

HOT

Local experts advise on this season's wedding looks

TOPIC:

spring fever

Meet the experts

Charlotte Trafford
FloristJackie Boulter
Stationery
designerLaura Ward
Bridal boutique
ownerMandy Block
Cake makerTracie Beardsley
Special occasion
boutique owner

www.charlottebryer-ash.com

say cheese

Q What kind of cake would work well to complement our rustic, spring wedding?

A *Mandy says:* Tiers of naked sponge cakes, filled with delicious buttercream, topped with simple spring blossoms and dredged with a flurry of icing sugar, look beautiful.

Or for something a bit more adventurous, alternative wedding cakes like our towers of award-winning cheeses, are robust, combine textures and colours and look stunning topped with a romantic cheddar heart. They can be as personal as any traditional cake and make a great focal point displayed on rustic wooden stands, adorned with flowers, herbs and fruits. What's more, they make a great addition to the buffet.

A bevy of beauties

Q My three bridesmaids are all different heights and sizes and I'm having my two nieces as flowergirls. What style and colour of dresses would work well to create a coordinated look and add a seasonal touch to our spring wedding?

A *Tracie says:* Proportion and balance are the key considerations. If any of your bridesmaids are body conscious, start by finding a style that they feel comfortable in. The chances are it may well suit the others as well.

Dresses with heavy detail at the bottom are difficult for shorter ladies to carry off, so a simple, unfussy design is the safest option when you have a mix of heights.

Younger bridesmaids often feel happier in dresses with straps and designers such as D'Zage and Jasmine include them in their junior ranges. Ivory is great for flowergirls to bring a burst of freshness to the mix, trimmed with sashes in a different colour to coordinate with the rest of the bridal party.

For spring, fresh mint and aqua shades look gorgeous and work well together in a group to create a sweet pea effect. This mix of colours is also handy if you have both blonde and brunette bridesmaids, allowing you to choose which shade suits them best.



www.dzage.com

Pretty pastels

Q I'm using the Pantone Colours of the Year; Rose Quartz and powder blue Serenity, as the palette for my spring wedding. What flowers would go with this for my bouquet and floral arrangements?

A *Charlotte says:* For this subtle colour scheme, I'd suggest blush pink ranunculas, blousy roses and white anemones, mixed with scented jasmine and soft grey eucalyptus for a romantic, seasonal look. You could add some delicate blue muscari for a touch of Serenity. For the table centrepieces, rose gold containers would complement the blush pink tones, while mottled silver works well with pale blue.



Floral fancies

Q We're getting married next spring and haven't decided on a theme yet.

What ideas can you suggest for the stationery to set the tone of our day?

A *Jackie says:* There are so many gorgeous flowers about at this time of year that can be incorporated in your invitations. Choose a supplier that can personalise your invitations and ask them to include your wedding blooms in the design. If you prefer to keep things simple, a crisp white base card works beautifully to set off a pretty, seasonal colour scheme of fresh green, soft blue, delicate blush pink or lemon yellow.



Seasonal chills

Q I'm worried the weather might still be chilly for my wedding in April. What accessories would you suggest that will not only look great, but keep me warm too?

A *Laura says:* A bridal capelet is the perfect option for an on-trend look that's classy and romantic. Not only will it help to keep the chills at bay, but by adding an extra layer you can style your look in different ways. Shorter capes, like this crochet lace Charlie Brear design (pictured), have a certain vintage-style chic that rocks an evening gown silhouette. Alternatively try a bolero for a romantic, elegant look; a fabulous, fringed boho shawl is ideal for a fashion-forward bride, while a luxurious faux fur adds full-on Hollywood glamour.



Contact our experts...

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