

ASK THE EXPERTS

Marquees in winter, menus for New Year's and the wow factor on a budget. Our experts answer your wedding queries.

Q "Can I still have a marquee wedding in late autumn? What do I need to take into consideration?"

Marquees have come a long way since the days of primitive aluminium structures. Increasingly we are finding that the marquee wedding season has now spread over a wider spectrum of months. In fact there has been a considerable growth in the number of our autumn/winter marquee wedding receptions.

There are a number of reasons for this, what with couples looking for alternative ideas for their special day and if you are trying to incorporate the brilliant golds, reds and oranges that are naturally abundant at this time of year into your wedding that than is no better time to do so. Also a large number of couples are now opting to really bring sentiment to their wedding day by hosting their reception in what has been their most stable and memorable environment: their own homes. It is with great delight that they see their home of origin turned into a fairytale setting for a wedding reception.

Marquees and marquee heating have now advanced so much that there is really no need for any weather conditions to hinder your special day. Thermostatically controlled heaters will warm a marquee in seconds. Additional walkways while not necessary maybe added. A marquee really acts as a blank canvas to work from whether people want a walk way, a ballroom, a chill out area and any arrangement of tables and chair types. Hosting a wedding in your own home allows for freedom of choice that will make your special day truly remarkable."

Emma Maguire, regional manager, Weddings at Home



Q I'm getting married next June and I would really like to hold a

lot of my reception outdoors if the weather is good, but I'd like it to feel just as special as it would indoors. Any ideas?

There are many ways to incorporate this into your wedding day, for example in the Station House Hotel we provide facilities for brides and grooms to do blessings and out door ceremonies in our gardens. In the Waterside House hotel we can do these ceremonies on our beach decking. On arrival to the hotel you could do an arrivals reception outdoors in the same areas we host the blessings. For the actual meal, if you found a location with enough land surrounding it, you could get a marquee set up and take the full reception outdoors. In recent experience brides and grooms have provided outdoor entertainment for their guests such as fire dancers or fireworks. If you can be sure of good weather this is a wonderful touch!

Siobhan Duffy, Sales Manager, Waterside House and The Station House Hotel

