

Bespoke BIG DAYS

Give your wedding
the personal touch

Weddings are often categorised by themes. Brides-to-be who dream of a big white dress and a horse-drawn carriage have become synonymous with fairytale weddings, while those who aspire to a whimsical day amid bedouin tents and vintage crockery might be deemed more bohemian. But why put a label on it?

According to Clare Beckwith, wedding planner of Clare Beckwith Weddings, your big day needn't follow a theme; there's so much choice available that a completely bespoke day is always possible. Here she shares her top 10 tips...

1 Give your invitations that special touch by ordering a personalised stamp from the Royal Mail. The Smilers stamp service allows you to use a photograph of you and your loved one instead of the Queen, and impress your guests from the outset. Visit www.royalmail.com

The bigger picture: Personal touches create a memorable wedding

10 Get your guests to sign a bottle of champagne and open it 10 years on; you'll relive your magical day all over again.

9 Customise your cake to suit your tastes. If you're a huge ice cream fan, order a specialised tower of your favourite flavours. Love cheese? The Cheese Shed will be happy to create a bespoke pile for you. Visit www.thecheeseshed.com

8 Get your rings engraved with something meaningful to you both and write personalised vows.

7 When ordering your flowers, try to take into account your mother's and grandmother's favourite blooms as well as your own. If the combination doesn't work well together, why not have your own choice of flowers in the bouquet and ask your bridesmaids to carry a selection of the others?

6 When it comes to the first dance, many couples find that they don't have 'a song'. If that's the case, have one written for you. This will enable you to include details of your shared experiences in the lyrics and combine your musical tastes. For further details, visit www.singalovesong.co.uk

2 If you plan on handing out confetti cones, why not use a design featuring baby photos of you and your partner? This idea also applies well to food cones that often feature in evening buffets.

3 If you aspire to look like your mother on her wedding day, why not wear her dress or have it tailored to fit you? Alternatively, have a bespoke gown made to replicate her design, or even incorporate segments of her dress into your own.

4 Include family heirlooms or jewellery of sentimental value in your big day by fastening small items to your bouquet or the inside of your dress.

5 Try and incorporate the circumstances in which you met into your big day. For example, if you fell in love in a coffee shop, serve gourmet coffee at the wedding breakfast or give small bags of your favourite blend as favours.



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