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Beautiful during any time of the year but particularly Valentine's Day, this bouquet of David Austin roses is timeless in its beauty. Priced at £65 from [realflowers.co.uk](http://realflowers.co.uk)



Inspired by Tatty Devine's iconic Vintage Lady Necklace, the Vintage Lady Vanity Case is instantly recognisable to those in the know. This statement leather-effect carry case has a red, patent finish that's large enough to carry your essential beauty products around in style. Priced £45 from [wildandwolf.com](http://wildandwolf.com)

Did he put a ring on it or is planning to? If so, celebrate in style with these balloons. Priced at £4.99 from [candleandcake.co.uk](http://candleandcake.co.uk)



## Love is in the air

Whether you're newly-engaged or right at the end of your planning journey, I've no doubt that love is always in the air for you. February also seems to feel a little more special for the rest of us too.

I make a bit more effort with my hair, put on my best shoes and maybe even some red lipstick because; who knows who you'll meet!

Shops, bars and cinemas are busy showing us what love should look like, but here at *Your Kent Wedding* we like to do things a little bit differently; which is why I chose to step away from tradition with our beautiful, dynamic cover.

We believe love comes in many shapes and sizes – just think about all the wonderful venues, themes, dresses and colour schemes you can choose to celebrate your relationship. You don't have to wear white, be in a church or even have bridesmaids if you don't want to – after all, it's your day!

If you don't know where to start, we've included some great ideas this issue. We've got two fabulous real weddings where the couple have thrown away the rulebook and couldn't look happier for it! We've also got pages of fashion from some of the most exciting UK designers around, an exclusive interview with beauty brand ESPA's founder who explains how we can achieve a work/life balance, and venues with spas – who said planning has to be stressful?

Enjoy your day!

*Ivana x*

Inspired by the infinite circular shapes that have long symbolised eternal bonds, this intricate Gemondo gold love knot diamond ring has been crafted in warm 9ct rose gold. Lined with diamonds, the hardest and most durable of gemstones, this ring design embodies undying love. Priced at £119 from [gemondo.com](http://gemondo.com)



### EDITORIAL

01376 535 611 | [editor@county.wedding](mailto:editor@county.wedding)

IVANA SIDNEY | EDITOR  
[ivana@county.wedding](mailto:ivana@county.wedding)

DANIELLE HARVEY | MANAGING EDITOR  
[danielleh@county.wedding](mailto:danielleh@county.wedding)

LOUISE PRANCE | CHIEF SUB EDITOR  
[louisepr@county.wedding](mailto:louisepr@county.wedding)

LAURA SUTHERLAND | FASHION EDITOR

IVANA SIDNEY | BEAUTY & WELLNESS EDITOR

DANIELLE HARVEY | GROOMS EDITOR

DEMELZA RAYNER | TRAVEL EDITOR

CLAIRE RIDLEY | LIFESTYLE EDITOR

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ANNIE CANNOCK | CLAIRE MUFFETT-REECE  
GEORGINA CASSELS | MELISSA BARKER  
SARAH REEVE | HANNAH FAULDER

### PRODUCTION

01376 535 616 | [artwork@county.wedding](mailto:artwork@county.wedding)

PRODUCTION MANAGER | SCOTT BROTHWELL

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNERS | CHLOE EDEY  
STEPHANIE HODDER | VICKY O'CONNOR  
SARAH YOUNG

WEB DEVELOPMENT MANAGER  
STUART WEATHERLEY

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT | CHARLOTTE POTTER



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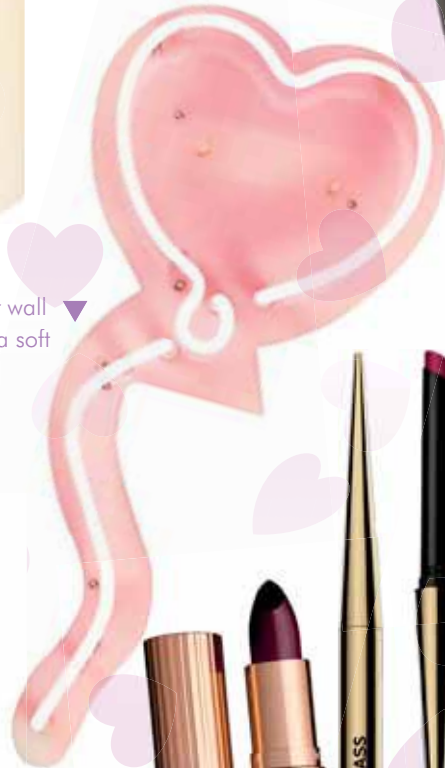
An iconic day deserves an iconic perfume. Marc Jacobs Daisy has just celebrated 10 years and has launched this special anniversary edition. Priced at £78 from [debenhams.com](http://debenhams.com)



If you're planning on wearing two dresses during your celebrations, this one would look pretty show-stopping. The grey colour is always a winner and the velvet fabric will add a chic edge and hug your curves for some serious va-va voom. Priced at £225 from [prettyeccentric.co.uk](http://prettyeccentric.co.uk)



Add a splash of colour to your wall and illuminate the space with a soft pink glow. Romantic, cool and perfect for posing. Priced at £50 from [getgingersnap.com](http://getgingersnap.com)



Red lingerie is classic for a reason and this beautiful set from Boux Avenue is just the right amount of sexy. Priced at £48 from [bouxavenue.com](http://bouxavenue.com)



How sexy are these shoes? Perfect for dancing and post-wedding date nights; I just love the way they've been cut. Priced at £80 from [dunelondon.com](http://dunelondon.com)



Valentine's Day is the perfect time for lovers, so you'll want your pout to look as kissable as possible. My favourite lipsticks are I Believe from Hourglass, YSL Nude and Charlotte Tilbury K.I.S.S.I.N.G. Priced at £28 from [libertylondon.com](http://libertylondon.com), £28 from [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com) and £24 from [houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk) respectively.

ADVERTISING

[sales@county.wedding](mailto:sales@county.wedding)

SALES MANAGER | SARAH MCLEAN  
01376 538 490

ACCOUNT MANAGER | KELLY ANDREWS  
01376 538 489 | [kellya@county.wedding](mailto:kellya@county.wedding)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

01376 514 000 | [subscriptions@county.wedding](mailto:subscriptions@county.wedding)

SUBSCRIPTIONS COORDINATOR | BETH VARNEY

ACCOUNTS

01376 535 616 | [accounts@county.wedding](mailto:accounts@county.wedding)

ACCOUNTING MANAGER | DERRICK JAMES

MARKETING

[michaelr@county.wedding](mailto:michaelr@county.wedding)

MARKETING MANAGER | MICHAEL RICHARDS  
01376 538 481

MARCOMMS EXECUTIVE | KAY TILBURY  
[kayt@county.wedding](mailto:kayt@county.wedding)



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Claire Johnson  
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## MY WEDDING PROFESSIONALS WIN BIG AT THE KENT WEDDING AWARDS

My Wedding Professionals – a group of experienced suppliers – have scooped three awards at this years Kent Wedding Awards, with a further three members shortlisted.

### The three winners were:

ByBlossom Wedding Stationery – Wedding Stationery Award  
 Shelley's Cakes – Wedding Cake Designer of the Year Award  
 Victoria's Bridal Boutique – Bride's Choice – Great Service Award

### The three finalists were:

Elizabeth Joseph-Love Make Up Artist – Wedding Beauty Award  
 Mint DJ Services – Wedding DJ of the Year Award  
 RKW Hair – Wedding Hair Stylist Award

Huge congratulations to By Blossom, Elizabeth Joseph-Love and RKW Hair. For more details, visit [myweddingprofessionals.co.uk](http://myweddingprofessionals.co.uk)



# Brides' BULLETIN

WEDDING FAIR ALERT!

All the latest from around the county



### A very important experience

Your Kent Wedding has just returned from hosting another successful VIP Lounge at The Wedding Experience Show in Detling.

It was a roaring success as we invited guests to come and celebrate with us in our magical *Midsummer Night's Dream*-inspired area. Visitors could browse the glamorous table settings, cake and flower displays, as well as meet a host of industry professionals. The main shows also had demonstrations, informal chats and the catwalk show to inspire your very own dream day.

Visit [wedding-experience.co.uk](http://wedding-experience.co.uk)



### A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Hayne House is thrilled that its in house caterers, Touchays were named as winners in the Independent Caterer Category at the Kent Wedding Awards 2017/18.

Popular food choices include, heavenly canapés, a classic traditional three-course menu and a vintage afternoon tea. Couples can also upgrade to a gourmet menu or book an irresistible Paella Market Style Stall, a Mexican Wrap Market Stall or a burger bar. Visit [haynehouse.co.uk](http://haynehouse.co.uk) and [touchays.com](http://touchays.com)





## Beautifully bespoke

Welling-based Crystal Cole Candles has launched a dedicated service for personalised candles aimed specifically at the bridal party gifting market.

The candles are focused towards evoking thoughts and feelings and by selecting specific scents to complement certain events or occasions. It has already worked alongside a number of high-end couples both in the UK and as far as New York and Dubai, to create a scent dressing service for the wedding venue, plus bridal party gift candles to complement the wedding theme.

For more information, visit [crystalcole.co.uk](http://crystalcole.co.uk)



## Hever Castle Wedding Showcase

Hever Castle & Gardens in Kent is once again hosting an elegant Wedding Showcase on Sunday 21st January, 2018 giving you the rare opportunity to experience the stunning venue set up for a wedding.

Be it the stately grandeur of the castle itself, the country house atmosphere of the Astor Wing, or the stunning lakeside location of the Guthrie Pavilion, Hever Castle offers a dream-come-true location for your special day. Intimate gatherings, exuberant parties and outdoor weddings are all catered for.

Look around the spectacular facilities and meet the team who will be on hand to discuss your requirements and answer any questions you may have.

Guests will be able to sample a selection from the mouth-watering wedding menu between 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Refreshments and homemade treats will also be served throughout the day.

Visit [hevercastle.co.uk/weddings](http://hevercastle.co.uk/weddings)



## Luxurious lavender

If you want to gift your girls (or the mums) with a luxurious hamper, Hop Shop will be just the ticket. It uses Kentish lavender and is a great way to say thank you and invite them all to relax now all the planning and hard work is over. The pamper hamper contains lovely biscuits while the dried lavender bags or tea also makes great favours.

Visit [hopshop.co.uk](http://hopshop.co.uk)

## Editor loves

Check out this adorable horse box that's been converted into a champagne bar! For more information (and an exclusive competition) visit page 13!

More details can be found at [prettybubbleshorseboxbar.co.uk](http://prettybubbleshorseboxbar.co.uk)





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Thu 8 March 6pm - 8.30pm



We invite you to join us for the evening and explore our venue dressed for a wedding. You'll be able to talk through your wedding plans with our hand-picked accredited suppliers and meet our team of experienced hospitality event co-ordinators, who will be on hand to show you how Eltham Palace, with its glittering Art Deco rooms, timber-framed medieval hall and moated garden, will make a unique and inspiring setting for your wedding day.

Book your free place at [www.english-heritage.org.uk/elthampalaceweddings](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/elthampalaceweddings)

*Step into England's story*



## THE LOOK OF LOVE

As chief make-up artist, qualified hair stylist and brow specialist, Ashton Fionda knows a thing or two about looking your best. She's trained at the prestigious The London School of Makeup and Beauty and now works as a teacher herself on all the beauty topics and studio training classes at the Decadence Hair and Makeup salon in Sevenoaks. For more information, visit [decadencehairandmakeup.co.uk](http://decadencehairandmakeup.co.uk)

Lucky *Your Kent Wedding* readers have the chance to win a hair and make-up trial and on-the-day make-up for the bride. With Ashton's years of knowledge and experience you're sure to be looking your bridal best. All she asks is that you're getting married in 2018 or 2019. Enter via our website by 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018. Terms and conditions apply.

## LOVELY BUBBLY

Pretty Bubbles Horsebox Bar started life as a classic horse trailer that's since been beautifully converted into a chic mobile bar. With its elegant ramps, soft multi-coloured mood lighting to complement your colour scheme and spotlights over the stunning solid wooden bar, it's no surprise this is such a popular choice at weddings and events. For more information, visit [prettybubbleshorseboxbar.co.uk](http://prettybubbleshorseboxbar.co.uk)

*Your Kent Wedding* is proud to announce it has teamed up with Pretty Bubbles Horsebox Bar to offer readers the chance to win a bottle of Black Lanson Champagne. This is the perfect drink to celebrate with for you and your loved ones. Make sure you like and share at [facebook.com/prettybubbleshbb](https://facebook.com/prettybubbleshbb). Enter via our website by 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018. Terms and conditions apply.



# Freebies & OFFERS

Take advantage of these gorgeous giveaways and fab offers

## PRETTY POWERFUL

Look Good Feel Better (LGFB) is the only international cancer charity that helps women and teenagers manage the visible side effects of treatment. It aims to greatly increase people's confidence and self-esteem at this difficult time by offering amazing make-up workshops, masterclasses and even

products to help build confidence. Anyone can help by simply buying the beauty products where 8-10 per cent of the wholesale price will be donated to the charity. For more information visit [lookgoodfeelbetter.co.uk](http://lookgoodfeelbetter.co.uk) or [lookfantastic.com](http://lookfantastic.com)

County Wedding Magazines is delighted to offer four Look Good Feel Better Makeover Brush Sets (worth £25 each). Perfect for travel, each set contains a mini powder brush, concealer brush, eyeshadow brush and pouch. For your chance to win, enter via our website. Terms and conditions apply.



## STARRY EYED

For years, Clogau has boasted a growing range of jewellery that's captured the hearts and imagination of fans all over the world. Every piece contains rare Welsh gold – the Gold of Royalty for more than 100 years. Every piece of Clogau jewellery is seen as an heirloom with both a personal and cultural meaning that can be enjoyed for generations to come.

County Wedding Magazines is thrilled to have teamed up with Clogau to give away a beautifully romantic pair of star earrings from their beautiful collection, David Emanuel for Clogau.

Designed by the iconic fashion designer and royal couturier, this exquisite set of sterling silver and 9ct rose gold ear jackets contains rare Welsh gold as used by members of the British Royal Family for over 100 years. Set with sparkling Swarovski Genuine White Topaz for added beauty, these earrings enthuse elegance and grace. Enter via our website. Terms and conditions apply. For more information about the brand, visit [clogau.co.uk](http://clogau.co.uk)

ENTER ONLINE AT [YOURKENT.WEDDING](http://YOURKENT.WEDDING)

Closing date is 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 unless otherwise stated.

## Hey, big spender

New research from short-term lender Ferratum has found that couples in England and Wales will have spent an incredible £6.8billion on weddings in 2017. Ferratum predicts that weddings from July to September alone will cost £3.3billion in total this year.



Many couples can't afford these high budgets, and the research also reveals that one in four couples are borrowing to fund their big day, with an incredible £958million due to be borrowed this year in order to meet their costs.

For more information, visit [ferratumgroup.com](http://ferratumgroup.com)

## SOCIAL CHIC

Through a survey of 837 brides, onbuy.com uncovered the influence of social media channels on weddings;

- ♥ A whopping 78 per cent of couples announce their engagement on social media within 24 hours.
- ♥ Up to 67 per cent of brides-to-be use Pinterest and have a wedding board before they're even engaged.
- ♥ 42 per cent planning a wedding claim that looking at other social media wedding posts makes them feel anxious about their own big day.
- ♥ It has been reported that 90 per cent of those who got married in 2017 were millennials.
- ♥ A massive 900 million wedding-inspired pins are saved each year on Pinterest.

# WONDERFUL WORLD

Annie Cannock brings you the latest news and products from around the country

# of Weddings

Do you have  
fab news to share?  
Get in touch  
@CountyWeddings

## A dream is a wish

According to a poll of 1,000 brides-to-be by jewellers Beaverbrooks ([beaverbrooks.co.uk](http://beaverbrooks.co.uk)), almost half of British women admit they were left disappointed with the way their partner popped the question. Almost 23 per cent were left red faced from an over the top gesture, including flash mobs, lavish gifts and public displays of affection.

According to the stats a quarter of men have asked the most important question of their lives without having bought a ring. A traditional 31 per cent of women polled wished their other half had got down on one knee to pop the question, while one in ten expected them to ask for their father's permission. A more diplomatic 12 per cent said they initially turned their nose up at their husband's choice of a ring but have grown to love it over the years.



## I DO, I DO, I DO

Brits appear to be abandoning traditional notions of weddings as more than a third of those who've received an engagement or wedding ring admit they'd have preferred to receive an alternative, according to research by jewellery insurer Protect Your Bubble, ([protectyourbubble.com](http://protectyourbubble.com)).

The top alternatives named were signet rings with 22 per cent of the vote, a tenth would have chosen a necklace, and some even a bracelet or watch. Some Brits confessed to preferring a pen, holiday or even a home improvement instead of a traditional ring.

In a further shift from convention, just four in 10 proposed with an engagement ring they'd picked themselves; however, only 56 per cent of the recipients said they loved it!



## DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

In a survey of 1,000 people, Dancewear Central found the nation's favourite first dance song was Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* with 22 per cent of the vote, followed by British-born Ed Sheeran's *Thinking Out Loud* chosen by 17 per cent. And in third with 16 per cent was *Dirty Dancing's Time of My Life*.

"For many couples, the first dance at a wedding can be a really nerve-wracking experience, injecting personality or humour through a choreographed dance is one way to ensure they'll make a lasting impression and rehearsing their steps will help ease their jitters," says the company's marketing manager Faye Nash.

For more information, visit the website [dancewearcentral.co.uk](http://dancewearcentral.co.uk)

## #CWchat

We love a good debate at County Wedding Magazines; so let the battle commence!

## WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO YOUR MAN?

## YES...

SAYS FEATURES EDITOR  
MELISSA BARKER

I personally like the idea of proposing and I think it's great that it's no longer considered just the man's job. The proposal is one of the most important moments of your life and is something you will look back on for years to come. By taking control and organising it yourself means you can rest assured it will happen the way you always dreamed it would.

## NO WAY...

SAYS FEATURES EDITOR  
ANNIE CANNOCK

I couldn't think of anything worse! Let me explain: I have awful anxiety on a 'normal' day, the thought of having to propose would completely send me over the edge. It wouldn't be the romantic proposal me or my boyfriend have envisaged. My beau, on the other hand, is fairly confident and would definitely do a much better job than I would.

Carry on the conversation  
@CountyWeddings

Don't forget to join us every  
Wednesday at 9pm for #weddinghour

## THE WHITE HOT LIST

*Tried and tested for you...*

Brissi Amber Gris Classic Diffuser,  
£29, [brissi.com](http://brissi.com)



▲ Scent is the most evocative of the senses, so why not fragrance your big day with these chic diffusers from Brissi? Style-wise they wouldn't look out of place and the scent is not at all overpowering lasting all day. At CWM HQ, we particularly love Amber Gris – a rich and warm scent with woody undertones.

▶ Boasting eight natural botanicals; juniper, orris root, Seville oranges, angelica, Sicilian lemon, star anise, cassia bark and coriander, this well-balanced and quaffable drink would be perfect for an al fresco reception in a sublime tonic or a whimsical cocktail. Plus the small-batch product is the only authentically made pink gin available on the UK market.



Gin Lane 1751 Victoria Pink, £26.99, [selfridges.com](http://selfridges.com)

▶ Renowned karaoke club chain Lucky Voice has launched at-home kits perfect for a girls' night in. It's easy to use, just plug it in to your laptop, tablet or TV and sing away to a multitude of songs from the company's database. Better still, it comes with a one-month free subscription to the music library – continual subscriptions can be purchased on the website.



Lucky Voice Karaoke Machine in blue, £60, [luckyvoice.com](http://luckyvoice.com)



# Wedding Package

from  
**£2,995\***

Wedding breakfast and room hire for 50 Guests plus many extras. Ask the Wedding & Events Manager for full details.

FREE gazebo hire and wedding ceremony for all wedding receptions booked and held in 2018\*

*\*Terms & Conditions apply*



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seating up to 400 guests

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Landscaped gardens for Civil Ceremonies

**FREE GUEST CAR PARKING**

## WEDDING OPEN EVENING

Sunday 21<sup>ST</sup> January - 3pm to 7pm

An opportunity for Brides and Grooms to view the fine facilities the hotel has to offer including the Grand Marquee and the Garden Gazebo. The events team will be on hand to answer any questions. **Entry FREE**



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Spotlight on...

# SHEPWAY & DOVER

Tie the knot in a fabulous local hotspot

sdimages.com

Hythe Imperial Hotel  
01303 267 441 | [hytheimperial.co.uk](http://hytheimperial.co.uk)

Located along the seafront, this elegant Victorian hotel offers an imposing, dramatic ballroom with panoramic views of the coast. It's recently undergone an extensive refurbishment to bring it back to its original glory, but with a modern, contemporary twist via the new formal gardens and gazebo. The elegant Imperial Ballroom is the main space for tying the knot and can host an impressive 120 guests, or you can enjoy the Garden Room for 40, Elizabeth Room for 60 or the aforementioned new formal gardens and gazebo – a stunning edition and gorgeous place for photos for you and up to 150 loved ones.

Its makeover means that every area of the venue sparkles with a high-end elegant style and contemporary features. Its new wedding gazebo is surrounded by secret gardens and fountains – perfect for that romantic wedding by the sea.





## The Old Kent Barn

01303 844 270 | [theoldkentbarn.co.uk](http://theoldkentbarn.co.uk)

If you can't decide what barn venue you want to get married in, why not choose a location with two? The Old Kent Barn is a 200-year-old oak-framed barn full of character and beams. It also has a luxurious bridal suite and two further double en suite rooms.

The design of the new barn, where receptions are held, is both opulent – the chandeliers have won an international design award – and neutral to co-ordinate with any colour scheme or theme. It is oak-framed with large windows and an open-plan space. The colour scheme lends itself to any theme, from rustic to vintage, to modern and contemporary. There's a light tiled floor throughout the venue including a solid wooden dancefloor and stage area, softened with ivory drapes and a magical starlit ceiling guiding you

on to the floor for your first dance.

A fabulous dressing room is available for brides or grooms to arrive from 7.30 on the morning of the wedding to relax with their bridesmaids or groomsmen. The space has a shower room, enough dressing gowns for everyone, a digital TV, an iPod docking station, air-conditioning, lots of beautiful mirrors, a chaise longue, a fridge and, of course, attentive staff on hand to get you whatever you need.

Its grounds were professionally landscaped creating formal parterres with romantic roses, sweeping curved hedges and an informal lake garden with a fountain all set against a backdrop of mature trees and countryside. Set in the gardens is its classic wooden gazebo for outdoor ceremonies with a paved area in front for guests seating. The gardens are lit up in the evening with picture-perfect fairy lit areas to create a truly magical setting.



## Ramada Dover

01304 821 230 | [ramadadover.co.uk](http://ramadadover.co.uk)

Built in the 1980s, but recently renovated, the Ramada Dover is a 68-room hotel with guest rooms, hotel facilities and function rooms all on one level. The recently renovated and enlarged the Grand Marquee now seats up to 400 guests but more intimate gatherings can still be catered for in the Olive Tree restaurant and the Channel Suite. Small Weddings are very affordable at this four star venue

starting from as little as £2995 for a wedding package for up to 50 guests.

There's also an All Inclusive package from £4995 for 50 guests which includes a free evening bar until 10pm in the evening. Alternatively, couples can also tie the knot in the Garden Gazebo and make the most of the landscaped views.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 from 11am – 3.30pm the venue is hosting a wedding fair – this is the perfect opportunity to see the venue for yourself and meet local suppliers.



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\*T&C's apply

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[www.dovermarinahotel.co.uk](http://www.dovermarinahotel.co.uk)

SPRING WEDDING FAYRE - FREE ENTRY

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018 - 11am to 3pm



# *Hythe's Hidden Gem* *Your Day, Your Castle, Exclusively Yours*



*We believe you shouldn't have to share your Big Day with anyone but family and friends. Enjoy the freedom to make the day truly your own with exclusive use of the Castle and Gardens.*

*Wedding Fayre Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 11am - 3pm Admission Free*

*See our website [www.lympnecastle.com](http://www.lympnecastle.com) for dates of our forthcoming open days*

*Call us on 01303 261666 to book an appointment to come and view this beautiful venue*



Short-listed by "Guides for Brides" for their 2016 Five Star Customer Service awards and set within an unforgettable setting for photographs, The Grand has a uniquely magnificent suite of stylish rooms with a superb outlook over its gardens, the Folkestone Leas and the majestically beautiful English Channel and Skyline to France for you to hold your Reception, Wedding Breakfast and any other requirements for your unforgettable day.

Come along to our Wedding Fair on  
Sunday 4th February | 11am to 3pm  
Entry is free!





## Hayne House

01303 262 555 | haynehouse.co.uk

At over 200-years-old, Hayne House was once the private hunting pavilion of Edward VII and Mrs Simpson. Nowadays it's an exquisite country wedding venue, just an hour from London but close to the Kent coast and retaining many Tudor features such as wood panelling and a marble-floored hall and honeymoon suite that oozes royal charm.

The team want every couple to begin their married life together

in style; which is why over the winter of 2017 and spring of 2018 it's creating a purpose-built Orangerie. This has been designed for couples looking to get married in Kent at any time of the year. It commissioned hamptonconservatories.co.uk to create the bespoke, hardwood timber standing orangerie, in a modern but grand classical style. The company is a recent winner of the Design & Architecture Awards in the Architectural Glasshouse category.

The venue contains a purpose-built well-stocked bar, indoor toilets, surround sound and has disabled access – as well as space for 120 sit-down guests and 150 evening revellers.



## Westenhanger Castle

01303 261 068 | westenhangercastle.co.uk

Westenhanger Castle is a magical, romantic setting for any wedding, or renewal of vows. The Castle has a wonderful history with Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I having once lived at the Castle.

Set in 14 acres of beautiful grounds, it offers tradition and history as well as an exceptional personal service; creating perfect memories in the Kentish countryside.

Your ceremony can be held in either the thatched garden gazebo, the Queen Elizabeth I rooms on the lower floor or upper floor of the Castle, or the Henry VIII suite on the lower floor – the choice is yours.

The beautiful marquee can seat up to 200 people, while the Queen Elizabeth I room can host 70 guests – both options offer exclusivity.

From an intimate ceremony to a lavish wedding breakfast, the team vow that they will work with you to create your perfect day.

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THE HISTORIC  
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# The Old KENT BARN



## MULTI-AWARD WINNING VENUE

The Old Kent Barn is one of the most beautiful and romantic wedding venues in Kent. No expense was spared in its design and creation. From the beautiful gazebo where spring and summer ceremonies are held, to the chandeliers, state-of-the-art bar and starlight ceiling in its magnificent new oak-framed barn, this truly is the perfect setting for ceremonies and receptions all year round.

We are a family run business and pride ourselves on the quality and warmth of the service we offer. We work tirelessly to ensure that your wedding is perfect in every way for you, your family and your guests.

*We cannot thank you enough for the most perfect day: It was honestly flawless and made us feel so special.*

The McLeods, September 2017

## EXCLUSIVELY FOR YOU

- Use of the venue and grounds on the day of your wedding
- Complimentary night in the Bridal Suite of our 200-year-old oak-framed barn
- Glamorous dressing room available from the morning of your wedding
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[www.theoldkentbarn.co.uk](http://www.theoldkentbarn.co.uk) | 01303 844270 | [events@theoldkentbarn.co.uk](mailto:events@theoldkentbarn.co.uk)

The Old Kent Barn, Smersole Farm, Swingfield, Kent CT15 7HF



**Dates Available  
for 2018**  
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From £3750\*  
\*Subject availability and numbers

**Wedding Fair**  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
11am - 3pm  
Free Entrance



# *Your wedding day at Oakwood House*

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# DO NOT DISTURB

Our pick of the most relaxing venues to retreat to

## ROWHILL GRANGE HOTEL AND UTOPIA SPA

01322 612 778 | [rowhillgrange.co.uk](http://rowhillgrange.co.uk)

Nestled in the Kent countryside, Rowhill Grange Hotel and Utopia Spa is an impressive 19<sup>th</sup>-century manor house that radiates splendour on every level. If you choose to marry here, a fascinating history and elegant design awaits you. Each room, suite and lounge has been stylishly fashioned with hand-selected interiors that all make for a wonderful wedding backdrop. Ceremonies can take place in either the Cottage Ceremony Room or the Wedding Gazebo for 120 of your friends and family. The Gazebo is ideal for more outdoorsy couples as you can enjoy the manicured lawns and feel totally at one with nature.

However, most couples choose to tie the knot at Rowhill Grange for its bespoke Clockhouse Suite that gives them the feeling of exclusivity. This is completely separate from the main house, and with mews bedrooms, its own personal dressing room and private bar on offer, couples can relax into their special day without having to stray from their family and friends. The Clockhouse Suite boasts beautiful rustic characteristics – allowing the perfect opportunity for your wedding photographer to capture the personality of your chosen venue – including wooden beams, bay windows and restored vintage fireplaces.





## TOR SPA RETREAT

01227 728 500 | [torsparetreat.com](http://torsparetreat.com)

Located in the village of Ickham, five miles from Canterbury, Tor is an ayurvedic spa set within beautiful gardens and a small lake. You're invited to swim, relax or exercise here, and as there's only a maximum of 18 spa guests allowed per day, you can make the most of the dedicated staff who can pamper you to your heart's content.

You'll be pleased to hear that the Lake Lounge overlooking the

garden is licensed for ceremonies and guests may be seated inside or out on the lawn – weather depending. There's capacity for 50 loved ones if you use the spa as a venue – but if you have a larger guest list then the venue can also provide a marquee.

The garden is a wonderful space for your reception drinks, with many photo opportunities, including the lake with plenty of fish and wildlife. There's also a small island suitable for the bride and groom to enjoy a moment together or exchange some private vows – what could be more romantic?



## THE SPA HOTEL

01892 520 331 | [spahotel.co.uk](http://spahotel.co.uk)

The hotel is nestled within 14 acres of glorious, spectacular grounds and gardens, making The Spa the perfect setting for your special day as well as a beautiful backdrop for your important wedding photos. You can also enjoy your drinks reception in the gardens or on the Orangery terrace.

This is a classic, elegant and grand venue with a rich history, which has been refurbished to a very high standard. The team have been conscious of keeping the refurbishments sympathetic to the age and style of the building, aiming to create an elegantly-styled



hotel with a modern, welcoming feel – however, it was built in 1766 and we think you'll find the Edwardian-style exterior quite breathtaking.

This is a rare all-inclusive venue with the capacity to tick many boxes for couples. It boasts excellent transport links and 70 individually styled bedrooms so your guests don't have to worry about travelling anywhere after your big day, seven of which are stunning bridal suites so you can truly relax in luxury after you've tied the knot. There's a dedicated wedding coordinator and highly skilled catering team, but of the biggest selling points has to be the grounds; they are truly spectacular and provide the perfect backdrop for those everlasting, unforgettable wedding photos.



**THE BROMLEY COURT  
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Our team is here to make sure your dream day becomes a reality and our dedicated wedding co-ordinator will be there for every question you may have and oversee all the little details that will make your day.

Entry to our showcase is free so please call us today to and let us know if you are joining us on 0208 461 8600 or email [weddings@bromleycourthotel.co.uk](mailto:weddings@bromleycourthotel.co.uk)

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Sabrina Stockwell Photography | [www.facebook.com/sabrinastockwellphotography](http://www.facebook.com/sabrinastockwellphotography)

# # Holiday Inn Sittingbourne WEDDING FAYRE

14.01.18

— FREE ENTRY —  
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**WEDDING OPEN DAY**  
21st January 2018 | 11.00am - 3.00pm

**WEDDING FAYRE**  
18th February 2018 | 10.30am - 2.30pm

Email: [weddings@hytheimperialhotel.com](mailto:weddings@hytheimperialhotel.com)  
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## THE FERRY HOUSE INN

01795 510 214 | [theferryhouseinn.co.uk](http://theferryhouseinn.co.uk)

The Ferry House Inn is a beautiful 16<sup>th</sup>-century country public house sitting alongside the Swale Estuary in the peaceful hamlet of Harty, on the Isle of Sheppy, offering unrivalled views over the water. Up to 100 guests can attend a ceremony in the Oak Barn, which features rustic exposed beams that provide the perfect blank canvas for you

to add your own stamp to the big day. Alternatively, you could say your vows outside in the beautiful gazebo with 150 of your loved ones and make the most of the private wedding patio gardens, which also double-up as a reception space for later on in the evening.



## EASTWELL MANOR HOTEL

01233 231 000  
[eastwellmanor.co.uk](http://eastwellmanor.co.uk)

A stunning, family-owned Gothic stone country manor house hotel, Eastwell Manor is the venue of choice for those seeking a beautiful bespoke wedding. It's licensed for weddings and civil ceremonies in three magnificent oak-panelled rooms with space for up to 135, as well as the striking Italian Walled Maids garden for 150 loved ones – making this a great choice for any time of year. This venue has also been hugely popular with royalty, with frequent visitors including Queen Victoria, and her second son Prince Albert lived in the manor for the latter part of 19<sup>th</sup>-century. Well if it's good enough for them it's good enough for you!

Wedding Open Day  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
10am - 3pm



# Mountains Country House

Mountains Country House is a magnificent grade II listed mansion and luxurious marquee set in beautiful grounds. It is a breathtaking venue that delivers a wedding celebration to remember in the most romantic, exclusive, country setting.

Contact the experienced events team to discuss creating your perfect wedding day.

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This set of three flowered hearts in vibrant shades of pink make a great addition to the big-day décor and a lasting keepsake too. Priced £10 from arthouse.com

Spell out your feelings for all to see with this beautiful vintage letter frame. Made using original 1930s playing cards, it's the perfect love token for your special someone. Priced £74.99 from gettingpersonal.co.uk



Hanging heart decorations, £2 for six, diy.com



Celebrate your inner child and gift your loved one a Unicorn emoji® Cushion to make them smile. Priced £13.99 from lovebombcushions.co.uk



# IT'S A Love thing

Celebrate all things magical and romantic on your big day with hearts, flowers and hits of red

Light up the room with battery-powered LOVE letters, £54.95, melodymaison.co.uk

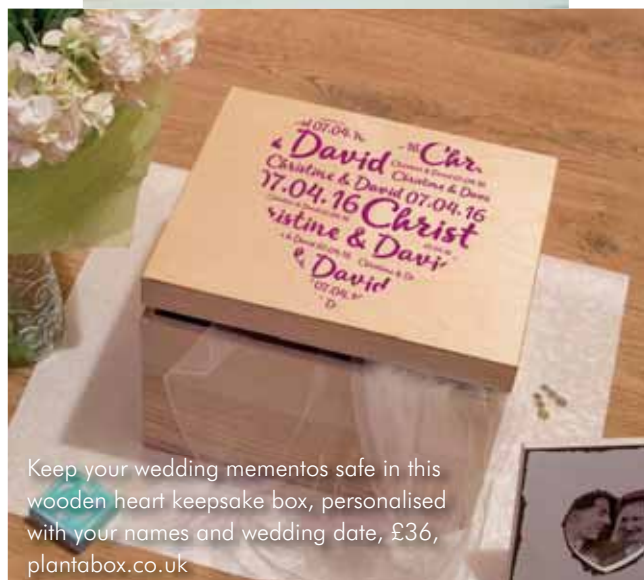


Personalised love heart card, £6.75, oakdenedesigns.com

This bridesmaid heart bracelet is the perfect way to say thank you to your best girls, £39, babatude.com



There's nothing quite like a celebratory chilled bottle of prosecco on the big day. Better still, your very own bottle – love heart and all, £22.99 from gettingpersonal.co.uk



Keep your wedding mementos safe in this wooden heart keepsake box, personalised with your names and wedding date, £36, plantabox.co.uk





# Paradise FOUND

After an exotic proposal and several years in Singapore, Stephanie and Kristian decided to celebrate their love with a beautiful wedding at Sprivers Mansion

*Images courtesy of Chen Sands Photography*

Stephanie and Kristian first met in a bar in Waterloo while there for a mutual friend's birthday party. "The friend was my colleague at the time and Kristian had just left the company. We later worked out that our paths had actually crossed several times before," remembers Stephanie. "A couple of colleagues at the party actually introduced us, thinking we had a lot in common. However, we took one look at each other and thought 'No we don't!'"

Luckily they gave each other a chance and the conversation flowed during the party before Kristian took her number to ask her out on a proper date. "I remember that our first date was going well until I got quite tipsy. The second date was then awful as I was still so embarrassed from the first, but by the end of the night something had clicked and we've been partners in crime ever since," recalls Stephanie.

Following a move from Clapham to Singapore after three years together, Kristian popped the question a year-and-a-half later.

## THE PROPOSAL

"I decided to ask Stephanie to marry me in Bali because it's a beautiful, relaxing paradise where we've been numerous times and made many amazing memories," explains Kristian.

The first proposal location was a disaster; Ku De Ta is historically lit-up by romantic torchlight, but on this occasion it was raining heavily and the area was covered in building materials. "We decided to move to the W Hotel that has an amazing champagne bar and beachfront location. I knew it had to be here," he tells us. "Steph eventually followed me outside where we went on a walk to reminisce on our time together when I asked her to marry me. Luckily she said yes, and the rest is history!"

## SPRIVERS MANSION



This secluded Georgian country house venue, nestled in 100 acres of National Trust parkland, offers a limited number of exclusive-use bespoke wedding celebrations.

After your civil ceremony in the elegant Yellow Room, or local church ceremony, our private gardens and 30 metre marquee are perfect for a summer celebration. Or how about a cosy celebration next to roaring log fires in the winter months?

We won't rush you in or rush you out. Our luxury Bridal Suite and private guest accommodation is available for 10 of your guests for a 3 night weekend stay. Just let us know your ideas and we will be delighted to work with you to create your wedding day, your way.

Visit the website for 2018 late availability and our Facebook page to see some of our recent weddings

[www.spriversmansion.co.uk](http://www.spriversmansion.co.uk)

SPRIVERS MANSION, LAMBERHURST ROAD, HORSMONDEN TN12 8DR  
T: 01892 723 722 M: 07976 799 606 E: [enquiries@spriversmansion.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@spriversmansion.co.uk)

## Kent Hair & Make Up

Amy Make Up Artist



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NOVA planned the 'Real Wedding' of Stephanie and Kristian at Sprivers Mansion. Here's what they had to say about our services: "NOVA was without a doubt the best investment we made for our wedding. They were such a huge support, sourcing and reviewing suppliers, helping to negotiate discounts and running the logistics on the day. So many people said it was the best wedding they had ever been to. This is because they made the day run effortlessly, enabling us to focus on our guests and the wedding party."



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## THE VENUE

The couple say they didn't have many requirements when choosing their venue so ended up seeing a real diverse mix. They tell us that, for them, the key difference with Sprivers was the flexibility. "It hadn't had any weddings take place there at the time, and so venue owner Jo was open to lots of ideas and gave us the space for three days to do what we wanted," explains the bride. "She was so calm, warm and friendly which was so important alongside no 'silly' restrictions such as not being able to use the venue until 10am of the day of the wedding, or not being able to close it off from the public, which sadly a lot of castles can't do."

"We felt that Sprivers was a real hidden treasure. It's honestly the most stunning house within National Trust grounds and as no one had wed there before; we felt like we'd found something exciting that we could introduce to all of our friends – not an easy feat when you've been out of the country for three years!"

## THE STYLING

The couple included lots of personal touches on their special day, including chop stick favours with their names and wedding date on as a nod to their current home in Singapore.

Choosing round tables rather than banquet-style dining, Stephanie placed their top table in the middle, so they were at the heart of all the action and close to all their guests.

Flowers also happened to be one of the key design elements as it was the only décor the couple added to their ceremony room. They went with a mix of large-headed and

spray roses, xthans, lisianthus, phlox, bourvardia, ranunculus, carnations and hydrangeas in a range of white and green hues. The bride had a gorgeous bouquet mixed with a display of all of the above, while they also had two large pedestals filled with blooms in the ceremony room, which they later moved to the marquee to frame the entrance door.

Their cake was made by Steph's bridesmaid Anjali Potter who produced a three-tiered creation covered in flower petals. However, the biggest decision was their table names. "We put too much thought into this!" confesses Steph. "We decided upon the top things we thought were important in a marriage – love, laughter, friendship, chemistry, respect and the same dream, and then picked famous TV couples that we thought represented this as we really enjoy watching TV. It was hilarious watching people arguing over the table they'd rather be sat on – such as the Harvey Spector/Mike Ross from Suits table – this was friendship in case you were wondering!"

## THE OUTFITS

Steph wore the Pronovias *Princia* dress, accessorised with gold Jimmy Choo shoes and a floor-length veil. "I always knew I'd go for a mermaid-style gown as I have a small waist and I wanted it to show off my figure. I never thought I'd go strapless but I've never felt more beautiful than I did in my wedding dress."

Kristian opted for a style statement and wore a custom-made suit from Raffles tailor in Singapore in off-white. From a bride's perspective she wasn't happy but the groom

loves his fashion and thought why should only the bride wear white?

There were other fashion questions raised with the rest of the groomsmen as they live all over the world and finding something they could all try on proved difficult. In the end they went to Marks and Spencer and looked fantastic in their navy suits.

However, for Steph, finding the bridesmaids' dress was the most difficult task. "I had six girls to shop for, and a bridesmaid who wore the same as the other gents. The girls were all different shapes, sizes, skin tones and hair colours so I really wanted a multiway dress, but they tend to be very hit and miss in terms of material. In the end we chose a green dress from Ariella in Bluewater. It wasn't your typical gown but they looked gorgeous and it was a style they could wear again afterwards if they wanted to."

## THE ENTERTAINMENT

Neither the bride nor groom were really into live music so opted to have a DJ. They tell us he was fantastic and he had a lot of choice given that they handed over an 18-hour Spotify playlist! They also decided to stop the set at 10pm so everyone thought it had ended, only for a garage hour to start to give the night a really fun club feel.

"When I think back to our day I just remember such a feeling of excitement, knowing this would be the best day of my life. We had people fly in from Singapore, China, Abu Dhabi, Australia, San Francisco, Turkey and Belgium. The amount of effort everyone made was astonishing and this is why we tried to put on the best day for them too," remembers Stephanie.♥



## *Stephanie and Kristian's contacts*

**Photographer** | [chensands.com](http://chensands.com)

**Venue** | [spriversmansion.co.uk](http://spriversmansion.co.uk)

**Marquee** | [cavendishmarquees.co.uk](http://cavendishmarquees.co.uk)

**Bride's dress and accessories** | [teokath.co.uk/canterbury](http://teokath.co.uk/canterbury)

**Bride's hair and make-up** | [amua.co.uk](http://amua.co.uk)

**Groom's suit** | [rafflestailor.com.sg](http://rafflestailor.com.sg)

**Bridesmaids' dresses** | [ariella.com](http://ariella.com)

**Groomsmen's suits** | [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)

**Rings** | [goldandcarbon.com](http://goldandcarbon.com)

**Flowers** | [heatherandwood.co.uk](http://heatherandwood.co.uk)

**Transport** | [specialdaysbushire.co.uk](http://specialdaysbushire.co.uk)

**Wedding list** | [prezola.com](http://prezola.com)

**Entertainment** | [facebook.com/odysseysoundandlights](http://facebook.com/odysseysoundandlights)

**Wedding planner** | [novaweddingplanning.co.uk](http://novaweddingplanning.co.uk)

**Catering** | [kitchenofkent.co.uk](http://kitchenofkent.co.uk)

**Celebrant** | [daisy-chain-civil-celebrants.co.uk](http://daisy-chain-civil-celebrants.co.uk)

**Videographer** | [sdproductions.me.uk](http://sdproductions.me.uk)

**Photo booth** | [instabox.co.uk](http://instabox.co.uk)



## **Wedding Show Dates for 2018**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

St Augustine's Priory, Bilsington. Ashford. 10.30am-3pm

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Oakwood House Hotel, Maidstone. 11.00am-3pm

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Hythe Imperial Hotel. 10.30am-2.30pm

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

The Ashford International Hotel, Ashford. 10.30am-2.30pm

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

The Holiday Inn, Ashford North A20. Ashford. 10.30am-2.30pm

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018**

St Augustine's Priory, Bilsington. Ashford. 10.30am-3pm

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Oakwood House Hotel, Maidstone. 11.00am- 3pm

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018**

The Ashford International Hotel, Ashford.10.30am-2.30pm

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

The Holiday Inn, Ashford North A20. Ashford. 10.30am-2.30pm

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

St Augustine's Priory, Bilsington. Ashford. 10.30am-3pm

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# *Fairytale* IN KENT

Amrit and Luke enjoyed a dream big day at Chilston Park hotel  
Images courtesy of Tony Gameiro

Amrit and Luke met through work when she came to deliver a training course on one of his sites. Luke was said to be struck by her beauty and the passion she displayed in coaching a tough crowd. The pair chatted over the lunch break and Luke knew he'd regret not spending more time with her, so he asked her out for a drink. Thanks to their undeniable chemistry, Amrit even forgave him for forgetting his wallet on their first date!

Three years later Luke asked her to marry him at home on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. "I cooked her favourite meal, filled the room with roses, put on my best suit and surprised her by getting down on one knee after she got in from a hard day's work," reveals Luke. "I also made sure I chose a ring she couldn't say no to!"

Here, Amrit reveals all the details of their dream day...



We viewed several venues but as soon as we saw Chilston we fell in love. The hotel and its grounds are beautiful and the different function rooms allowed us to move around as the day progressed.



We were able to use the venue exclusively with our loved ones for the day right through to the following morning which made it even more special.



I wanted to tie my Punjabi heritage together with a more traditional English wedding. So I had an English ceremony and an Indian reception and party.



We chose my evening Indian Langha dress fairly early on. It was navy with exquisite gold detailing, which helped guide the palette for the rest of the wedding.



The first thing I chose was my dusky pink Louboutins. Everyone has their own priorities!



We met Serena from Cobi and Coco and designed the cake with our navy and gold colour scheme in mind. She picked up on the detailing of the dress with a stunning hand-made mould.



We asked Michelle at Flowerart to pick up on the colour of my shoes for the bouquet.



We had tall, floral ivory centrepieces so our guests could see each other at dinner, but the design was also beautifully impactful.



For the ceremony room we went with an ivory runner, a simple navy ribbon on each chair with a dusky pink rose on each aisle seat.



We reflected the navy and gold in the table plan and place names.



We had dusky pink roses on the end of the aisle to tie the colour scheme together.



I had a mermaid-style white dress with veil. I chose this as it was so flattering and made me feel very comfortable.



Luke stood out from the other boys in his blue suit, while they wore either navy or grey.



The girls wore sleeveless full-length navy dresses with beaded detail across the chest and shoulders. This took some serious consideration and the decision actually took longer than me picking my two wedding dresses.



The day felt perfect. We floated through on a cloud and I've never felt happier. It was amazing to have shared this feeling with all our beloved friends and family.



The little ones looked particularly cute.

“ Our photographer told me to prepare myself to be blown away by my beautiful bride as she was about to walk down the aisle – it’s safe to say I was. – Luke ”

### *Amrit and Luke’s contacts*

**Photographer**

kent-wedding-photographer.co.uk

**Bridesmaid’s make-up**

bambibeautiful.co.uk

**Flowers**

flowerart-uk.com

**Venue**

handpickedhotels.co.uk/chilstonpark

**Groom’s suit**

moss.co.uk

**Stationery**

etsy.com/uk/shop/foxesonboxes

**Bride’s dress**

orientalpearl.london

**Bridesmaid’s dresses**

houseoffraser.co.uk

**Entertainment**

calibar.co.uk  
melismamusic.co.uk

**Bride’s accessories**

nargiscollections.com

**Rings**

earnestjones.co.uk  
rpsjewellers.com

**Favours**

mymms.co.uk

**Bride’s hair and make-up**

gemmasutton.com

**Cake**

cobiandcococakes.com

**Chocolate fountain**

hotchocolates.co.uk



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Tumbler, £18, amaroni.com

## Traditional



Portable bluetooth speaker, £30.99, amazon.co.uk



Stripe mug, £8, colliercampbell.com



Green or red plates, £3.99 for 20, matching cups, £4 for 20, dazzeandfizz.co.uk



Subscription gift box, from £69, notanotherbill.com

Pine and eucalyptus diffuser, £62, jomalone.co.uk



Purple candle, £50, baobabcollection.com

Red hand blender, from a selection, smeg.com

Blue sofa, from £1,770, sofasandstuff.com



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talkingtables.co.uk



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talkingtables.co.uk



Neon cactus lamp,  
£37.99, prezzybox.com



Rainbow hand wash  
and hand and body  
lotion, £10 for set,  
beautykitchen.co.uk



Coloured tealight holders, £20  
(set four), isa-international.com



Party decorations,  
from a selection,  
talkingtables.co.uk

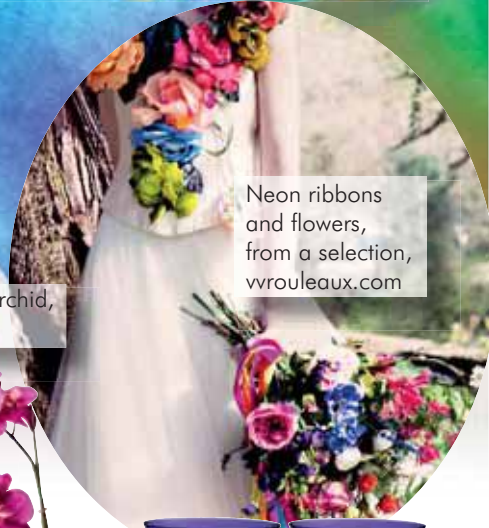


Sakura Silks Bathing  
Flowers, £10,  
heathcote-ivory.com

# Neon



Confetti canon, £6.99,  
talkingtables.co.uk



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and flowers,  
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vrouleaux.com



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£1, ikea.com

Artificial potted orchid,  
£10, ikea.com

Colour changing flask,  
£24.95, theletterroom.com



Ice cream lolly lights,  
£8.99, prezzybox.com



Ribbon tassel, £12,  
dazzleandfizz.co.uk

Cushion, £59,  
prezola.com



Set of two purple  
flutes, £146.20,  
waterford.co.uk



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Tulle pom poms, £8.49, [talkingtables.co.uk](http://talkingtables.co.uk)



Faux flowers, from £6.50, [curatedliving.co.uk](http://curatedliving.co.uk)



Iridescent flowers, from a selection, [vvrouleaux.com](http://vvrouleaux.com)



Iridescent tealight holders, £17, LSA International at [redcandy.co.uk](http://redcandy.co.uk)



Vases, from £12, [debenhams.com](http://debenhams.com)



Silver stand mixer, from a selection, [smeguk.com](http://smeguk.com)



Iridescent glass vase, £26, LSA

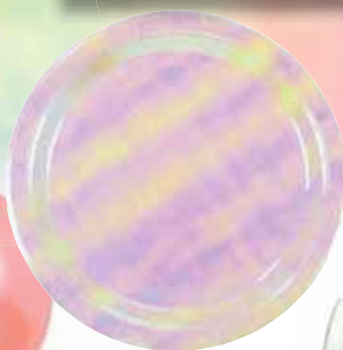


# Iridescent

Pure Morris The Collection beauty tin, £22, [heathcote-ivory.com](http://heathcote-ivory.com)



Iridescent plates, £3.99, 12 pack, [talkingtables.co.uk](http://talkingtables.co.uk)



Napkins, £3.99, 16 pack, [talkingtables.co.uk](http://talkingtables.co.uk)



Iridescent balloons, £3.49 and £4.99, per pack, [talkingtables.co.uk](http://talkingtables.co.uk)



Iridescent wine glasses, £40 (set four), LSA International at [redcandy.co.uk](http://redcandy.co.uk)



Ombre plates, £3.99, 12 pack, [talkingtables.co.uk](http://talkingtables.co.uk)



Ombre cup, £3.49 12 pack, [talkingtables.co.uk](http://talkingtables.co.uk)



Favour ribbons, from a selection, [vvrouleaux.com](http://vvrouleaux.com)





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# Congratulations!

## Mark & Oliver

Mark and Oliver were crowned winners of the fourth round of our Wedding of the Year competition and are through to the final. Here, Mark tells us more about their big day...



*I think the most joyful part of organising the wedding was feeling so much love from those involved. Nothing was ever too much trouble and I established an even stronger bond with Oliver and our family and friends throughout the planning.*



*We had eight beautiful bridesmaids so naturally it took a bit of time before they all said 'yes' to the dress. We wanted everyone to feel comfortable and in the end they all looked perfect.*



*We thought we'd be the hardest to dress but we both fell in love with our suits. We even had a change of shoes for the evening for some added glitz and glamour.*



*It's very easy to get caught up in the whirlwind of planning, but stick to your vision and it will look amazing.*



*We used blush pink, white and lots of sparkle for our colour scheme. We also included fabulous ostrich feathers for centrepieces with a white lace and diamanté overlay with scattered crystals for an understated yet stunning feel.*



*If we could go back and do it all again we would. I'd love to relive the best day ever; there's not a single thing I'd change.*



*We entered the competition because we believed we had as good a chance as anyone. Love is love no matter where you come from or who you are.*

### Mark and Oliver's contact book

**Photographers** | [cherrybevents13@gmail.com](mailto:cherrybevents13@gmail.com) | [Facebook.com/FranksFotos](https://www.facebook.com/FranksFotos) | **Venue** | [staugustineskent.com](http://staugustineskent.com) | **Groom's suits** | [moss.co.uk](http://moss.co.uk) | **Bridesmaids' dresses** | [orientalpearl.london](http://orientalpearl.london) | **Rings** | [earnestjones.co.uk](http://earnestjones.co.uk) | **Cake** | [facebook.com/laura.cakedecorator](https://www.facebook.com/laura.cakedecorator) | **Flowers** | [thesecretgardenflorist.co.uk](http://thesecretgardenflorist.co.uk) | **Entertainment** | [dj1entertainment.com](http://dj1entertainment.com) | **Décor** | [thanetianevents.co.uk](http://thanetianevents.co.uk)

# Wedding of the Year 2017

Round  
5

It's the final round of this year's competition and we have three fantastic weddings, but which one gets your vote to put them through to the grand final?



## Emily & Neil

Emily Carberry married Neil Linwood at The Barnyard, Upchurch on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. Their day followed a light pastel colour scheme and was captured by White Light Photographic. ([whitelightphotographic.co.uk](http://whitelightphotographic.co.uk))

### The day

Emily tells us, "We didn't have a theme as such; we just wanted lots of pastel colours and rustic, country touches to reflect the time of year and our barn venue." The pair also made a lot of the smaller decorations such as the confetti cones, signs and place names as they wanted items to be bespoke but not too fancy or over the top as that's just not them. "We just tried to keep it simple with a few little extras here and there," explains the bride.

### Memorable moments

"It's hard to pick just one. I loved everything from getting ready in the morning with my mum and bridesmaids to walking down the aisle and seeing everyone. I'd also booked a magician as a surprise for Neil. He'd always wanted to but I'd said we didn't need one. The look on his face during the wedding breakfast was amazing – all the guests enjoyed his tricks as well." says Emily.



## Coral & Carl

Coral Clarke married Carl Heardden at Winters Barn, Canterbury on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. Their day followed a pale pink and ivory colour scheme and was captured by Samantha Jones Photography. ([samanthajonesphotography.co.uk](http://samanthajonesphotography.co.uk))

### The day

Coral and Carl chose to tie the knot at Winters Barn as they felt it had everything under one roof and loved the rustic feel of the venue; not to mention the large bar! They filled the space with personal touches like a cake topper featuring their beloved cats and a memory ladder that displayed photos of their family members who were sadly no longer with them.

### Memorable moments

Coral tells us, "I loved our day but a real highlight was seeing Carl and his groomsmen perform the Haka – a traditional war dance performed before matches. There was also a rather unpleasant surprise when our best man played a video of him on his stag do – not his proudest moment!"



# #WOTY2017

WEDDING OF THE YEAR

## Natasha & Oliver

Natasha Allen married Oliver Woodthorpe at St Mary's Church, Willesborough, followed by a ceremony at Lympe Castle, Hythe on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2017. Their day followed a pastel colour scheme and was captured by IMMI Photography. (immi-photography.com)

### The day

The pair chose to tie the knot at Lympe Castle. "We'd seen the venue from Port Lympe when we took our boys to the zoo for days out. We had a look round on one of their open days and before we were even officially engaged we booked our wedding there and then," recalls Natasha.

### Memorable moments

The bride shares, "Probably the biggest surprise for us was one of our bridesmaids turning up just after the ceremony, having given birth to her second baby less than 24 hours earlier! We also had our two beautiful boys christened just after we got married, as part of the same ceremony. It was our way of bringing our family together as one."



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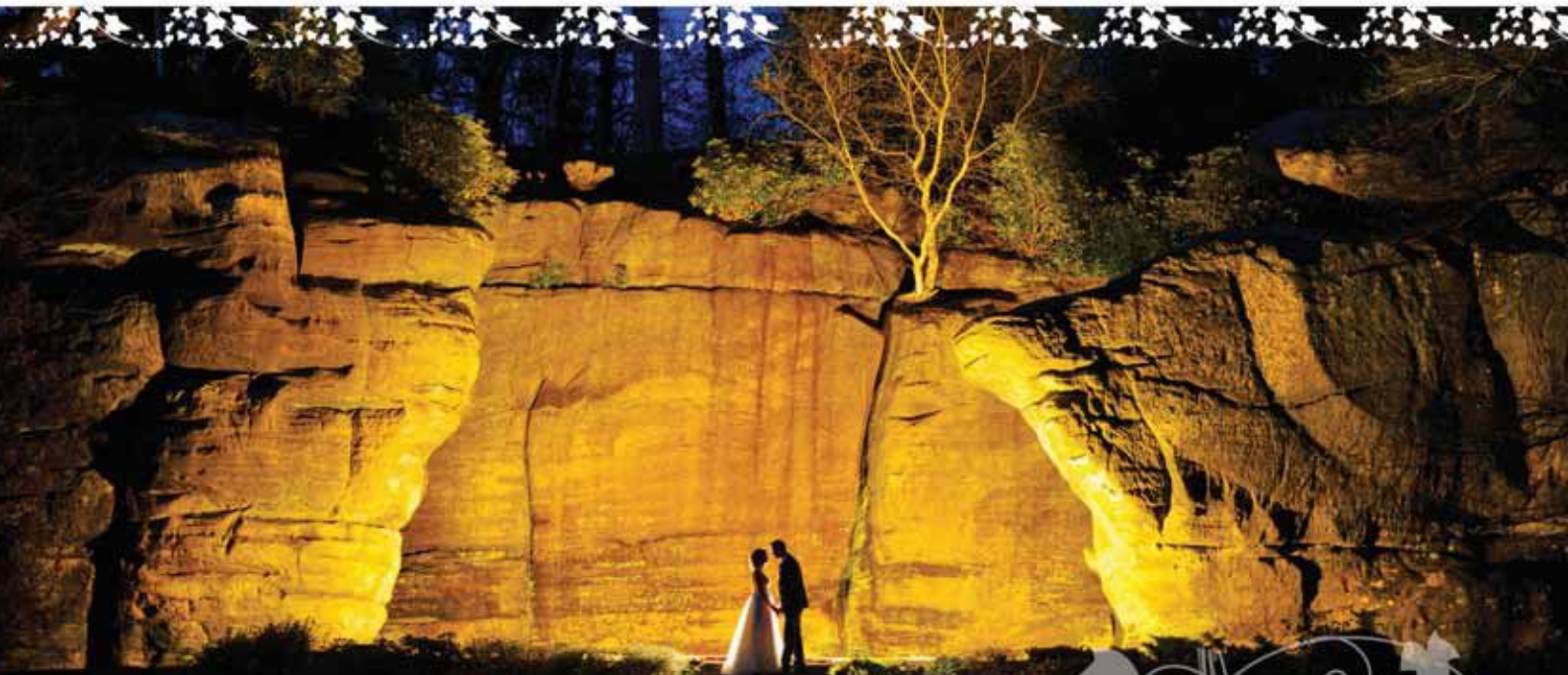
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# LOVE LETTERS

The most romantic big-day stationery

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, it's the perfect time to think about how you can add some thoughtful touches to the most romantic day of your life. A great place to start is your stationery, as you can easily nod towards your big-day theme, as well as really personalise it so it tells your love story. We've asked some local experts for their favourite suites, as well as giving a little run-down of the trends we've fallen for...

"This is a photo of our Blush Bouquet pocket fold set. I love this because it's a lovely mix of watercolour flowers and romantic typography with a tiny bit of bling thrown in for good measure! Single invitations with glitter border, pre-printed with guest's names and matching envelopes are priced from £2.99, pocket fold sets including invitation, RSVP, info card, bellyband, folder and envelope are £9.99 each." – Heather McMillan



"Here are a few pieces from our Romance Wedding Collection. The suite features a beautiful heart, circle or square diamante buckle held in place by your choice of colour-coordinated double satin ribbon and pearlised backing card. It includes a large range of stationery to ensure your theme is continued throughout your day; such as save-the-date cards, a table plan, menus and thank you cards. Priced from 50p." – Racheal Bradley-Seymour



"I've selected some pictures of the lace wallets. I think they're romantic as the soft fabric and roses combine to add romance and classic beauty to any special event." – Hannah Brassington



"I've included our Pure Simplicity Louis Design. Millbank and Kent believes this is a perfect collection for Valentine's Day due to its romantic floral watercolour detailing. This is also available in all wedding stationery elements." – Sarah Perkins

XOXO

# Together

## FIVE TOP TIPS WHEN CHOOSING YOUR WEDDING STATIONERY

### **Make sure the decision is right**

Pick a design that matches the overall feel of your big day. Whether you're hosting an elegant black tie celebration, or planning a relaxed outdoor barn knees up – search for stationery that suits your style.

### **Get more for your money**

To keep within budget, make sure you're clear with your stationer from the beginning, so you don't fall for something you can't afford.

### **Do you have everything you need?**

Before you buy your save-the-dates or invites, make sure the stationery design you love has all the other items you need in the same theme. This saves you time and the unnecessary stress.

### **Allow plenty of time**

When it comes to sending save-the-dates or invitations, things often take longer than expected. Allow extra time to get your guest list together, write out your envelopes and get your stationery in the post.

### **Ask for samples**

Always check the quality before you buy – stationers worth their salt will be willing to offer you a handy sample before you buy.

## STATIONERY IDEAS WE'RE LOVING - OUR TOP TREND PREDICTIONS



### **NY SEE**

Taking inspiration from the eternally cool Kate Spade, expect to see a cool clash of prints with clean lines and metallic accents.

### **24CT MAGIC**

Your Kent Wedding love all the bling that comes with planning a good wedding – but it doesn't have to stop with your jewellery and accessories. We'd love to (and predict we will) see some gold touches across the stationery. After seeing so many rose gold table cloths, what's stopping everyone from adding it to their menus and place names for an extra sophisticated touch?



### **STILL WATERS**

Serenity was Pantone's colour of choice a couple of year's ago, and blue hasn't really gone away. The latest shade Your Kent Wedding HQ think we'll be seeing more of is a cool pastel hue. Much more forgiving than navy, this is also the perfect partner for succulents. If you want to be really coordinated this shade would look great on the bridesmaids or groomsmen too.

P.S. I love you



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# Your Day Your Place



Image courtesy of David Fenwick



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## RUSTIC ROMANCE

This is the perfect idea for all the couples who dream of a more relaxed wedding – whether that's in a barn or a wed-fest style celebration, you'll want your stationery to match the tone of your day. We're thinking suites with natural touches and fabrics such as hessian will be huge for a thoughtful, eco vibe.

## A RARE GEM

Who else saw the geode cakes in 2017 and fell a little bit in love? We're predicting the fascination with rare gemstones will translate into stationery into 2018, with a modern take on shades like rose quartz and metallics.



## PS I LOVE YOU

With the trend for bespoke jewellery and accessories heating up, why not add a little personal touch to your stationery too? We're thinking calligraphy will be huge this year. There are plenty of sets you can buy online, but if you want it to look really professional we suggest you call in the experts.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Heather McMillan, [byblossom.co.uk](http://byblossom.co.uk) | Hannah Brassington, [simplystunninginvitations.co.uk](http://simplystunninginvitations.co.uk)  
Racheal Bradley-Seymour, [buttercupinvites.co.uk](http://buttercupinvites.co.uk) | Sarah Perkins, [millbankandkent.co.uk](http://millbankandkent.co.uk)





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# Girl power

Local ladies come together to push the boundaries of a traditional wedding in this stunning shoot

*Images courtesy of Epic Love Story*

Let's hear it for the girls... and the groom! As the sun sets over a picture-perfect orchard in the Kent countryside, a team of local business women put their best shoes forward and the result is breathtaking.

Dress designer Cara Whyte of Story of My Dress brought together a team of trusted peers for this photo shoot to showcase her latest bridalwear designs. There was talent aplenty, including hair by Terri at Kent Bridal Hair, and make-up by Amy Barker; who also provided the groom's attire from Monk's Clothing. The backdrop had to be something a little different so Cara enlisted Amanda Harvey of Little Bar Co. to bring along the converted horse trailer bars, which have already proved so popular this summer. As models Sian and Will sipped on their bubbles, of course keeping it locally-sourced from the Chapel Down vineyard in Kent, photographer Emma of Epic Love Story, guided them into the most natural of poses and captured their magical chemistry.

Cara explains, "Sian reflects a modern, stylish bride, rocking the latest trends against the backdrop of the luscious green countryside. Showing you don't need to compromise on your style and bridal look – on-trend and edgy also works for an outdoor, festival-style wedding. Both the top and skirt are from our own collection of bridal separates and dresses we launched this year, priced from £249 to £1,200. The lace top with button detail works so well with our polka dot tulle tiered skirt! Styled with pink tassel earrings, pink velvet platforms and a pink fur coat!"

Opting to move away from a classic up do, Terri comments, "It's too easy to put a bride's hair up in a traditional style. For this shoot, I worked with our model to accentuate her beautiful bone structure and also looked at the dress and accessories to ensure everything flowed."

Amy worked her magic brushes and created a simplistic luminated finish for the bride's make-up. "It's often easy to overdo the look on these occasions so we used Dermalogica Skin Perfect Primer for that natural glow." Amy also provided the groom's attire, "We love mixing and matching different prints and textures for a modern twist on a classic."





Contributors to this shoot: Photography, Epic Love Story [epiclovestory.co.uk](http://epiclovestory.co.uk); Dresses, Story of my Dress [storyofmydress.com](http://storyofmydress.com); Hair, Kent Bridal Hair [kentbridalhair.com](http://kentbridalhair.com); Make-up, Amy Barker Makeup [amua.co.uk](http://amua.co.uk); Groomswear, Monks Clothing [monksclothing.co.uk](http://monksclothing.co.uk); Bar, Little Bar Co [littlebarco.com](http://littlebarco.com); Models, Sian Homer and Will Blakey

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# #Wedfest



Check out *Your Kent Wedding's* top styling tips for your very own love nest



## FLORAL UPDATES

We predict brides will love an eclectic mix of vintage and modern blooms in 2018 – use these in your bouquet, around the venue or on tables at various heights to add some drama.

## SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

We're guessing you're going to want lots of flowers as you've chosen to celebrate outside. If you want to look really on-trend then the bolder the better when it comes to your blooms. You can, of course, mix this with some pastels if you want to tone it down slightly.

## COLOUR OF THE YEAR

Leading UK paint brand Dulux has unveiled its highly anticipated colour of the year: Heart Wood. The dusky tones have been having a major design moment lately – led by the brand's industry-acclaimed trend forecast, ColourFutures – this can easily be incorporated to add a little heart into your wedding.



## WHIMSICAL WONDERLAND

A touch of whimsy is possibly one of the most romantic trends as it can be inspired by the great outdoors or magical fairytales. Many key designers like Oscar de la Renta have captured this look perfectly, so expect to see it move from the catwalk into your styling.



## GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES

Not just for Christmas, wreaths are becoming a popular alternative decoration for weddings across all seasons. Wispy grasses, sweet smelling eucalyptus and wild flowers, these bohemian rings are sure to impress your guests.



## RAISE THE ROOF

Move away from dull decor by filling every corner of your venue with beautiful points of interest. We love the idea of hanging flowers from your ceiling for a modern take on the recent flower power craze – perfect for bohemian brides.



## BACK TO BLACK

You might think the idea of incorporating black into your classic white bridal look is madness, but when you see how the designers have done it, you'll see it gives a modern and effective monochromatic twist, that can't fail to add sophisticated drama to your day.



## PERFECT ILLUSION

2018 will see a surge in see-through settings and décor. Everything from the venues themselves (think glasshouses), or light bright spaces with full windows to Perspex seating, or an abundance of glass. Great for modern, minimalist couples who like clean lines and Scandi vibes.



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### RUSTRIC RETREAT

Homespun weddings filled with branches, lanterns and nature-inspired décor are set to be more popular than ever. Festoon lighting will still look great, with the addition of some drapes around archways to soften any harsh lines your space may have – and it’s a great modern alternative to a flower wall.



### COMING OF AGE

The vintage wedding trend is still going strong! It’s no surprise — there’s just something that feels so romantic about adding aged and antique items to your big day. Many couples opt to include family heirlooms within their décor, giving a personal touch to their vintage wedding..



### BY INVITATION ONLY

Weddings are getting smaller. Indeed, couples are opting to leave relatives they haven’t seen for years off the guest list, choosing more intimate gatherings with the people that matter most. This also cuts the wedding budget considerably; meaning extra cash to create a beautiful table plan or seating arrangement.



### PURE ROMANCE

With the announcement of the royal wedding in May, we’re sure that there’ll be even more love in the air than usual. Meghan and Harry seem smitten so we predict they’ll be using soft lighting, classic flowers and crystal chandeliers – style elements you can easily adopt for yourself.

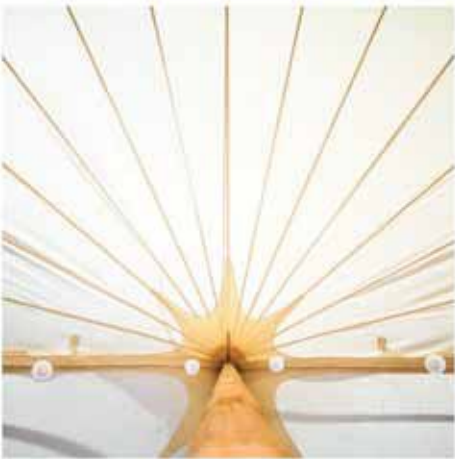
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Hats on

For brides that want to make a truly unique statement on their special day, Awon Golding Millinery's collection is a homage to '70s glamour and inimitable style icon of the time, Bianca Jagger. The London-based milliner draws on her multicultural heritage to inspire dynamic headpieces. Working with bold shapes to create dramatic silhouettes, each piece is hand-crafted to incorporate traditional and unconventional materials and techniques. To view the full line, visit [awongolding.com](http://awongolding.com)



FASHION EDITOR'S FAVOURITE

I can't resist a bit of boho bridal, so imagine my delight when I discovered The White Garden line from Hampshire bridal couture label, Calm Amongst the Chaos. Featuring six laid-back, easy-to-wear designs, it's a must-see for free-spirited brides-to-be looking for a dress that reflects their personality. Made from heavenly laces, tulle and silks, all of these creations are beautiful, but my personal favourite is *Agatha*, which features this season's key detail: statement sleeves. For more details on the brand and to see the full collection, go to [calmamongstthechaos.co.uk](http://calmamongstthechaos.co.uk)



Fashion focus

Laura Sutherland reveals the latest bridal fashion news, buys and launches



MOTHER DEAREST

John Charles has got your mum's big-day outfit covered with its exquisite new spring/summer 2018 collection, which sees a variety of new shapes added to the label's signature silhouette. Designed to be a nod to the latest trends whilst still keeping that familiar aesthetic, shapes range from a fun, floaty tea-length to a striking floor-length that will take her effortlessly from daytime ceremony to evening reception. With a colour palette covering soft metallics, pops of citrus, blush pink and statement blue and flourishes including hand-crafted embroidery and hand-painted lace, these pieces offer a seasonally appropriate individual twist on classic mother-of-the-bride dressing. To find your nearest John Charles stockist, visit [johncharles.co.uk](http://johncharles.co.uk)



GIVE IT A PEARL

Luxury bridal footwear label Aruna Seth has launched its new Pearl and Diamond range for 2018. Taking inspiration from the concept that the diamond is the sun and the pearl is the moon, with both offering perfect illumination, the collection's four signature styles feature pearl-studded heels in either silver or gold. For more details, go to [arunaseth.com](http://arunaseth.com)



Go dotty

If you want a breathtakingly beautiful gown, but your budget is more high street than high-end, Dorothy Perkins' debut bridal collection has the one for you. From full, flowing skirts to fabulous fishtails and short, retro hemlines to vintage showstoppers, there's a stunning wedding dress for every woman. Luxurious fabrics such as lace, tulle, satin and chiffon – combined with lashings of beading and embroidery – elevates this range of dreamy gowns above its price tags, which range from £85 to £185. Visit [dorothyperkins.com](http://dorothyperkins.com)



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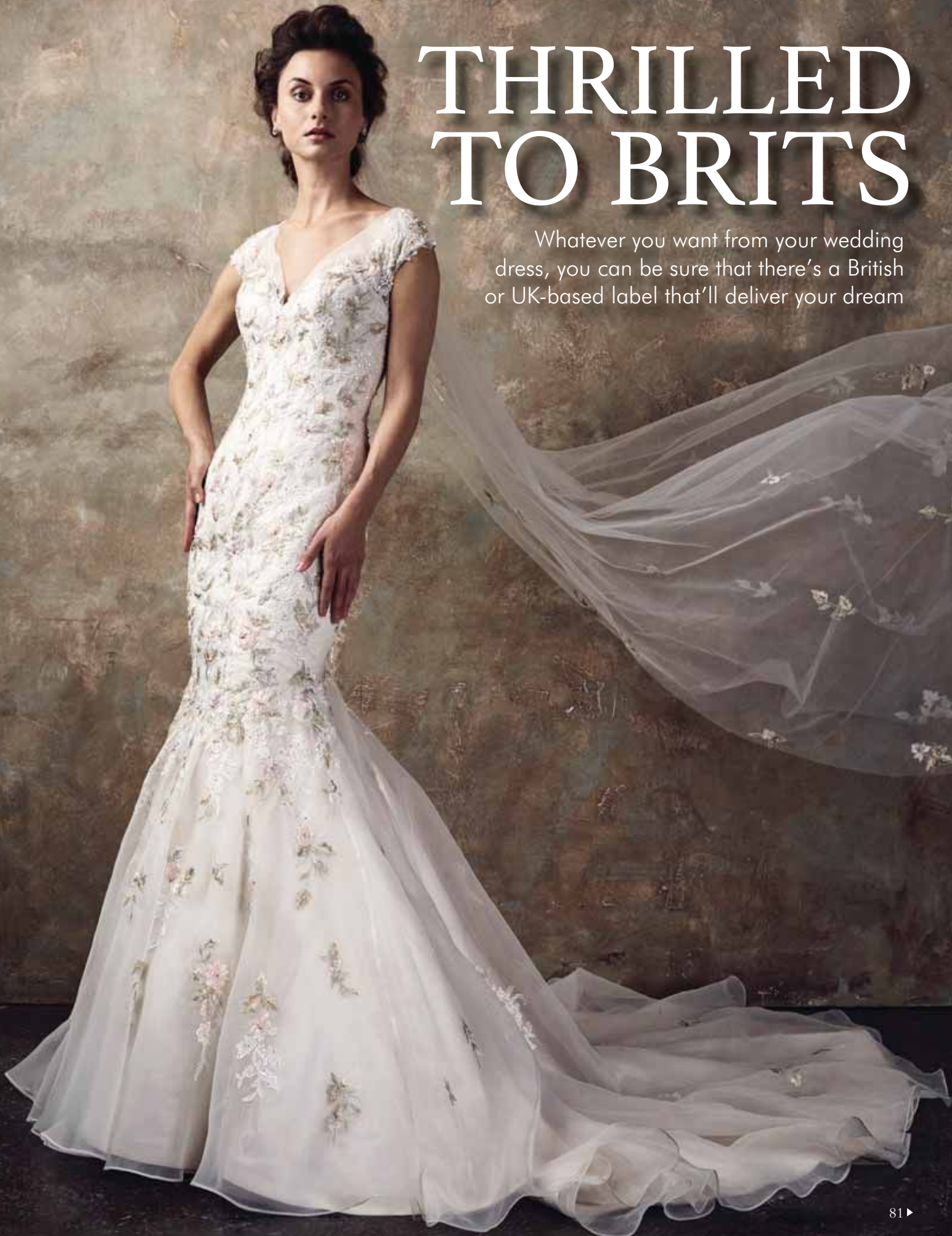
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*Astoria* by Suzanne Neville  
suzanneneville.com



## THE COUTURIERS -IN-CHIEF

For brides who want to make a high-octane  
entrance in a showstopping gown

*Bardot* by Ian Stuart  
ianstuart-bride.com



*Pandora* by Naomi Neoh  
naomineoh.com



*Cosmic* by Jenny Packham  
jennypackham.com



Imogen by  
Savannah Miller  
savannahmiller.com



Lydie by  
Temperley London  
temperleylondon.com



# THE FASHION FRONT-RUNNERS

For brides who want their big-day dress  
to nail both their personal style and  
bridal trends

Viola by Amanda Wakeley  
amandawakeley.com



Veronique by Muscat Bridal  
muscatbridal.com



Bluebell by Halfpenny London  
halfpennylondon.com



Alexandra by Monsoon  
uk.monsoon.co.uk



Christina by Chi Chi  
www.chichiclothing.com



## THE HIGH STREET HEADLINERS

For brides who want to achieve contemporary, laid-back wedding-day style on a budget

Rosaline by Dorothy Perkins  
www.dorothyperkins.com



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Eve by Whistles whistles.com

French Connection's 2018 bridal collection  
frenchconnection.com

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Delia necklace, £75,  
Anna Lou of London  
annalouoflondon.com

Luxor earrings,  
£80, Lola Rose  
lolarose.co.uk

Mixed crystal bar slide bracelet,  
£49, Adore Jewelry  
uk.adorejewelry.com

Stone and sequin drop  
earrings, £12, ASOS  
asos.com

Lustre statement  
necklace, £28,  
Gem London  
gemlondon.co.uk

Esme peep-toe  
suede heels, £595,  
Emmy London  
emmylondon.com

# Chasing rainbows

Brighten up your big-day look with colour-rich  
heels, clutches and gems

Tilly clutch, £65,  
Rainbow Club  
rainbowclub.co.uk

Natasha clutch, £350,  
Emmy London  
emmylondon.com

Perspex sequin  
box clutch, £22,  
JD Williams  
jdwilliams.co.uk

Couture collection  
cuff, £203, Les  
Georgettes  
lesgeorgettes.com

Bellflower clutch,  
£65, Dune  
dunelondon.com

Pavé cushion earrings,  
£45, Adore Jewelry  
uk.adorejewelry.com

Jennifer satin  
peep-toes, £69,  
Rainbow Club  
rainbowclub.co.uk

Strappy peep-toe  
crystal sandals, £125,  
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£175, Coach  
uk.coach.com

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## BRIDESMAIDS

Gatsby tiara, £88,  
glitzysecrets.com



Deco-style earrings, £25,  
glitzysecrets.com

Deco-style necklace, £20,  
glitzysecrets.com

Crystal flower basket brooch, £128,  
openforvintage.com

Mint and gold shoes, from  
a selection,  
emmylondon.com

1920s beaded flapper bag, £275,  
openforvintage.com

1920s-style headpiece, £76,  
glitzysecrets.com



1920s silk dress, £1,130,  
openforvintage.com

# THE ROARING '20s

Claire Ridley shops fashion through the decades for bridesmaids, starting with the famous flapper girl-style from the 1920s

Pure Color Love Lipstick in Crazy Beautiful, £19,  
esteelauder.co.uk

Silver and gold satin bias-cut dresses, £245, ghost.co.uk

Green satin bias-cut dress, £245,  
ghost.co.uk

Bias-cut dress with floral embroidery, £395,  
topshop.com

V-neck embellished dress, £175,  
houseoffraser.co.uk

Orchid, Amber and Incense bath soak, £8,  
gracecole.co.uk

Mink faux fur stole, £28,  
joanieclothing.com



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# Green PEACE

Crochet, capes and cacti: hippy-chic is always in style for bohemian brides-to-be

*Courtesy of Gather the Light*



Left to right: *Maria* crop top by Rock The Frock Vol. 1 and tulle skirt by Hazaar of London; *Maria* body by Rock The Frock Vol. 1 and satin skirt by Hazaar of London; *Margot* dress by Rock The Frock Vol. 1



*Jane* top and skirt by Rock The Frock Vol. 1



Cass by Rock The Frock Vol. 1



Joni by Rock The Frock Vol. 1

**Photography:** Gather the Light [gatherthelight.com](http://gatherthelight.com) | **All dresses:** Rock The Frock Bridal [rockthefrockbridal.co.uk](http://rockthefrockbridal.co.uk) | **Shoes:** Merle & Morris [merleandmorris.com](http://merleandmorris.com) | **Make-up:** Claire Marie Makeup [clairemariemakeup.co.uk](http://clairemariemakeup.co.uk) | **Hair:** Lisa Alger Hair & Makeup [essexweddingbeauty.co.uk](http://essexweddingbeauty.co.uk) | **Styling:** Rock The Day [rockthedaystyling.co.uk](http://rockthedaystyling.co.uk) | **Flowers and plants:** The Flower Arranger [theflowerarranger.co.uk](http://theflowerarranger.co.uk) | **Cake:** French Made [frenchmade.co.uk](http://frenchmade.co.uk) | **Stationery:** Wonderland Invites & Design Studio [wonderlandinvites.com](http://wonderlandinvites.com) | With thanks to Writtle University College for the location [writtle.ac.uk](http://writtle.ac.uk)



I'm not quite sure how we've got to 2018 already but it's the start of a very exciting year for beauty. I've rounded up some of my key hero products, iconic brands and ones to watch so you can start as beautifully as you mean to go on.

*Ivana* Beauty editor, cat lover and eyeliner queen (@CWMbeauty)

## A starring role

In a recent interview with *The New York Times*, actress Salma Hayek Penault said she, "Uses a mix of serums and oils depending on (her) skin that day," including the Anne Semonin Precious Serum. This is an intensive, overnight elixir packed with rose, jojoba and essential oils to revitalise and detoxify fatigued or lacklustre skin. If it makes you as stunning as Salma I'm sold! Priced at £98 from [anneseemonin.com](http://anneseemonin.com)



## A BEAUTY PRODUCT FIT FOR A QUEEN

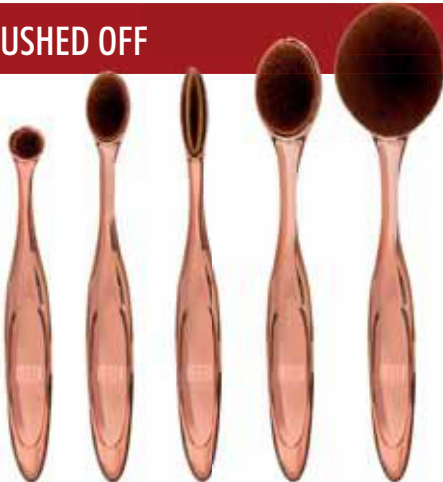
It's known in beauty circles that Kate Middleton is a huge fan of British beauty brand Beuti Skincare, and its Beauty Sleep Elixir helped achieve her big-day glow. The company is pleased to announce it's launched its new Pomegranate Glow Enzyme Cleanser, which can tighten, smooth, exfoliate and moisturise. Plus, it's even great on my sensitive skin.

Priced at £35 from [lookfantastic.com](http://lookfantastic.com)

# Beauty buzz

Ivana Sidey reveals all the latest beauty must-haves for the bride-to-be

## BRUSHED OFF



Make-up brushes are now so sophisticated it's hard to keep up. However, unlike its rivals, new brand Luxe doesn't just look good on Instagram, the ergonomic design means even novices can achieve flawless application, and the special material means it works well with make-up, moisturiser and primer on face and body.

Priced from £8.99 from [boots.com](http://boots.com)



## WOW ♥

You'll probably think you've heard it all, but how about a 'coat' for your hair? It could be just the thing to get you through the cold weather and hot central heating. Well look no further, as Colour Wow has just announced its Dream Coat humidity slayer that weatherproofs locks, prevents frizz and totally transforms hair's texture.

Priced at £22 from [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)

## IVANA LOVES...

It's no secret I love Bobbi Brown – the trend-led shades and unrivalled formulas never fail to impress. Well, she's done it again with the launch of the new multi-dimensional luxe eyeshadows. Available in three dramatic and distinctive finishes; lustre, metal and sparkle, these cream-to-powder products pack intense pigment on their own or layered together.

£27 from [bobbibrown.co.uk](http://bobbibrown.co.uk)



## Hey there Delilah

Amazing British brand Delilah has announced three playful new shades for the perfect pout.

- ♥ Flirt
- ♥ Foxy
- ♥ Floozy

Priced at £24 from [delilahcosmetics.com](http://delilahcosmetics.com)





## 60 REASONS TO FAKE IT

Fake Bake, the world's largest independent tanning brand, has announced that its global best-selling tanner, Flawless Self-Tan Liquid is now so popular it has surpassed one million bottles sold in 2017, and is flying off the shelves, selling a bottle every 60 seconds! Priced at £24.95 from [fakebake.co.uk](http://fakebake.co.uk)

## Iconic

Convince the world you've splashed out on microbladed brows with Iconic London's new revolutionary Sculpt & Boost Eyebrow Cushion. You won't believe the results it achieves.

Priced at £26.99 from [iconiclondoninc.com](http://iconiclondoninc.com)



## MURAD

Bye, bye bad skin! Murad has come to the rescue with its new Pomegranate Mask that uses intensive clay to rescue clogged pores without irritating sensitive skin. I'll take two!

Priced at £30 from [murad.co.uk](http://murad.co.uk)



## MODEL BEHAVIOUR

LOLA Make Up has partnered with *Britain's Next Top Model* as the official cosmetics sponsor. Specifically chosen by BNTM's head of make-up Lee Pycroft, the products will be used across the entire series to create unique looks for each campaign, challenge and theme, including a special LOLA Make Up campaign shoot episode. The BNTM winner will be awarded a national campaign as the face of LOLA Make Up for Spring 2018. Visit [lolamakeup.com](http://lolamakeup.com) and [bntm.co.uk](http://bntm.co.uk)



## Black magic

Lipstick Queen's Poppy King is known for her amazing lip products that adapt to your skin tone. Now she's pulled a rabbit out of the hat with this new Black Lace Rabbit cream blush that's the world's first black blush, which turns a shade of pink unique to your skin tone. Priced at £22 from [spacenk.com](http://spacenk.com)



## The holy grail of mascara

The Trish McEvoy High Volume Mascara is the answer to our prayers – it's tubular, meaning when you massage on warm water, it's removed in long 'tubes' – much cleaner than traditional mascaras! Also it's great for brides as it has a 'just applied' look that lasts all day.

Priced at £22.50 from [selfridges.com](http://selfridges.com)



## WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Is it a fragrance? Is it a shine and glossing spray? Ladies, it's both – and what a wonder it is, too. Don't let rainy days and sudden showers get you (or your hair) down.

Priced at £15 from [percyaandreed.com](http://percyaandreed.com)



## HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO

You're about to be forgiven for all the times you over-straightened your hair or damaged it from too much heat. Pantene has launched the innovative 3 Minute Miracle – a deep treatment that uses its Smart Pro-V formula to remove up to three months' worth of damage in just one use. I won't tell if you don't!

Priced at £2.99 from [tesco.com](http://tesco.com)



## Rehab hair

If you believe you should fake it to make it – then Hair Rehab is the brand for you. Boasting a wide variety of extensions, clip-ins and accessories, you can change your look as often as you change your mind. I've got short hair so I love the clip on bun!

Visit [hairrehablondon.com](http://hairrehablondon.com)



# Wedding wellness

Ivana Sidey looks at new products, tips and tricks for feeling your big-day best

Innermost is making waves in the supplement market with its ground-breaking formulations, delicious products and refreshing brand values. Manufactured in the UK and developed by a team of nutritionists, each product has been carefully formulated to contain protein, superfoods, antioxidants and nutrient-rich active ingredients that deliver a holistic approach to your daily needs.

Understanding that every body is different, each blend targets different goals across four categories: strong, fit, healthy and lean.

I love The Fit One that's great at energising you post-workout.

Priced from £30, [liveinnermost.com](http://liveinnermost.com)



By now, I'm sure we've all heard of the benefits of collagen on our hair, skin and nails – but what really works?

Beauty Complex is a new supplement on the market supported by dermatologists. Dr Anita Sturman has actually said, "Women are spending around £2,000-£5,000 per year on treatments, but they need to be supporting their skin from the inside if they want to see good results." This complex boasts visible results in 14 days (I was impressed) and studies have shown that 95 per cent of the collagen within Beauty Complex was absorbed and deposited into the skin and began working immediately to fight ageing from the inside out.

Priced at £39.95 per box (21 day supply) from [bodywiseuk.com](http://bodywiseuk.com)



With Christmas and Valentine's Day so close together, it's hard to find time to think of a really amazing present for

that special someone. For the beauty fan, the choice can feel overwhelming, which is why I love subscription boxes as they're a great introduction to brands. However, I hate receiving sample sizes or awful products from obscure labels. Developed by a dedicated team of beauty experts, Mintd is different. It offers a monthly or bi-monthly choice of four-five amazing, deluxe-size products from brands like Aromatherapy Associates, Rodial and Omorovicza to name a few. It's one of the most expensive boxes around but undoubtedly the most luxurious too.

From £65 from [mintdbox.com](http://mintdbox.com)



REN has just introduced a new pillow spray that's been created with a blend of essential oils to help restore a natural and healthy sleep pattern. I found it had a soothing, natural fragrance (frankincense and lavender) that helped me drift off and feel more refreshed by the morning.

Priced at £18 from [renskincare.com](http://renskincare.com)



Tisserand Aromatherapy has been sourcing and blending natural pure essential oils since 1974. It's now campaigning for consumers to become their own aromatherapists and embrace the power of essential oils into their beauty regime, and has launched 94 variant in Boots stores so you can tailor your tonic to suit your skincare needs.

Priced from £5.49 from [boots.com](http://boots.com)



I can't be the only one obsessed with the amazing, innovative Korean beauty products that have been appearing in our shops. The latest one joining the K beauty hype is London-based Skimono. It focuses entirely on sheet masks, combining the best technology with natural extracts to infuse the serum with as much skin-loving goodness as possible. I think they're all amazing and it's worth checking out the socks and gloves too.

Priced from £9.99 from [skimono.com](http://skimono.com)



There's a new powerful face serum that I had to tell you about. W=Hb<sup>2</sup> is the first product to be based on a very special wellness secret formula, a two-phase skin rejuvenation serum that fuses Swiss scientific rigour and ancient oriental medicine with eastern methodologies, Power Duo Face Serum delivers complete skin wellness. It's a great new addition for beauty obsessives to help keep themselves looking amazing.

Priced at £185 from [whb2.com](http://whb2.com)



Sometimes spa products are all style, no substance. But the Ushvani Spa, London's leading Malaysian spa is thrilled to announce its new Kaffir Lime bath oil. As with the rest of the range, this is highly effective and without the addition of any parabens, SLS, SLES or mineral oils. It's a refreshing and fragrant bath oil that contains jojoba and sunflower oil, along with lemon and lime tea extract to hydrate and even reduce fine lines and wrinkles.

Priced at £60 from [ushvani.com](http://ushvani.com)



Samol is a natural hair and scalp oil that, when applied overnight, deeply nourishes the hair from root to tip, leaving you with moisturised, sleek and glossy locks – perfect for any bride-to-be! It contains natural ingredients such as cold-pressed sweet almond oil and pumpkin seed oil; both of which contain natural vitamins and proteins that have promoted healthy hair care for centuries.

Priced from £5.40 from [samolherbal.com](http://samolherbal.com)







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"I really like the funky mix of silver stars, moons, hexagons and glitter dust. Great to take on your hen do; just remember to buy some separate fixing gel to make sure you sparkle all night long." – Rachel Westall

## 3 LUSH BIG BLUE BATH BOMB, £3.50 EACH, LUSH.CO.UK

"Once the bomb hit the water it fizzled away, releasing arame seaweed to help regulate the metabolism and change the water into a magical shade of blue. The sea salt and lemon softened my skin and left me feeling revitalised. If you want an at-home spa experience this is the go-to product." – Kay Tilbury

## 5 URBAN DECAY HEAVY METALS METALLIC EYESHADOW PALETTE, £43, URBANDECAY.CO.UK

"Boasting 20 amped-up shades that work wonders together and on their own, this is a great introduction to the brand as well as hardcore Urban Decay fans as all the highly-pigmented colours are new and exclusive. Obviously this is great for party season but you'll find the neutral shades will add a fab glow to your daytime look too." – Ivana Sidey

## 7 PIXIE LOTT PAINT PENS, £5.99, SUPERDRUG.COM

"If you want a strong, easy-to-apply colour then this is for you. Perfect to add some drama to your hair for your hen party or honeymoon – just be careful not to wear a white top as the colour does transfer but fades to a subtle soft shade, which I loved." – Hannah Faulder

## 9 TRANSFORMULAS HYDRATION GOLD, £26.95 FROM TRANSFORMULAS.COM

"This multi-purpose product is more than a moisturiser as it hydrates, nourishes and boosts radiance. Used on its own I found you had to use a fair amount to see a glow, but it's great for those days when foundation feels too heavy, or as a base for your regular product. I'd also recommend this as a highlighter – I'm taking mine with me on holiday!" – Claire Ridley

## 2 TONI & GUY CASUAL SEA SALT TEXTURISING SPRAY, £5, AMAZON.CO.UK

"Just scrunch and go with this handbag saviour. It gave my hair a tousled look without that stiff, crunchy feel. This is great for natural-looking beachy waves or to zhoosh up locks for the evening do." – Sarah Reeve

## 4 ESSENCE RAINBOW GLOW HIGHLIGHTER, £3.50, WILKO.COM

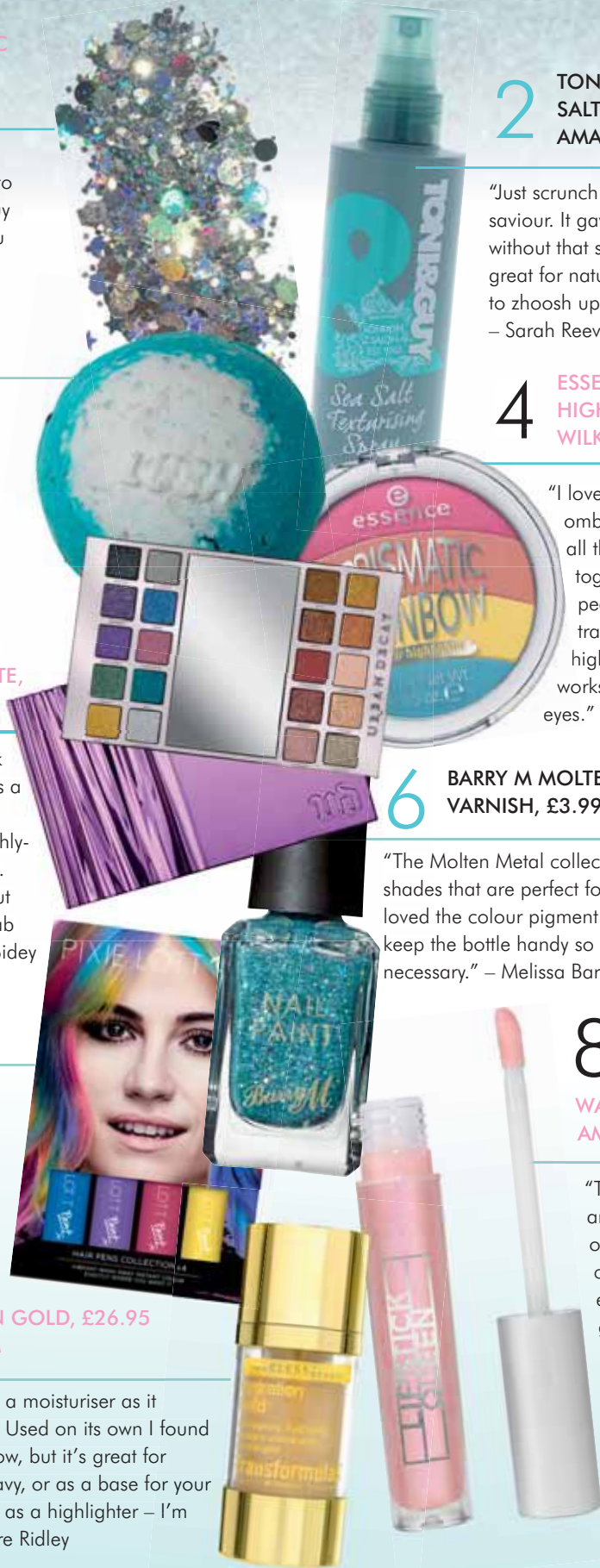
"I love that you can create an ombre effect on your skin using all the iridescent shades together, or just use rose and peach shades as a more traditional blush and highlighter. The yellow also works wonders to open up tired eyes." – Danielle Harvey

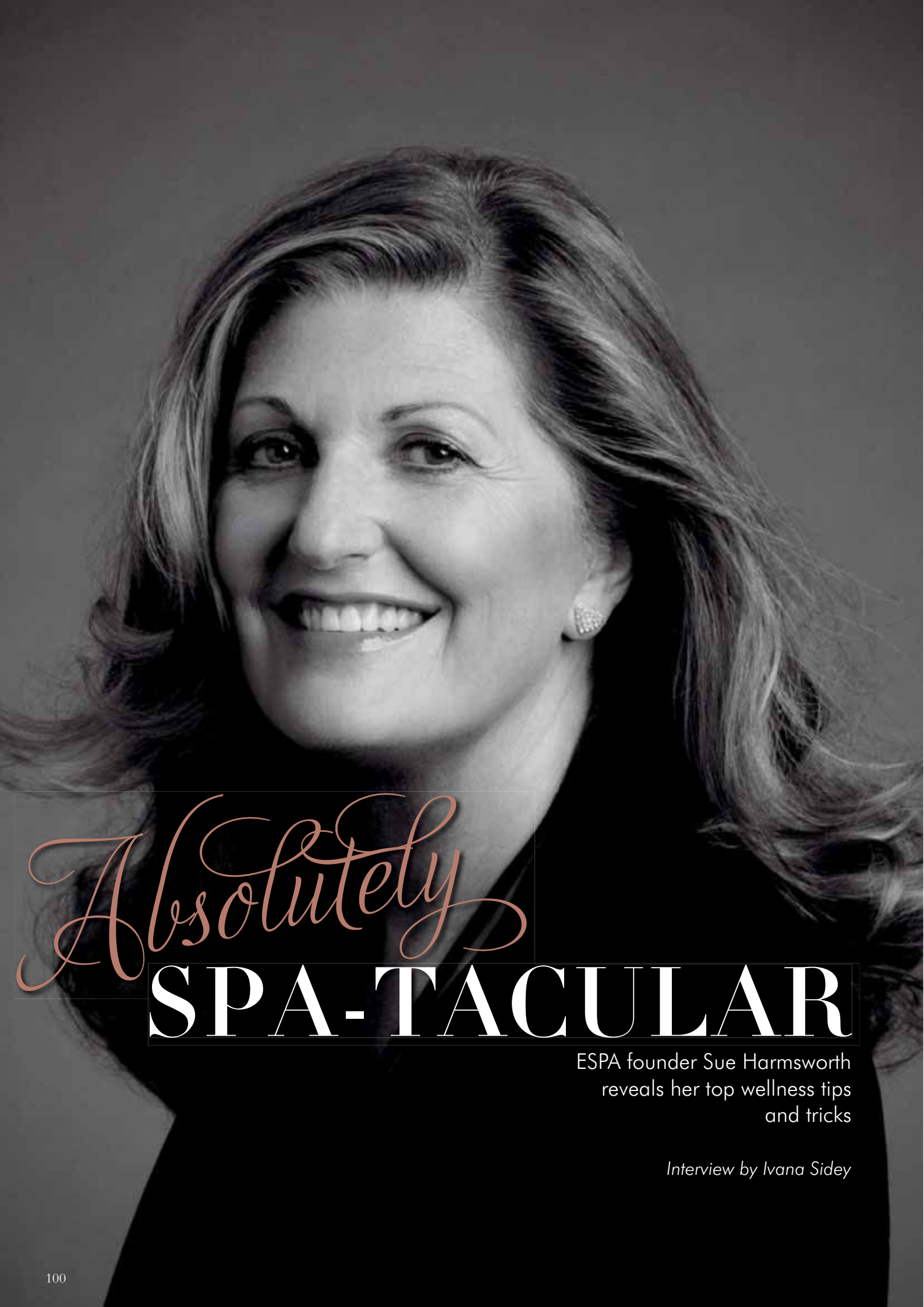
## 6 BARRY M MOLTEN METAL NAIL VARNISH, £3.99 EACH, BARRYM.COM

"The Molten Metal collection boasts some amazing shades that are perfect for a bold and striking look. I loved the colour pigment but found it had chipped, so keep the bottle handy so you can reapply if necessary." – Melissa Barker

## 8 LIPSTICK QUEEN ALTERED UNIVERSE LIP GLOSS IN TIME WARP, £16.66, AMAZON.CO.UK

"This product is super-glossy and long-lasting without any of the dreaded stickiness you can get from lip products. It's easy-to-apply and the rose gold tint would look amazing layered over your favourite shade for extra impact." – Annie Cannock





*Absolutely*

# SPA-TACULAR

ESPA founder Sue Harmsworth  
reveals her top wellness tips  
and tricks

*Interview by Ivana Sidey*

As the founder of sensational spa brand ESPA, Sue Harmsworth knows a thing or two about health and wellbeing. Here, she takes time out of her busy schedule to tell beauty editor Ivana Sidey how to achieve a work/life balance.

**What does wellness mean to you?**

My personal philosophy has always been about holistic wellbeing – working from the inside out to create natural beauty and inner calm. I take every opportunity to stay healthy, both physically and mentally. I stay fit, eat organic, nutrient-rich foods, have a rigorous skin and haircare regime, and go on a retreat twice a year. I’m also blessed with having a family I’m very close to – great daughters-in-law, two amazing sons and six wonderful grandchildren. This all means I’m ageing well, am happy and have boundless energy – long may it continue!

**What trends can we expect to see and enjoy?**

The sense that clients need to escape certain chaos, stress and noise is heightening – there is a growing number of workshops on meditation, nutrition and mindfulness as they want to learn how to take the therapies home from the spa and incorporate them into their everyday life, assisting with better rest and wellbeing. Sleep programmes and the popularity of sleep pods will also remain a trend for a very long time.

Lifestyles are also continuing to change dramatically; becoming even more fast-paced, demanding and technologically driven. The impact of this, and the health and wellbeing issues they bring, has brought to light the fact that traditional health services simply aren’t equipped with sufficient resource to be able to deal with the magnitude and new type of demand.

As a result, customers are turning to spas and therapists, seeking out complementary or alternative medicine and specialist holistic lifestyle solutions.

**For those who don’t know, what’s an ESPA spa like?**

It’s almost impossible to say, there are so many beautiful ones! I believe that every ESPA spa should have its own distinctive sense of place. The

inspiration comes from the local heritage and customs or rituals in each destination, the indigenous plant and marine life, the changing settings and cultures and, of course, the very many people we work in partnership with along the way. Everything from how the spa is laid out to create the customer journey to the soft furnishings, flooring, walls, heat experiences and fixtures, are meticulously selected in line with what has inspired our particular design brief for that spa.

**As a hugely successful woman in business, how do you achieve a work/life balance?**

As controversial as it sounds, I don’t believe there’s such a thing in life as balance. You’re either truly passionate about what you do or you aren’t. If you are, your work, your home and your social life all meld together.

**Do you have any morning or evening routines you swear by?**

I begin my morning with a cup of hot water and lemon and regular stretching. I also focus on my skincare regime in the morning. I apply Regenerating Face Treatment Oil, followed by the LIFESTAGE NET8Serum, 24 Hour Replenishing Eye Moisturiser and one of the ESPA moisturisers. My final layer is Optimal Skin ProDefence which I feel is an important step for me as my skin mainly suffers the effects of the environment from pollution to lighting and stress. At night, I apply a layer of Overnight Hydration Therapy, an overnight sleep mask to repair my skin so I wake up looking well-rested, refreshed and hydrated.

**What are your travel essentials?**

When I travel I regularly spritz my skin with Hydrating Floral SpaFresh, along with drinking lots of water to help keep my skin hydrated. I also keep Wonderbalm in my handbag to apply to lips and cuticles while on the go. When I travel long haul, I remove my make-up and apply a thin layer of face oil with Overnight Hydration Therapy over the top and leave on for the duration. Other essentials include my noise eliminators to drown out aircraft noise and my Missoni blanket, which I always travel with.

**Are there any key skincare ingredients we should be aware of?**

There’s been a huge explosion in the discovery of natural ingredients, and the technology in harnessing their potency, and we continue to



research the best ones and combine them in our formulas. For example one of our new products – Tri-Active™ Advanced Instant Facial – contains a number of ingredient ‘firsts,’ such as extracts of White Truffle and Microalgae Cell. We use Encapsulated Lavender vege-beads in Overnight Hydration Therapy, which first activate when rubbed into the skin and then again once your head hits the pillow, helping ensure restful sleep.

**What treatments would you recommend we try?**

The Ultimate Bridal Ritual treatment at Macdonald Craxton Wood Hotel & Spa which is a complete skin, body and mind experience to aid relaxation and reveal beautiful glowing skin for the big day. It includes a personalised aromatherapy massage, a full back exfoliation, lower leg massage and a Skin Radiance Facial to relax the body and leave skin beautifully soft and naturally glowing.

**Is there a philosophy you live by?**

I believe in having a positive mental attitude. Wake up every day and be grateful for what you’ve got, not what you don’t.♥



For more information, visit [espaskincare.com](http://espaskincare.com)

# Q&A

What are your top tips for creating a wonderfully romantic look?



Ashton Fionda  
Hair and  
make-up artist

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR

**Ashton says:** You have the perfect dress, so let's create the hair and make-up look to match.

I firmly believe that ladies should consider letting the natural beauty of their eyes do the talking and then drawing attention to the lips. especially around Valentine's Day, and we want them to be kissed! Red and pink are, of course, the colours of the day – so why not work with that? The former tends to be more of an occasion look when it comes to lips, so this is the ideal time to really brighten up that smile and make a statement.

Shades of pink can be soft, bright or perfectly in the middle. If you can't choose, select your three favourite shades and apply each one to help you reach a decision.

Now let's focus on the hair. Your chosen neckline can help you decide between an up do, down style or a voluminous look. I always find that an outfit with a lower neckline looks great with a sleek, blow dried style.



Sharon Harris  
Hair and  
make-up artist

## KISS AND MAKE-UP

**Sharon says:**

**For the make-up:**

If I'm asked to create a romantic look for a bride I instantly reach for my pink and plum shades. For me, they're the colours to create a soft fairytale finish. Eyes must always be captivating; they need to draw the groom's attention completely! Try sweeping a natural pale eyeshadow, with a slight shimmer, across the lid, gradually deepening the colours at the outer corners with a gentle plum for that desired look. Then, take a smoky shade along the lower lashline and add an intense black mascara or a set of natural lashes for the added impact.



Lara James  
Make-up artist

## Instant ATTRACTION

**Lara says:** For the perfect romantic look I like soft pink eyeshadow. Too many people shy away from this colour, but apply it with a light hand and you can achieve a really pretty look. The Urban Decay 3 palette contains a selection of warm and cool shades to suit a variety of skin tones.

♥ Next, apply Bobbi Brown long-wear gel eyeliner in Chocolate Shimmer Ink to cover the lash line – this creates a much softer look than black or grey. Finish off with a set of false lashes for maximum impact. My favourite natural lashes are MAC number 31 or 32 for a romantic fluttery look. If you're not a fan of strip lashes then try the Ardell knot-free individual ones, or if you're not keen on fiddling with either of those then Clinique Lash Power mascara is great.

♥ Pull the whole look together with MAC Face and Body foundation, which provides a beautiful, natural satin finish that won't look cakey and actually enhances your skin tone.

♥ Finally, remember that a glowing complexion is less about glitter and more about shimmer. Bobbi Brown's cheek glow palette creates a gorgeous natural glow while Dior Flash Luminizer can hide any dark circles with ease. Finish off by lining your lips and applying a kissable colour for the perfect pout. I love Lip Cheat Pink Venus with Bitch Perfect lipstick by Charlotte Tilbury.

Finish with a slight flush of rose on the cheek for that in love glow and a beautiful soft pink or berry shade to create that perfect pout, ready for your first kiss as husband and wife.

**For the hair:**

Curls, curls, curls! When I think about a romantic hairstyle it always involves some kind of volume or wave – whether they're cascading down your back, pinned up or draped over your shoulders; there are so many possibilities.

For me, a romantic look shouldn't be too structured as it needs to flow. For most of us, our first look at love is via *Disney* films and you never see the princesses with their hair scraped back!

Contact our experts

Ashton Fionda [decadencehairandmakeup.co.uk](http://decadencehairandmakeup.co.uk)

Lara James [larajamesmakeup.co.uk](http://larajamesmakeup.co.uk)

Sharon Harris [adornare.co.uk](http://adornare.co.uk)



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Men's sock brand MrD London has recently started offering a bespoke service for the groom's party at weddings.

With each pair of MrD London socks you'll always look good from the feet up, and these luxury items are perfect for men that wish to add personality and individuality to their outfits; whether running an empire, relaxing at home, walking the dog or getting hitched.

Check out [mrdlondon.com](http://mrdlondon.com)



## Off the cuff!

Abi Insoll Fine Jewellery has launched its vibrant and magical Vintage Button Cufflink collection. It sees buttons of glass and metal, originating from as far back as the Edwardian era, mounted on silver or gold for the perfect wrist adornment.

Designed and handmade in Abi's workshop on Eel Pie Island – an island in the River Thames at Twickenham – each unique set of cufflinks has been lovingly crafted with comfort, style and ease of wear in mind, a must for big-day gents!

Priced from £140, check out [abi.london](http://abi.london)



# Read all about it!

Danielle Harvey reveals her top new buys for guys



## HONEYMOON MUST-HAVE

Grab yourself some of these smart new Pjs from [cyberjammies.co.uk](http://cyberjammies.co.uk) – the perfect accompaniment for a pre-wedding getaway or honeymoon destination. Pictured is the Max Woven Long Sleeve Paisley Print Pyjamas priced at £50.

## Times TWO

New Movado Heritage Men's Watch Collection, £525, [movado.com](http://movado.com)



New Henry London Automatic Silver Milanese, £199, [henry-london.com](http://henry-london.com)

## #wantone

Perfect for those Instagram-worthy wedding and honeymoon selfies; the Limitless iPhone cases offer military-grade protection, not just built for resisting destruction however, the cases are also aesthetically very stylish using natural materials such as wood, real leather, carbon fibre and marble in their range. From £29.99, at [www.mous.co](http://www.mous.co)



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# GROOMING TIPS FOR MEN

Award-winning barber Tom Chapman shares his top tips for looking your big-day best...

## DON'T LEAVE YOUR HAIRCUT TOO LATE

It doesn't matter if you're drastically changing your style (not recommended!) or just keeping things tidy, book in to see your barber a week before your wedding. Giving yourself a solid seven days means your hair can grow back slightly, making it look a little more natural. Booking an early appointment also means you avoid risking an awkward situation if your barber can't squeeze you in the day before.

## APPLY COLOGNE THE RIGHT WAY

Whether it's sweet or musky, make sure you wear cologne on your wedding day – just don't get carried away! Regulate the number of spritzes to just one or two and dip your finger into the cologne to evenly distribute the scent. Consider the wrists, neck, chest and underarms as hotspots.

## BOOK YOURSELF IN FOR A WET SHAVE

If you're a clean-shaven gentleman, then consider heading down to your barbershop with your groomsmen for a traditional wet shave before your wedding day. The hot towels will do your complexion the world of good, while a traditional cut-throat razor promises a close shave like you've never experienced. Make sure your barber finishes with a post-shave balm to soothe the skin and reduce redness and irritation.

## WASH YOUR HAIR PROPERLY

The secret to strong, healthy hair on your wedding day starts with a reliable shampoo and conditioner.



Many men neglect these products, but they are essential for balancing sebum oil which causes greasy hair. Every man needs a bespoke regime when it comes to these products as sebum oil is produced at different speeds depending on the lifestyle of the person. For me, a thorough wash with each product on a daily basis works perfectly.

## SHOW YOUR BEARD SOME LOVE

If you're a bearded gentleman, make sure you visit your barber for a trim before the big day. Beards become unruly and messy quickly, so do this the week before the wedding. Use a beard oil as well to soften your facial hair and leave it smelling irresistible.

## PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR SKIN

Your skin is your largest organ and needs to be pampered and looked after. Drink plenty of water in the build up to your big day to keep the skin hydrated. It's also worth using a face scrub to remove dirt and oil from deep inside the skin's pores for a complexion that glows with confidence.

## CLEAN AND CLIP YOUR NAILS

Lots of men get so caught up thinking about their suit, shoes and tie that they forget to consider the simple things. It takes no time at all to cut and clean your nails, but this will make all the difference when you look back at the photos of you cutting the cake and exchanging rings.

## SPRAY ON THE DAY

The trend for men's hairstyles is for a little longer and softer look, so I recommend using a sea salt spray or volumising powder to create a look that boasts great body and hold without the slick, wet-effect. With natural looks in demand, a textured style also looks better through the photographer's lens.

## DEAL WITH EXCESS HAIRS

No, not down there! While at the barbershop, ask your barber to trim your nose hair, pluck or thread your eyebrows and ask if they do ear singeing.

Check out [bluebeards-revenge.co.uk](http://bluebeards-revenge.co.uk)



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Kuramathi Maldives has teamed up with County Wedding Magazines to offer one lucky reader and their partner the honeymoon of a lifetime. Newlyweds will spend six nights in a Deluxe Water Villa on a full board basis with return speedboat transfers from Malé International Airport.

Kuramathi Maldives is situated in the diminutive Maldivian archipelago of Rasdhoo Atoll. This paradise island is a mere 1.8km in length and is trailed by a snaking kilometre of white sandbank, lending a dramatic quality to the idyllic surroundings. A sense of tranquil isolation is created by an environment of lush and verdant vegetation fringed by the azure waters of the Indian Ocean offering a naturally Maldivian honeymoon for a romantic getaway.

One of the first Maldives island resorts to welcome guests, Kuramathi is an island of choice, offering a range of villas, numerous dining experiences, diverse facilities and a wealth of facilities for newlyweds. Guest villas are scattered around lush gardens, facing secluded areas of long beaches or poised over water. Many areas of the island remain untouched, inviting honeymooners to leisurely stroll along deserted beaches or wander through lush vegetation.

Couples seeking post-wedding relaxation need look no further than the resort's stunning spa that will nourish the body, relax the mind and balance the spirit. Those seeking a little more adventure can dive below the surface of the crystal clear water to encounter the incredible diversity of marine life, or engage in a variety of non-motorised water sports, such as windsurfing and kayaking. And after a busy day on or under the water, why not unwind with cocktails aboard a sunset cruise? ♥

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# THE TOPIC

Our experts advise on lovely romantic touches for your big day

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR

**We got engaged on Valentine's Day and, as a result, I really want our wedding to look as romantic as possible. What do you suggest?**

**Blessing says:** What a wonderful idea, and it's definitely the season of romance. On arrival, why not have a champagne fountain beside a scented water feature with lots of petals surrounding it? Create a pretty pathway into your main event space with the same petals to really wow your guests and entice them to follow the path and discover more.

In the main space, incorporate candles into your theme. Use these at various heights and lots of different sizes to really set the tone and let everyone know that love is definitely in the air. If your space doesn't allow open flames there are LED options you can buy that look amazing.

Next, why not include other iconic symbols of love such as plenty of flowers, up-lighters so the room has a real atmosphere, or even a string quartet playing your favourite songs in the background. Plus, nothing says romance like a sweet treat, so why not have a chocolate fountain? It's interactive and can be in different flavours or sizes to suit

your day. The smell always creates a nostalgic reaction too and might transport you and your guests back to a special date or time.



**Blessing Enakimio**  
Event consultant  
[blessingbyble.com](http://blessingbyble.com)

## Capture the moment

**I'm so excited to marry the love of my life, and as a result I want our day to reflect our emotions. How can we style our wedding so it looks as romantic as possible?**

**Amy says:** I think you'll need to have some red, as it's Valentine's Day. But avoid being too much of a cliché and make it a very deep hue, mixed with dark pink and lots of greenery. This will keep the look fresh and modern but still very romantic. Use a few roses but go sparingly and add lots of large, billowy blooms.

Try and opt for low lighting and lots of candles. Older venues like grand country houses would work well. Think fireplaces adorned with flowers, candles dotted up the sweeping staircase.

I'd also add a lot of height and texture with the props and décor you're using – think luxurious and dramatic. Brass is a perfect metal to add here and it would work beautifully with the low lighting and the candles.

Finally, you can add some dark wood vintage pieces, like an old bureau for the 'love letters' from the guests and a huge sideboard adorned with cakes and desserts. A 'his & hers' cocktail or drinks cabinet would be a lovely addition.



Overall, be consistent with the colours and styling, apply some of the above, and you could end up with a truly romantic, yet beautiful and original wedding day.

**Amy Hatch | Venue stylist**  
[vintageamy.co.uk](http://vintageamy.co.uk)

## Capture the moment

**How can we make those all-important photos look as loved-up as possible? What are your top tips?**

**Louisa says:** The most romantic shots your photographer will capture are the candid ones of your natural interactions together throughout the day.

So choose a photographer that you're comfortable with and one that you can relax around to have both the time and space to share those moments together. A beautiful location can provide that perfect backdrop to a romantic shot of you both wandering in the grounds, but to capture the intimate moments caught when you're chatting and laughing together naturally just needs a photographer with an eagle eye.



For those kind of romantic shots, location is not important – capturing the moment is.

**Louisa Dettmer | Photographer**  
[louisadettmerweddingphotography.co.uk](http://louisadettmerweddingphotography.co.uk)

## GLOW ON

**I want to look my absolute best for all the photos. How can I get (and maintain) that loved-up bridal glow?**

**Emma says:** Luckily there's lots you can do to really make a difference to your skin. Here are my top tips for achieving a beautifully radiant look:

♥ Look at trying kale and cabbage as they're in season in February. Rich in antioxidants and vitamins K, A and C, these leafy greens help to strengthen skin tissue and stave off free radicals, which can lead to a dull and tired-looking complexion. Lightly steam rather than boiling these vegetables to maintain their valuable nutritional balance.

♥ Avoid skin imbalances with a detoxifying honey and turmeric mask – perfect for dry, sensitive and congested skins. Pop a teaspoon each of ground turmeric and honey into a bowl and mix well. Hold a warm cloth over your cleansed face for at least 30 seconds to open the pores, then apply the mask over your face and neck, avoiding the eye area. Press firmly into place with your fingertips, leave for up to 20 minutes, then splash with cool water to remove the mask. Repeat three times weekly to deep cleanse pores, soothe redness and soften dry skin.

♥ Rose essential oil is known for its heart-opening properties. Burn in aromatherapy diffusers around the house and apply to your pulse points before a date – you'll leave the most heavenly scent in your wake. Inner-Soul's Supreme Comfort Day Cream is scented with Rose de Mai, Rosewood and Rose Absolute oils – guaranteed to get you in the mood for love.



**Emma Coleman | Skincare founder**  
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## BLUE SKY THINKING

Cap Maison, a boutique resort and spa in St Lucia, has introduced a new *Sunset Moments* package allowing newlyweds to experience the magic of the St Lucia sunset to the fullest.

Perfect for honeymooners seeking a romantic setting, the package includes a scenic walk to Pigeon Island viewpoint, a sunset cruise aboard Cap Maison 1 – the resort’s luxury 46ft Sea Ray motor yacht, and finally sunset cocktails and nibbles served on Rock Maison – a private wooden deck surrounded on three sides by the sea. Couples can enjoy views across the sparkling Caribbean ocean and drinks and nibbles delivered by zip-line from the bar above.

Guests can experience Cap Maison’s Sunset Moments package from £1,979 per person including accommodation in a Garden View Room, daily breakfast, international flights with BA and private transfers (based on two adults sharing for a seven night stay). Find out more at [turquoiseholidays.co.uk](http://turquoiseholidays.co.uk)



# HONEYMOON *news*

From swim-up rooms in Mauritius, to kite-surfing in Kenya, we have some inspirational ideas to help you plan your first getaway as newlyweds

## *Going swimmingly*

Couples considering a honeymoon in Mauritius may want to check out the new swim-up rooms at the Victoria Beachcomber Resort & Spa.

The resort has just introduced its adult-only wing, the Victoria for Two, featuring 40 two-person terraced rooms, each of which will open up to the marine park and private beach. Furthermore, 17 of these are the first swim-up rooms to launch on the island. All will be sea-facing and open up onto an expansive swimming pool. The wing will also see the opening of a brand new restaurant, the Moris Beef, boasting spectacular sunset views and a new swim-up pool bar, the Nautil Café. The concept has been designed to meet the needs of couples travelling child-free and desiring quiet, comfort and a breadth of facilities, perfect for a honeymoon getaway. Access [www.beachcomber-hotels.com](http://www.beachcomber-hotels.com) for further details.



## Coastal chic

Hemingways Watamu, the star of the Kenyan coastline, has recently undergone a dramatic multi-million-dollar transformation.

With a stellar reputation, the hotel retains its original spirit – whilst adding a new touch of African flare. The new look maximises the hotel’s idyllic setting at the heart of the Watamu Marine National Park – home to turtles, barracuda, whale shark and some wonderful coral reefs.

Honeymooners will be wowed by sweeping ocean views from the new suites, while a new botanical swimming pool will provide much-needed relaxation.

Adventurous couples can snorkel over the coral reef, master kite-surfing, learn to dive or take a sunset dhow cruise on Mida Creek. For wildlife-lovers, there’s humpback whale watching and the extraordinary Sokoke Forest – the largest, most intact coastal forest in East Africa, home to some of Kenya’s rarest mammals, elephant, brilliant butterflies and saltwater mangroves.

Log onto [hemingways-collection.com](http://hemingways-collection.com) for more information.



## Honeymoon gift list



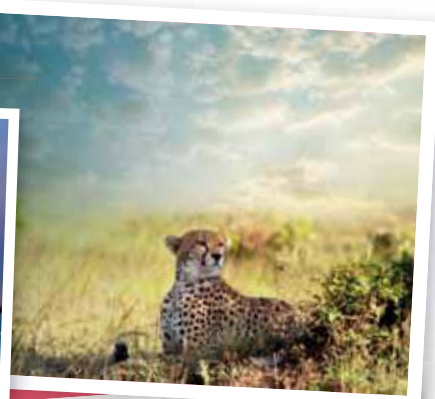
If you're planning a romantic adventure, then why not enlist the help of friends and family to realise your dreams with a Travelbag honeymoon gift list? A Honeymoon Travel Expert will advise on all the best honeymoon offers and destinations, book all travel including flights, transfers, accommodation and tours, and even manage the entire gift list service.

"Hot destinations for 2018 honeymoons will be Mauritius, New York, and the Caribbean," said Mia



Harrison, Honeymoon Travel Expert for Travelbag. "We're also seeing a huge rise in honeymoon bookings that combine relaxing beach time with one-of-a-kind cultural or wildlife experiences. There's no doubt that South Africa will be a top honeymoon contender in 2018 because of its winning combination of chic Cape Town, romantic wine country and matchless safari options."

For more information, visit the website at [travelbag.co.uk/honeymoons](http://travelbag.co.uk/honeymoons)



## Press for champagne

Couples seeking exceptional views across what has been voted Thailand's best beach need look no further than The Nai Harn in Phuket.

Its 16 new Ocean View Suites each boast a mini putting green, dedicated BBQ butler, glamorous day bed and oh-so-handy press for champagne button – perfect for toasting your incredible post-wedding getaway!

The island's only Leading Hotels of the World property, The Nai Harn is perfectly located at Nai Harn beach, with some of the most spectacular views on the island.

For more details, visit [thenaiharn.com](http://thenaiharn.com)



## Going Dutch

Not so much a honeymoon as a pre-wedding treat, an exciting new trip from ECT Travel takes brides to the Netherlands to hand-pick bouquets ahead of their special day.

As part of the tour, brides can select their flowers of choice, gather inspiration at the world's largest flower auction, shop for trend-setting floral accessories and learn all about Avalanche Roses, a wedding rose of choice for royalty and celebrities.

For groups of hens, ECT Travel can also book restaurants and dining experiences to make their stay extra special.

Visit the website at [ecttravel.com](http://ecttravel.com) for further details.



**Stay here...** Eden Rock – St Barths. The iconic Caribbean property in the Oetker Collection's portfolio of masterpiece hotels will reopen in summer 2018 following repairs to the damage inflicted by Hurricane Irma. The hotel is commencing an extensive rebuilding and renovation programme in order to further strengthen and improve the existing structures, and hopes to welcome back its clients, guests and friends as soon as possible. More details at [oetkercollection.com](http://oetkercollection.com)



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# JEWEL OF THE CARIBBEAN

Hannah Faulder discovers the art of stolen time at Rendezvous Resort, St Lucia

As a child I read a book about a girl from the Caribbean island of St Lucia; the crystal blue waters and green mountains were etched in my brain from a young age, but nothing could prepare me for the beauty of it in real life. While the island boasts picture-perfect beaches, its other natural assets are just as spectacular; the volcanic Piton mountains, magnificent natural harbours and thick blanket of lush rainforest make for some awe-inspiring viewpoints. Match this with some of the friendliest and most fun-loving people I've met and it's easy to see why St Lucia is such a honeymoon hotspot.

After a nine-hour flight we touched down at Hewanorra International Airport where a resort representative greeted us and showed us to our transfer – a helicopter! To say I was a little anxious would be an understatement, but once we were up in the air the stunning views that greeted us were so worth it. Our pilot for the 10-minute journey pointed out the incredible beaches, forests and towns below us and I was soon glad I hadn't opted for the long road transfer – what a way to arrive!

## STEALING TIME

Upon arrival, it's impossible not to be struck by the seven acres of vibrant tropical gardens and two-mile stretch of white sandy beach on its doorstep, but this is just the beginning of what this boutique, all-inclusive resort has to offer. The 100-bedroom haven started life as a home for the Barnard family who still own and operate it to this day

and this family connection was evident in every aspect of my stay. It promotes 'stolen time,' the idea of carving out moments as a couple, away from the stresses of the daily grind and creating memories to draw upon throughout your life.

I stayed in one of the luxury Beachfront Rooms; newly refurbished in a traditional Caribbean style it was made for comfort with its huge four-poster mahogany bed and chaise longue. Stepping out on to my balcony I could feel the weight lifting from my shoulders as the warm ocean breeze swept up and I took in the scene of Malabar beach with its swaying palm trees and clear waters. Other accommodation options include contemporary two-storey suites and luxury beachside cottages where you're just a few steps from feeling the soft sand under your feet.

## SUN-FILLED DAYS

As a couples-only destination (some exceptions are made for wedding guests) it's calm and relaxed – no crowded beaches or fighting for sun loungers here. Days can easily be whiled away, book in hand, on the beach divans or by the pool. You can also enjoy the waiter service or the odd trip to the swim-up bar followed by a cooldown in the lazy river that meanders through the grounds.

I made the most of the seemingly endless choice of activities on offer, lots with an authentic St Lucian feel including an art class, steel pan drum lesson, wine tasting and creole lesson. An early-morning Pilates



class on the beach-side rotund left me wondering if there's a better way to start the day. Being a couple's resort all the activities are certainly meant for two, but I loved that none of them felt like forced romance and were designed more for spending quality time in each other's company. For the slightly more adventurous there's a whole host of watersports such as water skiing, wind surfing, cycle tours and archery. Even full PADI courses and certification is available.

As if I wasn't feeling laid-back enough I was treated to a Balinese massage at The Spa in the Water Garden. Tailored to my needs, it was an hour of pure indulgence and a welcome treat after the morning's Pilates. Staff at the spa are trained at Rendezvous' sister hotel, The BodyHoliday



# HANNAH'S MUST-DOS

([thebodyholiday.com](http://thebodyholiday.com)), which is regularly voted as the best spa in the Caribbean and therefore offers a plethora of luxurious and pampering treatments, from scrubs and body wraps to deep tissue massage and aromatherapy stone massage. Couples can even learn how to massage each other, a skill that may prove useful in married life!

## STARLIT NIGHTS

In the evening, the place becomes even more tranquil. The ancient saman tree that acts as a centrepiece to the gardens is lit with festoon lights and chandeliers, creating an enchanting atmosphere; one evening was spent underneath its boughs enjoying cocktails accompanied by the sound of a live steel pan. Bubbly Hour was one of the highlights of each day for me. Held in The Champagne Bar, I soon got used to dressing up in my finery and sipping Marilyn Monroe's favourite champagne with a pianist tinkling in the background before dinner!

After champagne tasting it was time to head to one of the three on-site restaurants. The Terrace is a delicious buffet-style restaurant at the heart of the resort; I loved the Caribbean-themed night here, which included an array of authentic local delicacies such as fresh lobster, fried plantain and callaloo soup followed by rum tasting. I enjoyed the local tippie a little too much and was soon up dancing with the band alongside a happy couple who'd tied the knot on the beach that day! Malabar Beach Club is an absolute must; opened in 2015 it's the newest on-site restaurant and offers an intimate dining experience at the water's edge. Shoes are left at the door while you enjoy a toes-in-the-sand experience with fresh regional produce and fantastic wines. The Trysting Place offers fine cuisine, perfect for special occasions. The best French and Caribbean dishes and wines are on offer, paired by its fabulously enthusiastic sommelier, Libby.

## TAILOR MADE

The lovely Sandra and Tamara are on-hand to book completely tailor-made experiences to make your stay unforgettable. Nothing is too much trouble. Fancy a secluded candlelit dinner on the beach? How about a tour of a local rum distillery or learning how to samba on your honeymoon? All of this can be arranged for you, either while you're there or through the resort's new online chat service, which allows you to create a bespoke holiday before you even start packing. ♥

For more information on Rendezvous Resort, St Lucia head to the website, [theromanticholiday.com](http://theromanticholiday.com) or call 0203 096 1606

## THE FOODIE'S CHOICE

The Farm to Table experience saw me accompany the resort's chef to the local market in the capital city of Castries. While there, he talked me through all the produce on offer and we picked out ingredients for my dinner that night. I loved the hustle and bustle of the market, so far removed from my normal supermarket shop. I even enjoyed a fresh coconut – although I was quite alarmed when the vendor pulled out a machete to chop the top off! Back at the resort, I headed to the Malabar Beach Club kitchen, where the expert team showed me how to prepare the items I'd chosen and they designed a menu based on my requirements – as a vegetarian I'm not the easiest dinner guest. That evening I had the most delicious meal cooked right in front of me by the chef with the sound of the waves crashing behind me.

## THE ADVENTURER'S CHOICE

A group of us took the opportunity to hop into an open-top adventure truck and weave our way through the lush rainforest across the island to the Piton Nature Trail. Our guide and his dog walked us through the leafy canopy up to one of the most stunning vistas I've ever witnessed. The bright, lush green of the Piton Mountains soaring up from the crystal-blue waters below was awe-inspiring and it was almost hard to believe it was real. We then drove to a natural sulphuric spring; the detoxifying properties of the mud here is said to remove years of damage from your skin. Even Oprah has covered herself in the unpleasant-smelling gunk here! Once the mud had set we jumped into a 38-degree celsius spring-water pool, which was a very bizarre sensation in such a hot climate! To cool down, we headed to a secluded part of the forest where I realised a lifelong dream to swim under the ice-cold flow of a waterfall set in a tropical oasis. Next stop was a short trek through the rainforest to New Jerusalem Mineral Spa. As the only people there, it was a completely relaxing experience. There were three natural pools of mineral-rich



waters of varying temperatures set deep in the forest surrounded by banana trees and an abundance of vibrant plants, with hummingbirds and the croak of tree frogs to keep us company. While sitting there, I knew it'd feel like a distant dream when sat back at my desk a couple of days later.

## THE HISTORY LOVER'S CHOICE

We got in the adventure truck again, this time to Pigeon Island, an islet on the northern tip of St Lucia, which was once home to army barracks from when it was being fought over by the French and English. Our fantastic guide, Kenzie, gave us a fascinating tour and bought to life tales of the past as we trekked to the top of Signal Point, the highest peak on the island. I don't think I've ever been so hot in my life, but the views (and breeze!) at the top were more than worth it.

## THE ROMANTIC'S CHOICE

I couldn't recommend the private dining options at Rendezvous enough. We were led down a little path to a private area in the river garden and the setting was magical. Lit by torches and candles and surrounded by tropical vegetation, it didn't feel as though you were within a holiday destination. There were two waiting staff and a personal sommelier who paired our wines to perfection while also being full of expert knowledge and funny stories. The Caribbean heat was getting a little much after our first two courses, so we had a little paddle in the lazy river – a truly memorable experience.



# KNOWLTON COURT ESTATE



# YOUR DAY, YOUR WAY

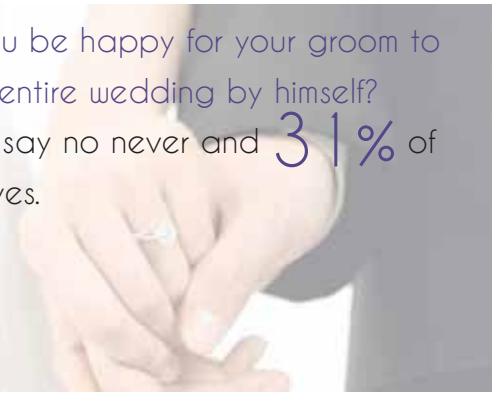
Melissa Barker reveals what makes the perfect wedding by sharing the results from our recent polls



42% of you are planning on spending time with your family after the wedding, 42% say you're going to enjoy some alone time with your new husband and 16% are going straight on your honeymoon.

Would you be happy for your groom to plan the entire wedding by himself?

69% say no never and 31% of you say yes.



What big-day colour scheme are you opting for?

53% say you're going to have pretty pastel shades

26% are opting for bright and bold colours

16% say you'll be having a traditional white colour scheme

5% are choosing a monochrome theme



36% of you are going to have romantic candles as your centrepieces, 29% say you're going to use beautiful flowers, 21% are opting for vintage lanterns and 14% say shabby-chic birdcages.



What are your dream big-day blooms?

50% of you say pretty peonies, 25% say resplendent roses, 17% are opting for lovely lilies and 8% say sassy sunflowers.



79% of you are planning to do a romantic shuffle as your first dance and 21% say you're going to do a choreographed routine.

Who's planning your hen do?

42% say your chief bridesmaid, 25% of you say you're planning it, 25% say all of your maids are organising it together and 8% say somebody else.

WE LOVE TO GET YOUR VIEWS - BE SURE TO VOTE IN OUR WEEKLY READERS' POLL ONLINE AT [COUNTY.WEDDING](http://COUNTY.WEDDING)



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# weddings

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Decorate your house with this embroidered hoop. It includes your names and wedding date and is available from [notonthehighstreet.com](http://notonthehighstreet.com) for £16.75.



We love this pillow, it's a must-have gift that can be customised to include your names and wedding date. It's available from [oakdenedesigns.com](http://oakdenedesigns.com) for £34.



These towels are a fab way of celebrating your Mr & Mrs status. Available from [babatude.com](http://babatude.com) for £50.

# Especially *for you*

Anniversaries are big milestones in your relationship and to help you celebrate Melissa Barker has created a cotton-themed gift list

These Mr & Mrs pillows are priced at £26 from [babatude.com](http://babatude.com)

Remember your special day with these personalised socks, available from [gettingpersonal.co.uk](http://gettingpersonal.co.uk) for £27.99.



Traditionally cotton is used to celebrate your second wedding anniversary, it symbolises the need for your marriage to stay strong and for it to be able to adapt to change.

Celebrate your anniversary with this framed picture, it's made from cotton and is a sweet reminder of how long you've been married. Priced at £14.99 from [gettingpersonal.co.uk](http://gettingpersonal.co.uk)







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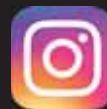
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# THE NEWLYWED WISH LIST

*The bathroom edit*

Annie Cannock brings together a fabulous selection of products to add to your home

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*Steal*



TK Maxx geometric print towel, £16.99, tkmaxx.com

*Spend*



Littlewoods Newport Creek Savannah chevron towel, £25, littlewoods.com

*Splurge*



Amara Lulu Atlantis round towel, £55, amara.com

DARING DISPENSERS



George Home copper dispenser, £5, asda.com



New Look copper soap dispenser, £5.99, newlook.com



TK Maxx bronze soap dispenser, £7.99, tkmaxx.com

CUTE CANDLES



Primark metallic votive candle, £3, primark.com



Sainsbury's Home neroli and amber grey glass decorative candle, £8, sainsburys.co.uk



Laura Ashley faceted jar candle small, £16, lauraashley.com



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