



I Thee Thread

Yorkshire's silver-tongued tailor James Michelsberg cuts his cloth and delivers the lowdown to every groom about looking good on your big day.

Photograph: Jim Poyner

Another bride, another groom, another sunny honeymoon, eh? As a happily married bespoke tailor I've been roped in by your editor, to offer a few pearls of wisdom regarding dress at your forthcoming love-fest and to discuss current 'trends.'

Last year, I implored husbands-to-be to avoid the hire route like the plague. Let's forget the fact that it probably won't fit. Wearing something that has been sweated in by another man is fundamentally wrong. It's the biggest day in a man's life and he should be able to dress, look in the mirror and rightly say, "you are going to own this wedding. Bring it on."

Looking good is about building confidence, feeling good. Making you feel a few inches taller, perhaps providing a little swagger to a step that often treads cautiously. But no, many a poor chap will rock up to his wedding squeezed into a brown polyester rent-a-suit, choking under a bright pink cravat, or, resemble a midget funeral director, with no hands and bandy legs.

In my opinion, a wedding is really all about the bride. Whilst we were playing with our Scalextric and Commodore 64's, she already had 'the dress' nailed and was probably planning the reception. If she's set her heart on an Alice-in-Wonderland themed shindig, then go along with it. If, in her head, her

knight in shining armour is wearing a kilt, or, caftan, take a deep breath and go native. Just don't hire. Ever. OK?

As a tailor, I don't really do 'fashion,' but of course need to know what's going on out there. I read GQ and Esquire magazine, wander round the shops and keep an eye on the likes of Paul Smith, Tom Ford and our Italian cousins.

I'm delighted to see that the age of the dandy is well and truly upon us. Dapper is back with a bang and for bespoke tailors that's a good thing. The bottom line, and most important thing, is that a bespoke suit is going to fit and flatter your figure, but in terms of style and character, the world is your oyster.

I wore a morning suit for my wedding, and if that's your brand of Vodka then my advice would be to keep the coat very classical. I'd also go for a tie and double-breasted waistcoat. It's timeless, a thing of genuine beauty.

Many customers of mine just want a seriously sharp lounge suit, often with a waistcoat so they still feel smart when the jacket comes off. Choice of cloth is vital in creating the right vibe and Summer-kid mohair has a sexy sheen and is good to wear in hot and humid conditions.

Some people want to wear the suit after the big day for important business meetings, so a more classical route is taken, perhaps using a mid grey, silky Super 120's cloth.

I believe that the clothes we wear are an expression of who we are, what we are about, and perhaps who we want to be. It's my job to chill you out, get on your level and work with you to find the sartorial god that lies within.

Hands-up I'm a bit of a flashy bugger myself – I like velvet collars, peak lapels, flashes of silk behind my working cuffs and Jeffery West shoes. But that's not for everyone.

It's about choosing the right cloth and cut for the chap taking the plunge. A wedding is one hell of a show and you have one of the lead roles. Whether that's James Bond, Lord of The Manor, Hugh Grant, Pimp Daddy, Columbian Drug Baron, or, Russian gangster, that's up to you. I'll just help you find the right threads to pull it off.

Good luck!

Michelsberg
TAILORING

Michelsberg Tailoring, 24A Queen Victoria Street, Victoria Quarter, Leeds, LS1 6BE, Tel: 0113 242 0840
Web: www.michelsberg.co.uk