

HOT

Our experts solve your big-day dilemmas

TOPIC:

spring weddings

Meet the experts

Floriana Reynolds
Cake makerGayle Evans
FloristJoanna El Mokadem
CatererSarah Tinsey
Venue stylistToni Davey
Wedding planner

www.bloomingayles.co.uk

Blooming marvellous

Q I know spring is usually a great time of year for seasonal flowers but what varieties should I use for my wedding next March?

A *Gayle says:* Spring is my favourite time of year, as there are so many colourful blooms to choose from. Anemones are popular as they have delicate petals and a poppy-like black centre, while muscari, also known as the grape hyacinth, is a delicate flower which comes in blue, white and pink shades. Ranunculus is also popular for spring, as are tulips and snowdrops.



Please don't rain on my parade

Q We're getting married in May, and after our canapés and reception drinks we'd like to celebrate with a barbecue and garden games in the grounds, but we're worried about rain ruining the vibe. What would be a good back-up plan?

A *Toni says:* The great British weather can be a little erratic at times, so if your heart is set on a barbecue and outdoor entertainment, then I recommend choosing a venue that can accommodate your guests inside just in case. A venue with a conservatory would be ideal as you could still enjoy the views and it's the next best thing to being outside. Alternatively, you could have a marquee that opens out onto the grounds, and if there's a sudden downpour, you could pull back the cover for shelter. The rain makes a great photo opportunity though – think wellies and brollies for some quirky snaps.

www.simongoughphotography.com



www.ambiencevenuestyling.com

All things bright and beautiful

Q My fiancé and I would like to get married in March because it's our favourite time of year. We really want our big day to showcase the season so can you suggest how we can create a fresh spring look at our reception?

A *Sarah says:* My top tip is to go seasonal and don't be too rigid with your colour scheme – think of a palette of pastel colours rather than just one shade. Pink, blue, lilac, green and yellow all work well together, so be creative. If your venue allows it, hang paper lanterns or pom poms from the ceiling or rafters, as they create fantastic splashes of colour.

You can also decorate your tables with beautiful blooms in jugs or teapots, and give out individual terracotta pots with a bulb planted in each as favours.



www.letthecatcakesuk.com



Dish of the day

Q My partner and I are getting married in April next year and I'm interested in sourcing local produce for our wedding breakfast, so all the ingredients will need to be in season. What are my options?

A *Joanna says:* Using local produce is a fantastic way to wow your guests, and putting the provenance on your printed menus will help to highlight this. For example, you could have the name of the farm the ingredients came from. Here's an example of a suggested menu:

Starter

Salad of Whitstable crab and asparagus, accompanied by a Barradale Farm quail's egg with a tomato and tarragon dressing

Main

Herb-roasted saddle of Romney Marsh lamb served with wild garlic mash, foraged samphire, cauliflower fritter and a redcurrant jus

Dessert

Tasting plate which includes Watts Farm rhubarb and almond crumble, rhubarb trifle and elderflower sorbet

SERVING UP INSPIRATION

Q We're planning a spring wedding but have no idea what cake to choose. What do you suggest?

A *Floriana says:* Nothing says springtime more than flowers – think iced cherry blossoms on branches covering your cake, or, for a delicate look, decorate it with tiny sugared blooms such as daisies, lily of the valley or hydrangea. Birdcages are also on trend so this could be incorporated into your design as this theme lends itself perfectly to a spring wedding. Finally, choose flavours such as lemon or vanilla for the perfect seasonal cake.

Contact our experts...

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