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FIRST LOOK

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capture your
big reveal

THE WILD SIDE

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in stunning
settings



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beachy
in our
gorgeous
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shoot

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WELCOME to Your Scottish Wedding



Hi and welcome to the September issue! I hope you've had a lovely summer and hopefully a bit of downtime in the midst of wedding planning.

Summer of course is traditionally the busiest time of year for weddings (though the other seasons are gaining in popularity) and I've had a couple in the diary this year, and with them, hen do's!

Back in July I was heading down Edinburgh's Royal Mile, ready for a fabulous weekend of cocktail making, silent disco touring and my bride-to-be friend dressed as a human-sized sausage roll (don't ask!). Weaving my way through the crowds, I was hit by the sheer number of tourists in the city.

Of course you don't need me to remind you of the capital's international appeal, or that of Scotland at large. But it struck a chord with me because this issue we're bringing you a number of weddings where the couple actually chose to come here from overseas for their big day, proving that it's not just us natives who rate a Scottish wedding. Marc, who is originally from the south of France and his wife Tara travelled up from London for their picture perfect celebration at Cluny Castle, near where she grew up, while Americans Elizabeth and Andrew chose the splendour of the Old Course for their wedding. Then we have two couples who live in Australia but planned Scottish weddings!

And it's not just our real wedding features where you'll find couples who travelled from abroad. Check out our regular *Focal point* (p158) where you'll see the cutest first look between Atlanta couple Nick and Lauren. All this of course reinforces what we all know, Scotland truly is a stunning location for your wedding.

Here we have the option to marry up mountains, by lochs and on remote islands and in *Going wild* (p150) Claire Muir's been chatting through the logistics of these wilder weddings with the experts who make them happen. Then on p142 Jennifer McLaren unpicks exactly how you say 'I do' and the paperwork you need.

Speaking of island weddings, head to page 62 to see all the gorgeous bridal looks from our photoshoot at Dougarie Boathouse on the Isle of Arran. And alongside the shoot, our fashion section is brimming with cute ideas and inspo, while I've been getting to grips with bridal lingerie and asking if there's ever a way to look wedding night-ready while creating the perfect silhouette under your dress. Turn to page 88 to find out!

Katie x

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FURNITURE

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MAKE-UP

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Laura A Tilman Photography

STYLISTS

Katie Bletcher and

Laura Tilman

VENUE

Bachilton Barn

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BRIDAL STOCKISTS

EDINBURGH Kudos Bridal FALKIRK CKS Bridal FRASERBURGH Blush Bridal GLASGOW Sarah Louise Bridal

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WIN

Venue hire for a
2024 wedding
at Dougarie
Boathouse

WORTH
£6,000

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Marry me on a mountain



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www.kudosbridal.co.uk



EVENTS

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Suzanne Neville New
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Rachel Scott
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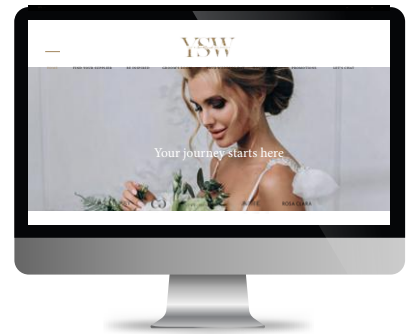
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www.rachelscottcouture.co.uk
[@rachelscottcouture](https://www.instagram.com/rachelscottcouture)



YOUR wedding COUNTDOWN

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

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



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



Over a year to go

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

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

3 6-9 months to go

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

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

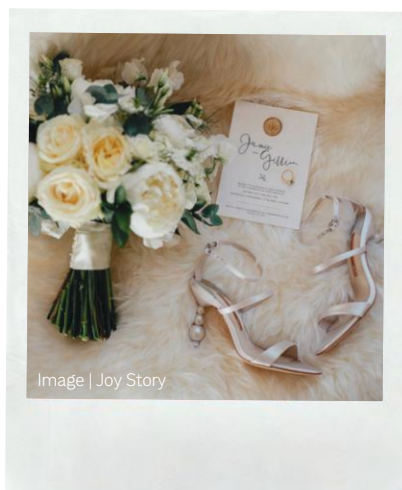


4

1-3 months to go

This is where the fun really kicks in!

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



5

Last week to go!

The countdown is truly on now

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



6

After the day...

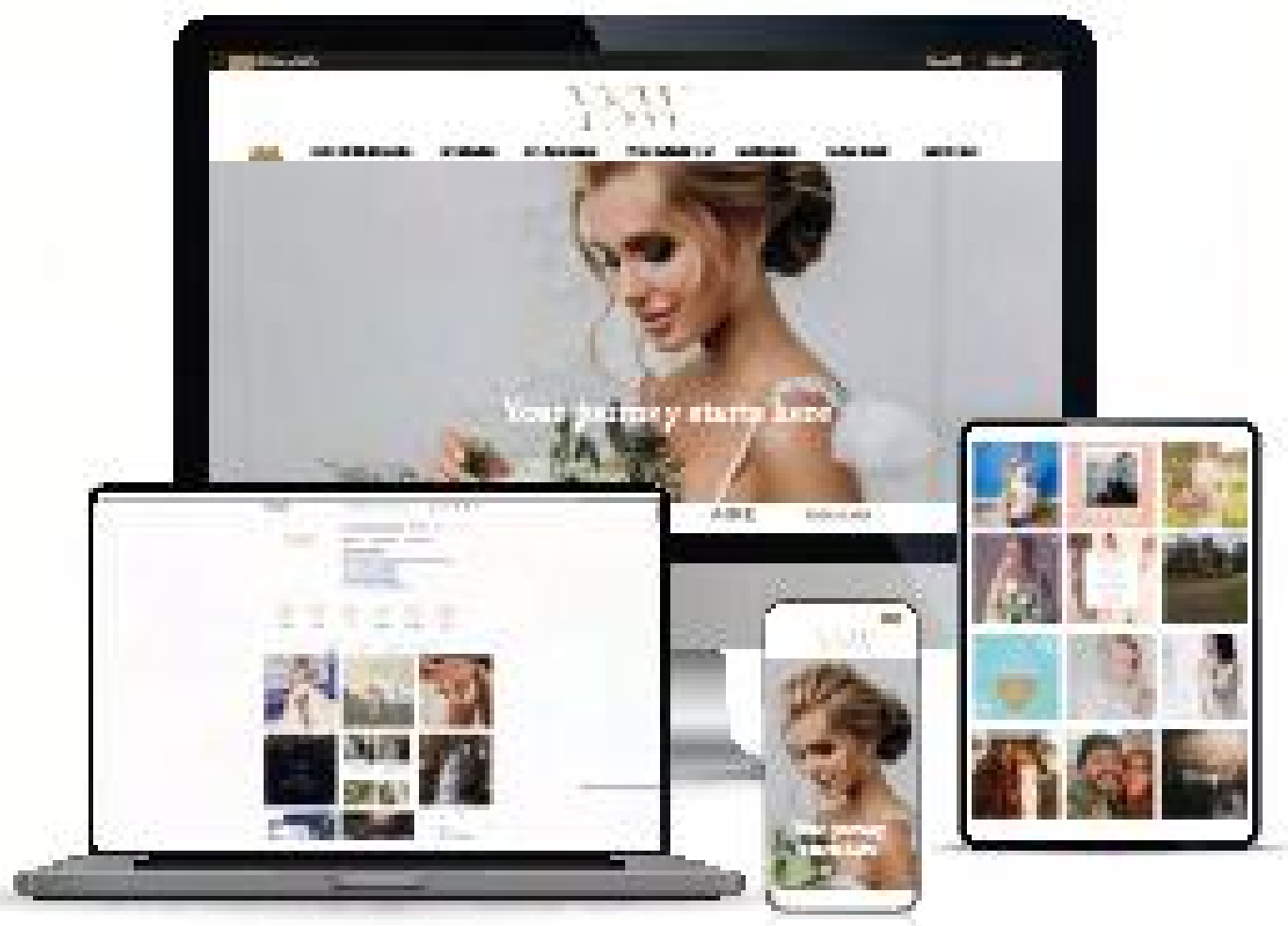
The wedmin doesn't stop after you say 'I do'

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



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

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In the KNOW

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

Reader offer!

Did you know All Wrapped Up Events Scotland has extended its venue styling and equipment hire stock so there's now even more for you to choose from? A visit to their showroom at Unit 10, Fife Food & Business Centre in Glenrothes has everything you need for your wedding décor, whatever style you're planning. There's a wide range of moon gates and arches, charger plates, black Chiavari chairs and gold ones – you'll be spoilt for choice. And to make the task of choosing your wedding décor equipment even better the company is offering *Your Scottish Wedding* readers 10% off any hire items. Simply quote **YSW** when you make your enquiry.

ALLWRAPPEDUPSCOTLAND.CO.UK

10% OFF



Say yes to the dress!

You'll know Randy Fenoli for his iconic role as the host of *Say Yes to the Dress* but he is, of course, a bridal designer in his own right. If you're a fan of his elegant gowns you'll be thrilled to hear Edinburgh boutique La Novia is welcoming his Fall 2023 collection at the end of the year. Natalie from the boutique says, "We guarantee our brides will fall in love with these amazing dresses. They really complement our existing collections and offer our brides something different. We love Randy's mix of clean, elegant designs with intricate and unique details." Just check out the exquisite placement and lace on the 'Fleur' and 'Faith' gowns. La Novia is hosting a Randy Fenoli trunk show the weekends of 30th September and 7th October when they'll be offering 10% off all Randy Fenoli orders plus 10% off their accessories so make sure you book an appointment.

LANOVIA.CO.UK



Save the date!

It's all about exquisite tailoring and couture corsetry with a Suzanne Neville design, so if you're looking for the perfect bridal silhouette make a date to pop along to the Suzanne Neville designer event at Rachel Scott Couture on 20th and 21st October. The boutique will launch her 2024 collection in store, the first time it can be viewed in Scotland. You can check out the very latest gowns while meeting the designer herself. Book your appointment on the store's website.

RACHELSCOTTCOUTURE.CO.UK

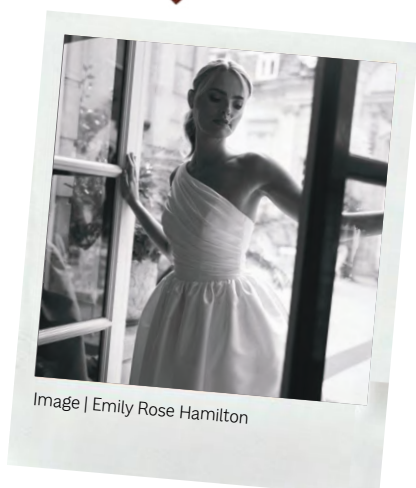


Image | Emily Rose Hamilton



Sweet fantasy

We're big fans of Mirka Bridal Couture's environmentally friendly line With Love, Mirka which puts sustainability at the heart with the use of recycled fabrics. And we're loving the new collection, captured beautifully in a styled photoshoot where the designer teamed up with set designers @weddingsbyfantasygreens. They created a lush foliage set in the boutique, employing a green and white palette to showcase the new collection to perfection.

Speaking of her inspiration,

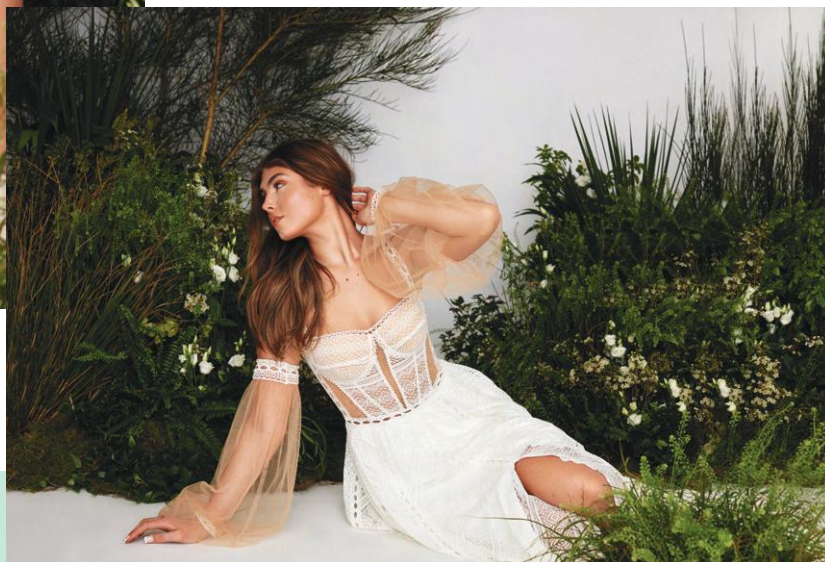
Your Scottish Wedding Awards winner Mirka says, "This collection is a continuation of our elegant yet free-spirited style of dresses that offer brides comfort while not compromising on design. I want women to feel powerful, beautiful and sexy walking down the aisle. This is what brides look for from me and I love creating dresses that deliver that feeling."

To see more from the photoshoot head to the YSW website now.

MIRKABRIDAL.COM >>



Model | @chloemiltonx
Set design | @weddingsbyfantasygreens



Custom made

Gone are the days of grooms choosing a simple gold wedding band. According to Lesley Elder at John McKay Jewellers customisable rings are becoming more popular with men. "The variation of designs out there is giving people more options to choose from," she explains. "If they can't decide between one ring or the other they can amalgamate two designs and personalise them." In fact, 30% of the rings John McKay Jewellers sell are bespoke, while every single ring is made to order. Lesley says when grooms realise they aren't simply buying off the shelf they like to get involved.

She attributes the rise in customisable grooms' rings to new techniques, creating different textures, including a checkerboard effect or the date of the wedding in Roman numerals running around the outside. And with a lot of patriotic grooms out there, they can even incorporate elements of a coat of arms. With so many options, what will you choose?

JOHNMCKAYJEWELLERS.COM





Let me entertain you!

Sure you could just let your guests write you sweet messages in a guest book but if you want something a bit more extra – and fun – you'll love Social Jungle's brand new audio guest book. The retro style pink telephone lets them leave you audio messages to cherish forever, something you'll treasure long after the wedding day. The phone comes with personalised framed instructions and a 'leave a message' neon sign. You can record your own greeting guests will hear when they lift the receiver and Social Jungle creates a bespoke webpage where you can listen back and then download messages from a unique link. And as an optional extra the company can create a dial-in code for loved ones to leave a message from anywhere in the world!

With the sounds sorted, what about the visuals? The company also offers a new 360 booth, holding up to four people at one time. You can add your own wedding branding to the platform, such as your names and wedding date, and the same branding can be applied over the videos, along with special effects. Guests can share the videos immediately and after the wedding you'll receive a unique link to view all their fun shenanigans! What a way to capture the day.

SOCIALJUNGLE.CO.UK



Mum's the word

The change in seasons marks the arrival of the new Autumn/Winter stock at Frox of Falkirk, giving you MOB's and MOG's gorgeous new options to choose from. The eye-catching prints of dresses by Irresistible, like this one pictured, will ensure you stand out as part of the wedding party while we love this striking trouser suit by Gabriela Sanchez, (both POA).

FROXOFFALKIRK.COM



Austin Mitchell Photography

Top playlist

Have you heard? Princes Square in Glasgow is rolling out the red carpet to to-be-weds on 1st October with a special wedding showcase. We'll be there as the media sponsor and among the special guests you'll find GeO Gospel Choir. The hit choir will be showcasing their preferred size choir of eight members, performing their most popular wedding ceremony requests on the day. If you're toying with the idea of hiring the group, come along for a listen. Whether you're considering them for your bridal march, signing of the register, or your couple's exit song, come sample their renditions of the likes of *At Last* by Etta James, Prince's *Purple Rain* or even the late, great Tina Turner's *Proud Mary*. We'll see you there!

GEOGOSPELCHOIR.CO.UK

New in town

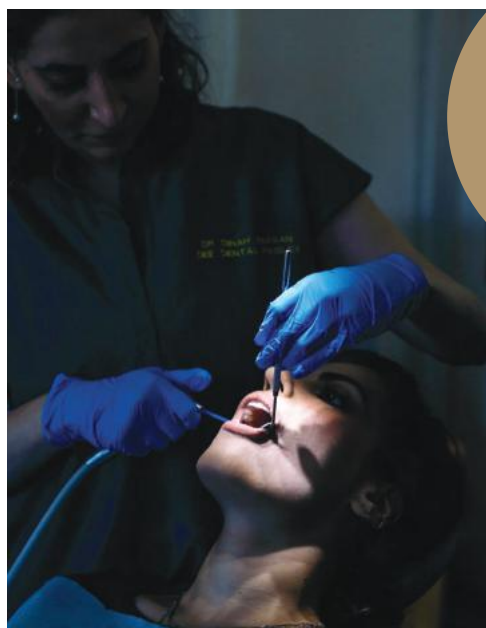
We always love to see new designers hitting the boutiques so we're very excited that June Brides Glasgow has taken on not one, but four new designer collections this summer. Daria Karlozi, Ida Tomez and Signature By Pollardi will be joining the rails of the Glasgow boutique, offering statement on-trend styles for the fashion forward bride. You'll love the unique looks that give something very different to choose from. All gowns are fully customisable – a fabulous bonus!

And for all you brides-to-be as obsessed with the bridal minis trend as us, book an appointment to get up close to the high hemmed dresses on offer from New Zealand designer Trish Peng. June Brides is the first Scottish stockist of the brand and we can't wait to see the brides making their way down the aisle in one of her dresses.

JUNEBRIDES.CO.UK



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and composite bonding package (where brackets and metal wires are replaced with virtually invisible clear aligners), the facial aesthetics, teeth whitening and composite bonding package – the team's "simple solution for a beautiful smile", the facial aesthetics and teeth whitening package which includes simple anti-ageing treatments like dermal fillers, Profhilo and ZO Skincare, and the Enlighten whitening and composite bonding package. And if you want your skin looking its absolute best for your wedding you can book in for a free consultation for ZO Skincare.

DEEDENTALPAISLEY.CO.UK

Major milestone

Wedding entertainment experts Hireaband celebrate 25 years in business in January and plans are already afoot to mark the occasion in style. Rachel Cotton has been appointed a director of the company after graduating with a degree in business management from Strathclyde and she's bringing lots of new and exciting ideas to the role, preparing Hireaband for the next 25 years! The company will celebrate its big birthday with a party for all the bands it's worked with over the years, alongside the current roster of talent. Hireaband is also sponsoring the live entertainment at the October Scottish Wedding Show where you can check out a selection of the company's bands performing live over both days. Plus, if you make an enquiry for any band at the show, you'll be entered into a draw to win a sax player or piper for your wedding, even if you don't book any of the bands! Definitely worth checking out!

HIREABAND.CO.UK >>

Photo | Jasmin Bauer Photography
That Rosie Glow



Like mother, like daughter

On your wedding day you want a dress that is totally right for you, and the same goes for your mum. Finding the perfect MOB outfit is an important step in the wedding planning journey, something Freja Designer Dressmaking knows well. That's why they offer bespoke services for both brides and their mums ensuring you each have a dream outfit designed to your exact wishes. What's more, the Edinburgh boutique offers a selection of fabrics with special consideration for the environment including recycled polyesters and organic cotton laces, allowing you both to look and feel fabulous.

FREJA-FASHION.CO.UK



In season

Autumn and winter weddings have really grown in popularity and with so many beautiful fashion options for your outfit as the days get shorter we can see why you'd be tempted. McCalls Highlandwear's new accessories fit the bill perfectly. The company has added a new range in bronze and the metal can be found on everything from kilt pins to cufflinks.

You can even opt for a bronze cantle on one of their beautiful luxury sporrans, making for an amazingly coordinated look. According to Simone from McCalls, "Bronzy and coppery tones are oh-so-lovely during the autumn and winter months as they bring stunning sheen and some colour to the often darker days and nights. So how about donning this new style for your special day and making a big statement while you're at it?"

MCCALLS.CO.UK

Trust the experts

Helping to improve people's self-esteem and how they feel about themselves is something Dr Claire-Louise Narrie feels passionately about. So much so, she set up Infinity Skin Clinic Edinburgh where she uses her medical background and experience to recommend and carry out treatments that will help you look and feel amazing. Claire-Louise offers a number of treatments and loves working with customers on the run up to their wedding day. "I wish I had some of the treatments before my big day that I now offer, as the difference in my confidence would have been so much better," she says. Among the services on offer at the doctor-led clinic you'll find bespoke anti-wrinkle injections, bespoke lip augmentation, and hyperhidrosis which combats excessive sweating, leaving you free to enjoy your day without worrying. All treatments also come with a complimentary skin review.

INFINITYSKINCLINICEDINBURGH.COM



Time for a freshen up

We all want to look our best on our wedding day, and if you want a little help or glow-up Vikki Soloman Aesthetics in Edinburgh has introduced full face and neck thread lifts. Vikki says, "This is a wonderful treatment to help lift and tighten and rejuvenate sagging skin." Congratulations are also due to Vikki who recently scooped second place for Best Business Branding in Scotland at the HBA awards, along with 9th place for Best for Aesthetics in Scotland.

VIKKISOLOMANAESTHETICS.CO.UK

Photo | Ema P Photography



Prep work

We know we say it all the time but perfect bridal make-up starts with flawless skin and it's important to get yours in the best possible condition. Caroline of Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry and Hair Styling is now offering 30-minute and 45-minute Dermalogica facials to help to-be-weds get their skin ready at an affordable price. Even better, if you book your wedding make-up with Caroline you get a little discount on facials which help hydrate and even out skin tone for a healthy glow and help make-up application.

If you need to unwind in the run-up to the big day Caroline offers massage too which can also help your posture – think of the wedding photos! The facials and massages are both offered in her home studio in Edinburgh, and you can still book Caroline for your wedding hair and make-up. She even offers lessons to brides marrying further afield.

CAROLINESTEWARTMAKEUPARTISTRY.CO.UK



Modern romance

If you love the look of an Aire Barcelona or Rosa Clará gown make sure you make an appointment at Kudos Dunfermline. This September the boutique welcomes a new collection from Luna Novias, a label from the same designers. Luna Novias brings contemporary designs with romantic twists and timeless fabrics, offering a fresh take on the designers' signature style!

And if you're in love with all things Rosa Clará book an appointment at sister store Kudos Edinburgh 30th September and 1st October when they'll be hosting a trunk show by the designer. Head to the YSW website where Michelle from Kudos has picked her standout pieces from the new collection.

KUDOSBRIDAL.CO.UK/

DUNFERMLINE

KUDOSBRIDAL.CO.UK/EDINBURGH



It's showtime

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



SEPTEMBER

2nd & 3rd – Edinburgh Wedding Exhibition, Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

9th & 10th – Big Dundee Wedding Exhibition, Caird Hall, Dundee

17th – The Hampden Wedding Show, Hampden Stadium, Glasgow

30th – Ayrshire Wedding Exhibition, Trump Turnberry, Maybole



OCTOBER

1st – Princes Square Wedding Showcase, Glasgow

1st – Edinburgh Wedding Directory Showcase, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

8th – Aberdeen Wedding Exhibition, Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen

8th – The Luxury Scottish Wedding Show, Mansfield Traquair, Edinburgh

14th & 15th – The Scottish Wedding Show, SEC, Glasgow

15th – Borders Wedding Show, Borders Events Centre, Kelso

29th – The Perth Wedding Exhibition, Perth Racecourse, Perth

29th – Musselburgh Wedding Show, Musselburgh Racecourse, Musselburgh

29th – Troon Wedding Fayre, Troon Concert Hall and Town Hall, Troon

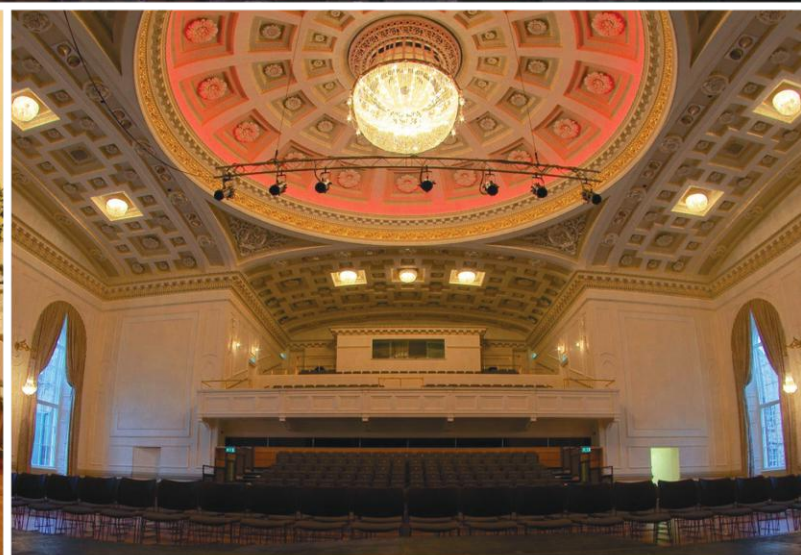


NOVEMBER

4th & 5th – Edinburgh Wedding Fair, O2 Academy Edinburgh

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Old & NEW

From exchanging rings to wearing white gowns, weddings are steeped in tradition.

Jennifer McLaren discovers why we still incorporate these customs into our day, and how we can make our own.



Wedding ceremonies have key components and for years people followed them faithfully. Whether it was a father walking his daughter down the aisle, or a groom waiting at the bottom, glancing over his shoulder to catch a glimpse of his fiancée, we've seen it play out in real life – and on screen – many times before.

These traditions still find their way into modern weddings, but often they have been adapted to suit the couple's own personalities and values. We have spoken to the experts to discover the stories behind some of these common practices, and how couples are now tailoring them for their own days.



The Kilted Cake Company | Derek Christie Photography

The cake

Alison McCabe of The Kilted Cake Company says wedding cakes can trace their origins back to Roman ceremonies. "It was more like a bread scone made with barley, and that symbolised fertility and prosperity for the couple getting married," she explains. "The cake wasn't actually on display and the groom would throw the bread scone at the bride, then all of the guests would try and grab the pieces that had been broken off and take them as good luck for themselves."

Alison adds that white wedding cakes used to be a sign of wealth and prosperity. "White sugar was very expensive in Victorian times and so white icing was a sign of money and social importance. The bigger the cake, the more it symbolised the family's wealth and position," she says.

Traditionally, a wedding cake would have been three tiers high, but now they can be whatever the couple wishes. "It used to be that the bottom tier would be served at the wedding, the middle tier would be kept and given to those who weren't there and the top tier would be kept for the first child coming along – but couples now are not necessarily going down that route," Alison goes on.

Traditionally, they were fruit cakes, which could keep for longer. Now sponge is more popular, but it can only last for up to three months in the freezer. "I say to my couples it's lovely to have some in the freezer for when they get their photography or videos, to just enjoy while they're looking at them," Alison adds.

The dress

Megan Carberry of Kudos Bridal Dunfermline says the trend for wearing a white wedding dress in the UK came from Queen Victoria. “Dresses were seen as a display of wealth, so the more embellishment the better. Although other brides in the past, like Mary Queen of Scots, chose to embrace wearing white on their big day, it wasn’t until Victoria that it really took off. “Queen Victoria chose a more simple dress in an effort to show her dedication, purity and affection for Albert. She had the gown created out of only British materials and it was decided that white was the perfect colour to highlight the delicate lace.”

Megan adds that while shades of white and ivory do tend to be the most popular colours, with so many options available – from champagne to soft blush – it is becoming more of a trend to wear something different. “Quite a few of our designers recently have even branched out into bolder tones, with Scarlet’s bold red from Maggie Sottero, and Essense of Australia embracing black this year. We can’t wait to see how popular this trend becomes.”

In Roman times, it was thought that evil spirits would prey on brides as they walked down the aisle. To deter them, brides wore veils to hide their identity. “I absolutely love a veil, for me it’s the finishing touch to a bridal look,” Megan says. “Single tier options continue to be the most popular. These always seem to be more sheer so always allow your dress to shine without overtaking it, especially if you have a detailed back or dramatic train. They come in a multitude of lengths and these are really personal preference. When it comes to shorter veils, you can keep them on all day, but many brides prefer the drama that a cathedral veil can provide.”

Megan says most brides continue to incorporate something old, new, borrowed and blue into their outfits – and some even seek out a sixpence for the sole of their shoe, which was originally meant as a wish for prosperity in marriage. “Many borrow jewellery, reuse their bridesmaid’s veil, buy a new pair of shoes – it’s easy to incorporate and I think this is why it continues to be a popular tradition,” Megan says. “We’ve had many brides in the past decide to stick something meaningful into their dresses.” She adds; “One of our designers, Aire Barcelona, actually stitches a blue ribbon on the inside of all of their gowns for good luck, a special touch that we love!” »



Essense of Australia strapless A-line with high leg split (POA), Kudos Bridal Boutique

“Quite a few of our designers have branched into bolder tones.”

MEGAN CARBERRY



Maggie Sottero 'Scarlet' soft satin ball gown (POA) Kudos Bridal Dunfermline



Essense of Australia full strapless sweetheart ballgown (POA) available to order from Kudos Bridal Boutique

The ceremony

According to Rev Iain Majcher of Bothwell Parish Church, marriage has been around since time began and every faith, era and culture has created their own ceremonies, of which the Church of Scotland is but one. "Our traditions are constantly evolving but one thing has not changed; God is present in the ceremony and in the lives of the couple," he says. "Often the words 'A cord of three strands is not quickly broken' are spoken from the Bible as we remember that God is the third strand in the couple's marriage and holds them together through the good and the bad times." However, Iain says each wedding ceremony is unique as ministers build a service with and for the couple.

Whatever type of ceremony you opt for, common traditions can be found. The wedding ring is a circle with no beginning and no end – a symbol of eternity and endless love, and Humanist celebrant George McLean of Fuze Ceremonies says one of the biggest wedding traditions is the exchanging of rings. "You can glance down to anybody's hand and if they are wearing a band on their wedding finger then they are married," he says.

George adds that while the

tradition of being walked down the aisle continues to be popular, it's no longer about giving or claiming ownership, but instead showing unity as a family. "Now there are new twists on it. I've had both parents walk their daughter down the aisle. We've had a grandad because they've played such a pivotal role in the upbringing of the child," he explains.

Symbolic gestures in Scottish weddings such as handfasting and drinking from a quaich are also common choices. "Handfasting is where the phrase 'tying the knot' came from and a lot of people don't know this," George says. "It was about the Celtic tradition of clans joining together. The quaich was a Celtic marriage ritual where the couple would share their first legal drink as a married couple and that was always done after they signed the marriage paperwork. The quaich is also known as the loving cup and it's said that once a couple shared a drink from it, they could not do harm to each other."

These traditions can be personalised too. For example, one of Iain's Church of Scotland colleagues recently performed a handfasting using the couple's neckerchief from the Scouts, which had brought them together.



Karol Makula Photography

“Handfasting is where the phrase ‘tying the knot’ came from.”

GEORGE MCLEAN



The future

Traditionally, religious weddings would always have taken place in a church building, but now, Iain points out, Church of Scotland ministers will perform weddings in hotels, forests, beaches – “the list goes on.” And he says another important change to note is that in 2022 a historic vote was taken to allow Church of Scotland ministers and deacons who choose to do so to perform same sex marriages.

Humanist celebrant Gerrie Douglas-Scott of Celebrate People explains other changes. She says many of the existing Western culture wedding traditions come from patriarchal customs and now couples are putting their own spin on them.

She adds that while ritual, tradition and social mores can provide couples with a framework within which to work, they should not be constrained by them. “Walking down the aisle originally signified giving your daughter away to another man, so people are putting different spins on that too,” she says. “I had a couple where their immediate family walked down together with the bride and the groom in the middle of them all.”

And Gerrie reveals that at least a third of her weddings involve a mother walking down the aisle with their child.

She also says it's important not to feel limited by labels. “These are traditions when we say the woman is the bride and the man is the groom. As celebrants, we must clarify with the couple what they want to be called. You could be a partner, or make up a whole new word. In Spanish you are ‘los novios’ – it literally means ‘the new ones,’ she explains. “Bridesmaids and groomsmen have also changed – people have changed it themselves and are mixing that up. I’ve seen bridesmen and groomsmen. People just want to give their loved ones, whoever they are and regardless of gender, an important role.” ■

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Dry hire

DIY couples, this one's for you and refers to when you hire an empty venue.

There is no package and it doesn't include furniture, catering, flowers etc. You will have to bring everything in.

POA

No this isn't a prolific designer you'll see popping up after every other dress or kilt description. It actually means Price On Application and you need to discuss price with your chosen retailer.

Get au fait with terms for YOUR W-DAY



Planning your big day is great fun but it can also throw up a whole new terminology you're unfamiliar with. Luckily we're here to help you through

Room flip/turnaround

When you use the same space for your ceremony and wedding meal the room has to be 'flipped' or rearranged in between, usually during the drinks reception. Staff will swap the layout of the room.

Wedding breakfast

Perhaps one of the most commonly misinterpreted wedding terms around. You may have visions of tucking into cornflakes on your big day but this is just a fancy name for the meal you'll serve during the reception, to break your fast after the ceremony.

MARRIAGE SCHEDULE

The form you sign during your ceremony. You must collect it in person from seven days before the wedding.

Receiving line

In more formal weddings the couple will greet their guests at the start of the drinks reception or wedding breakfast. You stand at the door and the guests wait in line for their turn.

MOB

Before you think getting married brings dubious mafia associations, let us enlighten you. This is simply shorthand for Mother of the Bride. See also MOG, or Mother of the Groom, and let's not forget MIL, which is your mother-in-law.

Twilight wedding

These are gaining in popularity. Instead of having an all-day celebration you hold your ceremony around 6pm and follow with dancing and food which can be more informal, like a buffet.

CHARGER

Not what you give your phone more juice with (though a charging station would be a great idea) but the decorative plate that remains on the table like a placemat.

First look

A romantic moment where the couple meets before the ceremony and has their 'first look' captured by their photographer. It's an intimate alternative to seeing each other in your wedding outfits for the first time as one of you walks down the aisle.



Welcome drinks/ arrival drinks/ drinks reception

These caused some confusion among the YSW team who thought that was a lot of booze before the meal. But they all refer to the drinks offered to guests following the ceremony. The 'arrival' or 'welcome' part makes more sense when it refers to a wedding that has taken place at a church or different venue before guests are greeted at the reception venue with a glass of fizz.

Bustle

If you opt for a long train for your wedding day gown you can 'bustle' parts of it up later in the day. This is a way of buttoning, tying or hooking up the back to allow you to move around more freely and dance the night away.

MUA

AKA the make-up artist wizard whose job it is to make you radiant for the wedding.

Processional

This is the moment the bridal party (usually one partner and their attendants, bridesmaids, flower girls etc) walks down the aisle at the start of the ceremony. The order can differ depending on what type of ceremony it is and how traditional you want to be.

Micro-wedding

Weddings with a smaller guestlist became a necessity during the pandemic when regulations limited numbers but these 'micro-weddings' have remained popular with couples who favour a more intimate vibe and many venues now offer special packages for smaller celebrations.

On-the-day coordination

If you don't need help with the organisation or set-up of your wedding but want to hire someone to oversee the running of the actual day an on-the-day coordinator is a good shout. Simply hand over the reins to them.

BOUTONNIERE

More often referred to as a buttonhole. This is the flower or small floral arrangement attached to the lapel of your jacket.



CELEBRANT Whatever way you choose to marry, whether it's a religious, faith or civil ceremony, the celebrant is the person who officiates and legally marries you. ■



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Rachel & Nicola

With their wedding booked for March, everything's falling into place!

Nicola and Rachel have been on the ball right from day one, booking their March 2024 wedding at Bowfield Hotel and Country Club shortly after their romantic proposal. When we last caught up with them, they'd already made most of their major bookings and now they're onto the finer details.

In their column in the May issue of YSW they told us Rachel had already decided on her dress and Nicola was going back to make absolutely certain the one she had her eye on was definitely The One! Since then, they have both chosen their dresses from Bijoux Bridal's sister store One of a Kind. "However, we've kept these a secret from each other," Nicola tells us. "Jen from the store was an angel. I've also got my wedding shoes from Kurt Geiger, and they are beautiful!"

With their own dresses decided on (not giving away any secrets here!), the women are now turning their attention to the bridesmaid dresses. "We are shopping around," says Nicola. "However, we've picked a colour to go with the sort of rustic theme of our wedding. We've also booked our dress alterations with Alter Girls in Glasgow."

Team bride

When it came to asking their maids to do the honours, Nicola and Rachel planned the sweetest bridesmaid proposal. "We asked them by making wee boxes with cute gifts with the

'Team Bride' theme to it. Our bridesmaids are going to be my sister Laura and Rachel's sister-in-law Jen. We will also have two flower girls, our nieces Murrin and Emily, and our nephew George as a ring bearer." And keeping the bridal party to family, brother and brother-in-law Chris and David are fulfilling the usher duties. Plus, bridesmaid Laura is currently pregnant so there's going to be a little baby boy at the wedding too!

In our last catch-up, the couple were still on the hunt for a DJ to get their evening party started and they've now booked Beyond Entertainments. "We have an online meeting booked with Stephen who will make sure we get all the songs and vibes we are looking for," explains Nicola.

Rachel and Nicola are women after our own heart and know how to celebrate the milestones. When Rachel chose her beautiful Chisholm Hunter engagement ring – after she'd proposed to Nicola with a stunning sparkler – they celebrated with some bubbles. So, it was no surprise when the one-year anniversary of their engagement came around that they returned to Kenmore, the place where they first celebrated the proposal, to mark the occasion. "It's so beautiful!" says Nicola.

Country vibes

The couple's next big job is wedding ring shopping but they're also counting down to their joint hen do. "We are having a party in the local pub/hall," explains Nicola. "We are big on the theme which is going to be country and all things Shania Twain. Lots of glitter, denim, and cowboy boots! We're currently looking for a local DJ to host this." A Shania Twain hen? That does impress me much!



It's the final planning push for two of our couples while the others are ticking things off the to do list...

Nina & Rich

With a shared passion for capturing beautiful images, the couple behind Howden Photography were a perfect match from the start

Photographing countless weddings over the years it's no surprise Nina and Rich have taken inspiration for their own day from their happy couples. They get married this September after meeting on Tinder in 2020. "We had to cancel our first date as I had Covid and was admitted to hospital, but Rich waited for me to recover," Nina explains. "We both were delighted to see a camera in each other's dating profile pics as we knew we shared a common passion."

Rich started Howden Photography 15 years ago and the couple now shoot weddings mostly together. "We went to visit Rich's favourite venues and I instantly fell in love with Roulotte Retreat," says Nina. "It's eco and chic and something very special. I'm an outdoor girl, happiest in nature and with a passion for the quirky so Roulotte Retreat was the perfect fit."

Nina and Rich are planning an intimate, hopefully outdoors, ceremony in front of the bowtop gypsy caravan, performed by their friend Julie, a registrar with the Scottish Borders Council. They will then hold a larger celebration and meal with additional guests at The Woll Estate Golf Club. "It's a beautiful venue with a barn style room, and several trees lit up inside, as well as beautiful views of the Borders," says Nina.

Keeping family at the heart of their wedding, the couple's four children Jack,



Katie, Harry, and Heidi will be bridesmaids and ushers, and their ceremony will include Scottish traditions such as drinking from the quaich. For their handfasting, ribbons are going to be made from Rich's kilt tartan and fabric from Nina's dress. The bride-to-be will also use her late mother's white gold wedding ring. "Some of the poetry we are using, we first heard at a wedding we photographed, and it was so meaningful my eyes were welling up, making it difficult to take photographs!" she remembers. The couple's cute cockapoo Skye will also make an appearance, adorned by a homegrown sunflower and collar accessories made by

Nina from fabric from Rich's kilt and the bridesmaid dresses.

There's going to be a definite DIY element to this wedding. Nina and Rich have painstakingly sanded and varnished a barrel to display their Cakes by Laura wedding cake, and they've also made table centrepieces inspired by The Woll's indoor trees. They've made or restored all the props; everything from the post box and easels to a vintage bike and bunting. After the wedding all the props will be used to launch the couple's latest venture – wedding hire company Howden Hires.

Party time

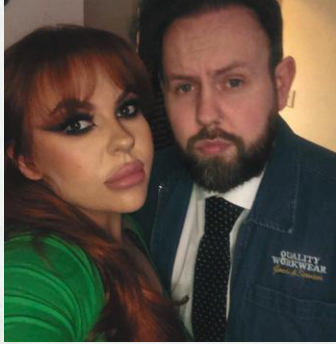
Despite the DIY, there's also been downtime in the last few months of planning. Rich's cool stag do included Battlezone Airsoft in South Queensferry before he was dressed in a floral dress, stag horns and a sash when the

group headed for drinks and a game of bowls. "I looked lovely," he laughs. More drinks and food followed before he rounded off the day in the hot tub with his brother Chris. "I feel at my age I managed to get off lightly!"

At the time of writing, Nina was still looking forward to her hen party which was to include a silent disco tour of Edinburgh and a show at the festival. Sounds so much fun! >>



Look out for all the gorgeousness from Nina and Rich's wedding in the January 2024 issue of *Your Scottish Wedding*.



Amber & Keiron

After a big change of plans these to-be-weds are on the final countdown to their October wedding



To hear even more from Amber and Keiron's planning journey listen to our *Let's Talk Weddings* podcast and look out for their beautiful wedding in the January issue.

When Amber and Keiron got engaged the plan was to have a gorgeously gothic Edinburgh wedding in autumn 2024. Last issue though they told us they'd totally changed their minds and were headed west for a wedding at Bocclair House Hotel and were bringing the wedding forward by a whole year to 30th October 2023 – "the closest to Halloween we could get."

Despite the change in time and location though, the gothic theme is still very much the vibe and Amber and Keiron have spent the last couple of months perfecting their décor. "We've booked our linen through Beautifully Covered which is going to be burgundy tablecloths with black napkins," says Amber. "We had it the other way round to start but changed our minds because we think it'll break it up from looking like a funeral, rather than a wedding!"

At the time of writing the couple were also looking forward to meeting their florist. "We can't wait for it," smiles Amber. "We have such clear ideas of what we want so going in and discussing them will hopefully be another easy day. It'll be dark reds, bright reds, magenta, hot pink, and a slight touch of blush pink."

And for a couple who were dead set on a black wedding cake the final

creation has taken quite a turn! Amber was so disappointed to learn black icing tastes like chocolate which she wasn't a fan of. After scouring Pinterest, they saw a hot pink cake and decided that was the new plan. At their appointment at Special Days Cakes they saw so many beautiful options but nothing quite fitted their vision. "They were so helpful," explains Amber. "We spoke to them and told them we wanted a three-tier hot pink cake with black drips down it. The flavours will be vanilla, toffee and red velvet and we are going to have some artificial flowers on it."

"We have such clear ideas of what we want."

It's official

Another big booking made since last time is the couple's humanist Carol Knight. "I think having a familiar face that everyone will recognise, and such a warm person will just be such a great finishing touch," says Amber.

Suited and booted

For his wedding outfit Keiron has chosen something unique, opting for a camel gold-coloured velvet blazer with a black lapel, with his dad – who is the best man – in a matching outfit. "To add a bit more flare we'll be wearing ruffled white shirts with big dickie bows," adds Keiron. "I'm pretty set on us wearing Cuban heeled Chelsea boots in black. I just wanted to go for something that was a bit different but also timeless."

And joining in on the boots, the couple's daughter and flower girl Daisy-May will have a tiny pair of Doc Martens – "I doubt they'll last long before she kicks them off to start dancing!" They are still on the hunt for the perfect blush pink dress to complete her look.

When we caught up with them, Keiron was looking forward to a music-filled stag in Liverpool while Amber had two hens planned – one in Edinburgh that her family can join in, and another night out in Glasgow.

"I have a surprise for Keiron on the big day," Amber adds. "I can't say too much but I really hope it blows him away. It just felt absolutely perfect!"

Erin & Callum

Working as an events coordinator, Erin knows exactly how her and her fiancé Callum's Colstoun House wedding should run



“You bet I'll be wearing it to do the dishes!”



When Callum asked Erin to marry him she says the proposal was “very us”. After eight years together he popped the question at the duck pond at Aberlady Bay – one of their favourite places growing up – before celebrating at the restaurant where he first asked her to be his girlfriend.

The couple quickly swung into planning action and had a definite idea of exactly how they want to get married, and where. “It was a priority for us that it was close to home, considering we live in such a beautiful area and enjoy the country and outdoors,” Erin explains. “Colstoun House has always been the venue for us. We didn't even view any others – we booked it as soon as we could. The polytunnel was by far our favourite aspect (indoors but outdoors!).”

Erin and Callum plan to marry next April and their venue is the perfect location for a spring wedding. “The walled garden and setting was just perfect for this,” she says. “Our theme is a relaxed, rustic, garden party vibe which the venue ticks all the boxes for! In hindsight Colstoun was picked before we were even engaged!”

The couple are both keen gardeners and when we last caught up with them they laid out their plans to include a tree planting ceremony as part of their humanist wedding, as well as incorporating home-

grown fresh and dried flowers in their décor. And everything's going to plan on that front. “Hydrangeas will be the main flower,” says Erin. Her grandma has the beautiful blooms in her garden and has allowed them to cut and dry them which adds the perfect sentimental touch. “We want our flowers to look ‘wild and natural’ so we will be adding delphiniums, straw flowers, roses, bunny tails, statice, yarrow and much more!” says Erin. “We want it to be colourful but pastel. These will be arranged in bud vases on our long tables for that ‘garden party’ look.” Then Sarah at Horseshoe Flowers will create their bouquets and buttonholes to help bring their vision to life.

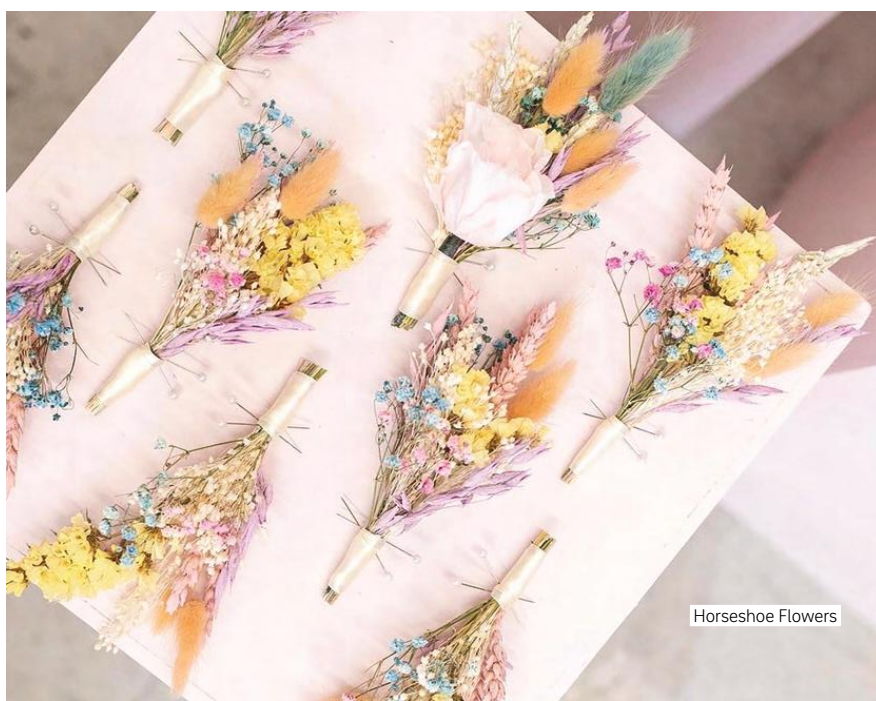
In keeping with the country vibe of their wedding Callum has the ideal outfit in mind, with a kilt - “of course!” from Klassic Kilts in Dalkeith. “I had my heart set on the Lovat green tweed jacket, paired with the perfect tartan that complements it so well,” he says.

And from the very start Erin had a clear idea of where she would be saying ‘yes to the dress’, finding her dream gown at Emma Roy of Edinburgh. – “of course!” “It is everything I have

ever dreamed of,” she says. “I can't recommend the ladies at Emma Roy enough. It's been a beautiful process buying my dress and I cannot wait to wear it!” And she laughs it's too good a dress to consign to just one day; “You bet I'll be wearing it round the house to do the dishes in afterwards!”

The last time we spoke to them Erin and Callum were dead set on having a ceilidh at their wedding and they've now booked seven-piece Studio Wedding Band. “We're getting extra groovy with the saxophone and a fiddler for a ceilidh set alongside the band,” she says. “We looked through so many bands and the minute we heard this one sing *I Wanna Be Like You* from *The Jungle Book* we were sold instantly.” After all, they are huge Disney fans. >>

Catch up with their latest planning news in the January issue of *Your Scottish Wedding*.



Horseshoe Flowers



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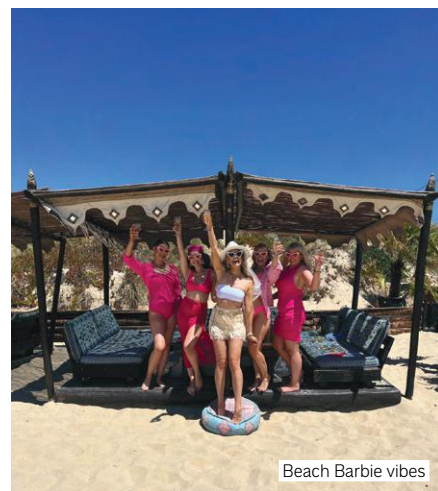
Our guest columnist **Rachel** jetted off with her bridesmaids for five whole days of hen party fun in Lisbon. From rooftop brunching to Barbie beach clubs, here's what she got up to...

📍 Day One

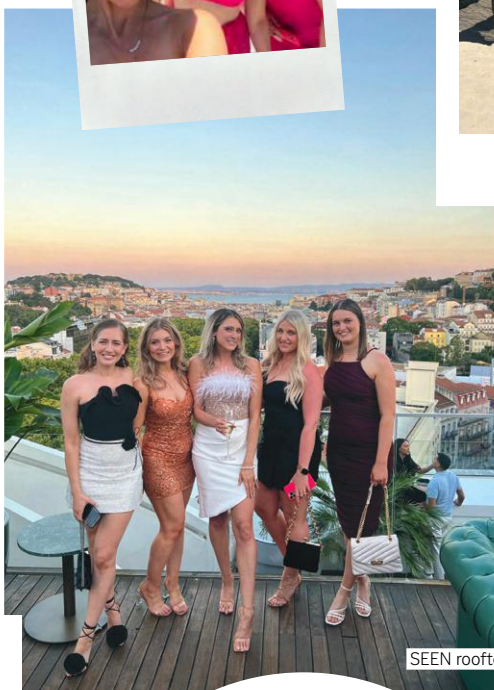
It was a super early start with a 2am airport pick up, but soon the 'Bride' sweatshirt and veil were on, the prosecco was poured and we were on our way to Lisboa! After a quick stop for some fizz and the first pastel de nata of the trip, it was time for lunch at the incredible Basilio (ilovenicolau.com). We then headed to our apartment and my bridesmaids got to work to bride-ify the place! A quick glam up and I was ready for my first official surprise location: SEEN (seenlx.com/en). Lisbon truly is the city of rooftops and SEEN is by far the most spectacular setting for dinner!



Pearl hat,
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Beach Barbie vibes



SEEN rooftop

📍 Day Two: Rachella

Another day, another mystery location reveal! All I knew was to pack swimwear and festival vibes and The Boujee Bride tote (theboujeebride.com) certainly came in handy as I packed about 300 options! Our Uber took us out of the city and we arrived at Praia Irmao Beach Club (praia-irmao.com). Dubbed the Place of Happiness, my bridesmaids had planned the most spectacular day with our own Gypsy Saloon beach bed and personalised cocktails. The girls did their best Beach Barbie, all in pink whilst I went full on bridal – complete with this insane pearl hat from PomBags (@pombags). A dream day I'll never forget!



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(sixstories.co.uk)



'Bride' Vest,
The Boujee Bride
(theboujeebride.com)

📍 Day Five

For our final day, we were up and out early for brunch at Garden Balthazar Caffé (balthazarcaffe.pt) which was the perfect spot for some Monday morning fizz and eggs royale! Lisbon has so many great shops I'd spotted on the first day so, of course, I had to squeeze in some shopping before we stopped for drinks at the luxurious Rocco (rocco.pt) – a serious must visit! After drinks in the park then an early pizza dinner at ZeroZero (pizzeriazerozero.pt) it was time for my final secret destination of the trip: Cine Society (cinesociety.pt) – an outdoor rooftop cinema! We tucked into popcorn, sipped our drinks and watched *Grease* on the big screen - the perfect end to the perfect trip.



📍 Day Three: Brunching

I won't lie: after a day and night at the beach club, I was slightly struggling by day three! No rest for the bride, however, so it was up and out to Javá Rooftop (letsamai.com) – an Insta-worthy spot for brunch. We were soon sipping cocktails once again in the sunshine before going for a wander around the city, complete with a stop at the famous Time Out Market Lisbon (timeoutmarket.com/Lisboa). Night three was a more chilled vibe back at the apartment with fizz and pizza.



Chilling at Spa Altis Belém & Spa



📍 Day Four: Spa Day

A five day hen was obviously quite the commitment so the bridesmaids planned in a day of R&R at Spa Altis Belém & Spa (altishotels.com/en/spa). For 50 Euro per person, you get full day access to the spa as well as the stunning rooftop pool. We spent all day here, looking out over Lisbon from the infinity pool and eating and drinking our way through the menu. Perfect!



Look out for all the details of Rachel and Brian's big day in the January issue of YSW ■



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She's in FASHION

Whether you're following in the footsteps of the latest celeb brides or going for something more in line with your own personal style, these are the hottest bridal trends to look out for! We've asked top designers and Scottish stockists to pick out the looks you need to know about and the dresses they're stocking this season which showcase them.

THE TREND

Switch it up with a change of sleeve

If you're looking for a versatile bridal look without committing to two dresses definitely explore interchangeable/detachable sleeves. This is a trend loved at **La Novia** and the opportunity it gives brides to customise their looks. The made-to-measure 'Una' dress from their **Oscar Lili** collection is a great example of this. "'Una' is perfect for the bride who wants to get creative and keep their guests guessing on their wedding day!" says designer Liliana. "'Una' can be styled with various detachable sleeves to completely transform your look without the need for a full outfit change – great if you want a day to night transition and also for weddings in the cooler months to give optional extra coverage. This romantic boho gown is made from intricate wildflower lace and is so beautifully effortless, you will want to make the most of it and never take it off!"



Paul Lee-Maynard of Estudio Mahi Toi



THE TREND

Semi-sheer bodices

Nothing sets off gorgeous appliqué and embellishments like a beautifully simple base and Mette of **Freja Designer Dressmaking** says there's a strong following for this look. "Corset style bodices in a semi-sheer look has been a key trend," she says. "The beautifully fitted sheer bodices are paired with lots of textures and 3D florals. The sheer base really shows off and helps to emphasise the intricate detailing of the constructed bodice and the details of the 3D florals."

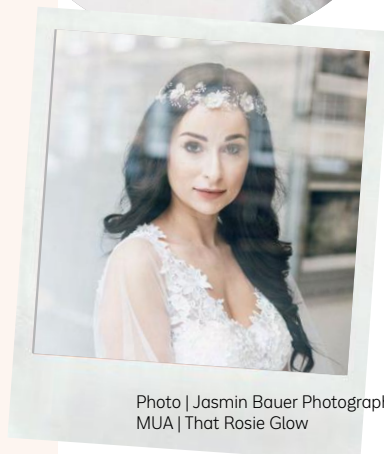
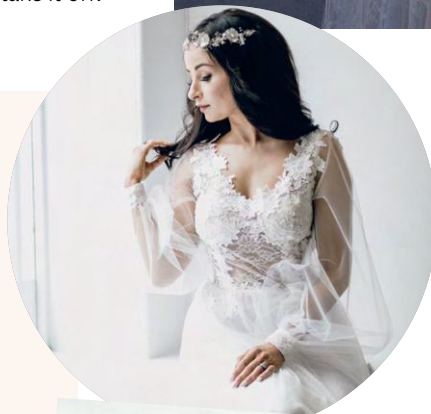


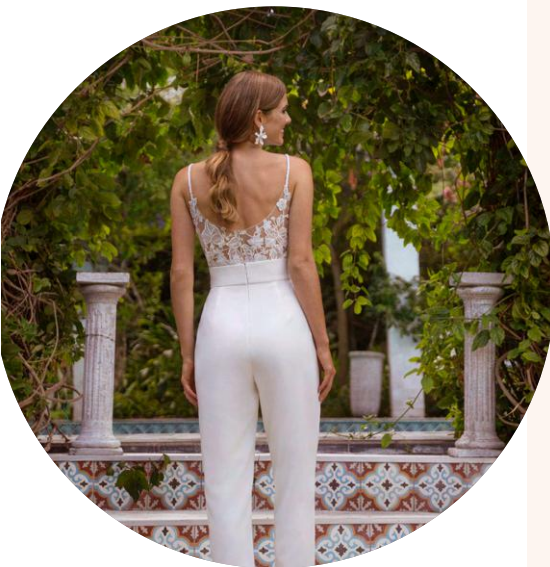
Photo | Jasmin Bauer Photography
MUA | That Rosie Glow

THE TREND

Short and sweet

Short wedding dresses are having something of a moment, thanks in no small part to *Made in Chelsea's* Sophie Habboo, and Sofia Richie, who both sported minis as part of their wedding day attire. While Habbs stepped out in the iconic Vivienne Westwood 'Mini Cora Cocotte' dress, Sofia's evening Chanel piece was inspired by the short gown originally modelled by Claudia Schiffer. And this trend is one that isn't going anywhere, according to Rachel, at **Rachel Scott Couture**. "Short wedding dresses are here to stay – and our short 'Nova Cora' dress by Vivienne Westwood is the perfect balance of flirty, fun and elegant. Get those fabulous pins out to dance the day away!"





THE TREND

Y
S
W
loves

Trousers

If you're not the kind of woman who wears skirts or dresses in normal life and the thought of wearing a full-length frock is bringing you out in hives this the trend for you! We're always advocates for bridal trousers and we adore these super-chic 'Zita' ones by **Kelsey Rose Bridal**. The cuffed length make them ideal for showing off a pair of killer heels and the feature pleats and sculpted waistband will really give that hourglass silhouette. Pair with a cute cami or corset for a bridal look that's a little different from the norm. We're big fans of this lacey 'Ariel' top.

THE TREND

Lovely in lace

Sophie Habbou and Sofia Richie both chose to say 'I do' in lace and popstar Sia was also in on the action in a pink incarnation when she married earlier this year, proving the bridal world's love affair with the intricate fabric. And Georgia of bridal favourite **True Bride** says lace is on the up again. "Lace will always be key to the bridal industry, and we're seeing a real resurgence of lace styles lately," she says. "In the 'Elizabeth' dress we took heavier lace elements and layered them over this soft tulle ballgown style to create a bridal gown that has a fresh, modern feel whilst still retaining the essence of a whimsical, romantic design that will never go out of style."



THE TREND

Versatility rules

One of the major shifts in bridalwear in recent years is brides searching for a dress they can customise with elements to make it their own, be that a statement bow, a change of sleeve or an overskirt. And Megan from **Kudos Dunfermline** has found a dress that works perfectly! "The D3822 dress from Essense of Australia combines all of 2023's biggest trends – from detachable sleeves, bow details, plain fabric and a detachable overskirt," she tells us. "This style is so versatile that it allows brides to tailor it to their own particular taste for the day or go all-out and have a gown that provides three looks in one!" Essense of Australia gowns are available at both Kudos Bridal Boutique's Dunfermline and Edinburgh stores. >>

"Lace will always be key to the bridal industry, and we're seeing a real resurgence."

GEORGIA, TRUE BRIDE



THE TREND

Square necklines

Evoking some old world elegance, the trend for square necklines shows no sign of disappearing any time soon. At YSW we're loving the *Queen Charlotte* and regency *Bridgerton* vibes of this look. And Michelle at **Kudos Edinburgh** says this cut is proving very popular with their brides. "We are hearing so many requests for the contemporary square necklines and this 'Kirralee' dress from Wendy Makin combines a beautiful example of that with the elegant drama and simplicity of a soft satin A-line skirt," she says. "The fact that she has pockets is just a fabulous bonus – these are more than just a trend, and they always fill our brides with delight!"



THE TREND

Ruffles

Texture is everything right now and a simple silhouette can be easily elevated with a good measure of ruffles. Think sleek and elegant up top, party down below with a full-on dramatic ruffled skirt. Hollie from **June Brides Glasgow** says they are everywhere! "In both London Fashion Week and Barcelona Bridal Week it was more than apparent that ruffles are the newest hottest thing in bridal! It's all about the textures and soft fabrics to create a romantic yet dramatic statement. This is not only in gowns but also in bridal accessories like veils and overskirts. And we are very excited about this! We have chosen two breathtaking new Signature by Pollardi gowns that showcase ruffles in two very different ways."

“Ruffles are the newest hottest thing in bridal!”

HOLLIE, JUNE BRIDES GLASGOW

THE TREND

Unusual colours

While a big white dress may be traditional it's just not for everyone and Mirka of **Mirka Bridal Couture** has been asked about non-traditional coloured dresses a lot recently, including her bride Siann who chose a gorgeous 'ballerina' pink in luxurious Connaught silk. "Siann came to me knowing she was looking for something pink and right away we got to looking for the perfect pink fabric for the gown," says Mirka. "There are so many varieties of fabrics and shades in not just the usual whites and creams but in any colour you can imagine. I love giving brides the freedom to create a gown that is a perfect reflection of their personality. The best part about going bespoke for your gown is it's completely unique to you which makes it just that bit more special." ■



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The **BIG** *interview* with Ellis Bridals' James Ellis

As the great-grandson of the bridal brand's founder **Ada Ellis**, **James** knows the importance of staying true to its heritage. Here he talks us through the company's century-spanning legacy and the biggest changes in the world of wedding dresses



"If the dress makes you feel like the best version of yourself it's the dress for you!"



Your *Scottish Wedding*: The first Ellis gown was your great-grandmother's own wedding dress but was Ada Ellis' focus always on bridalwear?

James Ellis: Ada started as a seamstress creating dresses for London's ladies in 1900. She had her own small atelier where ladies would come and have their dresses fitted. It was only when her own wedding dress was spotted hanging that she had her first bespoke dress commissioned. Ada was inundated with requests to design wedding dresses.

YSW: With the company now over 100 years old Ellis Bridals has quite the legacy. What do you think accounts for its ongoing popularity?

JE: Ellis has always been about attention to detail and the exceptional quality of the dress. Those little features that complete a timeless dress are part of the signature Ellis design. We are not afraid to experiment with newness, we don't just stay safe and commercial, which has helped push the brand forward season after season.

YSW: What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in what women want from their dress?

JE: Bridal used to be about finding 'The One' whereas now it's become about finding the

accessories to transform the dress throughout the day or second looks to take the bride through to the evening, creating those 'instagrammable' moments.

YSW: How would you describe the Ellis bride?

JE: The Ellis bride has timeless style and a keen eye for detail. We understand our bride looks for designs that are beautifully made and style-led: quintessentially her. Her style is her essence: luxe femininity that is effortlessly individual.

YSW: What is the inspiration behind the latest collection?

JE: The collection began from the idea of creating romantic styles with luxurious textures and details whilst using lighter than air fabrics that feel ethereal and easy to wear. From this the Radiance collection was born. Timeless silhouettes combine with fresh floral details and sophisticated embellishment to create a collection





STOCKISTS

Emily Mai Bridal
- PERTH

.....

June Brides
Glasgow - GLASGOW

.....

Olivia Cameron
Bridal - FALKIRK

.....

Perfect Bridal
Rooms - ABERDEEN

.....

The White Dress
Bridal - BATHGATE

that feels quintessentially British and utterly romantic. Being London-based we are in the heart of art and fashion so we are always looking at what's coming through in the fashion industry to give a modern twist to what we do. Our archive collection is always a point of reference too. As a heritage brand it is important for us to stay true to the brand DNA.

YSW: Do you have a favourite gown from the new collection?

JE: It would have to be two favourites. 'Lydia' is crafted in a lightweight organza combined with our signature internal construction - she feels amazing to wear and has a beautiful movement to her skirt. Sophisticated draping on the bodice exposes her corset detailing, whilst her dramatic split makes a true statement. For the bride wanting that real 'wow' moment. 'Megan's' beauty is in her fabric combination. Luxurious crepe combines with silky soft satin to contour the body, for an hourglass silhouette. Her halterneck is complemented by her statement detachable bow for two looks in one. Pair her with the 'Aubrie' skirt to completely transform your bridal look!

YSW: You mentioned the archive. Do you have a favourite Ellis Bridals gown of all time?

JE: When we turned 100 in 2012 we went into the Vogue library to look back at all the bridal publications

dating back to the 50s. We found so many Ellis gowns we had lost from our archive. We now draw a lot of inspiration from these beautiful 50s dresses.

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

JE: Trust your instincts. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the amount of choice but you will know when a dress feels right for you so go with your gut. It's ok if it's not what you pictured (or what your mum pictured). If the dress makes you feel like the best version of yourself then it's the dress for you!

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

JE: We would have loved to dress Sophie Turner. She has a classic style with a contemporary edge and her grand, elegant wedding would have been the perfect setting for an Ellis dress. Grace Kelly would also have been a dream to dress. Even in the last few years the Grace Kelly look has regained popularity with regal high necks and long lace sleeves. Our 'Ada' dress was inspired by this classic look.

YSW: What's next for Ellis Bridals?

JE: Staying true to our British heritage and continuing to design timeless gowns with a fashion edge. ■



“Bridal used to be about finding ‘The One’ whereas now it’s about finding accessories to transform the dress throughout the day or second looks, creating those ‘instagrammable’ moments.”



Ask the expert

Rachel Scott Couture

examines versatility and all the ways to change up your wedding outfit throughout the day

“When it comes to our wedding looks we have more choice now than ever before and surely, if you’re a lover of changing up your outfits, your wedding is the ultimate opportunity to do so!

Changing your look throughout the day allows you to fully indulge in each section of the wedding, from ceremony, to drinks reception, wedding breakfast, to evening. Feeling confident and comfortable throughout is crucial, and while trying to find one outfit that would be perfect for a formal religious ceremony as well as an evening party in the pub is tricky, changing things up means you don’t have to compromise.

A word of warning – it can be easy to go too far when there are so many wonderful options available, so consider choices carefully. A single change of accessory could actually make a much bolder statement than if you add all the bells and whistles.

Work it out

First and foremost, consider why you want to make a change to your look. Whether it’s practicality, personality, cultural or social reasons or – just because it’s your wedding and you want to play! – working out why you want multiple looks and which part of the day they’re for will help you find the right solution.

Practicality can influence your choices - for example, finding an outfit you can dance in. This is something close to my heart and I’d be mightily upset if I thought what I was wearing might impede my moves (no matter how good or bad they are!) Also, think about whether your outfit restricts you joining in. Always dreamt of getting married in a giant princess dress but don’t know how you’ll manage when your reception is a festival-themed garden party with fairground rides? Consider an outfit change.

Location can also play a part. You’ll want to feel appropriately dressed for the venues you’ve chosen. That could be respectfully covered up for a church, but very different for a drinks reception in a barn. Use your outfit and accessory choices to fit the styling of each section of the day. The evening party will always allow for a bit more

fun and outrageousness, when you can get away with sparkle, glitter and short lengths – like our Naeem Khan ‘Dubai’ dress.

And don’t forget the role of sentimentality. Maybe you want to wear a family veil or tiara but also want to keep them safe by changing out of them quickly. Or alternatively you love the romantic idea of wearing your mum’s wedding dress but it’s not quite your style (sorry mum!). Why not wear it at some point later? For the evening reception, or even just the first dance!

Then there’s the joy of being able to embrace all aspects of both families’ religions, heritage and cultural traditions in your look, whether you commit with a full outfit change or just a respectful nod with earrings, meaningful colours or a tartan sash.



‘Dahlia’ bow & ‘Hyacinth’ dress, both by Halfpenny London



‘Dahlia’ bow & ‘Dahlia’ dress, both by Halfpenny London

“If you’re a lover of changing up your outfits, your wedding is the ultimate opportunity to do so!”



'Dubai' by
Naeem Khan

Decisions, decisions

Once you've worked out why you want to change, it's time to explore options. Think about where you want to target your outfit budget and if you want to change your look through your day, make sure you budget for it from the start. If you're worried you risk compromising on the quality of the first dress in order to say you had a second, why not just change jewellery or use an overskirt? - still gaining the change but without the expense!

If you're loving the idea of adding accessories or taking them away, find a dress that allows – and encourages – you to do that. You can layer up a simple dress with textured overskirts and overtops, capes can add drama, or you could have a veil during the day and convert it to a wrap for the evening. And matching a classic dress with puffed sleeves or a bow gives an edge. With Halfpenny's magnetic sleeves one set gives a hint of flare during the ceremony, then layer up three on each arm for the 'It's party time' look!

It's not just when you wear these clothing accessories that can change your look, but *how* you wear them. Halfpenny is the queen of statement bows, so maybe all you're doing is shifting the placement but what a change of styling personality that can create! A classic back of the waist placement for your formal cathedral ceremony, followed by moving it to over one shoulder or even in your hair for the evening.



Crystal fringe
short gloves
by Vivienne
Westwood



'Riri' sleeves
& 'Lana' slip,
both by
Halfpenny
London
IMAGE | Zach
& Grace

Finer details

Changing your veil, hair accessories and jewellery can also create versatility. Perhaps you want something more delicate during the day, then big, bold and colourful for the evening? Or maybe it's the other way round with a full cluster pearl hair band for your ceremony but (literally) letting your hair down for some wild dance manoeuvres later on, minus the headband. And what about gloves? We are loving our new range of Vivienne Westwood gloves! From the ultra-short satin pair with sequin tassels for party fun through to the full length semi-sheer silk pair for old school glamour.

When to switch

Think about timings – how, when and where you're going to change. Also really consider whether you want to do that at all. Would you miss being away from your guests or are you excited by the prospect of wowing them with a dramatic new entrance?! Or would you even relish the opportunity of a bit of breathing space?!

Continuity is also important. Think about the flow of your look and consider using the same base theme throughout the day. Pearls, for example, could be your theme with a long veil with delicate scattered pearls for the day before swapping to a heavily encrusted pearl headband for the evening.

Picture perfect

Think about your photographs too – which ones are for the mantelpiece? The first iconic look is likely to be the one that stays with you forever, so bear that in mind when making your choices. There's potential to take more risks for evening, so consider the concept that your daytime photos might be the ones that 'live forever', whereas the evening ones can be more flighty or experimental.

Stay true to your choices

Keep referring back to why you want to make a change. No answer is wrong, whether you want to make 10 changes or a single necklace change – it's all about making your wedding day look reflect you as an individual. Options are always a positive thing, but remember it might be you decide to change nothing throughout your day – and that's ok too!"



Sustainability of separates

Multiple outfit changes might seem the opposite of sustainable, but what if those changes are multi-purpose for the future? Consider a corset top and full circle bridal skirt complete with long sleeve lace overlay for your classic ceremony. Then you could remove the overtop and switch the skirt to a slim fitting version for the drinks party, followed by another quick change to trousers and a golden-toned camisole for dancing. Six items for one day!? But what if they're all entirely wearable again and again! Interchangeable, versatile and filled with happy memories you'll be reminded of each time you wear one. ■



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Dress for the planet

With eco-friendly materials like peace silk and orange fibre satin on the rise, **Claire Muir** delves further into the subject of sustainable dressing...

I'm ashamed to say that when I got married (almost 10 years ago - eek!) going green was barely on the agenda. There was little mention of avoiding single-use plastics, we hadn't thought about biodegradable confetti and the origin of my gown's fabric didn't cross my mind. But I'm delighted to say times have changed and an increasing number of couples aren't just incorporating sustainability into their nuptials, they're really prioritising it. Eco-focused weddings are defo on the rise and this planet-friendly approach is hitting bridal boutiques as more of you seek out sustainable outfit options.

"All small changes add up to something bigger so deciding to purchase an eco-conscious dress really makes a difference to the environmental impact of your day," explains Mirka Jankowska of Mirka Bridal Couture, which offers a gorgeous range of fully customisable dresses called With Love, Mirka - and they're made only from recycled fabrics.

Mette Baillie, owner of Freja Designer Dressmaking and champion of eco-friendly materials, suggests the shift is the result of increased awareness combined with a desire to look back proudly on decisions you made about your day. "People may worry they will look back and cringe if there was a lot of waste or things that would be considered 'bad' in years to come," she explains.

Sustainability is also at the core of Edinburgh-based bridal studio La Novia. Here, Liliana Dabic finds brides looking for something bespoke that can then be repurposed, really value the boutique's eco-conscious approach. Similarly, designer Andrea Hawkes proudly offers a dedicated post-wedding alteration service to repurpose your dress, or sometimes even cut a whole new garment from it! Andrew Hawkes is stocked by Rachel Scott Couture in Edinburgh, where sustainably made to order gowns are available from green-minded designers.

However, might this approach drive the price ➤



Freja Designer Dressmaking
Greg + Josephine's wedding
Image | Adam Luto Photography

"All small changes add up to something bigger."

MIRKA JANKOWSKA



With Love, Mirka
bride Iona
Image | The Whole
Picture Photography



La Novia. 'Riva',
from Liliana
Dabic collection

up? “Realistically it can cost more to source a sustainable dress,” admits Liliana. “But we try to offer a design best suited to their budget. Our collection is made-to-measure to ensure no fabric waste and the perfect fit, so alteration costs are included in the price.” The materials, ranging from natural fibres to recycled alternatives, also provide an opportunity to play around with price points. Alternatively, La Novia sells past season samples (beautiful off-the-rack bargain, anyone?) that they will happily upcycle and customise.

At Mirka Bridal Couture, creating the With Love, Mirka range was a big investment for the boutique – the lace is made to order, for example – but Mirka made sure it’s offered at an accessible price point. Instead of factoring in extra budget, she suggests making a little extra time. “Our dresses are always made to measure, omitting the need for mass production and cutting down on waste, but I’ve been working tirelessly to make sure no bride is turned away. And I’ve managed to fit in some last minute weddings too!”

Meanwhile, Mette’s materials range from recycled polyesters – “Surprisingly they are so nice!” – to peace silk where the production process ensures silkworms don’t die as a result. “We also have lovely organic cotton lace and lotus silk – a silky fabric, but not silk, made by a lotus plant. Right now, I’m really excited about the different vegetable fibres, which are so soft and have different characters. We’ve just quoted for a dress made with orange fibres – it would be sheer and stunning.”

The quirky materials repurposed by dressmakers don’t stop at orange fibres, you know. Rolling in Roses – an eco-obsessed designer stocked at Rachel Scott Couture – offers

a fibre spun from reclaimed plastic waste taken from the oceans. “Not only are these luxury fibres a dream to wear, they are also cleaning the earth rather than polluting it,” explains Rachel. “Rolling in Roses is an absolute delight to stock – 94.8% of the fabrics used in their most recent collection have sustainable certification, whether that’s organic, closed-loop, vegan, biodegradable, compostable or recycled.”

So, top tips for brides looking to create minimal environmental impact with their outfit? “If you can, do second hand or vintage,” advises Mette. “Or go to a small shop; one where your dress will have been produced in the UK. It will have travelled fewer miles and the person making it will have been paid a living wage. Next, consider the materials and be realistic. I recently had a vegan bride who was determined she wanted pure white. But all my environmentally friendly fabrics are shades of ivory and bleaching processes are some of the most damaging to the environment, so they are just not offered in pure white.”

Much like the general public, brides have variable definitions of ‘sustainable’ and some actually opt for eco-friendly gowns without realising. “The dresses are no different to other bridal gowns when it comes to design and quality,” points out Mirka. “Though I think the fabrics we’ve sourced are some of the most comfortable and beautiful I’ve worked with.”

Rachel agrees; “Although the eco-friendly factor isn’t always the main reason our clients choose these beautiful dresses, it can be a real bonus for them.”



La Novia. 'Amber', from
Oscar Lili collection

Second (and third, and fourth) life

Claire Gauci chose the 'Adele' dress by Oscar Lili at La Novia and plans to wear it long beyond her wedding day.



"I wore my dress in July 2022 for my wedding in Malta – the country my husband and I are from – and again in January 2023 to have pictures taken in Edinburgh, the city where we met and now call home. I haven't had the opportunity to wear my dress again yet, mainly because it's very summery and I only had it shortened this winter. However, I plan on making good use

of it when we get some Scottish sunshine. I asked for any offcuts to be given to me, and they were indeed provided. I'll be repurposing the fabric into a baptism romper and a wedding garter. Hopefully, it will be another bride's 'something borrowed' one day!

"Aside from the dress, we made many environmentally conscious decisions at our wedding. We intentionally picked a venue with views that spoke for themselves (The Sheer Bastion in Isla, Malta) so little decoration was required. We were open to incorporating flowers already in stock to avoid the carbon footprint of importing blooms just for our day, and our confetti was biodegradable. Like me, our bridal team had outfits they could enjoy again and my husband, who had a kilt made, has since purchased a blazer to increase the outfit's versatility. He'll wear it throughout the year and adjust the formality according to the event."



Images | Dragana Rankovic Photography



Images | Belle Art Photography



Minimal impact, maximum appeal

Sarah Brown opted for the sustainably made 'May' dress by Rolling in Roses with a custom low back and added sleeves.

"Excessive clothing production is a huge problem due to fast fashion with millions of tonnes ending up in landfill each year, and I didn't want to contribute to that. Generally, depending on the style, you won't wear your wedding dress more than once, so I wanted to make sure my dress was sustainably made with minimal impact and could hopefully be passed down generations. As we

were eloping (outdoors on the bank of Loch Torridon) I attended my dress shopping appointment alone and opted for a custom-made piece. It was just perfect. Our wedding was very small and intimate – just my husband and I, our two children, and our witnesses. I opted for local suppliers, such as our florist who was able to create a stunning bouquet using mainly seasonal flowers." ■

ISLAND idyll

We took to the
dreamy Dougarie
Boathouse on the
Isle of Arran for our
stunning photoshoot

VENUE | The Dougarie Boathouse
PHOTOGRAPHER | FM Photography

HELENA – 'Ulava' dress by Rosa Clara (POA), Kudos Edinburgh, flower crown including lisianthus, rose, eryngium, nigella, delphinium, bunny tail and beech, and and bouquet including rose, snapdragon, lisianthus, eryngium, dried flowers, beech, delphinium, ammi, dahlia and astrantia (both POA), both The Greenshed Flower Studio. >>



Boho beauties



THIS PAGE: MALLORY – 'Scotland' dress by Naeem Khan (POA), Rachel Scott Couture and flower crown with honesty, alstromeria, lisianthus, limonium, nigella, ammi and eryngium (POA), The Greenshed Flower Studio.
OPPOSITE PAGE: HELENA – 'Priscilla' dress by Casablanca (POA), June Brides Glasgow, flower crown and bouquet as before. >>









OPPOSITE PAGE: 'Evie' dress and silk veil (both POA), Mirka Bridal Couture and flower crown and bouquet as before.

THIS PAGE: 'Summer' dress from Le Papillon collection by Modeca with pearl edged veil by Twilight (both POA), both La Novia and flower crown as before. >>





OPPOSITE PAGE: 'Alyda' dress with silk veil (both POA), both Mirka Bridal Couture
THIS PAGE: 'Ulaya' dress, flower crown and bouquet all as before. >>

MAKE A STATEMENT

D3822 dress by Essense of Australia, available with detachable overskirt and bow sleeves (POA), Kudos Bridal Boutiques and 'Lunar' percher hat (£50 to hire), Stephanie Gallen Millinery. »







'Adriane' dress with detachable bow from Liliana Dabic collection with all over pearl veil by La Novia, pearl Preciosa hairband and 'Rosa' belt (all POA), all La Novia and gloves, stylist's own.





'Riri' skirt, 'Harmony' corset and 'Riri' sleeves by Halfpenny London (all POA), all **Rachel Scott Couture** and 'Celeste' halo headband (£45 to hire), **Stephanie Gallen Millinery**. »





'Misha' dress by Casablanca (POA), **June Brides Glasgow**, 'Valentina' headpiece (£40 to hire), **Stephanie Gallen Millinery** and bouquet with rose, snapdragon, campanula, lisianthus, eryngium, delphinium, nigella, calla lily, dried flowers, achillea, lysmachia and freesia (POA), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**.

D3245 dress by Essense
of Australia (POA), **Kudos
Bridal Boutiques** and
'Alberta' headpiece (£160),
Kudos Edinburgh. >>







'Jodie' dress by Maggie Sottero (POA), **Kudos Dunfermline**, and black birdcage veil with gold stars (£85 made to order) and 'Krista' black star halo headband (£45 to hire), both **Stephanie Gallen Millinery**. >>

Sleek & chic



'Thais' dress by Andrea Hawkes (POA), **Rachel Scott Couture**, ivory bridal fedora (POA), **June Brides Glasgow** and bouquet as before. >>





OPPOSITE PAGE: D3544 dress by Essense of Australia (POA), **Kudos Bridal Boutique** and Richards Designs TF33 birdcage veil (POA), **Kudos Dunfermline** and available to order from **Kudos Edinburgh**. **THIS PAGE:** 'Audrey' dress (POA), **Mirka Bridal Couture** and 'Rocco' 3D embellished headpiece (POA), **June Brides Glasgow**. >>





OPPOSITE PAGE: 'Charlie' dress by Casablanca (POA), La Novia and bouquet as before.

THIS PAGE: 'Estelle' dress by Trish Peng, pearl encrusted headband and single tier pearl scatter veil (all POA), all June Brides Glasgow, bouquet and gloves as before. >>





'Kirra' dress by Wendy Makin with beaded topper by Catriona Garforth and 'Alberta' headpiece as before (all POA), **Kudos Edinburgh** and bouquet as before. >>





Get THE look

Steal our models' style with tips from the experts who got them ready for their close-up.

It was an early morning start to catch the ferry to Arran for our bridal photoshoot at the Dougarrie Boathouse. This unique and beautiful wedding venue sits on the shore and was made for celebrations! We had fun exploring inside, while outside we made sure to capture some poses by the water, on the veranda and in the walled garden.

Our models Mallory and Helena were straight into hair and make-up with Nicola Denham and Lisa Blishaa, the talented duo behind Honey & Violet, in charge of getting them camera-ready. With so many stunning outfits, make-up artist Nicola wanted to create looks that were adaptable from the word go. "On both the girls I went for a soft glam look on the eyes, with a medium to full coverage on the skin, as it's easier to add to the eyes than to muck about with the skin too much," she says. She started with a

soft glam eye, creating a matte look with bronzer for dimension and a soft blown out brown flick with a fluffy half lash. "Along the way I added a darker liner, some shimmer, more dimension with darker shadows and face jewels at the very end, just to intensify the looks and shake it up a little bit," she adds. "For the base I used an intense moisturiser, primer, a full coverage foundation and concealers to contour, highlighter, blush, and bronzer." Key players in Nicola's kit included Charlotte Tilbury 'Airbrush Flawless' foundation, Vieve 'Modern' bronzer and Made by Mitchell 'Blursh'. Nicola also changed up the lips throughout the day, using pinks, mauves, gloss, and deeper red lips for different looks with bridal fave Charlotte Tilbury 'Pillow Talk' used alongside Urban Decay 'Hex' and Mac's 'Amorous'.

Nicola's colleague, hairstylist Lisa, also wanted to create looks that were adaptable from the off. For Mallory, she

began with glam vintage waves which she says are "still a very popular style amongst brides." She created a pin curl set at the front with tight curls flowing in the same direction throughout the head, then dressed out, merging them into a gorgeous smooth sleek wave.

Mallory's waves were then teased out for a more beachy look and more detailed curls were added in the opposite direction. A boho braid around the crown added volume and texture and Lisa then progressed the look with a textured bun and a few fallen rustic pieces.

With Helena, Lisa started with a simple half French twist flowing into a mid-high bun, leaving fallen pieces to create a soft and romantic look. She then teased and pulled out the bun into a boho style, adding more texture and disconnection with the fallen pieces.

For Helena's final look she pulled more face-framing pieces back and added a headband, for a more classic look.

Along with the array of hairpieces and veils, Lisa could also play with the stunning flower crowns, made specially by Helen Hardman of The Greenshed Flower Studio. "I loved the contrasting briefs - bold, rich reds and pinks to contrast against the softest whites and pinks," she says. Along with the flower crowns she styled matching bouquets. "Both featured high summer seasonal flowers in different shapes to create structure, without losing the classic Greenshed Flower Studio wispy, wild look. I always begin by creating a central structure in a spiral shape before branching out to create asymmetry and make the bouquet a bit more dynamic. I always say it's a really intuitive process and I do mean it - you have to feel the bouquet and let it grow."

“I always
say it’s
a really
intuitive
process”

**HELEN HARDMAN,
THE GREENSHED
FLOWER STUDIO**



FLOWERS

The Greenshed Flower Studio

HAIR

Lisa Blishaa at Honey & Violet

MAKE-UP

Nicola Denham at Honey & Violet

MODELS

Mallory Reid and Helena Milne

PHOTOGRAPHY

FM Photography

STYLIST

Lesley Traynor

VENUE

The Dougárie Boathouse ■

It's all about THE BASE



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IF YOU FANCY PURCHASING SOME GORGEOUS MISS VIVIENNE LINGERIE OF YOUR OWN HEAD TO THE WEBSITE BEFORE 31ST DECEMBER 2023 AND QUOTE **YSW10** FOR **10% OFF**.

From high street stores to celeb-endorsed labels, bridal lingerie is big business, offering everything from tasteful garters with the essential touch of something blue, to demure silk slips and super-revealing boudoir-appropriate lacy numbers. But while you could get carried away envisioning what's going to look the most appealing on your wedding night, have you considered the pitfalls of a possible nip slip? What's going to give you support, and will that lace strap cut you off at just the wrong point under your dress? We're taking a look at the underwear you need to take you from your first bridal appointment through your big day and onto your wedding night, so hunt out your Bridget Jones knickers and read on!

Creating the right base for your dream dress that is. **Katie Bletcher** investigates exactly what bridal lingerie you need

Banish the VPL

Before you get carried away dreaming of what sexy lingerie you *think* is going to work under your wedding dress, let me disillusion you. When it comes to the initial appointments at least, bridal retailers always recommend the same thing and it's not the sheer or silky loveliness you're considering. "We always recommend a pair of boring, nude, seam-free pants and a strapless bra," advises Megan Carberry of Kudos Dunfermline. "Most of the time we'll take the bra away once you're in the dress so this just makes it slightly easier to manoeuvre. Nude pants will also show through less than any other colour and ensuring they're seam-free means you won't fixate on any pesky VPLs!"

Liliana Dabic at La Novia agrees; "We always recommend wearing skin tone underwear to your bridal appointment. If you are looking for fitted dresses then no VPL shapewear is great to give you a smoothing effect and avoid any lines showing under the dresses. We stock the most amazing control pants from Poirer which our brides swear by for fit and comfort. They are available to buy from us at the dress fitting."

And Hollie Connelly at June Brides Glasgow is also in favour of the nude strapless bra for your first appointment. "This style of underwear will be the most discreet when trying on different styles of neckline and low back gowns," she says. And while a bra is not a necessity for your appointments Liliana says, "if you do prefer a little modesty then a strapless bra or nipple covers can be worn." »



OPPOSITE PAGE AND THIS
PAGE: 'Helena' bra (£90)
and 'Helena' thong (£38),
both Miss Vivienne >>

“Lacy bridal negligees and robes are so special and beautiful and perfect for your wedding night or honeymoon!”

HOLLIE, JUNE BRIDES GLASGOW



Lace bridal basque (£158) and bridal string (£41.85), both **June Brides Glasgow** and Pearl drop headband (£115), **Rachel Scott Accessories**

Support system

For the more flat-chested among us the thought of going without a bra on your wedding day is no biggy, but if you're fuller busted this may be quite something to get your head around. How are you going to hug guests, pose in a strapless gown or dance the night away without your trusted bra? Relax. Feeling secure on your wedding day is so important, according to Liliana, and some La Novia brides do prefer to wear a bra. However, she says it can be very tricky to find one that is invisible enough under your dress and also comfortable. “We advise our brides against wearing one and instead customise their dress to do that job too. We always make dresses with sewn in support, whether that is a corset structure, additional boning, bust shaping seams or just perfectly fitted bra cups.”

In-built corsetry is a feature of the majority of dresses at Kudos Dunfermline and Megan says this means bras can often cause more issues with gaping than they ever solve. “Our seamstresses are well-versed in inserting padded cups for an extra boost for smaller busts or switching out the boning for something more heavy-duty for brides who need additional support.”

The dress alterations stage is when June Brides Glasgow customers can have bust cups stitched into their gowns, leaving them with full uplift and support without the hassle of strap marks or visibility of the bra showing. And while this can still work for brides with a fuller bust, Hollie says they could also opt for something a bit more luxurious like a bridal basque. “This will not only give them support in their bust but also great shaping and support through their waist and hips.”

Not so bridal white

“We always recommend nude underwear as this will not show through as easily as white might. Surprisingly, white reflects light so can actually be more obvious under a gown!”

MEGAN, KUDOS DUNFERMLINE



‘Helena’ silk garter (£32), **Miss Vivienne**



Lace robe and negligee (£117),
June Brides Glasgow

“We
always
make
dresses
with
sewn in
support.”

LILIANA, LA NOVIA

How small can your smalls be?

Remember I said stick to the unflattering nude shapewear knickers for your first appointments? Depending on the dress you eventually pick you may be able to abandon them in favour of the itty bitty lace bridal thong you'd prefer to don. As Liliana explains, “For a ballgown or fuller skirt style there is much more flexibility with underwear as it won't show through.”

If your dress does allow for pretty undergarments treat yourself to something special. Lingerie designer Vivienne Lynch of Miss Vivienne says, “Your wedding lingerie is the first thing you put on in the morning. It sets you up for the magical day ahead and has the power to inspire confidence even before you put your dress on! That's why we take great care to create beautiful, quality, comfortable lingerie for our brides.”

Up the sex appeal

We've covered how to get the best silhouette for your wedding dress but let's face it, a lot of the required shapewear can hardly be described as wedding night appropriate. And unless you're one of those lucky brides who manages to get away with a cute thong or pair of satin French knickers under your dress with no risk of showing through, what do you do? “Unfortunately there is some compromise that has to be made here!” advises Liliana. “The best shapewear is not the most attractive and more sexy lace styles can show straps and textures underneath the dress. Some brides are really not keen on the idea of wearing shapewear on their wedding day but understand it can help enhance the fit of the dress and flatter the figure.” While it's not something the brides at La Novia usually discuss, Liliana says they're always happy to offer advice for any bridal dilemmas.

It's not all unsexy though, there is hope. “We always say that underwear that offers the most support is never the sexiest,” Hollie says. “However, our recent collections include some lovely pieces with delicate finishes to make them feel more beautiful, instead of just practical.”

But if your under-dress undies are just not giving the sexy vibes you're after you can always switch it up before bedtime. “This is where a lacy bridal negligee and robe would come in handy,” says Hollie. “They are so special and beautiful and perfect for your wedding night or honeymoon!” Vivienne agrees. “Many brides like to have a sexy, elegant bridal lingerie look to change into at night,” she says. “After all, who wants their wedding night to end once the guests go home?! In any case, it's always lovely to have a bridal trousseau of lingerie ready and waiting for that long anticipated honeymoon!”

Changing for bed is something Megan says a few of the Kudos brides have opted for. “When you're wearing boring nude Bridget Jones knickers under your dress it certainly becomes something brides think about!” she says. “We've had a couple of brides recently who have chosen to purchase silk robes, satin slips or nicer underwear to change into in the evening.” Voila! You can still indulge in that gorgeous bridal lingerie you're eyeing up. ■



Discreet bridal
basque (£165),
June Brides
Glasgow



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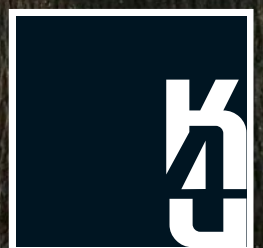
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In his WORDS

Plans are falling into place for our columnist groom **Lee Thomas** and his fiancée **Louise**, with the date set and venue booked

Last time we caught up with Lee and Louise they had fallen in love with the charming St Conan's Kirk on Loch Awe and dreamed of marrying there. But it wasn't to be when they couldn't find a nearby location for their reception that fitted their needs. "It was quite gut-wrenching," Lee reflects. "I had already pictured and planned the day in my head." It was back to the drawing board and the groom started to stress that finding their dream venue wasn't going to be plain sailing.

The couple's families live in England and Wales and they wanted a venue where they could hold the whole day under one roof with space for 60-70 guests to stay over. However, this didn't prove as

easy as they'd initially thought. "We found many of the castles were beautiful but couldn't accommodate the numbers we wanted," says Lee. "We also quickly found that while we would be booking exclusive use of a castle, the reception would then be held in a marquee.

This was a big no from us." But then they found Auchen Castle online and fell in love! "We met up with the staff and toured the location and we were blown away," says the groom. "They can cater for our every need and more!"

With so many guests travelling, Lee and Louise have decided to pay for everyone's accommodation and have hired Auchen Castle for two nights, taking advantage of a package that includes everything from food and entertainment to make-up artists, the cake, a piper, flowers, decorations and even a ring-bearing owl! "This has taken the stress right out of it," says Lee. "We will be getting married on 14th October 2024 and the first night will be a relaxed barbecue, where everyone can meet and unwind over a glass of fizz before the main event the next day and night."

The finer details

Now their venue and date are decided, Lee and Louise are moving on to the other suppliers who will help create their dream wedding. "What we have found so far on this journey, is our heart rules our head and everything we have chosen so far has been done from the heart," says Lee. "No more so than finding our photographer Paul Budzinski. Not only does Paul have experience shooting at Auchen Castle, but his work has an edge that truly spoke to us. We can't wait to see what magic he does on the day!"

Say 'yes'!

Lee's already proposed once but this groom knew asking his best man to stand by his side had to be heartfelt too, so he took his friend Tony for a special watch-building evening at Kartel in Edinburgh. The men chose their designs while having a beer and now have a cool memento to mark the occasion. And, along with securing his best man, Lee and Louise have also found their celebrant; Tony's sister - another Louise. "It makes it that little bit extra special!" he tells us. ■



Paul Budzinski Photography



Look out for Lee's next column when he'll be sharing the couple's experience panning for Scottish gold for their rings!

DAPPER

duos

When there are two grooms in the room, there are no style rules. Let your creativity run wild...

If you are two grooms searching for the perfect wedding look, you may be wondering whether to keep everything secret or reveal all and avoid a clash-filled couple's photoshoot. At McCall's Highlandwear, Simone Waters suggests initially discussing what you wear on a daily basis. Are you a dressy pair or do you go casual? Are there colours you love – or hate? "Keeping big day outfits in line with everyday fashion choices makes sure the wedding feels like you, and that you feel comfortable enough to rock the style confidently," she explains.

Simone has seen lots of couples paying homage to each person's personality



Gordon Nicolson
Kiltmakers
Images | Francis J Smith



McCall's
Images | Andy Mo
Photography

“Keep your outfit in line with everyday fashion choices to feel like you.”

SIMONE WATERS, MCCALLS HIGHLANDWEAR

and dressing rather differently – one more classically formal and one in highlandwear, for example – whilst Lucinda Nash at Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers loves incorporating the same tartan in a different way. “Recently, we had a groom [pictured] who wore a MacKay Ancient kilt with a green tweed jacket and waistcoat. His partner added a MacKay Ancient tie to his tweed suit, tying the outfits together nicely.”

Both keen to wear your family tartan? Not a problem, Lucinda advises. “Tartan is meant to be colourful so there’s nothing wrong with kilts or trews in different colours. Our team can build lovely, clash-free outfits, unique to each of you.”

At Kilts 4 U, grooms can help create their very own made to measure outfits in Frank’s Gold Room. “Sometimes we all work together to design both outfits, then keep the try on experience a secret for a big reveal on the wedding day,” says Iain Carlton who adds that grooms can take the level of detail to anywhere they want. “The sporran, for example, is a clever way two grooms who are otherwise dressed the same can differentiate and show a bit of personality.” Alternatively, make similar outfits non-identical by experimenting with jackets; subtly inlaying the collars in different tweeds or incorporating different paisley-patterned jacket linings.

Ultimately, though, keep the process enjoyable and supportive, urges Simone. “Your partner is an individual you love and their fashion choices don’t always have to be in line with yours.”



Images | SG Mark Photography

Highlandwear that’s a bit of you

From flower crowns and ‘fly veils’ to Doc Martens and cropped shirts, **Frederick Alexander**, **Caspian Reid** and their bridal party were total style goals at Glen Tanar. Caspian tells all here...

“We love to plan things together so didn’t want to keep our outfits secret. Part of the excitement was talking through ideas and celebrating our creativity. I felt we should be coordinated rather than exactly the same, plus different things look flattering on each of us. It was important that my outfit represented me and I knew from the start I’d wear a kilt. But I also wanted to play with gender because menswear can feel very plain and monotone. I started with bright, bold colours then embellished my jacket and waistcoat with gorgeous floral facings and added a flower crown. Then I bought some embroidered

lace, which I trimmed and pinned on my shoulder as you would a fly plaid. My ‘fly veil’ added the wow factor a wedding dress would. I had lots of accessories too, many of which were sentimental, combining old and new. Frederick fell in love with tartan trousers after renting them as a wedding guest and loved the silhouette he got by adding a Prince Charlie jacket. As a tall person, it highlighted his legs and created a neat proportionality between the trousers and jacket. He used footwear to really personalise his outfit and got very excited about a pair of Doc Marten suede loafers in a yellow shade that matched the gold in the tartan. With mixed gender wedding parties, we weren’t sure how best to coordinate them but tartan ticked all the boxes; my side in kilts and Frederick’s in trews. We gave them free rein to wear whatever they wanted otherwise, which resulted in some really fun looks, like a cropped sleeveless shirt and white Doc Martens.” >>





Images | Joy Story

Proud Scots

Mark Thomson and **David Sutherland** tied the knot at Banchory Lodge with a Scottish-focused wedding. Mark reveals the key role their outfits played...

"We wanted as many Scottish elements as possible so we were always going to be in kilts. Dave wore his family tartan, Modern Sutherland, and although I was tempted to have one made in the Thomson pattern, I decided to wear the full kilt outfit I already had. We chose a silver and purple colour theme (we're lucky that we have similar tastes so decisions like this were easy) and it tied in really well with the greys and purples in my tartan – it's called Georgian Heather and is exclusive to Georgian Dress Hire. We'd built

up our kilt accessories over the years – the Lion Rampant for Dave and thistles for me. When it came to our wedding party, I wanted my best men to have matching outfits similar to mine. The 'maids coordinated beautifully in lovely purple summer dresses and the ushers picked their own tartan. Local company 3 Tiers decorated Banchory Lodge and fully understood our vision, tying in flowers and centrepieces with our outfit colours and thistle buttonholes. We wanted the ceremony to be the first time we saw one another fully kitted out so got ready with our own parties in the morning – but both walked down the aisle instead of having one waiting at the front. I went first so was the lucky one and saw Dave coming down after me. I thought he looked so handsome, and he said the same... But was busy concentrating on not getting too emotional!" ■



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Mums





SHE'S GOT THE LOOK

Mothers of the bride and groom have much to consider when it comes to selecting their perfect wedding outfits.

Jennifer McLaren gets the lowdown from the style experts.

What are the rules?

Shopping for your wedding outfit should be fun – after all, you're getting ready to celebrate with your child as they tie the knot on their happy day. But mums embarking on a search for the perfect style might also find the process a little daunting.

Thankfully, there are fabulous occasionwear boutiques across Scotland with great ranges and experienced staff to offer help and advice. According to Louise Brown at Catwalk in Falkirk, there are no "rules" for what a bride or groom's mum should wear, as long as they feel fantastic and comfortable on such an important day. "From a standalone statement dress to classic dress and jacket or a trouser suit, each lady should choose a style to suit their own personal style," Louise explains.

Meanwhile, Christina Sigerson, managing director of Mia Bella in Glasgow, believes that both mums' outfits are important and there shouldn't be an emphasis on the mother of the bride's clothing being more significant. "If a couple are entering into a marriage of equals, then why shouldn't the mums be equal?" she says, "I think they're both important." Sue Hunter at Frox of Falkirk says, in the past, etiquette has suggested the mother of the bride should pick her colour and style first. "However, some brides are not precious about this and allow parents to choose outfits independently of each other. Some mums share details, whilst others remain secretive for the big reveal," she explains.

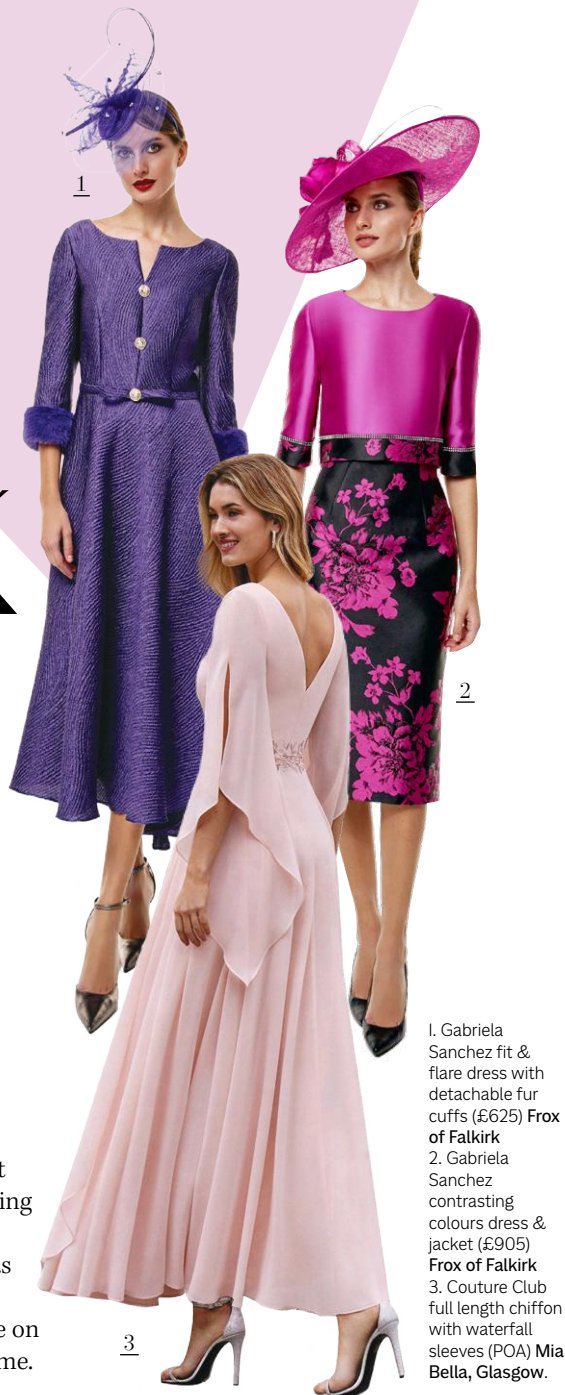
"If you're not comfortable in something, it's going to show."

**CHRISTINA SIGERSON,
MIA BELLA**

Should you blend in?

Colour scheme plays an important part in wedding plans, from selecting dresses for the bridal party to the décor in the venue. Sue says that as style consultants, they always ask about the colour theme and advise on toning and enhancing for that theme. "Many brides have a vision of how their day will look and photograph, and this will be discussed," she explains. Christina adds that the majority of mums are looking to complement the colour palette of the wedding; "We would always say to a mum to try and aim for the colours that suits you – but at the same time tie in with the colour scheme so that she is complementing it in some way. You can even do that with accessories – for example, a navy dress that pulls in pale pink with a hat, shoes and bag."

Louise believes the planning and build-up to a wedding is such an exciting part of the event. "I think it's important to know the colour scheme when purchasing an outfit for such an important day," she says, "Ideally, you want to choose a colour to complement both the wedding theme and your own skin and hair colour."



1. Gabriela Sanchez fit & flare dress with detachable fur cuffs (£625) Frox of Falkirk
2. Gabriela Sanchez contrasting colours dress & jacket (£905) Frox of Falkirk
3. Couture Club full length chiffon with waterfall sleeves (POA) Mia Bella, Glasgow.

Can you wear it again?

After the time – and cost – of selecting your perfect outfit, it would be a shame if it ended up confined to the back of a wardrobe. Christina says it's possible to restyle an outfit if you have more than one wedding or occasion in close succession, although she finds this isn't always a preference. "Lots of mums don't want to do this and they do like to buy a different dress," she explains.

Louise's tip is to choose shoes and a bag in silver or nude, which will match in with most colour schemes. "It's wonderful to have the opportunity to wear such an outfit again, maybe as a guest to a special party or the races," she says. Sue adds, "We would suggest changing the headpiece and accessories to change the look."

Style or comfort?

The advice Christina always gives mums when she first meets them is that comfort is key. "If you're not comfortable in something, it's going to show in the body language. As soon as they step into something they are comfortable in, that's when the other considerations kick in like colour and style," she says.

Sue says that most mums will want a level of comfort. "We discuss styles and shapes to flatter them. We offer advice on foundation wear to help

with the silhouette of the outfit.

Good foundation wear should be comfortable and cool to wear. Shoes need to be comfortable and often a change for the evening is recommended," she explains.

Louise adds there is so much choice when it comes to special occasionwear. "I'd recommend trying a variety of styles in store and be guided by your personal assistant until you find the perfect style for you that's both fabulous and comfortable," she says.



Veni Infantino luxe A-line chiffon dress with contemporary V-neckline, pleated detail on the bust, bishop sleeves and beaded belt detail (£649) Catwalk, Falkirk.

David Lozowy Photography



Burfly Photography & Film



"As mother of the groom, there wasn't the same pressure."

MOIRA MUIR

Three times lucky

Moira Muir from Aberdeen has three children – and all of them married within the space of eight years. "I was mother of the bride first, which is probably a good introduction," Moira explains, "Next to marry was my middle son Simon, then my eldest son James was last."

Moira says that the first time round, she didn't really discuss her outfit choice with the mother of the groom. "My daughter Hannah's bridesmaids wore a pale lilac colour, so I wore a very neutral palette."

Having set her heart on an off-white Max Mara coat from John Lewis, Moira embarked on a hunt for a dress to match. She ended up having a delicate

fawn-coloured piece custom made by Glasgow-based Joyce Young. Her hatinator was also bespoke.

For her son Simon's wedding, Moira opted for a pale pink dress by Ian Stuart with another custom made hatinator. "As mother of the groom, there wasn't the same pressure," Moira says. "I felt that the mother of the bride was more important in a way. When it came to Simon getting married, I waited for my daughter-in-law's mum to decide. I knew she would tie in with the bridesmaids. I suppose nowadays you want a uniformity, having the same tones so that the photographs blend in. I didn't want to clash or overpower."

For James' autumn wedding the colour scheme for the bridesmaids was navy. "The bride Emma's mum was wearing white and navy, so I just went for navy and it tied in really nicely," Moira explains. This dress was by Carmen Melero and she hired her hatinator. ■





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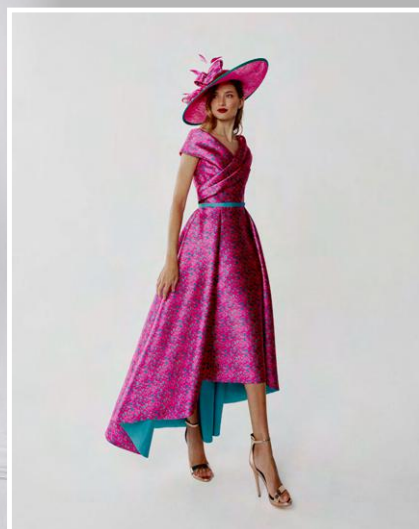


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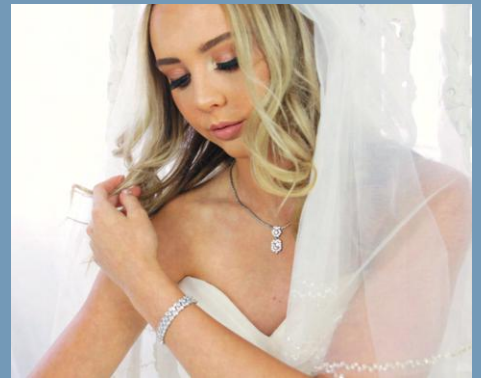
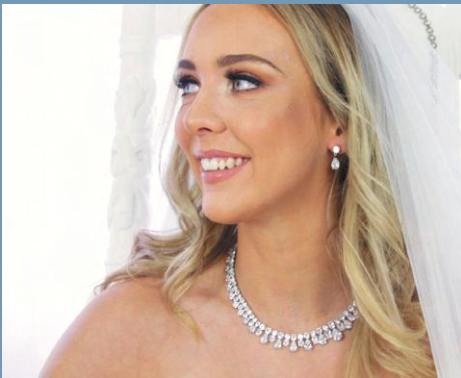


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PHOTOGRAPHY: Laura A Tilman Photography
VENUE: Bachilton Barn

OPPOSITE PAGE: 'D3794' Essense of Australia dress (POA), Kudos Bridal Boutiques Dunfermline and Edinburgh, 'Vida' headband (£155), Always the Bride and Sophia Grace Couture, Lunar pearl small pendant necklace in 9ct yellow gold (£445) and Princess Solitaire 0.25ct diamond ring in 18ct yellow gold (£1,934) with V-shape wedding band in 9ct yellow gold (£443), all Sheila Fleet Jewellers, Vivienne Westwood gathered tulle opera gloves (£420), Rachel Scott Accessories, Floral installation including faux dahlia and crysanth, fresh hydrangea, rose, chrysanthemum, lisianthus, salix, alstromeria, avlaya, sweet pea, thlaspi, sweet William and dried eucalyptus, strawflower and fern (POA), The Greenshed Flower Studio.



THIS PAGE: 'D3794' dress as before, 'Rosalie' headpiece (£150), Stephanie Gallen Millinery, 'Celeste' pearl and crystal halo earrings (£19) with matching necklace (£19), both Maci, 'Avalanche' scattered pearl long veil (£125), Rainbow Club and hand-tied bouquet with hydrangea, rose, chrysanthemum, alstromeria, sweet pea, avlaya, eucalyptus, thlaspi, nigella, sweet William, dahlia and dried eucalyptus, nigella and eryngium (POA), The Greenshed Flower Studio. >>

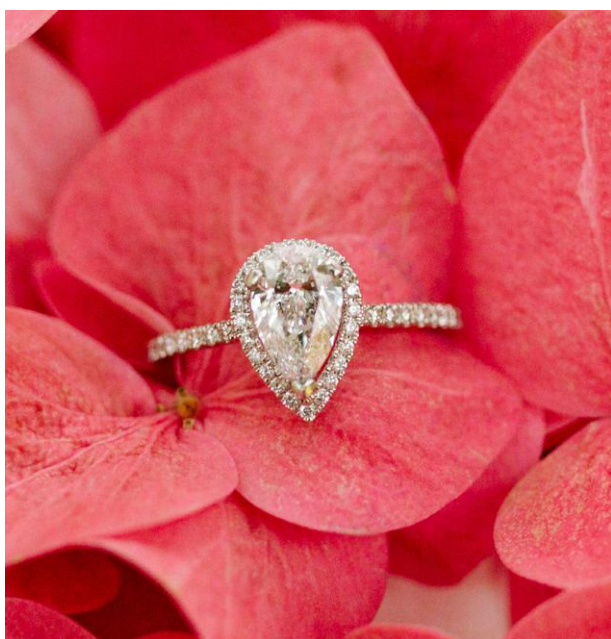


THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT: Cluster headband (£395), Rachel Scott Accessories, Primula Scotica petite diamond pendant in 9ct yellow gold (£518) and Matrix 3mm band in 9ct yellow gold (£388), both Sheila Fleet Jewellers.

BOTTOM LEFT: Platinum 1.28ct lab grown pear cut diamond halo ring (£2,495), John McKay Jewellers.

BOTTOM RIGHT: 'D3794' dress as before, 'Gianna' headband (POA), June Brides Glasgow, 'Islay' teardrop earrings (£19) with matching necklace (£19), both Maci and 9ct white gold marquise sapphire and diamond halo ring (£1,050), John McKay Jewellers.

OPPOSITE PAGE: 'D3794' dress as before, Pearl pins set (£75), Always The Bride and Sophia Grace Couture, white birdcage veil (£95), Stephanie Gallen Millinery and Platinum 1ct lab grown marquise diamond ring (£2,995), John McKay Jewellers. >>









OPPOSITE PAGE: 'D3794' dress as before, Vivienne Westwood three buckle opera gloves (£800), Rachel Scott Accessories and 'Daisy' crystal cluster stud earrings (£19), Maci.

THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT: 'D3636' Essence of Australia dress (POA), Kudos Bridal Boutiques Dunfermline and Edinburgh, Pearl Sprig headband (£175), Always The Bride and Sophia Grace Couture and bouquet as before.

BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT: 'D3794' dress as before, tulle opera gloves as before, Matrix bangle in 9ct rose gold (£1,573), Sheila Fleet Jewellers and 'Lucille' headpiece (£185), Stephanie Gallen Millinery. >>





THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT AND OPPOSITE PAGE: 'D3794' dress as before, Vivienne Westwood crystal fringe short gloves (£500), **Rachel Scott Accessories**, 'Aurora' headpiece (£120), **Stephanie Gallen Millinery**, 'Islay' teardrop earrings and necklace as before and 'Elderflower' pearl edge long veil (£225), **Rainbow Club**.

BOTTOM LEFT: Primula Scotica diamond stud earrings in 9ct yellow gold (£466), **Sheila Fleet Jewellers**.

BOTTOM RIGHT: 'D3636' dress as before, 9ct yellow gold 0.30ct diamond illusion set ring (£995), **John McKay Jewellers**, Skinny cluster pearl headband (£195), Pearl drops headband (£115) and Pearl headband (£115), all **Rachel Scott Accessories** and Primula Scotica pendant as before. >>







THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT: 'D3794' dress as before, 'Gracia' tiara (POA), **June Brides Glasgow** and 9ct white gold marquise ruby and diamond halo ring (£1,091), **John McKay Jewellers**

TOP RIGHT: 9ct white gold emerald and diamond ring (£655), **John McKay Jewellers**.

BOTTOM RIGHT AND OPPOSITE PAGE: 'D3794' dress as before, tulle opera gloves as before, 'Xanthe' headpiece (£120), **Stephanie Gallen Millinery** and bouquet as before. >>







OPPOSITE PAGE: "D3794" dress as before, 'Hala' pearl headband (£45), **Always The Bride** and **Sophia Grace Couture** and emerald ring as before.

THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT: D3794' dress as before, 'Contessa' crown (POA), **June Brides Glasgow**, and 'Nanea' bracelet (£25), **Maci** (just seen).

BOTTOM LEFT: Matrix 3mm band as before.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Matrix bangle as before. >>



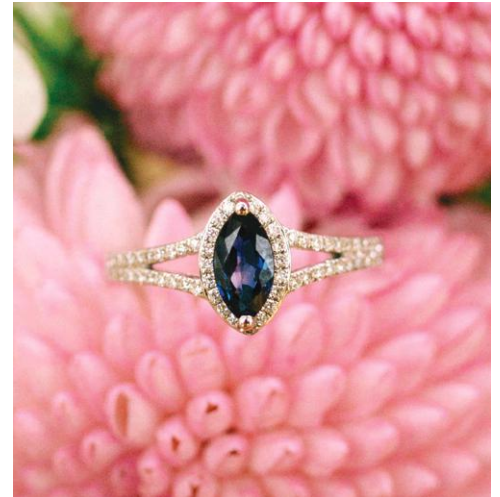


THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT: 'D3636' dress, diamond illusion set ring, Primula Scotica pendant and Skinny cluster pearl headband all as before.

TOP RIGHT: Sapphire ring as before.

BOTTOM LEFT: Princess solitaire 0.25ct diamond ring in 9ct yellow gold (£1,414), **Sheila Fleet Jewellers.**

BOTTOM RIGHT: Lunar pearl pendant necklace in 9ct yellow gold (£752), **Sheila Fleet Jewellers.**



Camera READY

Bachilton Barn with its blank canvas spaces inside and beautiful rural surroundings outside was the picture perfect setting for our jewellery and accessories photoshoot.

Helen Hardman of The Greenshed Flower Studio put the beams in The Barn to use, hanging her stunning installation from one. "The brief was bold and bright, late summer/ early autumn with florals focusing on hydrangeas, chrysanthemums and dahlias, plus other beauties," she says. "I approached the brief in typical Greenshed style – complementing that boldness with delicacy from the lighter flowers and dried elements, all created using reusable and/or recyclable mechanics."

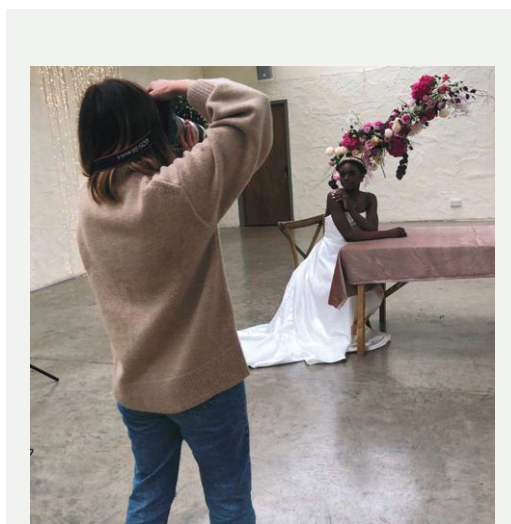
Leigh of Makeup by Leigh Blaney created a pretty, summery look for our model Maria's first look, bringing the colour of the blush up to the eyes with a beautiful glow to the skin. "I used the new Glowgasm highlight palette from Charlotte Tilbury," Leigh explains. "For the skin I used Charlotte Tilbury Airbrush Flawless, Maybelline eraser and Fenty bronzer."

For a second look Leigh darkened the eyes with Mac fluidline in the waterline and a charcoal shadow smoked out around them. "I am in love with the new wedding lash range from Tatti Lashes and used 'Perfect Fit,'" she adds. "I deepened the lipstick too for a bolder look which I always suggest for brides when they're stuck on a colour. Wear a bridal colour for the ceremony like Pillowtalk, Wedding Belle or Mac's



Velvet Teddy and after dinner, change it up to your party colour."

Maureen Crolla of The Bride to be was on hand to style a number of different looks for Maria's hair. "With a little help with dark brown clip in extensions, I incorporated Maria's hair into narrow pleats from just behind the hairline," she says. "I curled and clipped a cluster of extensions at the nape of her neck which allowed me to create a few different, more sophisticated, bridal finishes. The headpieces really set the style off."



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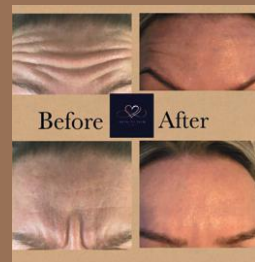
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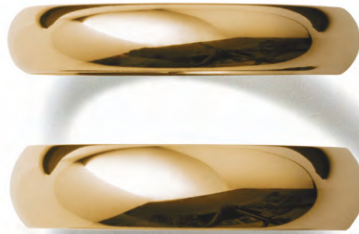
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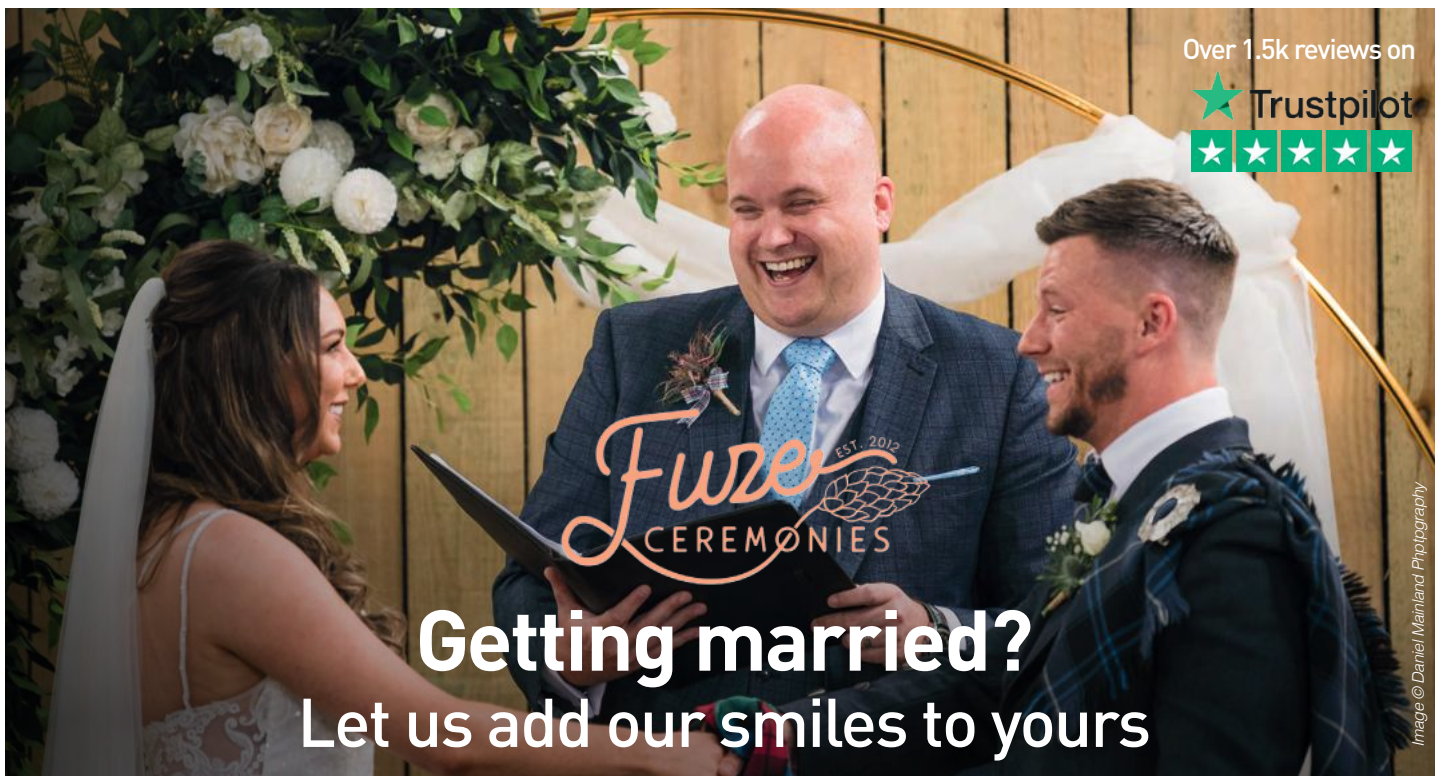
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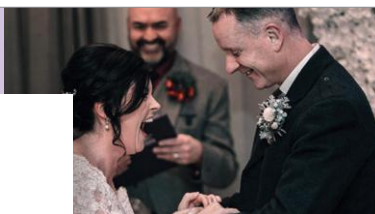
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OUR HOW-TO GUIDE to saying 'I DO'

Getting hitched, there are a few pieces of paperwork you can't ignore. **Jennifer McLaren** discovers more...



When it comes to marriage, says Independent Humanist Ceremonies celebrant Norrie Flowers, "Let's face it, the majority of people haven't done it before – and they're unlikely to do it again!" Norrie is all too aware when newly-engaged couples first reach out to him, the last thing on their minds is filling out forms. But as their wedding day edges closer, the paperwork becomes incredibly important – and it must be completed on time, too.

"When I first meet a couple and explain all of the legal stuff to them, if they're not getting married for a year or more, I know that it will just go to the back of their minds," he says. "But we send an M10 reminder three months before the wedding. That's when it becomes real, as they know it's getting close."

A Marriage Notice form – or M10 – is the form both parties must fill out and return to the registrar in the area they will be marrying in no later than 29 days before their wedding is due to take place. They can submit it up to three months before they are due to marry. "So, if a person from Glasgow is getting married in Inverness, then it's the Inverness registrar that has to receive the information," Norrie explains.

The registrar's office will display the names of people due to marry in the area on its public notice board. "If you go back in time, there was a thing called marriage banns – this was a public proclamation that took

place a month before the wedding and someone stood up and delivered this announcement," Norrie goes on. "This dates from a time when people lived in small communities and didn't move about much."

Using the information given on the M10 forms, the registrar will create the legal document called the Marriage Schedule. "The Marriage Schedule is the main document that everybody signs on the day of the wedding. This will be lodged with the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh, and that's where it remains to prove you have been legally married," Norrie says.

When he attends a venue, the first thing Norrie does is ensure he receives the Marriage Schedule. If, for example, there was no marriage schedule, the ceremony could still go ahead – but it would not be a legal wedding without that all-important piece of paper. "We also could not purport it to be a legal wedding and sign it at a different time," Norrie adds. "To be legally married, the couple must say to each other they agree to marry one another, and they must sign the Marriage Schedule."

"The Marriage Schedule is the main document that everybody signs on the day of the wedding."

NORRIE FLOWERS

1

Getting started:

- Pick the type of wedding ceremony you want to have – in Scotland, any couple can have a civil marriage ceremony, or a religious or belief marriage ceremony.
- Choose your wedding venue and book someone to officiate.

TOP TIP:

- It's a good idea to download a copy of the Marriage in Scotland RM1 leaflet from the National Records of Scotland (nrsotland.gov.uk) which provides comprehensive details about marrying in Scotland.
- Marriage Notice (M10) forms can be downloaded from the NRS website or obtained from any Scottish registration office.



2

Between three months and one month before your wedding date:

- Each person marrying must fill in a Marriage Notice form (M10) and send it to the registrar in the area they will be marrying no later than 29 days before the wedding is due to take place. Both applicants will also need to supply original copies of birth certificates, photographic ID and proof of address. The administration fee is currently £45 per person.
- Anyone whose nationality on their notice forms is not shown as British should also fill out a Declaration of Status by Non-UK Nationals form.

3

Up to seven days before your wedding date:

- If you are having a religious or belief marriage ceremony, you must collect your Marriage Schedule from the registrar in the area where your wedding is taking place and present it to your celebrant on the day of the wedding so that it can be witnessed and signed. If you are having a civil marriage ceremony, the registrar conducting the ceremony will bring it with them for you to sign.



4

Three days after your wedding date:

- You must return the signed schedule to the registrar within three days – not within three *working* days – so that the marriage can be registered. If you had a civil marriage ceremony, the registrar conducting the ceremony will take it away with them and register your marriage. Your marriage certificate will be produced around seven days after this.

The lowdown on wedding insurance

Wedding insurance is there to provide peace of mind on one of the most important days of your life. The average cost of a wedding in the UK is around £20K, so it makes sense to protect your investments in case something unforeseen occurs.

An insurance policy can provide cover if, for example, you have to postpone your day as a result of illness or death in the family, or if one of your venues or suppliers goes out of business. With most policies normally valid for up to two years, you can even purchase insurance before you begin paying out deposits.

Since the pandemic, wedding insurers have been offering Covid cover, some include it as standard but it's always best to check the individual policies so you know exactly what is included when it comes to Covid disrupting proceedings.



Sites to check out for quotes include: compareweddinginsurance.org.uk, wedinsure.co.uk, covermywedding.co.uk and weddinginsurance.co.uk. ■

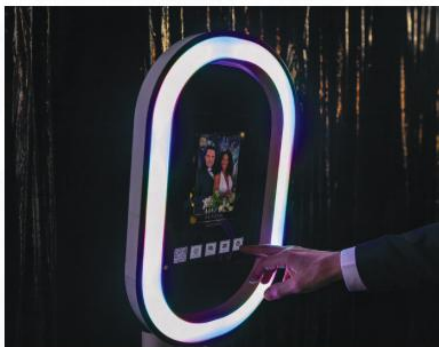


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Going WILD

Marrying up mountains and on moors

Meet the wilderness-loving couples, celebrants and photographers who really embrace the fact you can tie the knot almost anywhere in Scotland

In Scotland, unlike other countries, we're blessed with the opportunity to get married just about anywhere, from a totally dreamy snow-topped mountain to a remote beach where white sand stretches for miles. All you need is the love of your life, 29 days' notice (more on the legal bits later) and the dream team that'll bring your idea to life.

Talking of suppliers that are totally here for adventurous nuptials, Joy Story's photographer Sarah Craig is part of Wee Wild Weddings, a collective with everything you need to say 'I do' in the quirkiest of places. We're talking celebrant, hair and make-up, live streaming and even the option of a fully styled luxury picnic – ideal if you've had a bit of a hike to get to your ceremony spot!

"I love that people can get married literally anywhere in Scotland. It's what makes us so unique," smiles Sarah. "There are so many spots to choose from but I always say the background and the weather (there are always breaks in the rain and places to shelter) are never as important as a positive mental attitude. Just enjoy yourselves and whatever happens, go with the flow. I had an outdoor elopement in sideways torrential rain once, and the

couple and their kids laughed the whole way through it."

At Fern Photography (where nothing is too much to ask and they've even been wild swimming in the North Sea to capture a couple's big day) Matt Dale loves photographing wild weddings because they give a couple the opportunity to say 'I do' in the

place they love the most. "If they have a special place they like to take the dog, went often as a child, had a first date or proposed, they can continue to remember it as their wedding venue too. The outdoors is unpredictably wild and wildlife such as deer, eagles or peacocks may turn up at your wedding!" he adds.



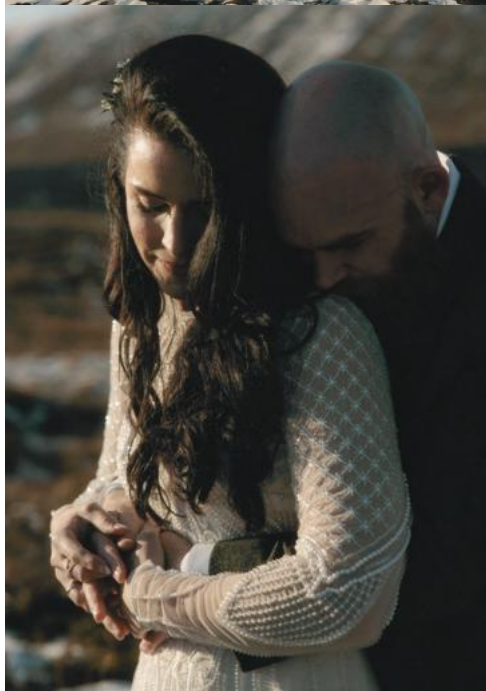


Just you, your celebrant and your promises

USA-based **Megan Schmidt** and **Dustin Campbell** eloped in the snows of Glencoe in a ceremony conducted by **Tim Maguire** of Celebrate People.

“We knew early on that we wanted it to be just the two of us – romantic, intimate and some sort of adventure. Scotland was on our bucket list, Dustin has some Scottish ancestry and we learned we could legally marry just about anywhere in the whole country! In our meetings with Tim and our photographer, Dylan, we knew Glencoe would be the secluded venue of our dreams but, even on the day, we didn’t know the exact ceremony location. We trusted in them when they said to keep climbing and it was worth it. The spot at the Three Sisters was gorgeous. The sun was shining, the mountains were pretty with snow and there were wild deer running below us. We incorporated a handfasting poem,

read our own vows and got photos in some of the beautiful spots. For dinner we had a spectacular meal and unique experience at Michel Roux Jr’s Seasgair restaurant in Inverloch Castle before returning to our rented home in Glencoe. It was such a beautiful, carefree day. Many couples who have traditional weddings say it goes by in a blur but that wasn’t the case with our elopement. We remember every second and that’s exactly how we wanted it. For others planning a destination wedding like ours we’d recommend not scheduling the ceremony at the start of the trip (in case of sickness or travel delays) and making sure you have all the paperwork in place as soon as possible.” »



“It was
such a
beautiful,
carefree
day.”

Images | The Kitcheners

You, me and a puffinry

Gem Smith and Pete Townsend told Gail Brack of Humanist Society Scotland they wanted to marry amongst puffins on one of the uninhabited Treshnish Isles.

Images | Mairi Fleck Photography



“The pair of us are quite private – ask us a question and we will be happy to talk your ear off but we don’t like shouting for the world to hear. We both completely avoid social media and while we enjoy a

party, we dislike being centre of attention. For this reason (and the fact that we feel traditions are largely outdated) we quickly realised we wanted a small, intimate elopement. We struggled for a long time to find something that felt right – a castle was a bit OTT and being on top of a mountain didn’t really have any connection for us. We got this idea when we were visiting Pete’s very-good-for-93 grandfather. He was telling us about his travels and adventures, highlighting a boat trip to the Isle of Staffa where he saw friendly puffins who waddled around and played with his shoelaces. As nature lovers with a particular fondness for puffins, we glanced at each other and realised he had just provided us with our perfect venue for our runaway wedding.”



“It turned out wildly magical.”

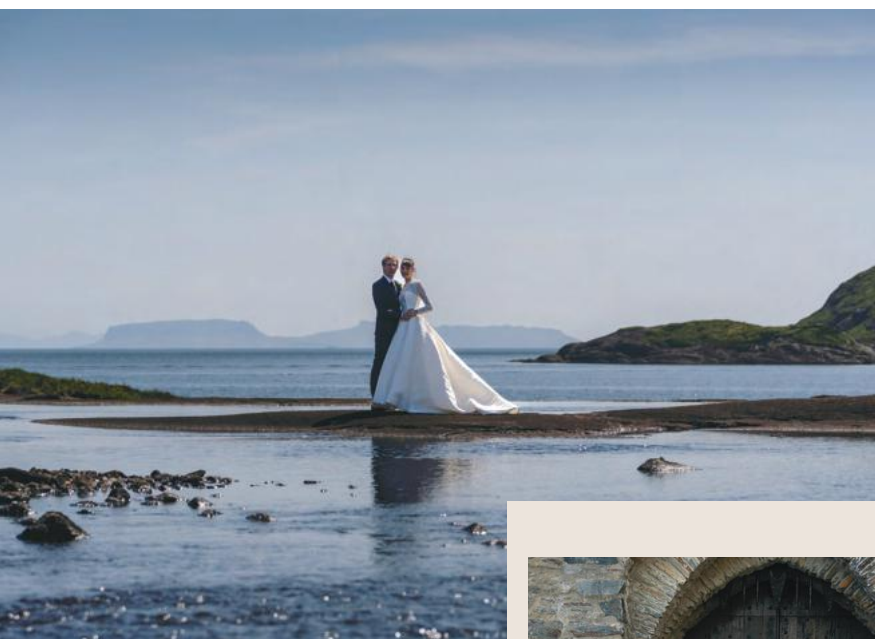
Snowy Scottish scenes

Lancashire couple **Emma Coster** and **Karl Eastham** braved the 12-hour drive to say ‘I do’ with **Paul Browett** of Fuze Ceremonies at Eagle Brae log village resort, near Struy.

“We wanted an intimate, fuss-free day with no rules or expectations and invited 20 guests, which included three dogs. At one point, though, we thought it would be just us due to the weather. But that really wouldn’t have mattered as we were prepared for a largely unplanned, go with the flow-type wedding. We booked for December (after the locals telling us it never snows at that time of year) and, travelling up to Scotland three days before to register our intention to marry, it snowed! The track to the cabins was undriveable so we were collected – complete with luggage, outfits and a big golden retriever – in the back of a John Deere truck, and our food, alcohol and guests arrived the same way! The morning of the

wedding everyone sledged while we added poinsettia to the cabin steps and fairy lights to the stairs inside. We didn’t need any other décor because the scenery, snow and wildlife spoke for itself. Paul hired a 4x4 to get to us then walked a mile up the hill, appearing like a vision through the foggy snow to marry us – what a star! Our ceremony was out on the cabin decking overlooking a river and mountain with deer at the side. Afterwards, food was served in another cabin so it was back in the John Deere for the grandparents with everyone else trudging through the snow to get there – and later stumbling, slipping and falling en route back to their homes for the night. It turned out wildly magical.”





Images | Penny Hardie

“It is important to have a good team to make it all possible.”

The love boat

After falling for Scotland, French couple **Camille Welfringer** and **Yannick Granjon** chose to say their vows at Loch Coruisk on Skye. They sailed there from Elgol with **Alan Barr** of Independent Humanist Ceremonies.

“We decided to have the celebration on Loch Coruisk and drinks at Eilean Donan Castle (it was amazing to have such a beautiful castle just for us). We knew it would be very different from a ‘regular’ wedding but this is what attracted us – getting married in Scotland was, for us, the best expression of liberty. Everything was possible; the only limits being our own dreams. The idea to have a ceremony outside on the shore of a loch was special to us and taking a boat to get there added some magic to the moment.

Sharing this with our families and dog, surrounded by nothing but nature, was truly what we were dreaming of. If we were to give advice to couples who would like to do the same, we would tell them to dream big and dare to do it because it is truly an unforgettable experience. It is also important to have a good team to make it all possible. Alan prepared a lovely, meaningful text for the ceremony; Penny Hardie took amazing pictures we will keep forever; Grant MacLeod (The Munro Bagpiper) played our favourite music and Gabrielle Plasman organised all of it perfectly. She gave us precious advice and found everything we needed – there was no challenge that couldn’t be overcome. We are so happy with the way our wedding took place. It was perfect for us and will remain one of the happiest days of our lives.”



Top 10 tips for WILD ONES

1 Get the basics in place – a date and precise location, someone suitably authorised to marry you, and two witnesses.

2 Find out whether you need permission to use the land – hit up the Land Registry.

3 Be prepped with the legal paperwork. Each local authority does things slightly differently so check what the registrar needs from you up to three months pre-wedding and well before the absolute legal minimum notice time of 29 days.

4 Get clued up with a pre-wedding site visit. It’s a good opportunity to make sure you’re fit enough to get there if you’re marrying on top of a mountain!

5 Make sure there’s somewhere to park if anyone is driving. And if people are travelling separately, agree a meeting point (what3words.com is a great tool for this).

6 Listen to your photographer/videographer’s advice when it comes to ceremony times, lighting, etc. They know their stuff.

7 Pack the essentials, like refreshments, brollies and accessories. A shawl and wellies are musts!

8 Warn guests about any challenges – but expect (and embrace) the unexpected.

9 Don’t overplan your day – leave time to take it all in (also handy in case you need to push timings back to allow for weather).

10 Plan your honeymoon around your wedding. Could you wild camp after the ‘I do’s’? ■

Find the perfect soundtrack to your big day.



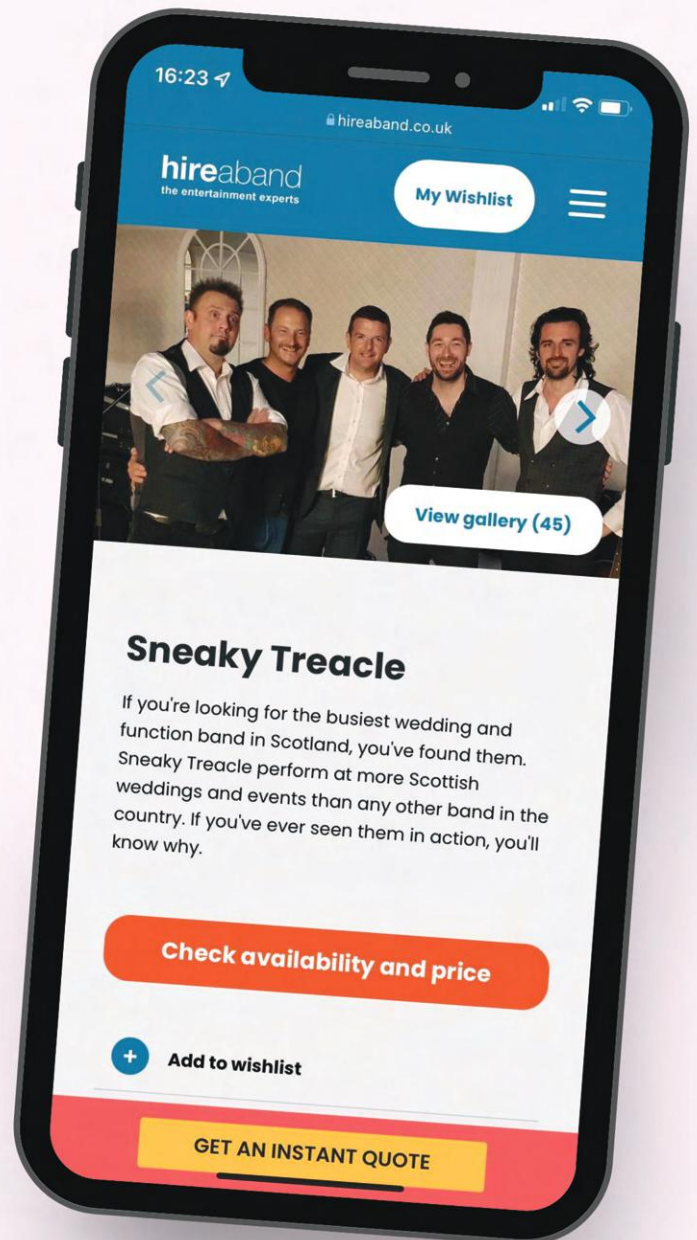
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Lauren & Sean, Crossbasket Castle, April 2022

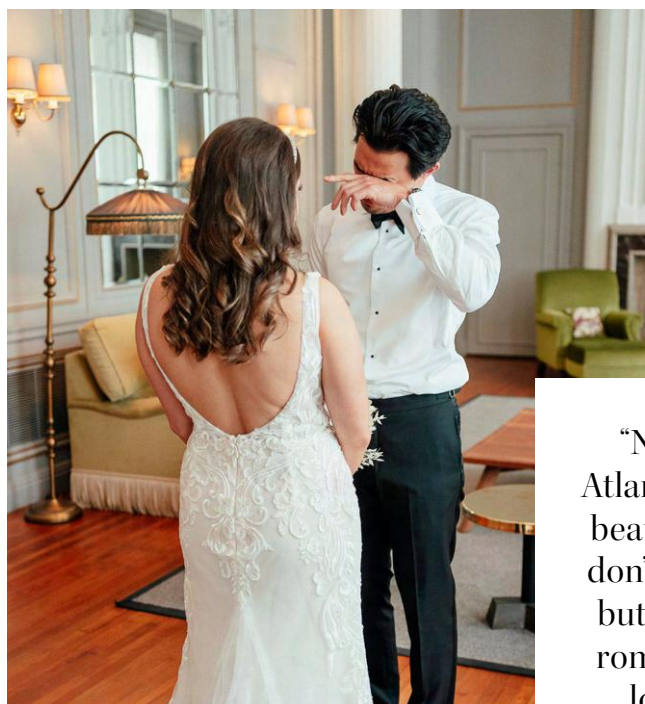
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Focal point

This issue we're turning our attention to first looks, in all their beautifully different guises

First look has become a common phrase in the vocabulary of wedding photography and we usually use it when we talk about the private moment captured by a photographer when a couple chooses to see each other before the ceremony. Cue big emotional tears and happy gasps at seeing each other for the first time in all your wedding finery. Over the next few pages we're celebrating these first looks and the other kinds your talented photographers are on hand to document.

Whether it's the first look between a couple, a parent and child, or a flower girl getting a sneak peek of the wedding dress, these Scottish photographers have ensured they've been there at the key moments.



“Nick and Lauren had eloped all the way from Atlanta to Edinburgh to say ‘I do’ in one of the most beautiful cities in Europe (I may be biased here). I don’t think Nick was expecting to get so emotional but that’s what Scotland does to you - we excel in romance! It was utterly adorable to witness and I loved being a part of their wee wedding day.”

SARAH, JOY STORY



“This was Lindsay and her dad having a first look at her flat before her wedding to Alastair at Glasgow University chapel and Pollokshields Burgh Hall. I love these moments during prep a lot; they’re one of the sweetest secrets of the day. Although it involves a bit of choreography and time planning to get the moment right, the reactions and emotions are real and heart on sleeve. We think of weddings as being about romantic love but it’s also about the love for those around you, your friends and family and photography is about reflecting those moments.” >>

KRISTIN, STRUVE PHOTOGRAPHY

“I love this image because it shows the excitement of the couple who are about to get married. I asked Gabby to wait for Stewart, who walked up from the house to see her. After a moment to pause and compose themselves, the reveal happened and then the smiles.”

DAN, FERN PHOTOGRAPHY



“Megan Mcilduff married her fiancé Martin Derkie on Saturday 27th May at the Station Hotel in Shotts. When I arrived Megan was relaxed, calm, enjoying her makeover and spending time with her closest friends and family. Emotions weren't far away though; her dad Kevin provoked a few tears [from the bride] when she decided to do a first reveal of her dress just for him.”

ROSALEEN, ROSALEEN BONNAR PHOTOGRAPHY



“These heartfelt moments sometimes take your breath away. It is a privilege to be present to see and feel the love and capture it in an image that you just know will mean everything to those involved.”

ANNA, ANNA FRANCES PHOTOGRAPHY



“Before leaving for the ceremony, I got to witness one of the most beautifully tender ‘first looks’ I’ve been lucky enough to be present for. The connection between a dad and his little girl when he first sees her - that very second is likely one of the most powerful and intimate of their lives and every time now, I find myself thinking about my own daughter - My little LilyPie.”

JOHN, JOHN ELPHINSTONE STIRLING WEDDING & LIFESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY

“This is my favourite kind of ‘first look’ shot, a father and his daughter. I love these shots as you never know what type of reaction you’ll get until the door opens. It can be tears or laughter, but it’s always a look of joy and love. This is Nicole’s dad seeing her for the first time on her big day at The Scotsman Hotel in Edinburgh in July 2022. This was actually one of my favourite weddings of 2022. I’ll never forget strolling up the Royal Mile with Nicole and Daniel for photos, with people clapping and cheering by the roadside as they passed.”

JOHN, JOHN CARROLL PHOTOGRAPHY



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AND DANIEL'S
FULL WEDDING
ON THE YSW
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“We just loved the simplicity of this. The wee girl was eyeing the dress all morning and we had that extra five minutes so we said, ‘Put your mum’s shoes on and get your mum’s flowers and we’ll get that photo.’ It was the weekend of the coronation so it was real princess goals, like Kate and Princess Charlotte. We just love how it happened so organically.” ■

DEBBIE AND RICHARD, RICHARD CRAIG PHOTOGRAPHY

Samantha Clyne

— WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER —



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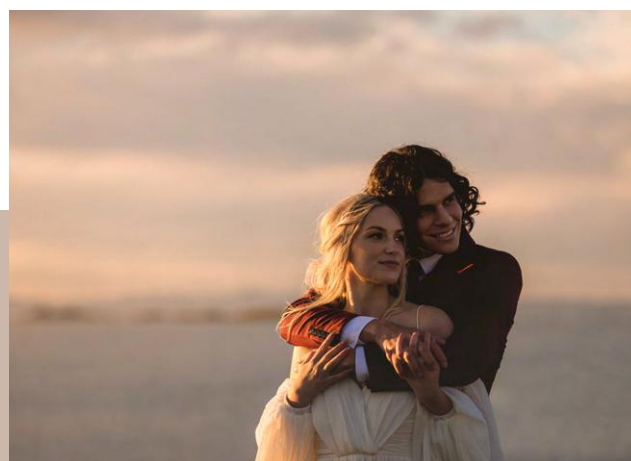
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DO...

"See wedding photography as a long-term investment. And, if photography is important to you, do set aside a larger proportion of your budget. That said, ask about reduced coverage packages if you can't afford a full-day option. Even on smaller budgets, a few hours from a good quality professional whose work you love is always the best option."

KRISTIN, STRUVE PHOTOGRAPHY



Wedding pics ON POINT

From investigating shooting styles and how you'll display the beautiful images to making sure you avoid hangry photographers, **Claire Muir** unveils the biggest do's and don'ts of wedding photography, fresh from those behind the lens...

DON'T...

"Don't dismiss the idea of having a pre-wedding shoot. This gives you the opportunity to get to know your photographer, get used to the camera in a low-pressure environment and find a dynamic that's comfortable for everyone. Plus you'll get wonderful photos of you and your partner to treasure for the rest of your lives!"

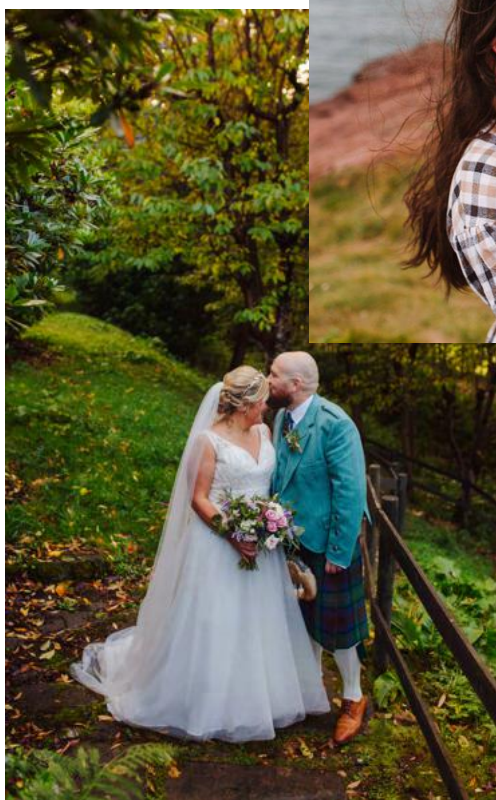
**LAURA, LAURA
A TILIMAN PHOTOGRAPHY**



DO...

"Let guests know what's acceptable and what you don't want captured by mobile devices on the day."

**ROSALEEN, ROSALEEN
BONNAR PHOTOGRAPHY**



DO...

"Plan a big group photo. I call this my insurance shot as it means everyone's in at least one picture. Have it right after the ceremony before anyone wanders off."

**JOHN, JOHN
CARROLL PHOTOGRAPHY
& FILMS**

DO...

“Do feed the photographer. We turn into gremlins before the first dance otherwise!” **KRISTIN**

John Carroll Photography & Films



DON'T...

“Ask your photographer to edit or shoot in a totally different style from what they do. Instead, find one who's on the same wavelength as you and whose work you absolutely love.” **KRISTIN**

DO...

“Meet with some of your favourite photographers and talk through your expectations. Meeting at your chosen venue is a great icebreaker.” **ROSALEEN**



Rosaleen Bonnar Photography

DO...

“Order group photos from largest to smallest, prioritising anyone with mobility needs or young children.” **KRISTIN**

DON'T...

“Have a huge list of guest photos – it takes up lots of time that could be spent chatting to people.” **JOHN**

DO...

“Provide a group shots wish list. It's so handy on the day because we don't have a clue who anyone is. On that note, nominate someone who knows most of your guests (a best man, bridesmaid or sibling) that can round them up for each shot on the list.” **LAURA**

DO...

“Identify space in your home to display your favourite moments. Speak with your photographer about statement pieces, sizes, look and feel – it will help shape what you're looking to achieve on the day.”

ROSALEEN

Struve Photography



DO...

“Give your photographer some time with just the couple. I advise all my clients I'd like at least 30 minutes.”

JOHN ■





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Your Wedding Day



Love & literature

*Han Smith &
Jennifer Andreacchi*



A whimsical autumnal wedding simply bursting with love and sentiment – Han and Jennifer definitely did Scotland's first queer Jewish wedding justice

DATE: Saturday 30th October 2022
PHOTOGRAPHY: Fern Photography
VENUE: University of St Andrews
and Forgan's St Andrews

After meeting in their late teens at university in America (“We quickly transitioned a friendship into a relationship and have been together ever since,” they remember) Han and Jen returned to their roots seven years later, tying the knot in an educational setting. This time it was St Andrews, their favourite place and where they'd studied abroad for six months during their undergraduate degrees.

“We talked about marriage for years before we eventually decided we both wanted to have a wedding. In May 2021, we felt ready to begin preparing to get married,” explains Han. They each picked out a ring for the other (the same ring

in white gold and yellow gold; a solid band with a single small diamond in the centre, shaped like the north star) and went to Edinburgh Castle at sunset to exchange them and read letters they had written to one another.

The perfect place

Finding the right ceremony venue was top priority – “We were very motivated to find a space that felt inclusive of our queer and Jewish identities” – and University of St Andrews' Lower College Hall, set in the beautiful St Salvator's Quad, fitted the bill perfectly. For the celebrations afterwards, Forgan's was ideal – cosy, centrally-located and totally on-theme.



“A decade or so ago we wouldn’t have been able to legally be wed.”



Autumnal, earthy tones combined with the pair’s love of literature provided a gorgeous, rustic vibe for the nuptials and Forgan’s helped big time when it came to décor – especially due to the fact they have an in-house florist. The to-be-weds got creative too, though, adorning the ceremony venue with seasonal accessories and decorating their ‘chuppah’, the canopy under which Jewish couples marry. Our fave DIY detail, though, was the favours. “We collected second-hand books from charity shops in Edinburgh during the months leading up to the wedding, then designed and ordered custom bookmarks with our names and the wedding date. Each guest then got to choose a book and take it home with their bookmark.”

For Han, a queer and non-binary person, the concept of wedding outfits was tricky – “I knew I wanted trousers but wasn’t entirely sure what look I was aiming for,” they remember – but a visit to the men’s section of Walker Slater in Edinburgh gave them a pleasant surprise. “They were welcoming to all genders and the experience was a lot of fun. The trousers I chose nicely matched Jen’s dress and the autumnal theme, and the bow tie had little foxes on it for our fluffy orange cat, Tigger. I wore my father’s tallit (Jewish prayer shawl) from his Bar Mitzvah in 1979 and I felt just like me in it all.”

Inspired by the magical vibes of fantasy literature, Jen settled on emerald green and found her dress (a limited-edition creation with dragons, vines, books and quotes embroidered in gold) on social media. Nailing her desired look, she added brown oxford shoes, a crown of dried flowers and a gold necklace in the shape of a twig wreath.

With many of their loved ones falling into the same circles, the couple had a single wedding party »



“Marriage feels incredible.”



of 10 people, which they labelled their ‘wedding crew’. And with most also being part of the LGBTQ+ community, comfort and inclusion was paramount. So, Jen created a colour scheme on Canva and they were free to choose any type of clothing within that palette.

The big day

Han, Jen and their crew spent the wedding morning prepping (from popping to Ryman’s for a fountain pen, to decorating the aisle), fuelled by coffee and pastries. At ceremony time, Han walked down the aisle first and was overcome with emotion. “The guests all surprised me when they stood up. I forgot this is traditional and I wasn’t sure whether they would stand for someone that fit neither the bride nor groom category. I felt so proud of all the life that Jen and I have ventured through together, and I really savoured the way it felt to be loved and held by so many loved ones.” As Jen made her way to meet Han, she remembers feeling strong, knowing she was carrying herself into “a wonderful new phase of life.” Proud of their identities and heritage, the ceremony style was a



no-brainer and fellow queer Jew, Rabbi Mark Solomon, did the honours.

The newlyweds and their 70 guests went from the university to Forgan’s, which couldn’t have been cosier (think roaring fires, flickering candles and dried flowers galore) for an intimate reception. Everyone enjoyed prosecco and canapés before a three-course meal, packed with autumnal fare like pumpkin soup and vegan haggis bon bons. Having opted for traditional Jewish vows earlier, the pair decided to add their own words at this point with Jen performing a song and Han giving a speech. Han’s father, Jen’s mother, and mutual friends Dillon and Rae

also spoke. “Rae’s speech was engaging and fun. They had prepared a survey beforehand and sent it to guests who had to respond to questions like ‘If Han and Jen were to be arrested, what would the crime be?’” The celebrations were rounded off with a couple of hours of dancing, including The Hora, the traditional Jewish dance.

Reflecting on their wedding, Han says that marriage feels “incredible, especially since a decade or so ago we wouldn’t have been able to legally be wed” and advises others to create a day that works for and reflects them. “Rules and constructs don’t need to define your special day,” they add.





CAKE

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HAN'S OUTFIT

Walker Slater

JEN'S DRESS

Leannan Sidhe by Moonuelle

JEN'S FLOWER CROWN

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RINGS

Chupi



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"It was a spectacularly colourful wedding with so much joy and love, and I loved how invested everyone was in creating the perfect day for the couple. I enjoy spending time outside even when it's a predominantly inside wedding. We walked from the getting ready space to the ceremony venue to the reception and found some delightfully cobbled streets, the windy St Andrews beach and lots of autumn leaves." ■

**MATT,
FERN PHOTOGRAPHY**

"My bow tie had little foxes on it for our fluffy orange cat, Tigger."



"I felt so proud of all the life we have ventured through together."





A home for my heart

*Sharon McKelvie
& Mark Power*

DATE: Friday, April 21st 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Connor Barrett Photography
VENUE: The Gailes Hotel And Spa, Irvine



This gorgeous outdoor spring wedding on Scotland's west coast was filled with family, friends and fun from beginning to end.



By my side

Sharon originally chose the complete opposite dress to the one she ended up with. "I think I got caught up in all the excitement. After trying it on again I decided to buy another dress and the one I got was exactly what I had envisaged for myself," she explains.

Her 'Roan' dress by Maggie Sottero, was a fitted silhouette with beautiful detailing to the front and back, and a small train. She used her friend's veil as her 'something borrowed' and wore a side clip in her hair.

Sharon had six bridesmaids, a junior bridesmaid and two flower girls, including the couple's daughter April (6). "I am very lucky to have close friends, most of whom I've known from childhood. I couldn't imagine getting married without them by my side," she goes on. She wanted to find reasonably-priced dresses that all of her bridesmaids felt comfortable and beautiful in, and came across the multiway Infinity Dress – which even worked for her junior bridesmaid.

For his outfit, Mark wore a Spirit of Loch Ness tartan kilt with plaid, and chose his brother Ian as best man, while his brother David and friend Stephen were ushers.

The couple stayed at The Gailes the night before and celebrated with family and friends. Sharon was tired in the morning but this soon vanished when her bridal party arrived

to get ready. Mark was excited and went to play golf to pass the time, and admits he didn't feel overly nervous until he was waiting for Sharon to come down the aisle.

She recalls, "It's all a bit of a blur, my mum walked me down the aisle as my dad has passed and both of us were trying to hold it together for each other, but we did really well. It was a mix of happy, bittersweet, nervous, excited all at once and I remember just thinking once I made it to >>>

"It was a mix of happy, bittersweet, nervous, excited all at once."

Sharon and Mark first met at the joint 50th birthday party of mutual friends and after five-and-a-half years together, Mark proposed in December 2021, just a few days before Christmas.

Their first priority was finding the ideal venue. "We viewed a couple of places and then went to view The Gailes on the off chance," Sharon explains. "It had been done up and had the outdoor pavilion which both of us really liked as we liked the idea of an outdoor wedding – but obviously with it being Scotland, we were not guaranteed the weather. The rooftop conservatory was also lovely, and the staff had said we could pretty much decide on the day where the ceremony would take place. We were both delighted when the weather was nice, and we got to get married outside."

For the colour scheme, Sharon had spotted a forest green she wanted for her bridesmaids. "We typically wanted to go for something simple and elegant," she says.





Mark I would be fine. The one thing I will say is if you are planning on getting married outside, make sure it's not too windy. On my way down the aisle my veil got stuck on a tree which I then had to yank out, but it made us giggle and I will always remember it." Mark's nephew Johnny Gray, a cellist who attends the Music School of Douglas Academy, provided all the music for their ceremony and played *A Thousand Years* by Christina Perri as Sharon walked down the aisle.

Incredibly happy

The couple didn't want anything too long or drawn out, so they opted for a humanist ceremony. "Alan introduced us, told the story of how we met, and little bit about us, then one of my bridesmaids, Ali, read a poem which is special to us – *I Carry Your Heart with Me* by E. E. Cummings. Then it was on to the vows. We were both nervous, but it felt right. We managed to get the words out without any mistakes or too many tears and we both felt incredibly happy."

Afterwards they had a drinks reception with canapés for their 70 day guests followed by a wedding meal accompanied by a pianist. Sharon's sister Lynsey, the chief bridesmaid, Mark, and best man Ian gave the speeches. "I think what was most surprising was the amount of tears – whether through laughter or emotion," Sharon smiles.

A further 60 guests came for the evening reception, which Sharon says had a real party atmosphere. "Everyone was there for a good time and seemed to really enjoy themselves."

Sharon adds, "From the minute we arrived at the hotel the day before, it was just amazing, we were totally buzzing from start to finish. I guess standing in front of each other saying our vows was the highlight – and the surprise saxophonist was pretty epic!"

"We were both delighted when the weather was nice, and we got to get married outside."



“We managed to get the words out without any mistakes or too many tears.”



BAND

Fortebeat

BRIDE'S DRESS

Maggie Sottero at Opus Couture

BRIDE'S SHOES

Quiz

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

Christine Sadler and Swarovski

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Infinity Dress

CAKE

Sugar and Spice, Troon

CELEBRANT

Alan Barr Humanist

DÉCOR / FLOWERS

Grassroots Fine Flowers

DRESS ALTERATIONS

Michelle Shek

FAVOURS

The Favour Hub, Etsy and Secret Creation

FLOWER GIRL DRESSES

Next

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Kilts 4U

HAIR

Melanie Gilmour Hairstylist

MAKE-UP

Kymn Larcombe Makeup

RINGS

Diamonds Factory UK and Timothy J Sharp

SAXOPHONIST

Trav Panesar

STATIONERY

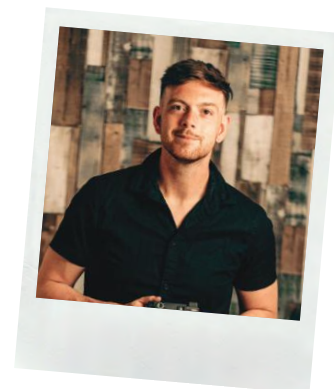
Aarlotte Designs on Etsy

VIDEOGRAPHY

Lee Mulholland, Eclipse Video

WEDDING NANNY

Wedding Nannies



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“The sun was shining and the drinks were flowing for Sharon and Mark's special day. From capturing all of the amazing moments of their day to helping their daughter pick the prettiest pine cone, it was an absolute joy to be a part of!” ■

**CONNOR, CONNOR BARRETT
PHOTOGRAPHY**

On the WILD SIDE

*Mia Graham
& Martin McGowan*

DATE: Saturday 13th May 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Tom Cairns Photography
VENUE: Bachilton Barn, Methven



Nature lovers
Mia and Martin
took inspiration
from Scottish
wildflower
meadows for
their beautifully
bohemian
wedding

Mia and Martin love exploring woods and forests and naturally Martin chose one of their favourites, Devilla Forest, to propose while they were out on a dog walk. "It was and still is one of our favourite places to walk the dog!" she says.

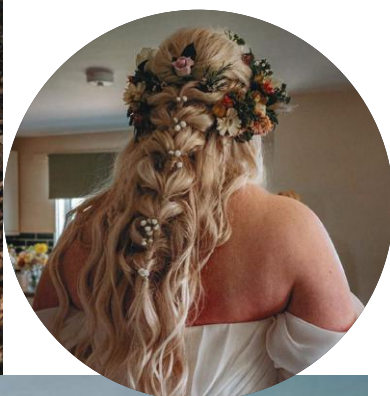
The couple had been together six years and finding a venue that fitted their style and personality, in a picturesque setting was of the utmost importance when it came to planning a wedding with sustainability at the heart. As soon as they walked into Bachilton Barn in Perthshire they knew it was exactly what they'd had in mind and the deal was sealed

when they spied the woods in the grounds. "It has the most relaxed setting and we could add our own personal touches," remembers Mia. "There were so many different spaces we could use and the amount of accommodation and hot tubs available was amazing. When we saw the woods and spoke with Kayleigh (the wedding manager) about the potential of using them we definitely couldn't say no! Any way you looked you saw green space with sheep, cows and horses. What's not to love?"

With the venue chosen they got to work on their vision for a Scottish wildflower meadow theme with a relaxed, natural feel. They put their trust in Stunning Flowers, a Perthshire



“As soon as I saw the flowers I cried at how perfectly Ros had created the vision we had for the day!”



florist that bases their work on sustainability. “All the floristry they created exceeded our expectations,” recalls Mia. “As soon as I saw the flowers I cried at how perfectly Ros had created the vision we had for the day!” Mia loved her bespoke floral crown so much she didn’t want to take it off!

Alongside the wildflowers this bride put her PhD studies in Entomology front and centre, adding insect touches throughout the décor. “The aisle featured brown bottles collected from the lab I work in with pampas grass from a neighbour’s garden and eucalyptus stems, and I created the table plan using a wooden palette and set butterflies and moths in frames with matching table numbers which Martin wrote.”

Although there was a lot of DIY for their big day, Mia and Martin managed to keep stress levels to a minimum. “Having our families help, particularly my mum keeping us on track, made it relatively stress free!” says Mia, who says knowing when to stop was the toughest task! The bride and her mum made all the Save the Dates and invitations themselves and this creative MOB then made a dried flower wall and two dried flower installations for the arch in the reception room and the welcome sign. Mia’s dad made the sign itself and a copper easel, and Martin was in charge of designing and painting the sign.

Keeping sustainability in mind, the table décor included log slices gifted to the couple by a local woodland group, and vases of flowers Mia and her mum had dried from bouquets over the year leading up to the wedding. They even made their own confetti and the favours were bags of M&Ms in a card sleeve branded with a logo designed by Martin. »





“Seeing Martin crying, overwhelmed with emotion made it all feel real.”



Bohemian rhapsody

With so much décor to set up the day before, it's no wonder the wedding party all took to the hot tubs at their respective cottages that night for some much-needed relaxation and stargazing. But Mia and her bridesmaids were far too excited to sleep and were up watching the shopping channels at 3am!

Despite some nerves, Mia had the most fun morning getting ready for her perfect boho bride look. Her gorgeous Essense of Australia gown with its Bardot neckline and detachable balloon sleeves fitted the bill perfectly and Meigan Alessandra Hair styled her hair to whimsical perfection.

Keep it personal

Walking down the aisle to Fleetwood Mac's *Songbird* was very emotional for Mia. “I couldn't believe the day was finally here and seeing everyone we love all in one place,” she recalls. “Seeing Martin crying, overwhelmed with emotion made it all feel real.”

The couple opted for a humanist ceremony, feeling it was “most suited to who we are and felt it had an informal but personal theme to it,” and their celebrant Claire was everything they were looking for. “Her personality and humour was very similar to ours and her laid-back but personal style was



exactly what we wanted,” says Mia. “She told our story in the perfect light-hearted way and made all of our friends laugh. Many said they hadn't been to such an amazing, personal and relaxed ceremony before!”

The informal vibe continued beyond the ceremony with an outdoor drinks reception and lawn games, followed by a family-style barbecue served at the table with a trio of desserts for pudding. “This allowed us to have a wide selection of dishes and options,” says Mia. “We felt the serving style kept things relaxed and allowed people to choose what they wanted and eat at their own pace.”

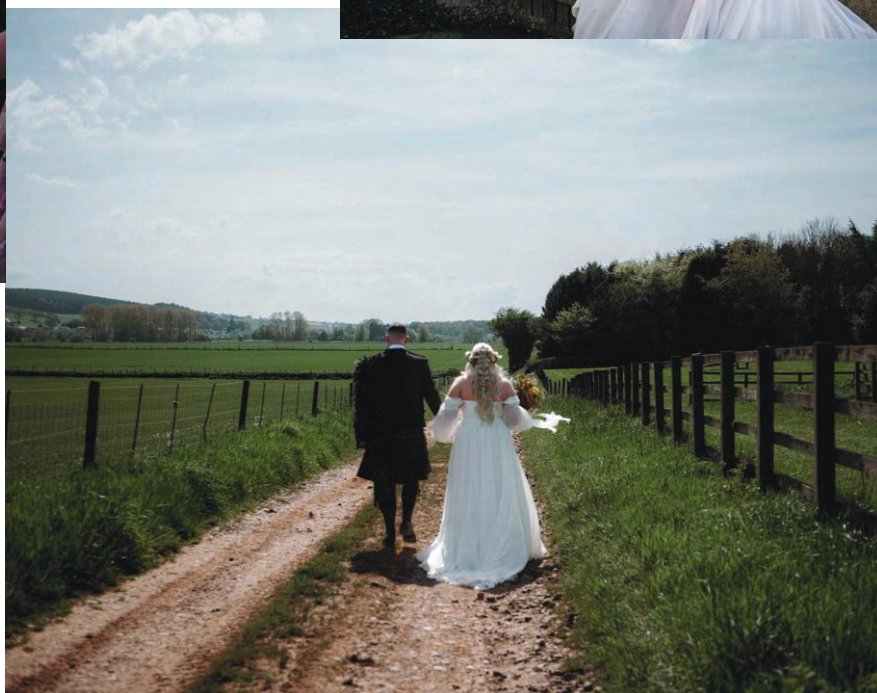
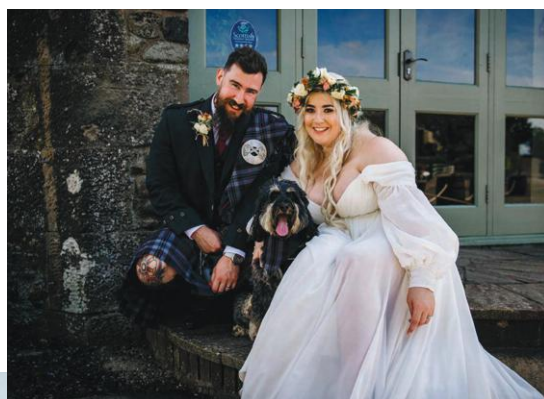
Dance the night away

In the evening it was back to those lawn games or packing out the dance floor to tunes provided by Jim Jam Ceilidh Band. “It was fantastic and everyone enjoyed it, especially as many of the guests were English!” smiles Mia. “They got everyone up dancing. The atmosphere was amazing.”

Now it's all over, Mia and Martin are loving their newlywed status and had the most amazing wedding day. “It's so great to finally be married and being a Mr and Mrs,” she says. “We can't wait for the future together.”



“Any way you looked you saw green space with sheep, cows and horses. What’s not to love?”



“It’s so great to finally be married and being a Mr and Mrs. We can’t wait for the future together.”



BAND

Jim Jam Ceilidh Band

BRIDE'S DRESS

Essence of Australia at
Natalie Ann Brides

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

Kiri and Belle

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

David's Bridal

CAKE

Bonnie Bakes by Karen

CATERING

Delicious Catering

CELEBRANT

Claire Digance of Humanist Society
Scotland

FLOWERS AND BRIDE'S FLORAL CROWN

Stunning Flowers

GROOM'S OUTFIT

McCall's Highlandwear

HAIR

Meigan Alessandra Bridal Hair

MAKE-UP

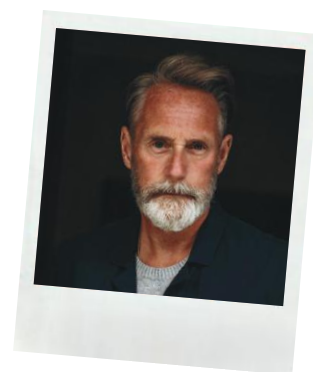
Claire Park Makeup Artist

RINGS

Ian Gallacher

VIDEOGRAPHY

Macdonald Studio Films



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“First trip to Bachilton Barn in rural Perthshire for Mia and Martin’s gorgeous wedding... turned out to be the perfect setting for this pair! Perfect weather for friends and family to enjoy.”

**TOM, TOM CAIRNS
PHOTOGRAPHY** ■

Young LOVE

*Robyn Strachan
& Nathan McCallum*



DATE: Thursday 11th May 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Loudon Photography
VENUE: Broxmouth Courtyard, Dunbar



This bride's sentimental venue search led her and her fiancé to beautiful Broxmouth Courtyard



and seating charts herself. She also went for DIY décor, opting for a minimalist and elegant look that would let the gorgeous venue do the talking. "I've never been a lover of colour so wanted neutral tones all round. I knew this would complement Broxmouth so much."

The attire followed suit – quite literally, with Nathan rocking a beige suit and tie whilst the bride's best gals were in ivory. "I wanted them to feel as comfortable as possible so opted for made to measure, customisable dresses and let them choose what they loved most."

They say it takes a village to plan a wedding and Robyn enlisted her family when it came to the cake, made by Nathan's cousin Natalie, and the flowers. "My great auntie, Mary, makes floral arrangements for a hobby and having her do this meant so much to me. We made memories I'll never forget in the process and my flowers turned out exactly how I imagined, all because of her."

The night before the wedding, Robyn and her girls worked hard decorating the venue then treated themselves to a relaxed night with McDonald's and prosecco. "I had my hair pin curled and chilled with my bridesmaids, my mum and my aunties. It was lovely," she remembers. She slept well – "I think I was exhausted from all the organising and decorating!" – and loved the chilled atmosphere in the morning, feeling like she had all the right people there to keep her calm.

Let the beautifying begin

As a make-up and brow artist, Robyn created a look that made her feel her best on the day whilst Beth Edwards "nailed" the make-up for the mums and 'maids. Her hair was done by her auntie Kimberley (as it had been for every other big event in her life), then she finally stepped into her subtly sparkly ballgown, complete with a beautiful train. She accessorised with a fingertip veil, a tiara ("Because when will I ever get the chance to do that again?") and Jimmy Choos she knew she'd wear over and over.

Robyn's nerves hit her "like a tonne of bricks" >>



High school sweethearts Robyn and Nathan got engaged in Iceland when he went down on one knee under the Northern Lights, something the pair had dreamed about seeing for years. "It was just the two of us and it was magical," smiles the bride.

A self-confessed control freak, Robyn took the lead with planning and started searching for a very special venue. "I was pretty much brought up in Dunbar as I'd visit there most weekends with my grandparents. I searched in that area, hoping I would feel I had my nana (who we lost a few years ago) close on the wedding day. I didn't have any luck until I visited a wedding fair and it was like fate. Broxmouth was the last stall before the exit and I fell in love with not just where it was but the look of it too."

Dream team, assemble!

After finding the perfect place to tie the knot, the couple looked for those who would document it and were delighted with their choices. "Our photographer, David, was a massive part of our day and made our guests feel at ease. People still talk about how amazing and professional he was. TLC Media were fantastic to work with too and went so unnoticed on the day. We can't wait to see the finished video."

Not finding planning as stressful as expected – "I'd do it all again 100 times over!" – Robyn took on a lot, making her invitations, place cards, table numbers





as she started to walk down the aisle but she managed to zone out and focus on Nathan, delighted to be reunited after missing him the night before. “My wedding highlight was realising the day was finally here and I was about to marry my high school sweetheart,” she admits. Having met other celebrants but not been able to find one that suited them as a couple, they opted for a “lovely” registrar to conduct their ceremony. “We chose vows together that suited us and I’ll remember them forever. It was such a special moment.”

The newlyweds treated their 140 guests to a live singer during the drinks reception before sitting down for their “perfect” wedding breakfast and a set of sentimental speeches. Both dads said a few words, as well as the best man and the maid of honour, Robyn’s sister. The party vibe of the evening reception kicked off early with singing waiters and got even livelier when a DJ and sax player took to the stage for an hour of Ibiza classics. “It was a room full of pure happiness. Everywhere I looked, every single person had a smile on their face,” remembers Robyn.

Whilst many brides (especially those who put this much thought and work into their big day) might be expecting post-wedding blues, it’s quite the opposite for Robyn who will soon have a new project to get to grips with. “Being married has made me feel complete. I know that although anything can happen in life, if we have each other that’s all that matters. We now have another new chapter to look forward to, having found out on honeymoon in Las Vegas that we’re expecting our first baby. It’s such a blessing and we’re on cloud nine.”

“We chose vows together that suited us.”



BRIDE'S DRESS

'Norvinia' by Sottero and Midgley at Emma Roy of Edinburgh

BRIDE'S SHOES

Jimmy Choo

BRIDE'S TIARA

Etsy

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Bridesmaid by JB

DJ AND SAX

Tartan Entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT

Nicola Mason Wedding & Events

Singer, Singing Servers

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Suit Culture

HAIR

Hair by Rosheen Warnock

MAKE-UP

Beth Edwards Makeup Artist

REGISTRAR

Haddington Registry Office

VIDEOGRAPHY

TLC Media



DAVID LOUDÉN
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Robyn and Nathan's wedding was perfect, they were the most fun and easygoing couple. The venue is absolutely stunning and I love Broxmouth Courtyard. It's one of my favourite venues! The whole day was magical. A lovely day celebrating with a great bunch of people. It was a pleasure to be part of." ■

**DAVID,
DAVID LOUDÉN WEDDING
PHOTOGRAPHY**



"I wanted them to feel as comfortable as possible."



"It was a room full of pure happiness."

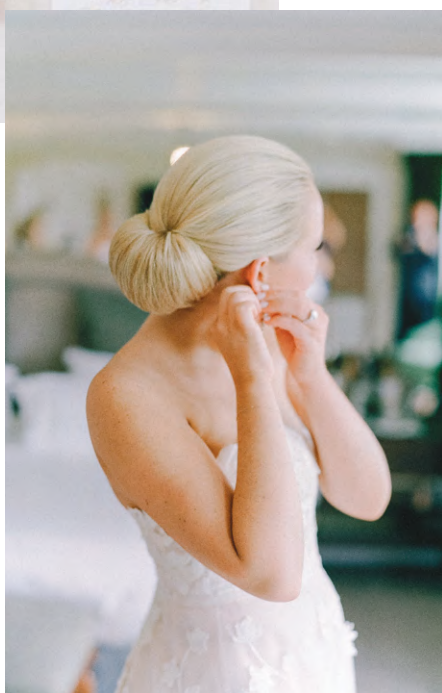




Classic & elegant

Elizabeth Lane
& Andrew Johnson

“Sareh was there to help me find my perfect dress.”



A beautiful, multi-day destination wedding celebration in St Andrews, perfectly planned from Elizabeth and Andrew's stateside home

Elizabeth had dreamed of walking down the aisle to the wedding processional from *The Sound of Music* since she was a little girl and, the day after Thanksgiving 2021, Andrew popped the question that would put the wheels in motion.

The pair knew they wanted an extended destination wedding and, after considering locations near and far, landed on Scotland. “It was the perfect fit,” remembers Elizabeth. They decided to marry at Holy Trinity Church in St Andrews and, with the groom at his happiest on the golf course, the Old Course Hotel was ideal for the post-ceremony celebrations.

Despite organising from afar, Elizabeth adored the process (“I love hosting parties and events personally, and this was a big passion project!”) but admits she couldn't have done it without the team at the Old Course and her US-based wedding planner, Amos Gott – after all, she was attempting to bring more than 100 people (only one guest was Scottish) and some must-have suppliers across the pond! Thankfully, Elizabeth had pretty clear ideas about styling her special day, which helped. “Everyone who knows me knows I'm drawn to a mix of classic and glam. So, I wanted a feminine and whimsical but timeless colour palette.” She opted for blush pinks, white, lavender (her great grandmother's favourite shade and one she always knew would be part of her wedding), and gold.

A VIP shopping experience

Having fallen for Sareh Nouri's beautiful fabrics and timeless designs before even hitting the boutiques, it was no surprise that Elizabeth was in awe when she visited the bridal designer's flagship store in New Jersey. “Sareh was there to help me find my perfect dress and I truly could've chosen any of the ones I tried on because they were all so beautiful and of such high quality. I fell in love with a beautiful dress with handmade floral lace. It was so unique from anything else I've seen.” Sareh customised the dress and extended the train before the bride added a tulle wrap »



Date: Thursday 1st June 2023

Photography: Leslee Mitchell Photography

Second shooter: Karen Askins Photography

Venue: Holy Trinity Church and Old Course Hotel, Golf Resort & Spa, St Andrews





“We made sure to have at least one ‘special moment’ with each guest.”



and a bespoke veil with hand-sewn floral lace appliqué. She polished off her elegant look with Jimmy Choo wedges that were “beautiful yet comfortable for the cobbles” and two pairs of earrings – one set for the ceremony and one for the reception.

You may think that with an epic 11 bridesmaids (did we mention the 10 groomsmen too?) finding an outfit to flatter would be tricky, but Elizabeth struck gold at the Amsale flagship store in New York. “I wanted something classic that the girls would look and feel beautiful in, and that was great quality. I chose the Jaylin dress in the ballet colour, in silk faille material. They were stunning.”

The night before the wedding was a significant one because that’s when Americans host a rehearsal dinner and do most of their speeches. So, Elizabeth and Andrew enjoyed a beautiful cocktail supper at Seafood Ristorante and stayed up much later than planned, celebrating with friends.

Sleepy but excited, Elizabeth prepped with her girls in the morning and admits the fact she’d been able to bring her hair and make-up stylist, Melody, from the States was a definite wedding highlight. Another, of course, was walking down the aisle. “It was an ethereal moment. I felt the most beautiful I have ever felt, and so joyful and at peace knowing that when I left the church I would be married to the love of my life.” They wed in a traditional, religious ceremony, complete with communion, and followed it up with a romantic rose petal toss.



Cocktail hour

On arrival at the Old Course Hotel, guests were greeted by a piper who also led them into the wedding breakfast after drinks and canapés – known to us as a drinks’ reception, it’s ‘cocktail hour’ in the States and the order of proceedings is slightly different. “Our band kept things lively and put guests in the mood to celebrate with some classic swing music. We kicked things off with our first dance, then dinner was served,” explains the bride. “We served Anster cheese soufflé, beef wellington, and creme brûlée. I was so impressed with the dinner service and the quality of food for each guest. Good food is necessary for a great party, in my opinion!”

The remainder of the evening was for dancing and Elizabeth remembers almost every guest being on the dance floor the entire night – the perfect end to the couple’s week of festivities with their nearest and dearest. “Most people only get to celebrate for a day or two but a smaller destination wedding allowed us to really lean in and celebrate for multiple days. We made sure to have at least one ‘special moment’ with each guest and these are memories I will hold dear for the rest of my life.”



BAND

The Inside Groove

BRIDE'S DRESS

'Paisley' by Sareh Nouri

BRIDE'S EARRINGS AND COMB

Jennifer Behr

BRIDE'S HAIR & MAKE-UP

Melody Craig

BRIDE'S SHOES

Jimmy Choo

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Amsale

BRIDESMAIDS' HAIR

Laura Sutherland Makeup and Hair Stylist

BRIDESMAIDS' MAKE-UP

MHM Styling

CAKE

Philippa Rose Cake Design

DÉCOR

88 Events, Absolute Centre Stage, Event

Decor Scotland, Event-TM

FLOWERS

Penelope Fleur by KDM

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Tom James Company

GROOM'S SHOES

Gucci

PLANNING

Amos Gott

PIPER

Scotia Pipers

STATIONERY

Ink Nashville

TRANSPORT

Al Minibus and Coach Services, Majestic

Wedding Cars Edinburgh

VIDEOGRAPHY

Mackenzie Wedding Films



"I felt
the most
beautiful I
have ever
felt."



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"The majority of my wedding clients are strangers. The Johnsons are a family I have loved for years. The opportunity to create something special for a family who has followed and supported my work for so long is a remarkable experience that is almost indescribable. It's like a gift; undoubtedly a career highlight. The day was one exciting moment after another."

**LESLEE, LESLEE MITCHELL
PHOTOGRAPHY**





All around the world

*Jessica Gellard
& Matthew Brown*

DATE: Friday February 3rd 2023

PHOTOGRAPHY: The Caryls

VENUE: Loch Chon, Ben A'an, and
Duchray Castle, Stirling

Jess and Matt
infused their
wedding day with
happiness and
adventure, enjoying
an intimate
outdoor ceremony
in the beautiful
Trossachs

Jess and Matt first met at school in Andover, Hampshire and began dating in 2010 while they were at college. They planned to go travelling and a year after buying and renovating their house ready for renting, they set off in September 2017. They visited Asia and Australia and, following three years of working away, their plan was to come home before embarking on a round the world trip. But then Covid hit while they were still in Western Australia. In August 2020, after nine years

together, Matt proposed at sunset at the end of a day spotting whales breaching from the shore. He also 're-proposed' in October 2022 because the pandemic had put a halt to their wedding plans. "Having been together for such a long time, we had discussions about our wedding day but always struggled with what we wanted it to look like," Jess explains. "We had never pictured our wedding to be a traditional state of affairs and we wanted it to reflect the journeys we had been on and our current lifestyle."



“We had never pictured our wedding day to be a traditional state of affairs.”

A Scottish wedding

After the Australian borders reopened, the couple finally flew home in July 2022. It had been five years since they went off travelling. They quickly decided to book more flights home for Christmas Eve, planning to surprise family and stay until the end of February.

Meanwhile, wedding planning began in November 2022, and what followed was something of a whirlwind. “Matt proposed the idea that we should get married whilst we were at home. At first this sounded crazy, as we were due to leave in just over a month and were only going to be back for two months – so how on earth were we going to plan a wedding?” Jess says. But soon they were considering Scotland as a possible location and, as a final surprise, they chose to give out invitations on Christmas Day. “We ended up deciding on the Trossachs, which was partly due to finding our photographers, The Caryl’s. We loved the way in which they document a wedding day and it really spoke to us,” Jess goes on. She adds the support and advice they got from The Caryl’s also helped them plan the rest of the wedding. “They were always there to answer our questions and gave answers beyond what we could have expected. We will be forever grateful to them for their help.”

They decided on Loch Chon for the ceremony, after which they would hike to Ben A’an. For the reception and accommodation, they chose Duchray Castle. “It was one of only a small number of accommodation options that allowed all our guests to stay on site and have the grounds to ourselves – this was an important thing for us,” Jess explains. »





“It’s a day we and all our guests will cherish forever.”



Having surprised their family on Christmas Day there was little more than a month to get everything else sorted.

There was no particular colour scheme, but the couple and their guests were advised by the photographers to use natural tones, creams and pastels to blend with the outdoors. Jess found the perfect gown in local shop Wed2be. “Within seconds I just knew that it had to be my dress – I felt amazing,” she says. Initially, she worried the ballgown style would make it almost impossible to hike to the top of a mountain, but the solution came in the shape of a Bridal Buddy underskirt. “It goes under your wedding dress and then you tuck your whole dress in it and it makes you look like a massive snowball,” Jess explains.

Jess opted for dried flower arrangements, describing her bouquet and flower crown as “beyond my wildest dreams”. Matt wore a tweed suit from Walker Slater in Glasgow and when it came to footwear, heels and brogues were definitely off the table, so they invested in matching Meindl Bhutan hiking boots.



A perfect day

With only 11 guests in total, there were no other members of their wedding party. Jess and Matt did a ‘first look’ in private at the castle before heading to the loch. “The day was calm, clear and you could see the reflection of the trees and mountains in the loch. It was perfect,” Jess recalls. “My dad waited behind with me, and then we walked down the ‘aisle’ towards our guests and my future husband. I felt relaxed and excited walking down the bank of the loch towards our closest friends and family. It felt intimate, special and unique.”

Their ceremony was conducted by independent celebrant Andrew Scott, who helped them incorporate the Scottish tradition of handfasting. They also drank the country’s national soft drink, Irn Bru, from a quaich.

Andrew was the first person to know that Jess and Matt had decided to take the new surname of Latrobe. “We wanted a name to reflect the new people we had become after leaving home and travelling the world. We wanted a daily reminder of who we are and what we should always be looking to achieve. To us, the name represents so many different things but is something we wanted to do for a long time.”

The couple were delighted to find a private chef for their intimate gathering. “After the meal, everyone stayed in the dining hall, which also had a large open floor area,” Jess smiles. “Everyone got up and danced and we all had an amazing time. The whole day was more than we could have ever dreamed of. Everything went perfectly and it’s a day we and all our guests will cherish forever.”



“The day was calm, clear and you could see the reflection of the trees and mountains in the loch.”



“I felt relaxed and excited walking down the bank of the loch towards our closest friends and family.”



BRIDE'S DRESS

'Kayla' at Wed2be

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

H. Samuel

BRIDE'S SHOES

Meindl Bhutan

CATERER

Regis Banqueting Ltd

CAKE

M&S, Maggie's Aberfoyle Kitchen

CELEBRANT

Andrew D Scott

DECOR

Hobbycraft

FLOWERS

Folky Dokey

GROOM'S SUIT

Walker Slater

HAIR

The Bride to be

MAKE-UP

Lynsay Gerry / Paintbrush Nails

RINGS

H.Samuel, Beaverbrooks

STATIONERY

HeatherLucyJ Design

VIDEOGRAPHY

Eve & Art Stories



POTOGRAPHERS' CREDIT

“We loved Jess and Matt's spontaneous, adventurous spirit! It was so great to work with a couple who were up for embracing everything and anything (including a mountain hike!) on their wedding day... The views from the top were so spectacular, and Jess and Matt definitely deserved some truly epic images!” ■

**KATY AND JIM, THE
CARYLS PHOTOGRAPHY**

Your Scottish Venues

Citation Glasgow - Matthew Smith Photography



Your Scottish Venues

NEWS & PROMOTIONS FROM ACROSS SCOTLAND



Let there be light

Good news if you've fallen in love with the views from Bachilton Barn. Thanks to the new outdoor lighting and revamped terrace area you can keep the party going outside long after the sun's gone down. We can just imagine couples taking in a final private last dance under the moonlight with the soft twinkle of the lights in the barn's eaves adding an extra glow.

The paved terrace which looks out over the pond to the gazebo beyond is also an ideal romantic setting for intimate ceremonies and fun-filled drinks receptions, making the most of Bachilton's views over the rolling hills.

BACHILTONBARN.CO.UK

Small and perfectly formed

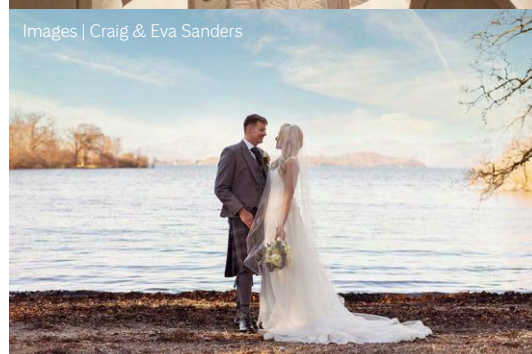
Nestled on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, the five-star Cameron House is a 17th century Scottish baronial estate steeped in history which promises fairytale-worthy weddings in the most romantic setting. And while it may be renowned for elegant and grand weddings that doesn't have to mean exchanging vows with a huge guest list.

Cameron House has curated a special Wee Wedding Package for a minimum of 50 people, ensuring the most magical day. The package, priced from £179 per guest, includes menu and wine tasting for up to four people, the Loch Fyne and Loch Katrine Suite room hire for your ceremony, wedding breakfast and reception, a three-course wedding breakfast with half a bottle of wine per guest, tea or coffee and petit fours, an evening buffet, stationery, table linen and napkins, cake stand and sword for cutting the cake, as well as a wedding night stay in a loch view studio suite with breakfast for the newlyweds.



Décor | Jordana Events

Images | Craig & Eva Sanders



Evening guests can be accommodated from £20 per person and the hotel's coordinator service is included in your package. The Wee Wedding Package is subject to availability on remaining 2023 dates.

If you're planning a wedding on a more intimate scale however, smaller celebrations can be accommodated in the hotel's Morning Room and Library.

CAMERONHOUSE.CO.UK

Food glorious food

If you've chosen one of Unusual Venues Edinburgh's three atmospheric wedding settings – Marlin's Wynd, The Rowantree and The Caves – you don't need us to tell you you're onto a winner. Located in Edinburgh's Old Town, these settings are brimming with history and character. But they've become even more tempting with a recent revamp of their wedding breakfast menus, offering base, silver and gold options. Couples now have even more choice for their first meal together as newlyweds!

The evening catering menu has also received an upgrade, extending the offerings, including a delicious 'From the Pit' section. This is where you'll find mouthwatering plates such as Argentinian asado style lamb and 12-hour slow-cooked tender beef brisket. Everything is lovingly prepared by the skilled kitchen team and we reckon they know exactly how to make your wedding meal a memory guests will savour.

UNUSUALVENUES.EDINBURGH.COM



The suite life

Weddings at Bowfield Hotel & Spa just got even more romantic with the launch of the brand new honeymoon lodge for newlyweds. The Ben Lomond lodge is named after the view it looks out on and features a master bedroom with a standalone bathtub and en-suite, cosy gas fire and a living room area with a smart TV, bluetooth speakers and a Nespresso machine – perfect for that coffee the morning after the big day! Outside you'll enjoy your own private terrace and bubbling hot tub with those stunning countryside views.

The lodge is now the venue's official honeymoon suite, meaning it's included in packages for use on the evening of

your wedding. Make the most of your stay in the suite with a late 12pm checkout, giving you the whole morning to unwind. But you don't have to wait till your wedding night to stay here. You can also book Ben Lomond Lodge for other special stays, making it perfect for engagement, anniversary or birthday celebrations.

The launch of the lodge comes hot on the heels of the recent interior upgrades at Bowfield Hotel with new lighting, carpeting and a new function suite bar. What's more, a further nine classic lodges means there's plenty of room for your guests to stay over, and all lodge and hotel guests benefit from breakfast in the Plumpy Duck restaurant and access to Bowfield's starlit swimming pool, indoor health spa area and gym. Sounds like the perfect end to your wedding.

BOWFIELDHOTEL.CO.UK



Room for everyone

Part of the charm of holding your wedding at Eden Leisure Village in Cumbernauld has always been that there's plenty of accommodation for your guests to party with you till the wee small hours before climbing into bed. And now the venue has extended its offering, adding a gorgeous new chalet to the existing 10 pods on site.

The chalet is ideal for bridal prep with great hanging space in the wardrobe area for your dress, along with plenty of natural light for your hair and make-up. It sleeps six with a kingsize bedroom, a double and a bunk bed room. There are also two shower rooms and a lounge, kitchen, dining room. Plus you'll love the views. The perfect spot to watch your guests arrive as you get your glam done! ➤

EDENLEISUREVILLAGE.CO.UK

What could be prettier than marrying on the Ayrshire coast?



Florals by Enlighten my Day

Dates for your diary

What could be prettier than marrying in a wedding venue on the Ayrshire coast? Just picture exchanging vows before kicking off your shoes for some beautiful beach photos with views out to Arran. October is your month to check out two of the Simpslnns group's elegant venues as they open their doors for their wedding fayres.

On Sunday 22nd October The Waterside in West Kilbride will welcome to-be-weds, giving them a chance to see the Kyle Suite dressed for a wedding and peruse everything the venue can offer for your special day. Admission is free and you can register your tickets on Eventbrite from 24th September.

Or if you fancy seeing how your wedding could look at sister hotel The Gailes, down the coast in Irvine, it's hosting its wedding fayre on Sunday 29th October. The recently refurbished beautiful Lagavulin Suite will be wedding-ready and we also love the outdoor wedding pavilion – a delightful setting for your ceremony – the rooftop terrace and conservatory, and the Talisker Bar. Again, admission is free and you can register your tickets on Eventbrite as of 1st October.

WATERSIDEAYRSHIRE.COM
GAILESHOTEL.COM

Going green

Citation is a stalwart of Glasgow's Merchant City, famed for its instantly recognisable blond sandstone pillars and portico. But it's had something of a glow-up recently with the business investing in the balcony to update the look and create a greener and more neutral and rustic look with new planting between those pillars. The artificial hanging foliage complements the sandstone beautifully and is UV-resistant, making the look stay fresh all year round, without the risk of fading in the good old Scottish summertime. The balcony was already a spot loved by wedding photographers and now it looks even more gorgeous!

CITATION-GLASGOW.COM

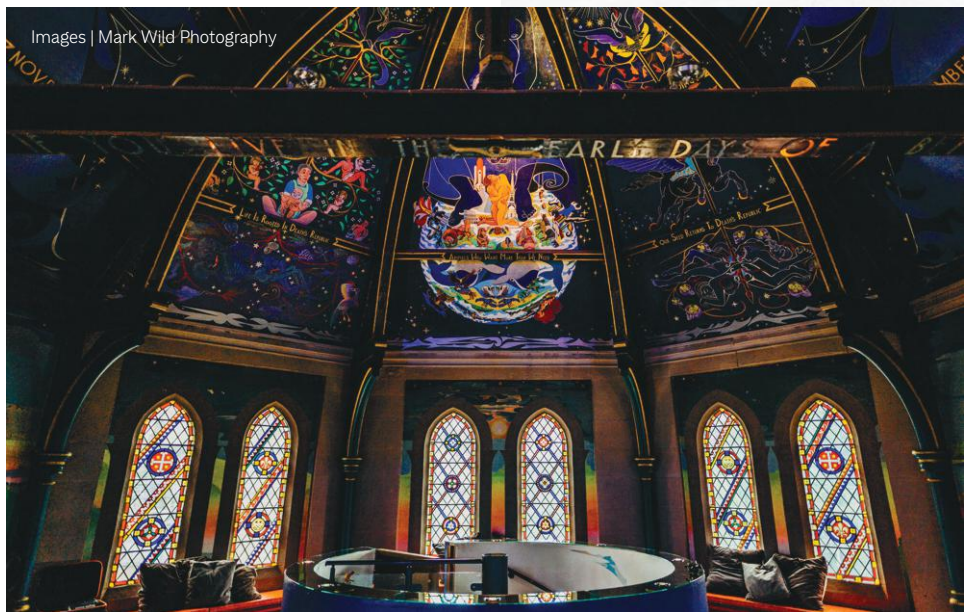


Save the date!

Formerly Kelvinside Parish Church, Oran Mór is an iconic venue in Glasgow's West End with its celestial ceiling mural by acclaimed Scottish artist and author Alasdair Gray and original ecclesiastical features. Oran Mór is the picture perfect setting for a wedding that will live in your guests' memories for years and you can come along and soak up the atmosphere for yourself on Sunday 15th October from 12pm to 4pm. The venue is holding a wedding supplier fayre so you can experience the building for yourselves and meet talented wedding industry suppliers who can help you create your dream day.

ORAN-MOR.CO.UK/WEDDINGS

Images | Mark Wild Photography



Art house

Art-loving couples, make sure you consider Cromlix in your perfect venue search. Andy and Kim Murray's famed hotel has undergone a full renovation and art has been given a central role in the playful interiors. Kim worked closely with interior designer Suzanne Garuda, after previously calling on her for their family home. Speaking of Cromlix, Kim says, "We have always viewed this as a home from home. It's definitely something we wanted to put our personal stamp on and it's got the spirit and energy of our family coming through it."

Suzanne says they wanted the design to be "a little bit fun, a little bit casual, but ultimately luxurious and welcoming." Velvets, patterns and florals have been carefully employed throughout and Suzanne says art is the "final piece of icing on the cake." "I think because Andy and Kim have such an appreciation of art themselves they understood that that was a very important element in the whole design."

The striking Damien Hirst *Cherry Blossoms* that hangs on the stairs and the eye-catching David Shrigley collection are owned by the Murrys, while Cromlix also has paintings on loan from the Royal Scottish Academy including works by Elizabeth Blackadder and Janet Melrose.

CROMLIX.COM

Fotogenic of Scotland



Natalie Holt Photography



Hot ticket

How do you fancy exchanging vows in one of Edinburgh's hottest new venues? Greyfriars Hall at Virgin Hotels Edinburgh is opening its doors for its very first open day on Sunday 12th November and you can book your chance to see inside this special space for yourself. Book your free ticket at Eventbrite and join the hotel's team for a drink and some nibbles while checking out this gorgeous venue and meeting some of its recommended wedding suppliers. You'll also be able to talk through all your Big Day dreams with the wedding and events team who'll be able to help you make them a reality. Book your ticket now!

VIRGINHOTELS.COM/EDINBURGH

Graeme Wilson Photography



Host a cosy and atmospheric wedding celebration here.

A venue for all seasons

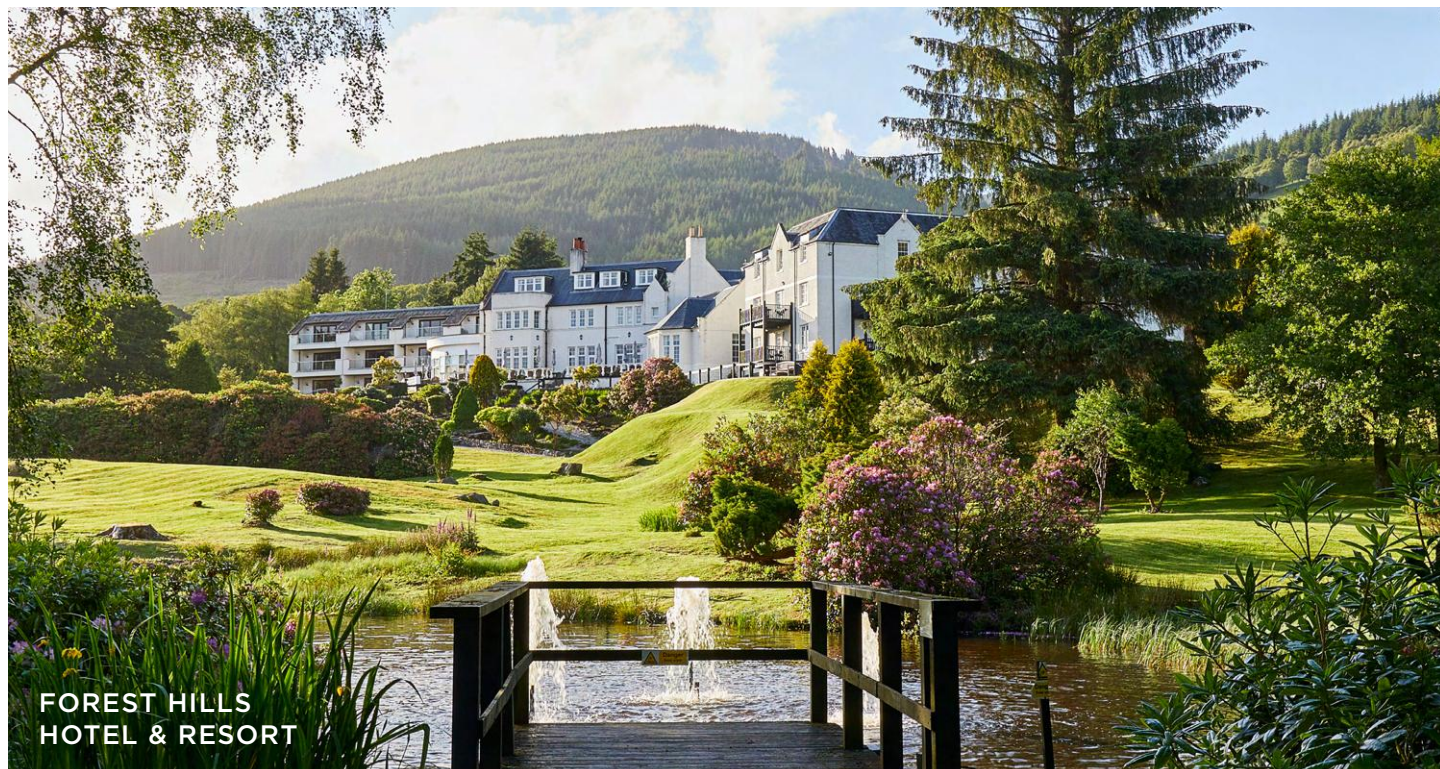
Set on the Broxmouth Park Estate near Dunbar in East Lothian, Broxmouth Courtyard is a picturesque purpose-built, exclusive use venue – the perfect setting for your luxurious wedding. Developed from the estate's old stable buildings, it retains many of the original features and exudes rustic charm. Ceremonies are typically held in the Stables Gallery which features a glazed wall, high ceiling and original stonework, while the Courtyard Dining Room – housed in the old cart shed – is flooded with natural light, thanks to two beautifully restored archways and six skylights.

While such a backdrop sets the scene for a beautifully airy summer wedding, Broxmouth Courtyard truly is a venue for all seasons. Just think of hosting a cosy and atmospheric wedding celebration here in the colder months with candlelight dancing off the stone walls, festoon lighting and fairy lights twinkling, sparklers outside and firepits in the courtyard. It's making us feel all warm and cosy at the very thought. There is still some winter availability so get in touch with Broxmouth Courtyard to see when you could say 'I do' here. ■

BROXMOUTH.COM

A day for You Made by Us

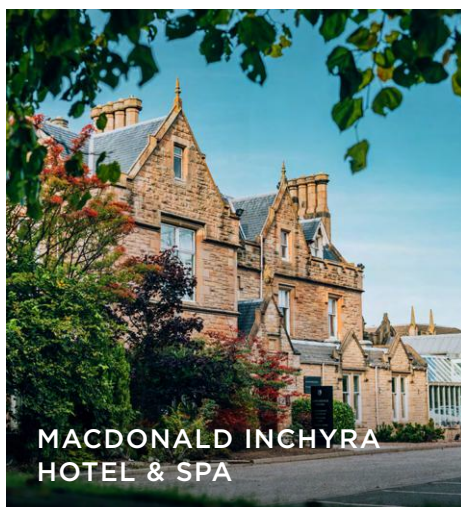
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To find out more, visit: macdonaldhotels.co.uk/Weddings

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MACDONALD
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PITTODRIE HOUSE



DRUMOSSIE



CRUTHERLAND HOUSE

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

Allow our expert wedding co-ordinators to bring your vision for your special day to life. They are experts, who can advise on all aspects of the big day. We understand how much planning goes into weddings and we have packages to suit all seasons, budgets and timelines. A day for you, made by us!

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

Our talented chef teams select only the finest and freshest seasonal ingredients to prepare delicious wedding breakfasts and evening menus with your direction on which dishes you wish to serve guests on the day.

To find out more, visit: macdonaldhotels.co.uk/Weddings

Find us on: @



MACDONALD
HOTELS & RESORTS

Cosy in!

From slow dancing amidst a dusting of snow to posing in front of moody skies to holding hands and kicking your way through crunchy leaves, there are so many natural and beautiful photo opps when you venture outdoors during your autumn or winter wedding. Choosing to tie the knot in one of the chillier seasons of the year, though, means two things. Firstly, you get to indulge in some extra accessories – hello ostrich feather wrap, funky wedding wellies and white dome broolly! Secondly, you're going to need a venue that feels like a great big hug when you return after that newlywed photoshoot. So, we've rounded up six of our fave Scottish venues where you'll find a warm welcome certainly awaits...

❖ Cluny Castle

Let us introduce you to Cluny Castle, the tranquil Aberdeenshire venue that'll fulfil all your fairytale wedding dreams. Promising a magnificent setting all-year-round, complete with a beautiful on-site chapel, truly stunning grounds, top-notch butler service and luxury accommodation for up to 26, we have to admit we reckon winter weddings at Cluny are especially romantic. Because those sweeping lawns are just asking for a subtle covering of snow, aren't they? Inside, to-be-weds will find there's a definite air of grandeur and you'll be delighted to hear the space is all yours. Will you toast to your marriage in the elegant drawing room or the cosy library? And take over the Tenants' Hall (just add a fairy-lit canopy and seasonal foliage galore) or dining room for a warming winter wedding breakfast full of hearty local produce?

CLUNYCASTLE.COM



Images | Bear and Butterfly Photography



Image | Chloe Jane Photography

⌘ Fruin Farm

When it comes to cosy, this venue has so much to offer. From enveloping you in the rustic charm of its 200-year-old barn, fairy-lit stabling and inviting snug to the glow of the complimentary firepit and the fabulously fur-clad bridal suite, it's easy to see why couples are drawn to Fruin Farm in the chillier months. Offering intimate, exclusive use celebrations for up to 60, Fruin is package-free and the team prides itself on giving couples complete control to shape their wedding in whichever way suits them. That we can get on board with! Fancy venturing out into the wild weather for some atmospheric images? You're in luck as Loch Lomond is just five minutes away! PS. For a quirky touch, we can't resist Fruin's llamas – nothing makes us feel more, ahem, warm and fuzzy...

FRUINFARM.CO.UK

⌘ Eden Leisure Village

Nestled in beautiful countryside near Glasgow (with views to die for), you can't help but want to retreat into the warmth of Eden Leisure Village. Packed with rustic, country charm and whimsical décor, there are lots of thoughtfully curated areas with their own vibes and surprises. We love the idea of wrapping up for a picturesque ceremony on the sweeping lawn then heading to the beautiful reception courtyard, The Livery, for some street food grazing boards around the patio heaters. Most couples move into the heated marquee for dinner then dance the night away in the (again, heated!) barn but, of course, your whole day can be inside if you prefer. Oh, and did we mention the truly gorgeous accommodation (including a luxury chalet and Insta-worthy glamping pods) and the on-site spa? Bliss!

EDENLEISUREVILLAGE.CO.UK



Image | On The Road Photography



Image | Chloe Jane Photography

» Bachilton Barn

It's official - it doesn't get much cosier than beautiful Bachilton Barn when the sun goes down and gorgeous twinkly lights warm the chic yet chilled venue's rustic stone walls and wooden beams. Ahhh... This 150-year-old still-in-use Perthshire farm offers to-be-weds a range of modern spaces they can use how they wish. For laid-back, intimate nuptials we love the Lochy (capacity 20) with its

BACHILTONBARN.CO.UK

French doors and idyllic pond views. But if you have a larger guest list, this makes a perfect wee hideaway (just add a snug lounge set-up) whilst the rest of your wedding party dances the night away in the ultimate blank canvas space – The Barn. Then why not round off your day with a dip in the hot tub and a snuggle under the stars? Just head for one of Bachilton's two Mongolian-style yurts.



Image | Simon Clubb Photography



Image | Photographs by Eve

» Haddo House

The north-east of Scotland is a beautiful part of the country in which to say your vows and, right in the heart of Aberdeenshire, Haddo Hall (Haddo House's stand-alone space) ticks all the cosy venue boxes. You'll find yourself enveloped in rich wooden surroundings and those gorgeous, rustic beams are just made for a fairy light canopy, aren't they? The blank canvas hall takes up to 160 for dinner and 250 for an evening reception, and live music fans will love the acoustics here. Just off the main hall there's a separate bar area – a great nook to have a moment away from the potentially loud party! Finally, don't forget the warm welcome offered in the elegant, grand Palladian-style stately home itself – and the beautiful on-site chapel, available for religious ceremonies of all Christian denominations. ■

NTS.ORG.UK/VENUE-HIRE/HADDO-HOUSE



Image | Duke Photography

» Unusual Venues Edinburgh

Want to cosy up in the capital? Unusual Venues Edinburgh has you covered with not one but *three* atmospheric, exclusive use spaces where the golden glints of flickering candles bounce beautifully off the exposed brick walls, creating the most distinctive of settings in which to celebrate your marriage. The cosiest of the trio – literally – magical Marlin's Wynd can host up to 50 for your ceremony and 120 later on. Next up, The Rowantree (dramatic, arched ceilings, anyone?) can accommodate 70 to witness you saying 'I do', and a further 40 at night. The largest venue (capacity 150 day guests, 200 evening), The Caves makes up the sub-structure of Edinburgh's 18th century South Bridge. With each and every room boasting nooks and crannies full of Scottish history, it's definitely somewhere that'll get everyone talking.

UNUSUALVENUESEDINBURGH.COM

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Brodie Castle



© Karen Thornburn Photography

Mar Lodge



Glencoe

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Share *your love* with us,

and we will share your love with Scotland.

Whether your dream special day is a hillside elopement in the wild Scottish landscape, a micro wedding in a beautiful heritage garden, or a grand celebration at a castle, by choosing our venues you're also supporting our vital conservation work across the country.

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nts.org.uk/weddings

The National Trust for Scotland is a Scottish charity, SC007410



Hill of Tarvit

© Rankine Photography



Fyvie Castle

© Sophie Alexandra



**NATIONAL
TRUST for
SCOTLAND**

» Macdonald Crutherland House Hotel

This dog-friendly venue in East Kilbride is the ideal place to enjoy a unique and picturesque wedding day. Set in an 18th century manor house and surrounded by 37 acres of private grounds and woodland, Crutherland House is a charming and romantic setting.

It was originally built in 1705 as a manor for Lady Dowager of Torrance Castle, and whether you're planning a big bash or an intimate gathering, there's a space to suit every wedding.

Dogs can be part of the ceremony all day, but not during food service. They are permitted to stay in standard rooms only, are not allowed into the restaurant or leisure club, but are welcome in the cocktail bar and lounge area. You can also grab some gorgeous photos with your pet on the pristine lawns and in the beautiful woodlands.

**MACDONALDHOTELS.CO.UK/
CRUTHERLAND-HOUSE**



THE Paw-fect WEDDING

Pets are such an important part of the family, so we've sniffed out six wedding venues that will welcome yours with open arms ...



» Macdonald Aviemore

With spectacular scenery in a romantic Highlands location, Macdonald Aviemore has pet-friendly rooms and also allows dogs in wedding ceremonies. Just imagine the amazing photographs you'll get when you're both posing with your pet against the backdrop of the hotel's stunning scenery.

Inside, there's splendour and luxury to enjoy and with a variety of room sizes, the venue can cater for an intimate gathering of 20, to populous celebrations of 450. Hold a small religious ceremony in the onsite chapel or exchange your wedding vows in a civil or humanist ceremony.

For an extravagant outdoor wedding, the grounds offer breathtaking views of the National Park before retiring inside for dinner. And once you've tied the knot, you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to finding paths, trails and mountains to explore together, along with your four-legged friend.

MACDONALDHOTELS.CO.UK/AVIEMORE

» Citation

Dogs are welcome all day at Citation, making it a great choice in central Glasgow for pet owners who are saying 'I do'. Two centuries in the making, nestled within the grandeur of the Merchant City, Citation is the epicentre of elegance.

Dating back to 1844, the venue has a rich history. Originally the

Sheriff Court building, its sandstone columns dominate the prominent B-listed exterior, dressed in fairy lights to delicately illuminate a picture-perfect atmosphere.

When it comes to wedding ceremonies, there's no grander place to have your beloved pooch watching proceedings from the sidelines. Meanwhile, you'll be sure to grab some excellent outdoor photos together in front of the beautiful neoclassical architecture on Glasgow's Wilson Street or from the amazing private balcony amongst the building's impressive columns.

CITATION-GLASGOW.COM



» Broxmouth Courtyard

Great news for pooches – all areas of Broxmouth Courtyard are dog friendly. This purpose-built, exclusive use venue located in the grounds of the Broxmouth Park estate, provides a luxury setting for weddings and private events.

Developed from the estate's old stable buildings and maintaining many original features, Broxmouth Courtyard offers couples a chance to wed in a venue full of character and rustic charm. As well as

being able to have your canine companion join you during the ceremony, all of the estate's beautifully appointed self-catering cottages, which are available to wedding parties, welcome pets.

From the Stables Gallery, designed for wedding ceremonies, to the Courtyard Dining Room, which was the estate's old cart shed, it's a dog-friendly dream for couples planning their wedding celebrations.

BROXMOUTH.COM

Helen Molchanoff



Lewis Cannon Photography

» Fingask Castle

If you're pet owners with your hearts set on a romantic wedding against the backdrop of a historic Scottish castle, then Fingask is the ideal venue. You can have your wedding in the castle, pavilion marquee or outdoors in the beauty of the surrealist gardens with their spectacular topiary.

Dogs are welcome in the grounds provided they are kept on a lead, as guinea fowl and chickens range in the garden. They are also welcome in the castle itself and participation in ceremonies is possible both inside and outdoors.

There's self-catering accommodation available for up to 70 people and dogs can stay, but should not be left unattended. And once all the celebrations are complete, you can also enjoy the surrounding woodlands and beautiful walks with your beloved pooch. Just think of the wedding pics!

FINGASKCASTLE.CO.UK



Graeme Wilson Photography

» Macdonald Houstoun House

This romantic wedding venue is secluded and peaceful, and dogs are most welcome to join in proceedings. Set in 22 acres of beautiful woodland and elegant, sweeping grounds, Macdonald Houstoun House is the perfect backdrop for a beautiful day with the important creatures in your lives.

The striking 16th century tower house was once visited by Mary Queen of Scots, who was also known to be

fond of dogs. There are a few restrictions for pet owners in that dogs are not allowed in any of the tower bedrooms, swimming pool area or restaurant. Aside from that, there's no stopping them being an important part of your big day.

The hotel's unique character and spectacular setting make it an ideal venue and the dedicated wedding managers will ensure everything runs smoothly. ■

MACDONALDHOTELS.CO.UK/HOUSTOUN-HOUSE





Isle of Skye - Andrew Rae Photographer
The wedding of Alex and Nicola, owners
of Skye Red Fox Retreat



Aberdeen, Grampian, Highlands & Islands



DATE: Saturday 18th June 2022
PHOTOGRAPHY: Apricot Tree Photography
VENUE: Cluny Castle, Sauchen



Je t'aime

Tara & Marc

“From the moment I put it on, the dress felt like a second skin.”



Tara and Marc chose sophisticated, minimalist décor, then maxed out on love, family and fun at their uplifting French/Scottish fusion wedding

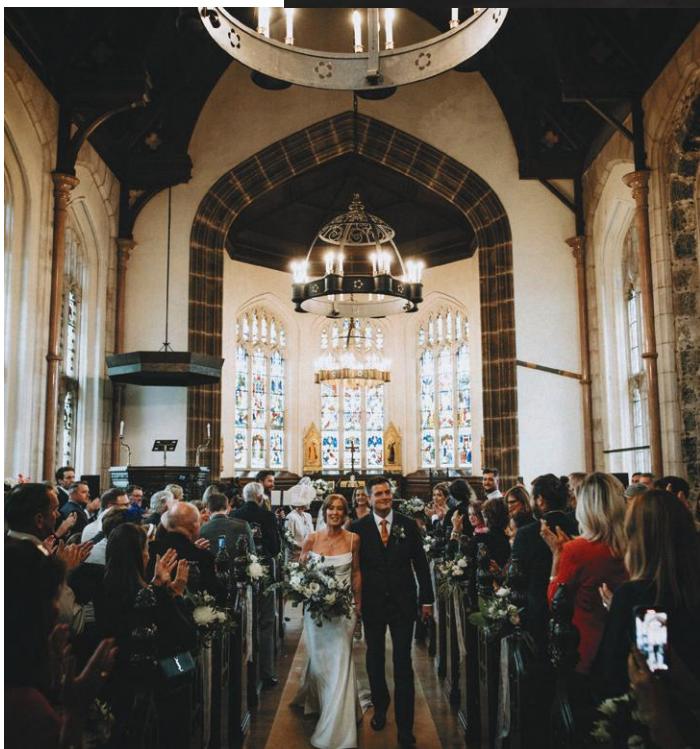
After 10 years together and a romantic proposal in the south of France (where the groom is from), London-based couple Tara and Marc decided they wanted to wed in a Scottish castle one year later.

They thought venue hunting would be “pretty straightforward” but confess they hadn’t anticipated how far in advance places get snapped up. “Several were already fully booked for 2022 and 2023,” remembers Tara. “But Cluny Castle had a weekend space in June 2022 and it seemed like fate because it’s close to Aberdeen where I grew up. It was lovely to come back to the area and, of course, Cluny is a beautiful setting. With the pond, gardens and castle being so spectacular, I don’t think we could have found a more gorgeous venue.”

Getting organised

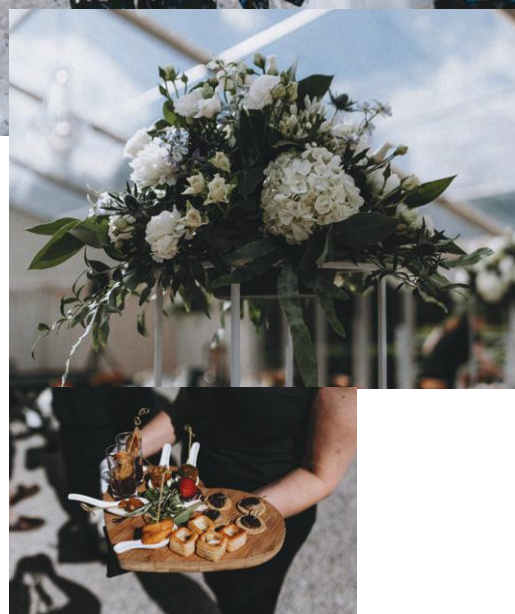
Planning from afar was mixed. Tara admits freaking out when she realised caterers and photographers are also snapped up well ahead but luckily “amazing advice” from Fiona and Natalie at Cluny set the pair on the right path and their supplier list fell into place quite quickly. “Being far away meant we couldn’t attempt to micro-manage, which I think helped,” adds Tara. “We left a lot of things to the experts and everyone involved gave great advice.” That said, good champagne and wine was a priority for Marc so he went to considerable effort on that front! Décor-wise, they kept it minimal (white and blue/green) and entrusted florist Isla Duncan to recreate Tara’s Pinterest board.

Minimalism was key when it came to dress shopping, too, and Tara found ‘The One’ in Canada while visiting family. “From the moment I put it on, it felt right – so comfortable and like a second skin.” She was able to order it from a London boutique, then it was time to accessorise. “With a simple dress I wanted fabulous shoes, and I found a baby blue pair of Manolo Blahnik mules with a crystal strap. They were just perfect – and my ‘something blue.’” She also bought a pair of white »





“My engagement ring is a Chopard ‘Happy Diamonds’ ring, with a floating diamond that moves as the wearer moves.”



Alexander McQueen trainers with a silver heel tab as a comfy evening option and a simple yet subtly sparkly veil. She added sentimental jewellery (a ring that had been in Marc’s family for generations, a pendant he bought her on a trip to India and a bracelet from her parents) and an ostrich feather bolero in case Aberdeenshire didn’t deliver on tropical summer temperatures.

All kitted out, it was time to head down the aisle – and she found it far more emotional than she’d expected. “I was amazed at the staying power of my make-up,” Tara laughs. The pair had a humanist ceremony that reflected their values and, luckily, celebrant Lorna Hanlon is bilingual, so the majority was in both French and English. They wrote their own vows and incorporated a handfasting ritual, which was new to many of the overseas guests.

Get the party started

The sunny drinks reception took place at the front of the castle and guests enjoyed champagne, rosé wine and beer, followed by a vodka and gin bar, courtesy of a friend’s French distillery. Next, Country Flavours of Alford provided a locally-sourced wedding breakfast (having done loads of Cluny weddings they gave great advice on the best set-up), served in a marquee with a clear roof that made the most of the castle views.

The speeches were a French/English mix, and the highlight was when Marc’s grown-up daughters spoke. “We hadn’t anticipated this and it was a lovely surprise,” smiles the bride. “In any blended family there are important moments and the wedding brought us even closer together. Marc had to do his speech

after and there was no way he could top them!”

After an emotional day, the newlyweds and their guests let loose on the dancefloor. “The dancing was quite wild,” remembers Tara. “The ceilidh band did their best to call the moves but our French guests preferred free-styling, and several dances ended up with the whole crowd doing a conga!”

Reflecting on their “magical” day, Marc and Tara would advise other couples, especially those planning from afar, not to sweat the small stuff. “There were a lot of unknowns. We hadn’t seen the marquee before arriving, for example, and really had to trust that the caterer and florist interpreted our ideas the way we wanted. On the other hand, they really talked with us and were totally on top of things, so we didn’t have major concerns. Having not seen the marquee fully dressed meant when we did walk into it, there was a sense of wonder that this beautiful atmosphere was created just for us and our loved ones. And yes, things will happen that you don’t anticipate but everyone will pull the stops out to fix it for your big day.”



“In any blended family there are important moments and the wedding brought us even closer together.”



BAND

Grouse Ceilidh Band

BRIDE'S DRESS

Mikaella at London Bride Couture

BRIDE'S SHOES

Manolo Blahnik, Alexander McQueen

BRIDE'S VEIL

The Wedding Veil Shop

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CELEBRANT

Lorna Hanlon of Humanist Society
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CATERING

Country Flavours of Alford

FLOWER GIRL DRESSES

Next

FLOWERS

Isla Duncan Florist

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Cad & The Dandy

GUEST TRANSPORT

RS Coaches

HAIR

Kerry Anne Bridal Hair

MAKE-UP

Tracey Cepeda Makeup Artistry

MARQUEE

Esslemont Marquees

STATIONERY

Elle Bee Design

VIDEOGRAPHY

Inspire Video



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“It was a very emotion-filled day, which really shines through in the images captured. There was endless laughter from the speeches and a surprise family dance. It's apparently tradition to perform a dance and song at all big events and this was no exception. It was fantastic, and clear to see how much thought and effort they'd all put into it!”

**SEAN, APRICOT TREE
PHOTOGRAPHY ■**



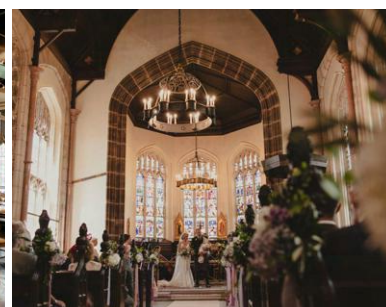
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On top of the world

*Lucy Edgington
& Rory Weir*

DATE: Saturday 1st April 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: loveweddingphotosandfilm.com
VENUE: Dunglass Estate, Cockburnspath

If you've been following 'I do' diary couple Lucy and Rory, you'll be delighted to know they're now officially Dr and Mrs Weir

When Lucy revealed that Rory had taken one of her besties (before she moved to Australia for two years for work) to choose her engagement ring, our hearts melted a lot. This was set to be a lovely love story. Rory followed up his sentimental start with a clifftop proposal in Wales and they started to explore the wonderful world of wedding planning. "We wanted to secure our venue and date first," remembers the bride. And when they found their dream destination, Dunglass Estate, nothing else compared. "We just got a feeling and totally fell in love

with the setting. It's absolutely stunning."

Next, they got in touch with suppliers to check availability, and booked the celebrant, photographer, videographer and band, whilst Lucy set to work designing the stationery and masterminding the majority of the décor with the help of her mum and her florist Rosie. "She took our inspiration pictures and really brought them to life. She's also the loveliest person ever," smiles Lucy. They used blues and navy throughout, added a gorgeous semi-naked cake and kept the favours simple with scratch cards that said; 'We tied the knot, we hope you win the jackpot!'



“We totally fell in love with the setting of Dunglass Estate.”



Wedding weekend

The couple set up the venue the afternoon before the big day, then ordered pizzas and had drinks with their favourite people. “It was great that everyone was already at the venue in the morning. It made things really easy – and was one of the reasons we chose Dunglass.”

Lucy loved getting ready and gives kudos to Jenny and Georgia from her style team for the massive part they played. “They’re so good at what they do but also they kept us right with our timings and were the biggest ‘hype girls’ for the whole bridal party. They took so many videos and pictures and made us all feel fabulous.”

The final part of the puzzle before heading down the aisle was her gown and, despite finding the shopping experience tricky (“I’d heard of people finding their dress in the first shop they looked in so when I was on the fourth or fifth appointment in Edinburgh I was starting to worry. That’s when I booked Melle Cloche in Glasgow and found my dream dress. It just needed me to choose another city to look in!”) Lucy picked a beauty; a sleeveless Jesus Peiro number with voluminous ruffles, a low back, a nipped waist, a long train and – much to the bride’s delight – pockets. Because her statement shoulder detail did a lot of the talking, she kept her accessories simple with freshwater pearl jewellery and a ‘something borrowed’ veil from bridesmaid Helen.

Excited but anxious (nightmares about tripping down the aisle had not helped matters), Lucy remembers feeling “so happy” to have her dad by her side, her loved ones in the same room and Rory at the end of the aisle. The couple adored their >>



“Niki told our story perfectly and set the tone for the entire day.”



independent celebrant Niki Smith right from the start. “It felt like we’d known her for years and from the very first call right up until our wedding morning, she had an amazing ability to put us at complete ease,” said the bride. Niki wrote their story from questions they’d submitted, then revealed it at the altar. “She had the whole room hooked. There were tears but also plenty of laughter. She told our story perfectly and set the tone for the entire day.”

A drinks reception with Bouvet, bottled beer and soft drinks followed – “Our caterers did a fantastic job of keeping guests’ glasses filled up!” – before the couple were piped into the wedding breakfast by their friend Greg, ready for a glorious sharing-style feast. Their grilled mains (a mouthwatering selection of burgers and skewers) were accompanied by some sumptuous sides (we’re massively liking the sound of Mujadara - a combo of lentils, rice and crispy onions) and followed by a salted caramel brownie with berries and cream.

For Lucy, the wonderful words said in the four speeches – by her dad, Rory’s dad, the best men and her new husband – were one of her wedding



highlights because she knew “how much love and effort each and every person had made to prepare to speak”.

Another high, though, was the reception where The Socials kept the dance floor full all night with live music and a ceilidh. “The band was incredible and the room was buzzing. We loved seeing people enjoy themselves, realising how lucky we are to be surrounded by people who we adore and who love us back. I also loved dancing with my flower girl. She’s a dancer and I knew she’d be itching to show off her moves. And we loved *Loch Lomond* at the end. Our friends had us on their

shoulders and it was so much fun being above everyone... Literally on top of the world.”

The newlyweds continued to soak up the love the following day, strolling at the coast with loved ones before spending the afternoon in the sun at the Dunglass treehouse, drinking Champagne and enjoying the hot tub while reflecting on their special day. “It’s said so many times but when the day arrives it honestly is the fastest of your life. I kept wanting to pause time to catch up with conversations and dance with everyone but it’s just not possible. So, live in the moment and enjoy the day with your new spouse!”



"We loved looking around seeing people enjoy themselves."



"Don't get overwhelmed. I live my life and work with to do lists, so I made a big one that I could add to and chip away at."



BAND

The Socials via Coast Entertainments

BRIDE'S DRESS

Jesus Peiro at Melle Cloche

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

Kiri & Belle

BRIDE'S SHOES

Maje

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

ASOS

CATERER

Platter & Pop

CELEBRANT

Niki Smith of Sophisticated Ceremonies

CAKE

Bella's Cakes

FLOWERS

The Petal Shoppe

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Clan Kilts Ltd

HAIR

Bridal Hair by Georgia Peters

MAKE-UP

Jenny Ross Makeup Artistry, Lucy Easing

ASSISTING MAKEUP ARTIST

Lucy Easingwood

RINGS

Jewellery by Liam Ross

VIDEOGRAPHY

Love Wedding Photos And Film

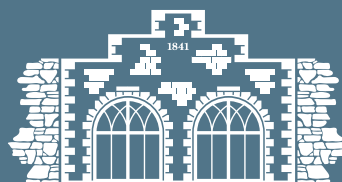


PHOTOGRAPHERS' CREDIT

"We loved how relaxed Lucy and Rory were throughout the day. Just two lovely, happy, authentic people who went with the flow, which we feel shows in their photos. A joy to photograph and film." ■

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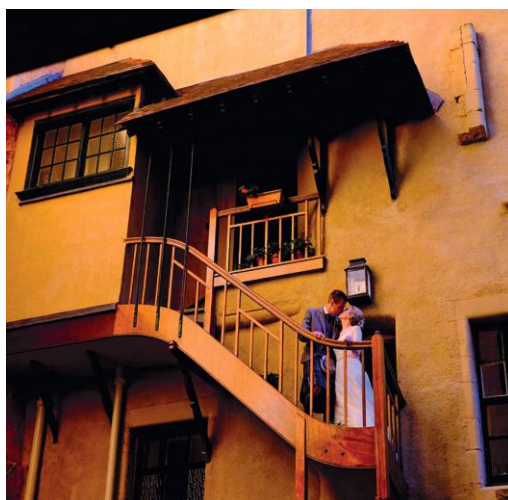
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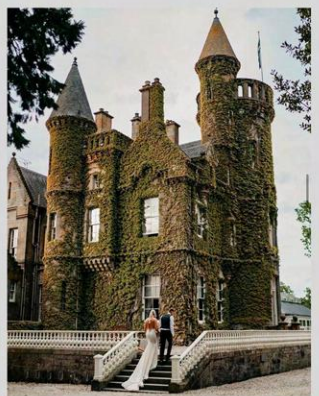
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Feel *the* LOVE

*Clare Allison
& Jared Fairbank*

DATE: Saturday 3rd September 2022
PHOTOGRAPHY: Duke Photography
VENUE: Kinkell Byre, St Andrews



This couple celebrated their wedding day in a magical spot near St Andrews with guests travelling from near and far.



Doctors Clare and Jared met in 2016 while working on a hospital night shift in Adelaide, Australia. Clare, originally from Edinburgh, had just moved there, while Jared was from the city. Three years later, Jared proposed to Clare at the top of a secluded waterfall in Northern Australia. He had designed a stunning solitaire diamond with a yellow gold band for her.

“Our first priority was the venue,” Clare explains. “We really wanted somewhere special, but relaxed. St Andrews holds a special place in our hearts and Kinkell Byre was so magical. As soon as we viewed it for the first time we loved it.”

The couple had to delay their wedding twice due to the pandemic and eventually got married over a year after the original date.

Fortunately, there were no apologies on the day, so they were finally able to celebrate with their 120 guests.

“We wanted the theme of the wedding to match the Byre, but also bring a luxurious feel to it,” Clare says, “The palette was soft neutrals with a focus on florals, especially hydrangeas and calla lilies, soft textures with velvet and tulle contrasting with the old

stone walls, vintage furniture and soft candle lighting.” Clare’s mum Sue is a painter and she made a sketch of Kinkell Byre, which ran through the stationery on the day.



A special experience

Clare wanted to design her own wedding dress and, to gather inspiration, she went shopping with her mum. “It was such a special experience to share with her. After we tried on dresses we sat and had a glass (or two!) of champagne together and started sketching the dress,” Clare recalls.

It was made at Caleche Bridal in Adelaide and was a strapless gown of crepe, with overlying layers of soft organza and hand-sewn lace detailing on the bodice. “My favourite feature was an organza and tulle detachable train with an organza bow at the back. They even sewed in a handkerchief from my late Nanny to the inside of the dress as my ‘something blue,’” Clare adds. Her Van Cleef and Arpels Alhambra pendant with gold chain was gifted by Jared on the morning of their wedding.

Clare had five bridesmaids and two bridesmen. “The bridesmaids all chose dresses from ASOS. As two were pregnant, I selected a colour and they had the freedom to choose their own style. They all looked so wonderful,” she says.

Jared wore tartan trews in Clare’s family tartan and Clare’s bridesmen wore kilts from McCalls with bow ties matching the bridesmaid dresses and the ties worn by Jared’s groomsmen. Mum Sue wore a stunning tailored dress with colourful pleats by Suzannah London.

The night before the wedding, Clare and Jared invited everyone to the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews for drinks and dinner. “It was really important to us that people could relax and mingle the night before, having a lot of guests from Australia to meet our Scottish friends and family,” Clare explains.

They also hired nearby resort Morton of Pitmilley for family and friends. Clare and her family have been staying there since she was a baby. “I slept at Morton of Pitmilley with my parents, brother and sister in law,” she says, “I was so relaxed when I woke up, everyone was so excited and it was such a special morning. My parents gifted me three wedding bands which belonged to my late Nanny and relatives, and Jared had left me a card and a beautiful gift to open.”

Jared stayed at the Old Course Hotel and enjoyed a room service breakfast before his groomsmen joined him for some putting on the golf course. »



“It was so important to me having all my family by my side.”

By my side

Musician Ali Robertson played *Can You Feel the Love Tonight* by Elton John on piano as Clare walked down the aisle, and Clare's best friend Gordon played cello during the ceremony.

“I walked down the aisle with my dad holding my hand. It was incredibly special having him beside me. I am so close to my family and it was so important to me having them all by my side, so my mum and brother walked down the aisle together too,” Clare says. “Seeing Jared at the end of the aisle smiling back at me is one of my happiest memories. He was so thrilled to have his whole family by his side and it was so special they could travel from Australia for the wedding.

The couple had a humanist ceremony, describing it as the perfect balance between meaningful and lighthearted. “Jared and I wrote our own vows to one another and, whilst a little daunting, felt incredibly special,” Clare smiles.

For the drinks reception, the couple curated a fantastic selection of wines. “Living in South Australia we have some incredible vineyards nearby so wine was a huge focus for us,” Clare explains. Her brother Hamish and close friend Mark did an “amazing job” as the masters of ceremony and she says one of her favourite and most special parts of the day was hearing her dad Richard's incredible speech.

After dinner, the cocktail bar opened and the band played a mix of ceilidh dances and covers. The Australian contingent had even been practising for the ceilidh! Clare adds; “The atmosphere was just incredible, the dance floor was such a great vibe, cocktails were in hand and kilts were swinging!”



BAND

Woohoo Band

BRIDE'S DRESS

Caleche Bridal, Adelaide

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

Van Cleef & Arpels

BRIDE'S SHOES

Jimmy Choo

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

ASOS

CATERER

Lazy Sunday and The Great Grog

CAKE

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CELEBRANT

Linda Stewart, Humanist Society of Scotland

DECOR

Gloam, Virginia's Vintage Hire and Stephen

Leslie Lighting

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Event Bar St Andrews

FLOWERS

Amy Annand Flowers

GROOM'S OUTFIT

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Oscar Hunt, Adelaide

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Hair Beauty Bridal

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Laura Russell at The Old Course

RINGS

Laings and Diamond Design Studios, Adelaide

SINGER/PIANIST

Ali Robertson

STATIONERY

Gloam

TRANSPORT

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VIDEOGRAPHER

Gione Da Silva Films

WEDDING PLANNER

Coleen McKay

“Jared and I wrote our own vows to one another.”



“St Andrews holds a special place in our hearts and Kinkell Byre was so magical.”



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

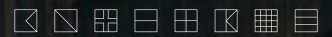
“We loved being Clare and Jared's photographers. Kinkell is no stranger to an epic party and their celebrations did not disappoint. From the moment we arrived their infectious friendliness and joie de vivre set the pace for a legendary wedding weekend.” ■

DOM, DUKE PHOTOGRAPHY

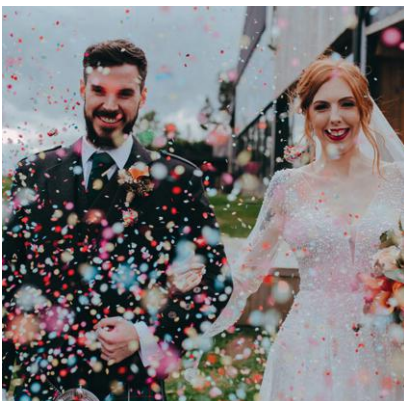




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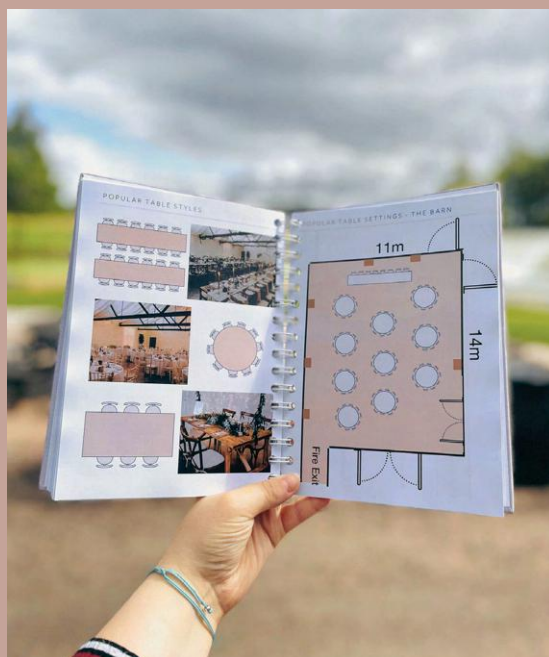


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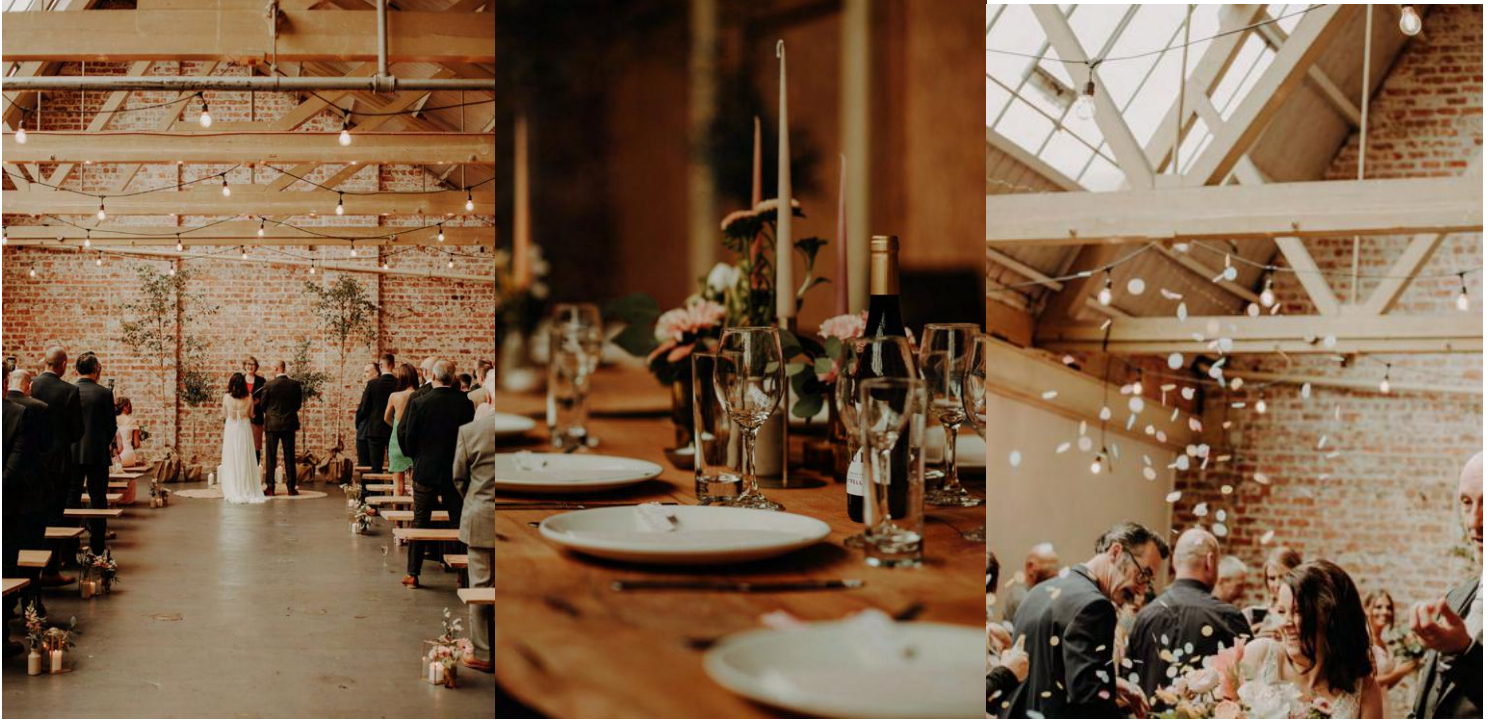
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Cathedral of the Isles, Millport - David Grant Simpson Photography

Glasgow, Loch Lomond & the South West

Venues

Take my hand

*Francesca Macleod
& Gavin Elder*

DATE: Saturday 27th May 2023
PHOTOGRAPHY: Kev Moulds Photography
VENUE: Sorn Castle, Ayrshire



This couple's patient wait for the right wedding venue paid off with a day filled with love and happiness against the backdrop of a stunning Scottish castle.



What to wear?

Francesca had no idea what kind of dress she wanted and was feeling apprehensive about starting the process. "I made an appointment with a few different shops, but luckily the first designer I went to gave me the option of a custom-made dress so I was able to style it exactly to my specifications."

It was a simple A-line design in ivory satin with a train. She opted not to wear a veil and accessorised with diamond pear-shaped earrings and a necklace from John McKay Jewellers in Paisley, a diamond tennis bracelet from her aunt, and ivory satin shoes from Dune with diamond and pearl details on the heel.

Her bridesmaid was Gavin's sister Gemma; "As an only child, she is the sister I never had. She knows me inside out and I trust her with everything," Francesca adds that Gavin looked handsome in his Spirit of Loch Earn tartan kilt. His best man Craig was a friend from university and his usher, Michael, a childhood friend.

The day before the wedding, the couple's friends and family gathered at the castle. "I stayed with my mum and dad which was very relaxing," Francesca says. "I got up really early on the morning of the wedding, which isn't like me! I'm usually not an early riser. However, I had gone to bed pretty early the night before, so was well-rested. The morning of the wedding was great. We just took our time getting ready over a few glasses of champagne. It felt very calm in the house."

Appreciate the moment

Having a May wedding, the couple knew there was a chance the weather wouldn't allow for them to marry outside – but to their delight, it was fair on the day. "I was able to see Gavin »



"Saying our vows was very emotional and we had both written our own."

Having met a decade ago while working for the same organisation in Glasgow, Gavin proposed to Francesca on Christmas Eve 2016 after two years together. But the couple – who also relocated to London for a time after their engagement – weren't to know it would be third time lucky when it came to saying "I do".

After originally planning to wed in sunny Portofino on the Italian Riviera, Francesca and Gavin had to rethink due to the emergence of Covid. "Since the pandemic seemed to be going on for so long, we then started to plan a small affair in Camden registry office," Francesca explains, "However, on reflection, we decided that wasn't for us and we wanted all of our closest family and friends to be able to attend – so we waited."

And the wait meant they found their perfect venue in historic and picturesque Sorn Castle for the guest list of 75 they had always wanted. "Growing up in Ayrshire, there were a variety of venues to choose from and Sorn Castle scored top in all the boxes for me," Francesca says. "We fell in love with the venue for its individuality, the landscape, the various options of where we could get married and really because of Martyn and all of his team, who we knew straight away would make our day extra special."

The colour scheme was a blend of rich burgundy and blush pink to provide a contrast, and Francesca reveals there was no specific theme for the day apart from it being a chilled-out party!



“We wanted a ceremony that truly reflected our personalities.”

from the bottom of the stairs and take the extra time to appreciate the moment,” Francesca recalls. She walked down the aisle to the iconic Elvis Presley song *Can’t Help Falling in Love* performed by Jennifer Armstrong, who also played piano.

The couple had a humanist ceremony with celebrant Janet Hamilton. “We wanted a ceremony that truly reflected our personalities, our priorities and commitment to one another, witnessed by our friends and family,” Francesca explains. “Saying our vows was very emotional and we had both written our own, in our own way – I had written a poem to Gavin and he wrote a collection of vows which were deeply moving.”

Post-ceremony drinks and canapés followed in the grounds of Sorn Castle allowing people to mingle while singer Jennifer performed. At night there was live music as well as a drum and pipe battle from Unison Entertainment Group, which wowed the crowd.

Francesca describes the atmosphere as; “Party central – everyone just had the best time, it really topped off from start to finish what had been a wonderful day.”

She says the highlight was getting married, and the atmosphere for their wedding. “We really had the best day ever surrounded by all the people we love,” she adds. “Having been together for so many years, it’s surreal that the day has now been and gone, the marriage licence is official and I’m looking forward to what the next chapter in our lives brings.”



“We fell in love with the venue for its individuality.”



“We really had the best day ever surrounded by all the people we love.”



BAND

Echo State

BRIDE'S DRESS

Susanne Christyne Bridal Design

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

John McKay Jewellers

BRIDE'S SHOES

Dune

BRIDESMAID DRESS

Wedding Wise

CAKE

3D Cakes

CELEBRANT

Janet Hamilton, Humanist Society Scotland

DÉCOR

LBS Event Design

ENTERTAINMENT

Unison Entertainment Group,
Photobomb 360

FLOWERS

Every Bloomin Thing

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Kilts 4 U

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Nik Makeup Artist

RINGS

John McKay Jewellers

SINGER AND PIANIST

Jennifer Armstrong

STATIONERY

DollyBird Stationery

TRANSPORT

Ayrshire Wedding Cars



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“From our first meeting I got on so well with Francesca and Gavin and laughed aloud about their stories, wedding and photo ideas and random things like paintings of weird wee sheep (inside joke). I knew we would get on great and their wedding would be special. The couple were clearly so much in love and it showed all the way through the day.” ■

**KEV, KEV MOULDS
PHOTOGRAPHY**

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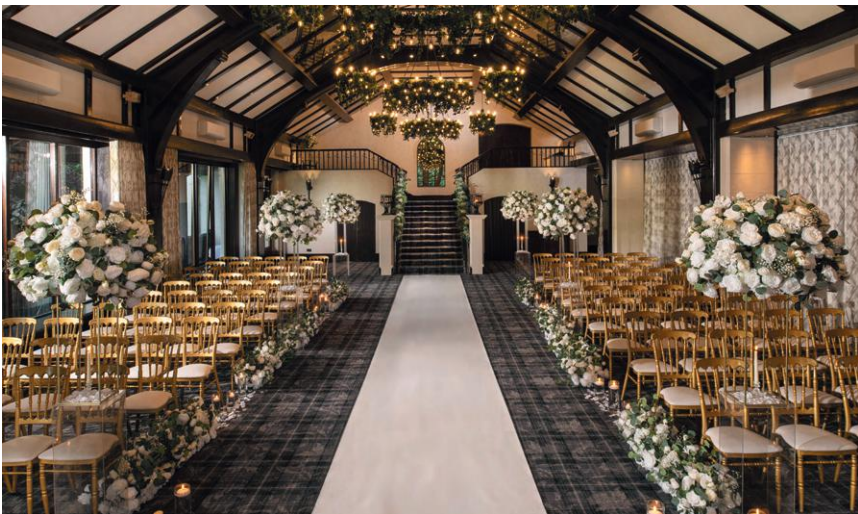


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YSW on tour • New beginnings

Head of editorial **Katie Bletcher** checks out Citation's new incarnation as an exclusive-use wedding and events space



Nestled in the heart of Merchant City, Citation is something of a Glasgow institution. Pre-pandemic the former sheriff court building was a lively bar and restaurant and the backdrop to many a first date. So what could be more fitting than holding your wedding here?

It's undergone a transformation and in July 2021 reopened as an exclusive use wedding and events venue. Arriving outside Citation with its balcony, sandstone columns and portico you can't fail to be impressed by its old world grandeur. Yet for all its period features, it's far from imposing and the brand new evergreen foliage peeking out between the pillars lends a sense of playfulness and informality.

Inside the old building's DNA is skillfully blended with modern design. Exposed brick walls and alcoves

combine effortlessly with the curving marble bar top, sumptuous fabrics and artificial orchids in the windows and cherry blossom trees on the bar. And the lift ensures the building is fully accessible.

I enter the ground floor Taverne Bar where guests typically enjoy a drinks reception and maybe music at the grand piano before being ushered to the Merchant Suite upstairs for the ceremony.

On the day I visit there's a beautiful floral archway installed at the bottom of the stairs from LBS Event Design & Wedding Planners, one of Citation's trusted suppliers, but apart from that the ceremony set-up is the venue's complete 'blank canvas'. Don't be fooled into thinking blank canvas means a totally empty space here though. Citation provides pretty lime-washed chiavari chairs, lanterns to line the aisle or be dotted around, a signing table and LED candles in the cabinets at the top of the aisle and in elegant candelabra.

You could walk down the aisle to live music or take advantage of the venue's PA system. Following the ceremony it's back downstairs for a drinks reception and at this point weddings manager Pauline Muir likes to usher everyone outside so the photographer can get a group shot from the balcony. Speaking of which, they are going to love its photo ops, especially on a rainy day! With its heaters and fairy lights winding up the pillars, the balcony is also a popular spot for drinks - and the aforementioned new foliage is so on trend.

Citation weddings can be as intimate as 12 people for the ceremony with a larger evening reception at night but



David Ruff Photography

generally the minimum is 50, going up to 130 at night with the all-inclusive package including cake, flowers for the top table, stationery, crockery, glassware and a DJ.

If your numbers are under 60, dinner is served on one side of the Merchant Suite but higher numbers mean the ceremony side is also used. However, don't worry your guests won't hear the speeches. There are two projectors, the PA system, mic and MC to ensure all runs smoothly.

And you are in for a treat when it comes to dinner. Citation has introduced a new menu with plenty of gluten-free and vegetarian options for inclusivity. A sure-fire hit is the quails egg crostini with truffle mayo. Citation's menu selector - whereby guests have a choice of three options per course - has also been refreshed. You'll now find a roast menu alongside old favourites and even a sprinkle sponge cake for a bit of nostalgia!

After dinner, guests return to the Taverne Bar for the evening reception and I love the idea of them helping themselves to cocktail trees on the cosy mezzanine level on the way down.

The Taverne Bar with its full cocktail menu and Tennants on tap is the perfect space for your evening celebrations with light up LOVE letters on the dancefloor and LED strip lighting that can be set to any colour or placed on a disco setting. Ready for you to dance the night away! citation-glasgow.com ■



Images | David Ruff Photography





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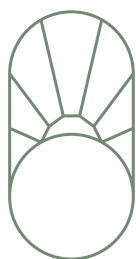
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Being on the west side of the island, at Dougurie you get to enjoy the most spectacular sunsets over the sea. You could also choose to say 'I do' outside on our very own stone circle overlooking the water, on the sandy beach which is a mere five minutes' stroll away, or a mile further up the glen at the stunning Loch Iorsa. And if a pretty church wedding is what you have been dreaming of, there are plenty to choose from on the island.

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Connor McEwan Photography

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Applications must be in by 23.59 on 31st December 2023 and the prize must be claimed and booked within 6 weeks of being announced as winner.

Susie Olzen Photography



TERMS & CONDITIONS:

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

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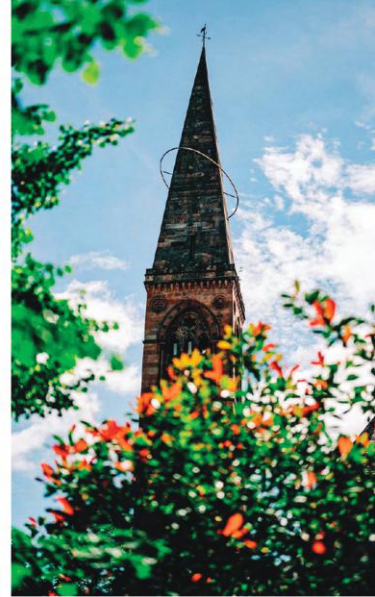
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Stirling, Argyll & the Trossachs

It takes a village

*Victoria McFadyen
& Matthew Hadden*



DATE: Saturday 8th October 2022
PHOTOGRAPHY: Joy Story
VENUE: Killearn Village Hall, Stirlingshire



This couple celebrated with family and friends in the relaxed and homely atmosphere of a stunning Stirlingshire village hall.



“My nerves vanished when I saw my brother and how proud he looked to walk me down the aisle.”

Victoria and Matthew met through a mutual friend when Matthew first moved to Glasgow. There were many nights out over the years before they finally realised they had feelings for one another.

After 10 years together, they decided to make things official. “We booked the wedding in October 2021, but kept it a secret from everyone until Christmas,” Victoria explains. “Handing them what they thought was a Christmas card only for them to discover it was a Save the Date was lots of fun!”

The couple wanted somewhere relaxed that would feel like a big party rather than anything too formal – and Killearn fitted the bill. “We loved that everything could happen at Killearn, but that each space they offer felt different. It was close enough to our hometown of Glasgow for people to get taxis, but far enough out to get the beautiful Scottish landscapes.”

A toast to Tom

Sadly, Victoria’s dad Tom passed away unexpectedly just six months before the wedding, so she found ways to ensure he was still part of their special day. “We weren’t doing lots of the traditional things – he wasn’t doing a speech or father daughter dance – the only thing he wanted to do was walk me down the aisle. So I wanted to acknowledge him in a non-traditional way too,” she explains. “I know if he had been there he would have been propping up the bar all night offering to buy

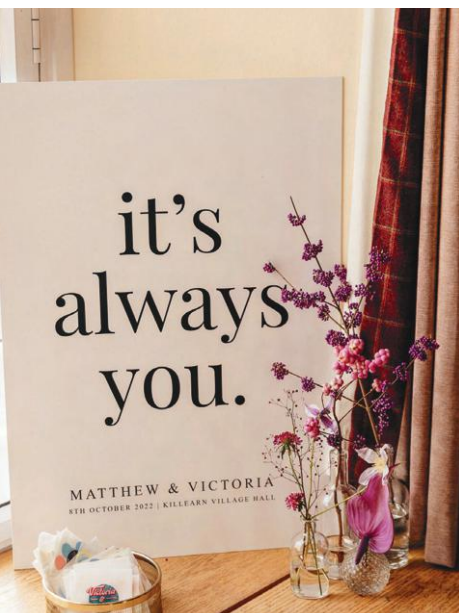
everyone drinks, so his friend gave me the idea of brewing a beer in his honour. We did this with Stewart Brewing, which was a brilliant experience. I designed the label myself ready for us to bottle everything a few weeks later. We then used the beer to toast to my dad during my speech, which felt like a nice way to include him.”

Victoria and Matthew also asked the venue to keep the empty bottles so they could fill them with flowers and drop them off to people the next day.

Burgundy was always going to feature, as it is a favourite of theirs along with bright colours and patterns. “I knew I wanted to splurge on flowers, so a 70s disco in a wild field was the general vision I had when planning!” Victoria reveals.

And choosing her dress helped set the tone for the wedding. “It was quite floaty and nature-inspired which kept the rest of the wedding quite natural. If I’d gone for the first one I liked then it might have been a very different wedding!” Her gown was ‘Jenessa’ by Rebecca Ingram. “I instantly felt so special in it and loved how the shimmery underlay brought a subtle bit of sparkle to the dress that captured the light when I moved.” She finished the look with bright pink Sophia Webster shoes with a furry pom pom, and an intricate bobby pin trio.

Victoria’s sister, Megan, and childhood friend Nicola were bridesmaids. She didn’t mind what they wore as long as they felt comfortable and they ended up opting for similar styles. Matthew wore the kilt his dad bought him for his 21st birthday and purchased a new sage green jacket to complete the outfit. His brother was his best man and two old friends were ushers. The night before the wedding the couple stayed with family at Finnoch Cottages and had a chilled morning before the ceremony. »



“Everyone was beaming and so happy to be there.”

Happy to be there

Victoria recalls being so happy walking down the aisle to *It's Always You* by Chet Baker. “I was just focused on seeing Matthew again and didn't really feel like I saw anyone else to be honest,” she says. “The one thing my dad had wanted to do was walk me down the aisle so I had been a wee bit nervous before that it might have been emotional. But my nerves vanished when I saw my brother and how proud he looked to walk me down the aisle.”

Humanist celebrant Mo Waterston helped to include personal touches, and Victoria and Matthew wrote their own vows. The handfast the couple used was made by a friend from pieces of fabric with sentimental meaning. For their guest book, they created a scrapbook with mini envelopes stuck inside and asked everyone to write them a letter that they would eventually open on their first anniversary.

“I was the first to do a speech where I did a toast to my dad which obviously brought a tear to the eye but was a lovely way to honour him,” Victoria goes on. There were 76 guests during the day and a further 36 people joined later for a big ceilidh. Victoria describes the atmosphere as absolutely joyous. “Everyone was beaming and so happy to be there. The dance floor was always full and everyone was chatting all night long with each other,” she smiles. “Our first dance was to *Still Into You* by Paramore so it quickly set the tone for the kind of night we wanted to have!”



“We loved that everything could happen at Killearn.”



“A 70s disco in a wild field was the general vision I had when planning.”



BAND

Foot Stompin' Ceilidh Band

BRIDE'S DRESS

Rebecca Ingram at Aimee Bridal

BRIDE'S HEADWEAR

Crown and Glory

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PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“Victoria and Matthew’s styling was so on point it was a pleasure to photograph their wedding day vision! The pair of them (and me!) smiled and laughed all day and we all had the best time together. Can we do it again, please? Absolutely love Killearn Village Hall too - one of my fave venues in Scotland! Hopefully I’ll be back again soon.”

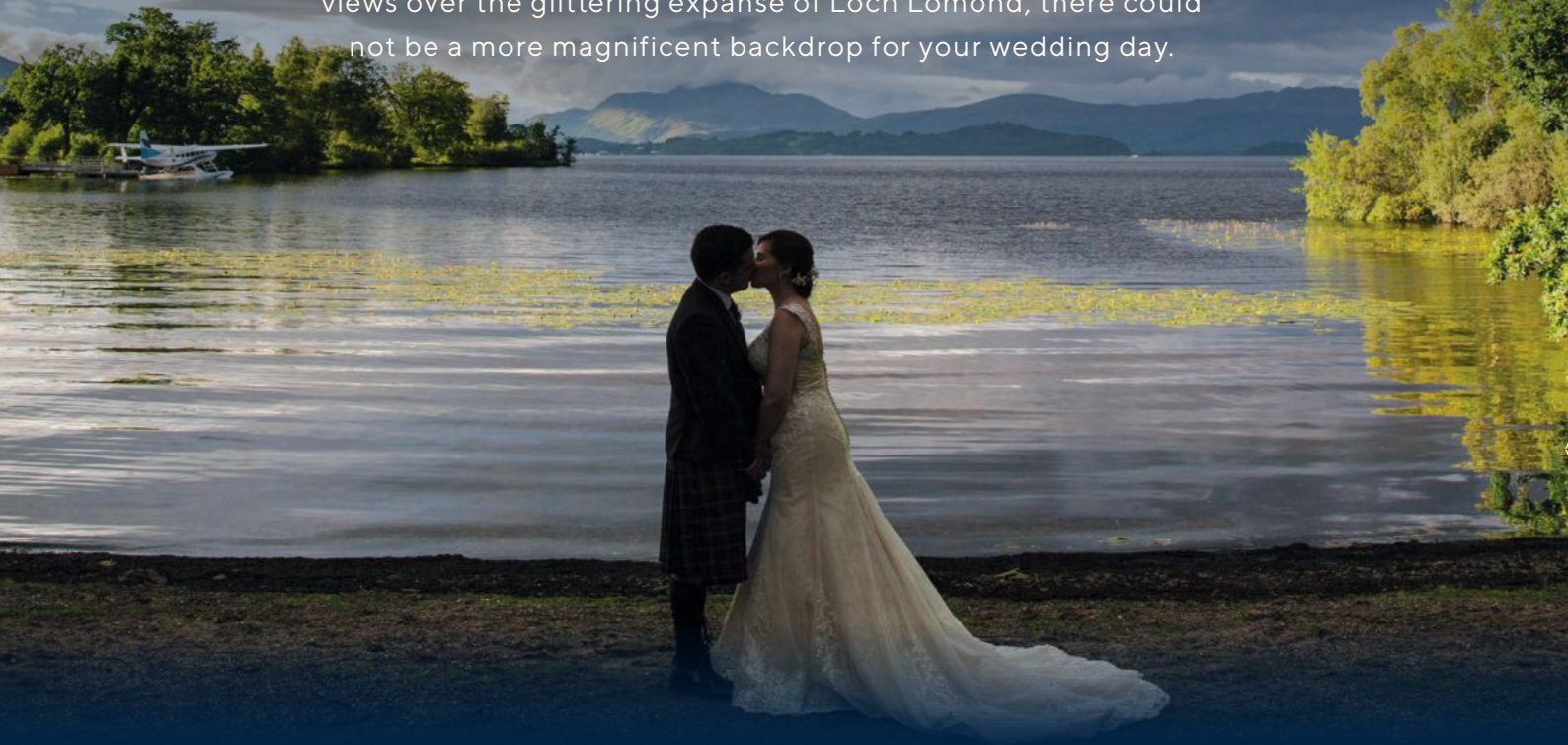
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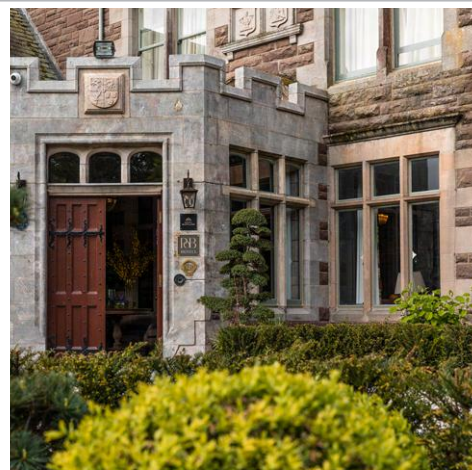
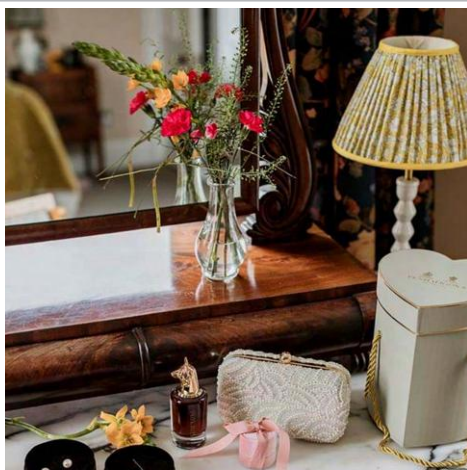
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Gordon Nicolson
Kiltmakers Images |
Francis J Smith



'Dahlia' bow
& 'Hyacinth'
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