

# Greek islands

## Why should I choose Greece for my wedding?

From ancient ruins in Athens to bright islands characterised by cliff-top villas with panoramic ocean views out to volcanic landscape, Greece is a magical spot for a wedding.

## Where can I get married?

Surrounded by crystal-blue water and gorgeous volcanic cliffs rising above the sea, Santorini is popular with couples. Being an orthodox country, there are many gorgeous traditional churches and cathedrals to have a religious ceremony – including the picturesque Agios Minas in Fira. If you always dreamed of saying your vows as the sun sets on the Mediterranean, a luxury resort like Santorini Princess ([santoriniprincess.com](http://santoriniprincess.com)) is just the place. It caters for weddings up to 80 people, and has wedding planning services.



Sara and Gary celebrated with a divine sunset reception

## How can I adopt Greek culture into my ceremony?

In terms of adding something typically Greek to the ceremony, a bride might want to carry a lump of sugar to guarantee a sweet life, or a bit of ivy, which is a sign of endless love. Some great Greek reception traditions you can also adopt include the famous circle dance and the smashing of plates for good luck.

## Who can help me organise my day?

Marry Me Abroad ([marrymebroad.com](http://marrymebroad.com)) organise weddings in many areas of Greece, including Santorini. Your Santorini Wedding ([yoursantoriniwedding.com](http://yoursantoriniwedding.com)) has been set up to simplify the process of organising an overseas wedding – it has ceremony and venue options and lots of information on local service providers.

# Italy

**Why should I choose Italy for my wedding?** Rich in culture, history and great food, Italy is as famous for its architecture and art in Rome and Florence as it is for the spectacular natural beauty of the Amalfi Coast and Tuscany. The country is also home to Venice, one of the most romantic cities in the world, and Verona, the setting for Romeo and Juliet love story, so there is no doubt you will find your own special spot to make your big day truly unforgettable. Cinque Terre ([cinqueterrewedding.com](http://cinqueterrewedding.com)), made of five fishing villages hidden in little inlets in the cliff, is also a very romantic spot.

**Where can I get married?** Picturesque scenery and medieval villages make Tuscany a favourite. Civil ceremonies are held in any of the region's beautiful towns, while the Gothic cathedral in Pienza, with panoramic views of the town, is ideal for Catholic vows.

**How can I adopt the Italian culture into my ceremony?** Sunday is considered the luckiest day to get married, and tying a ribbon in front of the church is a popular custom which symbolises the couple's bond.

**Who can help me organise my day?** Weddings in Tuscany ([weddingsintuscany.info](http://weddingsintuscany.info)) offer tailored ceremony and reception packages in Tuscany.

**Making it legal** Before leaving Australia, you must get a *Atto Notorio* (Sworn Declaration) from the Italian Embassy or the Australian Consulate. Once there, you will need a *Nulla Osta* (Statutory Declaration) that has been signed in front of an Australian Consular officer at the Australian Embassy in Rome or Australian Consulate-General in Milan. This will then need to be legalised by the Prefecture. You will also need Birth Certificates.

**The Cost?** Statutory Declaration costs \$50. **Getting there?** Emirates, Qantas and host of other airlines all fly to Italy.



Anna and Alistair married at Scaligero Castle in Lake Garda