



Congratulations

Maria & Lino

Maria & Lino have won the second heat of our Wedding of the Year competition. They share the details of their stunning Italian vintage garden-themed day at Denbies

How did you feel when you found out you'd won this round of the Wedding of the Year competition?

We were so excited – we squealed, jumped up and down, and had a kiss and a cuddle. We then contacted everyone to let them know the news, and of course, thank them for voting.

What did you enjoy most about organising your wedding?

Most of the planning, although stressful, was enjoyable, especially finding out you have skills that you didn't know you had – like being able to handmake stationery, favours and centrepieces!

But the most enjoyable part was organising the surprise elements to our wedding. We had a surprise singer who posed as a waiter, and after a few bum notes burst into a traditional Italian song. We couldn't stop giggling with the anticipation of seeing everyone's faces, and we can't thank Luca from Vocal Show enough.

Were your suppliers helpful?

Very – if we approached a supplier who wasn't helpful or couldn't help realise our vision then we wouldn't employ them. We

had a few hiccups here and there, but we were the only ones who knew about them, our guests were none the wiser.

Our priest, Father Jim was really helpful and supportive with our marriage preparation. Our florist, Hazel was also fabulous. She really understood what we wanted and made multiple trips to obtain the perfect flowers for us. Hannah, our photographer was amazing – her professionalism, kind nature and humour helped us to relax on the day. She even shed a tear at our speeches.

Being big music lovers, we enrolled the EBBA Singers choir who were also fantastic – they learnt new songs for our ceremony and sung them beautifully.

Your theme was vintage Italian garden. How did you incorporate this into your wedding day?

Our colours were ivory and dusky rose with satin ribbon and pearls incorporated into the décor. We chose Denbies, a vineyard estate venue, where we could bring the outdoors in. The venue had terracotta coloured flooring and a fountain in the centre, which made it feel like we were in an Italian piazza.

As centrepieces, we had ornate candelabra surrounded by flowers and candles in glass holders. All the stationery was made from mulberry paper and we used vintage-inspired fonts. We played Italian music and had an Italian menu, with of course a big Italian-style wedding cake.

What did you find the most difficult thing to sort out?

As we both have full-time jobs, the most difficult aspect was finding enough time to organise everything. We spent every lunch hour, break, and commuting time researching and contacting suppliers; and then every evening and weekend handmaking or organising everything else. ♥



Maria and Lino's contact book

Photographer
Funky Photographers
www.funkyphotographers.co.uk

Venue
Denbies Wine Estate
www.denbies.co.uk

Bride's dress
All That Glitters Bridal
www.allthatglittersbridal.co.uk

Flowers
The Flower Pot
www.theflowerpottadworth.co.uk

Men's suits
Impeccable
www.impeccablewear.co.uk

Ceremony choir
The EBBA Singers
www.ebbsingers.org

Entertainment
Vocal Show www.vocalshow.co.uk

Wedding cake
Patisserie Valerie
www.patisserie-valerie.co.uk

