

Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -



getting hitched your way

ISSUE 13

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA VERRELLS

SUMMER 2021

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Welcome to Summer



Summertime is the darling of wedding season, and for good reason. Gorgeous weather, bright fragrant flowers, more daylight hours for outdoor celebrations under a balmy night sky. It's an ideal time to say "I do."

Summer weddings are also known for wispy and dreamy boho fabrics, fresh, farm-to-table-inspired food, and crisp summer cocktails. Think backyard barefoot weddings in sundresses and casual attire to formal garden weddings where the scent of summer jasmine is in the air.

In this issue, we're looking at just a few of the things that make summer weddings so special, from beautiful bridal (and grooms) wedding wear, to tips on how to get the maximum mileage from both your bouquet and your hair and makeup on a hot summer's day.

As the most popular time of year to marry, planning ahead is more important than ever. Need tips, inspiration, and more? Keep reading or visit [Off Peak Weddings](#) online for ideas all year round.

To an unforgettable summer wedding,

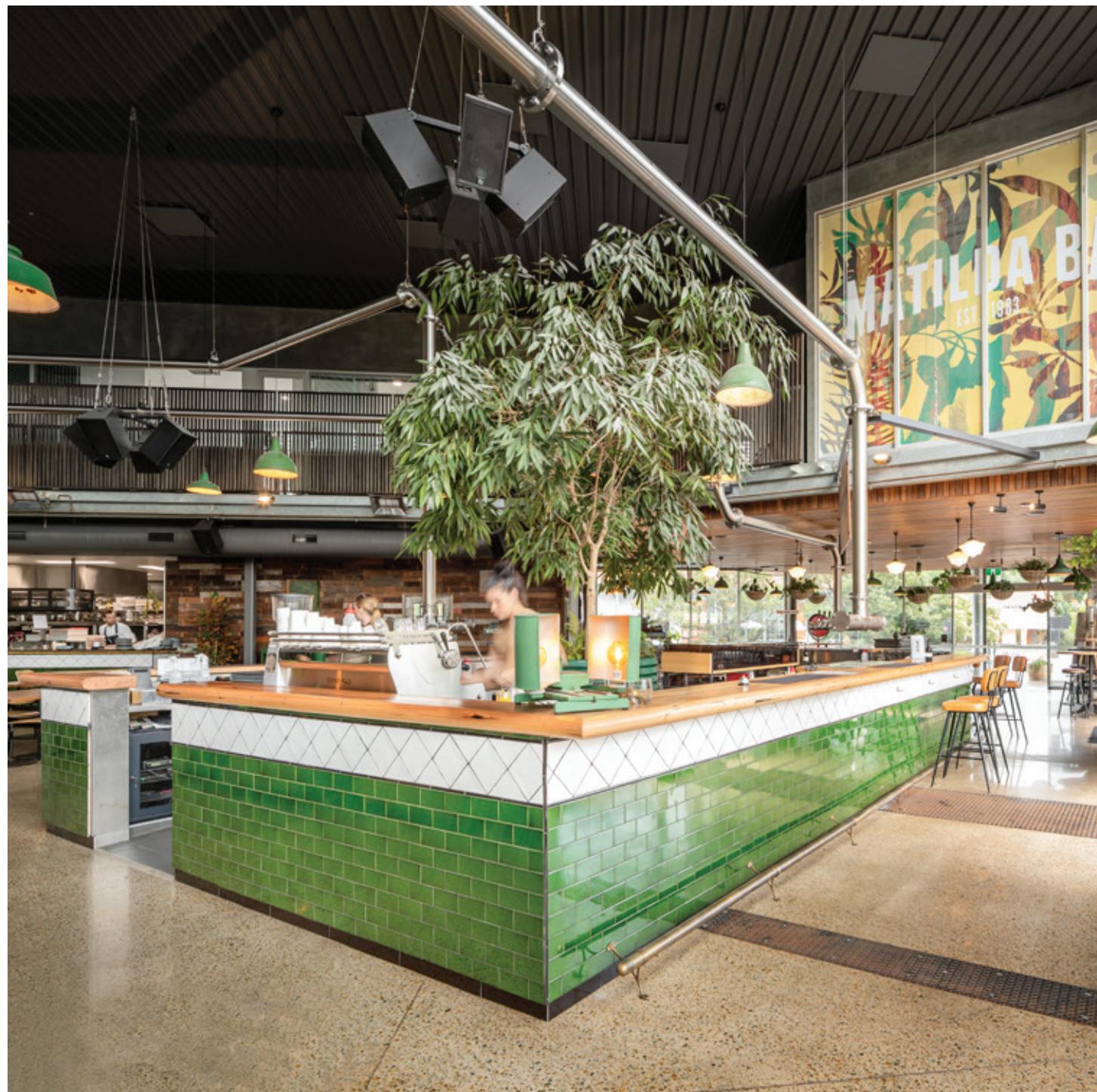
The Off Peak Weddings Team

Wed in a Brewery?

CHEERS TO THAT!

Words Gwen Luscombe

We know it's certainly not everyone's dream to get married in a brewery, but we'd wager there's more than a few craft beer lovers who would froth over the opportunity, (pardon the pun).





Wineries have always been a prime location for weddings, so why not a brewery? We chat with Matilda Bay Brewery's James Aris on exactly how to make it happen.

Located in the Yarra Valley, this brewpub has a fresh and bright interior, loads of space for celebrations (and dancing) and you'll never have to worry about the bar running dry. Their brand new carbon-neutral brewery has views of the stainless steel tanks brewing up the good stuff and guests can enjoy a casual environment that's perfectly suited for bringing people together.

"The brewpub is a fully functioning brewery and pub, and as such is pretty busy on the weekend," says James. "We're available Monday to Thursday for your off-peak weddings and all week long for recovery lunches."

What's more, is that it's centrally located for guests wanting to stay on and enjoy the region. "There's loads of access to great things to do around the wedding – Healesville Sanctuary, farmers markets, great walks in the Great Dividing Range and of course the world-famous wineries. Accommodation is aplenty but book early, Healesville is a popular spot in peak season."

Ideal for mid-sized weddings, James says Matilda Bay can fit 64 people seated in the beer hall, and 100 standing (current restrictions permitting). "We do have a few timing restrictions as it is a fully operating brewery, but we're happy to discuss and workshop the best way to configure the wedding for the couple."

And rest assured, guests will get a solid feed. Couples tailor a food and beverage package around their menu, which uses loads of locally sourced produce, paired of course with their fresh beer and curated Yarra Valley wine list.

Couples can also work with the team (with enough notice) to print custom labelled growlers (one-litre cans) and even print a custom growler (1.9 litre refillable beer vessels) especially for the occasion or as wedding party gifts.

"These can be filled with beer at the end of the wedding, should people want!" No doubt a bonbonniere they'll certainly use.

"For those who aren't keen on a wedding, our spot is perfect for a wedding recovery and we can accommodate big groups on Saturday and Sundays."



Paije & Micah get hitched on new year's eve

MEET THE COUPLE

Micah is from Hickory, North Carolina, while Paije is a born and bred Melbournian (with the coffee snobbery to go with it). Micah dabbles in airbnb arbitrage in his spare time, while his day job as a US Navy Pilot is what landed him in Singapore, the weekend we met. Paije, who was living in Indonesia at the time, travelled to Singapore with a friend to catch up with her brother (also in the US Navy), and met Micah on the last night. Sparks flew, and we both just knew this was it for us! We spent the next few months of Micah's deployment emailing, and really getting to know one another before Paije made the leap to move over to the states.



Who proposed?

Micah (hubby) proposed on 13th Feb 2019, our pre-valentines date night. He had everything planned out to a tee, with romantic candlelit rooftop, our favourite love songs and the challenge of making homemade ravioli, now one of our favourite date night activities!

Why did you choose the Yarra Valley/ Dandenong Ranges as your wedding location?

We were looking for something a little more regional and Australian feeling, than the more modern venues throughout Melbourne. The Dandenong Ranges is one of Pajje's favourite areas, which we had planned to take our guests too anyway, to check out the 1000 Steps, and the infamous Pie in the Sky.

Why did you choose to get married on New Year's Eve?

We were arranging an international wedding, trying to coordinate schedules of five US military personnel and American family was hard enough, but we also had interstate guests to manage and both of Pajje's parents work in Melbourne's school systems. Collectively, this meant we had about a two-week window of time across the Christmas holiday period that have the

highest chance of success for our guests!

We were delighted when we found that Marybrooke Manor not only had availability for the wedding day, but could accommodate our international guests for about a five-day window of time around the big day!

Finally, when faced with a few date options in the desired timeframe, we picked New Year's Eve because it was absolutely the biggest bang for our buck. NYE in 2019 was a Tuesday, and technically not a public holiday until midnight, so that was really great. In addition, it just made so much sense to have a party with all our favourite on new year's as our reception, rather than trying to add in the stress of planning another event in the week.

Oh, and what guest doesn't love attending a free event with unlimited alcohol for NYE and accommodation right upstairs?

How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?

The biggest things we were looking for were an all in one location, as we had elderly and international guests for which travel between venues would have been challenging. Secondly, we really needed somewhere that could accommodate the majority of guests on NYE, but in addition would facilitate the international cohort throughout the whole 'wedding week' that we had planned around the wedding.

What was your wedding theme?

In terms of colour/style, it was really a merger of a Christmas/NYE Vibe with Burgundy + Gold Sparkles. The other theme to our wedding was how we created spaces/events, and that was all about our international family bonding and really getting to know one another over the course of a week together.

What made your wedding unique?

We actually planned a whole wedding week! International guests and immediate family were the main attendees, but we had different wedding guests show up at various events throughout as their schedules permitted. The primary goal for us was to not only give the US folks a taste of Australia and Melbourne, but to really spend time bonding and integrating with the Aussies.

We hit up a number of places around Melbourne including 1000 Steps, Pie in the Sky, Moonlit Sanctuary (the roo's were a real hit), a few wineries, Puffing Billy and of course indulged in good old fish' n' chips on the beach.



What were the highlights?

Paije has had a lifelong dream that her dad, who is a minister of the Uniting Church of Australia, would marry her to her husband. And he did! The wedding was always going to be special, but being walked down the aisle by both Mum and Dad, and having the ceremony performed by her dad really topped the cake.

Is there a story behind your dress?

The dress hunt was SO hard! I had been dress shopping four separate times, in both Australia and America, with girlfriends, bridesmaids and parents, before we finally settled on a dress. There were just so many options, but none of them were perfect. We had almost decided to look into getting something made as I had a number of key criteria that I wanted to see in the dress, but before doing so, decided to call around to a few of the shops we had already been to in Melbourne, just in case we had missed seeing any dresses that had the right features. Low and behold, a trunk show for Mon Cheri had just come into Always & Forever Bridal and had a dress that was almost exactly what I wanted! The team there was just wonderful, and were willing to work with me on some unique fitting dates right before the christmas break to ensure we got everything done in time.



Tell us about the groomsweat, who chose the colour?

Micah picked out his outfit, ordered online from Suitopia which was tailor made and custom-fit for him, without having to go into a tailor.

What type of entertainment did you have?

We invited some violinists from a local school for the ceremony, and utilised the venue DJ for the reception - easy and great!

What was your wedding menu for the day? Did you have any special drinks for your guests?

We went with a three-course sitdown menu, and one hour of canapes and drinks before the reception.

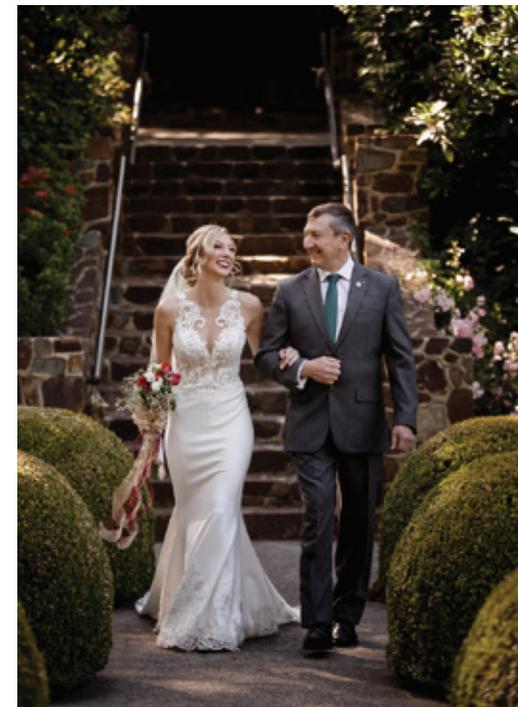
Was there any wedding vendor that particularly stood out on the day? If so, why?

Amber Williams, our photographer was just wonderful. She blended in really well, kept us laughing and things natural, but then blended into the background quickly in group settings.

Deborah from Marybrooke was also just wonderful; we really felt like she cared about us to the point where she even grabbed us a bottle of champagne and ice to enjoy in our room after the wedding, and helped me undo my wedding dress so poor Micah didn't have to figure out all those buttons!

Advice for couples thinking of getting married in the Yarra Valley/Dandenong Ranges?

Beware of fire season! This is not something typically found on the checklists of things to contingency plan for (like rain), but is a real thing in this region. We were really lucky that we didn't get 'smoked out' or impacted by any of the fires that ravaged the region just a few days later in early January 2020.



What makes your marriage amazing?

Transparent and regular communication and partnership - I think we were really blessed to have their first few months of our relationship limited to verbal/written communication, because it really instilled in us a desire to communicate clearly, transparently and regularly. To this day we continue that spirit in our relationship which ensures that we're always on the same page, and working together as a team towards shared goals and dreams.

What's your best advice for planning the perfect wedding?

Micah says: marry a planner!

Paije says: make sure that you're both a part of the dreaming and planning of the wedding. There were specific things that Micah cared about, that I would have never known to consider if he hadn't been involved, and vice versa. I'd also say, start with a dream and visualise what you want to achieve/what you want people to feel and remember about your wedding before you plan a single thing - use that dream as your guiding blueprint for all the decisions thereafter.

What did you do for your hen's/buck's party?

Hen's was a high tea at Marybrook Manor while the boys went off to play lasertag. We then came together for a joint barbie and drinks at Green Haven - a standalone house that we rented for our accommodation week at Marybrooke Manor. For the BBQ, we got burgers from Monroe's Burgers in Healesville catering, which was just to die for.

Have you had a honeymoon yet? If so, where did you go?

Sadly not yet - we had planned to do a cruise, but COVID-19 hit fairly soon after we got back to the States, and it's been on hold ever since. We're expecting a baby girl in October 2021, so our honeymoon will have to wait just a little bit longer still. All in good time!





VENDOR CREDITS

Photographer Amber Williams Photography

Ceremony and Reception Venue Marybrooke Manor

Food Monroe's Burgers (hens/bucks), Marybrooke Manor (reception)

Stationery Zazzle

Celebrant Rev. Steve Terrell

Engagement ring Angara

Babysitting agency Event Nannies

BRIDE CREDITS

Bridal gown designer Mon Cheri, from Always & Forever Bridal

Bridesmaid dresses Birdy Grey

Hair & Makeup De Ross Artistry

GROOM CREDITS

Groom team Suitopia

Olinda Tea House and Global Ballooning

currently have availability for weddings during the festive period of 2022. Please get in touch with them to find out more

Top tips for Christmas and NYE weddings



Christmas weddings are always infused with a special, seasonal joy, while weddings held on New Year's Eve have an extra-special party vibe. Three suppliers share their tips for planning a Christmas wedding, writes Belinda Jackson.

"Usually the minimum spend on such days as Christmas and New Year's Days is much higher than normal days, so factor those costs into your budget," says Danni Chen, wedding co-ordinator from Olinda Tea House. "However, the weekdays either side of Christmas are priced at the regular rate, so you can still have your event during the Christmas week, without the higher spend."

olindateahouse.com.au

"We fly Christmas Eve, Boxing Day and New Year's Day," says Mandy Ho of Global Ballooning, which conducts sunrise flights over the Yarra Valley and Melbourne. "Because it's an early start, a lot of people choose to stay in the Valley the night before. And take it easy the night before, so you're not queasy for your balloon ride!"

globalballooning.com.au

"We get hit really hard with booking enquiries from February each year, so plan ahead for a wedding at this time," advises Jane Whittaker of Mount View Estate. "We have a three-day minimum for our accommodation, so you can celebrate and relax in the same location – sipping cocktails by the infinity pool beforehand, celebrating in the pavilion on your big day, then winding down in the spa or pool with family and friends the day after your wedding."

mountviewestate.com.au

Summer reception catering ideas to love

Summer wedding menus are all about light, fresh and tidy food (nobody wants sauce stains on their outfit). We're talking sparkling cocktails, ice-cold craft beers, and locally sourced fresh produce that won't leave them feeling bulked down by heavy food in the warmer weather.

No matter what type of wedding reception you're planning, we've got a few ideas to steal for your big day.





Go for grazing

Rather than a seated dinner, why not opt for a grazing style menu where guests can not only roam around and intermingle (rather than being restricted to one table) but they can also eat what they want, when they want, nibbling as they go. No need for a seated, heavy meal and it opens guests up to conversation about what's on offer as they peruse the table.

The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges regions are synonymous with incredible food and wine and which means you're in the best place to whip up a long grazing table of locally sourced cheeses, meats, olives, fresh fruit, antipasti and fresh breads, you get the idea. And don't forget the sweets.

Cool cocktails and craft beer

For any wedding, Champagne is traditional, but on a warm summer evening, a fresh cocktail is an ideal way to celebrate and stand out. Use fresh fruit and juices as well as edible blooms to make them pretty, festive and delicious. Take it one step further and choose locally made spirits such as Four Pillars, Alchemy Distillers, Killik Rum, Ginfinity and the like. Ice-cold craft beers are also a winner and the region is full of boutique brews that are perfect for a summer wedding.

Food truck fun

Food trucks bring an element of fun to any wedding. From champagne trucks to ice cream trucks at the end of the night for dessert (pairs perfectly with cake).

A local favourite, Babaji's Kitchen offers Southern Indian street-eats that are always a crowd-pleaser. Other popular food trucks can include Mexican, woodfired pizza and Texan style BBQs with all the fixings.

Formal and fresh

For seated, formal meals, talk to your chef about what's local and in season. They'll know the menu options. Summer favourites often include lighter meals such as salads served up with fish, seafood, grilled chicken and the like. Pair it all with a locally sourced wine and enjoy.



Balloon Weddings

GETTING HITCHED ON A HIGH

Words Belinda Jackson

Floating gently above rolling vineyards and villages of the Yarra Valley, soft wind ruffling your hair, the scene bathed in golden light as the sun peeps over the horizon... getting married in a hot-air balloon takes your wedding to new heights.

While proposal popping is a weekly event for Melbourne-based ballooning company Global Ballooning (check out their "Will you marry me!" balloon), it has seen just a handful of weddings take place on high, though it expects the trend to take off as micro-weddings and elopements are on the rise.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR WEDDING SOAR

(PUNS INTENDED)

Sensational at sunrise

Hour-long balloon flights over the Yarra Valley start early. Very early. We're talking pre-dawn. The group meets up to 90 minutes before take-off, so prep your guests that they must be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed before sun-up: no pressure now! At the peak of summer, take-off can be as early as 4am, pushing back to a slouchy 6am launch in mid-winter. Yes, that does mean a 3am meet if you're leaving from Melbourne.

Numbers game

Global Ballooning has Australia's largest baskets, which hold 24 people plus the pilot. The padded baskets are separated into four compartments and there's no swapping around once you're in the air, so hugs have to wait until you're back on the ground. There's also no walking up the aisle, if that's your dream move. Smaller balloons, holding 5, 10 or 18 passengers are also available, although by the time you have the celebrant, two witnesses, the photographer, videographer, parents and best friends on board...

Weather

Ballooning is seriously weather dependent. If it rains or there are high winds, the balloons won't go up, so you absolutely must have a Plan B. The pilot will contact guests the night before to confirm take-off, giving you time to divert guests to your back-up location if the weather isn't playing ball.

Dizzy heights

This one seems pretty obvious – is everybody in your wedding party comfortable with heights? While ballooning is extremely safe, peering over the edge at 1000 metres up isn't for everyone. For those with limited mobility, Global Ballooning also has a 10-person easy-access basket, and cushions can be placed on the basket's floor for guests who can't stand for the entire flight. Flight-only packages take up to four hours, adding in breakfast and transfers to the Yarra Valley from Melbourne brings the activity time up to seven hours.





Dress sense

In ballooning, everyone gets involved in helping inflate and pack the balloon up. This takes place in a paddock, so switch out the sparkly heels for a pair of sensible shoes, then sling on the stilettos for the post-flight champagne breakfast. Alternatively, you can pay an additional fee for ground crew to do it for you, letting you focus on the main event: expect to pay around \$200 per additional crew member. Bags aren't allowed in the balloons, so plan for some pockets in your layered outfit. While it's no colder up in the air than on ground level, those early mornings can get nippy, so layer up, and whip it all off for the big reveal of your wedding wear, with the backdrop of a beautiful balloon.

The costs

Chances are you don't want to share your wedding with strangers, so budget for exclusive hire of your balloon. Flights cost from \$5900 for up to 16 passengers for the flight only, and from \$8700 for 24 guests. A popular add-on to the flights is a champagne breakfast in a Yarra Valley winery - Global Ballooning operates out of Balgownie Estate, add \$35 per person for the breakfast.

A sparkle in the air

Be sure to allocate a bottle of sparkling for each compartment to toast the newlyweds. For the perfect pic, you can put a request in for a particular balloon colour and the pilot will try to arrange it when they allocate the balloons, the day before your flight. For an extra splash, customise your baskets with a banner across the basket that shouts, "Just Married!" A customised banner costs around \$200.

GLOBAL BALLOONING

globalballooning.com.au

1800 627 661

Fresh as a daisy



Australian summer weddings can also mean high heat and humidity, wreaking havoc and turning your beautiful bridal bouquets into a wilted, droopy mess. We asked the experts for their tips on keeping your wedding flowers fresh and gorgeous the whole day long.

Louise – The Redwood Florist

"Imported roses, natives, orchids, and chrysanthemums do well in hot conditions where dahlias, hydrangeas and softer flowers need a little more care," she says.

"Flowers need to be conditioned by a florist before installation and construction of the bouquets etc. There's a lot of prep work involved before work begins in designing pieces," she adds, so it's best to keep your flowers in a clean water source for as long as possible.

"I deliver my bouquets in a water source and leave instructions for the bridesmaids on delivery. Such as keep in a cool dark room until needed. Keep in the water source for as long as possible. If it's really hot, I'll leave a spray bottle, to give a light spray through the day." She adds, however, that it's important not to overspray and if possible, to pop your bouquets back into water between the ceremony and photos."



Renee- Yarra Valley Blooms

"Australian natives and foliage are key to a long-lasting and lush bouquet," she says. "Natives such as king proteas, banksias, waxflower, proteas and blushing brides just to name a few are a florist's ideal array of blooms when creating something hardy, easy to transport and long-lasting. Not to mention they look stunning alongside roses and pretty seasonal blooms."

"Always keeping all flowers away from direct sunlight and any heat is always recommended for keeping your wedding blooms looking lush for longer," she says, adding that a little spritz of a water spray bottle on the flowers as well as having a fresh vassal of water handy is also useful.

Jess- Sassafras Weddings

"Firstly, choose a florist with experience in the correct flower conditioning and prep. Blooms that have been properly hydrated and prepped ahead of time will always hold up better in the heat," she says.

"There are a couple of tricks I use when designing for a summer wedding. I love to combine fresh blooms with dried and preserved textures for interest and colour variation, and the added bonus is of course that they last out of water."

"Dried bracken, liquorice flower, with preserved hydrangea and luneria are a great addition to classic summer roses," she adds.





Upcycling your wedding dress

Words Belinda Jackson

What's (usually) white, costs \$2500, and you'll wear for just 12 hours of your life?

Maybe it's time to rethink the wedding dress.

Each year, every Australian throws 23kg of textiles into landfill, so a sustainable wedding dress is a practical, thoughtful option that can be just as beautiful as any single-use dress.

And aside from the environmental issues of a single-use dress is the cost of couture; Australian brides spend an average of between \$2000 and \$3000 on their wedding dress, although as we all know, the sky's the limit for the big day. Fortunately, there are ways to have your dream dress without the nightmare price tag.

Refashioned gowns

Based in Chirnside Park, Love Me Twice offers sustainable, ethical and eco-friendly bridal gowns. Owned by designer-dressmaker Jennifer Bowden and her sister Mary Miranda, who specialises in embroidery, they source pre-loved and sample wedding dresses. In addition, their Ethically New dresses use organic fabrics and end-of-designer fabrics.

"Many girls don't realise you need six to 12 months to order a dress. Opting for a pre-loved or sample dress mean you can find a really beautiful dress immediately, and it needs only alteration to have it fitting perfectly," says Jennifer.

Those alterations can include anything from simple size adjustments to modify plunging necklines for those who don't want to display their belly buttons, or adding sleeves to suit an autumn or winter wedding.

"You actually have greater flexibility than buying a dress off the rack," says Jennifer. "Starting with a base and a shape, tweaking the dress can make a second-hand or a sample gown truly personalised. You really end up with something beautiful and unique."

She notes that pre-loved gowns are always not always a budget option – the most expensive pre-loved gown that's

passed through Jennifer's hands is a J'Aton gown (remember Bec Judd's wedding dress?) which was negotiated down to \$11,000. However, you're not contributing to landfill, and by employing local designers, you can be confident you're also not supporting child or slave labour conditions, which notoriously plague the international fashion industry.

Loved and loved again

Upcycled wedding dress websites provide a win-win-win service: the seller gets back some of the cost of the dress, the buyer saves some cash, and the dress gets another day in the limelight.

Longstanding wedding dress marketplace I Do Gowns charges a one-off listing fee to sell pre-loved wedding dresses, and there's no cost for buyer, while Sydney-based online marketplace Still White has over 58,000 dresses for sale on its website. From boho to ball gowns, mini-dresses and mermaid silhouettes, the dresses are listed by brides right across the world. So far, more than \$76m has change hands between former brides and brides-to-be since couple Ingrid and Bruno Szajer first dreamed up the Still White platform to sell Ingrid's wedding dress, back in 2010.



Design for hire

Hitting a designer dress hire shop means that you will never end up with a space-hogging frock wedged up the back of the wardrobe or under the bed, and you're not committing any landfill crimes. Located in Frankston, Sunset Bridal includes cleaning and most alterations in its gown hire price. Of course, women come in all shapes, sizes, skin colour tones and height – so ensure the alterations are reversible.

Vintage beauty

Fancy channelling your inner Grace Kelly (but don't have a spare \$600k?) Or keen to work some mid-calf tulle action with a fabulous '50s frou-frou number? Perhaps you've got champagne tastes but a beer budget, but neeeded to hit the aisle in Chanel or Dior. Vintage and high-end second-hand shops may be your best bet. Premier Sydney vintage couture shop Forever Vintage scours Europe and the US for its collection.

Something borrowed

For the simplest (and most traditional) option of all, why not ask a friend if you can borrow their dress? Simply have it cleaned – note that this can cost a couple hundred dollars – and returned with a bouquet of flowers or a bottle of sparkling wine to say thanks.



CHECKLIST

Forever Vintage
forevervintage.net.au

I Do Gowns
idogowns.com.au

Love Me Twice
lovemetwice.com.au

Still White
stillwhite.com.au

Sunset Bridal
sunsetbridal.com.au



Six spaces for your rehearsal dinner

It's the night before the big day and your nearest and dearest have gathered together for one last hurrah (and a practice run-through of the ceremony.)

Traditionally speaking, the rehearsal dinner was hosted by the groom's parents on the night before the wedding and immediately after the rehearsal to bring together both families. Immediate family from both sides as well as the members of your wedding party and often guests who'd travelled long-distance to attend were invited.

Once upon a time, under the traditional assumption that

the bride's family paid for the wedding, the rehearsal dinner was hosted (and paid for) by the groom's family. But modern times, etiquette and tradition have changed all that. The rehearsal dinner is also the perfect time to thank friends, family and everyone who's come together to help plan your day. If you're planning on presenting the members of your wedding party with a gift, it's a great time to do that as well.

Whether your rehearsal dinner is a small, formal and intimate dinner a casual, larger-scale event, the way you plan it is all up to you. Consider these local options:



Venue **SkyHigh**
Mount Dandenong

Oakridge Wines

An excellent choice for an earlier rehearsal dinner as Oakridge does later afternoon seatings at 2:30, giving you ample time to run through the upcoming event and have an early night before the big day.

Overlooking the vineyards, groups of 10 or more can enjoy an exclusive area that lends itself superbly to intimate gatherings in a relaxed yet gorgeous environment. Think floor-to-ceiling windows, magnificent views and access to your own private terrace.

Oakridge's hatted restaurant, led by Executive Chef Aaron Brodie, showcases the best regional and house-made produce pair with pretty incredible wines.

SkyHigh Mount Dandenong

By day it offers some of the best views around and by night, well, same. With a group of 10 guests or more, book out their private dining room 600m high with the lights of Melbourne twinkling below. Their private dining package is a three-course dinner held in the upstairs private dining area so you have exclusive use and dedicated waitstaff. Their package also includes canapés on arrival served on a private terrace, fresh flowers and table centerpieces, and a three-course meal with drinks included.

Bianchet Winery

The Bistro at Bianchet is French Provincial inspired and prepared using many ingredients grown in the gardens around the venue.

Here you'll find a relaxed and comfortable environment where a lunch or dinner option of two or three courses can be organised. You'll find a French-inspired menu, designed by executive chef Paul Cooper and head chef Mark Krueger that's true to its roots as one of the oldest vineyards in the Yarra Valley.

The views are pretty spectacular too.



Venue **Oakridge Wines**



Venue **Bianchet Winery**



De Bortoli Estate

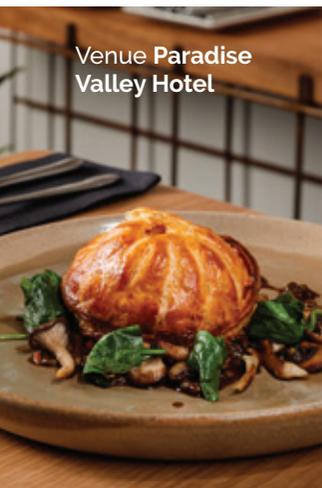
Perfect for a lunch or dinner on a Saturday night, the winery restaurant Locale brings together an Italian-inspired menu celebrating the best local and seasonal produce available and warm family hospitality, matched of course with estate-grown wines.

Much of Locale's ingredients are grown on the Estate and their menu is designed around the traditional Italian idea of shared plates. Think local and imported salumi and cheeses, meat and fish dishes and a range of classic Italian desserts. It's an ideal ice breaker for new families coming together and getting better acquainted.

Paradise Valley Hotel

If you're thinking of something a bit more casual, but still sophisticated and warm, Paradise Valley Hotel is your place. They offer a range of spaces for group bookings from their main dining room to their bistro and outdoor deck where your group can come together for a great meal.

The menu has an upmarket traditional pub feel with a range of options for all dietary requirements. It's the perfect place for a relaxed meal and a cheeky drink or two with your nearest and dearest.



The Stables at Stones

The historic Stables at Stones of the Yarra Valley were originally used by the stable hands of St. Huberts winery as far back as 1868, as sleeping quarters and blacksmith rooms catering for the large number of horses stabled on the site.

Since then it's evolved into a rustic and much-loved restaurant and wedding venue. For your rehearsal dinner, you can choose from a four-course a la carte dinner experience on Fridays and Saturdays with a seasonal weekly menu reflective of the Yarra Valley's freshest produce.

If you've got family travelling from a distance or you're looking for a relaxing night prior to the big day, their sister property located just nearby, The Farmhouse at Meletos, is an excellent spot to unwind. They offer a dining and accommodation package as well which makes a lovely gift for the parents too. While you're there, don't forget to book into their newly-launched massage experience, Il Massaggio. This massage retreat will ease all your tensions before the big day unfolds.



PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

Hot Tip

Sugar syrup recipe

Stir 500g caster sugar into 500ml room-temperature water until dissolved, and the syrup is ready to use.



Instagrammable Summer Cocktails

Words Belinda Jackson

You've worked hard to make sure your wedding is a creation of beauty – why ruin the party photos with drab drinks in hand? We've rounded up five delicious summer cocktails that are easy to make and also easy on the eye.



Alchemy's Bramble

The Bramble is a classic cocktail that's seasonal and easy to make. "It looks good and it tastes delicious," says Evan Kipping, owner of Alchemy Distillers in Healesville. If they're in season, he suggests replacing the blackberry syrup with actual blackberries, and muddle them for added freshness. At a pinch, you can even use blackberry jam.

ALCHEMY CHAMOMILE GIN, \$85

alchemydistillers.com

INGREDIENTS

- 60ml Alchemy Chamomile gin
- 30ml lemon juice
- 30ml Monin blackberry syrup (or blackberry jam)
- Soda to top

METHOD

Place all ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake for 30-45 seconds. Strain into rock glass filled with crushed ice. Top with soda and garnish with a blackberry.



Peach Melba Bellini

Dame Nellie loved champagne and sparkling wines, and the Melba Bellini is made with the sparkling wine made on her estate in Coldstream, and peach jam named in her honour.

COOMBE NV SPARKLING, \$35

coombeyarravalley.com.au

INGREDIENTS

- Coombe NV Sparkling
- Coombe Peach Puree (2 white peaches, scored, blanched, peeled, stones removed & pureed)
- 1 tbsp Coombe Peach Melba Jam
- 1 tbsp sugar syrup

METHOD

Take a chilled coupe glass, rub the rim with citrus of your choice, then dunk the rim in the raspberry dust. Add the puree and top with Coombe NV Sparkling. Garnish with raspberry dust or sugar, at a pinch.



Four Pillars' Pav Punch

Four Pillars' co-founder and head distiller Cameron Mackenzie says his Australian Christmas Gin smells and tastes like Christmas. The gin, created in the Healesville distillery, is released each year on Derby Day

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS GIN, \$100

fourpillarsgin.com

INGREDIENTS

- 700ml Australian Christmas Gin
- 750ml champagne or sparkling wine
- 700ml soda water
- 500ml Fino Sherry
- 300ml fresh lemon juice
- 300ml sugar syrup

METHOD

Pour all ingredients, except the fizzy stuff, into a punchbowl and leave to refrigerate ahead of time. This step can be done well in advance. Before serving, add fizzy stuff and ice and stir. Garnish with passionfruit hulls, orange and lemon wheels, fresh berries and mint.



Banks Southside

Swanky and stylish, this non-alcoholic cocktail features Banks Botanical spirit, made in the Yarra Valley with locally harvested botanics.

BANKS BOTANICALS, \$49.99

banksbotanicals.com

INGREDIENTS

- 60ml Banks Botanicals non-alcoholic spirit
- 60ml lime juice
- 15ml sugar syrup
- Mint for garnish

METHOD

Add all the ingredients into a shaker and mix. Add ice, shake and strain. Pour into a martini glass and garnish.



Passionfruit Splice

"I love this cocktail because of the balance between the sweet and sour components, coupled with the fresh fruit juices and the vanilla cream on top," says Ben Pratt, who distils the gin in Belgrave. "It's so bright and lively and delicious!"

GINFINITY BUBBLEGUM GIN, \$65

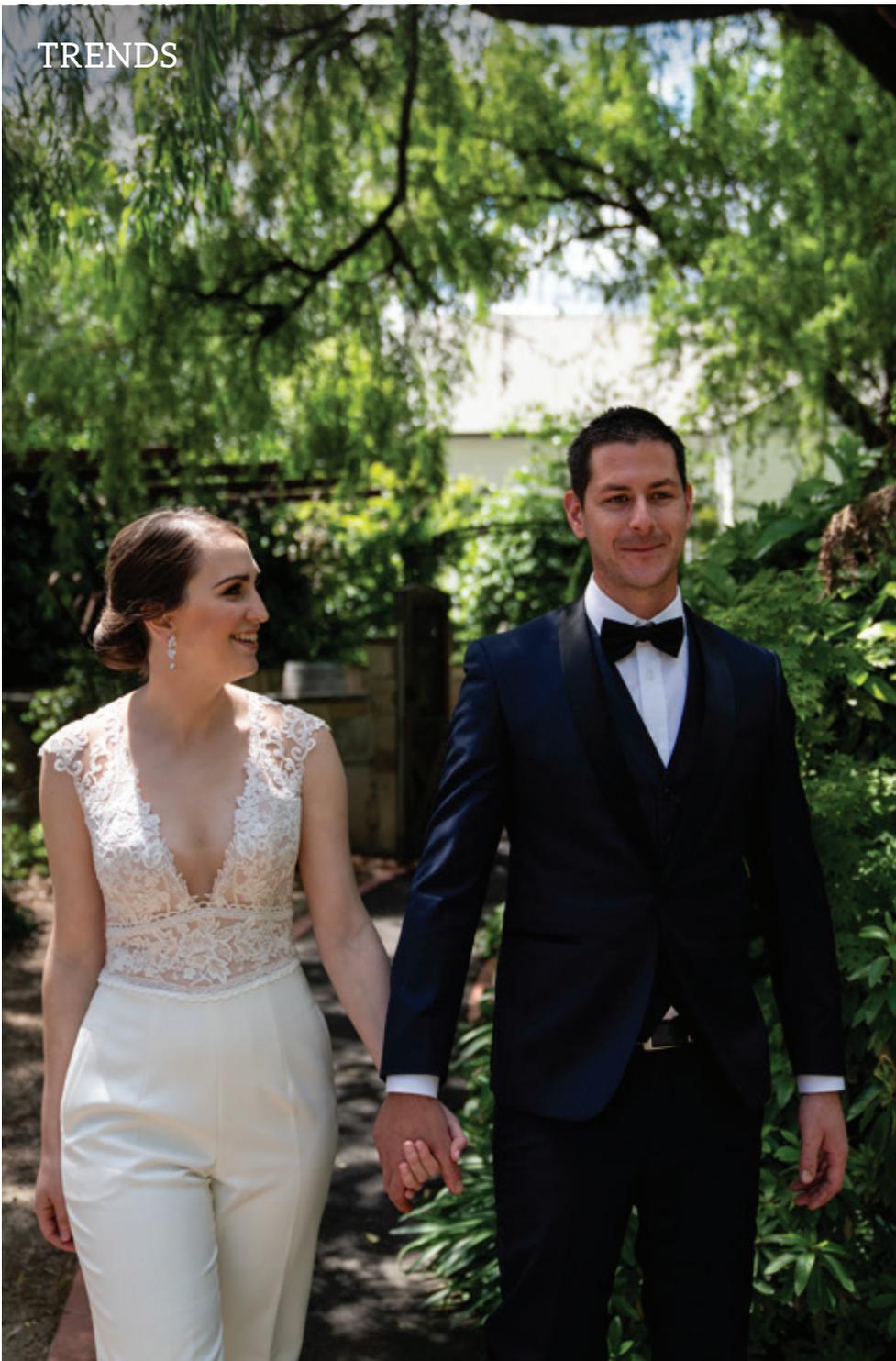
ginfinity.com.au

INGREDIENTS

- 60ml Ginfinity BubbleGum Gin
- 60ml fresh lime juice
- 60ml simple syrup
- 60ml passionfruit puree
- 30ml apricot nectar

METHOD

Shake with ice and pour into a tall glass, top with Liquor 43 infused whipped cream and a drizzle of passionfruit puree.



Summer Hair & Make-up trends

INTERVIEW WITH JESS, OWNER
OF BEL HAIR COUTURE AND
STEPH, STEPHANIE JADE
MAKEUP ARTISTRY

Who are Bel Hair Couture?

Bel Hair Couture is a boutique salon and mobile service offering event hairstyling and make-up services. With so many amazing venues in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges it makes such a wide variety of themes and events that we get the exciting job of planning out the styling for. We love being able to tailor a service personalised for each and every event. From the initial trial right through to the minute we put that very last finishing touch in place on your big day we put our years of passion and experience into the service. After a hard two years for so many couples it's amazing to be able to help make their big days extra special.

What do you see at this summer's hair & make-up trends?

This summer's trending hair will be more lived-in looks. What we are seeing lately is people wanting to look like they haven't spent hours in the salon having every hair perfectly placed, they want to look effortlessly glamorous with soft finishes, loose hairs and more natural finishes. make-up trends this summer are really about glowing skin. The golden bronzed look is hot right now with dewy skin.

Neutral lip colours and earthy tones seem to be the most popular requests at the moment.

What hairstyles and make-up looks do you recommend for summer brides and their bride squad?

For the summer months I would recommend soft and simple styles for the bride and bride squad. If the weather is not hot or raining, chat to your stylist about whether hair up or down would suit your facial features best. If the weather is quite warm, humid or raining, I'd recommend wearing it up to prolong the style, and your stylist should also be able to make adjustments to the upstyle to suit your facial features.

For brides not having a veil, bold or simple accessories both compliment these soft and simple hair styles. If the bride squad are having accessories, I would aim for more simple accessories to compliment their styles.

Bridal makeup is usually neutral tones with depth in the eyes. Most brides want to appear as though they look naturally beautiful, however it must be strong enough to photograph well. Nothing too over the top, glowing skin and neutral smokey eyes. Lashes are a must. Bride squad is usually fairly similar to the bride, however usually a little more subtle than the bride. Bride squad can sometimes vary in eyeshadow colours depending on the bridesmaid dresses.

Are there any hair styles or make-up looks that you would avoid in the warmer months?

During those hot and humid months, hair down on the face or neck is usually problematic.

Hair extensions especially create an extra little blanket on your neck causing sweating which causes the hair to frizz and curl to drop. I would always recommend having the hair up during hot or humid weather as this fares much better throughout the long day and night. Hair out of place or frizz caused by humidity is much more noticeable on sleek or perfectly polished styles so I'd recommend a softer updo with more movement and curl throughout the style. Avoid too heavy makeup in the warmer months, less is more.

Top tips for summer brides to keep their hair & make-up looking fresh throughout the day

To maintain the bridal party's hair for the entire event, I'd recommend taking bobby pins for any stray hairs that may fall victim to the humidity, and travel hairspray to touch up regularly throughout the day. The hairspray will give you an extra barrier against that humidity.

TOP TIP: for fresh-looking make-up all day, having good skincare having a good skincare routine is key. If your skin is in good condition it helps the makeup appear more flawless and assists with ensuring the makeup is long lasting.





*Small weddings
are good for
the earth, your
wallet and your
conscience*

Words Belinda Jackson

Micro-weddings are so hot right now, as are their little sisters, elopements. The good news is that size doesn't matter – your dream wedding can be small, sensational and also sustainable.

Small weddings save you money

Obviously. Before COVID-19 hit, the average Australian wedding had around 100 guests and cost between \$36,000 and \$52,000 (according to moneysmart.gov.au), but has dropped to around \$27,200 as the pandemic put the brakes on large gatherings and overseas (or even interstate) guests.

Focus on quality, rather than quantity

Small is definitely beautiful when it comes to weddings: less food waste, less flowers, less place settings and less leftovers for landfill. And with a little extra in the back pocket, it lets you consider touches that you maybe wouldn't have otherwise considered, such as hiring a videographer as well as a photographer, or employing a live band. Look for local suppliers, so you're contributing to the local economy, and also saving on unnecessary travel emissions.

Splash out on a sustainable banquet

With less guests at the reception, you might afford to step up the quality of the menu and focus on locally produced wines and spirits rather than cheaper, mass-produced beverages. Why not call in a small, local caterer who you can communicate closely with about such issues as using in-season, local

produce, and reducing food wastage at the end of the night? Think about adding a plant-based course for a lighter carbon footprint than meat dishes. And instead of single-use cutlery, crockery or cups, it's time to break out the good china and linen napkins for the select few.

Go luxe on the venue

Most wedding budgets are sucked up by venue hire for the ceremony and the reception. With a small wedding, there's no need to book the biggest hall you can find, instead, you can take the private room with the vineyard views, or perhaps a high-end B&B for your small, select group. And with all that money you've saved, why not splash out on a stylist to work with your photographer? A good stylist will also be able to bring their own, reusable props to create the backdrop for a picture-perfect event. Otherwise, if the season allows, go for the most environmentally sound venue of all – the great outdoors! The beach, a forest, formal gardens, a mountain peak.

Micro-weddings are good for you, too

An intimate guest list gets you out having to invite the on-again-off-again boyfriend of your second cousin. Instead of having to orchestrate a cast of thousands, that pared-back guest list lets you spend time with every one of your guests. And, ultimately, connection is what weddings are all about, right?



Smoking Ceremony

PAIRING CIGARS AND SPIRITS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Words Belinda Jackson

It's late in the evening, your guests are either locked in deep conversation and only the fittest remain on the dance floor. It's time to kick back and enjoy your own wedding – maybe with a cigar and a snifter of local Yarra Valley spirits?



Kinglake Whiskey

New on the market, Kinglake is on track to become the country's first certified carbon-neutral whisky. Made from the property's own spring water, this hyper-local whisky is aged in Kentucky bourbon barrels, which lend vanilla tones to the warm palette of chocolate malt, biscuit, cereal and peat. Owners Chantal Daniels and Sam Lowe have travelled to such cigar heartlands as Cuba, and keep their own humidor well stocked. Chantal recommends drinking their single-malt whiskey in a well-muddled Old-Fashioned cocktail or serve it neat and let it shine, with a Perdomo Champagne Noir cigar, while Sam opts for a Cain Straight Ligerero Habano.

KINGLAKE O'GRADY'S STAND SINGLE MALT WHISKY, \$100/500ML

kinglakedistillery.com.au

Killik Rum

First opening between lockdowns in 2020, Killik Rum in Belgrave produces small-batch rums including its signature Killik Gold aged rum. Owner Ben Pratt says rums have a sweetness and chocolateness that pair well with dark maduro cigars, which have been aged for a flavourful taste. He suggests pairing a La Gloria Cubana torpedo from the Dominican Republic with a sweeter rum, such as the Diplomatico rum from Venezuela or his Killik Double Barrel sipping rum, which has been aged in both bourbon and muscat barrels and sweetened with demerara sugar. "However, a Punch Punch is always my go-to cigar," says Ben.

KILLIK GOLD, \$75/700ML

killik.com.au



Kellybrook Brandy

Based in Wonga Park, Kellybrook's double-distilled cider brandy has a loyal following, and with good reason. Aged in cognac barrels for 10 years, the brandy is made from Victorian apples, and follows the Calvados style from Normandy, France. It's usually drunk as a digestive after a last meal, so it's basically a health drink, right? With a nutty, apple aroma, it pairs well with hard cheeses such as an aged cheddar, making it definitely robust enough to accompany a lazy cheroot or an ultra-fat Gordo, and do your best Tony Soprano impersonations. Available only at the cellar door and online.

KELLYBROOK APPLE BRANDY, FROM \$95/700ML

kellybrookwinery.com.au

Smoking Ceremony

"Every cigar is personal, it's like a wine," say the cigar aficionados at La Casa del Habano, one of Melbourne's few cigar specialists. With their air of celebration and extravagance, cigars make great gifts, and range from \$30 up to \$250. And smoking a cigar is a ceremony in itself – snipping the end, lighting it, enjoying with the swirl of a good spirit and conversation.

The best cigars are handmade and come out of South America and the Caribbean, with Cuba's renowned Cohiba cigars top of the range. They cost from \$55 for a half-corona, while the Cohiba Esplendido, created for Fidel Castro, or Winston Churchill's Romeo y Juliette Churchill cost between \$120 and \$150 apiece.

Cigars are traditionally lit with cedar, most cigars are lined with a thin sheet of cedar paper for that purpose, but you can use any flame that doesn't have a flavour – that means no Zippos, wax matches and it's also a no to Australian hundred-dollar notes.



Mens Summer Suiting Ideas

Words Gwen Luscombe

Tying the knot in summer? When the weather warms up, you'll want to stay comfortable and fresh even in the heat. Overheating, sweating and generally feeling uncomfortable isn't a vibe for any groom. We spoke to Ryan McIntyre, from YSG Tailors about tips for keeping cool and looking dapper on your big day.

Like most things with wedding planning, the earlier you start planning the better. Consider the type of wedding you're holding (formal versus casual, indoor versus outdoor, etc) and think about your personal style. For summer weddings in particular, cool and comfortable are key.

"The first thing we think of is what time of day is the wedding," says Ryan. "This for me will determine the colour, style and fit. It will also help with what type of shoes you are wearing.



"As an example; a daytime wedding in summer can often be lighter in colour and more inclined to bit more casual and relaxed. Lighter fabrics like linens and cotton blends would work best, making for a much more comfortable fit as you endure the summer heat. This often is then coupled with a more paired back look and accompanied with a loafer," he adds.

Ryan says that there's often a misconception that wool suiting can't be worn in the warmer months, however as a natural fibre, it's ideal for keeping you warm in winter and breathable in summer.

"If our clients are looking for a slightly more relaxed style, you can't go past a linen suit. If you are worried about overly

creasing, a cotton/linen blend is the perfect compromise."

Summer weddings offer greater opportunities for more casual attire and as the trends move away from wearing belts which saves you from matching your shoes.

The important thing, says Ryan, is to not overdo your look. Keep it controlled and layer colours, while only having one hero piece. For example, he advises, "if you're going to wear a loud suit such as pinstripes, keep your shirt and tie neutral while letting the suit have all the fun."

"On the flipside - wearing a plainer dark charcoal or navy suit, you can afford to then make the tie the hero and shine

bright with colour accompanied by a hanky and keeping the shirt neutral."

"Showing control with your accessories, suit and shirt choices refines your look and lets the hero piece do all the talking."

The biggest wedding trend YSG's seen over the past couple of year's, they say, is without a doubt, the classic black tuxedo. A timeless option, it also offers a variety of ways for grooms to add their own personal style, whether that's a different lapel shape, jacquard and velvet fabrics or even more minor choices in the stitching details, it can be easily personalised.

The big question for summer wedding suits, socks or no socks?

"Definitely a personal preference these days," says Ryan, "but I'd more be leaning towards the no sock look. Sockets are a must-have for all suit wearers coming into the warmer months with a loafer being the shoe of choice, especially for day events. Socks are being chosen more for the evening and more formal events.

"Whilst it has been a rough road for our wedding couples over the past two year's, we are really looking forward to what the next year is going to bring for all of us," adds Ryan. "Our main goal is to make sure our clients feel supported through this process and come out looking as sharp as possible on their big day."

4 Tips for staying cool

1. Wear lighter colours as they reflect sunlight and you won't be so quick to overheat.
2. Choose natural fabrics that let your skin breathe.
3. Wear fewer layers. Three-piece suits and a jacket add layers, which add heat. If your wedding's outdoors in the full sun, this can be a quick way to heat up.
4. Casual is cool. Having a casual wedding means choosing options such as shorter sleeves or rolled-up sleeves, going jacket-less or sockless with loafers.





The five do's and don'ts

MEMORABLE FATHER-OF-THE- BRIDE SPEECH

While the 'Best Man' traditionally gets the laughter, it's up to the father's to bring families together with a heartwarming and welcoming speech.

Whether you're looking forward to or dreading making the speech, as the father of the bride, traditionally speaking, you might be asked to make a speech. So before the big day arrives, take some time to sit down and draft out the right words to create a toast your daughter and guests will remember. Sometimes choosing the right words can be challenging, especially in emotional situations, so here are a few tips to help you started.

DO

1. Welcome and thank the guests

The couple's parents are traditionally first off the rank to speak at the wedding reception so it's important to welcome everyone and express gratitude to friends and family for attending, especially those that travelled from a distance to be there.

It's also important to thank the groom's parents for their part in assisting with the day.

2. Share your pride

Share a few heartfelt antidotes, warm memories from your daughter's lifetime and even a few that might be funny (but never embarrassing). If any of these memories include the groom, even better. As the father of the bride, you're allowed to be proud.

3. Acknowledge the groom

Take time to welcome them into your family and share what it means to you. You can also share some anecdotes of their relationship and what stood out to you most.

4. Speak about the present and look to the future

Don't use the bulk of your speech to reminisce about the past. Share a memory or two and move to the future. The couple is starting a new chapter, so expressing excitement for what the future holds and their shared future is exactly the right thing to say. Add a bit of parting wisdom, even if it's just a heartfelt wish for the couple.

5. Tell your daughter you love her

It's the perfect moment to let her know just how much she means to you. Weddings are emotional days, so don't feel the need to act stoic. Be genuine and remember, it's perfectly okay to shed a tear.

DON'T

1. Waffle on forever

Keep your toast short and sweet, a maximum of five minutes but a minimum of three minutes is a good rule. Remember, the day is about both the bride and groom, so don't go on too long with inside jokes and shared stories half the guests won't understand. If there's a lot you might want to say, consider writing some of those heartfelt sentiments down beforehand and giving it to your daughter in a card to read privately the morning of the wedding.

2. Tell embarrassing stories

Skip them. Remember this is a toast, not a roast. With in-laws and even professional colleagues present, embarrassing stories are never appropriate. If there's something you're unsure about saying, always err on the side of caution.

3. Mention exes

No good has ever come from anyone mentioning any antidote about an ex (good or bad) at a wedding.

4. Try to be a comedian

Don't try to be intentionally funny or work too hard for the jokes. Likewise don't make inside jokes that not everyone can relate to. Oftentimes, you'll get laughs when you're not trying for them, so don't force the jokes.

5. Wing it

Practice makes perfect. Talk your speech through a few times to some if not most of it is committed to memory. And always have a notecard with a few dot points to help you along and keep you on track in case you get overwhelmed or emotional. Practising in advance also allows you to be able to make eye contact with the couple and the other guests while you're speaking, not just reading with your head down from a piece of paper.

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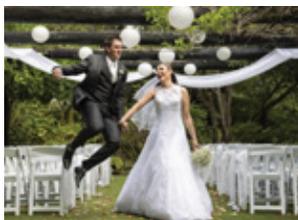
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sanctuaryharvest.com.au

IMMERSE WINERY



Nestled in the scenic Yarra Valley, Immerse is a breathtaking wedding venue, acclaimed restaurant, boutique winery and accommodation venue all rolled into one.

P. (03) 5965 2444
immerse.com.au

IN THE VALLEY



Nestled within 2 acres of stunning gardens, this fully appointed private estate with pool & games zone is perfect for wedding guest accommodation, sleeping up to 30.

P. 0419 368 031
inthevalley.com.au

LOG CABIN RANCH



Home of the "Weekend Wedding" where packages are inclusive of Friday-Sunday venue hire, complementary on-site accommodation for up to 70-guests & indoor Barn style Ceremony & Reception spaces.

P. 0412 138 248
logcabinranch.com

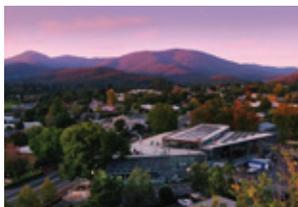
MARYBROOKE MANOR



Marybrooke Manor is nestled on the edge of the majestic Sherbrooke Forest in the Dandenong Ranges.

P. (03) 9755 2755
marybrooke.com.au

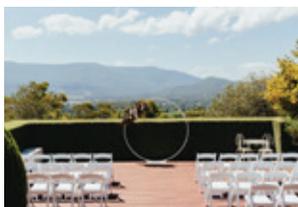
MATILDA BAY



Australia's original craft brewer, Matilda Bay, has been calling the pristine Yarra Valley home since 2019 and now doing weddings from Monday - Thursdays.

P. (03) 5957 3200
matildabay.com

MOUNT VIEW ESTATE



The venue is very exclusive, capped at 12 weddings per year with a unique setting that offers a "blank canvas"; a bespoke space like no other. At Mount View we pride ourselves on the uniqueness of the space. A wedding here is about family, friends and TIME is of the essence.

P. 0409 148 600
mountviewestate.com.au

OAKRIDGE WINES



Oakridge is a family-owned, Yarra Valley winery, restaurant and cellar door, originally established in 1978 alongside a ridge of oak trees. Fabulous fare and spectacular views.

P. (03) 9738 9900
oakridgewines.com.au

OLINDA TEA HOUSE



Nestled in the heart of the stunning Dandenong Ranges just 50km from the Melbourne CBD, the Olinda Tea House is a place like no other.

P. (03) 9751 0556
olindateahouse.com.au

POTTERS RECEPTIONS



A wedding at Potters is a truly unforgettable experience. Set amid 6 acres of native landscaped gardens with breathtaking waterfalls, chandelier-lit reception, charming chapel & garden ceremony options, a bridal retreat, alfresco bar & wisteria-draped courtyard, Potters can cater to all desires.

P. (03) 9844 1222
potters.com.au

PROJEKT 3488



Boutique & owner operated, Projekt 3488 are all about the details. They create an intimate, warm & inviting atmosphere - the perfect country getaway with a twist.

P. 0400 215 785
projekt3488.com.au

PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY



Situated in the picturesque and verdant Dandenong Ranges, only 60 minutes from Melbourne CBD, Puffing Billy Railway makes for a truly authentic and unique wedding setting.

P. (03) 9757 0700
puffingbilly.com.au

RIVERSTONE ESTATE



The Riverstone Estate offers exclusive use of the property for weddings. The Estate is set on 75 acres of vines with panoramic views of the Yarra Valley.

P. (03) 5962 3947
theriverstoneestate.com.au

SHAWS ROAD WINERY AND BOUTIQUE B&B



Shaws Road Winery is a family-owned and operated Winery-Restaurant and Accommodation business located in Arthurs Creek, at the edge of the Yarra Valley. The grounds include a newly renovated Restaurant / Winery and Cellar Door set in stunning native gardens with a number of garden areas suitable for outdoor ceremonies.

P. 0437 393 736
shawsroad.com.au

SKYHIGH MT DANDENONG



Situated in the breathtaking Dandenong Ranges, SkyHigh Mount Dandenong provides the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable wedding. Surround yourself in colourful landscaped gardens and a panoramic view of the city and Yarra Valley. Why not book an Off Peak Wedding - you could save by securing

P. (03) 9751 0450
skyhighmtdandenong.com.au

SUTHERLAND ESTATE



Celebrate with elegance and style in the heart of the Yarra Valley, enjoying fine wines and stunning views.

P. 0402 052 287
sutherlandestate.com.au

TARRAWARRA ESTATE



Only an hour outside Melbourne, the 400 acres of heritage bushland and lush vineyards are among the most picturesque in Australia. Weddings here are an exclusive affair.

P. (03) 5957 3510
tarrawarra.com.au

VALLEY RANGES GETAWAYS



Luxury homes to stay and get ready for your big day in the Dandenong Ranges. Stay the night before your wedding at one of our beautiful properties.

P. 1300 488 448
valleyrangesgetaways.com.au

VUE ON HALCYON



This venue is the perfect blank canvas to create the wedding celebration you have always dreamed of, in an idyllic and memorable location – they really offer it all.

P. (03) 9726 7111
vueonhalcyon.com.au

WARRATINA LAVENDER FARM



We have ample room for up to 100 guests with exclusive use of our venue and facilities. We have many areas around our farm where gazebos, food trucks, outdoor bars etc. can be installed. When hiring our venue you will also have full use of our grounds for photo opportunities.

P. (03) 5964 4650
warratinalavender.com.au

YARRA GABLES LUXURY ACCOM



Yarra Gables is a short stay accommodation business offering five motel rooms and two three-bedroom houses. There are a variety of room styles with queen spa, family and standard rooms, all set in extensive cottage gardens and lawns. From the rooms and verandas you can enjoy picturesque views, magnificent sunsets and the sight of early morning balloons drifting across the valley.

P. (03) 5962 1323
yarragables.com.au

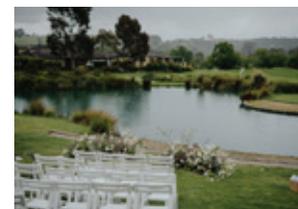
YARRA RANGES ESTATE



Yarra Ranges Estate's stunning function centre features breathtaking views of our vineyard, gardens, forest and mountain ranges, Yarra Ranges Estate is where wedding dreams come true.

P. 0408 260 357
yarrarangesestate.com.au

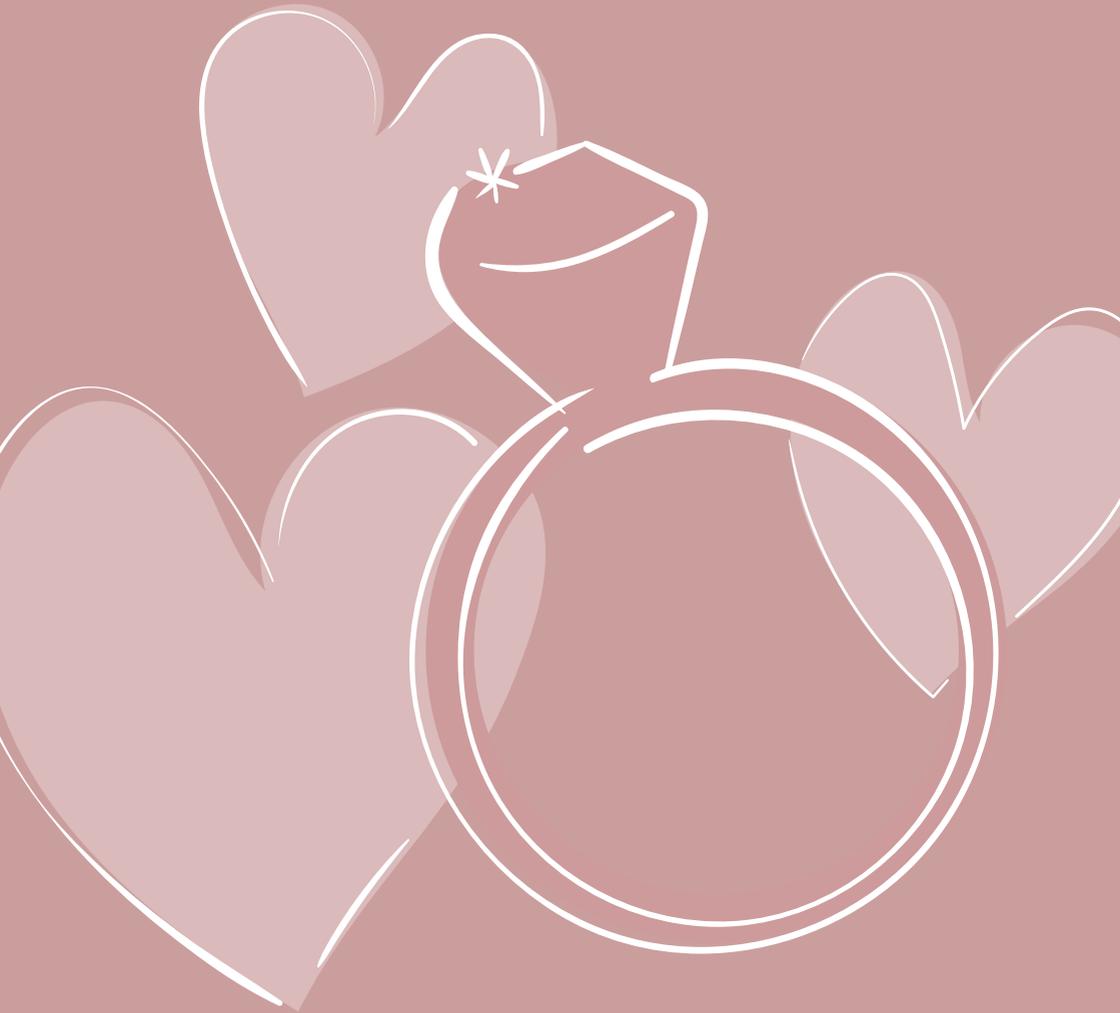
YARRA VALLEY LODGE



The question has been popped and you're ready to take this next big step. We'd absolutely love to host your wedding at our place. We have everything you need to create the perfect all-inclusive destination wedding, right at the gateway to the Yarra Valley.

P. (03) 9760 3341
yarravalleylodge.com

Happy Planning



*Off Peak
Weddings*

— YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES —



offpeakweddings.com.au



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