



Not only do you have the advantage of being at home, but the room is as you want it



Outside can be designed in such a way that it is the perfect location for photographs

# Bringing it all home

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Some of the best things in life happen at home, which is why it is odd that so many of us rush to an external venue for the big day.

Certainly, there is a standard of luxury and opulence that is now de rigueur for many people on their wedding day, a standard which it would be impossible to recreate in most homes without a significant remodelling of the structure.

Similarly, there are levels of pampering that cannot usually be recreated in a family setting. But there is an answer. You could go for the option of a marquee.

"What?" you might say. "Get married in a tent?"

The reality is that the occasionally misplaced notion of what makes up a marquee is quite wide of the mark.

Modern marquees are solid enough structures (especially underfoot), so there is no question of tramping through a quagmire at the end of an evening, or of facing the prospect of draughts or leakages.

Rather, a marquee can be not only elegant and appropriate, but it can also come in at a surprisingly reasonable price.

Indeed, the cost of hiring enough space in a hotel for a modern wedding is generally high, a fact which should negate any fears over the cost aspect of a marquee wedding.

For example, Irish company Weddings at Home provides high-end marquee weddings from just €100 per person - which is a pretty competitive figure when compared with many other, more permanent venues.

And even the "basic" package offers standards of quality that should meet the expectations of even the most discerning of guests, while this package can be tweaked and tailored to suit the needs of the individuals getting married - after all, it is the bride and groom (and, let's face it, usually the bride) for whom everything has to be perfect.

The advantages are fairly obvious from the start. Weddings at Home marquees come in elegant white, and are fully heated and insulated against the elements (an important consideration in Ireland).

There is no period wallpaper to clash with the floral arrangements, and the white walls offer the proverbial blank canvas to work from - whether people want a walkway, a ballroom, a chill-out area, and any arrangement

of tables for dining.

Meals are served buffet style, but the company can provide a full waiter service, although it does insist that its own catering service is used.

Nevertheless, it does provide extensive menu options, including traditional starters, main courses, desserts (which are served at the tables) cheeses and petit fours.

But what really sets Weddings at Home apart are the little extras.

For example, the day kicks off with a Pimms reception. There are white tie waiters on hand for the bride and groom, hovering at all times near the top table.

There is an event manager to cater for all needs all day.

And towards the end, there is a midnight barbecue loin of pork served with rustic bread.

The message here is that hosting a wedding in the comfort of your home allows for many more freedoms than are available within the confines of a hotel.

You are not subject to licensing laws, there are no guests complaining about the noise, and overall, you are keeping your big day close to home - which is always where the heart is.

[www.weddingsathome.ie](http://www.weddingsathome.ie)

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