



Bridal exhibition at The Armada

ONE of Ireland's best-known hotels is celebrating 30 years as a wedding venue, by offering a comprehensive range of wedding packages.

The Armada Hotel in Spanish Point will launch its 2014 wedding packages when it hosts The Clare County Bridal Exhibition this Sunday from 1pm to 5.30pm. It will feature the West Clare Food Hall, fashion shows, wedding exhibitors and entertainment throughout the day.

Six new packages take account of the hotel's rich history, while at the same time celebrate its breath-taking location overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. What's on offer reflects the innovative approach by management in catering for the wedding market.

The Armada Hotel stands on the site of The Atlantic Hotel, which was opened in 1808. The hotel warmly welcomed the gentry, royalty and clergy of Ireland and Europe until 1919. Almost 50 years later, the Armada's current owners bought what remained of the property. To this day, the original licence for the historic Atlantic Hotel is still in use at The Armada.

The provision of a modern, award-winning hotel on the site of what was once one of the biggest hotels in Ireland and Britain during the 1800s has proven to be an attractive proposition to brides and grooms down through the years.

Three decades on from hosting the wedding of Nessa O'Brien and Brendan Sexton in 1984, the management and weddings team at The Armada continue to plan wedding packages with one eye on The Armada's historical soul and the other firmly on the importance of adapting to ever-changing wedding trends, themes and fashions.

The innovative packages for 2014 include the impeccable 'Picture Perfect' offering, 'The Sweetest Memories', 'Oh I do like to be Beside the Seaside' and the summer vibes of the 'Elegance by the Sea', to the all-partying 'West Clare Hoolley' and the 'Clare Harvest of the Sea and Land'.

The new wedding packages feature menus and dishes that reflect West Clare flavours and produce from local suppliers and from the polytunnel of The Armada's sister property, Hotel Doolin.

Homemade desserts are created in the Armada pastry kitchen, as is the Armada's brown bread crafted using the chef's secret recipe and with a decent drop of the hotel's Dooliner beer.

Meanwhile, newlyweds can take advantage of the hotel's stunning location with a host of activities on their doorstep, with history walks, surfing, kayaking and some of Ireland's greatest attractions to include the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren and the Loop Head Drive

The Armada's track record one of the country's leading wedding venues and as a high quality accommodation provider is reflected in the awards it has picked up in recent times, including Overall Munster Venue of the Year in the Weddings Online Awards 2013, a Platinum Award in the Green **Hospitality Awards** 2013, and its status as a Guaranteed Irish Hotel.

At the Clare County Bridal Exhibition this Sunday, management and the wedding team will be on hand to discuss the new wedding packages and answer any queries from potential brides and grooms. For more information see www.armadahotel.com or 065 7079000.