

# We married at NETHYBRIDGE HOTEL Inverness-shire

The snow-capped Cairngorms lure tourists from all over the world to the Highlands, but it's testament to their staggering appeal that even locals, who could easily take the area's rugged beauty for granted, are avid fans.

"My other half Steven and I absolutely love the Cairngorms," says Inverness-based bride Emma. "It's partly why we fell for Nethybridge Hotel. When we visited, we knew right away it was where we wanted to get married."

Of course, majestic views weren't the only attraction. "Aside from photogenic gardens, we were looking for somewhere comfortable and relaxed," she remembers. "Nethybridge had everything we were searching for, and the price fitted our

budget." Affordability was a significant factor, given the couple had 67 day and 100 evening guests to consider. "They travelled from everywhere!" smiles Emma. "We had people making the trip from London, Cornwall and Glasgow, but it didn't really influence our decision about the location of our venue as such. We knew that our guests would come no matter what, as they were mainly close friends and family."

With so many of their nearest and dearest descending on Nethybridge, Steven and Emma thankfully hit the jackpot in terms of value for money. "We went for the Highland Wedding package," recalls the bride. "It included a room for me and my bridesmaids the night before, a choice of three areas for the



Emma Forbes and  
Steven Fenion,  
16<sup>th</sup> June 2018

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Photography by  
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ceremony, a canapé reception, a three-course dinner, a drinks package for the toasts, an evening buffet, use of the bridal suite, a bottle of champagne, reduced accommodation prices for guests and late checkouts (we stayed Friday and Saturday, with some guests there for both nights and others there for the wedding only). The venue provided it all, bar the cake!

You might imagine you'd have to give up a degree of flexibility to land such a mammoth deal, but not here. "The team welcomed us on the Friday afternoon ahead of the big day and did all they could to assist us in setting up the centrepieces, making space for me in the function suite and listening carefully to what needed to be done," Emma praises. "They nailed it all first time. The attention to detail was really something."

The couple's summer's day in Speyside was meticulously planned to allow Emma and Steven time to just bask in the glorious surroundings. "It went so smoothly," recalls the bride. "Our ceremony was held in the Revack suite, the meal was in the restaurant and then it was back to the Revack for the dancing. Our drinks reception was hosted in the lounge, where we spent time before the evening reception. It was such a lovely way to mingle with our guests and have some photos taken together.

"From beginning to end, it was exactly how we'd discussed it in our meetings. The

teamwork was fabulous. Everyone, from the bar staff to housekeeping, deserves their own special mention. They ran a tight ship in the background to ensure that all we had requested was done to the highest standard."

The troops at Nethybridge had been working hard on some home improvements, namely the function space, which they'd recently officially unveiled. This made styling a breeze for Steven and Emma, who seized the opportunity to have a more laidback celebration that let the venue and its awe-inspiring setting do the talking instead. "We weren't massively into the idea of a wedding 'theme,'" the bride states. "We aimed for a day that was quite simple and elegant, without introducing anything that wouldn't suit the venue.

"It really helped that the hotel had recently been renovated, which meant that we didn't have to do much to get it to look the way we wanted. The Revack suite is stunning; we only enlisted a few suppliers - Black Isle Love Lights, Lorrissa's Candy Cart and Highland Dancefloors - to enhance what was already there."

On reflection, it's the staff that stick in Emma's mind. "They were so supportive," she says. "Anything they could do to ease my worries, they did without hesitation. It's an incredible place because of them. My advice? Just marry at Nethybridge. You won't regret it."

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**"EVERYONE, FROM THE BAR STAFF TO HOUSEKEEPING, DESERVES THEIR OWN SPECIAL MENTION. THEY RAN A TIGHT SHIP AND WE COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR MORE"**

