SPRING 2018 The Trends Edition

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Haír KERATIN or BOTOX



Expert's advice on WEDDINGS TRENDS for 2018

Exclusive Interview with destination wedding singer

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Photography, Sotiris Tsakanikas Event Planning & Design, Only for You Events Floral Design, Studio 7 Florescence Model, ACE Models Hair & Make up Styling, Marios Stavropoulos Dress, Made Bride Accessories, Private Collection Venue, Private Villa



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Don't miss this cutie on Page 55

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Photography, Sotiris Tsakanikas Event Planning & Design, Only for You Events Floral Design, Studio 7 Florescence Tableware & Rentals, White Lilac Rentals, Style Box Model, ACE Models Hair & Make up Styling, Marios Stavropoulos Dress, Made Bride Venue, Private Villa

Springtime, best time to...

How exciting is it to see our first ever Spring Issue finally completed! We could not be happier to have worked with so many great vendors, professionals, writers and creatives. What an inspirational beginning of the year... It was not easy, but we managed to pull it off and just wait to see what we prepared for you in this Spring 2018 Issue, The Trends Edition.

The beginning of the year was all but calm for us, at Ellwed. From visiting wedding fairs, to meetings for our cover shoot, it was never a dull moment.

Inside you will find so much inspiration and advice, that it will blow you away. We had a privilege to interview a destination wedding singer coming this summer to Greece all the way from Australia! How exciting is that? I can't wait to meet her, but you can read her story on page 70.

We met with Atelier Zolotas, international Greek wedding dress designers, who believe in traditions of handcrafting and storytelling with their designs. They were excited to learn about Ellwed Magazine and wanted to show some of their new collection with us. Go to page 28 to see their beautiful shoot that happened in the heart of Athens.

Since this is the Trends Edition, we collected some of the most important trends from 2018 in the world of weddings. Read all about it in Expert's Advice articles by Internationally renowned Kylie Carlson of IAWEP on page 57 for trends around the world. And the next article, for the local trends, from our expert planner Vasso Vantali.

You may have noticed Purple or "Ultra Violet" is the Colour of 2018, chosen by Pantone. Like it or not, check out my Moodboard I put together to intrigue your inspiration for this year. You will be seeing purple on every step!



One of my favorite photos on page 105



Lovely "balst from the past" on page 67

If you are a bride for 2018/2019, or just a girl that loves everything pretty, like me, you must not miss these real and styled weddings that were submitted to us this year starting from page 114 From "bling" to "organic", we have them all! And oh... so much colour! I can already see that this year's winners will be very difficult to choose. We might need your help... can we count on your votes for the best of 2018?

And finally, we can't be more excited to show you our Spring Cover Shoot that was organized by Anjie from Only For You Events and captured by Sotiris Tsakanikas. You can't miss it, we included it almost on every page! Go to page 47 to read our Spring Trends we prepared for you from this shoot and more from this styled shoot on page 102.

Don't give up before you reach the end. Find your perfect venue, reviewed by an international destination wedding planner in Lefkada on page 142. Afterwards, plan your honeymoon with our local blogger and traveler. Also make sure to read the Q&A's we received and if you are a pro, check out all the new workshops Greece has to offer. Some are once in a lifetime opportunity to learn from even international pros/ coworkers. They will share with you their knowledge and firsthand experience you cannot get

anywhere else! Plus, as a bonus you get to create as well as meet new friends. Winter is the calm period for the wedding professionals, and their time to explore, learn and grow, but those artistic souls that can't keep still, need to create and find new inspirations. This is your time to shine, make the most of it!

With lots of love,

SANYAPERCIC, EDITOR





Exciting interview on page 71



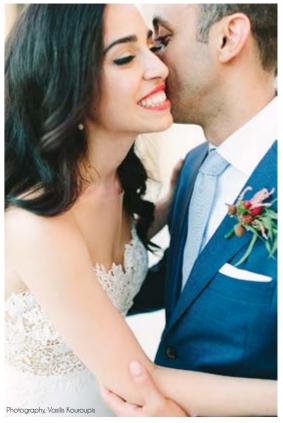
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EDITORIAL





Be bold. Oh so much colour. Trendy shoot on page 118



The couple that captivated us on page 133

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Collaborators &

Contributors

meet

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SPRING ISSUE - The Trends Edition - No. 4 magazine published by ellwed.com

The team

Sanya Percic Editor, arts and design Natasha Naumenko Beauty and fashion editor Daphne Passisi-Kokot Research & production, editor

Contributors of this issue

Sanya Percic Articles Natasha Naumenko Angeliki Kontakioti Tamara Bellis Kylie Carlson Vasso Vantali Renee Anderson Valia Kanellou Natalie Wingrove Karina Papadopoulos Samar Alkadhi Claudia Magas Anjie Georgakopoulou Kyriaki Kyrkou Claire Salisbury Eleni Tsiapali

Daphne Passisi-Kokot Proofreading

Sotiris Tsakanikas Wedding Photography Vasso Gerou Karina Papadopoulos Elias Kordelakos Claudia Magas Vasilis Kouroupis Maxeen Kim Photography

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Concept and Production, **Ellwed Magazine** facebook.com/ellwedmag @ellwedmag

> Photography, **Sotiris Tsakanikas** sotiristsakanikas.com facebook.com/stsakanikas @Sotiris_Tsakanikas

Event Planning & Design, **Only for You Events** www.onlyforyouevents.com facebook.com/onlyforyou.gr @anjieofu_only_for_you_events

> Floral Design, **Studio 7 Florescence** www.studio7.gr facebook.com/Studio7flowers @studio7flowers

Tableware & Rentals, White Lilac www.whitelilac.gr facebook.com/whitelilaceventrentals @white_lilac_rentals

> Rentals, **Style Box** www.stylebox.gr facebook.com/stylebox.gr @Stylebox_rentals

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Invitations & Stationery, **Atelier Invitations** www.atelier-invitations.gr facebook.com/atelier.invitations.gr @atelier_invitations



Hair & Make up Styling, **Marios Stavropoulos** facebook.com/Marios-stavropoulos-Hair-make-upartist-615922788537288 @marios_stavropoulos_

Model, **ACE Models** acemodels.gr facebook.com/Ace-Models-Official-421339791226974 @ace_models_athens

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Want to be a part

of our next issue?

Share your wedding story from Greece, with other brides to be!

Send us an email to submit@ellwed.com

Behind the Scenes of our Cover Shoot

We hope you will enjoy our Spring cover shoot, as much as we at Ellwed did! Admittedly, luck was on our side as we could not ask for a more beautiful day in the middle of winter. Since it was a shoot for our Spring 2018 cover, we had to carry it out in winter time, which required planning ahead and some fingercrossing to make sure we will get a bit of that glorious Greek sun! Sunshine, blossoming trees and green gardens gave us the perfect conditions for a warm Spring wedding day. Our theme was "The Secret Garden", which it actually was! Our shoot took place at a small private villa in the outskirts of Athens, with has its own secret garden.

Our planner Anjie Georgakopoulou, from Only for You Events, took care of everything from design to planning and organizing. On the day, she and her team set up the scenes and took care that everything ran smoothly. Her ideas were emphasized with the beautiful work from Studio 7 Flowers who prepared our floral displays with flowers in almost every color and shape. Unique centerpieces and luxurious floral arrangements were vital in this "Secret Garden" shoot and fully expressed the spring vibe we wanted to explore.

Our stylist, hair & makeup artist Marios Stavropoulos, worked hard to make sure the looks of the model were impeccable and that every fold on the dress from Made Bride was in its place to look flawless and chic.

Sotiris Tsakanikas, our photographer was simply a star! Not only, did he have a clear vision for the shoot and images, but he was also involved in the whole process from our first team meeting. With many years of experience and knowledge he is a truly devoted photographer, teacher and influencer in his line of work. This shoot would not have realized without him or Anjie. We were inspired by his dedication to photography, the work and the energy he put in the whole project.

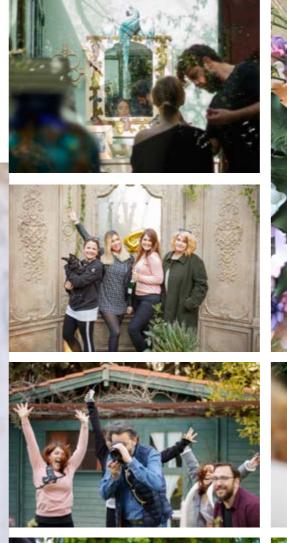
Photography, Vasso Gerou

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We wish to express our gratitude towards each and every one of the team that made this cover story possible, and especially the owners of this majestic villa for the accommodation, help and welcoming attitude. Special thanks to Sotiris Tsakanikas and Anjie Georgakopoulou for the organization and production of this event.

Follow us on Facebook to see more photos on our blog, when they will be uploaded.



















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Social Scene

For daily ideas and inspiration from Greece, follow ellwedmag on social media.

> To get daily inspiration from Greece and find the right vendors for you, head over to our

Instagram @ellwedmag



Make sure you like our

Greece. @ellwedmag

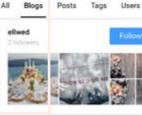
Cakes from Greece



Repin from our useful and inspirational boards with ideas from all over the world, from

Pinterest ellwed







Coming soon on our site, Vendor Treasury for the whole Greece and all destination vendors working in Greece. ellwed.com/treasury/





To find vendors, get answers to your questions, join our community on

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11+ places to have your

wedding in Greece

. . .





Keratin Treatment or Hair Botox

We think deserve the spotlight

by Natasha Naumenko

Winter fairytale is always full of happy days, but your hair might not agree with this. Cold, sometimes dry air unfortunately can aggravate the condition of your hair, especially if you like to rock it 24/7 without putting your hat on (yes, it is not only to keep you warm but also to protect your hair). Luckily, one can nowadays find many therapies for damaged hair, and the main players are keratin treatment and hair botox. Which one to choose though? We hope you will be able to decide for yourself by the end of the article and get ready for you spring happy days!





About the author: Natasha, everyday fashion and beauty expert, studied English & International Business at WSZOP Katowice and Business English at International House Newcastle. @natasha0065

BEAUTY & FASHION

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KERATIN TREATMENT

Keratin is a protein that exists naturally in your hair. This therapy has been popular for about seven years now and throughout these years it has improved quite a lot. In its beginning, it included formaldehyde which is why this treatment was a strong NO for pregnant and breastfeeding women. Currently there is a big variety of brands that provide keratin treatment, which allows women to choose different options, including the level of chemical composition and wide price range.

What does it do?

The first and main objective of keratin treatment is to improve the structure of damaged hair, make it easier to style (without using hot air or flat iron), bring shine and less fizz. Unfortunately, if you want this popular "keratin straightening magic" you should pick the brand which uses formaldehyde or glyoxylic acid, because keratin itself is not a straightening agent. However, do not be scared of this weird chemical term, although it is not good for health but the dosage you breathe in during the procedure is not dramatic and if you are okay with strong smells and ready to tear up for a couple of hours - you may try it (although it is important for you to check that the room where the treatment is going to take place has a proper air-ventilation system).



How is the treatment carried out?

First, hair is washed with special shampoo and no conditioner. Then, there is a blow-dry with cold air until approximately 80% of your hair is dry. After this, the product is applied from the top to the bottom of the head and the hair is getting combed. When that part is done, the client has to wait for about 15-20 minutes for it to process. And now, [surprise!] the hair is not washed and the product is actually being blow-dried into the hair. The next step is the longest and this is when the strong smell occurs, from the vapors of the product. The hair is divided in four parts, each part in small sections of about 1 to 2 cm. Using the ceramic flat iron preheated for at least 240 degrees C, each section is worked from the root 7-8 times, until no visible product left. Continuing this, the hair is washed with a special serum to lock the treatment in and remove the excess product.

Please, note, that if you choose the cheaper product, you might be asked not to wash hair for 3 days, so speak with your master before doing the treatment, in order to be prepared.

How long does it last?

the product and original hair condition.



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The visible result is present for about 4-5 months, but this depends on



HAIR BOTOX

The hair Botox procedure does not actually contain the ingredient of botulinum toxin, which is the main ingredient of Botox. Instead, its name is based on how the product works. Just like Botox works by relaxing the muscles and smoothing skin, "hair Botox" works by filling in individual fibers of hair to help give it fullness and make it smooth.

What does it do?

The main goal of this treatment is to recover the original hair structure. Not to be confused, this procedure does not straighten curly hair. It makes hair soft and silky, and looking healthy. The therapy also nourishes the scalp and helps fight dandruff and hair loss.



How is the treatment carried out?

Similar to keratin therapy, the first step is to wash the hair with a special clarifying shampoo and without any conditioner. Subsequently, the hair is blow-dried with cold-medium heat until 80% of hair is dry. Then the hair is divided in four parts, and a mixture is applied and combed through the hair. Once all the hair is covered with the product, the treatment is left for 45 minutes (time may vary depending on hair texture). When the time is up, it is blow-dried with hot air or using a thermal cap which helps the product to get deeper. Some stylists prefer to rinse hair before the last step and some just move right to it. So, at the final phase the hair is blow-dried with the brush and then straightened with preheated to 230 degrees C flat-iron to seal the treatment. The temperature is somewhat less for bleached hair.



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How long does it last?

Even though the result is visible immediately after the procedure, it lasts less than keratin treatment, for about 1-2 months.

So, all in all, if you are seeking a solution for curly, fizzy hair, we suggest choosing keratin treatment, as it provides a straightening result in addition to split ends reduction. On the other hand, if you are happy with the original structure of your hair but it looks unhealthy, lacks shine, then you should try hair botox, which is basically a "deep conditioning" procedure, to make hair softer and more elastic.

P.S. Before applying any product on your hair, please make sure to test it for any possible allergic reactions. Good Luck!



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Handmade Greek wedding dresses with tradition



A Stroll with Atelier Zolotas

In the most picturesque Greek neighborhood

by Angeliki Kontakioti

Under the shadow of the Acropolis, in the heart of Athens, lies Plaka. It is one of the most picturesque Greek neighborhoods with a unique architectural character that captures your heart during the very first stroll... A historical part of the old city, where the past meets the present and the Hellenic spirit is alive!



thrills.

About Atelier Zolotas

Amongst all the wedding couture houses Atelier *Zolotas carries the most unique heritage that no one* can imitate. Everything that happens here is true, it comes through the heart, through the need for intense

Zolotas is a global brand. Atelier Zolotas Greece, Zolotas Australia and Zolotas Baltic www.atelierzolotas.com facebook.com/atelierzolotas @atelierzolotas All photos belong to Atelier Zolotas



Every street and every corner has a hidden charm and its own story, found in its glorious past! A story closely connected to the spirit of the handmade wedding dresses by Atelier Zolotas bridal house, that draws inspiration from the Hellenic heritage.

We took a walk with Paulina Niarchou in this beautiful district, where Ioanna Sarri -an authentic Greek beauty- was dressed in the bridal tones, of white and ivory, in -not one but- four gowns from the Hellenic Vintage collection!



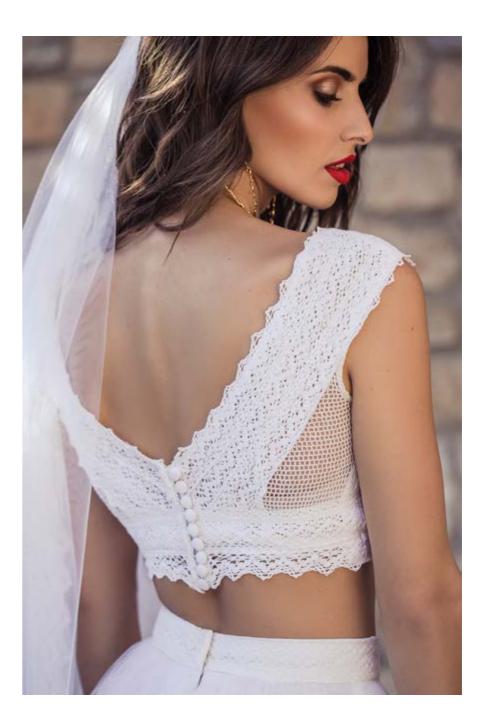


You might be attracted by the breezy flow of the "locaste dress", whose organic fabrics look as if they are breathing.

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Equally alluring, a pure white crop top combination of the "Theoni Top" and the "Erato skirt" is made for bright, sunny days.

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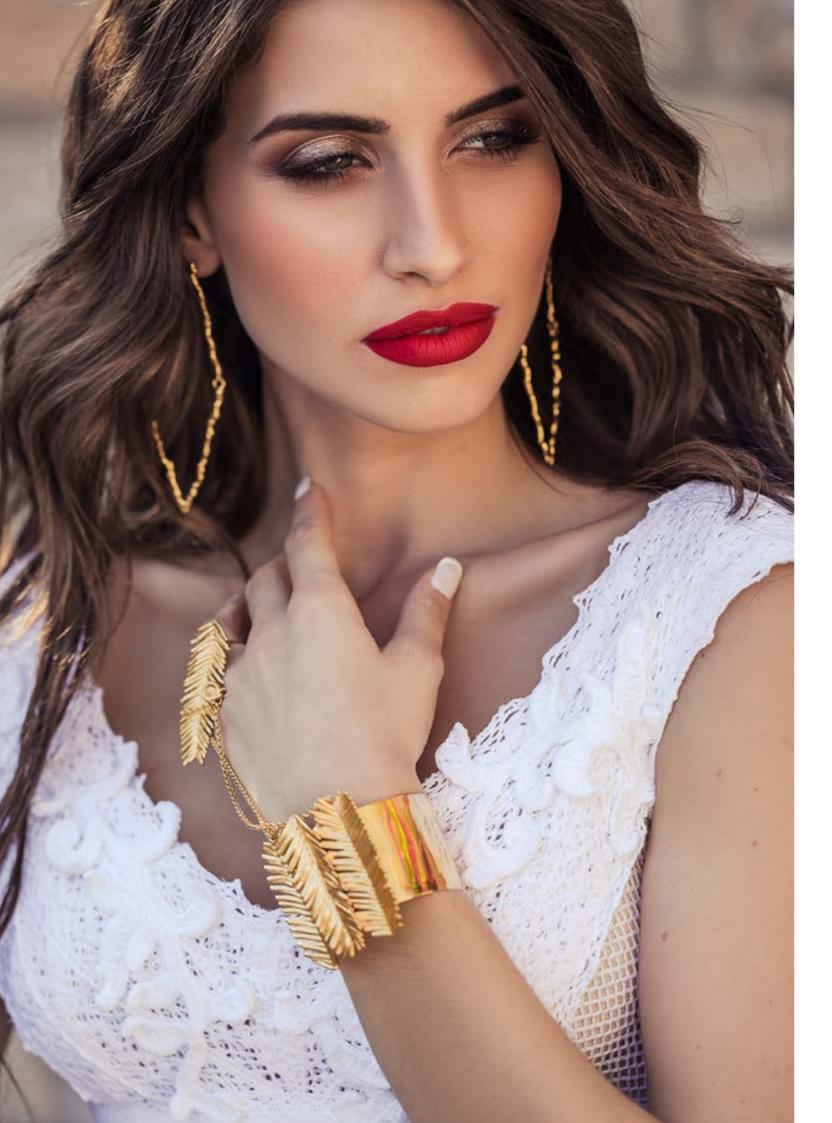
"Cybele's" elegant yet revealing transparency is hard to forget.

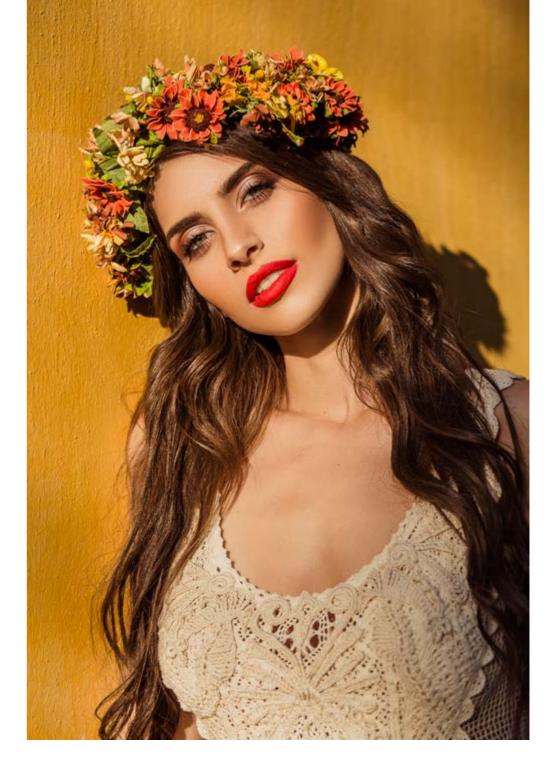


If you love a mermaid dress, you might find your wedding dress in "Akantha"!

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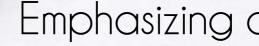


Each gown is gracefully embroidered in crochet by hand. As for the styling, we will let you be in two minds whether to choose the stunning golden jewelry by Thallo, or a colorful flower crown!

Could you think of a better place to express the philosophy behind the birth of the Hellenic Vintage collection than this colorful neighborhood?

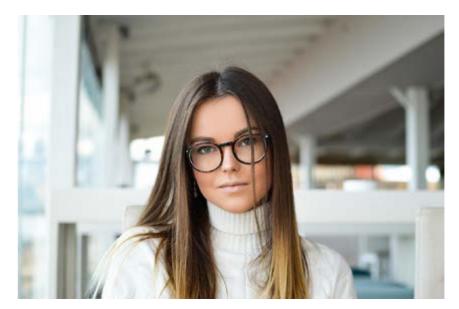
Vendor Credits: Photography: Pauline Niarchou Photography Wedding Dresses: Atelier Zolotas Hairstyling: Giorgos Sazeidis Make Up Artist: Katemeup Jewelry: Thallo Model: Ioanna Sarri Flower Crown: Atelier Zolotas

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by Tamara Bellis

Spring is the perfect time to plan the upcoming summer wedding celebration. The proper wedding consists of lots of little details, which are brought to perfection. So, let's have a look at the hottest wedding trends you should expect to see from wedding organizers and designers.



AL.



Emphasizing on Wedding Details

About the author:

Tamara Bellis, influencer and founder of the fashion & lifestyle blog Shiny Honey. The blog became the leader of street fashion platforms in Greece and covers everything from life in the Greek island Corfu to the hottest trends of the season. Tamara's pictures have been recognized around the world and featured in magazines like Forbes, Cosmopolitan, Elle, L'Officiel, Line Today, Insider and many more. shinyhoney.com facebook.com/shinyhoneyblog @tamarabellis

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1.

BLACK ACCENTS

Little by little people get tired of gentle pastel and creamy tones. The bravest grooms and brides bring the wedding palette to a new level with a small amount of pompous black.









HATS

High beige hats for him and for her will be the hottest accessory for young and stylish couples. Many amazing examples of this trend are already shared on Instagram profiles of newly wed fashion bloggers. The "hat wave" is coming and we are ready for it.

4.

BACK TO THE OLD TIMES

To add the detail, which reminds the guests of how important the event is, means a lot. It can be vintage postcards, antique invitations or even old pictures of the family. Through these details we emphasize on the heritage of the married couple and bring the different generations together.

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3

HAIR ACCESSORIES

The rule is to keep it unexpected. The feminism trend has its comeback and brings new ideas to woman's mind. Through it they show their strength in everything, even in how they style their hair. Keeping it strict, messy or glam – it's up to the women.



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It is expected for a man to wear an exquisite suit at the wedding. However, wedding fashion week proposes that there is a place for one more suit at the ceremony. This is way, the bride can keep it extremely trendy and wear a "snow-white" one shoulder model, or even style it with a huge bow.

> 6. LESS GUESTS

Millennials are all about comfort. More and more of Millennial couples are getting married nowadays, a lot of brides and grooms try to keep it more personal, silent and calm. Not a big crowd, but good mood, high quality in every detail and a magic vibe of love.



8.

CASUAL HONEYMOON

Either it's near or far we always love to travel. Still, nowadays, we can keep it relaxed, casual and simple. Newlyweds can spend their time together, explore other places, enjoy local food and watch wonderful sunsets anywhere. It's the love between the two that will make any moment and place unique and special. After all, as in marriage, it is not so much about the destination, but about the beauty of the journey.



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7.

LIVE MUSIC BANDS

Because of the rise of Insta stories and social media, people want to keep the moment beautiful and share it with friends all over the world. They literate in what the real style and beauty is and try to keep it up. Live music, dance floor and charming lights, will transform every wedding into a joyful event of conversations and memories to keep forever.

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HANDMADE ACCESSORIES SHOES - COIFFES WEDDING CROWNS



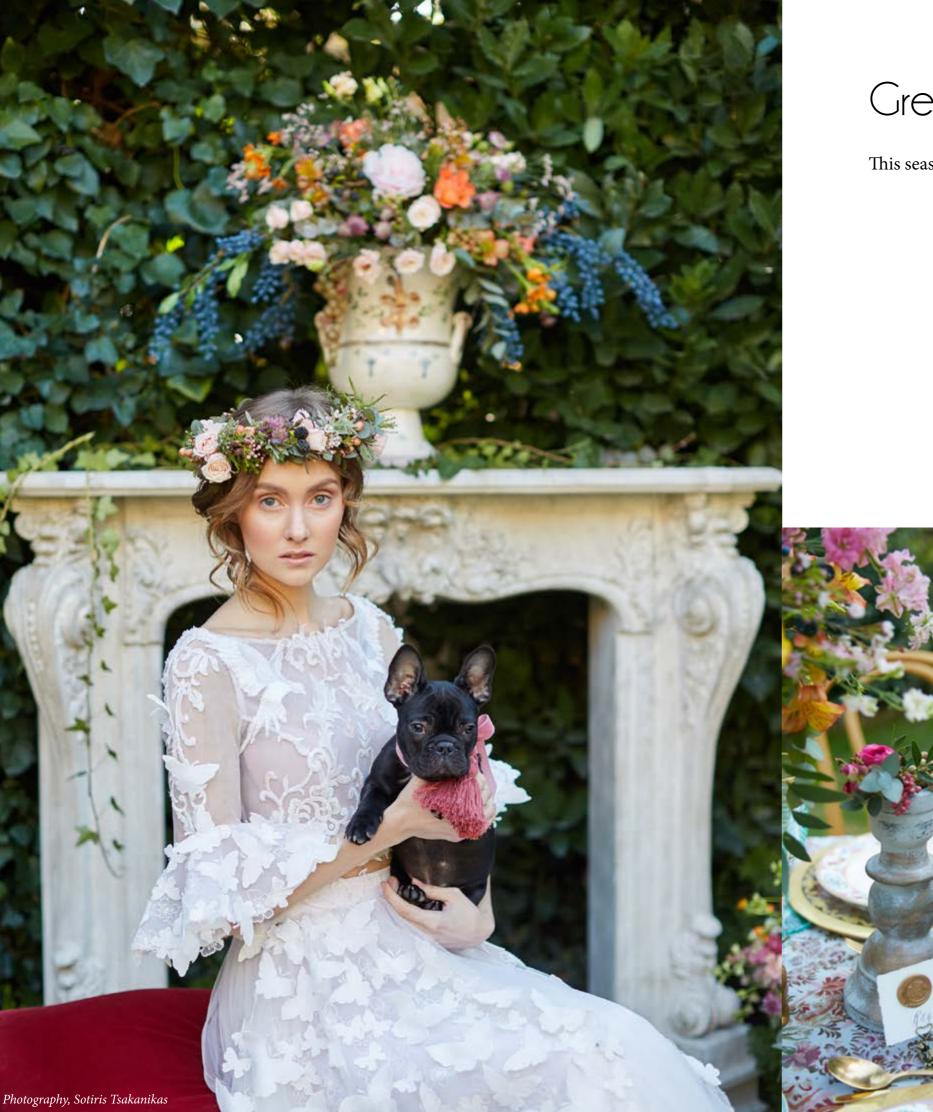
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Greek Spring Wedding Trends

This season's wedding inspirations from our shoot

Emphasize on spring time! New beginnings, more life, warm sunshine and colors all around. This year go all out with color and patterns and combine what fits together. For our first Spring2018 issue we got together some of the best professionals from Greece to create this unique Spring Secret Garden themed look for your wedding.

Pantone chose "Ultra Violet" to be the color of the year 2018. Like it or not, to be on trend in this year doesn't mean u have to go all purple or "matchymatchy". Mix it up and keep it fun for you and your guests. Keep them interacting with your décor and above all make sure your event will be the talk of the town! Give your guest that "Insta" material they won't forget! And not only for stories, make sure to get on the feed!

Encourage different styles. From Tuscany to Mediterranean and all the way to the secret garden behind your house. Keep your event small and private



and go all out with décor, food and entertainment. Invite people that matter to you and make them feel special in your unique setting. Transform your garden, parents' house and even your rented villa or venue into your secret sanctuary which you want to share only with your loved ones. Don't hold back on the photographer and make sure you get the one that speaks to your taste and needs. Remember, a great photo will last forever! After the day is over, only your amazing photos will live forever online, digital and in print. See more of our beautiful photos on page 102.

Credits: Photography, Sotiris Tsakanikas Event Planning & Design, Only for You Events Floral Design, Studio 7 Florescence Tableware & Rentals, White Lilac *Rentals, Style Box* Invitations & Stationery, Atelier Invitations Model, ACE Models Hair & Make up Styling, Marios Stavropoulos Dress, Made Bride Cake & Sweets, Maria's Cakes and Cookies 47 ellived *See full credits on page 15*



The stationery

All stationery was designed by Atelier Invitations. Thank-you cards, save the dates, invitations, menus, name cards and even personalized floral cards were all made in peach and burgundy hues with golden accents and wax seals, which corelated with the rest of the theme.

The bridal bouquet

Studio 7 Florescence hand crafted all floral arrangements as well as this beautiful spring inspired bridal bouquet following the new trending flowy ikebana style with a variety of colorful flowers and greens. From Ranunculus to a simple Rose and local delicate wild flowers. The objective here, was more color, less greens.









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Cake and sweets

On point with the theme of Springtime and The Secret Garden, our cake was completely covered in sugar art. Maria's Cakes and Cookies created all the sweets with little details like sugar butterflies, leaves and roses. The rest of the sweets like meringue, cupcakes, macaroons and eclairs were all designed in the same, luxe Tuscan-style theme





The dress





The table

A remarkable table with a spectacular colorful velvet tablecloth, full of patterns, candles and even miniature animals was set up by Anjie and her team. All rentals from White Lilac and Style Box filled the table with lavish sets of dinnerware and other components like these selected chairs. Each chair was decorated with floral wreaths by Studio 7 Florescence, who also created all floral centerpieces, which harmoniously corresponded with the overall luxe table setting. To complete the look, Atelier Invitations crafted their signature stationery with place cards, personalized menus and table numbers all thoughtfully designed to fit the theme of the day.







The location and the overall design

Embrace nature, think of your selected venue. In our case this was a private villa with a true secret backyard, hidden in the middle of the cement jungle in Athens. This venue was perfect for our "Secret Garden" themed editorial with its own glass winter garden gazebo, a picturesque shed, with greenery, orange and almond trees, bushes and flowers fresh in bloom.

The overall styling, design and planning was carefully thought out by Anjie from Only for You Events. She carefully selected all the décor and the rentals from Style Box and White Lilac, which were vital parts in transforming the everyday garden into the perfect scene that coordinated with our theme.

Spring is the perfect time to include your pets in your wedding photos. Get more life to your photos and pose with dogs, bunnies and even ducks.











2018 Hot Picks with Kylie Carlson

Expert's advice

by Kylie Carlson

As, we believe that every wedding professional must stay on top what's in and what's out, we also believe, every bride should as well. But don't worry, no need for an extensive research! We got you covered! This issue of Ellwed is full of this year's inspiration which is trending now!

International Wedding Trend Report for 2018 is finally out! Brought to you by the Academy of Wedding and Event Planning with Kylie Carlson, who, in her professional opinion, gave us her best picks for this year's wedding scene.

To read the full report got to weddingacademyglobal.com



Passionate Elegant Photography



About the author: Kylie Carlson is the owner of the International Academy of Wedding and Event Planning. With six locations globally, the academy boasts an internationally recognized accreditation program that brings professional training to wedding planners, designers and stylists. www.weddingacademyglobal.com facebook.com/WeddingAcademyLive @WeddingAcademyLive

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Andrea Harborne Photography



Nouveau Art Deco

Move aside mid-century modern. Bold, geometric shapes are back with a 1920's style mix of minimalism and Art Deco. Bars and restaurants have already begun to incorporate the retro glam mood and now it's time to bring the look fully into weddings. In 2018, you'll see black and white marble paired together, velvet tuxedo couches, and retro prints with a contemporary twist.

Andrea Harborne Photography



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Michelle Ramirez Photography

Jewel Toned Velvet

Velvet has hit the wedding scene with a big, glamorous bang. When it comes to velvet in 2018, it's all vibrant jewel tones like emerald, ruby, amethyst and sapphire. This look is surprisingly versatile, adding a dose of glamour to more minimalist spaces and a textural counterpoint to more organic ones.





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Spring Wedding Trends of This Year

Expert's advice

by Vasso Vantali

A wedding and the general aesthetic of it should feel unique, specific to the couple's wishes and dreams for their special day. Even if the style that you would like to follow through is not actually "trendy" we strongly advise you to "go for it" as it is your dream and one should have only elements that they love.

However, if you are one of those brides that really want your wedding to match the time trends, have a look at a few things that you can incorporate in your upcoming spring wedding!



About the author: and Martha Stewart Weddings blog. www.mbwevents.gr facebook.com/MyBestWishesEvents @mbw_events

Vasso Vantali s the founder and designer at My Best Wishes Events, wedding planning agency in Greece for those desiring an event that is beyond the ordinary. Her weddings have been published in multiple publications and blogs such as UKs No 1 wedding magazine by Condenast, Brides Magazine



Spring is the season of colours! The season of scents and aromas deriving from the blooming nature! What is more trendy than colour and sweetness for your special day?

Watching closely the recent fashion runways in Paris and New York, we adored the non- white wedding dresses! Pinks, mint, light blues, violet, and ethereal laces stole our hearts and will definitely steal yours too! We also spotted those lovely "bell" sleeves and some avid capes that we would love to see our brides walk down the aisle wearing them!



Spring equals flowers! Tis the season to be..."bloomed away"







Anna Roussos Photography, Dress, Mairi Mparola

The market is making a turn to "farmer-florists", which blend locally grown flowers into non-traditional floral arrangements. This spring, we expect to see more garden flower arrangements in your weddings, such as sweet peas, dahlias, zinnias, marigolds, violets, chrysanthemums, freesias, foraged wildflowers assorted with old time precious peonies and garden roses in less fussy and simpler arrangements.



Your wedding cake can follow the spring trend also! Have a look at those "flowerfetti" cakes, where edible flower petals scattered like confetti, take the place of sprinkles and bring a colorful, festive breeze to your wedding.





Spring vivid colors ask for statement set ups! When it comes to art de la table, this spring, do not be afraid to mix & match colorful tableware and create a homey ambiance for your special day. Provincial plates, colorful goblet glasses, silver old fashion cutlery can set the tone for a unique table set up!

Last, but not least, the biggest trend of this spring should be you! Dear brides, take a breath, put on your best shiny smile and walk down the aisle to meet the love of your life!





Elwed's Moodboard

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Trending color of the year

by Sanya Percic



Color of the Year 2018 PANTONE

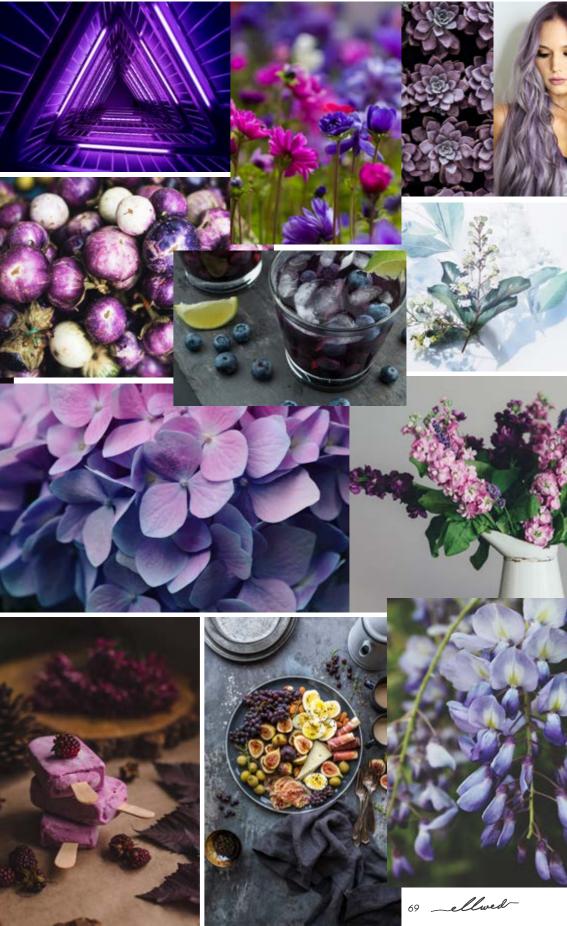
Ultra Violet 18-3838

"Ultra Víolet" of the year

For 2018 Panotne choose another color, "Ultra Violet", which perfectly tones with last year's "Greenery". You may or may not be a fan of this one. But we urge you to keep an open mind, explore all colors. There are numerous ways to incorporate this color in your wedding décor and still make it look impressive! Take some ideas from our mood board and then check out the Jewel toned wedding on page 118.









A dramatically provocative and thoughtful purple shade.

INTRODUCING

EXPLORE ULTRA VIOLET >

photo from pantone.com

Destination Wedding Singer Interview

with Renee Anderson of Tobi Music



estination weddings really do have a special place in my heart though, I think because I get to know the

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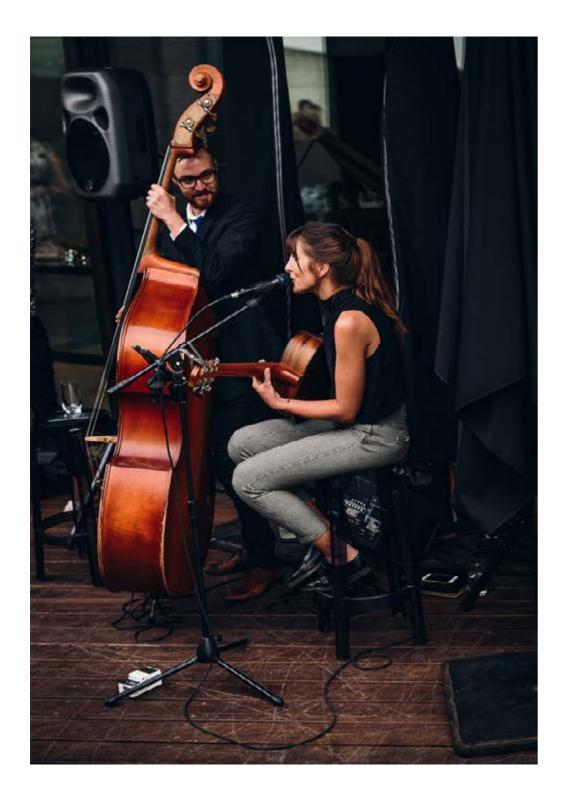
Hi Renee, we are so excited to have this interview with you. When we first saw that this summer of 2018 you are coming to Europe, we knew right away that we must do this interview with you.

So brides, planners, photographers, make sure to read this interview, to get to know Renee and see how she can make your wedding ceremony unforgettable.

Find Tobi Music here: www.tobimusic.com.au YouTube @tobimusiclive

Credits: Music, Tobi Music Video, Francis Olalia | Film Maker Photography, Lost In Love Photography Flowers , Arnie Way Flowers in a Vase

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Can you tell us more about your story, your beginning in the industry and your life as a creative musician, singer and songwriter?

Well, I guess I started music altogether as a songwriter! I love writing lyrics! I use them to sort out my own life and the process of songwriting has helped me through some pretty rough moments. I had a singing teacher back when I started writing who told me that if I wanted to be a song writer I would need to learn an instrument, which sounded right to me, I didn't want to rely on anyone too much. So, I started playing guitar. To practice, I would sing covers at pubs and bars and restaurants, gosh when I first started I was dying with nerves. Then, I signed to Universal records and they flew me to Los Angeles to cut a record. I did, but no one, including myself was happy with it. So, I started an original band with my now husband Jamie. We still have our band, which is called "Private Life" and our latest single is called "Lost Boy". Playing at weddings happened so organically, a few people asked me, they told their friends, and then it all spiraled from there.

We can't believe you come all the way from Australia to sing and play at weddings all over Europe. How did it come to this? Why Europe?

In 2016 we honeymooned in Italy, France and Slovenia and we LOVED IT, since we love travelling around the world, meeting new people. One night at a very cold Melbourne wedding, Lost in Love photography were telling us how they travelled around Europe taking photos during the Australian winter. I personally hate winter, so this sounded GREAT TO ME! They recommended us to a few of their brides and Katie Grant did too and four couples booked us to play at their wonderful weddings, so off we were on a truly wonderful adventure around Italy. When we arrived back home we decided we should definitely do this every single year forever!

What is the one thing that drives you in your line of work and where do you find inspiration for your projects?

Oh, I love making couples happy. It is so nice to receive glowing emails back in the days after. My favorite moments are definitely as the bride walks down the aisle and the first dances. Nothing beats live music at a ceremony and I would highly recommend it. If you have the right musicians, it can all work so seamlessly and add a beautiful vibe to the overall air.

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Tobi Music is a duet, right? Can you talk a bit more about that?

Yes we are, my duet partner is my husband, he plays double bass and I play guitar and sing.

Do you only perform for ceremonies well?

For weddings that are not in Australia unfortunately yes, we are only hirable as a duo. Usually we play the ceremony, canapes and then a DJ will come on after, but every couple is different sometimes they like us to continue for a bit over dinner and also play their first dance. We love all of it.



Do you only perform for ceremonies or can a couple hire you as their main band as

I am sure some brides will want to hear you sing, which they can do on our YouTube channel. But, how would you describe your music?

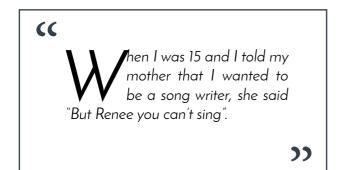
Well, romantic for sure! I think we are very adaptable to the couple. Some couples are having a great Gatsby theme so we can play mostly Jazz. Some couples like folk music, so we can play Mumford & Sons and The Paper Kites. Other couples want a wide variety of music so we can play everything from Beyoncé to Johnny Cash. Chilled or up-tempo or a mix, we can usually gauge this from the couple's personality and the songs they love. Furthermore, we play things slightly different anyway, so it's all fun to us!

Singing seems to come so natural to you. Is that something you always wanted to do?

That is very lovely of you to say, but I do not think anything comes naturally to me. I try really hard when I want something and then hope for the best. When I was 15 and I told my mother that I wanted to be a song writer, she said "But Renee you can't sing". I said, but I don't need to sing to be a songwriter. Now I sing all the time!

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Trends in the wedding industry are changing from year to year. In the last decade we saw many couples simply hiring a DJ. Although lately more couples want to have that personal experience when it comes to their wedding. Others, want a special event and entertain their guests in different ways. Would you say that hiring a live wedding band is becoming more popular?

I think both hiring a DJ or a live band have their advantages, but I believe that having live music during your ceremony is a MUST, as it makes things much more magical. There is something about live music that contributes to the atmosphere and I think later in the night, both a DJ and a Band can be really great. Couples should not follow trends they should follow their hearts!

How do you think hiring a live band/singer such as yourself, elevates and changes the wedding experience for the couple and their guests?

I guess for a ceremony in particular, I can slow things down vocally and on guitar so much that everything is soft and delicate like little snowflakes floating in a bright sky. I can feel the warmth coming from myself because I WANT this moment to be the most wonderful thing and for the bride to remember it forever. I really give those moments my all. I can also repeat verses so the bride walks down on the chorus and I slowly fade out a few seconds after she has reached her other half. It's a thousand times nicer than a celebrant fussing with her phone and her speaker to try and get the song to play and to stop nicely. Live music at a ceremony is a MUST HAVE.

What would you suggest to brides that cannot decide between a live singing or a DJ?

This is a really good question. I think if a couple find a band that makes them feel great. That means, that it lifts the energy and everyone around seems happy then hire that band. If you are a person who likes to hear songs EXACTLY how they are on the radio, then you might be better with a DJ. If you hire Tobi, we suggest having us for the start of the evening, where everything is lovely and chill and a DJ for when everyone has had a few drinks and they can bring the party to another level.

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Since you have been singing at weddings for some time now, we are sure you have encountered some challenges. What was the most difficult thing/event you had to overcome?

Well, a few years ago I had some issues with my vocal chords, which was hard to overcome. Thankfully, I have never had to cancel a wedding! I would hate to let a bride down!

Before deciding on a vendor, couples like to do some research first. What advice would you give them before they decide on a wedding singer?

I suppose you should look for something special that suits you! If you want variety, then try to find some clips of the singer performing in a few different styles.

Is there one question that almost every couple asks you about their wedding? And what is usually your answer?

"Can you learn this song for me?"! And, YES, yes I would love too! I will be honest if I don't think I can do it very well but thankfully I can perform a lot of different styles so this does not happen much.

As a destination singer, how would you say destination weddings are different from regular, home weddings?

I must admit, that I have the biggest crush on destination weddings and there are SO MANY REASONS WHY they rock. I would think somewhere like Greece, a destination wedding would be just fab but anyway here is why:

- Only your closest people come, the ones you REALLY want there and REALLY care about, thus you don't waste hundreds of hours talking to people you had to invite because they are your fathers work pals.

- Guests don't just stay for one night and leave, they stay for a week or at least a few days, you build this community and this shared sense of being together for love and celebration. Your friends meet your other friends at the beach pre-wedding and everyone is happy, everyone is relaxed, and there is only JOY to be had!

- NO ONE HAS BEEN TO YOUR VENUE. I mean seriously if one of your guests has been to the venue or church or restaurant you choose then that is definitely weird

and you should push that friend off a balcony! Yes, I am obviously joking, but seriously how magical is it that you get to be the excuse to go to an amazing place and go on a wicked holiday. Your wedding will be in their memory FOREVER and that is just wonderful, isn't it?



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Do you have a favorite wedding? Can you describe it and tell us why it is your favorite?

I can't answer that question because I really do like them all. Destination weddings really do have a special place in my heart though, I think because I get to know the brides more - there is more to talk about the logistics and all, and because of that they become sort of friends. Honestly, I still chat to most of my destination brides every now and again because I really do miss them.

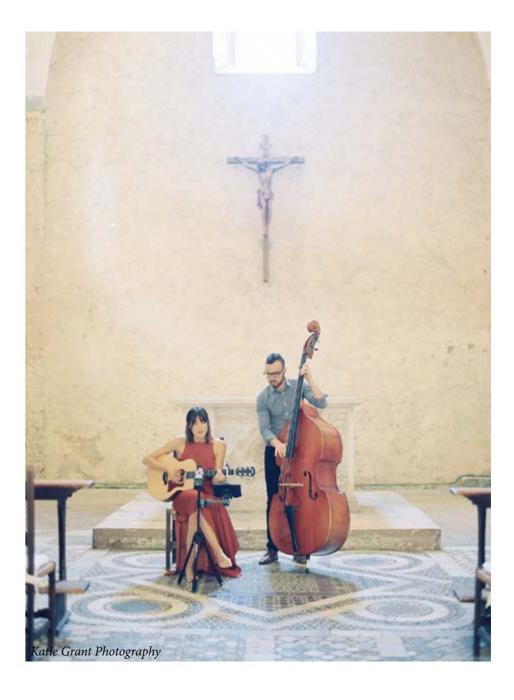
Can you describe your process, when someone books you for a wedding?

The bride or groom reaches out and tells me what they are after, what kind of music they like and where they can see us playing on the day. We like to give our advice as to what we think would work best with the layout of their day and we discuss our destination wedding pricing. Then the couple say if they want to book us and we arrange everything, as we would love to be part of it!

This June-July you will be touring Greece and Italy. How can couples book you? Where can they find you?

YES, we have a wedding booked in the south of France late July and Italy mid-July but there are still plenty of weeks in June and the start of July that are open and we would love to be a part of as many weddings as possible. I would say the best place to start is our Instagram, where the couple can see heaps of live clips, search - tobimusiclive. Then our web site www.tobimusic.com.au or just email us at info@tobimusic.com.au.





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Party and Co. Tips for the Day

Get to know my brand

by Valia Kanellou

Planning a wedding requires multiple stages and to have that special wedding of your dreams, you should cover all the parts and components of the event. One major component is your stationary. Valia Kanellou from Party and Co. will in this article, guide you through the perfect planning process form the very first stage.

Party and Co. was founded in 2013 and is located in Athens, Greece. Our design studio can provide you with creative, inspirational, imaginative, innovative ideas that will give a cohesive look and flow to your party. We can design a whole range of products especially fitted to the theme of your selection. If you have your own thoughts and ideas we'd love the challenge to bring them to life for you.

We look forward meeting you and to experience the pleasure of giving you and your guests a party to discuss and remember for a long time.

Get in touch: www.partyandco.com.gr facebook.com/partyandcogreece @partyandcogreece

All photos and the items were created by Party and Co. for this article.

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Tip No1.

CREATING A COHESIVE LOOK FOR YOUR WEDDING

When starting your event planning, the most important initial step is to choose a theme. Whether it's a few colors or an actual theme (like the Mystical garden or Boho Chic, for example), choose something to design your wedding around. It will be much easier to make design decisions around these colors or theme, making the entire production look cohesive. The next step is to choose an appropriate venue which fits and matches your theme. It is essential that your venue incorporates either some of the materials and/or the colors of your theme. This will help avoid having to use many additional and unnecessary extra decorative elements to achieve your desired look.

Tip No2.

VISUALIZING YOUR IDEAS

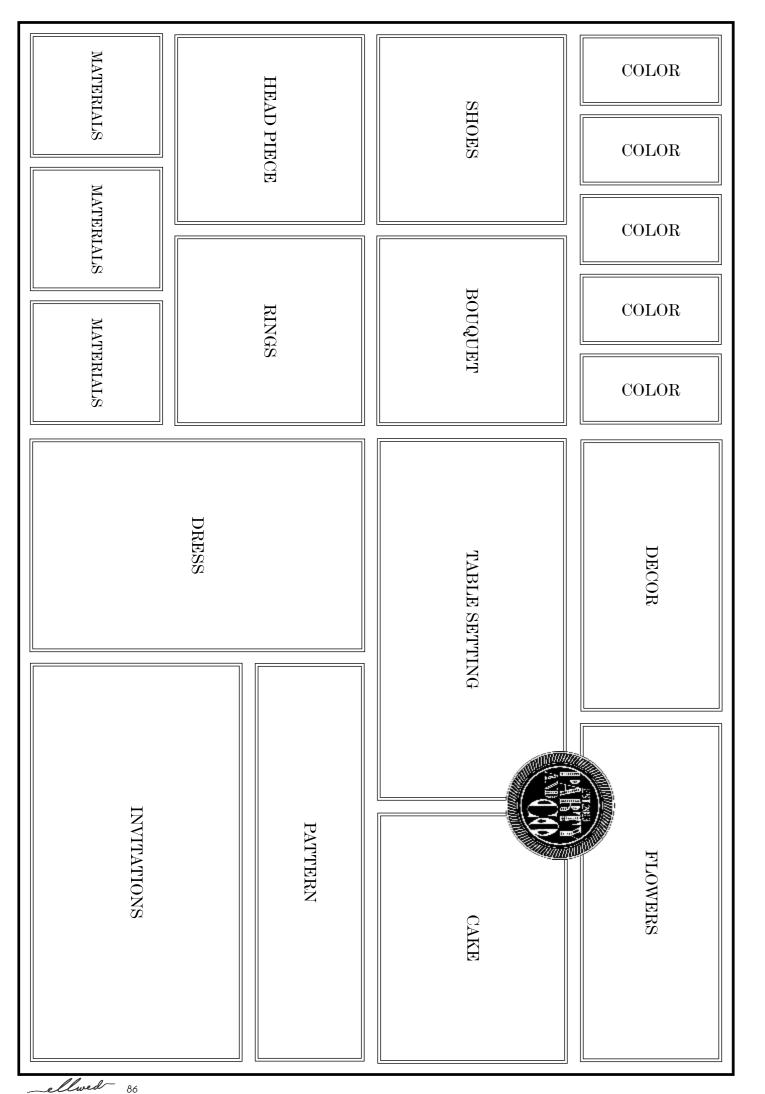
Don't overwhelm yourself with all the inspiration that's out there. Once you decide on your wedding style, try to stay focused on that. Get a good sense of the type of style you like and express it on something like a mood board. Bring your wedding mood board with you for every vendor meeting. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and that couldn't be truer here. Everybody visualizes different, and this is going to ensure everyone is on the same page. Some of the items you could include in your mood board are: Colors, patterns, materials, flowers, invitations, cake, wedding dress and any other details that can help you visualize your theme.

We have included a template in the next page, which you can download, to help you get started.



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Típ No3.

THE RIGHT PEOPLE

Choosing the right people is also a very important matter. You need a wedding planner and/or vendor that can bring your dream wedding to life. Try to choose those that share the same aesthetic sense, as yourself. When choosing vendors, do not look at just one item of a specific vendor but, try to visualize if a substantial amount of the vendor's work could be incorporated in one of your life events. A difficult task for the bride is to describe her vision in full to the people that will make it happen. It is helpful for achieving this cohesive look, to work with a limited number of people.



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Tip No4. YOUR EVENT PREVIEW

The invitation is in a sense the preview of the event. All of us have heard the importance of first impressions. The invitation is the first and only thing that will inform your guest of the style of your event. It can give them an idea of your theme and also help them understand what the appropriate dress code is. That's why we strongly believe, that the invitation should follow and be designed according to the wedding theme. An ultra-formal, traditional invite with letterpress and calligraphy will give guests a hint to the formal nature of the event, where as a modern invite with a playful font and bright colors would fit a much more casual style. Traditionally, invitations go out six to eight weeks before the wedding, that gives guests plenty of time to clear their schedules and make travel arrangements if they don't live in town. If it's a destination wedding, give guests more time and send them out at least three months ahead of time.



Most couples also send out save-the-date cards. They go out at six to eight months before the event. Save the date cards in our opinion are mostly required if you are getting married abroad or close to a holiday season. Include a map or additional information to help out of town guests find your wedding location. The same applies to destination weddings. We would recommend using an extra card to include the map and additional information, in order not to distract from the overall appeal of the invitation. Additionally, the extra card will help avoid confusing your guests and taking their attention away from any important information on the invitation. If you have chosen our scented porcelains or candles as favors, you can also request that we scent your invitations with the same perfume. It is an amazing idea, to add a specific and personalized scent to your wedding.

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FINAL IMPRESSIONS

The last impression of your wedding that your guest will have, is the favor that you have created for them. Your guests are the ones that made your event so special. They are the ones that followed you perhaps to the other side of the world to witness your joyful moments. For this reason, the favors given, are a sign of appreciation. Whatever you choose as a favor, the primary rule is to follow the theme of your event. The favor should make the guests recall, even after the passing of years, their presence at your wedding. For example, if your event was a beach wedding and you were using starfish as a distinctive feature of your decoration, you could make a starfish coaster as a favor. Your guests will immediately reminisce that day of your wedding. When designing the favor, you should always have in mind that if you want your guests to use this favor, you should avoid placing on it your full name. It is better to use a logo with your initials hidden or an element of design that was a definable part of your event. Alternatively, your name can be placed on the packaging of the favor. If you wish the favor to be kept and used by your guests, the best test is to first ask yourself, if you would keep and use such a favor.

Hope these tips were helpful. You should enjoy the whole creative process and don't hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.



Successfully plan your wedding abroad with my

Easy-To-Use Planning Guide



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Think of Your Guests as Well

Expert's advice on wedding abroad cost for your guest

by Natalie Wingrove

I know this is an area most couples are mindful of when having a wedding abroad... "what will it cost our guests to attend our wedding?"

First things first...being invited to a wedding costs money! Remember this is true whether you are having your wedding at home or abroad.

Generally, the further afield your wedding is the more expensive it will be for your guests. For example, if you decide to get married in the Caribbean, travel costs will be more expensive than if you choose to get married in a European destination such as Greece. Moreover, accommodation costs may rise if your guests choose to combine your wedding with a holiday.





About the author: Natalie Wingrove, from the Weddings Abroad Guide, author of The Secrets to Planning a Perfect Wedding Abroad, step-by-step guide, successfully planned her own wedding abroad. In order to share her experiences and offer valuable advice, hints and tips on destination weddings she has created an online community and the website weddingsabroadguide. *com for all the destination brides to be.* www.weddingsabroadguide.com facebook.com/weddingsabroadguide @weddingsabroadguide

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When planning a wedding abroad, I do think it is important to think about the cost to your guests.

If you were going to have your wedding at home, think about where it may have taken place. Would the majority of your guests have had to travel to your wedding location and spend a night in a hotel or B&B? If yes, would there be a significant cost difference between this and attending your wedding abroad? Looking for accommodations that can host larger groups, like private villas, can help cut costs and is easier to organise rather than renting individual hotel rooms.

You know your guests better than anyone so ultimately it is your decision about whether you feel comfortable asking them to come to your wedding abroad.

On this subject my advice would be:

Make your guests' experience of attending your wedding abroad outweigh the cost of attending.

As well as asking your guests to celebrate your marriage with you, sell them the additional benefits of going to a wedding abroad. Prospective guests wouldn't be human if there wasn't just a small element of "what's in it for me?" involved in their decision to attend!

Attending your wedding abroad will be a once in a lifetime event for your guests, it will be unique and unlike any wedding they have been to before. Going to your wedding may be a chance for your guests to visit a beautiful location they may not have otherwise visited. Let's face it your choice of location must be fantastic; otherwise you wouldn't have chosen to have your wedding there!

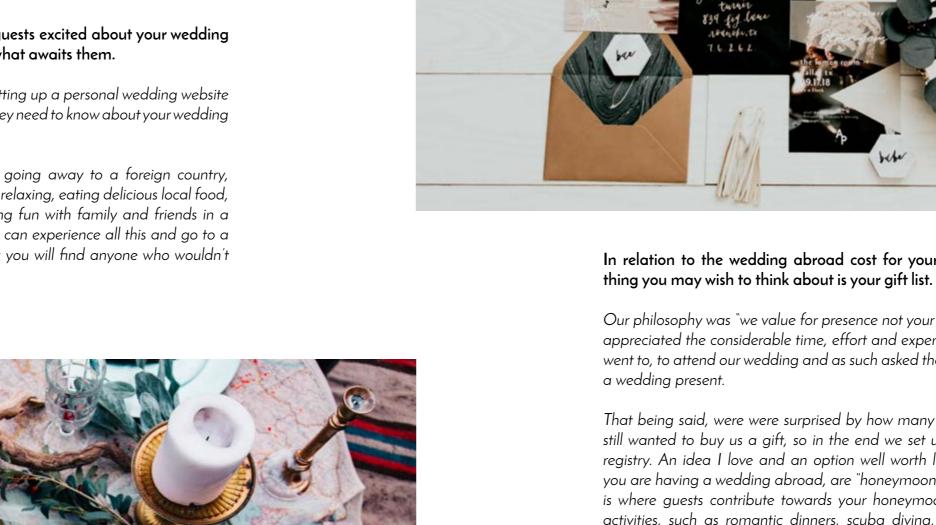


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I recommend getting your guests excited about your wedding destination, let them know what awaits them.

A great way to do this is by setting up a personal wedding website which will outline everything they need to know about your wedding and wedding destination.

There is nothing better than going away to a foreign country, sightseeing, being on holiday, relaxing, eating delicious local food, drinking local wine and having fun with family and friends in a new environment. Your guests can experience all this and go to a wedding as well! I don't think you will find anyone who wouldn't appreciate this experience.



Now, find your destination vendor through our Easy Supplier Finder.

flights, hotel rooms and transfers.

paret perelop





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In relation to the wedding abroad cost for your guests, one

Our philosophy was "we value for presence not your presents". We appreciated the considerable time, effort and expense our guests went to, to attend our wedding and as such asked them not to buy

That being said, were were surprised by how many of our guests still wanted to buy us a gift, so in the end we set up a wedding registry. An idea I love and an option well worth looking into if you are having a wedding abroad, are "honeymoon gift lists". This is where guests contribute towards your honeymoon or holiday activities, such as romantic dinners, scuba diving, upgrades to



Find Your Party Favors in Greece

Eight special brands from Greece, you can find on Instagram

Surprise your guests with amazing gifts that will forever stay in their memories. The good thing about the special gifts, is the ability to personalize them. And we don't just mean adding your initials on the gift, but to truly design something with the artist that represents both of you as a couple. Here are some designers and creatives from Greece that you can find on Instagram.





Paul Sarz Jewellery

Design your own jewelry for your wedding day or for your maid of honor with Paul Sarz. Their "conceptual approach of designs encapsulates both previous and present collections as balancing between the fine and the raw."

@paulsarzjewellery



AZ atozgreek Scorpios Mykonos



A to Z Greek Summer accessories, perfect for travels and leisure. "100% handmade in Greece. Inspired by a lazy day at the beach. Use it with love. Fill it with sun." @atozgreek

Maa Boo Swimwear

Get unique bathing suits for you and your girls. Made in Athens, where they know all about the sea and the beach.

@maabooswimwear





Caramella Naxos

You can't go wrong with sugar candy! Now you can design your own right here in Greece, with Caramella, "handmade candies n' more." So sweet! @caramella_naxos





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PURE pure_lab Athens, Greece







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mariascakesandcookies

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Enchanted Garden from Greece

Styled cover shoot

While most tourists come for the summer, or just at the end of it, not many travel during spring time. Well, this is actually our favorite time of the year. When the days are getting longer and warmer, when trees start blossoming and nature wakes up. Greece is sort of famous for their Easter celebrations, which last almost a whole week with long tradition and fireworks at the end! True, not many weddings happen in this time of the year and it is considered a low season for tourism as well. Keep that in mind and take advantage of the low season. If not for your wedding, visit Greece for the Easter Holidays. We are sure you won't regret it!

Spring is the time when the whole planet falls in love all over again. By feeling the magic of romance, we wanted to show how you can have that romantic "Italianinspired" wedding also here in Greece. First to bloom are almond trees, which were



one of the inspirations behind our shoot. The main theme was "The Secret Garden" with flourishing and vivacious nature all around. Idea behind this cover shoot was to create an enchanted garden and to show the diversity in styles and all opportunities Greece has to offer.

Team of Vendors for Ellwed Magazine Cover Shoot: Photography, Sotiris Tsakanikas Event Planning & Design, Only for You Events Floral Design, Studio 7 Florescence Tableware & Rentals, White Lilac Rentals, Style Box Invitations & Stationery, Atelier Invitations Model, ACE Models Hair & Make up Styling, Marios Stavropoulos Dress, Made Bride Jewellery & Accessories, Private Collection Cake & Sweets, Maria's Cakes and Cookies Venue, Private Villa Video, WedColors

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Anjie Georgakopoulou, from Only for You Events executed her vision to perfection with multiple scenarios around the garden, all interconnected with the same aesthetic features. The day was brought to perfection by Sotiris Tsakanikas, our photographer, with his passion and sensual approach to photography and posing. The results speak for themselves.

Studio 7 Florescence created all floral compositions from centerpieces, bridal bouquet and floral crown to the amazing hanging floral chandelier at the entrance of the venue. His creations transformed the place into a true enchanted garden.

Special rentals from White Lilac and Style Box completed Anjie's vision of those whimsical springtime moments in our secret garden. Atelier Invitations crafted tailor-made stationery and place cards that fitted flawlessly within our theme. Every detail was a vital part in creating the unique image we wished to achieve. Maria's Cakes and Cookies carefully prepared all sweets and the enchanted floral wedding cake. The floral cake was emphasized with purple, peach, green and white colors while the merengues and macaroons were decorated with gold accents and luxury floral prints on cookies.

Our bride wore a two-pieced flowy dress from Made Bride by Antonea, covered with embroidered elements of the secret garden. Hair & makeup styling was carefully executed by Marios Stavropoulos, who also took care that the look of the bride stayed flawless throughout the shoot.

The whole event was recorded by WedColors cinematography, so make sure you also see the video on our social channels.





















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Photography, Sotiris Tsakanik



Renaissance of Love

Styled Wedding in Corfu

by Karina Papadopoulos

The "Renaissance of Love" shoot was inspired by the beauty of simple life. While people make everything so complicated, they should put technology away for a while, and live a healthy life with no distractions. I think we all should be thankful for what we have.

The art of having less but enjoying our lives more, involves a few simple changes in perspective. First, we must understand where our true values lie and focus on them. Then, we must take time to enjoy the simple things, and slow down and see what is right in front of us.





Team Credits: Photographer: Karina Papadopoulos Planning and styling: Rosmarin Weddings Calligraphy/Paper Goods: November Letters Linen props: Taftyli Wedding Dresses: Christos Costarellos & Cathytelle Ring box: Soli box Shoes: Corfu Sandals *Cake: Delicious* Floral design: Leonidas Rammos Make-up Artist: Aristea Pouliasi from Greece Hair Stylist: Vaso Parginou 115 ellived













This is a story about a couple who would like to celebrate their simple life and get married once again in front of their kids. They are grateful for what they have and that the can enjoy simple pleasures.

The narrative for this editorial shoot was influenced by the beautiful and inspiring landscape of the Corfu island; rich in history and blessed with the most spectacular views. As most of the shoots in Greece are made by the seaside, I was thinking to show a different point of view.

I totally fell in love with Old Perithia, an ancient village which remains something of an enigma. The village was surrounded by vines, oak trees and thousands of sheep that roamed across the mountainside. It was a pleasure to work in Greece with all these amazing vendors.

















Jewel Tones Inspired Styled Shoot

Styled Wedding in Athens

by Samar Alkadhi

It all started last Christmas, when we first began obsessing about jewel tones as the next concept we wanted to really push the boundaries with. Having been surrounded by Christmas decorations around Athens, and rediscovering coloured ornaments – we knew we had the inspiration for our first shoot of 2017, and wanted to prove that colourful doesn't have to mean kitsch!

And so it began. Our vision was to create an opulent, extravagant, yet still classicly timeless shoot which would delight the senses rather than overwhelm them. We couldn't find any online references that truly reflected what we had in mind: so we knew that we were going for something totally unique, and we were ready for that challenge!

We called all of our most trusted partners, explained our vision, and within just 2 weeks, everything took shape, as everyone was extremely excited to create something new, fresh and inspiring.

Team Credits: Wedding Planner & Concept Creation: Crazy Diamond Venue: Island Athens Riviera Photographer: Elias Kordelakos Videographer: White on White Florist: Secret Garden *Furniture Rentals: Tore* Tableware: Creation Rentals Balloons: Balloon Art Décor Backdrop & Party Favors: Green Festival Lighted Letters: The Letter Co Stationary: Bright White Desserts: Baskit Baking Studio *Hair: Xanthi Antoniou from* Θ *Salon (Thodoris Gionis)* Dress & Veil: Stylianos Atelier Lighting: Music Essentials Shoes: Christian Louboutin Jewelry: Poniros Jewelry Dragees: Hatziayiannakis Plexiglass Accessories: KOKU Concept

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We love colours and we love elegance... ergo, jewels are a perfect combination of the two. We wanted to convey that a wedding can still be extremely chic with all kind of gems, not just the classic white diamond.

We studied different kinds of jewels and their unique hues in order to start shortlisting the colours that were included in our theme; in the end, deep sapphire, ruby red, emerald green and bright fuchsia were the ones that made our hearts beat just a little bit faster! Lately, the trend for weddings in Greece has been quite nature-oriented, but with these colours, we wanted to explore other backdrops and bolder palettes.



Elias Kordelakos is one of the best photographers in the field and we fully trusted his vision, work ethics and team spirit. Elias was instrumental not only in delivering gorgeous photos, but in working with us in problem-solving (those darn reflective mirror surface tables sure do reflect a lot!) and capturing every single detail.

ruby

PHILIP LOGAN

We chose "Sapphire" as the bridal table and wedding invitation colours, because we were just obsessed with its deep and majestic hue, which set off the purple and pink floral arrangements perfectly.















We chose "Sapphire" as the bridal table and wedding invitation colours, because we were just obsessed with its deep and majestic hue, which set off the purple and pink floral arrangements perfectly.

With jewel tones being the theme, choosing the jewellery pieces was really vital to getting everything right. The team at Poniros Exclusive Jewellery presented us with many unique pieces and we chose two amazing sets: emeralds and amethysts, and we just couldn't decide what looked better. Many opt for classic white diamonds on their wedding day, and we all know they are a woman's best friend... but we wanted to explore colour in jewelry, and how it can really complement the white from the dress and veil.



Balancing bold accessories like Creation Rentals' ruby, sapphire and emerald coloured water glasses (each placed on their respective tables), with muted main pieces such as crystal wine glasses and white porcelain plates with just a hint of gold, was the perfect way of keeping our colours classy, without being "too much" – and the gold cutlery added that extra touch of glamour.

The bridal table stood out with its "runner" breathtaking floral arrangement centerpiece running along the mirror top. The rest of the tables were decorated with the same flowers but in mirror vases: showing that a mix of smaller arrangements can be just as impressive! And the cascading bridal bouquet of mixed purple and pink hues held its own amongst the bride's show-stopping dress & jewels.

















Organic Destination Escape with Greek Tradition

Real Wedding in Rhodes

by Claudia Magas

Their wedding was planned from the very beginning as an intimate affair, with only their closest friends and family present. It was meant to be a traditional wedding with a contemporary feel. The couple combined modern with traditional, which was also evident by Hrisi's choice of a simple Greek goddess style gown by German designer Elfenkleid. George being half German has introduced Hrisito a few German speaking wedding creatives, which brought an



international aspect to the intimate setting. However, many Greek traditions were kept in place like the folk-dance group that came for the agape (the toast and drinking of wine and breaking of bread) were dressed in glorious colourful outfits, their folk costumes all handmade. It is customary in Greece, to congratulate the bride and groom by sending them off with a dance and drink.

Vendors List: Wedding Photographer, Ladies & Lord Wedding Styling, Vera Lipnik Makeup Artist, Makeup by Mika Wedding Dress, Elfenkleid

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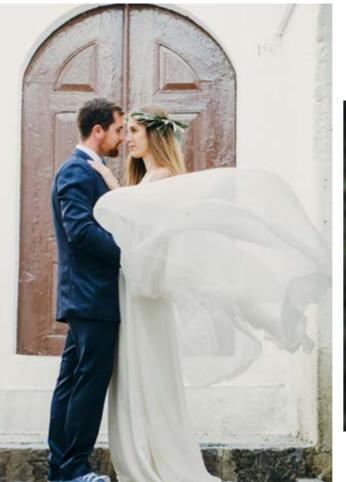




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Hrisi and George met over five years ago, in the old town of Rhodes. The center is absolutely beautiful with cobbled stone, white-washed walls and a certain magic light. It was love at first sight. They had a lot in common, but their biggest passions were their love for the island, a vintage lifestyle and a shared appreciation of good food.

The bride arrived on a donkey named Lukas, belonging to a nice American couple who live in Faliraki. It being my very first time in Greece I really wanted to make the most of it. On the first day of my trip, I found him grazing close to our hotel, so I went to the owner and asked them if it would be ok for us to use the cute donkey for the ceremony.



















Lindos.









The two bridesmaids were also styled in proper Greek goddess fashion with floating silk dresses, loose hair and touches of gold. The impeccable styling was done by Mika, one of Rhodes' best known makeup artists. She transformed the bride and her ladies into translucent beauties.

The traditional ceremony and agape took place at Prophet Amos - the old monastery on the outskirts of Faliraki town. It is only used for private prayers by the locals and on special occasions holy mass is held there. Peacocks are the "permanent residents" at the monastery and there are lots of curious birds running around; some might even let you to hand feed them. Hrisi &George were thrilled- so was I since I captured one real close. The couple gave wedding favours of honey and nuts in pretty little jars. The treats were handmade by the bride's family. Greeks have a sweet tooth and there was plenty of sweetness throughout the day! Day 2, After wedding shoot in



Elegant Greek City Fairytale

Real Wedding in Vouliagmeni

by Kyriaki Kyrkou and Mario the Groom

From Mario the Groom: The first time we met each other was outside Penn Station, on a cold, clear night in New York City in the winter of 2012. My father, whom Debbie had

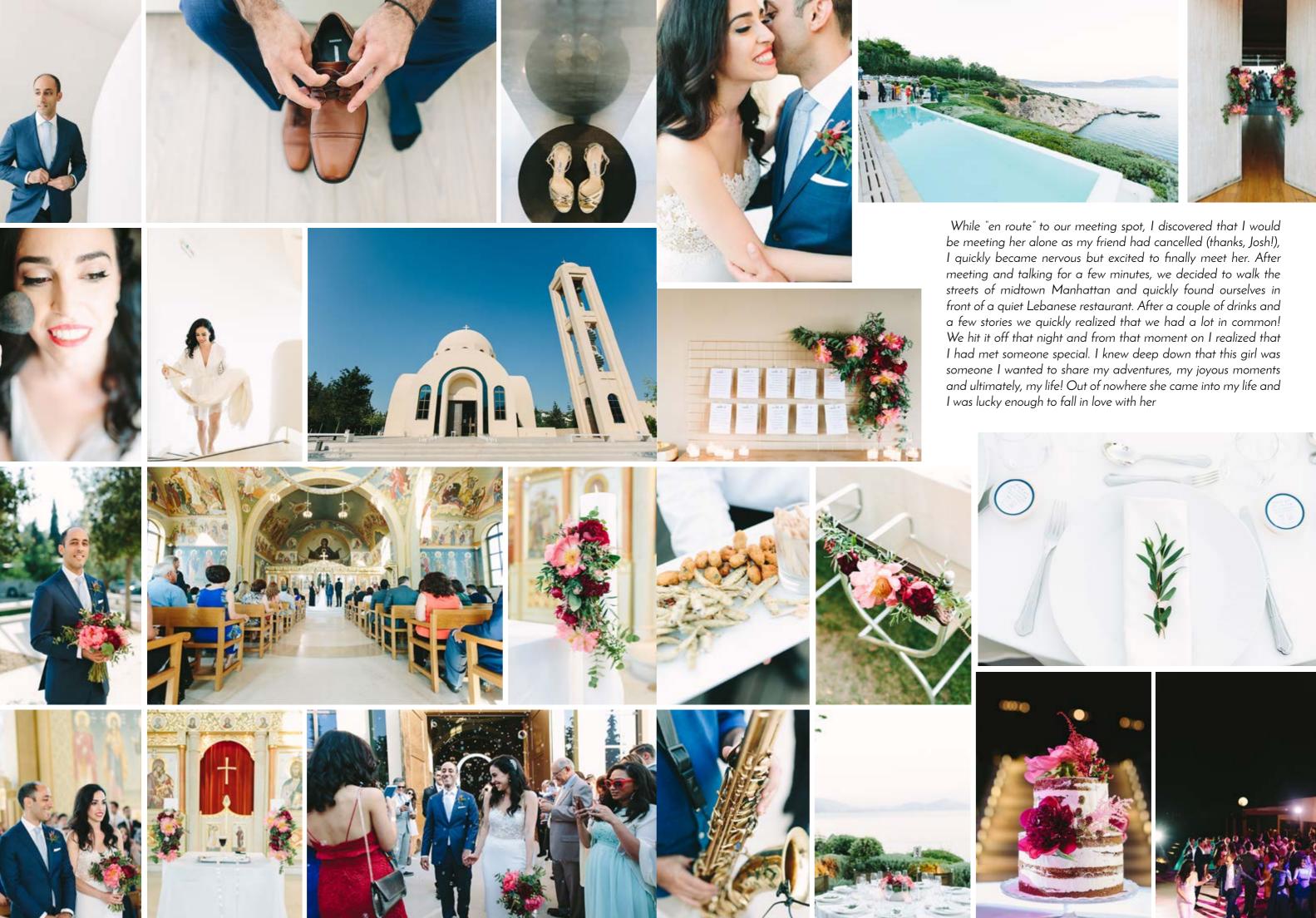




actually met for the second time in three years the summer before in Cyprus, put us in touch with each other about work related possibilities. We never met before, let alone knew what each other looked like, but agreed to finally meet (with a friend of mine) to discuss "career opportunities."

Vendors List: Wedding Planner: Exclusive Wedding Tales Photographer: Vasilis Kouroupis Wedding dress: Martina Liana Bridal shoes: Jimmy Choo Groom's Suit: Suit Supply Groom's Shoes: Johnston & Murphy Wedding rings: Hoboken Diamond Stationery and Graphic Design: Paperless Post Church: Panagia Faneromeni, vouliagmeni Venue: Private House, Island Arts and Taste Catering: Aria Fine Catering Videographer: Phosart Florals: RedBoxDays Music: Party Mobile Services Bridal Hair and Make up: Frantzeska Koukoula Make up Artist







A Prairie Elegant Wedding with a Dash of Stardust

Real Wedding in Attiki

by Anjie Georgakopoulou

From Only for You Events: I love it when romance meets fairy-tales so when Katerina and Giannis -one of the sweetest most charming people I've ever worked with- spoke to me about their wedding vision I knew their celebration would be just like they are, elegant, playful, soaked in romantic blooms and chic patterns, with the right amount of stardust. I was so thrilled to hear about the long romance story of the two high-



school sweethearts whose love soars to the moon and back. And that was how the idea of employing the glowing crescent theme was born. We created a light installation that would serve as a photo booth and set a dreamy mood as the light would fall.

Vendors List: Photography, Sotiris Tsakanikas Planning, Only for You Events Venue, Casa e Campo Estate Dress Designer, Maria Konidi

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The Casa e Campo Estate a sweet perch by the foot of Mountain Parnis evokes all the magic of Italian countryside and was guite the fit for the chic Athenian couple who already had a crush on its provincial prairie appeal. I wanted to give them both a pop of brights to contrast and bring out the neutral beauty of their ceremony and venue, so when Katerina said she loved two bold colors we conjured up the palette of fuchsias and blue close to her heart. We trimmed the entrance with cascading wisteria and added a rustic wooden welcome table teeming with place card herbariums and constellation-shaped danaling candle-holders, mason jars and hurricane-lamp candles. Although Katerina's bouquet was kept minimally chic with garden roses and bold veronicas we went big with the overall blooms to showcase the couple's exuberant character and generous disposition. Brightly colored hydrangeas, peonies all shades of bold pink and blush and tons of greenery were installed all around the venue including their church and seating. Our something blue came largely at the table decor accented with sparkling golds and pinks. There wasn't a moment I didn't enjoy in this wedding, and I was ecstatic to see their happy smiles during the whole day.





Fuchsia and blue are two colors I treasure deeply but I was uncertain whether they can be combined. Anjie assured me she would create something incredible and boy did she! She put everything together better than we could have wished for! Together we made up a gift for our lady guests, a silk printed scarf that Giannis and I always wanted to offer our friends. The handmade print matched the florals and the colors of our day and we figured it was something truly special.

She also suggested us to book with Sotiris Tsakanikas our photographer, and I couldn't be happier about this. Having done my homework, I was familiar with his work. I loved how he portrayed our happiness, how easy and trusting he was and how he helped us ease into the portraits and have fun with our photographs. I'm literally in love with every image, it was love at first click!













From the Bride: Giannis and I met at school and became a couple towards the end of our senior year. When we decided to tie the knot, my heart was already set with Anjie from Only For You. I already knew her work from a friend and browsing through her feed I knew she'd be a perfect match for us. I had a very clear idea of my needs and she was a tremendous help guiding us through the whole process of our wedding, and so did every vendor she chose for us.









I found my dress after several visits to wedding dress designers, but I chose a gown by Maria Konidi because as one vendor told me so wisely "you only need to close your eyes and the first dress you see yourself in is your gown". That was the one!







My favorite moment of the day is hard to pin down as I had so much fun during the whole day. Every moment was special, every minute mattered. Perhaps one of the most memorable ones was when we entered with Giannis and saw the faces and the smiles of all my friends and family. It's so important to have the ones you love around you!









If there is something I would advise future brides is to choose a team of creatives that understand her and make her feel comfortable, to go for whatever matches her and her groom's personalities, to not be afraid to shine. Some brides are maximal, and some go low key. What is definitely a winner, is when everything you are surrounded by speaks to your tastes and hearts. Oh, and have fun, it's a bid day and it's your day!

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Anna Roussos Photography www.annaroussos.com

LOCATION, VENUE, HONEYMOON

3 Springtime Venue Reviews

Lefkada and the Epirus Riviera

by Claire Salisbury

Lefkada remains one of Ionian's unspoiled destinations. It is an island of beautiful beaches, green mountainsides and a cosmopolitan capital of pastel coloured buildings. It is uniquely accessible from the mainland by a bridge and is ever popular with the yachting crowd as the sheltered waters and off shore islands make it a perfect sailing destination. Porto Katsiki and Egremni are amongst some of the top beaches in Greece and the island has a wealth of character in its little villages and harbours to make sure you have a true Greek island escape.

The Epirus Riviera is one of Greece's best kept secrets with two main resorts of Parga and Sivota. Parga is built in an amphitheatric style of lively colourful houses above a bustling seafront and topped by a Venetian castle. Explore white-washed streets and stairways to find tavernas, boutiques and cafes. Within easy reach of the harbour are four beaches each with their own character from tiny, secluded Piso Krioneri to the glorious, wide, stretch of sand at Valtos.

Close by, at the village of Sivota, the pace of life is tranquil, and the sunsets are stunning as the afternoon sun melts into the horizon and frames Paxos and Corfu in the distance. Sivota has a string of excellent beaches easily reachable to either side of the village and hidden in the off-shore islets.

Check out our recommendation for your wedding and honeymoon in these areas.



About the author

I have been arranging weddings for six years in Lefkada and the surrounding area. I live between England and Greece and am very fond of both for different reasons although the sun in Greece is my favourite! I love weddings, coffee, ginger biscuits, chatting with girlfriends, crafts and making things, baking and good books... and I love being a wedding planner.

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Please note that these are objective opinions of each place and are formed solely on the idea of weddings and events. The article is only supposed to contribute to the bride's decision to choose the right venue for her wedding in Greece. These reviews are meant to promote the locations and venues in Greece. The reviews are not in any way meant to discredit or slander any professionals, companies, locations or venues. ellived 142









Lefkada: Seasíde Restaurant

Lefkada's most sought after restaurant for special occasions is the wonderful Seaside. Nestled by the water's edge on the Geni Peninsular, their terrace is a charming location for your ceremony with the lush mountains as your backdrop and the sound of the water by your side. The classic white décor the restaurant offers a blank canvas for your wedding theme; from formal to beach chic. Arranged across three levels it cleverly allows your guests areas to relax and enjoy the view before dining and dancing the night away with you.

experience.

www.seaside-lefkada.com

Pros

- Cons



All Photos from Maxeen Kim Photography

Their reputation for innovative modern Greek cuisine and excellent service will ensure that your day runs smoothly, and you can give your guests a wonderful Ionian wedding

> Exclusive hire Beautiful views of sea and mountains Available for ceremony and reception Arrival by boat or road

Small to medium groups only Mid-week events only

Sívota: Agíos Níkolaos Suítes Resort

The 5* Agios Nikolaos resort is the ideal romantic escape for newlyweds. Offering you a stay in suites and rooms with contemporary design and luxury comfort that all feature panoramic sea views of the archipelago of islands in the bay. The hotel boasts its own private beach, or you can explore the numerous little beaches and coves that dot the coastline of Sivota village. Enjoy contemporary Mediterranean cuisine in their restaurant or stroll to the harbour and dine at the choice of traditional tavernas and restaurants that line the seafront.

For intimate ceremony, consider their private beach and deck so you can say I do by the sparkling blue waters of the Ionian Sea.

www.domotel.gr/hotel/6/AgiosNikolaos

Pros

- Private beach area
- Variety of suites and rooms available
- Accommodation and venue
- Mature gardens

Cons

- Events available in low season
- Small groups only













Parga: Irída Boutíque Hotel

Luxury with a view! Choose one of their nine, individually designed suites in colours inspired by the Mediterranean and step on to your balcony with breath taking views of the Ionian Sea.

Irida is a wonderful place to treat yourself to a honeymoon stay, being just a few minutes' walk from the main seafront. You will find plenty of plenty of comforts; including a delicious breakfast and new evening dining experience from summer 2018 so that you need not disturb yourself from your stylish suite or the hotel's peaceful pool side.

For small and intimate events, the top floor terrace offers an elegant space with a beautiful view for celebrating special moments.

www.iridaboutiquehotel.gr

| Pros | |
|------|--|
| - | Panoramic views |
| - | Individually designed rooms |
| - | Easy walking distance of seafront and beach |
| Cons | |
| - | Small groups only |
| - | Elevated position may not be suitable for all guests |
| | Children aver 15 varra and |

Children over 15 years only



Spring Honeymooners?

3 destinations in Greece

by Eleni Tsiapali

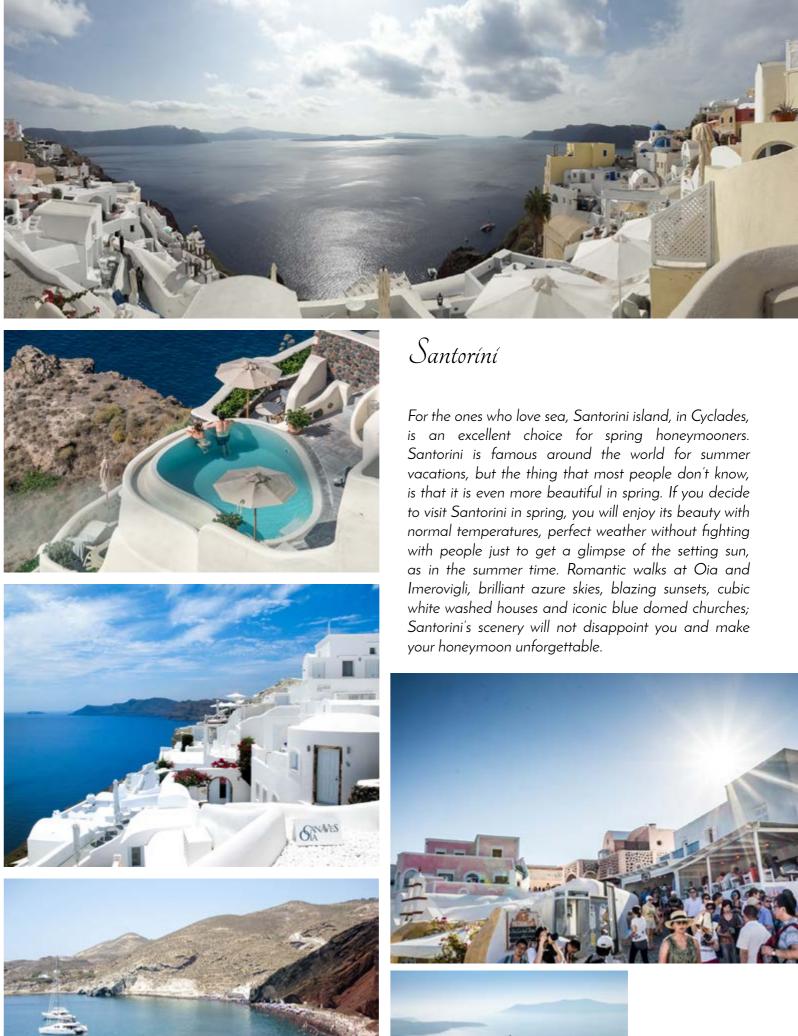
Are you getting married in spring, and you seek the perfect honeymoon destination for you and your other half? You prefer mountains, sea, or both? Well, let me make this research easier for you, by suggesting three destinations in the world's most beautiful country, Greece!



Wherever you decide to go, don't forget to have fun, smile and take a lot of pictures! Most of all, don't forget to share it with the one your heart loves!

About the author

My name is Eleni Tsiapali, I love traveling, photography, food, style and makeup. I found my new love for weddings, after all the research *I did, for my own wedding, last summer.* I 'm sharing my loves daily in my Instagram profile, and more rarely in my YouTube channel and blog. Meet me there! triantafilleni.blogspot.gr @triantafilleni YouTube: triantafilleni



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Zagorochoría

If you are a mountain type, the ideal place for you is Zagorochoria. Located in western Greece, in Epirus, Zagorochoria are a cluster of 46 villages. Immersed in pines and ferns, with many streams and rivers with scattered stone bridges, villages of Zagori will amaze you with all the local architecture. If you visit them in March, or even early April, sometimes you may see them snowed in. Is there anything better from cuddling with your beloved in front of a fireplace, at a traditional guesthouse, or swimming in a heated swimming pool in a luxurious hotel, enjoying the view of the white mountains of Pindos?





Pelíon





Ultimately, if you seek a place to combine both, mountains and sea, let me introduce you Pelion. Makrinitsa, Portaria, Milies and Tsagarada are the most traditional villages of Pelion, with grey stone roofs, elegant houses and paved paths, where you can find yourself exploring the villages, hiking and enjoying the local delicacies. Along the coastline of Pelion Greece, there are lovely seaside places to enjoy a beach walk or - if you are daring - a bath in the pure blue waters.

For Brides

Do you still have questions about your wedding in Greece? We would love to help you in any way we can. Send us your questions at submit@ellwed.com or through our socila media and we will do our best to give you an answer.

All best questions and answers will be published in the next Ellwed issue. If you can't wait till then, head over to our Bridal Community. It's free to join and we can help you right away. www.facebook.com/groups/ellwed.bridal.community

> Make sure you DON'T MISS the next issue and be the first to know.

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Share your story

We want to see your wedding in Greece!

Share your story with us and inspire other brides all over the world with your story! Send us your real wedding story at submit@ellwed.com and win best of weddings 2018!



Brides ask Ellwed

"Hi, I just got engaged and we decided to get married and later have our honeymoon in Greece. Being a proud new owner of my stunning engagement ring, I don't feel confident wearing it to the beach. I don't want to be taking it off every time, because I feel like it's a hassle and it could get lost or stolen. How can I go about that situation?" Emma

A:

That is a great question Emma, as many rings get lost in the sea while swimming. There are many different options you can do to avoid losing or damaging your ring. One and maybe the safest option is to leave your pricey engagement ring at home and get so called "place holder ring" - a cheaper ring that may or may not look like your engagement ring. Another good option is to leave it in the safe deposit box at the hotel, which depends on the hotel you choose. Greece is fairly safe country, and islands especially so. Having said that, you should always take extra care of your belongings while travelling. But if you ever feel uncomfortable in some situations, you can easily turn the diamond side inwards. Third, maybe a bit uncomfortable option, could be to get a rubber ring and put it on top to hold your rings in place while swimming.

Pros ask Ellwed

"Hello Ellwed, I'm loving your online magazine, so full of interesting and helpful information and articles. Being a new planner on a small island which is also new to destination weddings I am seeking some advice regarding ceremony venues. For ceremonies to be held and performed on beaches, in private villas, olive groves, mountain tops or restaurants/tavernas - does the venue have to have a permit / permission allowing wedding ceremonies to take place? From who is the permit / permission obtained? Many thanks in advance." Sue

A: Thank you so much Sue for reaching out! We are glad you like the magazine and we hope it helps you at your business! Also come over to our Facebook group for professionals in the wedding industry in Greece, where you can ask your questions anytime! Regarding your question, many islands or municipalities have slight variations in their rules regarding official ceremonies. Some town halls allow the ceremony on almost any location, others do not. That is why it is best you go to your local town hall or the town hall your wedding will be held at and they will give you exact information. Rethymno municipality in Crete for instance, has this well-defined. Check their site, or our Autumn2017 issue under Ceremony Reviews for the link. For symbolic ceremonies, again depends on the chosen location. Generally, it's ok to have a smaller intimate happening, like a photoshoot. Make sure to ask a local town hall or a nearby hotel, tavern, bar etc. to whom you can turn to for the permission.

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For PRO's



Upcoming Seminars

Find more seminars on our Education page at ellwed.com/education

Sotiris Tsakanikas & Gianluca Mary Adovasio present the biggest wedding photography workshop in Greece SANTORINI, GREECE April 16-20, 2018

www.thesecretowl.com



Attention all Pro's!

Do you have a usefull advice to give or a story to tell? Send us your advice for all brides to be and get featured in the next Ellwed issue. We would love to hear your advice and see your work.

submit@ellwed.com

All best stories and useful advice will be published in the next Ellwed issue. If you want to get free education and network with Pro's all over Greece and abroad, head over to our Pro's Community. It's free to join. www.facebook.com/groups/ellwed.pros.community/

> Are you hosting a seminar or educational worksop? Let us know about it & get more exposure

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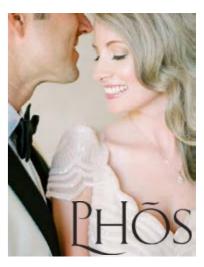


All photos from the owner's websites

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Learn all about wedding and event planning industry with International Academy Of Wedding And Event Planning at www.weddingacademyglobal.com



Caldera Workshop - International MAY 7-10, SANTORINI GREECE A workshop based on practice. For wedding photographers, cinematographers and hybrid shooters. www.calderaworkshop.com

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Upcoming Events in Athens

Metropolitan Expo

For catering, international food exhibition 10-12/3/2018 www.foodexpo.gr

MEC Peania

Beauty Greec 21-23 April 2018 www.beautygreece.gr

HellExpo

Kastoria International Fur Fair 3-6 May 2018 www.furfairkastoria.com

Greek Tarvel Show 4-6 May 2018 greektravelshow.helexpo.gr

Beauty Greec 12-14 May 2018 www.beautygreece.gr

Expo Peristeri, Athens

Beauty Festival 10-12 March 2018 www.beautyfestival.gr

A taste of Greece 10-13 May 2018 www.elladosgefsi.gr











TravelShow 2nd TRAVEL AND VACATIONS EXHIBITION

4-6/5/2018 Helexpo Moroussi - Athens

All photos fr







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Do you have a wedding, fashion or beauty related blog or business? We want to hear more. Become a guest on our

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Wedding planners

Only for You Events, www.onlyforyouevents.com Crazy Diamond, www.crazydiamond.gr Vera Lipnik, www.veralipnik.com

Florists

Studio 7 Florescence, www.studio7.gr Red Box Days, www.redboxdays.gr

Wedding photographers

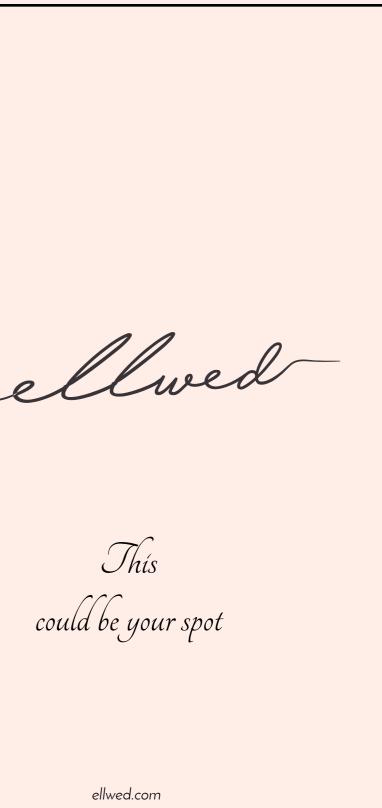
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DJs & Bands

Tobi Music, www.tobimusic.com.au Music Essentials, www.musicessentials.gr Party Mobile Services, party.net.gr

Balloons Balloon Art Décor, www.balloonsartdecor.gr

Designers

le Bride, mad Cassandra We atalie Cons ri Mpa hristos Costarellos costarellos Cathytelle, www.catl tylianos.com.gr Stylianos Atelier, Elfenkleid, www.elfenkleid.con Maria Konidi, www.maria-konidi.gr

aul Sarz Jewellery, shop.paulsarz.com oniros Jewelry, www.poniros.com

Shoes

Savrani Creations Corfu Sandals instagram.com/con Christian Louboutin, http://www.

Party Rentals

White Lilac Rentals, www.whitelilac.gr Style Box, www.stylebox.gr Tore, www.tore.gr Creation Rentals, www.creation.rentals

Zazoo, www.zazoo.gr/el Stylebox, www.stylebox.gr The Arch of Colours, facebook.com/thearchofcolours

Favors, gifts

Party and Co, www.partyandco.com.gr Soli box, instagram.com/soli_box Green Festival, www.greenfestival.gr KOKU Concept, www.kokuconcept.com

CHEERS and THANK you!

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