

THE UK'S NO.1 BEST-SELLING BRIDAL MAGAZINE

CONDÉ NAST

# BRIDES

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FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF  
**GLAMOUR  
AND  
VOGUE**



## 563 DREAM DAY ideas

- Dresses he'll adore
- Genius DIY details
- Stylish real weddings

**100 chic  
SHOES**  
(from £20-£2,000)

**RADIANT  
BIG-DAY  
BEAUTY**

HOW TO  
COPE WITH A  
**JEALOUS  
BRIDESMAID**

**Stag-do  
confessions**  
"I longed  
for Mum and  
a cuppa"

One-of-a-kind  
**CAKES**

**12 MUST-SEE  
MAKEOVERS**

YES, IT REALLY IS  
THE SAME GIRL!

Real brides' savvy  
money-saving tips

## AND LASTLY DON'T GET RIPPED OFF!

Follow wedding planner Bruce Russell's tips on getting what you want within your budget

- 1 KNOWLEDGE IS POWER** Like any other meeting, come prepared. Research the supplier, know what they offer and have your questions ready.
- 2 GO COMPARE!** OK, we know it's annoying but the advert with the catchy tune has a valid point. Be sure to get a minimum of two or three comparative quotes from different vendors. This can help you negotiate the best price.
- 3 HAGGLE** There's no such thing as a 'fixed price'. Nine times out of 10, there is room for negotiation on a quote. You won't know if you don't ask – and, let's face it, you have nothing to lose.
- 4 BE A TEAM PLAYER** Ensure that both you and your fiancée are aware of the objectives before meeting with suppliers.
- 5 BE SWITCHED ON** Give appointments your full attention, even if this means turning off your mobile. It's your wedding day we're talking about – the company merger can wait!
- 6 MAKE IT PERSONAL** This may be a business transaction, but remember that it's one of the most important days of your life and should reflect your personalities. If it doesn't feel right, it's not.
- 7 DRESS FOR SUCCESS** While you may want to look your best and impress, this isn't a job interview. If it looks like you are worth more than the going rate, the price just went up! On the flip side, bear in mind that you want to be taken seriously.
- 8 R.E.S.P.E.C.T** Aretha Franklin sang it, but you need to show some. You'll be working with any number of suppliers and there needs to be mutual respect in order for your day to be perfect.
- 9 GET EVERYTHING IN WRITING** Emails, telephone calls, one-to-one meetings, endless supplier options... It can all get pretty confusing. Keep track by ensuring each conversation or meeting is followed by a written confirmation. Visit [bybrucerussell.com](http://bybrucerussell.com).

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## GROOM SERVICE

## WHEN GUESTS GO WRONG!

Wedding planner Marie Haverly has these handy tips for tipsy friends

- DO** make sure you feed your guests – alcohol and empty stomachs don't mix.
- DON'T** tell the bride! She has more important things to do (like enjoying herself) than stressing about boozy Boris.
- DO** get their car keys and hide them if you can – they'll thank you for it afterwards.
- DON'T** let them have the microphone. A slurring uncle could be funny, but it's more likely he'll become quite tedious.
- DO** remove any pole-like structures. A drunken, pole-dancing mother-in-law is one wedding memory you don't want.
- DON'T** let them near the cake. I remember one merry couple who decided to decorate the pure white cake with a pink gel-bead smiley face from the table decorations.
- DO** send happy-drunk, good-natured guests on a treasure hunt in the garden. There's no better way to sober them up than with fresh air, looking for the car keys that you took from them.
- DO** find them somewhere to sleep before anyone sees how inebriated they are. We once put a guest in the bridesmaid's room and he ended up sleeping off his hangover in a frilly pink dressing gown – perfect for photo-sharing the next day.
- DO** remove your photo booth at 9.30pm. Visit [isabellaweddings.co.uk](http://isabellaweddings.co.uk).

## BIG-DAY CHECKLIST

Don't forget these last-minute must-dos

- Keep the rings safe – entrust them to your best man or, if he's a bit flaky, someone more reliable • Allow plenty of time to get dressed (it sounds simple but, believe us, time will fly by in all the excitement) • Eat! It'll be a long day with lots of drinking • Check you have the thank-you gifts for your helpers • Keep your first-night hotel details to hand • Don't forget your speech. If you have a list of people to thank, write their names on note cards so no one is left out.