

Pictures by Kelly Cooper

The spectacular Waddesdon Manor estate, owned by the Rothschild family and the National Trust, invited Image magazine to stage a romantic weddings photo shoot in its stunning surroundings, writes RUTH SUPPLE . . .

The Five Arrows Hotel in Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire, offers a wonderfully romantic backdrop for the perfect wedding at any time of year.

The Five Arrows is Grade II listed, and is part of the exquisite Waddesdon Estate. It was originally built in 1887 for the architects, craftsmen and artisans working on the Manor itself.

The Five Arrows Hotel is licensed to hold marriages and civil partnership ceremonies in two separate areas, dependent on the number of guests.

The authentic Old Coach House with its timber trussed roof and original wrought ironwork on the walls is perfect for a ceremony of up to 100 guests. The Rothschild Room is ideal for intimate ceremonies of any number up to 40 and the beautiful Baron's Gate makes a picturesque setting in which to sign the official register.

Waddesdon has recently been granted a civil ceremony licence for certain areas of the Manor itself, as well as the approval to hold ceremonies in the romantic little wooden hut at the top of the Watergarden at the Dairy.

Romance in full bloom

Nestling in a tranquil waterside setting amid glorious gardens, The Dairy is an enchanting private building on the Waddesdon Estate, created for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the 19th century and for more than 100 years the country retreat of the Rothschild family. Couples and their guests can enjoy a taste of that privileged lifestyle: superlative food, excellent wines and friendly, professional service with absolute exclusivity guaranteed.

Guests enter The Dairy via the peaceful inner courtyard leading to the West Wing overlooking the lake, home to an unusual collection of waterfowl.

Running along its entirety is a wide

terrace with two pavilions extending out over the lake, ideal for summer drinks receptions. Or in winter, gather round roaring fires inside the West Hall.

The Dairy is licensed for civil wedding ceremonies and partnerships in the Inner Courtyard, West Hall, Wintergarden and Lakeside Pavilions.

The Five Arrows' and The Dairy's executive chef uses only the best British produce and seasonal ingredients.

Choose from an extensive wine list that reflects Waddesdon's links with Rothschild vineyards around the world.

The local church, St Michael and All Angels, is just a short walk from the Five Arrows and The Dairy.





Flora wears Mark Lesley ivory lace dress style no 7098, in satin and tulle, with high-neckline and racer-style top, £1,250, from Stunning Bridal by Donna Salado

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Flora wears this Great Gatsby-style ivory chiffon dress by Mark Lesley with cap sleeves and a tattoo illusion back in sheer fabric with beading. £855. Hand jewellery, £60, and side birdcage headpiece, £60, which can be coloured to match your wedding dress, from Stunning Bridal by Donna Salado



Erin wears Carmel ivory chiffon dress by Donna Salado with an illusion neckline following down into a sweetheart neckline with sheer lace sleeves, and a long embroidered train. Dress, £1,250, made to order; headpiece, £145.50, from Stunning Bridal by Donna Salado



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Erin wears Phoenix by Donna Salado dress in blush with big rose skirt and sweetheart neckline with embroidered embellishment, £1,350, and full cathedral veil with heavy graduated crystal beading on the back by Heading Up, £275, from Stunning Bridal by Donna Salado

The grounds of Waddesdon Manor can be used by just-married couples for photographs of their big day.



Erin wears Babette light gold brocade dress by Donna Salado with embroidered fabric and detachable, long-sleeved jacket. The dress has button detailing down the back and pockets in the side, £1,950 with jacket and £1,650 without jacket, from Stunning Bridal by Donna Salado



Flora wears Mori Lee ivory caramel high-waisted, princess-style dress with deep lace hemming and lots of detail, style no 2674, priced £1,200, from Stunning Bridal by Donna Salado

The Hair

As our wedding shoot progressed, so did the models' hair in size to reflect the grandeur and French feel of Waddesdon Manor Estate.

Senior stylist Kelsie O'Connor of Hensmans Northampton salon explains: "The first look on Flora is a bit softer and then we are getting bigger on the next one and really going for it on the last shots. We set Erin's hair in rollers and put it to the side for the first shots then loosening out for the final, Marie Antoinette-style shots in front of the Manor itself."

Schwarzkopf and Unite products were used by the three stylists throughout the day with plenty of hairspray as it was a windy day!

The Make-Up

Keira Miller of Belle Beautique created a classic make-up look for Erin with strong red lips and more of a vintage 50s-look for Flora, focussing more on her eyes. She used MAC products for both models.

Belle Beautique offers make-up advice and everything to complement a look from lashes to brows, tanning and teeth whitening.

Bridal trends

Tattoo lace, low backs, ruffles and bigger dresses are the current trends for bridal gowns, says Jess Russell, of Stunning Bridal by Donna Salado, in Abington Grove, Northampton.

"We are starting to see a lot of bigger dresses coming through although fishtail dresses are still popular," adds Jess. "Princess-style skirts are very on trend and colours are becoming more popular, especially caramel, champagne and winter melon for wedding gowns."

Pockets, too, are becoming a feature on dresses, particularly larger gowns.

"I suggest brides put their lippy in the pockets," adds Jess. "But one bride turned round and told me she would be putting her baby's dummy in it."



Flora wears Mori Lee ivory caramel high-waisted, princess-style dress with deep lace hemming and lots of detail, style no 2674, priced £1,200, from Stunning Bridal by Donna Salado





Hair:
By senior stylists Kelsie O'Connor and Fran Bruce of Hensmans Northampton salon and Carol Straughan of Hensmans Milton Keynes salon; 01604 634448 and 01908 677336; www.hensmans.com



Make-Up:
Keira Miller of Belle Beautique, Kings Heath Industrial Estate, Northampton; 07939 265154; www.belle-beautique.co.uk

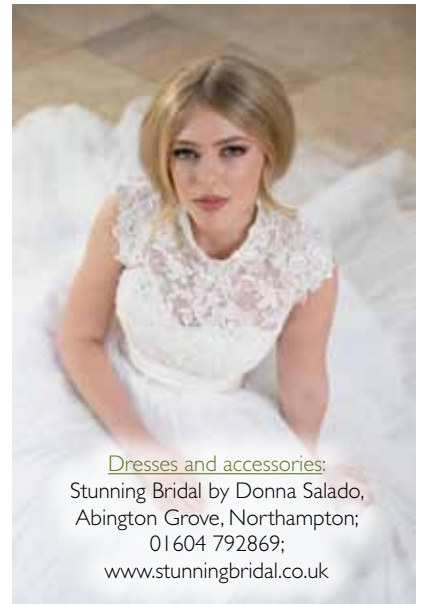
CREDITS

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The Dairy, Queen Street, Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire; HP18 0JW; telephone: 01296 653216/653294; fax: 01296 653237; email: weddings.waddesdon@nationaltrust.org.uk; www.weddingsatwaddesdon.co.uk

Models:
Flora Shadbolt and Erin Shearer

Photographs:
Kelly Cooper



Dresses and accessories:
Stunning Bridal by Donna Salado, Abington Grove, Northampton; 01604 792869; www.stunningbridal.co.uk



Flowers:
J F Flowers www.jfflowers.co.uk Justine Swerling; telephone 07984 791236

