

A WEDDING LESS ORDINARY

Want your big day to stand out from the crowd? Then **Thomson Weddings** has you covered. With more than 100 wedding venues in 16 countries, there's something for even the most discerning bride and groom-to-be. **KATIE GREGORY** picks out five of the best weddings with a difference...



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1 GET HITCHED IN AN IGLOO

For a wedding that'll be a talking point with guests for years to come, you can't beat a ceremony at Lapland's Snowy Altar. This igloo-style chapel is entirely made from ice, right down to the altar itself and the chairs your guests will sit on (it's OK - they're covered in reindeer pelts for comfort). To round things off, sit down to dinner at an ice-table next door, and sip a drink at the ice bar. It puts a whole new spin on the phrase 'white wedding'.

2 HAVE YOUR WEDDING IN A WINERY

If you love your wine, why not tie the knot where it's made? At Santo Winery, on the Greek island of Santorini, you can toast your big day with a glass of vino made with grapes grown on the premises. The ceremony itself can either take place during the day or at sunset, and either way you'll be treated to widescreen views over the Aegean Sea. Plus, you can even take home a bottle of plonk with your names on it.

3 GET MARRIED IN A MEDIEVAL MONASTERY

If you're dreaming of an intimate wedding, put Italy's Cloisters of San Francesco top of your list. You'll get married in a peaceful courtyard

that's hidden away within the walls of a Medieval monastery and framed by Gothic arches and trailing vines. Step out into the public gardens as Mr and Mrs and have your photographs taken with Mount Vesuvius and the Bay of Naples in the background.

4 SAY 'I DO' ON A ST LUCIAN BEACH

Beach wedding destinations don't get much better than the Caribbean island of St Lucia. And as far as venues go, the BodyHoliday hotel is hard to beat. Combine the two and you've got a match made in heaven. You can get pampered before the big day at the hotel's famous spa, which Conde Nast Traveler voted one of the best in the world. Then say your vows on a secluded beach, where the sand is sparkling white and the sea is crystal clear.

5 TIE THE KNOT IN A TEA PLANTATION

A traditional Sri Lankan tea plantation makes a truly unique setting for a wedding. Leafy tea plants blanket the landscape in every direction, apart from the odd sparkling blue lake punctuating a sea of green, so your photographs will be in Technicolor. And the ceremony itself can be just as bright if you incorporate some local customs, like chanting blessings and exchanging symbolic betel leaves.

CREATE YOUR PERFECT WEDDING

The team at Thomson have been organising overseas weddings for more than 20 years, and also offer things like blessings at sea and renewal of vows ceremonies. They have a huge team of specialists who can take care of all the finer details of your big day, from the cake to the photographer.

What's more, as Mr and Mrs-to-be you can take advantage of Thomson's Bride and Groom Incentive, which entitles you to some special gifts – from champagne and chocolates on your flight, to a UK spa break before your big day – depending on your party size.

To find out more, visit thomson.co.uk/weddings or call their specialist wedding advisors on **0203 451 2716***.

*Local call charges apply.

DID YOU KNOW?



The average UK wedding costs around **£20k**, whereas the average wedding overseas costs closer to **£8k**. That's a staggering **£12k saving**, which means more to spend on the dress...