

What's hot in weddings?

What's on-trend for weddings, now that we can have them properly again? We asked a Norfolk expert for her views

Weddings are back. And with an exceptional choice of wedding venues in our region, a dry climate and the sense of space, it's little wonder that Norfolk hosts an astonishing 4,000 weddings every year.

Softley Events is a luxury weddings, party planning and event management company, set up over 15 years ago to organise prestigious weddings and corporate events. Sarah Softley and her team have been busy helping couples navigate their big day amid ever-changing Covid rules.

Here are Sarah's five hottest wedding trends:

1. Intimate yet lavish weddings

Lockdown has meant a period of reflection for wedding couples. Sarah has found many brides and grooms are now thinking harder about their guest list and looking towards opulent celebrations for a



Picture: Naomi Delair

Sarah Softley outside Wolterton Hall

smaller number of loved ones, using their budget to create unforgettable experiences includes hiring a stately home for a weekend where guests enjoy a seven-course dinner with sublime wines with each course.

2. Glamour is back!

Guests are now choosing full on glamour for their weddings, including going back to black-tie weddings. This more formal, traditional style of ceremony and reception means black suits, evening gowns or cocktail dresses are called for, as well as opulent finishing touches.

3. Outdoor weddings

Marquee weddings are proving popular as they allow more scope for wedding arrangements and ensure Covid secure events. As well as planning at-home weddings for couples, Sarah is planning marquee weddings at Sennowe Park, Ketteringham Hall and Wolterton Hall. Brides and grooms are hosting drinks receptions on the impressive balcony of Wolterton Hall or in the unique Orangery at Sennowe Park before moving outside.

4. Reducing environmental impact

Wedding couples are looking to negate their wedding's carbon footprint. This is achieved by using trees and plants rather than floral arrangements. Any flowers used are seasonal flowers. Peonies are a popular choice for September weddings. Food miles are also kept down by sourcing produce from the abundant range of Norfolk's finest food producers. Norfolk is also blessed with impressive micro-breweries including Woodforde's and wine producer Flint Vineyard.

5. Roaming musicians

Rather than opting for string quartets, roaming musicians are becoming popular at weddings. Also, a live Illustrator who sketches your wedding day, is a popular choice as it provides a special keepsake. ♦

Sarah Softley is Wolterton Hall's events consultant. A Palladian hall set on a 500-acre estate in north Norfolk. Wolterton Hall is available for exclusive weddings.

www.softleyevents.co.uk



Picture: Jennifer Marino

A stylish wedding at Sennowe Park