

Prefer an easy life when it comes to wedding planning? *Nicola Smith* has tracked down venues with catch-all packages that'll tick a heap of suppliers off your to-do list

PACKED *and ready*

EASTERBROOK HALL

If a bash in the southern half of Scotland is on the cards, add Easterbrook Hall to your list of must-see venues. This glorious spot in Dumfries has the mini cathedral-style Crichton Church in its grounds, and offers a whopper of a package that'll help you plan a super-stylish day.

For £59 per person, you'll not only bag the usual three-course wedding breakfast and evening buffet, but you'll come up trumps with a drinks package, reception room hire for between 40 and 400 of your chums, and a selection of table stationery including table plan, name cards, table names and menus. The pièce de résistance is the décor package from trusted supplier Tantrum Events – so that's chair covers, sashes, table runners and centrepieces in the bag.

www.easterbrookhall.co.uk

HOPETOUN HOUSE

When booking your catch-all package, it's important to consider which external suppliers are involved and whether they're who you would choose yourself. Luckily, at Hopetoun House, you can put those fears

[Above] Easterbrook Hall boasts the pretty Crichton Church in its grounds

"We only ever partner with the very best suppliers to ensure that your day is completely unique and planned to perfection. We want you to have peace of mind."

Joanne Greenaway,
Hopetoun House
[below]

There are an awful lot of words in the dictionary that you only really come across when you're engaged – when else do you hear

'sgian dubh' or 'chiavari', for example? Other perfectly normal words change their meaning – 'bustle' is one, and 'package' is another. It no longer means there's a postman knocking at the door with your latest ASOS splurge. Oh no, my friend, the wedding package is something much more significant. And we're not talking about just the meal and ceremony room hire – there's much more on the go here. From flowers to kilts, favours to photographers, these venue packages have your day wrapped up.

Photo: parrisphotography.co.uk



[Below] **The Salutation Hotel** in Perth has got your big day and first anniversary covered



to bed, as the Queensferry estate's Joanne Greenaway clarifies: "We only partner with the very best suppliers to ensure that your day is completely unique and planned to perfection. We want you to have peace of mind." And when Joanne says Hopetoun only deals with the best suppliers, she really means it: the 'Hopetoun Wedding Experience' will get you floral centrepieces from Planet Flowers, no less.

On top of this, you'll be the lucky recipient of access to the State Apartments and the grounds for pics, a complimentary menu tasting for up to six guests, chiavari chairs, a PA system, a professional piper, real log fires in the Tapestry Room and Tiger Hall, plus heaps more.

hopetoun.co.uk

THE VU

It's not just Olympic gymnasts that are flexible. A venue that's worth its weight in confetti will not only provide a humdinger of a package, but it'll give you plenty of opportunity to pick and choose, add and remove aspects to suit you. The Vu, a blissful spot on Ballencrieff Reservoir in West Lothian, is testament to this. "We offer fully inclusive packages which come with extras such as table centrepieces, chair covers, ribbons, canapés and so on," say the team at the venue. As if this isn't already appealing



"We offer fully inclusive packages which include extras like table centrepieces, chair covers, cars, ribbons, canapés, and so on."

The Vu
[above]

enough, you can choose to add on an 8ft LED love arch, LED dancefloor, overnight stay in The Vu's wooden lodge and take a spin in a classic wedding car, such as a Beauford, a limousine, a Range Rover or even a Rolls-Royce Phantom.

thevu.co.uk

MACDONALD HOUSTOUN HOUSE

Are you and your other half planning a celebration to remember? Macdonald Houston House in Livingston has got your big day bonanza covered. For £155 per guest, you and your crew will have the time of your lives courtesy of Laurent Perrier champagne on arrival, free-flowing wine with a five-course meal, a three-tier wedding cake from Truly Scrumptious Designer Cakes, a

VENUES *inspiration*

piper for arrivals, ceremony and wedding breakfast entrance, and a disco for the evening reception. As extras go, these are hard to beat. More, you ask?

Okay, the bride and chief bridesmaid will also be pampered on the morning of the big day, with their makeup done by an industry professional.

www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk

SALUTATION HOTEL

We all know planning a wedding can be a stressful task. Thankfully, the Salutation Hotel in Perth is on your side. "Looking at so many complex pricing options can be a daunting prospect, which is why we've put together a great package to make the process as easy as possible for couples," states the Salutation's sales and events manager, Lorraine Geddes. For a grand total of £4,999 (for 70 day guests), the Salutation's →



[Left] **Macdonald Houston House** has a rocking package that ensures none of your guests are ever without a tippie
[Right] No stone is left unturned when you book your day with the **Best Western Hilcroft Hotel's** all-inclusive package



"LOOKING AT SO MANY PRICING OPTIONS CAN BE DAUNTING, SO WE'VE GOT A GREAT PACKAGE TO MAKE THE PROCESS EASY"



"We continually keep an eye on trends and new ideas so that we can enhance our packages or offer easy add-ons in the hope of making the planning process stress-free." *Sandra Cunningham, Lodge on Loch Lomond [above]*

'Sensational Wedding Package' covers everything you'd expect – and more. You'll have a piper there to welcome everyone and pipe you down the aisle, fresh table-top flowers, two bedrooms for the night before the wedding with a bottle of champagne in each, and 20 late check-outs for guests staying at the venue post-party.

And if you thought that was a fair offering, your first anniversary celebrations are also taken care of. When the time comes to celebrate that milestone, the Salutation will treat you to an overnight stay with a fancy dinner and wine.

strathmorehotels-thesalutation.com

BEST WESTERN HILCROFT HOTEL

The term 'all-inclusive' is often thrown around carelessly in the wedding business and attached to packages that are nothing of the sort. West Lothian's Best Western Hilcroft Hotel's all-inclusive wedding package, however, is the real deal. You get all the usual bits and bobs of a wedding package at a hotel, but you also have the pleasure of car hire from AK Stretch Limos, a cake from Cakes by Elinor, a disco hosted by Coaster Discotheques, table decorations from Emma Paterson Flower Design, photos by George Stark Photography, chair sashes by Beautifully Covered, stationery by Pretty White and a piper. Impressive.

www.hilcrofthotel.com

ALONA HOTEL

Some couples are a whizz with wedding planning. They're on first-name terms with all the local suppliers and love the challenge of

spending every spare moment weighing up the alternatives. If you're not really that type, and are more than happy to sort everything out in one fell swoop, the Alona Hotel, in Strathclyde Country Park, has a midweek package with your name written all over it. "Starting at £4,195 for 50 day guests, our package is like no other and is designed to help the bride and groom plan their day with suppliers included in the price," says Hannah Barnes, events assistant at the hotel. "The package includes a wedding cake from Special Days Cakes, bridal cars from White Diamond Wedding Cars, a piper, DJ, top-table flowers and lots more."

alona-hotel.co.uk

LODGE ON LOCH LOMOND

As well as being a brilliant money-saver, a belter of a package is also a smashing way to enjoy a trend-led day, as Sandra Cunningham at the Lodge on Loch Lomond explains: "We continually keep an eye on trends and new ideas so that we can enhance our packages or offer easy add-ons in the hope of streamlining and making the planning process as stress-free and enjoyable as possible."

Looking for something fresh and exciting? "This year we are working on lots of new food ideas as well as the popular 'pimp your prosecco' or 'build your own

[Below] Strathclyde Country Park's diamond, the **Alona Hotel**

Photo: view-photography.co.uk





[Far left] The **Lynnhurst Hotel** in Johnstone, part of the Manorview portfolio, has your big day signed, sealed and delivered
[Left] **Dalmahoy Country Club's** Morton package is a huge help to couples planning an Edinburgh do in true style

bellini' concepts, so our couples can easily select fun options to add to their inclusive package," says Sandra.

www.loch-lomond.co.uk

LYNNHURST HOTEL

If you've ever set foot in a Manorview hotel, you'll already know just how decadent and glamorous the venues are. One of the company's most popular wedding spots is the Lynnhurst, not far from Johnstone in Renfrewshire. For £5,495, you can take full advantage of the hotel's Ultimate Bespoke offering, which gives you a four-course meal for 50 as well as ceremony room hire.

If you're in the market for all those special extras, this winner-takes-it-all package also includes chair covers and sashes to match your theme, throne chairs for the happy couple, a professional wedding DJ, a cake from Special Days Cakes, an impressive floral package and hire of the hotel's wedding postbox to keep cards from your friends and family safe. And there's more: you get to dance the night away on an LED dancefloor

and take home a DVD of your ceremony, speeches and first dance. That's what we call a good deal!

www.lynnhurst.co.uk

ROSSLEA HALL HOTEL

There are few more romantic spots to tie the knot than the bonnie banks of the Firth of Clyde, and the Rosslea Hall Hotel can certainly lay on a magical Scottish wedding. Its Thistle & Rose package, based on a guest list of 70, is a corker. You can start by ticking the favours off your to-do list, along with your on-the-day stationery – both are included in the line-up, along with everything else you'd expect from a respectable wedding package. And you'll get to cut your cake with a ceremonial sword!

But this fabulous bundle is merely the beginning – Rosslea Hall's wonderful staff are willing to offer a lot more, so you can expect a few extra surprises along the way as your big day draws near.

www.rossleahallhotel.co.uk

DALMAHOY HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB

"Our aim here at Dalmahoy is to offer our couples an unforgettable and uncomplicated experience," begins wedding co-ordinator Caroline Sinclair of Edinburgh's Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club. "We really do try to think of everything – so you don't have to!" And when they say everything, they mean everything. "Our Morton package is dubbed an all-inclusive option as it covers all bases," she explains. "There's a traditional Scottish piper, table decorations, canapés, prosecco, the wedding breakfast and much more."

If you're keen to enhance the Morton package further, you have the option of upgrading: the bride and bridesmaid can rest easy in a full turret suite the night before the wedding, for example, and there's a round of golf on offer for four players on the venue's Championship East Course too.

www.dalmahoyhotelandcountryclub.co.uk

SAVOY PARK HOTEL

For a package that really has it all, look no further than the Savoy Park Hotel's 'Complete Wedding Wish'. And when we say it has it all, you get everything but the dress! At the risk of sounding too excited, believe us, there's nothing missed off this list. "It's your all-inclusive package. It makes planning your special day smooth and stress-free," says the venue's Anne Marie Henderson. She's not joking: the team at this fantastic Ayr venue has every inch of your day covered, with nothing left out.

Among the items included in the price is kilt hire for the groom and best man, a wedding cake, photographer and album, wedding car for the bride, flowers for the bride and two bridesmaids, buttonholes, corsages, honeymoon suite for the couple and special rate for guest accommodation – and that's not even half of it! You'll even get exclusive use of the venue to say your precious 'I dos'.

www.savoypark.com ♥



[Above] The view from across the water is enchanting thanks to **Rosslea Hall Hotel's** imposing architecture

"THE PACKAGE INCLUDES A WEDDING CAKE, BRIDAL CARS, A PIPER, DJ, TOP TABLE FLOWERS AND LOTS, LOTS MORE"