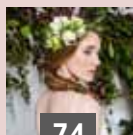


# WEDDING INSPIRATION

{YOUR LOCAL GUIDE TO WEDDED BLISS}

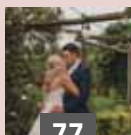


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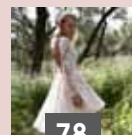
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In the know with the latest wedding trends



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Exploring a beautiful garden venue



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Four pages of this year's most gorgeous gowns





# THE BIG PLAYERS

*As the flowers blossom and weather turns, we investigate what wedding trends loom*

Words JANUARY CARMALT

These days, it pays to get creative with your planning to ensure a stand-out modern wedding day

Since Richard Curtis's *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was etched into pop cultural lore, we have come to associate village churches, awkward party line-ups, ill-conceived table plans and the 'meringue' as clichéd hallmarks of the quintessential English wedding. But times have changed. These days, couples are tossing aside the rulebook for something less formulaic (and more fun).

'The proliferation of wedding blogs alongside social media platforms Pinterest, Instagram et al. have inspired a new generation of couples to flex their creative muscles,' says Penelope Cullen of Tigerlily Weddings in Clapham ([tigerlilyweddings.co.uk](http://tigerlilyweddings.co.uk)), whose services include full or partial planning, advice and tailor-made concierge services to suit a range of budgets. 'Today's couples are more confident about what they want, to

celebrate their day, their way.'

Marquees offer elegant convenience, but now there's a penchant for edgier venues that add a pop of character to proceedings. Maverick Projects and Castle Gibson, trendy among the art crowd for exhibitions and shoots, offer a variety of urban studio spaces for wedding hire. 'Ten years ago a dilapidated warehouse would be unthinkable for exchanging vows, but today anything goes,' says Cullen.

Likewise, no longer does the bride necessarily have the monopoly. 'It's refreshing to see more grooms involved in the planning process – be it the music, bar, food or all of the above. It's really become a team effort.'

*Today's couples are confident about what they want – to celebrate their day, their way*

First things first, we recommend you enlist Gee Brothers (printers of fine bespoke stationary) to craft the perfect wedding invitations. When it comes to catering, the predictable three-course meat and two veg mainstay has given way to more sociable dining. Inventive

food stations and decadent dessert tables permitting guests to mix and mingle, perhaps alongside an abbreviated sit down main course, are

becoming popular. Informal street food stalls and barbeque for late night revelers are other options available for those looking for creative, cost-effective cuisine. 'A wedding should flow, and there are so many more festive options available to complement or even replace





Add character to proceedings with a quirky urban venue

Gee Brothers in Battersea design and craft stunning individual invitations



a formal sit-down meal,' says Cullen. Ginger Jar and Grub London offer up-to-the minute, modern catering options sure to pique the palates of the most discerning guests.

Tim Birks of Birksen Flowers in Clapham Old Town ([birksen.com](http://birksen.com)) echoes similar themes. 'We're seeing less demand for neat, manicured arrangements in favour of more intimate, homespun charm – mixing different flowers, textures and theatrical props for a whimsical feel.' Think more backyard bohemian than polished perfection.

On the fashion front, the stiff and starchy lace of yesteryear's bridal wear has given way to a sleeker silhouette. 'Every bride wants to stand out on her wedding day,' posits Luella's Bridal boutique in Wimbledon ([luellas.co.uk](http://luellas.co.uk)), which offers a considered edit of original, vintage-inspired bridal wear and accessories exclusive to the boutique, including Limor Rosen, Vicky Rowe, Kite & Butterfly and Luella's own label. Not a whalebone corset or whipped-up meringue in sight.

Taking a page from our very own Duchess of Cambridge, having two dresses is a perfectly acceptable problem-solver, especially when it comes to hitting the dancefloor. 'A formal look for day, and another more relaxed party dress for evening to boogie the night away is popular. Shawls, boleros and layering also work well to switch up a look from day to evening,' Luella's suggests.

Where fashion goes, hair and makeup follow. 'We're seeing high demand for "undone" up-dos and romantic plaits,' says celebrity makeup artist and stylist Charlotte Cave ([charlottecave.com](http://charlottecave.com)), who also advises brides avoid make-up trends and stay true to their natural style.

Whatever the fashion, every bride wants to look and feel her absolute best (some things never change).

However couples wish to celebrate their union, be it backyard barbeque or salubrious sophistication, it seems there's only one rule for the modern nuptial - to make it a day to remember.



Weddings were offered in the stunning surroundings for the first time in 2016



# A LOVE AFFAIR

*How The Gardens of Yalding were stunningly restored to offer the most memorable of locations for your big day*

Words MARK KEBBLE



The Gardens provide the perfect backdrop to your big day

**Y**ou know that feeling when you first lay eyes on the bride on her special day? When you realise all that effort, hard work and attention to detail was worth it? That's what it's like for the team at The Gardens in Yalding. Prior to the current owners buying The Gardens in 2013, and despite the efforts of volunteers, they had fallen into disrepair and large areas were overgrown. So the restoration and replanting of the gardens took a considerable amount of work,

Visiting today, you can see how much of a labour of love this was. The major changes transformed the 12 acres of magnificent historic gardens into an all year round, exclusive venue. The barn was beautifully styled to suit any type of event or celebration, both large and small. Two unique, spacious tipis were installed to create a flexible dining and entertaining space. A gazebo was installed in the centre of The Gardens,

primarily as a space to host outdoor ceremonies. Exchanging vows in such an idyllic setting is a dream come true for many couples.

Although The Gardens are open to the public on select days, with a lot going into making them accessible for young and old, it's clear that a stand out feature is the fact it's the ultimate romantic English country idyll to make a wedding extra special. They can offer a bespoke, unique wedding celebration with indoor and outdoor ceremony options, outstanding dining including home grown produce, and exclusive access to 12 acres of stunning, historical gardens.

In the summer months, wedding ceremonies can be conducted in the magnificent gardens. During the winter, or when the weather is less kind, civil ceremonies will be held within the barn. Two stunning rooms are available to host either small intimate ceremonies or large wedding parties. The gardens, the barn and the tipis offer photographers ample scope for magical photographs too.

To get a taster for yourself, there will be a weddings and events open day held on Sunday 30 April between 10am-3pm, where you will be able to sample canapés, meet recommended suppliers, as well as have a chance to stroll around the green open spaces. With bookings being secured up to and including 2019, you best get in quick. It will be worth it.

Find out more at [thegardensyalding.co.uk](http://thegardensyalding.co.uk), call 01622 814650, or email [enquiries@thegardensyalding.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thegardensyalding.co.uk)





### *Layers of lace*

Express yourself with silk and lace layered over a corseted crepe under dress from Naomi Neoh's pioneering Eden collection. Transform your outfit from day to evening by simply changing tops and adding different accessories.  
[naomineoh.com](http://naomineoh.com)

# DREAM DRESSES

*Expert advice on choosing the best shapes and styles for 2017*

Words MADELEINE HOWELL



### *The fishtail*

The fishtail is renowned as one of the most flattering styles. It's a fit that couture designer Shanna Melville in Wimbledon Village has honed to perfection. Each of her handwoven garments can take up to six months to create.

[shannamelville.com](http://shannamelville.com)



### *Fit and flare*

The Maddy dress from the Echo collection by Wimbledon designer Emma Hunt features long sleeves, a revealing back and crystal buttons, set against beautifully flowing ivory silk crepe.

[emmahunt.co.uk](http://emmahunt.co.uk)



### *Boho luxe*

Award-winning Minna in Brixton specialises in luxurious, ethical and vintage-inspired dresses for the laid-back, modern bride.

To top it all off, there's also a gorgeous selection of hand-made hats, veils and headpieces.

[minna.co.uk](http://minna.co.uk)



A woman with long, wavy brown hair and bangs is posing in front of a lush green rose bush. She is wearing a white, short-sleeved, lace-trimmed crop top and a matching white lace skirt. She is also wearing a multi-strand pearl bracelet on her right wrist. The background is filled with green leaves and white roses.

## *The two piece*

Fulham Road-based designer Sassi Holford is the one to go to for a fashion forward look. With 35 years under her belt, she's in the know when it comes to the trends - but at the same time, creations such as this have timeless appeal.

[sassiholford.com](http://sassiholford.com)





### *Bird of paradise*

The Bird of Paradise dress by Limor Rosen is available at Luella's Bridal in Wimbledon. It has a nude lining, and can be matched with either a daringly short matching beaded skirt or a long chiffon skirt.

[luellas.co.uk](http://luellas.co.uk)



### *Empire line*

Wandsworth designer Lucy Martin has a number of tricks up her sleeves for the stylish bride who prefers to make a statement. We love this striking silk georgette empire line dress with a plunging cowl back and flared arms.

[lucymartinbridal.co.uk](http://lucymartinbridal.co.uk)



### *Barn dance*

The intricately embellished dresses from celebrated designer Jenny Packham's spring 2017 collection are inspired by the country, and are a joy to behold. The barley hues and soft cut of the Faith dress, pictured, are sure to flatter.

[jennypackham.com](http://jennypackham.com)







# Local EXPERTS

*Local businesses on hand to ensure a seamless wedding day*



## TOURO BRAZILIAN STEAKHOUSE

Touro is passionate about delivering outstanding, traditional Brazilian cuisine, and their wedding menu is a real crowd-pleaser. It's a steak house that prides itself on being able to offer twenty different varieties of traditionally prepared meats from their rodizio-style restaurants, and a unique carvery experience. The main option for weddings is the Full Rodizio Grill which consists of unlimited servings from a gourmet salad, a Brazilian hot dishes buffet, cheeses, bread and charcuterie and side servings of grilled meat (for just £21.95 per head). Without the grilled meat sides, it's just £16.95. Both are sure to satisfy hungry guests.

Further details can be found at [touro.co.uk](http://touro.co.uk)



## SERENA BOLTON PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is one of the most important things to get right when it comes to your wedding day – after all, with all that planning, you'll want to capture the most important moments on camera. As a fine art storyteller, photographer Serena Bolton has a wonderful ability to convey the essence of your wedding day as it unfolds in an elegant, classical and authentic way, creating everlasting memories and images that you will treasure forever. Serena Bolton Photography offers discerning clients the finest personalised and bespoke service. Your wedding is unique, so your photography should be too.

Visit [serenabolton.com](http://serenabolton.com) to find out more



## THE SOURCE INSPIRES

The Source Inspires is your go-to little black book for event planning inspiration. It will take you on an exciting journey through trend-led, inspiring content, and at its heart is a diverse selection of hand picked brands who are there to help you plan your special day. Expect to discover innovative and exciting products, and to experience meticulous customer service. Favourites include Wild Wood London's fantastic flower bouquets and calligraphy experts Pale Press London. The Source and its partners are your personal wedding planning guides.

Call 07980 300885, email [theteam@thesourceinspires.com](mailto:theteam@thesourceinspires.com) or visit [thesourceinspires.com](http://thesourceinspires.com) for more information



## GREENWICH TAVERN

With a brand new licence to conduct wedding ceremonies and two stunning, distinctive and delightfully decorated rooms available for private hire, the Greenwich Tavern is the perfect intimate venue for a truly special wedding amongst friends and family. It boasts a charming location, and its relaxed atmosphere has made the Tavern a popular choice. A dedicated team will be on hand ensuring that every aspect of your big day is perfect. All you'll have left to worry about is the best man's speech as you settle down to celebrate.

1 King William Walk SE10 9JH; 020 8858 8791; [greenwichtavern.co.uk](http://greenwichtavern.co.uk)





The Photo Booth Guys pride themselves in bringing fun and games to weddings



# Memory Makers

Inject a little fun into your wedding day and create memories to treasure forever with the help of The Photo Booth Guys

## What makes the Photo Booth Guys' the world's most awesome photo booths?

We are a team of passionate, professional photographers, fun seekers and event planning super stars. We're always looking to push the envelope of what is creatively possible, searching for the next big thing, and delivering amazing experiences. With nearly 1500 events under our belts, we have become one of the most successful photo experience companies in the world.

**What makes them so much fun?** From our props and backdrops to our super cool attendants, we are the makers of fun. Nothing makes us happier than to see massive smiles.

**What makes the photo booths particularly special for weddings?** What better way to capture the guests at their most

awesome for the happy couple? From the littlest, youngest guest to the very oldest guest, everyone loves it. We also give our couples a guest book for all their photos and guests to write a special message.

**How do guests tend to react to the booths?** Usually something along the lines of "Oh wow...I love your booth it's so cool!"... followed by many, many photo booth sessions.

## What other kinds of events do you attend?

We have been known to attend celebrity parties, corporate parties and photo activations for some of the UK's biggest and best brands.

**available?** We currently offer up to 24 different backdrops, ranging from classic white to quirky flamingo print. Add to that some props (tropical theme, Mexican theme, 1920s theme to name a few!) and you've got yourself the makings of a great photo.

**What are some of your most popular offerings at the moment?** GIF is so hot right now. You can now add on the GIF to your photo booth for a truly wonderful experience.

**How do the GIF booths work?** They super charge your photo booth with movement. Any session will create looping GIF and also print two photo

strips. You also use Boomerang GIF which loops forwards and backwards. Guests can share it directly to their phone via our sharing station.

**How else can guests get creative with their photo booths?** We are all about making it all about our wedding couples! Add some floral print to our white backdrop to match the flowers or custom printed names to our faux hedge. Couples can even send us their wedding stationery artwork and we can pop it on their photo strip. Another popular item is our custom speech bubbles.

*From the littlest, youngest guest to the very oldest guest, everyone loves it*

## What is included when you book a Photo Booth for an event?

It all depends on what you want to achieve, but our standard package includes our handsome retro booth, a fun attendant, cool props, a guestbook, unlimited photo sessions with duplicate instant prints and a beautiful online gallery.

## What kinds of accessories and backdrops are



You're never too old to play dress up - especially at your wedding

Visit [photobooth.co](http://photobooth.co) for more information