



> **FEATURE WEDDING:** “Within a few minutes of talking to Elizabeth,” he notes, “I felt that I had known her forever.”

ELIZABETH SHAPIRO  
AND ZACH SINICK  
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Elizabeth and Zach met on a Monday, the night before Valentine's Day in what Elizabeth describes as "a seedy dive bar in a sketchy neighborhood of Los Angeles." Zach had plans with friends to see a band play in a small club, but when he got to the club, it was at capacity and he was turned away. He decided to go instead to this small dive bar. Elizabeth was entertaining her cousin who was visiting from out of town, and on a Monday night this bar was the "happening place."

"There was an immediate connection," notes Elizabeth, "as I saw him standing at the other end of the bar. It wasn't that he was just cute—he was the kind of guy you just wanted to talk to."

Zach, who had also noticed Elizabeth, remembers, "As soon as I saw her, I felt that I needed to talk to this girl." Elizabeth took the initiative: as Zach walked by her at some point, she tapped him on the shoulder, put her leg in front of him blocking his path, and the conversation started. "Within a few minutes of talking to Elizabeth," he notes, "I felt that I had known her forever." Elizabeth concurs feeling exactly the same way about Zach.



Fast-forward six years later and wedding plans were in full swing. "As an actress and screenwriter by trade out in Hollywood, it was destined from the beginning that our wedding was going to be a production," says Elizabeth. "Instead of the standard wedding, my husband and I were looking to create the set of a movie that would truly transport our guests to another world."

Besides the fact that they are both very artsy people, Zach and Elizabeth are by their own admission pretty opposite or as Elizabeth describes it, "complementary." Zach is more of a jeans and t-shirt kind of guy. Elizabeth is more of a Jimmy Choo and vintage sequined cocktail dress kind of girl.



GRACE ORMONDE WEDDING STYLE





So when it came time to get married, they wanted to find a way to blend their two tastes: his, casual and laidback, and hers, fancy and “dramatic.”

They both quickly agreed on a destination wedding since they knew they wanted the wedding to be intimate—just the people who matter most to them. And they wanted the event to be more of a collective vacation than some kind of tribute to what Elizabeth calls their “coupledom.” “We wanted it to be an event where we would celebrate all the relationships in our lives—not just ours.”

They agreed on a small town in the Italian countryside near Lucca called Borgo a Mozzano where Elizabeth had spent time in college singing opera. Borgo a Mozzano is in the Garfagnana, the wild and untamed mountain region of Tuscany. It is lesser known than the sprawling fields and terracotta wash of much of Tuscany. The Garfagnana is rugged and overgrown, and until the 1960s didn’t even have a road to reach it. “It was that kind of wild, unkempt romance that attracted us to it,” notes Elizabeth, “and I can’t tell you what a perfect decision that was.”

The theme for the wedding was Miss Havisham meets Florence and the Machine.



“I’m obsessed with the faded grandeur you can find in Italy—and the villa we chose for the wedding, Villa Catureglio, just embodies it,” says Elizabeth. “Ivy growing out of the old stone, olive trees everywhere, that gorgeous light that seems to only exist in Italy. To us, there is nothing more beautiful than patina and we wanted to make that the aesthetic focus of the wedding.”

The colors of the wedding were pulled straight from the discoloration in the stone—from salmon to grey to blue to green. “There is a whole kaleidoscope of colors just in the stone,” remarks Elizabeth. “We wanted the wedding décor to have an organic feel to it as if it was part of the villa.” She continues, “The description I like to give is the wedding should look as if it were set up a hundred years ago and then was just forgotten. Over the century the elements took over—the ivy and moss began to grow over the décor, age faded the tablecloth. And now, the wedding has almost a ghostly feel to it. To me, there is nothing more romantic than the Havisham tale of a wedding frozen in time. And I love the juxtaposition of beauty and decay.”

Zach and Elizabeth confess they had a bit of a challenge pulling off this vision halfway across the world. They wanted to use a more eclectic decorating style than what is usually available to rent, “especially in Italy,” notes Elizabeth, “where the wedding aesthetic seems to be mostly ‘Let’s turn the villa into a Miami club!’ So we had to get creative, which is where we had so much fun.”

Along with her mom (who Elizabeth credits as the single most important person responsible for making this dream wedding

a reality) and their wedding planners, they combed through different thrift stores in Florence collecting fabulous antiques that they used to decorate throughout. “We found gorgeous old mirrors. We went to an old fabric warehouse in Prato and had curtains made for the chapel. We also found fabric there to make our beautiful burlap lace tablecloth! It’s amazing how if you’re willing to hunt, you can find amazing things,” she notes.

Zach, who runs his own music production company, provided the soundtrack to the wedding: a mixture of current indie music along with music from the 1920s for the dinner to reflect their desire that the wedding feel both vintage and indie.

Fifty-five of their closest friends and family attended, and according to Elizabeth, it couldn’t have been more perfect as they all spent five days together.

The ceremony took place in the private chapel on-site: a gorgeous, small, stone chapel. The look was very early Grey Gardens—1930s glamour. The bridesmaids walked down the aisle in beautiful navy, 1930s-inspired David Meister gowns as Elizabeth’s cousin sang acoustic versions of the couple’s favorite songs: “You’ve Got the Love” by Florence and the Machine and “First Day of My Life” by Bright Eyes. The bride wore a Reem Acra gown in flowing ivory with silver beaded cap sleeves.

After the ceremony, everyone moved into the courtyard of the villa for cocktails and hors d’oeuvres. A wonderful surprise was planned for the guests. In the distance they started to hear a band playing celebratory traditional Italian music. The music gradually got closer and closer until through the



olive tree-lined entrance to the villa appeared a 30-piece marching band—concerto bandistico: a fabulous group made up of everyone from eight-year-olds to 80-year-olds who play traditional Italian folk music with perfect imperfection.

Drinks were served in the limonaia—an area with gorgeous French doors opening into a magical space covered in ivy and other hanging vines where the lemon trees are stored during the winter. “We asked the florist to bring even more ivy to add to the walls and weave around the mirrors we bought to make them feel as if they had been there for centuries,” notes Elizabeth. “I’m sure I am the only bride who asked the florist to make the venue look more decrepit, making the wedding feel like it had been abandoned 100 years ago. They did the



most magnificent job.” The juxtaposition of the antique furniture with the rustic limonaia and its earthy dirt floor is exactly the kind of contradiction the couple wanted.

For dinner, guests walked through the villa out to another beautiful courtyard lined with olive trees decorated with hundreds of hanging candles. Everyone sat at a single long table covered in burlap lace with a vintage love seat in the center of the table for the bride and groom.

The chef (a local celebrity with her own television show) cooked an entirely vegetarian meal and as both Elizabeth and Zach attest: “She did an impeccable job and pulled it off beautifully!” The cake, surrounded by gorgeous moss and placed on an antique base, was served as dessert in the grand hall of the villa.

For the entertainment part of the evening, the property’s old stone barn was converted into a club, complete with a photo booth. Drinks were served from a glowing bar that wrapped around one of the central columns of the barn. Crystal chandeliers hung from the walls while modern white sofas and all white décor against the stone embellished the space as guests danced into the night.

One of the premiere lighting designers in Tuscany lit the space in blues and purples to help complete the transformation.

Zach treasures the quality time spent with all their guests over the five days and Elizabeth remarks, “I didn’t realize until that day how close I am to my family and friends—it was a true celebration.”

The couple took an extended honeymoon to Turkey.

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Location: **Villa Catureglio** Tuscany, Italy;  
 Cake: **Melanie Secciani** Florence, Italy;  
 Event Design and Planner: **Weddings International** Florence, Italy and New York, NY;  
 Floral Design: **Tuscany Flowers** Florence, Italy;  
 Stationery: **Lion in the Sun** Brooklyn, NY;  
 Wedding Dress: **Reem Acra** New York, NY;  
 Veil: **Kleinfeld** New York, NY; Bride’s Shoes: **Jimmy Choo**; Photography: **Matthew Moore Photography** Austin, TX

