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THE FIRST BOUTIQUE BRIDAL MAGAZINE FOR



Lead this

You might have noticed we skipped one Well it was actually intentional. You see, there taking over the whole world.

Get ready, yet another "Due to the

So, due to the pandemic and all the losses would be appropriate to celebrate with your inspirations. Therefore, we took the executive on helping our community in any way we can! us if you have any questions about your

Without further ado,

DIVE IN
ISSUE
YOUR

to find out

issue.

is this global pandemic and economic crisis

coronavirus pandemic ..." text is coming:

everyone is experiencing, we didn't feel it new issue full of celebrations and wedding decision to postpone the issue and just focus We hope you are staying safe and do contact wedding in Greece!

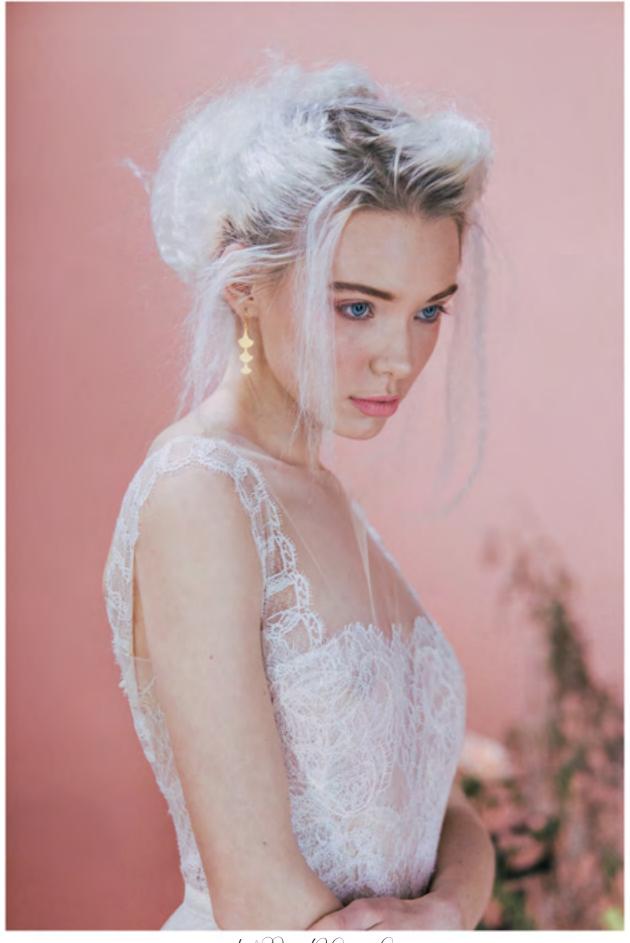
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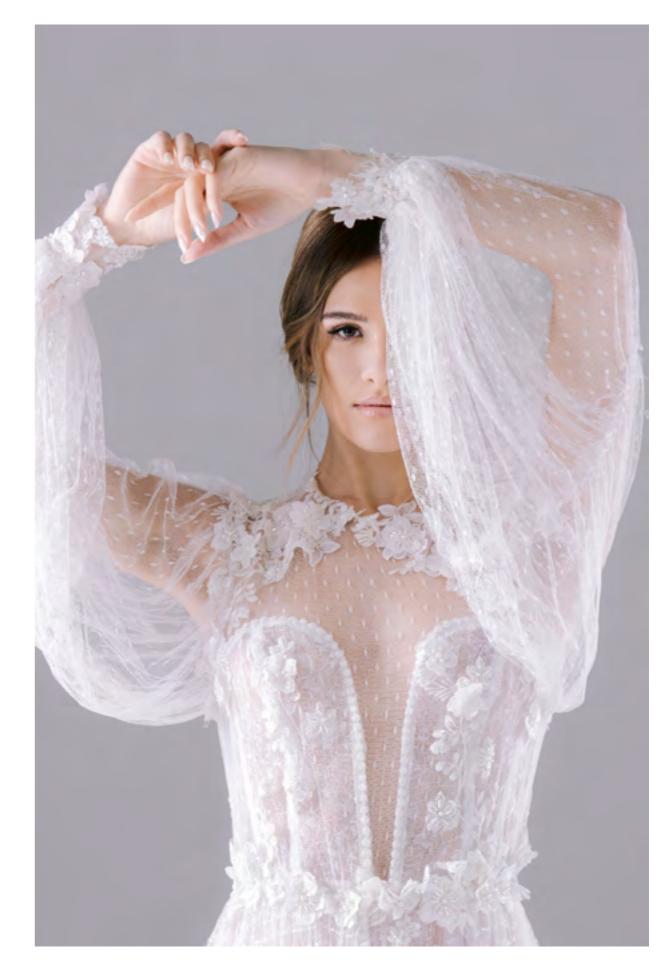


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Anna Anemomilou



anemcollections.gr



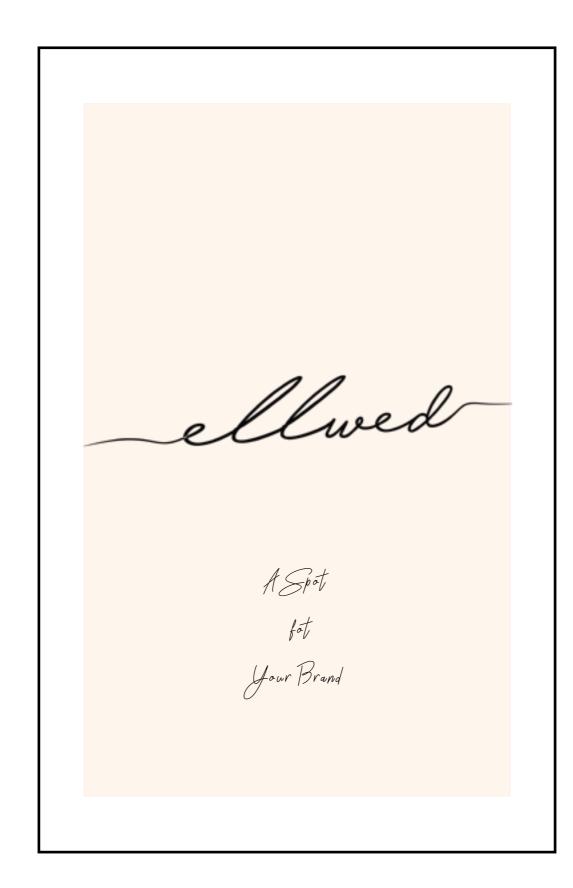




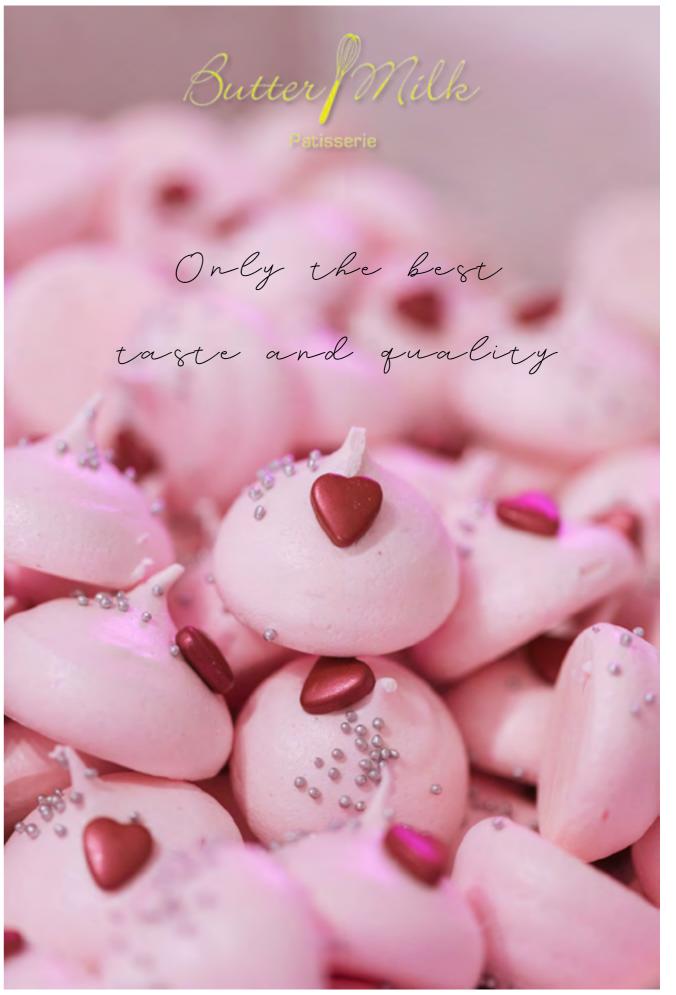
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How is 2020 Treating How

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To be honest we had a great start with our amazing Ellwed bridal party at Bridal Fashion Week in Zappion (if you missed it, see it on page 141), the opportunity to attend DWP Congress and amazing new projects like ALCHIMEIA scheduled to happen! One of them was also the issue of this magazine! Well this all got postponed now because of this new pandemic we are all struggling with!

Sure, things don't always go to plan. But that is ok! We deal with the situations when they arise! It is no news by now that all events are postponed. Especially the big ones like the Destination Wedding Planning Congress which is finally coming to Greece this year! So yeah. 2020 can feel a bit overwhelming... I am not going to lie. This year was so busy and at some point I also felt the burnout! Did you?

So how do we deal with this? One thing I always say is to look on the positive side. See the glass half full instead of half empty. Then take the time to be grateful for what you have! Oprah said "I started out giving thanks for small things, and

the more thankful I became, the more my bounty increased. That's because — for sure — what you focus on expands. When you focus on the goodness in life, you create more of it." Be thankful for your life, for your health, your home, family, your pets, your food, even your phone and the technological advances we get to experience! Because this means we have a chance to live and thrive! Yes your life was probably turned upside down, but that doesn't mean it's over! This is the time for the creative souls to seize this opportunity and to create new amazing projects.

The time for new ideas new trends and new age weddings has arrived! These are some unprecedented times we are living in and the situation is difficult for many. But cherish this time you got to stay at home, be creative, be productive and spend some time with your family as you will never get it back! Take some time off and just live in the moment! Binge-watch the series and spend valuable time together with your family while cooking delicious meals! Hey, we only live



In this issue, we hope to inspire you for your new age wedding! Break the norms and do what is really important to you! And my goodness, this issue is our biggest yet and filled with so much inspiration and useful advice. Check out the article on New Age Wedding Receptions on page 53

You might have seen all the new covers of vogue with masked kisses and the just WHITE! How clever is this one? Well we want to give you some hope for your wedding! That is why we are going with this crazy fun cover of...OMG...me! I still cannot believe I am on THE COVER!!? One thing that we want to change, is to put more of real happy brides on the cover! Therefore, if you are a real bride and think your wedding deserves the spotlight to be on the cover, send it over! So you can also get to experience this feeling like me! Or like a true celebrity! How exciting is this?! I cannot wait to see and select your wedding for our next cover! Read the full story of our intimate New Age Modern Romance on page 99.



Lately I have been listening to a lot of podcasts on wedding business and one common message coming across all platforms was to always be reinventing yourself! And so, I am super proud to share with you this new reinvented issue! Not only the design, but also our articles are filled with metamorphosis and rebirth! And when better than now, after we all went through the process of reawakening globally! Check out the new trend swooping the wedding and fashion world: Butterflies. On page 43.

One other amazing news to share with you is our new project! Our own podcast, the first one to talk about destination weddings in Greece! Check out Ellwed Talks on your favourite podcast platform or ellwed.com/podcast Read more on page 131.



SANYAPERCIC, EDITOR

lots of love,



19 Marie

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COLLABORATORS & CONTRIBUTORS OF ELLWED MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 12 MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY ELLWED.COM

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Share your wedding story from Greece with us! Send it to

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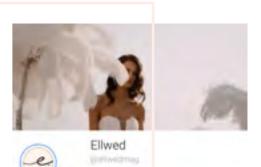


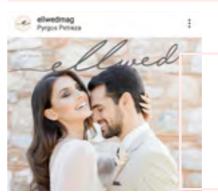
OUR SOCIAL SCENE FOR DAILY IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FROM GREECE, FOLLOW ELLWEDMAG ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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To get daily inspiration from Greece and find the right

vendors for you, head over to our Instagram @ellwedmag

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Repin from our useful and inspirational boards with ideas from all over the world, from

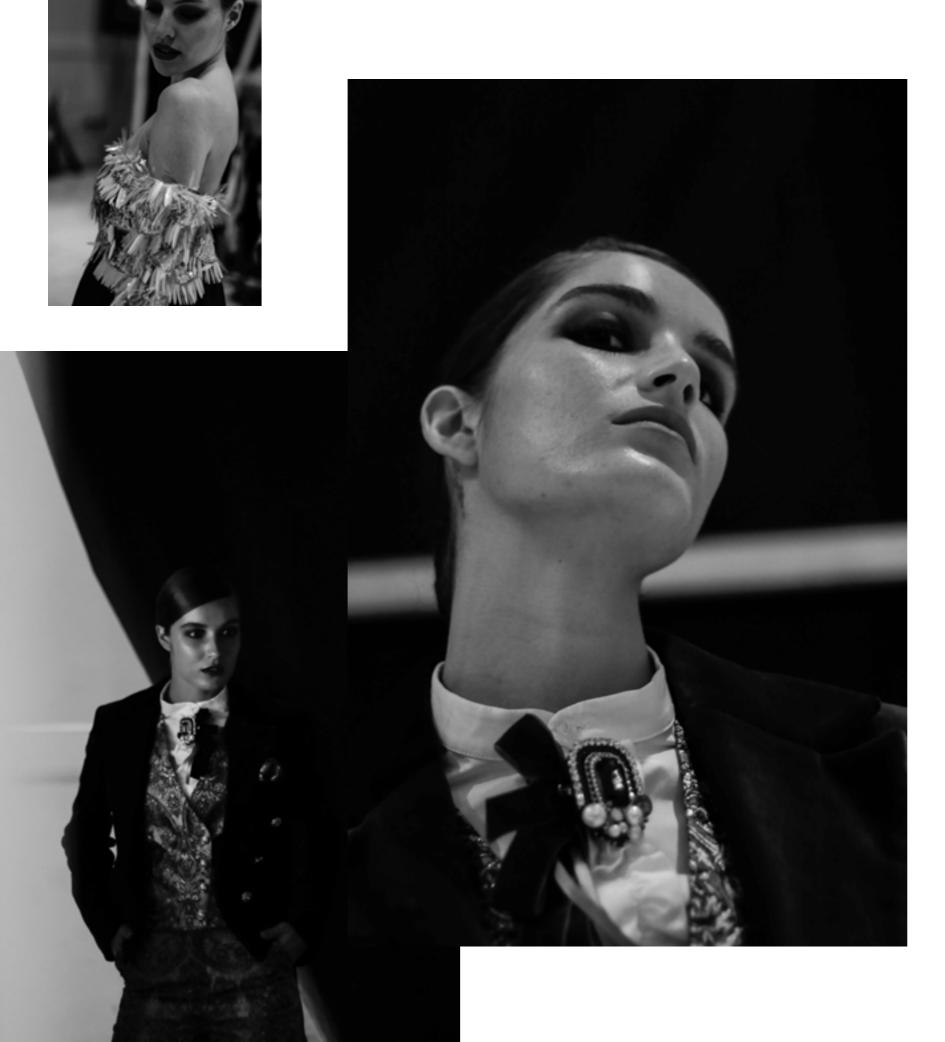
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We are building Ellwed, Vendor Treasury for the whole Greece and with all destination vendor working in Greece. Pros, apply: ellwed.com/treasury/





INTERVIEW WITH OLGA KARAVERVERIS HAUTE COUTURE X BRIDAL GOWNS IN COLLABORATION WITH GEORGE STRATIGIS BRAND ADVERTORIAL

Tell us a little bit about your story and brand.

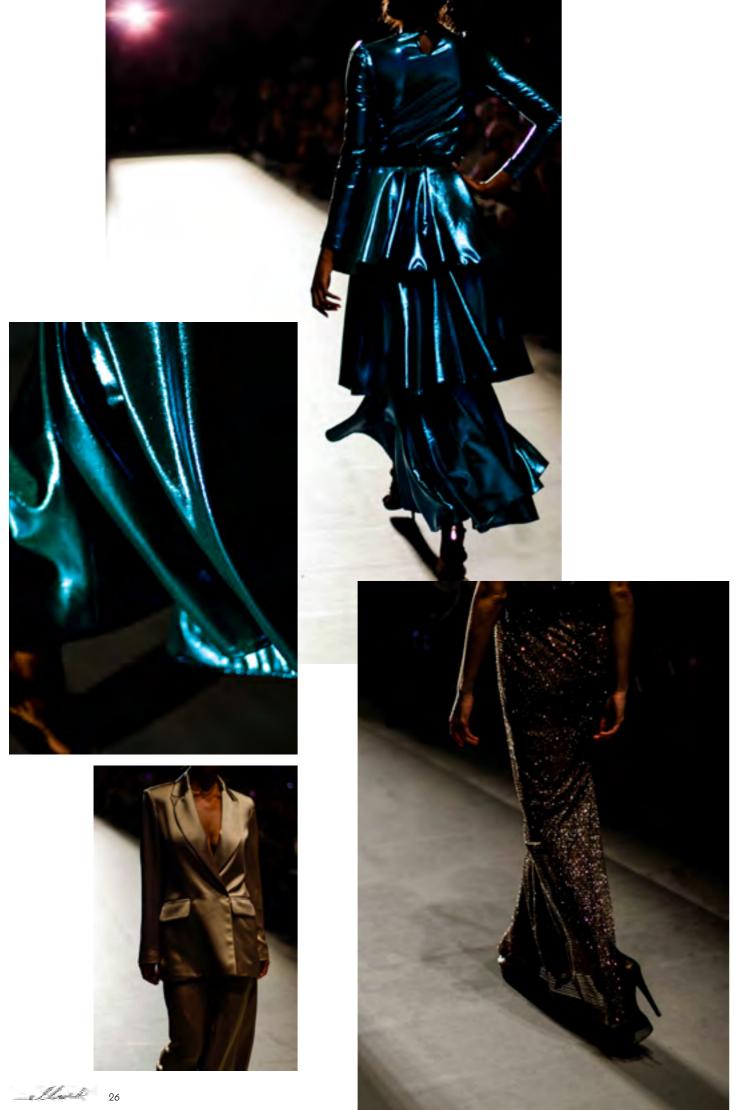
My husband's family has a long tradition in the field of wedding dresses and I was amazed by the idea of creation.

I studied at the Euro Academy Fashion School of Art & Design of PanSik Scuola Di Moda Italia. As I have always being restless spirit, I continued my studies at the Open University of Cyprus, in Business Administration department. The trigger for me has always been the woman and how I will make her feel unique wearing my creations made especially for her.

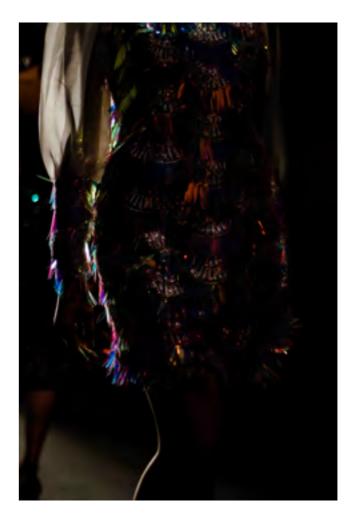
How was your experience at the Athens Xclusive Designers Week?

The Athens Xclusive Designers Week is a unique experience as well as an opportunity for every designer to show his work. For me is always an inspiration and a personal bet to overcome myself every time and present to the fashion community. I want to present a collection that tells a different story each time, as my recent one the "New York in Athens". I am truly glad to participate every time.

All photos by George Stratigis







Do you offer tailor made bridal gowns for a bride that would like to have an exclusive designer wedding dress?

As a matter of fact that is exactly my philosophy, to create exclusive bridal gowns so as every woman feels unique at her most special and happy day of her life.

What is your vision for the Greek bride this season?

I envision my brides elegant with fairytale details in luxury wedding dresses in simple lines that highlight the inner beauty and personality of women. What do you think the guests could wear on a wedding reception? Should the guests try to look stylish and unique in tailor made creations?

I believe that when we are invited to a wedding we honour the invitation not only with our presence but also with the outfits. It is for a fact that designers dress adds more shine and style but the most important is taste and elegance. As not everyone has the economic ability to buy a designers dress that would by all means be an ideal proposal for our appearance.

27 - Albert





5 WEDDING MAKEUP TIPS FOR DESTINATION BRIDES OF COLOR EXPERT'S ADVICE BY IRENE KYRANIS

Where to find inspiration and what is important questions to ask your Destination MUA or your Make-Up Artist.

Open channels of communication that provide helpful insight are crucial when selecting your Destination Make-Up Artist as a makeup trial may not be possible before the wedding day.

Meet Irene in our new podcast!

Find Ellwed Talks on your podcast appl



About the Author:

I am an International Makeup Artist and Bridal Expert with over fifteen years' experience in the Cosmetic & Bridal Industry, working for luxury brands such as CHANEL, CHARLOTTE TILBURY LONDON, & MAC COSMETICS. Creating makeup looks for over 500 weddings continues to inspire me to deliver first class results for your special day! Give me the honor of unveiling your inner goddess through the magic of makeup!

Website: www.irenekyranis.com Follow: @bridalmakeupgreece

All photos provided by Irene Kyranis

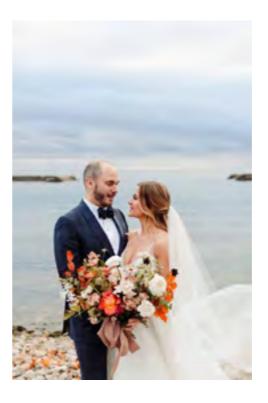
Arrange to have a Skype Call. Skype Calls are a great way to create a two-way conversation where you feel at ease sharing your biggest concerns when it comes to your makeup. I personally always offer a free Skype consultation to get to know my brides and what they are looking for.

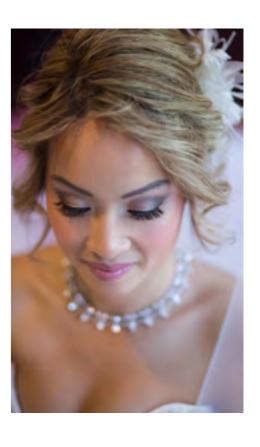
When selecting your Destination Make-Up Artist it is crucial that you make sure the Make-Up Artist you are selecting has experience with diversity and multicultural weddings. Ask to see photos of their work.



Share photos of yourself without makeup so that your Make-Up Artist has a clear image of your natural skin tones. Turn to social media for inspiration and share your favorite black female celebrity. This will give your Make-Up Artist a great reference as to the style and feel you are looking for.







One of the most important questions to ask your Destination Make-Up Artist is what Cosmetic Brands they have in their makeup kit. A wide range of shades is as important as the formulas for the foundations that will used. Brands such as FENTY BEAUTY, MAC COSMETICS, BOBBIE BROWN AND CHANEL are some that provide a wide range of shades as your makeup artist should be working with 3 different shades to match the different pigmentation which are found in most darker/ deeper skin tones. Ask for products that do not contain SPF or silica as these are found among foundations and HD powders and will produce "Flash Back" this is that white glow that is only visible in photos and is especially obvious when contrasted against dark skin.

Ask your Make-Up Artist to recommend and make suggestions for eyeshadow and lipstick colors that will flatter your features. Some great suggestions to look for are: Gold & Bronze tones which are beautiful for darker skin, as they warm up the skin and brighten the eyes. Also, do not shy away from purples, deep burgundy, blues and emerald greens as these jewel tones compliment against a darker complexion. Stay away from white, cream colors, and pale frosty eyeshadows as they tend to give the skin an ashy appearance. When it comes to lipstick be bold, deep shades of red will really enhance the radiance of your skin. Nudes should match and enhance your natural lip color.

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ANEM BRIDAL
THE WORLD OF ESSENCE 2020
COLLECTION BY ANNA ANEMOMILOU
BRIDAL LOOKBOOK

Romanticism, elegance, finesse, dynamism.

These are the elements that characterize ANEM creations.

Light weight high quality fabrics, romantic sewing creations with fine decorating details made by transparent fabrics and unique laces that fit the women silhouette perfectly, revealing her femininity and beauty.

Unique sewing masterpieces with high sleeves or suspenders, sensational or elegant round-necked in white or ivory shades, unique creations made by silk tulle and muslin, enriched with applique lace and hand made needlework.

Be the next ANEM Bride



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All photos from Anem Collections, Panos Demiropoulos

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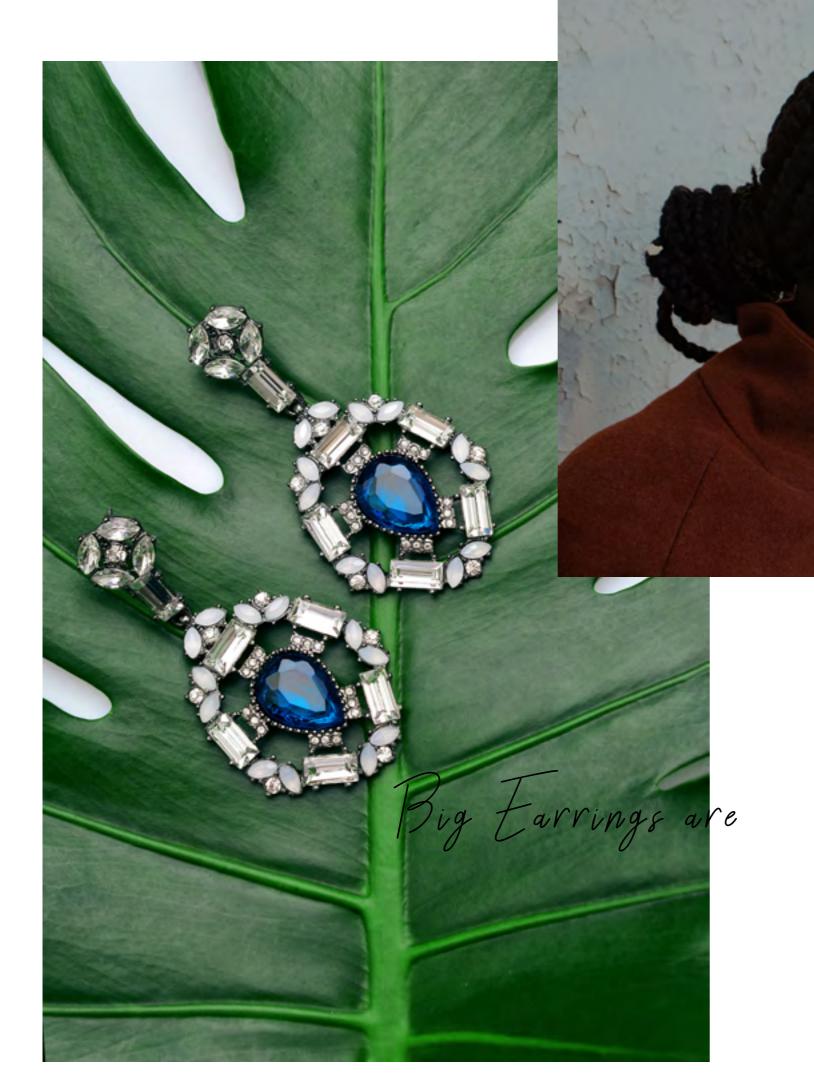
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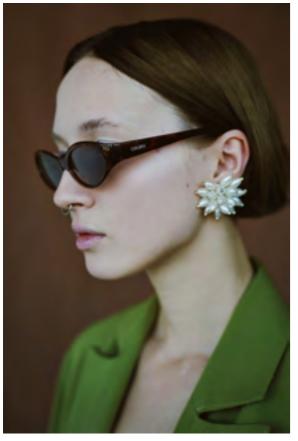
ACCESSORY TRENDS SPRING/SUMMER 2020 EXPERT'S ADVICE BY NATALIA NAUMENKO

Accessories are a powerful tool which can transform a plain everyday look into high-fashion outfit. At the same time, wrong combinations can easily make one look older, "cheaper" and

generally destroy body's proportions. So, in order to be up to date with the latest trends, here is a small guide of what is trending these days.



About the Author: Natasha loves everything about trends and hair care! An everyday fashion and beauty expert, studied English & International Business at WSZOP Katowice and Business English at International House Newcastle. @oh_nataly





Giant Lawings
This year keep in mind only one phrase, while choosing earrings -"The bigger the better".

All kinds of hoops, gems, vintage and pearls (however, with pearls choose more geometric/asymmetric options, classic ones is a safe choice for 50+ ladies, otherwise they might add age). Golden rulee: The shape of your earrings should not copy the shape of your face. For example, if you have round face, choose long or geometric earrings, however, big round earrings will highlight the face features of square-shaped faces.

This trend made a massive entrance when the singer Lizzo came to the red carpet of American Music Awards, holding a tiny white purse. Followed by Kylie Jenner, this trend found its place in fashion industry. Obviously,

it is not very functional but fashion and usefulness do not always go together.

Golden rule: When wearing a crossbody bag, make sure the belt is long enough, in order not to crease or look tight on the body.

Massive Chains Layered, textured, preferably yellow gold neck chains - it is your time now! Two good things about this trend: highly affordable and easy to combine. Forget those classical combinations, these days massive, edgy chains are combined with plain t-shirts, turtlenecks, hoodies and even swimsuits. So, it is REALLY easy to implement this trend in your

everyday life. Golden rule: If you decided to wear a massive chain, please, go very simple with earrings and bracelets. This way it will not be "too much".

Headhands
Who said these pieces have to be worn only at the beach or at Coachella-like events? This year trendsetters suggest wearing velvet padded or beaded headbands. Not only fashionable but also convenient! Second day hair? (We've all been there) - Headband. Want to spice up the outfit but not look too extra? - Headband. They come in all imaginable colours, shapes and prices.

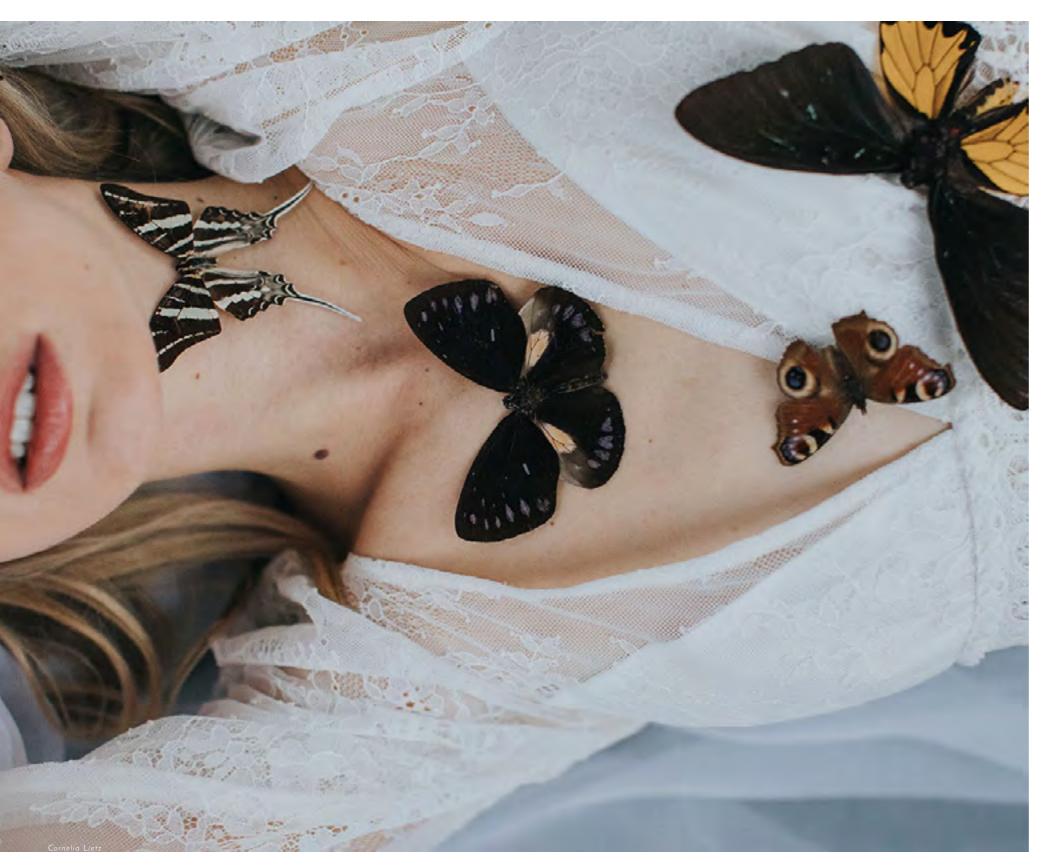
Golden rule: Be careful while choosing the headband colors, remember, there should not be more than 3 colours in one outfit.

Foot Jewelry
Well, for made a statement these past seasons, so there is no surprise that trends from that period keep coming and coming into our fashion lives. This summer leg bracelets are A MUST and we could not be happier about it. Generally, there is no criteria to what exactly it has to be or look like etc. Just make sure to replace it once it fades away (salt water can cause that to some jewelry). No one needs to wear an old piece of jewelry even if it's on the ankle. Unless it's vintage, of course.





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NEW AGE WEDDING TRENDS
THE AGE OF METAMORPHOSIS
OR NEW BEGINNING
EXPERT ADVICE
BY SANYA PERCIC

Surely this year the wedding trends did not have the chance to realize as the pandemic affected the wedding celebrations all over the globe! What is more, there are even some new trends developing due to the Covid-19 virus.

Of course our lives will never be the same again and equally so the wedding celebrations. With currently no safe cure against the virus, weddings that will happen this and maybe even next year, will have to adjust to health and safety regulations in order to prevent the spreading of the virus. Go to PAGE, where you can read more on how to safely plan your wedding during Coronavirus pandemic.

Now, one of the new trends we are seeing in styled weddings and across different creative fields is definitely the presence of butterflies! Metamorphosis is one stage of a life of butterflies. They change from caterpillars to achieve their final stage and full potentials.

They can also represent rebirth, transformation or reincarnation. This is the new way of living and thriving! How perfect is this trend for the new age post pandemic weddings?

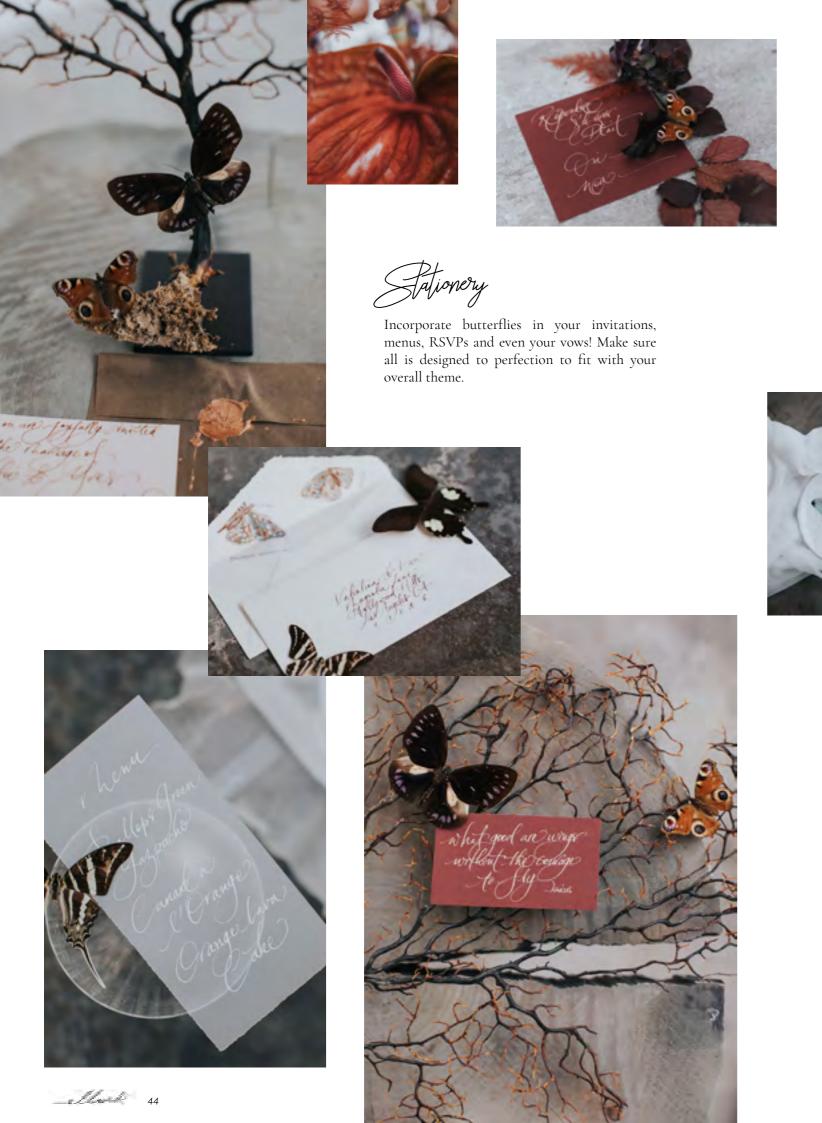
If ever, this is the time to look at the positive side! We love to see the glass half full instead of half empty and this is one of the ways you can do so for your new wedding ceremony! Butterflies are definitely the sign of new beginnings. So, shed the old and evolve into the beautiful butterfly!

Maybe you have already seen butterflies on the cake and the wedding dresses which was trending few years ago. But now it is time to upgrade! Did you know that there is even a Butterfly Valley venue in Paros? Here are some new ideas how to incorporate butterflies in your new age, stylish boho wedding, as suggested by Anna Jill of Kiss from Fleur!

List of credis:
Concept, Styling, Decoration, Flowers and Planning by Kiss from Fleur
Photography by Cornelia Lietz
Hair and Make up Artist, Simone Kostian
Headpieces, Accessoires, Heart of Gold
Stationery, Nice Plume
Dresses, Kite and Butterfly
Muse, Eva Staudinger

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Go minimal for our wedding table. Few butterflies here and there. Try to find some ceramics with butterfly drawings or get some gorgeous sculptures to add on the table. Make sure you match the colours of the flowers to your beautiful butterflies!





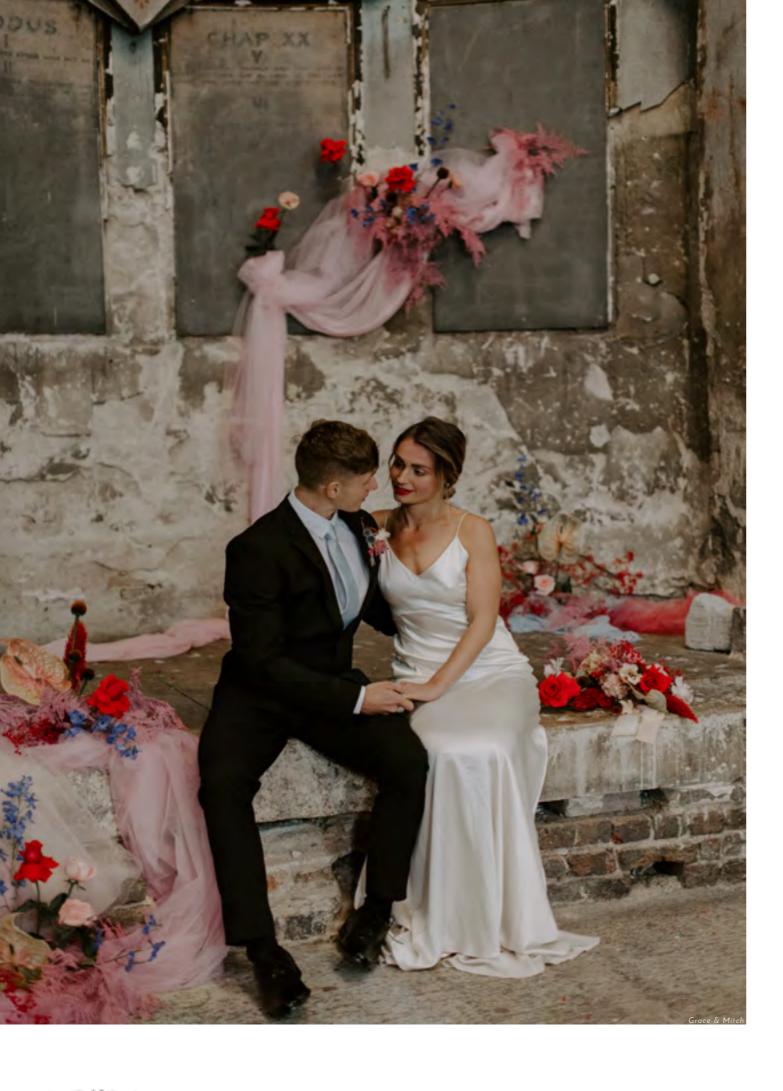


You can definitely add butterflies to your dress, hair, hands or jewellery! Go crazy, but make sure the overall look matches with your wedding style. You don't want to stand out the wrong way! Portrait photoshoot

Go wild for your portrait session! If you decide to do a studio session, then take some time and design a gorgeous unique backdrop with your planner, stylist or photographer. You can do a pre wedding or the next day photo session. Then go a step further and ask for printouts of your favourite images. Use them as thank you gifts or as gorgeous portraits to hang on the walls of your new home. Remember, these photos will stay with you for ever, so make them count!







TOP WEDDING TRENDS FOR 2020
FROM INTERNATIONAL WEDDING
TREND REPORT
EXPERT ADVICE
BY KYLIE CARLSON OF THE WEDDING
ACADEMY

With a new decade comes a new emergence of trends, with twists on old favorites and introducing groundbreaking concepts that will take design themes to a whole other level. Your wedding is a story that will tell the tale of your personality as a couple, and you're in charge of how your dream day will look.

So, with that in mind, here are some new trends to have on your radar in 2020.

More is More

In the past several years, it's no secret that minimalism has reigned supreme when it comes to décor and the overall feel of weddings. With paired-back and organic elements from furniture to tablescapes, it's been a common theme amongst couples to opt for the less-ismore mindset when styling their big day.

However, this year we're encouraging you to marry minimalism with maximalism, incorporating fresh,

contemporary trends with the subtle and low-key elements you know well. For example, cotton linens, pampas grasses, and rattan will stick around, but consider pairing them with vibrant colors like grape compote, cinnamon stick, and saffron. Layer edgy and urban with soft and ethereal.

Amplified Sustainability

As expected, this is an area with an ever-growing focus, and couples like you are putting an emphasis on ways to reduce the environmental impact of their big day. Food is often wasted and plastic can be seen at nearly every reception, so it can be intimidating to tailor your wedding to be wholly ecofriendly.

A few easy ways you can reduce your carbon footprint during your celebration is to use recycled paper for invitations, go foam-free with your florist, and talk to your caterer about sourcing food locally.



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The Stars Inside
Styling & Planner: The Stars Inside
Photographer: Grace & Mitch
Find the trend report at
www.weddingacademyglobal.com

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49



Classic Wedding Fashion Sylish Salionery is Back

Kristy Rice, Momental Designs:

Monte Durham, Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta:

"Coverage is big, and that could be through a jewel neckline, cap sleeves, straps add to the dress or elbow-length sleeves. In fact, sleeves as a whole are coming back and in a big way."

"Bridal" is Out

Brittny Drye, Love Inc.:

"As gender fluidity becomes more of an understood concept, the term 'bridal' is evolving. It no longer refers solely to a female-identifying person. I've had many male-identifying readers want to feel bridal on their wedding day. With more male-identified and non-binary celebrities such as Billy Porter and Jonathan Van Ness rocking dramatic trains and capes on the red carpet, I foresee that inspiration to start moving over to the wedding space in the near future."

"Crocheted details, unique knots, and crochet-inspired patterns and textures are on the horizon this year. We're looking at simpler presentations, but elevated materials like leather and glass. Less importance will be placed on specialty printing and more focus on meaning, materials, and mindful spending - all the while making incredibly thoughtful choices."

larger-Than-life

Tyler Speier, Tyler Speier Events:

"In 2020, we are seeing more and more couples putting a greater emphasis on flowers and overall design. Color palettes are more vibrant, installations are more impressive, and couples are thinking outside-the-box to convey their personalities through their event design. From hanging installations to flower walls, couples are wanting more and more flowers to bring their wedding visions to life!"



Breathtaking Infused Menus and Festinations

Pamella Dunn of Pamella Dunn Events: "Adventure weddings in spectacular locations, mountain top ceremonies, South American experiences in Sao Paulo, lakeside parties, and waterfall backdrops - this is the year when couples become braver and more adventurous than ever before."



Megan Collins, Blossom & Crumb: "Perspex separators that give the illusion of the tier above floating are an exciting new design development. Also, complex geometric work and modern deco-style fluting in fondant."

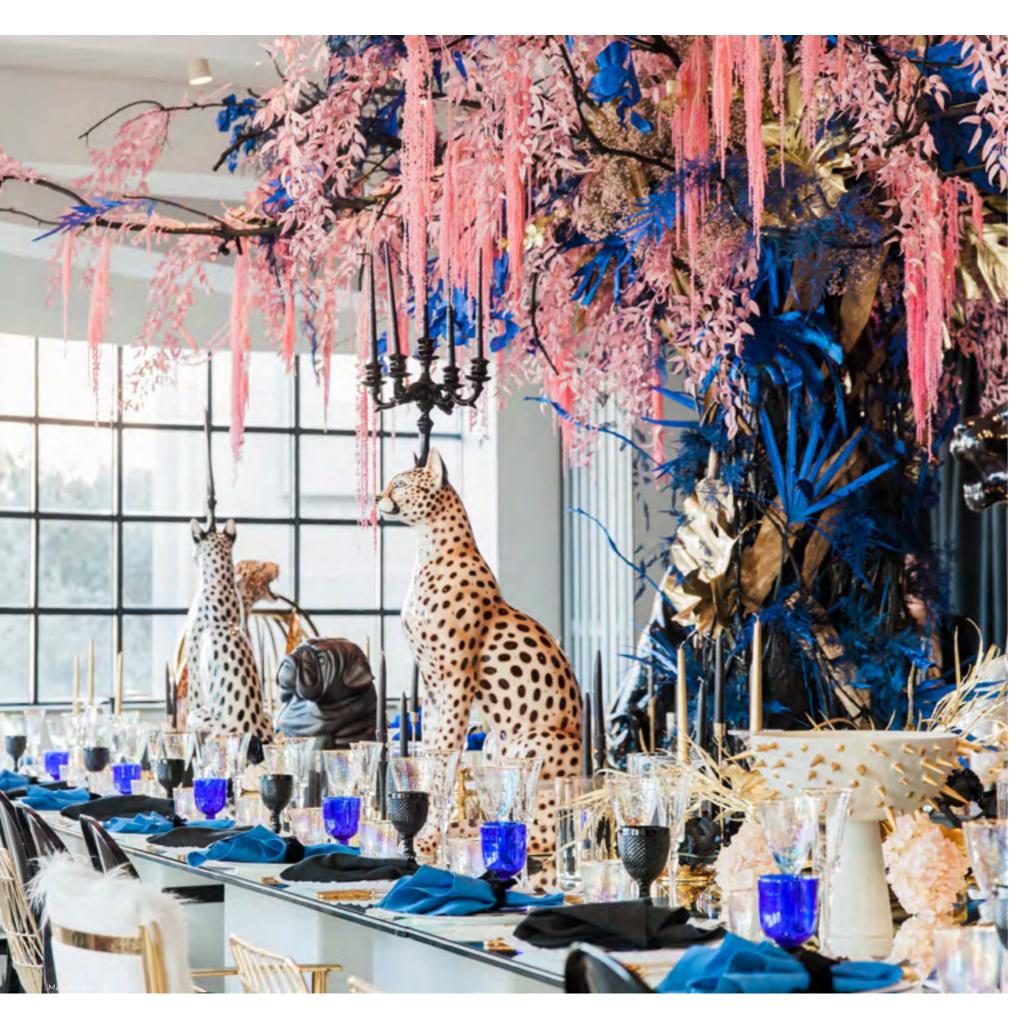
"2020 will be the year of Cannabidiol. From make-your-own CBD cocktail stations to get the party started to edible parting gifts, this is one rising trend that's becoming integrated into the wedding industry."

For more inspiring trends to help you plan a magical, unique wedding, check out the full International Wedding Trend Report and see what global industry experts have to say.

Kylie Carlson is the owner of The Wedding Academy. With seven locations globally, the Academy boasts an internationally recognized accreditation program that brings professional training to wedding planners, designers and stylists.



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NEW AGE WEDDING RECEPTION DINNER THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PLAN A SAFE WEDDING CELEBRATION IN THE TIMES OF THIS PANDEMIC EXPERT ADVICE BY SANYA PERECIC

If you are looking for glam, this is one way you can do it! Get inspired by this jungle Rock'nRoll reception setup with a huge focal tree centrepiece! This table setup is perfect with seating only on one side and spacious enough to prevent the spreading of Covid-19! Above all, the oval structure makes it so much cosier!

Things will never be as they were and one thing is for sure, weddings will have to adapt to the new world direction. And this is the perfect time to plan your new century wedding!

By the time you are reading this, the restrictions have probably been lifted and things might be normalizing. However, no one knows what the future holds, but in this article we give

you some glam inspirations to plan for your wedding for all the #coronabrides! You still have to bear in mind that the virus will most probably be among us for some time. Maybe even some years. We are of course all hoping for the cure, but in the meantime, keep in mind to prevent the spreading on daily basis and within your event! Let's follow the rules to contain and minimize the number of transmissions and maybe even eliminate the virus this way.

These are difficult and uncertain times and no one really knows how things will evolve. However we are all in this together and that is why we need to take it step by step. So check out these tips we prepared on how to make your event as safe as possible, when the time comes to celebrate again!

List of Credits: Photography, Maxeen Kim for Ellwed Organised by Wedding Circle Event Designers : DeplanV and The12Events Sound and Light Production by SoundVoice Floral Decoration by Petridis LV Creations Catering by Olon, Pavlov's Lab Champagne and Spirits by Pernod Ricard Furniture by Zazoo Event Rentals Art De La Table Rentals by White Lilac Graphic Design by LoveMeDo Live Music by Artistic Productions Venues at HÜB Neon signs by The Letter Co

tightly squeezed table seating. Well this will now have to change! Consider having more space between the seats at your event and especially the seated dinner. Space your guests further apart during the dinner and the ceremony as well! Consider the 2 meter rule. Yes, your wedding look will be more airy than usual, but health and safety are priority at the time of Covid-19! So, have fun with it, work with your planner to incorporate it in your

Introduce Sanitizing Prepare your lenue Ask your venue about as sanitary, health and

Start the hygiene trend and add hand sanitisers where ever you can at your wedding, after the restrictions are lifted. Consider the designated and decorated or fun hand sanitising stations around the venue. Don't stop there, go crazy! In the baskets near the toilets, sports around the venue and maybe even on the tables. Decorate them in the style of your wedding and add fun catchy phrases!

Consider to Space Out Te-Think your Meal If you have ever eaten in the Greek taverna, you probably noticed the

Work with your catering and opt for plated meals instead of buffet. Avoid sharing platters and avoid common dishes to minimise possible contamination. All other snacks or consumables should be sealed under hygienic conditions. Rethink your desert tables and food stations where many people take their own food. Consider wrapped candy or offer sweets in the sealed jars.

Ask your venue about additional sanitary, health and safety requirements. Discuss about additional hand washing or sanitising stations around the venue and near the entrances. Ask about the cleaning schedule of the venue and try to negotiate additional cleaning options as disinfecting the door handles, faucets, bar or any other surfaces. This will help you ease your worry and give some reassurance to your guests.







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Have Most of the Think of Hoping Wedding Outdoors Think of a smaller wedding or elopement. Never before wedding.

Greece is actually the perfect country for this! Many destination weddings here are already happening outdoors anyways. And now, with the low number of cases, hot summers and gorgeous seaside venues, Greece has everything you need for your destination wedding. One good preventative technique against the spreading of Covid-19 is not to have many people in closed spaces. That is why most countries acted on postponing events and have limited the number of people allowed in the supermarkets at once. So apply this rule to your wedding or event as well!

Think of a smaller wedding or even an elopement. Never before was it easier to elope without any drama, if this is what you always wanted! Everyone will understand you are worried for their safety. This is the time to reduce the guest list for your destination wedding if you wanted to have a smaller wedding and didn't know how to tell your guests. Especially, in case you have elderly people flying over, it is best to have a separate party at home for all who are at greater risk.

You can find out more about planning YOUR WEDDING AFTER THE RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED on our blog!

ellwed.com/your-wedding-after-therestrictions-are-lifted

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WHAT ABOUT A STUDIO WEDDING PHOTO SESSION? PINK PHOTO SESSION INSPIRATION EXPERT ADVICE BY SANYA PERCIC

You are probably planning your wedding day since you were a little girl. Or at least a year or few months before your wedding day! THE day when you and your beloved husband to be joined in holy (or not) matrimony! For sure it is the day when both of you declare the love for each other in front of all your friends and family! And believe me that day will be very stressful and you will be the centre of attention.

This means you probably won't have the time to eat, drink or spend any time with your newlywed spouse! As our lives are on hyper speed and we want to accomplish so much in one day, same will be for your wedding day and most probably your schedule will be packed with activities with your friends and family.

List of Vendors: Photography, Christina Vardali Assistants, Madalena Pippa & Iliana Ikaria Make up hair, HairKat, Katerina Sarantopoulou Bridal dress, Vasia Tzotzopoulou Bridal Muse, Serena Luana Ihnatiuc Agent, Lush Management Flowers, Lionakis Anthopoleio. Jewelry, Maya Zoulovits Shoes, Novenos Decoration, Oneirostalida Vaso Megariti

Find Christina: vardali-photography.com facebook.com/christinavardali instagram.com/christina_vardali



Aday at the photos studio

I can remember when my parents got married and we all got to go to the local studio for portrait photography. Today things have changed for the wedding schedules and the normal thing is for the couple to go on a close by location to have their gorgeous portraits taken with beautiful views. And there is absolutely nothing wrong with that! In fact, in Greece that is a must! However, you can still organize a day at the studio. If not on your wedding day, you can organize a day after or a pre wedding activity for your studio shoot. If your photographer doesn't have a studio, as many don't, simply ask to rent one for a day!

You have spent so much time on planning and envisioning your wedding and a big portion probably went also for your wedding dress! But this dress doesn't have to be for only one day! Be sure to make the most of your wedding day and the gorgeous dress you spent so much time searching for! Think of a day after or pre wedding day photo session!

You might not remember, however in the past the wedding party had no choice but to visit the photo studio to have their bridal portraits taken. But this is now more or less forgotten! You may think that there are no more photo studios out there which can accommodate your bridal portraits? Well let me assure you that many photographers still love to create in their studios! You can simply ask your wedding photographer if they have a studio and if they can accommodate you and maybe even your bridal party for fun experience.





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Go crazy, have funl

But don't think that a studio portrait session should be only for you. What would be more fun is to organize a day of fun with a glam party for you and your bridesmaids or your family, your mum and sister at one of the fabulous photo studios! You can enjoy the glamourous makeovers, drink champagne, eat strawberries and simply create long lasting memories with your closest girlfriends! Say thanks and treat them to the gorgeous portrait session with photos of themselves, which they will keep for the years to come!

Ask for a special themed set!

Before booking any sessions, make sure to ask your photographer what they can offer to you in their studio. Educate yourself about what is possible and about the price points. Then ask for what you had in mind. Be prepared, make your research of what you want and like. Show some examples of your special setup, like this pink after wedding photo session inspirational shoot organized and captured by Christina Vardali from her studio for instance!





djgeorgekouzas.gr



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GREEK WEDDING DJ GEORGE KOUZAS

Hello George! It is so lovely to chat with you after our incredible party! We always say that a DJ is the soul of the party and they make or break it! We believe that the good mood of the party depends on a good DJ! And we believe you did an amazing job bringing our party to life! We are excited to have this interview with you and to give the brides some amazing tangible advice!

"First of all, I would like to thank you for the invitation. Indeed, the party at Zappeion was a tremendous success, due to the perfect organization that the vendors provided, but - most importantly - due to their intention to please and entertain the guests, by being positive, joyful and happy."



Find DJ George Kouzas at: djgeorgekouzas.gr www.facebook.com/djgeorgekouzas instagram.com/djgeorgekouzas

All photos provided by George Kouzas



So, can tell us more about your story and how did you start playing music? What drew you to the world of DJs?

It all started at a high school party, with vinyl records and a turntable. I was impressed and curious to find out more about what made the guy sitting above the crowd so special for our entertainment. It was so intriguing, that made me decide that this is the career I want. Since then, I have never stopped working and loving every moment of it, for more than 20 years. As the years pass by, my work becomes more productive and mature, but the passion is intact!

Wow what a beautiful story! However, you don't play only for weddings right?

Of course not! I play on any type of event that requires music coverage, such as corporate events, private parties, TV shows, catwalks and guest appearances at clubs. This diversity is the beauty of my job and it is rejuvenating to face challenges.

What are some of your other skills and services you can offer to the clients?

As a professional working on events, I have selected and build over the years a trustworthy and reliable team of associates that can cover any needs the clients might have, such as sound, light and special effects. This is a great way to secure the best possible outcome in terms of pulling through a successful event - solid and reliable professionals that can provide excellent technical support.



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If the couple hires you for their wedding, but they are not sure about what they want. Do you offer some consultations about their playlist beforehand?

Every party and event is different, this is why it is crucial to build a program upon the clients' needs. It is a big part of my job to help and guide the couples to decide what they want, through dialogue and personal contact. This way, couples feel safe and relaxed that their big day will be perfect!

What are some of the benefits of hiring a DJ for their event?

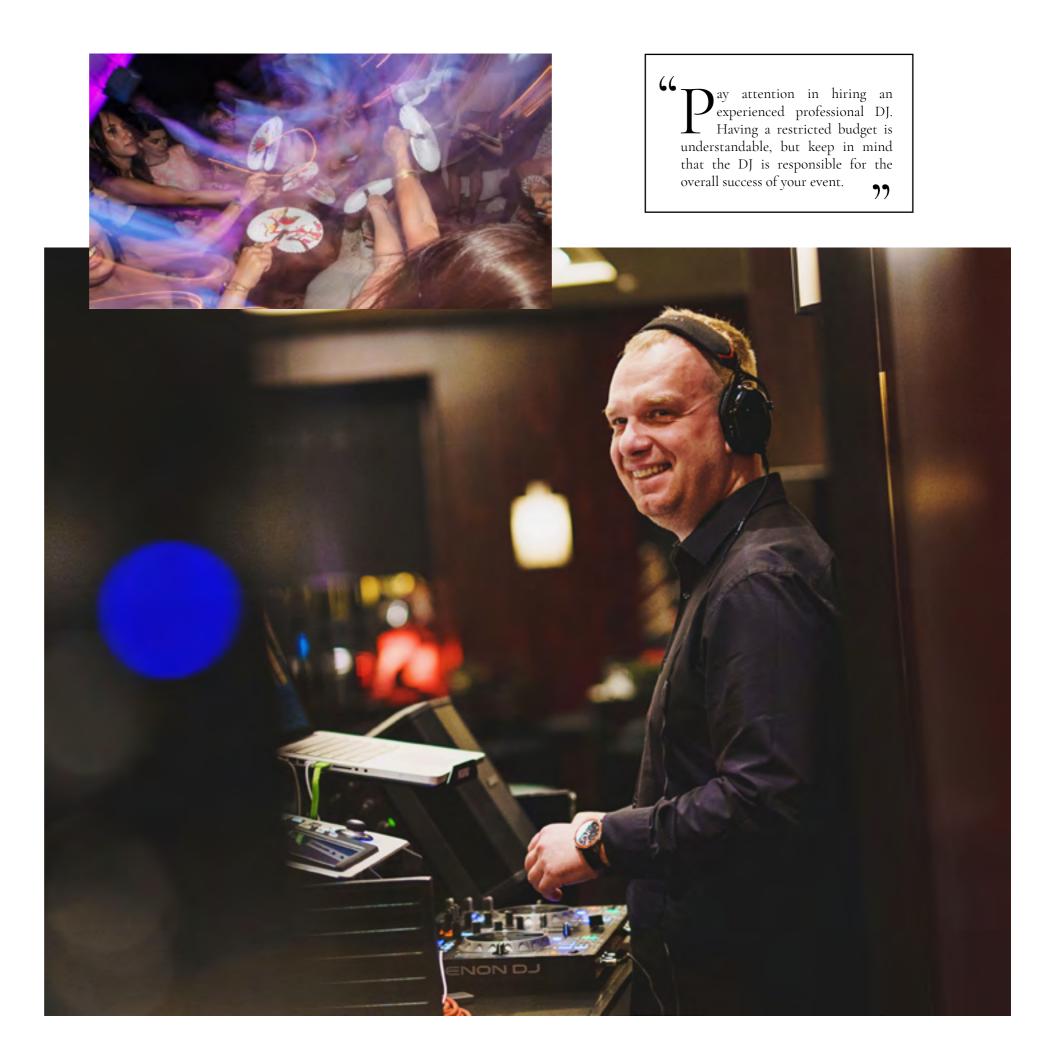
There are multiple benefits: first of all, a professional DJ is flexible to adjust during a live performance. Secondly, they bring positivity to the couple and the guests. Also, due to their experience, they can intervene and correct issues that can come up before or during the live performance. Furthermore, they are obviously informed on the latest music trends. And last, but not least, they can provide you with moments of melodies and images that will stay in your heart forever!

What other general advice would you give to anyone who is thinking of hiring a DJ?

Try to plan ahead: book your DJ at least 4 months before the event. This way you ensure that you have booked a good professional.

Pay attention in hiring an experienced professional DJ. Having a restricted budget is understandable, but keep in mind that the DJ is responsible for the overall success of your event. So many couples spend a bundle of money on details that eventually no one remembers and choose to hire an inexperienced, amateur DJ - a choice they will certainly regret!

Keep in mind the following criteria for hiring the best DJ for you: they should make you feel safe by being flexible, positive and available to discuss your wishes and needs promptly.



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Some couples send a music wish list to their guests with invitations before the wedding, to understand what music the guests would like to hear. What are some of the other ways to find out what guests prefer if the coupled doesn't or cannot ask them directly? How can a DJ help a couple to make the overall party mood upbeat and fun for all?

Every set is build according to the client's feedback. Through proper guidance, a DJ can accumulate all the information they need in order to make a good plan that the couple, as well as the guests will greatly enjoy. A few songs that the couple will provide, are enough for the DJ to have an overall view of the desired music and enrich it. It is totally unnecessary to provide huge lists - trust the person you have hired and let them free to do what they know best and have the time of your life! After all, this is their responsibility.

Would you say that the couple should think more of what music they like or should they pay more attention to their guest's preferences?

A wedding event is usually a combination of music pleasures and obligations. This is why the couple and the DJ collaborate in order to define a plan, in terms of kinds of music wanted/not wanted and the duration of each kind. The DJ has to be flexible, because they have a better overall view of the crowd and adjustments may be needed.

Do you travel for work and if yes, where?

I travel quite a lot and I always enjoy it. Within Greece, the most frequent destinations are the popular Greek islands.

I also travel abroad. I have clients all over the world. My most frequent destinations are Paris, London, Switzerland, Dubai and Germany, but I am always looking forward to the next destination and challenge!

Do you work a lot with destination couples?

-The greatest percentage of my clients are destination couples.

Is there some song almost every couple asks for?

It depends on the couples culture and origin. There are many couples that are contemporary in their requests, so it is quite often every season for a song to be requested multiple times, either by the couple or by their guests. For example, two very popular requested songs for this season are "don't start now"-dua lipa and "dance monkey"-tones and I!



Which is you favorite location?

I have a soft spot for all locations that have long sea shores. I absolutely love sea sunsets. They set a great scenery for a destination wedding.

When you come to an unknown location, you most probably also work with some local vendors and professionals. How do you find the right people to work with for each couple, without knowing the market in that location?

When an event takes place in Greece, my team is available to cover any needs the couple has. If I am not familiar with a particular market, I always make sure to gather the necessary information ahead, to ensure the best possible outcome. But even if a couple has already booked their own vendors, I have the experience to coordinate and collaborate effectively.

As destination couples, most don't come meet you and don't get to hear you perform live. How do you deal with that?

-The majority of the couples that book me, have either heard my performance, or are referred by other couples who have already booked me. My site https://djgeorgekouzas.gr provides links to mixcloud, so they can get a small taste. Also, our communication and dialogue through skype and social media are crucial in creating the necessary trust.

From a DJ point of view, what are most common problems to face with destination weddings and how do you resolve them?

There are a few problems that may come up, but most of them are resolved by planning ahead and by advising the couple on what to be cautious about. Usually you can avoid most of the problems by hiring the right vendors.

Mykonos, Crete and Santorini are getting all the craze these years. Nonetheless, which location (island or mainland) in Greece would you recommend to couples as their wedding destination?

I am especially fond of Milos. I find it an excellent choice for a destination wedding, due to its picturesque scenery and the easy accessibility from mainland Greece.

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reece is a magical place for your wedding. Make the best out of your experience, trust the right people for the right job to minimize the stress and never forget to enjoy yourself, dancing from sunset till sunrise!

Where do you get your inspirations from for each event you play? What is your process of creating the right feeling for each separate event to make it unique?

The magical chemistry that is created with the couple and their guests is a natural high for me! The process starts from the initial acquaintance with the couple and reaches its peak on the day of the event, with lots of preparation and positivity.

Where do most of your clients find you and why do you think they decide to work with you?

My website https://djgeorgekouzas.gr

I believe the key factor for the couple's decisions to work with me, is the fact that they are confident they have found a vendor they can absolutely trust to make their event unforgettable.

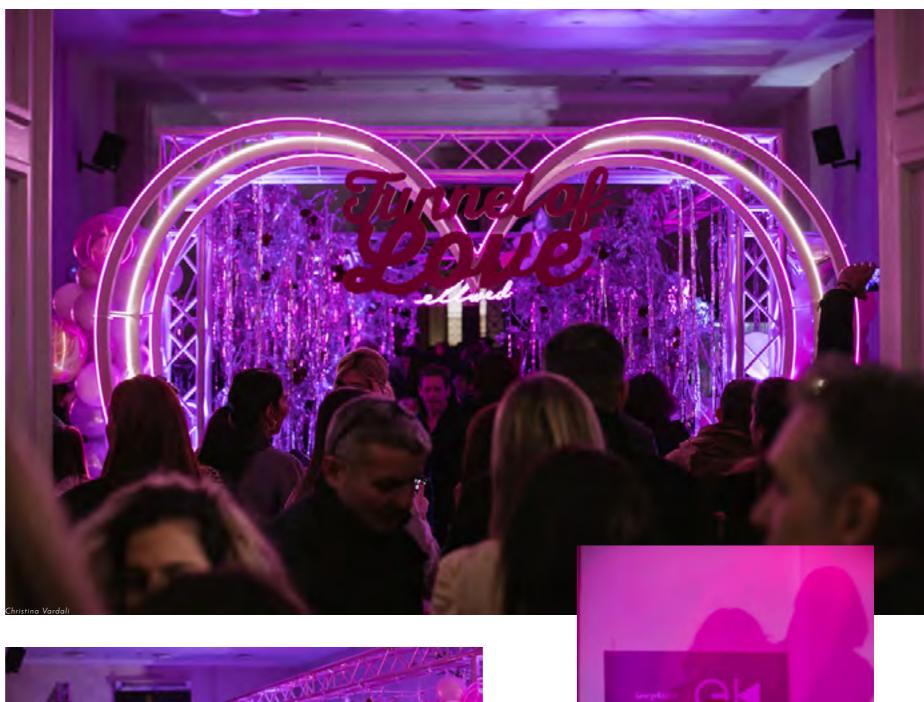
Did you ever get a client that wasn't right for you? How did you deal with that?

It is very rare to have clients that are impossible to work with. Most of the problems are resolved with proper communication.

And finally for the last question, what advice would you give to all brides that getting married in Greece?

Greece is a magical place for your wedding. Make the best out of your experience, trust the right people for the right job to minimize the stress and never forget to enjoy yourself, dancing from sunset till sunrise!

Oh wow! That was so much info and a great advice! Thank you so much for taking your time for our exclusive interview and being a part of our project!





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WHICH PHOTO BOOTH IS THE BEST FOR YOUR WEDDING? GET TO KNOW IPHOTOBOOTH

Wedding entertainment can come in many forms and one such is the fun your guests will get to experience while taking pictures with a photo booth! You might not know this, but there are many different booths out there for you to rent! So which one is the best for your event?

iPhotobooth has unlimited possibilities, updating the classic historical chamber of the 1920 and guarantees the certain success of your party, by turning into an incredibly funny and certainly unforgettable event.

iPhotobooth provides you with the most modern equipment that can be found, in order to offer you the most amusing experience for you and your guests in Greece. Join the iPhotobooth world and live this unique experience with your guests, your family and your friends!

Among classic and modern photo booth our company offers the magic mirror booth. Also you could try our authentic vintage photo booth and the slow motion feature.



Get in touch: iphotobooth.gr facebook.com/iphotoboothgr instagram.com/iphotoboothgr

Photos provided by iPhotobooth

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Mirror booth

Mirror Booth offers your guests a unique photographic experience using an impressive interactive mirror. Custom Animated customized messages, graphics and video are displayed in the mirror to guide guests into a fun photo shoot. The perfect photo is a given since you can see yourself in a full-length mirror and posing as you wish.

Vintage Thotopooth

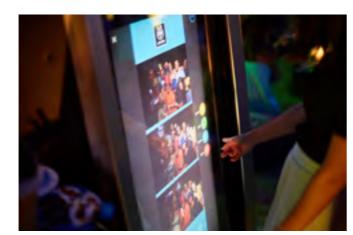
The retro aesthetic is getting married with high-tech photographic equipment and vintage lovers will be thrilled with the design of this particular booth. Vintage photobooth provides everything and all photo booths with the only difference that it will decorate your party or event space.

Slow Motion

In addition to the unlimited number of photos, iPhotobooth also offers slow motion video recording. Slow motion capturing the moment in the most entertaining way that will surely excite your guests. The service will be unforgettable and will create the ultimate social media buzz. Photo booths now support our new SLOW MOTION service. What does

this mean; In addition to gif and boomerang photos, the photo booth offers your guests a slow motion video that takes your party to THE party.









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FIND YOUR PARTY FAVORS IN
GREECE
EIGHT SPECIAL BRANDS FROM
GREECE HAND PICKED FOR
YOU, WHICH YOU CAN FIND ON
INSTAGRAM

Surprise your guests with amazing gifts that will forever stay in their memories. The good thing about some of the special gifts, is the ability to personalize them. And we don't just mean adding your initials on the gift, but to truly design something with the

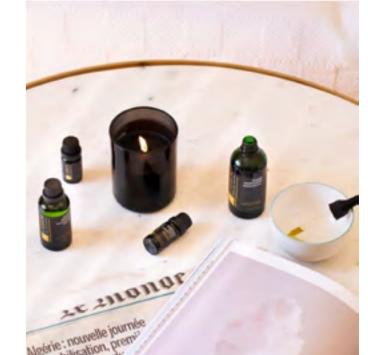
artist that represents both of you as a couple. Here are some brands, designers and creatives from Greece that you can find on Instagram.

All images of products are from their brand's Instagram





Think outside the box! Have fun with your bridesmaids or best friends at Christina Vardali Photography studio and create timeless memories! For wedding and fashion. @christina_vardali



Labbok Certified Organic Cosmetics. Certified cruelty free & vegan premium health/beauty with zero waste

philosophy and unique handmade wooden packaging,

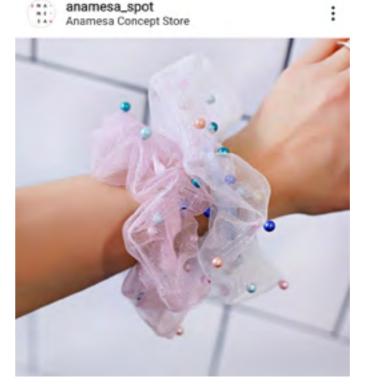
suitable for pregnancy! Spoil yourself and your grils!

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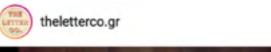
The Letter Company from Greece will make sure your event shine! Rent your Neon Lights, Wedding Letters or make your own Custom Signs to say thanks to your guests and make a donation in your guest's names instead of buying favors!

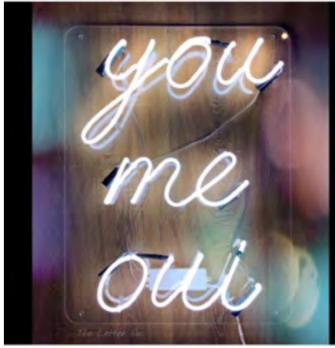
@theletterco.gr



ANAMESA concept E-store with soul-positive style offering global brands, local designers. If you run in this shop in Athens, get some Good Vibes Coffee To Go as well. Otherwise, shop online and find gorgeous girl empowering items like this scrunchie!

@anamesa_spot





I'm getting married!

DOMESTIC AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

Our Wedding Date:

11112

Our Wedding Location:

Ceremony Venue:

81

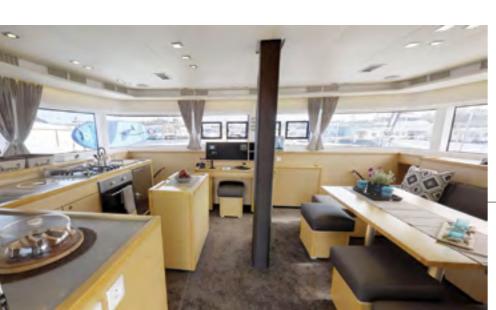
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any special occasion in the most memorable way



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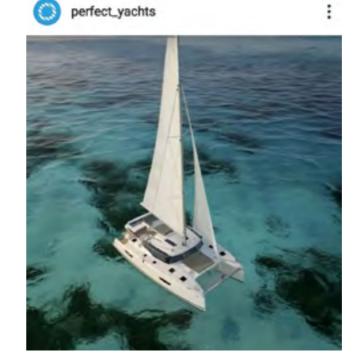
At LV Petridis Floral Creations store you can find the best gifts, if you like flowers. Surprise your maid of honor or mother of the bride/groom with these luxury flowers in a box! Choose from one rose, to the whole arrangement and play with your favorite colors to match.

@petridislvcreations



Perfect Yacht Charter with Luxury Sailing Yachts you can rent for your best friends! Opt for a fully crewed charter and just enjoy your explorations of the Mediterranean Sea!

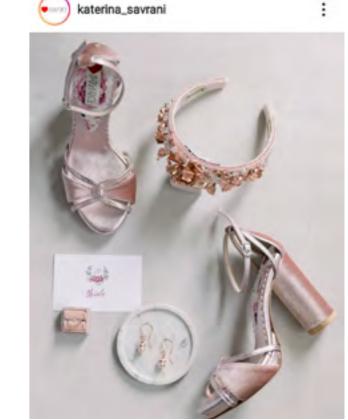
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Apivita is one of the biggest beauty product brands of Greece. Their moto: "Natural beauty care products, born of bees in Greek nature raised by science. Let's "pollinatebeauty"

@apivita



Savrani Creations by Katerina Sarvani. Custom & handmade shoes & bridal hair accessories Designer, shipped worldwide. Work together with Katerina and design custom made accessories for all your bridesmaids and yourself!

@katerina_savrani

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BEACH BAR AS AN ALTERNATIVE WEDDING VENUE EXPERT ADVICE BY ANNETA PAPADATOU FROM INSPIRED MOMENTS EVENTS REAL WEDDING IN KAVALA

A Beach bar may sound as a good idea for hosting your wedding ceremony and reception in case you are one of those couples that wish to plan a stylish casual wedding. Greece is the ideal destination for such weddings as you may find a lot of naturally beautiful landscapes where beach bars are located.

Here is our advice to host a laid back and stylish wedding at a beach



Planning-styling-florals: Inspired Moments Events Photography: Lighthouse Photography Venue: Peponi Beach Bar





Feel the vibe"
If you and your fiancé feel that a beach wedding represent you, then do it! Forget the cliché and formalities of a wedding but pay attention to the details that will make the difference. A well curated ambience and decoration is essential in order to set up an impressive ceremony and reception at a beach bar. Take a good look of the furnishing, lighting design and serving equipment of the beach bar, the better equipped it is, the less money you have to spend for decoration. Choose a color combo for the decoration that match perfectly with the venue's color tones and you can always add lots of candles. A Boho or a tropical theme may work better than a romantic chic for instance. Your wedding planner will help you choose the best option to elevate the total outlook of the place.

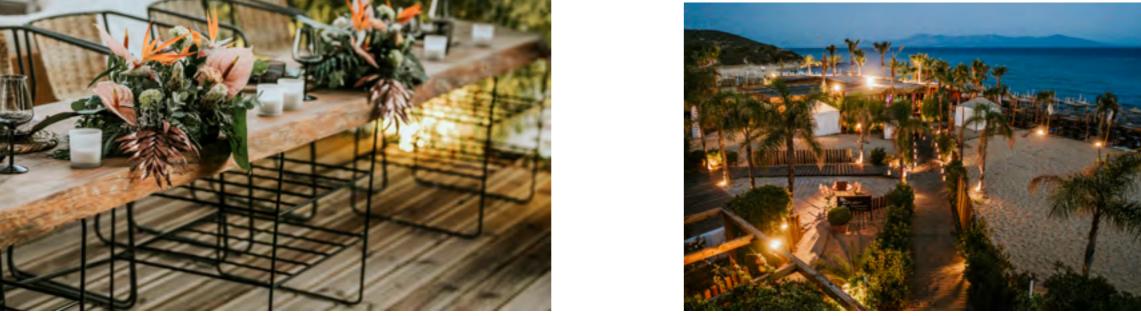


Twictionality
According to the number of guests

and capabilities of the venue you will have to choose between a seated and a cocktail reception. If you wish to host a seated dinner make sure that there is enough space for setting up tables and chairs. In case that the beach bar doesn't have its own restaurant area you will have to hire a catering and check the options of a set menu or finger food. Another important factor that you should consider is the weather back up plan that the beach bar can offer. Work on two weather scenarios so you can be relaxed during the planning







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Most probably a beach venue can offer you a vast variety of drinks and cocktails or even design your own signature cocktails. Make sure that the dancefloor is close to the bar and the party will be on fire!

Music
As most of beach bars are far from inhabited areas, you won't encounter a problem with volume limitations, not to mention that most of these venue are equipped with high quality sound systems that will save you money from hiring such systems. A resident

Accessibility is really important
Sun, sand and the sea are the key

DJ can help you set your favorite

playlist.

elements that your friends will definitely enjoy but not so fun for elder people though. Ensure a parking area close to the entrance and access to a seated set up for the elder people.

Coordination

If you wish to host a memorable

wedding, no matter the style, a smooth event flow and a wellcoordinated team of vendors is crucial. A Beach bar is not the typical wedding venue so less experience is expected by their managers when it comes to coordinate a wedding ceremony or reception flow. The best thing to do is to seek advice by wedding professionals or hire a wedding planner to save you from unexpected expenses and stress and set your wedding timeline to align all vendors involved. Remember you set the vibe on your wedding day, so the more relaxed you are the more fun you have.









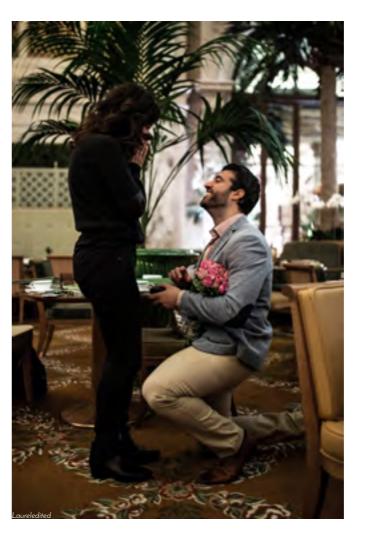




PRETTY IN PINK TRADITIONAL DESTINATION WEDDING IN SKYROS REAL WEDDING AND ENGAGEMENT STORY

Jaclyn and John first locked eyes at a Greek Orthodox Charity Gala at the iconic Plaza Hotel in NYC on in 2016. After a bit of playful banter, John asked Jaclyn for her number, and a week later, they had their first date. Fast forward a year and a half later – Jaclyn was about to return to the Plaza Hotel for the first time since meeting John to have brunch with a friend. After getting to the table it wasn't her friend who arrived, but John

instead! He looked as dashing as ever, had flowers in one hand, and got down on one knee. It was such a lovely moment and luckily a photographer, who was hidden behind the bar, captured all of the magic. The surprise continued when the whole family joined for a mini celebration and ended with a romantic dinner at the hotel and room filled with rose petals and stocked with chocolate covered strawberries and champagne.



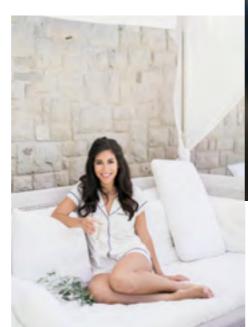
List of Vendors: Wedding Dress: Lazaro Bridal Shoes: Jimmy Choo Jewelry: Olive leaf pendant, given to the bride as a wedding gift from the groom. Diamond earrings borrowed from her mother. Diamond bracelet given to her from her parents as a wedding gift. Veil: Vera Wang Bridesmaid's dresses: A mix of brands since they were able to select their own Groom suit: Bespoke, My Suit Groom shoes: Hawkes + Curtis Wedding rings: Roni Theoharis Designs Logo Design: The Jealous Mistress Invitation Design: Cartoules Press Printing in Greece: Typographic Laboratory Photography: Sandy + Odysseas Cinematography: Rebel Clef Studios Event Design: Kassandra Events Florals: The Flower Shop by Doukas Wedding Planning: Wedding Skyros

See their wedding website: jaclyntrahanas.wixsite.com/mysite

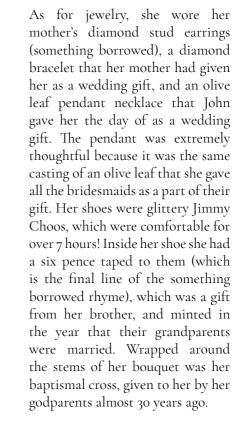
When deciding on a venue for their big day, they toyed with the idea of NYC, but ultimately decided on the country where they both have deep roots. Since both of their fathers are from Greece, the country and culture was a huge part of their lives growing up. Jaclyn's father is from the island Lefkada, and John's father is from the island of Skyros. Being Greek-American, they wanted to incorporate traditions from both sides, so it would feel as though the wedding was uniquely them. Every detail catered to both cultures. The programs and menus were doublesided (one side in Greek, the other in English). The music was a blend, with a traditional Greek band and a DJ for modern music. Even the speeches were in both English and Greek. They wanted everyone to feel welcome - whether they came from down the street in the village, or from NYC. They had friends and family visiting from 7 countries at the wedding!

Jaclyn wanted a timeless look, and to feel like herself, so she took her normal everyday routine and enhanced it. She did her hair and makeup on her own, and is so happy she did. It was so enjoyable to hang out with her bridesmaids while she got ready, as it felt much more relaxed. It also felt more traditional, like she had gone back in time. She wore her hair down, with two clips to hold it back so it wouldn't fall into her face. Her lip color was a tinted balm by YSL, that smells like watermelon, a scent that reminds her of Greece. Her something blue was an embroidered patch she had sewn into her dress that said "John's Bride." Her gown was lightweight, but had a long train. She toyed with different style options, but ultimately decided to have a full bottom because it's not often that a woman gets to wear a ball gown, so she wanted to capitalize on the opportunity.









The groom wore a bespoke tuxedo, which the couple designed together in NYC in the spring before their wedding. It was lined with pink satin, and had their signature "JT loves JT" embroidered on the inside of the coat pocket. He wore navy rope cufflinks as a tribute to

the fishing culture of Skyros, and velvet loafers to add a little flair. On one wrist he wore a bracelet that Jaclyn's parents had given him when they first started dating, and the other wrist was the watch she gave him that day as a wedding

There were many little personalized elements at many touch points throughout the night. While the bride and bridesmaids were getting ready, their Koumbaro and Jaclyn's brother came to stuff money in her shoes to make sure they would fit! - and in following tradition, the bride exclaimed "my shoes are still too loose, they need more stuffing." At the Groom's family's home, their koumbaro showed all the groom's family and groomsmen a video that he was able to get of the groom's favorite Greek singer, Dimitri Mpasis, wishing the Bride and Groom congratulations and good luck! Their wedding bands are both engraved with the lyrics of their first dance "I only want to be with you" so they will have an eternal reminder of their first dance as husband and wife.

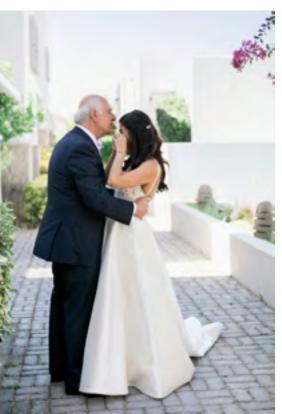








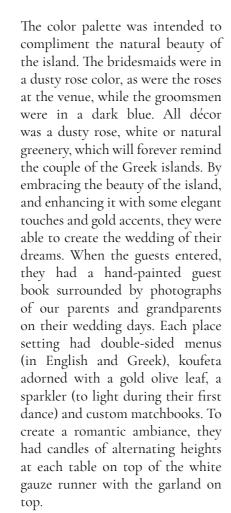




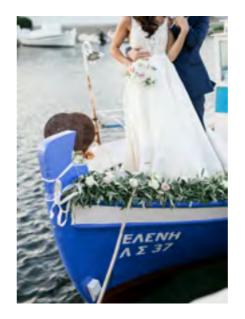


They opted out of doing a first look, to make the walk down the aisle that much more intense. However, Jaclyn did do a first look with her dad which created a powerful moment complete with tears of joy for both.

Their ceremony was a traditional Greek Orthodox wedding, in one of the most beautiful orthodox churches they've ever laid their eyes on, Agios Nikolaos above the port of Linaria in Skyros. It was completely covered in religious paintings and icons. Their florist adorned the archway at the church with their signature olive leaf and rose garland to tie it back to the venue. To put an American spin on the ceremony, they had bridesmaids and groomsmen walk down the aisle, and Jaclyn's father walked her all the way to the altar.







The juxtaposition of the candles, with the greenery, and the authentic taverna tables created a brilliant effect. Near the bar they created a lounge with bespoke dusty rose and white pillows, creating a comfortable space to hangout when the guests needed a break from dancing. Roses are not indigenous to the island of Skyros, but they are traditionally the most romantic and classic floral. The florist paired them with olive leaves to bring in a Greek element. Jaclyn's bouquet was blush and white peonies, while they bridesmaids and groomsmen had rose bouquets and boutonnieres. To add more softness to the space, they had white gauze hanging from the poles of the arbor, fastened with olive leaves and roses, and white gauze as the table runner under the olive and rose garlands on each table.

As for the style of the wedding, they wanted it to feel like an "elevated" taverna. Their favorite memories of Greece have included breaking bread with family and friends at tavernas, and they wanted to recreate that on a larger scale - with all 300 guests. They had the food come out in abundance, and family style, so it would feel as though you were having an intimate dinner, but then have the dancing kick off to bring in the fun! Their signature cocktail was a mojito, a reference to the fact that they first said "I love you" in Havana, Cuba. Also very serendipitously, the designer of her wedding gown, Lazaro, is from Cuba. As for desserts, they had a Viennese table, which included both Greek and American desserts, but the guest's favorite treat was the gelato bar! They were able to pick from a variety of flavors to highlight the night! Another one of their favorite little details was in the bathroom: on the mirror, in lipstick, the bride wrote "You look great, now get out and dance" in both English and Greek.









The venue was located directly on the water, and Jaclyn and John came into the reception on a little traditional Greek fishing boat, which was quite unexpected for the guests and very fun! The boat was adorned with the same rose and olive garland, and fireworks from the boat and the start of the music signaled their arrival. Even though the sky was clear and the stars were in full sight, for their first dance, all their guests lit a sparkler to add even more magic during that moment. On the island of Skyros, it is tradition for the groom to "run" and the men are supposed to grab him and hang him from a tree until he promises to throw them a party they will never forget. The bride and groom are not ones to neglect tradition! John made a dash but was caught, and was forced to promise the groomsmen a full "trapezi", a party with their fill of food and drink for the following year.

The wedding ended at 6:45 in the morning in the only way to end an island wedding is by jumping into the Aegean Sea. All the guests who were still there at that hour accompanied the bride and groom with the plunge, ending the evening on the highest of notes! The couple had the wedding of their dreams and an amazing wedding week, they could not think of a better and more personalized way to announce their love to the world.

The whole event ended with a wedding week of celebrations in











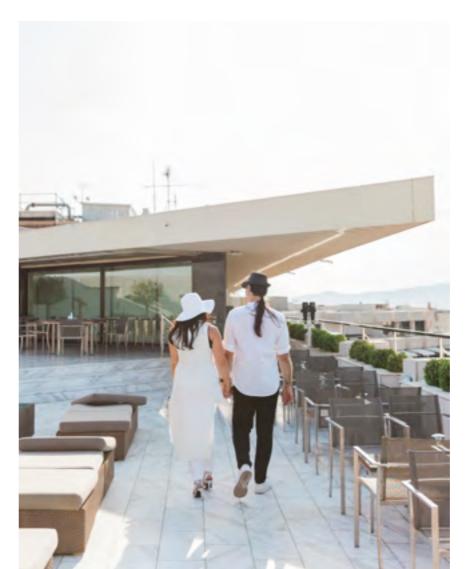




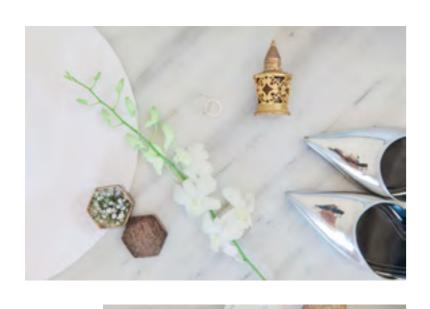
THE NEW AGE MODERN ROMANCE CONFESSIONS OF THE EDITOR - THE INTIMATE CHIC REAL WEDDING IN THE CENTRE OF ATHENS BY SANYA PERCIC

As one of the new wedding trends is proving to be smaller intimate destination weddings, I am happy to share with you our wedding in this new, "post-pandemic" issue of Ellwed. Hopefully it will inspire you to get the wedding of your dreams and not what others suggest or want for you! It is totally ok to have your wedding as you want! Big or small, posh, modern or relaxed, elegant, chic, or boho, urban or country, one, two or even three... Anything goes! Remember, you make the rules!

Some of you might be able to relate, but living in another country can be difficult sometimes. Especially with no prior roots or ties there. However, you see I had no choice. Love was stronger than anything and made me move thousands of kilometres away from my home! We actually met over the internet, back then when Facebook was not even a thing yet. Long story short, I ended living in Greece! And as things always happen for a reason, if I didn't move here, there would be no Ellwed!



List of Vendors:
Photography, Maxeen Kim Photography
Styling and cake styling, Kiss from Fleur
Cake, Zuccerino
Bride's attire, Guess and Zara
Groom's attire, Zara
Reception venue, Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel



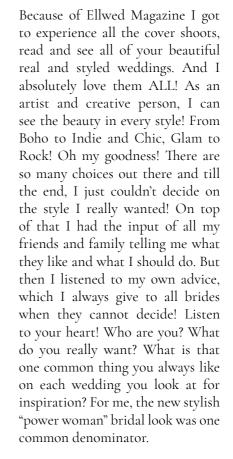


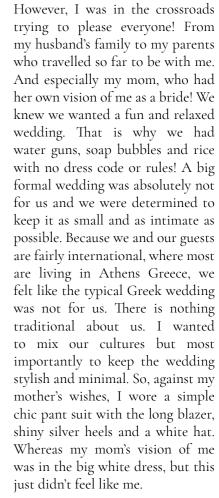


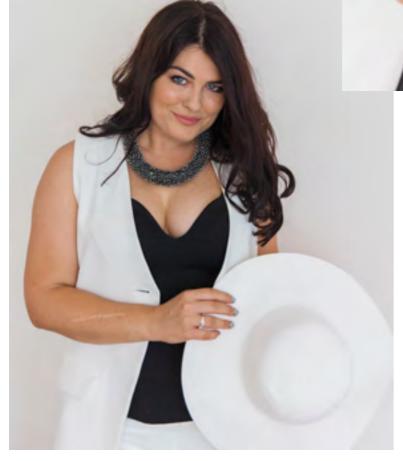




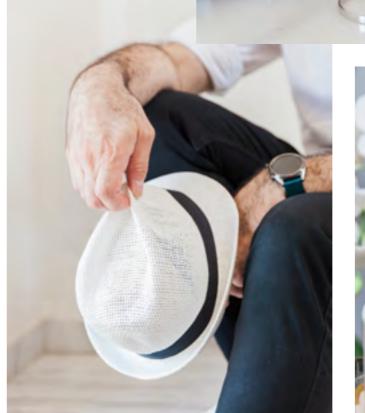




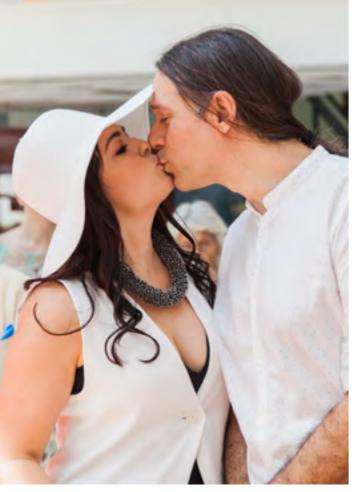




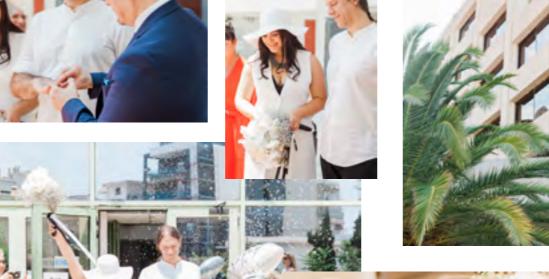




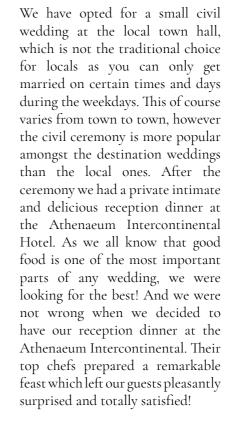












Our decoration was simple, elegant with a hint of romance and few trendy elements like silver painted Gypsophila or Baby's-breath to correlate with my bridal shoes and nails. My bridal bouquet was just what I envisioned! Elegant and stylish with same silver painted Gypsophila, white orchids and black ribbon to match my top. On the tables I wanted the same vibe with potted white orchids, Baby'sbreath, fairy lights and candles for romance! I actually put a lot of thought in our favours, as I didn't want them to just go to waste after. Personally, I care to lessen the impact we have on our environment. On top of that, summer hats were also the common theme of our summer wedding! I got white hats for girls and black ones for boys which we personalised with the name of each guest and also used it as place cards.













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The dinner started after the shoot on the rooftop bar of the hotel. We had the best time in the stylish modern roof terrace, with our family and the most gorgeous views! Once we finished with the photos and the guests arrived, we were announced to enter the private reception venue to greet our guests. After which the bar opened and amazing food was served.

If there is one thing I learned from being the editor/former planner turned bride, is that your wedding professionals are there to help you! Think of hiring a planner or at least a day-of coordinator! Or a person who is not part of your wedding day and knows how to help. Even though we had less than 30 people all together and we wanted everything to be super simple, the whole stress of planning, preparing decoration, favours and spending time with the family is just too much for a bride to handle on her own. Your friends cannot do it as they don't know the job! You can't do it even if you know the job, because you will be the bride! I don't regret anything of course. Actually, that is not true! I do regret not taking the time to sample all the delicious sweets and appetisers we had! But brides, take



my word for it, if you want the stress free wedding then you need to get help from professionals in the wedding industry, who know what they are doing! I was lucky enough to have help from my friends in the business who supported me during the final moments. But it's not fair to ask from your friends or family to be the planner or to guide and organize the guests on your day, because they also want to be a part of your day and celebrate and enjoy it with you!

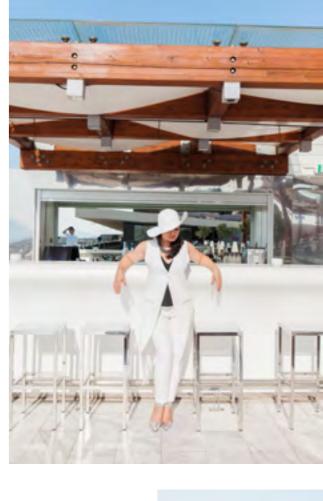
As with many destination weddings, we also arranged another wedding celebration back home, for all my extended family and friends who couldn't make it to Greece. At the end, what truly matters is to have the wedding you want. For me, the most important thing was my husband and to have my family there with me. And for my husband, of course was to make me happy!



















AN AMERICAN INDIAN FUSION REAL DESTINATION WEDDING FROM BY CLAIRE SALISBURY OF LEFKAS

Notes from the Bride

Our romance blossomed from our friendship as we were both living and working in Paris and were attending the same Protestant church. We became good friends and it started from there! It was Jan 1st 2018 and Sam came to North Carolina while I was visiting my family and surprised me with a ring, which I was totally not expecting! We were alone at a friend's house and it was just a really special moment between him and I.

List of Vendors: Planner: Lefkas Weddings Photographer: Lefteris Kalampokas Videographer: Aggelos Lagos Venue: Thealos Village Dress: Custom Made Brides Shoes: Maguba Groom Suit: Hugo Boss Groom Shoes: Crockett & Jones Rings: Goldsmiths Jewellers Mehndi Party attire was bought for the couple by Sam's family from India. Stationery: Maxeen Kim Florist: Gourioti Flowers Hair & MUA: Despoina Kourbei Entertainment: Soul n Passion String Duo and Ktistis Sound Catering: Bubble Couple, Royal Indian Chef and Il Sapore

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All started with my dress. I knew I wanted something lacy and not too big. I definitely wanted sleeves and I saw this design and loved it straight away and had it custom made.

We decided on having a destination wedding in Greece because we knew that no matter where the ceremony was, a large portion of our family would have to travel. So, we thought if everyone is having to travel, we should have them travel some place that people would also like to visit. We, also, serendipitously met Claire from Lefkas Weddings via a friend and it just all fell into place.

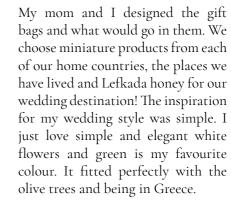
All thanks goes to Claire, for everything she did for our wedding. It was seriously perfect and everyone had the best time.

In the ceremony we included elements that reflected our shared faith and it was also very important that people close to us from our family and dear friends took part in the ceremony. We chose songs that were very special to us as a couple but also in our spiritual journeys.

We chose our venue Thealos as we fell in love with it from the beginning. It is such a stunning venue and most important for us, all of our family and friends could stay on the property. We didn't want people to have to worry about rides home after the celebrations. It also gave us additional time with our guests as we gathered every morning for an amazing breakfast. Thealos' garden, reception area, villas, swimming pools and views were all as amazing as the pictures!

We wanted to blend both our heritages for our wedding. So we had a nod to Sam's family and heritage of growing up in India with our Mehndi night. We had amazing food catered by Royal Indian Chef from Athens which was a great bonus. My heritage was included in the gift bags and the ceremony was a blend of both of us.





There were so many favourite details on that day! For instance, I loved the elephants on the Mehndi night and on the name cards! I also really loved Bubble Couple prosecco van and the decor for the Mehndi which was bright and colourful in contrast to our elegant wedding day colours. The flower arch was amazing, so pretty! Looking out over the sea and mountains while King of my Heart was being sung and played by the musicians was my favourite moment. Everyone we loved was just behind us and it was so perfect and special.

My advice to other couples is do what makes you happy and don't worry about hurting other peoples' feelings on you wedding day. It won't be the perfect location or timing for everyone and that is okay.

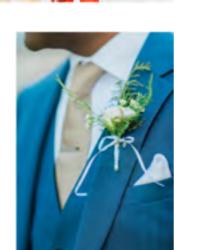
For our honeymoon, we spent some extra time in Lefkada and exploring Athens with our families before travelling back to the UK.

















CELESTIAL EARTHY BLUE FAIRYTALE WEDDING INSPIRATION FROM SANTORINI BY VALENTINA RING OF THE STARS INSIDE

This editorial was born from a partnership between stylist Valentina and photographer Rebecca and their shared passion for travel, for adventurous love stories, and for intimate elopements around

the world. We were joined by videographer Russell who, together with Rebecca, really captured the magic of seeing somewhere new for the first time.



List of Vendors: Styling & Planning: The Stars Inside Photography & Planning: Rebecca Carpenter Videography: Russell Kent Nicholls Couple: Jessica & Will Venue: Canaves Oia Hair & Make-up: Storme Make-up and Hair Flowers: Red Box Days Jewellery and Accessories: Miss Clemmie Cape: Crown & Glory Textiles: Pompom Blossom Bridalwear: Lee Petra Grebenau, Sottero & Midgley, and Ersa Atelier via Morgan Davies Bridal Stationery: De Winton Paper Co Silk Nightwear: Kylie Siobhan Shoes: Freya Rose





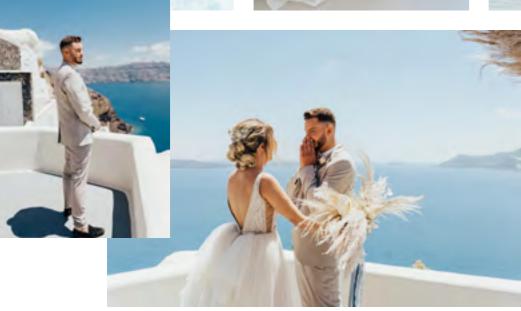


and we did so with a palette of muted and airy colours like greys, nudes, dusty and deep blues, and shades of white. Our backdrops to the day were the glorious spaces of Canaves, a luxury hotel in the little cosmopolitan gem that is the town of Oia, and its breath-taking views of the Caldera and the Aegean Sea. This venue, belonging to the family of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, features pristine, minimal décor and truly embodies the feeling we wanted to

capture: being alone together on top of the world, pampered and relaxed, with infinity on every horizon.

We hope you enjoy this story of wanderlust and stars, as much as the whole team enjoyed coming together to bring it to life – with lots of creativity, hard work, and a little bit of magic!

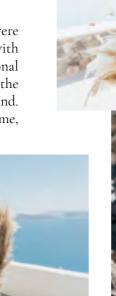




At the heart of it, we wanted to tell the story of a young couple interpreting wedding traditions in their own way. Our bride and groom want the beginning of this new chapter of their lives together to be joyful, genuine, and experiential — with time and space to celebrate one another to the fullest. We wanted to show the heartfelt beauty of an

intimate wedding to those couples who feel that an elopement might be the right choice for them.

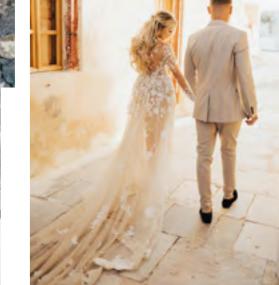
For our design concept, we were looking to connect sky and sea, with plenty of meaningful, intentional details that embraced and echoed the natural surroundings of the island. We explored a gentle celestial theme,



















LOVE IS LOVE ENGAGEMENT SESSION IN PAROS BY KIMON KAKETSIS

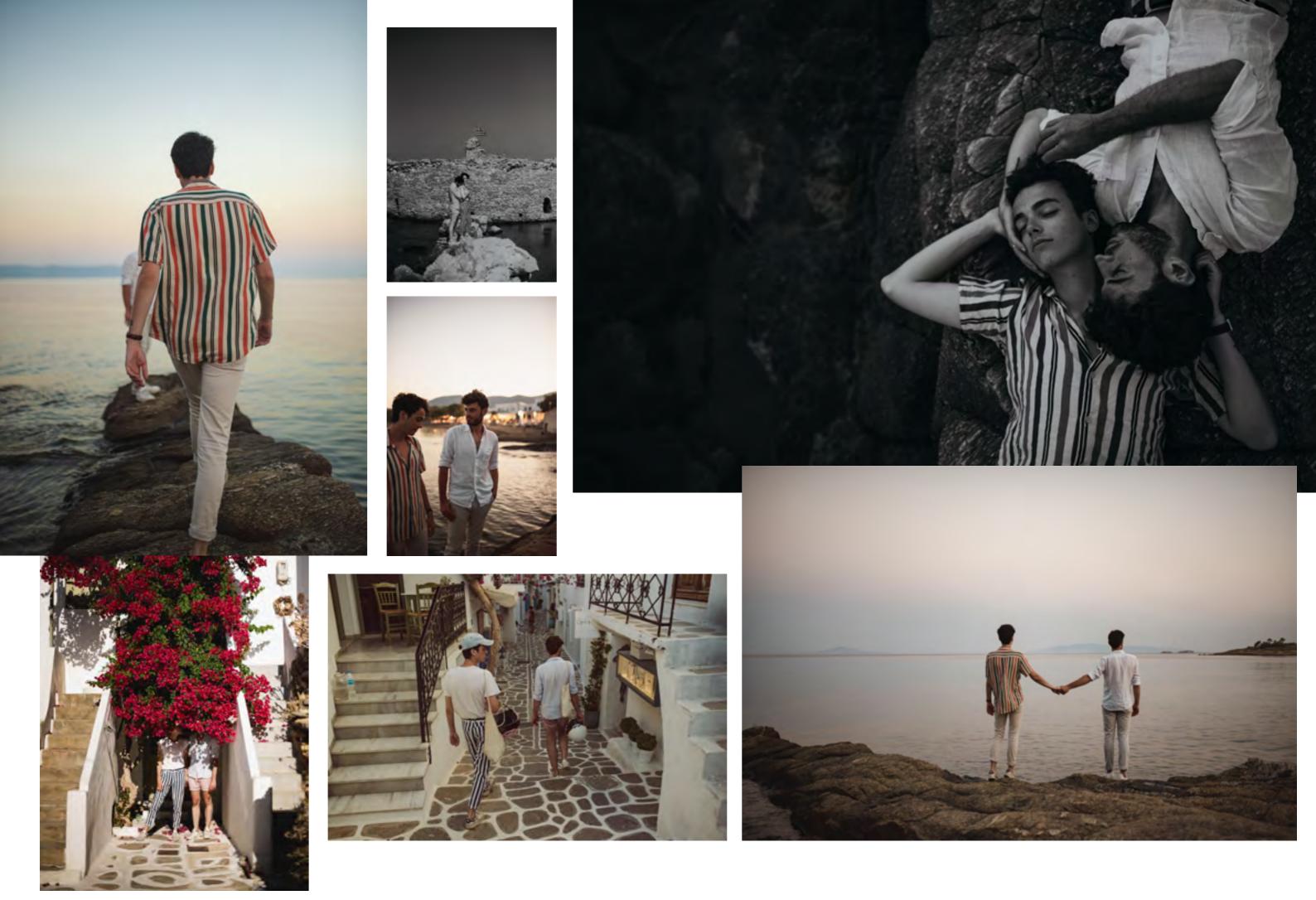
This engagement session of Tibo & Diego in Paros was something special. As each year they escape their busy lives in Paris and visit Greece to unwind and reflected their life together. But this time they decided to make it special. To also keep their

lives is full of adventure while creating loving experiences and memories. Greece is their little paradise, and they wanted a portrait captured that represented this charming, pure and passionate adventure.

Photography: Kimon Kaketsis

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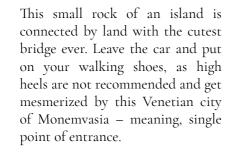






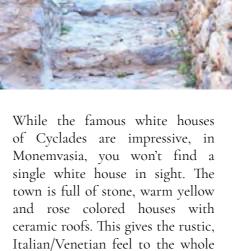






The town, behind the medieval walls is completely traffic free and full of history with many Byzantine churches. Streets and houses are all made with stones, nicely preserved like from a fairytale. Inside the gate, you will find cute small hotels, rooms, restaurants, bars, private houses and small boutique shops.

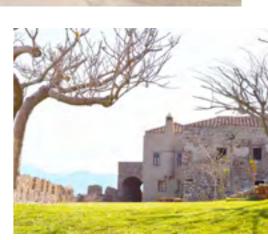




area, completely different to the

usual Greek town. Although, trees and nature are growing from every

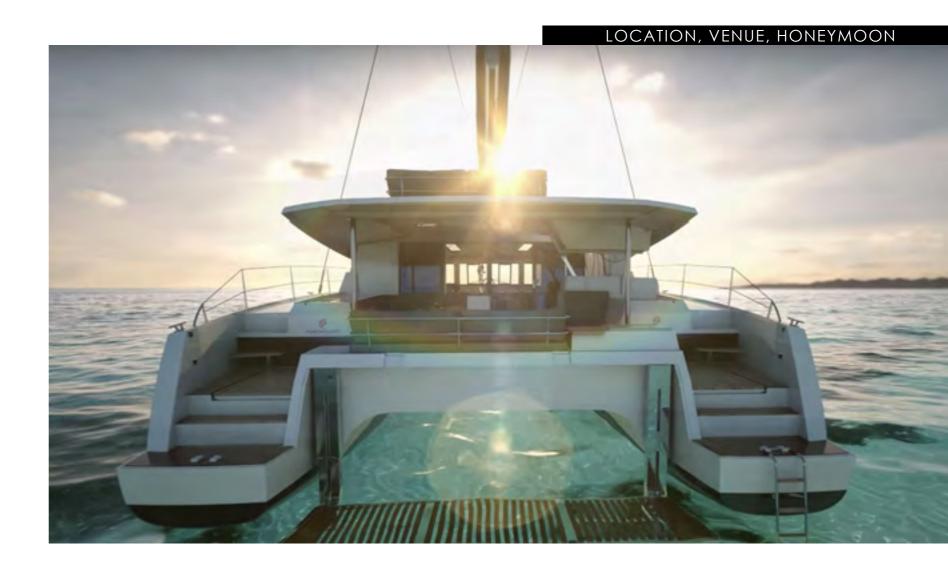
nook and cranny, we recommend you visit Monemvasia before August, maybe even in May, when everything is green and blossoming. Getting there might be tricky, which also makes it more exclusive and worth the hassle! Once you are there, you can admire beautiful nature and sights of Peloponnese, like the island of Elafonisos that is just 1 hour away!











HONEYMOON ON YOUR PERSONAL FLOATING HOTEL BRAND ADVERTORIAL BY PERFECT YACHTS

Yachting is something most people haven't tried yet, so when an opportunity finally presents itself, the experience has to be just perfect. Luxurious fleet, convenient location, professional and attentive staff — all this and more is offered by Perfect Yachts, this year's winner of Luxury Lifestyle Awards in the category of The Best Luxury Yacht Charter in Greece.



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A special event undoubtedly becomes even more special when it takes place on a yacht. A honeymoon, a wedding party, a gift to your guests. Surprise your friends and loved ones by celebrating your special occasion aboard a luxurious catamaran or monohull and let Perfect Yachts turn your special day into an unforgettable memory.

Make your honeymoon a truly memorable experience. Book an allinclusive, private, weekly cruise and discover the beauty of the Cyclades or the Saronic Gulf. Enjoy freshly cooked meals prepared especially for you by your hostess/cook. Taste worldly recognized Greek wines and let the magic of the deep blue carry you away. Take advantage of the snorkel equipment, the kayak and the SUP offered onboard and make this unique experience an unforgettable one!



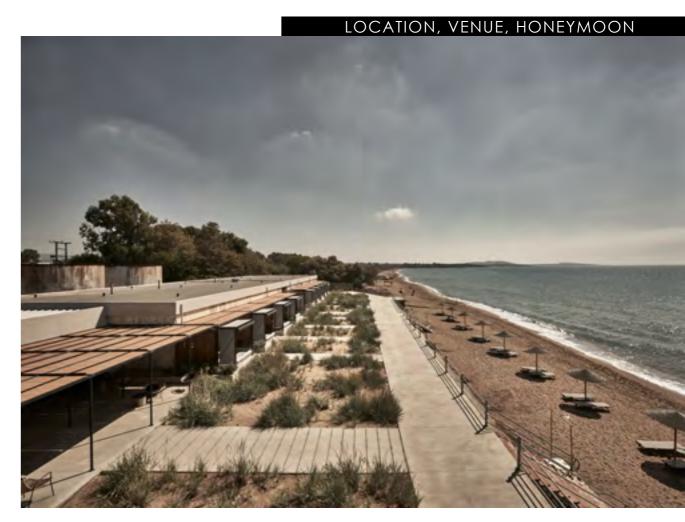
Provide your guests with an unmatching experience by treating them to a half-day or a full-day cruise to the Aegean or the Saronic Gulf or a private dinner aboard a luxury catamaran. Our skipper will take them to the perfect spot and the hostess will serve the dinner of your choice accompanied with worldly recognized Greek wines.

Grab the chance to celebrate any special occasion in the most unforgettable way! Choose one of our fully equipped ribs, yachts or catamarans that best suits your needs and let us offer you an unmatched experience. Especially in this new age world we are living now, you can feel safe on your personal floating luxury hotel!

You can be assured that it will be an event to remember!







DEXAMENES SEASIDE HOTEL PR ARTICLE VENUE REVIEW LUXURY HISTORIC VENUE IN PELOPONNESE

One of the most interesting hotels in the area. This stylishly designed seaside hotel is just what you were looking for, if you want to feel relaxed while enjoying in the historic wine tanks.

Few minutes from the famous mythological Archaia Olympia, this post-war winery, was transformed into a barefoot luxury resort on one of the most unspoiled stretches of coastline in the western Peloponnese.



Find Dexamenes:

dexamenes.com facebook.com/dexamenes instagram.com/dexamenes

All photos from Dexamenes





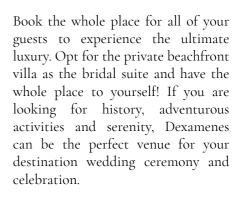


The utmost lavishness and seclusion at the end of the road will be the perfect location for your destination wedding or honeymoon. With relaxing and peaceful surrounding and attention to detail, you will be pampered at every corner, your own private beach, which is literally 3 minutes away from your beachfront villa!

Have you ever stayed in a wine tank? This is the opportunity to actually sleep in the repurposed and luxury designed wine tanks! The unspoiled views from your villa, will bring you the peace and serenity you need and desire. Dexamenes, the secret undiscovered five star luxury resort by the Ionian coast, was built in the late 1920's, and it is indicative of the industrialization of the long-standing wine-making tradition of the wider region.



Designed and created by K-Studio, this resort can be the perfect choice because of their contextual approach to a unique and immersive experiences through architecture. You will have everything you need for the ultimate peaceful and rejuvenating experience with history and a unique story behind it. Which you can learn directly from the owner himself!













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Meet your vendors though the series of interviews!

Ellwed Talks! The first podcast about your destination wedding in Greece, brought to you by the editor of Ellwed Magazine. Join Sanya and guests in learning and discussing all about weddings and Greek Culture!

Through the series of interviews and talks, you will be able to get to know your suppliers and wedding pros!



This podcast is for all brides and vendors who are planning a destination wedding in Greece. By sharing our insider knowledge, we will answer your questions and guide you through this process of planning your special day in Greece.

Find out more at ellwed. com/podcast

We are really excited to be able to share with you all the tales and stories from Greece!

If you want to share your story, feel free to leave us a recording on ANCHOR.FM or simply get in touch!



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BRIDAL TRENDS FROM BRIDAL FASHION WEEK AT BRIDAL EXPO 2020 IN ATHENS ZAPPEION

Are you getting married this or next year? Then you should check out some of our selected beautiful dresses and suits from some of the biggest Greek Bridal Fashion Designers who presented their new designs at the Bridal Fashion Week of Bridal Expo.

Bridal Expo is the most glamourous wedding Show of Athens happening in the historic building of Zappeion in the centre of Athens! If you are getting married next year, you should definitely attend the Bridal Expo 2021, which will be most probably happening in January next year. Stay tuned for the dates!

Even if you are not getting married, Bridal Expo is a great place to see new things, new wedding trends, established and aspiring vendors and to sample all the delicious food and cocktails of course!

We attend Bridal Expo show every year and we are so happy to be part of their press team! And this year we even did an amazing party after the Zolotas Atelier closing catwalk, which you can see in the next article! Our décor was spot on for a bridal party, so make sure to get all the details for your won bridal party! But now, let's dive into the gorgeous creations of some of the Greece's best designers presented at the Bridal Fashion Week Catwalk

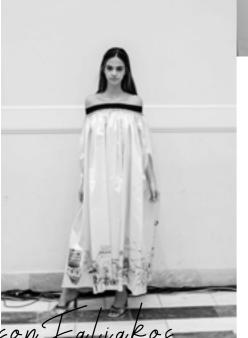


Bridal Fashion Week

Bridal Expo 2020 Bridal Fashion Week

Videography and Photography, George Stratigis & Mariflor Zapatero

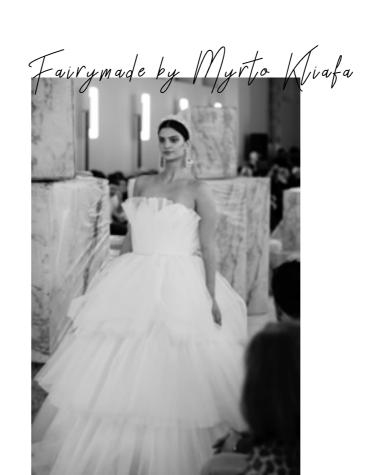




Maison Faliakos

Celia Fragouni













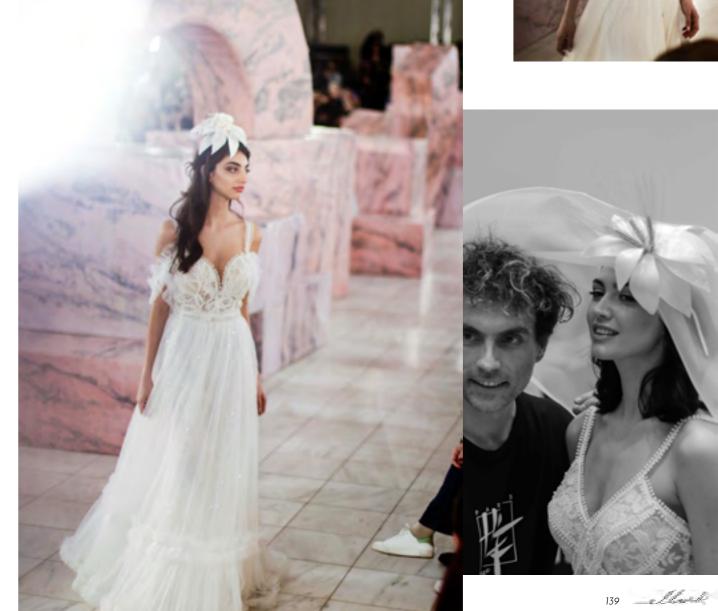
Sposa Moda



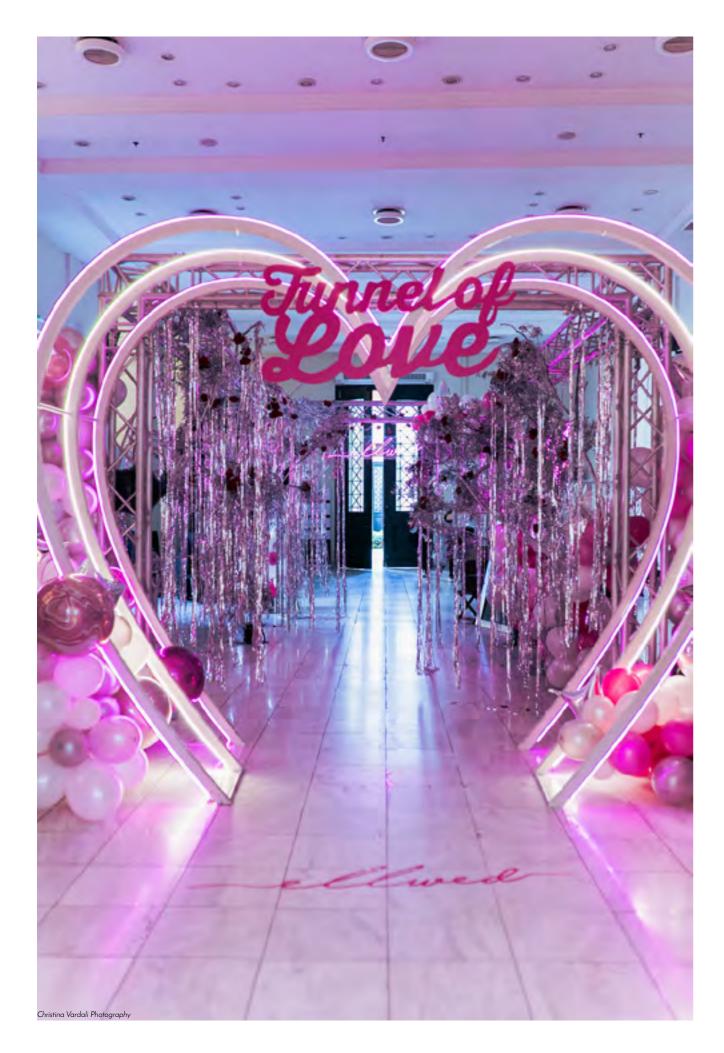








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LOVE THEMED FUN ELLWED BRIDAL PARTY INSPIRATION AT THE BRIDAL EXPO, BRIDAL FASHION WEEK IN ZAPPEION

Get inspired with our Love party theme for your own bridal party! We are so excited to finally share with you all the moments and details of our first ever Ellwed Party!

Our year started with a BANG and we want to thank everyone who came to party with us and especially, everyone who made this possible!

SELECTED VENDORS:

Styling and Design, Kiss from Fleur Coordination and Planning, Sand+Lace Events Custom Neon Signs and the heart, The Letter Co. Floral Decor, RedBoxDays Balloons, The Balloon Idea Signature Cocktails, The Moving Spirits All Sweets, Buttermilk Patisserie Stationery and custom printable, Party & Co. Sound Light, Construction and Technical Support MixMix Sound and Light DJ, George Kouzas Photography, Christina Vardali Photography Videography and Photography, George Stratigis Party rentals, LH Rentals Photo Booth, iPhotoBooth #coverstar booth and coordination, Ellwed team

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When we got the good news from Bridal Expo to organise an after show bridal party at their VIP hall, we were over the moon and couldn't believe our ears!

The planning and the search for the perfect theme began immediately and thankfully we had the right creative minds on board!

The idea was to combine elements of marriage, love and bridal fashion to create a fun yet glamorous experience for all brides, celebrities, influencers, designers and wedding professionals alike!

First and foremost we wo

First and foremost we would like to thank from the bottom of our hearts to all who joined the team and help us create this party!

We always say that the party is only as good as the entertainment! And our DJ George Kouzas, one of the top DJs in Athens made sure that we are all enjoying his beats which were keeping us all going till the early hours! But without the team of Mix Mix Sound and Light we would not have any party! They came and set up the whole construction, provided us with all the sound, lights and the structure for our fantastic #tunneloflove. This party was truly a team work at its finest and nothing was too difficult for them!

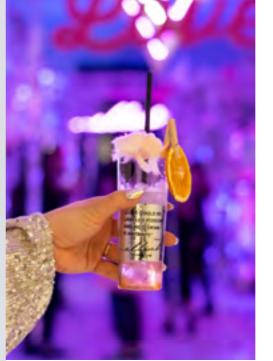
After the good news, we quickly started working to develop the concept. The idea for the whole party theme from head to toe was designed and styled by Anna-Jill of Kiss from Fleur while working closely with us and Bobbie from Sand and Lace Events to bring it all to life. We had to organise the whole thing from scratch in just few months while dealing with holiday and Christmas season. However, we felt so much creative energy that kept us going and with the help of all amazing vendors who joined our team, we believe we managed to create the best party of the year! See the full list with links, at the end of this page.



RedBoxDays.gr

Event Floral Designer



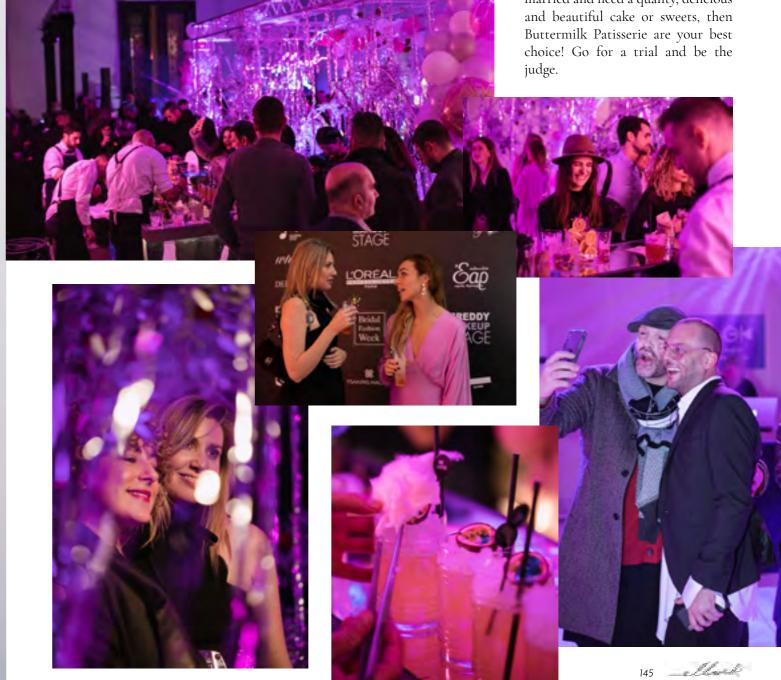


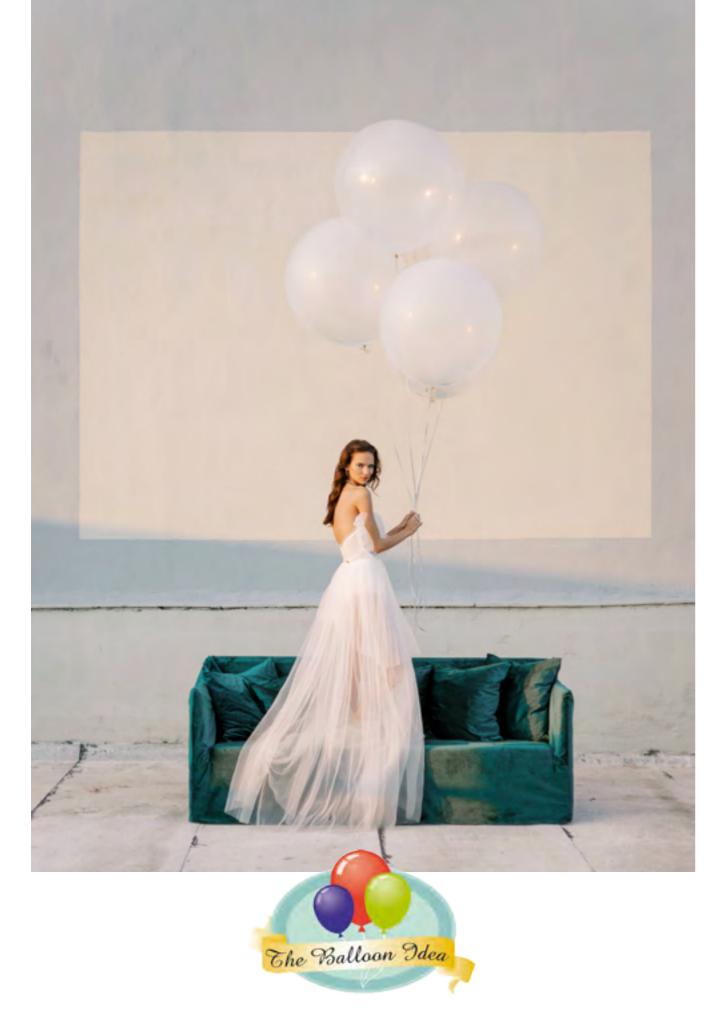
Party Time!

Our Ellwed party was on the first day of Bridal Expo, and after the Atelier Zolotas show at the Athens Bridal Fashion Week in the historic building of Zappeion and it went on throughout the night! While our DJ kept the spirits high, The Moving Spirits made sure the gorgeous and fun cocktails keep flowing. Decorated with customised printables by Party and Co, cotton candy, flowers, fruits and molecular gastronomy caviar made on the spot, these customized cocktails were the

hit! Valia from Party and Co also created out love themed cocktail signs, all printables, such as party crew badges and wonderful unique gifts for all guests!

We were lucky to have found our wonderful hostesses or entertainers with flair and so much personality (you can see them almost on every photo). They made sure everyone gets to taste gorgeous love themed delicious cupcakes, strawberry meringue "kisses" and "kiss me" cakes all handmade specially for our party by wonderful Tonia from Buttermilk Patisserie. We are not exaggerating to say that these were some of the best quality cakes and sweets we have ever tasted! If you are getting married and need a quality, delicious and beautiful cake or sweets, then Buttermilk Patisserie are your best choice! Go for a trial and be the judge.





www.balloonidea.gr

info@balloonidea.gr @theballoonidea





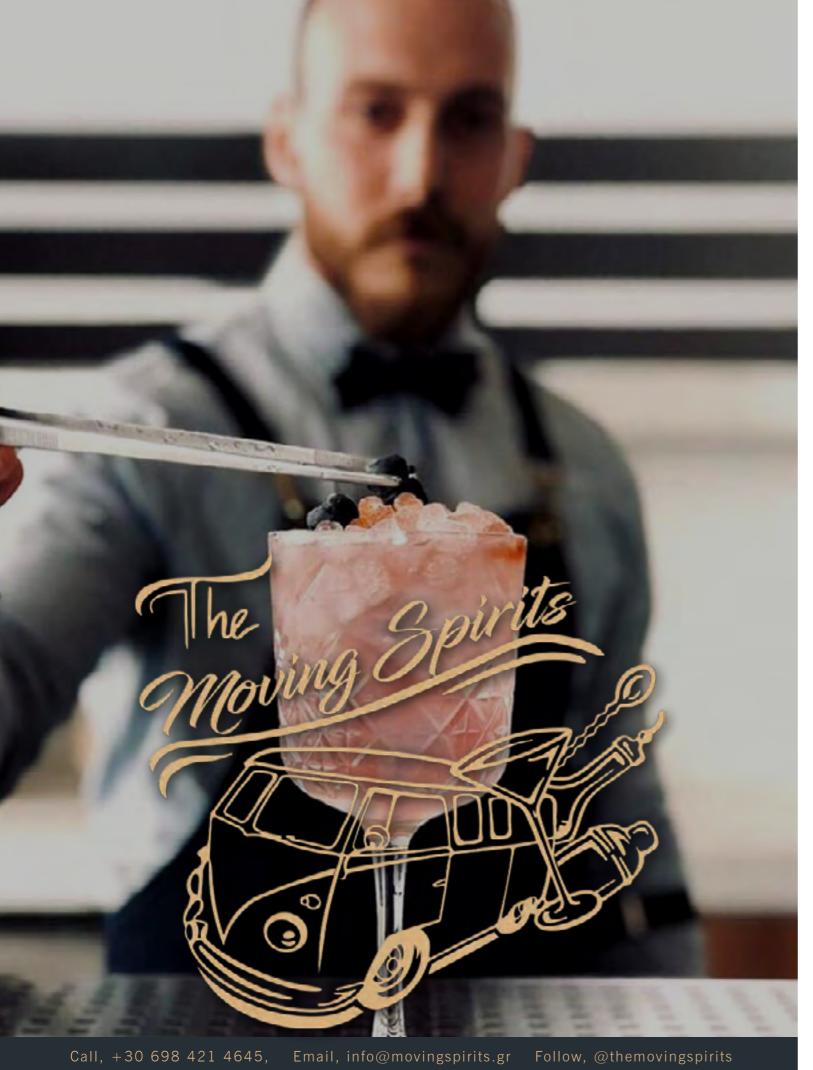


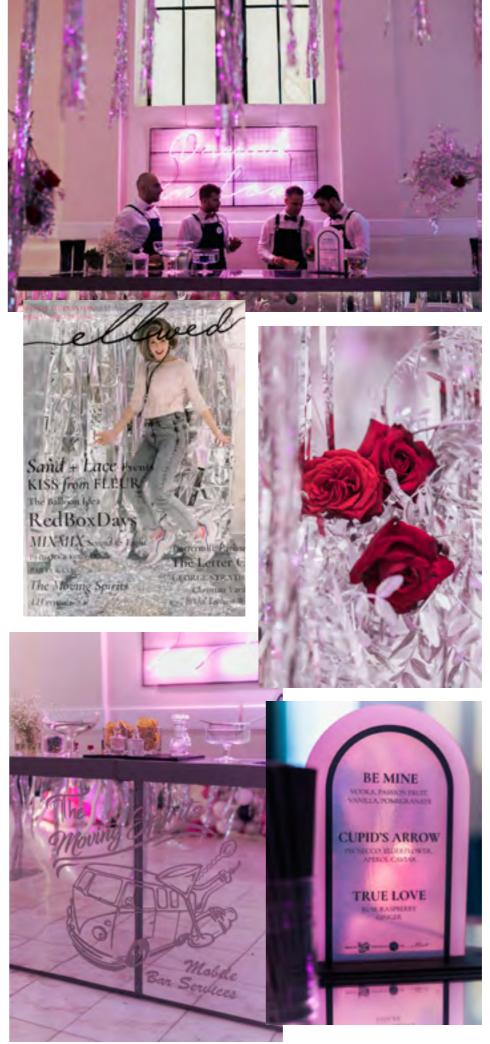
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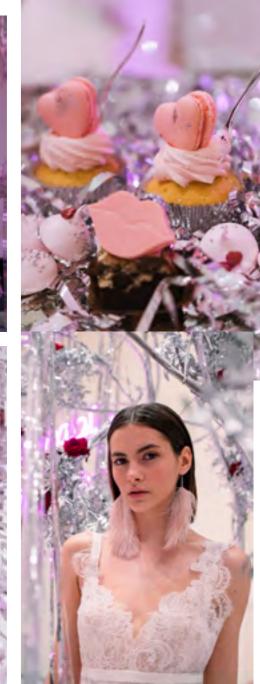
The whole idea came together because of the teamwork of top professionals who worked for months on making the vision come to light! The Letter Co created the doorway heart to our Tunnel of Love and all the signs of the party to keep it litup and shiny. And what an honour was to see our custom made Ellwed sign for the first time in hot pink neon! The Balloon Idea worked hard to do all our balloon constructions. They provided all the fun pink and silver shiny metal balloons that were incorporated with the enchanted silver party forest created by RedBoxDays Florals. Kostas, the head florist, made sure the trees were lush and shiny. Painted in mirror silver colours and lametta hanging decor, they were crucial part of the full image and the look of the party. Inside our tunnel of love, you could find iPhotoBooth, to strike a pose with props and take memorable printouts to cherish the moments. And for comfort, Loizos House Rentals provided us with tables and wedding rentals.

When Bobbie from Sand and Lace Events had the idea of a cover booth press wall, we immediately fell in love with it and just had to make it happen at all cost! We wanted this to be a fun experience for all. Everyone had so much fun posing inside this Cover Star Photo Boot, which made everyone feel like they are on the cover or Ellwed magazine. With Anna's help, of Kiss from Fleur, we managed to make it glamorous with lots of silver shiny foil and all the lametta to have fun!

You should always think of an interactive element when designing your party!













At the End

We cannot forget the amazing team of Christina Vardali Photography who were on every corner to capture all the sides, moments and details of this party! And of course our fashion photographer and videographer George Stratigis with Mariflor, who covered all the catwalks and created this high fashion artistic video of our

party to remember for ever!

Oh wow, what an experience! Where do we even begin? A huge thanks to of course goes to Bridal Expo team and John Papadoliakos. Then to all the amazing vendors who joined us for this 3 day epic event in the heart of Zappion!

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON OUR BLOG!







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Sound of Plant

Sound of Eight

THE

LETTER













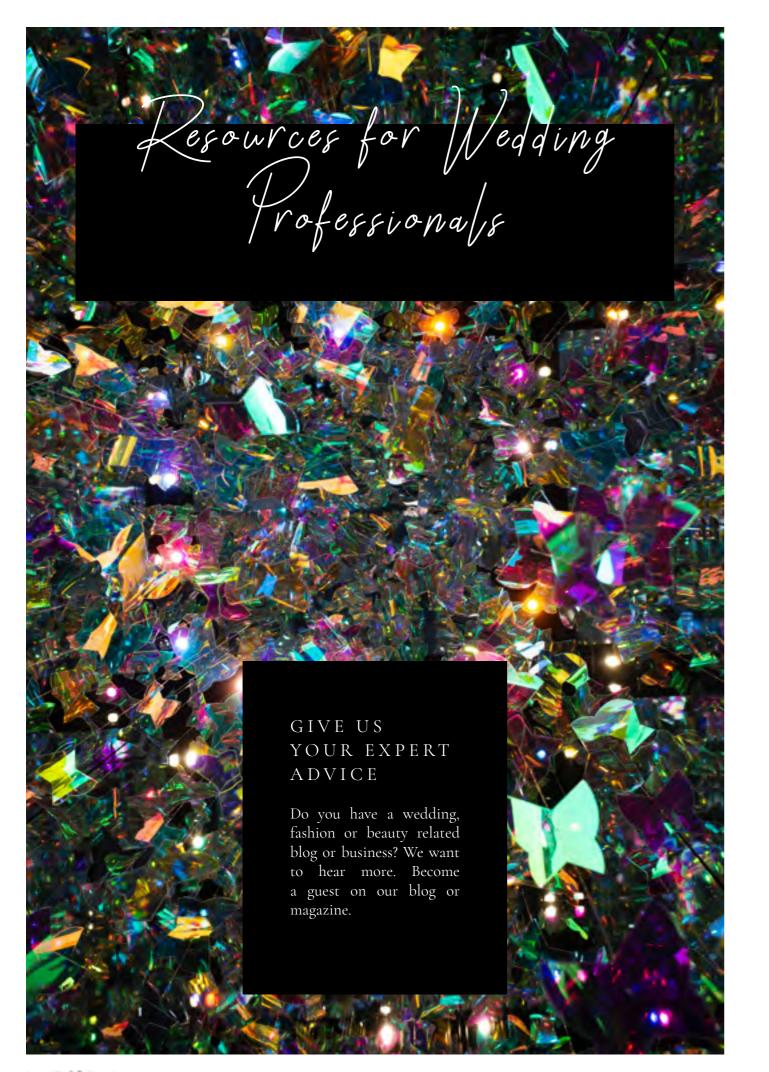






Thank you all who came and made this











ALCHIMEIA - NEW WAY OF EDUCATION THE FIRST CURATED DESTINATION PORTFOLIO BUILDING RETREAT

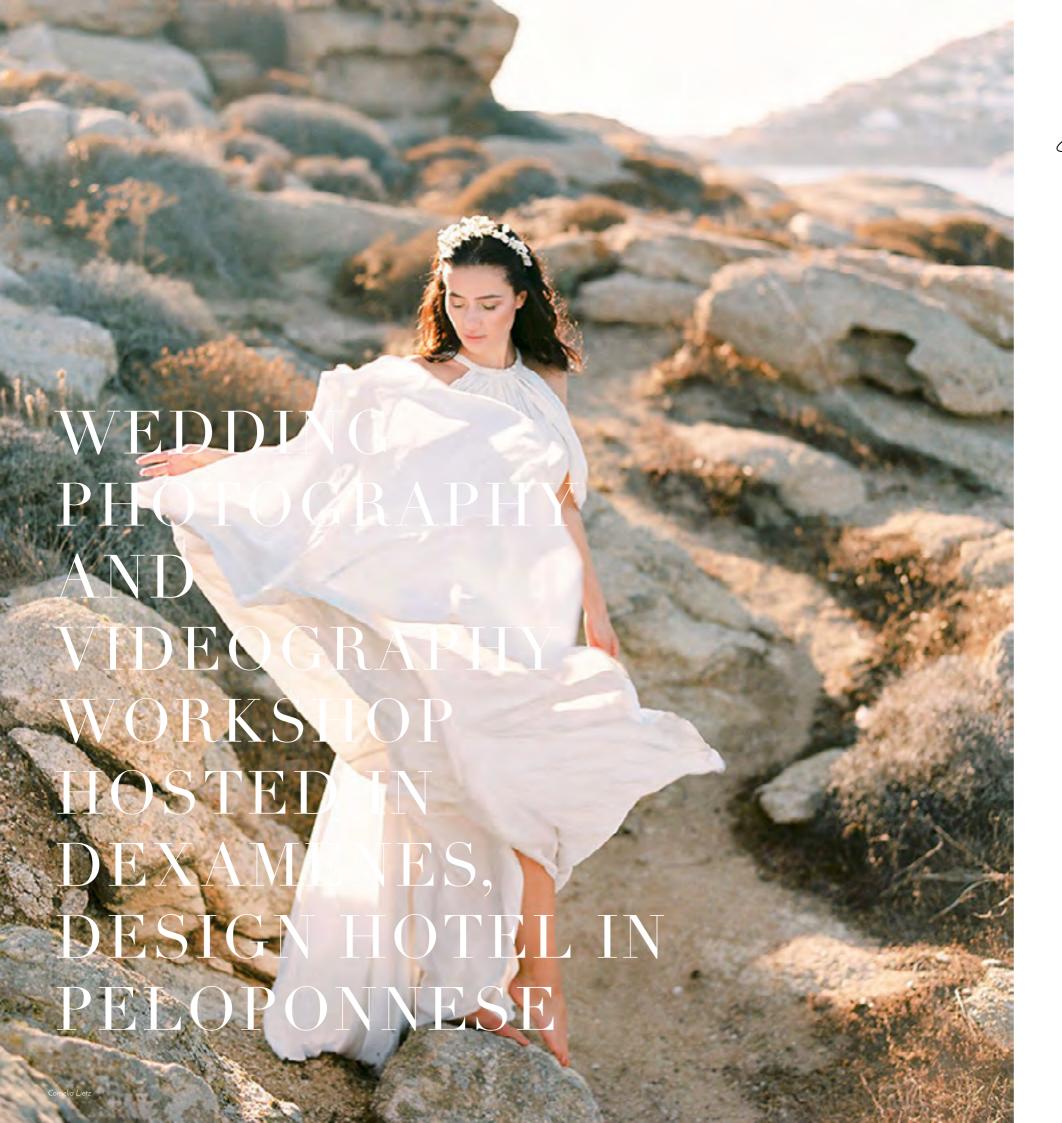
OCTOBER 14 - 16TH 2020 AT DEXAMENES

Ellwed was built upon key values. But our community, growth, education and creative freedom are some of the most important things for us at Ellwed. That is why I am over the moon to partner up with our amazing stylist Anna of Kiss from Fleur to create something truly magical! We really believe that our ALCHIMEIA, the ultimate portfolio building workshop will help you grow and elevate your brand, while you grow and rejuvenate amongst the like-minded creatives.

The new trends are proving to be open space weddings and elopements. And Greece is absolutely perfect to offer this to destination jet setting couples. Effortlessly ethereal elopement love story will be our focus point. Don't miss out and capture this romantic fashion-led love story under the starlight sky of secret Peloponnese with us! Be the first to own this real ethereal romance.

ALCHIMEIA

Selected Vendors of ALCHIMEIA Concept, Styling and Planning, Kiss from Fleur Coordination and Design, Ellwed Location, Dexamenes Photohraphy, Cornelia Lietz and George Stratigis Cinematohraphy, Anthony Venitis Floral Creations, Petrisid LV Burning Letters, The Letter Co Wedding Cake, Marina Machado Cakes Jewellery, Heart of Gold Designs Calligraphy, Nice Plume Table Linen, Silk and Willow Travel Partner, SheFari Bespoke Ceramics, Elvis Robertson Albums QT Albums Video Editing, FilmConvert



wish I could share all the details of our amazing mood board and all we have envisioned to achieve. But take my word for it, this project will be something different. I am mostly looking forward to the last day shoot. Our "Pièce de résistance" shoot, which will be premiered specially designed for this occasion!

With this shoot you will find your own way and style, with new visual stimulations designed to change your mind and open your heart. We want to inspire you with new ideas. Turn your base to gold which is the essence of Alchimeia Portfolio Building Retreat.

We designed Alchimeia for you to revive and enhance your brand as well as inspire your artistic approach. Further to refresh your mindset and get a different perception of wedding events and creative projects you will undertake in the future.

Alchimeia is for photographers and cinematographers who love the world of weddings, romance, highend fashion and bespoke Greece.



Anna Jill of Kiss from
Hewr says:
"Coming a from fashion background

"Coming a from fashion background I developed a keen eye for discovering raw and unique luxuries. Maybe that is why I fell in love with Greece the first time I came here many years ago. Greece has so much potential to offer and I am simply in love with all the beautiful luxurious undiscovered locations like our Dexamenes seaside resort, which will be hosting us for this workshop. But what I love the most is the people who have the good heart and passion for creating something truly amazing. All this and more can be found in Greece and

that is what I based my whole life and work upon. With ALCHIMEIA I want to create something that is truly unique with the best vendors in this industry worldwide. I want to mix the worlds of fashion with bridal, destination with local, luxury with relaxed to create a new start for all of us! So many photographers ask me for a styled shoot and now is the chance to accommodate everyone's wishes. But ALCHIMEIA is not just a styled shoot or just another workshop. I want to offer my knowledge and show everyone how to capture true raw emotions to build a story which they can later use to grow their brands and attract their target clients.







Times are changing and so should we. This crisis has affected us all. But I believe this is the time to reflect upon our own businesses, and think for new beginnings, new steps and new actions to take! We were now cocooning at home and some of you probably took the time to start new projects already. The whole world is renewing and we want you to do the same. Change like a butterfly, grow and build a new portfolio for a new start. We choose the word ALCHIMEIA because it represents exactly this! It is the journey of changing one's mind, heart, self or way of life. As with alchemy, turn your base into gold, find your

own universal elixir to elevate your brand! Press reset, rebrand or elevate your brand. This is the time for a new beginning, the new you which will attract the new bride or your new target client.

From my previous work, you can see the attention to detail and attention to the cohesive, always romantic, story. My heart is in my mind and I choose to work with professionals who pour their heart and soul into their work and this is what I want to share with you at ALCHIMEIA! If you like my style, you should follow me to Dexamens."

Photo Credits:
PLANNING, CONCEPT & STYLING
Kiss from Fleur
PHOTOGRAPHY Cornelia Lietz
HAIR AND MAKE UP Frantzeska
Koukoula
HEADPIECES Naturae Design / Heart of
Gold Designs
BRIDAL DRESS And for love / Odylyne
the ceremony
MUSE Alena

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GIVE OR A STORY TO
TELL?

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All best stories and useful advice will be published in the next Ellwed issue.
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www.facebook.com/groups/ ellwed.pros.community/

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALCHIMEIA - Portfolio Building Retreat 14-16th OCTOBER 2020 at Dexamenes, Greece

Greek Wedding Coffee Club MONTHLY MEETUPS

DWP- Destination Wedding Pplanning Congress 4 - 6th of NOVEMBER 2020



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EVENT PLANNER INTERVIEW WITH DIMITRA GRIGOREA OF THE EVENT OPERATOR EXPERT'S ADVICE

After the Wedding Circle event for wedding pros, we had a chance to get to know the force behind The Event Operator!

In this interview you can meet Dimitra, your potential right hand at planning your event! If you are a wedding planner and need some extra help on a specific event, Dimitra is the person to hire! She can also help you organize your corporate party or celebration if you are not a planner. So let's see how she can help your brand grow!



Find Dimitra: www.theventoperator.com instagram.com/the_event_operator facebook.com/theventoperator linkedin.com/in/dimitra-grigorea-a5428a6

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Can you tell us more about your business and your story?

I'm Dimitra Grigorea a long time event coordinator expert based in Uk and Greece. I work non stop from 2003 as production manager in the arts industry (Opera, Theatre and Live music).

In 2013 I moved to hospitality and tourism industry running luxurious events for various hotels in North Greece. In 2015 I was lucky to meet in my career path Ms. Vanessa Souravlia the creative director of DeplanV (www. deplanv.com), who was my mentor and introduced me in destinations wedding planning. My cooperation with her upgraded my overall style and gave me the chance to prominence my strengths - all related to the event daily logistics and operation management.

The last 2 years I introduced my own label "The Event Operator", which was created aiming to cooperate with private event companies & with digital, advertisement and PR agencies or with individuals, who are searching for one or more specific planning actions rather for a full package.



That means that I create a 100% personalized plan for my clients focusing to their needs and being flexible in terms of costs, team size and ways of cooperation. Additionally there is no limit in the event type that I can handle. You can reach "The Event Operator" for any type of event—there is no specific area of expertise. From social events like weddings, to corporate, or even mega events, art festivals or roadshows all of these are included in my portfolio.

As you said, you also work with private and corporate clines or B2B services. How can you help or what you can do for your B2B clients?

Yes you are correct the idea behind "The Event Operator" is to work in B2B style on behalf of other companies or individuals, who are organizing one or more events covering on their behalf one ore more services based on their needs and budget. The main aspects that others can reach me are:

- Event administration or back office
- Hosting and RSVP management (guest list)
- Greek and International Law consulting related to contracts with vendors and sponsors
- Wedding paperwork preparation for civil, symbolic and religious weddings (Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim, Maronite, Hindi, Jewish, Christian ceremonies etc.)
- Any daily logistics actions like travel consulting, for guests and crew, VIP services, vendor's management. Scheduling, special licenses.
- Wedding planning based in event logistic management services and event design consulting
- Production management for TV and Cinema projects
- Venue hunting and investigation for the appropriate venue for an upcoming event
- Budget management
- Entertainment services including party theme concept and design along with a professional entertaining plan
- General management services like crew management, social media management, on the spot coordination, new business development
- PR services (press releases, invitations, press and general PR management, sponsorship management)
- Coaching, education and training of crew or new employees related to event industry

Everything can be an event. There is no limit on the type of event that I can work for. If I had to choose though it is always very interesting for me to run wedding events -since these type of events give me the chance of having a more personal "communication" with the clients - being part of a very personal moment of happiness that they will remember for all their life. Also I enjoy a lot working for Art related events. It is so so so creative to run a project related to Music or Theatre!



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Oh wow! That is amazing! I know some people in the event industry need a second pair of hands or a bigger team, especially when dealing with larger weddings or events. What services can you provide to some other Event planner or organizer?

To begin with my overall business attitude is based in low profile style. I'm not a competitive person and I enjoy so much working as a part of a team. Having these abilities can make it very easy for me to cooperate with other companies of the same field without anyone feeling that I'm trying to steal their know- how.

I can assist all professionals or individuals in one or more of the above listed services, but I can investigate more custom made ways of cooperation based on their needs. One of the things that seems to be classified first in the list of requests I receive is to design from scratch a business and promo/ social media plan for new companies related in one or other way with events industry (like catering companies, event spaces, hotels, chefs, restaurants, djs etc.).

It is great to hear you care more about the team spirit and successful projects than personal gain! We really appreciate this and also believe in this mentality and that we can be stronger together! In your years of experience, what would you say is the most common problem or issue some event planner has to be aware of and how can you help them?

I would prefer to focus my reply to an issue related mainly to Greek event planners. From what I see, here in Greece we tend to start planning from design and guide the clients how to upgrade their events in terms of design. And with that, ignoring some other important parts like logistics or guests management.

I can understand that the "picture" and the general ambiance is what can make one event to be better than the other. However, I feel that some planners might work more to achieve that Instagram perfect image rather than for their clients' real needs. Having me in their team can help them to create a balance in between all these, giving priorities and giving space in their in house teams to do whatever they know to do better. I will be there to do all the rest on their behalf.

What is the one thing that drives you in your line of work and where do you find inspiration for your business?

One of my abilities is to place the best person to the best position. I can understand the balances of my team and the qualifications of each person guiding him to the correct job. That's why teaching event management

at Metropolitan college Hospitality & Tourism Master degree and having in my class students between 22-30 years old, is one of the things I really really enjoy. There I get the chance to meet with young and very talented people - future event planners - and help them to find their path in the industry.



Things can also go sideways fast! What is your secret to stay calm for when and if something goes wrong?

The fact that I had the chance to work for all kind of events and with all kind of vendors. The fact that I had to face all type of problems during an event preparation, and finally survived! And the fact of the 18 years in the industry help me to place everything in a logic path. I'm calm because I can predict the future. I know inside me that the show will finally go on at the end and that we will find the solution and be ready on time. Nothing is impossible.

Is there one question that almost every client asks you? What is it and what is your answer?

They usually cannot understand how I can work for them successfully, without being a permanent employee of their company and without the 8 hours office schedule. I would like a lot to say to them that if I have internet along with my Mac laptop, my car, my smartphone, with WhatsApp and Viber, I can work from anywhere and run all around the world if they want. Of course I'm a professional and I know how to organize my daily schedule and when to ask for face-to-face meetings with them. Being in a flexible cooperation helps me being more creative and getting focused to the job that their hired me, rather in other non-related to me daily office run requirements.

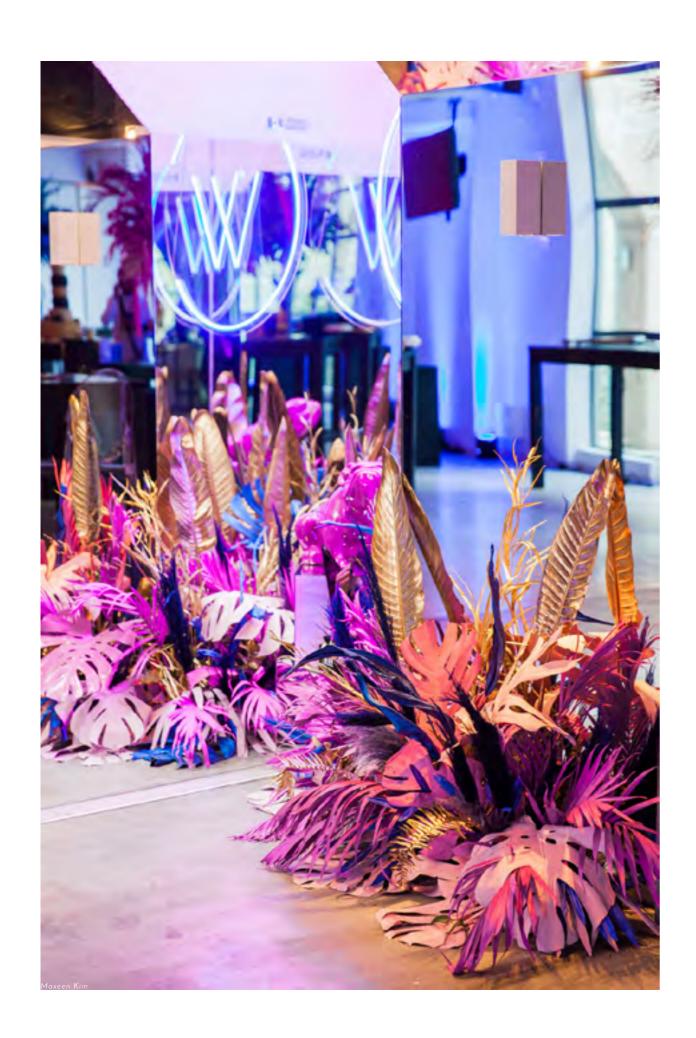
Do you have a favorite place in Greece? Can you tell us which one and why?

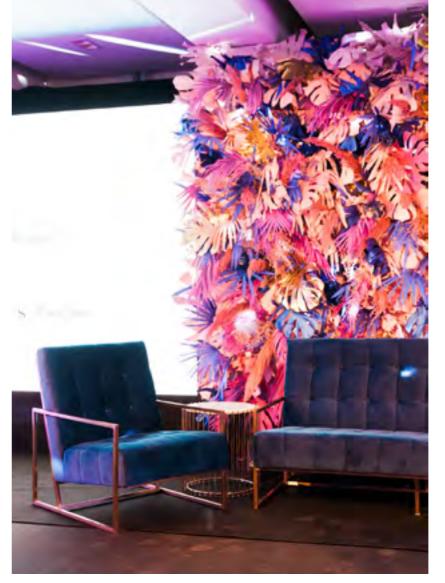
As a professional my best memories are related to Kefallonia Island. In this island I hosted some of the best events -as a part of DeplanV team - for one of the most easy going and good vibe clients that I have ever met. If it was my wedding though, I would love this to take place at Milies village a small and so pretty village at the seaside of Pelion Magnesia. I was born at Volos and all this area is related to some amazing childhood memories.

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us for this exclusive interview for Ellwed Magazine. This was really informational and I hope you can help more professionals to elevate the wedding and event industry together!



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WEDDING CIRCLE NETWORKING EVENT FOR ALL WEDDING PROFESSIONALS

Last year Ellwed was the media sponsor at the Wedding Circle evet, which we also attended!

The event was perfect to meet all the professionals from the Greek and International wedding industry! We met a lot of new people, some of which you can also meet on our new podcast, Ellwed Talks.



From the event: weddingcircle.gr Media sponsor: ellwed.com Photos by Maxeen Kim for Ellwed maxeenkimphotography.com

This was a two day event filled with networking, educational speeches and the MAV awards for the best professionals in Greece! And the 2 day event ended with spectacular event and party till the morning hours.

List of Credits:

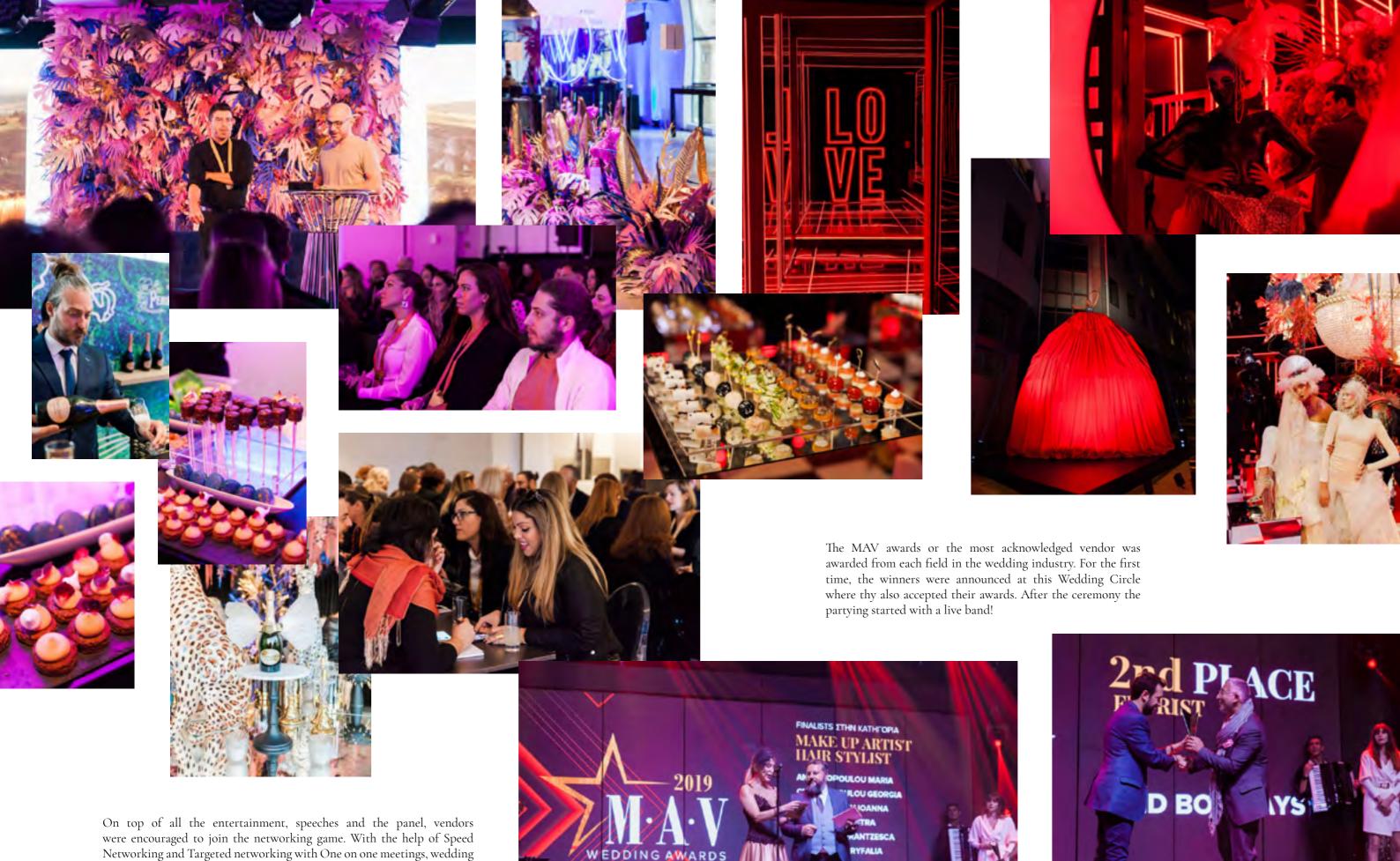
Photography, Maxeen Kim for Ellwed Organised by Wedding Circle Event Designers : DeplanV and The12Events Sound and Light Production by SoundVoice Floral Decoration by Petridis LV Creations Catering by Olon, Golden Food Concept , Pavlov's Lab, Champagne and Spirits by Pernod Ricard Hellas Furniture by Zazoo Event Rentals Art De La Table Rentals by White Lilac Graphic Design by LoveMeDo Live Music by Artistic Productions Neon signs by The Letter Co Bar Catering by Bar Solutions Dancers, Performers and Costumes by Defingou Events Catwalk by Dimitra Antonea Savrani Creations, Christos Michailidis & Inglot Construction Partners : The Letter Co, Plotter line & Giannis Messinis Live Music by Bejeezus, Mottet, Black and White Drums & DJ Dimitris Dalakos

Awards made by Skrimizeas Evangelos SA

Venues : HUB & BOX

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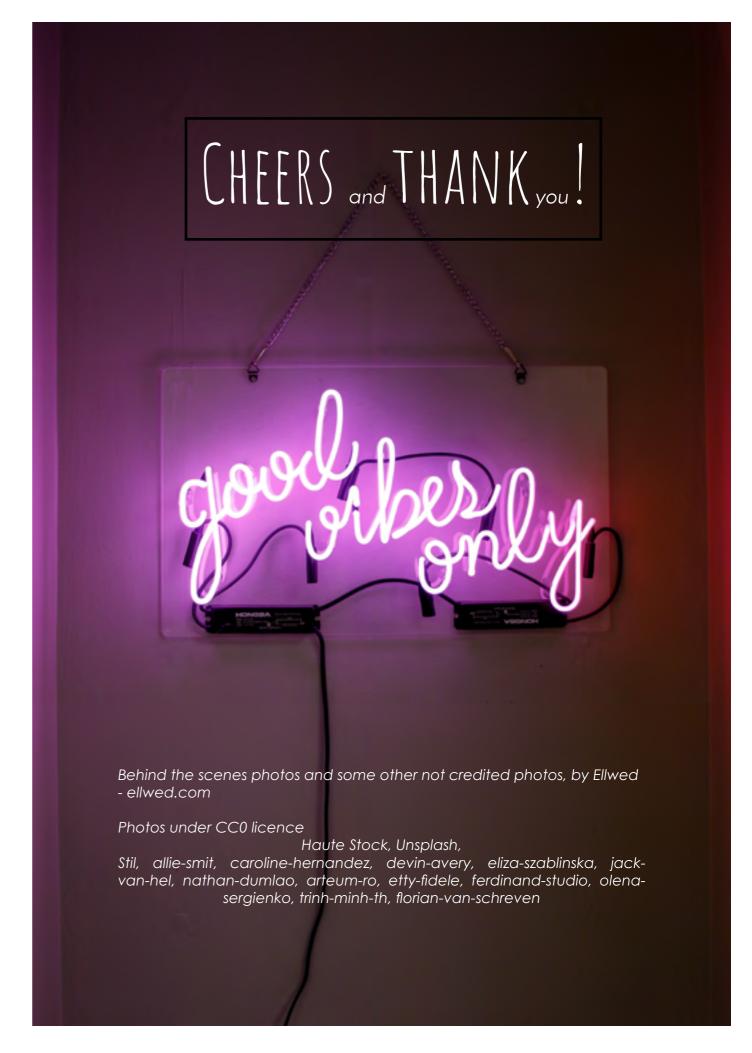
professionals could get to know each other, what they do and form new

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