



FLORISTS

♦AMANDA AUSTIN FLOWERS

Florist of choice for the Olympic opening ceremony – with only five days' notice. Amanda clearly pulled it off, as she was asked back to do the closing ceremony and the Paralympics. amandaustinflowers.co.uk or 020 7351 3151

♦ANNIE DANIELS FLORAL DESIGN

The savvy Gloucestershire set choose Annie Daniels for her traditional styling and homegrown greenery. anniedanielsflowers.co.uk or 01451 860267

♦BY APPOINTMENT ONLY DESIGN

Floral double act Anthony & Javier come from a fashion background and have a nose for drama. Swap your wedding bouquet for a carnation collar with the help of these mavericks. byappointmentonlydesign.com or 020 7486 7870

♦FABULOUS FLOWERS

You will never hear 'no can do'. Made gerbera bikinis for 50 waiting staff, giving a new meaning to the term 'lady garden'. fabulousflowers.biz or 01235 520346

♦JOHN CARTER FLOWERS

Known in the main for his classic and stately displays, John may seem understated, but he doesn't wince at covering naked models in peony petals. johncarterflowers.com or 020 7731 5146

♦LAVENDER GREEN FLOWERS

This is definitely a florist for fusspots: bespoke designs are sketched first in order to best visualise the arrangements. lavendergreen.co.uk or 020 7127 5303

♦McQUEENS

Florist to the fashion world, it creates the strange and wonderful – giant floral shuttlecocks, anyone? mcqueens.co.uk or 020 7251 5505

♦MIRANDA FAIRHURST FLOWERS

Arrangements are wild and beautiful without being wacky, and Miranda's client book bursts with baronesses. mirandaflowers.co.uk or 01258 818123

♦NEEVA JAY

Broccoli in your bouquet? Barbie in your buttonhole? Neeva Jay will take on the quirkiest of requests. neevajay.com or 020 7424 9979

♦NICKY LLEWELLYN FLOWERS

Imaginative Nicky goes further than flowers. When the population of a goldfish-bowl centrepiece dwindled, she trekked 100 miles to

find robust replacements. nickyllewellynflowers.co.uk or 01458 223564

♦NIKKI TIBBLES WILD AT HEART

Nikki will cater to your wildest fantasies (she created five floral dog sculptures for one loving owner). Can do kooky, but pulls off traditional with equal enthusiasm. wildatheart.com or 020 7229 1174

ONE FLORIST MADE GERBERA BIKINIS FOR 50 WAITING STAFF, GIVING A NEW MEANING TO THE TERM 'LADY GARDEN' **FABULOUS FLOWERS**

♦PAUL HAWKINS FLOWERS

A diplomat, Paul will become 'the UN peace envoy when the mother of the bride wants pink, the mother of the groom (who's paying) wants yellow and the bride wants white'. paulhawkinsflowers.co.uk or 0870 850272

♦PAUL THOMAS FLOWERS

Florist to the Ritz, Paul's reputation for sheer prettiness precedes him. Has an Old Curiosity Shop-style boutique in Shepherd Market. Remained loyal to one ditsy employee who wrote 'Rest in Pieces' on a funeral wreath. paulthomasflowers.co.uk or 020 7499 6889

♦PINSTRIPES & PEONIES

It's the day before the big day: dress is steamed, champagne is chilling, flowers are... oops. Call Pinstripes & Peonies – for a can-do attitude that sets it apart. pinstripesandpeonies.com or 07739 808695

♦ROB VAN HELDEN FLORAL DESIGN

After 25 years in the business, Rob still meets every single client. He is part of the scene himself: Heather

Kerzner was best woman at his civil ceremony. rvhfloraldesign.com or 020 7720 6774

♦SCARLET & VIOLET

Genuinely addictive, it describes its style, with typical modesty, as 'natural, relaxed and homely'. In fact, it's notably glorious and loved by the great and good of the media world. scarletandviolet.com or 020 8969 9446

♦SHANE CONNOLLY & COMPANY

Famously created the beautifully British backdrop of homegrown field maples and lily of the valley for the royal wedding in Westminster Abbey. shaneconnolly.co.uk or 020 8964 4398

♦SIMON J LYCETT

His designs are among the most decadent and, boy, does Simon care: he brought in armed guards to escort him and his precious arrangements through St Petersburg. simonlycett.co.uk or 020 7277 3322

♦SOPHIE HANNA FLOWERS

Sophie is big on personal relationships – to the extent that one bride became so involved in the floral designs that she forgot to bring her wedding dress on the big day. sophiehannaflowers.com or 020 7720 0841

♦STORMY

Stormy is based slap bang in the middle of Covent Garden's flower market, meaning it quite literally has the pick of the bunch. Proper flower maniacs. stormyltd.co.uk or 020 7627 5640

♦VEEVERS CARTER

Used to extremely extravagant requests – one of the most memorable was a wedding aisle lined with life-size red-rose elephants. veeverscarter.co.uk or 020 7237 8800

♦WOODBROWN

Thinking big? Think Woodbrown. This place counts a 13-foot-tall carnation-constructed poodle among its great feats. woodbrown.com or 020 7622 7501

CATERERS



Tout est dans l'art de présenter les choses. *Genevieve de M. Millars*

♦BY WORD OF MOUTH

Hiring BWOM for your party will impress anyone in the know. Headed by the charming Justin Tinne, who has seen it all, 'from the pit of despair to the headiest heights of euphoria'. bywordofmouth.co.uk or 020 8871 9566

♦CELLAR SOCIETY

Catering Kate Moss's wedding was one thing, but carving an 11-foot tuna for 1,000 plates of sashimi, in front of the guests, was an altogether more taxing challenge – dispatched with elan. cellarsociety.com or 020 8453 7141

♦THE HILL FOOD COMPANY

Book these two jolly good types for your shooting weekend: they'll produce midnight snacks and sloe gin and turn a blind eye if

you get jiggy on a pool table. thehillfoodcompany.com or 07740 417312

♦LAST SUPPER

'Alfie doesn't drink Evian, he finds it too salty. He only drinks Veen, not too cold.' So specified one client on behalf of their daschund. A favourite of the London art crowd. They say, 'What people think they drink and what they do drink rarely tallies.' lastsupperltd.co.uk or 020 7378 0101

♦MUSTARD CATERING

Served 300 perfect, hot chocolate soufflés at a winter wedding in Gstaad. It's catered for President Obama and seems to have adopted his 'yes we can!' slogan. mustardcatering.com or 020 8971 7800

PHOTOGRAPHS: ART ARCHIVE; BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY; BY COURTESY OF FELIX ROSING; TELL & WIDOW & SON LTD. LONDON ON BEHALF OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN GOODALL

