

MIRANDA'S DIARY THE IMAGE BUSINESSWOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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# IMAGE

JANUARY 2012  
€3.95 (£2.95stg)

## WARM & FUZZY

WINTER'S COSIEST KNITS,  
BOOTS & SKIWEAR

## Are you **SAFE?** online?

WHAT THEY  
DON'T SAY ABOUT  
INTERNET PRIVACY

## The last **LUXURY**

ONE MORE  
SPLURGE

## THE **CLEAVAGE DEBATE**

IS IT OK TO  
USE YOUR  
ASSETS?

## WHO ROCKS THE CRADLE?

HOW TO CUT  
CHILDCARE COSTS

## IMAGE *Weddings*

DREAMY DRESSES, EXCLUSIVE LOCATIONS, HOT HONEYMOONS  
AND INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS FROM REAL IRISH BRIDES

Special supplement inside ...





## BALLYFIN, Co Laois

**BEST FOR** Old-fashioned princess brides looking for the ultimate fairytale setting. Re-opened last summer after an eight-year restoration, and now a member of the Relais & Châteaux group, this country house is big on luxury and the 600-acre estate is exclusively yours when you book your wedding here

**WHAT YOU GET** Reception rooms with true wow factor, food prepared by head chef Fred Cordonnier, and magnificent gardens. You and your guests can stay in one of the 15 lavishly decorated bedrooms, which feature four-poster canopy beds, fine art and antique furniture

**THOSE LITTLE EXTRAS** A blessing can be arranged in the house or grounds. Treatment rooms are available for pre-aisle beauty preparations

**MAKE SURE TO** Have a good think as to which areas would suit your reception best, from drinks on the lawn to the Saloon, complete with grand piano. Dinner can be small and simple for 20 or big and formal for 120; a buffet or even a barbecue can be arranged. The following day, enjoy a late breakfast, roam the grounds and have outdoor activities arranged for your party. Finish off with a picnic, terrace lunch or light supper

**BOTTOM LINE** It's necessary to book the entire house for two nights at €11,500 per night; this includes accommodation and breakfast for 29, refreshments, snacks before the ceremony, VAT and gratuities. Wedding dinner, from €165 per person, including champagne and canapé reception, gala dinner, half bottle of wine, and champagne toast

**CONTACT** Mountrath, Portlaoise, Co Laois, 057 875 5866; [www.ballyfin.com](http://www.ballyfin.com); [www.relaischateaux.com](http://www.relaischateaux.com).

