

HEALTH AND BEAUTY  
SPECIAL

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST BRIDAL BRAND

MAY 2018 | £3.99

# Wedding ideas

# 458

DREAMY DETAILS  
TO SUIT YOUR THEME



Five top  
bridal looks  
for 2018

Top stylist shares  
her secrets



HOW WE FOUND  
*The one*

We go dress shopping with our favourite brides

Love is in the Air!  
Luxury long-haul honeymoon ideas

BEAUTIFUL REAL  
WEDDING INSPO

WHSmith  
EXCLUSIVE

**WIN**  
A VIKING CRUISE  
WORTH £4,000  
enter at  
[weddingideasmag.com/vc2018](http://weddingideasmag.com/vc2018)



VIKING  
Exploring the World in Comfort

**WIN! Prizes worth £8,200 inside!**

BRIDESMAID DRESSES / A LUXURY MINIMOON IN PORTUGAL  
INCREDIBLE WEST AFRICAN HONEYMOON / A ROMANTIC GETAWAY IN THE UK



# PERFECT PROVENCE

*Tara & Alex*

This couple threw the ultimate party for their weekend wedding in the South of France

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNA FOWLER,  
annafowler.com

While enjoying an idyllic walk through a vineyard in France, Alex seized the perfect moment to pop the question. "I turned around and all of a sudden Alex was on one knee! We celebrated with a beautiful lunch and then went back to his family home, where my mum had flown in as a surprise. There was a lot of Champagne and tears," Tara reminisces.

The couple decided to officially marry in England ahead of their wedding in France, so this bride had the pleasure of choosing two dresses. "For our English church ceremony I wore a Valentino dress with an oversized bow back. For our French wedding, I wore an amazing Hayley Paige gown complete with hand-painted flowers, which I found at Les Trois Soeurs in London. I spent a few weeks deciding between this dress and one other design, but every time I imagined my wedding, this was the gown I was wearing, so I knew it was the one."

Keeping her accessories simple, Tara wore her favourite silver bracelet, a rose gold and silver bracelet gifted by her godmother and her rose gold and diamond wedding band. "I also wore a long, single-tier veil from Les Trois Soeurs and nude Christian Louboutin shoes."

The groom looked equally stylish in a dark blue bespoke suit, designed and made at Oswald Boateng. "He looked excited and nervous waiting for me on the big day," Tara smiles.

Rather than choosing a conventional bridal party, this bride asked her best friend Joe to be her man of honour. "He wore a bespoke cream suit with a pale pink lining. My two half brothers were my mini ushers, wearing super-cute light blue shorts and waistcoats, purchased at John Lewis, paired with red Converse shoes."

Tara asked her long-standing friend and professional Bobbi Brown makeup artist David Steven Wilton to create her natural makeup look. "I asked my man of honour, Joe to style my side-swept, ▶





*"I had one man of honour  
and no bridesmaids at all!"*



naturally boho look. Getting ready was fast and stress-free – find a quiet spot to get ready in and surround yourself with people who are professionals you trust and you'll be calm on your wedding day."

The groom's sister read from Ruth 1. 16-17 and the bride's younger brothers read 'These I Can Promise' by Mark Twain during the couple's religious, outdoor, olive grove ceremony in France. "We also had an all-female choir sing an acoustic, a capella version of Fatboy Slim's 'Praise You' during

the ceremony. In another twist, Alex and I decided to walk down the aisle and enter the ceremony together."

Both the ceremony and reception took place at Domaine Les Roulllets in the South of France. "Our venue was in the middle of a beautiful vineyard in France," Tara explains. After the ceremony, guests were treated to live-cooked canapés that included flash-fried prawns, oysters and truffle macaroni cheese. "For the wedding breakfast, we had a sharing feast of beef

ribs and leg of lamb with a designated carver at each table, complete with personalised chef hat and apron!"

Inspired by their setting, Tara and Alex styled their wedding with a gentle touch, embracing the Provençal feel of their location. "Isabel & Ink worked collaboratively with artist Suzy Foster to create our stationery with French lavender florals and an illustration of our venue."

Floral designer, Canopea Design, suspended jars of flowers from the olive

trees surrounding the ceremony area, also creating huge floral arrangements to spill over logs and creating the bride's relaxed, French wildflower bouquet.

"We ate dinner beneath a canopy of festoon and fairy lights to create an atmosphere inspired by 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'." Be Lounge supplied the tent and furniture for the evening, which was decorated inside with lavender trees.

"A pastry chef from Villandry, who is also a great family friend of ours and was

a guest on the day, spent two days before the wedding creating our five-tier, partially gluten-free naked cake."

With the feasting complete, the couple and their guests were ready to party. "Alex's company, ALR Music, ensured we had amazing entertainment for the big day. A live quartet led by Kate Threlfall played first, then the amazing 10-piece party band The Soul Jets played after dinner, followed by the brilliant DJ Charles, who played into the early hours. The next day, we hosted

a pool party, for which guests received personalised flip-flops, with a bloody Mary barbecue too."

After the weekend-long celebrations, Tara and Alex jetted off to Italy for a two-week minimoon in Positano, Capri and Tuscany. "It was a divine two weeks of delicious food, wine and relaxation. We have booked our honeymoon for December and January, when we will spend two weeks in Sri Lanka followed by a week and a half in the Maldives." ❧



- VENUE Domaine Les Roullets, South of France
- DRESSES Valentino, Hayley Paige at Les Trois Soeurs
- GROOM Ozwald Boateng
- MAKEUP David Steven Wilton
- STATIONERY Isabel & Ink, Suzy Foster
- FLOWERS Canopea Design
- CAKE Villandry
- TENT & FURNITURE Be Lounge
- ENTERTAINMENT ALR Music, Kate Threlfall, The Soul Jets, DJ Charles, The Juke Joints
- VIDEOGRAPHER ALR Music
- MINIMOON Le Sirenuse, Positano, JK Place, Capri, Castiglion del Bosco, Tuscany
- HONEYMOON Four Seasons, Maldives