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# SO AUTUMN...

Channel harvest time with a little help from the professionals



**ALICE TEMPERLEY**  
*British designer whose client list includes the Duchess of Cambridge and Beyoncé*

“ An autumn wedding dress can afford to have more structure than spring or summer, made of the finest duchess satin, or decadently embellished. Consider crystal embroidery for you and full-length dresses in jewel colours for your bridesmaids. You need slightly more cover in autumn and there is something very elegant and sensual about a lace sleeve, with a hint of skin beneath. I think feathers go a long way, too, and autumn is perfect for a shrug. It adds to the romance of the day and harks back to an era of pure glamour. I'd also go for a veil – I regret not wearing one. You're only a bride once and it makes the occasion much more dreamy! ”

“ Harvest time makes me think straw, hay and ploughed fields for a neutral and rustic colour palette. Autumn's a hidden gem without too many preconceived ideas yet it's so versatile: you can play with hessian, twigs and jute for a rural barn location or linen and satin teamed with mirrors and glass in a grand setting. The shorter days work nicely for parties, too. Simple uplighting in gold and amber tones around your dining area – plus oodles of votives and lantern candles – looks warm and stunning on an autumn evening, something you don't fully enjoy in summer with its lighter nights. You can even project leaf patterns in amber on your floor or ceiling – a lovely seasonal nod to the falling leaves of the season and a great way to add ambience. ”



**KELLY CHANDLER**  
*Director of The Bespoke Wedding Company and former director of the UK Alliance of Wedding Planners*



**MAY CLEE-CADMAN**  
*Cake designer and founder of luxury cake makers, Maisie Fantaisie*

“ There's no big expectation of sunshine in autumn, yet we're often pleasantly surprised with Indian summer weather, and if there is a chill in the air, the russet colour palette is so warming. Why wouldn't you want to go with classic reds and oranges, maybe with a softer accent colour? Dusky pink, soft sage or duck egg blue adds a vintage touch, which you could pick up again with ribbons or the bridesmaids dresses. This is the season for cascading sugarcraft berries or leaves as a cute alternative to flowers, with flavours like rich carrot, apple with cinnamon and toffee, chocolate and cherry. My favourite is orange zest with chocolate and caramel. Warm and comforting – like a grown-up Jaffa Cake! ”

“ Autumn's gentle light softens oranges and pinks, so you see hydrangeas turning from solid colour to incredible vintage tones reminiscent of old oil paintings. Other flowering plants that make the most of the shorter days are nerines in shades of pink and white, dahlias and fruiting plants such as ivy, viburnum and ilex for their beautiful berries. Combine autumn's harvest with cultivated blooms such as hydrangeas and cymbidium orchids for an elegant look, or choose orange and brown roses with cream and lime accents for a timeless style. These tones work well with vintage urns, and look equally crisp in glass vases or organic containers such as palm husks and cork bark. ”



**CEMAL K. CEMAL**  
*Floral designer and owner of Notting Hill-based florist, Phillo Flowers*