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# WHY MARRIAGE IS COOL AGAIN





Left The couple had an Irish blessing, followed by the Greek Orthodox tradition of being 'crowned' with olive wreath crowns. Right The tower has 360 degree views of the scenery and the sky. Opposite Charlotte and Ben adore Italy so it made sense to get married there



Clockwise from left Italian musicians. The chairbacks. Water and flip-flops for guests. The bride with Fran Fuller, Jodie Caron, Astrid Joss and Leanda Fausel



'We wanted to recreate that relaxed atmosphere you only get on holiday, and for it not to rain!' says associate features editor of *Vogue*, Charlotte Sinclair, 29. Which is why she and her TV/film director husband, Benjamin Caron, 32, decided to marry in Italy.

So, with a week to go, Charlotte flew to the restored 10th-century watchtower of Torre di Moravola, in the mountains of Umbria, with some close friends and family, while Ben and eight of his friends rode down to join them on their motorbikes.

Twilight was the inspiration for the midnight-blue bridesmaids' dresses and the purple, mauve and blue of the flowers and decor. 'I'm obsessed with light and how the colours change at dusk,' says Charlotte. 'It's called "the magic hour" and the idea of transformation from day to night seemed apt as we were going from being single to married,' she adds.

Charlotte and Ben had a non-religious blessing conducted in a nearby olive grove by a vicar friend (the couple had already been legally married at Chelsea Register Office). Then it was back to the tower for Prosecco and speeches by the pool. As dusk fell, the couple and their 70 guests sat down to a four-course feast. 'At one point, Ben and I snuck off to the top of the tower and looked down to watch all our friends and family dancing and enjoying themselves. It was totally magical.' →



CHARLOTTE SINCLAIR AND BENJAMIN CARON, UMBRIA, AUGUST 2008

# la dolce vita

A remote mountain setting with spectacular views was the perfect backdrop for this chic Italian wedding

Clockwise from right: The musicians gave Charlotte this basket of fruit and flowers as a gift. Photos of guests, taken the night before, were used for the quirky table plan. Instead of round tables, the couple opted for a long dining table.



## THE LOOK

**THE BRIDE** Charlotte wore a vintage-inspired, champagne-coloured tulle Reem Acra dress with a silk underskirt from Browns Bride (020 7514 0056), which had been embellished with pearls and silver thread. She had her mother's '70s veil from Liberty altered by Kate Halfpenny (halfpenny.com) and wore Jimmy Choo shoes (020 7823 1051).

**THE GROOM** Ben's suit was by Spencer Hart (020 7434 0000). His shoes were from Berluti (020 7437 1740), and his tie was from Prada (020 7437 1740).

**THE BRIDESMAIDS** They wore silk dresses from Issa (020 7352 4243). Charlotte gave each of them a vintage brooch, which they wore at the neckline.

**THE VENUE** Torre di Moravola (moravola.com) is situated in the mountains of Umbria. The nearest airport is in Perugia, a 30-minute drive away.

**THE CATERING** Convivium Firenze (conviviumfirenze.it) laid on a selection of antipasti, followed by a pasta course and beef fillet. Charlotte and Ben had chosen a traditional Italian wedding cake.

**THE FLOWERS** I Fiori di Nicoletta (00 39 075 8554 682) in nearby Perugia created the bouquets and floral arrangements, using blue and green hydrangeas, white roses, freesias and olive fronds.

**THE WEDDING PLANNER** Clara Boatto of Chic Weddings (chicweddings.eu) helped Charlotte and Ben to plan their big day.



Clockwise from above: The guests feasted on a four-course dinner. Charlotte and Ben opted for a traditional Italian wedding cake decorated with strawberries. After the ceremony in an olive grove, wedding guests returned to the pool for Prosecco and the speeches. The couple invited 65 guests to Umbria, including Albie Hollingsworth and Vogue's Sarah Harris.

