

WEDDING JOURNAL
ITALY, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL



BELMOND

Wedding Journal

“When I used to read
fairy tales, I never thought
I would end up in the
middle of one.”

Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

European celebrations

Setting the scene for your dream wedding

When it comes to sublime locations, our retreats in Southern Europe will take your breath away. Say “I do” on a terrace overlooking the sundrenched Amalfi Coast or a legendary Sicilian volcano. Sit down beneath fragrant wisteria for an intimate wedding feast in Florence or the Italian Riviera.

Each of our properties boasts a rich and fascinating history embracing Roman nobles, Renaissance artists and medieval monks. Picture celebrating your vows beside a Michelangelo façade or in a garden where Casanova met his lovers.

For our gardens are as glorious as our views, guaranteeing total privacy and an inspiring immersion in nature. Wherever in Italy, Mallorca or Madeira you decide upon, the setting can be tailored to your tastes and whims with exceptional dining experiences curated by award-winning chefs.

Furthermore, from the moment you involve us, we'll be busy working behind the scenes to ensure your day is pure magic.



Contents

Destination Weddings

- 08** Exchange vows in Venice
- 12** Celebrate romance on the Italian Riviera
- 16** Dive into the timeless glamour of Portofino
- 20** Transform your Tuscan dream into reality
- 24** Fall in love with Florence
- 28** Feel high on emotion on the Amalfi Coast
- 32** Escape to a secret hideaway in Ravello
- 34** Embrace beachside bliss in Sicily
- 38** Say “I do” in Taormina
- 42** Make heart-melting memories in Mallorca
- 46** Let Madeira be your spectacular stage

Choose Your Perfect Ceremony

- 50** Religious weddings, Civil weddings and Blessings

Magically Intimate Occasions

- 52** Elopements, Proposals and Boutique Weddings

The Complete Experience

- 54** Catering to your every need
- 55** Take over an entire hotel
- 57** The romance continues...
- 57** Take a Grand Tour honeymoon

- 58** Belmond Italy, Spain and Portugal



Exchange vows in Venice

La Serenissima was made for romance. After all, it was here in the gardens on Giudecca Island that Casanova himself would meet his lovers.

Now part of our legendary Cipriani, the gardens can be the setting for your magnificent Venetian wedding, including the ceremony and an intimate banquet.

Or, for a grander affair, let us arrange a spectacular feast in the Granaries of the Republic. The historic, brick-walled halls overlooking St Mark's Square lend themselves splendidly to a Venetian Masquerade Ball.

Invite your guests to dress up as courtiers and twirl incognito beneath the chandeliers.





Celebrate romance on the Italian Riviera

Portofino, with its dolce vita allure, has inspired many a love affair – most famously that of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

Follow in their passionate footsteps at the Splendido, a sumptuous former monastery overlooking the pastel-coloured houses and boats bobbing in the bay. Stage your ceremony on a wisteria-clad terrace and soak up the enchantment.

Make the most of the magical location with a romantic table overlooking the bay. Customise your menu and decor for a truly one-off occasion. As night falls, the moonlight reflected on the water will leave you entranced.





Dive into the timeless glamour of Portofino

Splendido Mare's twin souls blend casual refinement with global glamour, making it the perfect destination for a sensational celebration.

With just 14 rooms and suites, the entire hotel can be filled with your close friends and family for an exclusive, intimate, yet truly magnificent occasion. Our private terraces overlooking Portofino's vibrant Piazzetta lend themselves perfectly to special moments and four of them can be connected for extra space.

Or, if you'd prefer a sophisticated yet hassle-free wedding, let our expert staff organise an elopement. They'll look after all the arrangements, ensuring your day is seamlessly smooth and magically memorable. Just imagine saying "I do" on a beautiful terrace poised above Portofino!





Transform your Tuscan dream into reality

From intimate ceremonies to larger celebrations, Castello di Casole offers dramatic and enticing venues both in- and outdoors.

Proclaim your vows in the ancient open-air amphitheatre, captivated by the stunning views of rolling Tuscan hills. Or set the stage for an infallible proposal at our Enchanted Table in the woods.

Envisage a bigger event? Reserve our medieval village all for yourselves and let our expert planners take care of every detail. Whatever you choose, the Castello's secluded location means you can relax in total privacy and savour the best day of your life.





Fall in love with Florence

With its Renaissance architecture and sumptuous gardens, Florence is a true lovers' destination.

Encapsulating all this and more, Villa San Michele sits in the lush Fiesole hills overlooking the city. Ready to propose? We'll set up a table in a secluded corner of our gardens. Planning a blessing? Our unique chapel, part of the former monastery, couldn't be more charming.

When it comes to celebrating with your guests, raise a glass in front of our famous Michelangelo façade or dine in the historic Loggia with the lights of Florence twinkling before you.

Is your dream to have the hotel all to yourself? Fantasise no more: Villa San Michele is available for exclusive use.





Feel high on emotion on the Amalfi Coast

If you were to choose the most perfect spot for a wedding, how would a palace overlooking the Amalfi Coast sound?

The Caruso, whose 11th-century walls echo with the footsteps of Virginia Woolf and Greta Garbo, affords mesmerising vistas of the Mediterranean Sea and mountains. The infinity pool alone seems suspended between heaven and earth.

Stage your wedding in the fragrant gardens beneath the olive trees. We'll set up elegant tables and provide enchanting Neapolitan entertainment.

For a truly majestic wedding, book the hotel exclusively and feel like kings and queens.





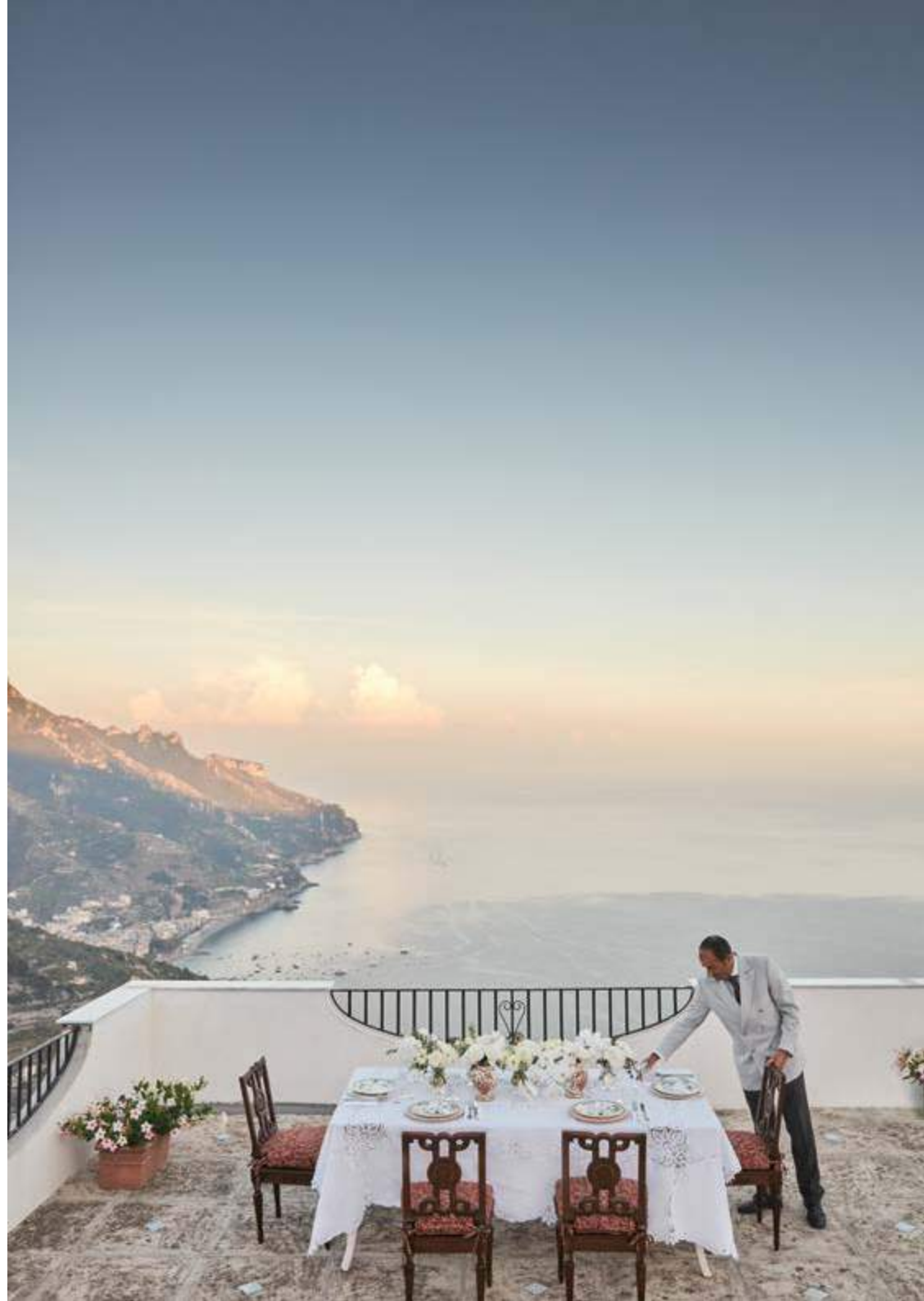
Escape to a secret hideaway in Ravello

On a clifftop overlooking the Amalfi Coast, Villa Margherita is an idyllic lovers' nest for imaginative marriage proposals and blissful honeymoons.

Comprised of two separate suites, the whole villa can be booked for ultimate privacy. Encircled by secluded gardens, it benefits from the services of a private chef who will prepare exquisite feasts tailored to your tastes.

Sip cocktails on the rooftop terrace, soaking up the spectacular panoramas, or host a private lunch or dinner in the magical gardens.

You may pinch yourself, but trust us, this heavenly haven is real!



Embrace beachside bliss in Sicily

Celebrate your big day on a private beach overlooking crystal-clear waters. Weddings at Villa Sant'Andrea could hardly be more magical.

The former aristocratic residence, surrounded by dazzling gardens, sits on its own private pebble beach in Taormina Mare. It gazes out over the Bay of Mazzarò, one of the most beautiful coastlines in Sicily.

Say your vows beside the water and continue the festivities with a vibrant Sicilian barbecue, or move up to our terrace for a fabulous feast overlooking the sea.





Say “I do” in Taormina

Right beside Taormina's Greek Theatre, overlooking the picturesque coast and dramatic Mount Etna, Grand Hotel Timeo enjoys the most extraordinary setting.

So a wedding here can never be anything but truly unforgettable.

On our celebrated terraces, perhaps decorated with vibrant Caltagirone ceramics or dramatic cacti, gaze out over the majestic scenery, glance up at the Greek ruins or Etna puffing smoke, and catch your breath.

What better way to celebrate a special occasion than with a Michelin-starred dinner under a sultry Sicilian sky? A private table for two on our panoramic terrace is a stunning spot for a proposal. The icing on the cake is a personalised menu of Sicilian specialities from Chef Roberto Toro, recently awarded his first star.





Make heart-melting memories in Mallorca

Mallorca: island of sun-drenched dreams.

Up in the northwest corner, backed by the dramatic Tramuntana Mountains, lies the picturesque village of Deià.

Among the cobbled streets and stone houses you'll find a community of artists, poets and writers, drawn to the light, the tranquillity and the otherworldliness.

Quietly sharing this gorgeous seclusion is La Residencia, a place where art and fine cuisine meet olive groves and stunning Mediterranean vistas. Stir your imagination and prepare for a wedding like no other.





Let Madeira be your spectacular stage

On a promontory overlooking the Atlantic, Reid's Palace has been thrilling guests for over a century.

They're drawn to the year-round sun, the stunning ocean views and expansive subtropical gardens.

Relax before your big day at our spa and sample our Michelin-starred restaurant.

Then make your stately way to the lush Palm Garden for your blessing, followed by a stunning reception on the lawn or a gourmet banquet in the historic Dining Room. Alternatively, soak up the ocean vistas with a feast on our panoramic terrace, Brisa Do Mar.





Choose your perfect ceremony

Whether you dream of a traditional church wedding, a civil ceremony or a blessing, trust us to create your ideal day.

Religious weddings

We can recommend beautiful local churches close to each of our hotels that will be delighted to host your ceremony. Non-residents can be married according to Catholic rites in a Catholic church. You'll just need to obtain the Nihil Obstat from your local diocese, signed by your bishop, in order to be married in a local parish. Wedding planners can also arrange a celebrant for Protestant, Jewish or Orthodox rites to marry you in a sacred location.

Civil weddings

Civil ceremonies may be celebrated in town and city halls. We'll tell you which venues are most suitable for your event. For example, if you have 15 guests you can marry in Portofino Town Hall and then stroll the five-minute route back to the Splendido. If you have 150 guests, majestic Castello Brown on the hill above Portofino is at your disposal.

Blessings

Blessings suit couples who have already had a civil or church ceremony, but are also perfect for couples looking to renew their vows to mark an anniversary. As these are without legal or civil restrictions they can be performed by a Master of Ceremonies rather than a clergyman or state official.



Elopements, Proposals and Boutique Weddings

Our properties are ideal for intimate moments and smaller events that still ooze panache.

Plan a moonlit proposal at Castello di Casole, whose dark skies have been nominated among the starriest in Italy.

For romantic dinners you're spoilt for choice in Sicily, from a table by the waves at Villa Sant'Andrea to an Etna-facing terrace at Grand Hotel Timeo.

Steal away for an elopement wedding on the Italian Riviera, where the Splendido offers sumptuous tailored packages suitable for just the two of you or a select group.

Or plan a boutique wedding at reimagined Splendido Mare in Portofino. Fill its 14 rooms and suites with your nearest and dearest, or stage a glamorous reception on one of the terraces overlooking the iconic Piazzetta.



The Complete Experience

Catering to your every need

A key ingredient of weddings at all our beautiful hotels is the gastronomic cuisine inspired by each destination. We'll prepare everything your heart and taste buds desire, from a spectacular seven-course feast to simple but stunning canapés.

Discover regional gems from Mallorcan Sobrasada sausage to Sicilian granita, Venetian cicchetti to Tuscan truffles.

Sip the George Clooney-inspired Buona Notte cocktail or savour a rich Etna wine, and raise a toast to your future with the finest Franciacorta.



Take over an entire hotel

Imagine walking into one of our sumptuous hotels as if it were your home. Knowing that in every guest room, every nook of the garden or elegant lounge you'll find a dear friend or family member.

Look forward to gathering together in total privacy to celebrate your union and the joyful journey to come.

This is the experience when you reserve one of our hotels for your exclusive use: the ultimate way to turn your wedding into the most important day of your life.





The romance continues...

When it comes to proposals and anniversaries, we have a wealth of inspiring ideas. Sweep your partner off their feet with a proposal by the breathtaking infinity pool at the Caruso, at a table for two at Castello di Casole as the sun sets over the verdant Tuscan hills, or in the romantic Casanova Gardens at the Cipriani. Host an unforgettable anniversary party in the gaze of Mount Etna or in lush gardens overlooking Florence.

Take a Grand Tour honeymoon

You've loved our hotel, why not experience others in the Belmond portfolio? Wave an arrivederci to your guests and set off on a seven-day Grand Tour, choosing to stay at two or more of our European hotels. Combine a week in a vibrant city such as Venice with a relaxing break in Portofino or Madeira; feast on the charms of Sicily or escape to the mountains in Mallorca.

Belmond Italy, Spain and Portugal

Cipriani

Location: Venice, Italy
Closest International Airport:
Venice (VCE), 30 min by water taxi
Accommodation: 96 rooms and suites
Venues: 3 indoors, 5 outdoors
Up to: 220 people
Events contact: cip.seso@belmond.com
Phone: +39 01 852 678438

Splendido Mare

Location: Portofino, Italy
Closest International Airport:
Genoa (GOA), 45 min by car
Accommodation: 14 rooms and suites
Venues: 2 outdoors
Up to: 100 people
Events contact: spl.seso@belmond.com
Phone: +39 0185 2678438

Castello di Casole

Location: Casole D'Elsa, Tuscany, Italy
Closest International Airport:
Florence Airport (FLR), 50 min by car
Accommodation: 39 rooms and suites
Venues: 5 indoors, 7 outdoors
Up to: 150 people
Events contact: cdc.seso@belmond.com
Phone: +39 0185 2678438

Villa Margherita

Location: Ravello, Amalfi Coast, Italy
Closest International Airport:
Naples (NAP), 1 hour by car
Accommodation: 2 suites
Venues: 1 indoors, 2 outdoors
Up to: 12 people
Events contact: car.seso@belmond.com
Phone: +39 01 852 678438

Splendido

Location: Portofino, Italy
Closest International Airport:
Genoa (GOA), 45 min by car
Accommodation: 70 rooms and suites
Venues: 2 indoors, 2 outdoors
Up to: 130 people
Events contact: spl.seso@belmond.com
Phone: +39 01 852 678438

Villa San Michele

Location: Fiesole, Florence, Italy
Closest International Airport:
Florence (FLR), 20 min by car
Pisa (PSA), 1 hour by car
Accommodation: 45 rooms and suites
Venues: 4 indoors, 4 outdoors
Up to: 250 people with exclusive use
Events contact: vsm.seso@belmond.com
Phone: +39 01 852 678438

Caruso

Location: Ravello, Amalfi Coast, Italy
Closest International Airport:
Naples (NAP), 1 hour by car
Accommodation: 50 rooms and suites
Venues: 1 indoors, 2 outdoors
Up to: 180 people
Events contact: car.seso@belmond.com
Phone: +39 01 852 678438

Grand Hotel Timeo

Location: Taormina, Sicily, Italy
Closest International Airport:
Catania (CTA), 45 min by car
Accommodation: 70 rooms and suites
Venues: 2 indoors, 2 outdoors
Up to: 220 people
Events contact: ght.seso@belmond.com
Phone: +39 01 852 678438

Villa Sant'Andrea

Location: Taormina Mare, Sicily, Italy

Closest International Airport:

Catania (CTA), 45 min by car

Accommodation: 71 rooms and suites

Venues: 1 indoors, 5 outdoors

Up to: 130 people

Events contact: vsa.seso@belmond.com

Phone: +39 01 852 678438

La Residencia

Location: Deià, Mallorca, Spain

Closest International Airport:

Palma di Mallorca (PMI), 45 min by car

Accommodation: 71 rooms and suites, 1 villa

Venues: 2 indoors, 3 outdoors

Up to: 140 people with exclusive use

Events contact: lrs.seso@belmond.com

Phone: +39 01 852 678438

Reid's Palace

Location: Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Closest International Airport:

Funchal (FNC), 20 min by car

Accommodation: 158 rooms and suites

Venues: 3 indoors, 4 outdoors

Up to: 250 people

Events contact: reservations.rds@belmond.com

Phone: +351 291 717171





Photo credits

Andrew Bayda cover

Venice First page 5, 9, 10, 11 (top)

Elias Kordelakos Photography page 7, 30 (bottom)

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Sandro Ariu page 15 (bottom)

SposiamoVi page 17

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Costanza Maremmi page 22 (top)

David Bastianoni page 25, 26

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Max Koliberdin page 37 (top)

Gianmarco Vetrano page 37 (bottom), 40 (bottom)

Marco Ficili page 40 (top)

Ryan Gha page 41

Vivid Symphony page 44

Brancoprata page 47

Henrique Seruca page 48 (top), 49

Ana Lui Photography page 54, 61

