

SUMMER 2018
The Beauty Edition

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Expert's advice on
Choosing the Perfect
Wedding Dress

Beauty,
PRO MUA
interview

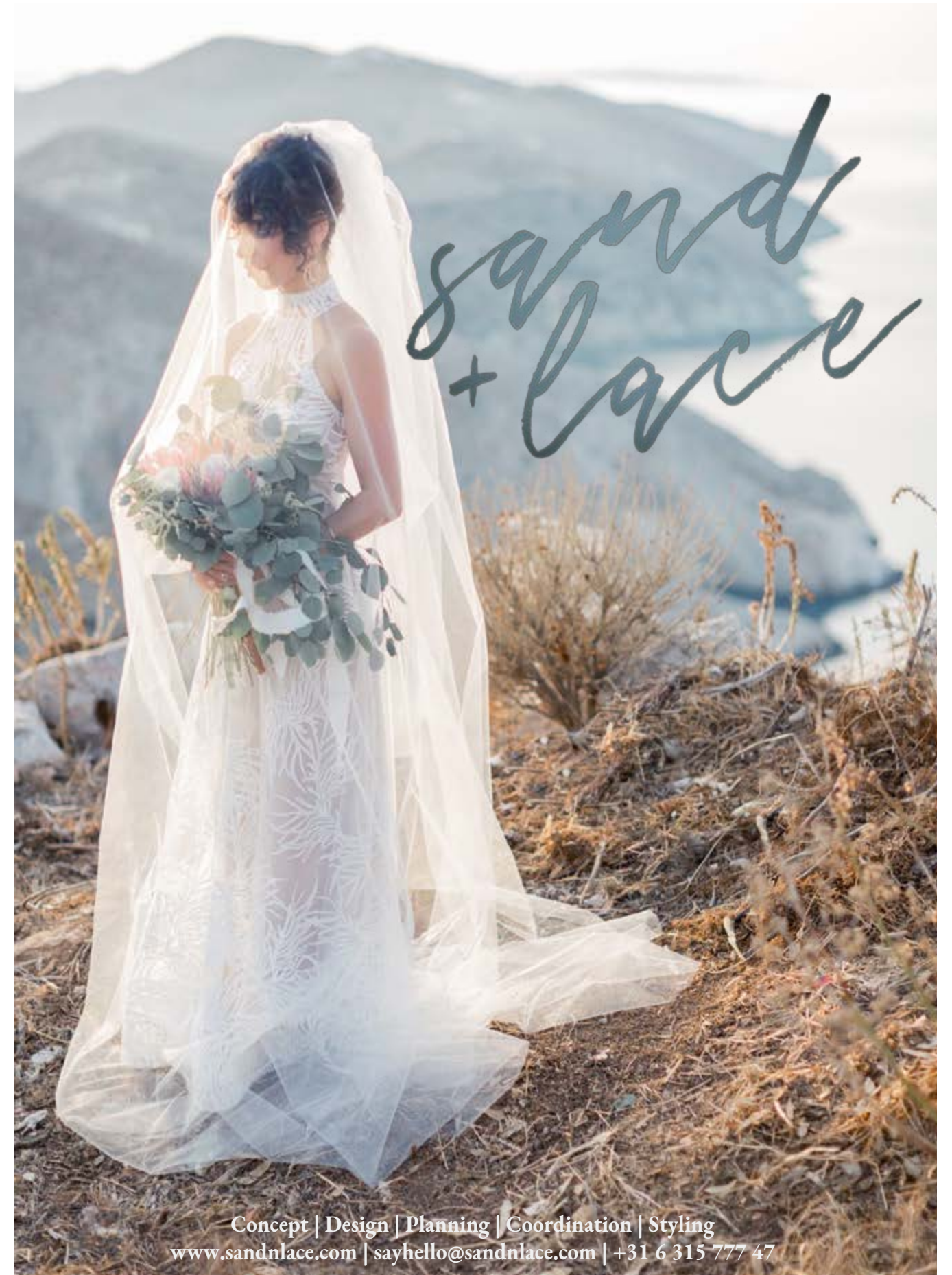
Exclusive Interview with
celebrity destination wedding planner

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Hi, I'm a Storyteller



KARINA PAPADOPOULOS

<https://karinapapadopoulos.com>



Coordination, Ellwed
 Styling, Concept & Planning, Sand + Lace Events
 Photography, Karina Papadopoulos
 Cake, Pavlov's Lab



Summer in the City Styled Wedding Shoot
 on Page 94



Summer 2018 Wedding Trends on Page 54

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Styling, Concept & Planning,
Sand + Lace Events
Photography,
Karina Papadopoulos
Hair & Make up Styling,
Georgia Xristodoulou
Makeup Specialist
Models,
Anna Papathanasiou
&Giorgio Karatasio
Dress, Epifanios Atelier
Custom Suit, Sur Mesure
Venue, Six D.O.G.S.

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Inside Ellwed



Coordination, Ellwed
Styling, Concept & Planning, Sand + Lace Events
Photography, Karina Papadopoulos
Hair & Make up Styling, Georgia Xristodoulou Makeup
Specialist
Models, Anna Papathanasiou & Giorgio Karatasio
Dress, Epifanios Atelier
Custom Suit, Sur Mesure
Floral Design, Studio 7 Florescence

Urban life

Wow! It has been a year!! We cannot believe the time has passed so soon and that we are celebrating our first birthday with this issue! One year ago, we set up to start our first online magazine and now look how far we have come since then. If you haven't yet, go see our first issue and compare. It's easy, you can download it for free on ellwed.com/magazine

We are well into the summer already, but the weather does not agree with us this year, which can easily have a negative effects on us and our work. Nonetheless, we want to inspire you to keep going. Push through the negativity and see the light! This issue is filled with advice for the best summer in the city you can have! And if you really do get married in the city this year, we hope this issue of Ellwed, filled with valuable advice, will assist you at your big urban day.

Without you, our readers, followers and supporters, we could not have made it this far. Working alongside with different professionals on our cover shoots thought us so much. It inspired me to reach deep, to evolve and to grow personally, as well as professionally. We were so fortunate to work with amazing professionals on this cover. This is our second Summer Cover shoot and our second film shot Cover. However, this was the first time we pushed the boundaries with this edgy, urban style! We truly hope you will be blown away as much as we are. We spread the shoot across the magazine, but you can see the story on page 93.



Photography, Karina Papadopoulos

City wedding? Read more on page 51



Photography, Karina Papadopoulos

One of my favorite photos on page 97

Photography, Emotional Frames



Exclusive interview with a former Events manager for stars like Katy Perry and David Guetta, on page 67



Photographer, Stephanie Brauer & Ushna Khan

Fully green styled shoot in Athens. Feels like Tropics on page 106



Photography, Despina Koulaglou

Greenery & colour. Belle Époque Era Inspired shoot on page 114



Photography, Adrian Wood Photography

Real wedding full of colour on page 120

This is the Beauty Issue after all and as such, it covers most beauty articles we ever had! Don't miss the exclusive interview with a makeup professional on page 20! Want to meet more pros? Head over to page 67 and read all about the former world renowned PR and Events manager for stars like Katy Perry and David Guetta. We were so inspired by her story!

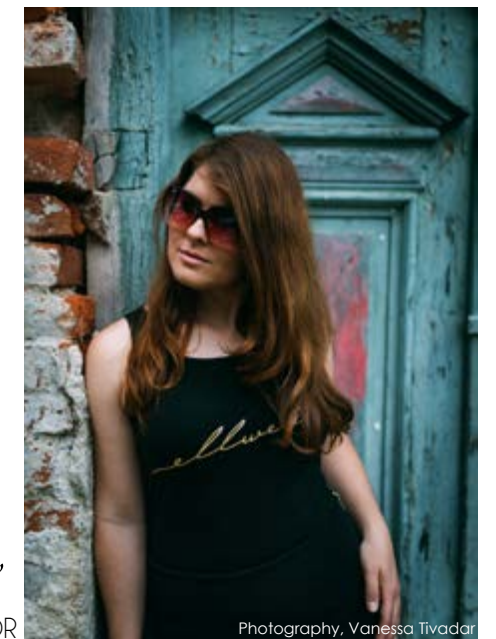
Moreover, don't miss all the inspirational weddings we gathered on the pages from 92-131. Green might be the colour of 2017, but we see it going strong still in this year. Tropical greenery and strong colours that pop are the 2018 summer trends. Read all about the city summer trends on the page 49. If you are looking for some inspiration for your holidays, make sure to read all about glamping and island hopping on pages from 132-141.

This issue is filled with value and inspiration which we want to share with you! We hope to see you in our next issue, so don't be shy and write to us. Now, get your summer hat and sunglasses on, relax on the beach and read through our magazine!

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#oneyearafter
#ellwedmag

With lots of love,

SANYAPERCIC, EDITOR



Photography, Vanessa Tivadar

Collaborators & Contributors

meet

ellwed

SUMMER ISSUE - The Beauty Edition - No. 5
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
Smyrnaki Liliya
Georgia Xristodoulou
Eleni Tsiapali
Lia Igam
Dimitra Antonea
Bobbie Karagianni
Evgenia Koraka
Samar Alkadhi
Eleana Linoxylaki
Stephanie Brauer
George Liopetas
Despina Kouloglou
Vasso Vantali
Sotiris Tsakanikas
Olga Altuhova

Daphne Passisi-Kokot Proofreading

Karina Papadopoulos Wedding Photography
Stephanie Brauer
Usher Khan
George Liopetas
Despina Kouloglou
Adrian Wood
Sotiris Tsakanikas

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Photography, **Karina Papadopoulos**
[facebook.com/profile.php?id=100011043300052](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100011043300052)
[@karinapapadopoulos](https://www.instagram.com/karinapapadopoulos)

Developing, **Carmencita Film Lab**
[facebook.com/Carmencita-Film-Lab-517352528299441](https://www.facebook.com/Carmencita-Film-Lab-517352528299441)
[@carmencitalab](https://www.instagram.com/carmencitalab)

Video, **Aristotelis Batistatos Cinematography**
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Hair & Make up Styling, **Georgia Xristodoulou Makeup Specialist**
[facebook.com/Georgia-xristodoulou-makeup-specialist-1640151582931444](https://www.facebook.com/Georgia-xristodoulou-makeup-specialist-1640151582931444)
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Models,
Anna Papathanasiou
[facebook.com/LunaDesert](https://www.facebook.com/LunaDesert)
[@anna.papathanassiou](https://www.instagram.com/anna.papathanassiou)

Giorgio Karatasio
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Koulouri vendor from Ermou Street, koulouritispolis.gr

EPIC

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

This summer we decided to stay in the iconic Athens city center!

We were so lucky to have had Bobbie and Karina on our team, who executed the look and the style of this shoot to the point! Karina's main objective was to show the city and all the little traditional characteristics in another light, which meant a lot of walking and exploring. As she was the storyteller of our cover shoot, Karina took the job of exploring the city and documenting the most iconic places very seriously. While Bobbie's vision of urban edgy city wedding idea came to light with all the beautiful details, as well as specially selected locations and vendors that contributed to our project. Planning ahead, our shoot had to happen in the early May, which means we had to chase that strong summer sun light to make the photos look stunning and summer inspired. At the end, the rain did get us to wrap up the shoot sooner, however, it did not affect our final result.

As Karina and Bobbie came from Germany and the Netherlands just for this shoot, our schedule was very tight and organized to the last minute. The day was filled with running and organizing from the early hours. We were lucky enough to have the Six D.O.G.S. venue all for ourselves in the morning, so Bobbie could set up the table and the scene as she envisioned it.

Alexander was absolutely dedicated to the shoot and the design process. From the first moment till the final creation, he was completely committed to the project as well as the overall appearance of the shoot. He took care that the cake was properly posed and gave it the final touches to cohesively fit with Bobbie's overall urban idea.

Aris from Aristotelis Batistatos Cinematography was present from the first to the last minute of the shoot. His skills proved invaluable to the whole project as he did what was necessary to create the look. He worked hard to produce his editorial trailer the same day, which was simply mind-blowing! (You can see it on our Facebook and social media channels)

Our models Anna Papathanasiou and Giorgio Karatasio were the stars of this urban fantasy and played their roles to perfection. While Georgia Xristodoulou Makeup Specialist made sure our models looked spectacular and cohesive with our look. She worked hard the whole day with our models and kept sure that Anna's look was always immaculate. As we had many different locations to cover, the whole team was constantly on the move and for each location we all worked together to create that city love story Bobbie envisioned for this shoot and Karina brought to life.



Our full gratitude goes to each and every one of our selected vendors, who made this cover story possible. Special thanks go to Karina Papadopoulos and Bobbie Karagianni for the organization, styling and production of this event.

We hope you will love the shoot as much as we do and to finally see a different view of the Athens city. Now, get some inspiration and laughs from our Behind the Scenes. Follow us on Facebook, so you won't miss all of the photos captured from this cover shoot on our blog when they will be uploaded.





Social Scene

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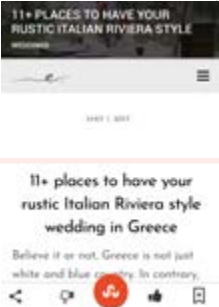
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Cakes from Greece
1 month ago

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Coming soon on our site, **Vendor Treasury** for the whole Greece and all destination vendors working in Greece.
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Photography, Karina Papadopoulos
Venue, Six D.O.G.S.

Professional Makeup Artist Interview

With Smyrnaki Liliya

by Natasha Naumenko



Smyrnaki Liliya is Professional Makeup Artist, Pro Makeup Educator, the founder of the beauty salon and learning center "LILUX SalonPro" in Athens, Greece

*Instagram: @smyrnakililiya_makeup
YouTube channel: Smyrnaki Liliya
Facebook page/Smyrnaki Liliya-makeup artist
Facebook page/LILUX SalonPRO
All images belong to Smyrnaki Liliya*

Summer weddings are on their way... In fact, they are literally knocking our doors! And, while for most of us summer is associated with relaxation, beach, and cocktails, brides who planned weddings in this season have one more stress factor on their list: whether or not their makeup is going to survive this hot weather. Our team here at Ellwed, discussed this issue with Liliya Smyrnaki, a professional makeup artist, who shared some tips for our brides-to-be in order to make sure everything is perfect on that big day!



So, the main question our brides have, is how to save their makeup during warm days? Is this even possible without piling up layers of different makeup products?

Of course it is possible! Basically, the secret is to choose the fixer with the right formula and texture for your skin type.

There are two popular formulas on the market nowadays:

Water + acrylic, which is suitable for sensitive skin. Such products require reapplication from time to time due to possible absorption by makeup products. (Mist & Fix by Make Up For Ever; Illuminating Setting Spray by Cover Fix; Makeup Fixer by Inglot)

Alcohol + water + acrylic, which is suitable for normal, oily and combination skin. These products are a perfect choice for special occasions such as weddings, photo-shoots etc., but we would not suggest them for an everyday wear. (All Nighter Long-Lasting Makeup Setting Spray by Urban Decay; Ultra Setting Spray (matte finish) by Kryolan).



That sounds amazing, and we guess it generally works as a tip, not only for brides, since every lady out there, wishes not to worry about their makeup melting on a hot day!

Oh, I have one more beauty hack that will make life easier for many women out there. Try cream eye shadows! The result will give you a highly pigmented and long-lasting makeup, which does not crease and leaves a dewy finish, which is very popular nowadays. Furthermore, it does not require a primer and is much faster to apply. Speaking of application, here is the trick that cream eye shadows can play on you. They must be applied very quickly, because they get dry too fast. So, before putting makeup using cream eye shadows, practice the blending technique at home for a couple of times in order not to fail before the big day. Do not use cream eye shadow on very oily skin, in that case stick with powder makeup products.

(Giorgio Armani, Shiseido, Cailyn, Nyx, Maybelline)



Great to know! As a person with a dry skin complexion, I can say that this is definitely something worth trying! You were saying that dewy finish has been a trend for a while now. Could you share with us more details about what is yay and nay in makeup these days?

I would describe it with two words "Glow Skin". The main trend for summer 2018 is definitely "fresh" makeup. To be more specific: skin with inner glow, soft pink or peach color for lips, blush and eyes, generally the face should look as if you just woke up and spent only 5 minutes on makeup.

Graphic eyeliner is also back in the game! For the rest, we still keep the natural brows (brow gel is obligatory), cream makeup, which provides dewy finish, and a good highlighter on the eye area. Actually, the convenient option is to use a light reflecting concealer, because it helps to hide any lack of sleep, also known as dark circles.

And what about the skin? Do we keep that glowing as well?

Absolutely! It should always be well-moisturized with the help of creams, serums, oils, whatever you prefer and has worked for your skin complexion. Pay extra attention to the areas where you normally put highlighter, add extra drops of moisturizer there, in order to get the "Glass Skin" effect.

If you wish to create the "Glow Skin" effect, you will need to first, put primer, then use a foundation that is not described as matte and then finish your skin makeup with the highlighter.



Interesting... Do you have your personal favorite products to create such look?

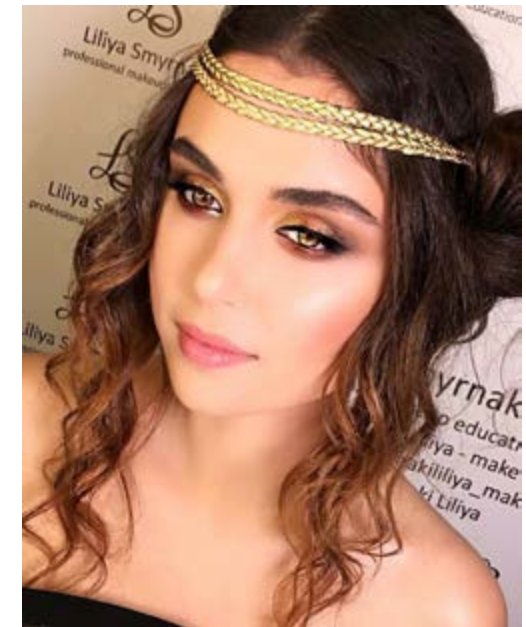
Indeed! Here are some:

- Foundation Giorgio Armani Luminous Silk Foundation (easy blending, medium coverage)
- Cream eye shadow Tom Ford in rosegold (tender shimmer)
- Make Up For Ever Aqua Rough Waterproof Liquid Lip Color in coral colour, not for everyday use, but A MUST for special occasions.

And last but not the least, which lips are trending this summer?

Well, as we said before, natural looks are everything this year, but if you want to spice up your look, bright lips are the way to do it. As for the colours, try magenta, warm reds (such as terracotta or, as we said above, coral). Here is a fun thing, bold lip lines are not necessary this season, so you can even put on the lipstick using your fingertips only and get the ombre effect. If you are more on the conservative side, but still want to follow the trends, go for more delicate colours like dusty rose or New York pink. Experiment with putting reflecting primer or long-lasting highlighter before the lipstick, to achieve a "posher" look. Please do not forget the ground rule before applying lipstick: never skip the lip scrubbing!

Thank you very much for your beauty tips, it is always nice to learn something new from a professional!



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



HAIR THERAPY saryna KEY™ P R O F E S S I O N A L

Saryna Key Professional is proud to be a global industry leader, worldwide introducing the benefits of Shea butter on your hair. Furthermore, as part of Saryna Key Professional's commitment to environmental conservation and ethical practices, the bottles are 100% recyclable and our products are cruelty free.

When a Shea nut is cracked open, it reveals a butter which is rich in vitamins A, E and F, essential fatty acids, proteins and cinnamic acid. These natural properties provide intense moisture, increased circulation, and protect the hair against free radical damage. With this in mind, Saryna Key Professional proudly launches four new collections of Shea butter. These four formulations include such natural additives as wheat, apple, cotton and silk proteins as well as amino acids.

The product line compliments the needs of each unique client: Damage Repair, Volume Lift, Curl Control and Color Lasting.

Get to know the new line:

- **The Damage Repair** category has the largest concentration of Shea Butter and works to bring chemically treated, fried and dry hair back to life.
- **The Volume Lift** category contains the lightest concentration of Shea Butter as well as proteins to build the hair and produce full hair.
- **Color lasting.** It is especially suitable for red, violet and copper tones. It will increase the life of the hair color, prevent fading and maintain shine and vitality.
- **The Curl Control** category has been an international favourite for years! It provides hydration and definition while maintaining a naturally soft appearance.



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Hair & Make up Styling, Georgia Xristodoulou Makeup
Specialist
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Dress, Epifanios Atelier
Venue, Six D.O.G.S.

10 Quick MakeUp Tips

Expert's advice

by Georgia Xristodoulou, professional makeup artist

1. Find inspiration for your bridal makeup on social media channels like Pinterest, Instagram and wedding blogs or magazines like Ellwed.
2. Make sure you look like yourself and don't overdo it!
3. Avoid big changes to your standard makeup
4. Glowing skin is always in, so take care of your diet before the wedding
5. Hire a pro MUA (MakeUp Artist) if you doubt your skills
6. Check the MUA portfolio for the styles you like
7. Definitely have a trial before the wedding, so you know what to expect
8. After the trial, check if the style of your makeup works in real life as well as on the camera
9. Make sure the style of your makeup fits with your theme and the style of your wedding as well as your personality. Don't go for a strong makeup if that is not who you are
10. And finally, make sure you put on your best smile and just have fun no matter what! After all, it is your wedding day!



Sandy and Odysseas Photography

Summer Bridal Hair Inspiration

With Greek blogger and MUAH professionals

by Eleni Tsiapali

Trends in wedding style are different not only every year, but every season. These trends usually focus on the wedding dress, but what about the hair style? If you're interested in summer hair inspiration don't skip this article.



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

In my opinion, summer brides are usually the most free-spirited and fairy brides. Their aura is a mix of sun, salt and summer breeze. Those three are the basic elements of the summer spirit - a spirit that requires to be natural. The more organic, the more beautiful. After all, isn't salty hair the greatest and most effortless hairstyle ever?

Since the trend for wedding dresses is more bohemian, romantic and simple, a bride's hairstyle should match this philosophy. Natural hair, long or short, with soft curls lying gently on the shoulders or a low loose updo are the greatest choice for a summer bride. Braids are a good option too! The wedding hairstyle reaches its top with fresh flowers. Flowers are the symbol of innocence and purity. Even if these are small flowers like gypsophila, simply placed in the hair or big flower crowns for a more bohemian effect, one thing it's sure. You're going to amaze not only your husband, but everyone else!

Try to match your hairstyle with natural "no-makeup" makeup. If you have light skin shade, choose light pink colors for your cheeks and lips and if you're already "kissed" by the sun, try something more bronzed.

And the most important, do something that feels yourself and wear your best smile to enjoy one of the most beautiful days of your life!



Photographer: Alexandros Makris for T-life

Hairstyle: Vasia Liva

Models: Vasia Liva (hairstylist)

Eleni Mitsiali (makeup artist)

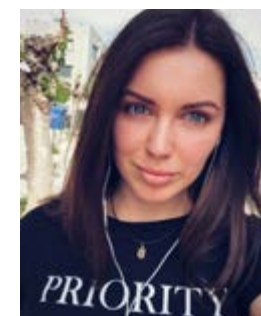
Vasia and Eleni are wedding experts. Find them on Instagram as @__stealing_beauty__



9 Summer City Essentials for 2018

by Natasha Naumenko

Are you spending your summer in Athens? Prepare for the city life with these essentials that will make your stay glamorous and comfortable at the same time. I have put together a list with some of the most important items for beauty and fashion that every trendy girl needs to stand out of the city crowd!



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

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Photography, Karina Papadopoulos
Hair & Make up Styling, Georgia Xristodoulou
Makeup Specialist
Models, Anna Papathanasiou
Dress, Epifanios Atelier

1.

FREZYDERM SUN SCREEN COLOR VELVET FACE CREAM SPF 50+
Sun screen creams are by default the number one product on our list of summer essentials! And the number one product we all need when visiting Greece and our scorching hot sun. The advantage of this particular Frezyderm face cream is its 50 SPF factor as well as the fact that it dabbles as a BB-cream.



FAN FAVORITE



3.

MAYBELLINELASHSENSATIONAL WATERPROOF MASCARA
We do not promote wearing makeup to the beach, but let's be honest, many of us are not 100% happy with an au-naturel look. So why not just put a bit of waterproof mascara on and relax without being worried whether or not it is going to come off. It will not!

4.

CLARINS INSTANT LIGHT LIP COMFORT OIL
One small bottle that keeps lips hydrated and adds a bit of color. Comes in 8 shades and provides that extra something to your natural summer look.



2.

L'OREAL COLORISTA HAIR SPRAY
Being on market for a while now, this hair spray has proven to provide great results for both dark and blonde hair. It comes in six different colours and stays until the next wash. Great opportunity for safe summer experiments!



5.

SEPHORA COLLECTION Mattifying Blotting Films
Handy and quick solution for oil control to keep your makeup fresh. What else do we need on a hot summer day?
Moving onto the fashion side....



6.

CAT EYE SUNGLASSES!

Fashionista's favorite accessory of this year. The trick is that triangular, square and round face shapes, which are usually the most difficult to find right glasses for, will benefit from this type of glasses. Left from Nordstrom, bottom red from YSL.



7.

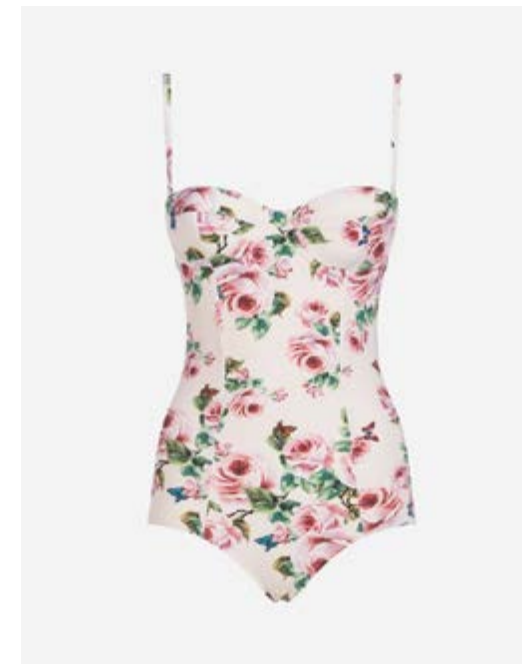
A STRAW BAG! This season it is not only a beach accessory. Feel free to complete your total look with a glamorous type of straw bag like the one pictured here. Vintage shops are also a good place to shop one of a kind straw bags for that old-timey Riviera glam you might be looking for! Bottom pineapple from Serpui, right from Sensistudio.



All photos from their official websites and belong to their owners. No copyright infringement intended.

8.

ONE-PIECE SWIMMING SUIT! Apart from the many advantages (such as hiding some body "flaws" and bringing out the best features), most one-piece swimsuits look gorgeous on different body types. Thank God there are so many options on the market nowadays, so if you do not own one yet, give it a try! One-piece swimsuits are also easier to style for an after-beach look, you can add a stylish skirt or pantalon! Right from Hunzag, bottom from Dolce&Gabbana.



9.

DAD SNEAKERS AKA "UGLY SNEAKERS", because for someone summer is a great time to explore new places that may require a lot of walking. So, when it comes to sport shoes (we still want to look trendy, yes?) "ugly sneakers" enter the game. It has all started with Balenciaga's famous Triple S model and Louis Vuitton's Archlight sneakers, followed by other brands adding something to their own model. From Louis Vuitton.



All photos from their official websites and belong to their owners. No copyright infringement intended.



Coordination, Ellwed
 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 & veil, Made Bride



5+1 Headpiece Trends to Style your Bridal Dress this Summer!

Expert's advice

by Lia Igam

Summer is usually the number one wedding time of the year! One of the most important attributes of this celebration is the wedding dress: magical, elegant, stunning and of course... unforgettable! Nevertheless, when it comes to styling we need to mention the details play an even bigger role. When shopping for the dress, you have to think which hair style will look good with it. Until now, 2018 has been a year full of fashion hair accessories, which also saw a return of feminine chic and a luxury approach to styling. Here are some of the trends for the upcoming summer wedding season.



About the author:
 Lia Igam, journalist and stylist, based in Greece, the creator of trendscontrol.com, blog, who loves to challenge herself with different styling projects and has a personal approach to style fashion trends.
 Instagram: @liaigam

3D Flowers

This is a modern pin to a bride look! Despite their intricacy, they look fresh and stylish adding a girly note to your look. The soft fabric of these flowers adds a hint of sexiness to a natural look.



Back side hair crown

A perfect trend to style when you decide to go for the all-time classic elegant wedding dress. Back side crown is a perfect accessory for summer hair styles, adding a sparkly shine to your look.



New Generation Veil

This season's veils are going mad! Purple, orange, gold... if you never wear bright colors in your real life, try it for your special day. This wedding hair accessory will make you feel like Carry Bradshaw at The Sex & The City movie!



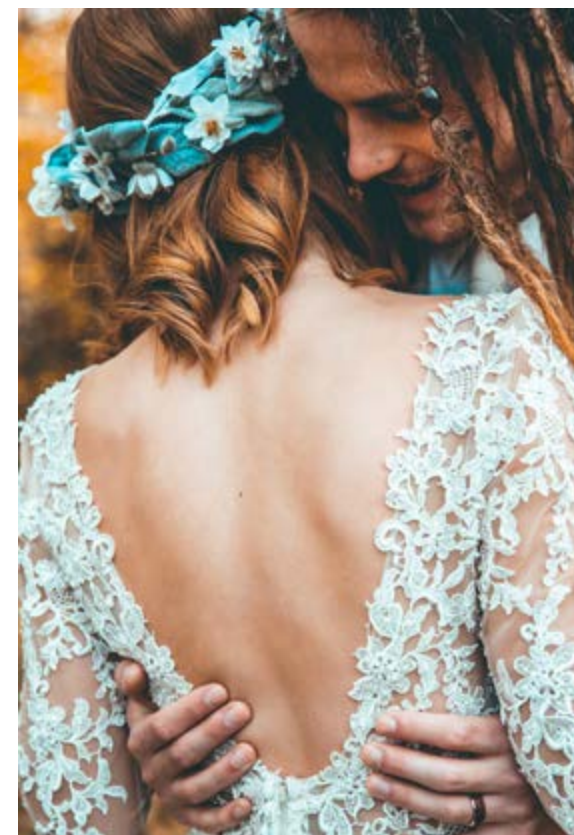
Like a Queen

Inspired by the Royal wedding that took place in May, add a queen-like accessory to your bridal look. It could be a crown or a tiara. The point is to keep attention on your head and perhaps remind you of those princess-like dreams a younger you had!



Vintage-inspired

These gorgeous accessories are rich in details, yet delicate at the same time. Style a lace overlay headband with an ivory dress for the ideal summer wedding look.



Minimal

If you are going to choose bohemian beachy curls as your bridal hair look, add a stylish beaded headband or a minimalistic crystal clip to create a perfectly "imperfect" style.



Photography: Yiannis Alefantou - Christos Mavraganis
Dress: Made Bride by Antonea

How to Choose the Perfect Wedding Dress

Expert's advice

by Dimitra Antonea of Made Bride by Antonea

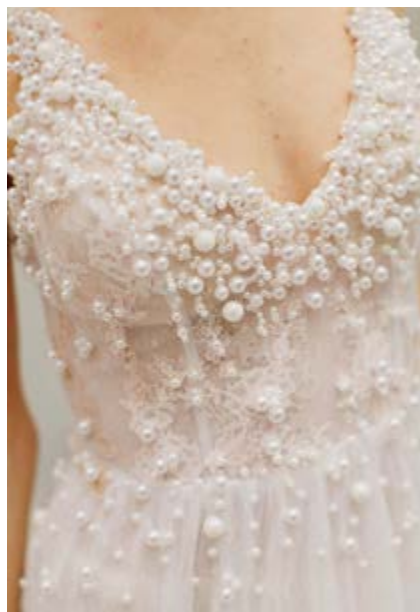
"Made Bride by Antonea" bridal atelier is one of the most reliable brands in bespoke and handmade wedding dresses in Greece. In charge is the designer and owner of the brand, Dimitra Antonea, with perennial, continuous and consistent presence in nuptials. Numerous brides that trust her and wish to wear her creations, are able to choose between designs of her exclusive collections, which she delivers annually or get the chance to alternate with a variation of the original designs that Made Bride by Antonea can provide just for them. Her designs derive from her youthful enthusiasm and the flexible styles she uses are shaped in unexpected and imaginative combinations

Using her insight and pioneering sense, she was one of the first fashion designers to settle down in Psyrri, an area that is synonym to mainstream fashion. The two story building where she found the perfect shelter, makes up an alternative hosting proposal for the bride-to-be. Her personal contact with every bride in particular manages to create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere guaranteeing the uniqueness you deserve for the choice of the most important dress you are going to wear in your life.

made Bride
— by ANTONEA —

Find Made Bride by Antonea
www.madebride.gr
Instagram: @madebride
Facebook: Made Bride by Antonea

- Spend some time on doing some internet research before you set out to find your wedding dress. Social media will provide you with the information you need to know. Collect some images of the designs you like and narrow down the number of bridal shops or designer ateliers you aspire to visit in a top 5 list. Doing so, will keep you calm and organized.
- Call early for an appointment with the ateliers, to ensure you will find one in the appropriate time. 4-5 months before wedding day is ideal.
- Be open minded and try on a wedding dress that a bridal shop expert suggests to you. They help out a lot of brides-to-be daily and they know what works best in any case... or body. It happens sometimes for a bride, to fall in love with a dress she hadn't even imagined!
- After getting your wedding dress at home, hang it in your closet to avoid wrinkles until the big day. Right after your wedding ceremony, the dress should be dry cleaned only by a professional and keep it safe hanging in its original case. Once a year you may let it "breathe" in the fresh air and it will be as new for a lifetime.
- Last but not least: Don't forget to have fun and enjoy the process!





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Greek City Summer Wedding Trends

This season's wedding trends from our shoot

by Bobbie Karagianni



Selected Vendors for Ellwed
 Styling, Concept & Planning, Sand + Lace Events
 Photography, Karina Papadopoulos
 Developing, Carmencita Film Lab
 Video, Aristotelis Batistatos Cinematography
 Cake, Pavlov's Lab
 Hair & Make up Styling, Georgia Xristodoulou Makeup Specialist
 Models, Anna Papathanasiou & Giorgio Karatasio
 Dress, Epifanios Atelier
 Custom Suit, Sur Mesure
 Floral Design, Studio 7 Florescence
 Invitations & Stationery, Bright White
 Venue, Six D.O.G.S.
 With special thanks to
 Tiago from carmencitafilmlab.com
 Lukumades.com
 Koulouri vendor from Ermou Street
 "Koulouri Tis Polis"

*sand
+lace*
 WEDDINGS IN GREECE

Bobbie Karagianni, founder of Sand+Lace is a Greek-Dutch Wedding Planner & Stylist, specialized in organizing and styling weddings in Greece. Sand+Lace is a creative and artistic event agency with a very personal way of working. Their weddings are all unique, but with one thing in common: they are all under the Greek sun!
facebook.com/sandnlace
 @sandnlace_events

Athens. The city of culture, history... and romance! This editorial is inspired by the beautiful small idyllic streets around Plaka, the cute coffee bars in Psirri and the lively Monastiraki square. For this issue we want to break free from the summer beach weddings and show you a different way of getting married in Greece.



Going downtown

Choosing Athens city center for your wedding may not seem the obvious choice, especially in the summer. Whoever thinks of downtown Athens, thinks lots of people, cars, noises and yes... that's exactly what it is. However, it may surprise you that downtown Athens has some hidden gems, some amazing bars and restaurants that pop-up out of nowhere and once you enter them you are in a different world. This exact feeling got to us when we picked the location for our shoot called Six D.O.G.S. in the middle of this iconic city. Another great reason to go downtown is to use the city as a backdrop for your wedding photos, just walk around and you will fall from the one stunning location into the other!



Gen-Z yellow and overgrown floral installations

Our ceremony took place in an alley around Monastiraki and the setup was literally on the streets where one of the iconic graffiti paintings functioned as the perfect backdrop. A trend that we've already got a little taste of in 2017, but really took off this year are the overgrown floral installations. Until now we only saw these installations in soft, pastel hues but we choose yellow as our leading color. Last year we saw it already in fashion design and mildly in interior design but 2018 will be all about yellow - or how insiders call it "Gen-Z yellow". Gen-Z yellow is carefree, outgoing, bold and stands for spontaneity. Therefore a perfect match for this young rebellious love story in Athens.



Mix it up

We selected the hidden courtyard of Six D.O.G.S. for the perfect urban dinner set up. For the table setting we choose a bold, clean and minimalistic look. Strong esthetics combined with fun elements, like the dinner plates from Italian brand Seletti. Seletti Wears TOILETPAPER is an unusual and exceptional collection from the hands of a collaboration between Maurizio Cattelan and Pierpaolo Ferrari's magazine and the Italian designers Seletti. This trend of combining literally all patterns from stripes to flowers, and from digital prints to check patterns, will continue in 2018. Simply choose a color palette and style that you want to work with, and go wild within this frame - it's that easy!



Accessorize your day

Give your wedding even more character by adding items that speak to you and your guests, items that reflect you as a couple. We added sunglasses, ice cream, bottles of champagne, statement shoes and even a gold parrot to give that extra personality to the wedding. Primarily, your invitations should match your style and personalities. Our invitations from Bright White expressed the wild and rebellious side of our couple with the statement like "We are so weird" and bold graphics. The couple's vision came into completion with bride's handmade Epifanios wedding dress and groom's made-to-order Sur Measure suit. Two piece maxi skirt and sheer top will be the perfect, on trend choice for the hot summer days in Greece. We chose to accessorize the groom's navy blue checkered suit with a red Protea flower to give it that color pop! Be bold, be daring and above all remember to have fun - it's your wedding day!



7 Quick Holiday Tips

How to Spend your Summer in the City

If this year your summer vacations will mainly be in Athens, or any other major Greek city like Thessaloniki, you may want to prepare yourself for the summer in the city.

Although, the best time to visit Athens would probably be any other season of the year, but in the summer you can still enjoy your summer holidays combining the city and beach life, as the closest beach is just few minutes drive from the centre.

Read these tips in order to best spend your holidays:



Coordination, Ellwed
Styling, Concept & Planning, Sand + Lace Events
Photography, Karina Papadopoulos
Hair & Make up Styling, Georgia Xristodoulou
Makeup Specialist
Models, Anna Papathanasiou
Dress, Epifanios Atelier
Venue, Lukumades.com

1. *Keep essentials handy*

Always use suntan lotion before going for long walks or sightseeing during the day. Sun in Greece can be stronger to the one you may be used to. Make sure to have sunglasses in your purse, a hat on your head and maybe a small umbrella in the suitcase.

2. *Familiarise yourself with transportation options*

Check online or at the nearest info spot about the local busses, tram and metro (underground) lines. You can always rent a car or use a taxi. We recommend downloading The Beat app for your convenience and best experience. Also ask at the hotel if they provide with some kind of transport from/to the airport, city or local sights.

3. *Keep hydrated*

Walking in the hot summer day around the city playing "tourists" can become very distracting. So don't forget to drink fluids. You can find water almost anywhere in the city. Bottled or faucet, but keep hydrated at all times!



4. *Don't be shy*

Don't hesitate to ask the locals for directions if you need any or simply to start a conversation. Greeks are very social people and love a good story!

5. *Take caution*

As in any big city, take care of your personal belongings. Greece is fairly a safe country, especially the islands. But just in case, don't leave your purse unattended and keep it zipped at all times walking around the city.

6. *Familiarise yourself with working hours*

Many stores might be open all day long, especially in summer time, but others might close early. Therefore, make sure you acquire all the necessary info about the local working hours, especially the sightseeing working hours.

7. *Find the nearest beach towns*

If you stay in Athens and want to have a beach day, check which is the nearest coastal town to you. Closest to Athens is Paleo Faliro, then Kalamaki, Eleniko, Glyfada, Kavouri, Voula, Vouliagmeni, and so on. There you will also find Lake Vouliagmeni, where you can swim and relax by the lake with stunning views. You can also take a one day trips to the nearest islands like Aegina, Poros, Kea, and so on.

Legal Procedures for your Stress-free Wedding

Expert's advice

by Evgenia Koraka of JS Divine Events

Greece is famous for its history, bright sunny days, clear turquoise sea waters and breathtaking natural beauty. It is not only a great country to spend the holidays, but in recent years, Greece has become one of the top Wedding Destinations out there, for the most unforgettable wedding moments as well as amazing summer holidays at the same time.

The Legal Wedding Procedure is the most crucial element to make your Wedding become a reality. It is the main and most important part of the entire wedding process and must be handled with special care and knowledge of set regulations.

The legal procedure is not only the issuance of specific certificates, as it involves many other important steps for each nationality that have to be correctly executed for your civil wedding to be officially recognized.



DIVINE EVENTS
WEDDINGS AND EVENTS

About JS Divine Events:
JS Divine, leading wedding planners & Floral Designers, offer full-service planning to put together bespoke packages with legalities and translation. Our expertise in floral designs & arrangements will bring your event to life.
www.jsdivineevents.com
facebook.com/jsdivineevents
[@js.divine.events](https://instagram.com/js.divine.events)

Bellow, we state some crucial information and regulations for the pre and after wedding procedure:

- Local authorities or church requirements. The legal procedure can slightly vary between regions and islands. So the pre-wedding and correct information of the procedure is very important.
- Requirements for your specific nationality. Not every country has the same Regulation. There are nationalities that their Law requires that the Non Impediment letter must be issued only from their country's Embassy in Athens. However, there are other countries that require their wedding to be officially registered in their country's Embassy in Athens. It might appear complicated for you, but this is also something that a good wedding planner who has deep knowledge of the legal paper procedures and Law might take care for you swiftly.
- Apostille stamp. Any official certificate, issued from a country that is a member of the "Hague Convention", must be officially legalized with an Apostille Stamp. The Apostille is an international stamp, which certifies the authentication of the document. There are countries and specific type of certificates that are exempted from the Apostille legalization (meaning no Apostille stamp needed). One should check, whether or not their country falls under this category. Knowledge of the International Law helps save money and time.

- Other Legalization. For countries that are not members of the Hague Convention, the issued wedding certificates must be officially legalized from their country's authorities, according to Greek Law requirements (which varies from country to country). In addition, after the wedding the Greek marriage certificate must also be Legalized (not by Apostille stamp) from the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens.

- Translation Procedure. According to Greek Law, official translations are carried out and considered official when they fall under these categories: a) by the Greek Foreign Ministry's Department of Translation in Athens, b) by a Greek certified lawyer who has knowledge of the language, c) by an official translator of the Ionian University and d) by an authorized permanent civil servant of the corresponding Greek consular authority of the country issuing the certificate.



Photography, Jill Denny-Soto



Photography, Dimitris Giouyris

At JS Divine Events wedding planning & floral design company, with our 26 years of experience in Wedding Legalities and Acts, we can assist you and take care of any of the above cases. We assure you less stress, smooth process and correct legal procedure.



Celebrity Destination Wedding Planner Interview

with Samar Alkadhi from Crazy Diamond

Samar, welcome - we are really excited to have this interview with you, a former world renowned PR and Events manager for stars like Katy Perry and David Guetta. We hope your words of wisdom will help brides to make the right decision to have a wedding of their dreams.

Brides and wedding professionals, don't miss this interview and get inspired by Samar's story and life path that led her to Greece.

“
By the time I was 25 I started working at EMI, one of the biggest record companies in the world, and was fortunate enough to be promoted to being in charge of the International Promotion for huge stars like Katy Perry and David Guetta.”

Find Samar from Crazy Diamond here:
www.crazydiamond.gr
facebook.com/crazydiamondgr
[@crazydiamondgr](https://twitter.com/crazydiamondgr)

Credits:
Photography, Elias Kordelakos
Emotional Frames and CP Sofkitis



Our First question has to be why Crazy Diamond? What does the name represent?

When I started the company, I wanted a name that would really represent who I am and what I believe - I started toying with the idea of the word "diamond" not only for the more obvious link between a diamond and weddings - but because I was always fascinated by the fact that diamonds are created through extreme pressure and are very, very hard to break: surely that's what everyone wants from their planner! Diamonds are also very precious and famous for their bright shine - which made the name choice even more fitting. Contrary to popular belief, the "Crazy" part didn't have so much to do with the Pink Floyd song, but more because I believe a small touch of the unexpected is what can make things all the more interesting!

Can you tell us more about your story, your beginning in the industry and your life as an Arab wedding planner, living in Greece and who used to be Katy Perry's international publicist?

I grew up in London to Iraqi parents and always dreamed of working in the music business because I had a love for music from a very young age, but I couldn't play any instruments! I started off as a secretary when I was 20 years old, fresh out of University, and slowly but surely climbed my way up the ladder through a lot of blood, sweat and tears. By the time I was 25, I started working at EMI, one of the biggest record companies in the world, and was fortunate enough to be promoted to being in charge of the International Promotion for huge stars like Katy Perry and David Guetta. I spent about five incredible years traveling the world with these artists and it was the biggest life lesson and experience I could have wished for. Then, as I was nearing 30, I started wanting a more stable life and that is when I met my husband who happened to be Greek. Fast forward a year later and I decided to make the move to Athens to have a more "normal" life and when I came here I decided I wanted to bring all the exciting things I had learned through my music business years, and channel them into something creative. Wedding Planning felt like a natural evolution because the pressure and level of detail needed is really similar to working with celebrities!

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

I got married in 2016 and I spent almost a year planning it so I know firsthand what it is to be the Bride, as well as a planner! It is amazing how just that one day is so important and means so much and what drives me is wanting to fulfill that special moment that is remembered forever for each couple that I work with. Every detail is important and maintaining a positive attitude throughout the whole process is key - which also means acting as a psychologist or a shoulder to cry on the process if necessary! Part of what makes it great at the end of the day is that it is something very personal, very real and very special - in many cases you are literally part of a couple's journey to make their dream come true!

The creativity of course is what makes it fun. Inspiration comes originally from the couple: learning who they are and then helping them take those ideas (or even fragments of ideas), researching, discussing, searching, and bringing them to life to create something spectacular.

How would you describe your experience of working with the stars and how did that skill help you in your new career of wedding planning in Greece?

Working with stars and working with Brides is almost the same thing - because in the end the important thing is to make them feel that they are being heard and that their opinions and ideas are being appreciated. It takes a lot of humility and empathy - you really need to want to make the couple happy and understand their needs. In addition, one needs to be realistic with the surrounding constraints (budget, logistics, family) without disappointing them. One of the skills I have worked hardest on is being able to come up with a solution to every possible problem, so that there is always a plan B in my pocket... You know, just in case!



Photography, Elias Kordelakos



Photography, Emotional Frames

What led you to leave the glamorous world of stars and settle in Athens Greece?

I had an incredible and unforgettable experience and I got to see all corners of the earth which I am eternally grateful for - however, the truth is that after a while you either realize that you were born to do this forever or that you are running out of steam. In my case it was the latter: I wanted to have a base, a social life and a lifestyle that was a little bit more conventional than waking up in a different city every day. What I loved about Athens from the beginning is that the warmth of the people and the fantastic weather or the culture in general - which to me is the perfect fusion of European and Middle Eastern culture - was perfect for balancing who I am. Of course, I moved to be with my husband, but I stayed because Greece really does have its own magic, both in terms of its natural beauty and the open hearts of Greek people.

Since you have been working as a wedding planner for some years now, we are sure you have encountered some changes in this industry. During your time in the world of weddings in Greece, what has changed the most?

For me the one thing that has changed the game is Instagram and Pinterest: now everyone wants that perfect "Pinterest Wedding", which might also be a double-edged sword. It can sometimes be an amazing source of inspiration and occasionally a small curse. People can become too focused on wanting to have everything be picture-perfect at the expense of the comfort of their guests. It's one thing to want the perfect flower arrangement on the table and candles everywhere, but not if it means that there won't be any space for the food or too many open flames that might catch the bottom of some of your guest's dresses! For me this is all a matter of balance, of being open with a couple in finding a middle point between the dream scenario, whilst making sure that the night will be truly enjoyable for the guests.

Greece has many beautiful wedding destinations and to choose one for a destination wedding may be a tricky part for some couples. Which location, island or mainland in Greece, would you recommend to couples for their special day and why?

It is really hard to choose, because there are different islands and locations that suit different couples. I have had the pleasure of organizing some amazing and very glamorous weddings in Athens and Mykonos, but also more intimate evenings on smaller islands like Hydra, Ios, or Koufonissia. Each couple has to find the right island that works for both of them as a couple and the kind of experience they wish their guest to have - from there, everything begins!

What would you recommend to those couples to do in order to make their decision on the perfect location in Greece?

For me the first step is to come and see the location together with their planner in order to discuss all of the pros and cons. This will lead to a realistic discussion about what the logistical and other challenges might be on that island - because what looks picture-perfect might not have the right flight connections, may be very exposed to wind, or it might have a sound curfew. There are many factors to take into consideration and it is always safest to have a realistic discussion about the location before putting down the deposit.

What is the important part in making each wedding unique and personal for every couple?

Listening and understanding who they are, instead of trying to convince them of the latest trends! Looking at every detail, brainstorming details which might mean something to them and how you can incorporate them into the decor or the entertainment. Focusing on how to bring all the guests together and how to make it easy and fun, whilst striving to really reflect who they are as a couple!



Although, wedding trends vary from country to country, there are some common ones for the whole wedding community. What wedding trends do you see catching up for 2018 in Greece?

Entertainment is becoming much more important - something my music business past makes me a big fan of - it gives guests an experience that they will remember forever. Furthermore, many couples are trying to incorporate different traditions into their wedding, whether it's their own cultural ones or ones that they have made up. Sharing menus are becoming increasingly popular and I love them because they are such a big icebreaker as a fun way of giving people a reason to talk to each other and start building new friendships.

In terms of decorative trends, there is much more of a move towards foliage and plants as opposed to just flowers - and weddings are slowly embracing darker, deeper colour tones after a few years where everyone was obsessed with bright tropical palettes. Also, there is emphasis on texture in all aspects, especially with stationary, linens and fabrics - and of course interior design trends such as copper accents, transparent elements and effects such as marbelized materials are setting the base for the main colours to "pop"!



Photography, Elias Kordelakos

As a PR and private events manager, you must have been faced with many difficult situations. What is your secret to stay calm under pressure, for when and if something goes wrong at some of your projects?

I truly believe that whatever the problem is, it will be alright in the end. That was a tough lesson for me to learn and one that I definitely mastered in the music business: I have been put on the spot during some very difficult issues, often in live and very public situations - as I got older, I realized that there is always a solution.

I used to joke that I was like a firefighter because they were always so many fires to put out. Then, I learned how to point my hose at the biggest one, and then the second biggest, then the third, and so on. I did that by always having my eye on the next possible fire, yet dealing with the biggest one first. The key is to remain cool and calm, because overwhelming yourself only breeds panic, and panic is counter-productive.

“
The key is to remain cool and calm, because becoming overwhelmed only breeds panic, and panic is never productive.
”

What advice would you give to brides, wanting to undertake the task of organizing their wedding on their own?

I respect anyone that wants to do it themselves because it takes a lot of dedication, hard work and willpower - especially since so many couples have full-time jobs at the same time. The important thing, is that these Brides are aware that it is not going to be an easy road and that it is important to have a good support system (whether it is family, friends, or colleagues) and it's important not to lose focus on you as a couple and why you're doing the wedding in the first place. Prioritise, stick to a general plan, and be ready for a few changes that will inevitably happen.

Of course I would always recommend having a planner because they allow you to focus do the fun stuff - and I can't tell you how many times I have received a call from Brides when they have three, two or even one month before the wedding day, who just say "Please help I thought I could do it alone but it has become too much".

Is there one question that almost every couple asks you about their wedding in Greece?

"How much will it cost?"

I am a believer of always discussing the budget upfront and giving the couple a realistic idea of what they can expect within their budget so that the risk of dissapointment and miscommunication is reduced as much as possible - a pragmatic approach at the beginning always means more space to create and dream afterwards!



Photography, Elias Kordelakos

What should couples know/pay attention to/be aware of, before coming to Greece, no matter where they are from?

No matter how much I love Greece, there still exists an element of taking advantage of a foreigner because "they don't know how things work". Unfortunately, it is unavoidable that a foreigner and a local are going to get different deals, and a different attitude, for the same thing in at least one of the wedding elements that are involved, whether it is the venue, catering or equipment hire. Thus, I always recommend using a local company because they assist you in avoiding such pitfalls.

You probably have many weddings you are super proud of. But, which one (if there is one) is your favorite?

My own! Not only for the reasons you would expect - but this was my biggest "school" in terms of wedding planning. It taught me how to be a better planner, because I was living both sides of the experience. It taught me empathy, how to really understand what family, finances, time and other pressures the couple faces, and how important it is to have a planner who understands you and wants to make it the wedding of your dreams, not their own. It also taught me the importance of having a great team that you can rely on - during my 3-day wedding celebration, I was 100% a bride, not a planner, because I had a great team around me that knew how to handle everything.



Photography, Emotional Frames



And for the last question, what is that one thing that distinguishes you from other planners?

I would say my "multi-culti" background combined with my career experience.

I'm Arab by blood - so I have the whole extravagant "more-is-more" approach deep inside me, I am English by birth so at the same time, I also have the "less-is-more and let's keep this tasteful" approach - and I married a Greek so I also speak Greek, live a very Greek life and know all the local traditions - so this kind of "tri-personality" allows me to be quite flexible and adapt to different couples from different backgrounds.

I also spent many years planning huge productions such as Grammy Awards and MTV Awards performances, I've worked with tight budget and multi-million euro budgets, and have travelled all over the world and worked with people of over 100 different nationalities, so I am very comfortable with both small and large-scale events in both, places I know and places I don't. And of course, I was working with global celebrities who wanted a world-class service, so I learned how to truly deliver!

Thank you for taking the time to chat with us and let us get to know you more.

Secrets for the Most Enjoyable Summer Weddings and Events

Get to know the brand: DrinkWorks Cocktail Gifts & Events,

by Eleana Linoxylaki

Summer is here and you have already begun to dream of the sea, the holidays, the sun and of course...the cocktails! Yes, summer is related to these delightful, refreshing and usually fruity mixed drinks!



Get in touch:
www.drinkworks.gr
facebook.com/drinkworks.gr
[@drinkworks_athens](https://twitter.com/drinkworks_athens)

All photos in this article belong to
DrinkWorks Cocktail Gifts & Events

Bachelor parties

The Bachelor party you always wanted can now come true. You decide the place, DrinkWorks brings the cocktails. Wherever it's scheduled, at home or a beach, a terrace or a yard, DrinkWorks sets up their bar and their bartenders who serve the drinks and cocktails of your choice.

Alternatively, DrinkWorks bachelor / bachelorette kits come by order to your place! These kits contain all the necessary equipment and accessories, recipes and instructions to make the most refreshing cocktails with your best friends.

Wedding parties

For this special day in a couple's life, DrinkWorks creates the ideal bar with the most original details.

Their motto "Love is all you need, we'll take care of the rest" is clearly key to their success. DrinkWorks provides mobile bars, alcoholic beverages, glasses, fresh ingredients, fruits, experienced personnel, cocktail tastings, candy bars and numerous ideas for you to excite your guests.



Decide the concept of your wedding party!

Before you come to the ideal delightful surprise you will be setting up for your guests, it's a good idea to think about the concept you want your wedding to have. Greek summer offers you unlimited inspiration for your ideal concept.

DrinkWorks gives you the opportunity to offer your guests signature cocktails for unlimited consumption throughout the party, depending on the theme of the evening or event, and will also take care of the finding an experienced bartender. From Tiki bars to horse trailers, but also romantic and elegant bars, DrinkWorks has it all!



Let's introduce The Cigar Bar

The enjoyment of a cigar, for those who know how to appreciate it, is usually a ritual. Accompanied by a malt whiskey or old rum, it is enough to offer you moments that will give you extra essence on a day like your wedding.

DrinkWorks, in cooperation with well-known cigar dealers in Athens, brings to the Bachelor, the wedding party or wherever you may want a Cigar Bar that gives your event an ultra-chic and vintage air. Perhaps an ideal concept for a groom's present from his future wife.

They also give you the chance to add a signature drink station near the cigar bar for guests to enjoy alongside their cigars.





Cocktail trends 2018

In recent years, it has become apparent that the cocktail and spirits world has switched to a more conscientious approach towards waste reduction, sustainability, and the impact it has on the environment. From eco-friendly product debates (e.g. straws) to newly-constructed sustainable distilleries this is definitely something that will carry over and pick up steam in 2018. DrinkWorks has started using wooden straws long before this became a trend.

Last but not least a trend that links drinking with food. Cocktail and food pairing is a service that DrinkWorks suggests to all future couples. For example they serve a nice aperitif cocktail with the appetizers, a refreshing beer with a course or two, and a select wine with your feature dish, going back to a delicious dessert cocktail to top off the evening. The objective of the pairing is to compliment the food and allow it to be the feature. Cocktails happen to be ideal for this because your options are endless.



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.



Yria Ceramics

One of the Greek traditions from the ancient times is ceramics. But Yria from Paros, takes this tradition to another level. New-age, innovative design, paired with traditional handmade porcelain. You can find special wedding gifts like "bombonieres", unique and specially made jewelry as well as different lifestyle items.

@yriaceramics



Kyrvan Shoes

Shoes made in Crete. Special gift for a special person. For free-spirited chic girls who appreciate the handcrafted luxuries.

@kyrvanshoes

ea Ceramic Studio

Well Crafted Ceramics Design from Rethimno, Crete will surprise you with their different view on simple tableware and decoration. Find unique items for special gifts like cups, spoons, plates, decoration and much more.

@eacceramicstudio



M.O.M BEACHWEAR

Beachwear made in Greece, with the finest fabrics. But we are focusing on those fashionable personalized round straw bags, also for the beach!

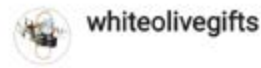
@mombeachwear



White Olive Gifts

Want all-in-one solution? Check White Olive Gifts, specializing in organic & natural gift baskets. The right personalized gifts, like this summer basket, will make your event in Greece sweeter and even more memorable for your guests.

@whiteolivegifts



My Greek Me

When in Rhodes, stop by at My Greek Me, for a unique Greek shopping experience to find the perfect combination of gifts from Greek artists, for your summer wedding.

@my_greek_me



When in Greece

For all free-spirited travel enthusiast, When in Greece travel brand / souvenir shop will provide the perfect gift. Choose from bags, journals and even card holders and key chains. Ideal also for your male guests/groomsmen.

@wheningreece



Odysseytenswimwear

Greek luxury swimwear with very Greek designs, inspired by the original epic poem of Odyssey. The ultimate summer accessory from Greece, only for your favorite and closest guests!

@odysseytenswimwear

Aristotelis Batistatos CINEMATOGRAPHY



It is all about feelings and emotions. Capture them and they will shine forever.

www.aristotelisbatistatos.gr

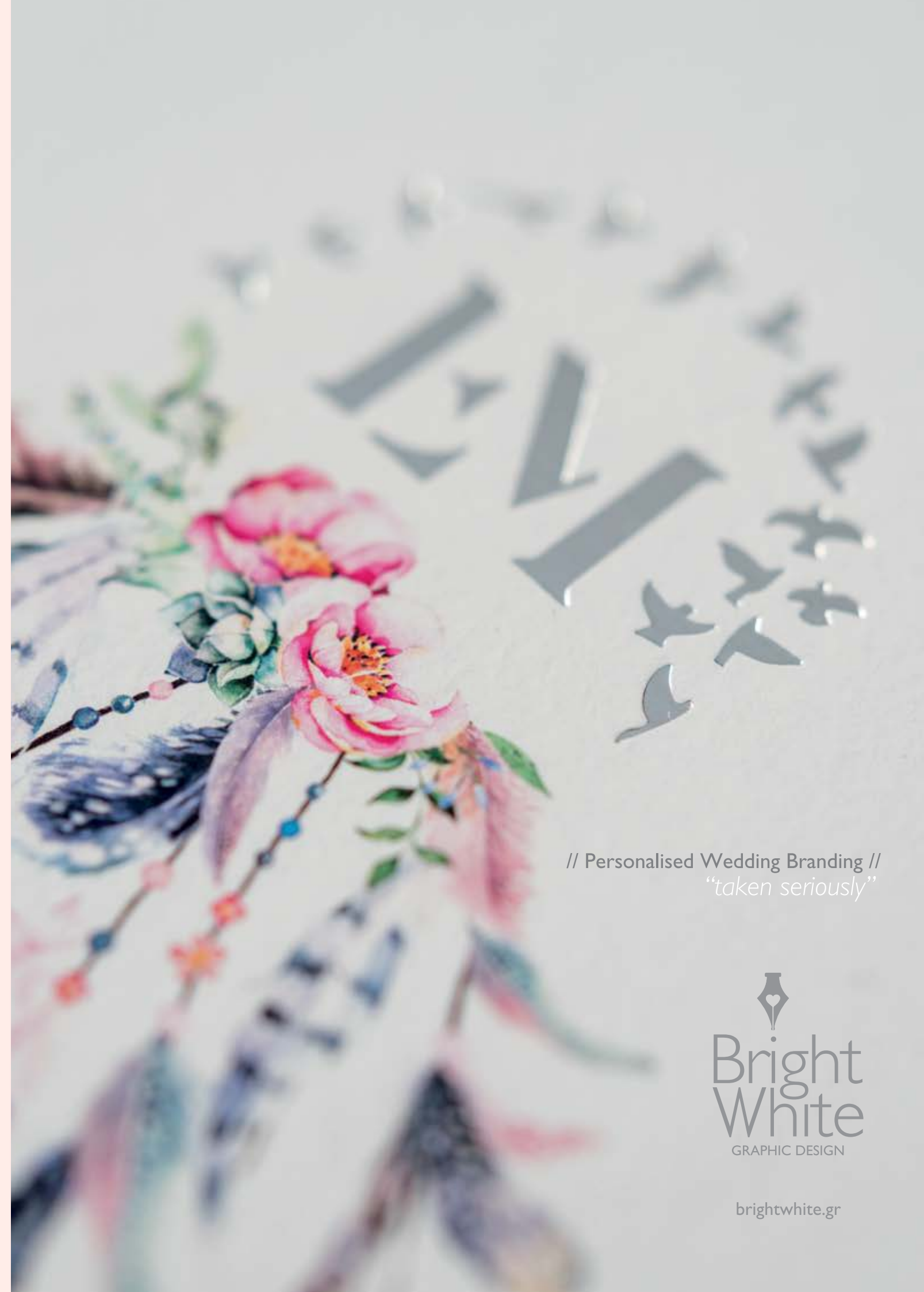
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// Personalised Wedding Branding //
"taken seriously"


**Bright
White**
GRAPHIC DESIGN

brightwhite.gr

Eclectic Urban Love Affair in Athens

Ellwed styled cover shoot

Summer in the city!

Embrace your destination and give in to the city life, was our moto of this styled wedding shoot.

Summer must be by far the most popular time for tourists to visit Greece and especially Athens with all the beautiful sights the city has to offer. You may not think of Athens as your wedding destination, but the city can offer you something the islands cannot. We tried to capture that edgy urban vibe in this inspirational cover shoot.



Photography, Karina Papadopoulos



*Selected Vendors for Ellwed
Styling, Concept & Planning,
Sand + Lace Events
Photography, Karina Papadopoulos
Developing, Carmencita Film Lab
Video,
Aristotelis Batistatos Cinematography
Cake, Pavlov's Lab
Hair & Make up Styling,
Georgia Xristodoulou Makeup Specialist
Models, Anna Papathanasiou
& Giorgio Karatasio
Dress, Epifanios Atelier
Custom Suit, Sur Measure
Floral Design, Studio 7 Florescence
Invitations & Stationery, Bright White
Venue, Six D.O.G.S.
With special thanks to
Tiago from carmencitafilm.com
Lukumades.com
Koulouri vendor from Ermou Street
"Koulouri Tis Polis"*



Our planner Bobbie Karagianni, from Sand and Lace, made sure everything from styling to design and planning was to the highest standards as well as on point with her vision for this cover shoot. Bobbie, a Greek-Dutch wedding planner and stylist from the Netherlands, specializes in organizing and styling weddings in Greece. This may have given her an advantage in the styling process as she had a very different perspective on the city and what it has to offer. She styled the look of this shoot with some Dutch influence and different, urban lifestyle. Working closely with our photographer, Karina Papadopoulos who was shooting on film, made this shoot stand out of the crowd. Each of the great ladies brought their ideas and editorial experience to the project to execute Bobbie's vision.



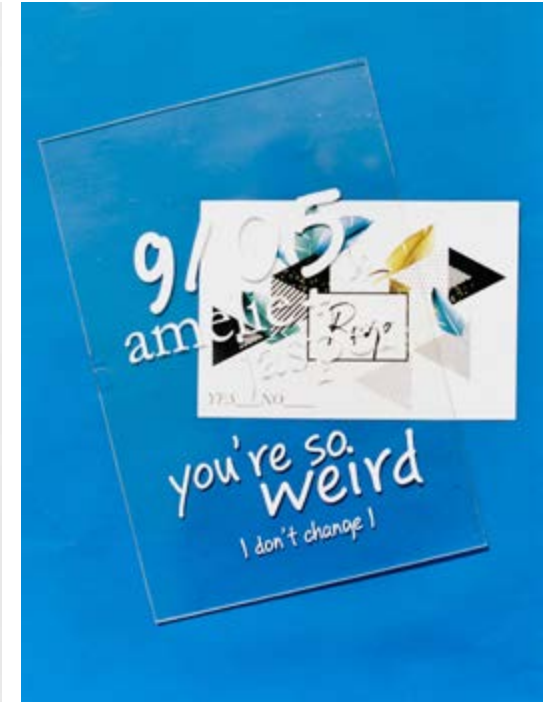
Our location was Athens city center and we wanted to show the most iconic parts of it. Bobbie chose the Six D.O.G.S. with their hidden city garden for our venue and the streets of Athens for the rest of the love story. Karina thoughtfully researched the streets with us, in order to depict the spirit of Athens. We decided on some important local traditional places like the local "Koulouri" (round bread pastry with sesame seeds) vendor from Ermou Street, the "Lukumades" (small local doughnuts with honey) bar and the iconic Monastiraki square (main square in Athens). We also did not forget on important pieces of the city like the famous yellow taxi and the almost forgotten phone booths that Karina noticed in the crowd. She followed her before well-thought out plan for the day, so we did not miss any important details of the story. Her expertise in high-end fashion with Bobbie's directions, gave this shoot that edge we wanted to portray.





Aris from Aristotelis Batistatos Cinematography, was careful to capture every moment for our editorial video. His artistic eye and different ideas combined the story of the couples urban love story or in our case, the city love affair. He captured the essence of our urban shoot and expressed Bobbie's vision. So, make sure you also see the video on our social channels.

Studio 7 Florescence created our unique urban floral composition, which was posed in front of iconic graffiti the city has to offer. The composition, table arrangement and the bridal bouquet were made with different exotic and local flowers. Main colours were yellow, orange red and blue for that little extra pop!



Within Bobbie's vision, Pavlov's Lab created one of their signature cakes with the very minimal urban, on trend, yet delicate designs just for us. This urban cake was accentuated with light cement grey colors and patterns, styled to perfection. Bright White produced hand-crafted stationery and invitations with Bobbie's directions of the exact look and vibe she was searching for. Whereas Karina's artistic eye and open-minded approach to photography, ensured that the cake and the stationery fitted flawlessly within our theme with the strong urban summer vibe. Every detail was a vital part in creating the unique image we wished to achieve.



Ofcourse we could not achieve this look without our amazing models Anna Papathanasiou and Giorgio Karatasio who rocked the shoot! Anna's look was perfect for our vision of this cover shoot and she truly brought it to the finish line with the Epifanios Atelier designer two piece wedding dress with a sheer top. While our groom wore the tailored made Sur Mesure navy blue checkered costume suit and white made-to-order shirt. Hair & makeup styling was carried out by Georgia Xristodoulou Makeup Specialist within the style of our urban look. She also made sure that the look of the bride and the groom stayed flawless throughout the shoot.

All in all, we created this amazing and unique styled wedding with the help of all our selected wedding professionals, who were truly dedicated to this project. Their quick and creative thinking resulted in outstanding images depicting urban summer and edgy vibes. We were truly inspired by the positive energy, creativity and commitment to the work that the whole team put in this cover shoot.



Tropical Vibes in the Athenian Riviera

Styled Wedding in Athens

by Stephanie Brauer

Rock Paper Scissor Events joined forces with American photographers Stephanie Brauer and Ushna Khan to create this unique summer editorial shoot.

Our initial mood board had tropical vibes and we wanted to infuse unexpected and modern elements like a pancake cake - instead of a traditional wedding cake - as well as the mobile beer bar we created to serve as welcome drinks during guests' entrance.



Team Credits:
Photographer,
Stephanie Brauer & Ushna Khan
Concept, Florals & Design,
Rock Paper Scissors Events
Invitations & Printables, Love Me Do
Venue, Balux / Dreams
Hair Stylist, Ioanna Karkantellou
Mua, Georgia Christodoulou
Dress Designer, Victoria Kyriakides
Groom's Suit, Bespoke Athens
Jewellery, Danelian Diamond Club
Furniture Rentals, Tore
Tablescape Rentals, White Lilac
Signage, The Letter Co
Sweets & Truck, Myrto's Cupcakes
Models Agency, Vn Models
Male Model, Yannis Koukourakis
Female Model, Stella Bjornerud
Film Lab, Carmencita



We created an organic ceremony by the beach and with the juxtaposition of our super stylish bride wearing a unique Victoria Kyriakides gown and diamonds from the oldest diamond jeweller in Athens, Danelian Diamond Club, with a truly laid back groom in Bespoke Athens suit and a windy hair look.

For our tablescapes we used a round table from Tore Furnishing Rentals and we installed hanging greenery and yellow candles for an extra summery touch.

Stationary by Love Me Do gave away the tropical vibes, its dark hues elegantly served our whole concept.





Bright Green Inspiration from the Mediterranean

Styled Wedding in Peloponnesse

by George Liopetas

For this Ellwed issue, we are presenting you a styled shoot that took place in Peloponnesse, Greece, at the beautiful venue of 'Agouridis Estate', which makes me dream of sunny skies and warm summer days.

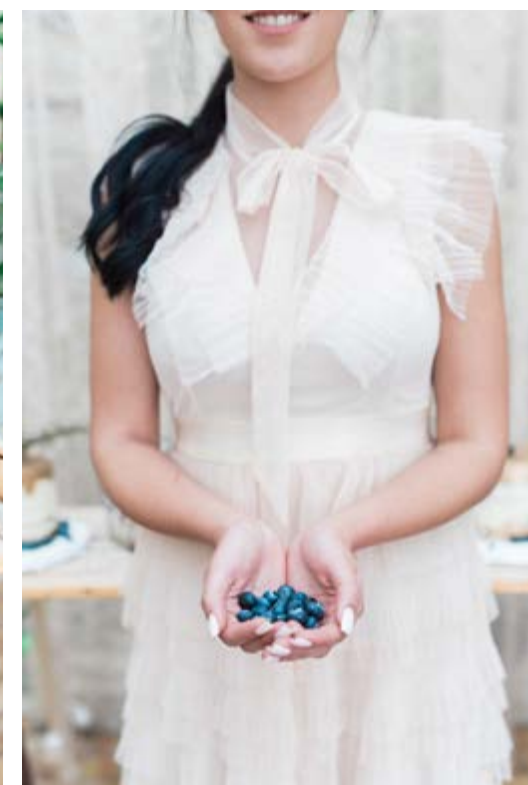
Our main theme and inspiration was the Mediterranean beauty combined with the colour of olive oil and leaves - greenery, which is still very much trending in 2018.



Team Credits:
Photography:
George Liopetas Wedding Photography
Videography:
Konstantinos Liopetas - Quick Film
Venue: Agouridis Estate
Planning & Styling: Time for Elegance
Macrame Art: Boho Choco
Floral Designer: Redboxdays.gr
Cakes & Desserts:
Maria's Cakes and Cookies
Paper goods & Invitations:
My Own Printable Design
Wedding dress: Bonsai Boutique
Bridal shoes: Shoe Land
Sandals: 2K10 Creations
Hair stylist: Plus Point Hair Salon - Vaso Athanasopoulou
Makeup artist: Anna Krigkou
Model: Stella Markopoulou



When it came to discuss with 'Time for Elegance', regarding the colour palette, we both agreed that green and crisp white colour, in combination with the beautiful macramé pieces of 'Boho Choco' and the amazing florals of Redboxdays.gr, would be the perfect inspiration for every bride looking to get married in between spring and summer days. Talking about inspiration, this stunning tablescape could not stay unmentioned, adding a vintage yet chic glam which every couple adores.





Belle Époque Era Inspired Wedding in Santorini

Styled Wedding from Oia

by Despina Kouloglou

Every photographer yearns for a wedding story built right into their imagery, the characters, the scenes, the action, the fuzzy feelings of the stories we get to shoot and tie together. This is a process that each photographer needs to make a spiritual journey into, and constantly upgrade their craft to offer their couples pristine images, and ensure that their day looks its absolute most beautiful in them.



The Secret Owl experience in Santorini on board with Tie the Knot Santorini and a superb band of Greek designers and artists rendered this shoot that brings together stunning details and evokes the beauty of Oia's magic.

Team Credits:
Photography: Despina Kouloglou
Coordination: The Secret Owl
Styling, Design: Tie the Knot Santorini
Florist: Betty Flowers Santorini
Cakes: Alexandra's Cakes
Event Rentals: Weddings & Whimsy
Tableware: White Lilac
Stationery: Bright White
Wedding Gowns: Made Bride By Antonea
Bridal Shoes & Headpiece: Savrani Creations
Hair Stylist: Marianna Nomikou
Mua: Renia Bledaki
Jewelry: Kousvelaris
Groom Attire: Kourlas Athens
Groom Shoes: Kwnstantino Shoes
Groom's Styling: It's A Man's Class
Cinematography: Jim Grillas Films
Venue: Oikoia



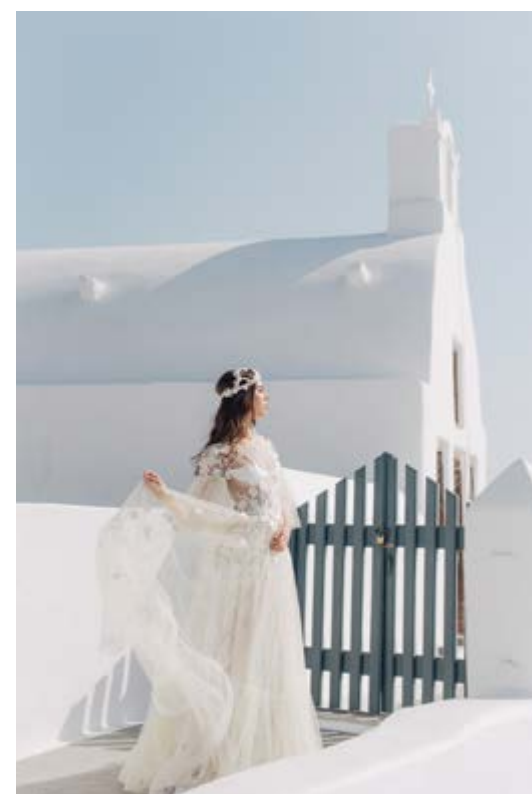
I was so taken by Maria Silla's belle époque concept that worked seamlessly with our ornate 19th-century house, full of beautiful original features including its elegant plasterwork outdoors, patina manicured grounds and neo-classical furnishings all of which provide the perfect backdrop to any wedding.

Era inspired weddings are definitely the new "It" and I was excited with how much attention to detail infused every snippet. It all started with Maria's initial inspiration, a 1920's Gainsborough sun hat a nod to the charm of summer strolls on the mazes of the island.

Gorgeous fashions complemented by bouquets of peach, yellow and pink garden roses, cascading greenery, peonies and cactus dahlias, monstera leaves and bright colorways were sprinkled with gold accents throughout! With this we wanted our bride to embody the soft, whimsical, romantic look of the Belle Epoque era and her optimistic take on the new chapter in her life. Our bride's trousseau included statement cocktail rings, by Kousvelaris, a soft flowing mermaid antique lace gown from bridal dress designer Made Bride by Antonea paired with a chapel veil and feathered lace heels by Savrani Creations and a bold engagement fancy stone.

Makeup artist Renia added a modern twist to the colonial Belle look for our bride by pairing peach lush lips with a clean dusty eye with lashings of black mascara to give a more glamorous feel. Marianna created a loose style loaned by Cléo de Mérode a Famous Belle Époque Dancer & Beauty Icon.





Florist Betty designed a modern bouquet featuring Palmetto, King Protea, David Austin, Veronicas Sweetpeas, colorful Caramel Antike, Café Latte, Lindsey English roses, and Chrysanthemums tied with hand dyed silk ribbon.

Alexandra created two stunning wedding cakes with sugar flowers and jewels to reflect the overall romantic but fresh theme, using pink icing as a base with a floral and jeweled trellis design and handcrafted delicate sugar flowers.

Our groom was styled by dapper It's A Man's Class, in a tailored navy blue, and grey fine Check jacket, paired with a white shirt and tailored trousers, from bespoke tailor Kourlas Athens.

For the reception tablescape wedding planner, Maria matched velour fabric textures to elegant bone china rimmed with gold and antique cutlery & silverware, creating a simple backdrop to the colorful floral display which included an impressive centerpiece. The tablescapes were made completed with modern calligraphed place cards and fer forge heirloom chairs.

Everything from the couple's Bright White modern tropical stationery to the reception decor won my heart, as for the dashing couple, their laughs I believe still echo like the applause of passers-by who wouldn't stop stealing a few pictures as we worked!



Romantic Modern Glam Wedding from Mykonos

Real Wedding from Mykonos

by Vasso Vantali from MBW Events

Our dearest Luciana and Jamie reside in London. Luciana's origins are Greek so when Jamie unexpectedly proposed during their vacation in Greece, there was no doubt that their wedding was going to be held in our beautiful country. Mykonos was chosen as the location because the couple has strong bonds with the island, particularly with Agios Sostis Church from Luciana's childhood. Both, strongly desired to have an elegant, romantic yet scenic wedding. They chose a bright colorful palette of fuchsia, orange, gold and blue perfectly matching the whitewashed walls Mykonos, the pink of the bougainvilleas and the crystal blue of the sea.

To fulfill our couple's needs we came up with a theatrical concept perfectly matching the simplicity of the villa where the reception dinner took place and the colors of the island, with ornate patterns and luxurious throws. Touches of bling, different patterns, chandeliers with dripping crystals and gold, jewel-tone colour palette, amphorae and fine porcelain were the key elements to their magical story.

Vendors List:
Design, Concept, Execution: My Best Wishes Events
Photography: Adrian Wood Photography
Lights & Sound: Design Diapason
Bride's Dress: Mira Zwillinger
Veil: Toni Federici
Bridal Shoes: Michael Kors
Groom's suit: Paul Smith
Bridesmaids Dresses: Monsoon
Food: Cocoon Catering
Wedding Stationary: Atelier Invitations
Florals: The Secret Garden
Wedding Favors: Sofi Kokkori & Eranuts
Hair Stylist & Makeup Artist: George Marascas

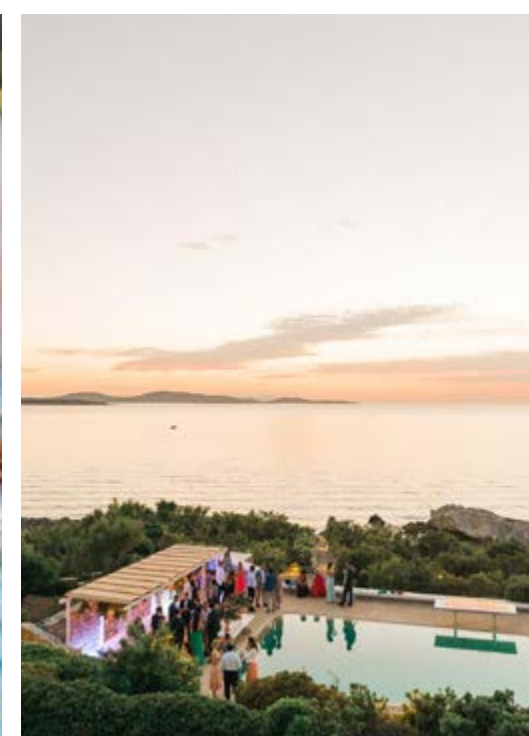


Jamie, the groom, arrived with his best men and his usher. The four stunning bridesmaids walked in a procession leading the way under the tunes of "Nuvole Bianche" by Ludovico Einaudi for our stunning bride and her father to walk down the aisle full of rose petals while "Moon River" performed by Audrey Hepburn was played on the background. It was a warm and very emotional ceremony, Sarah, our officiant, really caught us with her warm and affectionate speech, members of the family read touching poems and John, a beloved friend of the couple, performed an aria from Mozart's "Don Giovanni" accompanied by a guitar. Vows of love and rings were exchanged, their first "official" kiss and the newlyweds left the ceremony under the tunes of "Signed, Sealed, Delivered" by Stevie Wonder while the traditional rice was tossed!



The team used a watercolor effect for the wedding stationery as well as the tailor-made couple's logo, which was in different shades of blue and violet. Accordingly, everything was elegantly printed on white velvet paper. The symbolic ceremony took place at the charming chapel of Agios Sostis, by the sea, where Luciana's mother used to take her as a child. The courtyard of the chapel was set with benches for the guests and the chapel was beautifully decorated with an amazing colorful free styled flower garland. Ceremony programs were printed for everyone, fresh fruit and lemonade were welcoming our guests along with a bright sun that completed the scenery.





The dinner party was held on a beautiful villa overlooking Delos and the guests arrived in time for the amazing sunset. The pergolas were decorated with greenery, bulbs and chandeliers. White wooden tables around the pool were hosting a plethora of candles and big gold amphorae with colorful flower arrangements, while the whole garden was covered with fairy lights making it a magical scenery! Square white tables were chosen for our served dinner, covered with mint linen tablecloths decorated, fine blue porcelain and gold crystal glasses. Gold amphorae were used for our centerpieces, surrounded by ornate colorful glasses full of fuchsia and orange roses, peonies, bougainvilleas and snapdragons, the flowers used for the decoration.

We will never forget, the pink flamingo in the pool that really upgraded the afterhours party in the pool! The touching speech of the groom and his first words to his bride. As well as the heartwarming speech of the father of the bride that brought tears to all of us! Personally I will never forget the whole planning period, with Luciana and Jamie, always with their warm smiles and their kindness. The inspection trip that we first made to Mykonos, during autumn, and their second visit in Athens during spring where we really had fun! It was an honour for all of us in MBW Events to host their wedding and we are really blessed to know them and have them as part of our lives from now on.

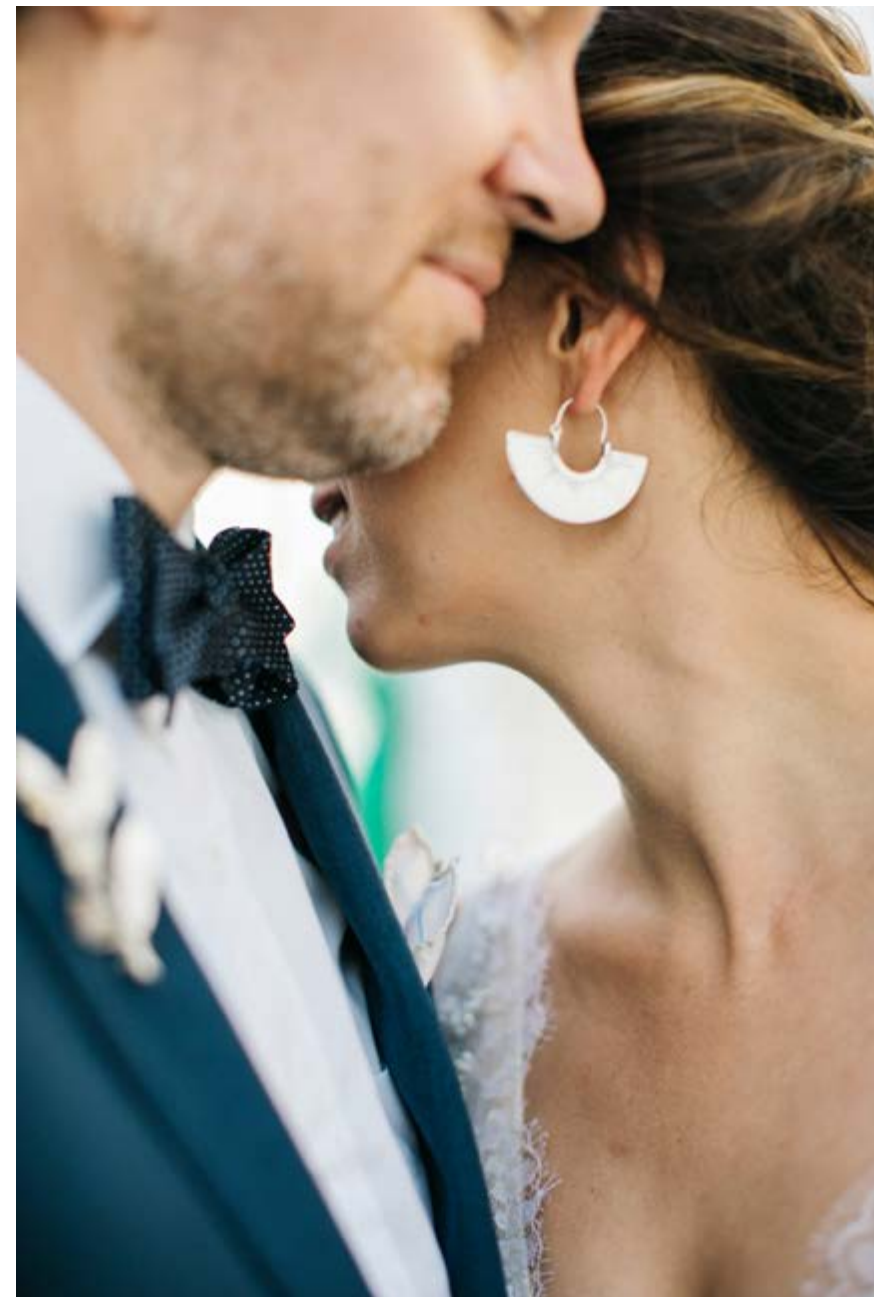


Boho Organic Wedding in Santorini

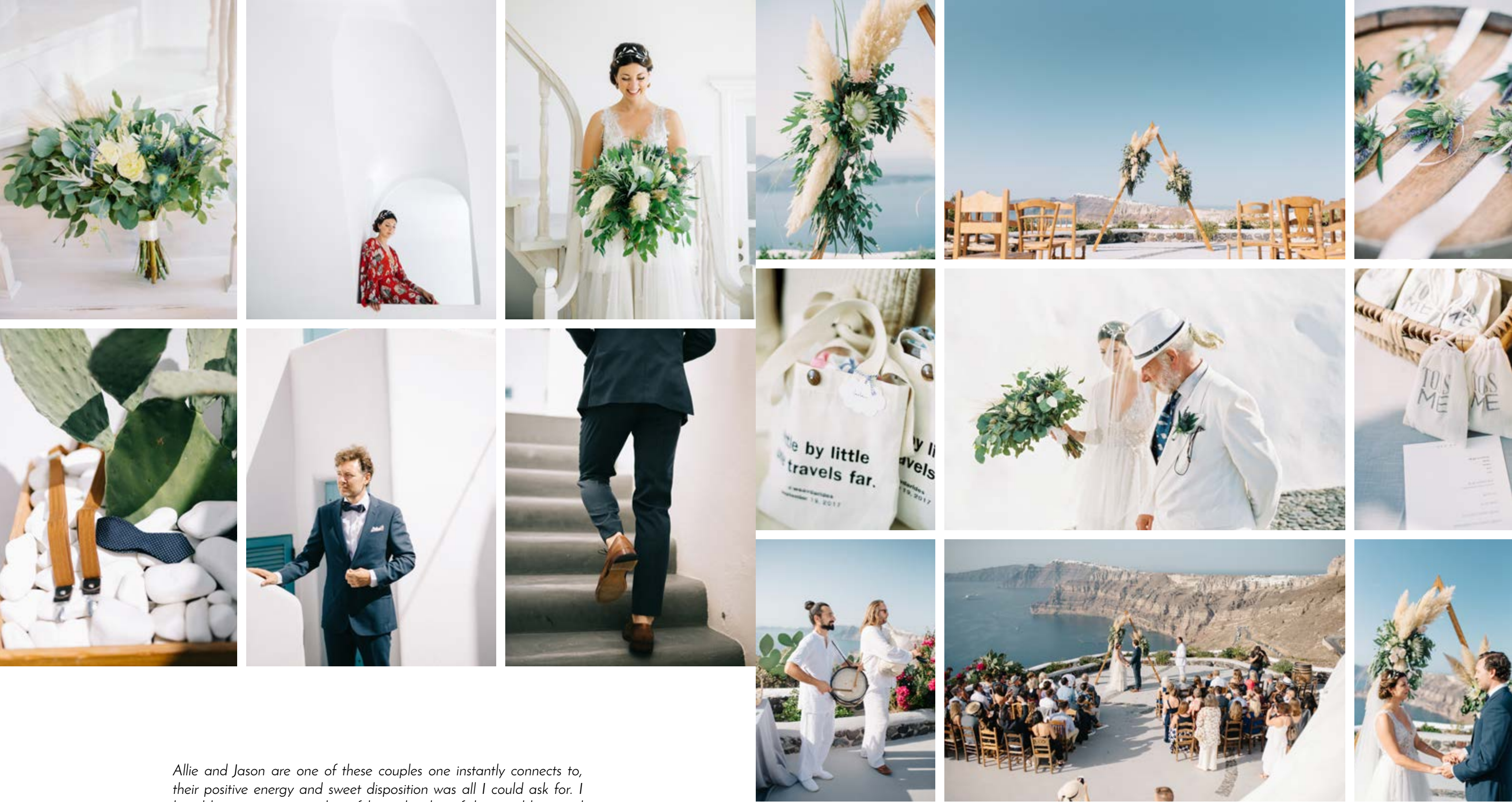
Real Wedding in Santorini

by Sotiris Tsakanikas

Getting wed back to where your roots began to grow is for sure a grand thing, and when Allie and Jason asked me to capture on film their upcoming wedding in Santorini I was so happy for their return (and mine) to this incredible wedding destination. It's been so touching to hear -among other beautiful parts of their love story- about Allie's father, one of the oldest restaurant owners on the island.



Vendors List:
Photography: Sotiris Tsakanikas
Wedding Styling & Design:
Tie the knot Santorini
Wedding Coordination:
Weddings & Whimsy Santorini
Wedding Venue: Venetsanos Winery
Florist: Betty Flowers Santorini
Wedding arch & chairs:
Weddings & Whimsy Santorini
Catering: Mario Catering
Tablecloths: White Lilac
Sound & Light Equipment:
Multimedia Events
Hair Stylist: Marianna Nomikou
MUA: Renia Bledaki



Allie and Jason are one of these couples one instantly connects to, their positive energy and sweet disposition was all I could ask for. I loved how organic everything felt on the day of their wedding, and how beautifully their wedding planner Tie the Knot Santorini put the couple's personal stamp on the ceremony and celebrations, where every detail, big and small just had to be a small treasure. Definitely, my biggest drive was this warm sense of welcome, so evident in their loved ones' embraces and happy faces everywhere, a kind of simplicity that sources of complete joy. It's been a most memorable experience and I couldn't thank Allie and Jason more for having me shoot their big day and making me part of their journey together. Love to you, beautiful souls!

Here is a short note from Allie, before the wedding: Jason and I met in Amsterdam – both of us moved there for our jobs. We spent our first year together traveling all over Europe together, falling in love through travel, food and exploring new places. We're getting married in Santorini, where I grew up spending my summers visiting my father. The island has grown up and changed a lot, but it's always been "home" and a place of comfort and inspiration. And as much as I've travelled, I've never been to a place like it.



My father has been in Santorini for over 40 years, so the island is very important to him too. We chose to host our friends and family at a winery on the island to share the landscape and fruit of the island with people coming in from all over the world (London, Amsterdam, Portland, LA, San Francisco, Austin and many small towns in South Carolina). I would like a unique lens for this experience. I am drawn to black and white and film-style photography. Nothing that feels too digital. I love how you capture candid moments and I wouldn't want to spend too much time on posed photographs. I particularly enjoy the environmental, details, colors and landscapes you bring into the collection of images. I hope to have an experience for our guests that celebrates Greek culture and details, with a modern and classic twist. We were so excited to have you join us for the day!

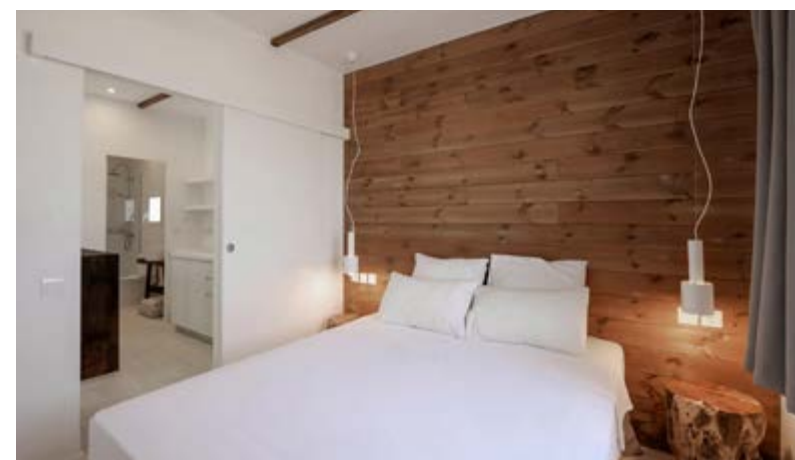
3 Glamping Reviews

Glamorous Camping Around Greece

Do you enjoy nature as much as your partner? If you are one of those active nature loving couples, who dream of a free and organic wedding vacations, then these glamping places may be just the thing you were looking for. These venues are perfect for the active and chic adventurous couple, who do not want to compromise on the amenities. And also those who always wanted to try camping, but did not want to sacrifice the luxuries. Be surrounded by Greek nature while you are glamping in style. You will feel like a chic nomad in safari!



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.



Akti Oneirou Luxury Camping in Halkidiki

Akti Oneirou Luxury Camping, located on the cape Sithonia in Halkidiki (near Thessaloniki) will charm you with the surrounded natural beauty, private beach and stunning designs. Upgrade to their Mobile Homes for the ultimate glamping luxury. Best choice for the bride and the groom, with their bridal party, while the out of town guests can also be accommodated on the property. Their laid-back restaurant with Cycladic architecture and refined design will provide you with the wedding of your dreams.

Pros

- Skilled in wedding events
- Wedding venue on the beach
- Top class design
- Different price ranges for the accommodation
- Private beach area
- Variety of suites and rooms available
- Accommodation and venue
- For reception and ceremony

Cons

- Possibility of other guests in the campsite
- Events not available in the winter season

<https://www.aktioneirou.gr>

All Photos from their website

Surf Club Keros on the Island of Limnos

As their name suggests, at Surf Club Keros are skilled in surfing, kiting and other sports activities. This is the perfect place for active nature lovers. Travel to Limnos Island and forget about the city! With wait deep waters in the natural bay of the island, you can learn how to kite if that is your passion. More sports orientated than wedding planning, this pace will for sure be a good choice for your accommodation or pre/post wedding activities. You can choose between medium, large and XL Safari Tents for the ultimate active, glamping experience.

- Pros
- For active couples
 - Wedding accommodation on the beach
 - Different price ranges for the accommodation
 - Private beach area with surf club
 - Variety of suites and rooms available
 - Sports and nature activates

- Cons
- Possibility of other guests in the campsite
 - Events not available in the winter season
 - Not for standard/typical wedding events
 - Mainly accommodation

<http://surfclubkeros.com/>
All Photos from their website



Club Agia Anna in Evia

Yurts and Cabanas at Club Agia Anna summer resort in Evia will be perfect lodging for couples as well as families. Close to Athens, the resort with private pool and accommodation like Yurts and Cabanas will be the ultimate glamping experience you are looking for. Nomadic design, Mongolian round tents with a conical transparent roof are fully equipped. Found only at the Agia Anna Club, these Yurts are the lavish accommodation you need.

- Pros
- Family orientated
 - Different price ranges for the accommodation
 - Private restaurant with modern design
 - Variety of suites and rooms available
 - Beach in the near vicinity

- Cons
- Possibility of other guests in the campsite
 - Events not available in the winter season
 - Further from the beach

<http://www.clubagiaanna.gr/>
All Photos from their website



Greek Island Hopping at your Fingertips

Why yachting in Greece is one of the best the choices for honeymooners

by Olga Altuhova

Greece spreads around thousands of islands bound by different seas. As such, it makes for an ideal location to hold an unforgettable wedding ceremony and party, and perhaps combine it with your honeymoon. Many of these islands have their own distinctive history and unique architecture. Greeks are known for the hospitality, amazing Greek cuisine, sun, beautiful nature and picturesque Greek villages.

The remarkable island of Santorini, the magnificent Rhodes, the sunniest island of Crete, the full-on "green" island of Corfu, the party island of Mykonos (an island that never sleeps, it is also called the Greek Ibiza) and many, many others. In my opinion, the most unforgettable honeymoon trip is an individual cruise on a yacht around the Greek islands. In addition, you can also hold a wedding ceremony on one of these islands.

Imagine - blue sea, sun, beautiful islands and bays, amazing landscapes, fresh air, swimming in the open sea, authentic Greek taverns, amazing wine on the deck under the starry sky and it is ALL YOURS ...

Here are some of the advantages of a cruise on a yacht around the Greek islands:



Photography: Vlad Zharoff

About the author
Olga Altuhova is a travel blogger, who visited more than 50 countries, Commercial director of ITravel.lv agency
"My credo: It's the only thing you can spend money on that will make you richer. Love to travel!"
Facebook: Olga Altuhova

1. Yachting in Greece is famous due to its excellent weather conditions. Sunny weather lasts here almost all year round.

2. Greece has about 3000 islands. During the cruise on the yacht you have the chance to visit the most intriguing of them, swim and sunbathe on deserted beaches and enjoy the picturesque nature.

3. On one of these islands you can hold a wedding ceremony you and your loved ones will never forget.

4. Travel around the islands of Greece most often begins with Athens. There are direct flights to Athens from many cities.

5. The yacht is handled by an experienced skipper, who knows the route well. Therefore, you can just relax, have fun and gain strength. However, if anyone has a sudden desire to feel like an old seadog, the skipper can always hold a briefing on the ship navigation, let you turn the winch and even stand behind the steering wheel. No special training - neither physical, nor clothing or equipment - is required in this case.

6. It is a great opportunity to bring along close friends on the yacht and share the moments with them.

7. Before your cruise around the islands, you can devote a couple of days to explore Athens. The famous Acropolis and the old town will make an indelible impression on you.

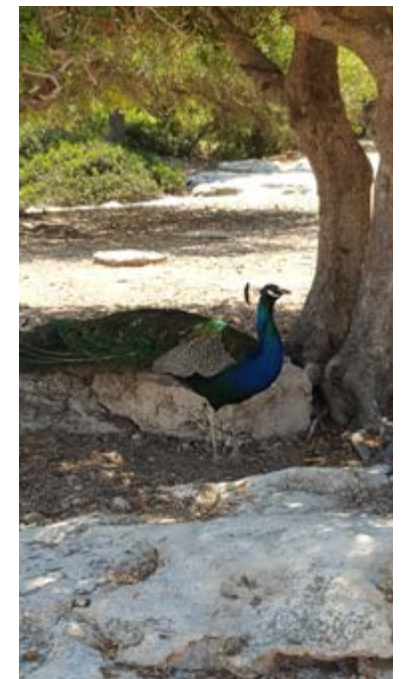
8. The route can be selected based on your wishes. The most popular routes are a one-week cruise around the islands of the Saronic Gulf or a cruise around the Cyclades.

The most important advantage of the cruise around the islands of the Saronic Gulf are the calm sea and short distances between the islands. It will allow you lie in the anchorage in green bays between trips, swim in azure water and sunbathe on sandy beaches. Most often, voyages around the Saronic Gulf begin in the marina of Alimos, in the area of between the center of Athens and Paleo Faliro. Charters usually start on a Saturday and last for a week or two.

Your 7 day trip can include islands like Aegina, Hydra, Spetses, Dokos, Poros and Methana. For this article, we will look at only three of these islands and leave the rest for you to discover on your own.



On the first day, if you arrive early and settle in your yacht, you can start your trip right away visiting the nearest island of Aegina. This gorgeous Greek island is one of the most attractive tourist destinations in Greece. There are unique archaeological sites in its territory, and fantastically beautiful landscapes complement the rich historical heritage of Aegina, even walking distance from the main city. Every night of your trip you can enjoy a romantic dinner on the yacht and every morning amazing breakfast with different spectacular views from the deck!



Swimming in the bay of the island of Moni is a must! The tiny island of Moni lies directly opposite to the resort village of Perdika, which is located on Aegina. Actually, Perdika and Moni are set apart only by 8 km wide canal. Moni is an uninhabited island, where the only permanent residents are some wild animals, which are so tame that they can take food straight from your hands! With only one small beach bar, sandy beaches off the coast of Moni differ with slightly cool and deep sea, ideal for swimming on hot summer days.

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A trip to the island of Hydra, one of the most picturesque islands of Greece, will for sure intrigue your interest. Inimitable architecture and nature, the beauty of which cannot be described by words, have become its visiting card. The amazing island has no car traffic, as cars are not allowed on the island. Locals move exclusively on donkeys and horses, which makes these areas even more interesting and attractive for travelers. So, wear your comfortable shoes for your stroll in the city.

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Q&A

Q:

"Hello Ellwed. We are getting married in Santorini next year and I was wondering how other destination brides choose their venue? Since destination weddings are a new concept for us, I am not sure if it will actually pay off for us to go check all the possible venues on our own. I know that at home, I would go check the venue and talk with them about all the details and what I want regarding the food and so on. But how do you go about this when you are far away? Thanks, Ellie"

A:

Hello there Ellie, we are so glad you asked this question, as it is a big decision all brides have to face while getting married abroad.

Most destination brides would hire a wedding planner or a destination wedding planner, who would scout the venues for them. Depending on the agreement you make with your planner, they can go and take photos and videos to send you. They can talk to the representatives of the venue in your name and even suggest different venues regarding your budget and style. More skilled wedding planners will know exactly which venue is right for you as they probably worked with all of them. A good planner will also make sure your dream wedding comes true as you envisioned it. In case you want to do this on your own (which we would not suggest if you do not know the area and local culture) you can always do extensive research on the internet. And once you decide on one venue, send them and email to establish contact and maybe even schedule a call with them. Most venues are quite skilled in dealing with destination weddings and will understand your situation.

Q:

"Hi Ellwed. We are getting married at home, but thinking of having your honeymoons in Greece, Santorini specifically. Would you recommend us Santorini or any other Greek island? Thank you for your answer, Sara"

A:

Hello Sara. Uf! That is a difficult question to answer, as we do not know what exactly you expect from your honeymoon vacations. If you would like to just relax and not do anything, we suggest to get an all-inclusive hotel where you do not need to move or do anything. In which case, the location itself doesn't really matter, does it? If you seek adventure, think of the places that will provide you with that activity. For instance if you like surfing, check out Paros, Naxos, Rhodes or Limmnos.

We hope you know that Santorini is a volcanic island and the beaches have dark or black sand, if you were hoping for crystal turquoise sea with golden sandy beaches, maybe another island would be better. The nice white villages of Santorini you see in the photos (Oia, Thira, Imerovigli), are situated on top of the mountain and do not have an easy access to the beach, but are perfect for romantic dreamy walks and photos. Of course Santorini does offer you activities and sightseeing as any island. You can also do the very popular island hopping since many islands in Greece are very close together and you can also find the one day tours to the nearest island.

All in all, before you decide on anything, make sure you know what you want out of your honeymoon and do your research first.

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Favours,
Mostra Rota- gift show
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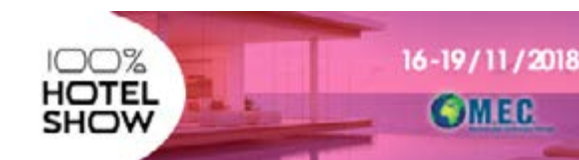


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Time for Elegance, www.timeforelegance.gr
Tie the Knot Santorini, tietheknotsantorini.com
My Best Wishes Events, www.mbwevents.gr

Florists

Studio 7 Florescence, www.studio7.gr
Red Box Days, www.redboxdays.gr
Betty Flowers Santorini, www.bettyflowerssantorini.gr
Secret Garden, www.secretgarden.gr

Wedding photographers

Karina Papadopoulos, karinapapadopoulos.com
Sandy and Odysseas Photography, www.sandyandodysseas.com
Alexandros Makris for T-life
Sotiris Tsakanikas, sotiristsakanikas.com
Yiannis Alefantou, www.alefantou.com
Christos Mavraganis, christosmavraganis.gr
Jill Denny-Soto, www.jilldennyphoto.com
Dimitris Giouvriss, www.dimitrisgiouvriss.com
Elias Kordelakos, www.eliaskordelakos.com
Emotional Frames, www.emotionalframes.gr
CP Sofikitis, www.cpsofikitis.com
Stephanie Brauer, stephaniebrauer.com
Ushna Khan, www.ushnakhanphotography.com
George Lipopetas Photography, www.georgeliopetas.com
Despina Kouloglou, www.despinakouloglou.gr
Adrian Wood Photography, www.adrianwoodphotography.com
Vlad Zharoff, www.zharoff.com

Video

Aristotelis Batistatos Cinematography, www.aristotelisbatistatos.gr
Konstantinos Liopetas - Quick Film, www.quick-film.gr
Jim Grillas Films, www.jimgrillas.com

Stationery & Calligraphy

Bright White, www.brightwhite.gr
Love Me Do, www.lovemedo.gr
My Own Printable Design, www.myownprintabledesign.com
Atelier Invitations, www.atelier-invitations.gr

Signage/Letters:

The Letter Co, facebook.com/TheLetterCo

Cakes & Sweets

Pavlov's Lab, www.pavlovslab.gr
Myrto's Cupcakes, [instagram.com/myrtoscupcakes](https://www.instagram.com/myrtoscupcakes)
Marias Cakes and Cookies, www.cakesandcookies.gr
Alexandra's Cakes, alexandravossou.wix.com/alexscakes

Catering

DrinkWorks Cocktail Gifts & Events, www.drinkworks.gr
Cocoon Catering, cocoon-catering.gr
Mario Catering, www.santorini-catering.gr

Hair & Makeup

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Anna Krigkou
Marianna Nomikou, [facebook.com/HairstylingSantoriniMariannaNomikou](https://www.facebook.com/HairstylingSantoriniMariannaNomikou)
Renia Bledaki, www.beauty-santorini.com
George Marascas, [facebook.com/george.marascas](https://www.facebook.com/george.marascas)

Styling

Bobbie Karagianni, www.sandnlace.com
Lia Igam, trendscontrol.com
It's A Man's Class, www.itsamansclass.com

DJs & Bands, Sound & Light Equipment

Design Diapason, diapason.gr
Multimedia Events, eventsinsantorini.com

Designers

Epifanios Atelier, [facebook.com/epifanios.atelier](https://www.facebook.com/epifanios.atelier)
Sur Measure, www.surmeasure.gr
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Mira Zwilling, www.mirazwilling.com
Toni Federici, tonifederici.com
Paul Smith, www.paulsmith.co.uk
Monsoon, www.monsoon.co.uk

Jeweler

Danelian Diamond Club, www.theddiary.com
Kousvelaris, www.kousvelaris.gr

Shoes

Kyrvan Shoes, www.kyrvanshoes.com
Shoe Land, www.shoeland.gr
2K10 Creations, www.2k10.gr
Savrani Creations, savrani creations.gr
Kwnstantino Shoes, kwnstantinoshoes.gr
Michael Kors, www.michaelkors.com

Party Rentals

Tore, www.tore.gr
White Lilac Rentals, www.whitelilac.gr
Weddings & Whimsy, www.weddingsandwhimsy.com

Favors, gifts

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ea Ceramic Studio, www.eaceramicstudio.com
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Sofi Kokkori, [facebook.com/BySofiKokkori](https://www.facebook.com/BySofiKokkori)
Eranuts, www.eranuts.com

Venues, Villas & Hotels

Six D.O.G.S., sixdogs.gr
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Agouridis Estate, www.ktima-agouridi.gr
Oikoia, [facebook.com/oikoia](https://www.facebook.com/oikoia)
Venetsanos Winery, www.venetsanoswinery.com
Akti Oneirou Luxury Camping, www.aktioneirou.gr
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