

AUTUMN 2019
The Inspiration Edition

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PLANNERS

Expert's Advice on
BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Expert's Advice on
BRIDAL HENNA TATTOO



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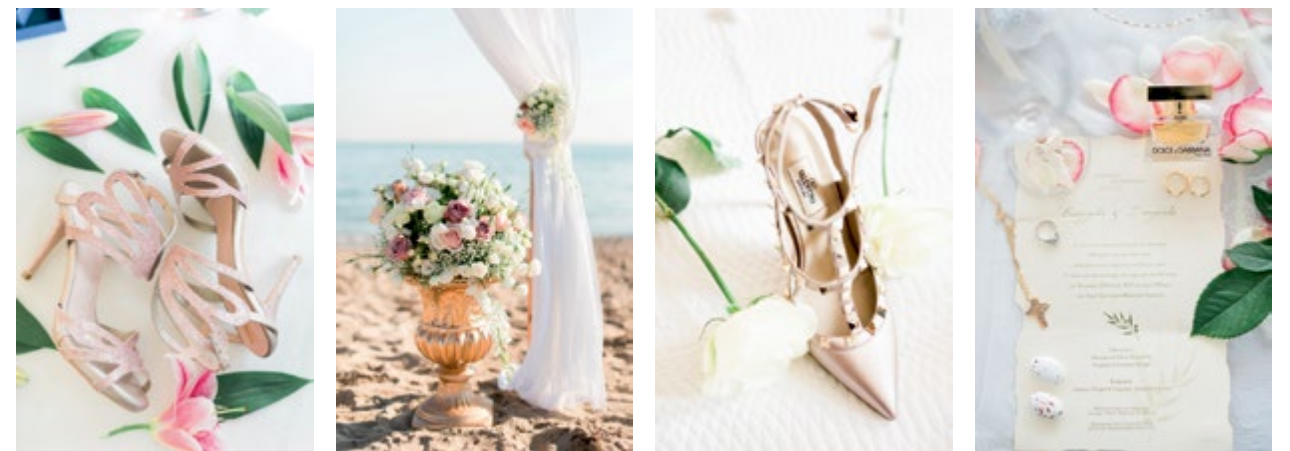
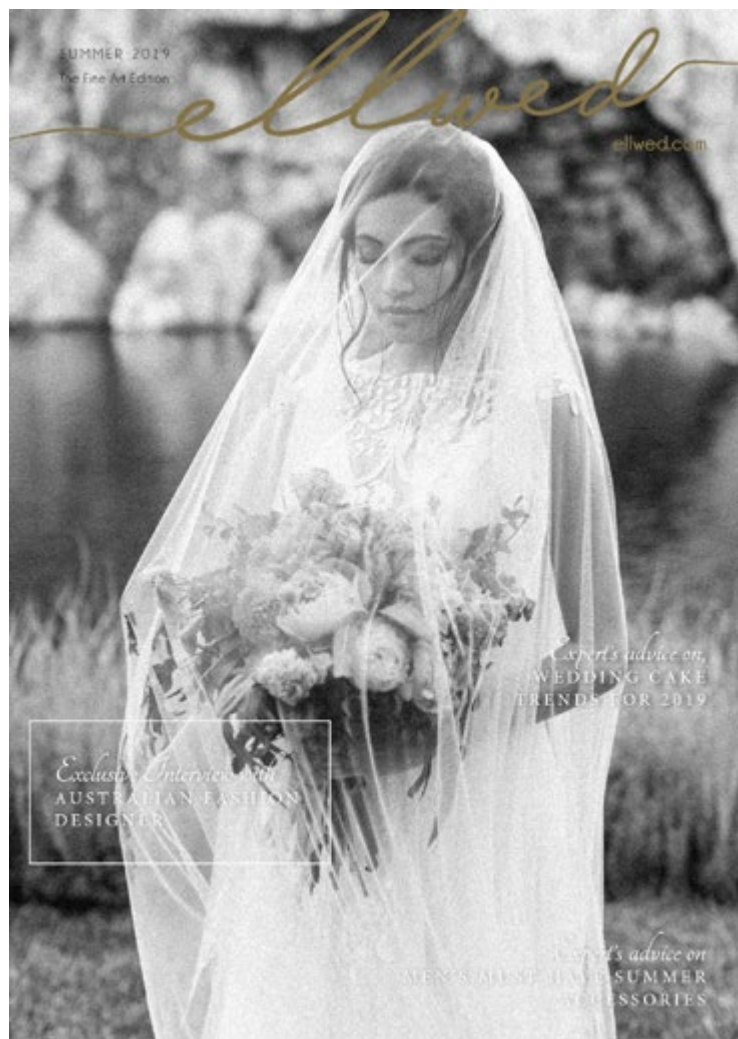
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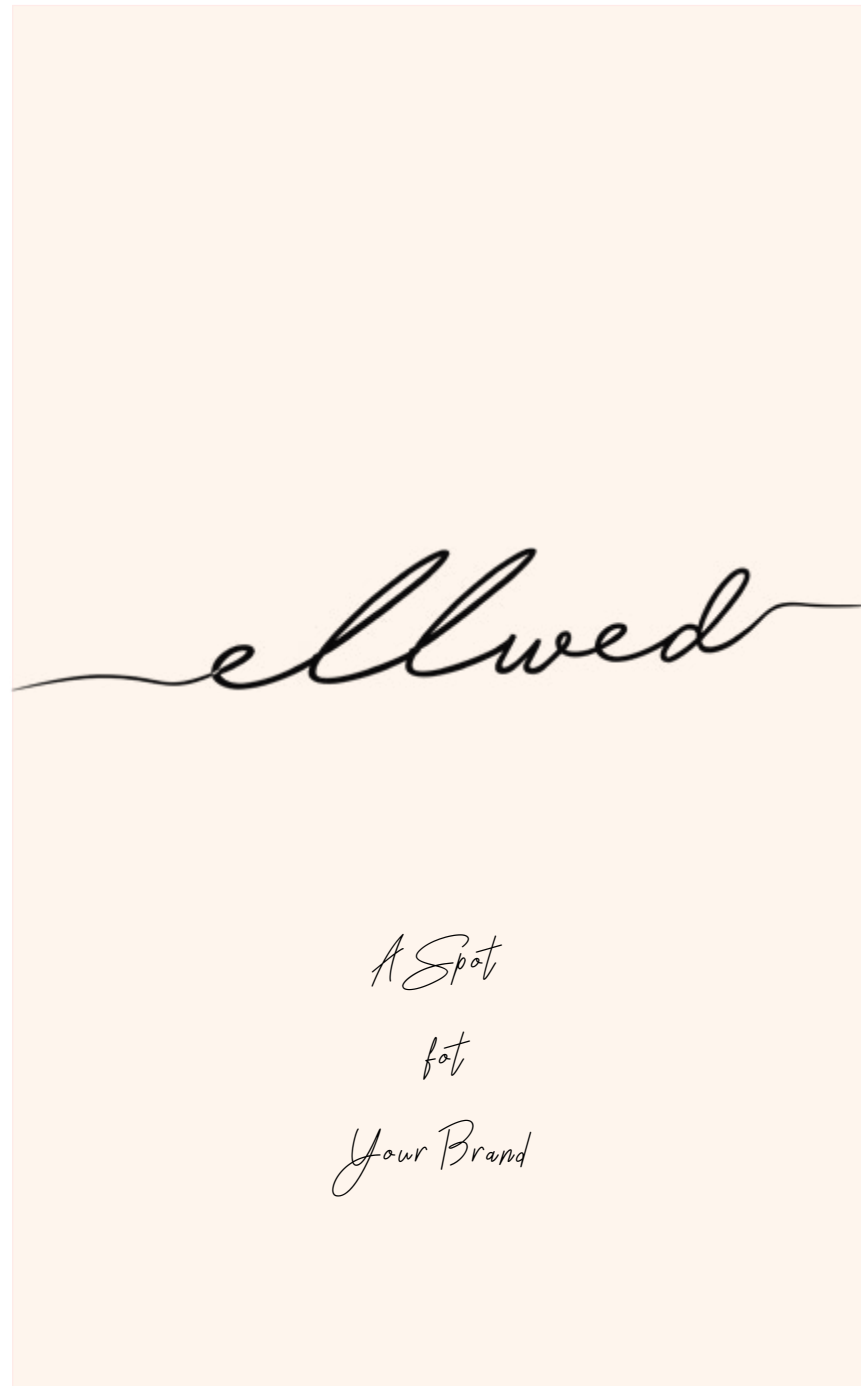


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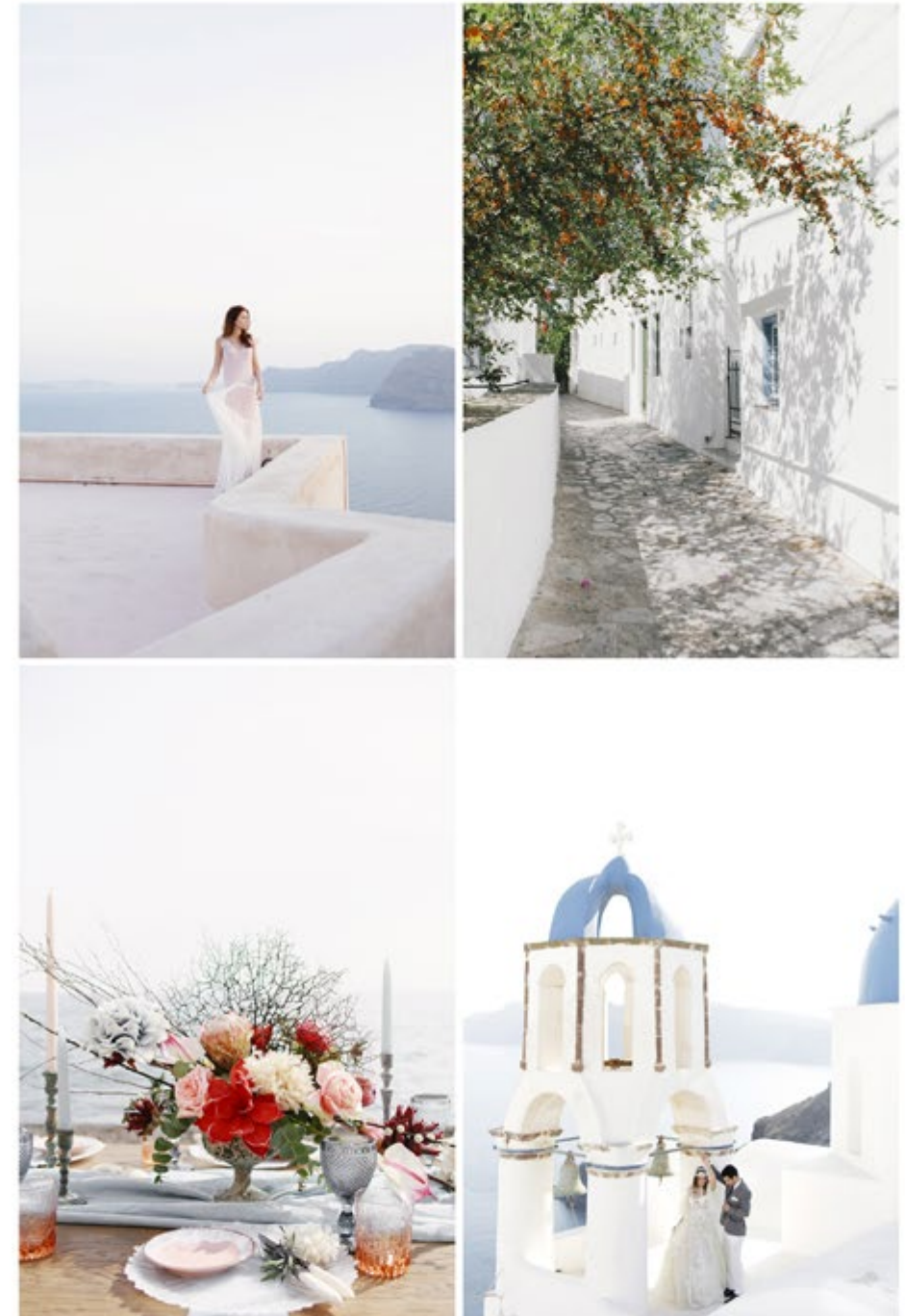


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Hair & Makeup, Katerina Theocharis
Wedding dress & Veil, Celia Kritharioti
Jewelry, Mindy Lam
Bridal shoes, Bella Belle Shoes
Female model, Linnea Berzen

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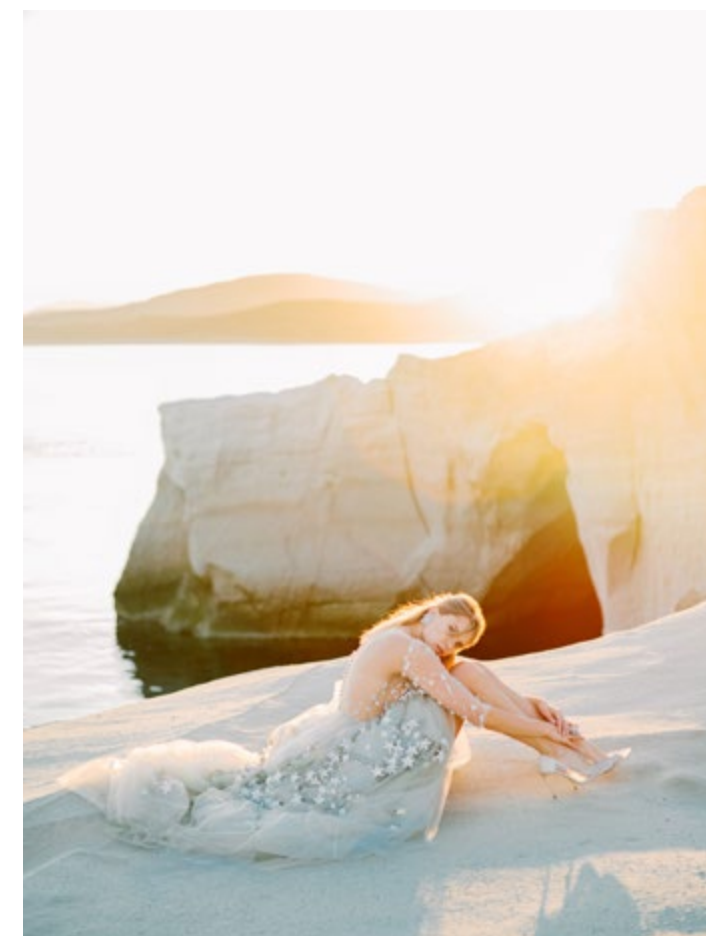
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Hair & Makeup, Katerina Theocharis
Groom's styling, It's a Man's Class
Groom's watch, Breitling
Groom's jacket, Sciamat
Male model, Christos Birbas

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A wedding scene set against a backdrop of white, layered rock formations. A bride in a long, light-colored gown with star patterns and a long train stands next to a groom in a grey suit and white trousers. They are holding a bouquet of pink and yellow flowers. To their left is a table covered with a light blue cloth, set with white plates, glasses, and lit candles. A large, elaborate floral arch made of pink, orange, and blue flowers hangs over the table. In the foreground, several tall, thin candles are lit on the ground.

Styling & Planning, Lily of the Valley
Planning & Coordination, Shefari Travel
Coordination, Ellwed Bridal Magazine
Photography, Adrian Wood
Videography, Nikos Dimou
Sponsor, Bridal Expo BFW Athens
Flowers, Studio 7
Stationery, Love Me Do
Furniture, Zazoo Event Rentals
Hair & Makeup, Katerina Theocharis
Groom's styling, It's a Man's Class
Groom's watch, Breitling
Groom's jacket, Sciamat
Art de la table, White Lilac
Wedding cake, Pavlov's Lab
Wedding dress & Veil, Celia Kritharioti
Jewelry, Mindy Lam
Bridal shoes, Bella Belle Shoes
Venues, Milos Cove Hotel
Ring box, Je Promis
Female model, Linnea Berzen
Male model, Christos Birbas

Explore!

Oh wow, what a season! It is safe to say that this issue was intensely expected and finally we can share it now with you. We went out to explore the true destination wedding locations in Greece and ended up on Milos. One of the most unique up-and-coming islands for honeymoon, travel or even out-of-this-world destination wedding of your dreams!

This was a long trip and we spent many days in luxury to shoot this cover. Read all about it in the Behind the Scenes article on page 20. This idea, for something unique and different came to us a good year ago and after a lot of planning and organization our team pulled off this gorgeous cover shoot, which you can find on pages 86-101 and let us know what you think about it! If this is a wedding of your dreams, send us a message on our social media channels @ellwedmag, because we want to hear your feedback.

Now, enough of reminiscing the past, let's look forward and meet all the new amazing wedding pros working in the wedding industry in Greece featured in this issue. Personally, I am so proud of this issue and how it came together with all the amazing professionals from all over the world. We are reaching the goals at Ellwed to promote Greece as a destination, offering advice and taking a deeper look into brands and sharing it globally with all destination brides and jet setting travellers who want to explore Greece with us!

So if you are one of those, go on page 64 and check the story behind a brand who can make your dream trip stress free in our exclusive interview with bespoke travel planners. And if you are getting married and need a celebrant, ship to page 56 and read all about Destination Weddings in Greece with a difference and how this celebrant from UK came to Greece.



Photography, Stellar Hours Photography
Bridal LookBook
page 32



Photography, White on Black Studio
Henna Tattoo Artist
page 78



Photography, Lost in Love
Real Bride
page 121

However, if you are more adventurous, I urge you to check the story behind this Henna Tattoo artist from Greece on page 76 and all the tips she has prepared for you if you are thinking of having a Henna tattoo for your wedding or just for fun. And the first time ever in Ellwed Magazine we are helping you with your own DIY project on how to make your own gorgeous Polaroid photo display! It's easy and fun to do if you follow the instructions on page 50.

The year is almost over, but the trends are still going strong and some will still be in 2020! So don't miss this fun trend report from Australia on page 40! They gathered all the top wedding professionals of the world to share their best kept secrets with you. However, if you are looking for inspiration rather than information, don't miss all the gorgeous weddings on pages 102 and onwards! But if anything, read the real life story of this gorgeous bride who travelled the world and married in Rhodes! The true Glam Destination Wedding in Greece is on page 118.

And if you are a pro, we have a whole section just for you! Skip to the end on page 135 and read all the super useful tips from a global leading brand in technology! Trust me, if you have a website, you should read this article!

Personally, I am really looking forward to attend this year's Wedding Circle and to meet all of you wedding professionals there, as we believe in education and inspiration! But what is more, we are setting up a special surprise with Bridal Expo and Bridal Fashion week, in January 2020 so stay tuned till then to find out what! This issue is filled with great inspirational articles so don't hesitate to go through it one by one! Take your time and enjoy!



Photography, Maseen Kim

Lots of love,

SANYAPERCIC, EDITOR



One of my favourite photos - 91

Photography, Adrian Wood

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ELLWED STYLED COVER SHOOT
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Wedding cake, [Pavlov's Lab](#)
Wedding dress & Veil, [Celia Kritharioti](#)
Jewelry, [Mindy Lam](#)
Bridal shoes, [Bella Belle Shoes](#)
Venues, [Milos Cove Hotel](#)
Ring box, [Je Promis](#)
Female model, [Linnea Berzen](#)
Male model, [Christos Birbas](#)

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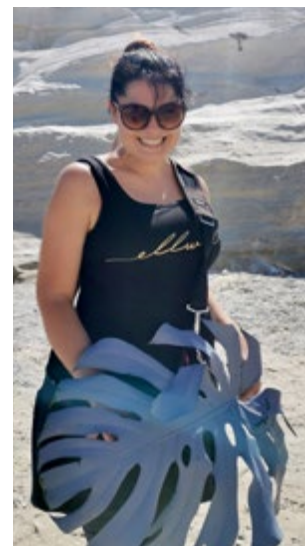
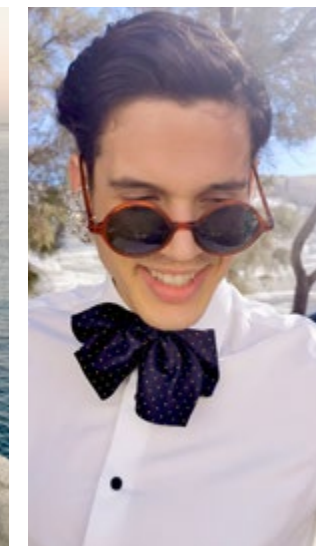
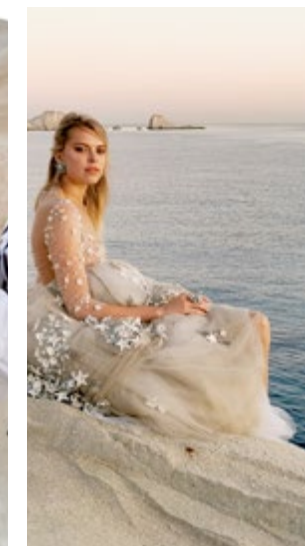
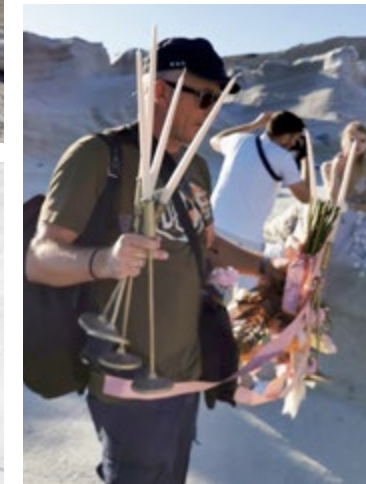
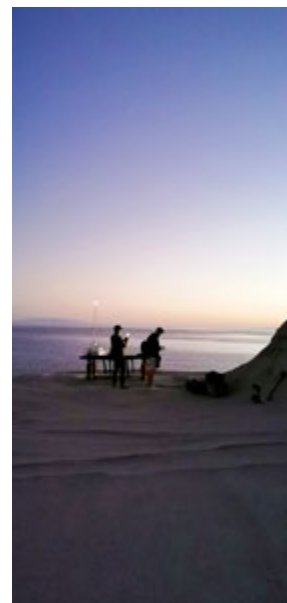
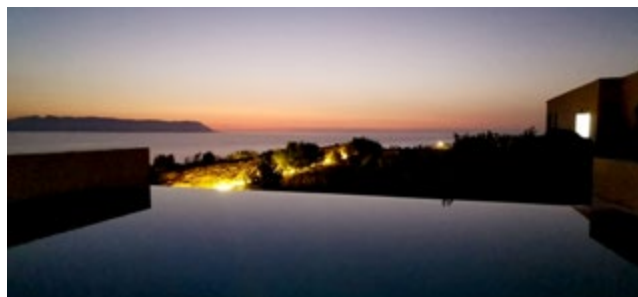
Oh what a week! Yes, a whole 5 days we spent on the magical island of Milos to set up this gorgeous styled shoot!

After many many months of planning we can finally share this gorgeous Cover Shoot with you. This Cover shoot was actually a bit different from the rest. We teamed up with an international team of vendors all living and working in Greece, but what was different about this one is this gorgeous and unique up-and-coming jetsetters location. Read more on Milos and our luxury hotel Milos Cove at the end of this issue!

We were waking up almost every day before the sunrise just to scout and find the perfect hour to capture those gorgeous pinks and golden yellows! And it was worth it! The famous and unique lunar looking beach of Milos, Sarakiniko, was absolutely gorgeous just before the first rays of sun hit the rocks and the sea. However, we were not alone,

as many tourists took the opportunity of early hours to come and do the same, bask in the peaceful out-of-this-world beach views before the rush hour.

And of course on the day of this Autumn2019 Cover Shoot, we started in the very early hours, the sun has not risen yet if you can believe it, and yes, the amazing team of Studio 7 Florescence was on set with us, unloading their magical creations in the dark and helping with the setup through the day! Diane from Lilly of the Valley and Nektaria from Shefari took care of the details and the best locations for the table and arch setup. Photographer Adrian Wood and videographer Nikos Dimou immediately started working against the clock and chasing the sunrise, trying to capture the perfect moments of light. Group effort was needed for some shots in this difficult lunar landscape. However it was all worth it on the end!



Our Makeup and hair stylist Katerina Theocharis took care that our bride and groom looked flawless through the whole day. While Michail from It's a MAN's Class, paid attention to every detail of the groom's style and also helped out throughout the day. Linnea and Christos, our models, were such stars throughout the whole day! Nothing was too hard for them and we all worked to achieve the final magical result. Linnea was actually so excited about our cover shoot that she even got posing inspirations of her own throughout the day!

From sunrise to sunset, with a short brake in between, the whole team was absolutely dedicated to get the best possible result of this elaborate Cover Shoot. Therefore, skip to the last pages and get inspired!

Special thanks goes to Stalexpo team behind Bridal Expo and Bridal Fashion Week for believing in Ellwed Magazine and supporting our project. We could not have done this without your support!



Styling & Planning, Lily of the Valley
Planning & Coordination, Shefari Travel
Coordination, Ellwed Bridal Magazine
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Videography, Nikos Dimou
Sponsor, Bridal Expo BFW Athens
Flowers, Studio 7
Hair & Makeup, Katerina Theodoris
Wedding dress & Veil, Celia Kritharioti
Jewelry, Mindy Lam
Bridal shoes, Bella Belle Shoes
Female model, Linnea Berzen

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ARE LONG BRIDESMAID DRESSES BETTER OPTION THAN SHORT ONES? EXPERT'S ADVICE BY LESLY WHITE OF THEBESTWEDDINGDRESSES.COM

The choice of bridesmaid dresses is rather a tricky business. You must take into account many factors, including your wedding format, style, color scheme, location and personal taste. Moreover, you need to think about your bridesmaids and find the dresses which they will like and feel comfortable in.

Many brides prefer long bridesmaid dresses as they look more elegant and

festive. Undoubtedly, long gowns are always a good idea and, actually, they may be good for any type of wedding as there are many possible designs and styles.

However, are long dresses more suitable for wedding than their shorter analogues? Let's study this problem to find out what the better option is.



Reasons to Opt for Long Bridesmaid Dress:

So, why should you opt for long gowns for your bridesmaids? Here are the main reasons to do that:

1. Long dresses always look elegant and classy. They can make every girl look feminine and tender. Actually, even a tomboy can turn into a real lady if she wears a beautiful long gown.

2. Long gowns are the best option for formal occasions like black tie and white tie weddings. Basically, even guests are supposed to come to such events in long evening attires. And as the role of a bridesmaid is much more important, black and white tie weddings are one of those rare occasions when long dresses for bridesmaids are a must.

3. With covered-up legs, self-conscious bridesmaids don't worry about pale or scarred legs. We know that many girls want to look ideal at such an event as their friend's wedding, but very often they meet some obstacles on their way to the perfect look. Thus, they may just fail to have enough time to sunbathe or maybe they have some scars they would like to hide. And so, long dresses may assist in hiding those parts of body which a girl has no desire to demonstrate.

4. Along with some body defects, long dresses may also cover the shoes. It means that it's not required to wear high heels and each bridesmaid is free to choose for a comfortable pair of shoes, even if they feature no heels at all.

5. And finally, the choice of long gowns is very wide. They have various colors, designs and embellishments. You can find astonishing burgundy bridesmaid dresses long or the ones in blush color. You are free to buy dresses with sleeves and strapless ones, simple as well as heavily embellished gowns. Actually, there are dresses for any type of wedding and for any budget.





Advantages of Short Bridesmaids Dresses:

Clearly, short bridesmaid dresses look funny and cute. But these aren't their only advantages. Let's see why you should consider opting for short dresses for your girls.

1. Undoubtedly, it's easier to wear short dresses than long ones. A few of us wear long clothes daily and that's why, some girls may feel uncomfortable and even awkward in a long gown. At the same time, short dresses are more familiar to us and cause no discomfort.

2. Short dresses are a great opportunity to show beautiful shoes. If you or your bridesmaids are shoes addicts, you are free to make an accent on beautiful shoes and demonstrate them by wearing a short dress.

3. The shorter variants of dresses will be highly appreciated by your bridesmaids if you are going to get hitched on a hot summer day. The thing is that even if the dresses are made of the same fabrics, shorter variants will always feel lighter and more comfortable for hot weather. Additionally, if you plan a beach wedding, short and tea-length dresses for bridesmaids are an amazing idea.

4. Surprising enough but short gowns may be more flattering if your bridesmaids are of different height. The thing is that while petite girls may feel they drown in a long gown the statuesque ones may fail to find extra long bridesmaid dresses. In order to avoid that problem, opt for shorter variants of dresses and everyone will remain content.

However, note that the dresses shouldn't be of identical height. It will be more beautiful if they will look proportional at each girl. For instance, each dress can be a couple of inches below the knees of each girl no matter what her height is. As a result, the dresses will have various lengths but will look identical as soon as your bridesmaids put them on.

5. Darker shades don't look gloomy with short attires. Today, deep dark colors are pretty popular. However, some people consider that bridesmaids in such dark colors may look pretty gloomy and may fail to be harmonious with the bride. Actually, it's nonsense as weddings where burgundy, navy, dark green or purple colors are employed may be very stylish and beautiful.

At the same time, if you are afraid of adding too much dark color to your wedding celebration but still like dark shades, consider buying short dresses for girls. For instance, a black floor length bridesmaid dress can look very gloomy while a short variant in this color may look astonishing and festive.



USEFUL TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE
PERFECT PAIR OF EARRINGS FOR
YOUR WEDDING DAY
EXPERT'S ADVICE
BY MARINA ZACHARIOUDAKI
FROM ZAN JEWELS

Made of yellow or white gold, with pearls or diamonds, long or short shaped, earrings emphasize bride's femininity. This is why earrings are the most preferable pieces of jewelry to be worn on the brightest day of a woman's life.

For over 40 years, we design and create handmade gold earrings that highlight the natural beauty of a woman and complement overall bridal look. And now, we are sharing with you some helpful tips for choosing the perfect pair of earrings that will complete your glamorous appearance on your wedding day!



About the Author:
Since 1978, ZAN Jewels cooperates with the most experienced goldsmiths, in order to design and create handmade gold jewelry, that aim to highlight the natural beauty of the body. Find us at
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All photos provided by ZAN Jewels



Think of bridal dress style

The bridal dress is probably the most formal and glamorous dress a woman will ever wear. Its style will lead us to the right choice of jewelry in order to create a harmonious and impressive match.

If your wedding dress will be fairly decorated, then a simple and thin pair of earrings is the best choice.

If, on the other hand, your wedding dress will be simple and straight line, then you can combine it with a more impressive pair of earrings. Especially if you wear a strapless or open neckline wedding dress and want to avoid wearing a necklace, then a pair of long earrings will give your neck a great look.

If your style will be romantic, then fit a stylish pair of earrings with a short and vintage design. For those of you who prefer a wedding dress with ancient Greek style, a pair of gold earrings with a simple but distinctive shape would be an ideal choice.

What is the colour of your dress?

The color of your bridal gown will also determine the color of gold for your bridal earrings. A white wedding dress can be combined either with white or yellow gold. Though, if your wedding dress has bright silver elements, then white gold is the best choice, while an ivory wedding dress matches perfectly with yellow gold earrings.

Think of bridal hairstyle

The way you will have your hair done, will define the style of the earrings. If you let your hair down, wear a stunning pair of long earrings. Be sure that they will show off your nice hairstyle and give your look a shiny and charming impression.

If you have your hair combed high, try earrings with short length or stubbed on the ears. It is an ideal choice. They will lighten your face up with discreet elegance.

Pearls, the perfect choice

Pearls are a classic choice for your wedding day, as they match perfectly with the bridal gown, whichever its style will be. The way pearl is created, is

reminiscent of the womb of a woman, in which a new life grows. As symbols of fertility, therefore, in addition to the elegance and aristocracy they exude, they also convey the wish for good and healthy offspring.

Few more things

If you choose impressive earrings, it is not necessary to wear a necklace. A beautiful bracelet or a ring can complement your bridal look. If the earrings you are wearing are not sizable, you can combine them with the matching necklace. In case your earrings have pearls, a pearl-necklace would be an ideal choice to top off your appearance.

For this unique day, choose jewelry that will underline your personality and make you feel comfortable. Remember that a gold jewelry can be worn forever and will always remind you of your wedding day. Impress your guests on the brightest day of your life with ZAN!



Photography, Stellar Hours Photography

L'ETO BRIDAL LA EUROPA 2019 COLLECTION BRIDAL LOOKBOOK

Crafting an undeniably feminine experience of beauty for the self-possessed woman, L'eto Bridal embodies an effortless representation of elegance in this eight piece collection.

Fresh beaded motifs of sparkling fronds scatter brilliance on the lustrous silks and deliver a sense of lightness throughout, an ode to the design elements that designer Anya Ostapenko has been paying homage to in her contemporary brand.

The lavishness of these gowns are emphasised even further while in the estate of Chateau de Villete; a stately backdrop telling of tantalising secrets to be revealed in stories of Europe's history of culture and art. We invite you to join us on our journey of fine details and silhouettes inspired by this richness and discover what grandiose dreams await us in La Europa 2019.

Credits:
Photography: Stellar Hours Photography
Bridal dresses: L'ETO Bridal
Shoes: Jimmy Choo, BY FAR
Designer jewelry: 1064studio

Studio
Venue: Prostranstvo Photo
Hair & make up artist: Oksana Laskina
Model: Valeriia Miro

Black & White
Venue: Chateau de Villette
Hair & make up artist: Cherry Cheung Mmakeup
Model: Natália Mallmann







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WEDDING TRENDS THAT ARE GOING TO BE HUGE IN 2019/20 THE TREND REPORT BY INDUSTRY EXPERTS FROM AUSTRALIA BY GIANT INVITATIONS

Getting married this or next year? Don't worry, we have got you covered with all the latest!

Here are the top wedding trends for 2019 and 2020 according to leading celebrity wedding experts:

About the Author:

Giant Invitations is a leading supplier of exquisite wedding invitations and stationary for brides looking for truly remarkable designs.

giantinvitations.com.au

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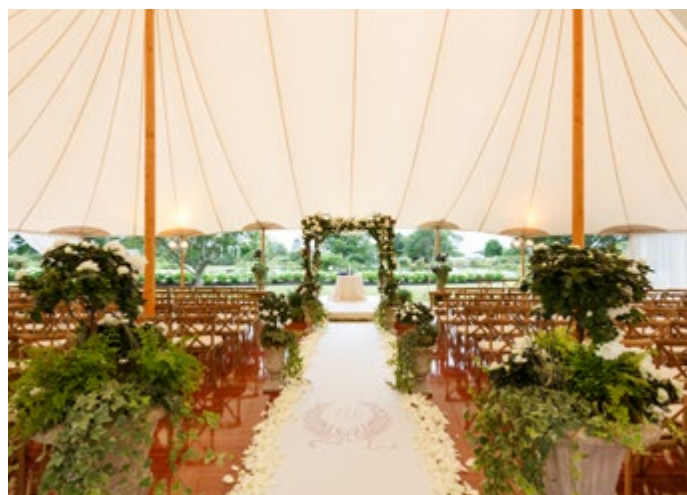
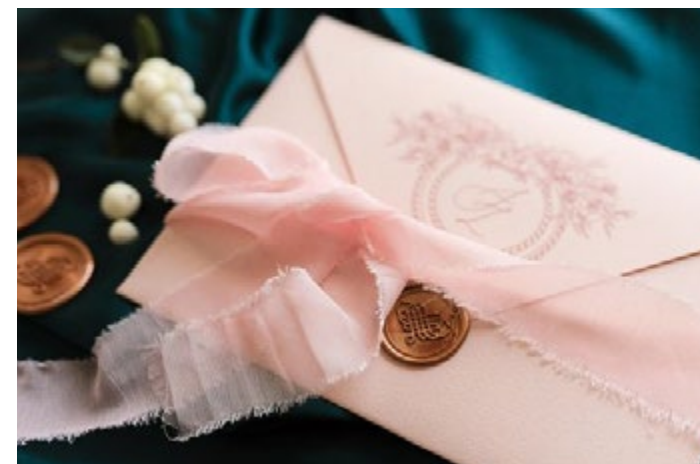
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Ring Trends by:

Temelli Jewellery, tj.net.au, @temellijewellery

All photos provided by Giant Invitations





Wedding Styling

Colin Cowie, the party and wedding planner of choice for celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, Tom Cruise, Jennifer Lopez, Oprah Winfrey, Ryan Seacrest and Kim Kardashian comments:

"I've never been one to do trends— I'm much better at creating them. When you work around your client's unique DNA and cater everything guests smell, touch, taste, see and hear to that DNA, you end up with something unique that truly tells a story.

Of course, being in the industry for as long as I have, I can quickly pick up on a few things we can expect to see in 2019: keep an eye out for the return of modern, contemporary, minimalist looks; this year, less is more. Out with the over-the-top floral walls and in

with non-traditional florals composed of wheat or grass.

Round ceremonies are something I've always enjoyed designing because they ensure friends and loved ones are no more than a few feet away from the couple, creating a more intimate atmosphere. Eco-friendly weddings will definitely be trending this year, and with that will continue the rise of vegan meal options.

I've also begun to see many couples request limited phone use throughout their celebrations, keeping everyone present and unhidden by a phone screen. Without the constant iPad and phone use, a creative way to stay away from the usual photo wall is to create an interactive vignette that doubles as a photo opp."

Invitations & Wedding Stationery

Giant Invitations is one of the leading luxury wedding invitation companies (commonly chosen for celebrity weddings including Vanessa Williams) comments:

"Metallic hot stamp foiling has always been popular and it continues to grow. This year we will expect to see a higher demand for copper foiling, followed by the popular rose gold foiling. You will also see more nature

inspired invitations and softer touches including the use of watercolours and deckled edges. A popular trend for 2019 includes adding your own custom illustration of the venue to the invitation!

Taking a page from the traditional and classic designs, interlocking monograms and monogram wreaths are back! Using the couple's initials, monograms are an amazing way to add a personal touch.

Lastly, there will be a greater demand for custom designed envelopes. Expect to see more bold coloured envelopes and linings."



Flowers

Floret is a multi-award-winning flower farm specialising in growing unique, uncommon and heirloom flowers. Considered one of the leading 'farmer-florists', it is no wonder they have over half a million followers on Instagram and been raved about by countless publications.

When it comes to the biggest trend in 2019, Floret comments:

"Locally-grown, seasonal flowers. For brides, there is nothing quite like

clutching a bouquet filled with fresh, fragrant flowers grown with love and harvested by hand by a local flower farmer or from a floral designer's own cut flower garden. Thankfully, this trend is becoming more and more common, as awareness and interest in local flowers continues to grow and the number of new flower growers specializing in seasonal blooms expands around the world."

In the photo of this bridal bouquet, you will see sustainably grown flowers including Floret's fragrant sweet peas, peonies, digitalis and other seasonal blooms.

The Flower Appreciation Society (voted the best florist in London by Vogue) also comments:

"In 2019 we are seeing the move away from larger bridal bouquets to smaller, more delicate ones. Seasonality and locally sourced flowers are becoming extremely important with issues of sustainability and the environment in mind. This means that we are designing bridal bouquets using delicate garden flowers, in considered seasonal colour palettes and in light, delicate and airy compositions so that each individual flower has lots of space to shine and be appreciated!

Another trend for 2019 is floral foam free installations. We are trying to design all of our large-scale installations using chicken wire, water vials and vessels instead of the more traditional floristry foam. This is again working with the environment in mind, as floral foam has lots of nasty chemicals in, doesn't properly biodegrade and releases tiny micro plastics into the water when you soak it. This means that installations are becoming more considered and looser in feel as florists have to think cleverly about how to design larger pieces using construction materials that can be reused again and again."



Make Up

Celebrity make-up artist with a huge following, Melissa Sassine says:

“I definitely feel that for the Bridal trend for 2019, less is more.

What I mean by this is in the relation to the colour palette. Even though they want flawless long-lasting Bridal makeup, they still want to look the best version of themselves, without overly dramatic eyes and harsh contours.

My favourite Bridal colour palette consist of:

Beautiful neutral tones & light champagne shimmer on the eyes, fluffy lashes, natural bronzers to warm up the skin, soft highlighters, with pink/nude lustrous lips.”



Skincare

The advanced bridal skincare brand and face mask choice for celebrities at the Oscars (landed in the hands of Adriana Lima, Meryl Streep and Ariel Winter), LUIERE comments:

“This year is all about looking natural and flawless with a subtle glow. This is why brides love using hydrating treatments before their big day. Japanese brides-to-be have been using face masks religiously every day for weeks before their wedding, and this is becoming a trend now for skincare lovers around the world. We recommend using a deeply hydrating mask that will hydrate from deep within the dermis, without clogging, leaving you with a beautiful natural glow for the big day.”



Hairstyles

Bridal gowns are embracing bows this year, and the love for bows doesn't end there. Nicole Kidman's hairstylist Kylee Heath, who has been trusted with the gorgeous locks of Margot Robbie, Sofia Vergara, Isla Fisher and Emma Roberts comments:

“With ribbons and bows being a huge trend throughout award season, I think it will carry over to wedding hair. I love the idea of a low ponytail with a ribbon tied in it or a bow to finish off the look.”

Tiffany Thurtell, the creative director at Alan Buki Hair (the celebrity hairdresser who worked on Miranda Kerr and Madonna's hair) comments:

“The biggest wedding trend we have seen coming into 2019 is hair accessories. Hair throughout 2018 became so undone and relaxed giving a very bohemian vibe. Moving into 2019, hair is still looking relaxed with glossy loose waves. However, it is becoming



more polished with a glam/luxe vibe. The use of hair accessories is very on trend. Being a hair scarf, hair clips, diamond hair pins. I have included some examples below. Ponytails are also on trend with extensions being used to create a much fuller, textured look. Brides also being able to use extension ponytails for multiple hair looks on their special day.”

Bridal Gowns

From the Bridal Fashion Week, we found 2019 gowns will include plenty of bows, sparkles, statement sleeves, halter gowns, capes, touches of colour, multi-tiered dresses, and as Alin Le' Kal (the celebrity couture designer who just debuted his collection at Paris Fashion Week) comments:

“Designers are just loving feathers! It is going to be everywhere. Crystals and Feathers, you can't go wrong! I think we could possibly still see feathers in 2020.”



Cakes

The famous and multi award-winning cake designer Faye Cahill predicts the trend of artistic and fun styles for 2019. Faye comments:

“Think painted watercolour finishes, palette knife textures, fondant ruffles, drippy icing and abstract sculptures of chocolate and isomalt (a technical

clear sugar). You will also find fun and optimistic cakes. Following the announcement of living Coral as the colour of the year, I think we will see a move away from dull neutrals to more vibrant hues. For wedding cakes, that will be more restrained than for celebration cakes, however some couples will choose to go all out and express the joy of their union.”



Engagement & Wedding Rings

Temelli Jewellery loved by super models Jennifer Hawkins, Rachael Finch and Jesinta Campbell comments: “Some of our most popular include the solitaire (single diamond), trilogy (three diamonds) and the halo (diamonds surrounding the main diamond). We have noticed a trend

towards rose gold and gemstones such as Morganite (peachy colour) and Padparadscha Sapphires (peachy pink colour), as well as white gold with blue gems including Sapphire and Tanzanite.

Wedding bands are steering away for the traditional and going for larger statement diamonds, detailed intricate rings with a twist or detailing and crown shape rings that curve around the engagement ring with larger fancy cut diamonds such as marquise, baguette and pear shape diamonds.”



HOW TO MAKE A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING PHOTO DISPLAY WITH EMBROIDERY HOOPS

EXPERT'S ADVICE
BY LIYA BULANOV

As the age of 'do-it-yourself' wedding decorations emerges, all of us crafty people rejoice. Not only does this popular trend save us money, but also gives us the ability to express ourselves creatively and work with our hands. Making something on our own feels more authentic than simply buying it online. The time and energy we pour into our projects bring out intentionality and a personal element

to the end result. It's satisfying. It's life giving. Especially when it's a labor of love for our own special day. Weddings are personal, and each is different from the next. We all want our day to feel like our very own. Special in its own specific way. That is why making your own wedding decorations opens the door for creative freedom and beauty that only you can create.

About the Author:

"Hi y'all! I'm Liya Bulanov. I live in the beautiful Pacific Northwest with my family. My love for words and poetry stemmed from my childhood love for books. A few years back when I started a wedding floral business I got enveloped into the beautiful world of wedding styling and fashion. The creativity surrounding the world of weddings inspired me deeply to write about it. Currently I spend my days blogging about weddings, curating wedding inspiration content, and designing beautiful florals for brides."

For more diy projects, check out our new YouTube channel APK Bridal <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKMNoLC26DVbAcvI4LP2HMg>

All photos provided by the Author



Something fun that always brings a personal element to any wedding is a wall or area for a photo display.

The variety of how photo walls are made is vast, thus the direction you can take for hanging photos on your wedding are endless.

One fun idea is using embroidery hoops of different sizes to hang on a wall at your wedding. It is a sweet and creative way to highlight your picture so that when guests wander through they can stop and admire all the special moments you wish to remember forever.

Displaying pictures in hoops is an easy

project that isn't super tedious and time consuming. It can be done in one evening. The end result is very pleasing and gives room for creativity with how to arrange the hoops and show off your wedding photo wall.

The materials you will need are:

- Wooden embroidery hoops 6' 9' 12'
- White ribbon
- Scissors
- Polaroid photos
- String (to hang it at the end)
- Tie wire (to hold florals)
- Florals
- Hot glue gun
- Glue Dots (to hold the photos)



Steps to follow

1. Begin with undoing the double hoop by untwisting the latch, if it's too tight use some pliers. You don't want to loosen it too much as you will need to have a tight fit when you insert the ribbons, this will provide the ability to tighten the ribbons in the next step.

2. Lay out the strips of white ribbon on the hoops parallel to each other with pre-cut length, preferably

you want to have even spacing and consider the size of your polaroids. You also want to give the ribbons some slack as you will need to use them tighten the tension later, so don't cut them with exact length.

3. When you got your ribbons all laid out and you are happy with the spacing, it's time to snap the exterior hoops in to place to secure the ribbon. You want to begin at the bottom and work your way to the top. You will notice that the rims will naturally tighten the ribbon, if that's not the case then not to worry, follow the next step.



4. Start tightening the ribbons by the slack on either ends. Simultaneously you want to tighten the hoop to secure your ribbon positioning. If you don't like how they are positioning, then loosen the latch and try to reposition. Once you are happy with that, you can trim the slack with some scissors and apply the hot glue to secure even more.

5. Now you can spread out your polaroids the way you would like to have them be displayed. You don't have to glue them just yet, we want to make sure that it's just how you want it. When you are happy with the design, using glue dots, attach the Polaroids to the white ribbon. Make sure that you pinch the photo on to the ribbon by using your index finger for support, avoid pushing on the ribbon as it can be loosened.

6. For more romantic feel, you can use florals to decorate your hoops. Arrange a few stems of florals on the top and bottom of the hoop and secure it with tie wire.

7. Repeat steps 1-7 on all other hoops. And then you are ready to hang these beauties up, and you are another step closer to completing your amazing wedding decor.

This photo collage will make for a unique display at your wedding. It will have a more personal appeal to your guests and show off your crafty side. Photo wall displays always get looked at at weddings, so creating your own will surely draw attention and make you feel accomplished for making it on your own for your guests to enjoy.





DESTINATION WEDDINGS IN GREECE
WITH A DIFFERENCE!
DON'T FORGET THE CEREMONY!
EXPERT'S ADVICE
BY SARAH HATJIPAVLIS OF GRECIAN
CEREMONIES

Getting married in Greece? Greece has it all, fabulous weather, beautiful sea views, picturesque whitewashed venues, innumerable hotels, countless spectacular villas and of course so many Islands and the mainland to choose from when planning a destination wedding. If you have selected somewhere in Greece to tie the knot you have chosen well!

These days, literally thousands of couples get married in Greece, it is one of the world's most sought after area for destination weddings. Santorini, number one in popularity, has, after all been listed as one of the top 50 most beautiful places in the world!!

About the Author:

Sarah Hatjipavlis is a professional celebrant who creates and performs unique wedding, elopements and vow renewals in Greece under the company name Grecian Ceremonies. Originally from the UK, having met her husband on holiday a few decades ago, she specialises in destination weddings in Greece with a difference. Based on the Island of Rhodes, and passionate about her work, she is available to travel anywhere in Greece or Internationally. Having spent years in Greece she also speaks Greek.



Do you need a wedding planner?

Having lived and worked in Greece for decades I have seen countless couples getting married over the years. When planning a wedding in Greece, it is wise to work with a wedding planner and there are literally hundreds to choose from. A wedding planner has all the local information required to help you organise your wedding, and will work with your budget, whether it be a large wedding, micro wedding or an elopement. A great planner will deal with all the arrangements to include booking a slot at the venue, finding you a great florist, photographer and videographer, organising the catering, the entertainment and transportation, assisting with any official paperwork and translations required and of course in the majority of cases they will confirm the local registrar and possibly the local mayor, or the equivalent, to be there to officiate the ceremony.

The ceremony

Most of the time, the ceremony is the standard civil ceremony used for both destination and local weddings alike. It is a simple script, which will be read out in Greek, by the Mayor or the Registrar, (in some popular venues there is an appointed Officiant for this special task) and it will also be translated into English, so you will understand what is going on. In most areas of Greece, you can personalise this ceremony to a degree, you can have a reading, and make some simple changes to the standard vows. You will then sign on the day, provided you have gathered up and submitted all the paperwork required. Short and sweet, there is nothing wrong with this type of wedding, it is a popular choice for most couples organising their destination wedding in Greece.

For many couples, number one priority is the venue, number two, the photographer, and then number three the entertainment, and this has been the way to go for years. They will have amazing photos overlooking stunning blue seas and they will share all this with their family and friends who have travelled with them for this very special day.



Mixed faith, single sex, totally unique destination wedding ceremonies in Greece

In this modern world we live in there are couples who are looking for more than the standard civil ceremony on offer in Greece. There are so many people who don't want to be restricted to a specific time slot, or a certain venue; for them the ceremony is the most important part of the day. They have flown in from afar, they have spent thousands on their wedding attire, they want that moment in time, when they say their vows to each other in front of their nearest and dearest to be the focal point of their wedding day.

What does a professional celebrant do?

A professional celebrant can be the perfect way to go for couples looking for a destination wedding with a difference. A celebrant doesn't just show up on the day and read a script, they get to know every couple they work with. Whether you are eloping in Greece, or travelling with a large group of family and friends a celebrant will take the time to learn your story, how you met, how you fell in love and then will go about writing and creating a unique wedding ceremony just for you in the style you have always dreamed of. Couples of mixed faiths can include religious readings from both if they so choose; for single sex couples, they too can have the destination wedding of their dreams in Greece and for couples who want something completely different we can include customs and traditions stemming from their heritage.



What about the legalities?

A celebrant led ceremony in Greece is not legally binding, most couples choosing this route, avoid all the expense of issuing and translating the lists of documents required, they will most often, sign the marriage certificate at their local registry office back home, with a couple of witnesses and no fuss, freeing them up to have a totally unique wedding ceremony to celebrate this marriage in Greece with no restrictions at all. This in essence; means any venue, any time of day, any length of ceremony all with or without any religious content. Traditional, classic, boho, quirky, fun, emotional, memorable, one of a kind, are all words used to describe a celebrant led wedding ceremony in Greece.

You can hold your ceremony at your hotel, on the beach, at your holiday villa, at a winery, on a yacht, even in a hot air balloon (not sure I am keen on the latter, but I am sure there are some fearless celebrants out there who would happily jump on board). Celebrants have been the way to go for decades in the USA and Australia and are trending in many areas of Europe these days.

Many years ago, I had a Greek Orthodox Church wedding, yes, originally from the UK, I met a local Greek on holiday, you know how the story goes! At the time, my mother was very disappointed, so we compromised and followed our Greek wedding with a UK blessing. Both were lovely, I understood nothing at the Greek version and my other half understood very little at the second, but there were no other options back in the day!



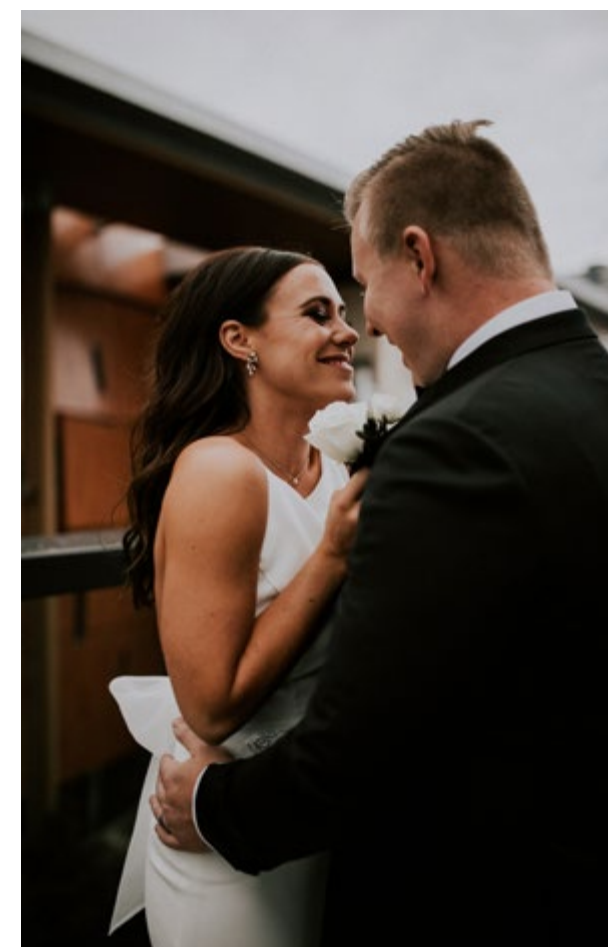
How a celebrant can enhance your destination wedding in Greece

With a celebrant led wedding ceremony in Greece, you can include symbolic elements. Very popular this year has been the unity sand ceremony a really lovely addition to any elopement, wedding or vow renewal and this is a great way to allow any kids present to participate too. A rose or flower ceremony can be very moving! Just recently at a Lebanese wedding I performed, the couple presented pink roses to their parents just before they exchanged rings, to show their gratitude and love, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

If you have chosen to get married in Greece, don't forget the ceremony! There are so many Greek traditions

you can include too! You may already have something in mind, there is no harm thinking outside the box. Many couples choose Greek crowns (stefania), bombonieres (Greek favours) and often the humble olive for decoration alongside the unlikely pomegranate. All of these hold a special place in the heart of the local Greeks and are very symbolic in many ways!

Perhaps you would like to jump the broom as you 'sweep' away your single life and move forwards to the next stage as husband and wife? You could have a wine ceremony with your favourite vino, or a wish box where your friends and family write loving and supportive messages to you to be opened at a later date? A ring warming is a popular choice where the wedding bands are passed round and everyone infuses them with their love and support, or even a handfasting, an ancient non-religious tradition which signifies the binding together of the couple and is the origin of the phrase 'to tie the knot'?



Ouzo, beer and a flash mob at your destination wedding in Greece

I am looking forward to my first 'ouzo element' where all the family and friends will toast the couple with a little 'ouzaki' as they exit the venue

as partners for life and next year will be writing a ceremony to include beer which is linked to how the couple met!! With another couple the bride is looking to surprise her partner with a flash mob song during the ceremony and all the family and friends will be in on the secret! I just can't wait!!

When organising a destination wedding in Greece, don't forget the ceremony! Yes, there are professional celebrants in Greece ready and willing to help you create the ceremony of your dreams, you just have to find them!

“When exploring a new destination and escaping our routines, something awakens in all of us.”



Photography: Adrian Wood

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SHEFARI BESPOKE TRAVEL PLANNERS WITH NEKTARIA PANAGIOTARI AND CHRISTINA PAPAVALASOPOULOS

Hello there Nektaria and Christina, it was so lovely chatting and meeting you the other day. You really opened our eyes to new possibilities of the bespoke travel options Greece has to offer. As we know, traditional “travel agencies” are now expanding their horizon where new and fun customizable

possibilities are opening up. However, this fun brand, SheFari, is actually a bit different from any such agency out there and you will find out how in this interview. We are happy to present the force behind the SheFari brand and we hope this interview will help you decide on your dream trip.



Find SheFari at:
www.shefari.com
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[@shefarittravel](https://twitter.com/shefarittravel)

All photos provided by SheFari



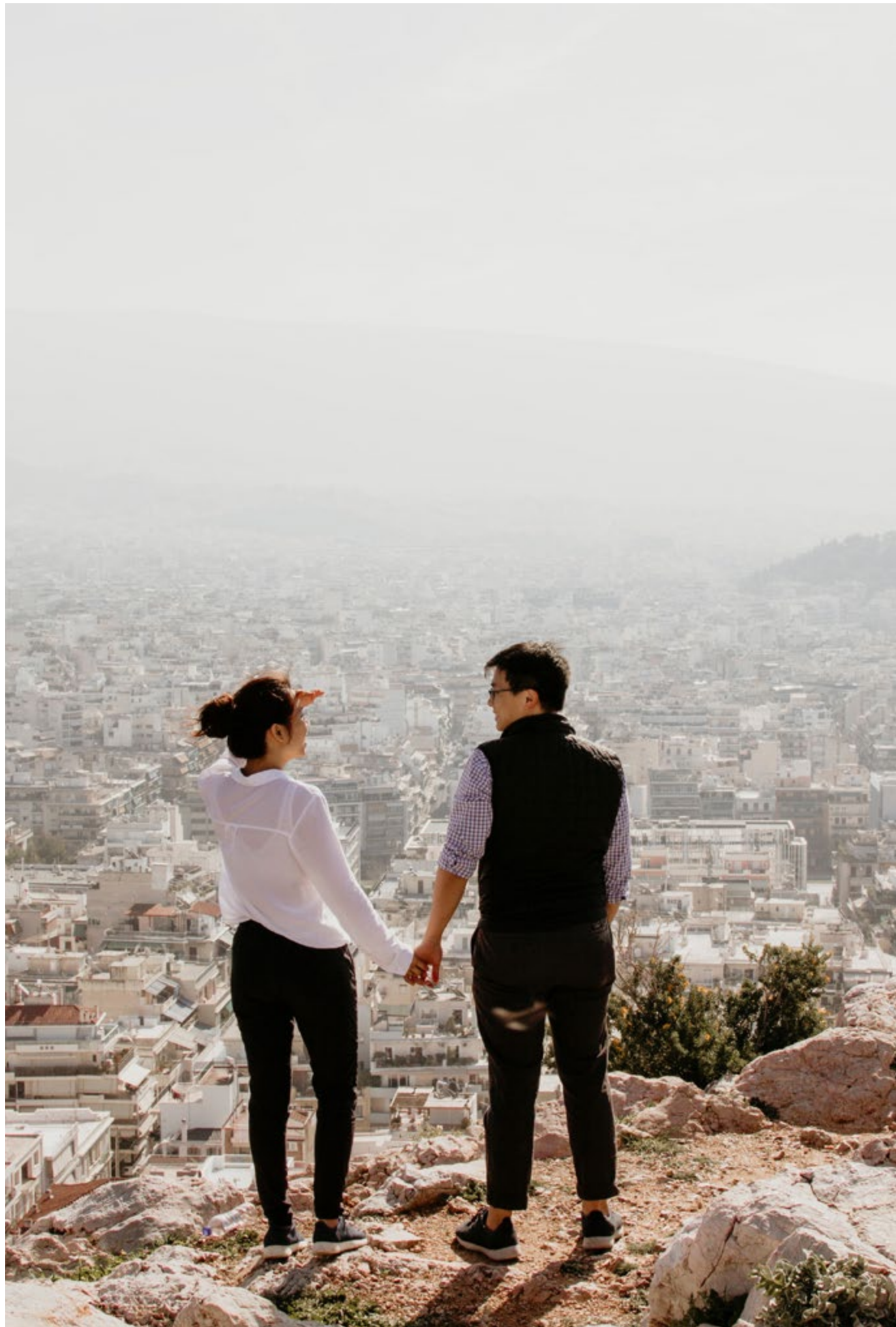
As we mentioned before, your company is not a typical traveling agency, right? How is your brand different and how did you get to this idea of creating SheFari? Tell us your story!

We hatched the idea for SheFari when we tried to plan our own girl getaways, thinking it would be easy enough with the plethora of information available online to DIY travelers. We began by searching terms such as “most unique things to do in Italy” – and got hundreds of millions of search results. We quickly realized it was more confusing than helpful and hours of extra work to boot. We wanted fun and luxurious activities, curated hotels perfect for our group, but also a travel consultant that we could speak to directly for advice to ensure our experience was top-notch. With continued research, we were unable to find a company doing what we were looking for at the level we expected. Therefore, SheFari became the solution with a team of boutique travel planners that go the extra mile for clients in offering hand-selected activities, unique properties, and concierge assistance. Our driving purpose is simple: to connect women through the art of travel. Our concept grew, and we are thrilled to launch the first-of-its-kind shop for women’s group trips and retreats, where individuals can join like-minded ladies for an adventure of a lifetime.

With roots as a company created for female groups, destination wedding travel was a natural fit for SheFari. Couples love our exclusive and tailored services that ensure both they and their guests will have an incredible time on the entire vacation, not just the wedding day. This covers hotel and villa bookings, excursions, rehearsal dinners, tours, and cruises – and of course assisting guests with their continued holiday to beautiful islands afterwards. To help the newlyweds unwind after the big day, we offer dream bespoke honeymoons around the world.



Photography: Elias Kardelakis



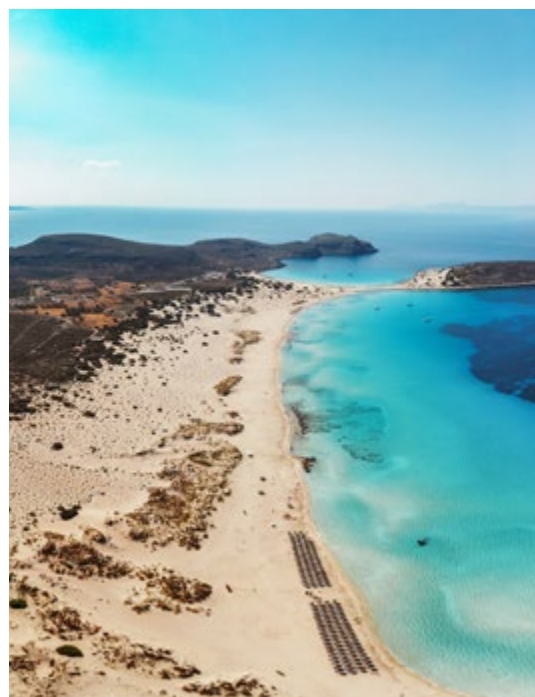
What an amazing story! Well, you know no borders and work all over the world. However, you have a special bond with Greece and for the purpose of our interview, we will focus on Greece only. So tell us, what are some of the most fun and unusual trips or happenings/projects you can provide to your guests and to our destination brides coming to Greece? What services do you provide?

There are few places in the world that have Greece's magic, and our goal is to make sure our couples and guests feel it as we do. Once couples turn over the travel to us, we can all but hear the sigh of relief knowing that their guests are well taken care of and it is one less thing on their checklist. We love that we can give that to them – after all, the couple should do nothing but absolutely enjoy their experience. We have done some very special things for weddings: a customized scavenger hunt through Athens, an intimate sunset rehearsal dinner cruise with a barbecue and swimming in a cove, and a Greek spirits and appetizer tasting where each guest got to sample and hear the history of the country's unique liquors. The unique vanilla-herby taste of mastiha, found only on the island of Chios, is our favorite!

It's fun to organize bachelor and bachelorette parties in Greece – we know the best local spots from hammams to nightlife, and it's always a highlight for the couple. We also love when newlyweds opt to go Jennifer Aniston style and take their best friends or close family on an adventure immediately after the wedding. Whether they choose the unique mountains of central Greece or the posh island-hopping, we have the most incredible villas with tennis courts, pools, game rooms, home theaters, and endless sea views for the whole group to enjoy. We even helped a wedding guest pull off a romantic proposal after one destination wedding – apparently the opportunity was too good to miss!

Oh my! This sounds so much fun! But, what is the one thing that drives you in your line of work and where do you find inspiration for your various trips?

Connection. Connecting couples, families, women, or friends – it's all about the power and the art of travel. When exploring a new destination and escaping our routines, something awakens in all of us. Our goal is to take over all of the logistics and allow that transformation to happen: the deep conversations, the wow moments, and the memories that last a lifetime.



“Many people hear about the “must-see” places and want to incorporate them on their trip. But the hidden gems are what we believe really make the trip...”

Since Greece is now one of the top tourist destinations in the world, many things and places have changed, maybe even lost that charm. Still, there are plenty of places with that traditional Greek charm, left to be explored. Which such hidden gems of Greece, would you recommend to couples and explorers who want to see tradition and untouched nature?

Many people hear about the “must-see” places and want to incorporate them on their trip. But you’re exactly right – the hidden gems are what we believe really make the trip, and our clients agree. We might pair Syros or Paros with Santorini. Syros is one of our favorite up-and-coming islands because of its unique Venetian style, thriving port center, and that it’s very much residential. Koufounisia and Kefalonia boast beautiful beaches. Some of the best destinations aren’t even islands. Greece’s mainland is front cover material! One of Greece’s most romantic places is a small mountain village in northwestern Greece. Zagorohoria is a cluster of quaint, picturesque villages in the Zagori region. The reasons to visit are countless – it boasts two national parks, including the Vikos Gorge which is second in depth only to the Grand Canyon and is a haven for hikers and nature lovers. Depending on the time of year, there are many unique activities to do including truffle hunting, river rafting, hiking, and simply enjoying the local culture. The Peloponesian Peninsula is a road trip nobody should miss. The Mani coast is packed with ever-changing scenery, hidden coves for swimming, and localities that are hard to find. There are so many authentic villages to unearth like Vathia, Aeropouli and Gerolimenas that we like to call it the ‘Tuscany of Greece’ with its crystal blue, pristine beaches. Kavala and Chalkidiki are two gems of the northern part of the country. In each area, you can still find quiet villages if you just avoid the main towns.

Oh wow! This is some really handy information for all the travelers. But which other maybe more famous location, island or mainland in Greece, would you also recommend to couples for their special day and why?

Athens is a great place to have the actual wedding because it’s easily accessible for guests. Depending on where everyone is arriving from, getting into Athens and then connecting on a flight or ferry to an island can be exhausting. Athens has lovely seaside venues and sometimes have more luxurious vendors at a better price, as you’re more limited with selections on an island. That said, Santorini is still highly popular but truly beautiful for photos and a romantic experience (just be wary of the stairs and hills for those with mobility issues). Milos is a quieter island but its unique moon-like landscape makes it a highly sought after destination. There is truly something for everyone in Greece, and you can’t go wrong – the key is to consult both your wedding and travel planners to make sure the destination fits you as a couple, as well as your guests.



There truly are so many different places in Greece and it is important to have someone like you advising the tourists which destination is the right for them. So tell us, what is the most important part of making each trip a success?

Our clients! It's all about them and our work with them. It's important for us to listen and understand so we can take their dream and create a real experience out of it. We offer the missing components it takes to execute. Most clients know what they want to "feel", it's our job to understand that and guide them as travel experts for the best possible outcome.

What trend do you see picking up in the world of travels?

Surely there are a lot of destinations that have become popular over the past years, but the most interesting and positive trend that we are seeing is purpose. There has been a strong inclination towards philanthropic traveling to give back, to connect and build a community or better yourself with transformative travel, and that makes us very happy. Solo travel is also fast-rising, women especially are looking to travel independently yet safely, which is why many of our join-in trips offer them the ability to travel on their own, yet still with the expertise and camaraderie of a group.

Things can also go sideways fast! What is your secret to stay calm for when and if something goes wrong?

Staying calm is your client's lifeline. As business coach Marie Forleo says, "Everything is figureoutable," and for the most part, it's true. We work in an industry where human relationship are very important, whether it be our clients or our partners. It's important to work with your team and talk things through. It should be noted that problem solving is a team effort.

Oh we love Marie and use this saying all the time! Now, what advice would you give to brides, wanting to undertake the task of organizing their own wedding or honeymoon trips, girls & boys getaways and activities?

No matter how organized or planned you may be, things will always creep up that you didn't consider, hiccups will happen, and the tasks will quickly mount and always take longer than you anticipated. Giving your guests a local expert and point of contact alleviates a lot of the pressure on you. This is your vacation as well! Leave it to the pros, because your peace of mind is the most important thing.



Photography: Elias Kordelakos



Photography: Elias Kordelakos

Is there one question that almost every client asks you about their trip to Greece? What is it and what is your answer?

People like to have a general idea of cost right away. That's the beauty of Greece, there are lovely places to stay for a great value, and the five-star luxury splurges. We always ask them to describe their travel style, and then we can give them an idea of price.

Coming from the USA, you also had your wedding in Greece. What was your experience and what is the advice you would give to every couple wanting to get married in Greece? What should they know/pay attention to/be aware of before coming to Greece, no matter where they are from?

Both of us had our own destination weddings in Athens. The advice we would give is plan plenty in advance to ensure good pricing and availability for your guests, arrive plenty of time in advance (we had an airport emergency with a lost passport, and the mother of the bride almost didn't make it!), allow yourself some downtime afterwards to unwind, and lean on professionals – even when you are one – to assist you. It was so special to us to have all our friends and family come and share Greece with everyone, but make sure you enjoy it as well. Don't over-plan the initial days, know that people will be tired and likely have jet leg upon arrival (if coming internationally). Warn them to nap, as most Greek weddings usually start late and end even later! And enjoy the party and unique “kefi” that is only found in Greece - opa!

That is truly an important piece of great advice. Best advice always comes from professionals who were also real destination brides. I can only assume that both of you probably visited so many places in Greece and around the world. But in Greece, which one is your favorite place and why?

Nektaria: There's nothing like the island waters but lately I have been really into discovering the mainland!

Christina: It's so hard to say, as I loved each place because of the moments and people I shared it with. I would have to say Crete and Zagorohoria are among my favorites, as the people, food, and experience still make me smile.



Photography: Hope Kauffman

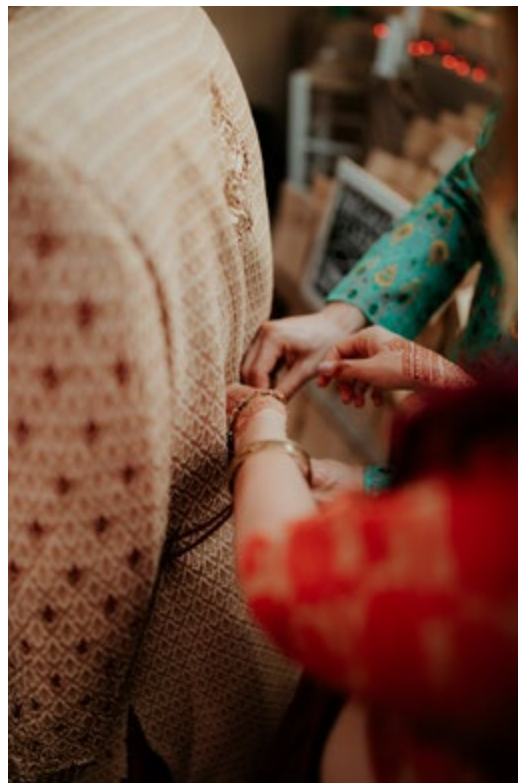
Your site is unique in that visitors can both join group travel, but also consult with you for customized trips. How does that benefit groups or couples?

With our broad offering of services, we like to offer something for both the individual and group traveler. We are happy to send couples ideas and sample itineraries from the past to show our capabilities, but as each couple and each wedding is different, there is no one “package” that we offer. We want our itineraries to be limitless and tailored to the needs of the couple, led by their style and vision – not our own. For the female trips, we've curated a list of experiences that women can join throughout that year that are unique, unparalleled experiences.

And for the last question, what advice would you give to all travelers who want to visit Greece?

Come, and let us help you enjoy it to its fullest. Greece has some of the most welcoming people and unique culture. Combine your must-sees with some of the off-the-beaten-path things, you won't regret it. Don't try to do too much in a short amount of days. See fewer places, but truly see them. Try something new and push your limits. We hope you get as wrapped up in its charm as we have.

Thank you girls for taking the time to speak with us for this exclusive interview for Ellwed Magazine! Your answers made us see Greece with a different point of view and we cannot wait to see the islands you have mentioned! Hopefully our destination brides can get lots of inspiration from this interview for their upcoming trips!

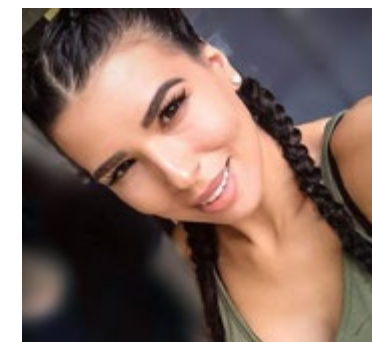


HENNA TATTOO BY JULIA
GET TO KNOW MY BRAND!
PR ARTICLE
BY JULIA SAKÉLLI

Get to know this henna tattoo artist from Athens Greece. Henna tattoos are a vital part of Indian wedding ceremonies and more and more popular in Greece as well. However, to have a wedding henna tattoo, you don't have to have an Indian ceremony per se. If you just love the henna tattoo art and you think you might want one for your wedding, then check out these tips by this Henna Tattoo artist!

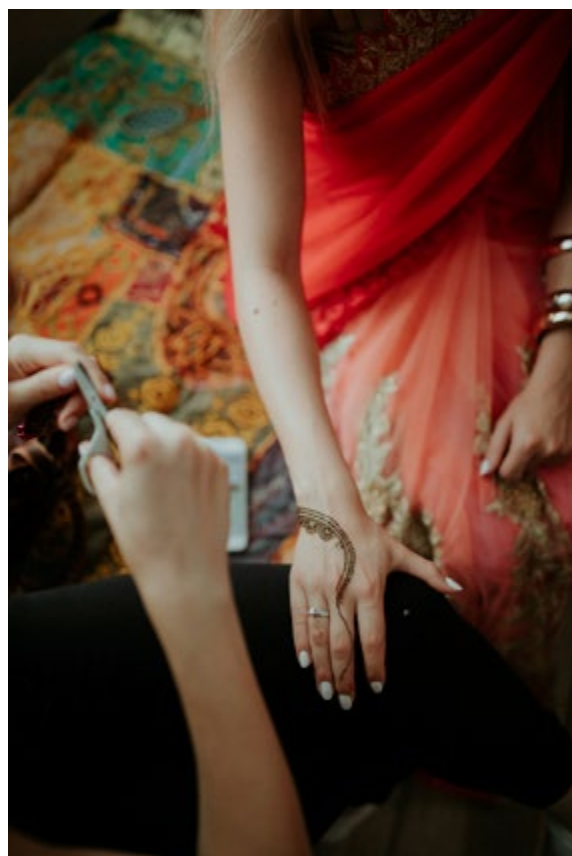
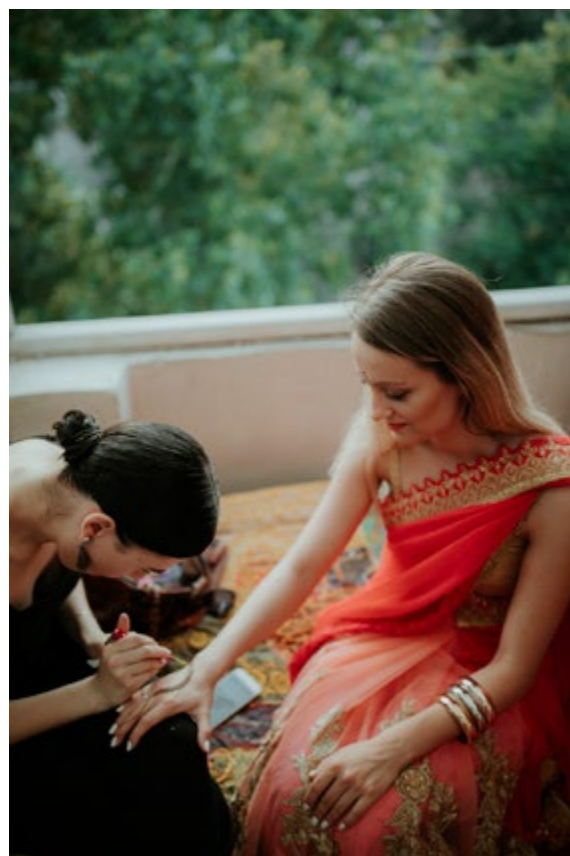
Julia will share with us some important tips and all you need to know before you decide for the wedding henna tattoo! She will help you make the right decisions regarding your tattoo choices and if you are on a fence of having one, you will definitely make the correct decision after this article!

Let's get to know this brand and see what tips she has in store for you.



Get in touch:
[instagram.com/hennagreece_athens_](https://www.instagram.com/hennagreece_athens_)
[juliafacebook.com/HennaTattooGreece](https://www.facebook.com/HennaTattooGreece)

Photography by White on Black Studio
and LouisGabriel photography
Planning by Greek Dream Planners
Henna tattoo art by Julia



Even as a little girl growing up in the city of Athens, I was always drawing and designing through my childhood. Then in high school, I decided to take Design Lessons for 3 years, by Dr. of Fine Arts at “Pietro Vannucci” and University of Perugia in Italy, Christina Moura. I studied Architecture and Still Life design with her mainly and she also showed me the base of sketching Statues and how to use Acrylic Paint.

I got a position in the University of West Attica, in Greece, in the Department of Photography and Audiovisual Arts. Amongst all, I studied Photography, Videography / Montage and last but not least, how to create websites! While I was studying in the University, about 5 years ago, one day I thought, why not purchase henna cones? At that time I knew very few about henna and traditional mehndi, I had only seen some beautiful designs on the Internet. Discovering online shopping, made it really easy to order some traditional henna cones from India! And then I never looked back. Henna tattoo art simply captivated me!

I started doing henna on my hands, completely self-taught. I never thought this could turn into business, but because of my background, I thought to experiment with Facebook Pages, and I decided to create one for my henna work. At first there was not much movement, but after a while people showed interest and I started booking my first clients!

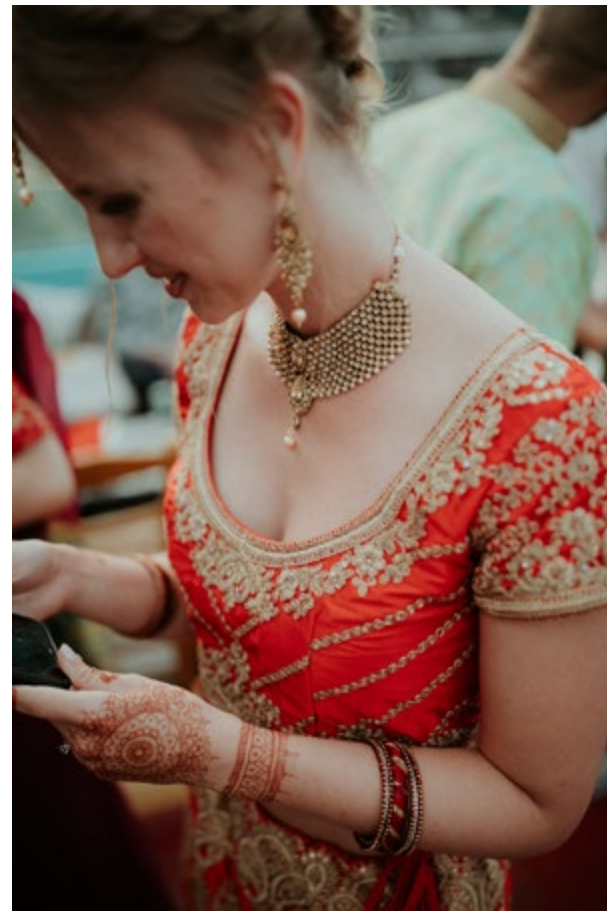
After 3 years of experience, using traditional brown henna and black Jagua (both are 100% natural with no PPDs and no chemicals), doing all designs freehand and having a quite big range of designs, since I could draw almost anything my clients asked for, I was at a very good state. I was sure about myself and had confidence about my work! I was familiar with the material I was working with, I knew everything about the procedures needed before the henna application, during and after. And because of this, I also studied about Hindu weddings, what mehndi symbolizes, how important and blessed it is, why and how it is done. Therefore, I believe that I was the first Greek girl that started doing traditional mehndi professionally.



Around that time, my first bride contacted me! I was really nervous regarding the responsibility I had to deliver when she booked me for her Bridal Mehndi. Fortunately, everything went more than well and I cannot describe the experience! The connection between me and the bride was priceless. I even wrote a letter to the whole family after, for the love and appreciation I received was immense.

Since then, I am always grateful and honored to be a part of a bride's journey and beautiful moments. We share a lot since I get to be with her during her preparation 1-2 days before the wedding with her family, best friends and bridesmaids. Having my designs decorating the bride during her wedding, is a feeling that worth the many hours of hard work and commitment.

Right now, I have my clients daily that book me for henna tattoos and I have also my brides every year,



during summer months. Despite that I continue my studies in Digital Design and I have my main job as well! But henna changed my life completely and I intend to continue doing it since making others happy, makes me incredibly happy as well!

It is anxiolytic, keeps my creativity alive and it is a blessing to meet all these wonderful women along the way. Since the start I took importance to use products that have a strong and beautiful color but at the same time are 100% safe and natural. Many clients have sensitive skin and allergies and I always care about the safety of others as I would care for myself. Therefore, as I mentioned before, I only use Henna and Jagua which are both made from plants / fruit and contain no PPD or chemicals whatsoever. They are also not tested on animals. And what really sets me apart from others is my free spirited personality I also express in my art! So, here are few of my tips for the best henna tattoo experience:



- Anyone can get henna

Everyone can get mehndi (henna tattoo) on a wedding, the bride, the groom, the family members, the bridesmaids and all the guests!

- Think of the time

It is better to contact me at least some months ahead before a wedding to reserve the date and a bride should have her mehndi (henna tattoo) made at least 1 day before the wedding. Ideally, I would recommend 2 days before the wedding for the best color result!

- You can get a unique design

I let every bride choose the design that she loves. This way it will fit her best! We can combine many parts

of designs together to have a unique result. Discussion and spending time looking at designs is important, so I always make sure to keep in touch with her.

- Always follow these instructions

Last but not least, I always advise my clients and especially brides, to follow my instructions before the appointment. No body lotions or oils for the last 15 hours and a good wash and exfoliation before the henna application are the key for lasting and beautiful henna color. Aftercare is important as well, using lemon and oil. A henna design (mehndi) can last up to 10 days, depending always the skin and the conditions we expose it.

Before booking your own henna tattoo artist, make sure you always do a patch test with their henna paints before the big event. This will ensure that you are not allergic to any of the ingredients of the henna, even though they are natural. But hopefully we can work together on your special mehndi in Greece!

FIND YOUR PARTY FAVORS IN
GREECE
EIGHT SPECIAL BRANDS
FROM GREECE HAND PICKED
FOR YOU, WHICH YOU CAN
FIND ON INSTAGRAM

Surprise your guests with amazing gifts that will forever stay in their memories. The good thing about some of 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 brands, designers and creatives from Greece that you can find on Instagram.

All images of products are from their brand's Instagram accounts.



Ancient Greek Sandals, designs inspired by Greek Gods, myths, & sculptures. These Ancient Greek Sandals are handmade by skilled craftsmen and well established techniques. If you want to rock at your Greek Destination Wedding, get your own pair for your super fun and cool wedding!
@ancientgreek sandals



Kristia Lazarie exclusive jewelry & accessories, made in Greece, if you are looking for something boho, something classy!
@kristialazarie

LoveMade earrings by Olga Anagnostidou. Handmade resin and polymer clay crafted unique earrings will be the fun gift your wedding needed!
@lovemadeaccessories



Verve Juices, cold pressed juices, detox plans, soups and nut mYlks made with love in Greece. Refresh your guests with these special potions!
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Trust us your thoughts and we will plan them! Our creations are unique works of art! Expert craftsmanship brings the most complex designs to life. Find the diamond engagement ring or the bridal set of your dreams from our wedding collection.

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An unforgettable love, iconic jewels, your dream come true! Your ‘Lousta Thysiadi’ engagement ring is unlike any other!

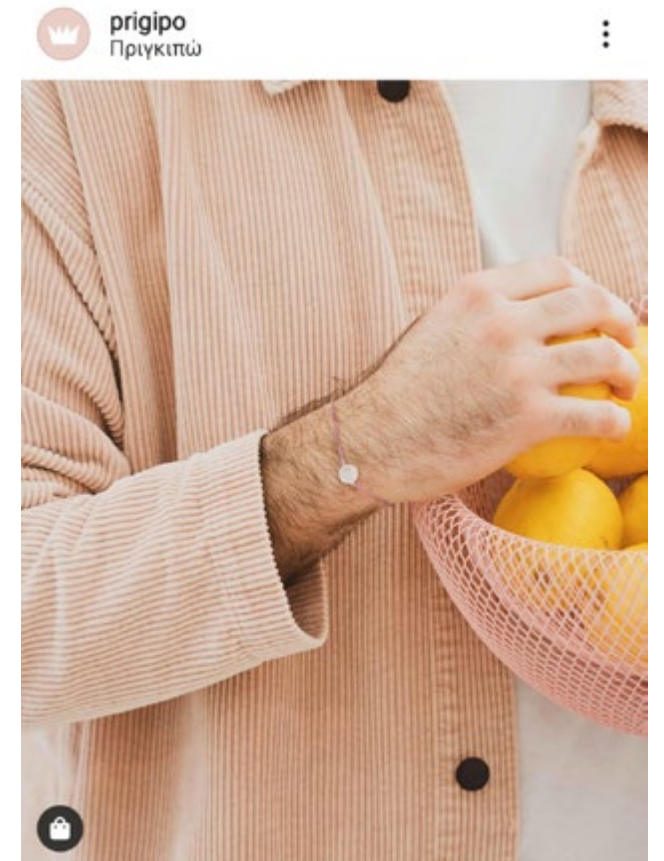
We celebrate love everyday with you! Sparkle in every way on your big day with perfectly hand-crafted wedding jewellery!

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KEAR Natural Skincare, beauty heritage of ancient Greece. Natural, toxin and paraben free, eco-friendly, cruelty-free but potent and effective! Treat your crew to the max with the power of Greek nature!
@kearlif

STARS COLLIDE IN THIS LUNAR ELOPEMENT IN MILOS ELLWED STYLED COVER SHOOT

More and more, adventurous couples are opting to profess their vows against a wanderlust backdrop surrounded by their nearest and dearest. These intimate, destination elopements satisfy everyone's travel itch, from the newlyweds to the honoured guests. Greece often tops the bucket list, so it's no wonder that "destination wedding" and "Greece" have become nearly synonymous in recent years.

While the sunsets of Santorini and the vibrance of Mykonos never fail to impress, all too often these islands overshadow the many other breathtaking landscapes that this Mediterranean gem offers. One of our favourites is a secluded, chalky white beach hidden on the small but exclusive island of Milos. The stark volcanic rock formation mimics a lunar terrain and dazzles against the deep azure and turquoise shades of the Aegean Sea.



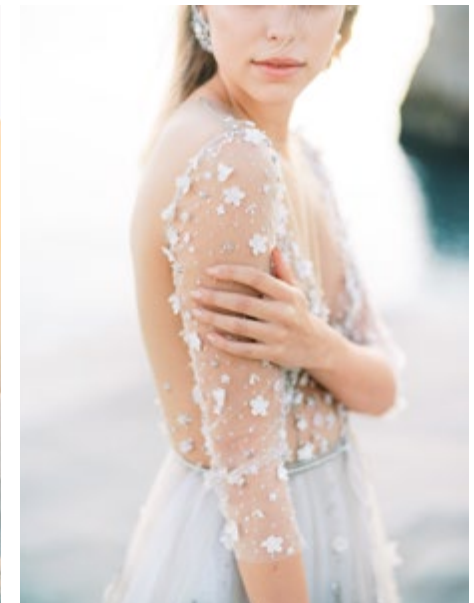
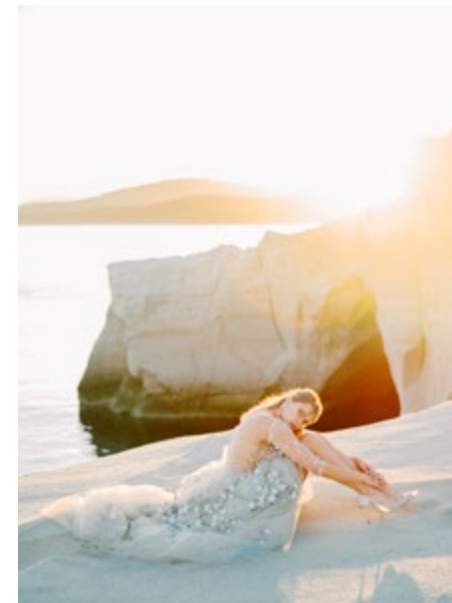
Photography, Adrian Wood



Selected Vendors:
 Coordination, Ellwed Bridal Magazine
 Photography, Adrian Wood
 Styling & Planning, Lily of the Valley
 Planning & Coordination, Shefari Travel
 Videography, Nikos Dimou
 Sponsor, Bridal Expo BFW Athens
 Flowers, Studio 7
 Stationery, Love Me Do
 Furniture, Zazoo Event Rentals
 Hair & Makeup, Katerina Theocharis
 Groom's styling, It's a Man's Class
 Groom's watch, Breitling
 Groom's jacket, Sciamat
 Art de la table, White Lilac
 Wedding cake, Pavlov's Lab
 Wedding dress & Veil, Celia Kritharioti
 Jewelry, Mindy Lam
 Bridal shoes, Bella Belle Shoes
 Venues, Milos Cove Hotel
 Ring box, Je Promis
 Female model, Linnea Berzen
 Male model, Christos Birbas



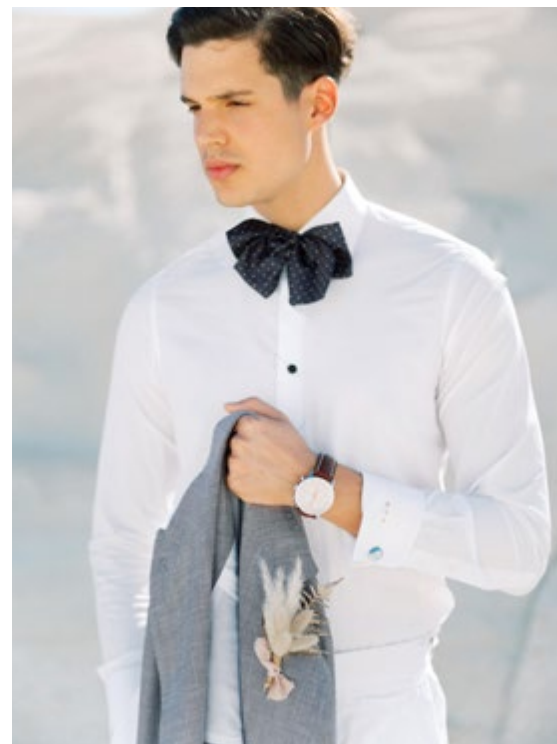
Photography, Adrian Wood



Our objectives of both creating an inspiration cover for Ellwed magazine and further promoting Greece amazing diversity as one of the top wedding and elopement destinations for modern couples in Europe, took place at the otherworldly place known as Sarakiniko Beach which served as both the main inspiration and canvass for our celestial shoot. With the combined vision and experience of wedding planner Lily of the Valley and destination experts Shefari, all artfully captured by destination wedding & elopement photographer Adrian Wood using

luxury professional film stock and medium format cameras, we recreated the stars and the moon here on earth. From the difficulty of execution to the ethereal light on the beach at dawn, this experience left us speechless.

Driven by our love of the arts, creativity, and exploration, we aimed to transform our moonscape destination into the true prop that complimented the editorial's style. The theme consisted of incorporating astral elements with a bohemian chic undertone.



With the goal of contrasting bold and unique with soft and organic, all the elements of the editorial revolved around the sun and its light, much like everything else. Each piece was created to catch and accentuate the different tones of sunlight. The colour palette of warm peach, coral and blush tones danced with cool hues of silvers, greys, and

golds. The palette was chosen to further depict the contrast between celestial and earthly, day and night, noise and silence.

In a similar vein, the flowers used were a calculated mix of classic choices such as garden roses and orchids versus dried flowers, leaves, and pampas.





The ethereal ceremony was held against a cosmic backdrop of rounded arches, skilfully crafted by Studio 7 and reminiscent of the different lunar phases. Red and yellow smoke bombs put on an epic show of dreamy clouds and a vivid burst of colours. A divine crescent moon arrangement, hanging over the dinner table completed the interstellar mood. The reception table was covered with a delicate silver tablecloth and a blush runner. Glossy silver napkins and gleaming tableware consisting of gold cutlery and shimmering glasses as well as pink and glitter dinner plates on

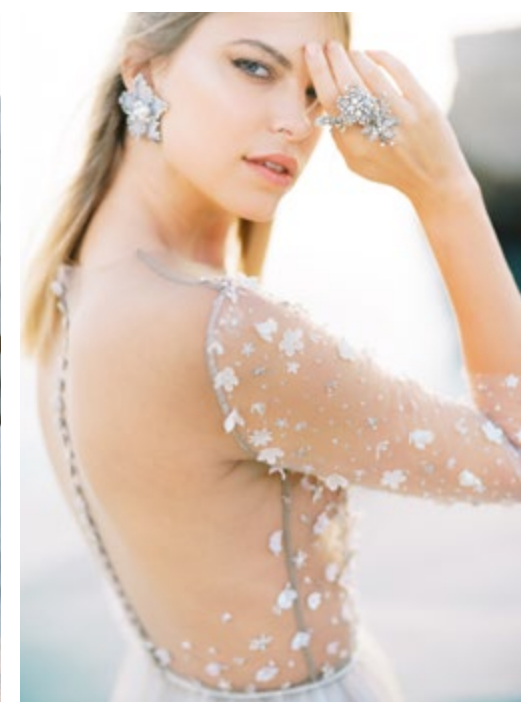
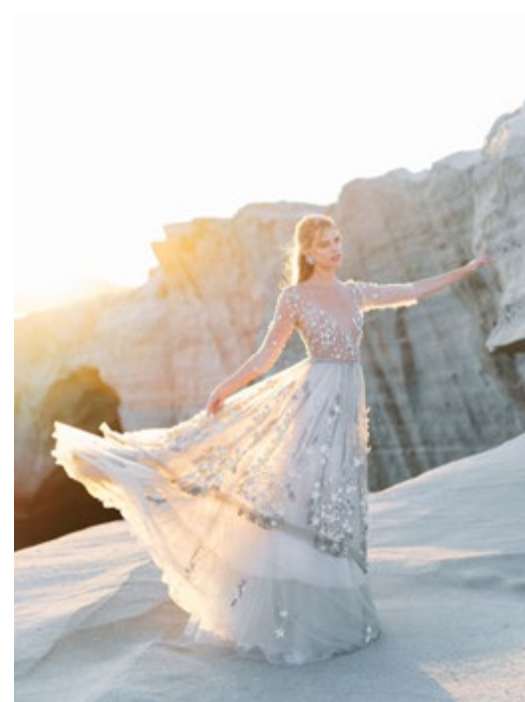
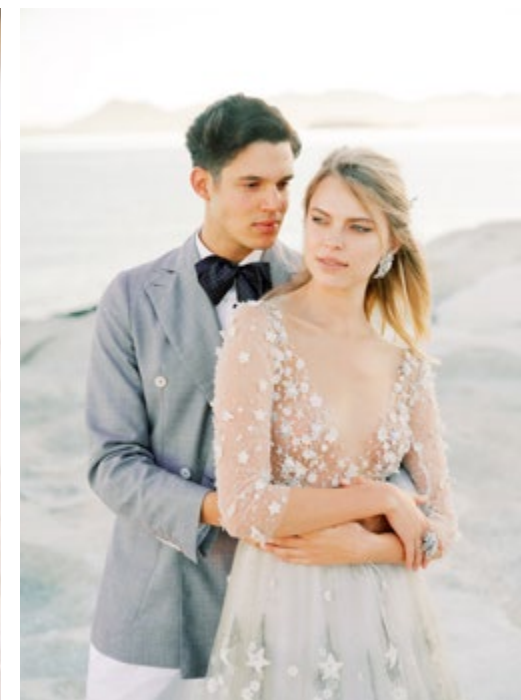
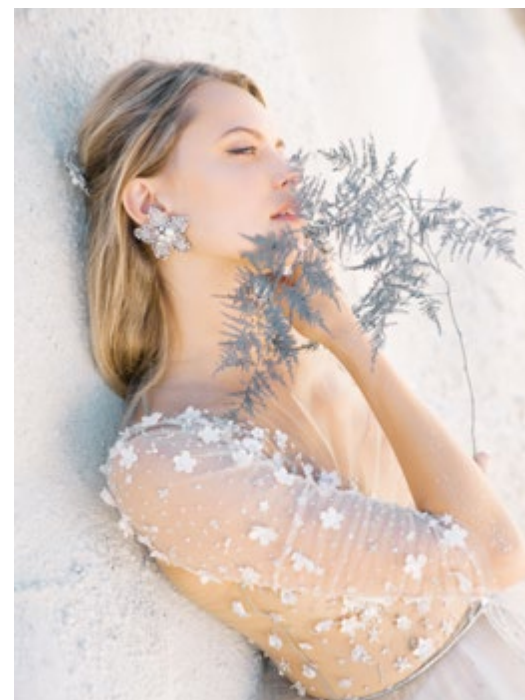
top of iridescent charger plates harmonised the celestial mood.

Star-shaped sun catchers hanging from the end of the crescent moon sparkled in the morning light. Black and pink geodes enhanced the styling's volcanic nuances. Pillar and taper candles adornments added a bohemian romantic effect. Glitter, stone grey and moon-shaped envelopes were used to display a modern and sparkly stationery. The stone-like cake with gold streaks streaming down its multiple tiers perfectly complemented the moonscape vibes.



Photography, Adrian Wood





Behold the masterpiece bridal gown that was designed by Celia Kritharioti an internationally renowned Greek designer. This stunning airy grey gown with modern design was a tribute to local talents and vendors embellished with star motifs that complimented perfectly our central theme. The sparkly shoes by Bella Belle, star-shaped jewellery customised especially for the editorial by Mindy Lam as well as the groom's slate and white outfit paired perfectly with the fairytale gown.

Natural light played an essential role in the shoot. We were up and ready hours before dawn. At sunrise we captured the sun's array of warm colours, varying from glowing yellow to burning orange and red. This stunning palette juxtaposed the cold white moonscapes of Sarakiniko, creating light nuances especially noticeable in the bride's portraits.



Photography, Adrian Wood



Our bride is an homage to women and all their beautiful disparities, just as nature has in perfect balance. We wanted to celebrate her uniqueness and many facets: the potential to be a caring mother, a supportive partner, and a powerhouse entrepreneur all in a day.

An elopement is more than a ceremony, it's a statement that she is bold enough to reinterpret traditions and walk to the beat of her own drum. The moon is a metaphor representing the phases of the divine female, changing but harmonious. This is a celebration of the modern woman: simultaneously vulnerable and strong, romantic and bold, emotional and logical.



Photography: Achilleas Colaclides

LOVE MADE ME DO IT AUTUMN
INSPIRED EDITORIAL
STYLED WEDDING IN ATHENS
BY SENSYLE EVENTS

This season, think of bold colours and lots of dreamy pumpkins. For your dinner table think of small bites and fun sweets. Use autumn coloured leaves

and lots of lush florals to impress your guest and charm the night with fun and magical accessories.



Vendors Credits:
Planning & Design: SenSyle Events
Photographer: Achilleas Colaclides
Stationery & Calligraphy: Manousenia
Flower Design: COMMECA Flowers&Decor
Catering: Deipnosofstirion
Dinnerware: WhiteLilac
Furniture: Tore Event Furnishing
Neon Sign: The Letter Co.
Cake: Slim Bites
Cake: SlimBites Furnishing
Favors/Matches: The Pimpinella Project



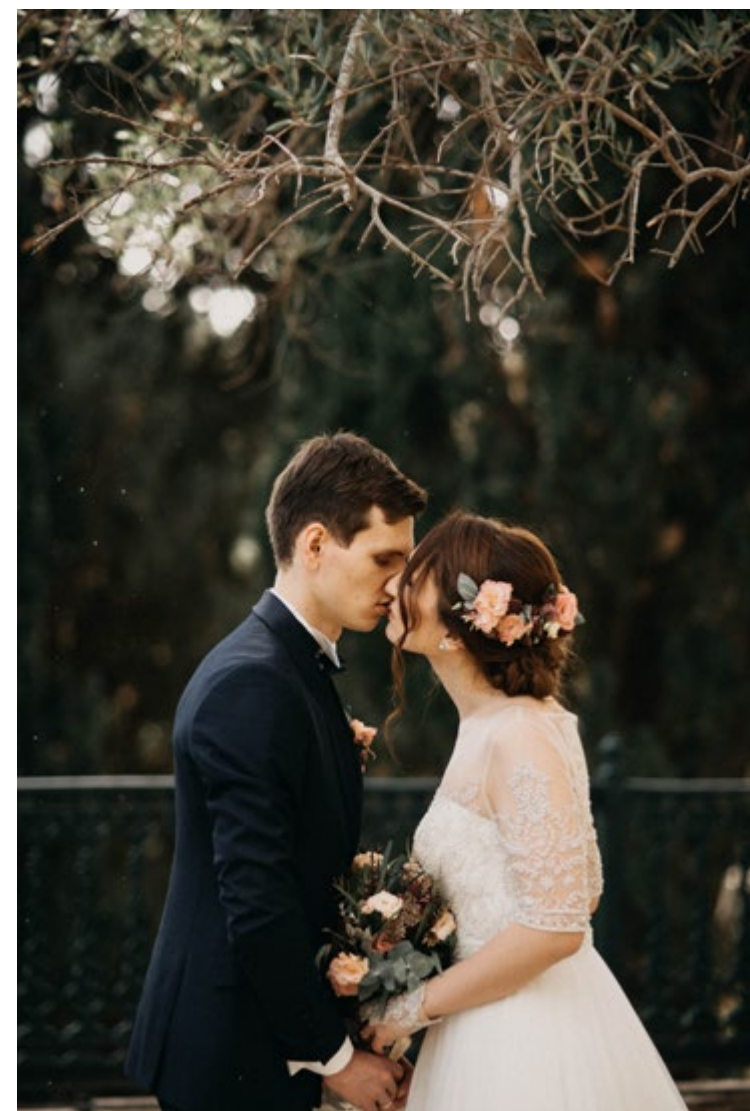


Photography: Valentine Amasiadi

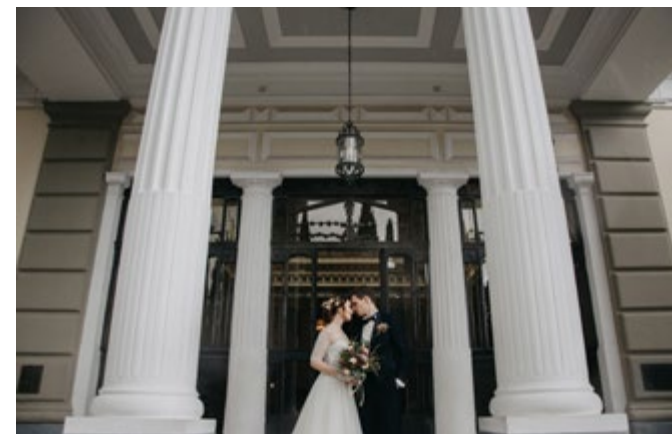
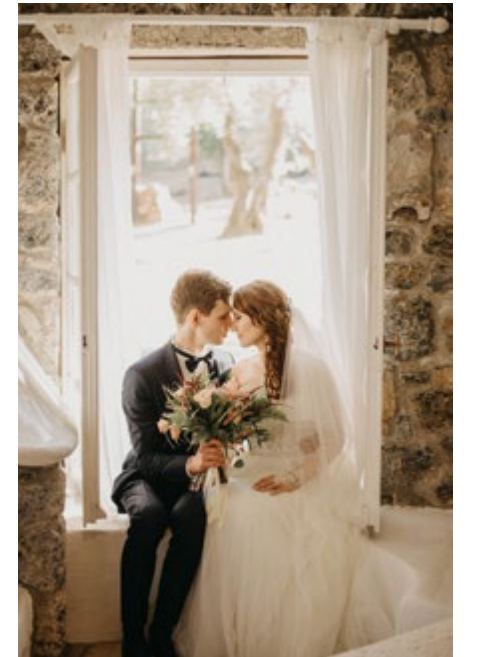
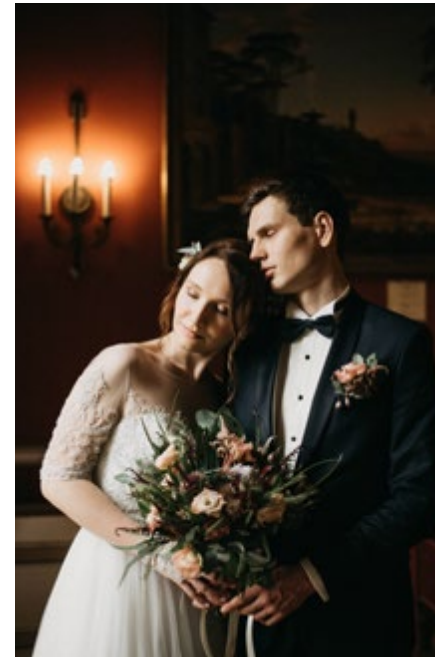
WILDLY BEAUTIFUL NATURAL AUTUMN WEDDING REAL WEDDING IN CORFU BY VALENTINE AMASIADI

This couple chose to get married in the gorgeous rustic setting Corfu amongst the ancient olive

trees. Enjoy the gorgeous Autumn wedding.



List of Vendors:
Photography : Valentine Amasiadi
Videographer : Studio 27 Andreapolitis
Hairstylist : Konstantina Sim
Planning & Styling : Belli Momenti Weddings
Florist : Leonidas Rammos





Photography: Thanos Asfis

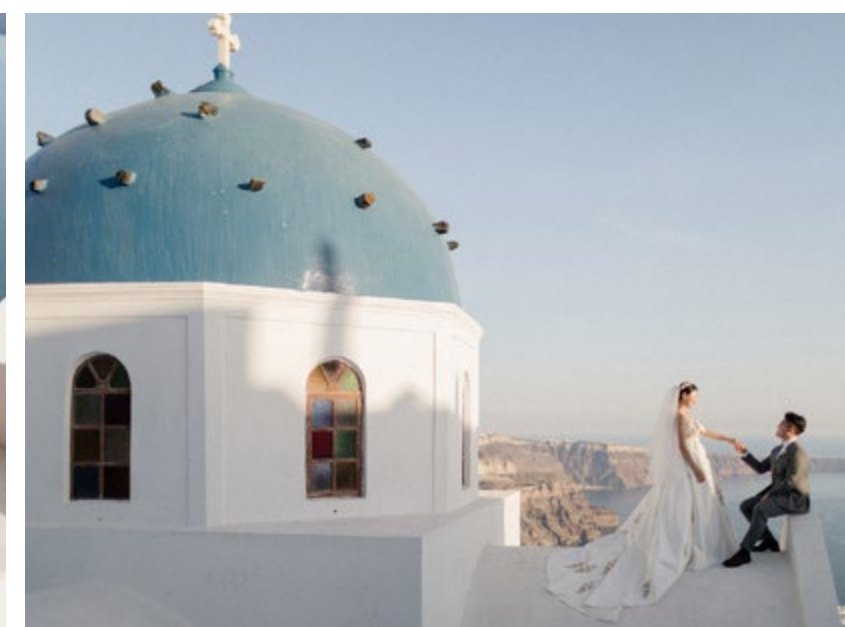
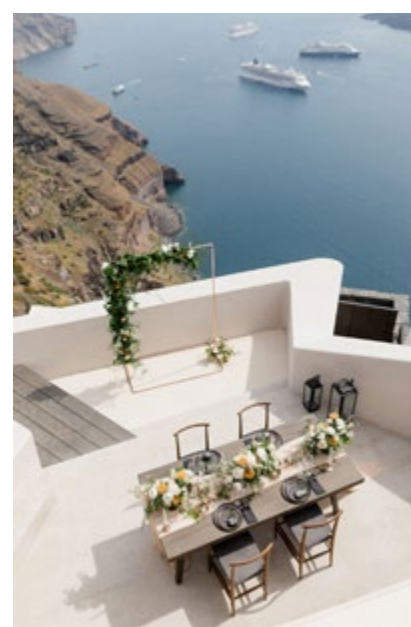
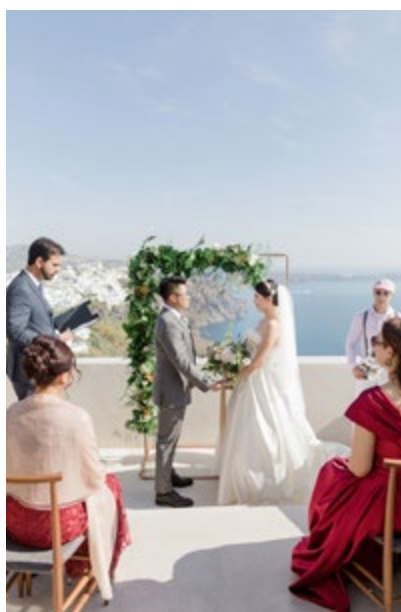
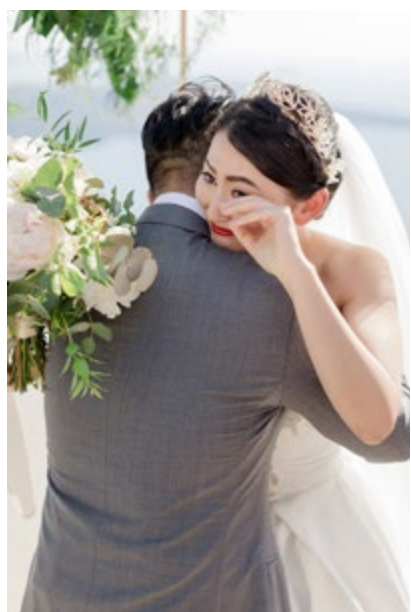
ROMANTIC BLUSH PINK, IVORY
AND DEEP GREY CONTEMPORARY
DESTINATION WEDDING
REAL WEDDING IN SANTORINI
BY THANOS ASFIS

This super stylish couple came to Santorini with just the few of their closest family and friends, to have a destination wedding of their dreams. With a special shoot the day before their wedding, they explored

Santorini and had a romantic photo session to remember. They chose a gorgeous minimal elopement with breath-taking views of Imerovigli, Santorini, Greece.



List of Vendors:
Thanos Asfis Photography
Vora Villas Santorini
Stella & Moscha Events
Betty Flowers Santorini
Rentals, Weddings & Whimsy Rentals
Cake, Petranart Cakes
Private Tailor Couture
Jimmy Choo Shoes
Renia Bledaki Make Up
Marianna Nomikou Hair Styling
Nikos Dimou Cinematography
Kosmas Pafitis Violin
Paul Bram Rings
Giorgio Armani Suits
Prada Shoes

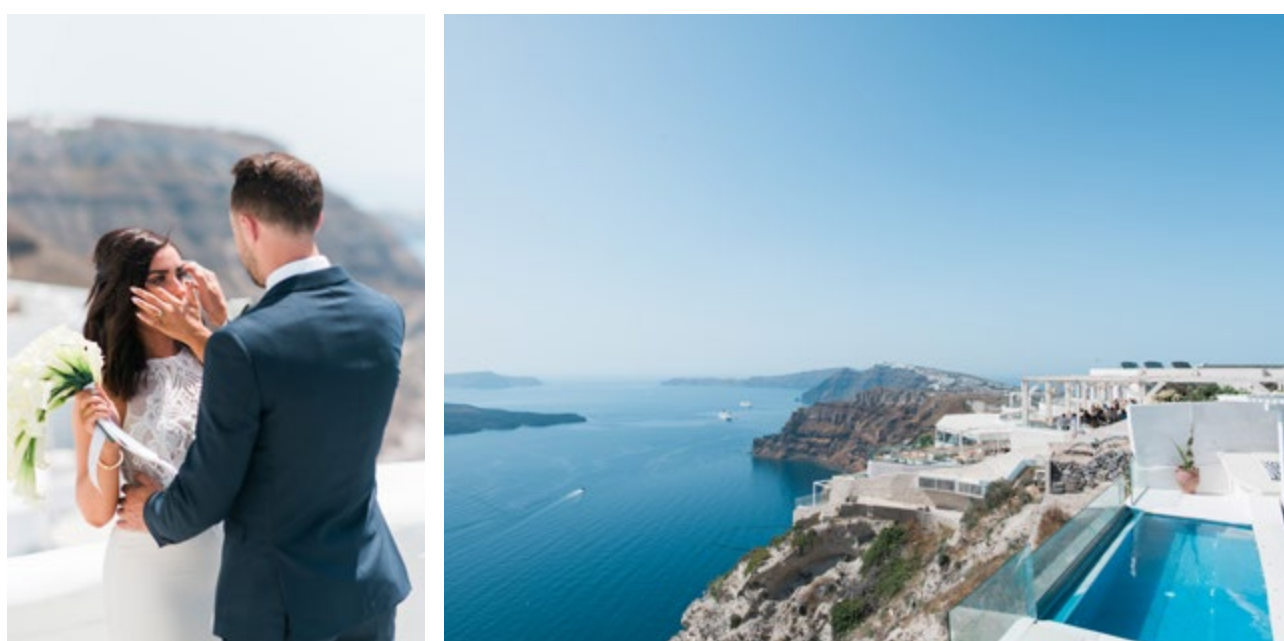


GOLD BLUE AND WHITE DREAM
DESTINATION WEDDING
REAL WEDDING IN SANTORINI
BY ANNA WILSON



Photography: George Kossieris

List of Vendors:
Photographer/Videographer: George Kossieris
Planner & Styling: Greek Dream Planners - Anna Wilson
Decor/Florist: Wedding Wish Santorini
Venue/Catering: Santorini Gem
Cake: Glykaki patisserie
Music/Entertainment: DJ Elias PLM
Hair and makeup artist: Panos Antoniou



This gorgeous wedding on Santorini with Hannah and Adam was such a beautiful wedding. The couple found me through the UK alliance of wedding planners. Hannah wanted a minimalistic Luxurious wedding with theme colours whites, greenery, gold and navy blue, where all the bridesmaids wore white dresses! The couple decided to make special gifts for their bridesmaids, custom golden

rings and for groomsmen, customised flask with engraved names! Their wedding took place at the Santorini Gem. We started our planning a year before their wedding, where Hannah told me that they wanted to get married on the same day he proposed. We immediately started planning their gorgeous wedding and had a great time through the process.

TRUE LOVE STORY DESTINATION
WEDDING
REAL WEDDING IN RHODES
BY GEORGIA ZULLO

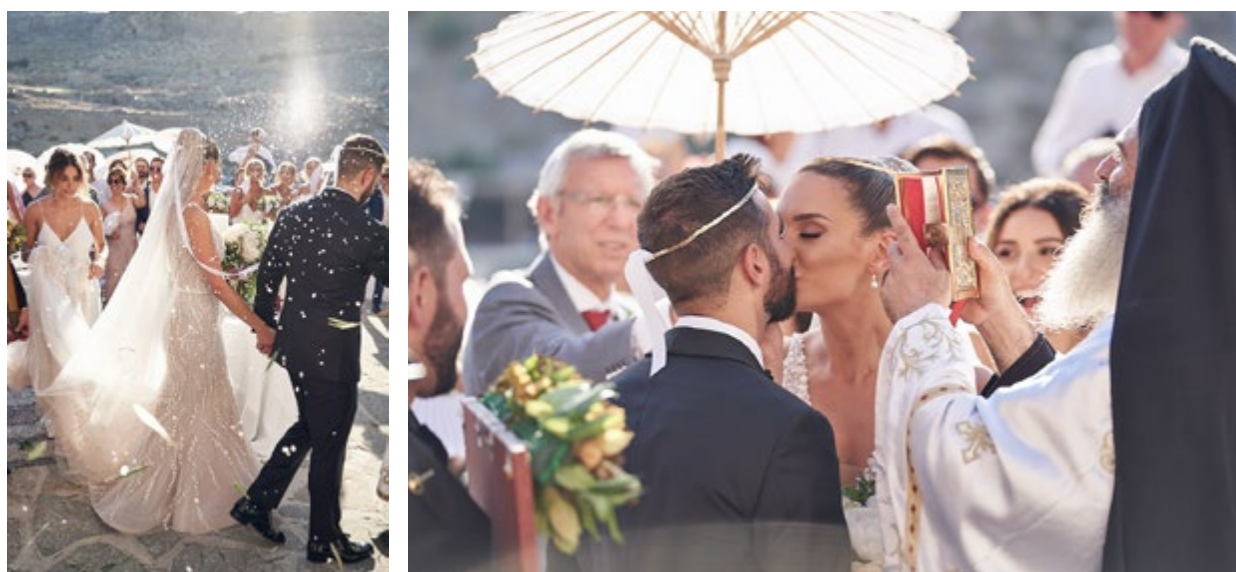
16 years of friendship, a relationship, traveling and living all over the world, a break-up and a reconnection. Our story is proof that when something is meant to be it will be and true love will always find its way. I love our story.

Our story is quite unique. I met my husband Michael when we were just 15 years old as our families both holidayed at the same resort at the Gold Coast for Christmas. We met through mutual friends and realised that our friendship circles were quite similar. For many years we were just close friends before we both realised that our friendship was starting to change to something more. We shared our first kiss when we were just 19 years old and then the story of Georgia and Michael began.



Photography: Lost In Love Photography

List of Vendors:
Bride's Dress: George Elissa
Make-Up: Emmanouela
Hair: Vassilis Boulabasis
Photography: Lost In Love Photography
Videography: Moon and Back Co
Wedding Bands: Cartier
Bride's Earrings: Paspaley Pearls
Bride's Shoes: Jimmy Choo
Groom's Suit: The Cloak Room
Groom's Shoes: Tom Ford
Bridesmaids Dresses: Bec & Bridge
Flower Girl Dress: Stellina Couture
Ceremony: St. Paul's Bay, Lindos
Reception: Ktima Lindos
Wedding Planners: The 12 Events



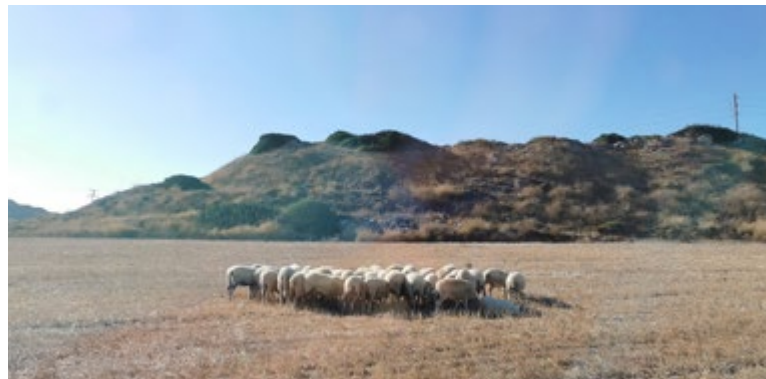
Soon after, Michael moved to the Netherlands for his football career playing for FC Utrecht. As I was still studying at university, we conducted a long distance relationship from Brisbane, Australia to Utrecht for just over 2 years before I decided to join him there. When we were 25, Michael got a loan contract in Adelaide, so we were on the move again and spent a year there for his football. After this, we decided to part ways as we felt that we were so young and needed time apart. Michael's football career had

him on the move between Holland and Melbourne, where my path took me to London.

We spent over 2 years apart, on opposite sides of the world and did not see or speak to each other in this time. It was at a mutual friend's wedding over 2 years later (who ended up being our witness or koumbaro in Greek) that we reconnected. However, I was still living in London and he had just moved to Sydney.

So from a distance again, we began talking and building a relationship over about 9 months before I decided to move back to Sydney to give it another go. A year later (June 2018), Michael proposed while we were holidaying in Sardinia, Italy and a year after that (July 7 2019) we were married on the island of Rhodes. We chose to be married in Lindos on the island of Rhodes as my Yiayia (grandmother)

was born there and my sister was also married there. I am of full Greek heritage (my mother is from Rhodes and Kastellorizo and my father is from the Peloponnese and Kythira) and Michael is half Sicilian and half Cypriot. We chose to have a Greek Orthodox ceremony at beautiful St Paul's church in Lindos and because my sister was also married there.



Photography: Ellwed



Photography: Adrian Wood

DISCOVER MILOS, THE LUNAR ISLAND OF GREECE YOUR PERFECT HONEYMOON AND DESTINATION WEDDING LOCATION

If you are looking for undisturbed nature and gorgeous unique beaches, then Milos is your island! Small unique and picturesque fishing villages like Klima, have surely come across your feed. But that is not even the best part of this small gem of an island! Make sure to rent a 4X4 jeep because this safari like experience will make you want to explore all the hard to get to locations!

The crystal clear waters of Milos will drag you in and you should visit all the famous beaches of this

island by car or boat! If anything, we suggest you wake up at the crack of dawn and head down to visit the famous Sarakiniko beach, with the colour palate of golden and the softest pinks you will ever see in your lifetime! Just a tip, the beach gets full fast, so secure your spot very early in the morning while you enjoy the most romantic sunrise you can imagine. Trust us, you will get to live your own lunar experience there!

See the few captured moments from our trip there and get inspired!



MILOS COVE

INCEPTION RESORT



MILOS COVE INCEPTION RESORT PR ARTICLE VENUE REVIEW FIVE STAR LUXURY VENUE IN MILOS

One of the best hotels on the island. This five star luxury seaside resort is just what you were looking for. Situated on the cliffs of Milos, the utmost lavishness and seclusion at the edge of the island will be the perfect location for your destination

wedding or honeymoon. You will get pampered at every step, the hotels pool and your own private beach, which is just a little hike down the hill. All around views of the sea and nearby island, will bring you piece and serenity you need and desire.



MILOS COVE

Find Milos Cove:

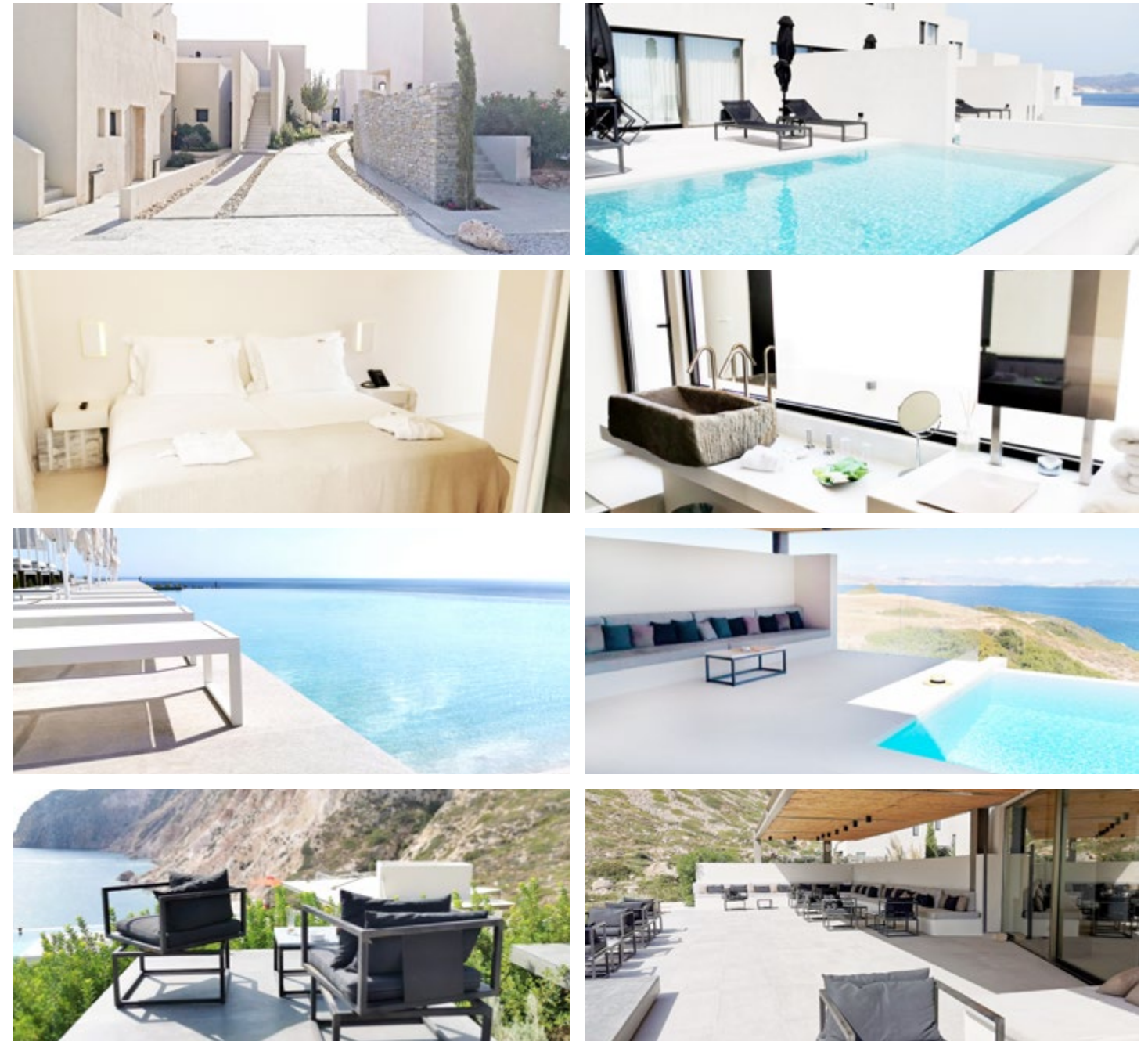
www.miloscove.com
facebook.com/MilosCoveHotel
instagram.com/miloscovehotel



Photography: Adrian Wood

The hotel is fully immersed in the natural rock and unique island's geology and can be the perfect venue for your destination wedding ceremony and celebration. New age design combined with local stone,

the architecture of this place will inspire and relax you! Choose one of the private villas with a pool for your honeymoon or bachelor/bachelorette getaway!



Photography: Ellwed

Coming to the hotel there is only one road. If you rent a car, make sure it can take the safari style dirt road as the hotel was actually built in the area of Aegean civilization from about 10,000 BC. Arriving to the hotel you can still see some remains where they found the ancient workshop with the

Obsidian tools, which inspired hotel's main architecture and design. The experience starts with the entrance to the fully black reception area with celebrated rock in the middle of the room, taking you on the out-of-this-world journey! Let the lunar landing begin at Milos Cove!

Do you have questions about your wedding in Greece?

We would love to help you in any way we can. Send us your questions at submit@ellwed.com or through our Social Media and we will do our best to answer it.

To help other brides to be, all best questions and answers will be published in the next Ellwed issue. If you can't wait till then, head over to our Bridal Community. It's free to join and we can help you right away.

www.facebook.com/groups/ellwed.bridal.community



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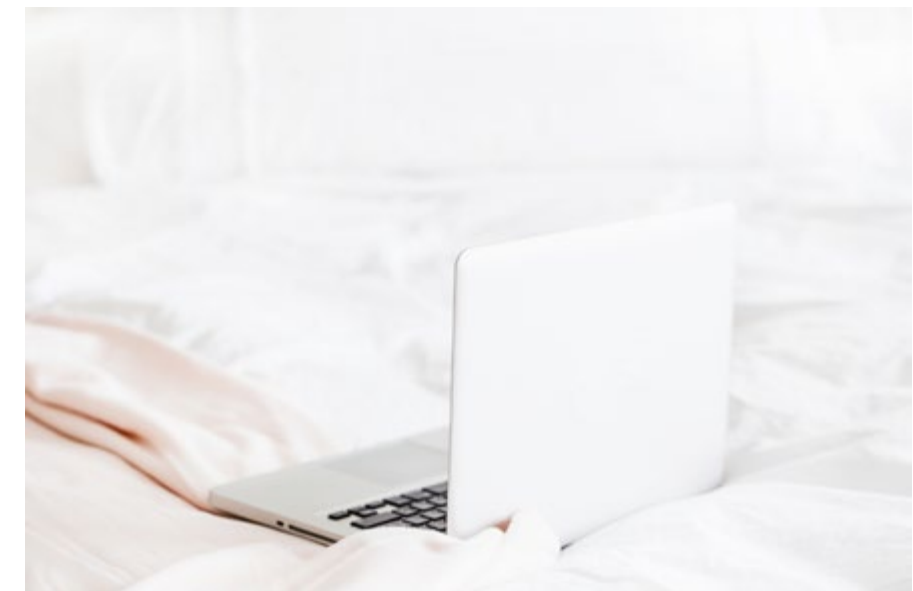
EXPERT'S ADVICE
BY JESSICA VOLBRECHT
FROM GROWTH MENTOR

There are so many areas you have to think about when it comes to marketing. It can make you crazy. There are probably even areas that you should be focusing on, but have never even heard of before.

The competition is fierce and more and more people are taking matters into their own hands and learning how to market their product

themselves so they know it is getting done correctly. And let's be honest, paying an agency to do it for you month after month gets to be super pricey.

We've rounded up some Growth Marketing experts from around the globe to introduce you to some areas you need to be considering.



growthmentor

About the Author:

GrowthMentor was designed for you to easily connect with vetted growth marketing veterans so that YOU can take responsibility for your marketing program and feel confident about the decisions that you are making.

If you are at all involved in marketing an online business, speaking with a growth mentor will help you navigate the tumultuous waters of modern day marketing.

find your mentor at
<https://app.growthmentor.com>

UX - User Experience

We all know how customer care is important, but how can you improve the overall user experience for your customers, both offline and online, in a way that you sell more but also help your audience better?

User Experience (UX), also known as Customer Experience (CX), encompasses all the aspects of interaction between a customer and a company: this includes your services, your products and your website.

The first interaction a potential customer has with your brand can form a lasting impression, so it's important to understand your audience and design a strategy that will improve the experience people have.

As for your website, your goal is for them to have a seamless experience and find everything that they need with ease. It is important to test the flow of your site with outside parties. Of course it all makes sense to you ;) but you need to get a non-biased user to go through the site as a prospective client and see how easy it is for them to navigate. Better yet, go through it with a pro like Ana Santos (find her on GrowthMentor) who was the UX Lead at Google Portugal.

CRO - Conversion Rate Optimization

If you want more people buying from – or contacting – you through your website, then you need to look into Conversion Optimization.

It's the practice of finding powerful ways of increasing the % of people turning into customers or leads on your websites.

This involves optimizing the entire experience of someone realizing they have a problem or need, learning about potential solutions (your product or service), to deciding to do business with you — and not your competitors.

To do this, you need to have a strong understanding of everything from your customers needs, how you're getting people to the website, how people move through your site, the actions they take, and what's stopping them from taking that next step with your business.

But ultimately, in its most simplest form, you want to know 2 things about your website visitors:

- How your visitors got on your website.
- What they are looking for on your website, at this point of time

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(because not everyone will be ready to purchase immediately).

Then using that information, you should ask yourself 2 questions:

- How can I help them find what they're looking for?
- What can I do to make that as easy as possible?

Although that's barely scratching the surface of what Conversion Optimization involves, if you do that properly, then you're going to see much more success on your website.

Lucas Mondora (find him on GrowthMentor) a Growth & Conversion Optimization Specialist from Australia, would be more than happy to help you with this!

SEO - Search Engine Optimization

As we all know, resources are limited. You might not always have a marketing budget to spend on paid advertising or you might be lacking a marketing team to help you continuously attract new visitors to your website through various channels. That's why it's so important to invest your time and effort into Search Engine Optimization (SEO).



SEO is the process of getting traffic from the free search results on search engines. Focusing on nailing down this process, will help you drive a long-term and sustainable growth of visitors to your website.

SEO can be divided into two parts: On-page SEO and off-page SEO. On-page SEO applies to all techniques that can be optimized on your website to improve your ranking in search engines, such as content development and underlying code. Off-page SEO refers to everything that can be done outside of your website to improve your site's trustworthiness and authority by building the right inbound links and getting your content distributed and shared.

Across on-page and off-page SEO, there are multiple ranking factors and it might be often difficult to understand which are the most important to focus on first. Luckily, you can get some advice and help from an SEO expert like Agata Krzysztofik (find her on GrowthMentor) - former Manager at Google who has helped multiple B2B and B2C startups develop a winning SEO strategy. Customer Success.

Link Building

Did you know that it is important for other sites to link to you? I simply like to say that it helps your Google juices.

You will rank higher on Google if Google thinks you are relevant and important (this is all determined by the juices).

Foti Panagiotakopoulos app. growthmentor.com/foti-panagio would LOVE to explain this to you and help you come up with a game plan. Seriously, he lives for it.

There are 'easy' ways to do this like paying an agency to do it for you, but that will usually come back to haunt you because Google is smart and knows which links are quality and which are not.

The best way to go about this is to leverage your existing network and get creative with how to get backlinks. (Read more on GrowthMentor, Link Building Guide for Startups)

Customer Success

Ok, so you successfully won a potential client over and now they are your client. YAY! Besides giving them the best of the best service and the attention that you promised on your website, what else can you do to ensure that they become your biggest fan?

Do you think about this? - or are you just focused on getting the job done and getting paid?

Why is it important to have them as a fan after they have paid the invoice? 3 words - WORD OF MOUTH

This is still and probably always will be the strongest form of marketing.

So how do you get your customers to talk about you?

You are probably thinking, 'Gee, she sure is asking a lot of questions!'

People are so wrapped up in their business and busting their @ss just to keep up with the competition, they often don't stop and ask themselves these important questions. Having a conversation with someone else about their business strategy doesn't even cross their minds.

I'm happy to be that person you brainstorm ideas with! Find me on our platform growthmentor.com/jessica-volbrecht

How to get reviews, how to get them to engage with you on social media, how to write customer stories for your blog... all of these things make a difference!

So there you have it! Advice from marketers from 5 different countries who all are willing to help you improve in each of these areas and take control of your growth.



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