

# The UK's best **Wedding** ideas

Issue 64 January 2009  
Number one for real-life

STILL ONLY £2.99

weddingideasmagazine.co.uk

**1286**  
BRILLIANT BUYS



## KATIE & PETER

Steal their glam wedding style

## FINISHING TOUCHES

- ✓ Accessories
- ✓ Stationery
- ✓ Favours
- ✓ Cakes

**WIN!**  
CARIBBEAN HONEYMOON  
WORTH £2,000

## DAZZLING DRESSES

Make your figure look fabulous!

## PERFECT HAIR

Looks that'll last all day long!



## MUST-TRY TRENDS

Red, gold vintage

40 PAGES  
Real-life

# weddings

## BEST-EVER BOUQUETS

Are they real? Find out p14

## ECO-CHIC RECEPTIONS

Easy green ideas

## HOW TO WOW GUESTS!

Show-stopping ideas for £500 and under



■ Weddings abroad ■ Bridesmaid style ■ Hen parties ■ What's hot for 2009!

# £500 to spare

While £500 is a lot to have left, miscalculations do happen! There are lots of ways to improve the day with £500 – top of the list for our brides and planners was entertainment. Hiring a magician is a firm favourite, offering value for money by entertaining guests of all ages. A caricaturist is also popular and will give guests a fab memento of the day.

For something unusual, Marie Haverly ([isabellaweddings.co.uk](http://isabellaweddings.co.uk)) suggests: "For £200-400, add a little fun to your wedding breakfast by having a comedy waiter walk in and trip over the rug or drop soup down his front!" Or go a step further and hire a Bucking Bronco, says Lucy Elliott from [weddingsavingexpert.co.uk](http://weddingsavingexpert.co.uk) – it'll make for some fabulous photos, lots of fun and guests will be talking about it for years!

For a more sophisticated celebration, hire a string quartet or toastmaster for £400. Alternatively, Sue Parrish ([eleganzaweddings.com](http://eleganzaweddings.com)) suggests a casino: "Have

blackjack and roulette, and make your own notes called the 'Bank of Smith' (your new name) with a photograph on. You could even award prizes for the winning guests."

Other ideas involve fun with food and drink – our real brides love chocolate fountains and one bride Tara Loughran (aka rosyhill) had a vodka ice luge: "We didn't think it would be such a hit but four litres of vodka was used in 20 minutes!"

## MORE IDEAS

- "You could slightly upgrade your menu," says Claire Wilkinson ([everydetail.co.uk](http://everydetail.co.uk))
- "Around 10pm, serve your guests bacon butties!" says Beverly Pearce ([brideandbeautiful.co.uk](http://brideandbeautiful.co.uk))
- "Add a cake of cheese to your buffet as an extra dessert," says Rebecca ([bespoke-by-rebecca.co.uk](http://bespoke-by-rebecca.co.uk))
- "Give your guests party bags rather than just favours," says Claire Wilkinson

## BEST BUYS FOR £500

### 1 Kids' entertainment

"A kids' crèche or entertainer will keep them happy while you party," says Marie Haverly.



### 2 Photo booth

Hire a Party Prints booth for almost instant prints, a disc afterwards and a web gallery. See [partyprintsphotoboos.com](http://partyprintsphotoboos.com)



### 3 Chocolate fountain

"If you put it in the right place, it will go down a storm," says real bride Aisha Bernhardt, £380 from [eightdayevents.co.uk](http://eightdayevents.co.uk)

### 4 Diamond bands

"Get some diamonds set into your wedding ring to set off your engagement ring – who says wedding bands have to be plain and boring?" says Harriet Kelsall at [hkjewellery.co.uk](http://hkjewellery.co.uk)



### 5 Chair covers

"Hire chair covers to transform a room," says Julie Tooby ([essentially-you.net](http://essentially-you.net)). If your venue has unsightly chairs, covers will add elegance and a big impact when your guests arrive. Chair covers can also be incorporated into your colour scheme, bringing the theme of your wedding together. If you're on a budget, call Chair Cover Express (01277 372111) for a special offer price of £2.50 per chair cover. See [chaircoverexpress.co.uk](http://chaircoverexpress.co.uk) for the different styles available.



USE LEFTOVER BUDGET TO TRANSFORM YOUR RECEPTION VENUE.