



ORCHARDLEIGH ESTATE

If you're looking for that fairytale wedding and a celebration that lasts for longer than one day, then Orchardleigh Estate could be the venue of your dreams.

Four days of love

The stunning Victorian mansion is set in the middle of 500 acres of beautiful scenery and is rented exclusively to bridal parties for three or four days at a time. That means you have complete creative control of how you would like your wedding weekend to be. You don't have to leave at midnight (dance for three days straight if you want!) and you can add any extra special touches to make the day uniquely yours.

Chris and Heather Vincent have owned the property since 1999 and they've seen some incredible sights in that time. Some of Chris' favourite touches were when a couple arrived to their wedding by helicopter. And he loves a singing waiter – to him, entertainment is one of the most important pieces of the puzzle.

"Our beautiful countryside 500-acre estate has a three-mile drive and no neighbours, allowing drinking and dancing till dawn!" That means there are no restrictions on how long you can have entertainment – you could throw a whole wedding festival if you wanted!

A million ways to get married

There are lots of options for where to hold the actual ceremony within the estate. St Mary's Church sits on an island in the middle and has space for up to 100 guests. There's also All Saints Church nearby with space for 150 guests.

But if you don't want a traditional religious ceremony, you can get married absolutely anywhere within the grounds of Orchardleigh! There are a few options that lend themselves more naturally to a civil ceremony, including the countryside pergola, the Belvedere lawn and the garden terrace overlooking the lake. If you'd prefer to marry inside, there's a Ballroom and a Great Hall that would be perfect for the occasion.

There are so many options, but Chris breaks it down into what is most popular: "Our packages are inclusive of food, unlimited reception and wedding breakfast drinks – there's no extras here, everything is included."

Beds for everyone!

And there are plenty of sleeping options too. Most popular is, "A castle with hot tub usually for the girls and a lodge for the boys, sleeping a total of up to 35 for the night before. And there's the



SPOTLIGHT WEDDING VENUE
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amazing Lakeside Boathouse for the couple the day after to relive the day."

The accommodation for the guests is just as inviting and there's space for up to 165 people at any one time. The beauty of a three-day wedding is that you can people come and go as necessary, and you know you'll definitely have time to talk to all your guests.

And you can be sure nobody will be bored in a venue like this either! With facilities for golf, fishing and shooting on site, there's always something to entertain your guests – that's if they're not too busy soaking in their splendid surroundings!

A little Orchardleigh history

The venue itself has been around since 1856, replacing the original house which dated back to the Norman conquest. William Duckworth built the current mansion, and it stayed in the family for five generations. The final generation had six girls and so they decided to sell up and split the cash.

Chris and Heather bought the site in 1999, but the building was in a bad state, having been empty for 15 years. As the house is a Grade II listed building, it was on the English Heritage risk register with a repair estimate of £6.6m.

But this story had a happy ending, with Chris and Heather doing the necessary work to get the building back to its sparkling self. Four years later, they held their first wedding and that is what they've been doing ever since!

With that in mind, Chris is in the perfect position to offer advice to prospective couples. His top tip is to "Relax and enjoy every minute" of your wedding day. And when it comes to choosing a venue, "Shop around look at everywhere then come to us and book our unbeatable package." Wise words indeed!



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