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# At first BLUSH



## THE BRIEF

**MOOD** French elegance – pared-back pastels, gilded touches and sparkling chandeliers – in an English countryside setting.

**PALETTE** A romantic and feminine combination of peach, blush, muted gold and soft grey, inspired by the warm stone exterior of the venue.

**VENUE** Stapleford Park, a beautiful Georgian Grade I-listed manor house in the heart of England, with a rather splendid French chateau-style reception room.

*Styling and flowers* SOPHIE'S FLOWER COMPANY  
*Photography* RACHAEL CONNERTON



When it comes to styling your big day, you really can't go wrong if you use your venue as a starting point, as the team behind this stylish shoot proved. Everything from the colour palette to the choice of bridal wear was inspired by the stunning manor house, making for a seamless and polished finished look. "Taking inspiration from all aspects of your venue can really help to create a beautifully cohesive style," says Rachael Connerton, who photographed this reception shoot. "Consider the shapes created by the architecture and the colour palette of the various different materials and textures – stonework, fabrics and the foliage in the gardens." With this in mind, the team gave the details a French Renaissance-art-style finish to mirror the design of the hall. "The cake was hand-painted to reflect the beautiful floral wallpapers in the hallway and bedrooms," says Rachael. "The design was then embellished with handcrafted edible wafer-paper flowers to complement those found in the grounds." Even the dresses matched in perfectly with the setting. "The stunning trains and simple silhouettes echo the bold lines of the Georgian architecture and the statement bridesmaid dresses symbolise the hall's history of grandeur."

To set the tone for an elegant French-style day without crossing the Channel, it's key to get the stationery just right. The team nailed the understated vibe with an ever-stylish letterpress suite, printed using an antique press. The stationery tied in to the overall look by using blush-tone ribbons in the design that then also featured in the bride's bouquet, centrepieces and chair backs. It's the abundant flowers that really give this look the wow factor, though. "To achieve the rich romantic opulence of a French chateau, I selected blousy, full-bodied blooms," says florist Sophie Cullumbine. "David Austin's Keira and Juliet roses matched beautifully with the silky heads of peonies, while the dahlias and protea added interest."



*"Consider the shapes created by the architecture and the colour palette of the various different materials and textures"*



## Reception trends



*"Taking inspiration from all aspects of your venue can really help to create a beautifully cohesive style"*



### THE DREAM TEAM

**Photography**

[rachelcollinsartphotography.co.uk](http://rachelcollinsartphotography.co.uk)

**Styling and flowers**

[sophiesflowerco.uk](http://sophiesflowerco.uk)

**Venue** [staplefordpark.com](http://staplefordpark.com)

**Bridal wear** [rscollection.co.uk](http://rscollection.co.uk)

**Cake** [emilyharmstoncakes.co.uk](http://emilyharmstoncakes.co.uk)

**Stationery** [rosepress.co.uk](http://rosepress.co.uk)

**Make-up** [georgiesteeplies.com](http://georgiesteeplies.com)

**Hair** [elizabethclare.co.uk](http://elizabethclare.co.uk)

**Chair hire**

[premier-event-services.com](http://premier-event-services.com)

**Cutlery** [thecutlerycommission.com](http://thecutlerycommission.com)