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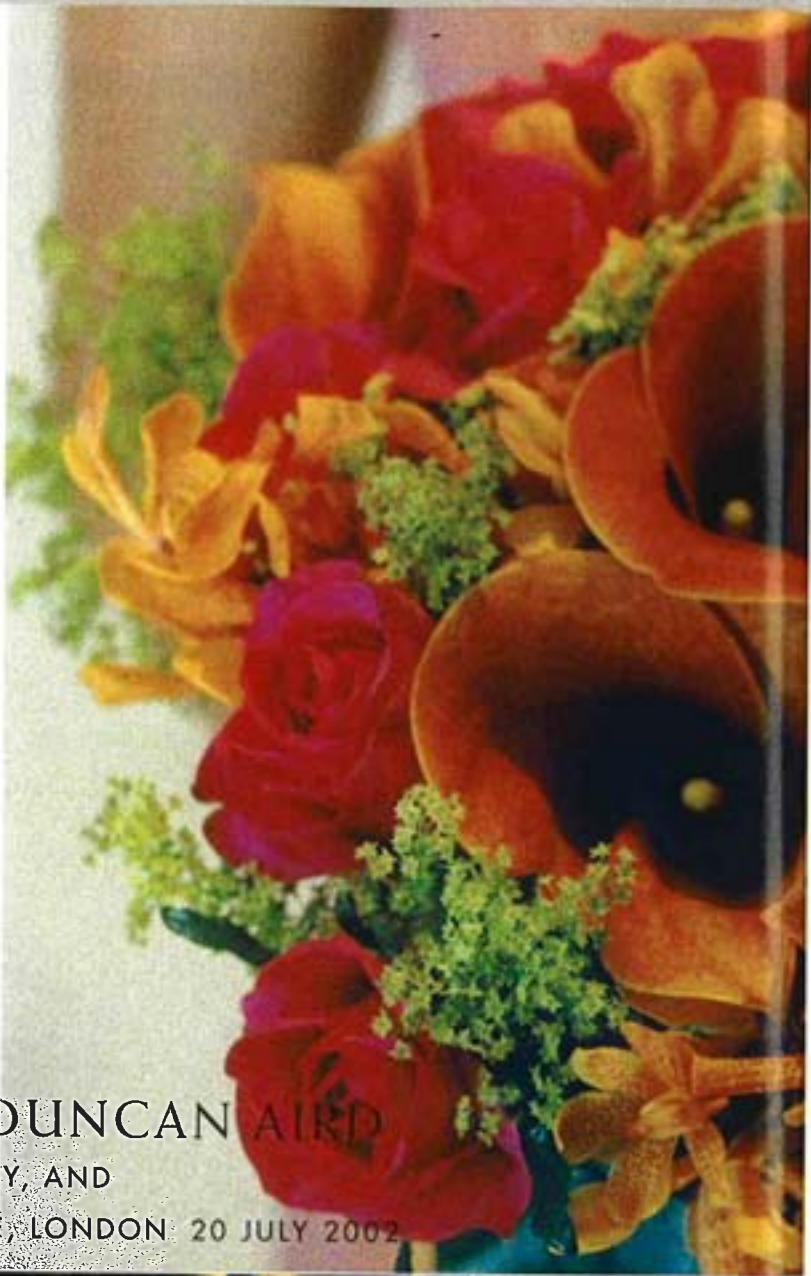
your day *your way*

From hiring caterer-to-the-celebs Alison Price to theming the celebrations around Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, this London couple's wedding day was a fashionable affair accented with Oriental blooms and vibrant colours. 'I really wanted to create a dramatic effect using bright colours such as mango, fuchsia and lime, coupled with the romance of lavish floral decorations,' remembers Joanna.

As the awesome sound of the Brompton Oratory Choir resounded throughout the chapel, the bride walked down the petal-strewn aisle on the arm of her proud father. Her glamorous dress, a full-skirted, strapless design in duchesse silk, had been inspired by Grace Kelly's classic 1950s style.

The bridesmaids also looked gorgeous in floor-length pale mango gowns with pink silk flowers pinned in their hair, while the younger flowergirls' fairy-like floral dresses captured the ethereal theme perfectly.

After the moving ceremony, everyone made their way to the reception venue, The Polish Hearth Club. 'We've held many family celebrations there, including my

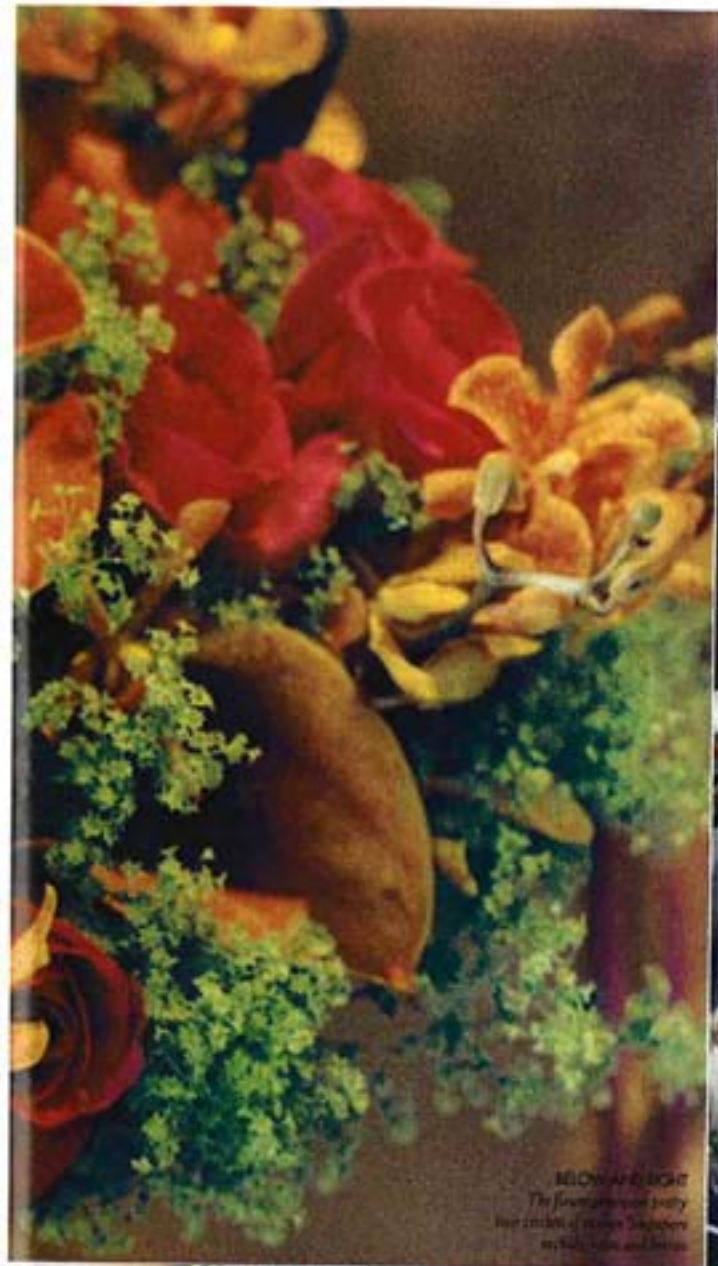


JOANNA OSINSKI AND DUNCAN AIRD

THE LITTLE ORATORY, BROMPTON ORATORY, AND

THE POLISH HEARTH CLUB, PRINCE'S GATE, LONDON 20 JULY 2002





BELOW AND RIGHT
The first-generation family
has a mix of Italian, Swedish,
and Irish roots.



your day your way



parents' 30th wedding anniversary, so it seemed the perfect choice for another very special occasion,' explains Joanna. With pink champagne and Bellini cocktails flowing as if on tap, the party soon got in full swing. The dramatic colour scheme extended to the reception tables, which were draped in lime green tablecloths and decorated with tablecentres of vividly-coloured orchids and roses, encircled with spiralling bamboo shoots. A delicious wedding feast was followed by speeches, the most memorable from Joanna's father, which featured anecdotes in poem form about family and friends – at the mention of each name the guests responded with cheers and applause! As darkness fell, the mood hotted up and a 1970s band took to the stage, kicking off a party that lasted well into the night. Revellers kept their energy up with an early breakfast of mini BLT sandwiches, waffles with maple syrup and salmon and cream cheese bagels; it wasn't until the small hours that the newlyweds reluctantly made their exit to spend their first night at the central London hotel, The Capital. 'It was an incredible day,' says Joanna, 'made all the more special for the help and support we received from my mother and both our families in planning it.'

Words Fiona Embleton
Photography Studio Eliana Maffei
(00 39 347 144 8511)
For further details see our directory on page 172





RIGHT Stunning spiritual flower arrangements of crimson and apricot roses, chrysanthemums and yellow orchids were hung from the ceiling at the reception.



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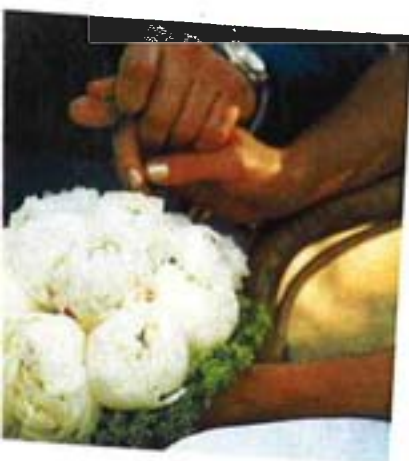
SPRING, SUMMER,
AUTUMN AND
WINTER LOOKS





A Tuscan dream

Gabriella's wedding to Jon in her parents' olive grove in romantic Tuscany, Italy was filled with glorious sunshine, butterflies, beautiful views, good company and continental style



BRIDE: Gabriella Chidgey, 32, artist.
GROOM: Jon Clarke, 34, national newspaper journalist.

FIRST ENCOUNTER: "We met at a party in June 1995 when I was 25 and Jon was 26," says Gabriella. "He invited me to the Epsom Derby the following day. As we left, he bought a bunch of red roses for me. We then dated for six months before we even had our first kiss!"

PROPOSAL: Jon proposed to Gabriella in October 2001, when they were on holiday in Catalonia,

Spain. "We were having dinner at a small restaurant when he simply asked, 'How do you feel about a wedding next summer?' It took me a while to figure out that it was our wedding he was referring to! Jon gave me my ring when we returned to England and we celebrated the engagement properly."

PLANNING THE WEDDING: The couple tied the knot in Marylebone register office in London a month before their ceremony in Tuscany, Italy. Gabriella started planning

shortly after her engagement and was assisted by her family, friends and wedding coordinator Katja Meier. "My parents bought coloured ribbons and linen which my mother dyed different colours and turned into tablecloths and napkins for the reception," says Gabriella. "The name cards were made from aqua and green recycled card and the menus were printed on pink recycled paper."

WEDDING DATE: 13 July 2002.

VENUE: The wedding and champagne reception took place



"WHEN WE ENTERED OUR CANDLELIT DINING TENTS IT WAS ALL EVEN MORE STUNNING THAN I'D EVER IMAGINED"

with 160 guests, underneath beautifully decorated olive trees on the terrace of Gabriella's parents' house near Sovicille. "I used books on alternative marriages to find our vows and blessings and we used the poems *My Lover* by Wendy Cope and *Love – An Essay* by Laurie Lee as readings. Our friends began the proceedings by lighting lanterns and then covering the bridal path with rosemary and thyme. Afterwards we all had a wonderful reception dinner in an adjacent field."

THE DRESS: "I wore a mock silk-satin and champagne coloured 1930s vintage wedding dress from Orsini Period Clothing, and had it

altered by a wonderful dressmaker called Jackie Palmer," says Gabriella. "It made me feel really glamorous."

GROOM'S OUTFIT: Jon wore a grey pinstriped suit and pink tie, all from Richard James in Savile Row, London.

ACCESSORIES: Gabriella wore a gold and silver feather and flower headdress with Swarovski crystals by Philip Treacy. Her pearl, garnet

and citrine engagement ring and pearl and gold drop earrings were from The L Boutique and her strappy gold wedge shoes were from L K Bennett.

MAKE-UP AND HAIR: Gabriella styled her own hair and went for make-up lessons at Trish McEvoy in Harvey Nichols to pick up some tips to do her own make-up. She used pink and beige shades.

BRIDESMAIDS: Gabriella's sister Louise was her bridesmaid and wore a pale pink dress and crystal necklace from Baby Ceylon. Her >





◁suede camel slingbacks were from L K Bennett, and she wore a flower headpiece by Jackie Palmer.

FLOWERS: Tamara Pasquinucci from Artflor in Tuscany arranged all the flowers. Tables were decorated with Italian garden flowers and put in different shaped vases from the Designers Guild. Gabriella's bouquet was of cream peonies.

FOOD: Guests were served a variety of canapés at the reception and then started with steamed scampi and prawns, followed by duck breast with fragrant spices and fine green beans. Dessert was a rainbow of

fruit salad and all the food was made by Gamma Italia Ricevimenti.

THE CAKE: The couple had a cream and strawberry and meringue cake.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT: "It was when Jon and I walked hand in hand down to the candlelit dining tents through a fairy-lit arch," says Gabriella. "The scene was more stunning than I had ever anticipated."

HONEYMOON: The couple booked their honeymoon in Bolivia through Magic of Bolivia and had a simply wonderful time.

Photographs by Studio Eliana Maffei
(www.elianamaffei.com)



STEAL THEIR STYLE



♥ **Flowers**
Bouquet of white peonies,
from £70, Mary-Jane Vaughan
(020 7385 8400)

♥ **Headband**
Butterfly headpiece,
made to order,
Philip Treacy
(020 7730 3992)

♥ **Buttonhole**
Pink Dolce Vita rose
buttonhole, £4.50, Mary-
Jane Vaughan (020 7385
8400)



♥ **Napkin**
Lilac napkin, 50p to hire,
Speciality Linens (0161
796 7111). Ribbon, from
a selection, John Lewis
(020 7629 7711). Name
card, 90p, Kathy Luff
(01908 567428)



♥ **Groom's outfit**
Pinstriped suit, £300,
Ted Baker at Moss Bros.
Pale pink shirt, £1750,
and tie, £15, both Moss
Bros (020 7447 7200)

ADDRESS BOOK



Register office
Marylebone Road,
London
(020 7641 1161)

Bride's dress
Orsini Period Clothing, London
(020 7937 2903)
Jackie Palmer, London
(020 7734 0755)

Bride's accessories
L K Bennett,
nationwide
(020 7491 3005)
Philip Treacy, London
(020 7259 9605)

Make-up lessons
Trish McEvoy
at Harvey Nichols, London
(020 7235 5000)

Bridesmaid's dress
Baby Ceylon, London
(020 8968 9501)

Groom's outfit
Richard James, London
(020 7434 0605)

Food
Gamma Italia Ricevamenti,
Montecatini, Italy
(0039 050 9711523,
massimorebeggiani@tiscalinet.it)

Flowers
Tamara Pasquinucci
at Art Flor, Vinci, Italy
(0039 571 56510)
Designers' Guild, London
(020 7893 7400)

Stationery
Nickelpress printers, London
(020 7229 6925)

Honeymoon
Magic of Bolivia, London
(020 7221 7310)

Wedding planner
Katja Meier, Italy
(0039 0577 887098,
Katjameier@katamail.com)