



CLEARWELL CASTLE

Making Wedding Day Dreams Come True



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A magnificent castle backdrop for your fairytale wedding. Hand-picked by Country House Weddings for both its grandeur and graceful interiors, Clearwell Castle makes the perfect venue for an enchanting day. The family-run team of experts has over twenty-five years of wedding experience to help guide you and create your perfect event. Exclusively yours, it will soon feel like home so relax and enjoy as the magic unfolds.





THE CASTLE

Set in postcard perfect Gloucestershire countryside, Clearwell Castle is a Grade II listed mansion built in 1727 in Gothic Revival style. With dramatic architecture and idyllic surroundings, this charming venue boasts plenty of room and options for a truly memorable occasion. Elegant Georgian interiors are a classic setting to any wedding theme, with neutral house floral arrangements on display all year round. Festive garlands and glittering trees add to the 'wow' factor at Christmas.



THE CASTLE



Make a dramatic entrance into your ceremony along the Ballroom's 75-foot aisle. With imposing leaded arched windows, ornate cornicing and a raised dais for you to say your vows in front of up to 150 guests, the room feels like a private chapel and is fully licensed for Civil ceremonies. Natural light and the grand fireplace create an enticing atmosphere.



Welcome guests with champagne and canapés by the roaring log fire in the Main Hall, before serving your wedding breakfast in the elegant Ballroom. The adjoining state rooms, including the vaulted Cellar Bar with its own dancefloor, can host 250 people for an evening reception.



THE CASTLE GROUNDS

Nestled in the Forest of Dean in the tiny village of Clearwell, the venue is conveniently located only 45 minutes from Bristol, Cheltenham and Gloucester. The journey up to the venue is as impressive as the castle itself.

A sweeping tree-lined driveway leads to a magnificent Portcullis, perfect for a photo opportunity with the castle turrets in the background. From there take a short drive along the manicured grounds and be greeted by stately front steps up to the historical entrance.



THE CASTLE GROUNDS



With stunning Gothic features and over 20 acres of spectacular grounds, your photographer will be spoiled for choice with backdrops for your wedding photographs, whatever the season. Take a romantic stroll through flowering woodland and rolling meadows, before posing by the serene mirrored lake, home to friendly wildlife. A panoramic shot in front of the castle's iconic façade is definitely one to be framed.

During summer months, guests can enjoy drinks on the terrace and croquet on the lawn. Children will adore playing hide and seek amongst the trees or with one of the giant garden games available to hire. At night, the castle is truly magical illuminated or under the glow of fireworks.



FINE DINING

Food is such an important part of your day, which is why we choose to employ our very own team of in-house chefs. Choose from an array of gastronomic dishes for every taste, or for a personal touch, create your own menu with your Personal Wedding Manager who will guide you through every aspect of your day. We aim to source our produce locally and ethically and can cater for any dietary requirements – and kids too! Our dedicated Bar and Beverages Manager is on hand to advise you of our carefully selected wines and evening bar selection or for a unique touch, design a bespoke cocktail.



FINE DINING



Whether four-courses of fine dining or tasty finger food to satisfy your evening guests, our experienced chefs prepare beautifully presented dishes full of flavour from only the best ingredients. From the exquisite canapés served at your drinks reception all the way through to handmade petits fours paired with coffee post-dinner, expect seamless service throughout. Our Candy Cart makes a popular addition to any party.

Our house wine list has been thoughtfully put together with all tastes and budgets in mind. Our Dadnor English Sparkling Rosé is made by the founder of Country House Weddings himself and its elegance, purity and freshness celebrates the best of British grapes. In winter, mulled wine and mince pies can be arranged or Pimms and chocolate dipped strawberries for a summer soiree.

SAMPLE MENUS

STARTERS

Venison Carpaccio

Served on toasted brioche
chocolate sauce and pear chutney

Ham Hock Terrine with Piccalilli

Confit Ham Hocks garnished
with salad leaves and served with
homemade piccalilli

Salmon Fishcake

On a bed of crushed peas
with homemade tartare sauce

Baked Camembert Tart (V)

Camembert, fig and confit
red onion tart served with
a quince Chutney

MAIN COURSE

Saddle of Lamb

With Apricot and Thyme stuffing
lightly roasted and served with garlic
fondant potato and rosemary jus

Slow Cider and Herb Braised Belly of Pork

Served alongside fondant potatoes,
charlotte carrots and a rich cider
and sage jus

Pan Fried Free-Range Breast of Chicken

With Pancetta crisps, served on
colcannon potato with a
wild mushroom cream sauce

Pasty of Woodland Mushroom (V)

With cavolo nero potato cakes
and truffle oil dressing

DESSERTS

Lemon Tart

A rich lemon filling in crisp pastry
with clotted cream caramelised
lemon zest & lemon coulis

Dark Chocolate Fondant

A dreamy chocolate dessert with
cherries and mascarpone cream
and homemade Raspberry and
Prosecco sorbet

Caramel Apple Crumble

Amazing twist on a great British
classic; toffee apple topped with a
rich crisp crumble topping and a
homemade custard ice cream

Banoffee Cheesecake

Served with chocolate sauce
and Baileys cream

VEGAN STARTERS

Avocado and Houmous Salad and Toasted Pitta Bread

Ripe avocado, blended with
chickpea Tahini and garlic, served
with a pine nut and rocket salad

CHILDREN'S STARTERS

Garlic dough balls served
with a BBQ, mayonnaise or
tomato sauce dip

VEGAN MAIN

Garlic & Saffron Stewed Courgette with Butter Beans & Mint Salsa

Lightly braised courgette with garlic
and saffron, tossed with butter
beans and served with a mint salsa

CHILDREN'S MAIN

Roasted Free-Range Chicken
served with seasonal vegetables

VEGAN DESSERTS

Vegan Pecan Pie

Rich soya pastry, with a maple
syrup filling and toasted pine nuts

CHILDREN'S DESSERT

Chocolate Fudge Sundae





ACCOMMODATION

Clearwell Castle offers 15 luxury bedrooms exclusively for the night of your wedding. With two large family suites, up to 34 overnight guests can be accommodated in the sumptuous surroundings. The Gresham bridal suite is the perfect place to relax after an exciting day with an enormous spa bath and palatial four-poster bed for your first night. Breakfast is included, so you can reflect on the previous day's events over a full English or continental option with your closest family and friends.



ACCOMMODATION



The rooms in the castle are each individually decorated in stunning period style, all with en suite bathrooms and most with four-poster beds. With check-in from midday, guests can conveniently arrive early and get ready in comfort before walking downstairs to the ceremony. Should you need further accommodation, the North Lodge and Portcullis View Studio in the grounds can house an extra 8 guests.

For a stress-free experience, we have three cottages within walking distance of the castle for you and the wedding party to stay in the night before. Make use of the beautiful country-style kitchen complete with traditional Aga, or order champagne and sandwiches whilst preparing for your big day.

THE HISTORY OF CLEARWELL

Hidden away in the Forest of Dean, Clearwell Castle is one of the earliest examples of a neo-gothic mansion in England. Whilst the existing building was built circa 1727 for the Wyndham family, parts of the house including the beautiful ballroom are part of an older building dating back to the early 1600s. The proprietor during this period time was Sir Nicholas Throckmorton - an English diplomat and politician, who was an ambassador to France at the time of queen Elizabeth I. It was while the Throckmortons were resident at the Castle that Sir Walter Raleigh was rumored to have courted Beth Throckmorton - a great romantic scandal of its time.

Over the centuries Clearwell Castle has withstood the ravages of time - the fire, the ruination and even the rock bands. During the 1970s several famous rock groups including Badfinger, Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin and Queen recorded albums in what is now the Cellar Bar - its vaulted ceilings giving perfect acoustics. Wedding guests that have been lucky enough to stay in our Mermaid Suite can boast about having shared the same room as none other than Freddie Mercury. Nowadays the sound of laughter and music fill the air once again with married couples and their wedding guests enjoying the pleasures of the Castle.



1 Colonel Vereker
2 Lady Vereker c. 1916
3 Previous owners Alice & Frank Yeates

COUNTRY HOUSE WEDDINGS - OUR VENUES

Founded in 1988, Country House Weddings Ltd is the longest established group of wedding venues in the UK. In 1995 our flagship venue, Leez Priory, became the UK's very first licenced wedding venue. Family owned and managed to this day, we have taken great care in selecting our four stunning country houses for their beauty and their suitability as exclusive wedding venues.

What's more, weddings are simply all we do. Each venue is used purely to hold one wedding per day allowing our couples to enjoy a real tailor-made wedding experience. Our venues each have their own full-time team of staff and managers that are highly trained and dedicated entirely to delivering dream weddings for our couples.



CLEARWELL CASTLE
Gloucestershire



ST AUDRIES PARK
Somerset



GOSFIELD HALL
Essex



LEEZ PRIORY
Essex

THE HAPPY COUPLES...



Outstanding! Our dream and more was made reality with much thanks to your staff. You made us feel so welcome on our first visit to the Castle. Our Events Coordinator answered all of our questions in a friendly personal warm manner and our Front of House Manager was a fantastic and supportive organiser. I can only say that all your staff were outstanding in every way.

Linda and Alan

Chris and I would like to thank yourself and all the staff who helped on the day of our wedding. We had such a lovely day and the comments from family and guests about the Castle, grounds and service have been so positive. Thank you for really looking after us on the day, we did feel like 2 rabbits in the head lights and it was lovely to have you there guiding us through each event, it was so well organised and we were stress free. We couldn't have asked for a better day, thank you!

Joanna and Chris



The Castle was as beautiful as ever and everyone was in love with the place and the atmosphere you helped to provide. We cannot thank you enough for all the considerable effort that went into pulling off what was a seamless day. Everything went like clockwork and we are incredibly proud to have shared it with everyone from Clearwell.

Alex & Sally



We would like to say an enormous thank you for everything you did to make our wedding day so wonderful - the whole day was just perfect! I have had loads of comments from friends and family about how beautiful the Castle is but more so about how superbly organised everything was and how smoothly everything went!

Lynn and Aidan

Thank you so much to the team at Clearwell Castle who made our day (and the run up to the wedding) at Clearwell so amazing! The venue is just breathtaking, we were looked after all day, and the day itself just ran seamlessly. All of our guests said the food was the best they had ever at a wedding, it was beautiful and the evening reception was just incredible fun! I would recommend this wedding venue to anyone who is looking for an absolutely magical day - you will regret not booking Clearwell Castle!

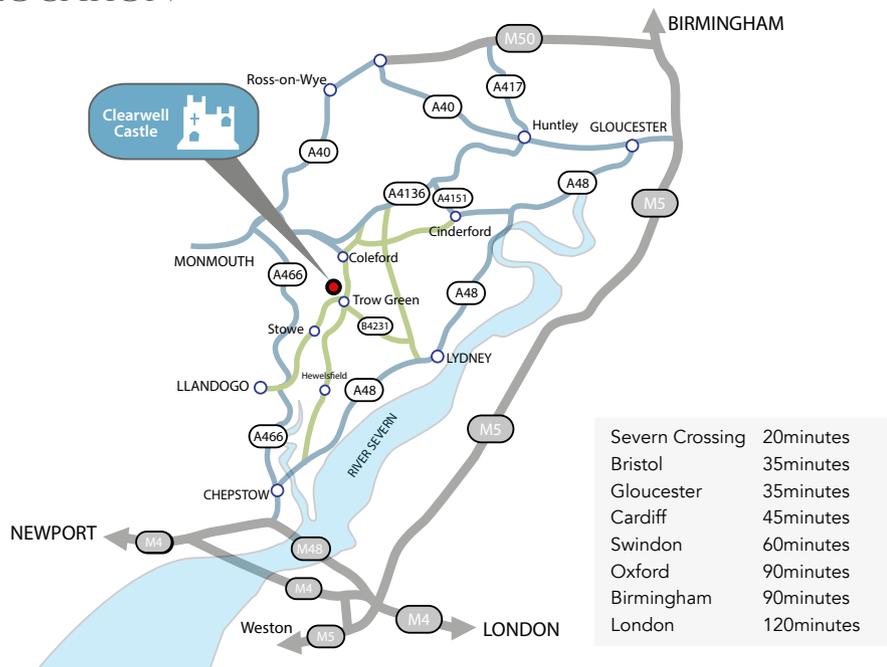
James and Kirsty



VENUE INFORMATION

We look forward to welcoming you to Clearwell Castle and hope that you choose our special venue for your perfect day. Our venues look stunning in the brochures but nothing will compare to seeing them in real life. To arrange your viewing or to find out more about our upcoming open days, please contact our team of wedding experts today...

LOCATION

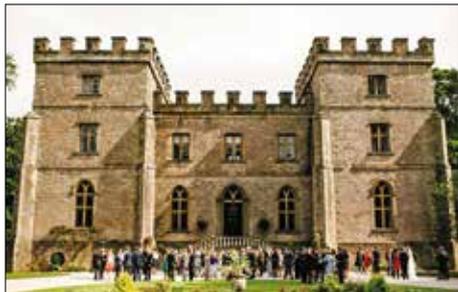


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Many thanks to our venue photographers: Nick Murray Photography - www.nickmurrayphotography.co.uk • West Photography - www.westphotography.co.uk
Lensmonkey - www.lensmonkey.co.uk • Expression Photography - www.expression-photography.co.uk •

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