



Be Wild

Tom and I met at a mutual friend's home as the festivities of the Notting Hill Caribbean Carnival continued outside. It was as though we had known each other for years. We talked all night and haven't stopped the conversation in the last 10 years. We took each stage of our relationship at a leisurely pace. We moved to Australia after four years of being together and Tom told me he planned to propose a year after settling into Australian life, but it took another year before he spotted the ideal opportunity to pop the question. We got engaged at the end of a beautiful coastal walk just outside Monaco where I used to live when I was young. It was summertime and very hot, even though the sun had started to set. Tom suggested we go for a swim in one of the coves to cool off. I sat on his knee not realising that he was intentionally on one knee as we talked. And then he pulled out the ring and proposed! It was the perfect proposal for us, out in nature and spontaneous. There were only a few other people there. I vaguely remember a woman relaxing on a rock close by with a beaming smile on her face.

ALL
You are
IS ALL I need

Tom and Laura chose Sol Wedding Photography & Film to capture their rustic romance.

Rural Charm

We chose to get married in Spain as the country has a very special place in our hearts. My parents retired to an olive grove in the Axarquía region and their home is one of our favourite places in the world to unwind and savour each moment at a leisurely pace.

Our venue choice was a very considered one. I grew up in Toronto, France, Montreal and the UK and Tom is from the UK; we now live in Sydney, Australia. A destination wedding was definitely on the cards for us because we had family and friends coming from Australia, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Canada and the US. After considering venues in various countries, we had more than enough venues on our favourites list but no firm decision.

While visiting my parents in Spain my parents suggested Hotel Vineula, a venue close to their home. When we saw the lush beauty of the hotel with that sensational turquoise lake in the background our wedding venue shortlist became irrelevant in an instant. Wind was also a very important consideration for us. The position of Lake Vineula means that we avoided the winds that you get by the coast that can

make it difficult to hear and feel relaxed in formal wear. Finally, it was important to us that the wedding felt intimate and that meant everything needed to be in one place. Preparation, the ceremony, cocktails, reception and dancing afterwards would all happen in one easy-to-access space where guests would be free to enjoy themselves, but also to pop back to their rooms if they needed to.

A Fruitful Affair

We didn't intentionally set out to

have a style other than knowing we wanted everyone to feel relaxed and playful, so we told our guests to wear what they felt comfortable in, whether this was a formal suit with shorts and a hat or a floaty sundress. We love nature and our house is always filled with flowers and brightly coloured fruit and veg from our garden or the local markets, so we added similar splashes of nature's gifts Spanish-style. The mothers created piles of oranges, limes, lemons and olive tree branches around the ceremony and reception.



teacher, Nicky Haslam from Ceroc Sydney. Although at the time it was all a blur, the songs now give me chills every time I hear them because of their significance, from the selection process, mixing the sections we wanted into a single track, practising with Nicky at our home in Sydney and then giving it our best go on our wedding day.

Marrying in Spain

Absolutely - go for it. Make allowances for any questions you have to be answered at countryside rather than big city pace and keep an open mind, because there are so many good things about the region. We had fantastic weather, a beautiful fragrant environment, great food and we were able to add in lots of extra features to our wedding because the region offers better value for better quality compared to other Westernised countries.

The Sweetest Memories

My less expected favourite moments amongst the many that I predicted were the speeches - my best friend Nancy surprised me with the sweetest, funniest speech! We also enjoyed the best man speech, which we were expecting might leave Tom cooling down from embarrassment in the kitchen fridge but, to our relief, it was heart warming.

We also prepared a funny dance routine with the help of our dance

ceremony vase and wedding tree, now framed, are treasured reminders of our special wedding day.

One of a Kind

We chose Greg from Sol Wedding for our bridal photography because he is so passionate about what he does, he had plenty of ideas about how to create the DVD and, most importantly, we trusted his skill and his integrity.

Treasured Moments

My aunt was our celebrant and she created a colourful sand ceremony just before we exchanged rings. We wanted to involve more of the family in the ceremony and it was a great opportunity to call our parents up from their seats to help pour some of the sand into the glass vase. Tom's mother is an artist and she painted a tree on canvas for us, which guests added to with colourful finger inks and a little message. Both our sand

Address Book

Photography: Pierre Richardson for solwedding.com

Cinematography: Greg Korvin, Solwedding.com

Venue: Hotel La Vinuela, hotelvinuela.com

Dress: Pronovias, pronovias.es

Dance Academy: Ceroc Dance, ceroc.co.nz

