

Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a list of FAQs we hope you will find useful. Of course, please just contact us if you have any questions or queries and we'll be only too happy to help.

Q: Is there an additional charge for evening guests?

A: The Bonita Package includes evening catering for up to 80-day guests. Additional evening guests will be charged as per the current package.

Q: Do you charge extra for civil ceremonies?

A: No – there is no additional charge for civil ceremonies.

Q: We're having a civil ceremony; can we bring our own music?

A: Yes, of course, you can. We can supply a Bluetooth sound system for you, free of charge.

Q: Do you charge for tables, chairs, cutlery, crockery or table linen?

A: Tables, chairs, cutlery, crockery or table linen are included in our Bonita Package for up to 80 guests. This does not include place names, menu cards, table numbers, table plans and any other wedding décor; all of which are to be arranged by the Bridal Party.

Q: Can we marry in either of the estate churches if either/ both of us have previously been married?

A: For those previously married and wishing to remarry in church, we advise that prior to meeting with our parish Vicar, you read the following guidelines from The Church of England, <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/1162432/leafletforenquirers.pdf>.

Q: If we're having a church wedding, who do we need to arrange this with?

A: If booking either of the Parish Churches, you must contact the Church Wedding Administrator, Jenny Ladd: +44 (0)1373 830514. If you are booking St John's Church, Frome contact 01373 462325.

Q: We would like to talk to the chef about our menus.

A: This is always possible, and we can arrange this to coincide with your itinerary meeting at Orchardleigh.

Q: How do we keep in touch with you and who do we liaise with?

A: If you have a query or question, please don't hesitate to contact us on 01373 472 550 or email info@orchardleigh.net. Before your 'Day Wedding Coordinator' is allocated to you 3-4 months (prior to your wedding), our office team are always on hand to answer any questions you may have. You are allocated 10 hours of planning time (not including the wedding day itself). We feel this to be adequate time for you to receive all the information needed to complete the Wedding Itinerary Document. The completed document will be passed to each department 3-4 weeks prior to the wedding date.

Q: How do we work out the timings for our wedding?

A: Weddings need to flow without periods of inactivity. Below we have put together our recommended timings which should make your day flow beautifully.

Church Weddings

	Time	Duration	Total (Hours)
Ceremony starts	2:30	1.25 hours	1.25
Reception drink/canapés	3:45	1.5 hours	2.75
Wedding breakfast sit down	5:15	2 hours	4.75
Wedding breakfast/speeches end	7:15	45 minutes	5.5
Evening entertainment starts	8:00		

Civil Weddings

	Time	Duration	Total (Hours)
Ceremony starts	2:30	30 mins	0.5
Reception drink/canapés	3:00	1.5 hours	2
Wedding breakfast sit down	4:30	2 hours	4
Wedding breakfast/speeches end	6:30	45 minutes	5.75
Evening entertainment starts	7:15		

We do request that church and civil ceremonies are not before 2pm. This then gives your guests time to arrive at 1pm, change and attend the service.

Q: If we want to have a welcome line before the wedding breakfast, will this take longer?

A: Yes, you should allow 40 seconds for each guest.

Q: Do you have microphones and a PA system for the speeches?

A: Yes we do, just let us know beforehand and we'll sort it for you.

Q: How many car parking spaces do you have for our guests?

A: We have parking for around 75 cars in our 3 parking areas around the main house.

Q: Is the car park area lit at night?

A: The main house is floodlit at night, as are the car parking areas, so everything's easy to see at night.

Q: What time's breakfast in the morning?

A: Breakfast is served between 8:30 and 9:30.

Q: Are pets allowed?

A: Pets may be allowed by prior permission.

Q: Can we have fireworks in the evening?

A: Yes you can but we must ask you to use our recommended suppliers as they have already carried out a site visit and provided the relevant paperwork for health and safety and carry massive insurance. Unfortunately, we do not allow Chinese lanterns.

Q: Do we have to use the suppliers on your recommended supplier list?

A: Of course not, you are more than welcome to use any suppliers that you wish. The only supplier that we do stipulate and must be used is our recommended supplier for fireworks as explained above.

Q: Is there a minimum requirement for accommodation?

A: When booking the Bonita Package, the minimum requirement for accommodation is the first floor of the main house. All Rooms in the house must be filled before using any rooms in the courtyard, except anyone needing these for access reasons or pets.

Q: Is there an additional charge for the late bar?

A: No additional charge for the bar to stay open until dawn - Please let us know what time you would like the evening bar to close.

Q: What time does the music have to stop?

A: It doesn't, you can carry on until dawn if you can manage it.

Q: What time does the bar shut?

A: Again, it doesn't have to if you don't want it to and you or your guests can stand the pace.

Q: Can we have candles in the house?

A: Yes but they must be non-drip. You'll also need to make sure they are enclosed and obviously safe from children and anything flammable.

Q: When can we have access to the main house on our wedding day?

A: The Bride will have access to the house from 11:30am. Guest's rooms are available from 1pm.

Q: Where can we have our reception drinks?

A: It really depends on the weather, but usually outside on the lawns. If the weather's a bit 'iffy', we'll serve them inside in The Vestibule and or on The Terrace.

Q: Can we mix and match our menu choices?

A: Yes, of course you can, please call us and we can ask the chef for a costing.

Q: What time do we all have to vacate in the morning?

A: We do ask that your guests vacate their rooms by 10am and leave the main house by 11am.

Q: What is Orchardleigh's charter?

A: Our aim is that you are totally delighted with Orchardleigh and our staff from the first time you view, through all the planning, up to and including your wedding day, and that all expectations are met and we hope exceeded. Our aim is to treat everyone as we ourselves would like to be treated.

