

# Wows & Vacay

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 2 | MAY – JUNE 2025

## Rajasthan

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With its regal ambience, royal hospitality, and opulent venues, RAJASTHAN effortlessly tops the list as the most happening and ideal destination for dream weddings. Here's a more detailed overview of all that the destination has in store for those keen on saying 'I-do' in a palatial setting.

### 26 Honeymoon Haven

Just a whisper away from India—a quick 4.5-hour flight from Mumbai—Seychelles feels like a secret the universe kept just for lovers. Here, nature choreographs every scene: emerald rainforests unfold like poetry and the sea changes its blues as if to match every emotion.

### 32 Honeymoon Haven

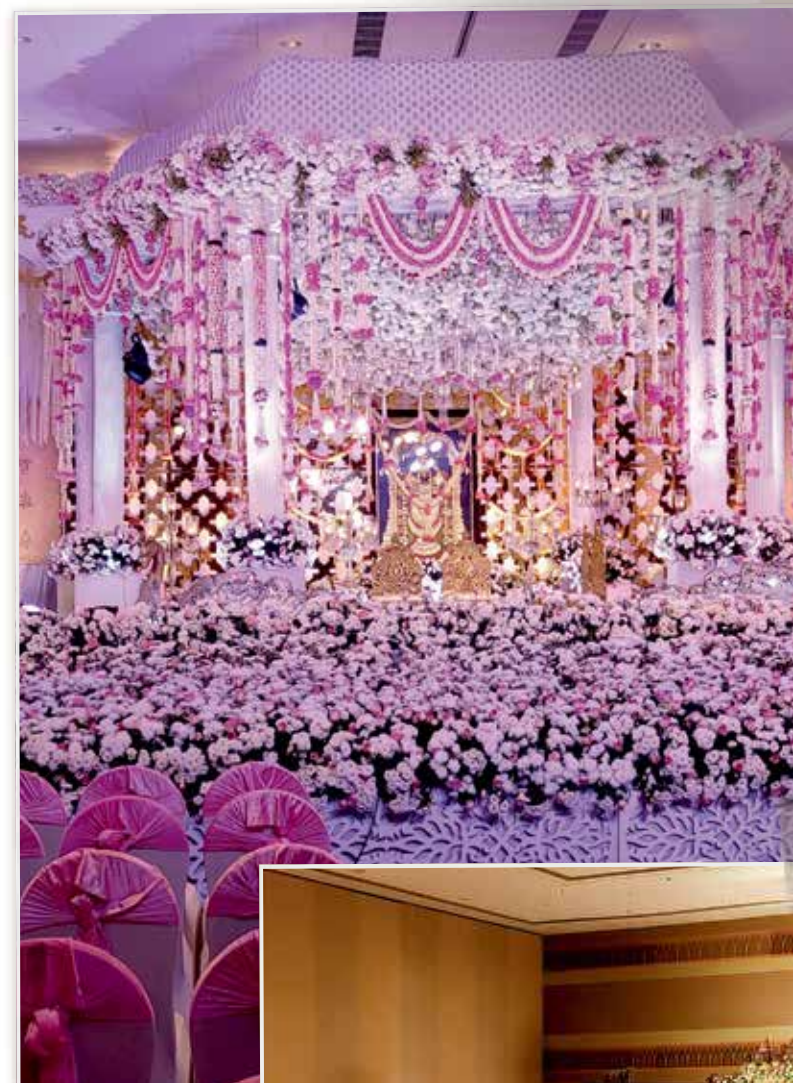
The top 2025 wedding cake trends offer a mix of traditional and contemporary. The good news is that the Millennials are embracing sustainable concept as well in their scheme as the wedding cakes.



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## MESSAGE from the EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second issue of Vows & Vacay, your curated guide to all things weddings and wanderlust! We're delighted to bring this special edition to you during the prestigious Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB) in the royal city of Jaipur—India's very own wedding wonderland.

Our cover story shines a spotlight on *Weddings in Rajasthan*—the land of regal forts, palatial venues, and vibrant traditions. From celebrity nuptials to destination dreamers, Rajasthan continues to reign supreme as the ultimate “Wed in India” destination.

For those looking to unwind after the festivities, we whisk you away to the serene shores of *Seychelles*, a picture-perfect honeymoon escape. This issue also explores *Jordan* as a stunning family destination—a land where history, adventure, and culture come together seamlessly.

Don't miss our sweet feature on *wedding cakes*, showcasing the latest in design and flavour trends that are stealing the spotlight at modern weddings. We also highlight an inspiring *Indian fashion designer* whose bridal collection blends timeless elegance with contemporary flair—ideal for the modern-day bride.

And because every bride and groom wants to glow on their big day, we bring you easy, natural *tan removal* remedies to beat the summer heat from the comfort of your home.

As wedding season approaches, we hope this issue inspires you with ideas, destinations, and expert tips to make every celebration unforgettable. Here's to love, travel, and timeless memories.

Happy Reading!

**Priyanka Saxena Ray**  
Editor, BOTT India



### Experience Luxury and Tranquility at Crowne Plaza Kochi

Experience luxury on the tranquil shores of Vembanad Lake at Crowne Plaza Kochi. With 269 spacious rooms, versatile meeting spaces, and a range of dining options, our hotel is perfect for business and leisure travelers. Enjoy stunning views, world-class amenities, and exclusive rewards with IHG One Rewards. Join us for your next stay, event, or meeting, and discover the beauty of Kerala's backwaters with Crowne Plaza Kochi.



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## WALK INTO THE WELCOMING WORLD OF NOVOTEL JAIPUR CONVENTION CENTRE AND JAIPUR EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

If you are ever in Jaipur on a short trip for a business meeting, a family vacation or to host an event, this property has you covered. Ensnared in the heart of the Pink City, Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre (NJCC) and the Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre (JECC), Managed by Accor, offer a dynamic and exceptional setting for events. This versatile, state-of-the-art facility spanning a vast 42 acres combines Jaipur's rich cultural heritage with modern amenities, creating an inspiring space for all kinds of gatherings. Conveniently located just 15 minutes from

Jaipur International Airport, Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre is the perfect retreat for both business and leisure travellers looking for a world-class experience.

### EXPANSIVE INDOOR SPACES

JECC is one of the leading pillar-less exhibition-convention-entertainment facilities of its kind in all of South Asia. It has two main exhibition halls—each a colossal 106,372 sq. ft. and 43-foot ceiling height. It's perfect for trade fairs, exhibitions, large-scale

conferences and big weddings. Each exhibition hall has a seating capacity of approximately 9,000 people.

### MUGDHA – THE GRAND BALLROOM

For more formal or intimate gatherings, the Grand Ballroom stands out as a highlight of NJCC. This stunning 11,543 sq. ft. ballroom is equipped with 740 retractable auditorium-style chairs, offering a flexible seating arrangement that is ideal for both large conferences and smaller, more private events. Few properties in India offer such a versatile seating arrangement and this kind of technology, making Mugdha a unique and sought-after space. The pre-function area is also equally big, sprawling 11,771 sq. ft. Additionally, the ballroom boasts a dedicated porch, allowing for seamless transitions between indoor and outdoor spaces.

### MEETING ROOMS AND VIP AMENITIES

Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre offers a range of dedicated meeting rooms and VIP spaces for business travellers and corporate events. The venue features 12 breakout meeting rooms, a VIP Lounge, and two Green Rooms, ensuring that every aspect of your

event is tailored to your exact specifications.

### OUTDOOR SPACES FOR CELEBRATIONS

If you're looking to host an event surrounded by nature, the property's 45,000 sq. ft. garden lawn offers a breathtaking backdrop for outdoor weddings and galas. For hosting events of a larger scale, such as concerts, festivals, or trade exhibitions, the 9,00,000 sq. ft. open space provides limitless possibilities for creativity and grandiosity.

### STYLISH ACCOMMODATION

After a day of events or sightseeing in Jaipur, unwind in one of the property's 226 contemporary rooms and elegant suites. Designed for comfort and relaxation, the rooms offer modern amenities and stylish interiors that blend seamlessly with the vibrant energy of the city.

### A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

Since its launch, Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre has successfully hosted over 200 conventions and exhibitions, positioning itself among India's premier destinations for large-scale events. The venue has collaborated with prestigious organizations and renowned brands including IIFA, the Government of Rajasthan, the Department of Tourism – Government of India, FICCI, CII, Herbalife, JITO, Pfizer, Cipla, Maruti Suzuki, Volkswagen, and many more — delivering impactful experiences and seamless event execution.







### Tivoli Hospitality Group Announces 'Wedcation by Tivoli' in Jim Corbett

**T**ivoli Hospitality Group introduces 'Wedcation by Tivoli' in Jim Corbett, merging immersive nature with luxury weddings. Surrounded by the wilderness, the concept offers couples a chance to celebrate their big day in a serene, picturesque setting. It focuses on meaningful, experience-rich celebrations with personalized planning and elegant décor. Executive Director Akshay Gupta describes it as a step towards experiential hospitality. With this initiative, Tivoli is redefining destination weddings in India—ideal for couples seeking tranquillity, exclusivity, and a deeper connection with nature while celebrating love.

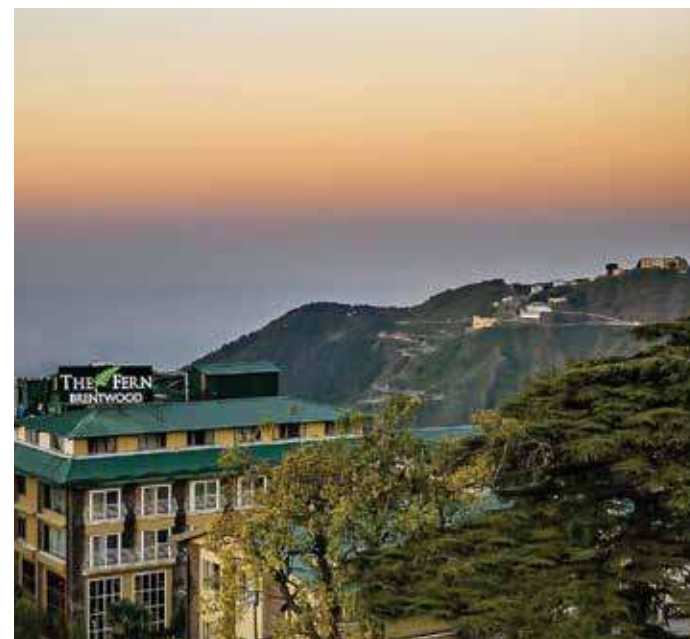
### A Palace by the Sea: Raffles The Palm Dubai redefines Destination Weddings

**R**affles The Palm Dubai, set along the Arabian Gulf, offers a regal backdrop for luxurious weddings. With grand ballrooms, beachside venues, and world-class service, it caters to couples seeking opulence and romance. The resort blends timeless architecture, palm-fringed surroundings, and bespoke wedding services. From lavish Indian celebrations to intimate Western ceremonies, every detail is customized—from décor to menus. Raffles is not just a venue but a creator of lasting memories, where romance meets royalty. It's the perfect place for couples dreaming of a majestic wedding by the sea.



### The Fern Brentwood Resort brings Rajasthan to the hills with 'Rangilo Rajasthan'

**T**he Fern Brentwood Resort & Spa in Mussoorie brings Rajasthan to the hills with its 'Rangilo Rajasthan' festival from May 19 – June 1, 2025. Part of its 'Festivals of India' series, the event celebrates Rajasthani cuisine, folk music, and décor. Guests can enjoy authentic thalis, traditional performances, and themed evenings in a cool mountain setting. It's a cultural fusion where the charm of the desert meets the serenity of the hills. The experience offers travelers a taste of royal heritage without leaving the Himalayas, making it a unique getaway for culture lovers.



### Making of a dream Indian Wedding at Mövenpick Resort Al Marjan Island

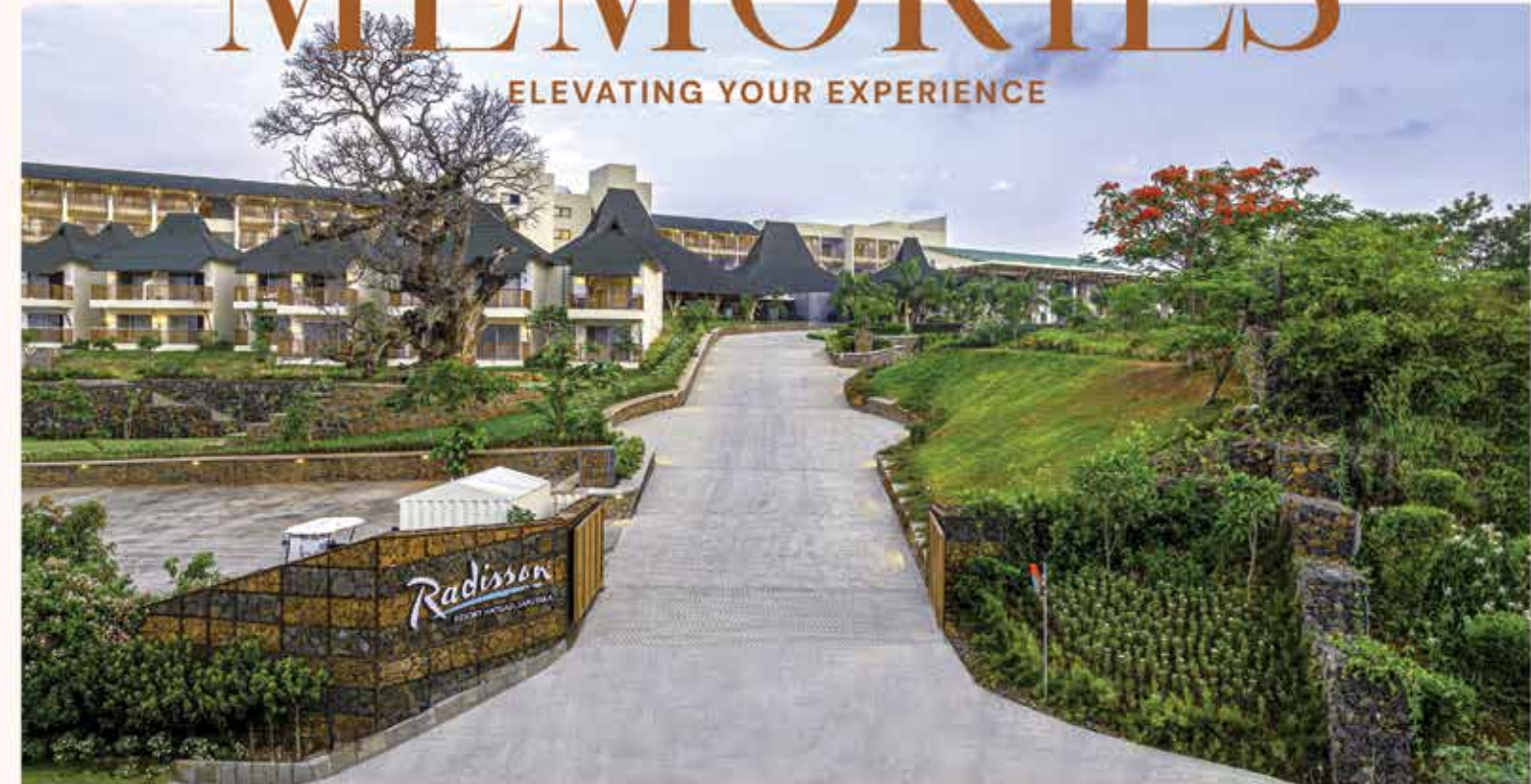
**M**övenpick Resort Al Marjan Island in Ras Al Khaimah is redefining Indian destination weddings. Its beachfront location, all-inclusive packages, and grand venues make it perfect for big fat Indian weddings. The resort offers complete buyouts, customized menus, and seamless planning—hosting over 20 weddings since its launch. Its easy visa process and stunning location have made it a top choice for Indian families seeking short-haul luxury. With attention to every detail, Mövenpick turns wedding dreams into reality, blending Arabian seaside charm with Indian tradition in an unforgettable celebration.



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### FLAVOURS OF PARADISE

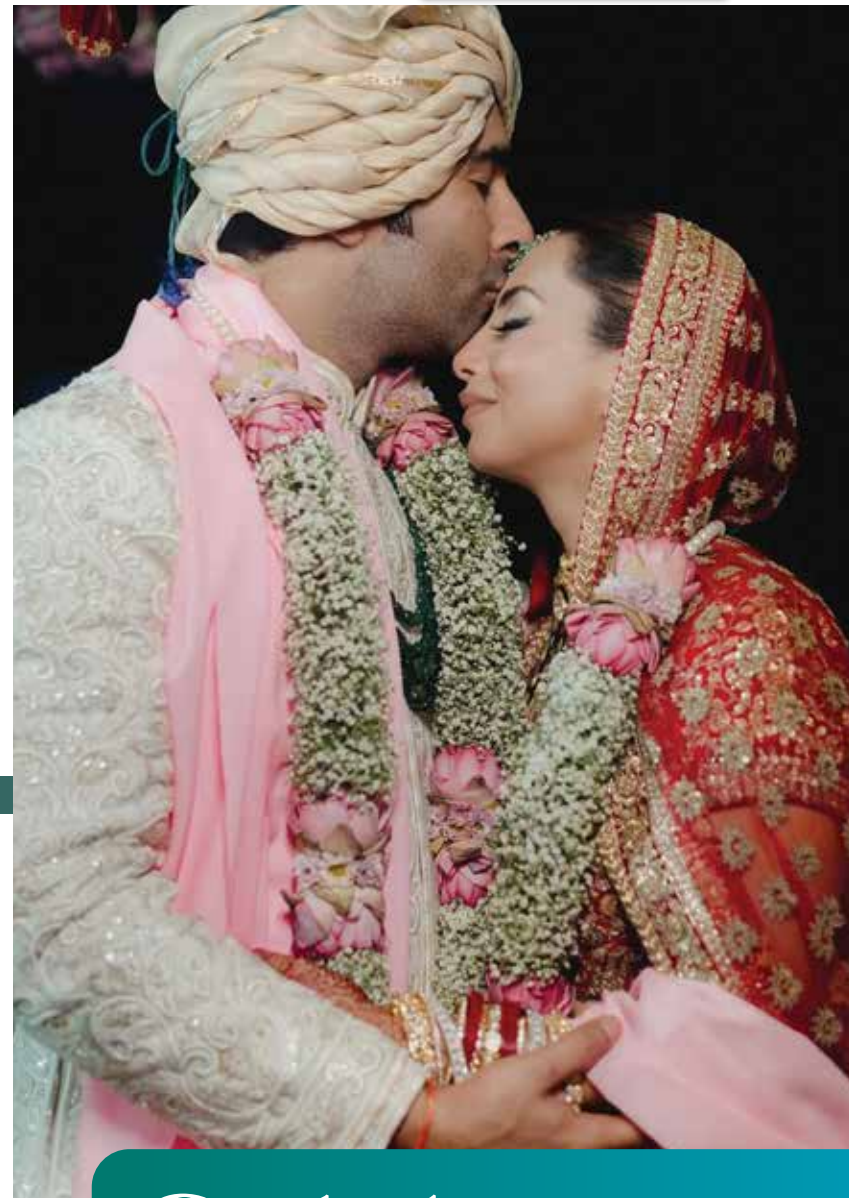
Dining at Coracana, the exquisite restaurant at Radisson Resort Hatgad, is more than just a meal—it's an experience. Relish a delectable array of dishes, each crafted with the finest ingredients, while surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Sahyadri Hills.



### FOR YOUR DREAM WEDDINGS

Exchange vows in paradise at Radisson Resort Hatgad Saputara, with breathtaking views of the Sahyadri Hills, lush greenery, and tranquil lakes. Whether grand or intimate, the stunning surroundings make your special day unforgettable.





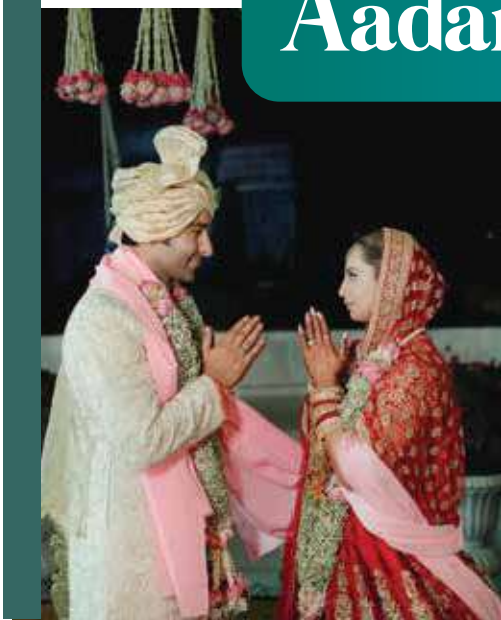
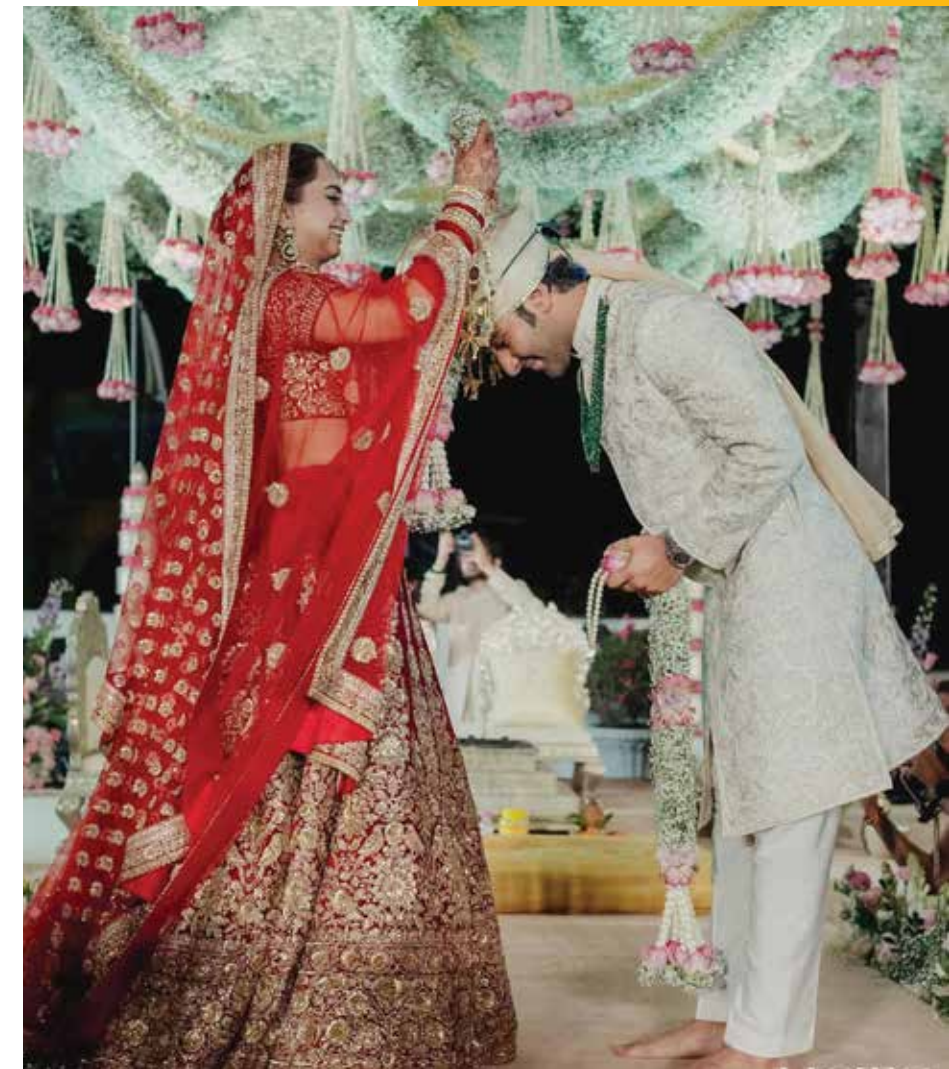
## Celebration in Style Aadar Jain & Alekha Advani

Bollywood's charming Aadar Jain and wellness entrepreneur Alekha Advani tied the knot in an intimate yet supremely stylish ceremony that radiated elegance and personal flair. Held at a picturesque private venue in Mumbai, the celebration was a blend of modern minimalism and timeless Indian tradition.

Alekha stunned in an ivory hand-embroidered lehenga by Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla, featuring delicate chikankari work and subtle shimmer. Her look was complemented by a sheer dupatta and vintage-inspired jewellery—an heirloom polki set and minimal bangles that added understated glamour. Her soft waves and dewy makeup perfectly matched the dreamy, modern bride aesthetic.

Aadar chose a classic ivory sherwani with zardozi detailing, also designed by Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla, pairing it with mojris and a pale gold stole that echoed Alekha's ensemble. Together, the couple's looks spoke volumes about refined taste and quiet luxury.

Florals played a key role in the décor—soft pastels, white roses, and baby's breath added a romantic touch. The entire fashion narrative of the wedding leaned into grace over grandeur, with hand-crafted details and thoughtfully chosen accessories stealing the show. It was a celebration of love, style, and understated opulence—setting a new tone for modern wedding fashion.





# RAJASTHAN

## The Reigning Queen of Destination Weddings in India

When it comes to destination weddings in India, Rajasthan reigns supreme. A land of majestic palaces, grand forts, timeless traditions, and desert charm, Rajasthan offers a fairy-tale setting unlike any other. With its regal ambience, royal hospitality, and opulent venues, it effortlessly tops the list as the most happening and ideal destination for dream weddings. Here's a more detailed overview of all that the destination has in store for those keen on saying 'I-do' in a palatial setting.

**Priyanka Saxena Ray**

**W**hat sets Rajasthan apart is the seamless blend of heritage and hospitality. Couples from across India and the world are drawn to its enchanting locations like Udaipur, Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Ranthambore — each offering its own unique flavour of romance and royalty. Whether it's the lakeside elegance of Udaipur, the vibrant grandeur of Jaipur, or the desert charm of Jaisalmer, the state offers picture-perfect settings steeped in culture and luxury.

The state boasts a wide range of plush heritage hotels, luxurious resorts, and world-class hospitality chains that cater exclusively to weddings — from intimate gatherings to lavish multi-day celebrations. Iconic venues like the City Palace, Umaid Bhawan Palace, Samode Palace, and Rambagh Palace have become legendary wedding hotspots, frequented by celebrities and elite families alike.

Rajasthan's excellent connectivity — with well-connected airports, scenic road networks, and top-notch logistics — makes it easy for guests to travel from across the globe. Add to this the well-developed wedding infrastructure, seasoned planners, and warm local hospitality, and you have a destination that promises not just a celebration, but a lifetime memory.

In essence, Rajasthan transforms weddings into royal affairs — rich in tradition, wrapped in luxury, and set against the backdrop of history. For couples looking to tie the knot in a truly magical setting, Rajasthan is not just a destination — it's an experience.

### JAIPUR

Jaipur, the Pink City of India, stands tall

as one of the most sought-after wedding destinations in the country. With its seamless blend of regal charm, traditional grandeur, and modern sophistication, Jaipur offers the perfect canvas for a royal wedding. The city is renowned for its rich heritage, vibrant culture, and a wide array of luxurious venues that cater to every kind of wedding celebration — from intimate gatherings to grand-scale extravaganzas.

The city boasts a robust hospitality sector with some of the finest heritage palaces, five-star hotels, and opulent resorts. Each venue offers bespoke wed-

ding experiences, complete with elegant décor, traditional Rajasthani elements, and world-class services.

Here's a look at some of the most iconic wedding venues in Jaipur —

### Rambagh Palace (Taj Hotels)

A former royal residence, Rambagh Palace is one of the most luxurious and iconic wedding venues in Jaipur. Known for its regal architecture, manicured gardens, and opulent courtyards, this palace offers a truly royal setting for wedding celebrations. Its heritage charm, combined with Taj's impeccable hospital-







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**The state boasts a wide range of plush heritage hotels, luxurious resorts, and world-class hospitality chains that cater exclusively to weddings – from intimate gatherings to lavish multi-day celebrations. Iconic venues like the City Palace, Umaid Bhawan Palace, Samode Palace, and Rambagh Palace have become legendary wedding hotspots, frequented by celebrities and elite families alike.**

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ity, makes it a top choice for grand, traditional weddings.

#### **Jai Mahal Palace (Taj Hotels)**

Set amidst 18 acres of Mughal gardens, Jai Mahal Palace showcases a stunning blend of Indo-Saracenic architecture and historic elegance. The palace offers several beautiful outdoor venues and elegant banquet halls, ideal for both intimate and large-scale wedding functions. Its romantic ambiance and top-tier service ensure a memorable wedding experience.

#### **Fairmont Jaipur**

Nestled against the scenic Aravalli hills, Fairmont Jaipur offers a palatial experience with architecture inspired by Mughal and Rajput traditions. The hotel features grand ballrooms, lush lawns, and luxurious suites designed for comfort and grandeur. It's a popular venue for extravagant destination weddings, known for its hospitality and seamless event coordination.

#### **The Leela Palace Jaipur**

One of the newest luxury entrants in Jaipur, The Leela Palace offers unmatched elegance with over 50,000 sq. ft. of event

space. With sprawling gardens, ornate interiors, and bespoke service, it is designed for opulent celebrations. The palace promises a royal yet contemporary wedding experience with every detail meticulously crafted.

#### **ITC Rajputana, a Luxury Collection Hotel**

Located in the heart of the city, ITC Rajputana reflects the grandeur of Rajput architecture while offering all modern amenities. The hotel has versatile event spaces including banquet halls and poolside areas, perfect for medium to large weddings. It combines traditional décor with contemporary luxury and sustainability.

#### **Samode Palace & Samode Bagh**

Located slightly outside Jaipur, Samode Palace and its garden retreat Samode Bagh offer tranquil, heritage-rich venues. The palace features frescoed walls, charming courtyards, and rooftop terraces, making it ideal for serene and regal celebrations away from the city's hustle.

#### **Clarks Amer Jaipur**

A modern luxury hotel with spacious



**Rajasthan transforms weddings into royal affairs – rich in tradition, wrapped in luxury, and set against the backdrop of history. For couples looking to tie the knot in a truly magical setting, Rajasthan is not just a destination – it's an experience.**

lawns, banquet halls, and easy accessibility, Clarks Amer is known for hosting large weddings and social gatherings. Its blend of functionality and traditional aesthetics appeals to those looking for a classic venue with contemporary comforts.

#### Castle Mandawa

This is a heritage hotel located in the heart of the Shekhawati region, just a few hours' drive from Jaipur. Once a royal fortress, the castle has been beautifully restored into a majestic wedding venue that reflects the grandeur of Rajasthan's bygone era. With frescoed walls, antique decor, open courtyards, and turreted towers, Castle Mandawa offers a fairy-tale setting for a regal and intimate wedding. Its serene surroundings and rich cultural charm make it a perfect choice for couples seeking a royal yet offbeat destination wedding experience.

haveli or an intimate affair in a serene desert setting, the city has the charm and infrastructure to cater to every wedding fantasy.

#### Top Wedding Hotels in Jodhpur Umaid Bhawan Palace – A Taj Hotel

Perched atop Chittar Hill, Umaid Bhawan Palace is one of the world's largest private residences and a symbol of royal grandeur. Managed by Taj Hotels, this golden sandstone marvel offers sprawling gardens, opulent banquet halls, and unmatched hospitality. With panoramic views of the city and regal interiors, it's the ultimate setting for a fairytale wedding. Its heritage rooms, curated menus, and bespoke wedding planning services make it a top choice for high-profile nuptials.



#### JODHPUR

Steeped in regal charm and adorned with majestic forts, sun-drenched sand dunes, and timeless palaces, Jodhpur – the Blue City of Rajasthan – is a dream wedding destination that seamlessly blends tradition with opulence. With its dramatic architecture, vibrant culture, and a rich Marwari heritage, Jodhpur provides an unforgettable backdrop for lavish weddings, offering everything from royal palaces to modern luxury resorts. Whether it's a grand celebration in a heritage

#### Indana Palace Jodhpur

An architectural tribute to Marwari heritage, Indana Palace Jodhpur combines tradition with modern comforts. The hotel features intricately carved domes, jharokhas, and courtyards – perfect for traditional wedding ceremonies and themed sangeet nights. With spacious indoor and outdoor venues, a dedicated wedding team, and authentic Rajasthani cuisine, Indana Palace is ideal for those seeking a royal yet contemporary experience.







royalty, old-world charm, and luxurious hospitality to create magical wedding experiences. Be it a royal palace wedding, a lakeside affair, or a garden soirée, Udaipur offers an unmatched canvas for celebrations that are elegant and unforgettable.

### Top Wedding Venues in Udaipur

#### The Oberoi Udaivilas

A dream venue for any grand celebration, The Oberoi Udaivilas is the epitome of luxury and regal charm. Set on the banks of Lake Pichola with views of the City Palace, the property boasts sprawling courtyards, grand domes, and reflective pools. Its opulent architecture and impeccable service make it a favourite for celebrity and destination weddings.

#### Taj Lake Palace

Floating on Lake Pichola, this 18th-century marble palace offers a fairy-tale setting like no other. With panoramic views of the surrounding hills and historic landmarks, Taj Lake Palace is ideal for intimate yet majestic ceremonies. The regal interiors, combined with royal Rajasthani hospitality, create an unforgettable wedding experience.

#### The Leela Palace Udaipur

Perched on the edge of Lake Pichola, The Leela Palace blends traditional grandeur with modern luxury. The hotel offers stunning lakeside lawns, a grand ballroom, and lavish suites, all backed by bespoke wedding planning services. It's a favourite among those looking for a blend of culture and contemporary sophistication.

#### RAAS Devigarh

An 18th-century palace turned luxury hotel, RAAS Devigarh is set against the Aravallis in the village of Delwara. Known for its striking minimalist interiors and dramatic exteriors, the venue offers a unique aesthetic for modern destination weddings steeped in heritage.

#### Fateh Garh

A heritage renaissance resort, Fateh Garh offers panoramic views of Udaipur's lakes and palaces. Ideal for couples who want a royal yet sustainable celebration, the venue features beautiful terraces, courtyards, and vintage charm. ❤️

#### Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, Jodhpur

Nestled on the outskirts of the city, Welcomhotel Jodhpur offers a serene yet grand venue away from the bustle. Inspired by Rajputana architecture, the property has expansive lawns, a central courtyard, and banquet spaces suitable for destination weddings of various scales. Guests can enjoy curated gourmet menus, luxurious rooms, and ITC's signature service style, making it a sophisticated venue for elite wedding celebrations.

#### UDAIPUR

With its timeless palaces, glimmering lakes, regal heritage, and romantic landscapes, Udaipur has rightfully earned the crown of India's most sought-after wedding destination. Nestled in the Aravalli hills, this 'City of Lakes' blends Mewar

## Lights, Camera, Palace: Rajasthan's Celebrity Wedding Magic

Rajasthan, with its regal palaces, majestic forts, and age-old charm, has become a magnet for celebrity weddings, drawing stars from both India and abroad to tie the knot in grand style.

Several iconic celebrity weddings have firmly placed Rajasthan on the global wedding map. Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas chose the majestic Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur for their lavish cross-cultural wedding, blending Christian and Hindu ceremonies amidst a royal setting. Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal exchanged vows at the luxurious Six Senses Fort Barwara in Sawai Madhopur, a beautifully restored 14th-century fort turned into a contemporary heritage resort. Other notable weddings include that of Raveena Tandon at the Shiv Niwas Palace in Udaipur and Neil Nitin Mukesh, who tied the knot at the Radisson Blu Palace Resort & Spa in Udaipur. These star-studded celebrations have not only showcased the region's splendour but also inspired countless couples around the world to choose Rajasthan for their own royal love story.







**Aarti Manocha**

# Crafting Dreams One Wedding at a Time

In the world of opulent celebrations and picture-perfect unions, Aarti Manocha has carved a niche as one of India's most sought-after wedding planners. With an eye for detail, a heart full of passion, and an innate ability to turn dreams into unforgettable experiences, Aarti's journey in the world of weddings is as inspiring as it is glamorous. In this exclusive interview, she opens up about her evolution as a wedding planner, the magic and mayhem behind destination weddings, what fuels her creativity, and the emerging trends shaping the industry.

**Priyanka Saxena Ray**

**What are the key wedding trends set to dominate this year? How do you ensure your designs and services are always ahead of the curve?**

This year, wedding trends are leaning heavily towards minimalist elegance and hyper-personalization. Couples are moving away from extravagant, cookie-cutter celebrations and embracing intimate, meaningful experiences that reflect their unique love stories. We're seeing a rise in micro-weddings, monochromatic colour palettes, sustainable décor, and technology-driven elements like interactive digital invites and creative content for decor. Personalized touches—such as custom monograms, curated playlists, or menus inspired by the couple's journey—are becoming the heart of modern weddings.

To stay ahead of the curve, our approach is rooted in authentic collaboration with our couples. We encourage them to draw inspiration from trends but to weave in their personalities, values, and cultural nuances to create a wedding that feels uniquely theirs. Our team stays proactive by attending global wedding expos, collaborating with international vendors, and keeping a pulse on emerging design aesthetics through social media platforms and industry publications. We combine this with transparent communication and data-driven planning, offering couples factual guidance while adapting to their evolving needs. By fostering an

environment of trust and innovation, we ensure our designs and services not only meet but anticipate the desires of today's discerning couples.

**Over the years, how has the wedding planning industry evolved in India compared to global markets?**

The wedding planning industry in India has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving from a largely unorganized sector to a dynamic, professional ecosystem. With the industry now valued at over \$50 billion annually, even middle-class families are embracing destination weddings, hiring professional planners, and investing in curated experiences. This democratization has spurred job creation, with roles like wedding stylists, logistics coordinators, and sustainability consultants gaining prominence. However, a significant challenge remains: the shortage of trained, skilled professionals. The complexity of Indian weddings—marked by multi-day celebrations, diverse rituals, and large guest lists—demands a level of expertise that is often lacking, leading to occasional compromises in quality.

Globally, the wedding industry has seen a shift towards sustainability and technology integration, with virtual planning tools, eco-friendly venues, and AI-driven guest management becoming standard. Indian weddings, while catching up, remain unique in their cultural depth and scale, which makes direct comparisons challenging.

To bridge this gap, Indian wedding planners must adopt global best practices while preserving local traditions. At our firm, we prioritize strategic credibility by investing in team training, fostering vendor partnerships, and implementing rigorous quality control processes. This ensures we deliver world-class experiences while honouring the vibrant tapestry of Indian weddings.

**What are some of the unique challenges of organizing destination weddings, both domestically and internationally?**

Organising destination weddings, whether in India or abroad, comes with a distinct set of challenges that require meticulous planning and adaptability. Venue availability is a major hurdle, as popular destinations often have long waiting lists, especially during peak seasons. Internationally, high airfares and fluctuating currency exchange rates can strain budgets,

while visa regulations and travel logistics add layers of complexity. Domestically, infrastructure limitations in remote locations, such as unreliable power supply or limited vendor access, pose significant challenges.

A common issue, both domestically and internationally, is unpredictable weather. From sudden monsoons in Rajasthan to unexpected snow in European destinations, weather disruptions can derail even the best-laid plans. To mitigate this, we always develop comprehensive backup plans, including indoor alternatives, weather-resistant décor, and flexible timelines. Additionally, managing cross-cultural expectations—such as aligning international vendors with Indian wedding traditions—requires clear communication and cultural sensitivity. Our approach involves pre-emptive risk assessment, leveraging local exper-

**My journey as a wedding planner began with a deep fascination for story-telling through events. Growing up, I was also captivated by the way weddings brought families together, blending tradition, emotion, and creativity in a single moment.**





surplus meals to local charities. Décor elements like flowers, frames, and props are reused or repurposed across events, and we opt for locally sourced, seasonal blooms to reduce carbon footprints. We also encourage digital invitations to cut down on paper use and work with vendors who prioritize recyclable or biodegradable materials. By educating our couples about these options and aligning them with their vision, we create celebrations that are both breathtaking and environmentally responsible. Our goal is to set a precedent for sustainable luxury, proving that eco-conscious weddings can be as elegant as they are ethical.



tise, and maintaining open lines of communication with clients and vendors to ensure seamless execution, no matter the location.

#### Eco-conscious weddings are gaining traction. How do you integrate sustainability into your planning process?

Sustainability is no longer a trend but a necessity, and eco-conscious weddings are reshaping the industry. We view sustainability as a long-term commitment that requires both industry-wide norms and project-specific solutions. On a broader level, we advocate for practices like banning non-biodegradable materials (e.g., flex and single-use plastics), using solar panels instead of diesel generators, and supporting local ecosystems through responsible waste management.

For individual weddings, we integrate sustainability through practical, impactful choices. We minimise food wastage by collaborating with caterers to donate

#### Tell us about your journey as a wedding planner. What sparked your interest in this field, and what continues to fuel your passion?

My journey as a wedding planner began with a deep fascination for storytelling through events. Growing up, I was also captivated by the way weddings brought families together, blending tradition, emotion, and creativity in a single moment. However, I was a professional in the travel trade for the longest time, an opportunity to manage logistics for a large-scale wedding, started a new journey, before I knew, it evolved into a career. That is when I realized I could turn chaos into harmony through strategic project management and people-centric collaboration.

What keeps me going is the uniqueness of each wedding—no two stories are the same. The privilege of connecting with couples and their families, under-

standing their dreams, and translating them into reality is profoundly rewarding. The adrenaline rush of managing complex logistics, coordinating diverse teams, and delivering a flawless experience within tight timelines is unmatched. Every wedding is a new challenge, demanding precision, adaptability, and unwavering commitment. This dynamic blend of creativity and discipline, coupled with the joy of creating lifelong memories, fuels my passion and drives me to innovate and grow in this ever-evolving industry.

#### Can you share a story about one of the most memorable weddings you've planned? What made it unique or challenging?

One of our most memorable projects was a large-scale wedding in Mumbai, a city we call home, yet one that presented unexpected challenges due to its sheer magnitude. Spanning multiple venues, the wedding required four distinct setups across different locations, each with its own aesthetic and logistical demands. From a week prior, we were managing a workforce of 400-450 crew members, including vendors, labourers, and creative teams, all working against tight timelines during peak wedding season.

The scale alone was daunting, but the real challenge lay in synchronizing stakeholders. Aligning vendors, ensuring timely deliveries, and maintaining consistent communication across locations required military-like precision. To overcome this, we invested heavily in pre-event planning, creating a detailed dossier that included layouts, checklists, vendor responsibilities, and contingency plans. This document became our blueprint, shared with all stakeholders to ensure everyone was on the same page. Regular virtual and on-site briefings further streamlined execution.

What made this wedding unique was the power of meticulous planning and clear communication. Despite the complexity, the event unfolded seamlessly, with each setup—from a vibrant sangeet to an elegant reception—reflecting the couple's vision. The gratitude from the family and the flawless execution under pressure remain a testament to the importance of preparation and teamwork. This experience reinforced our belief that no challenge is too big when you plan to the T and prioritize collaboration.❤️



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**A**fter the sparkle of wedding festivities dims and the last of the confetti settles, a new chapter begins—one that doesn't come with a guest list or an itinerary, only the promise of undisturbed moments and shared dreams. Enter Seychelles, a celestial collection of 115 islands scattered like stardust in the Indian Ocean, where time slows down and love takes centre stage.

Just a whisper away from India—a quick 4.5-hour flight from Mumbai—Sey-

chelles feels like a secret the universe kept just for lovers. Here, nature choreographs every scene: emerald rainforests unfold like poetry, the sea changes its blues as if to match every emotion, and the horizon melts into a canvas that blushes at dusk.

### Where Nature writes your Love Story

This archipelago is a haven for those who seek intimacy beyond the ordinary. Imag-

ine exchanging looks over breakfast while giant tortoises amble nearby in forests older than time. Or hand-in-hand beach strolls where the sand is so fine it squeaks beneath your toes, and the only footprints are yours.

On Mahé, Seychelles' largest island, you'll discover picture-perfect beaches like Beau Vallon and hidden coves made for whispered conversations. Explore vibrant Victoria Market, where spices, vanilla pods, and tropical fruits invite culinary curiosity. Sip Takamaka rum at its namesake distillery or glide through the glassy waters of Anse Source D'Argent, past ancient granite boulders that guard this paradise like sentinels of love.

Then, escape to Praslin for a brush with the mythical. Walk together through the UNESCO-listed Vallée de Mai, home of the rare Coco de Mer palm, whose curvaceous seeds are nature's cheeky nod to passion. Continue to La Digue, where ox-carts outnumber cars and bicycles lead you to beaches that feel like scenes from a dream you don't want to wake up from.

### The perfect balance of Rest and Romance

Seychelles offers just the right blend of leisure and thrill. Sunbathe

#### VISA & TRAVEL INFO

- ✂ No visa required for Indian passport holders.
- ✂ Apply for a Travel Authorization Letter online (takes ~24 hours).
- ✂ Direct flights from Mumbai make Seychelles incredibly accessible for honeymooners.







Just a whisper  
away from India—a quick  
4.5-hour flight from Mumbai—  
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match every emotion, and the  
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that blushes at dusk.





### TOP HONEYMOON HOTELS IN SEYCHELLES

- ✂ Six Senses Zil Pasyon, Félicité Island – Private pool villas, jungle meets ocean.
- ✂ North Island, A Luxury Collection Resort – Ultra-luxury eco-haven.
- ✂ Four Seasons Resort Seychelles, Desroches Island – Chic, secluded and soulful.
- ✂ Anantara Maia Seychelles Villas, Mahé – Butlers, bespoke menus, barefoot luxury.
- ✂ Raffles Seychelles, Praslin – Opulence with ocean views.
- ✂ Le Domaine de L'Orangerie, La Digue – Exotic and intimate, perfect for romance.



Want to keep it simple? Surrender to the rhythm of the waves, indulge in a couples' spa treatment, and let the island hum lull you into love's most peaceful lullaby.

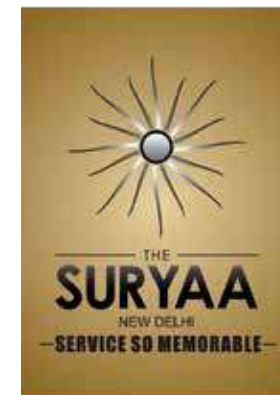
### Honeymoon Hideaways

In Seychelles, love isn't confined to one postcard-perfect island — it dances across many. Begin your journey on the main island of Mahé, where beachside resorts blend tropical chic with five-star luxury. Then, let your love drift to Praslin or La Digue, where bikes replace cars and time is measured only by the rhythm of tides.

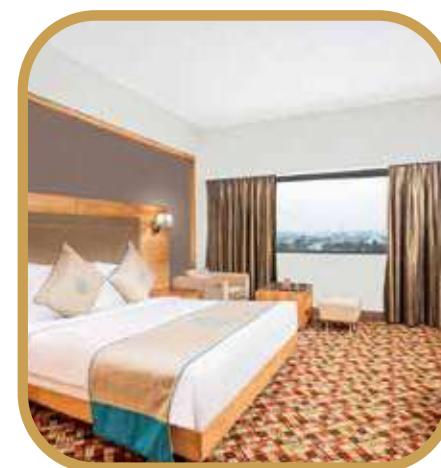
But the true magic lies in Seychelles' private islands — havens made for honeymooners seeking seclusion and splendour. Imagine an open-air movie night under starlit skies on North Island, sundowners at a lighthouse on Desroches, or waking up on Félicité Island to the gentle tracks of nesting turtles in the sand.

Relish spa rituals for two on Denis Island or set sail from Alphonse Island to dive in untouched coral reefs. Whether you're chasing romance in a rainforest or sipping champagne on a sandbank that disappears with the tide — Seychelles promises a honeymoon dipped in dreams.

Every moment here feels handcrafted, every day curated just for two.❤



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# Wedding Couture Cakes Redefined

By Sharmila Chand

**H**ave you ever tasted a pink rose, a shy lotus, or a paisley leaf? No not by plucking in the garden but straight from the wedding cake? You are attending a wedding and the desert table set with a masterpiece cake, catches your eye. Look carefully and you will see how beautifully this masterpiece is coordinated with couple's wedding ensemble. Needless to say, the wedding decor too is woven in the same theme. And that's the raging trend - a beautiful synergy between the wedding decor, couple's attire and unique styled wedding cakes that reflect their love stories.

## Hot Trends

The top 2025 wedding cake trends offer a mix of traditional and contemporary. The good news is that the Millennials are embracing sustainable concept as well in their scheme as the wedding cakes are more about their personal expression than just tradition, marked with bold intricate designs, unique shapes, and quirky designs.

## Design & Look

**Grand and Tiered:** While personalized elements are a key focus; grand, multi-tiered cakes remain popular, reflecting the scale and celebratory nature of Indian weddings. These not only serve as stunning centrepieces but also create a visual drama, enhancing the celebration grandeur.

**Intricate Detailing:** There's a significant trend towards intricate handcrafted details. "At Citrine, the in-house bakery of

Radisson Blu Pune Kharadi, chefs are busy weaving patterns with delicate sugar flowers inspired by blooms like roses, and lotuses, elaborate piping work i.e. 'jali' patterns, paisley designs, and hand-painted motifs that echo the couple's attire or wedding décor towards intricate handcrafted details," reveals Pankaj Saxena, Area General Manager, West India, Radisson Hotel Group, South Asia and General Manager Radisson Blu Pune Kharadi.

**Textured Surfaces:** Beyond smooth fondant, there is a rise in textured finishes like buttercream ruffles, palette knife strokes, and even textured fondant to add visual and tactile interest.

**Metallic Accents:** Gold and rose gold are incredibly popular, adding a touch of luxury and opulence. These are incorporated through edible paint, dust, or even delicate gold leaf.

## Messy Look

**Chef Bhaskar Chakraborty** - Executive Pastry Chef, JW Marriott Kolkata talks about curating personalized theme cakes on Cinderella, Castle and more such themes. He further talks about an interesting new trend i.e. 'Magic Mess', very popular nowadays. It is a quirky fine mess placed on top of the cake. The guest generally puts fire on it, and when it burns, the mess disappears and the cakes come out."

## Pastels with Gold or Silver

For elegant and contemporary look, there is a growing trend towards soft pastel shades like blush pink, powder blue, and mint green, combined with subtle gold or

silver detailing. "Keeping abreast with latest trends, our team at Le Reve - Pastry Shop, has made various types of wedding cakes from floral, white and gold to shades of red, pink and many more. Very recently, we made 3 tier white wedding cake with white roses," tells Chef Abhishek Gupta, Executive Chef, The Leela Ambience Gurugram.

## Sustainability

Chef Anurag Bainola, Executive Chef, La Estoria, IHCL SeleQtions, Goa says, "Today's generation is aggressively marching towards embracing sustainability concept which is evident in the design, colour, pattern and story that they are inspired by. Recently, we prepared a customized cake for an intimate wedding which was adorned by edible flowers, in sage, olive and off-white tone. Simple yet classic for a grounded feel." (picture attached)

## Story unfolds in Personalized Wedding Cakes

Today, wedding cakes are not just customary desserts; rather they are bold statements that showcase the couple's personality and the thought behind their special day. Pankaj Saxena agrees when he points out, "At Citrine, our pastry chefs take pride in creating bespoke wedding cakes that are as unique and tell a tale. For example, they crafted 'The Royal Paisley' - A grand five-tiered cake adorned with hand-piped intricate paisley designs in rich gold on a deep maroon fondant. Each tier featured a different flavour requested by the couple e.g., saffron pistachio, rose cardamom, and chocolate ganache. The top tier showcased a custom-made sugar sculpture of the couple's initials intertwined within a paisley motif."

He further adds, "Also our chefs took great pride in crafting 'The Mandap Canopy' - A four-tiered square cake designed to mimic the structure and colours of the wedding mandap. The tiers were draped in fondant in the wedding's colour scheme - cream and gold, with delicate sugar garlands and edible beads cascading down. The top featured a miniature sugar representation of the couple during their wedding ceremony."

"How about The Modern Marigold: A contemporary three-tiered cake with textured buttercream in vibrant shades of orange and yellow, reminiscent of marigold

garlands. Each tier had a different geometric shape, and the cake was adorned with stylized sugar marigolds and edible gold accents. The flavours were a modern twist on Indian desserts (e.g., mango lassi, gulab jamun)," adds Saxena.

## Artisanal Cakes

There is also a clear trend towards smaller, personalised Artisanal Cakes. While the multi-tiered showstopper remains



significant, many couples are opting for a smaller, more intimately designed cake for the actual cutting ceremony or as part of a curated dessert table. This trend reflects a shift towards valuing quality, unique design, and personal expression alongside the grandeur. Smaller artisanal cakes allow for more intricate detailing, focus on specific flavour profiles, and can be tailored very closely to the couple's



The top 2025 wedding cake trends offer a mix of traditional and contemporary. Millennials today are also embracing the sustainable concept.



individual story or interests. They also offer a more sustainable option, reducing potential food waste.

**'The Storyteller Cake':** A beautifully decorated two-tiered cake where each tier visually represented a significant aspect of the couple's relationship – perhaps a hand-painted scene of where they met or sugar flowers matching the bouquet from their proposal. The flavours would be their personal favourites.

**'The Minimalist Monogram':** A single-tiered elegant cake with a focus on clean lines and a sophisticated texture. The personalization would come through a beautifully crafted sugar or metallic monogram of their initials and a subtle flavour infusion that holds special meaning for them.

**'The Destination Delight':** A small, intricately decorated cake reflecting the theme or a specific element of their honeymoon destination. For example, a cake with tropical sugar flowers if they are going to Bali or a cake with a Parisian-inspired design if they are heading to France.

**'The Favors Cake':** Instead of traditional favours, couples might opt for several beautifully packaged single-serving artisanal cakes with different flavours and designs, each acting as a personalized takeaway for their guests.

Chef Anurag Bainola adds, "Smaller cakes allow for flavour depth, custom details, and storytelling — things mass-produced cakes just can't offer. Smaller cakes allow for multiple

variations so you don't need to settle on one flavour for 100 guests. With a strong story to narrate and not playing safe with plain vanilla, we see our guests going for flavours like - Lemon thyme + blueberry compote, Pistachio cardamom with rose buttercream, Black sesame with yuzu curd, Masala chai with brown sugar glaze."

### Flavours of Fusion

Offbeat Ingredients are being explored by the bakers to add unique flavours and textures. Indian

- Spices Infusions - Infusing cake batters and creams with subtle notes of saffron, cardamom, ginger, and even a hint of star anise for a warm and aromatic touch.
- Local and Seasonal Fruits beyond the usual mango, like figs, guavas, and even jackfruit (in a subtle, processed form), adds a unique local flavour
- Likewise, out of staple nuts and seeds, chefs are exploring the use of roasted cashews in praline form, candied lotus seeds (makhana) for a crunchy element, and even incorporating the subtle nuttiness of charoli seeds.
- Another hot trend is Indian Sweets Inspired Flavors: inspired by classic Indian desserts, such as a rasmalai-flavoured cake with a milky saffron soak or a gulab jamun-flavoured cake with a rose syrup reduction.

Abhishek Gupta, Executive Chef, The Leela Ambience Gurugram says, "Now a days offbeat ingredients are being used raspberry with dark chocolate, saffron white chocolate ganache with pistachio cake, lavender white chocolate ganache, elderflower lemon cream, pan with salted caramel which are a match with Indian and European palates."❤️





# Woven in Heritage, Styled by Self

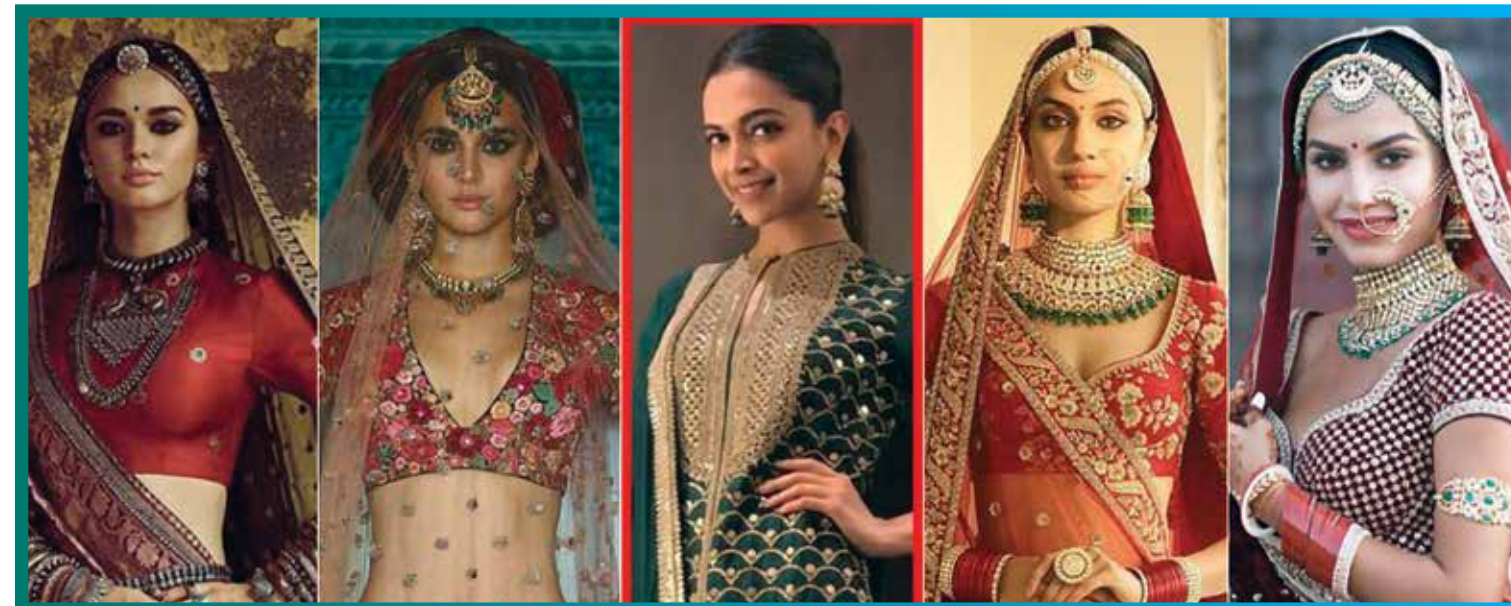
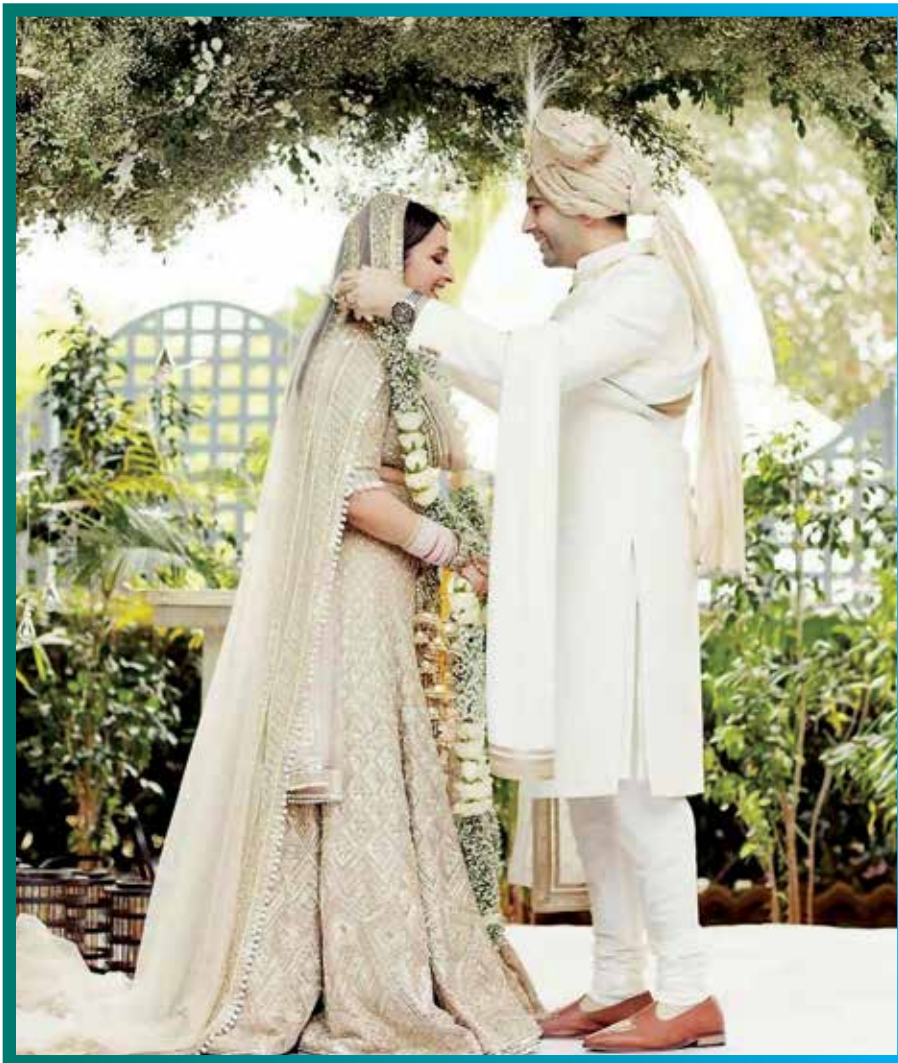
India's wedding industry, a \$130 billion powerhouse, is among the largest in the world, and for many, the bridal outfit remains its sparkling centrepiece. But today, bridal fashion is not only about the grandeur of the lehenga or the dazzle of jewellery, but also about storytelling, sentiment, and self-expression. From sunlit castles in Italy to opulent mandaps in Rajasthan's forts, Indian brides are redefining what it means to be timeless, personal, and unforgettable, says **Jyoti Verma**.

Until a few years ago, Indian bridal wear typically meant heavy silks, ornate embroidery, and the classic red palette. But the Indian bride of 2025 is more than a silhouette steeped in tradition, she is individualistic, mindful, and globally inspired. Whether it's an ivory silk Sabyasachi sari with a fishtail hem or a Kanjeevaram tailored for a beach ceremony, bridal wear today reflects personal philosophy as much as it does heritage.

Consider Tanika D'Souza, who wore a subtle, intricately embroidered ivory Sabyasachi sari for her destination wedding in Italy this March. Complete with a sheer veil and minimal jewellery, her look embodied modern bridal elegance, where couture meets cultural storytelling and tradition meets global sensibility. Tanika represents the contemporary Indian bride who wants it all, a bridal look that's intimate, international, and effortlessly elegant. Sabyasachi delivered, as always, with his signature blend of restraint and regality.

## In Red We Trust

Young brides like D'Souza aren't alone. India's celebrated brides are leaning into meaning over momentary trends. Aditi Rao Hydari wore a regal red silk lehenga for her royal wedding in Rajasthan, Sobhi-



ta Dhulipala chose a red Kanjeevaram for her Pelli Kuthuru ceremony in Visakhapatnam, and Rakul Preet Singh embraced a sindoor-inspired palette of orange, pink, and red for her mehendi. These choices reflect a growing preference for heritage, symbolism, and personal storytelling.

A common, interesting trend in these celebrity wedding events is the choice of the red colour. Once eclipsed by the pastel revolution sparked by Anushka Sharma's pale pink lehenga in 2017, red is making a striking comeback. As designer Sabyasachi famously said, "Red is not seasonal, it's iconic." Designers like Tarun Tahiliani, JJ Valaya and Gaurav Gupta also continue to champion the boldness of red in all its shades. Yet today's bride isn't confined by a single hue. From deep reds to mustard gold and midnight blue, the colour spectrum mirrors her many moods.

## Elegance Over Excess

Today's bridal look is guided less by minimalism or maximalism and more by meaning. Designers understand that a modern bridal outfit needs to be elegant, memorable, and above all, wearable. Customisation, comfort, and legacy are now the touchstones.

Gone are the 17-pound lehengas. Brides are choosing lighter, more fluid silhouettes. Entry-level saris are thriving. Heritage craft remains at the heart of Indian bridal fashion, but designers are pairing it with bold colours and feather-weight fabrics to make even the most ornate ensembles deceptively light.

"People in their 20s are throwing out

the rulebook," said designer Abu Jani at the recent launch of his Mumbai store. "They want their garments to reflect who they are." This mindset is reshaping bridal wear too, shifting the focus from fast fashion to keepsake couture, and creating dresses that are as emotionally resonant as they are exquisite.

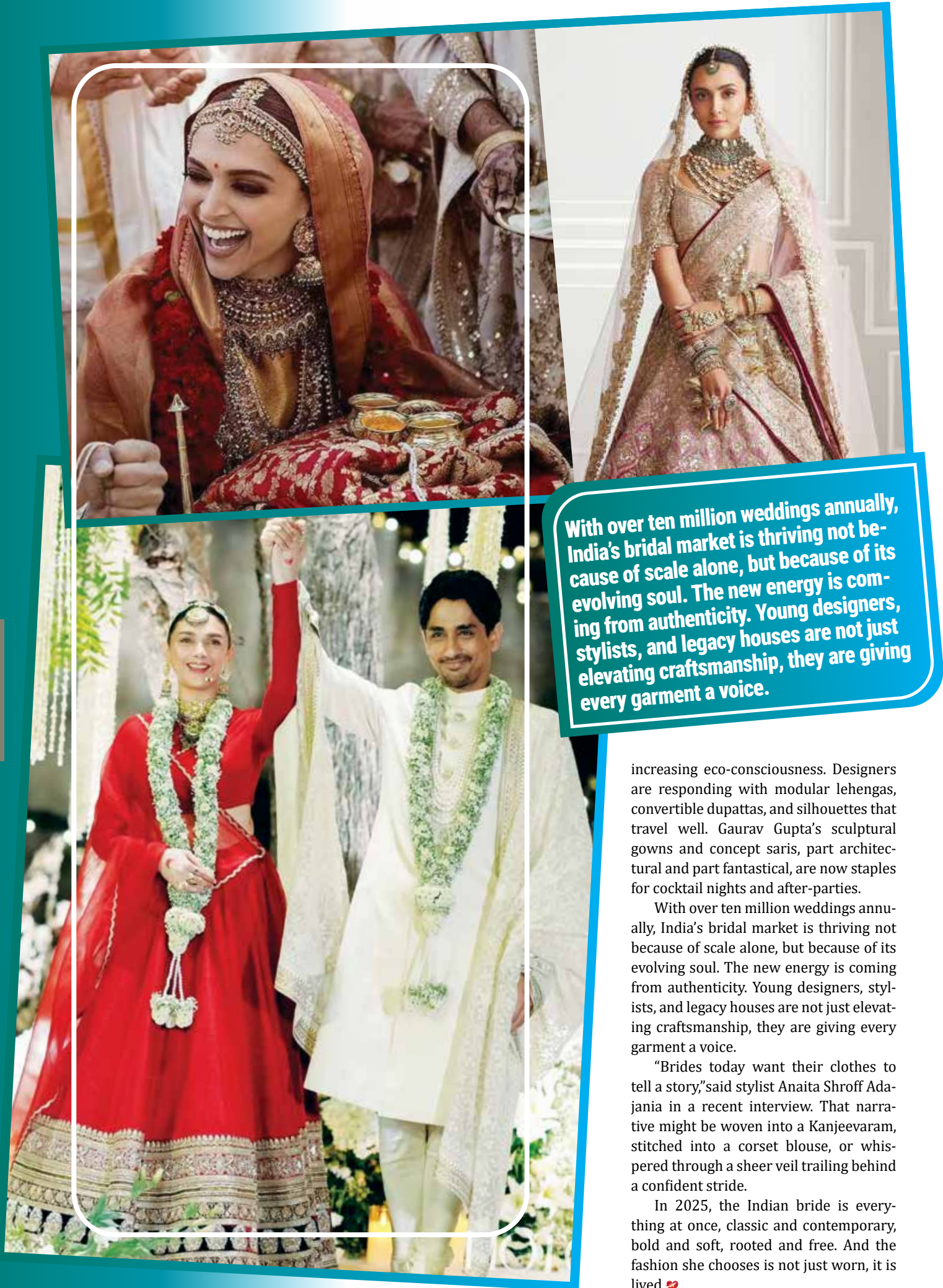
Guided by this shift, leading bridal labels are reinterpreting tradition with a contemporary eye. Time-honoured embroidery techniques are being applied to modern silhouettes. Handwoven brocades, intricate zari and luminous silk tissues are layered tone-on-tone, creating a look that feels both opulent and restrained. Personalisation adds the final touch, with heirloom dupattas, vintage odhanis, and initials discreetly embroidered along a border.

And it's not just the outfit. Accessories are undergoing their own quiet revolution. Manish Malhotra's new jewellery line includes necklaces, brooches and collar pins, for both bride and groom. On the footwear front, comfort reigns. Brides are choosing handcrafted shoes that marry couture with practicality. Bridal sneakers are on the rise, often personalised with initials, wedding dates, or delicate motifs that tell their own story.

## Destination Meets Design

As destination weddings grow in popularity, bridal fashion is evolving accordingly. Brides want footwear that can move from Rajasthani courtyards to Tuscan terraces with ease. Floral embroidery and sustainable materials are in vogue, reflecting an





With over ten million weddings annually, India's bridal market is thriving not because of scale alone, but because of its evolving soul. The new energy is coming from authenticity. Young designers, stylists, and legacy houses are not just elevating craftsmanship, they are giving every garment a voice.

increasing eco-consciousness. Designers are responding with modular lehengas, convertible dupattas, and silhouettes that travel well. Gaurav Gupta's sculptural gowns and concept saris, part architectural and part fantastical, are now staples for cocktail nights and after-parties.

With over ten million weddings annually, India's bridal market is thriving not because of scale alone, but because of its evolving soul. The new energy is coming from authenticity. Young designers, stylists, and legacy houses are not just elevating craftsmanship, they are giving every garment a voice.

"Brides today want their clothes to tell a story," said stylist Anaita Shroff Adajania in a recent interview. That narrative might be woven into a Kanjeevaram, stitched into a corset blouse, or whispered through a sheer veil trailing behind a confident stride.

In 2025, the Indian bride is everything at once, classic and contemporary, bold and soft, rooted and free. And the fashion she chooses is not just worn, it is lived.♥


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# Five Essentials for An Indian Wedding by Pataaree

Pataaree is a luxury trousseau and gifting brand that blends tradition with contemporary elegance. It specializes in handcrafted trousseau trunks, bespoke bridal accessories, personalised wedding favours, and exquisite gift packaging. Rooted in Indian heritage, Pataaree's designs feature intricate embroidery, artisanal craftsmanship, and timeless aesthetics. The brand curates thoughtful, high-quality pieces that elevate wedding celebrations and special occasions. With a focus on detail and artistry, Pataaree transforms gifting and trousseau presentation into a luxurious experience.

## Handcrafted Trousseau Packaging

An Indian wedding trousseau is more than just outfits and jewellery—it holds cherished memories, traditions, and emotions. Pataaree's exquisitely handcrafted trunks, boxes, and cases are designed to both store and elegantly present these wedding essentials. Our bespoke packaging options range from vintage-inspired trunks adorned with intricate zari embroidery to modern, velvet-lined cases personalized with monograms. Whether it's for a bridal trousseau, heirloom jewellery, or gifts for the groom's family, our luxury packaging adds a regal touch to every treasured keepsake.

## Personalized Wedding Favours

A heartfelt token of appreciation, wedding favours create lasting memories for guests. Pataaree curates bespoke gifting options, in-



cluding that bridal essentials are stored securely while radiating elegance. These accessories feature delicate embroidery, intricate zardozi work, and heritage-inspired motifs that perfectly complement the bridal trousseau. Additionally, we provide coordinated accessories for bridesmaids and close family members, adding a touch of personalization and exclusivity to the celebrations.

## Traditional Ritual Kits

Indian weddings are deeply rooted in rituals, and Pataaree ensures each ceremony is as visually stunning as it is meaningful. Our meticulously curated ritual kits contain all the essentials for ceremonies like haldi, mehendi, and pooja, beautifully housed in handcrafted containers. From intricately designed sindoor boxes and turmeric bowls to floral-adorned mehendi trays and sacred pooja thalis, every detail is thoughtfully crafted. These kits not only uphold age-old traditions but also add a refined aesthetic to wedding festivities, making them picture-perfect.

## Signature Gift Wrapping & Presentation

Gifting is a central part of Indian weddings, and the way a gift is presented speaks volumes. Pataaree specializes in exquisite gift wrapping, featuring luxurious silk and brocade fabric wraps, handcrafted boxes, and personalized name tags. Our designs are further enhanced with ornate embellishments like tassels, gota patti, and intricate threadwork, ensuring every gift—whether for the bridal couple, in-laws, or guests—is a delight to receive. From wedding invitations to return gifts, our signature wrapping services bring sophistication and elegance to every detail.

## Bespoke Bridal Accessories

A bride's wedding ensemble is incomplete without accessories that blend tradition with sophistication. Pataaree offers an exquisite collection of handcrafted potlis, dupatta covers, and jewellery organizers, ensur-





MAGIC TOUCH

# The Rise of Radiance and Realness

Move over heavy contouring. The year 2025 is all about effortless beauty that radiates authenticity. Celebrity makeup artist **Namrata Soni** speaks to **Jyoti Verma** about what's trending, what's timeless, and how modern brides can truly shine on their big day without hiding who they are.

**G**one are the days of dramatic contouring and layers of foundation. In 2025, bridal beauty is all about skin that breathes, make-up that enhances rather than masks, and confidence that shines through. "It's going to be very natural, flawless, glowing skin," says famous makeup artist Namrata Soni. "Soft glam, monochromatic looks using the same tone throughout the face. These are going to be the big trends. Smoky eyes will still be around, but in a softer, more diffused way."

Having worked with some of India's biggest stars, Soni observes that brides today are more self-aware and selective than ever. "People are getting comfortable in their own skin," she says. "That's why we're seeing a shift towards minimal, soft-glam looks instead of the loud, dramatic makeup of the past."

## The Influence of the Internet and Icons

A significant part of this shift is being driven by beauty influencers who, according to Soni, have made makeup trends more accessible and relatable to millennial and Gen Z brides. "The influencers actually teach you how to adapt trends for your own face and personality," she notes. Techniques like blush draping and tonal layering are gaining popularity, and brides are embracing them enthusiastically.

While social media promotes individ-

uality, Bollywood still holds a powerful, aspirational appeal. "It sets the tone for everything. Brides want to emulate their favourite celebrities. It's a dream come true for them," she says. From lehengas to lipsticks, celebrity weddings continue to influence beauty ideals and create visual benchmarks for brides across the country.

Among the many weddings she has worked on, some remain particularly close to her heart. "Doing my own sisters' weddings and being part of Sonam Kapoor's were very special. Usually, we do the makeup and leave. But with these weddings, I was part of the entire celebration. That made it all the more meaningful." These moments remind her that bridal beauty is not just about the final



look; it's about being part of someone's most personal and emotional milestone.

## The Skin-First Strategy

Soni advises that brides should begin their skincare prep at least six months before the big day. "And if you have problematic skin, always consult a dermatologist. Don't rely on trending products or influencers for skincare advice. What works for someone else might not work for you." Starting early allows enough time to build a consistent routine, test products, and see real results. Often, brides forget that healthy skin is the best base for any makeup look. That's what creates the much-coveted bridal glow.

## Clean and Timeless Kind of Glam

As the world embraces conscious living, beauty is evolving too. Many brands now offer paraben-free, cruelty-free, and vegan products that are also free of microplastics. "You don't have to compromise anymore. Clean beauty is here to stay, and there are amazing conscious brands out there," says Soni, who has her own brand of such products called Simply Nam. She is glad that makeup artists today have more ethical choices than ever before. Brides can feel confident that their glam aligns with their values, whether it's about ingredient safety, environmental sustainability, or animal welfare.

While minimalism is having a major moment, some classics remain evergreen. "A beautiful, subtle winged liner with a red lip will never go out of style. When you're a classic red bride wearing a beautiful red outfit, it's one of the most timeless and stunning looks you can choose," says Soni.

"Another look that always works is a soft, kohled eyes paired with either a nude or red lip. These styles truly embody who we are as Indians. They enhance our features, highlight our natural beauty, and make you feel your most radiant on your wedding day."

Her parting advice to brides is simple. "Have fun on your sangeet and cocktail. Experiment during your mehendi. But on your wedding day, keep it classic. Let your personality shine through. Don't get swept up by fleeting trends. Twenty years from now, you should look at your wedding pictures and still feel proud. And most importantly, choose a makeup artist who understands you, not just someone who's trending."

## Location, Location, Location

The modern bridal look isn't just about trends; it's also about practicality and smart choices. This becomes especially important for destination weddings, where climate plays a key role. "If you're getting married somewhere hot, your skin prep is everything," says Soni. "Avoid heavy moisturisers and thick creams that can cause your makeup to melt. Go for fresh, breathable skin with minimal foundation so you glow naturally in the sun." On the other hand, cold locations call for a different approach. "In colder places, you tend to look dull because every-

thing around is so grey. That's when you need to add a little more colour to your face. Think soft pinks and deeper reds to bring warmth and life to your look."

Your outfit, too, should reflect your location. "If it's a beach or somewhere warm, lighter fabrics and pastel tones look beautiful. In the hills or colder climates, richer, deeper hues not only suit the setting but also enhance your skin tone," says Soni. Thoughtfully choosing colours that align with your surroundings can elevate your entire look and ensure you feel as good as you look on your big day. In the end, the true secret to a radiant bridal glow isn't found in any product or palette; it's in being completely, unapologetically yourself. ❤️





# Beyond Green by Preferred Hotels Pioneering Sustainable Luxury

In a world where conscious travel is no longer a niche but a necessity, Beyond Green — a global collection of the planet's most environmentally responsible hotels and lodges — is redefining luxury through the lens of sustainability. Curated under the visionary guidance of Preferred Travel Group, Beyond Green represents a powerful commitment not just to exceptional guest experiences, but to environmental preservation, cultural heritage, and community empowerment.

Saurabh Rai, Executive Vice President for South Asia, Middle East & Africa at Preferred Travel Group, encapsulates this ethos: "Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do at Beyond Green. Our commitment to sustainable travel aligns perfectly with our parent company's broader goals, particularly with the launch of Preferred Travel Group's Climate Action Plan. This plan is a crucial initiative for mitigating the impacts of climate change within the tourism sector."

Indeed, the Climate Action Plan, launched in late 2023, outlines a bold vision: to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. It focuses on five key principles — Measure, Decarbonize, Regenerate, Collaborate, and Finance — turning sustainability into a strategic imperative rather than a feel-good tagline.

## Global growth with a Green Heart

2024 marked a pivotal year for Beyond Green, which expanded its sustainable hospitality portfolio to over 50 properties across 22 countries. Each new member is carefully vetted against three core pillars:

environmentally friendly operations, conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and contributions to local communities.

### Among the standout properties:

- The Leela Palace Bengaluru and The Leela Palace Udaipur, India – exemplars in urban and heritage luxury that focus on renewable energy, water conservation, and sustainable sourcing.
- Suryagarh, Jaisalmer, India – a desert oasis blending traditional Rajasthani architecture with low-impact design and community-centred practices.
- ARTEM Asturias, Spain – a boutique mountain retreat integrating local craftsmanship, biodiversity protection, and cultural immersion.
- Dromoland Castle Hotel, Ireland – a storied estate that balances old-world elegance with modern eco-practices.
- Bio- and Wellness resort Stanglwirt, Austria – a wellness-focused alpine resort that has long embraced green architecture and farm-to-table dining.
- ENVI Sisini Serengeti, Tanzania – an eco-luxury tented camp of-





fering front-row seats to the Great Migration with minimal environmental impact.

Seema Roy, Area Managing Director for South Asia, Middle East & Africa at Preferred Travel Group, notes, "We're thrilled to expand our portfolio and forge new partnerships that offer travellers more meaningful ways to explore the world – ensuring that these experiences benefit both people and the planet."

## A Powerful Partnership for purposeful travel

A highlight of 2024 was Beyond Green's expanded partnership with andBeyond, a brand globally revered for its conservation-driven luxury lodges and immersive safaris. This collaboration brings 23 new andBeyond properties into the Beyond Green portfolio, including:

- andBeyond Punakha River Lodge, Bhutan
- andBeyond Phinda Forest Lodge, South Africa

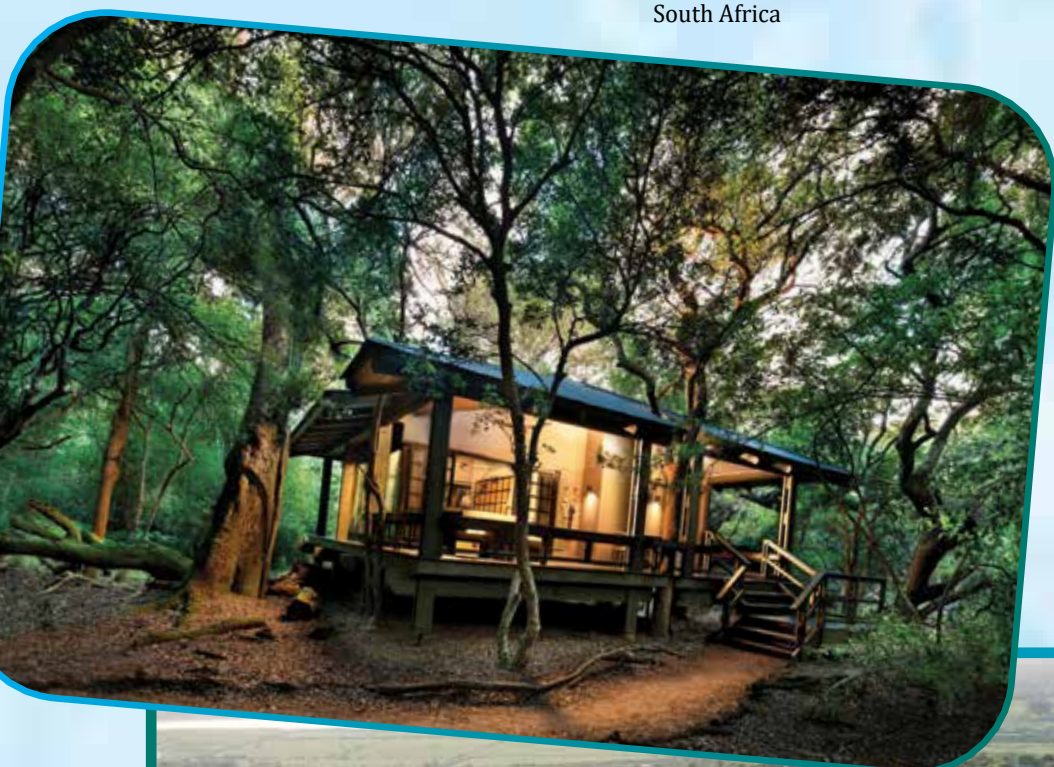
- andBeyond Ngala Tented Camp, South Africa

These properties further Beyond Green's commitment to conservation and community, offering curated itineraries through the Plan Your Trip program — a bespoke travel service for those seeking deeply enriching, sustainable journeys across Africa, Bhutan, and the Americas.

## Loyalty with a 'Lighter Footprint'

Even sustainability-savvy travellers can enjoy the perks of luxury through I Prefer Hotel Rewards, a loyalty program with over 5 million members. Complimentary to join, it offers points, reward certificates, and elite status at 600+ hotels worldwide — many of them part of the Beyond Green network.

As the travel industry works to minimize its environmental footprint, Beyond Green isn't just a portfolio — it's a movement. A movement that proves luxury and responsibility are no longer mutually exclusive. Through innovation, collaboration, and unwavering purpose, Beyond Green is building a future where honeymoons, holidays, and hotel stays don't just create memories — they make a meaningful impact. ❤️



## THE WEDDING WHIZ



# Nosepin or Nowaypin? The Bridal Bling making a Comeback!

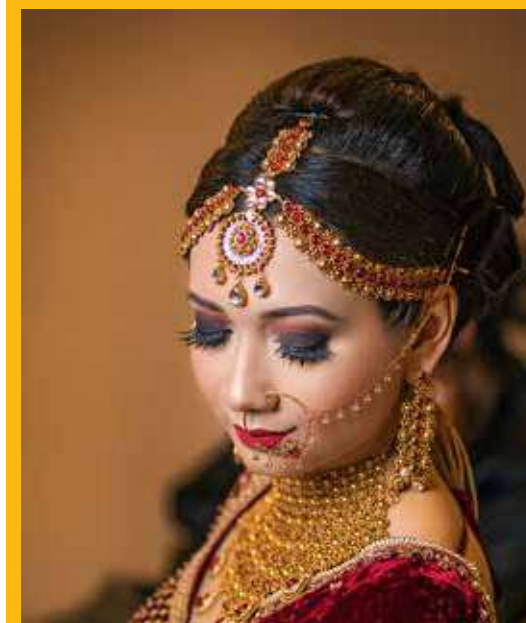
When it comes to bridal jewellery, the nosepin—often overlooked—is making a graceful comeback. Once considered traditional or region-specific, this delicate accessory is now a statement piece embraced by modern brides and newlyweds alike.

From a cultural standpoint, the nosepin or nath holds deep significance in Indian tradition. It's not just ornamental—it symbolizes marriage, femininity, and in some customs, is linked to health and prosperity. In Ayurveda, the left nostril is believed to be connected to the female reproductive system, and piercing it is said to ease childbirth and menstrual discomfort.

Design-wise, nosepins have evolved dramatically. While the Maharashtrian nath and the Rajasthani bali continue to hold their charm, today's brides are experimenting with dainty diamond studs, minimal gold hoops, and even septum rings for a more edgy, contemporary look. Whether it's a traditional gold design or a sleek modern version with precious stones, there's a nosepin for every bridal aesthetic.

For newlyweds, a nosepin adds a soft yet striking touch to everyday ethnic wear or fusion outfits. It bridges the gap between tradition and trend, making it both nostalgic and fashion-forward.

So, is it a yay or nay? Definitely a yay! The nosepin is no longer just a cultural marker—it's a personal style statement. Whether you're going all-in with a dramatic bridal nath or keeping it chic with a simple stud, this tiny accessory can transform your look with elegance and meaning.





# A Fairytale Wedding

awaits at The Chateau Spa & Wellness Resort, Malaysia



Tucked away in the emerald embrace of the Berjaya Hills, where the mist whispers secrets to the trees and the breeze carries the fragrance of blooming orchids, lies a realm of romance and regal charm — *The Chateau Spa & Wellness Resort*.

**Priyanka Saxena Ray**



**E**vocative of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century castle from the rolling vineyards of Alsace, France, this resplendent retreat is a mere 45-minute drive from the hustle and heartbeat of Kuala Lumpur, yet it feels worlds away — as if lifted from the pages of a timeless fairy tale.

With its sweeping vistas over forested hills, decadent spa indulgences, and the silken touch of 7-star hospitality, The Chateau is not just a sanctuary for the soul — it is a canvas on which love stories are painted in hues of elegance and enchantment. Especially for weddings, the resort transforms into a stage fit for royalty, where every petal, every toast, every whispered promise is steeped in magic.

## A Setting Like No Other

Imagine saying I do in La Platz, a charming stone courtyard framed by lush greenery and kissed by the golden Malaysian sun. This open-air venue comfortably accommodates 200 guests and provides the perfect pastoral charm for sun-drenched ceremonies and twilight soirees under a canopy of stars.

Or allow your dreams to bloom in La Serre — The Chateau's crown jewel. A breathtaking glasshouse adorned with crystal chandeliers and European grace, La Serre is a space where grandeur and intimacy intertwine. The light dances off the glass walls, the air hums with promise, and every moment feels suspended



in beauty. For those seeking an ethereal European-themed wedding amidst tropical splendour, this elegant sanctuary welcomes 200 guests in opulent comfort.

## Romance in Every Corner

Every wedding here is a seamless symphony of grace and grandeur. From the refined ambiance of L'assiette, a fine dining haven perfect for tea ceremonies, cocktail receptions, or candlelit banquets for up

to 100 guests, to the verdant pathways of the nearby Japanese Village, which offer serene moments for pre-wedding photo-shoots or meditative walks — The Chateau knows how to weave intimacy into even the grandest celebration.

Beyond the celebration itself, The Chateau is a holistic escape. Bridal parties can luxuriate in the resort's award-winning wellness spa, where ancient healing meets contemporary luxury, and groomsmen can conquer the skies with Southeast Asia's longest Flying Fox zip line or the thrilling canopy walks of the Adventure Park. From quiet reflections in zen gardens to high-flying escapades, The Chateau offers myriad moments for memories before, during, and after your special day.

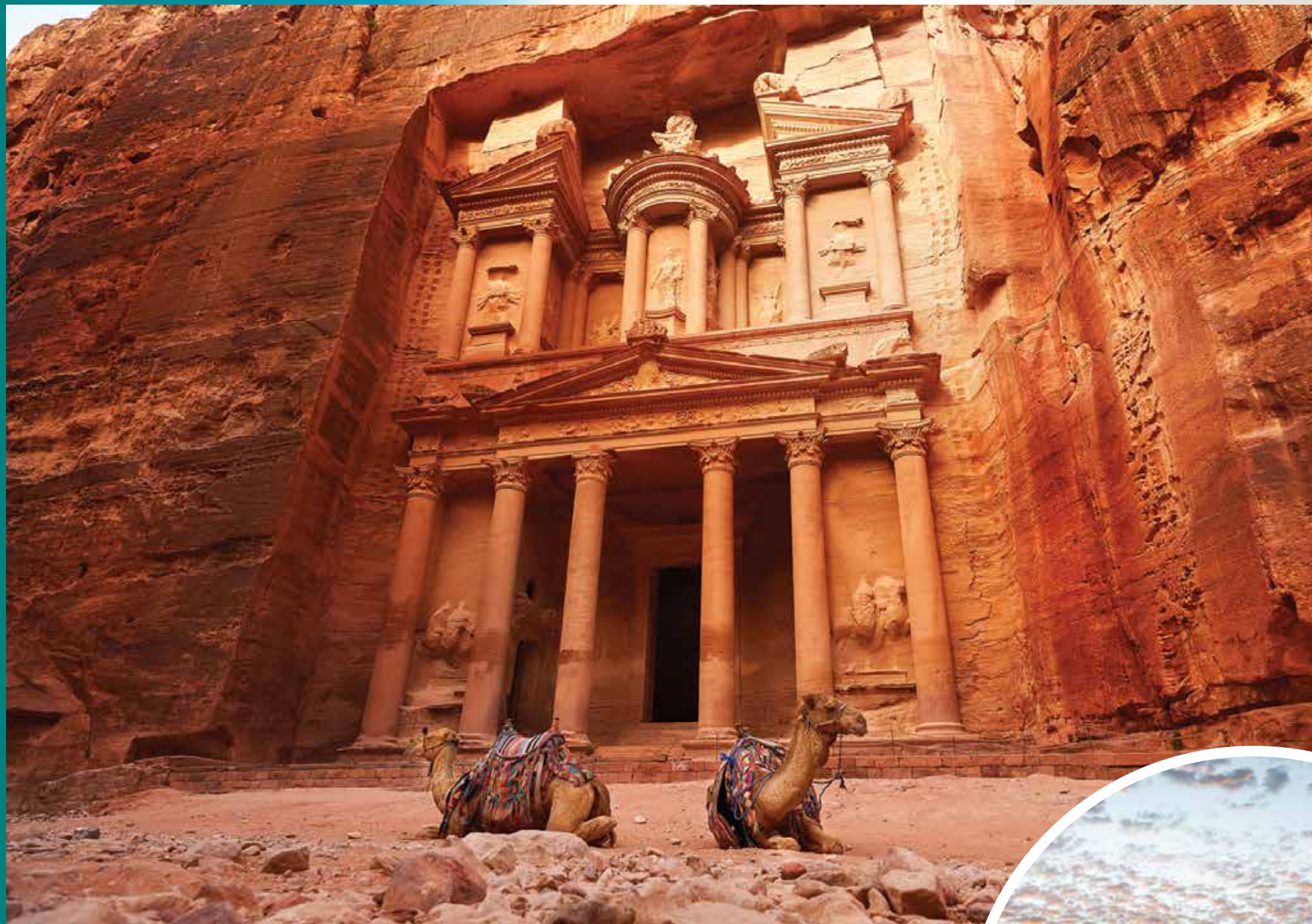
## Where Every Love Story Becomes a Legend

Whether you envision a classic affair with opulent touches, a rustic-chic gathering under the open sky, or a dreamy celebration drenched in European romance, The Chateau Spa & Wellness Resort stands ready to bring your vision to life. Here, vows are not just exchanged — they echo through valleys, caught by the winds and carried to the heavens. Here, love is not just celebrated — it is exalted.

For those who dare to dream beyond the ordinary, for hearts that seek a union as extraordinary as the journey that led them here — The Chateau is not just a venue. It is a promise. A promise that your wedding will be unforgettable, unparalleled, and utterly, eternally magical. ❤️







# Family tales in Jordan

When it comes to planning a family holiday that combines history, adventure, and warm hospitality, Jordan stands out as a truly ideal destination. From the rose-red city of Petra to the surreal landscapes of Wadi Rum, the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea to the vibrant streets of Amman, Jordan offers enriching experiences for every age group. Safe, welcoming, and easy to navigate, it promises not just sightseeing, but meaningful family bonding. **Priyanka Saxena Ray**



**W**hile Jordan has been associated with heritage and Bedouin culture, the true essence of this remarkable country lies in its diverse landscapes, historical landmarks, vibrant urban life and rich cultural marvels, making it an ideal travel destination for families seeking a memorable vacation experience.

Jordan appeals to those who enjoy blending ancient exploration with leisurely pursuits, but its evolving tourism landscape continually introduces new and exciting opportunities. With an array of activities and attractions, Jordan caters to a wide range of interests. Whether it's exploring the ancient wonders of Petra, camping amidst the stunning landscapes of Wadi Rum, snorkelling in the Red Sea, experiencing the buoyancy of the Dead Sea, tackling mountain trails in Wadi Mujib or simply indulging in shopping and entertainment, Jordan offers a comprehensive horizon for





visitors to enjoy.

The country is blessed with a fantastic climate all year round, with guaranteed sunshine for eight months of the year. Autumn and spring are especially pleasant. The guide below will help direct you and your family to some of the best and most authentic experiences Jordan has to offer:

### Jerash

A visit to Jerash feels like stepping back in time. The remarkably preserved Roman ruins, including columns, temples, and paved streets, offer a fascinating history lesson. For those seeking a mix of adventure and sport, the Rangers Camp offers activities such as a climbing wall, lightning tower, and games field, all while enjoying stunning views of the northern countryside. Additionally, the Al Ma'wa Reserve for Nature and Wildlife is dedicated to wildlife conservation and offers shelter to endangered species, making it a must-visit for nature lovers.

### Wadi Mujib

The Wadi Mujib Reserve, which is open only during summers, is located at the lowest point of nature in the world, lies near the Dead Sea and is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. The reserve is situated within the Wadi Mujib gorge, dropping 410 meters below sea level. For families looking for adventure, hiking through the various trails—such as the Siq, Canyon, or Malaqi trails—provides both a physical challenge and an incredible natural experience. In addition, the reserve features a thrilling zipline that



runs 100 meters over the gorge, offering a unique way to experience the breathtaking scenery.

### Aqaba

Aqaba offers a perfect blend of relaxation and adventure. With its warm, sunny climate, palm-lined beaches, and crystal-clear waters of the Gulf of Aqaba, it's a paradise for families. The city is known for its modern resorts, water sports, and vibrant atmosphere, all while retaining its historical charm. Families can enjoy a variety of water-based activities such as windsurfing, water skiing, jet skiing, and sailing. History buffs can explore the Aqaba Archaeological Museum to learn about the city's long history as a trade hub, or visit the Aqaba Marine Park, a protected area known for its coral reefs and marine life. For a more laid-back experience, the public beaches in Aqaba also offer camping options for families seeking a more rustic experience by the sea.

### Petra

Nestled in the southwest region of Jordan, Petra stands as an undeniable highlight for visitors to the country. Its towering, reddish-hued walls might seem familiar to many, having graced the silver screen in popular films such as "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" or "The Mummy Returns." Once obscured beneath the sands of the desert for centuries, Petra emerged as the grand city of the Nabateans, an enigmatic ancient civilization renowned for their dominance in the incense trade. ❤️



## SOME MUST VISIT LOCATIONS WHILE IN JORDAN

### 1. The Jordan Archaeological Museum

Located at the Citadel, this museum showcases an excellent collection of antiquities ranging from prehistoric times to the 15th century.

### 2. The Jordan Folklore Museum

At the end of the Roman Theatre stage in the Coliseum, this museum displays the traditional costumes of Jordan's citizens. Displayed here is lovely embroidery, beautiful antique jewellery, domestic utensils, and a collection of mosaics from churches in Jordan.

### 3. Jordan Museum of Popular Traditions

This museum displays the traditional costumes of Jordan's people, including lovely embroidery and beautiful antique jewellery. It also houses a collection of mosaics from Madaba and several Byzantine churches. It is located at the end of the Roman Theatre.

### 4. The Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts

This gallery hosts a superb collection of paintings, sculptures, photographs, installations, and ceramics by contemporary Jordanian and international artists. It aims to encourage cultural diversity and promote art from the Islamic and developing world.

### 5. Martyr's Memorial

This monumental building, located at Sports City, houses a chronological display of military history and memorabilia starting from the Great Arab Revolt of 1916 to the present day.

### 6. The Hejaz Railway

The Hejaz Railway is considered to be one of the heritage milestones in the modern history of Jordan for its connection to the Great Arab Revolt. In addition to that, one of the Hejaz Railway buildings located in Ma'an city has had the honour of being the official headquarters of the late King Abdullah I. Further, the railway was honoured for one of its trains being used for his Majesty's trip from Ma'an city to Amman.

### 7. Downtown Amman

An area alive with diversity and character, with its colours, aromas, and crowds of people, the Balad is a place to experience true Amman. The Citadel is a good place to begin your tour of the archaeological sites of the city. From there, you can visit the Roman Theatre, various museums, long-standing shops selling souvenirs and antiques, and several local cafes and restaurants.



# Tan No More: Summer Glow Secrets from your Kitchen

**B**eat the blazing sun with simple, effective remedies straight from your kitchen. Here's how brides-to-be can restore their natural glow without harsh chemicals.

As summer peaks, the sun can leave a lasting impression—not just in memories, but on your skin. For brides-to-be and wedding guests preparing for the big day, sun tan can dull your radiance. But worry not—nature has a cure. Here are some tried-and-tested home remedies to help you reclaim your natural glow.

## 1. Curd and Turmeric Pack

Curd soothes sunburn and moisturises skin, while turmeric brightens and evens out the tone. Mix a tablespoon of curd with a pinch of turmeric, apply on tanned areas, leave for 15 minutes, and rinse with lukewarm water.

## 2. Tomato Pulp Magic

Tomatoes are rich in lycopene, which reduces redness and tan. Apply fresh tomato pulp to the face and arms, let it dry, and wash it off. Use this remedy thrice a week for visible results.

## 3. Lemon and Honey Cleanser

Lemon acts as a natural bleach, and honey moisturises the skin. Mix equal parts lemon juice and honey, apply to tanned skin, and leave for 20 minutes. Rinse with cool water. Avoid this if you have sensitive skin.

## 4. Aloe Vera Gel Soothe

Aloe vera hydrates and repairs sun-damaged skin. Apply fresh gel before bed and leave it overnight. With regular use, it not only reduces tan but also prevents it.

## 5. Gram Flour Scrub

Mix gram flour (besan) with milk and a few drops of rose water to create a gentle scrub. Use twice a week to exfoliate dead cells and lighten pigmentation.❤️

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