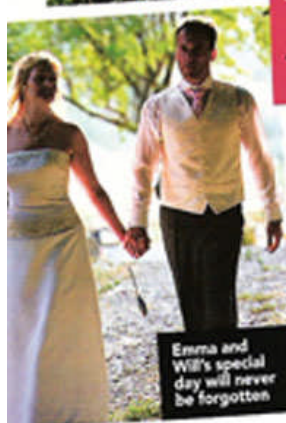


Win 50%
off a dream
wedding in
Tuscany!
Log on to www.newwoman.com.au



The ultimate
fuss-free wedding!



Emma and Will's special day will never be forgotten

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

CAN YOU REALLY PLAN YOUR ENTIRE OVERSEAS WEDDING ONLINE? NEW WOMAN READER EMMA BOND DID JUST THAT

When Emma Bond's boyfriend, Will, proposed over a bottle of bubbly on Christmas 2004, Emma, 33, instantly knew she wanted her wedding to be held in a beautiful old farmhouse in her adopted home, the UK. But when that venue closed for business, Emma and Will decided to indulge their love of travel (their first kiss was in Paris) and have their dream wedding overseas. Italy was a natural choice. 'It has such a romantic, rustic feel to it, and we both love Italian food,' says Emma.

Location, location

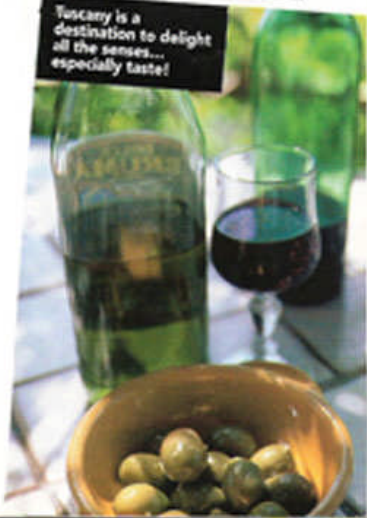
Although the couple hadn't visited Tuscany before, images of the region's rolling hills and ancient olive groves proved irresistible. Located in central Italy, Tuscany is the unofficial wine capital of the country, and is famous as a stylish getaway for many Europeans (oh, and the weather is hot, too).

A simple plan

Emma and Will found their dream venue online. 'We came across www.weddingsintuscany.info - a business that specialises in

coordinating weddings for foreign couples,' Emma says. 'The owner, Chiara Semesi, was fantastic. We planned the whole wedding by email and whenever I had a question, she wrote straight back with photos so I could make decisions on everything from the menu to the wedding cake.' On Semesi's expert advice, Emma and Will chose an agriturismo (a 15th/16th Century farmhouse that has been restored to a working farm) called Tenuta La Borriana in Poggio ai Caiano, near Carmignano, as their venue. They were so excited, they even made

Tuscany is a destination to delight all the senses... especially taste!





HYPOALLERGENIC

NEW

play up the brown



browner eyes,
just for fun



play up the blue

play up the green

play up the hazel

ALMAY.
BEAUTY AS SIMPLE AS 1-2-3

priceline priceline pharmacy

Available at selected stores.

newhotspot



Emma and Will gave guests locally produced olive oil and wine as a keepsake of their special day



'There was lots of food, wine and relaxing'

the trek to Tuscany a few months before the big day to check it out. 'It was breathtaking – even more beautiful than we had imagined,' says Emma.

An intimate affair

The couple knew they wanted a relaxed wedding with just 18 of their nearest and dearest, so they hired the entire farmhouse. 'Our guests arrived two days before our wedding, so there was plenty of time for everyone to relax and immerse themselves in the culture and sights of Tuscany, as well as the great local food and wine,' Emma says. Right up to the morning of the wedding, guests could be found swimming in the farmhouse's indoor infinity pool and chilling out over a glass of vino. And determined not to forget her Australian heritage, Emma wore an Aussie-designed and made dress. 'I wanted to include a piece of Australia, so I chose a gown by Essence of Australia (which Emma found online at www.essensedesigns.com).

My bridesmaids wore sky blue, which perfectly complemented the ochre-toned scenery,' Emma recalls. 'And to keep with the low-key theme, we did our own make-up and a local hairdresser came out to us on the day.'

All the guests were transported by bus to the town hall in the village centre of Carmignano

for the ceremony, which had a true Italian flavour, although the language barrier wasn't a problem. 'With a translator on hand, the mayor of the village married us with vows we'd written ourselves,' Emma says. 'Then we were showered with rice, as is Italian tradition, as we left the church.'

The flavours of Italy

Back at the farmhouse, the reception dinner of bruschetta, porcini mushroom salad, handmade ricotta and pine nut tortellini, and tiny roasted chickens was served as the sun set. This was followed by dessert of fresh fruit salad and sorbets, and the wedding cake, an Italian sponge with a strawberry liqueur filling, made by a local bakery. After dinner, a four-piece jazz band got the party started. 'The day went far too quickly, but in many ways it felt like we were the only ones alive. I wouldn't have done anything differently,' says Emma.

Getting there

Emma and Will flew from London to Pisa and hired a car to drive to Tenuta La Borriana. Qantas flies to Rome via Hong Kong daily from Brisbane, Sydney, Perth and Melbourne. Call 13 13 13 or visit www.qantas.com to book.

www.newhotspot.com.au