

Take note: what works for Elton John does not necessarily work for your great-aunt Maud...

# Do give GOOD CODE

GET THE DRESS CODE RIGHT AND IT'S LAUGHS ALL ROUND, GET IT WRONG AND YOUR GUESTS WON'T WANT TO BE IN THE PHOTOS!



## THE BEST

### 'DRESS TO DANCE'

– a great excuse to wear flats.  
**Laura Burkitt,**  
editorial assistant, *Brides*

### 'FABULOUS!'

This is what my partner and I listed on our invitations. It certainly generated discussion!  
**Bruce Russell,** wedding planner, [bybrucerussell.com](http://bybrucerussell.com)

When *Tatler* did a 'PYJAMA' dress code for its annual summer party a couple of years ago, I was nervous that people would think they were too cool or important to get (un)dressed, but actually it made the party hysterical!  
**Violet Henderson,** former social editor, *Tatler*

### 'DRESS CODE: SCHMESS CODE'

It summed up what most guests feel about being told what to wear!  
**Anna Hart,** acting deputy editor, *Brides*



Follow Salma Hayek's lead and treat your guests to a masked ball the night before

My favourite dress code was 'FLOWER GIRLS' for an outdoor, festival-feel wedding. Ladies were requested to wear floral-print dresses. The photos looked like something from a Tim Walker *Vogue* shoot.  
**Sophie McCorry Day,** [quintessentiallyevents.com](http://quintessentiallyevents.com)

We chose a dress code of 'SUNDAY BEST' for our wedding. We wanted to make sure people made an effort but at the same time, not feel they had to come in formal black tie. It really suited the country house venue.  
**Tania Murphy,** reader

## THE WORST

### 'DO NOT DISAPPOINT'

This is far too intimidating and guaranteed to make guests feel like they have failed before they even open the wardrobe door!  
**Jade Beer,** editor, *Brides*

### 'BLACK TIE WITH A TWIST'

It's far too vague, plus why risk ruining a perfectly stylish theme?  
**Shelley Halperin-Smith,** promotions coordinator, *Easy Living*

'STUPID HATS' It could have been great and given people the chance to experiment, but no one really knew how serious the couple were – most guests ended up opting for boring fascinators.  
**Emma Byrne,** chief sub-editor, *Brides*

I hate colour-specific dress codes! I once went to a 'WEAR WHITE' wedding, which was not only impossible for male guests, but meant that

a lot of the women came in the same dresses!  
**Charlie Dalton,** reader

'MODERN' What does that even mean?!  
**Anna Hart,** acting deputy editor, *Brides*

'BATHING BEAUTIES!' We've heard of a bride holding a weekend-long wedding who requested that all her female guests sport white, all-in-one swimsuits for a pool party. Surely the least-forgiving dress code of all time!  
**Sophie McCorry Day,** [quintessentiallyevents.com](http://quintessentiallyevents.com)

Think twice about a 'GREAT GATSBY' or 'DOWNTON' theme – you don't want other female guests to turn up in neutral, elegant bias-cut gowns and get mistaken for the bride. Think Kate Moss at Leah Wood's wedding!  
**Bryony Toogood,** fashion director, *Brides* **B**