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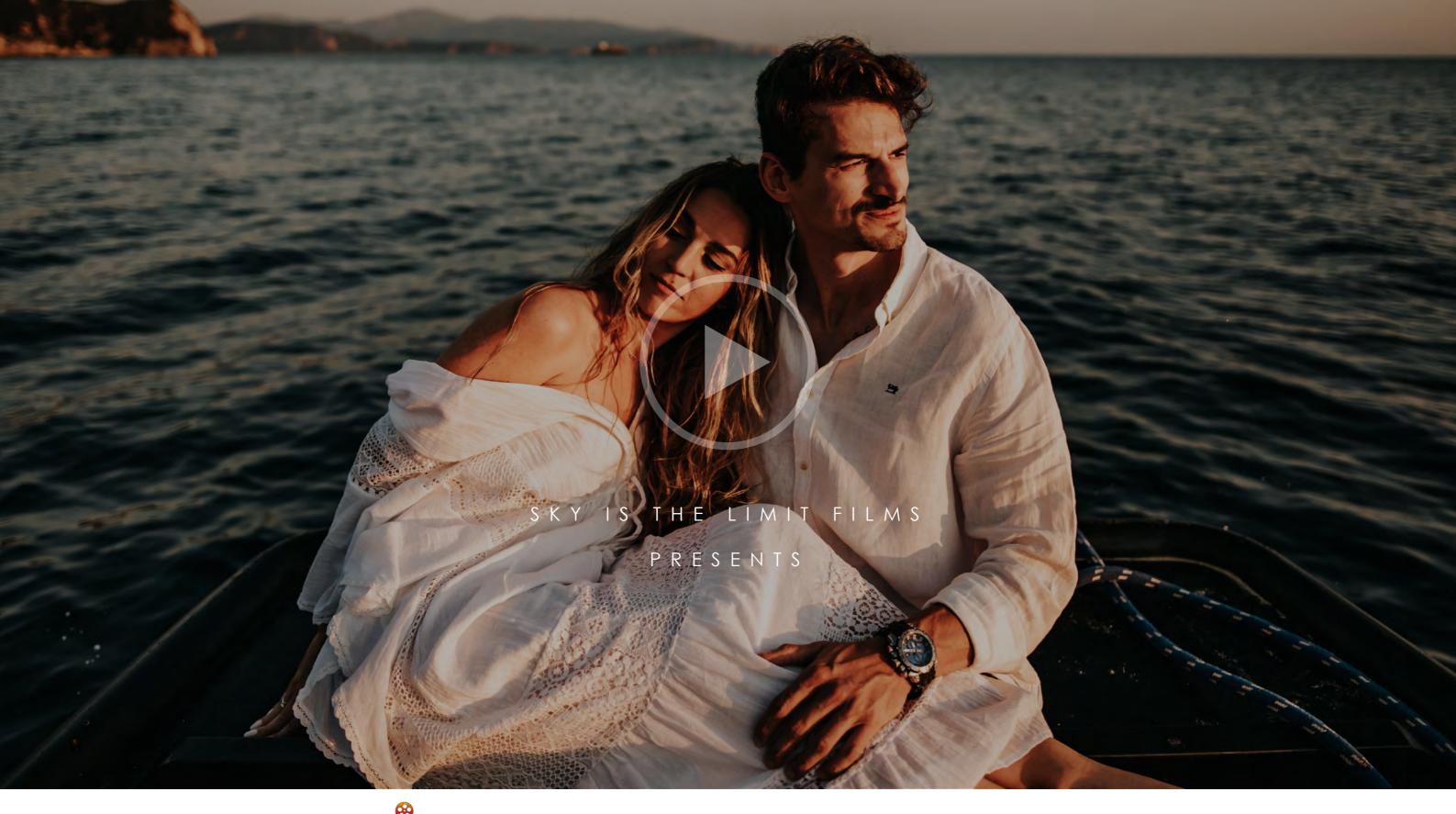




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the alternative location







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As we took the decision to make Ellwed Magazine a bi-yearly issue, I am excited to share with you this first issue of 2021!

Almost half way into the year, so much has happened, yet so much still feels the same.

We are all hopeful for the vaccine in the battle against the Covid-19 pandemic, which hit the event and tourism industries the most! And yes, weddings and especially destination weddings were put to the standstill. It's no secret we were all taken by surprise. But thanks to the vaccine, we can now see the brighter future for travel, weddings and events as well!

Well, the year of 2020 is probably going to be remembered for ever as the worst year for all couples who were planning their wedding then. But it was also the year that is making radical changes to our daily lives and with that how we look at wedding planning in General! Innovation and growth is always exciting and it was especially needed in our world of weddings! We at Ellwed for instance took this opportunity to bridge the gap between destination wedding planning and busy couples from

around the world. Now you can consume all the information with ease through our new podcast series, Ellwed Talks. The first (and only) podcast about destination weddings in Greece, where you can get all the advice, get inspired from real brides and meet your suppliers! So let's rock this year and plan for the next big thing!

The New Year started with hopes and dreams which we quickly realised that not much is going to change in 2021. In fact it feels very much similar to the 2020! Long lockdown periods and now the announcements of the sudden full reopening which in Greece started on May 14th. It all feels a bit surreal. On one hand I can't believe it took so long but on the other, that more than a year at home, passed-by so fast. I can't help but wonder. Can it all be over soon?

So for this new issue we want to give you an idea for alternative choices for your wedding day! In this online and digital world, anything is possible! But what I am excited the most is the ability to join all the virtual summits and fashion shows happening anywhere in the world at any time!





PAGE 127











Like this new bridal collections from the New York Luxury Bridal Fashion Week, which we had the chance to be part of this year!

In this issue you will find all the trends! The latest bridal couture from NYLBFW2021, as well as trends in the world of weddings from pros around the world! Starting on page 25 all the way to 47! Do you already have a favourite bridal gown?

For the first time ever, we are happy to share with you our first ELLWED'S LIST of alternative destination wedding planners & stylists from around the world who can plan your wedding in Greece on page 53!

Continue flipping the pages and read all the articles about cool elopements you can plan. But for sure stop on page 69 and read all about Weddings in 2021! We have pulled together all the resources and websites where you can find the necessary information for traveling to and planning a destination wedding in Greece! You really don't want to miss this one if you want to know what to do!

Since small weddings and elopements are all the rage this year, it's so easy to make it sustainable. And this issue is filled with boho and eco wedding ideas, inspirations and advice for all the free spirited and eco-conscious brides! We just love it! Pages 63, 81 & 112!

top of love,

SANYAPERCIC, editor



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On the other hand, if you are afraid all wedding venues will be fully booked, don't worry! We wanted to inspire you with an alternative location for your wedding in 2021 or even 22! Head over to page 95 where you can get inspired and read all about this Cover Inspiration from our alternative rooftop. With the unforgettable view of the ancient city of Athens and the magnificent acropolis! Now you can dine in the clouds among the Greek gods!

But don't stop there, continue to flip the pages and read the story of many more inspirations and later on real weddings and elopements from Greece! With this issue we wanted to inspire you and offer the variety of styles, designs and locations to choose from.

If you love this issue, let us know! Share it with your friends, tag @ellwedmag and feel free to send us your feedback anytime! We love hearing from our brides and pros!



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

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community on Facebook Groups /ellwed.pros.community /ellwed.bridal.community

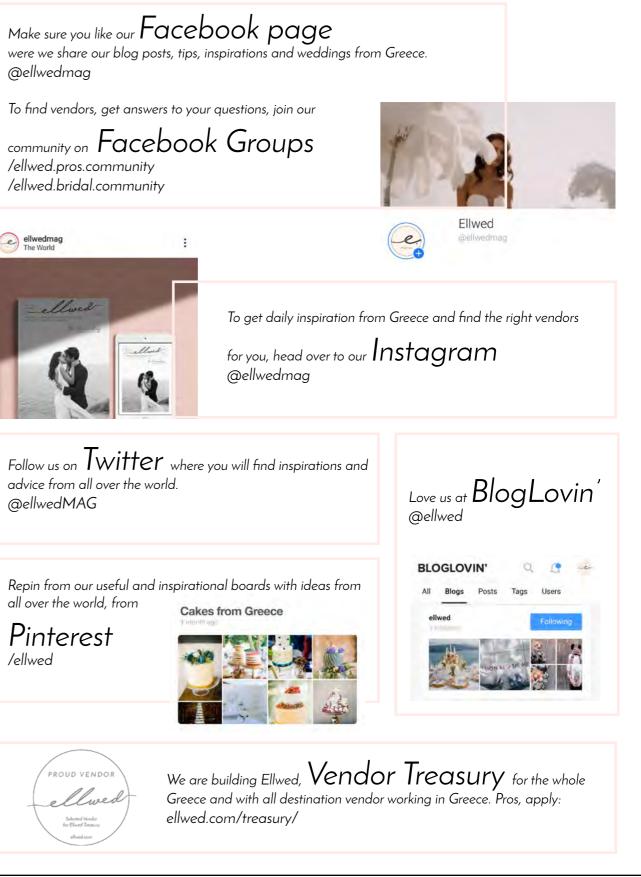




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Coordination: Ellwed Wedding Planning and Styling: Kiss from Fleur Event Rentals: StyleBox Photography: Adrian ' Muse: Rachel Marie Hair and Make up: Giorgia Xristodoulou Bridal Dresses: Rime Arodaky Shoes: Ancient Gr ek Sandals

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Bridal Lookbook

In every bad situation, we can find something good. The Silver Lining collection was created to give hope and support to women whose lives changed in many ways during the global pandemic. Strongly inspired by Madame Vionnet who freed women from the traditional rigid corset, the shapes and materials used in this collection embrace the women's bodies while enhancing their feminine lines and curves.

Our designer, Dana Harel, wanted to create a delicate collection, halfway between traditional elegance and effortless beauty. A versatile

See more on

ellwed

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DANA HAREL

SILVER LINING COLLECTION SS22 BRAND ADVERTORIAL

collection which can be worn whether the bride's wedding is a ball or an intimate event. Every gown is a celebration, but each one has its own personal twist and sophistication that makes it unique.

"I asked myself: what is the perfect wedding dress for a woman? My answer was that it has to be festive while flattering and light on the body. The idea was to go back to the basics by creating a classic and timeless collection made for the bride's eyes: She is at the heart of this collection." - Dana Harel

www.danahareldesign.com

Credits: Silver Lining collection

Photographer: Dudi Hasson Model: Zuf Capelli - Elite model agency Israel Hair stylist: Stav Nataf Make-up artiste: Shaked Manzoor

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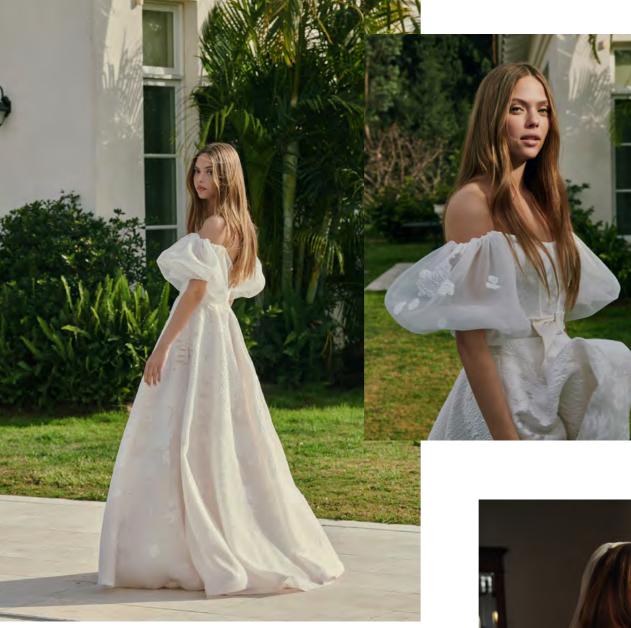




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Bridal Lookbook OUTU

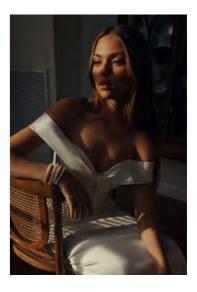
BLISS AND IVORY COLLECTION SS22 NYLBFW21 BRAND ADVERTORIAL

"You've got to learn to appreciate the little things in life; like a good cup of coffee, or a fresh-smelling flower, or the smile of a stranger as you pass on the street."

Designer Lihi Hod's new collection is an invitation to enjoy the small moments in life and the beauty they convey: a celebration of a carefully crafted romantic style, attention to small details and delicate artisanal work. The collection was designed with the female body in mind, combining luxury fabrics and haute couture - designed to celebrate love, a contemporary fresh interpretation of timeless wedding dresses with elegant French elegance.

This season, more than ever, Hod seeks to return to the small and joyful moments at the wedding day: dresses are born to serve the bride, her comfort and freedom, the movement and chic around her. The collection includes a selection of soft and floating dresses





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made of silk, crepe and satin fabrics, combined with tulle, transparent fabrics, delicate floral prints or threedimensional floral inlays, handembroidered floral and crocheted flowers, a combination of details such as bows, buckle belts, pleats and beads. Special attention is invested to the back of the dress, along with bold sleeves and soft falling straps.

Lihi Hod's bride is the woman who rediscovers the happiness behind those little moments: the richness of craftsmanship, the coziness of the fabrics, the freedom of movement and the love of beauty that bursts from the inside out. The dresses in the collection are the rare gift you can give yourself, for the big day that awaits you and for the beautiful moments it holds for you. This is the beauty that has no season, this is the love that will always be yours.

Photo Credits:

Photographer: Shai Franco

Videographer: Maor Cohen

Model: Noam Bohadana

Make- up: Naor Appel, Danielle Aharoni- Kiperman

Hair Stylist: Ziv Amsalem

Stylist: Haya Vider

ATELIER Creative Services













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Bridal Lookbook INES DI SANTO

THE GODDESS COLLECTION SS22 NYLBFW21 BRAND ADVERTORIAL

This season Ines had to look no further than her own brides to find inspiration. Intuitively aware of their unique qualities, Ines views the women she dresses as modern day goddesses in their own right. In tribute to their limitless feminine energy, she has boldly created The Goddess Collection. Comprising five distinctly imagined Goddesses, this collection embodies the traits Ines values most in her own life and observes in the women she encounters every day.

About the Goddesses:

Grace & Femininity - The Goddess of Grace and Femininity possesses a delightful charm and goodwill that shines on all those in her presence. Her classic beauty, inside and out, imparts a soft and unsuspecting manner with a strong and enduring spirit. Confident in her evolution, she is aptly represented by the butterfly freed from its chrysalis, floating through the air without a care in the world.

Nature & Abundance - The Goddess of Nature and Abundance is an innate nurturer who, possessing all of the earthly magics. Her gratitude for the abundance of her blessings inspires her

to share the beauty of the world with all those around her. She believes in the potential of the smallest seedling and knows the coyest smile has the ability to spark a steadfast love.

Knowledge & Wisdom - The Goddess of Knowledge and Wisdom is well studied and compassionate. She possesses the knowledge of a true leader as she looks to history to navigate the future. She may be more conservative than the other goddesses but she is strong, confident, never one to shy away.

Strength & Courage - The Goddess of Strength and Courage is a sly yet earnest huntress, fiercely confident in the pursuit of love and all matters of the heart. She is corseted in an intricate armor of her own creation with shimmering threads weaving together the vast experience of her life's adventures.

Love & Passion - The Goddess of Love and Passion is wild hearted, raw, and without abandon. While she's a playful free spirit, her values are deeply rooted in loyalty for those she loves. You'll find vulnerability and openness are her most revered qualities.

Images of Ines Di Santo courtesy of Pullquest via Atelier Creative







Our Favorite BRIDAL TRENDS

FROM NYLBFW 2021 THE BRIDAL COUNCIL X PULLQUEST

Bridal Trends are certainly changing fast! But are you a bride what is following tends or do you want to find a dress that is timeless? Well, either way the new designs from the New York Luxury Bridal Fashion Week absolutely blew us away. Scroll to see some of our favourite trends from this season's shows.

Images courtesy of Pullquest via Atelier Creative

BACKLESS DRESSES

Otherwise classic silhouettes get an unexpected twist with an open back. Open backs have been on the rise for a few seasons now, but shows these past few days cemented backless dresses as a trend to watch.

What about you? Do you love an open back dress and are you daring enough to wear it on your wedding day? Well one thing is for sure, these beautiful designs would be perfect for your destination wedding in Greece! Make sure you don't have any tan lines if you're getting married in Greece for instance.



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DRAMATIC RUFFLES

Ok ruffles might not be your thing, but these beautiful and fashionable designs might change your mind!

While some trends are rooted in practicality and adapting to circumstances, these bold ruffles come purely from grand romantic dreams. Dramatic ruffles ruled the runway and captured our hearts. Adding dimension and interest to any silhouette, bold ruffles are sure to turn heads.

These designs are perfect for your gala or city wedding!

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NEW TAKES ON LACE

Lace is certainly associated with bridal fashion and for the last few years probably most desirable choice among the brides. Therefore, to see this new take on lace is well anticipated!

This isn't your grandma's lace doily pattern. Designers at NYLBFW this year showed us new ways to use lace in ways both bold and minimal. From reimagined patterns to intricate appliques, these pieces offer fresh ways to wear lace on your wedding day. Check out these new designs! They are perfect for your beach wedding in Greece!



OFF-THE-SHOULDER SLEEVES

Off-the-shoulder sleeves have been a staple in wedding dresses for a few years now. In 2021, expect to see them get even bolder. Balloon shapes and lace detailing make off-the-shoulder sleeves an attention-grabbing feature on wedding dresses this year.

The perfect choice for your chic boho wedding in Greece if you want to look sophisticated and sensual!





Our favourite choice for a bold boss lady bride who isn't afraid to go for the things she wants! The perfect choice for an urban city summer wedding in Athens.

These dress alternatives are flattering, comfortable, and perfectly of the moment. From jumpsuits to separates, lace to crepe, designers are offering more options to those who have a different vision of bridal style.

SHORT HEMLINES

Expect to see more brides showing a little leg this year. Perhaps drawing from the increase in courthouse mini-weddings during the pandemic, designers are offering more cropped styles for the ceremony, reception, or both.

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Fun and classic! These designs are certainly for all young and young at heart brides who are planning a city or beach wedding!

VERSATILITY

How exciting are these new trends? Pieces designed to be reimagined and worn again and again. Wedding dresses are no longer to be worn once and hidden away in the back of a closet. Designers are reimagining what we wear on our wedding day, and how we can wear it again.

It is always exciting when creatives push boundaries and bring new designs to life! And these designs are certainly for a modern queen bride who is looking to make a fashionable statement! And as they say, fashion never goes out of style! Definitely a perfect choice for any location!





Exclusive Interview VASSILIS STRATIGOS

FASHION HAIRSTYLIST

Born in Athens with applied arts and industrial design background, Vassilis studied professional hairstyling in Italy and Greece. As a fashion hairstylist, Vassilis was the Official Hairstylist of L'Oreal Paris in Greece for 3 years and is now also the hairstylist of a local TV presenter. He has worked on multiple cover shoots for magazines such as Vogue, Grazia, Madame Figaro, and many others.

Vassilis will also be the main hairstylist at our retreat for photographers and cinematographers ALCHIMEIA!

But now, he will give us some tips, on how to keep your hair looking like from a magazine in this exclusive interview for Ellwed! So let's get to know him and dive right into it!

Instagram: stratigos_vassilis Facebook: vassilis stratigos hairstylist

Images by by George Stratigis For Konstantinos Melis by Laskos

What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is certainly creativity. I believe that creativity is the best boost at any job. It never makes you bored, instead it always makes you passionate about what you are doing.

You are also working with many celebrities but mainly as a fashion hairstylist. However, if someone wants to hire you for their wedding can you serve them as well?

My main field was, is and always will be fashion. In a small market like the Greek market it is unavoidable to become a hairstylist for celebrities as well when working in fashion hairstyling. Which is fine because it gives you publicity and a chance to grow your business.

All that leads to be requested from brides as well. I'm very, very happy to serve them! It's always a pleasure, fun and an honour to style bride's hair.

What hairstyles do you suggest for summer destination brides? Should they be considering having their hair up or more relaxed and flowy?

Summer is the season of freedom. Bridal hair should reflect that feeling as well. I love a relaxed and flowy hair for summer destination brides. The only factor that could make me go for an updo is the wind!

What trends do you see picking up in the world of hairstyling in Greece?

Greece has the same trends in every season as all modern countries. Only colors of hair should be adapted to person's natural or tanned skin tones. They should prefer more warm tones for their hair either they are brunettes or blonds.

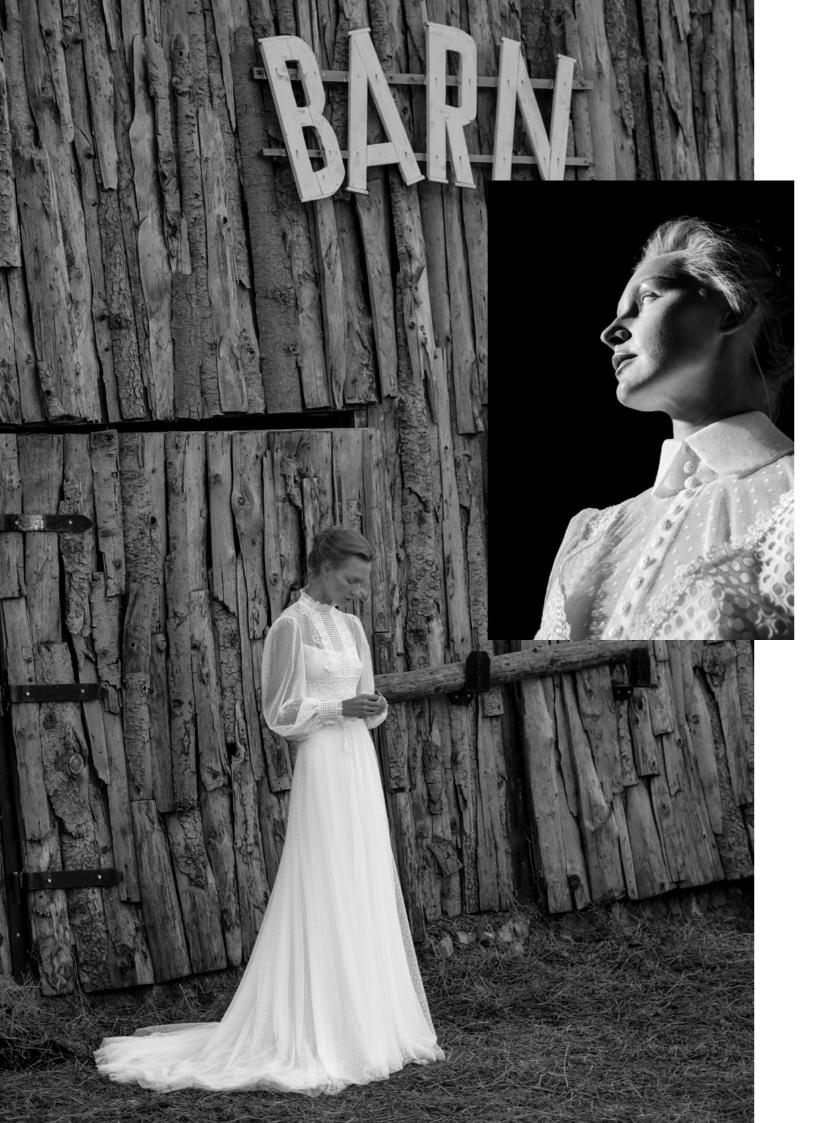
Long or short bobs are in the front line and loose waves are the "it" hairstyle along with "do-it-yourself" updos and ponytails.





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How is this pandemic affecting you and how are you currently dealing with this process?

The pandemic was a strange situation for all of us and has affected every working person.

Personally I'm always optimistic and I tried to stay calm during this period. Fortunately hairstyling is always in demand. In that case there is still plenty of work for me. I'm doing my best to protect myself, my clients and my colleagues of course. The use of a mask and visor as well as sterilization of my tools and personal hygiene are a must!!!

Is there something all women who are visiting hairdressers should pay attention to in these days of Covid-19? What preventative measures do you suggest?

Of course! They should always check if their hairdressers wear their masks, visors, gloves etc. They also shouldn't stay in a salon with more than the defined persons. Clients should also wear their masks when necessary.

The most important preventative measure for me, is to be responsible for ourselves. That way we can be responsible for other people as well.

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

Every day I try to spend at least half an hour watching new things about my profession to learn and grow. Being updated is very important. My inspiration can be anything. A painting, a song, a movie, a person or a vintage campaign.

And for the last question, what advice would you give to someone who wants to get married in Greece and will hire a hairstylist?

Greece has a lot of talented people working in weddings and events. Including hairstylists as well.

One who is interested in booking a Greek hairstylist should check their social media first and their resume. Availability should be checked right away, not at the last minute.

For me, personal contact is really important. It would be great if you can meet your hairstylist before the trial or the wedding. If not, one should provide them with all the details, wishes and requirements possible.



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Wedding Experts Share TOP TRENDS

THAT ARE IN (AND OUT) FOR 2021 BY KYLIE CARLSON OF THE WEDDING ACADEMY

Although we've bid adieu to 2020, many of this year's wedding trends are a nod to the impact the pandemic has had on couples and the industry atlarge. For those planning a wedding this year, you've surely had your fair share of challenges along the way. In fact, you may have even had to postpone your 2020 wedding and are now eager to finally tie the knot and embrace newlywed life.

No matter where you stand, 2021 weddings will certainly look different — but, in that, there is plenty of room for creative details that make for a beautiful celebration for friends and family.

Here are the top wedding trends to keep in mind as you plan your big day.



All images provided by The Wedding Academy

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Double Down on Guest Experience We all miss socializing with our loved ones and, once we can, there's no doubt that couples will lean fully into the chance to celebrate their love with their nearest and dearest. Clémentine Ward, wedding planner and founder of Awardweddings, confirms: "Couples want to offer a full immersive and interactive experience to their guests. The wedding is an amazing time on all fronts: food, music and styling, and not just on the day, but the full weekend."

Ward continues: "When weddings are back, whether they are small or big, couples want to blow off the lockdown lows with an unforgettable weekend away. We are all so looking forward to being able to party with no constraints, the atmosphere will just be so wonderful. 2021 might still be tricky but 2022 should be an epic year for weddings!"

Goodbye Tents, Hello Cabanas

Many weddings in 2020 were held outdoors to adhere with pandemic guidelines, and this trend will continue on in 2021 with an updated, on-trend feel. In particular, cabanas are becoming a popular way to jazz up an outdoor space and create a fun and festive vibe.

"Beautiful draped cabanas offer guests the intimacy and seclusion of a secret garden," says Julie Roth Novack, CEO and co-founder of PartySlate. "There's something oh-so-glamorous about a beautiful lawn with stunning tablescapes or lounges under a cabana. From modern to romantic, preppy to chic, we predict cabanas will be popular in 2021 as events continue to be hosted outside."







Why Not Weekdays?

With countless postponed weddings shifting into 2021, wedding professionals will likely find themselves at capacity for weekend weddings. As a result, expect to see more weekday weddings that are done up in style. Couples are using the cost savings that come with weekday celebrations to take their wedding elements up a notch, from design and catering to music and photography.

"Whether it's due to budgets, sheer lack of availability or an absolute venue must have, more and more couples are straying away from convention and opting for a weekday celebration completed with a three course sharing extravaganza," shares Natalie Wing, founder and director of Goose & Berry. "Think succulent local lamb chops with fresh summer herb pesto served alongside sumptuous ottelenghi style salads, plenty of warm sourdough and homemade whipped butter, finished off with helpings of foraged strawberries and clotted cream... The menus are so mouth-watering you'll forget it's even a Tuesday."

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Shades of Blue

Don't say goodbye to blue just yet! Although we left Classic Blue behind in 2020, we expect to see blue in bright, vibrant hues paired with soft neutrals for a lovely balanced color palette.

"With WGSN's predicted color for 2021 being "A.I. Aqua," we anticipate an emphasis being placed on creating an environment that provokes a light and airy - super fresh feeling in 2021," predicts Eddie Zaratsian, owner of Eddie Zaratsian Lifestyle & Design. "Think of a soft refreshing breeze or a deep breath of fresh air. Aqua blues paired perfectly with colors like oatmeal, beige, sand and various flesh tones is something we expect to see in the upcoming year. We will also see the use of the chosen color being paired with peachy-hued accents."



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A Fresh Take on Seating

Gone are the days of endless rows of Chiavari chairs — seating arrangements will look different in 2021 as floorplans are designed to be sensitive to social distancing parameters. Fortunately, this shift will make for creative, oneof-a-kind designs that ensure everyone is seated safely and in style.

Gina Esposito + Sheena Meekins, owners of Anée Atelier, share: "Due to social distancing guidelines, we've seen more creative floor plans and greater use of unique rentals and lounge furniture to create intimate seating arrangements that facilitate engagement within designated design pods. Having two-to-four guests

Keep these trends from the Wedding Trend Report in your back pocket as you plan your wedding in 2021 (or beyond), as they will surely make for a wedding celebration that is safe, stunning, and memorable for all in attendance.





seated thoughtfully around tables and lounge areas can give sensitive guests a greater sense of security, allowing them to enter into the moment or engage in more intimate conversation. It's a beautiful byproduct of an unforeseen pandemic."



The guide to ELLWED'S LIST

OF ALTERNATIVE DESTINATION WEDDING PLANNERS & STYLISTS FROM AROUND THE WORD WHO CAN PLAN YOUR WEDDING IN GREECE

Are you ready to plan a different kind of wedding? Well, we put together a list of Alternative Destination Weddings Planners from around the world, who can help you plan, style and design your wedding in Greece! For fashionistas and couples who want to break the rules and are not afraid to go for what they want!

Check out our Ellwed's Guide of Alternative Destination Wedding Planners & Stylists to choose the one that is perfect for you.

In no particular order:

Photo Credits: For Ellwed Magazine Cover Shoot Design, styling, and planning: Sand+Lace Photography: Karina Papadopoulos Hair and Makeup: Georgia Xristodoulou Dresss: Epifanios Atelier Model: Anna Papathonosiou Flowers: Studio7

Mae and Co Creative USA | WORLDWIDE

Destination Wedding Planners Unique and purposeful, destinationbased styling and planning company named a top planner in America by Brides one of a kind & luxury weddings across the globe www.maeandcocreative.com

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Local Event Planner Fondo Special Occasions is an event planning studio specializing in 3 distinct type of services; Full Planning, Day-Of Coordination and Styling for your wedding, christening, party or special event. Planning | coordination | styling -Conceptualizing + Bespoke services www.fondoevents.gr

Kiss from Fleur

GERMANY | GREECE Wedding Planning & Design Boutique wedding and event stylist, with a background in fashion design and the sense of timeless aesthetics. "A luxury event planning for destination weddings. With creative flair Anna puts her heart into designing weddings that capture our hearts."- Vogue UK www.kissfromfleur.de

Seat Next 2 You

UK | GREECE Destination Wedding and Event Planner A bespoke planning + design agency dedicated to creating atmospheric and expressive destination weddings and events in Greece and the UK. Finding wanderlust in all things beautiful destinations + intentional event design + storytelling experiences *seatnexttoyou.com*

Open the Door Events SPAIN | WORLDWIDE

Eco Wedding & Event Planner Creative wedding design company that brings the dreamiest eco conscious weddings to life. Thoughtfully designed intimate eco conscious weddings. Earthy, eclectic, effortless. www.openthedoorevents.net

Nissos Events

Local Event Planner NAXOS, CYCLADES GREECE Event planning service specialised in organising luxury wedding and christening events. Located on Naxos Island, Nissos Events organises bespoke wedding/ christening events in Naxos, Paros, Koufonissia or in any other island of Cyclades. www.nissosevents.com

The Isle

AUSTRALIA | GREECE Wedding Planning Service Bespoke planning, styling and design studio, based in Ios, Greece and Perth, Australia, specialising in curating timeless destination weddings and elopements to create unforgettable experiences for couples and guest alike. Intimate Weddings and Elopements. Planning, Styling & Event Floristry *theisle.co*

All Things Beautiful Weddings

EUROPE | MEDITERRANEAN Destination Wedding Planner & Stylist Boutique, destination wedding planning studio working internationally for the effortlessly sophisticated, architecture & design-loving, cosmopolitan couples looking to venture outside of the conventional wedding aesthetic in favour of modern, editorial-style celebrations. www.atbweddings.com

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Sand + Lace Events HOLLAND | GREECE Creative Event Planner Weddings and events in Greece for the wild at heart, creative gals. For the ones that dare to dream big. Known for epic parties and unconventional approach to weddings, match to couples style so well that when their guests walk in they say, "Oh my god, this is SO you!" www.sandnlace.com

Mrs Smith Weddings AUSTRALIA | GREECE |

WORLDWIDE International Wedding Planner Destination wedding specialist for the modern couple. Inspired by the thought that weddings should be timeless, Mrs Smith Weddings' aesthetic surrounds a dreamy and romantic feel in which the moments and memories last a lifetime. www.mrssmithweddings.com

Sixfour Events

UK | EUROPE Creative Event Design & Planning Studio For revellers, creatives & those returning to their roots, longing for a breathtaking celebration unlike any other. An event design & planning studio based in the UK & Europe, who recognise that important life events ought to be extraordinary - relaxed luxury weddings. sixfour.co

Design Anarchy Studio

LONDON | GLOBAL Creative Weddings & Parties 15 years of Maximalist experience in producing and styling events. For Uncommon glam brides, looking for design anarchy. www.designanarchystudio.com

Julia & Evita Santorini, greece | Worldwide

Boutique Wedding Planning & Styling Boutique planning and design studio, crafting beautifully designed and impeccably executed weddings and events since 2006 in Greece. Mother and daughter duo inspired by the love stories that surround them every day. www.juliaandevita.com

The Stars Inside

UK | GREECE | DESTINATION International Elopement Planner International wedding and elopement planning, styling, and design studio curating meaningful experiences in the world's most beautiful places. For experiences that are beautiful inside and out. For soulful elopements, and mindfully designed celebrations. *thestarsinside.com*

Cara Creative Co SLOVENIA | EUROPE | WORLDWIDE Conscious Destination Wedding Planners Young and creative full service event design & styling company for nontraditional, madly in love couples and clients that appreciate little things, details, uniqueness of events and creativity of purposeful branding. Conscious weddings, elopements, gatherings www.caracreativeco.com

Event Lab Gr

ALEXANDROUPOLI, GREECE Local Event Planner Event Planner. Passionate about organizing and decorating unique weddings, baptisms and parties! @eventlabgr



Tie The Knot Santorini SANTORINI, GREECE | WORLDWIDE

Europe Wedding Planner & Designer Boutique event planning and design company based in Greece. Creation of a girl with big dreams of making the world a more beautiful place, one celebration at a time. Dreams of a world where celebrations, weddings, tiny details and design all collide in a perfect universe. *tietheknotsantorini.com*

Eventions

GREECE | GREEK ISLANDS Wedding Planners In Greece Creative event planning agency, where your Mediterranean wedding dreams come true. For unique and inspired celebrations in Greece with zest and freshness! *eventions.gr*

Rakor Ceremonies MYKONOS, GREECE Boutique Wedding Planning & Event Rentals The only company in Mykonos that can provide you with everything you need

for your special day. Specializing in event equipment rentals, design & production and offer full planning services. www.rakorceremonies.com

> Did we miss someone? Do you know a planner with alternative and fashion forward style who can plan a wedding in Greece? Let us know and we will add them to our list next time!

Smith + James LOS ANGELES | WORLDWIDE Wedding Planning Service A high-end destination event planning + design boutique available for celebrations worldwide. For really good parties. Named one of the best wedding planners in America by BRIDES Magazine. smithjamesevents.com

Gatherist

US | WORLDWIDE Design and Planning A traveling design & planning company focusing on a natural and clean aesthetic, thoughtful designs and intimate atmospheres. Events, weddings, experiential. gatheristco.com

Blonde Army UK | INTERNATIONALLY Stylish Weddings & Events Creative design & hire house for stylishly minded couples & brands. Creative event studio for modern clients working across weddings, celebrations, lifestyle and brand events. Effortless Elegance with Edge.

blondearmy.co.uk





How to ELOPE TO Greek Islands

HOW TO ELOPE TO A GREEK ISLAND LIKE SANTORINI BY KIMON KAKETSIS

Eirini & Dimitris were the initial stages of wedding planning but as the year progressed, everything came to a halt. After the summer of 2020, everything looked hopeful but Greece entered a second lockdown with no end in sight. If they were to be confined again, they were going to do it as newlyweds.

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They knew eloping was a beautiful and intimate experience to share and they considered the many benefits to tying the knot with a small ceremony in a unique and special place.

Photo credits: Photography: Kimon Kaketsis Hair & Makeup: Morgan Belleville Styling: Laura Chesley Dessert: Brusco

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THE BENEFIT OF ELOPING

The benefit of eloping in Santorini is being able to focus on all the amazing experiences like travel, good food & amazing company. Eloping in Santorini is an idyllic, cost effective miniature of a proper wedding ceremony, in an exotic destination. Santorini offers so much, from natural beauty, to gastronomy and a wild volcanic landscape. There are activities for every taste and locations for every occasion.

Eloping also is kind to the environment! Having a minimal wedding not only is more cost effective than a huge wedding but it also means keeping unnecessary waste to a minimum. It enables you to invest in only what makes you happy. The intimate wedding allows you to hone in only on the important additions to your day. When planning, it's easy to consider doing things that truly make you happy, like feasting on a beautiful picnic dinner with an amazing view, splurging on a plane ticket to the islands or opting for a few nights stay in a luxury accommodation rather than a longer stay in a less special location. It's all about joyful spending!

Eloping can be as simple as a celebrant or even a symbolic ceremony, a picnic and a bottle of local wine in an off the beaten path location, high above the island. Eirini & Dimitris decided to elope on a whim and have a symbolic ceremony on Santorini, wanting more of a Greek traditional and off the beaten path setting. The couple dressed in complimentary linen and with help from a local stylist, their elopement on a whim was realized! They chose to elope close to home and exchanged vows outside a tiny chapel in the village of Exo Gonia. We explored the village as they showed me traditional areas and old churches and we made sure to capture images in the village they live in. Being close to home allowed for an intimate experience that contains childhood memories and will always remind them of family ties.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE PERFECT ELOPEMENT LOCATION IN SANTORINI?

You could literally exchange vows anywhere. You will definitely want to choose a place with romantic views that result in stunning images - I suggest choosing somewhere that is close to the Caldera. If you want something that has all the amenities for your elopement, including the views then look no further than the amazing villas in Imerovigli. Any one of these villas specialize intimate couple retreats. This village itself is beautiful, easily accessible and with few restrictions. With Imerovigli having the most spectacular sunset, think about light and timing and cater your elopement around sunset.



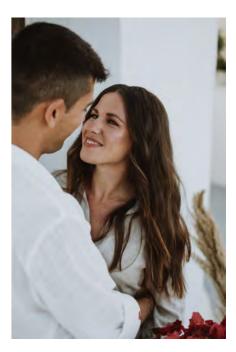






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The locations in Santorini are endless, from the iconic cliffs of the caldera, to the small churches lost inside the labyrinth of traditional villages, to remote romantic locations on the island. The point is, if it is only you two and your photographer, imagine all the places you can go that would be impossible to take a huge wedding party! Alternatively, eloping doesn't always have to be just you two, you can still invite people. Just a small guest list full of your favourite people. As photographer, my favourite thing about eloping is that you can let yourself be wild and free. The options are limitless and you have the chance to get married in a hard to reach place while not worrying about guests navigating the terrain.

FORGET THE USUAL PRESSURES

Forget the usual pressures that come with big weddings, eloping focuses on authenticity. You will have lots of time to focus on all the special moments. You can spend the whole day soaking in each other and the island hand in hand. Exchanging your vows during an intimate and meaningful ceremony setting and will be able to focus on each other. How the day unfolds is completely up to you! Without an officiant, Eirini & Dimitris had a symbolic private exchange of vows, in lieu of traditional cake they had a slice of baklava from a local bakery and instead of an intimate dinner on the caldera, they had a candle lit picnic on the hill top overlooking all the villages.







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MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ADVICE

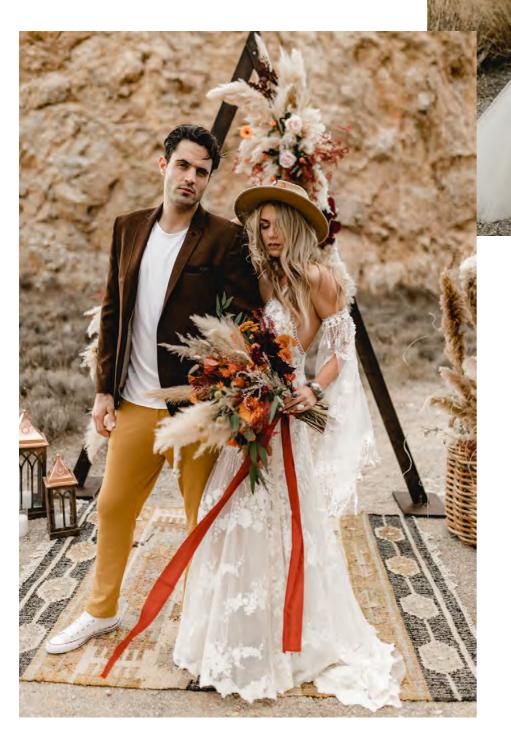
As your photographer, I love your quirks that make you, you on your day. Tip one, become friends with your photographer! How do you want them to photograph the best day of your life and not know you? As a photographer, it is important that I get to know the couple before the big day. My favourite piece of advice to give is to time your portraits with the sunset. You only need a short amount of time so planning a 20 to 25 min time bracket counting backwards from the time of sunset. This time is enough to capture the magical light. If you're having a symbolic ceremony for your elopement - write one another a letter or vows & read it during this sunset time.

IN THE NUTSHELL

Eloping is a beautiful thing to experience together. Make it fun and make it about you two! The experience is meant to be fun memorable and live the moment that mean the most. At the end of the day, make your elopement a reflection of who you are as a couple. However you decide to get married, make sure it reflects the two of you. By eloping you make space to be authentically yourselves. Eirini & Dimitri made a great decision they will never regret because the next day Greece went into lockdown but they are able to spend it as newlyweds!











How to ROCK THE BOHO LOOK

AND WHY IT IS THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR YOUR WEDDING IN GREECE BY SANYA PERCIC

It's no secret that the Boho Look and a beach wedding in Greece fit together perfectly! And the summertime in Greece is certainly the time and place for the open air summer vibe wedding!

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If you have that bohemian spirit in you or just want some of that Boho Look in your wedding, then check out these ideas from Greece! And if you're planning to have your wedding on the beach or would like an eco-conscious, sustainable wedding, some of these tips can also be for you!

Photo Credits: Photography: Mneme Photography Dress: @anna.tavoularidi Decoration: @frezia.flowers MUR and hair: @vassia.papakonstantinou Couple: @a_for_aria and @aristotelisstefos Cake: @eleutheria3dcakes



LOCATION

Greece is famous for that island beach lifestyle which also reflects on many venues. For your Boho Look wedding, choose a venue with that vibe. You will probably find it by the sea. So check out some of the best beach bars Greece has to offer!

On the other hand, make sure to find the most impressive location nature has to offer. Either the beach or go wild and find some secluded place with breathtaking views as your backdrop! Rocks, big boulders and natural cliff walls can also provide a great natural and impassive backdrops.

The laid-back bohemian look is perfect for the rustic, raw Greek countryside and the beach lifestyle. And Greece certainly has a variety of venues for your boho wedding to choose from on the islands as well as on the mainland. Many already decorated in this natural style.

GET THE RIGHT DRESS

Ok, so you have decided to have the boho style wedding. It is totally up to you how decorated or boho you want to make it. But one thing is for sure, you need the right dress for the occasion. Imagine walking down the aisle on the beach in a princess gown or a lush heavy and big wedding dress. Exactly. It just doesn't match!

Therefore, think of a flowy light dress, with some fun fringe or seductive lace. What about the ever so glam and popular sparkly beaded gowns? You don't want to go to modern and sleek nor too traditional! Make it fun and make it fit you and your style! You will know the one when you see it.

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One good tip to follow before choosing your wedding gown is to choose your wedding venue first! Especially the ceremony venue, if your wedding day is in different venues. After you know the style of your location, it's time to choose the dress. Is this a seaside venue with access to the ceremony on the beach? Or is this a ball room type of a venue?

On the opposite case, if you have the dress already and you are sure this is the one, try finding an appropriate venue, which will fit with the style and shape of your gown. Try visiting your venue from Greece before booking it, or at least have your planner send you some detailed images.

BRIDAL ACCESSORIES

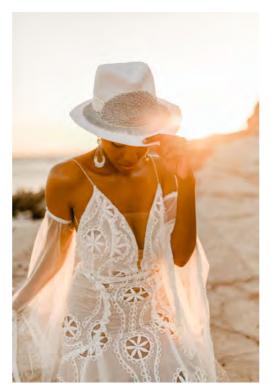
To achieve the ultimate Boho look, you need to accessorize it! Find the right boho style of earrings, rings, necklaces, bracelets and so on. Usually in silver or pewter with hints of colour like rose, pink or turquoise. Think of beautiful elaborate foot jewellery with possible rhinestones, if you like a bit of bling, for your barefoot beach wedding.

Other fun accessories can be those silver or gold tattoo stickers, which were a big hit few years ago. So don't be shy adding some of those too if you want to experiment with tattoos. If you want to be a boho queen, you can't look past the ever so important hair accessories like hair jewellery, fun hats or floral crowns to complete the look. And hey, you can also get a hat for your groom too!

While accessorizing, be very careful not to overdo it! You don't want to look too much, over-accessorized or even silly on your own wedding day! So, definitely have your options handy and have the prewedding trial. Make sure your accessories fit nicely with your chosen dress.





















YOUR TAN

It goes without saying that a sun kissed or tanned skin will amplify that desired Boho look! However, if you're planning to tan before your wedding, take care! You really do not want that burned in the face, boiled lobster look nor tan lines on your wedding photos!

One way to avoid that is to come a week earlier or hit the solarium before if you cannot tan at home. Be aware of the tan lines!!! There is nothing worse than seeing your wedding photos with exposed back or shoulders with tan lines, for ever! If this does happen to you, try to ask your photographer to retouch the photos. On your wedding Video on the other hand, that will be more difficult to achieve. That is why it's always best to take preventative action where ever you can.

Always remember that summers in Greece can be hot and sweaty! Therefore be cautious when using bronzing creams and any paint based products which might leave the stains on your white dress.

BOHO FLORALS

Your Boho wedding can be as extravagant as you like or as eco-friendly as possible. You can't go wrong with lots of Pampas to achieve the Bohemian look! On top you can play with dry florals and natural foliage. Avoid the bright greens and traditional wedding floral arrangements. Think of using cacti and cactus like plants, big or small, and local wild flowers.

Don't be afraid of colour! Find those vintage blooms like carnations for instance and incorporate them for the bit of colour if you don't want the monochrome wedding! Although those can look gorgeous as well! Check out our monochrome Cover Shoot, wedding inspiration from our Winter 2019 magazine!

BOHO DÉCOR

There are different styles of bohemian wedding you can choose from. From simple with just few flags in the sand to elaborate and over the top with décor like pillows, multiple rugs and lots of candles or even decorated tents. In any case, for your décor think candles for romance and all things natural with a bit of sparkle like mirrors, silver or brass tones. Rattan accessories, macramé, fairy lights and don't be afraid to mix it up with the bold colours like red, black, turquoise, brown and mustard yellow. Make it chic and fun.

GET THE RIGHT TEAM

Your décor, flowers and the styling will not look right on your photos or your video if you do not get the right team and especially the right photographer/ videographer for the job. There are many wedding pros, from planners to florist and photographers who can definitely pull off that carefree, laid-back bohemian look. Take a look at our list of alternative wedding planners who can plan your wedding in Greece on page 53.

But, if you're planning a boho wedding, surely you have your eye on few photographers you love already! The light and airy photographic style is not the one you want, in order to achieve the bohemian style look and feel. Choose your photo/video team wisely as these are the memories you will keep and cherish for ever! Do the research and set up consultation calls to see if you're a right fit! It's important you like your photo/ video team as you need to trust them to direct you for the best possible outcome.





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Stay on top of WEDDINGS IN 2021/22

WHAT TO PAY ATTENTION TO IF YOU ARE GETTING MARRIED THIS YEAR

in all this summer is looking promising! So you want to get married in Greece, but all this Covid business is keeping you We stay hopeful for this season with uneasey. There is a light at the end of the announcements of full reopening of Greece tunnel. to tourists on May 15th 2021.

The experts believe that relaxation of the lockdown measures is possible, with the very good progression of the vaccination program. On top, good, sunny weather and self-tests are proving to be very helpful in this battel against coronavirus. And as last year, Greece is aiming to win the best of the safest destinations this year as well, with the efforts of the "Blue Freedom" operation. Projecting to have all of permanent residents of the islands vaccinated until the end of June.

"We are facing a reality where cases are significantly reduced, vaccinations are progressing rapidly, self-tests enable us to identify asymptomatic fellow citizens who, knowing that they are carriers of the disease, can limit themselves," said the Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis Many of you are asking how we see the Wedding Season in 2021 and 22. The truth actually is that no one really knows what will happen by next year. But all

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Photo Credits: Photography: @valen__tiny Wedding dress : @kamelia_andrioti Hair & Make up : @thaliamakeuplabartistry Flowers : @leonidasrammos Model :@alexkarydi

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Many news sites are already announcing that the wedding planning is in full swing again and the islands in Greece you must visit! Others are reporting that situation will not change even in 2022. All is looking great so far, but honestly we can't really know what the future holds. Therefore we can only take it step by step. We are all just waiting for the latest announcements to see how things will develop for each season. The situations and rules are changing fast with every season which is very frustrating and challenging to deal with for everyone. But, there is no need to panic or despair.

We understand each wedding is different and each couple has different needs and wishes or possibilities for their wedding. That is why we are all here to help you plan your destination wedding in this new crazy world!

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF VISITING GREECE OR PLANNING A WEDDING HERE, ALWAYS CHECK THE PROPER AND CURRENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS FEW MONTHS AND ALSO WEEKS BEFORE YOU ARRIVE.

These are some of the official EU and Greek websites with the relevant and updated Covid-19 information for locals and tourists:

https://travel.gov.gr/#

This is the most important page for all tourist coming to Greece. Here you will find more information regarding the travel restrictions and necessary documentation such as the Passenger Locator Form (PLF) which, during the pandemic, everyone must fill before arrival.

https://reopen.europa.eu/en/map/GRC/5006 https://reopen.europa.eu/en

Re-open Europe map from European Union with the recent travel information regarding each country for easy travel within EU! For your convenience you can also download the app from Apple and Google Play store

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https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-traveleu/coronavirus-response/travel-duringcoronavirus-pandemic_en

Travel info during the coronavirus pandemic in EU

https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en

The site for general information from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, an agency of the European Union.

https://eody.gov.gr/en

Before your arrival, you can check out more on Covid-19 information on this website of the Greek National Public Health Organization. If you are travelling around Greece during Covid-19 you can call the 24/7 National Coronavirus Helpline at 1335 after you arrive in case you need more information.

https://covid19.gov.gr/covid-map

The local Map of Greece on Health, Safety and Protection against Covid-19 with the announced measures and restrictions. - In Greek

https://primeminister.gr/en/home

Collection of news and official announcements from the Greek Prime Minister. - in English and Greek

https://aia.gr/traveler/ National Airport Website

At any time, get the latest information from the also from your or Greek news. Set google alerts on some of your local or these news sites about Greece:

https://www.ekathimerini.com

https://greekcitytimes.com

https://greekreporter.com

https://en.protothema.gr/category/travel

https://www.protothema.gr/koronoios-live/

https://greeksconnect.co.uk

https://news.gtp.gr

https://www.thisisathens.org

https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/athens

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After a long lockdown period and travel restrictions, Greece is finally announcing the latest news regarding the 2021 Tourist Season in Greece. Some measures announced on the 13th of May 2021:

Wedding and Events are expected to resume in June with max 100 people allowed outdoor

Ban on live music in bars/venues will continue through May or until further notice

Greece reopens for tourists on May 15th

Random testing at Greek borders will continue

Masks are mandatory at all times in public spaces, indoors or outdoors, until further notice.

Measures for wedding and events industry, which was affected by this pandemic the most, will be relaxing slowly with time and revisions. However, some bans will remain for health and safety to protect against the coronavirus. According to the information, all the data will be evaluated on a weekly basis, with the possibility for new lifted or modified measures every two weeks for the more relaxed season.

The data was gathered from different local news sites and live speech on 12th of May of the Health Minister of Greece, Mr. Vassilis Kikilias

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU ARE GETTING MARRIED IN 2021/22?

First you need to think wisely and plan ahead. If you are planning a destination wedding, know that travel could be more difficult especially for non-vaccinated people. Depending on the season and date of your wedding, guest count allowed at a venue might range from 6, 9 or 20, 50, 100 or more people. The numbers of allowed guests can change with lockdown regulations. Therefore make sure to be in close contact with the venue manager, your planner or even your photographer. Make sure you have someone local you can rely on for information. Depending on where everyone is traveling from, there might be different rules for each country. So keep your guests in the loop. Keep an eye for all new information regarding the regulations. Do the final research few weeks before your departure date to see what is new or announced to happen. When booking your wedding suppliers, ask all the Covid related questions beforehand. What happens if you need to cancel the wedding? Make sure you read the contracts and terms and conditions. Then again, it is always a good idea to take a look at the wedding insurance and now more than ever!

TO SUM UP:

- Plan thoughtfully around "open seasons"
- Keep close contact with your vendors such as you planner, photographer and venue owners.
- Keep your guests updated
- Keep a close eye on the news, set google alerts
- Be on top of the contracts and cancelation policies
- Pay attention to travel restrictions and Green/Red lists, re-visit the updates
- Everyone might be required to present a negative Covid-19 test to enter the venue
- Consider wedding insurance
- Proceed with your planning and adjust if necessary
- Micro weddings or Elopements are probably the safest and least hassle this year
- Think of a less touristic crowded location
- Consider self-test gifts for guests and the whole wedding team

However it all depends on your country as well. Even if Greece is fully open for tourism, that doesn't necessarily mean the same for your country. It might be that travel to Greece would be more challenging for non EU countries or if you are coming from a specific country with different restrictions and lockdowns or is not on the "allowed list" at that moment. However, it's not impossible! Many destination weddings will happen and have already successfully happened in Greece, amidst the pandemic and in 2020 as well.



Therefore, do not despair! Proceed with your wedding planning as usual and adjust your plans, guest count, schedules or itinerary, if necessary. You might need to plan your destination wedding just a bit more carefully this year. Work closely with the local professionals and your planner if you have one, as they will be able to advise you and your case the most. And above all, take health and safety regulations seriously to protect yourself and your family.

At the end, keep an eye on the Ellwed Blog for the latest news regarding your wedding in Greece.

Or follow us on Instagram @ellwedmag where we share more news in the stories and our feed.

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What about WEDDINGS

GETTING MARRIED IN GREECE

Are you planning to get married in Greece last minute? Well, if you're thinking of eloping, 2021 and 22 are probably the best years to do this!

Most of you are probably getting ready for your "THE Day" for one or even two years in advance! And the day you were waiting for so long just got cancelled! If this pandemic has taught us anything, is that we can't be certain of anything anymore. So this long-awaiting day is now up in the air and you feel lost. The pandemic is probably not going to be over just yet! We do have the vaccine, and Greece is announcing full reopening for this season. But the difficulties of travel and lockdowns are still a real possibility!



"

A summer stylish elopement in Kedrodasos, one of the most exotic locations in Chania, quite untouched and unexplored. Difficult to reach, but really worth to see ... this sandy soft coast washed by the Mediterranean waves and the warm Greek sun.

George Stratigis



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IDEAS, DÉCOR & ADVICE

LAST MINUTE

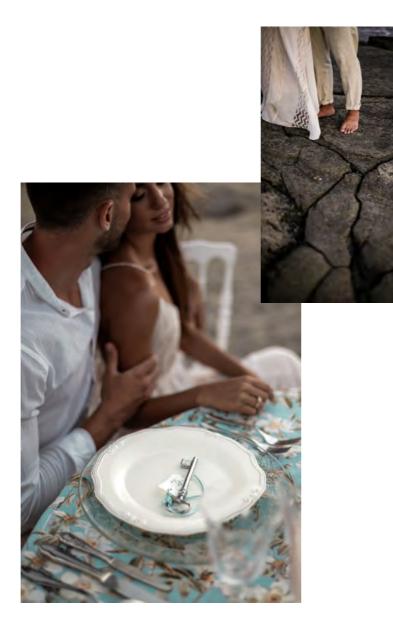
WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS IF YOU ARE

So how do you approach a destination wedding planning in the midst of the pandemic? There are many ways, like planning carefully, having all your information, doing the research or just eloping! It is Important to know all the options and what best works for you or your case. As all countries have different rules and depending on where you're coming from, things might be more difficult or easier for you to plan a destination wedding. Another thing you can do if you are planning a micro wedding or elopement, is to have it at the last minute.

Photo Credits: Photograhy by George Stratigis, in collaboration with the filmakers Marie Tzagkaraki & Manos Kasapakis. Planning & Design by Barbara Pavloudakis for Cora Weddings Makeup, Katerina Pathiakaki Piano, Raphael Sigalas Floris, Manfler Wedding Dress, Crochell Groom Suit, Kontogiannis Models, Olga Sfakianaki & Alex Apostolakis Stationery, Martina Lyons Wedding Cake, Sweet Corner Bakery

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It's no secret that destination weddings and events got hit the hardest with the Covid-19 pandemic. So, are you the bride who had to postpone her wedding once? Twice? Maybe even more times? We feel you. We had similar issues with our shoots and events. So no one can blame you if you just want to get it over with. If you're sick of the situation and just want to get away as soon as you can, check for last minute deals or packages! This is your opportunity to get the most of your micro wedding or elopement!

Some of the wedding vendors have stepped together to make onetime deals to help brides with the last minute decisions and planning or fears of booking ahead. Many professionals are giving back in different ways offering advice, support and even free consultations. So here are some of the last minute deals available in Greece for 2021 from our Ellwed Pros Community Group.

IOS/SANTORINI

Sand and Lace Events and Days Made of Love are joining forces for the curated ultimate elopement and micro-wedding deal for this summer 2021 only! With an incredible selection of venues and suppliers that have been so generous in giving amazing deals only for this package, you can expect modern, on trend and no ordinary styling. Contact sayhello@ sandnlace.com

MYKONOS

Mykonos 2021 package by Rakor Ceremonies. Micro Weddings in Mykonos up to 20 people with almost all inclusive deal with planning, styling, rentals, florals and more. Plus your cake to eat it too! You can expect raw, natural Greek and Mykonian lux styling. Contact info@rakorceremonies.com for more information

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SANTORINI

Not only for 2021 last minute brides, but anytime you need, JP Destination Weddings from Santorini are all about making your wedding decisions easier! They have set up multiple packages ranging from 2 to 100 and more people and they are also welcoming last minute brides! With almost everything included, and a variety of venues from Santorini, you can choose the package that works for you best. Contact info@jpdestinationweddings.com

GREECE

Intimate celebration package with no setup and no fuss. Just the two of you, a photographer and your celebrant at a fantastic location which might have otherwise been impossible with a crowd. Elizabeth Cass-Kanti from the Wedding Celebrant Greece will prepare a meaningful wedding ceremony written especially for you. Perfect for an adventurous couple wanting to tie the knot in a unique location Greece has to offer! Contact weddingcelebrantgreece@gmail.com



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WHAT ARE WEDDING PACKAGE DEALS AND IS THIS ACTUALLY FOR YOU?

If you have already done some research you probably came across many package weddings and deals for destination weddings in Greece. Some suspiciously cheap others more pricey. So before you dive into package research, you need to decide if package deals are the best choice for you.

There are many different offers and packages offered by the wedding planners, tourist agencies or even some hotels. Most of these kind of offers will have specific team of vendors or even venues included which you most probably cannot change. Depending on each package, you might not have much say in personalizing your wedding ceremony or reception with unique décor or unlimited floral arrangements. You should always ask what is possible to personalize and check what exactly is included before booking the anything.

SO, A WEDDING PACKAGE IS FOR YOU IF YOU:

- don't want to stress much about wedding planning
- are looking for an economic and easy solution
- don't have a specific vision for your styling, décor and personalization of your event
- are thinking of a small elopement or a micro wedding
- are looking for a last minute deal
- are not planning to have a complicated event with lots of activities
- don't need a full wedding planning services
- don't want to be searching for your dream team
- don't have time to stress about your wedding much

Package deals are not for you if you want a tailored wedding planning, have a specific vision for your event with specific wedding professionals you want.

Isabelle Hesselberg of 2 Brides Photography says: "No two weddings are the same and one size doesn't fit all. For last minute inquiries and micro weddings I create custom packages perfectly tailored for their needs."

To sum up, you have many choices to get married in Greece! From money-saving deals to extravagant luxury events with tailored and personalized styling, planning and design for you and your event! It all depends on you and what is your priority for your wedding!

Above all, make sure to have fun and to have the wedding you always dreamed of! Don't be shy to contact any suppliers to see if they are a match for your big day!











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Exclusive interview - ECO weddings OPEN THE DOOR EVENTS

A SUSTAINABLE EVENT DESIGNER WITH OPI KAUR

Eco-conscious wedding planning is very dear to my heart as I am a strong believer in minimizing our footprint wherever we can. I am glad to have this chant with Opi, the founder of Open the Door Events, a sustainable event designer based in Andalusia, Spain.

Open the Door was founded in late 2014. Opi finds that her long lasting experience from other sectors like travelling, books, nature and people in her life are the important pillars of her brand.

She creates intimate events in harmony with nature. Although, her style is laidback, there is an effortless elegance that ties her work together. Every detail and vendor that goes into designing an



bringing stunning eco conscious events to life, is being honoured. They have been featured on international wedding blogs on numerous occasions such as: Green Wedding Shoes, Junebug Weddings, Bridal Musings, Rock my Wedding, Nouba, Martha Stewart, Together Journal, Festival Brides, White magazine and in 2020 they were also interviewed by Vogue on eco conscious weddings.

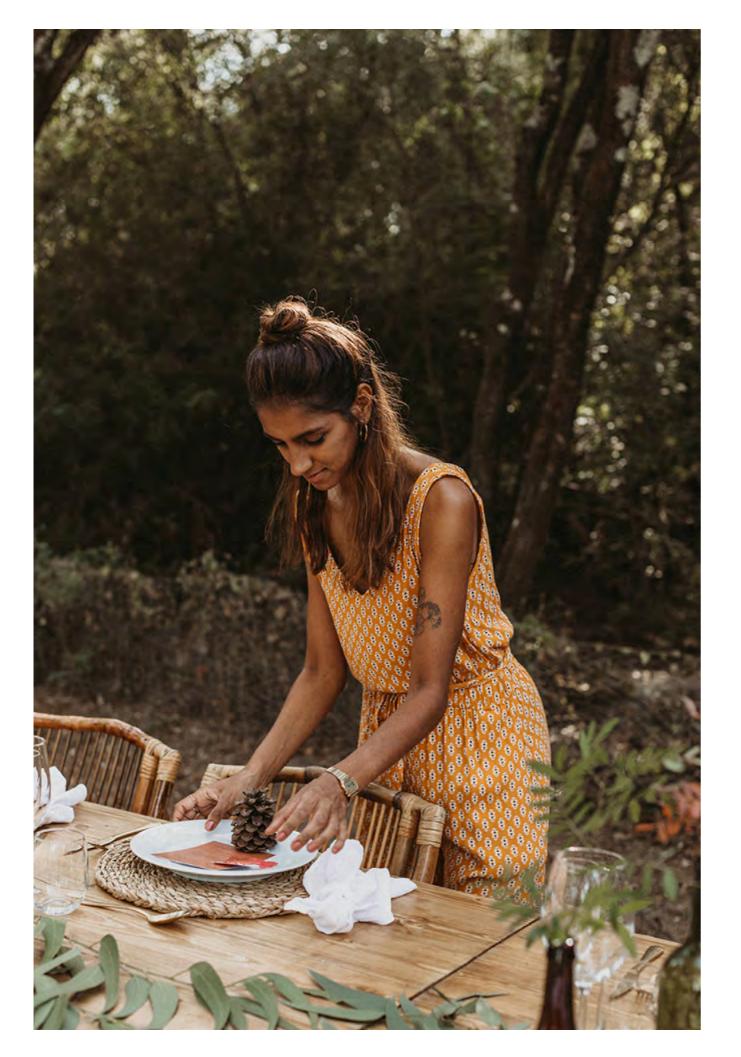
eco-conscious wedding is thoughtfully considered to ensure their ethos of

She will explain what it means to haven an eco-conscious wedding and where to start, in this guide to Intimate ecoconscious destination weddings.

Find OTD:

WEBSITE www.openthedoorevents.net INSTAGRAM @openthedoorevents

Photo Credits: Joy Zamora





Hello Opi! I am really excited to have the chance to talk to you about Intimate eco-conscious destination weddings Not many happen in Greece, but there are some. One in fact was just featured on the previous cover of the Ellwed Magazine (No.13) and I am really excited to have you guide us though some steps for the intimate eco-conscious destination weddings. So tell us a bit about your story, what lead you to your current career path?

I moved to Spain in 2012 to teach English, I had been working in events in London for years and knew one day I would own my own company, I just didn't really know what. Then I met my fiancé, who became interested in wedding photography shortly after us getting together and he started showing me how beautiful some of the locations were in Andalusia. But the weddings were so typical, nothing unique whatsoever.. I realised there was nothing appealing for someone like me to get married in Andalusia, Spain and founded OTD in late 2014.

There was nothing that mattered more to me than setting up a business that synchronised with my beliefs and values. So I started designing minimal waste sustainable events without marketing OTD as that. As I felt environmentally friendly events had a certain aesthetic about them, you know the Kraft paper and twine look, very shabby chic. And my ultimate goal was to design the dreamiest, most meaningful and emotional event for my couples that happened to be eco friendly.

And once I had a beautiful portfolio, I began to market myself as an eco friendly wedding planner.

y ultimate goal was to design the dreamiest, most L meaningful and emotional

"

What are eco weddings? Can you elaborate on what makes one's wedding an eco-conscious wedding?

An eco conscious wedding or event is one that doesn't impact the environment negatively and instead maintains balance or even regenerates the environment in some way. This means:

Working with suppliers who prioritise quality over quantity • and are conscious about how to reduce waste and offer alternative eco friendly solutions

Selecting ingredients that are local to the area, seasonal and • sustainably produced

Using foraged greenery or organically grown florals or dried • florals that can be reused

- Renting decor instead of buying •
- Choosing a venue that runs on natural energy •
- Carbon offsetting the travel of your guests and your selves •

Not using any plastic in the production whatsoever and ٠ substituting for ethically, sustainably produced materials

- Carefully sourcing attire that has been ethically produced •
- Gifting with intention •
- Using LED lighting •

And ensuring that EVERYTHING used in the wedding aligns with sustainable and ethical practices.

If someone wants to plan such a wedding what are some things they need to consider before starting? Give us 3 or 5 tips or pointers.

The most important thing is to reduce, so finding a naturally beautiful setting for the wedding to take place in is essential in minimising the decor. Decoration should be used to enhance a space, and personalise it.

Work with catering companies who have close contact with their farmers, fisherman and bakers, so the produce they offer is local, seasonal and aligned with sustainable practices.



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Keep it small, weddings are meaningful, intimate and emotional events, they are to be shared with the people closest to you, those who understand your relationship and want nothing more than to celebrate the deep connection you share. The smaller the event, the less impact it will have on the environment. The closer relationship you have with your guests, the better experience you will have.

Stay focused on what is important. Your gift to your guests is making them feel welcome and enjoying a wholesome experience together, at Open the Door events we put emphasis on creating unforgettable ambiences and advise our couples that buying little gifts for guests are not going to be missed, so not to worry about little details on the dinner tables, welcome packs, dance shoes, sun hats, fans... that are used for a couple of hours and then tossed away, so let's not add to the unnecessary waste our planet receives every second.

We've had lots of creative sustainable wedding gifts given to our couples in the past, one couple chose to carbon offset their whole wedding. Another couple asked for their guests to donate to their favourite NGO, and the best part is that their bosses at Google matched the total amount!

What was your best experience as an ECO wedding planner?

There is a profound beauty and honour being part of one of the most special days in the lives of others. We are in the midst of it all really. The emotions, the laughter, the tears, the joy and it truly is an honour to experience it all first hand. There are uncountable parts I enjoy about my job but if I had to narrow it down to one experience I would say it was the intimate wedding I created for Writer and Film Directer Andrew Cohn and his wife Farah. They put their full trust in me and just let me to what I do best which is design. Here's the link to their magical intimate wedding in the mountains. https://www.openthedoorevents.net/ blog/wild-palm-leaves-beneath-the-full-moon

But I also want to add - I never thought my clients could become such big parts of my life, but when you go on such a unique journey with someone it's inevitable that a connection is created. So all the new friendships created are another big part of why I love what I do so much!



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Where do you get inspiration for your eco conscious weddings?

My inspiration comes from spending time in nature and being mindful and present when I do, looking up at the sky and down at the earth, touching the trees and plants as I pass them and taking in their scents, textures and mood. I feel we are our best in nature, we breathe more, we smile more and we become more balanced. These are the vibes I want to transmit in my events.

I also get inspiration from films, theatre, music festivals and readings. But I would say I feel most inspired when my life is healthy and balanced and my time is equally scared between taking care of my wellbeing and my relationships etc. When I am my best, my best work is born.

Would you say that Intimate eco-conscious destination weddings are becoming more popular and gaining momentum?

I believe people are becoming more conscious and aware of their carbon footprint in general. We are finally paying attention and talking about the negative effect our choices have on society and the environment. There is a global awakening happening - and it's incredible to see.

Most people who have been to a wedding or who works in the industry understands the amount of waste that is generated over a very short period of time, it's absolutely terrifying. So I think having a sustainable wedding is beginning to appeal to more and more couples once they understand that they can have both a stunning wedding and eco friendly one and it won't be compromising on their aesthetic of choice.

Thank you so much for taking the time for this exclusive interview for Ellwed and explaining way anyone can contribute to eco-conscious destination weddings!

ellwed TALKS



Opi Kaur Sustainable Event Designer

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listen on the podcast

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Find Your Party FAVORS FROM 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 accounts.





A sexy youthful twist on jewelry focusing on your perfect summer tanned body! Custom made body jewelry & other cool pieces Made in Greece. Definitely a must have for those desired summer beach days and crazy party nights! Great gift for your bridesmaids as well! Especially for Boho weddings! @yesido_jewelry



What about these candles in shape of the Greek Gods and Goddesses? Hand poured scented soy candles. Eco-friendly and made in Greece! A great choice to remember Greece and your beach wedding! Be aware of high temperatures. If your wedding is in August, candles can melt from heat! @lilspirit2021

IDEAS, DÉCOR & ADVICE

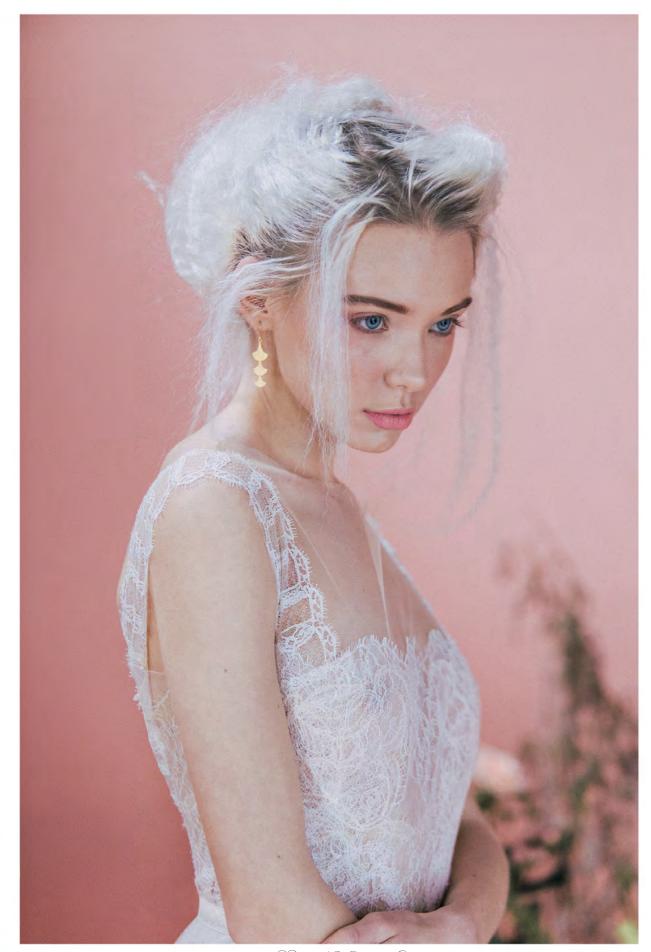
Are you a candle lover? Then these EIRENE Intention Candles are for you. Handmade in Small Batches. Created for the purpose to promote mindfulness, healing & emotional well-being through conscious living. Ask for a special custom made scented candle for your destination wedding. Perfect gift for yourself or all your special guests! @eirenecandles



For all floral children! This certified organic farm Olympus Fields is specified in growing culinary flowers & herbs for teas, food decoration, cocktail garnish or cake décor. If your wedding is colorful and floral orientated, make sure to check them out and get beautiful packages of Greek Grown Edible flowers as favors! Also available for wholesale. @olympusfields





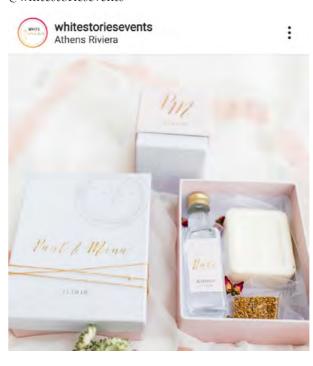


Wedding Photography

Martha's Sweet Philosophy will take care of you for anything sweet! Custom wedding cakes, cookies, cupcakes, specialty chocolates as well as diy kits and workshops! We are in love with these specialty Ganache chocolates @marthassweetphilosophy



If you cannot decide on your gifts for your guests and loved ones, ask your planner to create a package of Greek goods and traditional Greek products like these welcome gifts with traditional Greek drink called Raki, olive soaps, and sesame snacks. To welcome your international guests with a beautiful gift, make sure to customize it! @whitestoriesevents



mariefleursfloralsandgifts



On the other hand, check Maria's thoughtful, purposeful, memorable gift boxes for your wedding or just because! You will definitely find a big variety of choices for everyone! @mariefleursfloralsandgifts

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mayol_world

Are you planning a chic fun urban wedding in Greece? Check out Mayol Jeweler. Inspired by the sea, the sun and the bright blue of the Grecian sky, but also the 80s pop culture, Mayol is a personal project. @mayol_world



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GLAMOUR

COVER STORY URBAN GLAMOROUS ROOFTOP MICRO WEDDING INSPIRATION

An Urban Glamorous Rooftop Micro Wedding is the ultimate inspiration for all the Gen Y and Z GLAM brides!

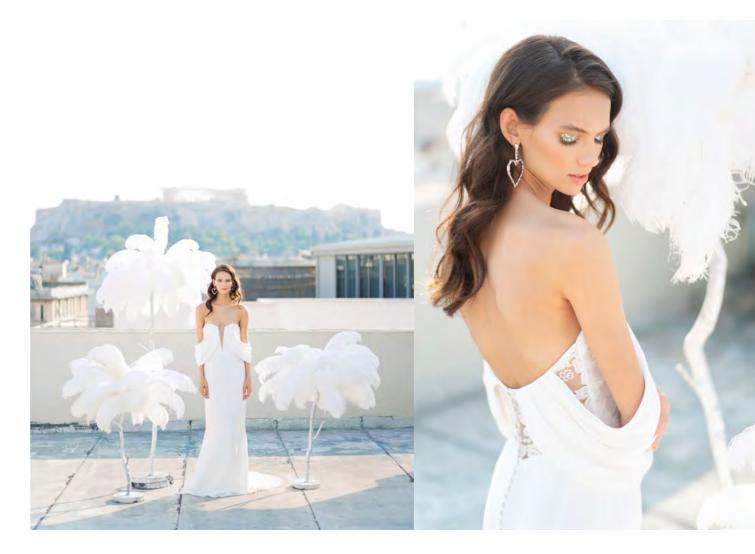
List of Vendors: Coordination: Ellwed Wedding Planning and Styling: Kiss from Fleur Event Rentals: StyleBox Flower Design: Petridis LV Photography: Adrian Wood Videography: 7th Art Stationery: Studio van Hart Muse: Rachel Marie Thomas Hair and Make up: Giorgia Xristodoulou Bridal Dresses: Rime Arodaky Ring: Anna Sheffield Shoes: Ancient Greek Sandals Balloons: The balloon idea

Wedding Inspiration - Cover Shoot URBAN ROOFTOP

This Heroine bride doesn't care for the conventional and traditional weddings! She wants to celebrate her big day above the clouds! With many dress changes, the bride gets to experience her day as she wanted! And why not?! Nothing is too difficult or unachievable!

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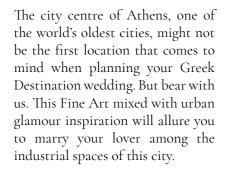


Summer Greek sandals replace the high heels and glitter makeup brings that sparkle to this glam bride's eye! The haute couture dresses, green velvet couch and industrial vents are contrasting the luxury with the visual mess of the urban life. All tying together our busy city lives. This effortlessly glamorous bridal inspiration was filled with all things fun! Fluffy ostrich feather trees, play-ful oversized balloons and dusty pastel luxe roses set on the mirrored table with rose gold tableware, rose mirror glasses and dark green fuzzy napkins for contrast.

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This setting is high above the Athenian rooftops with the unobstructed views of the crowded ancient urban jungle with the famous Acropolis to rule them all! Choose the unique and daring locations. Your wedding doesn't need to fit the cookie cutter shape. You can shape it your way! There is no need to be pressured on the limited number of wedding venues, when you can choose an alternative location! We chose this Athenian rooftop with the history at our fingertips and ever so daring presence of the acropolis view.



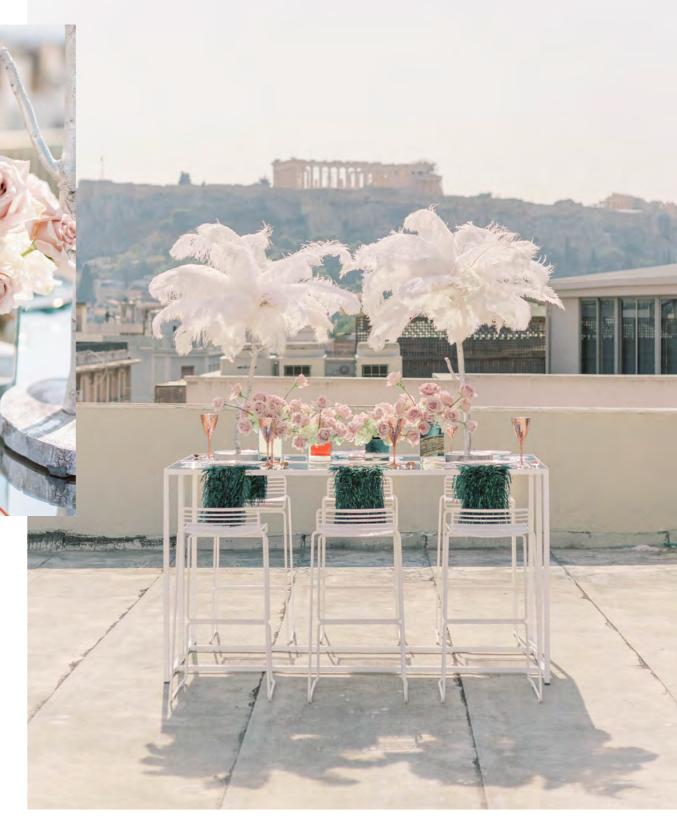










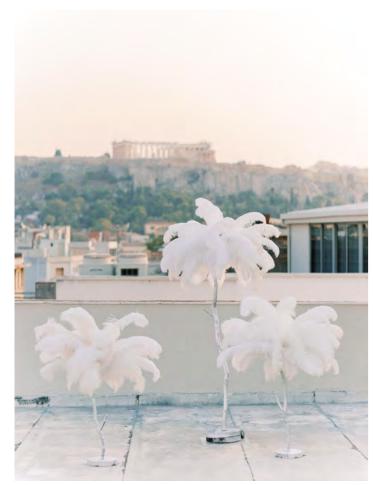
















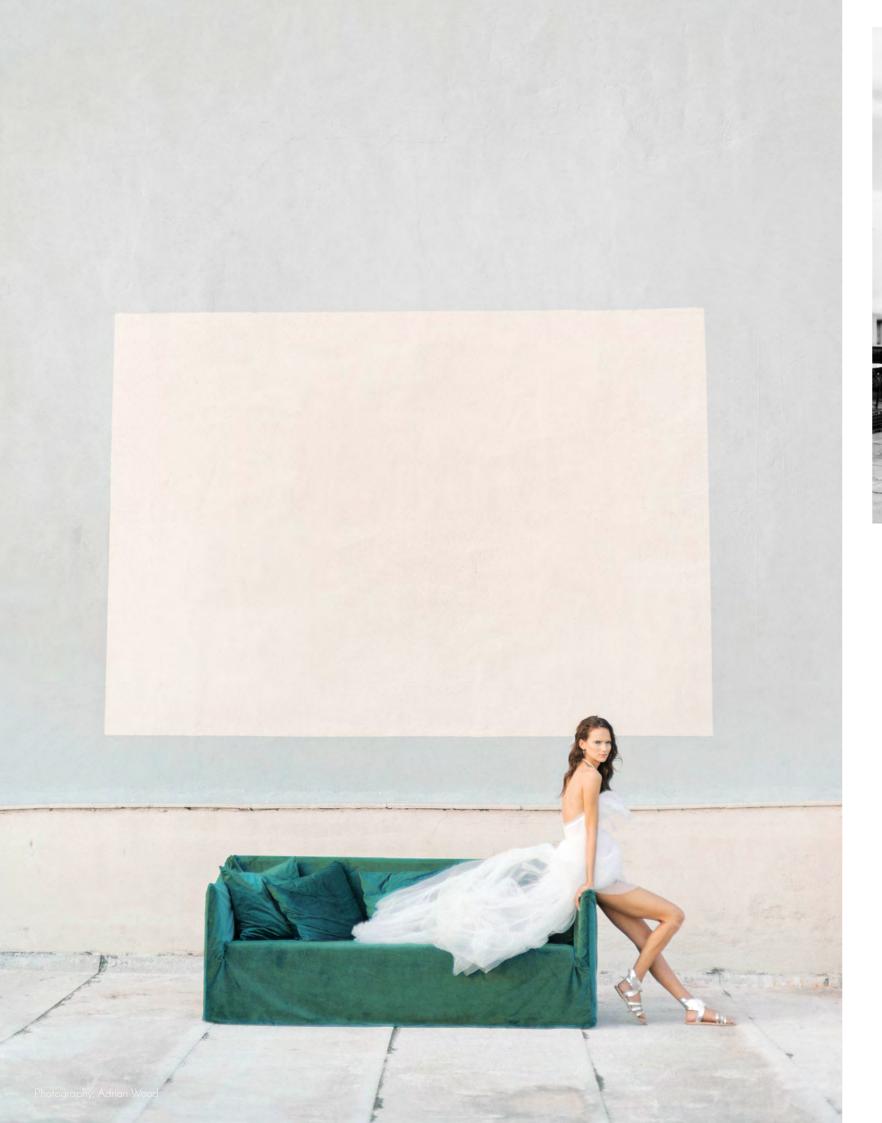








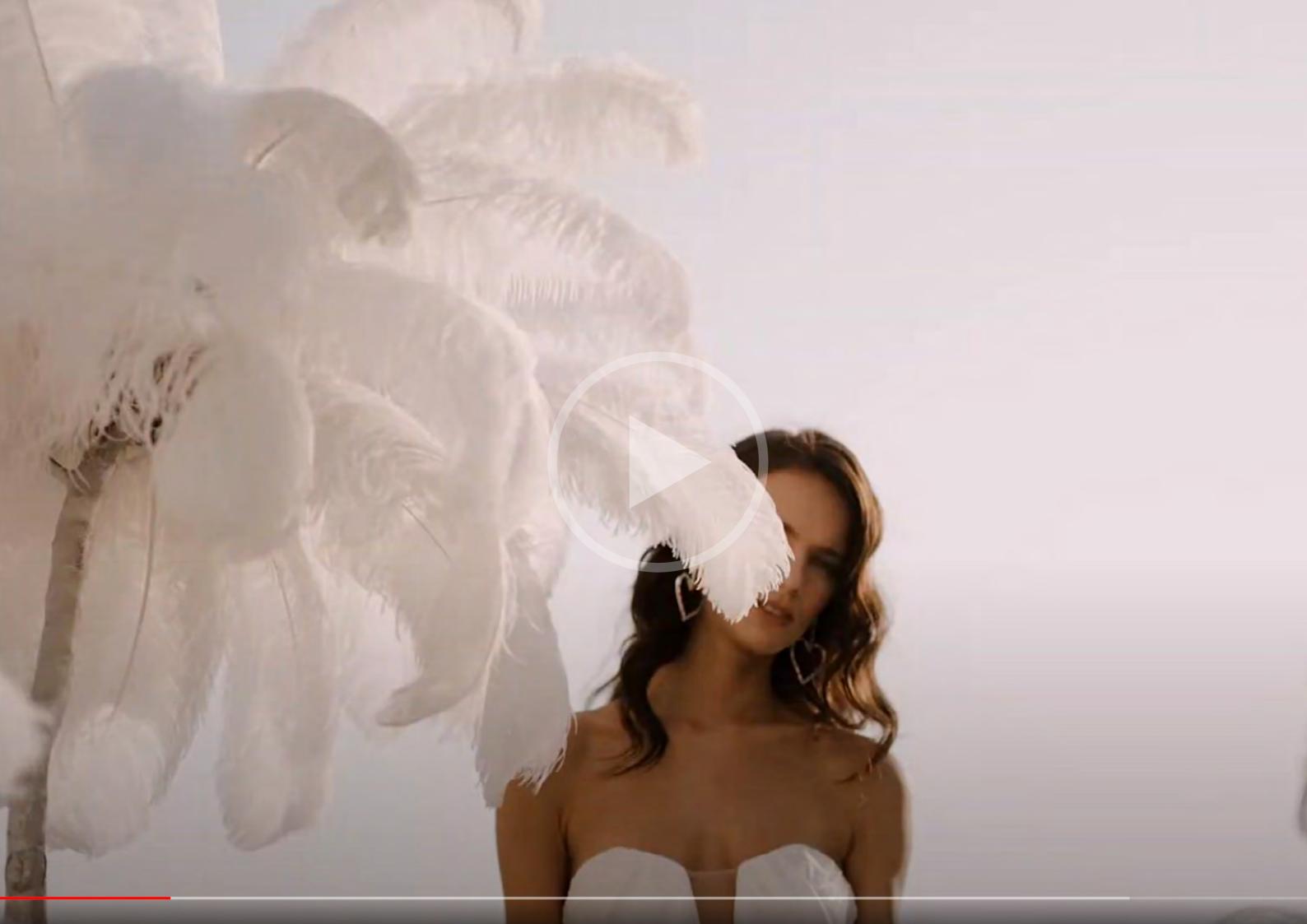
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The high fashion al fresco dining is just for the selected few. The VVIP of your wedding guests that got to visit the ancient city and experience these magical moments on the rooftops of Athens with you, will never forget that! Especially if your event is styled in such a sophisticated way with luxe mirror tableware and ethereal feather trees. Let your guest be swept away into the Hellenic sunset. Exchange your wedding cake for fun ice cream and wow your guest with over the top glam décor on Athenian Rooftops! Your post pandemic wedding deserves to be that much more glamorous and extravagant, because you made it after all!

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Wedding Inspiration L'AMORE VINCE SEMPRE

NATURAL FINE ART ELOPEMENT INSPIRATION FROM NORTHERN GREECE

from Phaedra Liakou: "After a long summer, we're embracing the arrival of autumn and all the rich hues and textures it brings. Photographed by Lefteris Kalampokas, this neutral, whimsical shoot entitled L' AMORE VINCE SEMPRE' captures the essence of this modern touch in harmony with untouched landscape.

Christina from Beautiful Letters created a stationery with calligraphy on precious papers. Freeform floral arrangements by Arximandritis Lampros incorporate unexpected botanics as well as fruits of the autumn harvest. A small but lovingly set table for two was set up in the back of the house and enjoys the details of natural materials. Pure white is also the adorable Sibo Designs bridal gown, which got complemented with exciting headpieces by the same designer.

The impressive bird of prey on the bride's side reminds us that humans and animals live side by side respectfully and the most beautiful things in life are free and wild."

List of Vendors: Photographer: Leftheris Kalampokas Planning and Styling: Phaedra Liakou Events Mua: Elissavet Videographer: Aggelos Lagos Floral Design: Archimandritis Flowers Calligraphy: Beautiful Letters Wedding Gown and Headpiece: Sibo Designs Cake: Sweet Art Stories Model: Team Agency Shoes: Sekoia Boutique

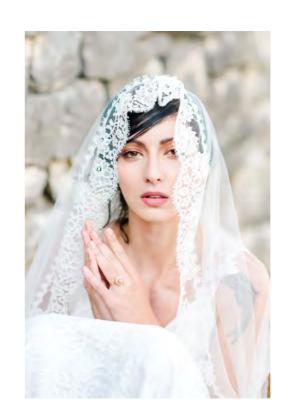




































Wedding Inspiration UŇĒXPLORED GREECE

BOHEMIAN ELOPEMENT INSPIRATION FROM ATHENS

More and more, unconventional and adventurous couples decide to celebrate their love in a small intimate group or only by their own. Especially for all couples with a travel itch destination elopements and micro weddings will become even more popular during the next years. With no doubt Greece is one of the most famous countries that can provide both adventure and romance. The best example is the magical sunset of Santorini and the breath taking view over the caldera.

Greek capital!

List of Vendors: Photography: Mneme Photography Dress: @anna.tavoularidi Decoration: @frezia.flowers MUR and hair: @vassia.papakonstantinou Couple: @a_for_aria and @aristotelisstefos Cake: @eleutheria3dcakes

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The lockdown and the movement restrictions we had during the last year offered us a chance to appreciate locations just a heartbeat away, in a different way. The sea and the islands – almost synonyms for elopements in Greece - weren't easily accessible for the wedding vendors therefor locations in and the surrounding aria of Athens became interesting such as this abandoned quarry in the heart of the

With this styled shoot we wanted to show another, unexplored and rougher side of Greece. The background we choose for our shooting was a rock face, known by the locals as the Valley of Gods because of its magical view over Athens. The colours in the late autumn light of this location underline the earthy pallet Gianna from Frezia Flowers choose for this set up. The gown from Anna Tavoularidi with its unconventional bohemian flair, the wild western hat from Kamar, the natural hair style and makeup from Vassia in warm brown-bronze tones, as well as the groom's suit with the earthly colours and it's out of the ordinary character but still elegant lines were perfect matches for our concept. The 'freshly-picked from the field' bridal bouquet combined with the terra-red ribbon is definitely an eye catcher! The three level 'naked' wedding cake Eleutheria prepared for us gives the extra glam and sweetness that every wedding scene needs!

Last but not least the real couple Aria and Ari set this styled shoot on fire! The chemistry between them and the freedom-loving lifestyle they are representing is the reason why they are so harmonised with the scenery.













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Wedding Inspiration RÚSTIC TOUCH ON REGAL ELEGANCE

WEDDING INSPIRATION SET IN THE GARDENS OF A CONTEMPORARY GREEK VILLA IN ATHENS

The gardens of this contemporary Athenian villa located in the northern part of Athens sets the scene for this rustic glam inspired wedding editorial. An intimate setting where plush-green Hedera and the character of the Mediterranean pine trees creates an ambiance of a cheerful and fresh vibe that captures a subtle touch of timeless romance.

Stelios Tsikas Photography and team choose to showcase a primary colour palette bringing together design elements of a garden setting for any couple who feel drawn by an intimate space, with an interesting play on texture and colour. We could not resist adding a bursting flare of cuteness to the story with our couple honouring their furry friends as members of the family, bringing together a playful touch of happiness and personality! Capturing special moments like this makes our heart skip a beat! We drew inspiration from 3 different bridal gowns for a creative fusion of style, while featuring an unconventional spin to "mix and match" by displaying two different tableware settings.

A Classic yet romantic aura emanates with this boho chic nude wedding dress! Handcrafted with silk tulle and embroidered with French Guipure lace elicits a delicate softness. The table, chairs and carpet provoke the rustic display of textures, as a light and clean sentiment enhances the vibrant colours of the floral centre piece.

The mood and emotion shift with a luxurious journey into Regal elegance. Hand crafted in silk tulle and embroidered with French lace, reveal intricate details by hand beaded crystal, feathers, and pearls. This is where inspiration shows an alternative twist on "mix and match" by pairing the Imperial Lomonosov Russian Porcelain (St. Petersburg 1744) tableware against the rustic texture of the table. A breezy atmosphere of delicately designed flower arrangements complements the decorative mood of the Ginger Jars. A dreamy twist on the traditional bouquet is given with the impressive addition of the pampas. Our wedding cake designers featured an elegantly blended hand painted work of art with details prompted by the Ginger Jars.

A fairy tale boho-chic wedding dress handcrafted with silk tulle and asymmetric

ruffles and French lace compliment a stunning floral head piece that proclaims a bold statement of ethereal magic bringing to life whimsical feelings of warmth, through natures warm tones. We had a lot of fun creating this styled shoot and we are so grateful for the creative ideas everyone on the team brought to life.

List of Vendors: Event Planner: Sparkling day events Invitation Designer: Atelier Invitations Equipment Rentals: Zazoo Event Rentals Jewellery: lordanis Jewelry Cake Designer: THE CAKERS Shoes: Panos Papadopoulos Dress Designer: MARY THEOTOKI HAUTE COUTURE Floral Designer: Fleur du jour Athens Makeup Artist: Irene Kyranis Luxury Bridal Services Photographer: Stelios Tsikas Photography

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CEREMONY ON THE ROCKS

CANDICE AND MANUEL GOT MARRIED ON IOS ISLAND

How did you choose your location and venue?

We had decided we wanted our wedding to be intimate and an event we would remember forever. As we both live away from our family and friends, we knew that our guests would be travelling to spend this special moment with us. We both love the sea and so could not think of a more beautiful place than the Greek islands, the Cycladic islands have a light that is impossible to replicate. The atmosphere we were able to create by choosing Ios Island as our location was truly magical. The wedding took place on the rocks at Cycladic Gem Villa, with the Reception being held at Ios Club, both venues were mind blowing and unique, allowing us all to live a moment we will never forget!!

We live in Bahrain and the wedding was taking place in Greece. Once we had decided on the location, we worked with the very talented 'Think Happy Events' who are based in Athens and so connected to the best local suppliers, to transform our ideas into reality. We worked with them to create every last detail and could not be happier with how it turned out

Why did you choose your photographer?

After searching across the globe, literally, we decided to work with Alicia Nacenta Photography because their portfolio of work was unique. We were looking for a photographer who was able to capture the moments of our wedding naturally and tell a story using their skills and talent. Ali did this perfectly for us. She was with us for one week, and all of our guests commented how at ease she made them feel, even forgetting she was there. Her post production and how she was able to bring the feeling of the day into the pictures is a special gift.

Most memorable moment from the day:

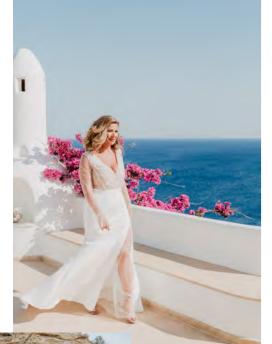
We both had so many memorable moments, but walking into the reception, with the sunset behind us, seeing all of our family and friends who had travelled so far to share this moment with us, was something we will never forget.

How long did it take you to plan your wedding & what was the biggest hurdle you had to overcome?

It took around 9 months, everything was going smoothly, until the Greek Ferry Companies decided to strike, with twodays notice, on the days many of our guests were due to arrive!! Luckily we had loads of champagne and so much good feeling we were able to laugh through it and everyone was able to arrive in time to share most of the week with us!

List of Vendors: Photography: Alicia Nacenta Photography Wedding Planner: Think Happy Events Videographer & dron: Dsilva Films Ceremony Venue: Cycladic Gem Luxury Villa Dinner Venue: los Club Catering: los Club Bride's dress: Rimea Rodaky Grooms suit: Hilton Bespoke Bouquet: Petridis Creations Stationary: Love me do Officiant: @ignatiu.s

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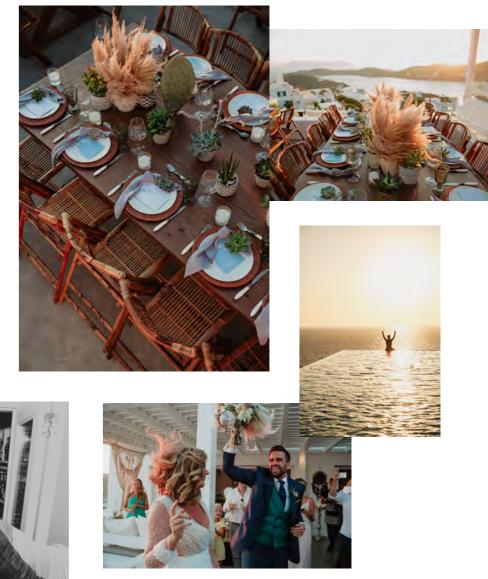








Our 60 guests were travelling to the wedding from abroad, so we wanted to make it a week to remember. We kicked off the wedding of a lifetime with a boat trip around Ios Island. We spent the day exploring the most beautiful beaches around the island. All of our guests joined us for our bachelor party wearing white, we kicked off the day at Salt Restaurant on the sea and danced the night away at Pathos Club, with the most amazing sunset on the whole island. The night before the wedding we held an intimate welcome party at Cycladic Gem Villa with Ios Club catering to our every need. All of these events really made everyone feel like family in time to celebrate our special day!





















Real Wedding DUSTY PINK & ROSE GOLD

KEON & JESSICA'S ROSE GOLD WEDDING From Santorini

We met on a work operation appropriately 2yr before Keon ever asked me out. I knew he was interested all along because he always made it a point to make sure I saw him or speak to me when we were in the same place. A few months before he asked me out we crossed paths again and I decided to give him a few pointers on something he was working on. Keon saw this as me letting him know that I was interested in him so he asked me out shortly thereafter. We have been together since.

List of Vendors: since. Hair: Marianna Nomikou Make-up: Margariti Popi Food/Open Bar: Spicy Bites Catering Keon proposed on his 30th Birthday trip to Photographer: Alex Eleftheraki Puerto Rico. He had never traveled outside Videographer: Nikos Korakakis of the US and told me he wanted to go on Live Music: Koumi of the Allegria String Quartet Traditional Greek Dancers: Artemia Denaxa a trip for his 30th birthday. We decided DJ: Christos Tsaparas on Puerto Rico and I planned each part of Venue and Planning: The Diamond Rock the trip. I intentionally kept all the details Wedding Dress: Galina secret so that he would be surprised with Lace Veil, Shoes, Accessories: David's Bridal different activities each day on the trip. Earrings & Necklace: Reed's Jewelers Bracelet: Swarovski Crystals On our last night in Puerto Rico Keon Rose Gold Watch: Michael Kors convinced me to take a late night swim Rose Gold, Morganite & Diamond Engagement Ring/ in the pool. To my surprise he proposed Wedding Bands: Zales in the most beautiful infinity pool while Blush and Ivory Lace Reception Dress:Ammo Suit: Trio Clothiers overlooking the beautiful ocean an most Shirt, Tie, Belt, Socks:Express amazing night sky. The moon and stars Pocket Square: Jos. A. Banks were perfect that night. I still have no idea Shoes:Cole Haan how he managed to sneak my ring in the Watch w/Copper Bracelet: Movado pool without getting the engagement ring Rose Gold & Black Diamond Wedding Band: Reed's Jewelers Reception Shoes: Converse (Custom designed by Jessica) box getting wet.

My husband and I decided to have a destination wedding shortly after getting engaged. I suggested Santorini and he agreed that it would be perfect. We knew we wanted an intimate ceremony with a view. The venue we chose was perfect for that. It was even more breath-taking than we imagined.

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We were married at a private villa in Santorini. We used The Diamond Rock Wedding Planners to plan our wedding in Greece. The wedding day was absolutely perfect. Everything was well planned out down to the last detail. The venue was absolutely gorgeous. Keon and I stayed at villa in the days leading up to our wedding day. On the morning of the wedding we had breakfast together outside overlooking the sea and then relaxed and cuddled by the pool before getting ready. We got ready in separated rooms at the villa. Alexandra, our photographer, arrived and began capturing every moment of our special day. She was amazing. She was very professional and seemed to capture all of the little details in her photos. The pictures came out beautiful. We were so pleased with her work. We had a late afternoon ceremony, followed by a cocktail hour for our guests while Alexandra whisked us away to take photos on the cliffs overlooking the sea. I was a little hesitant at first but Keon made me feel safe and we trusted Alexandra's vision. I'm so glad we did. She directed us and the now have the most amazing images with the most beautiful back drop.

Our reception took place in the same location as the ceremony. The food was amazing and entertainment was amazing. We danced on "This is why I love you" by Major

After dinner we enjoyed a performance from traditional Greek dancers and then partied the night away. We ended the night with fireworks as a surprise for our guests.

It was a must to have touches of Rose Gold in our wedding. Our wedding planners incorporated it into everything down to the flatware/cutlery on the reception table.

What was your favourite detail of your day? Jessica: The Décor', the view and most of all my wedding jewelry picked out by Keon. Keon: Everything!!!!!

What made your wedding special? Keon and I both agree that saying "I DO" was what made our wedding special!!!!

The Diamond Rock Wedding Planners were amazing hand's down!!!!! Each vendor we chose we would have never been able to find without them!!!! We absolutely loved each vendor!!!!!

My advice for all the brides is to focus on what is important for you and your groom on your day. Don't stress over the little things.















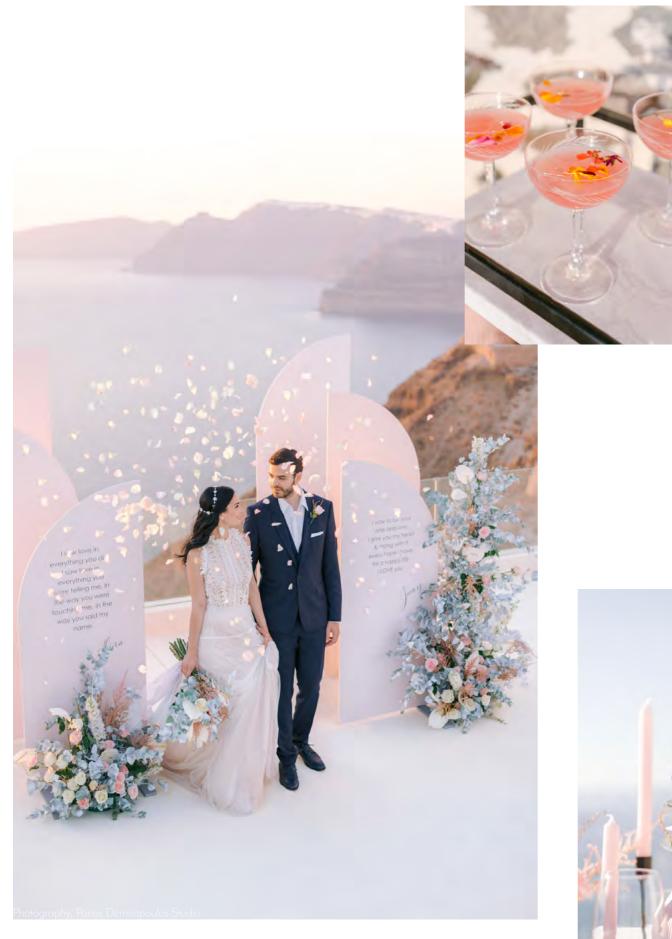














Real Wedding OPÁLESCENT PINK & OPAL BLACK

2020 ELOPEMENT FROM SANTORINI

The Cycladic island of Santorini has always been among Alina & James' top destinations to vacay and with 2020 marking the couple's 5th anniversary, the time felt right for James to pop the question and top it with a beautiful elopement at the volcanic haven.

The sweethearts from England began planning their August vows right after the holidays, and we were thrilled to be working next to Athena from Broderie Anglaise Events who designed every detail to perfection. From an innovative backdrop arch simulating Santorini's unique "yposkafes" (arched passageways hewn into the rock) and baring the couple's vows on each side, to a magnificent private dinner at El Viento in Megalochori village with the terrace overlooking the steep slopes of the caldera.

Now if you've had your fair share of Santorini's settlements you'll notice a very particular color palette ranging from salt to limestone pink which is unique to the island and transforms as the light shifts. As Alina fell in love with this opalescent effect, the couple's designer channeled the hues right into the wedding

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scheme and paired them to black details on the tablescape and lounge area to create an elegant pop. The scene was topped with soft patterned cushions and throws, dainty fairy lights, a minibar placed against El Viento's 14th-century stone windmill, the oldest on the island.

We began the day shooting the bride and groom's intimate portraits nearby, taking our time to explore the cobbled maze of candycolored paths and sugar-hued abodes feeling we had the entire island to ourselves. At this time of year, Santorini is normally packed with tourists so it was rare to enjoy the quietude of non-tourist season in warm-weather temps. Alina and James read their vows at dusk and soon as the light cascaded down the rosecolored cliffs and lights began to twinkle across the hill her bouquet lit up.

List of Vendors: Photography: @panosdemiropoulosstudio Planning & Styling:@broderie_anglaise_events Bridal dress:@anemomilou_anem Bridal shoes:@onceuponashoe_ Venue:@elvientosantorini Hair & make up:@juliapopovamuah Installations & Stationary:@illuminography Flowers:@flowery_santorini Cakes:@petranart_santorini Rentals:@weddingswhimsy_santorini Headpieces & earings:@thallojewelry Wedding rings:@ponirosjewellery Lights:@elias_plm Fine art details:@marygro_art Styling goods:@narcissus_fineart



















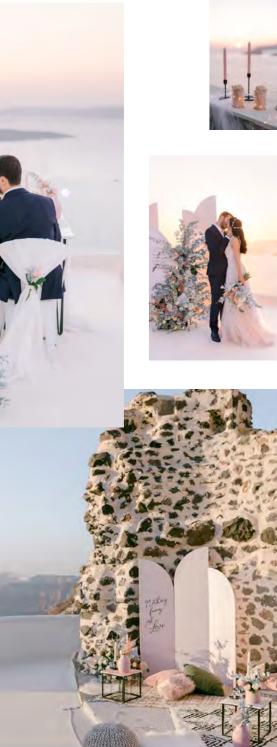


















Real Wedding SUMMER GLAM ESCAPE

FELICIA'S AND ANDRE'S DREAM WEDDING IN SANTORINI

The gorgeous and magical island of Santorini was the perfect location for these two to tie the knot. It's always exciting to be part of a destination wedding because of the feeling of adventure and romance, and for Felicia and Andre, those two words seemed to sum up their entire personalities.

My videographer, Kyle, and I were never at a loss for something amazing to document.

I did all the photography, starting with Felicia and her bridesmaids and then Andre, and the whole day went by in a whirlwind of joy. The ceremony itself was stunning and emotional and provided my favorite image of the day. At the end of the ceremony, after they'd been pronounced husband and wife, Felicia and Andre walked down the aisle together with huge smiles on their faces and rose petals in the air. That photograph evokes such a strong, joyful feeling even looking at it now that I can't help but get swept up in their happiness all over again.

I have to say, though, that my favorite moment was when we went to the small church on top of a mountain just minutes away from the wedding venue. It was the first time the two of them had some alone time to chat and decompress after officially being married, and I could see them drinking in each other's presence as well as the emotion of that moment.

I'd also be remiss if I didn't thank "Behind the Design" for their event planning. For a destination wedding like this, it's always crucial for the planning and design to go off well, and she was an absolute lifesaver for this wedding.

List of Vendors: Photographer: Flavio D Photography Event Venue: Le Ciel Event Planner: Behind The Design Plexiglas signs and Escort cards: ten23designs Shoes: Badgley Mischka

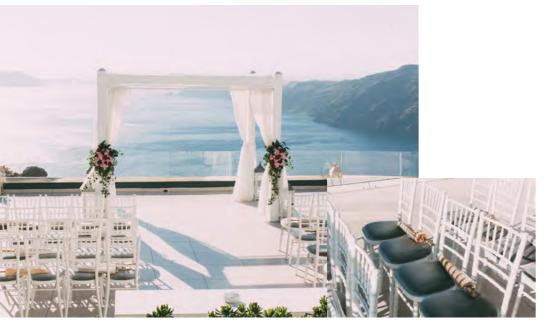
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Real Wedding

MARIANNA AND THEO'S CHIC ORTHODOX WEDDING IN THE BYZANTINE MUSEUM IN THESSALONIKI

A chic urban destination wedding at one of Greece's most prestigious public works of architecture, the Museum of Byzantine Culture for a sophisticated couple from the UK.

There is no bigger blessing than working with couples that have a great sense of style. Especially when we manage to bring their impeccable taste into the design of their wedding day. Case in point, this ultra-chic couple that travelled from London, UK, to get married among family and friends in their hometown, Thessaloniki, in Northern Greece. From the very first meetings, both Marianna and Theo were very specific about what they had in mind for their wedding day. An iconic venue, like the Museum of Byzantine Culture, which is considered one of the best works of public architecture created in the last decades in Greece, and an urban chic design. Keeping the architecture of the building in mind, we chose our main design elements, in order to be consistent with both the surroundings and the couple's taste. Our mood board consisted of hints of marble, black and gold. The stationery, the welcome gifts that included traditional treats, the favor boxes with the succulents etc were all designed accordingly.

The bride wore an elegant tailor made off one shoulder white wedding dress and gorgeous petrol heels by Oscar Tiye, while the groom chose a bespoke stunning dark blue tuxedo. Their ceremony took place at one of the oldest

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URBAN CHIC

churches in Thessaloniki, and after its end, the guests were escorted to the venue by tour guides that walked them through the city's history. The flowers were mostly white for the church decoration. The bride's bouquet was a breathtaking combination of white sweet peas and peonies. For the venue, we used an assortment of greenery, such as different types of fern, palm leaves etc with hints of white in between, in order to turn the outdoor space of the museum into a beautiful garden.

At the entrance, the guests were welcomed by a white wooden installation for the seating chart decorated with greenery, as well as a dessert table, with a gorgeous 3-tier cake with a blue-black brush stroke and marble patterned desserts.

The dinner set up consisted of round and long white marble tables with clear charger and BB plates with a gold rim, dinner plates with a marble pattern, golden flatware and prism iridescent glassware. As the night went by, Edison type lamps hanging over the tables and the dance floor lit up, turning the venue into a magical scenery, that, combined with the couple's amazing energy, made this wedding party a night to remember.

List of Vendors:

Event Planning, Design & Styling: Soo Events Photography: Kostis Mouselimis Photography Invitations & Stationery: Love Me Do Floral Design: Tania Xatzigkontziou Cake & Desserts: Pepi Beza Boutique Baking Sound & Light Installations: Avant Garde Events Tableware: White Lilac Rentals: Party Rentals Wedding Dress: Katia Delatola Groom's Attire: Dimitris Petrou Hair Stylist: Elena Giaxidou Make Up Artist: Evri Kalota

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DEXAMENES SEASIDE HOTEL

Engaging the past with the present Respecting materials and history of the existing abandoned factory. dexamenes.com



Venue Inspiration

C O N S I D E R

If I were to tell you my recipe for the perfect destination wedding, it would go something like this: warm Mediterranean sun, breathtaking sea views, staples of local cuisine on the menu, and ...great design.

My name is Magdalena, and I am a planner & curator of design-led destination weddings across Europe for architecture-loving couples.

Exclusively for Ellwed readers, I have curated a list of the 7 Greek hotels that will leave all the design-aficionados in awe.



LOCATION, VENUE, HONEYMOON

DESIGN HOTELS

7 DESIGN HOTELS ANY COUPLE GETTING MARRIED IN GREECE SHOULD

BY ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL WEDDINGS

Whether what you are planning is an elopement, an intimate affair for just your family and friends, a bigger celebration or, your honeymoon - you'll find here true wedding venue gems that seamlessly combine laid-back contemporary Mediterranean interior design, fine architecture, and pristine nature. And all that across some of Greece's most stunning locations.

all things beautiful

CURATING MOMENTS

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All photos courtesy of the hotels

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1. MILOS COVE

Inspired by the island's lunar-like dramatic landscape, Milos Cove is the perfect venue for those looking for something out of the ordinary among the Greek islands.

Milos Cove puts a contemporary spin on the "white house by the sea" aesthetic Greek islands are usually associated with. Instead, it embraces the volcanic greys, softened by shades of beige allowing for a sophisticated yet unpretentious feel.

WHERE: Milos

FOR WHO: Explorers at heart & couples dreaming of a different kind of island wedding. WHY WE LOVE IT: Epic ceremony backdrop potential.



2. DEXAMENES SEASIDE HOTEL

A post-industrial space turned into a chic boutique hotel, with old wine tanks transformed into modern, elegant suites? No need to pinch yourself, it's not a dream, it's Dexamenes hotel.

Designed by no other than K-studio, this hotel has everything: clean lines, raw, almost rough textures, complemented by the excellent choice of furniture and finishes. Allowing for complete exclusivity, this daring venue is perfect for a bigger yet private celebration, and all while marvelling at the stunning sea views.

WHERE: Kourouta, Peloponnese FOR WHO: Bold minimalists looking for a 360 wedding experience and a big, fun party. WHY WE LOVE IT: "Not your typical wedding venue" in the best way possible.





3. THE WILD HOTEL BY INTERNI The essence of relaxed luxury infused with an authentic Mykonos experience. This is the type of venue design-loving, cosmopolitan couples will fall in love with.

Sitting right on the cliffside this venue offers a real, almost unspoiled island feel, carefully balanced with contemporary design.

Perfect for brides & grooms looking for world-class comfort surrounded by pristine nature, where ceremony backdrop opportunities are endless.

WHERE: Mykonos

FOR WHO: The wild at heart, eclectic travellers. WHY WE LOVE IT: Quiet luxury feel and Mediterranean lied-back coolness.



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4. THE ROOSTER

If there is one hidden gem the wedding industry insiders were guarding jealously all this time, it must be Antiparos. Tucked away on this piece of the paradise-on-earth island is The Rooster.

Thanks to the intimate atmosphere, this boutique venue is perfect for small, intimate destination weddings and elopements. The earthy tones and the natural, almost organic finishes add an elevated feel to the idea of slow living. It is a dream location for those planning a celebration that feels authentic and easy, without losing on the romance and quiet elegance.

WHERE: Antiparos

FOR WHO: Modern bohemians, WHY WE LOVE IT: For their own, redefined luxury - slow living & reconnecting with nature.







5. KALESMA

With a star-studded team working on this hotel, Kalesma makes for one of the most dreamy destination wedding venues out there. While the world-renowned K-studio designed a place that doesn't feel like a hotel at all, responsible for the interior Studio Bonarchi ensured it feels like a home away from home.

Located off the main tourist area of the island, Kalesma offers privacy and uninterrupted, breath taking sea views. Ideal location for medium to bigger size celebrations.

A bonus? This venue does not only tick all the design boxes but also is approved for all sorts of civil and religious ceremonies. And it has an on-site chapel too!

WHERE: Mykonos FOR WHO: Design-conscious luxury travellers. WHY WE LOVE IT: The state of the art design and craftsmanship.

6. ISTORIA

Picture this: a boutique retreat right on the seafront of the famous black sand beach of Perivolos, modern Mediterranean design mastered to perfection, and a quiet, peaceful atmosphere that makes you feel time runs at a different pace here - it doesn't get much more perfect than this, does it?

Carefully crafted by the Athensbased Interior Design Laboratorium, Istoria seduces with its tranquillity, intimacy, and quiet, relaxed luxury - a perfect place to celebrate and romance.

WHERE: Santorini FOR WHO: Sophisticated aesthetes & romantics at heart WHY WE LOVE IT: For showing us a side of Santorini that we can't get enough of.

7. PARILIO

The essence of the Cycladic serenity, where the scenic nature meets contemporary Mediterranean architecture.

Parilio is the definition of minimalism done right - stripping the design of everything unnecessary to let the raw, quality materials take the centre stage. Appreciated by the design and traveller communities alike, this sublime 33-suite retreat might just be the truest depiction of the "less but better" mantra.

WHERE: Paros

FOR WHO: modern minimalists with a soft spot for Northern African design influences. WHY WE LOVE IT: For the clean lines and making us fall in love with the elevated simplicity.



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DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR WEDDING IN GREECE?

We would love to help you in any way we can. Send us your questions at submit@ellwed.com or through our Social Media and we will do our best to answer it.

All best questions and answers will be published in the next Ellwed issue. If you can't wait till then, head over to our Bridal Community. It's free to join and we can help you right away.

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ELLWED TALKS



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!

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Our Wedding Date: Our Wedding Location: Ceremony Venue: Our Celebrant/Officiant: Reception Venue: Number of Guests: Wedding Invitations and Stationery: Our Wedding Bands: Our Plannet: Our Photographer: Our Videographer: Our Florist:

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Wedding Planning

WHEN PLANNING YOUR WEDDING IN GREECE BY GREECE IN MY EYES

Planning a destination wedding? Greece is a Mediterranean gem that is classic yet exotic and an ideal location for your guests to come from all around the world.

Greece has many beautiful islands as well as breath-taking mainland locations where you can plan your wedding. Its rich culture and warm hospitality makes it ideal for you to exchange your vows and truly impress your guests! There are so many choices to pick from!

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ILY HAP р E

If you want to have a romantic but yet relaxed style wedding look no further. A beach wedding is a great fit for you. Indulge your senses with the smell of the sea and the surroundings. No heels are required in the sand and a variety of romantic Grecian wedding dresses are available for you to choose from. Kick off your shoes and dance the night away!

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How about a yacht wedding? Tying the knot in the middle of the sea with a large range of boats depending on the number of guests and your budget. You set the rules of who comes on board and when the party ends! Not to mention the fact that you can even find a chapel on an islet and make your wedding more private.

You may of course want to have an elegant ceremony and reception on mainland or an island!

You can't have a Greek wedding without incorporating one or more of the below thus adding a "Greek touch" to your celebration:

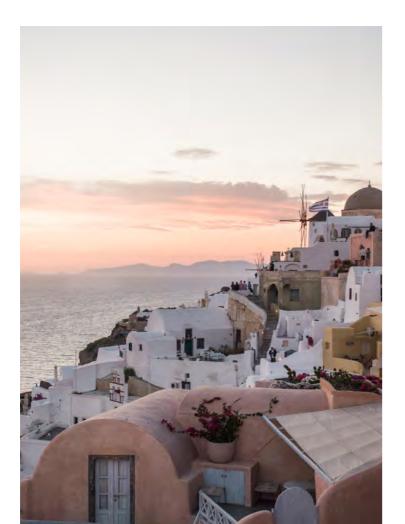
· Introduce blue and white colors in the linen you choose, or even on the wedding invitations.

• A sprig of an olive branch can add so much beauty to your wedding place settings.

• Offer your guests mini olive oil or Greek honey bottles as a wedding favor.

• Add Greek food and Greek music and you are good to go!

If you find the right wedding planner anything is possible and you can leave everything in the hands of the experts and enjoy one of the most precious moments of your life.



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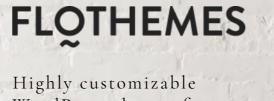
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We have set up a new page with all the Resources for Ellwed's pro community

Education & growth are important to us and at ellwed.com/resources you can find resources to grow your creative wedding business!



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