. "For me, they made it. It was of incredible importance the children were a significant part of the service because they mean the absolute world to me. Also, I wanted them to know that this was about all of us joining together and not just me and Jim."



The couple naturally wrote their own vows and Mary was emotional hearing what Jim had written to her. Her friend Vicki owns spiritual retreat Lendrick Lodge and she gave a speech during the ceremony entitled "What is Love?" The service concluded with three couples offering their words of advice for marriage. "That was really fun and touching to hear what they said to us," says Mary.

Another huge part of their ceremony was having Geo Gospel Choir sing the song You Will Be Found from the musical Dear Evan Hansen. And Mary walked down the aisle to the choir singing Running Home to You by Grant Gustin. "The words were really important to Jim and me because he had sent it to me early in our relationship," says Mary. "We believed every word of the song was true."







HEAR HIM!

Back at The Corinthian they treated their guests to a beautiful wedding breakfast and then Jim pulled off a big surprise for his speech with a collaboration with Gerad from the gospel choir, describing their love story in songs. "It was such a surprise he had gone to so much effort!" says Mary. "Of course, not to be outdone I gave a speech too - no-one was surprised at that!"

Now that it's all over Mary looks back and remembers the "sheer joy" of their day. "Also, I have never felt so much love from anyone other than my children as I did by Jim that day."

DREAM TEAM

BAND The Cartel

BRIDE'S DRESS

Needle & Thread

BRIDE'S ENGAGEMENT RING

Be On Park

BRIDE'S SHOES Monsoon

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Dorothy Perkins

CARICATURIST Kilted Caricaturist

CELEBRANT

Evelyn Robertson - Fuze Ceremonies

CHOIR Geo Gospel Choir

DÉCOR

LBS Event Design & Wedding Planner

FLORIST Nicole Dalby Flowers

GROOM'S OUTFIT

MacGregor & MacDuff

HAIR Carol Zarebski Duffy Hair

MAKE-UP

Nadine Grant Make-up Artist

PHOTOGRAPHY

Willow & Wilde Photography

TRANSPORT Ecosse Classic Cars

VENUE The Corinthian Club

VIDEOGRAPHY RPL Weddings

WEDDING RINGS

Ian Gallacher Jewellers

A QUIET MOMENT

Following their beautiful ceremony, the guests were entertained by The Kilted Caricaturist while the couple slipped away for their photos. "I decided I wanted them to be meaningful so we went to The University Café on Byres Road," says Mary. "I've been going there my whole life with my mum and dad (who have both passed away) and with my own children. We sat in the seat I used to sit in as a wee girl with my parents and shared a Knickerbocker Glory. It was so beautiful and poignant and fun at the same time as everyone we passed was congratulating us and telling us how great we looked."

FROM THE EXPERT

As a celebrant Mary is used to being part of her couples' big days but being on the other side she can now offer extra insight to to-be-weds. "It's most important to be totally true to yourself in everything," she says. "From what you wear to what you include in your ceremony to what photos you have taken. If it feels right, then do it but if it doesn't then nothing on your wedding day should make you feel uneasy."

And she says it's important that you have some connection to your suppliers, so they understand your vision and what you want, from the florist to the photographer and, of course, the celebrant. "They should be totally bringing your dream for the ceremony alive and be on the same wavelength as you," she says. "But mostly, take in every single second because it really is true what they say - it's all over in the blink of an eve!"

YSW on tour | Yu Spa in Dundee's Apex City Quay Hotel & Spa

Head of editorial Katie checks out the newly renovated spa and tries their signature treatment

Here's a bold statement. I've decided the perfect Christmas present for me isn't anything I can wear or use immediately. It's actually a trip to the spa the following December, a week or two before the



pool and the old changing facilities have been revamped with brand new lockers with fancy electronic wristband activated locks. Everything feels fresh and

25th. With Christmas 2021 just around the corner and the deadline for *YSW*'s magazine looming I kicked off one December Monday morning not with the customary coffee and emails but a rather gentler alternative. I'd been invited to Dundee's Apex Hotel to visit the newly refurbished Yu Spa. Hard swap I know.

The Apex spa is actually my local and a firm favourite, so I was excited to be back. Located just off the hotel's

lobby, the spa is a haven of calm. Immediately all to-do lists are forgotten and for a few hours there's just the serious business of relaxation to attend to.

The pool area of the spa has always been bathed in natural

light at Yu Spa but the renovation that was started before the first lockdown in 2020 has freshened it up with lighter tiles and brighter fixtures. The old wooden spa baths have been replaced with a superb big new Jacuzzi-style

clean and conducive to relaxing. The sister Yu Spa in Edinburgh's Apex has undergone a similar upgrade, so you're really spoilt for choice.

My therapist Rachael let me try out the Yu Signature Treatment, known as the spa's 'hero' treatment. Using



luxurious
Elemis
products it
targets the back,
face and scalp
and it soon
became clear
how it earned
its moniker.

by giving my feet some attention with a little reflexology to target my spine before she set to work on my back. Funny (and strange) aside; in his wedding speech my husband said one of the things that first caught his eye

Rachael started

about me was my excellent posture. Eight years, two children and a pandemic spent working at my kitchen table later, and things have become more slumped, but Rachael massaged and soothed, targeting a stubborn little knot in my left shoulder, and worked her magic with the hydrating frangipani monoi body oil.

After what must have been a good 30 minutes' massage, I was so relaxed I'm surprised I wasn't asleep on the table, but it was time to turn for a personalised facial using a proradiance cream cleanser, balancing lavender toner and papaya enzyme peel. Honestly a facial is my idea of heaven and I lay there lapping up the attention as other sumptuous Elemis products were applied. With my eyes covered and hot clothes applied, Rachael worked on my décolletage and gave me a sublime scalp massage, applying more of that gorgeous frangipani hot oil. I was so disappointed when it was over.

Then I had time for a few lengths of the pool, a dip in the spa bath and a sauna before emerging feeling totally rejuvenated and ready to take on the rest of my Monday. Just sign me up for the same again next year please!

Katie tried the Yu Signature Treatment which is priced at £70 Monday - Thursday, or £75 Friday - Sunday

apexhotels.co.uk/destinations/dundee/apex-city-quay-hotel-spa

... and relax

The start of a new year is the perfect time to recharge your batteries and we've selected some of the best spas in Scotland for some serious downtime. Grab a cuppa and start planning the perfect getaway for some pre-wedding pampering or a chilled out minimoon.



Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa

The Old Course: three little words that are synonymous with luxury. The world famous St Andrews establishment serves up treatments to soothe you and help you feel amazing at its Kohler Waters Spa; and believe us when we say it's the last word.

This is the only Kohler Spa outside the US and you could easily spend the entire day

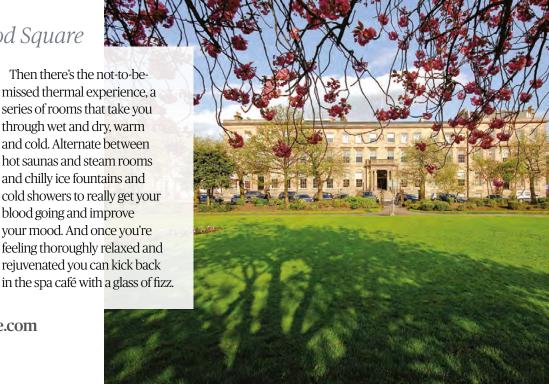
oldcoursehotel.co.uk

here being pampered in the 13 treatment rooms - including two couple's rooms - two wet treatment rooms with Kohler bathing experiences, a 20m indoor swimming pool, a hydrotherapy pool, steam room, experience showers, refreshing ice fountain, cold plunge pool and sauna. What better way to spend a day and let all your worries melt away?

The Spa at Blythswood Square

If you're after a lavish spa experience in the heart of Glasgow look no further than Kimpton Blythswood Square Hotel's spa, described as the "one-stop station for relaxation". Guests and locals alike flock to the spa as a little oasis of peace. In the nine luxury treatment rooms you'll enjoy a range of luxurious, holistic treatments including an ishga detox body wrap, hot stone massage or why not book a bespoke facial?

kimptonblythswoodsquare.com



The Cameron Spa

Located at the Cameron Club, two miles north of Cameron House Hotel, the Cameron Spa sits on the banks of Loch Lomond and where better to enjoy the unrivalled views than from the roof-top infinity pool? Your spa experience begins with a personal consultation with your therapist who will tailor your treatment to your individual needs. Then it's time to kick back and let yourself unwind in the serene surroundings.

The Cameron Club hydro and thermal experiences are

inspired by the tranquil loch. You can mix it up, moving between the hydro experiences of the hydrotherapy pool, the infinity pool, experience showers, ice fountain and relaxation pool or the thermal experiences which include the caldarium, hammam room, sauna and more. But if you just want to stretch out for some proper pampering head to the treatment rooms and choose from a wide range of body wraps, massages, facials and pedicures, to name but a few. cameronhouse.co.uk



The impressive Cameron House Hotel is located just two miles from the Cameron Club





Ardoe House Hotel & Spa

The team at the Spa at Ardoe pride themselves in being experts in relaxation and leaving guests feeling refreshed and de-stressed and it's easy to see why. Spa days here include unlimited use of Ardoe Health Club with its fitness studio, 18m swimming pool, sauna and steam room while you wander round in fluffy bath robes and slippers. But don't stop there. The treatment list at Ardoe is extensive, ranging from a signature Swedish

massage to a three algae body wrap, a collagen radiance facial or a pamper pedicure.

It's the hen party package for two though that's really caught our eye. For £109 two of your hens can enjoy full use of the facilities, a light lunch, glass of Prosecco and 30 minute treatment with a choice of a Swedish massage, Signature facial or express manicure. Sounds like utter bliss!

ardoehouseblairs.co.uk

Stobo Castle

Known as Scotland's only destination spa, Stobo Castle offers a super luxurious, opulent and relaxing option as a place to get your loved ones together to celebrate pre-wedding. If you're ready for some well-earned downtime after months of busy wedding planning this is the place for you. Located in the beautiful Scottish Borders countryside, Stobo is set around its own loch. Before you even set foot in one of the treatment rooms you'll feel at ease relaxing in the beautiful

grounds with their restful Japanese water gardens and waterfall, or if you're feeling more active you could take to the hills for some mountainbiking. But this is first and foremost a destination spa and the list of treatments is extensive. There's something for everyone and even an in-house hair studio. Once you're feeling blissfully chilled out kick back in one of the beautifully-appointed bedrooms or enjoy a cocktail and fine dining.

stobocastle.co.uk



Carla Savelli

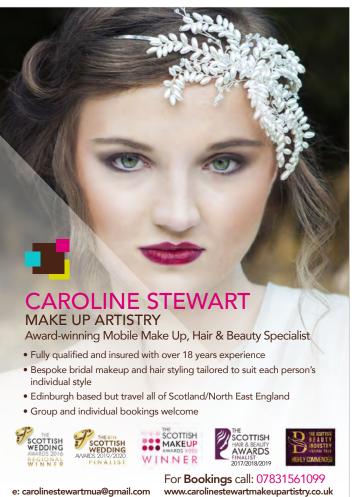
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Cosmetic Dentistry

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Devine Bride on...

Bridgerton Trends -Opulence, Maximalism, and Embellishment

Based in East London for over 10 years but originally from Glasgow, Laura Devine of Devine Bride offers pick and mix wedding planning, helping cool couples to plan their wedding in a more flexible and fun way. With over 180 weddings and events under her belt, Laura knows what's worked, what's not, and what's fun! Here she shares her expert insight into one of the hottest wedding trends for 2022 -Bridgerton!

"With season two of Bridgerton imminent as I write this, you will find me devouring it as soon as it drops in the name of research! I am somewhat thankful for Regé-Jean Page's absence for season two, so that I can focus fully on drawing inspiration for all of 2022 weddings! My clients' moodboards and design concepts are in desperate need of a refresh for the year ahead - and Regency era style is a running theme at the moment. Inspiration from this period is proving popular in a post-covid wedding world (fingers crossed) for its opulence and maximalism, flounces and

frills, and lavish elements of luxury.

2022 is set to be a record year of weddings following all the postponements from 2020-2021; and with extra time to think, plan, and save, I am seeing many of my couples influenced by intrinsic Regency accents thanks to Bridgerton. An austere bout of lockdowns has made my couples go for quite the opposite in every way for their wedding. This style is emerging as a natural trend, rather than an obvious nod, so it's easy to add elements of embellishment and luxury and, ahem, drama, to your wedding style without it looking like a full-on rehash of Daphne's wedding.



PHOTOGRAPH: www.flemingphoto.co.uk

Firstly, colour palettes are emulating Regency blues, soft hues, and an array of pastels. The most obvious trends for the Bridgerton palette is bridesmaid dresses, tablescapes and gorgeous coloured glassware, and of course stunning flouncy florals. With wisteria very typical of the time period in London when the show is set, it's an easy one to recreate - especially as artificial wisteria is very convincing

due to its undulating cascading layers. It's also surely no coincidence that Pantone announced the colour of the year as 'Very



Peri', which is a very deep yet slightly powdered violet, 'encompassing the qualities of blue'; which incidentally is a match for the most common and prominent colour of wisteria. Aside from echoing Regency vibes as a standalone tone anyway.

Bridal styles have evolved to include frills, layers, and puff sleeves for next season, with a search increase for 'bridal gloves' reported on Pinterest. (I will gloss over any Covid connection here and attribute this to black tie and morning suit style instead...) Decorative and ornate headpieces, crowns, and tiaras have become highly sought after, along with oversized bows and embroidered veils.

Tall grandiose cakes with an embellished rococo style (adopted somewhat into this era for its opulent and extravagant charm) are a luxury that couples are now adding on - often usually an afterthought should more wedding budget become available; grand cakes are now taking centre stage. Think ornate details, gilding, extra tiers, and delicate sugar craft. Thanks also to Will and Kate for planting the seed for this trend vears ago.

Lastly, overindulgence takes precedent. Champagne towers, cocktail hours, spoon food canapes (not like in that ep, though!), decadent tasting menus, and extravagant dessert tables are on the up, because why not? Make it a feast to rival any Bridgeton ball.



Follow Laura @devinebride



tests...

Sarah Chapman's Skinesis

Head of editorial Katie headed to Harvey Nichols to trial the world-renowned skincare range

It was a bright cold November morning when I met Skinesis education and events executive Greg Vaughan. And while I was feeling cold, there wasn't much brightness about my skin - definitely not that sought-after radiant glow every bride wants. Instead, it was more "dull with a hint of maskne". Just as well I was consulting an expert.

It's instantly apparent Greg is passionate about these products. He was personally trained by world-renowned super-facialist Sarah Chapman who developed Skinesis to treat the skin concerns she sees in her Chelsea clinic. Every product carries the motto "From face to formula", highlighting Sarah's practice of analysing people's skin and developing products to target specific complaints. The Skinesis range extends to over 40 products and they're all about the coveted glow.

Skinesis combines potent



cosmeceutical actives with cutting-edge technology, while creating a whole sensory experience delivered through botanical oils and luxurious textures. Believe me when I say they both feel and smell divine. It's no wonder there's a 6-8 week waiting list for a Sarah Chapman facial at the clinic, with celebrity clients including Victoria Beckham and Rebel Wilson.

Greg begins my quest for radiant skin by talking me through the make-up of a few products. Active ingredients include vitamin A for anti-aging, vitamin C for radiance, as well as nourishing vitamin E. Then peptides act as messengers to tell the skin what to do, so, for example, in the Skinesis Ultimate Cleanse you'll find collagen peptide to stimulate collagen. Anti-inflammatories strengthen the skin while Greg says the "personality" comes from essential oils.

BUT DOES IT WORK?

During my consultation, Greg created a personalised skincare regime, starting



with the ultimate cleanse which goes on as a balm and turns to a milk when you add water, creating a lovely luxurious feel. I normally flip between micellar water and babywipes (shh!) to remove make-up, but I've been stuck with problematic combination skin, getting occasional teenage blemishes

How to get the bridal glow

Stunning bridal beauty looks start long before the make-up artist arrives. Lock down your effective skincare routine in advance of the wedding to provide the best possible base for your make-up and that must-have bridal glow.

"Invest in your cleanser," says Greg. "That's going to remove everything and treat the skin. For brides our Ultimate Cleanse is amazing, and it removes from the face and eye. Get a good thorough cleanse, treatment serum and moisturizer and within six - eight weeks it'll give a good glow."

But most importantly, he stresses brides mustn't do anything radical a week before the wedding. Nail your regime before and you'll be set.

while dry skin perpetuates. But this cleanser is really helping smooth out my complexion. The milk feels beautifully silky before you remove everything with the double-sided Skinesis cleansing mit; a more ecologically sound option and, importantly, it works. Gone are my panda eyes with residual eyeliner.

Next up is the age-repair concentrate that goes deeper to stimulate collagen. I'm using it morning and night and it's helping give me a soft base for foundation. But it's the overnight facial I've been most excited about. Described by Greg as "iconic", this is the one referred to as "eight hours sleep in a bottle." It feels super-luxurious applying the serum-oil just before bed. It glides on and leaves my skin feeling cashmere soft with a dewy glow. There's no going back to basic night cream now.

The Sarah Chapman Skinesis range is available from the Beyond Beauty counter at Harvey Nichols Edinburgh and also on the Sarah Chapman website

The POWER of flowers

Beautiful blooms can really set the tone of your wedding but how do you decide what you're after? We put your questions to the experts.



Q. My fiancé and I are trying to make our wedding as sustainable as possible, but I'm concerned about the effect our flowers have on the environment. Is there a way we can keep our flowers as sustainable as possible? And what would you suggest doing with them after the wedding?

A. There is absolutely no reason why you should not have environmentally friendly, sustainable wedding flowers. The key to this is choosing seasonal flowers, grown as locally as possible and packaged without unnecessary plastics. These flowers have a beauty and charm that make wedding flowers so special.

It is also important that the wedding florist you choose understands the

importance of using these flowers, works with you to select designs that really highlight their beauty, and doesn't use floristry techniques that are bad for the environment.

It should not be difficult to source local and seasonal wedding flowers. The last few years have seen a real growth in the availability and use at weddings of local, seasonal flowers grown in Scotland. The growers are often very small businesses committed to growing and supplying a wide range of high quality, artisan flowers, without the use of chemicals and plastic packaging. Flowers grown in Scotland tend to be available from early spring to late autumn. The Scottish Flower Grower Collective is one organisation that has information about local wedding flower growers.

Some of these growers, like myself, are also wedding florists and there is a growing number of wedding florists who work with local flower growers they trust to produce the best flowers. I'd suggest actively seeking them out.

It is often a good idea to give some of your flowers as presents to guests or arrange for them to be gifted to a local care home, where they can bring so much pleasure. Some of my brides take their flowers home and enjoy them which I always am really pleased about. Ask for designs that allow you to do this.

Jill Sutherland

Flora Alba

Q. I have my heart set on having a floral moongate but I've heard they can be pretty expensive. What's the rough starting point for them pricewise?





A. We offer various styling options from a single high impact accent to more decorative designs such as 1/2, 3/4 or full moon décor. We also offer the choice of the decorative elements being created in "real look" artificial flowers and foliage, all fresh flowers and foliage or a mix of fresh & faux which allows us to cater for a range of budgets and to create that much desired look. We also love to feature dried items such as eulalia which has a lovely soft airy texture or pampas grass and coloured palm leaves which are fab for texture and impact. Our prices range from £150 to £1,500. Ienni Malcolm-Fraser

Q. I'm obsessed with spring flowers like daffodils and tulips but don't often see them in bouquets. I once heard that they don't tend to suit wedding arrangements because they can droop? Is there any way I could incorporate them in my bouquet, or can you suggest a pretty alternative?

A. You don't see them a lot because they aren't in season for a long length of time. Daffodils and tulips can droop but it is possible if opting for tulips to tuck them in with other flowers so they are supported. You do also find they grow in the light

so by the end of the day your tulips in your bridal bouquet may be a bit taller than they were at the beginning of the day. Ranunculus are beautiful spring flowers with their fluffy layers of petals and of course the stunning and popular peony rose - what's not to like?

Laura Jardine

Q. I want to create a really rich, striking display with lots of reds and earthy tones but I'm useless with flowers. What would you suggest?

A. These colours draw me more towards autumn and winter where there are stunning high impact flowers available, particularly in red tones. In the autumn I would suggest large headed chrysanthemum blooms in red, bronze or soft brown, amaranthus - the upright or trailing varieties -which comes in a lovely biscuit colour or a deep burgundy, anthuriums a little more tropical but the range of colour tones is vast with mocha, terracotta, browns and reds available. Amaryllis is more associated with winter and these high impact blooms have great longevity. Roses - of which new and exciting varieties keep appearing - the current most soughtafter ones are quicksand, which is a nude tone, toffee as you expect a delicious toffee colour, golden

mustard is a lovely mustard yellow, but there are also old time favourites such as Leonidas which is terracotta or café latte which is a vintage pinkish beige shade. When it comes to red you can go as bright or as dark as you wish with black baccara being one of the darkest shades of red.

Ienni

Q. I'm planning on ordering bouquets for myself and bridesmaids as well as buttonholes for the men but what are the other must-have floral displays I should consider?

A. A pedestal or vase arrangement either side of the altar or either side of the registry table can really set the scene for your wedding. These can then be moved around throughout the day so you can use them in your ceremony room and then have them moved to the room the meal is in. Often a long low arrangement can work the same way, a statement piece on your registry table which is then transferred to your top table. Table arrangements in my option are very important as this is where you spend a lot of time. Something that brides also forget about and add on last minute is thank you flowers for mums. Laura







Q. I really love the thought of a big blousy bouquet but I have ME and don't want to have to carry something really heavy. Are there any flowers you can recommend that would fit the bill?

A. For spring bouquets I would recommend ranunculus, anemones, tulips and blossom.

For summer bouquets, I would choose local roses, nigella, sweet peas and peonies if peonies are still available locally. In autumn I would say go for a mix of dahlias, heritage crysanths, cosmos and late season roses. As long as the correct floristry techniques are used for the style of bouquet you want any of these combinations will give you a beautiful blousy bouquet that is not at all heavy. *Iill*.

Flora Alba

Trends - to look out for

Greenfingers

Starting a new year, the trends to look out for are always high on the wedding agenda, but this year Jill from Flora Alba hopes couples keep the wider environmental issues forefront. "With all the dangers associated with the climate crisis we face and the impetus to make choices that are environmentally responsible I really hope the biggest trend will be brides having an increased awareness of the environmental impacts of some wedding flowers and floristry and making a conscious decision to have environmentally friendly wedding flowers," she says. She also hopes wedding florists source local flowers where possible and that we see more weddings showcase seasonal flowers and sustainable designs.

Soft **tones**

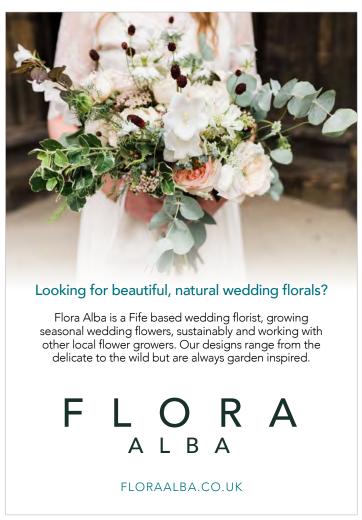
Jenni says we're seeing more earthy toned colour palettes but also layered pastels with tones ranging from the softest shades of pinks, lilacs, mauve, yellow, peach and blue to slightly more intense and rich pastels. Soft neutral and blush colours with a defined pop of colour like red or orange are also trending. Laura agrees couples are still leaning towards neutral palettes of the classic whites and creams, or soft nudes and blush tones with lots of eucalyptus foliage.

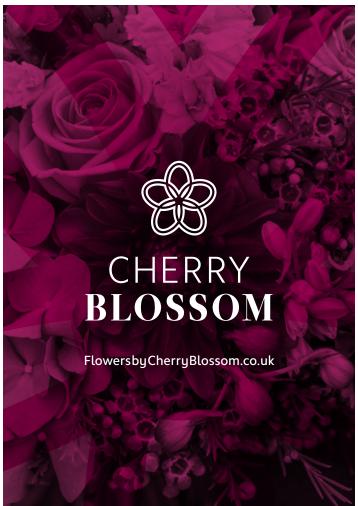
Style it out

Mixing fresh and dried looks is a trend that shows no sign of abating, according to Jenni, while she's seeing lots of textures and layering with shapes becoming more structured and the use of big open roses, phalaenopsis orchids, anthuriums and proteas.

Set the **scene**

Jenni says foliage and greenery are still a big part of venue décor while Laura says single statement pieces are trending, for example, for a mantlepiece. "Candles and foliage will continue to be very popular when it comes to decorating the tables for the wedding meal," she adds.







Let them eat Cake!

Choosing wedding cake sounds like it should be child's play but when do you book it, how much do you need and just how do you decide what to go for?
Katie Bletcher's got you covered.







Any photographer will tell you there are certain wedding moments not to be missed. The first kiss, the first dance and, of course, the cutting of the cake. So, if your cake is going to be centre stage, you'd better make sure it's a good one. But be quick. Cake suppliers are so sought after you could find booking it is one of the first things you do. Edwina McNulty from Rosewood Cakes says for key dates they tend to book two years in advance so it's best to secure your date as soon as you can. Alison Kelly from A Bonnie Wee Cake agrees. "You don't need

to know what kind of cake you would like," she says. "You just need to get the date booked and designs and flavour choices can be finalised approximately six months before the wedding."

PIECE OF CAKE

It's great if you have a clear vision for your cake but don't worry if you're clueless. "Initially you don't need to have any ideas," reassures Laura Japp of Jappacakes. "It's often easier to design your cake around your wedding so book your date and go back to the designer

closer to your wedding to finalise the design. We have a shop full of display cakes, lots of portfolios for inspiration and ranges where you can choose your cake. Or we can design one for you."

Alison advises going with an expert who will guide you through all the choices. She begins the design process by asking about the floral styling, bridesmaids' colour and any theme, as well as the venue. At A Bonnie Wee Cake this normally happens around six months before the big day, alongside a cake tasting. "Everything gets sorted over

coffee and cake," she smiles.

Rosewood Cakes takes a similar approach. "We start by asking lots of questions about you and your wedding style, which helps us build a picture of what you might like," says Edwina. "Then we'll go through our portfolio, seeing what aspects the client likes and put it all together. We create every cake to be bespoke."

TASTE TEST

Different cake designers approach samples in different ways so make sure you ask just when and how you get to choose your flavours. While A Bonnie Wee Cake does a tasting during the consultation, Rosewood Cakes has set dates when samples are available for collection. Then Jappacakes make sample kits every two to three months and couples decide when they would like theirs. "They do their sampling at home as 10 slices of cake can be a lot for one sitting!" says Laura.

WHEN IS ENOUGH **ENOUGH?**

Have you ever tried to cut a birthday cake under pressure while everyone bays for a slice? Believe me it's not fun so when you up the ante for a wedding. working out how many slices you need can be a little intimidating. But don't worry. Your cake designer is an expert. "Most Scottish weddings only need three tiers," advises Laura. "Not everyone will have cake, but some will have a piece of every flavour!"



Edwina and Chris from Rosewood Cakes at work.



Guest numbers are the obvious starting point, but Edwina says there is a lot of movement. "Our cakes are very tall at 6" per tier, with six layers of sponge inside, so you have the option of giving large portions, or cutting them into smaller portions and getting double servings," she says. Also consider how much food you're serving overall and whether your guests are more likely to dance and have a drink or sit with a cup of tea and cake. And Edwina always advises couples take the top tier home to ensure they actually get some!

Finally, there are tricks of the trade to match the look you want to the amount you need. "Couples can increase portions by cutting slabs or by extra tiers," says Alison. "Or they can have a small amount of cake but a big cake by using fake tiers instead of real. Again, it depends on budget and my couples' expectations and needs."



Top of the (cake) pops trends for 2022

Jappacakes have some outright winners in the flavour department which have been orange, coconut and lime, and white greater demand. Over at Rosewood Cakes the flavours that go down best are sticky toffee sponge with a fudge buttercream and layers of salted caramel, followed by a real strawberry buttercream and champagne syrup on vanilla sponge. "Baileys and Oreo are increasingly popular too, as is earl grey with elderflower and lemon" says Edwina.

In terms of the actual design, textured buttercream cakes are still going strong in 2022 according to Laura. "They're such a pretty design that can be made unique by the variety and placement of flowers." Alison agrees that smooth naked cakes will still be very popular this year and can be square or round, dressed in fruit and flowers. "They are exceptionally popular in venues such as barns and castles and weddings with a more relaxed vibe," she says. She also advises deep colours like Hunter green, modern black and gold/ mustard will also be popular as well as dusky hues of pinks, blues and purples. "There are still some geometrical designs hanging in there but overall, the leaning is towards floral and pretty," says Alison.

For 2022 wow factor Edwina says tiers, from Perspex or metallic inserts, while acrylic monograms will be big.

Q. What is a cutting bar/slab?

A. These are extra iced cakes, not for display, but purely to supplement portions and make sure everyone gets a slice

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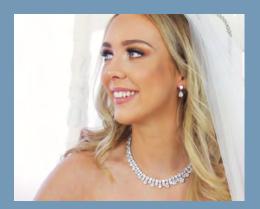
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MARRIED TO THE JOB

It's not everyone who could work with their other half but Oskar and George Gilchrist-Grodnicki relish any chance to collaborate. George runs the *Edinburgh Wedding Directory* while his wedding planner husband Oskar is perhaps better known as The Wedding Guru Oskar.

Here they tell Your Scottish Wedding how it works.



Oskar has been wedding planning at Scottish venues since 2009, from small boutique hotels to grand city centre ballrooms, receiving awards including three Scottish VOWS in the process. But in 2019, after planning over 600 weddings, it was time to help couples plan, outwith a specific venue. And so, The Wedding Guru Oskar was born.

George took a different path into the wedding industry. He was still studying at university when he was approached to take over *Edinburgh Wedding Directory*. Under his leadership the directory now represents a myriad of vendors from cake designers to celebrants.

With both George and Oskar working in weddings it's only natural for them to tap into each other's complementary skill sets. "George is a bit of a creative wizard who's got an eye for aesthetic and design, whereas I am a pedantic organiser who thrives on spreadsheets, detailed schedules and plans," says Oskar. George adds, "It's an amazing feeling working with your husband on something you both enjoy, it barely feels like work!"

Last year these complementary skills swung into action when 2020's Boxing Day lockdown forced them to "lift and shift" one couple's wedding forward by a week. George took on design consultations while Oskar concentrated on the logistics, ensuring their day was fabulous.

GET INSPIRED

With so much experience and creativity it's no surprise Oskar and George pulled off a "magical" wedding of their own, marrying at The InterContinental Edinburgh in 2018 and blending elements of their Scottish and Polish cultures.

But while they had plenty of ideas for their own day, Oskar advises couples who may be new to wedding planning to sign up to wedding directories and magazines for inspiration. "Edinburgh Wedding Directory and Your Scottish Wedding share some wonderful real weddings and there is also Edinburgh Wedding Planning Group on Facebook to exchange notes."

FIND YOUR MOOD

Oskar loves drawing on the latest wedding trends from the luxury market in the Middle East and America, but his biggest inspiration comes directly from his couples. If you do employ The Wedding Guru then, be

prepared for lots of questions! "Honestly, I'm not being nosy, just curious about your style, inspirations, and visions, so don't ever hold back," he says. "Your ideas are a gold mine for me!" George meanwhile gains insight directly from the vendors he works with. And one thing both rely on is a good mood board. Oskar says, "They're super important and helpful in assessing your likes and dislikes and quickly we identify your dream wedding day!"

THE DO'S & DON'TS

While wedding trends come and go, Oskar and George agree keeping it personal is best, with ideas like serving your first date meal as your wedding breakfast always impressing. And timing is everything. If you've put so much effort into creating the perfect day stick to the schedule, lest your surprise singing waiters eat into your time on the dancefloor! "You can be sure to have your timings checked if you work with me," smiles Oskar.

George also warns couples to always keep an eye on the costs. After all, there's no point falling in love with a Pinterest fairytale vision if you can't pay the bills!







"It's an amazing feeling working with your husband on something you both enjoy, it barely feels like work!"

George



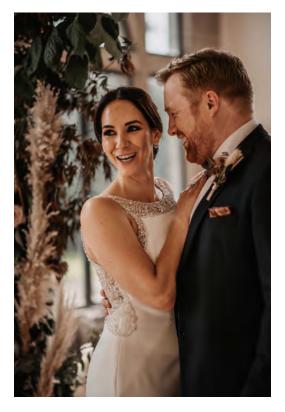












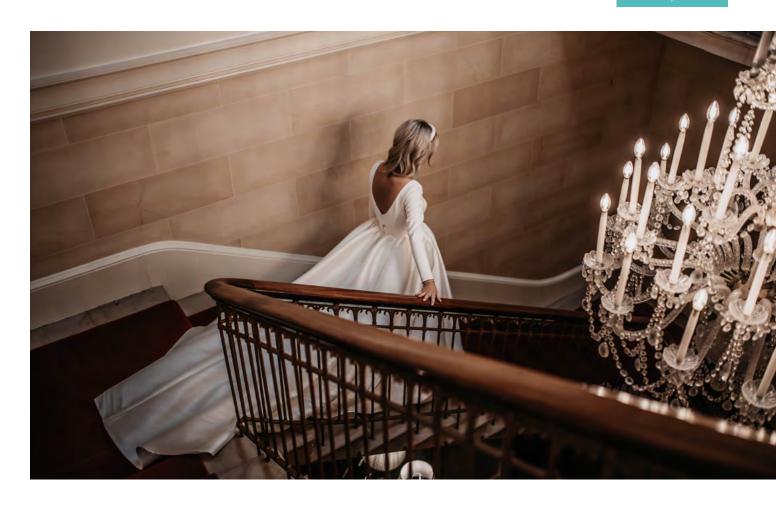
















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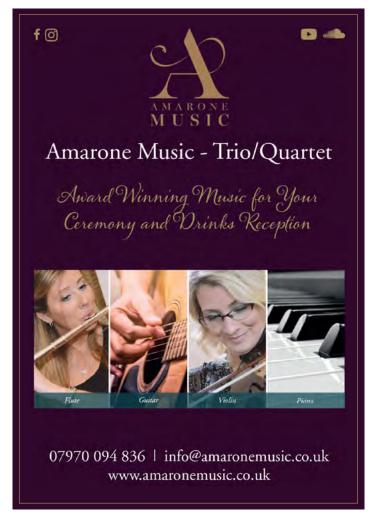
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It's a dog's life

Want to involve your pet on your wedding day? Here's everything you need to know.

For so many couples their pet is as much a part of the family as their two-legged relatives. It's only natural then that they want to involve them in their wedding day and look back at their furry friend looking smart in the wedding pics. Dogs looking all cute in bowties or acting as ringbearers have featured in more and more weddings in recent years and during the pandemic when guestlist numbers were so restricted for the humans I suspect more couples made sure their pet was there for the "I do's".



Photographer Luke Bennett agrees there's been an increase. "I feel that lockdown has meant couples have been spending a lot more time with their pets throughout the day, creating an even tighter bond with them," he says. "This means that they really want to somehow include them in their wedding celebrations."

There's no denying that including your pet can add to the whole wedding experience. As well as creating some lovely photo opportunities Luke says it can bring people together even more. "Quite often immediate family and friends will have spent time with the pet over the years so it's lovely to see people get joy out of seeing the pet on the day and it can create a lot of fun," he says.

However, that's not to say it's always plain sailing. You know the saying never work with children or animals. Luke says pets can naturally be more unpredictable so it can be quite a challenge to photograph them. "As a wedding photographer it is important to

plan the day carefully to optimise time spent with the couple to ensure a great set of photos," he says. "Having a pet there on the day could potentially mean that certain parts of the day could take a little longer."

Luke advises having plenty of treats to help encourage them to sit in the right position for the photo but is also aware that, depending on the pet, some might be unsettled by the unaccustomed noise and people. So what's the solution? You could easily put a member of the bridal party or a family member on dog duty, making sure they're walked and fed but if you'd rather not saddle someone with that responsibility there are other options.

Help is at hand

Enter the fairydogmothers (or fathers). You could ask your regular dogwalker to collect them after they've played their role, or dedicated company Woofy Weddings can collect your dog on the morning of the wedding, exercise them,

groom them and bring them to the venue for the photos and/or ceremony. They can even take them home after and let you dance the night away carefee. Trish Hollinger from the company says, "The couple can enjoy having their much-loved pooch with them for the ceremony and/or photographs without having to worry about the logistics of it all and then they can go on to enjoy their meal and evening celebration, knowing

their pet is in good hands."

Hiring a professional may seem a bit extra but your guests will thank you in the long run. "There could be pitfalls if a family member or friend has to take charge of the dog for the day, for example, if they have to take the dog away from the ceremony for a sudden toilet break or have to sit with it somewhere while others enjoy dinner, or even have to take it home before the

evening celebrations," says Trish. "Even if the dog is allowed free roam with the guests, it may have an awkward toilet accident somewhere or could well be stressing due to all the hustle and bustle." And she also recommends only having the dog there for a couple of hours. That way you get the best of both worlds; gorgeous photos and special memories while you still are free to let loose on the dancefloor.





Guest of honour

PHOTOGRAPHS: Derek Christie Photography

Whatever the weather

Worried about rain on your wedding day? Relax. These gorgeous photos prove it's nothing to sweat.

Cast your minds back to the 90s with Alanis Morrisette bemoaning "rain on your wedding day." Yet despite what the songstress says, far from being ironic - or at least pretty unfortunate - rain on your wedding day is not the catastrophe you might believe. In fact, it's actually considered good luck. The sceptics among us might think that was just something invented to calm down anxious couples but according to Hindu tradition if you "tie the knot" on a rainy day your marriage will last in the same way it's hard to unravel a wet knot. Now isn't that a sentiment worth remembering when rain (or snow) clouds threaten your wedding day?

And inclement weather doesn't just signify good luck. It makes for some pretty awesome photos too. Don't believe us? Just check out these beauties

"Outdoor January wedding in the snow with a sleeveless dress? No problem for Amanda and Andrew! Embracing the elements of a truly Scottish wedding, American Amanda went all in! We even went to the top of Cairn o' Mount in a snow blizzard to capture some amazing snowy portraits of the two of them. Worth it!"

Emma, Emma Lawson Photography





"This image was taken at about 8pm, just before the first dance. It had been howling wind, rain and snow (not the nice fluffy kind, the wet soggy kind) all day, and sadly, going out for photos was proving very difficult. However, later on, the wind calmed down and I went to get something out of my car and noticed these cool warm floodlights on an old warehouse at the back of the car park. I realised if I put my camera low to the ground, the lights from the warehouse reflecting off the wet ground created this cool fiery effect. All I had to do was ask my amazing couple Laura and Dan to stand in the middle and get something cool and unique for them. I couldn't have gotten this image if it hadn't been a wet day."

Ross, Ross Alexander Photography

"Kate and Campbell decided to postpone their big wedding celebration like many couples due to the pandemic. However, they couldn't wait to be husband and wife so decided to elope, just the two of them in Skye. On the way to their chosen spot for the ceremony, it was absolutely tipping it down! However, the sun appeared for a wee bit while they said their vows. Shortly afterward they could see the weather coming back in again and this stunning shot was captured by their incredible photographer Andrew Rae. You can't have a rainbow without a little rain!"

Cat Duthie of Fin Flükra

Photo by Andrew Rae Photographer





"Even when it's blowing a hoolie and spitting with rain, you can just cling onto each other for dear life and it'll still look super romantic. Case in point is Kate and Jen battling the elements but still looking super cool!"

Sarah, Fotomaki Photography

"A windy day in the Glasgow University cloisters can make for some epic candid moments as seen at Caroline and Garry's wedding here. Some veils have a mind of their own but they sure are entertaining!"

Lauren, Lauren Stirling Photography



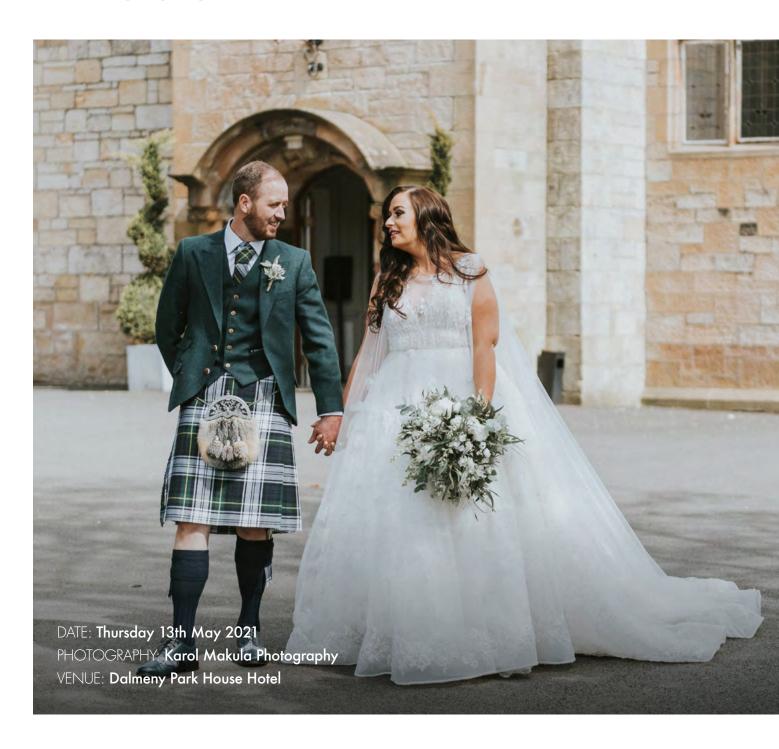


"When Linda and John got married the weather was very chilly and raining but we got lucky when that rain turned to snow! These two were certainly brave getting out there in that weather." Scott and Chantal, The Gibsons





Tailor made



As the owner of bridal boutique June Brides Glasgow, Hollie of course wore a beautiful bespoke Demetrios Platinum gown, designed just for her! Hollie and her husband Gordon first met on a night out but didn't get together until a year later. Fast forward almost four years and romantic Hollie whisked her man away to Rome as a surprise for his birthday. But the biggest surprise was on her when Gordon proposed at the Trevi fountain! "I only told him the night before [we were going] but he was very organised and had a ring at the ready incase a perfect moment popped up!" remembers Hollie.

The couple originally thought an informal Italian wedding might be on the cards but quickly dismissed that. "We agreed we wanted our big day at home



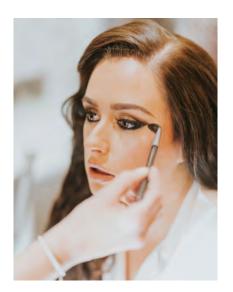
part. "We wanted somewhere different," she says. "Not too traditional and we were set on an outdoor ceremony. We visited a few different venues and none of them had that immediate yes feel. However, when we decided to look at Dalmeny they were well underway with their full refurbishment and at our initial meeting we are mostly shown design concepts. We agreed very quickly it offered everything we were looking for."

The couple were originally due to marry in April 2020 but like so many had to postpone twice and eventually said

'I do' the following May. Instead of their original 120 day guests they ended up marrying in front of 30 guests in total, "plus our two furbabies!" Hollie and Gordon kept their décor very natural and classic with lots of floral elements incorporating ivory blooms, thistles and foliage. The bride and her mum (and business partner) Carol made eight gorgeous floral urn displays for the ceremony and Gordon - a tree surgeon - cut silver birch slices for the cakestand and centrepieces which Hollie added calligraphy to.







as it was so important to us to celebrate with all our friends and family," says Hollie.

You'd think working in the wedding industry herself as owner and artistic director of June Brides Glasgow boutique Hollie would find choosing their venue a doddle but it was actually the hardest



"The best advice I can give is to remember not everything will go exactly as planned. There is something beautiful in the imperfect moments that you could never plan for! Some of my favourite moments were the ones we could never have planned."

Hollie may have found choosing her venue difficult but working in fashion the dress was simple. "I knew exactly what I envisioned," she says. "During a bridal exhibition where I was choosing our new Demetrios collection for our store, Jimmy and his daughter Eleni who own Demetrios, very kindly offered to design my own bespoke gown!" It was then off to the brand's showroom in Milan with mum Carol, (who was also her maw of honour) where lead designer Kevin sketched the perfect gown. And what a dress! Kevin designed a beautiful, embellished illusion bodice with a soft circle skirt and layers of sequin tulle, metallic floral fabric and 3D floral appliqués. Hollie finished the look with with a bespoke Lusan Mandongus cape. Wow!

As his bride was enjoying the VIP treatment, Gordon headed to Frank's Gold Room at Kilts 4 U to design his own bespoke kilt outfit, choosing the same tartan his dad had on his own wedding day.

The day before the wedding was lovely and relaxed, with Hollie enjoying a meal with her family at Dalmeny while Gordon went for dinner with his best man and usher. There was little sleep to be had though and Carol was wide awake at 4am doing the slosh! "Let's just say, once my bridesmaid Lynsey arrived the hilarity continued," smiles the bride. The morning flew in and it was so much fun Hollie ended up being 45 minutes late



to her own ceremony! By the time she walked down the aisle she just wanted to get to Gordon. "After all, at this point being late, he might have thought I had done a runner!" she says.

The couple were married in a humanist ceremony by celebrant Lesley Anderson. They had originally wanted Hollie's dad to marry them but once they discovered the logistics that involved they chose Lesley who then let the father-of-the-bride do his thing and tell their story. "It was such a special moment," says Hollie. They incorporated Scottish traditions with a handfasting and drinking from the quaich - champagne for the bride, MD 20/20 for the groom!

Following the ceremony, they enjoyed a drinks reception before a five-course meal. As there was no dancing allowed beyond the first dance and father, daughter dance Hollie says their evening reception felt like a special intimate dinner party. As part of his speech Hollie's dad wrote the couple a poem before handing the mic to maw of honour Carol who hilariously sucked helium to sing one of their songs.

MThe couple have so many highlights from the day, including sneaking off during dinner to their ceremony space outside for a quiet dance. Oh, and Gordon parking his beloved blue tractor front and centre at Dalmeny. Hollie laughs, "At least it matched the bridesmaid dress!"







DREAM TEAM

BRIDE'S DRESS Demetrios

BRIDESMAID DRESS

Kelsey Rose from Lady G

CELEBRANT

Lesley Anderson of Independent Humanist Celebrants

CAKE Kim Gordon Cakes

DÉCOR

Jemma At K & H Teasures

FLOWERS Cherry Blossom

GROOM'S OUTFIT Kilts 4 U

HAIR

Laura Slaven Freelance Hair Stylist

MAKE-UP

Lynne Brown Make-Up Artistry

MAW OF HONOUR DRESS

John Charles from Lady G

RINGS Ernest Jones

VIDEOGRAPHY Gumshoe Films

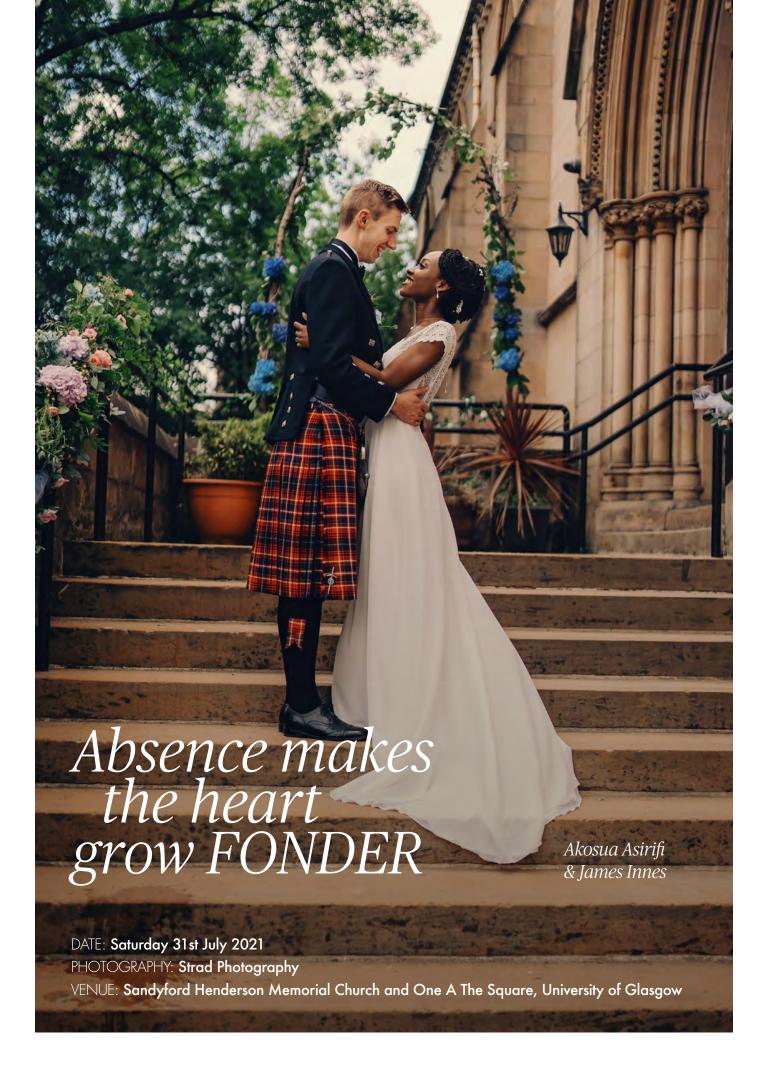


PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT



"I love what I do and I truly feel I have the best job in the world. Being able to capture memories from one of the most important days of people's life is the most satisfying feeling ever. I like to capture the most candid, natural moments possible."

Karol, Karol Makula Photography



Meeting in the church they would eventually be married in was the perfect start to this couple's love story







Originally from Ghana and living in Paris at the time, Akosua first met Iames whilst on her year abroad from university. She was to spend twelve months living and learning in Glasgow, but little did she know she'd be throwing love into the mix too, when James moved to the city for teacher training.

After a whirlwind three months, she was back on French soil and their longdistance relationship began. Four years later, James decided it was time to get down on one knee, "Our engagement story is a sign of the times," explains Akosua. "James had planned to propose in April 2020 when visiting me in Paris but the pandemic had other ideas. He planned again for September when we'd meet in Milan but just before the trip. I caught Covid and couldn't travel!" It was third time lucky when the couple found one country - Sweden - relaxed enough to host them both in October. James popped the question with a custommade ring in Tyresta National Park, just outside Stockholm, and came prepared with champagne. After a special weekend together, however, strict travel restrictions meant the couple didn't

actually see one another again until the wedding day!

THE PLANNING BEGINS

Both of Christian faith, the pair immediately added a personal element by booking their ceremony at Sandyford Henderson, the church where they met, became friends, and started dating. Organising the reception proved a little trickier as many venues were already booked out but, after advice from James' parents, they found One A The Square at the University of Glasgow.

Next up, the guest list! "We first organised our wedding for only 20 guests and, as restrictions eased, increased the guest list to 40 then 50 people. Finally, two weeks before the big day Scotland moved to Level 1 and we were able to have 100 people at the church and 50 for the reception," explains Akosua. This boost in numbers also meant bridesmaids were an option, and she asked two friends she'd met when living in Glasgow, "We're all in the same friendship group and they'd witnessed my growing relationship with James."





An experience many brides dream of, dress shopping in Paris was a practical choice for Akosua. On her second shopping trip, she found her simple, elegant, boho-style dress and teamed it with a pearl necklace and matching earrings from So Hélo, a small, independent French brand. Whilst his bride channelled the chic Parisian vibe, James celebrated his background by sporting his Innes family kilt; a 21st birthday present from his parents.

BACK WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

On the big day, James was incredibly chilled and just couldn't wait to get

married. Akosua remembers feeling "incredibly happy and serene" as she walked into the church, overjoyed that she was finally going to be with the person she loved most in the world. Willie Black, a retired minister and missionary to South Korea, conducted a meaningful ceremony, peppered with witty anecdotes, and it was video linked to others around the world.

The guests enjoyed a Prosecco reception ("We missed it as we were too busy being photographed in Kelvingrove Park," laughs Akosua)

before reconvening at One A The Square where the bride's hard work on the décor was obvious. There was a definite rustic yet elegant vibe, with flourishes of carmine red, royal blue and baby pink. Jan, a friend of the couple from church, added some extra special sentiment with some "incredible DIY items," including a memory circle and flower arch.

A meal, pictures and speeches followed before a first dance, a fatherdaughter dance and the cake-cutting. Akosua says, "It was a joyful, serene and







intimate evening. My father is a lawyer and gave a typically well-articulated 20-minute speech where he reminded us about the importance of future children with a toast! The highlight of James' speech was reading out a long-lost love letter I'd written early on in the relationship, and I made my bridesmaids cry, while crying myself while addressing my parents. I also almost made James cry by confessing he wasn't my ideal man as I'd always dreamed of marrying a Korean!"

TOGETHER AT LAST

Now, living together after four years apart is very special, although the couple admits this has brought up interesting new challenges! "We're currently loving spending each day with our best friend," smiles Akosua. "As special as the wedding was, the marriage to come is far more important. Everyone should spend as much time planning for married life as the big day itself."

"I'd thoroughly recommend Hilda as a make-up artist for brides with a darker skin tone. She was attentive, went the extra mile and gave me a high quality, natural glow that I loved."

Akosua



DREAM TEAM

BRIDE'S DRESS Elie from Sonia L

CAKE 3D Cakes

FLOWERS New Bud Floristry

GROOM'S KILT

Kinloch Anderson

GROOM'S JACKET & WAISTCOAT

MacGregor & MacDuff

JEVVELLERY So Hélo

MAKE-UP Hillz Beauty Palace

MINISTER Willie Black

RINGS James Porter & Son

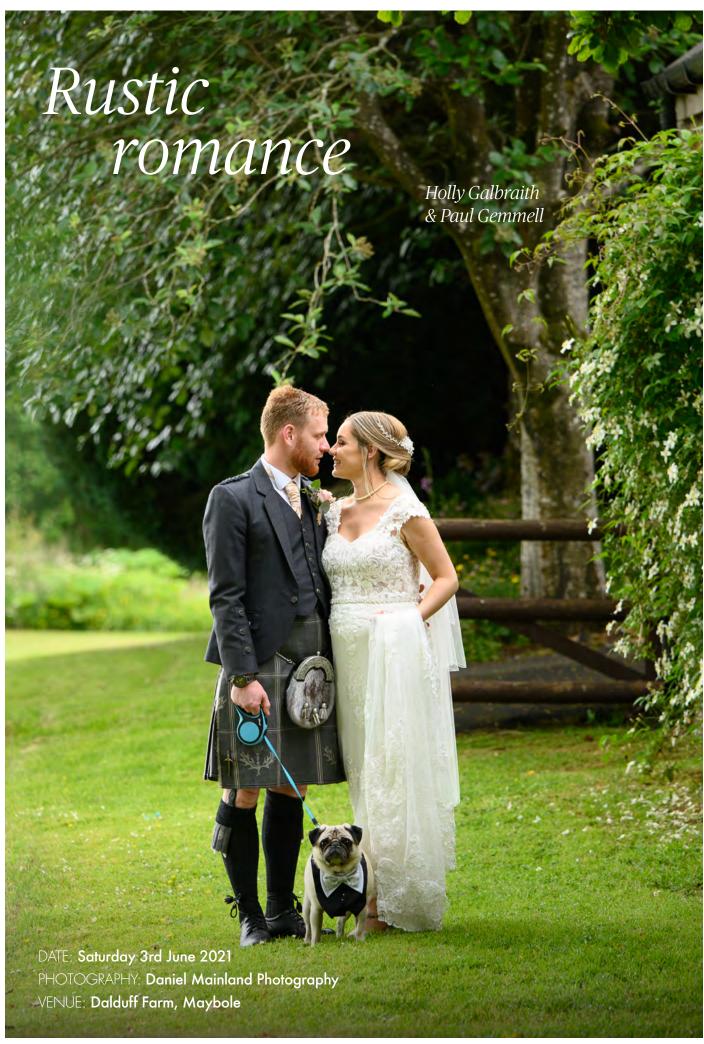
VIDEOGRAPHY AMD Studios

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT



"I really liked the mix of both cultures at their wedding. Seeing both families dressed in their traditional outfits and having fun together was great."

Shem, Strad Photography



Steal this couple's beautiful rustic style with blush pink, gorgeous blooms and plenty of wooden touches

When it comes to romantic proposals Paul planned his perfectly, asking Holly to marry him in a cable car going over the River Thames to the O2 arena. The couple had been together for seven years at that stage, having first met through Holly's cousin. When they both came back down to earth it was time to start wedding planning.

Choosing a barn style venue that ticked all the boxes was their top priority and they visited various locations before deciding on Dalduff Farm. "It had everything we were looking for and had so much scope for making it unique and individual," says Holly. "We had heard so many amazing reviews so it was a definite for us." They wanted to create a rustic look with plenty of DIY details. Holly's talented uncle made all their centrepieces and wooden love heart favours engraved with their names and the date of the wedding, while the bride kept to a soft colour palette with lots of blush pink. Then John Gold Floristry worked his magic to complete the look. "No words can describe his talents," says Holly. "He literally made my floral dreams come true!"

As well as creating the rustic look they were after, it was very important to Holly and Paul that they found the right celebrant to marry them. They wanted

a Humanist service as neither of them is religious. "We wanted our love story told to our closest friends and family," adds Holly who was thrilled when they found George McLean of Fuze Ceremonies. "He really is one in a million," she says. "Leading up to our wedding nothing was ever too much trouble. If you want a heartfelt, funny ceremony then definitely choose George."

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW...

Although they were marrying in June 2021 as many couples were understandably in a flap about the constant changes, Paul and Holly didn't find wedding planning overly stressful. Even choosing a dress to fit her growing baby bump was something this bride took in her stride - you can read all about it on p45. She knew she wanted something fitted and not strapless but apart from that, kept an open mind. She found her stunning sweetheart neckline embroidered sheath dress in Wed2B, the very first shop she went into, and accessorised with a simple pearl and sparkle belt. "My jewellery had sentimental value," adds Holly. "As my gran had recently passed away, I got her pearls restrung into a necklace and bracelet."











"Enjoy every minute of planning. Definitely buy a good wedding planner book and don't stress the small things!"

Holly

The whole wedding party stayed at Dalduff the night before the wedding, enjoying an amazing meal and relaxing, though Holly admits she didn't get much sleep; "I felt like a kid on Christmas morning but I was also emotional."

Walking down the aisle was really special for this bride who walked in with both of her parents to piper Liam Rogers playing Highland Cathedral. "I was an emotional wreck as I saw Paul crying and it set me off!" she says. And she remembers saying their vows felt incredible.

Following the ceremony their piper played on and entertained the guest during the drinks reception while the couple slipped off for some photos, accompanied by their cute pug Frank of course!

Then Dalduff served up an incredible family style summer feast with seafood salad, lemon and rosemary chicken supreme, barbecue rump steak, Greekstyle lamb kebabs, homemade fries, celeriac remoulade and couscous.

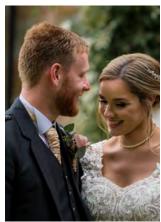
Holly remembers the speeches as being "unbelievably amazing." "The

best man's was hilarious, my dad's was heartfelt and Paul's was just amazing," she smiles. "He really is the best!" Then they had a brilliant time celebrating with all their guests into the night. "The atmosphere was fabulous," says Holly.

Reflecting on their wedding, the bride says she loved choosing and organising all the suppliers and getting ideas from Pinterest. But the real highlight was seeing Paul's reaction when she got to the end of the aisle. "It feels amazing to be married," she says. "And now baby Rory's here it's amazing to be a family of three."









DREAM TEAM

BRIDE'S DRESS AND BELT Wed2B

BRIDE'S HAIRPIECE

OHBridal on etsy

BRIDE'S SHOES

Pelino Sandals on etsy

BRIDESMAID DRESSES Sistaglam

CAKE Sugar & Spice

CELEBRANT

George McLean - Fuze Ceremonies

FLORIST John Gold Floristry

GROOM'S OUTFIT Kilts 4U

HAIR Natalie Doonan Hair

MAKE-UP

Emma Jane Makeup Artistry

PIPER Liam Rogers Piper

RINGS Beaverbrooks

STATIONERY

Leigh Louise Creative

VIDEOGRAPHY

Media Images Videography



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Dalduff Farm is fantastic. There are so many beautiful locations for photographs everywhere you turn. Holly, Paul, and their whole wedding party for that matter, made us feel so welcome and they were great fun and so easy to work with and, of course, I loved meeting Frank their handsome little pug. He loved posing for the camera."

Daniel, Daniel Mainland Photography





Jump to it!

These chic brides ditched the gowns in favour of super-stylish jumpsuits for their beautiful garden wedding

The pandemic forced Susan and Jenny to slash their guestlist and switch their wedding from a winter celebration to a beautiful summer garden party, but they embraced the change and really loved planning. And these stylish brides were always going to have a stunning wedding, however they tied the knot. "We enjoyed planning as it was on a smaller scale and more personal," smiles Susan.

The couple first met in Alston Bar and Beef while Jenny was working and Susan was in for lunch with friends. They hit it off and three years later Susan proposed to Jenny under their Christmas tree.

From the beginning it was important for them to find a venue where they could choose their own catering and the original plan was to marry just after Christmas with 150 guests but when restrictions kicked in again they pushed the date back to July and cut their number of guests to 50. They chose Jenny's brother and sister-in-law's back garden for their celebration, and it was

lovely to have that personal connection. The brides stuck to a scheme of greens and natural colours with flowers and foliage setting the tone and they either sourced or made all of the décor details themselves.

These fashion-forward brides had a clear idea of what they wanted no dresses. Instead, they opted for gorgeous jumpsuits. However, due to the pandemic they had to order online with Susan getting a beautiful French Connection number and Jenny sourcing a lovely ASOS Bridal one. "We both wanted something comfy, classic and simple," says Susan. They accessorised with individual flower pins for their hair, made by their florist Nicola at Olive Flowers Glasgow, navy shoes to add a splash of colour and cool sunglasses.

The women originally intended to have eight bridesmaids - to be dressed in navy Boden jumpsuits - and two bridesmen. "However, as our numbers ended up so small and the day happened in a different way, they were just guests," says Susan.



"Enjoy the day as it goes so quickly and do it how you want as opposed to how it 'should' be done. Be comfortable!"

Susan

Waking up on their wedding morning the brides both felt relaxed and just excited for the day ahead. "Other than a stress with the prosecco cart not delivering glasses the morning was very calm," says Susan. They walked down the aisle to a song that was personally composed for the occasion and played live by Jenny's mum's partner Donald MacLellan. "We both felt very lucky and it was a lovely moment walking with two people who mean a lot to us, Jenny's brother and my dad," remembers Susan.

The couple chose to have a humanist ceremony and have a close connection with their marriage officer Maria Cairnie which made it all the more special.

"We didn't write our own vows but selected poems to be read during the ceremony which resonated with our journey," says Susan. "We felt very emotional saying our vows.

Susan and Jenny held a drinks reception before and after the ceremony and they made sure they joined in before their "I do's" so they could enjoy as much time as possible with their guests. Then following their ceremony they all feasted on a brilliant barbecue, catered by Regis Banqueting in a fun and relaxed reception. "Jenny's brother wrote a speech which made reference to our journey in a way that was emotional and understood by the guests," smiles Susan.

"It was very special."

Reflecting on their big day, Susan says it feels "amazing" to be married. And while planning was far from plain sailing with the change of venue and date, they loved how it all worked out. "Covid was initially the toughest thing about it but that turned out to be a blessing as it made our day more special and intimate that we could have hoped for," she says. They had great fun working with people they have relationships with and putting together all the small touches. And they say it was so special to be surrounded by the people they're closest to."













DREAM TEAM

CAKE Cara Mancey

CATERING Regis Banqueting

DÉCOR James Stapleton Balloons

FLOWERS

Olive Flowers Glasgow

HAIR Niche Salon Paisley

JENNY'S JUMPSUIT ASOS Bridal

MAKE-UP Laura Craig

MARRIAGE OFFICER

Maria Cairnie

MUSICIAN Donald MacLellan

RINGS Etsy

SUSAN'S JUMPSUIT

French Connection

TRANSPORT Acacia Coaches

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT



"It was a pleasure to photograph Jenny and Sue's wedding. Because of Covid they decided to use their sister-in-law's garden and I was a little bit hesitant because it wasn't your normal location with multiple places to set up wellcomposed shots, plus they had instructed me that didn't want any traditional wedding photographs, they just wanted me to capture the essence of the day in a fly on the wall way. My nerves were quickly removed. The combination of all these elements, plus the fab weather gave me a great opportunity to capture some beautiful moments that Jenny and Sue seemed incredibly happy about. Lovely couple, lovely day and lovely memories."

Eric,

Eric Pomphrey









Adaora and Sam employed a chic champagne gold and burgundy colour scheme to create their simple but luxurious wedding

When it comes to romantic proposals, Sam played a blinder. He had first met Adaora three years earlier on a two-week training course for the medical licensing exam. "I noticed her instantly," he remembers. "I took every opportunity to steal a glance and quietly ensured we ended up in the same study group." For Adaora it was an instant connection, and they spent a lot of time together outside the group, chatting into the small hours. "Thankfully, we both passed the exam and started dating officially after about four months," she says.

As they approached their third anniversary Sam started planning his "top secret" proposal and took Adaora for an intimate dinner at classy Manchester restaurant 20 Stories. He printed out pictures of various points in their relationship and wrote sweet notes behind each. As she read them

Adaora became aware of the waiter approaching with a platter. "It wasn't until he came round, I saw on it the words 'Will you marry me?'," she says. "When I turned Sam was already on one knee with the ring!" Of course, it was a yes.

A SIMPLE VISION

Adaora and Sam funded their wedding entirely by themselves so it was key to stick to their budget when creating their simple yet luxurious wedding. They always knew they would get married in a church, given Adaora's Catholic background and when they fell in love with Boclair House Hotel which was close to the church they had chosen to marry in everything started to fall into place. "As soon as Sam and I walked into Boclair we knew it was the one," smiles Adaora and she got to work on creating their gorgeous burgundy and champagne gold wedding with beautiful

personal touches like the individual favour boxes she embellished with their bespoke crest.

INSTA(NT) HIT

Whilst Adaora thrived on the creative side of the wedding look, she found the whole dress shopping experience one of the more tasking parts of planning. With her family living outside the UK she ended up going to most of her appointments by herself and after about 10 appointments she was no closer to the one. "The challenge was getting the dream dress within a limited budget," she explains. "I was getting nowhere and was starting to panic, so decided to try a different tactic; online/Instagram shopping." Choosing her stunning Emilio Ricci Luxury blush gown online without ever seeing it in the flesh was a huge risk but somehow she just knew it was the dress. "It fitted like a glove and didn't require any alterations," she says.





Adaora accessorized with Badgley Mischka's 'Quintana' shoes and a crystal headpiece and earrings from Nigerian store, Elsie Joy Bridal. Then she switched up her look for the reception with a beautiful figure-hugging dress. She also chose a Nigerian designer Ibilola Ogundipe to tailor make her four bridesmaid dresses and Sam and his groomsmen headed to Nigerian designer Teeclothiers Bespoke for their tuxedos.

The night before the wedding Adaora's bridesmaids treated her to a bridal shower but made sure they were all done and in bed by 11pm. Sam on the other hand had a much later night, going bowling with his groomsmen and then spending a few hours finalising and reflecting on his vows.

Adaora set out with the intention to enjoy her wedding day, relax and take

in every moment. "I had told myself to be present and focus on my husband," she says and she kicked off the day with some proper pampering, getting ready with her girls.

Walking down the aisle to Pachelbel's *Canon in D* was a real moment for the bride and she felt overjoyed to see Sam there waiting to marry her, while he says "I knew I was punching! She was everything I imagined; a beautiful princess who looked beyond stunning."

The couple were married in St Joseph's Catholic Church, Blantyre, "choosing to embark on the journey of marriage with God's blessing and guidance." Adaora says, "Whilst we see ourselves as progressive and have our own definition of marriage, we strongly align with the institution of marriage as prescribed by the Christian faith we were raised with."

They stuck with the traditional vows in church, leaving the vows they had written themselves until their reception. "The vows at church felt so profound and our written vows [later] added that personal touch we wanted," smiles Sam.

Following the ceremony, they hosted their guests with a drinks reception and beautiful three-course meal at Boclair. "Adaora's mum's speech moved everyone to tears and the speeches from our family and close friends were also touching," says Sam. Getting married in July 2021 meant restrictions still brought the reception to an early close but they were able to enjoy their first dance, cake cutting and a couple's game. "It was such a joyful, powerful and emotional day," smiles Adaora. "The vibe was very relaxed, everyone looked good and the weather was fantastic."









"I didn't think it was possible to love Sam any more than I did but with marriage, my love for him amplified. For me, marriage appears to have inspired a deeper level of responsibility, commitment, and security."

Adaora



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT



"This was one of my favourite weddings I have photographed and there are a lot of things that I loved about it. I loved the very positive and fun vibe from the moment I met them. The attention to the details and the African traditions, powerful prayers, and speeches. I also really enjoyed the wedding party entering the ceremony room dancing."

Shem, Strad Photography

DREAM TEAM

BRIDE'S CEREMONY DRESS Emilio Ricci Luxury

BRIDE'S ENGAGEMENT RING
77 Diamonds

BRIDE'S HEADPIECE & EARRINGS Elsie Joy Bridal

BRIDE'S SHOES Badgley Mischka

BRIDE'S WEDDING RING

Angelic Diamonds

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Ibilola Ogundipe

CAKE Akara Bakery

DÉCOR Couture Chair Covers

FLOWERS Blooms Glasgow

GROOM & GROOMSMEN'S OUTFITS Teeclothiers Bespoke

GROOM'S WEDDING RING

Beaverbrooks

HAIR Gem Events

INVITATIONS

CZinvitations on Etsy

MAKE-UP Onyx

PLACE CARDS

FawkesQuill on Etsy

Happily ever after









Even forgetting their marriage schedule couldn't throw this bride and groom from having their fairytale wedding

Kirsty and Kasim are a pretty relaxed couple so they took everything in their stride, despite some difficulties when planning their gorgeous wedding. They first met at a party while Kirsty was chatting to his brother Amar. Then after six years together Kas had a ring ready to propose on holiday in Kirsty's favourite place Rome. Then Covid hit and their holiday had to be cancelled. So it was plan B. "We had bought our first house together right before lockdown, and when we finally moved into our house Kasim proposed," says Kirsty. "It was the first weekend in the house, surrounded by boxes and with Italian takeaway." And this groom had a very specific idea in mind for his fiancée's engagement ring, designing one with a black diamond at Diamond Heaven.

Getting engaged during lockdown meant finding a venue wasn't easy.

"Some weren't getting back to us, some were fully booked, and some didn't want to carry out weddings with only 20 people (which was the law at the time)," says Kirsty. But when they saw Cornhill Castle it ticked all their boxes. They wanted a venue that would cater to a small wedding because even if restrictions eased, they would still keep their numbers small. "We also wanted a visually stunning venue so we could get beautiful pictures," says Kirsty. "When we went to visit, we knew Cornhill Castle was the one. It was like a fairytale castle."

The couple set out without having any particular theme or colour scheme and Kas decided to keep his tartan a surprise for Kirsty so it would have been difficult to settle on a theme. "However, as we progressed we realised we favoured thistles and dark blues and greys," she says.







Kirsty initially thought she wanted a colourful wedding dress and had seen some stunning pink and blue gowns online but the more she looked she started to stress. Add to that, she was looking for an Asian gown as well and the pressure was on. But then she went to Wed2B having seen two of their dresses on social media. "Sadly they weren't in stock but I told the lady in the shop what I was after and she got a dress from the back room and I loved it," she says. "As soon as I tried it on, I knew it was the one." With her Scottish dress sorted, she found her Asian outfit online and she and her mother-in-law found accessories in Lallies Glasgow. She loved traditional red dresses but felt red didn't suit her, so she found a stunning white and gold gown with a red dupatta - "the best of both worlds."

Kirsty and Kas travelled to Cornhill the night before the wedding and had a lovely meal together before going their separate ways. "Kas slept like he always does, like a log!" says the bride. "I on the other hand saw pretty much every hour on the clock. I was excited and couldn't wait for the day to start."

The morning was a hive of excitement and then they realised they had forgotten the marriage schedule. "Our best man and bridesmaid drove to our house to collect it," says Kirsty.



"Everyone kept telling me 'don't worry' but I wasn't worried at all. We aren't too far from the venue and knew where it was. I felt like I should have been more worried but we are both very chilled out people so we had a laugh about it. And it also gave me more time to get ready!"

Kirsty was walked down the aisle by her brother to *River Flows in You* by Yiruma and felt really emotional "but in a good way. I was so excited to see Kas in his tartan and tried really hard not to cry." The couple had a humanist ceremony conducted by Chris Grey.

"He performed a great ceremony and added in a lot of nice personal touches," says Kirsty. "We drank from a quaich and did a handfasting. We were both pretty emotional during our vows but managed to get through it."

The atmosphere at their reception was very relaxed. They kept their numbers intimate with only 15 guests and loved that they were able to chat and dance with everyone. "Many, many shots were consumed throughout the night and it finished off in the traditional Scottish way, with *Loch Lomond.*"



"It feels brilliant to be married but we both cannot believe that our special day has been and gone already!"





DREAM TEAM

ASIAN DUPATTA & ACCESSORIES Lallies

BANGLES Swarovksi

BRIDE'S SHOES

Kurt Geiger and Converse

BRIDESMAID'S DRESS ASOS

CAKE Vintage Cakes Motherwell

CELEBRANT Chris Grey

EARRINGS Thomas Sabo

FLORAL CROWN

Angelique Lamont

FLOWERS Bells Florist Wishaw

GROOM'S OUTFIT Kilts 4U

HAIR Demi Dickson

MAKE-UP Jay McLaughlan

NECKLACE Beaverbrooks

RINGS Diamond Heaven

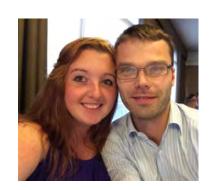
SCOTTISH WEDDING DRESS & VEIL Wed2B

STATIONERY Etsy

VIDEOGRAPHY

Brian Scott Weddings

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT



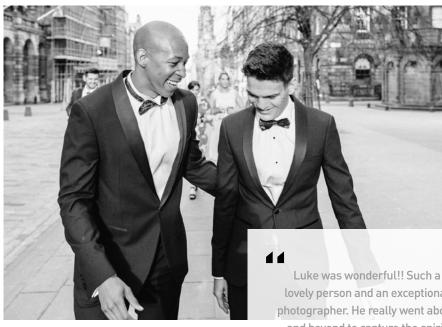
"Kirsty and Kasim were just a lovely couple to work with. It was a very interesting wedding and they were just so chilled out and welcoming. The day after we went back for more photos with Kirsty in her Asian dress."

Richard, Richard Craig Photography



Beautiful, timeless, and fun!





Luke Bennett Photography

www.lukebennettphotography.com © lukebennettphoto

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



Joyful, Vibrant, Alternative Wedding Photographer Glasgow Based. Scotland Wide ~ FotomakiPhotography.com ©: @fotomakiphotography



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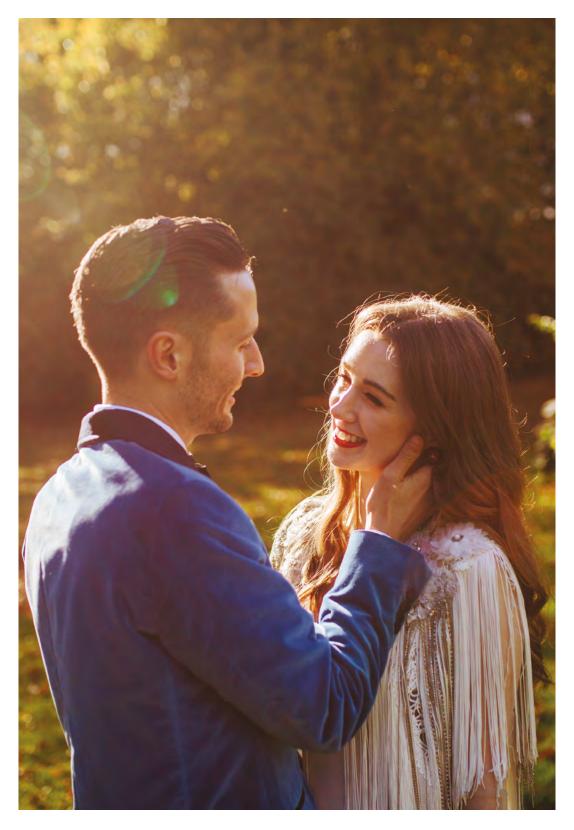
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Capturing joyful moments

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a romantic two-night minimoon for two

worth £1,000 at any Macdonald Hotel in Scotland

We know you're busy caught up in the happy whirl of wedding planning right now but how do you fancy having a luxury minimoon to look forward to?

Then make sure you and your other half enter this amazing competition to be in with a chance to win a couple's two-night minimoon at any of Macdonald Hotels & Resorts' beautiful Scottish venues.

Whether you fancy a city break or want to escape to the Highlands, there's a Macdonald property for you. Wherever you choose, you can expect fine dining using the very best seasonal and local produce, beautifully-appointed rooms and the warmest of welcomes.

And did you know, you can also say "I do" in a stunning Macdonald Hotels & Resorts location? From elopements and wee micro-weddings to grander affairs, the teams at the venues will help you plan your dream wedding.





How to enter

To enter simply answer the following question:

How many hotels does Macdonald Hotels & Resorts have in Scotland?

Send your answer and both your names to editorial@yourscottishwedding.co.uk

Applications must be in by the closing date of **9th May 2022** and the prize must be taken by 31st October 2022.

What's included?

The lucky winners will be treated to a minimoon for two in the Macdonald Hotel of their choice in Scotland.

The prize includes:

2 night stay

for the happy couple in a Suite

Breakfast & dinner

on both nights

Champagne

in room on arrival

55-minute

Elemis spa treatment each

Full use of

hotel leisure facilities

Terms & Conditions:

Please note your prize is subject to availability and must be booked in advance. Excludes key event dates and Bank Holiday weekends i.e. Christmas, New Year, school holidays and Valentines and availability may be limited on weekends. Your prize includes two-night stay with breakfast each day, one 55 minute spa treatment each, evening meal for two on both nights, a bottle of Champagne on arrival, use of spa facilities including robes, slippers and fluffy towels. Prize is non-refundable and non-transferable. All extras including extra treatments, golf, drinks, travel and adding other guests/children to your prize will be charged as taken. This prize is non-refundable, non-transferable and must be taken by 31st October 2022. Prize has no cash alternative. "Your Scottish Wedding is the media partner of this competition and is not responsible for the delivery of the prize. The arrangement of the minimoon will be between the winning couple and Macdonald Hotels & Resorts.

Revel in Regency

Whether you're a die-hard fan or total newbie (where have you been?!) there's no denying that there's something about the romantic drama, poetic grandeur and sheer opulence of Bridgerton that makes you want to pick it up off the telly and translate it into an elegant wedding that even Lady Whistledown would be wowed by. From playful colours and period accessories to afternoon teas and trailing wisteria, it's not hard to incorporate London's 1800s glamour. But for a real regency vibe you're going to need a sumptuous Scottish venue that's fit for a Duke and Duchess. Luckily for you, we have a selection of the very best right here. So, grab a glass of champagne, channel your inner Daphne and travel back in time...

Words by Claire Muir

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: Juliette Lichman Photography





PHOTOGRAPHS ABOVE: Rankine Photography

Hopetonn House

Boasting outstanding natural beauty, truly majestic grounds and a splendid stately home at its heart, you could be forgiven for thinking you've gone back in time as you arrive at Hopetoun.

A grand clock tower provides an unforgettable entrance and the lovingly restored classic stables think lanterns, Georgian windows and original ironwork - provide the most romantic atmosphere in which to exchange vows.

The ballroom (already prepped with priceless tapestries

and opulent crystal chandeliers) is just waiting for that grand ball vibe - just add regency blue, vines of wisteria and some enchanting literary quotes.

If you've gone all out on your attire (we're thinking puff sleeves, an empire waistline and a sparkly headpiece) you'll want some statement shots and Hopetoun's iconic staircase is a photographer's dream. On a sunny day, they'll love the historic grounds and manicured lawns, too.

hopetoun.co.uk

Kinmount House

Set on a glorious estate, the magnificent 19th century Kinmount House is brimming with beautifully finished Georgian décor with a modern twist - and a whole host of 'I do' settings.

For the ultimate in boutique weddings, you need to experience the Victorian Bathing House. Your sweet 16 guests can stand on either side of you in a semi-circle and post-ceremony, you'll head off on a boat for extravagant wedding photos!

A dreamy setting for slightly larger weddings (up to 70), you'll find a captivating domed ceiling, stunning lighting and glorious views in The Orangery. For the more classic couple, The Ballroom - an elegant Georgian oak panelled space - accommodates up to 100.

Going big? Kinmount Pavilion, complete with floor-to-ceiling glass panels, underfloor heating and sparkly chandeliers, is the perfect place for a full-on Bridgerton ball. Just add 180 day guests and 70 more in the evening!

kinmounthouse.co.uk



Blairguhan Oastle were landscaped to perfection 200 years ago, and they feature in the Inventory of Gardens & Designed Landscapes in Scotland (a national

Introducing the perfect stand-in for the Bridgerton family home - Blairguhan, a decadent, Regencyera castle in South Ayrshire. Steeped in history and oozing that oh-so-romantic vibe, it's hardly surprising that this charming Category A listed building made the top 15 of The Independent newspaper's 50 best places to get married in the world.

Not only that - the exclusive use venue is enveloped by gardens that listing of significant gardens). Clearly, this castle is about as prestigious as you can get!

Say 'I do' and enjoy a lavish drinks reception in the spectacular saloon (seating up to 70) and enjoy your wedding breakfast in the combined drawing rooms, which have space for up to 100 on elegant round tables. After the celebrations, retire to one of the exquisite rooms - window seat, original fireplace or four poster bed, anyone?

blairguhan.co.uk

Revel in Regency



House of Bun

Inspired by Chateau d'Issy near Paris, House of Dun will have your guests in awe before they even set eyes on you. An avenue of wonderful Wellingtonia trees will welcome them and they'll make their entrance via a grand stone staircase. Once inside, the striking collections of historic portraits, porcelain and furniture are sure to wow them and, connected to the house, the Victorian walled garden is like paradise on a summer's day.

Designed for entertaining, the Grand Saloon and adjoining dining room offer an elegant and versatile space for 70 guests for drinks, or 50 for a Bridgerton-style banquet dinner. If that sounds like a squeeze, consider a marquee on the luscious lawn at the front of the house. It takes up just a fraction of the almost-750-acres of idyllic gardens and grounds - the perfect playground for your wedding photographer!

nts.org.uk







The Georgian House If sipping champagne in an elegant drawing room with beautiful paintings and idyllic views over the capital sounds like heaven, make your way to The National Trust for Scotland's Georgian House in the heart of Edinburgh's city centre. Stylish yet quirky, the magnificently restored

townhouse sits on the city's sophisticated Charlotte Square and is packed with an exquisite collection of paintings, costumes and period furnishings, providing a fascinating insight into fashionable society life in 18th and 19th century Scotland. It's the place to pull off an urban Bridgerton-inspired wedding!

Perfect for a grand yet intimate celebration, the Georgian House has a capacity of 50 for ceremonies and drinks receptions, and a close-knit 30 for dinner.

nts.org.uk

Obsessed with the drama and scandal of Bridgerton? Head north to Duff House where you can unpick the historic tale of two Williams - William Duff, owner of the house, and William Adam, its architect. The two fell out over money during the creation of this splendid early Georgian mansion, leading to a bitter five-year court case. Adam won but died before he could recoup the debt owed to him and Duff, so let down by the result, never slept a night in the house.

For the past 100 years, couples have married in this grand country house with its striking classical gilt interiors creating a romantic and elegant atmosphere. With capacity for 60 seated, the Salon features 18th century tapestries and specialist furniture that'd make Daphne and Simon feel right at home.

historicenvironment.scot

Manderston

You may not be able to say 'I do' on the *Bridgerton* set but we have the next best thing here on Scottish soil. How about marrying at Manderston in Duns, a beautiful Edwardian country house - and one of the opulent locations used in the ITV period drama, *Belgravia*?

Featuring the world's only silver staircase, 56 acres of lavish gardens and a secluded pond and boat house, you won't be short of photo opportunities - and you could totally be forgiven for thinking you're Lady Whistledown.

Whether you're looking for a small-scale event or a large party, the house offers a variety of spaces that can accommodate up to 90 guests for a ceremony, 100 for a meal and 150 for a standing reception. Going bigger? Erect a marquee on the lawn and enjoy the breathtaking backdrop of the Berwickshire countryside.

manderston.com





Pitation

Nestled amidst Citation's towering columns is Glasgow's best kept wedding secret - The Balcony. The iconic yet understated terrace overlooks the grandeur of Merchant City and its delicately lit sandstone columns make the best backdrop for fairytale-style photos. The best bit? It's fully heated all year round!

The rest of the luxury venue - vibrant yet rustic and steeped in history - is just

as impressive. Spread over a large open plan first floor area, The Merchant Suite is warm and welcoming with exposed blonde sandstone walls that'll give your nuptials a timeless, characterful vibe. Dress it to perfection for the ceremony - and invite up to 130 guests - then pop off to the atmospheric Taverne Bar for drinks. Later, the bar comes into its own with a mood-lit dance floor for you and your guests (up to 200) to party the night away.

citation-glasgow.com

Balbirnie House

After a few years of barely seeing your nearest and dearest, planning an extra-large celebration is utterly allowed and we have the perfect place - Balbirnie, an award-winning luxury country house hotel, nestled between Edinburgh and St Andrews. The flexible venue can accommodate up to 216 guests for a wedding banquet and an impressive 250 for an evening reception, plus it has 31 individually designed bedrooms, each boasting their own perfect blend of period style and modern amenities.

And the best bit? The Grade A listed Georgian mansion, which was lovingly restored and transformed into a luxury venue in the 1980s, fits the elite *Bridgerton* bill perfectly - red carpet welcome and use of the helipad, for starters!

For extra romance points, add your very own love lock to Balbirnie's Love Lock Gate and discover the oh-so-sweet secret garden swing for your couples' photoshoot.

balbirnie.co.uk















Which dream is yours? Visit nts.org.uk/weddings

THE NEXT BIG THING...

Wine and Dine weddings

Want to say "I do" in an intimate celebration with close friends and amazing food? 'Wine and Dine' Weddings could be just for you. Created by Signature Group who operate venues throughout Scotland, they have an offer that is being snapped up quickly by couples who wish to kick back and enjoy a relaxed micro wedding with family and friends, and importantly, put their own stamp on their big day. With an emphasis on quality food with menus to fit your tastes and those of your guests, Signature Group's Wine and Dine weddings are ideal for foodie couples or those just wanting to do something a little differently from the normal "big white wedding." Here's a little more about why we love this concept...



What is a wine and dine wedding?

These weddings are for couples who want a more intimate wedding where enjoying quality time with family and friends over delicious food is the main focus of the day.



They are perfect for couples preferring a smaller, more intimate, or more informal day. Couples who don't want a large, traditional or formal day might prefer this option and it also works perfectly for those who were married in private but wanted to share a celebration with family and friends.

How does the day run?

A ceremony, drinks reception and dinner can take place in the same place. Or following a ceremony in a separate venue, a drinks reception and dinner can take place at your wine and dine venue.

There is still lots of scope to have dancing, cake cutting and all the traditions that usually accompany a wedding, but the focus is very much on a personal and relaxed celebration without the worry and co-ordination that can come with a large-scale affair.

Food is the language of love, and couples are able to select menus that reflect their personalities and those of their guests or cultures.

What is the perfect wine and dine wedding venue?

Couples need to be able to choose a venue which suits their personalities; whether it's a grand space or an informal, but beautiful, restaurant. Exclusive use of an area is ideal so that the wedding party can enjoy their

celebrations in private.

Flexibility is key – the concept of a wine and dine wedding is to allow the couple to create a day that is bespoke for them. The timings of a ceremony or dinner, the menu they enjoy and the atmosphere they want to create should be flexible enough to suit the couple and their guests.

This is the perfect option for couples who consider delicious, excellent quality food and drink as a key element of a wedding. Venues that can offer a menu that is a little bit different, that celebrates the best quality ingredients from local suppliers would be well suited to this style of wedding.

PHOTOGRAPHY Rankine Photography CHAIRS AND TABLEWARE All Wrapped

Up Event Management

FLOWERS **Quate & Co** - when you visit McLarens you can then pop along to Bruntsfield to see the designers at this local florist? - so simple!

HOST YOUR WINE AND DINE WEDDING

at McLarens on the Corner, Edinburgh



bespoke weddings with a true Wine and Dine style.

Situated on Edinburgh's famed Morningside Road, McLarens on the Corner offers couples the chance to enjoy exclusive-use of two floors of the venue, including the beautifully decorated Parlour & Tellers level – complete with its own bar, and also the unique and eclectic Loft.

You have two options for your ceremony location. The Loft offers a relaxed, beautiful space which requires minimal dressing as it comes complete with a range of seating, a 'living wall' and quirky décor. The Parlour & Tellers level is an elegant space with lots of natural light and an informal, yet stylish ambiance.

Both of these spaces have their own bars and sound systems, making for ideal locations for drinks receptions or lounge spaces for you to spend quality time with your guests.

Your dinner can take place in the Parlour & Tellers level (in a different area from your ceremony). Your wedding

co-ordinator will talk you through our wedding menu to ensure your food and drink suit you and your guests perfectly; even down to the bespoke cocktails we can make for your guests.

With your own private entrance you will have exclusive use of the two floors so are able to move freely

between the two for the duration of your wedding. There is lift access to the Parlour & Tellers level providing complete access for all of your guests. Your wedding co-ordinator will be able to create a bespoke package for you. We can cater for weddings up to 40 but if your numbers are more just speak to our team. Prices start from £4,300 for 40 people for a full day. Should you be holding your ceremony elsewhere,



we will be able to create a package for dinner and dancing in the Parlour & Tellers and Loft or even the spaces individually. We have vast amounts of flexibility and will work closely with you to ensure your day at McLarens is perfect. Your wedding co-ordinator will be able to give recommendations

for flowers, photographers, cake and any chair hire, freeing up some of your precious wedding planning time and allowing you to really enjoy the process.



Mide and Hannah couldn't have been happier with their summer weddina at Mclarens

"As an international couple wanting to marry in 2021 rather than put plans on hold, we decided to hold two intimate celebrations with both sides of our families. As soon as we saw McLarens we knew it was our Edinburgh venue – the quirky, warm décor and friendly staff made us feel at home immediately and the communication while we planned was excellent. On the day we received outstanding service, the space was laid out beautifully and our guests were delighted by the food. The restaurant and bar provided a relaxed setting and a great backdrop for photos."

McLarens will be holding wedding open evenings throughout January and February so do check their website and social media for further info. Please email reservations@mclarensonthecorner.co.uk with any enquiries.

BARNS & BYRES

If a rustic blank canvas is your dream wedding venue it's worth considering these four beauties



Balfreish Barns

Head into the Highlands

Set in the foothills of the Scottish
Highlands and dating back to the 18th
century, Balfreish Barns became a
wedding venue by chance - the owners'
son and now daughter-in-law had
struggled to find a blank canvas venue, so
they offered up the barns. The sun shone,
the wedding was held, and everyone had
a great time - so much so that the guests
insisted Balfreish be offered to other
couples looking for "something just a
wee bit different". Fast forward to 2021
and it happened!

If you're planning your dream Highland wedding here, firstly note that it's available in the spring to autumn months only (so the uniqueness is never lost). Then let your imagination run wild in the exclusive-use venue. The Cow Shed seats up to 50 guests for an indoor ceremony

whilst The Long Barn takes up to 90 for a wedding breakfast. Hamish's Tavern, an old bull pen named after one of the owners' dogs, is all yours for setting up a bar and The Games Room is a handy breakout area, complete with a pool table and dartboard. Outside, there are loads of potential photo spots - we love the thoughtfully-placed half barrels filled with flowers!

Already oozing rustic charm, the space would look just as beautiful with simple festoon lighting and stems in jam jars as it would with all the vintage accessories under the sun. Do take advantage of Balfreish's ever-so-sweet venue extras, though, from farm props to fire pits for toasting marshmallows - and blankets in case it gets chilly.

balfreishbarns.co.uk

The Barn at Harburn

There's room for everyone to stay over here

Located in West Calder, this versatile barn wrapped in picturesque grounds is a simply idyllic setting in which to tie the knot. A chilled out, stunning wedding venue, you really can put your own stamp on this flexible space. Our favourite spot to say "I do"? The romantic roundhouse, surrounded by twinkling fairylights. Ahh...

Did we mention though, that this isn't just a magical barn venue? Harburn has plenty of space to house your favourite people throughout the wedding celebrations, too. The Haymains Cottage, surrounded by simply magnificent scenery, has five executive-style rooms to accommodate nine of

your nearest and dearest whilst The Stables (fitting 11 people in five delightful bedrooms and handily located within stumbling distance from the reception space) is ideal for the last ones standing. The newest property, The Coach House, complete with three bedrooms, would be a super space for a family to turn your wedding into a special staycation.

P.S. The Harburn team has a range of trusted local partners that can provide everything from photography to food and entertainment to a show-stopping cake, ensuring no box is left unticked and wedding planning is as easy as possible for you!

harburnbarn.com





PHOTOGRAPHS: Jill Cherry Porter Photography





PHOTOGRAPHS: Matthew Johnston Photography

The Hen at Culross

Check out the new one on the block

If you happen to want one of the newest, most stylish, rustic venues around then look no further - we've found the place for you! Having just been lovingly restored, the Den at Culross has a selection of versatile blank canvas spaces that can accommodate anywhere from 50 to 250 guests in a prime central Scotland location.

The stunning converted Byre with its open wooden roof trusses, sandstone walls and cosy underfloor heating can seat up to 150 for a wedding ceremony (and works well for drinks receptions and more intimate meals) whilst the open Barn (oozing rustic charm with its old cattle troughs) can cater for up to 250. Fancy a fairy-lit outdoor ceremony, surrounded by many of the original features of the old farm steading? Then the Courtyard is just the spot for you.

The farm-style cottage is the perfect base for getting ready. The lovely, country home-from-home sleeps six and has views to die for - a perfect backdrop for prep photos. Don't forget The Loft, too - a wee hidden gem that allows your other half to get ready on-site as well.

theden-atculross.co.uk

Myres Castle

Say "I do" in a cool "Barnquee"

You may well have heard of the magical Myres Castle, a luxury Scottish castle wedding venue that's surrounded by 44 acres of private grounds and comes complete with a stunning Vaticanstyled walled garden, a maze, a woodland trail, Highland cows and even a small lochan... But have you heard of the 'Barnquee' at Myres Castle?

Blending the best bits of a rustic barn wedding with best bits of a beautiful marquee wedding using beautiful Larch tree trunks from the nearby Falkland Estate, the Myres Castle team really have created something unique here. Covered in twinkly fairylights, the Barnquee really comes into its own at night - just light the pizza oven, add some sparklers and you've got a breathtaking setting for your evening buffet.

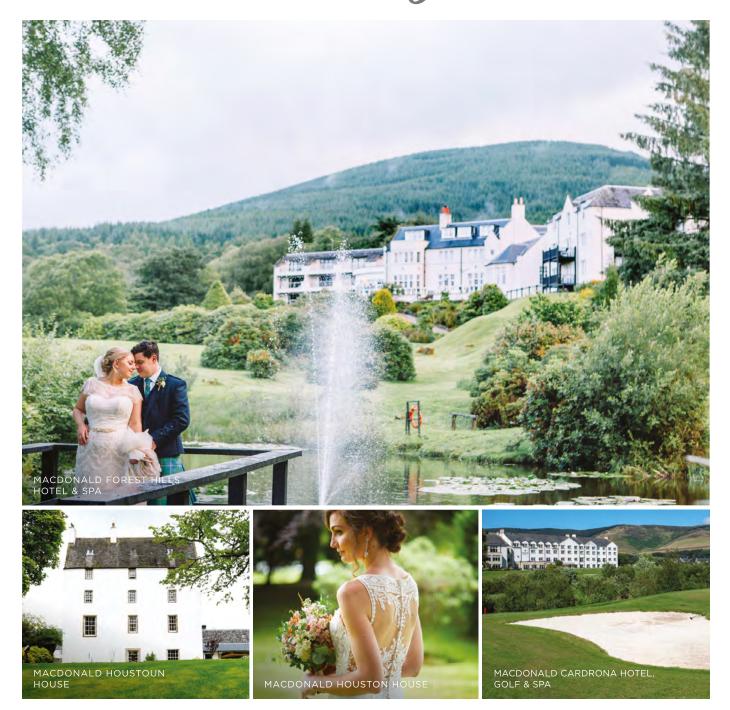
Seating up to 160 guests, the charming space comes complete with a beautiful reclaimed wooden bar, as well as a separate catering tent, luxury loos and a whole bunch of thoughtful, rustic add-ons from the venue that finish the atmosphere off beautifully.

myrescastle.co.uk



PHOTOGRAPHS: Photos by Zoe

Aday for You Made by 1/s











With over 10 stunning locations across Scotland, from the spectacular Highlands down to the glorious Borders, we have the perfect location for your wedding celebration.

From spectacular wedding facilities, luxury bedrooms and suites, spa facilities to relax the nerves to impressive honeymoon resorts, Macdonald Hotels & Resorts promise to deliver your every wish from beginning to end.

BRIDAL SPA PACKAGES

Indulge in some pampering before your dream wedding with a spa day, wedding party pampering or a selection of soothing Elemis spa treatments. You deserve some relaxation before walking down the aisle.



QUALITY FOOD

With award-winning chefs specially selecting only the finest & freshest produce and working from whole raw ingredients, work with the team to create a menu to impress.

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WEDDINGS AT INVERLOCHY

Inverlochy Castle is the perfect location for your very special day, whether it is a small intimate occasion or something slightly larger, we have the setting, the history and the magic touch. Weddings at Inverlochy can be tailored to suit your personal requirements and we can arrange everything on your behalf for the most exclusive, individual and romantic wedding in the Scottish Highlands.









Inverlochy Castle Hotel Torlundy, Fort William, PH33 6SN

01397 702177 info@inverlochy.co.uk www.inverlochycastlehotel.com



Aberdeen, Grampian, Highlands & Islands











With the help of her trusty spreadsheet, Georgie arranged the most wonderful warm, autumnal wedding, packed with personal details

After seven years together, Michael popped the question at Georgie's parents' annual Hogmanay celebration, just before the bells, with a beautiful yellow gold engagement ring he'd helped design from scratch. Bringing the new year in with a bang for sure, it was full steam ahead for Georgie! "I desperately wanted Emma Lawson as my photographer and Coo Cathedral as the venue," she says. "I'd seen her photograph weddings there before and knew I didn't want one without the other."

Impressed by how dramatically different each wedding at the Aboyne venue looked, Georgie was excited to put her stamp on the charming, restored cowshed. "The stonework is stunning, and I loved how high the ceiling was and how much character it had," she says. "Our theme was relaxed and autumnal with bits of boho and lots of personal details. Michael's Auntie Tracy drew

pictures of our pets over the years for our table names, and his parents grew the succulents we had as favours. His Granda Wattie was a keen gardener who taught his family everything they know, so it was nice to have him included in some way."

DRESS SHOPPING WITH A DIFFERENCE

With a boho gown in mind, Georgie visited six bridal boutiques and, due to Covid, could only take her mum to most appointments. "I had to wear my mask and picture what the dress would look like without it, which was difficult. Luckily, my mum knew exactly what worked and wasn't scared of saying what didn't!"

The dress she fell in love with was quite different to what she'd been searching for, and she admits, "I just couldn't fault one bit of it!" Becoming Mrs Madden, she teamed her gown

with white Steve Madden mules then set about the tricky task of finding the rust-coloured dresses she'd dreamed of for her five bridesmaids. "I couldn't find any designers doing them but, luckily, Ivory Grace stocked a brand who'd just released a burnt orange wrap dress. The girls all tried it on and looked incredible." she remembers.

THE BIG DAY

The lead-up was a bit stressful according to Georgie. "I had so many suppliers coming in to set up and was worried I'd miss something or not have them arranged for the right time," she says. "Having spreadsheets really helped remind me what I'd done or needed to do, and when." When the big day arrived she had a relaxing wedding morning at Douneside House then headed to her venue in a stunning, 1930s vintage-style limousine.

As one of her best friends, Ailsa, sang her down the aisle, Georgie was nerve-free and couldn't help admiring how amazing the venue looked! But by the time she met Michael and they were saying their vows, emotions started to take over. "I was very quiet as I worried if I spoke louder, I might burst into tears and spoil my beautiful make up," she laughs.

The couple loved their celebrant, Louise, who made sure they were relaxed, shared personal stories and, when Georgie was fashionably late, kept the waiting guests entertained! Afterwards, everyone toasted with 'his and hers' cocktails, and fizz from a Prosecco bike, whilst videographer Simon got people talking by filming a guest diary.

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

With a blank canvas venue, Georgie and Michael could choose any suppliers they liked, and this was particularly important when it came to food. "We have a lot of vegan family members," explains Georgie. They met Thistle Catering at a wedding exhibition and instantly knew they wanted to book them. "Lorraine was so warm and friendly, and it was obvious

she wanted to do the best for her brides. On the day, she and her team were amazing at coordinating and looking after everyone. Our vegan guests felt so included and raved about their food. It was a big highlight."

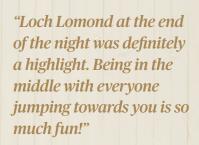
Luckily, the absence of Covid restrictions meant singing and dancing were absolutely on the cards, and the dancefloor was never empty. Georgie remembers feeling like everyone was one big family and she was so happy to hear her guests say they'd never felt so included in a wedding before. "It was exactly what we wanted," she smiles. "Our family and friends are so special to us, and it felt right making them so involved in the day."

Whilst she's still getting used to having a husband and gets a nice surprise when she picks up the post, Georgie couldn't be happier to be part of a "forever team". Reflecting on the planning process, she maintains her spreadsheet is what got her through it, and recommends other couples take plenty of time to consider what they both want out of their wedding. "Making it so personal was the best thing we did," she adds.









Georgie







DREAM TEAM

ACCOMMODATION

Douneside House

BAND Carlyle

BAR Humble Cocktails

BRIDE'S DRESS

Sassi Holford at Ivory Grace

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Rewritten at Ivory Grace

CATERING Thistle Catering

CELEBRANT Louise McAllister

CAKE Cakes by Leanne

DÉCOR AND FLOWERS Gloam

GROOM'S OUTFIT Gibbs

HAIR Michelle Reid Hairdressing

MAKE-UP

Francine Ray Makeup Arist

RINGS Finnies the Jewellers

STATIONERY

Love Paper Co., Gloam

TRANSPORT Silver City Cars

VIDEOGRAPHY

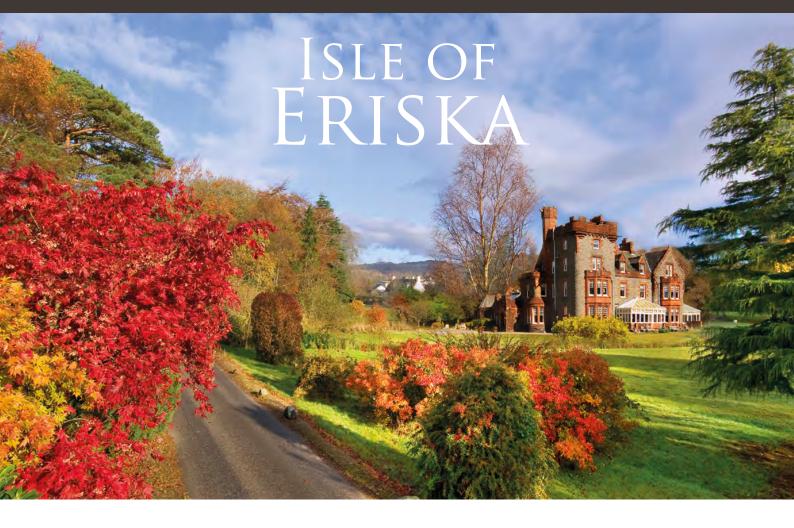
King Wedding Media



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Georgie and Michael are a fantastic couple and I had such a lovely day with them at one of my favourite venues, Coo Cathedral. Their styling was gorgeous and a dream to photograph."

Emma, Emma Lawson Photography



YOUR WEDDING AT ISLE OF ERISKA

The Isle of Eriska Hotel, Spa and Island provides the perfect venue for your wedding day. Just imagine, your very own highland home on your very own Scottish island at any time throughout the year. Whether it is a small intimate occasion or something slightly larger enjoying a unique location on its own 300 acres private island where your Wedding Day will be tailored to your needs. The hotel is licensed for civil ceremonies for up to 120 guests or as few as 30, in the main house and outside in the garden. For a large wedding, a luxurious marquee can be placed on the front lawn, just outside the hotel.









Isle of Eriska Hotel, Spa & Island Benderloch, Near Oban, Argyll, Scotland, PA37 ISD











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• @clunycastle

CASTLES

Scotland has its fair share of castles, from the grand world-famous ones to the more intimate and remote. If you want to guarantee the full-on wow factor these four are bound to impress your guests.



Cluny Castle

Say "I do" in this castle's very own chapel

Promising to capture the imagination of your guests as soon as they set eyes on it, this magnificent castle really does have the wow factor. Set amongst acres of wooded parkland, you'll find Cluny Castle is completely hidden from view until you come through its beautiful main gates, which adds a touch of drama. An elegant tree-lined driveway invites you in, soon opening out to reveal beautiful, sweeping lawns and, finally, the stunning hidden gem venue.

Offering a wonderfully secluded and romantic setting, the best part of Cluny Castle has to be its chapel, which comes complete with a private courtyard entrance to welcome your wedding guests. With atmospheric stained-glass windows, dark oak pews and seating for up to 100, this really is a magical setting in which to exchange your vows. Set directly below the chapel, Tenants' Hall seats up to 94 and is a superb setting for dinner and dancing. Intimate wedding? The splendid dining room and drawing room make a memorable setting for up to 24.

Located in serene Aberdeenshire countryside and dating back to the 15th century, the magnificent mansion (which is still a much-loved family home) has photo opportunities galore - choose from exquisitely presented interiors within the castle and secluded spots within the beautifully landscaped parkland.

clunycastle.com



Fonals Castle

Dine like royalty

There's so much to love about this truly unique five-star hotel come fairytale castle, nestled in the heart of Highland Perthshire. Fonab Castle has been lovingly restored and draws inspiration from its historic past, the breathtaking surroundings and contemporary trends, resulting in the most magical of settings fit for a king and queen.

It really will feel like a royal wedding with the luxurious combination of elegant, private ceremony rooms, three AA Rosette dining (award-winning, of course!), and divine accommodation for overnight guests. And should Her Royal Highness need some regal treatment; you'll find the Woodland Spa is a haven of tranquillity.

The spectacular exclusive-use venue has views for days, offering Ben Vrackie and Loch Faskally as the backdrop to your formal family photos and romantic newlywed photoshoot. If you can pull your photographer away from the swoonworthy castle itself, of course...

fonabcastlehotel.com

Balmunzie Castle Hotel

Feel proud to be Scottish here

As you trundle up the two-mile driveway and take in the stunning, turreted quintessential Laird's mansion standing proudly at the head of its 6,500-acre estate, you're guaranteed to feel something very special. As you enter, the peaceful, tranquil vibe instantly hits you - it truly is a relaxing haven, tucked away from the outside world - and you're bound to be curious about the storied history of this grand wedding venue, which dates back to 1510.

With an exciting exclusive-use option, Dalmunzie Castle Hotel offers ceremonies for up to 40 guests in the principal lounge, in the drawing room, on the spacious front lawn (the views are incredible!), or at the nearby Kirk of Glenshee, whilst larger invitee lists can be hosted in a marquee following discussion with the venue. When it comes to your wedding breakfast, opt for the restaurant or, if you really want to absorb the historical vibes, the James Graham Library.

Food aside, a taste of Scotland is absolutely on offer here for couples hoping to weave tradition into their big day. The team at Dalmunzie can bring in a piper, ring their bell and organise a ceilidh band, complete with a caller, to keep you fleein' on the dancefloor all night long!

Tucked in the heart of Glenshee and surrounded by stunning Perthshire countryside, you'll find breathtaking mountains, glens and river just a stone's throw from the front door. And if you've time for a round of golf, the historic castle hotel has a golf course attached!

dalmunzie.com







Drink in the views that will take your breath away
Did you know that you can say "I do" at Edinburgh Castle?
From no expense spared celebrations to simpler, more
relaxed affairs you can gather up to 120 of your nearest and
dearest in one of the castle's grand rooms or, if you're going
small and intimate, tie the knot in the charming St Margaret's
chapel (which also happens to be the city's oldest building)!

You can actually host your whole wedding at the castle - how does rounding off an incredible day with fine food and dancing in the footsteps of royalty sound? The sumptuous Queen Anne Room has space for up to 170 in the evening whilst the Gatehouse Suite, reached by a spiral staircase and offering a reception capacity of 40, is a luxurious space for celebrations on a smaller scale.

It goes without saying, of course, that you and your guests will be treated to out-of-this-world views from every angle with this venue. And for something extra special (as if you need anything else!) how about a private viewing of Britain's oldest Crown Jewels for your entourage?

One thing to note: Edinburgh Castle can only be booked for weddings during the summer months, from 1st June until 30th September.

edinburghcastle.scot



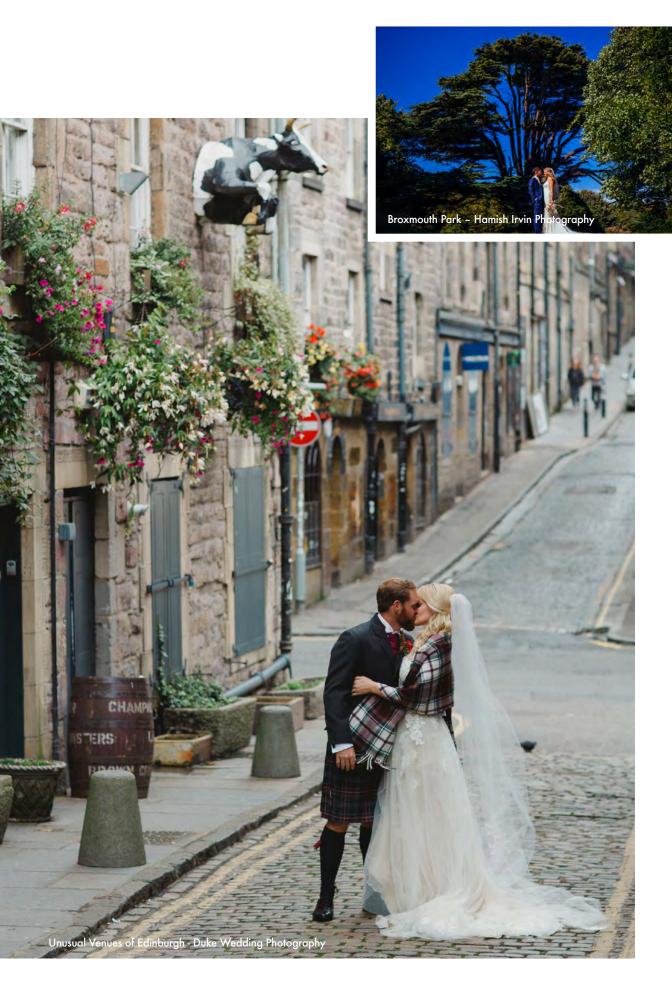
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This couple revelled in a beautifully laid-back wedding before taking to the wilds for a stunning photoshoot

Nikki and Andy first dated eight years ago but it wasn't the right time for them then. So when they got back together they knew it was for real and Andy didn't waste any time in proposing. "We'd been to another wedding in Lake Garda and decided to pop over to Ibiza from there," says Nikki. "He was actually going to propose at Lake Garda all romantic but bottled it and ended up doing it in Ibiza after a couple of jugs of sangria."

Nikki's wedding ring carries real sentimental value. Her mum passed away not long before the couple got engaged and Nikki wanted a replica of her ring in white gold and Andy's sister's friend Joseph Allessander made a beautiful piece for her.

As they set upon planning their wedding they were determined it would be all about them and what they really wanted - a small, intimate and relaxed day. They'd visited Edinburgh before and spied a couple walking around in their wedding outfits. "It looked like the simple day we wanted," says Nikki. "All about them and so different to weddings we'd seen or been to before."

Unfortunately, the pandemic played havoc with their original plans for a 2020 wedding with a reception in steak restaurant Kyloe. Restrictions meant their May 2021 wedding reception had to switch venues to Cold Town House in the city's Grassmarket. "[Finding a venue] was a nightmare but we managed to get in the bar with the best views in Edinburgh, had pizza, burgers and cocktails and the sun even came out so it all worked out in the end!" smiles Nikki.

SOWING THE SEEDS OF LOVE

The couple didn't have any additional venue décor but made sure they brought their boho vibe together in their flowers and suits. They also made gift bags for each guest with a drink, shortbread, order of the day, personalised face mask and confetti. "We also had a packet of seeds for my mum for each guest to plant in her memory to make her part of the day," adds Nikki.







Nikki jokes that she had the idea of her 70s boho dress in her head even before she got engaged! "My idol is Stevie Nicks so I wanted the balloon sleeves, buttons and flowy silk," she says. Luckily her dressmaker Klue Doll was able to create her magical dream dress.

She had bought all sorts of hair accessories but decided to keep her look minimal with beautiful mother of pearl earrings from Andy and a cool denim "wife of the party" jacket.

Nikki had her older sister as her maid of honour and four flower girls - Andy's daughters and Nikki's nieces. "You can imagine the noise levels!" she laughs. Nikki's sister had thought of everything on the morning of the day, setting up a lovely breakfast and fizz and making a playlist of all their songs.

The bride walked down the aisle to the couple's special song; Paolo Nutini's *Better Man*. They married in a simple ceremony with Nikki managing to keep it together saying her vows. "Then Andy said his and he cried and I felt bad for not crying!" she smiles.

After the ceremony their amazing vintage car driver Gillian teamed up with photographer Sinéad to whizz them round Edinburgh for photos. Then they arrived at Cold Town House to Prosecco trees, before feasting on burgers, pizzas, meatballs, halloumi and truffle fries. "Last minute turned out to be more us than we ever planned!" says Nikki.

Her dad's speech had all their guests in stitches. "He's known for his jokes and

sense of humour and he had everyone laughing with a lovely toast for my mum too!" she says. "He said he wasn't going to say much, then pulled out a ream of paper."

Covid restrictions meant they could only stay for two hours but had their first dance later in their pyjamas. "We ended the night eating leftover breakfast food in bed talking about the day and how amazing it turned out."

Two days later, Sinéad took them on an adventure to Bonaly for some more beautiful shots. "We asked for Scottish wilderness and that's what we got!" says Nikki. "I loved walking through the magical woodland in my floaty dress and Dr Martens.







"Our reception was so relaxed and intimate. Everyone could talk to each other. There was so much laughing and happiness exactly what we wanted."

Nikki





DREAM TEAM

BRIDE'S DRESS Klue Doll

BRIDE'S DENIM JACKET For The Love of Pearls

BRIDE'S EARRINGS

Stephanie Browne Australia

BRIDES/MAID DRESS Etsy

FLORIST Alan Greaves

FLOWERGIRL DRESSES Zara

GROOM'S BOW TIE

Mark Darcy

GROOM'S CUFFLINKS Etsy

GROOM'S SUIT

House of Cavani

MAKF-UP

Heather Hope Make-up

RINGS Joseph Alessander

STATIONERY Sarah Burns Prints

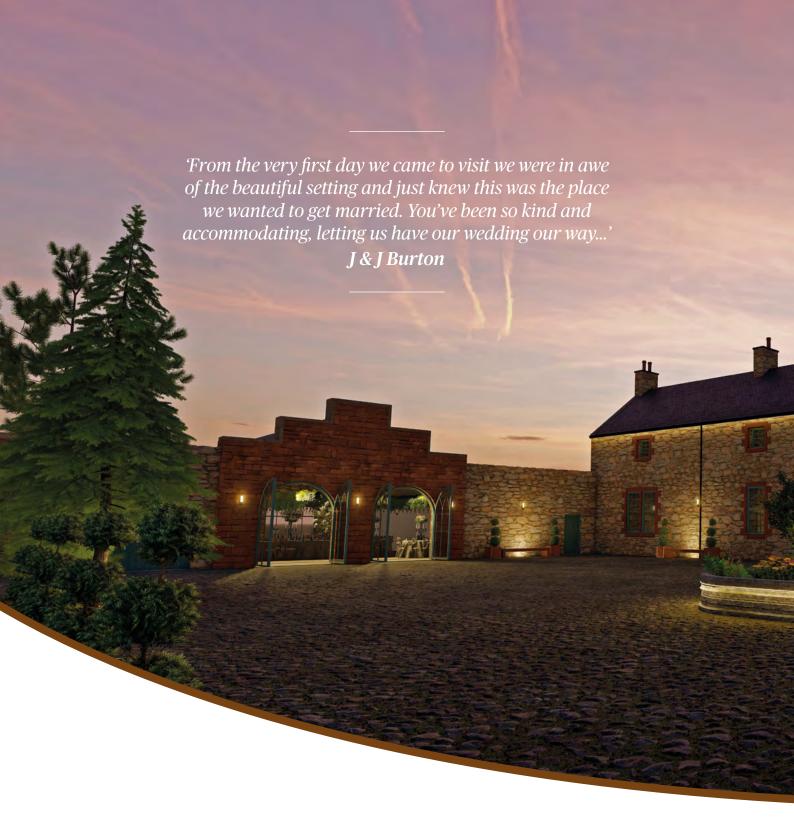
TRANSPORT One Fare Day

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT



"Nikki and Andy's wedding was full of fun! I loved their sense of adventure. It was really special to meet their lovely friends and family and I felt very at home in their company!"

Sinéad, Sinéad Firman Photography



BROXMOUTH

COURTYARD

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

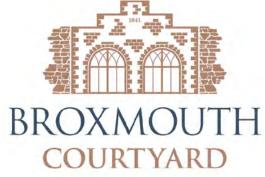


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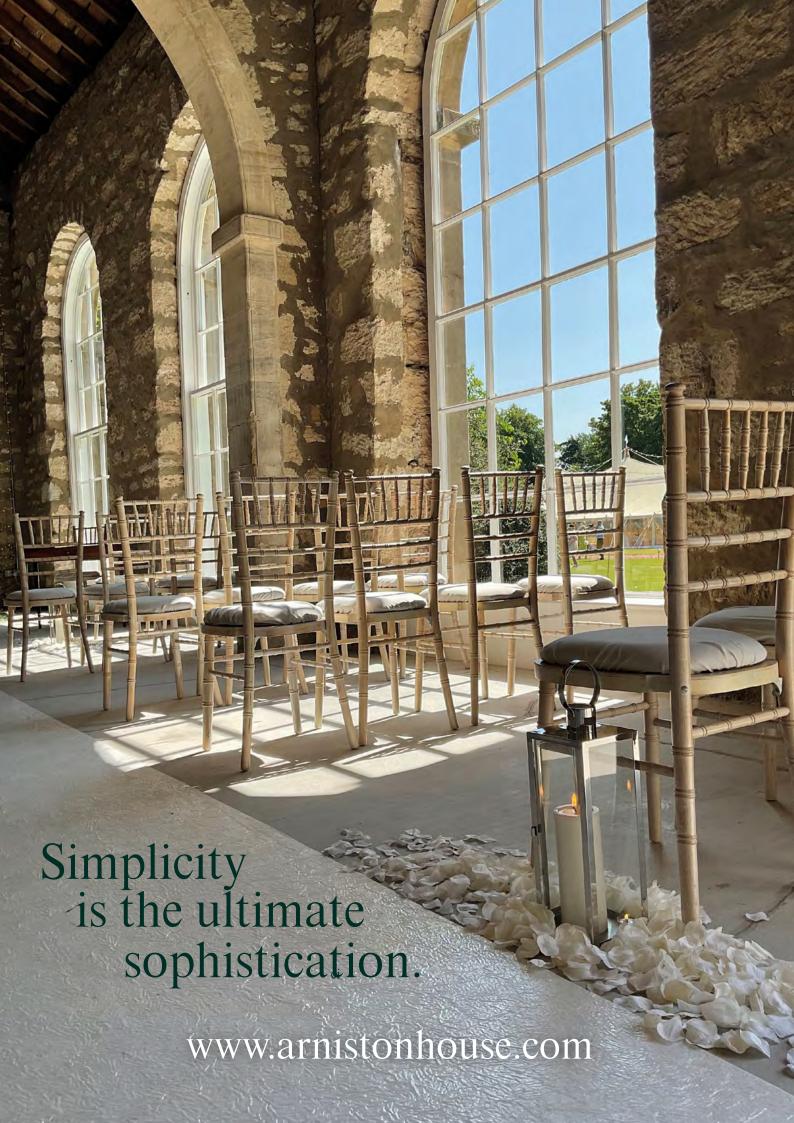




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The Scottish Historic Buildings Trust, Reg. Charity No. SC034507



STATELY HOMES

These stunning properties would suit any couple that wants to feel like Laird or Lady of the manor...



Springkell

Bask in rooms fit for royalty

Whether you're dreaming of an intimate elopement for two, a huge wedding party or something in between, Springkell is sure to have something to fit the bill - especially if you want to feel like royalty for 24 hours. Simply brimming with stunning rooms, elegant dining and flexible options for your big day, this beautiful Palladian mansion dates back to 1734 and has more regal charm than you could shake a stick at!

Choose from a candlelit ceremony in the romantic wedding room (which has a capacity of up to 150, beautiful bay windows and an elegant, Italian marble mirror that we're obsessed with) or a romantic round garden ceremony. Here, your photographer will be delighted with the sweeping Italian stone staircase! Alternatively, Springkell's formal rooms are up for grabs and, FYI, the black and white entrance hall is really something. It can hold up to 250 for a ceremony or drinks reception and its marble pillars and flooring are exactly the same as that used at the Palace of Versailles - wow!

When it's time to eat, make your way through the commanding wood-panelled doors to the ballroom. Light, bright and decorated in sumptuous soft tones, this is a really lovely space. As the evening draws to a close, you and your guests can lay your heads in one of the fourteen luxurious, boutique rooms. Uniquely designed and decorated by the same designer as the rooms at the Goring Hotel where the Duchess of Cambridge stayed the night before her wedding, you'll be in great company here!

springkell.com

Bowhill House

The perfect setting for your intimate wedding

As it's first and foremost a family home and will always retain this sense of intimacy, Bowhill House is a bit of a little-known secret and only hosts a few specially selected weddings each year. So, if you want to feel like a VIP on your wedding day, this is the place. Weaving the history of the house and its grounds in with your own new family history, you'll be feeling super-special before you've even started thinking about walking down the aisle!

The Scottish Borders home of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch, Bowhill offers a stunning setting for couples looking for a more intimate celebration with up to 50 guests. Start the next chapter in your life together by saying: "I do" in The Old Chapel which, steeped in history and showing off grand works of art, will really set the tone for the day. From here, welcome your guests into the rest of the house and let them soak up the history and heritage throughout the drinks reception.

Interesting fact: You can hire Bowhill House for wedding photographs only. A great opportunity to elevate your day with magnificent memories if you're planning a romantic elopement nearby!

bowhillhouse.co.uk







Hartree Estates

Top-notch tipis are the name of the game here

A stunning country estate and tipi wedding venue, Hartree offers a unique opportunity to cleverly combine wedding themes. Stay on-site with family and friends and enjoy exclusive use of the accommodation and grounds. Your prep, ceremony and reception will all take place amongst dreamy surroundings (think log fires, lanterns and fairylights) with the backdrop of rolling hills, beautiful lakes and the stately Hartree House itself. We're in love already!

You can tie the knot in the luxury tipis or get married outside - who wouldn't want to take advantage of the idyllic scenery? When it comes to party time, the tipis really come into their own as an unforgettable wedding reception venue - especially with Hartree House and its parkland providing the grandest of backgrounds. As romantic as they are enchanting, the Hartree tipis come with all the essentials as well as every luxury you can imagine, from open fires to vintage leather chesterfield sofas.

Eco-friendliness is big here and all the food offered at Hartree is locally and sustainably sourced. There's no such thing as set packages - it's all about flexibility and freedom, and you'll find the team are excited to work with you on a menu that's totally tailored to the tastes of you and your guests. hartree-estates.co.uk



Murrayshall Hotel

Savour the award-winning menu

Set in 365 acres of stunning Perthshire countryside, Murrayshall is an exquisite four-star retreat that doesn't just offer you a dream wedding day - there's golf, award-winning fine dining, and 40 bedrooms and suites, too. Not to mention the picture-perfect grand staircase that your photographer will definitely thank you for...

You can welcome up to 140 guests to your ceremony and wedding breakfast at this traditional country house, and tailor the event space exactly as you wish. For a stress-free planning experience, the team have prepped a number of ready-to-go wedding packages but there are some special touches that come as standard - the red carpet arrival, for example.

The menu choices are utterly mouthwatering and come with some splendid add-on options, from additional courses (cheeseboard for us, please!) to a terrace BBQ in the evening to a pre-ceremony lunch that'll line your tummy. Did we mention it comes with a bottle of beer/glass of Prosecco to help ease any nerves!?

murrayshall.co.uk



Iain Struthers Photography



WEDDINGS AT THE OLD MANSE OF BLAIR

If you are looking for a very private and intimate celebration venue for a destination wedding in the Cairngorms National Park we would be delighted to work with you to create your perfect wedding day. We cater only on an exclusive use basis for a maximum of 46 guests, combining our stunning newly built Orangery restaurant, external courtyard and dining room with 23 luxury ensuite bedrooms. We have got lots of ideas to help you plan your special destination wedding.

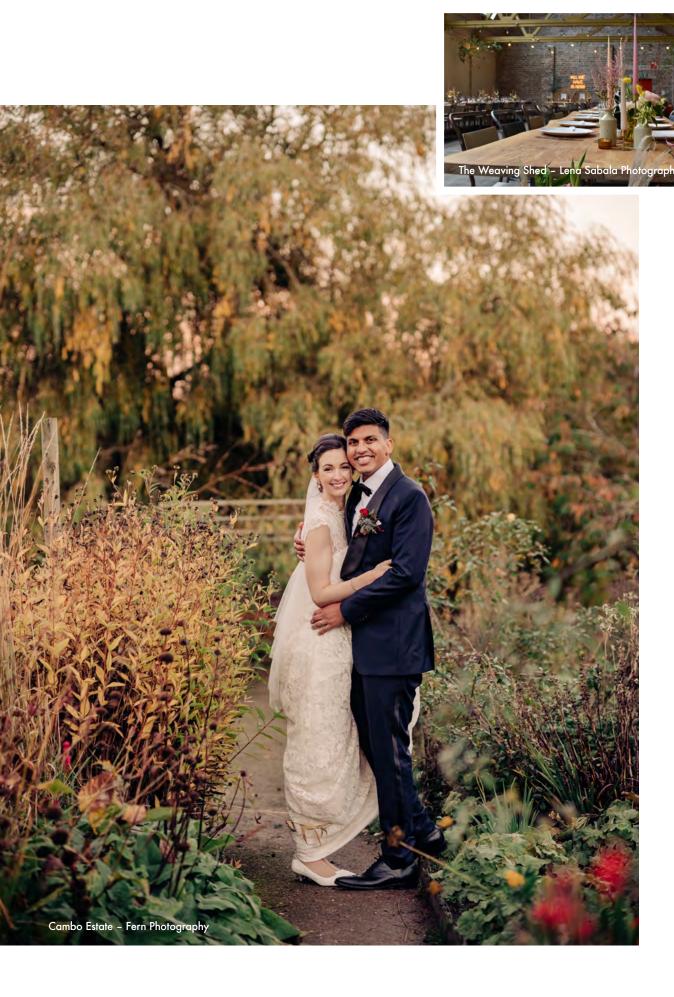






The Old Manse of Blair, Blair Atholl PH18 5TN, Highland Perthshire

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Planned to perfection

Emel loved wedding planning, piecing together all the aspects she wanted for the "best day and night of our lives!"

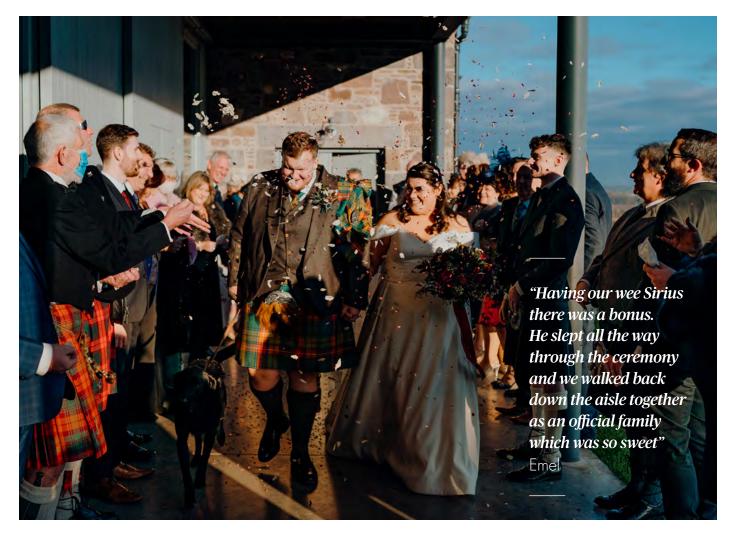
Emel and Kenneth first met on Tinder way back in August 2014 but didn't actually meet in person for a couple of months - what the bride calls "a typical modern love story!" Then five years later at Halloween Kenneth proposed on a beach in Emel's family's hometown in Karamürsel, Turkey. "My Turkish family, including my Nine, have missed out on most milestones in my life, so it meant the world that Kenneth chose to propose there," she smiles.

The couple actually spied out their wedding venue while they were still in Turkey. Kenneth saw pictures from another wedding at Guardswell Farm and they arranged to see it as soon as they were home in Scotland. "It was the only place we went to see," explains Emel. "Also, the next winter date they had available was 13th November 2021. which seemed to be fate since 13 is my lucky number." Knowing it was The One they secured their date and happily agreed to Guardswell's sustainability principles whereby everything they sourced was either local, reusable, or sustainable. No problem for this organised bride. "I absolutely loved planning and would do it all over again," she says. "I love a project, and this was the perfect thing to keep me going through the pandemic. I kept saying how much I'd love to do this as a fulltime job." Emel did all the stationery herself and styled the venue with the

help of her talented florist Amy Annand - "she was an absolute powerhouse and a pleasure to see in action," says the bride.

Emel initially set out with a typical autumnal colour palette which tied in beautifully with Kenneth's family's Buchanan Ancient tartan. "But it quickly started to evolve into something a bit more dark and witchy and was quite an eclectic mix of cool grey, blue and purple tones, with warm burgundy, green and gold," she says. And loving the styling project, Emel discovered amazing small businesses to make things like their banner with the *Harry* Potter quote or the bouquet ribbon with her favourite Dermot Kennedy lyrics.

Emel says as a plus size bride she expected shopping for her dress to be awkward but she needn't have worried. As soon as she stepped into David's Bridal, she fell in love with the first dress she tried. "The consultant was amazing and made me feel stunning," she remembers. "Not only did every dress fit, but most were actually big so I never felt out of place or like I was trying on a tiny sample size like I'd dreaded." Emel went shopping with her mum, sister Kadriye and Auntie Karen who sadly died last year. "It was special that she got to be there to see me in my dress as she was always looking forward to the wedding," says Emel.



Kenneth had always wanted to get a kilt made in his own tartan and actually ended up having more fittings with Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers than Emel did for her dress. And not to be outdone, the couple's Labrador Sirius was made a matching tartan bowtie - cute!

After all the planning the weekend of the wedding arrived and they spent the night before enjoying some bubbles and charcuterie with friends. Then Emel was up bright and early at 6am and felt pretty calm on a dog walk with Sirius. That feeling of calm continued as they all got ready. "I think the fact that we had the most beautiful sunny weather the entire day definitely helped," says Emel. "It was as though the day was made to be perfect."

As she was going into the ceremony Emel's parents surprised her with a piper playing on the lawn. Then their humanist celebrant Linda Stewart came to check on the bride before she walked down the aisle - "one thing I'll be so grateful for." Linda created a beautiful ceremony that was funny, emotional and personal to Emel and Kenneth.









"Everyone was laughing and crying at the same time," smiles the bride. The couple wrote their own vows and were choking back tears as they delivered them. "We both included *Hamilton* lyrics without knowing the other had, so that was a funny and special moment that only we got," says Emel.

After their "I do's" they treated their guests to a fabulous drinks reception while Bespoke Catering served up a menu of food inspired by some of their favourite places, like the cauliflower fritters they love from The Fishmarket in Newhaven or the pear cheesecake from Cardo in Perth.

Emel's dad delivered an emotional speech before best man Salts chose to hand over most of his speech to Kenneth's childhood best friend Ross. "It was the perfect balance of funny, cheeky and sweet," says the bride. Her highlight though was when her husband presented her with a Rangers top with "Mrs Harper" and her lucky number 13 on the back. Then the atmosphere in the evening was electric with guests hitting the dancefloor even before the first dance. "It was a proper party!" says Emel.

Looking back she says it's a blur but she enjoyed every moment of it. And keen for another project to sink her teeth into she adds to-beweds can hit her up for a hand with planning!



DREAM TEAM

BANNER Brahmin Lettering Co

BRIDE'S DRESS AND VEIL

David's Bridal

BRIDE'S EARRINGS

Lilibet & Lottie

BRIDE'S HAIRPIECE

Loved By One

BRIDE'S JEVVELLER PDPAOLA

BRIDE'S SHOES Harriet Wilde

BOUQUET RIBBON Oh Squirrel

CAKE Liggy's Cakes

CATERING

Bespoke Catering & Events

CELEBRANT

Linda Stewart - Humanist Society Scotland

DÉCOR PROPS FiftySix Events

FLOWERS Amy Annand Flowers

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers

GROOM'S SHOES Loake

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Pamper & Polish

LIGHTING Steve Page Lighting

MUSIC Ecosse Entertainments

RING Beaverbrooks

VIDEOGRAPHY

Mackenzie Wedding Films



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Tm always so fortunate to work with amazing couples and from the first email with Emel and Kenneth, to the engagement session (glorious golden sunset helloooooo) to the most epic of wedding days, it's been such a pleasure to work with them. The wedding day itself was extra special as they were lucky enough to get one of those sought-after sunny winter days where the sun lit everything up in gorgeous golden light, and although it was VERY cold, these guys embraced it, giving it their all and making it a wedding I'll never forget."

Ross, Ross Alexander Photography



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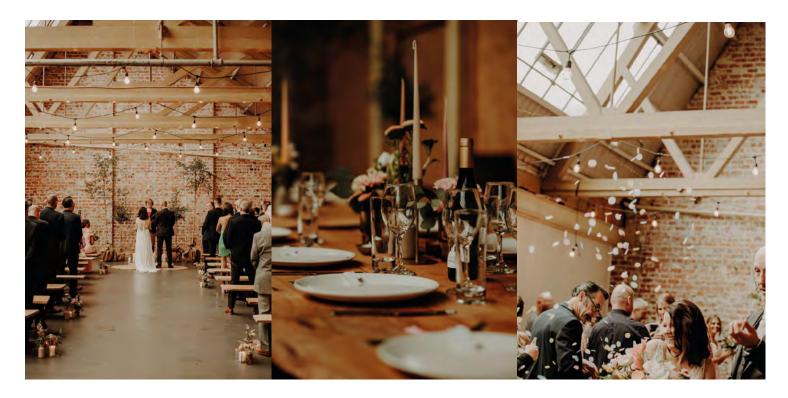
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HOTELS

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Take in a round of golf with your celebrations

Whether you're scratch golfers looking for a challenging course or just after a light-hearted morning in the fresh air before saying "I do", Gleddoch Golf & Spa Resort is the perfect playground for a golf-mad groom - or bride, for that matter! Although we imagine the ladies may prefer to sink into the award-winning Imperia Spa (outdoor spa pool with soul-stirring views towards Ben Lomond, anyone?) for some extravagant prepping and preening ahead of the nuptials.

Nestled in an expansive 360 acres of beautiful Scottish countryside just 20 minutes from Glasgow, we guarantee this rural setting will feel like it's a million miles away! With all the grandeur of a stately home and luscious landscaped gardens to boot - no expense has been spared in creating the most wonderful wedding rooms. Book the dazzling Banquet Room for a big wedding and consider the Garden Room or Kilpatrick Suite if you're having a more intimate affair.

You're going to be so excited about spending the night - and with 75 rooms, many of your guests can stay and take advantage of the luxurious facilities. Choose a spacious, contemporary bedroom in the smart modern wing or head to the original stately home and indulge in a suite with splashes of decadence in all the right places.

gleddoch.com

Macdonald Crutherland Hotel

Host up to 200 of your loved ones

Got a large-looking guest list? Then come this way, we have the perfect place for you! With space for a sumptuous wedding breakfast for up to 200 (yes, 200!) of your nearest and dearest, we get the feeling that a wedding in the grand Crutherland Suite will be an utterly unforgettable event. The Macdonald Crutherland Hotel is equally capable of intimate nuptials too, though, from a relaxed barbecue for a dozen in their private gardens to intimate "I do"s in one of the elegantly appointed function rooms.

Located in the central belt and originally built as a manor for Lady Dowager of Torrance Castle, Crutherland House is the perfect place to channel your inner Lady Whistledown whilst enjoying all the modern comforts of a high-spec hotel. The 37 acres of beautiful grounds and manicured gardens (can't you just see your guests sipping champagne here?) simply add to the regal *Bridgerton* vibe - just add the outfits and décor for the full effect!

Other treats in store here include the amazing photo opportunities, delicious dining options, special accommodation rates, leisure club and spa, and - wait for it - the helicopter landing area! Don't mind if we do...





Macdonald Norwood Hall

Revel in the history of this grand manor

Built back in 1881 on the site of the 15th century Pitfodels Castle, Norwood Hall is a truly magnificent Victorian mansion, packed with character and charm - your photographer will be spoilt for choice here! Nestled in the heart of the northeast, Norwood Hall has the vibe of a remote country house hotel (ornate fireplaces with roaring log fires, seven acres of wooded grounds and secluded gardens) yet conveniently sits just 10 minutes' drive from Aberdeen's vibrant city centre.

Hosting just one wedding per day in its elegant surroundings and recognised as North Scotland's Wedding Venue of the Year 2019 (plus boasting an award-winning wedding co-ordinator), Norwood Hall certainly has a lot to offer couples looking for something special in the Granite City.

The stunning Pitfodels Suite is where the magic happens, although outdoor ceremonies are an option - and you'll find you get a private drinks reception room, too. The ballroom, which has floor-to-ceiling windows, patio doors leading to the landscaped gardens and a dancefloor, has capacity for up to 160 guests for a wedding reception and there are more than 70 lovely bedrooms if they want to make a weekend of it.

And the cherry on top? Check out the unique sweeping staircase - a picture-perfect spot for a portrait or two (especially if you're going for a dreamy, full-length veil), your photographer will be delighted when you tell them you've booked this venue!

macdonaldhotels.co.uk







Loch Lomond

Life's a beach at this waterside venue

Set on the beachfront in the picturesque village of Luss within Loch Lomond National Park, this truly unique hotel offers magnificent panoramic views over Scotland's favourite loch - the perfect backdrop for saying: "I do", wouldn't you agree? Just 30 minutes' drive from Glasgow city centre, it's easy to get to whilst still giving you that feeling of being tucked away in the rolling countryside.

Inside, the hotel is intimate and charming, yet full of beauty and splendour, and has an abundance of windows from which to see that mesmerising blue water. Whether your wedding is intimate or extralarge (there's space for up to 200 here, plus 48 on-site bedrooms) you can be sure your wedding feast will be one to remember. Lodge on Loch Lomond's two-rosette chefs will imaginatively blend modern and traditional tastes, using all that's fresh and delicious from Scotland's larder to create the most mouthwatering meal for you.

loch-lomond.co.uk

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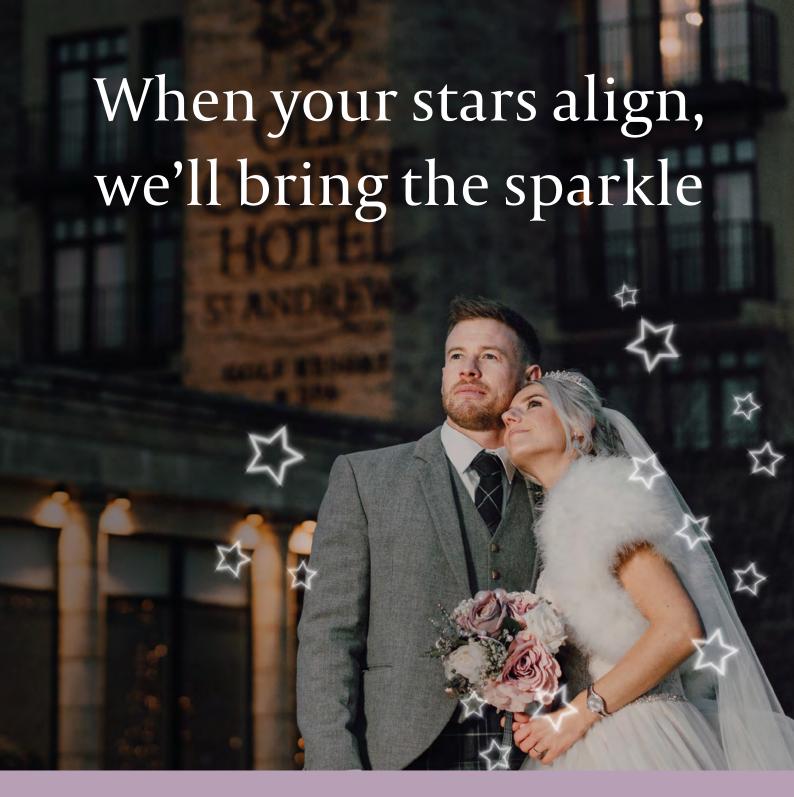


"This is, quite simply, the most characterful and amazing space I have ever seen."

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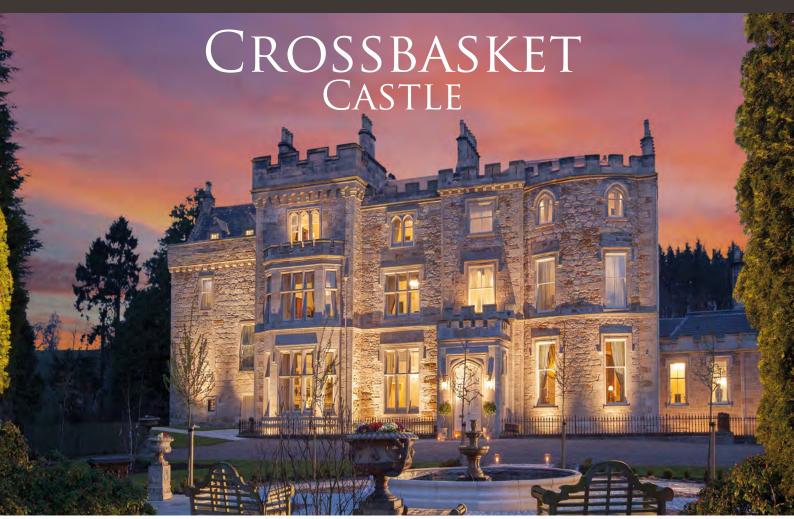
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St Andrews is the ultimate romantic destination. The AA Five Red Star Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa offers a truly iconic setting overlooking the world renowned Old Course, Swilcan Bridge and the stunning West Sands beach. The perfect backdrop for your special day.















WEDDINGS AT CROSSBASKET CASTLE

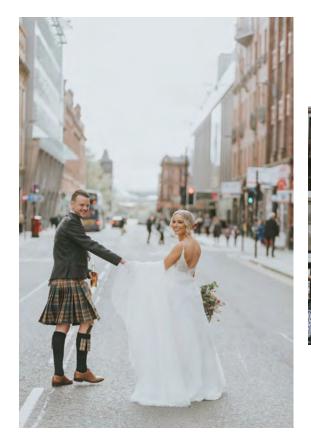
The spectacular 16th century tower and 18th century castle is tucked away on the outskirts of the bustling city of Glasgow overlooking the stunning waterfalls on the River Calder, transporting you to the tranquillity and beauty of a vast country estate.

A luxurious affair, Crossbasket offers the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable wedding experience for you and your guests. Complete with a four-storey private bridal tower and an array of opulent public rooms including a Grand Roosevelt Ballroom with space enough to welcome over 250 people, Crossbasket Castle promises a truly magical experience.















It was third date lucky when Lisa and Frankie finally got to say "I do" in this beautiful historic Glasgow venue

Lisa is by her own admission "quite an organised person" so when Frankie and her wedding plans were disrupted by the pandemic, she felt the toll. "The uncertainty and numerous plan A's, B's and C's were the hardest thing for me," she says. "It definitely kept me up at night."

The couple first got chatting in the queue for the bar in Edinburgh's Three Sisters and after nearly three years of dating Frankie proposed at the Isles of Glencoe Hotel in Ballachulish during a weekend away.

With their families coming from different sides of the country they set out to find a venue that everyone could get to easily. "Once we saw the Grand Hall in The Trades Hall [of Glasgow] with its beautiful ceiling and chandelier we were sold!" remembers the bride. "The venue is also a registered charity with any profits made from events used to support charitable purposes which was the cherry on top." This caring couple went one step further, forgoing favours to make a donation to the Simon Foundation, which supports those affected by homelessness in Glasgow and the Central Belt.

Frankie and Lisa originally booked their wedding for October 2020 but then thanks to the pandemic pushed back to the following May when they had a "quick flirtation" with a spring colour scheme. When they eventually settled on their September 2021 date it was back to their beloved autumnal tones with rich oranges and golds. Lisa says neither of them are known for their DIY skills

so avoided handmade details but also felt they didn't want to detract from the venue's ornate and classic décor. Instead, they asked their florist By Betty Bluebell to create a stunning fresh flower garland for the staircase, while LBS Event Design & Wedding Planners made the venue look "truly fabulous!"

Lisa was one of those lucky brides who manages to find her dream dress in the only boutique she tries. She'd done her research and headed for Emma Roy of Edinburgh, knowing they carried a wide choice of Maggie Sottero gowns. She favoured an A-line cut but tried on every other style just to be sure before hitting upon her beautiful 'Charlene' gown with its tulle skirt, slit and Swarovski details.



With so many changes Lisa says when it came to planning the pandemic pushed her to her limits. "The constant watching of case numbers and restrictions and planning the same wedding over and over again was time consuming and exhausting and I struggled to relax and wind down," she says.

However, the night before the big day she could finally chill, knowing everything was going ahead, and spent a lovely evening with her bridesmaids eating pizza and drinking prosecco at the Native Hotel. Then, running on hardly any sleep, she had a brilliant wedding morning getting pampered with her best friends and her mum before making her way to the wedding in a Glasgow wedding taxi.

Walking down the aisle to *The Skye Boat Song* Lisa was surprisingly calm. "I had a small 'oh my gosh' moment when I arrived at the venue and felt myself getting overwhelmed that this day was finally happening," she says. "However, my bridesmaids rallied round and after that I was calm. The groom was definitely the more nervous of the two of us!"









The couple married in a Humanist ceremony, conducted by George Smith of Fuze Ceremonies, as they wanted it to be inclusive of all faiths. "George has a lovely manner and tone and everyone commented on how personal our service was," remembers Lisa. They incorporated a hand fasting and drinking from the quaich in their ceremony and, both being nervous about public speaking, opted for the "short legal vows" - "We wanted to get the party started!"

Following the ceremony they entertained their guests with music by John Rankin - Glasgow Piano Man who played throughout their amazing three-course meal. And the speeches were particularly funny as both Frankie and his best man ended up telling the exact same story. "It was good to hear from different perspectives," laughs Lisa.

Then it was time to hit the dancefloor, which was packed from start to finish. "The atmosphere was electric" says the bride. "The whole day was perfect from start to end. However, the entire dancefloor going berserk to the Backstreet Boys near the end of the night will definitely always stand out as a moment to remember!"



"We really feel so relieved and grateful that we were able to get married and now we can finally start focusing on what the future holds."

Lisa

DREAM TEAM

BAND Transit Jukebox

BRIDE'S BRACELET & NECKLACE

Swarovski

BRIDE'S DRESS

Maggie Sottero at Emma Roy of Edinburgh

BRIDE'S RINGS Rox

BRIDE'S SHOES Dune

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

David's Bridal

CELEBRANT

George Smith - Fuze Ceremonies

CAKE Three Sisters Bake

DÉCOR

LBS Event Design & Wedding Planners

FLOWERS By Betty Bluebell

GROOM'S OUTFIT Slanj Kilts

GROOM'S RING Beaverbrooks

HAIR Pamper & Polish Bridal

MAKE-UP

Louise Ballantyne Makeup Artist

PIANIST Glasgow Piano Man

STATIONERY Com Bossa

TRANSPORT Glasgow Taxis

VIDEOGRAPHER

Piece of Time Media



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"I couldn't be happier for Lisa and Frankie! Despite several postponements they were always so enthusiastic and excited about their wedding! This wedding, I tell you, was absolutely incredible! So worth the wait! True photographer's dream!"

Karol, Karol Makula Photography













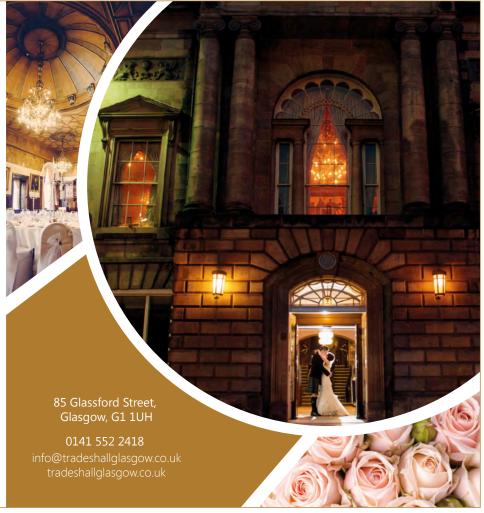
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you can tie the knot in the intimate,

unconsecrated chapel or a bright,

Great British Vermouth.

roseberyvenues.co.uk

Browns Hasgow

Did you know that Browns, set on Glasgow's principal civic square, isn't just a metropolitan hot spot for coffee, brunch, lunch, dinner and cocktails? You can now get married there!

Housed in the iconic 130-year-old ex-General Post Office building and now a stylishly decorated yet relaxed venue with fantastic views over historic George Square, this is the ultimate location for a vibrant urban wedding.

With space for up to 70 guests, The Garden Suite will be all yours for the day and, naturally, you'll find food to die for here. Flexibility is key and wedding breakfast menu options range from five course feasts to informal buffets and tasty canapés. And with Browns' signature selection of cocktails, wine and champagne, your guests will be kept well-entertained while you and your photographer are off taking advantage of the striking cityscape backdrop.

browns-restaurants.co.uk





Falside Mill

If sustainability is high on your priority list, you'll be in good company at Falside Mill. Passionate about environmentalism, the team cleverly and carefully offset the carbon footprint for their new venue build by planting 1,500 trees around the East Neuk farm.

Located near St Andrews and Crail, the renovated steading hosts all manner of weddings, from intimate gatherings to truly grand celebrations. For a dreamy setting for up to 50, check out the stunning Mill Ring, complete with flagstone floors and dramatic open beams. At the other end of the scale, the skylit Main Hall seats up to 400 for dinner. And we just had to give a shout out to the Chill Out Room - a sweet wee sanctuary for ceremony prep or stealing a moment as newlyweds.

Overwhelmed with wedding planning? Peruse the in-house furnishings for hire, from the tartan bar to the Tuk Tuk bar, to the made-for-sinking-into leather seating. **falside.co.uk**



After a decade of offering wonderful wee weddings, Alexander House is upping the ante with its new marquee field. Set high in the Ochils with simply stunning views, you can style your wedding any way you want here. Use the venue's stunning traditional pole marquee or pick your own style of marquee, tipi or yurt and start planning!

Intimate weddings are still very much an option, though. Inside Alexander House, the grand, traditional Dining Hall seats up to 15, whilst the super-comfy kitchen/diner has plenty of space for an informal meal for up to 25 people. Make yourself at home!

Boasting an idyllic setting in the very heart of Scotland, your guests may want to make a weekend of it and if they do, there's something to suit all budgets, from on-site camping and glamping to the exclusive-use luxe country house for up to 40.

alexanderhousescotland.com

The Wearing Shed

Looking for an unconventional, industrial chic-style wedding day? Look no further than The Weaving Shed, which has all the charm of a country barn-style venue in a convenient city location. A light, bright building with roots deep in Dundee's textile industry, The Weaving Shed launched in 2020 but is only getting the chance to host its first weddings now.

Spread over a spacious ground floor area, the venue is super-versatile and can be dressed exactly as you wish. We're thinking neon signage, festoon lighting and loads of greenery! The layout of The Weaving Shed, though, lends itself to offering three defined spaces - the ceremony room; the reception drinks area and the wedding breakfast space, which incorporates the main bar and dancefloor. Numbers-wise, you'll fit 140 for dinner and 60 more for dancing.

One more top tip - the outdoor courtyard lends itself especially well to street food-style vendors!



Netherbyres House

Looking for a stylish and playful new venue? We've found it... Even the toilets are ultra-Instagrammable! Unique and exclusive, complete with guest accommodation, Netherbyres House has been refurbished to add a very funky modern twist. The handsome Victorian mansion offers the perfect blend of old and new with pops of colour and patterns that were just made to be photographed.

With its first couples originally scheduled to tie the knot in summer 2020, the Scottish Borders venue is delighted to finally be welcoming guests to relax on the eclectic furniture, mingle in the greenery and party in the vibrant nooks.

Well-suited to a whole weekend celebration, there are a whole host of characterful spaces in which to host weddings large and small. Our favourite? "I do" on the croquet lawn and summery cocktails in the Bojangles Bar before throwing shapes in the Grand Hall!

netherbyres.com





Broxmouth Courtyard

A new venue within a venue is always exciting and Broxmouth Park isn't about to disappoint with its historical courtyard, which has been dramatically transformed into a whole new space for country weddings in East Lothian.

Brand new for 2022 and ready to host the most magical of days, Broxmouth Courtyard oozes luxurious, modern vibes yet its exposed brick walls and original features ensure there's plenty of rustic charm. The bright and airy new space includes a stunning ceremony chapel, a separate wedding gallery, an exclusive bar, a picturesque outdoor courtyard for dreamy drinks receptions and a private bridal suite for that all-important prep.

You'll find seven beautiful cottages on site, too, with space for up to 40 guests, and more than 150 acres of private parkland, providing a stunning backdrop for making memories on your special day.

broxmouth.com

Megginch Castle

Following the refurbishment of its ballroom and Camelia House, the magical 15th century Megginch Castle (the happy family home of the Drummond family) has opened its doors for occasional exclusive-use for weddings. Set in central Perthshire, the fairytale castle is surrounded by the very best that nature has to offer.

Religious ceremonies can take place in the charming woodland family chapel but the newly renovated spaces also offer an idyllic backdrop in which to take your vows. The ballroom looks out to one side over the cobbled gothic courtyard and to the other over the formal gardens. It's here that Camelia House sits, offering a romantic and beautiful ceremony setting with just the sound of the fountains and birdsong outside.

As the sun goes down, though, the peacefulness pauses and you'll find the castle's west façade and courtyard glowing gently. It's time to get the party started!

megginchcastle.com





Possie on the Garn

Did someone say rustic? From the atmospheric log burning stove and the cosy fire pit to the wooden dancefloor, Rossie bar and handmade benches, this hotoff-the-press venue ticks all the boxes for a relaxed and stylish byre wedding.

Set in the rolling Perthshire hills and open for business from spring, Rossie on the Earn is a fantastically flexible blank canvas venue with lots of space to play with. The four interlinking rooms mean your whole day can be in the one place, whether it's an intimate get-together or a large wedding of up to 160. And the farmhouse and cottages mean 16 of your nearest and dearest can stay over - bonus!

The magical 30-acre garden offers plenty of special spots - from the Victorian walled garden to the enchanting summer hut - for ceremonies, photographs or just stealing a moment away together.

rossie.info





Fruin Farm

Loch Lomond

Fruin Farm Glen Fruin Helensburgh G84 9EE

info@fruinfarm.co.uk



www.fruinfarm.co.uk

Tucked away in beautiful countryside, a mile from the shores of Loch Lomond, Fruin Farm provides the perfect backdrop for laid back intimate weddings, with an emphasis on bespoke. You and your guests will fall for the rustic, rural charm of this lovely venue, with stunning scenery and a true Scottish welcome from their friendly and attentive staff.

There is an on-site wedding suite available for use throughout the day and your wedding night. Also included with the venue is a dedicated wedding planner who will advise and assist in the build up to your wedding and oversee the smooth running on the day, allowing you to relax and enjoy the most special of days.







PHOTOGRAPHY: Paul Budzinski



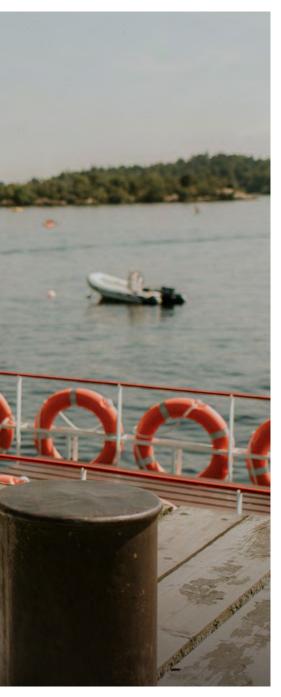
All aboard the LOVEBOAT



It was fifth time lucky when Shona and Andy finally said "I do" in their romantic garden party wedding Childhood sweethearts Shona and Andy first met at school and had been together for years when he insisted on taking her on a rainy walk to Loch Lomond's Tarbet Pier one day. "I couldn't understand why but it all became apparent when he got down on one knee!" Shona smiles.

The couple knew they wanted their

big day to be fun, relaxed and easily accessible for all their friends and family so searched for a venue that suited their vibe. "We were so delighted when Loch Lomond Arms could have our wedding after many failed attempts due to Covid and a shut down venue," says Shona. In fact, their wedding day was the fifth date



before my own and they were blush pink so that set the colour scheme," says Shona. "Our wonderful florist called it 'romantic garden party' theme."

Lots of greenery, sporadic white flowers and a few blush ones were coupled with subtle gold accessories and Shona's talented mum wrote their table plan on a gold-framed antique mirror for the perfect look. Shona added a personal touch by making her place cards with Polaroid pictures of everyone slotted into a champagne cork - "It took a bit of digging through Facebook pictures but we found collecting corks quite easy!"

TOTALLY BESPOKE

Shona admits to being a total girly girl and thought she'd love dress shopping but actually found it pretty stressful trying to pin down her dream dress. After days of trial and error she hit upon having a bespoke Suzanne Neville dress from Rachel Scott Couture. "It was very simple, which in hindsight is what I wanted all along," she says. "It had a low back with satin buttons down over my bum and fitted me like a glove. Although, I know it will never fit me again!"







they had attempted to say "I do" and 15 months later than planned.

Shona and Andy loved that they could walk from their ceremony at Luss Church to Loch Lomond Arms and fell for the blank canvas wedding suite that they could decorate as they wished. "I actually had the bridesmaids' dresses



When the big day finally arrived, Shona had hardly slept but she didn't care. "I was just so excited!" she remembers. "I felt really calm until I got a lovely bouquet delivered from my in-laws and a delivery from the best man; then I got quite emotional and nervous."

The nerves melted away when they reached the church and Shona walked down the aisle to an instrumental version of *A Thousand Miles*. Luss Parish Church has a lot of meaning to Shona's family and Rev Ian delivered a beautiful religious ceremony.

After that, Shona and Andy admit to going "a bit extra" with not one, but two drinks receptions. They started out with a two-hour cruise on Loch Lomond which was very fitting as the boats are run by the bride's family and the couple spent many summers working onboard. Then it was a walk back through Luss to the hotel for a further drinks reception and fun fair games. "This part was so nice and chilled and a great chance to speak to all our friends," says Shona.





DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

Shona remembers all the speeches going down really well. Her brother delivered the Father of the Bride speech and Andy had arranged for some friends and family who couldn't be there to send across videos. "It was so lovely to watch them and see all their faces," says the bride.

Shona and Andy's wedding was the first big event most people had been to since lockdown so the atmosphere was "incredible". "Everyone just danced the whole night and had a great time," she says. "At one point when Andy and I were dancing at the front, I looked out at the room and every single person was up dancing. It was such an incredible feeling!"







BAND The Raggaels

BRIDE'S DRESS

Suzanne Neville at Rachel Scott Couture

BRIDE'S EARRINGS House of Aria

BRIDE'S RINGS Rox

BRIDE'S SHOES Charlotte Mills

BRIDESMAID DRESSES TH & TH

CELEBRANT Reverend Ian Miller

CHEESE CAKE IJ Mellis

DÉCOR All Dressed Up

FLOWERS Cherry Blossom

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HAIR AMM Hair

MAKE-UP Dollface Beautique

TRANSPORT Renwicks Cars

VIDEOGRAPHY Knoxland Films



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

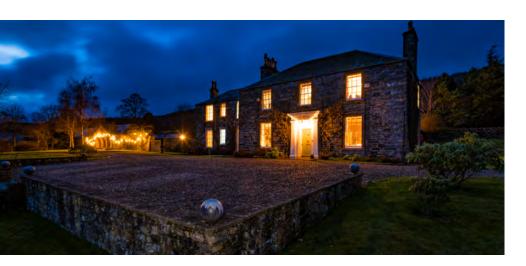
 $\circ \ \mathbf{SIMØNS} \ \mathbf{STUDIØ} \circ \\ \mathbf{wedding} \ \mathbf{PHOTOGRAPHY}$

"Action-packed, that was Shona and Andy's day. It was a whirlwind of sun, boats, cigars, laughter and a fun fair! It was such a great laugh documenting their day. Such lovely people and awesome guests."

Simon, Simons Studio

YSW on tour | Great Scots

We fall for the relaxed elegance of The Old Manse of Blair and the all-out grandeur of Cromlix



First up, The Old Manse of Blair...

It's a dark November evening when we pass the famous House of Bruar and drive the short distance to The Old Manse of Blair. Although I know we're in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, surrounded by hills and woods, for now all I can see are the welcoming lights of this beautiful stone-built mansion, which dates back to 1828. Stepping through the front door into the cosy lamplight, I'm struck by the pared back, unassuming elegance and subtle Scottish décor. A touch of velvet here, some heavy tweed there and the tasteful use of antlers and pheasant feathers give The Old Manse a truly grand country house feel.

My friend and I are escorted to The Bothy suite with bedrooms in restful muted grey tones. The beds with their grand oversized bedheads and plush velvet cushions look so tempting but we settle in quickly before heading downstairs for dinner.

The Orangery was awarded a five star from Visit Scotland and the AA in 2019 and it's not difficult to see why. The chefs here take full advantage of the local larder and portions are plentiful. I start with a delicious sweet potato soup with chilli oil before the main event of venison, fondant potato and cavalo nero – autumn on a plate – and, had I been on my own, I could have licked it clean. The black garlic sauce was that good. A baked lemon tart with Italian meringue and a glass of Beaujolais later and I'm ready to stretch out in front of the fire in the manse's elegant drawing room.

A RELAXED AND INTIMATE AFFAIR

The marble fireplace, beautiful bay window and grand piano make the drawing room a charming setting for a wee elopement, but indoor affairs can also be accommodated in the dining room (capacity 14 people) with its high ceilings, regency fireplace and shelves of whisky, or in the light-filled orangery (45 guests).

To truly take advantage of the Manse's setting though head outdoors into the 10 acres of grounds for an al fresco ceremony. Choose from the manicured lawn, sun terrace and mature borders or the more rustic walled garden. I'm a fan of the cute Old Greenhouse which would be the perfect spot for photos. The view at The Old Manse is spectacular, looking across the valley to high hills. Call me biased but I don't think it gets better than autumn in the Highlands.

EXCLUSIVELY YOURS

Here's the good news. The Old Manse of Blair only hires for weddings on an exclusive-use basis so you'll have the run of this pretty estate for just you and your closest friends. With 23 luxury en suite bedrooms, including the mansion



house rooms, stables snugs, railway cottage and, the newest addition; the walled garden rooms, you'll all be able to enjoy a relaxed celebration, knowing it's not far to bed. And what's more, your wedding needn't be a one-day affair. Keep the party going with a barbecue the next day and some Highland Games in your very own grounds.

theoldmanseofblair.com

Choosing your wedding venue has to be up there as one of the most exciting aspects of planning. You want somewhere that reflects both of your personalities but there are other considerations too. Do you want somewhere where all your guests can stay overnight? What about having your setting on an exclusive-use basis and what's the general atmosphere?

The ICMI group has a portfolio of jaw-droppingly beautiful venues across Scotland so whatever your wedding style and requirements there's bound to be one that's perfect for you. YSW's head of editorial Katie visited two to find out just what they had to offer.

On to Cromlix...

The second leg of our tour of ICMI venues nearly didn't happen thanks to Storm Arwen. Andy Murray's renowned Perthshire hotel Cromlix lost power for days but thankfully the lights came back on in time for our December visit and we arrive to a beautifully festive scene. The fire in the entrance hall is crackling, the staff are super-welcoming and attentive, and fairylights twinkle out of the gorgeous garlands trimming the grand staircase and mantlepiece.

And the festive vibe doesn't stop there. We're staying in the Carnegie Suite which occupies Cromlix's turret and honestly it's like a scene from *Home Alone 2*. From

the wreath adorning the suite door to the garlanded fireplaces in both the living room and bedroom, it really feels magical. We even have our own little Christmas tree. Honestly, just call me Kevin McCallister! This suite is something else with an impressive, canopied bed, sumptuous furnishings, an elegant copper roll-top bath and a powerful double-rainfall shower.

But while any newlyweds would consider themselves lucky

to kick off married life here, Cromlix doesn't actually have

a dedicated honeymoon suite. Instead, any of the hotel's five suites would be the perfect setting. The Eden Suite is charming with its two turrets, while the Bowes-Lyon Suite boasts a four-poster bed and can be combined with the adjacent study for an intimate



dinner or a hair and make-up station. Just imagine your 'maids joining you there for champagne and pampering! Incidentally, if you do choose Cromlix for your honeymoon or minimoon staff can organise beautiful treats, such as a special champagne afternoon tea or a luxury picnic down by the estate's loch.

After exploring our suite, we make our way down to the Chez Roux restaurant and discover it's actually snowing outside. I can think of worse things than getting snowed in in a luxury hotel! We sit cosily watching the flakes fall while the talented chefs prepare a mouthwatering menu. I choose parsnip velouté followed by deer ragu (I just can't resist venison) with pumpkin ravioli and finish off with a delectably rich chocolate truffle cake. Just gorgeous! Then it's back upstairs to try out *that* bath before climbing into bed.



The next morning, before check-out we explore more of the hotel and discover the full offering for weddings.

LET'S GET MARRIED!

Did you know Cromlix has its own consecrated Episcopalian chapel which comfortably seats 36 for a wee wedding? But if you aren't religious you can still host a non-religious wedding here too. And if your numbers are looking larger, the tastefully furnished drawing room seats up to 80 for a ceremony or 50 for dinner.

Couples hosting weddings of 50 or over, or with an evening reception, take over the entire hotel on an exclusive-use basis, with meals for up to 80 being served in the restaurant. Taking on the run of the place you can use all the gorgeous spaces as you choose. We love the stylish art deco bar with its hand-painted gold designs. The garden room is full of character with wood panelling and can seat up to 24 round the dining table, while the billiards room is perfect for a drinks reception.

As we get ready to go, although the lawn is under a crisp frost I can just imagine an excited bridal party walking down the aisle for an al fresco ceremony before enjoying drinks on the terrace.

Just magical.

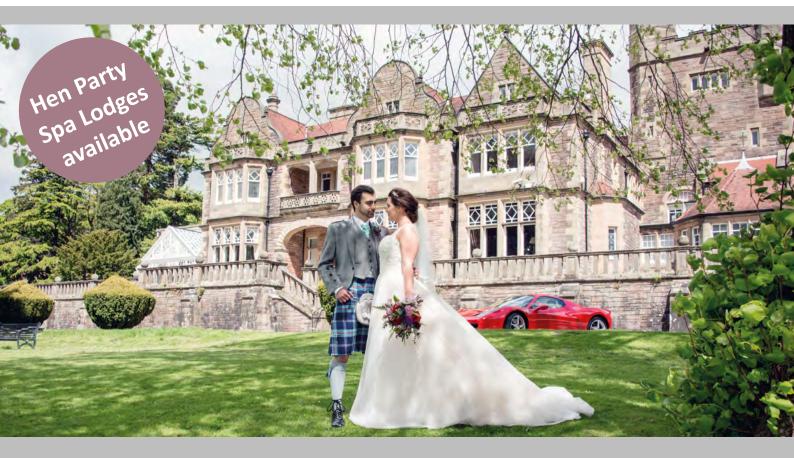
cromlix.com





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Hotel • Restaurant • Spa



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The Scottish Wedding Awards Wedding Venue of the Year

T: (01259) 216156



WEDDINGS AT CROMLIX

The elegant house, enchanting gardens and stunning location make Cromlix a truly beautiful setting for a wedding. The house provides an impressive backdrop to your celebration with versatile facilities that will make your wedding day a joy for you and every one of your guests.

We hold a licence that means you may choose to have the wedding ceremony (religious and civil) here as well as the reception.





Cromlix Hotel Kinbuck, Near Dunblane, Stirling, FK15 9JT

01786 822 125 enquiries@cromlix.com www.cromlix.com



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