

The gown is not out

Birds are singing and bells are ringing: the wedding season is upon us again. This season, unlike autumn/winter, spring/summer or racing, is one with no rules, boundaries, or fashion codes to abide. The thing that so often goes wrong is that ordinary people attempt to realise their own artistic visions. Shudder.

Thankfully, more and more designers are focussing on bridalwear as an integral part of their brand and a guiding hand towards SGT (standard good taste) and away from diamanté can only be a good thing, right?

Oscar de la Renta

and **Vera Wang** are there to help, if you have a few thousand to spare;

their bespoke and specialist bridalwear represents the pinnacle of marital chic.

Vivienne Westwood and **Temperley** have also broken into the market and launched capsule collections, or are weaving a selection of dressy whites into their catwalk shows. The latest to join them is **Giambattista Valli**, who already had a reputation for stunning "event" dresses - the handful of full-length white numbers that ended his spring/summer 2009 show signalled a move towards the altar.

From mini-crisis to simple shifts, there's no received style to wedding dresses anymore. Grace Kelly's classic gown (inset) was partly to blame for the canonisation of the meringue, but remember that she was actually marrying a prince - anyone normal in this dress will look like a novelty toilet-roll holder.

For stylist Beth Dadswell's advice on getting the perfect bridal look, see theweddinggirl.co.uk



Someday my prince will come, left to right from above: Grace Kelly; Giambattista Valli; Oscar de la Renta

Fashion

BY HARRIET WALKER



Name Laura Mercier
Occupation Make-up mogul
Passion A little bit of what you fancy

It has taken me a lifetime to find balance with food - I have the kind of metabolism that will find calories even in the air around me - but I have finally learnt how to enjoy it. Pleasure for me is now quality not quantity, so I get more from a few squares of intense, dark chocolate or a piece of organic bread than from a whole tablet of Lindt.

As a Frenchwoman living in New York, it's easier to be moderate because although there is food everywhere, it's mainly junk which doesn't tempt me. Europe is much more difficult because there are so many fantastic markets with fresh produce.



Why I love...

The sensual pleasure of food is an inspiration for my range. But if I were bathing in my Crème Brûlée bath foam and you offered me a real crème brûlée could I refuse? I'm not sure.

The Laura Mercier Afternoon Tea is now available at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1, www.harveynichols.com
Interview by Rhiannon Harries

Glastonbury's real headline act

There are several popular myths about the **Glastonbury Festival**. That the loos will overflow; that it will rain and turn into a quagmire; and that the food will be ghastly.

Well, Bites can't say whether the first two will be myth or reality, but the third sure ain't true... this year, at least. **Sharpham Park**, purveyors of good things made from spelt (a super-healthy wheat alternative), will have a stall selling cereals, bars, burgers in buns and pies for hungry tent-dwellers (and, we suspect,

a few refugees from the backstage Winnebagos). And if the humble grain isn't good enough, the burgers and pie-fillings are made from rare-breed beef, lamb and venison.

We think **Roger Saul**, the man behind the brand, who lives at Sharpham Park farm - right near the festival site - and oversees his products very closely, should be applauded for such a tasty green venture.

You can tell him yourself if you're Glasto-bound this week. Saul and his family will be the ones dishing out the Sharpham goodies...

Bites

BY LISA MARKWELL

