

Best for... ROMANCE

We've found 10 venues where the romance-factor is through the roof. Hold your ceremony at one of these and there won't be a dry eye in the house

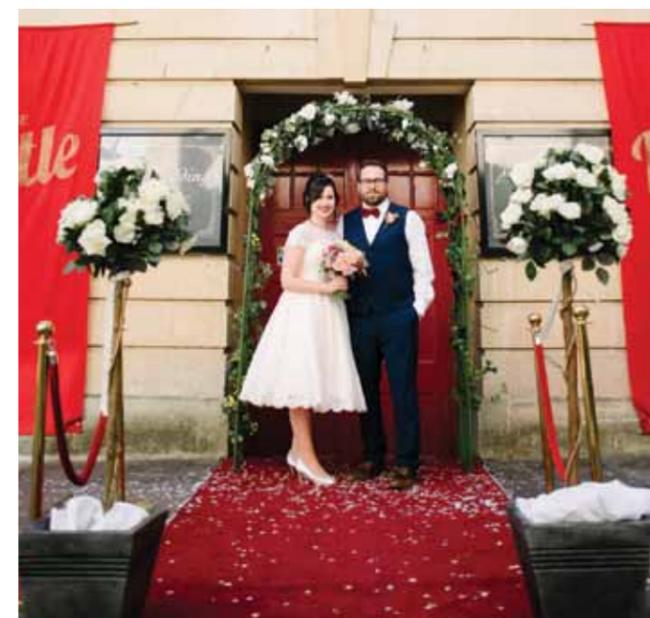


NEED TO KNOW
The venue's mantra is "Escape the ordinary", meaning that a wedding at Achnagairn promises to be tailored exactly to your needs and requirements for a truly bespoke occasion.



ACHNAGAIRN ESTATE, INVERNESS

A real-life Highland castle is the stuff of romantic wedding dreams, and Achnagairn Castle ticks all the 'princess-for-a-day' boxes. There's a 70sq ft bridal suite with four-poster bed for you to get ready in and the castle's dramatic ballroom will take guests' breath away. You can host your ceremony here before it's set up for a spectacular wedding breakfast. The winding staircases and minstrel's gallery make a great location for loved-up photographs. **Capacity:** Up to 200 for a ceremony and wedding breakfast. **Contact:** perfect-manors.com/perfect-weddings



LITTLE THEATRE CINEMA, BATH

Imagine marrying in front of a montage of beautiful images from your relationship, with your favourite song playing in the background or showing a personalised short film as you walk down the aisle? That's what's on offer at the Little Theatre Cinema in Bath. With personalised cinema 'tickets', an usherette serving popcorn and your own bespoke cinema posters, what's not to love? **Capacity:** Up to 120 for the ceremony. **Contact:** littleweddings.co.uk



CHATEAU DU BIJOU, FRANCE

Surrounded by lavender and basking in the Provençal sun, Château du Bijou is the dream romantic French venue. Exclusively yours, you can hold a traditional banquet in the grand salon or enjoy alfresco dining on the terrace and lawns. The stunning views and absolute peace and quiet make it a wonderfully romantic venue and guests are encouraged to make a weekend of it. **Capacity:** Up to 200 for the ceremony and reception. **Contact:** bijouweddingvenues.co.uk



The grounds of the hotel are picture perfect

POLPIER HOUSE, CORNWALL

Overlooking the ancient fishing harbour of Mevagissey, Polpier House enjoys stunning coastal views, which you can take in while breathing in the delicately scented breeze of its flower garden. Couples can marry in the gazebo, in the main hall with its dramatic sweeping staircase or in the light-filled drawing room. Afterwards there are plenty of intimate locations for romantic photographs. **Capacity:** Between 50-100 guests for the ceremony and up to 42 for a sit-down wedding breakfast. **Contact:** polpier.co.uk



STONOR PARK, OXFORDSHIRE

Stonor Park is an impressive and photogenic wedding location, and the approach to the house is truly romantic. After passing through iron gates and travelling down an elegant drive through parkland where deer graze, the historic house and its 14th-century chapel come into view. Roman Catholic services can be held in the chapel or, alternatively, there are several churches and registry offices nearby. **Capacity:** Up to 80 guests for the ceremony and up to 500 for the wedding breakfast (with marquee). **Contact:** stonor.com



WORDSWORTH HOUSE, CUMBRIA

What could be more romantic than marrying at the birthplace of William Wordsworth? This 17th-century townhouse in Cockermouth is now a National Trust property and you can say "I do" in the dining room, the upstairs drawing room or in front of the fire in the Georgian kitchen before enjoying Champagne and canapés indoors or out. **Capacity:** Up to 40 for the ceremony. **Contact:** nationaltrust.org.uk/wordsworth-house-and-garden



HAMPTON COURT PALACE, SURREY

It's been a fitting venue for many of England's kings and queens, and no wonder with its formal gardens, cobbled courtyards and Tudor and Baroque architecture. The Garden Room and the Little Banqueting House are licensed for ceremonies while the Cartoon Gallery, the Orangery and Henry VIII's Great Hall are available for receptions. **Capacity:** Up to 150 for the ceremony and up to 400 for the wedding breakfast. **Contact:** hrp.org.uk/hire-a-venue/weddings



POLHAWN FORT, CORNWALL

Recently voted England's most romantic venue in the Mills & Boon Romance Awards, Polhawn Fort comes complete with cannon and drawbridge. If all that sounds a little imposing, don't worry, as it's set in a beautiful secluded spot and inside it's all spiral staircases and vaulted ceilings. Choose between The Grand Napoleonic Hall or a summerhouse for your ceremony and then head to the nearby beach for some gorgeous pictures. **Capacity:** Up to 120 for the ceremony and wedding breakfast. **Contact:** polhawnfort.com



THE LOST ORANGERY, WILTSHIRE

The Lost Orangery has 500 acres of private grounds with an enchanted woodland, a beautiful valley, a boating lake and castle ruins. The classic English country manor with a Venetian twist also comes with crystal and wax chandeliers and bedrooms decked out with antiques. Couples can marry in a beautiful cloister, archway or portico in the gardens, in the thatched boathouse by the lake or say "I do" by candlelight in The Orangery. **Capacity:** Up to 250 guests. **Contact:** weddingsatthelostorangery.uniquehomestays.com

COMPILED BY MAIA MORRIS, ACHINAGAIRN; JUSTIN SCOBIE, JUSTINSCOBIE.CO.UK
LITTLE THEATRE, MATT LINCOLN, MATTLINCOLNPHOTO.CO.UK



NEED TO KNOW
For couples who dream of exchanging their vows in the open air surrounded by nature, the Garden Pavilion within the Italianate grounds at Mapperton is simply idyllic.

MAPPERTON, DORSET

Home to the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, Mapperton is a glorious sandstone manor with a romantic valley garden in Dorset. The setting for the 2015 film *Far From The Madding Crowd* and voted the Nation's Favourite Manor House by Country Life magazine, it's perfect for a romantic English country garden wedding. Marry in the Garden Pavilion while enjoying the idyllic views or chose between the Medieval church or Orangery. **Capacity:** Up to 400 for the ceremony and wedding breakfast (with marquee). **Contact:** mapperton.com

