

# The Ultimate Love Story

**Design-minded duo, Georgina and Will celebrated their heritage, food, fashion and music, resulting in dramatic details at every turn.**

## The fairytale begins

About four years ago I was extremely hungover at work when a colleague invited me out to a club for her friend's birthday. I initially declined the invite and was overheard by my boss who turned around and said, "Hair of the dog! Go and have some fun and come in late tomorrow. You never know, you may meet the man you're going to marry." So I went along and that's the night I met Will!

Marbella is a very special place that is close to my heart. My late grandfather had bought our holiday home there nearly 15 years ago so it is like a second home to us and I have many happy memories of the place. Will proposed in Spain during the summer of 2015 and we knew we wanted an overseas summer wedding so it seemed fitting to have it in Marbella. The wedding planner I wanted was almost fully booked but had one date left in the summer which happened

to fall exactly one year after Will's proposal - it was fate.

## Our secret garden

Our venue was a private estate near Sotogrande. From the moment we arrived we knew it was the one. We both had a feeling which can't be described by looking at a photo or a video. I can only describe it as 'magical' and I don't think there was one wedding guest that I spoke to afterwards that didn't say the same

thing. The venue choice was key for us, it had to be really special and I also wanted lots of different and unique spaces to use throughout the day and this estate provided us with just that. The best way to describe the venue would be like a secret garden with endless surprises.

## Designer details

The first dress I tried on was by Mira Zwillinger in Browns Bride and, although I had a totally different style

in my mind, I instantly fell in love with it but it was more than we wanted to spend. I tried several afterwards and had found a great alternative but as I went to confirm the order something stopped me and I went back to Browns Bride one last time. When my maid of honour burst into tears after seeing me in it my father said that I just had to have that dress, so he went ahead and ordered it.

I didn't want to put all of my bridesmaids in the same dress as I wanted them to feel comfortable in their own individual style although, at the same time, I do think it's important to link them together in some way and for them to feel like bridesmaids. I managed to find a website in the US where the girls could pick any dress or

outfit they liked and customise them so that they would end up blending. Colour-wise I wanted them to be in different shades of blush pink which would work well with the light grey colour that the maids of honour were wearing. I love the combination of grey and pink.

A family friend is a tailor so he made a lovely three-piece summer suit for Will, which he wore with a blush pink tie and a gold lapel pin and cufflinks which were my wedding present to him.

## Accessorise all areas

I do like typical wedding flowers but since it was a summer wedding in a garden atmosphere, we went for more natural looking flowers with greenery which would complement the venue



well. My mum had the idea of using jasmine after seeing pictures from the Carolina Herrera wedding runway. Not only did it look beautiful and suit the venue and our themes perfectly, but the scent was incredible.

We even ended up suspending scent boxes from trees as I walked down the aisle to emit a jasmine aroma.

### Feast your eyes on this

We are a very foodie family so food and drink quality were of utmost importance to all of us. Our caterer again really complemented our theme as the food was very 'Alice in Wonderland', in other words original and quirky and the presentation was unique and playful. In terms of cuisine we were keen to stick to Spanish dishes with a refined, fine-dining twist. Our main meal consisted of four courses and included traditional Salmorejo and Slow-Roasted Iberian Pig Cheek. We also had an extensive dessert bar which not only looked impressive but the caterers created a lot of theatre around it, with dry ice and other quirky presentations. We chose a relaxed, inside-out wedding cake decorated simply with edible gold leaf and jasmine branches and topped with our monogram in rose gold with two goat figurines standing beneath. I think personal touches are important

and, as Will's nickname is 'The Goat' all of our friends said that we just had to incorporate goats in the wedding. I wracked my brain, bought a female and male goat and spray painted them rose gold.

### Music to my ears

As well as a physical journey, I also wanted to take people on a musical journey throughout the wedding so there was a bit of everything for everyone's taste. It began from the moment people walked into the welcome drinks area before the ceremony. Guests were given rose-lemonades and rosemary sparkling water in coloured goblets and mini bottles with straws to enjoy while listening to Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

After the ceremony people were led through iron gates to the next area, where a rumba and flamenco band were performing Spanish music. After reception drinks were finished, a brass band quickly appeared to lead the crowd to the main area. It was then that the main dinner area was revealed to the accompaniment of gasping from guests, as a huge fountain sprouted in the centre of the main dinner space.

Our show band then started singing and tempted people onto the dance

floor before they had even found their tables. The guests were also up dancing in between every course!

Since I come from a Greek family, instead of having a first dance we decided to mix things up a bit and performed a traditional Greek money dance where people pin money on to you as a wedding gift - it was a good laugh, especially for Will's side of the family who wouldn't have seen anything like that being done before.

### Show Stoppers

I'd say one of the most special things about the wedding was the element of surprise that we created. As the showband performed their last song, we created a fake power-cut so that guests thought the party had finished - but then, across the huge pond, we beamed a spotlight onto an electric violinist who started to head-bang and play a house song. With that, he indicated that we should all follow him and led the guests out of the main area (like the Pied Piper) through a magical pathway lit by dangling chandeliers and a pathway of candles that opened onto a surprise after-party area where a female DJ and drummers were revealed. Their drums glowed different colours and water splashed up every time the drummers hit their drums



so it looked as if coloured paint was jumping up from them. This, along with a glowing LED violin and the neon party glow-stick accessories that we gave out, made for a pretty epic visual party experience.

I think one of the thank you letters we received from a guest summed everything up.

### "If Carlsberg did weddings... even they wouldn't be as good as yours."

I will never forget... Seeing Will at the altar. At one point Will and I were dancing on stage with the band to a very popular song and as we turned round we noticed practically every guest young and old and young were raving like mad and jumping in sync - it was crazy and we couldn't believe that this was our wedding. It was also before the main course had even been served!

Lastly a really special unplanned moment that we will never forget was when one of the female singers performed Adele's 'Hello' and our wedding guests joined in. We had two very long tables either side of a huge pond in the centre and the guests were standing on their chairs and tables to sing as loudly as they

could to the lyrics, "Hello from the other side" to each other over the pond, which was very funny. It was the most amazing moment and although we planned every detail meticulously it just goes to show that some of the best even we couldn't have planned!

## Address Book:

Wedding planner: Caprichia  
caprichia.com

Dress: Mira Zwillinger  
mirazwillinger.com

Shoes: emmylondon.com

Makeup: Carla Levy carlalevy.co.uk

Bridal Nails: Reflections Salon  
reflectionsmarbella.com

Hair: Daniel Boardman

Grooms Suit: McCann Bespoke  
mccannbespoke.co.uk

Minister: Padre Peter

Photographer: Charlie Dailey  
charliedailey.com

