PENTNEY ABBEY

Pentney Abbey

UNIQUE NORFOLK VENUES

Key Information

Ceremony Capacity: Up to 80 guests

Wedding Breakfast Capacity: Up to 100 guests

Evening Reception Capacity: Up to 170 guests

Licensed for Marriage: Yes indoor & outdoor

Bar: In-house

Catering: In-house chefs (UNV Kitchen)

All-Weather Venue: Yes

Accommodation: Sleeps 18 + 11 Bells Tents

Honeymoon Suite: Included

Preparation Room: Included

Pet-Friendly Ceremonies: Yes

Event Managers: Yes

Exclusive Use: Yes

Parking: Yes

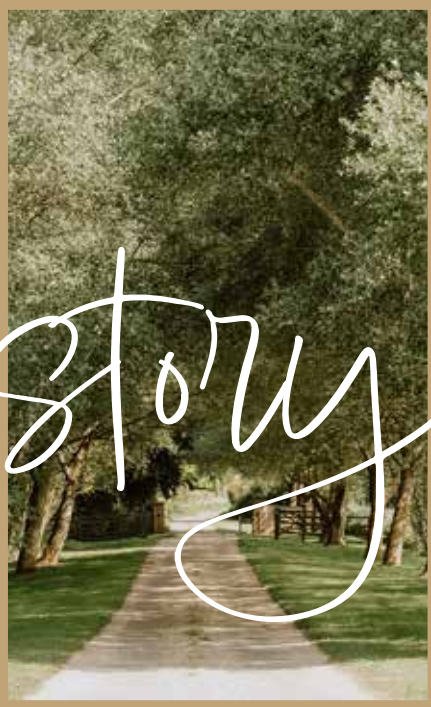
Stay the Night Before: Subject to availability

Welcome

Pentney Abbey is a breathtaking estate in the heart of Norfolk, where ancient history meets contemporary elegance. From the moment you arrive through the 14th-century Gatehouse, the atmosphere is unforgettable.

Begin your day in the peaceful Preparation Room, marry beneath stone arches or outside with the Gatehouse as your backdrop. Then, celebrate with drinks and canapés either outside or inside the Gatehouse, with flexible options to suit you, with drinks, dinner and dancing in the elegant Barn.

With accommodation for up to 18 guests, including a Honeymoon Suite and seasonal bell tents, the estate is yours to enjoy - from first look to final dance.



Step into history

Our History

The Gatehouse at Pentney Abbey dates back to 1380 and originally served as the grand entrance to the Benedictine priory that once stood on the site. Its upper chamber was thought to be used as a private chapel or a meeting space for the prior, offering views over the surrounding estate. For centuries, it stood as a symbol of status, spirituality and strength.

Pentney Abbey's fate was sealed under King Henry VIII's rule. When the Dissolution of the Monasteries occurred in the 16th century, much of the abbey was dismantled, but the Gatehouse remained - an enduring piece of medieval architecture and a link to Norfolk's religious and social history.

In more recent times, the Gatehouse underwent significant restoration thanks to a major grant from English Heritage, which included structural repairs and a new oak roof to safeguard its future. This vital work helped preserve the site's historic features and opened the door for a new chapter as a wedding venue. In 2016, Pentney Abbey was purchased by the Campbell family to sit proudly within the Unique Norfolk Venues collection.

Today, it provides one of the most atmospheric and memorable ceremony settings in the county. Around it, the estate continues to be lovingly restored by Unique Norfolk Venues into an exquisitely elegant venue.

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1 GATEHOUSE
2 COURTYARD
3 HONEYMOON SUITE
4 FARMHOUSE
5 PREPARATION ROOM
6 WALNUT COTTAGE
7 FIG TREE COTTAGE
8 BELL TENTS
9 BARN
10 PATIO
11 GUEST/SUPPLIER CAR PARK
12 SUPPLIER DROP OFF
13 UNV OFFICE
14 TOILETS
15 BAR
16 GATEHOUSE GARDEN

Envisage Your Wedding Day

Your wedding day at Pentney Abbey flows effortlessly — relaxed, joyful, and entirely your own.

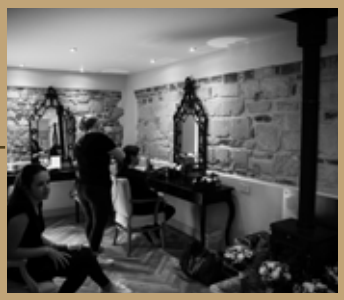
Begin in the private Preparation Room, a cosy space just a short walk from the Gatehouse, perfect for getting ready with your closest people.

When it's time, gather with your wedding party at the Gatehouse. Whether you head up the spiral staircase to exchange vows under the ancient arches, or walk the garden aisle with the Gatehouse behind you, it's a moment to remember.

After the ceremony, enjoy fizz and canapés in the Gatehouse garden or beneath the arches. With music playing and drinks from the East Chamber bar, the atmosphere is full of celebration. Confetti at the Gatehouse gates is a picture perfect moment.

Then it's over to the Barn for dining and speeches, before the evening unfolds with food, drinks and dancing — the perfect end to your day.

Timeline



10 AM

You and your wedding party begin getting ready in the Preparation Room.

2 PM

It's time for your ceremony in your choice of location.

2:30 PM

Now married, your reception begins with drinks and canapés in the gardens or under the Gatehouse.

3 PM

Any guests staying in the accommodation can now check in.

4:30 PM

Your wedding breakfast is served – we recommend allowing two hours for this part of the day.

6:30 PM

Time for the all-important speeches.

7:30 PM

Your moment as a newlywed couple to cut the cake and have your first dance.

9 PM

Party the night away with your guests and enjoy a choice of evening food.

Midnight

Your music comes to an end – time to retreat to your Honeymoon Suite.

The Preparation Room

Start your day in comfort and style. Located just a short walk from the Gatehouse, the Preparation Room is a private and peaceful space designed for getting ready with your wedding party.

With plenty of mirrors, natural light and space to relax, it's a calm place to enjoy the excitement of the morning. Whether you're sipping fizz, sharing a moment with loved ones or putting the finishing touches to your outfit, it's all just steps away from the ceremony.

The room is yours from 10am, giving you the time and space to ease into your day before it all begins.

Your Ceremony

Pentney Abbey offers two unforgettable ceremony spaces, each full of character and charm.

THE GATEHOUSE

Steeped in history, the 14th-century Gatehouse provides a breathtaking indoor ceremony setting. Walk up the stone staircase and exchange vows beneath vaulted arches surrounded by centuries of stories. With soft lighting and atmospheric stonework, it's an incredible place to begin your next chapter.

THE GATEHOUSE GARDEN

For outdoor ceremonies, the Garden offers a peaceful space with the Gatehouse standing proudly behind. Framed by flowers and Norfolk countryside, it's a natural and romantic setting for a summer wedding.

Your First Celebration

You've just tied the knot - now it's time to celebrate!

After your ceremony, guests are invited to gather in the Gatehouse garden or beneath the historic arches to enjoy drinks and canapés. The East Chamber bar is nearby, keeping drinks flowing while everyone soaks in the moment.

It's a relaxed time to enjoy a drink, greet your guests, and take in the setting, perhaps with some live music in the background. It's also the perfect opportunity for a few photos together, with the grand Gatehouse gates providing a striking backdrop for your all important confetti moment.

This is your chance to pause, take it all in, and enjoy the atmosphere before you head over to the Barn for your wedding breakfast.

Your Wedding Breakfast

As guests make their way to the Barn, the celebrations continue in style! The space is welcoming and full of charm, and can be tailored to your style. Whether you're planning something relaxed and rustic or more elegant and refined.

There's room for up to 100 guests, with the flexibility to choose between round tables, long banqueting layouts or a mix of both. From fine linens to statement charger plates, drapes and bespoke florals, the Barn is a blank canvas that can be styled just how you imagine it, with support from our recommended suppliers.

Before you arrive, our team ensures every last detail is set, from place settings and centrepieces to personalised table plans. Then it's time to take your seats and enjoy your first meal as a married couple. Throughout the meal, our wedding and service team oversee every detail, ensuring each guest receives their chosen dishes and that you're attentively looked after throughout.

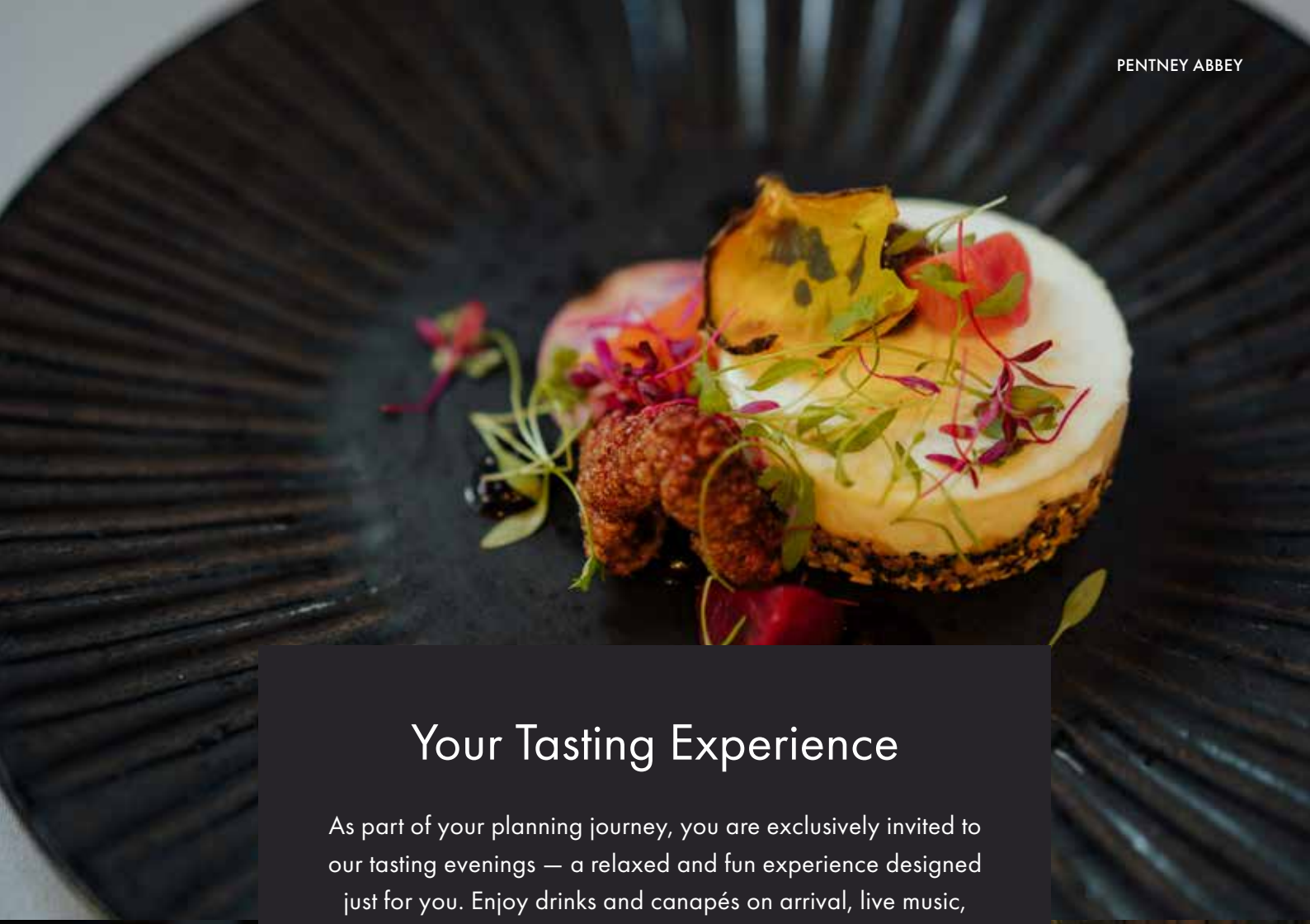
As the meal ends and glasses are raised for speeches and toasts, the Barn is transformed. Tables are cleared and space is made for music and dancing. With room for up to 170 evening guests, it becomes the setting for an unforgettable evening!

Dining with UNV Kitchen

At Pentney Abbey, we believe food deserves to be at the heart of your celebration. Our in-house team is passionate about creating elegant, seasonal dishes, using the best local ingredients wherever possible.

Whether you prefer a classic three-course wedding breakfast, relaxed sharing platters or a bespoke menu designed just for you, our chefs will work with you to shape a dining experience that reflects your style and tastes.

Optional enhancements, including additional courses and bespoke drinks selections, are also available for couples wishing to personalise their menu even further.



Your Tasting Experience

As part of your planning journey, you are exclusively invited to our tasting evenings — a relaxed and fun experience designed just for you. Enjoy drinks and canapés on arrival, live music, and the chance to sample a curated selection of seasonal dishes chosen by our chefs.

You'll be joined by other couples also preparing for their big day, creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere that offers a genuine taste of what's to come.

The Bar

Pentney Abbey has two bar spaces to keep guests refreshed from start to finish.

The East Chamber bar sits beside the Gatehouse and is perfect for pre-ceremony drinks and your drinks reception after the 'I dos'. Later on, the Barn bar opens as you head into your wedding breakfast and stays open into the evening celebrations.

Both bars are fully stocked with wines, beers, spirits and soft drinks, and our friendly team keeps service flowing all day long. Want to pre-order cocktails, set up a bar tab or plan a welcome drink? Just chat to our Wedding Planning Team and we'll help bring it to life.

Card-only payments make things easy for guests, and bar tabs or custom drinks packages can be arranged in advance to suit your plans.

Your Evening Celebration

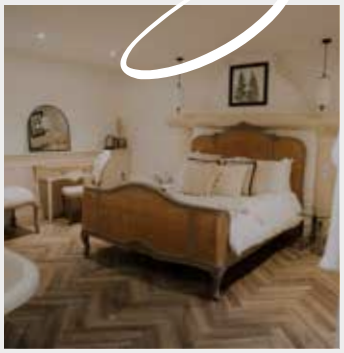
As the Barn is transformed after your wedding breakfast, it becomes the centre of the evening's celebrations - ready for dancing, music and evening food.

The layout can be tailored to suit your plans, from a buzzing dancefloor to relaxed lounge-style seating, or a mix of the two. Guests can enjoy a drink on the patio, enjoy evening food served by our roaming team, offering everything from wood-fired pizza to loaded fries, or head straight to the dancefloor.

Whether you're planning a DJ or live band, adding a photobooth or even a casino table, our team will help you shape your evening reception.

Accommodation

Sleep Tight



Your wedding doesn't have to end with the final dance.

At Pentney Abbey, you and your guests will stay the night on-site in charming accommodation - letting you extend the celebration and make the most of a relaxed morning together before heading off.

Why not add the night before and enjoy a relaxed meal with your nearest and dearest in the Farmhouse?

The Farmhouse, *Sleeps 10*
5 doubles, 2 en suites, 2 family bathrooms (includes Honeymoon Suite)

Walnut Cottage, *Sleeps 4*
1 double, 1 twin room, 1 family bathroom

Fig Tree Cottage, *Sleeps 4*
1 double, 1 twin room, both en suite

Luxury Bell Tents
11 Luxury tents available May to September. A fun and relaxed overnight option just steps from the main venue.

The Wedding Experience

OUR IN-HOUSE TEAM

Venue Experts
Sales & Planning Service
Wedding Coordinators
In-house Chefs

Unique Norfolk Venues is here to support you at every stage. From your first enquiry through to the final moments of your wedding day.

Our experienced Sales Team will guide you through your initial venue visit, answer your questions, and help shape your vision from the very beginning.

As your planning progresses, you'll be supported by our Wedding Coordinator team - working with you on everything from choosing your menu with UNV Kitchen to finalising the flow of your day.

On the day itself, your UNV wedding team will be there to oversee the celebration - from arranging your dress or buttonholes to making sure the room is set and everything is exactly as it should be before you make your entrance.

Our role is simple: to take care of the details, so you can focus on what matters - enjoying the people and the day around you.

K&L

WEDDING DAY
SPECIAL

FAQ

THE PACKAGE

What is included in the package?
Your package includes the core elements of your wedding day as outlined in the package price list and confirmed at the time of booking.

Any additional items or upgrades you choose to add during your planning, such as extra guests, menu or drinks enhancements, extended hire, additional staffing or accommodation extras, are priced in line with our current rates at the time they are requested and confirmed.

Your wedding planning team will always confirm any additional costs with you before they are added to your invoice.

Do I have exclusive use of the venue?
Yes, you have exclusive use of the venue and grounds on the day of your wedding. Exclusive use timings depend on your chosen package, with access beginning from either 2pm or 4pm, and concluding at 12 midnight.

How many guests can this venue accommodate?
The Ceremony room has a maximum capacity of 80 persons (including guests, UNV staff and wedding suppliers). For a sit-down meal we can seat up to 100 guests and accommodate up to 170 guests for an evening reception. The Gatehouse can hold up to 40 guests for a drinks reception.

Is the venue licensed to hold Civil Ceremonies?
Yes, the venue is fully licensed to hold civil ceremonies, both indoors and outdoors. An additional cost applies for holding your ceremony at the venue; full details can be found in the pricing guide.

What time can I get married at this venue?
We recommend a 2pm ceremony for weddings booked with one night of accommodation. Earlier ceremony times may be available for an additional fee for couples staying the night before. Please check available ceremony times with your registrar, and our planning team will be happy to advise on your timeline and options. Full details are outlined in our pricing guide.

Are chairs provided for the ceremony?
Yes, chairs are provided as part of the package, but cannot be moved outside due to the requirement of a suitable backup in adverse weather. If you are having an outdoor ceremony, you will need to hire additional outdoor chairs separately which can be done through our wedding planning team.

What about music during the ceremony?
Many couples book musicians to provide music during their ceremony, however you are more than welcome to use the sound system already in the ceremony room. For outdoor ceremonies, please check with our wedding planning team if you are required to provide your own speaker. Any external speaker must be PAT tested.

Is there a local church?
Yes, there is a local church within the village which is a 5 minute drive from Pentney Abbey.
To find out more contact
St Mary Magdalene
Narborough Road, Pentney,
Norfolk, PE32 1JT
Revd. Canon Stuart
01760 338552

Will I have the same dedicated Wedding Coordinator throughout the planning process?
Every couple will have access to our central planning team from the very beginning, so there will always be someone to help guide you with questions or ideas anytime you reach out. Closer to your wedding date, you will then be assigned your designated wedding coordinator to ensure every last detail is managed on your big day!

Can we use any supplier?
Yes. We have available a recommended supplier list. Should you wish to work with suppliers not on our pre-approved list we require all suppliers' phone numbers, email addresses, and a copy of their public liability insurance before they can operate at our venue. If any supplier is using electrical equipment, PAT certificates must be provided in advance. By making a booking at our venue, we assume that you agree to these conditions.

Can we decorate the barn beams?
Yes, we have a list of recommended suppliers. For insurance reasons, only our authorised suppliers can hang decorations at height.

What time can we access the venue for setting up?
Standard venue access for setting up is from 10am on the morning of your wedding day. If you would like access to the venue the day before your wedding for styling and set-up, this can be arranged between 12pm and 4pm for an optional day-before set-up fee. This applies whether or not you are staying in the accommodation the night before, unless a night-before accommodation supplement has already been applied.

Day-before access is confirmed at your final planning meeting, subject to availability. If day-before access is not arranged, your wedding coordinator will set out your decorations for you on the wedding day at no extra charge.

Is confetti allowed?
Yes, only natural or organic confetti is permitted. Unfortunately, biodegradable paper confetti is unsuitable for use at the venue.

Are dogs allowed at the venue?
Yes, your dog can be on site for up to 1.5 hours. Your dog can join you in the ceremony areas and in the grounds during your reception. Your dog must always be kept on a lead. Under no circumstances can your dog be permitted in the accommodation or any unauthorised buildings. The wedding party is responsible for clearing up after your dog. Once your dog's visit concludes, provisions must be in place for timely collection of your dog. We have a list of recommended suppliers for drop off, pick up and overnight stay.

What time will the wedding end?
Last orders are at 11:45pm and the bar closes at midnight. Music should also finish at midnight. Please advise your guests to arrange their taxis or transportation in advance. An extension to the bar and music licence may be available for an additional fee. Full details can be found in our pricing guide.

What about clearing up the next day?
There is no need to worry about this; our event team will clear everything and pack away your decorations for you, ready for collection the following day. A member of our team will also be there to greet you upon checkout at 10am to return your belongings.

Can we hire a projector and screen?
Yes, a projector and screen are available to hire for an additional cost. These can be added to your booking after speaking with our wedding planning team.

Can we hire Z-beds and Cots?
Yes, a limited number of Z-beds and cots are available to hire and can be arranged through the planning team.

OUTSIDE AREA

Is there seating outside?
Yes, there are chairs and tables in the outside area for your guests. If you require more seating options, you will need to hire this through an external supplier.

Can we have any outdoor games or bouncy castles?
Yes, you are welcome to have lawn games outside in permitted areas. Bouncy castles are not allowed at the venue. Please note our staff are unable to supervise any lawn games.

Is outdoor lighting allowed to be put up around the venue?
Yes, only if agreed before and provided by our recommended suppliers.

Can we put signs on the ground?
Yes, A-frame boards or easels can be used for signage. We cannot allow signs to be inserted into the ground due to preserving the gardens and entrances.
All your signage must be removed when leaving Pentney Abbey.

Do you allow coaches?
Yes, mini-buses can be used, but must drop guests off at the top of the guest car park. Larger coaches can not be accommodated due to the lack of turning space available.

Are caravans or motorhomes allowed on site?
Campervans are permitted on site, and electric hook-up is available. An additional charge applies per campervan; full details can be found in the pricing guide.

Can we park?
There is parking at the venue providing ample spaces for guests. Cars may be left overnight, at the owner's risk, for collection the next morning by 10am latest.

Are we allowed to use drones?
Yes! Your photographer or videographer must have a licence to fly the drone and supply us with proof of their licence and insurance prior to the wedding.

Are fireworks allowed?
Out of consideration for our neighbours and surrounding wildlife, we do not allow fireworks.

CATERING

Can our menu be tailor made?
Yes, we will work with you to provide the perfect menu for your wedding day.

Is it possible to choose a couple of dishes?
We recommend that you choose one starter, one main course and one dessert. Please take a look in our catering brochure for choice menus and bespoke options.

Can you cater for our guests who are vegetarian, vegan or have food allergies?
Yes, allergen, vegan and vegetarian adapted menus are available to guests with dietary requirements at no extra charge.

Do you provide crockery?
Yes, white crockery, traditional silver cutlery, table linen and glassware are all included in the package. If you wish to upgrade your tableware, our wedding planning team also offers a hire brochure. Our brochure showcases an incredible range of crockery, cutlery, linen and glassware that can complement your wedding day.

I have a copy of an old catering brochure but would like a dish from the new menu, is that possible?
We regularly update our catering menus to reflect seasonal produce and new dish ideas. For this reason, we ask couples to select their menu from our most up-to-date catering brochure, which showcases our current dishes. If there is a dish from a previous brochure that you particularly loved, please mention this to our wedding planning team, who will be happy to talk it through with you.

Can we bring our own caterers?
It is essential that we provide a consistently high standard of catering at our venue and therefore only allow our in-house experienced chefs on your wedding day, who offer an exceptionally high level of service using quality locally-sourced ingredients.

This excludes catering the night before; you are welcome to book catering externally to provide this as long as they are self-contained and do not require use of our kitchens or other resources.

What table layout can we have?
There are a number of table layouts that work well for your wedding breakfast, and our wedding planning team will be happy to advise you on the best option for your day. Round tables are provided as standard. If you would prefer a long rectangle banqueting-style layout using trestle tables, these can be arranged through the planning team; an additional cost applies as they are hired in specially for your wedding. We do require you to complete a table plan and highlight any dietary requirements so the events team are able to locate guests easily on the day.

When do I need to provide my pre-orders?
We require all pre-orders and your final table plan to be with us six weeks before your event. Our wedding planning team will give you a blank table plan to fill in.

Can I bring my own alcohol?
You may bring your own wine, prosecco or champagne for your wedding day; however, there is no reduction to the package price. Any alcohol brought onto the premises is subject to a corkage charge, calculated per standard 75cl bottle, based on the number of bottles brought in rather than the amount consumed. Corkage cost can be found in our drinks menu. Alternatively, we offer an extensive wine list at competitive prices. You may also bring one 50ml alcoholic favour per person at no additional charge.

Do you take cash and card payments at your bar?
Our bars are card only, including Apple Pay and contactless. Cash is not accepted, please do advise your guests.

Should we provide our contractors with a meal?
We recommend that you provide any suppliers spending more than five hours at your wedding with a meal. Most suppliers will also outline their requirements for food and drink in their booking contract.

Can we make any changes to the package?
You can add on to the package but cannot remove any items. You can only increase the amount of guests; our price list outlines the minimum amount of guests you will pay for.

What is involved in the tasting event?
We believe it is important for you to sample our menu ahead of your wedding day. Tasting events are included for couples who have booked our Ultimate Wedding Package only and are hosted as group tasting events, where multiple couples join us to experience the food, service and presentation as it would be delivered on the day.Private one-to-one tastings are not offered, as these do not accurately reflect the experience you would enjoy at your wedding. If your wedding is

booked with less than nine months to go, we may not be able to offer a tasting; however, our Head Chef is available to speak with if needed.

What is on the menu for the tasting event?
This is chosen months in advance and it is our chef's choice from the Original and the Premium menus. Please see more details of the event in our catering brochure.

What constitutes a child?
A child is a guest aged 3–11 years. A young adult is a guest aged 12–17 years. Guests aged 18 and over are charged at the full adult rate.

What menu is available for children/young adults?
Children are served dishes from our children's menu. Young adults receive the same menu as the adult guests, with dishes served as an adult portion. Menu inclusions vary depending on your chosen wedding package. Full details can be found in our Catering Brochure, and your wedding planning team will be happy to guide you through the options.

Can I bring my own food to our wedding?
You're welcome to bring in wedding cakes, sweets, and favours on place settings. We do not allow you to bring any other food on site for your wedding.

If you are providing anything that is not covered by a supplier's insurance, you will be required to sign a waiver form. Please note we do not allow nuts on site.

MUSIC

Are there any restrictions on evening music?
In accordance with our entertainment licence, a sound limiter is installed inside the venue and is set at 90 decibels.

Is music permitted outside?
Yes, music (acoustic or from a speaker) is permitted until 5pm. The volume is controlled by staff. Amplified music is not allowed outside.

Where is evening music permitted?
Evening music is only permitted inside in the evening reception space.

Are we allowed smoke, fog or dry ice machines?
Smoke, fog or dry ice machines are not permitted at the venue. Please inform your chosen band or DJ of this when confirming your booking.

ACCOMMODATION

Do you have to take all of the accommodation on-site at the venue?
All wedding accommodation must be taken as part of your booking. It's priced separately from the main wedding package, and full details are in our accommodation price list.

Is a damage deposit required on the accommodation?
Yes. A deposit of £995 is required, which is added to your quote and will be refunded within 14 days of the wedding providing there is no damage to the site.

What time is check-in and check-out?
The accommodation is available for your guests to check in from 3pm. Checkout is by 10am the following day. Please note extra charges may apply if you check out late.

Do you offer early check in or late check out?
Early check-in and late check-out are subject to availability and cannot always be guaranteed. Requests are discussed at the final planning meeting, with late check-out available up to 12pm where possible. An additional cost applies; please refer to the Pricing Guide for details.

Can we stay in the accommodation the night before our wedding?
Yes, subject to availability, it is possible to book the accommodation for the night before your wedding. Full details and pricing are outlined in our pricing guide.

ACCESSIBILITY

Does this venue have wheelchair access?
We have a number of accessibility features in place to ensure the comfort and safety of all guests that visit the site, including those using a wheelchair.

As the ceremony room is a listed building, there is unfortunately no appropriate access for those with limited mobility. Please speak to our team about the options available in this case.

Why Choose Us

- A breathtaking 14th-century Gatehouse for indoor and outdoor ceremonies.
- Exclusive-use estate with everything in one place - where traditional charm meets a modern wedding twist.
- On-site accommodation for up to 18 guests, with optional bell tents for extra overnight space.
- Beautiful barn for dining and evening celebrations.
- Two separate bars in different areas of the Estate.
- Seasonal menus from UNV Kitchen with full tasting experience.
- A private Preparation Room to get ready on site with your wedding party.
- Peaceful countryside setting that's private, picturesque, and easy to reach.
- Option to extend your evening celebrations until 1am with our licensed late finish.
- UNV takes the stress out of planning - with exclusive use, a fully stocked bar, dedicated wedding planning team, on-the-day wedding serving staff, in-house catering, and a trusted supplier network.

Next Steps

How do we book and secure our date?
You can hold your chosen date for 5 days. Thereafter, our wedding planning team will be in touch. Next, an initial £500 payment is required to hold your date.

Once this has been completed, you will receive an email from our wedding planning team. You will then need to sign your agreement to secure your date.

How is the full payment broken down?
The full payment is broken down into the following steps:

- ✓ £500 initial payment.
- ✓ £1,250 payment within 6 weeks of booking.
- ✓ £1,000 payment 12 months prior to your wedding date.
- ✓ £1,500 payment 6 months prior to your wedding date.

Remaining balance is due one month prior to wedding date.

Please note this payment schedule will be amended accordingly if booking with less than 12 months until the wedding date.

Is VAT included?
Yes, VAT is included in the prices of our packages, menus and extras.

Other Questions?
If you have any other questions, then please contact us via email; *pentneyabbeyestate@uniquenorfolkvenues.co.uk*

WE ARE WEDDINGS

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