



# What a Wedding! Your Big Day, Your Way

Gorgeous ideas from 23 joyous, offbeat, and inspiring weddings from all over the world



First things first: give each other a smooch, pop the Champagne, and twirl around your living room. You're engaged! Congratulations! You have some exciting months of planning and anticipation ahead of your big day. Of course, smart couples don't try to do it all themselves; they get help. After all, the best weddings are those that have been planned with precision. The following pages are packed with inspiration, expert knowledge, and tips that you can draw upon to create your very own dream wedding. From an intimate beach ceremony in Portugal and a wedding in a circus tent to a DIY garden party, a Caribbean elopement, and a *grand* celebration in an opulent hacienda, *What a Wedding!* gives you a glimpse of weddings all over the world and introduces you to couples who have made their ideas for the ceremony, venue, and party a reality—and a roaring success.

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Some of these weddings couldn't be more different, but what unites them is the love that the couples share. These brides and grooms have turned down a one-size-fits-all concept in favor of personality, and they have really made the traditions their own. The outfits become a statement about who they are, while the celebration symbolizes the lifestyle that they've chosen together. The restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic have only strengthened such convictions. Many couples were forced to cancel the celebrations

they'd planned, reschedule, and get creative—with incredible results.

The pandemic and lockdowns have also fed into a trend of microweddings. More and more couples are now opting for a ceremony of no more than 50 guests, held in a private setting. Besides their personal, exclusive vibe, small weddings also have certain practical upsides, such as freeing up a bigger budget per head, so you can invest in an especially elaborate menu, your favorite DJ, or a fantastic fireworks display. Many couples go even further and elope so as to experience their nuptials as an intimate moment between the two of them, without any onlookers, a huge party, or outside pressure.

“There's nothing to stop you from having exactly the wedding that suits you. These days, we can finally marry whomever, however, and wherever we want.”

And then there are couples who plan two celebrations: one for their inner circle, and a second, lavish party a few days or months later. At the same time, modern weddings are gravitating towards environmental awareness and sustainability. Couples are choosing venues that don't require guests to travel far, working with local suppliers, sending out invitations on eco-friendly →

