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WORDS BY WENDY LYNE

## Wine & roses

*In a Clifton basement lurks the perfect reception venue, but it's rarely looked better than when it's been styled by*  
**ELIZABETH WONG**

It's all very well picking an unusual venue for your wedding celebrations, but if you don't make the most of the space you've chosen – identifying its unique qualities and letting them influence the whole event – you're surely missing a trick. Racks Bar & Kitchen, on Clifton's St Pauls Road in Bristol, is one such venue, and the restaurant and party venue in the old wine cellar under The Clifton Hotel responds particularly well to a rustic, rough-meets-smooth approach. Elizabeth Wong, the Bristol-based

## LET'S PARTY: ELIZABETH WONG

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wedding styling specialist from Elizabeth Weddings, recently dressed it three different ways to show different approaches you could take to the same space, and the looks that best reference the building's history hold particular appeal.

"One table theming was very much based on the idea of the Racks being a wine cellar," she says, "so I incorporated wine bottles, corks and crates in the décor. The colours I kept quite neutral, mainly white, greens and rustic tones, with pops of wine-coloured flowers. I made bespoke tables runners to match the theme, which also had a natural, earthy colour. Flowers by Thea created a floral design in a rustic crate as centrepiece, complemented by an eclectic mix of brass candlesticks, which created the perfect lighting scheme for Racks."

It's a great mix. We especially like the wine bottle table numbers!

"Yes, that works well, doesn't it? All those little final touches – like the cork place name holders too – combined perfectly with the handmade recycled paper stationery, and finished off the theme beautifully."





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**L**iz has long been obsessed by interior design, and is now an established Bristol wedding stylist, making it her mission to bring fun and inspiration to your wedding venue, often pointing out areas which may need decorating, but which the couple might not have thought about. She especially loves rustic themes – “I adore anything natural!” – and likes using subtle, classic colours like dusky pinks and greys, though she’s game for most things. Her prices are flexible, “depending on how much work and creativity is involved.”

You’ve gone for another look here, too, but this is a more countrified one...

“Yes, the second theme I chose was rustic, as it seemed like another perfect style for Racks. The table was decorated with cascading foliage of ivy and Gypsophila, mixed in with natural log tea lights, pillar candles and handmade hessian table runners. For a finishing touch, sprigs of dried lavender gave an extra pop of colour.”

Meanwhile, the third and last theme you’ve got for is more your classic, straight-up party vibe.

“But still fairly trendy,” Elizabeth points out. “And with minimalistic colours to contrast against the several different textures of the interior.

I lined the table with bespoke monochrome-coloured table runners, and the white colours of the flowers, combined with black and a splash of gold, complimented the theming. Candlesticks add extra height within the centrepiece too. I created matching monochrome handmade stationery to match, while striped paper straws were placed in the glasses for that party look, and – finally – I used a small sprinkling of gold table confetti for sparkle.”

[elizabethweddings.co.uk](http://elizabethweddings.co.uk)

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## GOING UNDERGROUND

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