



Your dream day dilemmas – solved by luxury wedding planners
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Planning SOS

My fiancé and I are planning a rehearsal dinner the night before our wedding. We want it to be informal and relaxed for our guests. Can you recommend a good London venue?

Holding a sophisticated barbecue is always a fun idea if you're having a summer wedding. Number Sixteen (www.firmdalehotels.com) is situated in the heart of South Kensington and has a chic private garden that can cater for up to 25 people for a barbecue. Bibis in Leeds (www.bibisrestaurant.com) is another great venue for couples in the north of England. With fabulous art deco surroundings, it always has a great atmosphere and we can personally recommend the delicious pre-dinner cocktails!

We're hunting for a DJ for our reception, but don't want to end up with someone really cheesy. What should we be looking out for, and how can we suss their talents out before the big night?

Before confirming a DJ, make sure they can provide the style of music that both you and your guests will enjoy. It's a good idea to check references and perhaps attend a set he or she may be playing before your wedding. We also believe that no DJ should speak over songs or make sentimental dedications – unless requested by you! One of our favourites is Matt Maurice (www.mattmaurice.co.uk). Matt is a regular player at the world's most opulent events, always delivers an outstanding service and is guaranteed to keep the dance floor jumping.

I love the idea of having our wedding day captured on film, but want something a bit more original and stylish than your average wedding video. Can you give us any ideas?

We love the cine DV8 film that is fashionable at the moment. Its retro, evocative look makes a change from traditional wedding videography, and the result is timeless and elegant. I-do-Films offers a

fantastic Super 8mm cine service with prices starting at around £900. Visit www.i-do-films.co.uk to find out which package suits your budget.

We can't decide whether to invite children to our wedding. We ideally want a child-free day, but I don't want to upset anyone. What should we do?

Prepare to be surprised – some of your friends might actually want a day off from their children! However, we always think it's lovely to offer a nanny service. The nanny can either attend the wedding or take the children off site completely. Our favourite nanny is Margaret Regan, who has been a childminder for more than 25 years. You can contact her on 020 8220 6674. A crèche service is another great idea – contact The Wedding Crèche on 01553 810350 or visit www.theweddingcreche.co.uk.

We're struggling to find the perfect venue for our wedding. Where can I find an extensive list of venues that are eclectic and extraordinary?

Check out Funky Venues (www.funkyvenues.com). It's a free online venue and event service finder dedicated to showcasing some amazing UK venues for an unforgettable wedding day. From museums and galleries to landmark buildings and even cinemas, the site has details of some seriously unique venues – many of which are in the London area. A great website for brides looking for a quirky alternative to a more traditional wedding venue.

We'd like our wedding breakfast to be accompanied by a swinging jazz band. Do you have any contacts?

The Martin Nickless Jazz Band would be the perfect act for your wedding celebration. They can play unobtrusively in the background during the wedding breakfast and liven things up for a sizzling evening party. Visit www.martinnicklessjazzband.com.

Let us help you with your wedding worries! Write to the address on page 29 or email wedding@ipcmedia.com



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