



100 top venues SOUTHWEST, MIDLANDS & WALES

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Seaside romance,
courtly love and
foodie heaven

41 HOTEL DU VIN BRISTOL

For a quirky city wedding, there's no better setting than this former sugar warehouse on Bristol's waterfront. It has three reception rooms, including a hand-painted gold dining room. Pose for snaps in the courtyard before spending your first night as Mr and Mrs in one of the suites, each named after a champagne brand.

GUEST LIST 60 **THE BILL** Room hire from £1,000; packages from £70pp **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01179 255577; hotelduvin.com.

Not getting married in Bristol? Fret not: Hotel du Vin has 14 properties across the UK, including Henley, York, Winchester, Brighton and Edinburgh



Hotel du Vin, Bristol

42 MALMAISON BIRMINGHAM WEST MIDLANDS

Be sure to address your love letter to the Malmaison Birmingham, which was once a Royal Mail sorting office. There are five super-sleek rooms (two are licensed for ceremonies) plus a wine cellar and spa for that crucial pre-wedding pampering. **GUEST LIST** 120 **THE BILL** Room hire from £1,000; menus from £30.50pp **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 0121 246 5000; malmaison.com.

43 FRIAR'S COURT OXFORDSHIRE

The most idyllic Cotswold-stone house imaginable, Friar's Court is big enough to feel grand, but quaint enough to feel like home. Once you've made your way up the main drive and through the pillared entrance, the four acres of gardens are the real draw. With a partial moat and gorgeous gardens - including a romantic 'Winterhalter' Wedding Garden that's perfect for photos - there are three licensed outdoor areas where you can say 'I do'. Friar's Court is run by interior designer Jeffrey Cleaver. He'll ensure your big day is stylish and stress-free, whether you opt for a marquee in the grounds or the rustic-chic of the Stone Barn.

GUEST LIST 150 for ceremonies and marquee receptions, 100 seated in Stone Barn **THE BILL** Ceremony hire £450, Stone Barn £1,950, ground for marquee £1,900 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01367 810206; silverpearweddings.co.uk.



Historic gem Friar's Court

BY THE SEASIDE

44 ST MORITZ HOTEL CORNWALL

Perched on a clifftop path, the views from the St Moritz Hotel are breathtaking. The team strives to fulfil your every wish, whether it's a firework display on the beach or a candlelit dinner. As it's private weddings only, you'll have the whole place - including 45 guest rooms - to yourself.

GUEST LIST 90 **THE BILL** Exclusive use from £5,000; menus from £60pp **LICENCE?** No **CONTACT** 0845 034 0700; mrand mrsmith.com.



St Moritz Hotel, Cornwall

45 SOUTH SANDS HOTEL DEVON

For beach chic, the South Sands Hotel is hard to beat. With postcard views and an elegant New England-style nautical theme, it offers plenty of choice for large or small receptions, plus great food and wine, overseen by local celebrity - writer, fishmonger and chef - Mitch Tonks.

GUEST LIST 40 for ceremonies, 80 for receptions **THE BILL** Three-course menu from £60pp, plus additional charges for exclusive use of the hotel or restaurant **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01548 859000; southsands.com.

46 BURGH ISLAND DEVON

Inject some 1930s glamour at this art-deco beauty. The hotel is set on a private 26-acre island that is only reachable by sea tractor at high tide. When the sea retreats, you can walk across the sand from the mainland, so pack your wellies to wear under your dress. Guests have included Noël Coward, Agatha Christie and The Beatles. **GUEST LIST** 60 (50 overnight guests) **THE BILL** Exclusive use from £11,210 per night for 50 guests, B&B, including dinner; exclusive daytime use from £1,800 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01548 810514; burghisland.com.

TV presenter Ben Shephard said 'I do' at Burgh Island





47 ELLENBOROUGH PARK HOTEL & SPA GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This former home of the Earl of Ellenborough recently debuted onto the country-house hotel scene. The exterior is classic while the interior blends English fabrics with modern furnishings. Tie the knot in a church-like auditorium, then walk to a private courtyard for your reception. **GUEST LIST** 90 for ceremonies **THE BILL** Venue hire from £32pp; bespoke menu packages **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01242 225660; mantiscollection.com.

48 THE GROVE PEMBROKESHIRE, WALES

Whether you want a large marquee celebration on the lawn in summer or an intimate winter gathering, the Grove is perfect. It's nestled on a hill with views of the Preseli mountains. Draw on local tradition by asking the hotel to arrange for a Welsh piper to serenade your arrival. **GUEST LIST** 30 inside, 100 for marquee receptions **THE BILL** Menus from £55pp **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01834 860915; thegrove-narberth.co.uk.

49 LORDS OF THE MANOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This shabby-chic hotel, with its understated decor and pretty setting in the village of Upper Slaughter, is perfect for a weekend wedding. You can hire all 26 rooms; host your party in the stylish restaurant or pitch a marquee in the landscaped gardens. **GUEST LIST** 50 for ceremonies, 60

The 60-room
Ellenborough Park
Hotel & Spa

inside the house for dinner, 200 in a marquee **THE BILL** 'Exclusively Yours' package including wedding breakfast and 26 rooms, from £8,000 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01451 820243; lordsofthemanor.com.

50 FAWSLY HALL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

This Tudor country house nestles in 2,000 acres with gardens landscaped by 'Capability' Brown, making it the ideal backdrop for a classic English country wedding. Interiors are old-school (think heavy drapes and four-posters). Queen Elizabeth I stayed here, and brides-to-be are assured of the royal treatment, too. **GUEST LIST** 150 in Fawsley Hall, 120 in Knightly Court for receptions, 122 overnight guests **THE BILL** Exclusive use from £22,400; three-course menu from £37pp **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01327 892027; fawsleyhall.com.

51 CELTIC MANOR NEWPORT, WALES

Get married life off to a swinging start at this sprawling five-star resort that hosted the 2010 Ryder Cup. Home to not just one but two hotels, Celtic Manor offers myriad spaces to hold your ceremony and reception, from the huge Caernarfon Ballroom to the intimate Manor House. **GUEST LIST** 900 **THE BILL** Room hire from £600; menu packages from £54pp **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01633 410458; celtic-manor.com.



The dining room
at Cowley Manor

52 COWLEY MANOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

This is the original funky country-house hotel. The decor at Cowley Manor is super cool, the 55-acre grounds are gorgeous, and the signature C.Side Spa has just been refurbished. It even has its own 12th-century parish church for weddings – plus newlyweds can retire to The Best Room at the end of the day. This boasts a fireplace, king-sized four-poster bed, bathtub for two, plus a stunning view of the grounds.

GUEST LIST 100 **THE BILL** Exclusive use from £15,000 per day midweek; £20,000 per day at weekends with a two-night minimum **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01242 870900; cowleymanor.com.

53 KILVER COURT GARDENS SOMERSET

This former mill has been transformed into a fashionable wedding venue with ornate gardens by Roger Saul, founder of hip Brit brand Mulberry. There are several reception rooms to choose from and the gardens provide the perfect backdrop for photos, with waterfalls, extensive lawns, a millpond and drawbridge. Indulge in a wedding breakfast featuring organic produce from Sharpham Park Farm near Glastonbury, then finish the day with a bang, watching a firework display over the grade II-listed viaduct in the grounds. **GUEST LIST** 200 for ceremonies, 150 for receptions **THE BILL** Ceremonies from £750 (based on 40 guests); room hire from £1,500; fireworks from £100 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01749 340416; kilvercourt.com. →



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Offbeat chic at Aynhoe Park

54 AYNHOE PARK OXFORDSHIRE

This is not your average country house. Although a classical grade I-listed 17th-century manor from the outside, the interior is all quirkily decorated rooms. Greek sculptures, the world's greatest private collection of plaster casts, assorted artefacts and Gothic touches combine to make the house a magical wonderland with kooky surprises lying in wait around every corner.

GUEST LIST 60 in one room; 150 between all rooms **THE BILL** From £7,500 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01869 810636; aynhoepark.co.uk.

55 HALSWELL HOUSE SOMERSET

Nestling in the Quantock Hills, this imposing 17th-century estate is ideal for a big romantic wedding with sweeping lawns just crying out for fireworks and photos. Choose to host a civil ceremony in the manor house or grounds, or opt for a religious do at St Edwards in nearby Goathurst village.

GUEST LIST 350 guests in the lakeside pavilions, 104 in the Dining Room, 80 in the Bow and Morning Rooms **THE BILL** Exclusive use from £4,650 (includes 12 suites) **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 0845 2081066; halswellweddings.co.uk.

56 ISCOYD PARK SHROPSHIRE

Set within vast grounds, Iscoyd Park is the ultimate location for a three-day country-house celebration. It has three funky bedrooms (with roll-top baths), a dining room, drawing room, wine cellar and an arched ceremony garden room with stone floors and chic white walls.

GUEST LIST 150 in the grounds **THE BILL** Venue hire from £5,000 per day; B&B from £170 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01948 780785; iscoydpark.com.

57 COMPTON VERNEY WARWICKSHIRE

Inside this grade I-listed mansion, you'll find an art gallery and the grand marble-floored Adam Hall. Within the landscaped grounds discover a lake and a marquee complete with a decked



The grand New Hall Hotel & Spa

area that's ideal for dancing. **GUEST LIST** 100 in Adam Hall, 200 for marquee receptions **THE BILL** From £148pp **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01926 681177; comptonverney.org.uk.

58 NEW HALL HOTEL & SPA WEST MIDLANDS

A complimentary wedding planner will help you transform this medieval, moated former hunting lodge into a fairy-tale country-house wedding venue. The 13th-century reception hall is ideal for civil ceremonies, while the oak-panelled drawing rooms will wow your guests. **GUEST LIST** 60 for ceremonies, 150 for receptions **THE BILL** Packages from £120pp; exclusive use from £25,000 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 0845 072 7577; handpickedhotels.co.uk.

59 YNYS-HIR HALL WALES

Once owned by Queen Victoria, this Georgian manor house is set in 14 acres of idyllic gardens. With nine bedrooms, it is perfect for intimate weddings and your guests can enjoy gourmet local delicacies by the Michelin-starred head chef.

GUEST LIST 18 in the main house; 150 in a marquee **THE BILL** From £6,000 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01654 781209; ynyshirhall.co.uk. →

Hot for 2011: The Montpellier Chapter hotel - from the company behind Hong Kong's cool Opposite House - has opened in Cheltenham. Book now to be one of its first summer brides (chapterhotels.co.uk)



100 top venues
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60 BARNSELEY HOUSE GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Set in one of England's premier country gardens and built from Cotswold stone, Barnsley House is small and perfectly formed – just right for an intimate, stylish wedding. Family and friends will feel at home having the run of the house and grounds. There are 18 bedrooms, a 30-seat cinema, cocktail bar, restaurant and spa. What more could you ask for?

GUEST LIST 200 in a marquee in the grounds **THE BILL** Exclusive use from £13,000 (based on 36 guests), including wedding breakfast **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01285 740000; barnsleyhouse.com.

Garden glamour at Barnsley House



Old meets new at The Bull

61 BABINGTON HOUSE SOMERSET

As well as being the country outpost of Soho House and a retreat for London's Primrose Hill set, this beautiful Georgian house, surrounded by 17 acres, makes a stylish wedding venue. Choose from a religious ceremony in St Margaret's chapel or a civil service in the Orangery, and don't miss the divine Cowshed Spa.

GUEST LIST 120 **THE BILL** Inclusive packages from £27,000 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01373 814907; babingtonhouse.co.uk.

Amanda Holden said 'I do' at Babington House, Somerset



62 THE BULL DORSET

Set in the picturesque market town of Bridport, this 17th-century coach inn has been lovingly restored and given a modern twist by owners Nikki and Richard Cooper. Each bedroom has been individually decorated with real flair. Celebrate in the blue ballroom where the sprung dance floor will keep guests partying into the early hours.

GUEST LIST 100 **THE BILL** Venue hire from £1,400; menus from £40pp **LICENCE?**

Yes **CONTACT** 01308 422878; thebullhotel.co.uk.

Barnsley House was voted Best British Bolthole in the *Tatler Spa Awards 2010* and its spa featured in *Condé Nast Traveller's 2010 Readers' Travel Awards*

FOR FOODIES

63 GIDLEIGH PARK DEVON

Hidden deep in a wooded Dartmoor valley, this gorgeous country-house hotel is perfect for a house-party wedding. You can hire the hotel with its 24 bedrooms and grounds for exclusive use from 3pm through to 11am the following day. In that time, you and your guests will be spoiled by the culinary delights of the hotel's two-Michelin-star restaurant.

GUEST LIST 52 **THE BILL** Exclusive use of venue and 24 ensuite bedrooms, from £19,000 per night, including afternoon tea on arrival or light supper in the evening, canapés and wedding breakfast **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01647 432367; gidleigh.com.

64 WHATLEY MANOR WILTSHIRE

This Cotswolds manor, with its pretty 12-acre garden and inviting decor, is an über-romantic setting – no wonder Kate Moss has a country house nearby. Foodies set to tie the knot will love the two-Michelin-starred restaurant, The Dining Room. It offers a modern interpretation of classic French cooking and also appeared in *The Good Food Guide's* Top 30 Restaurants in the UK.

GUEST LIST 150 **THE BILL** Packages from £196pp; exclusive use from £13,000 **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01666 834026; whatleymanor.com.

65 LE MANOIR AUX QUAT'SAISONS OXFORDSHIRE

Chef Raymond Blanc's temple to French fine dining is the ultimate food-lover's destination. The gorgeous hotel also has classic English gardens (where much of the produce is grown), croquet on the lawn and chic suites.

GUEST LIST 64 **THE BILL** Room hire from £600; menus from £68pp; exclusive use from £50,000, plus £25,000 minimum spend on food and drink **LICENCE?** Yes **CONTACT** 01844 278881; manoir.com. →



Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, Oxfordshire