



Love in Tuscany

Anna and Jeremy married in a sunny olive grove and chose a floral theme for their Italian wedding



Clockwise from top left: the ceremony was held outside, overlooking stunning olive groves; the bride wore a vintage-style crystal and pearl decoration in her hair; the bride's dress — Lela by Stephanie Allen — was gently ruffled at the front with a bustle at the back; Anna's bouquet was made from coral roses with sprigs of lavender interspersed; the bride's peep-toe shoes, Sweet Brua by Diane Nassari, were hand-made and beautifully feminine.



Anna Fraser & Jeremy Sulzmann

Agriturismo La Borriana, Tuscany
12th September, 2008

Photographer: Corbin Gurkin
www.corbingurkin.com

Jeremy and Anna both worked for the same company, AOL, but Anna was based in London and Jeremy in Luxembourg. "He was on secondment in London and we met at a friend's leaving do," says Anna. "He asked me out the next day over Internet Messenger. Jeremy proposed on 20th July 2007, about 18 months after we met. We were on holiday in Sardinia to celebrate his birthday at the time. He was keen for us to go on a beautiful sailing boat around the island and we spent the day sailing, snorkelling, eating great Italian food and enjoying the scenery around the beautiful coast of Alghero. While we were on the boat, he said a few lovely words, went down on one knee and produced a ring box. I nearly fell off the boat in surprise! Jeremy is American and I am from Northern Ireland so because our guests were going to travel we wanted to marry somewhere different. I'd lived in Italy, so we chose Tuscany. We picked September so it wouldn't be too hot for our guests." →





Clockwise from top left: bridesmaids carried sunflowers, coral roses and lavender. The place names were sprigs of lavender too, a coral rose boutonniere, a beautiful diamond ring. Below from left: sunflowers are local to Florence; the sandalwood fans are favours

The bridal gown...

"I'd seen the dress I wanted — Lana by Stephanie Allin — early on in a magazine and really loved the style. But I couldn't find a London stockist. I'd tried on 30 other dresses, when, by chance, I found out that Fleur Bridal stocked my dress. I tried on a few other Stephanie Allin designs but I loved the feel of the Lana design. My mum came along with me on a second visit and suggested a few changes which made it perfect. I was lucky enough to have Stephanie Allin herself personally custom-make

my dress to incorporate the changes, so my wedding dress truly is a one off. My shoes were by Diane Hassall and were hand-made. The design is called Sweet Briar and I think they fitted well with the slightly vintage feel of the dress."

The bridesmaids...

The two bridesmaids' outfits were made to order from Luella's Boudoir in Wimbledon. Both girls wanted a slightly different style, but their dresses were made from the same olive-coloured silk.

The ceremony...

As the couple were getting married in Italy, they had a small private ceremony for family in the Town Hall of Carmignano, just outside Florence.

The reception...

The official wedding was held in the afternoon in an olive grove in the grounds of the Villa Borriana. Afterwards, the 55 guests walked up to the pool area for drinks and canapés to the sound of a string quartet. Dinner was then served on the terrace of the villa under the stars. It was an intimate, leisurely dinner with traditional Tuscan dishes. After dinner, it was back to the pool area for cake and dancing.

“Dinner was served on the terrace, under the stars”





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SPECIAL DETAILS

What was your best idea?

To have the wedding in Tuscany, it gave the whole day a relaxed, warm and fun feel.

What was a godsend?

Our wedding planner, Elvira from Weddings in Tuscany, she took so much of the stress away.

Best money-saving tip?

I bought various things on eBay to use for decoration at the wedding. The lavender for the place names came from a lovely lady in America and the sunflower candles came from a great UK seller.

What were you really pleased with?

The fact that so many of our beloved friends and family made the effort to come from as far away as America and Australia.

Where did you go for your honeymoon?

Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Clockwise from top left: Anna drew her theme for the wedding from the beautiful countryside around her; guests drank wine from the local vineyard; stealing a kiss; bright yellow sunflowers contrasted with the deep purple lavender and pretty coral roses; the first dance; a fantastic fireworks display finished off the celebrations.

Tables/favours...

"Our tables were named after places which are special to us. We handed out sandalwood fans as favours to the ladies before the ceremony to keep them cool and gave everyone little packets of sunflower seeds as a reminder of the day."

Special touches...

"My mum and her friends hand-painted tea-light holders with sunflowers for all of the tables."

Special moment...

"There were so many! But for me there was a moment during the

ceremony when the string quartet was playing and I looked across at Jeremy and took in the gorgeous Tuscan scenery behind him and felt so happy!" ♥



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