

# Glitter and sparkle...

...and all things glamorous. Get creative with Alex Gorton's 20 winter wonderland ideas

## 1 KISS KISS

For a fun, festive feel, create an archway of mistletoe at the entrance to your reception for your guests to walk through. Attach pieces of mistletoe and ivy over the doorway and, for extra wow factor, wrap fairy lights around the ivy. Now close your eyes and pucker up!

## 2 IVY LEAGUE

Use seasonal foliage, such as holly, pine cones, berries and ivy to decorate your venue. You can create a stunning waterfall of light by intertwining fairy lights and ivy. Nafisa Mark of Nafisa Weddings and Events ([nafisaevents.com](http://nafisaevents.com)) suggests spraying pine cones white and combining them with ivy and candles for table decorations.

## 3 BE DRAMATIC

The great thing about winter weddings is that you can use rich, dark colours and heavy fabrics that would look out of place in summer. For a really dramatic effect, use a black or navy lining in your marquee and ice-blue lighting.

Or choose a rich hue, with plum tablecloths, deep purple tablecentres, coloured wine glasses and velvet ribbons tied around the napkins.

## 4 ICE, ICE BABY

Turn your wedding venue into a stunning ice palace by installing an ice bar! Party specialists Ice Creations ([icecreations.co.uk](http://icecreations.co.uk)) can set up a bar up to 12 metres long, from £750 per metre, plus £65 for delivery. They also make sculptures – from abstract designs to swans – shot glasses and vodka luges. Prices start from £45 for a tablecentre.

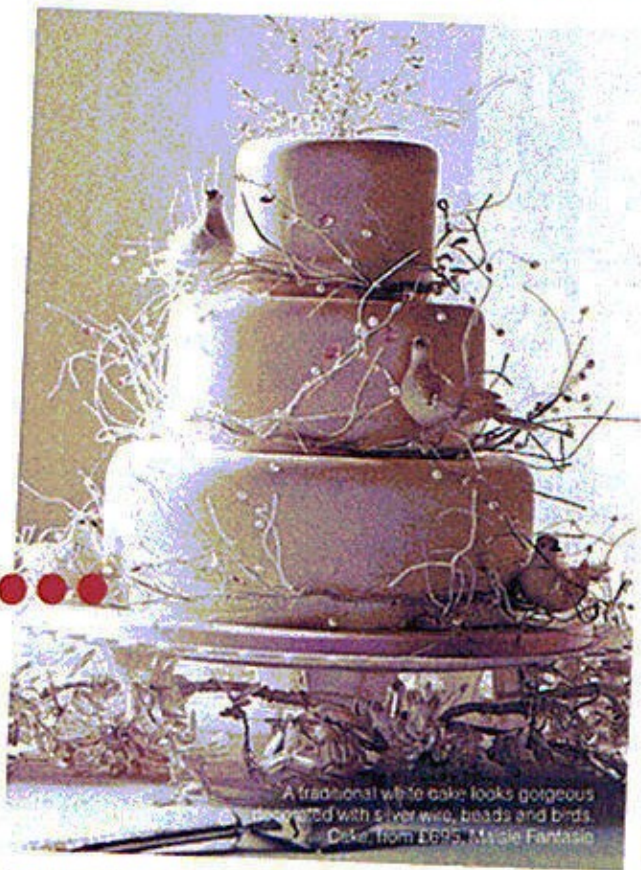


## 5 GO FOR GOLD

Add golden touches to your venue to make it glow, with gold skeleton leaves placed in wine glasses and butterflies clipped to napkins. You could also use a narrow piece of gold fabric as a runner down the centre of the tables. Trulymadlydeeply.biz sells pretty butterflies, from £2.50 each, and skeleton leaves, from £12 for 100.

## 6 HIGH LIGHT

A hot new trend for this winter is to use balloons as floating lights. Balloon lamps ([balloonlamps.co.uk](http://balloonlamps.co.uk)) can be filled with helium to create wireless orbs of light which float around the venue. 'These are ideal for dressing an outside area, or for doing a "balloon drop" later in the evening,' says Samm Riley of top wedding planners



A traditional white cake looks gorgeous decorated with silver wire, beads and birds. Cake from £695. Maple Fantasy

Wedding Matters (0845 0721200; [wedding-matters.co.uk](http://wedding-matters.co.uk)). Five balloons cost from £12, plus P&P.

## 7 SIP AND SPARKLE

Samm suggests freezing individual LED lights in ice trays and then popping them into your drinks at the party. 'They come in all shapes and sizes and look fabulous in your reception drinks.'

## 8 EASTERN PROMISE

Give your reception an Eastern twist by hanging red Chinese lanterns from the ceiling and serving Chinese canapés, such as spring rolls and crispy-duck pancakes. This is a great idea if your wedding will be held near Chinese New Year on 7 February. The Pier ([thepier.co.uk](http://thepier.co.uk)) sells small, red string-lantern lights, from £15. Exotic and Oriental ([exoticandoriental.co.uk](http://exoticandoriental.co.uk)) sells round red Chinese lanterns for £3.50 each. →