



White wonderland

From couture bridal gowns to the most exclusive locations, **Sarah Assenti** reports on the hottest weddings in 2018

Most of us imagine having only one wedding in our lifetime, so it follows suit that the occasion should be a spectacular, decadent affair. But what does a modern celebration worthy of the love between you and your betrothed look like?

One day is no longer enough – dress changes, week-long parties and cross-continental festivities are *di rigueur* for today's discerning couples.

PRINCE HARRY & MEGHAN MARKLE

If there was one wedding this year that captured hearts around the world, it was the union between a dashing British prince and an elegant American actress.

After months of speculation, all eyes were on Meghan's entrance

Above: *Game of Thrones* actress Rose Leslie before marrying co-star Kit Harington in Scotland

and, of course, *The Dress*. As the future Duchess ascended the steps of St George's Chapel in Windsor, it was revealed that the chic, modest and dazzling white gown was by British designer, Clare Waight Keller, of Givenchy (givenchy.com).

Prince Harry wore traditional military dress – the frockcoat uniform of the Blues and Royals – before later stepping out in black tie, to match the glamour of his bride's evening dress, a full length,

high-neck design by Brit Stella McCartney. (stellamccartney.com)

Venues don't get much more exclusive than a church that belongs to the British monarchy and, select couples including Harry and Meghan, are required to seek permission to marry at St George's Chapel from the Queen herself. Bringing together British aristocracy and Hollywood glamour, guests included the Royal family, David and Victoria Beckham, Oprah, Serena Williams, and George and Amal Clooney.

KIT HARINGTON & ROSE LESLIE

From one fairytale wedding to another, this time between two co-stars of the hit HBO series, *Game of Thrones*. Actors Harington and Leslie met one ►



Above: Duchess-to-be Meghan Markle captivated the globe in a gown by Clare Waight Keller of Givenchy. Right: Anna Wintour's daughter, Bee Shaffer, wore a tea-length ivory lace gown and matching veil as she married Francesco Carrozzini

another while playing lovers Jon Snow and Ygritte in 2012, and while their on-screen romance wasn't to be, the real-life couple tied the knot in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in the British summer.

Looking stunning in a long-sleeved tulle gown by Elie Saab (eliesaab.com), Leslie was all smiles as she arrived at the church, with the groom choosing a tailcoat suit and the long, dark curls and full beard of his iconic character.

Game of Thrones cast members including Emilia Clarke, Peter Dinklage and Sophie Turner attended the union at Rayne Church, before heading to Leslie's childhood home, Wardhill Castle to dance the night away. Dating back to the 12th century, Wardhill is one of Scotland's oldest castles, set in more than 400 acres of woodland.

CHANEL IMAN & STIRLING SHEPARD

When an international supermodel and a famed American football player get hitched, glitz, glamour and an abundance of flowers come as standard. After a short engagement of just three months,

Iman and Shepard celebrated in style in Beverley Hills, Los Angeles, with a verdant garden ceremony followed by an elegant ballroom reception.

Choosing a floor-length ivory lace gown by Lebanese designer, Zuhair Murad (zuhairmurad.com), the bride looked positively regal, with a double layer veil and chic cape. When it was time to hit the dance floor, Iman slipped into a plunging V-lace dress with pale pink details, also designed by Murad. Not to be outdone by his bride, Shepard wore a Hugo Boss (hugoboss.com) tux, switching out the classic black jacket for a white version during the evening reception.

Fellow supermodels, sports stars and celebrities turned out in force to help the couple celebrate into the night, including Jordan Dunn, Chrissy Teigen, Tiffany Haddish and Odell Beckham Jr.

BEE SHAFFER & FRANCESCO CARROZZINI

The wedding of American Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour's daughter, Bee Shaffer, to Francesco Carrozzini, the son of the late Italian Vogue editor-in-chief, Franca Sozzani, was a quieter – yet no less decadent – affair. The first ceremony took place at Wintour's home in Long Island, New York, before the couple travelled to Portofino, Italy, for a second ceremony. Shaffer had an air of Italian elegance about her, opting

for a tea length ivory lace gown and matching veil, gold sandals and a simple bouquet of peach roses, while Carrozzini opted for a chic navy suit. In a surprising move for publishing industry royalty, the couple imposed a complete

social media blackout for their cross-continental celebrations. Due to the ban the guest list for both celebrations is a closely guarded secret, but British actor, Colin Firth, reportedly officiated the first ceremony. ■

