



AN ITALIAN MASTERPIECE

DEBRA AND EDWIN

Supplied by Focus Films

1 October 2008

Their Perfect Romance:

I am Brazilian and Edwin, originally Dutch, migrated with his parents to New Zealand. He has also lived in England and Dubai where he made most of his special friends. After seeing a friend's videos of Brisbane I decided to travel there and worked in hospitality while I passed my CPA. I made many friends; one who became my matron of honour and her husband gave me away.

Edwin and I travelled on the CityCat to work each day and we eventually exchanged contact details and have been together for over five years. Edwin proposed during a weekend getaway to Stradbroke Island. We already knew we could not love each other more and marriage would not make that change, but I am glad he proposed and I said yes.

Their Ideal Wedding:

Edwin's family and our special friends are spread across the world and so it seemed right to have an intimate European wedding. We chose romantic Italy with 42 people from 13 different nationalities! I have many relatives in Brazil (over 200) and so we will have a

Brazilian Catholic wedding in 2010, which will be a wonderful family reunion.

We used an Italian wedding planner who found the Villa San Filippo in Tuscany set in a centuries-old garden. With the stunning Tuscan backdrop, nature had taken care of the decorating.

My sister was my bridesmaid and a coworker took the place of my mother and helped dress me for the wedding. The rings got misplaced for quite some time and paric in Portuguese, Dutch, Spanish and Italian is unbelievable.

I walked down the aisle to a violin playing, rose petals on the ground and joy in the air. Straight after the ceremony, an A Capella quartet began singing. It took our breath away.

We went to a little family restaurant that served loads of beautiful food and our special quartet had everyone singing and celebrating Italian style.

Their Unique Choices:

The first thing we did was start a Facebook account so that all our guests and family could know what was happening and make plans and suggestions.

We gave each guest a fan and had the cake made in the shape of Brazil on the bottom tier.

The top tier was in the shape of New Zealand with a silver leaf. Little flags were all around it to represent the nationalities present.

The quartet was organised by a friend living in England. One member travelled from America just to sing at our ceremony. As a wedding present one couple organised a videographer for the day. Another gift was a personalised recipe book, with full of photos of memorable meals shared with our friends.

I love photos so much, I even asked my dressmaker to put a pocket in my wedding dress for my camera. She refused but made a matching handbag as her wedding gift for me. I found Brad from Focus Films at a Brisbane expo. He jumped at the opportunity to photograph a wedding in Tuscany. We couldn't believe it. It was great to know that our photographer would be accessible after the honeymoon. He was amazing, and the following day we had another photo shoot driving around the area. When we realised our honeymoon visit to Venice coincided with Brad's holiday itinerary, he organised another wedding shoot in Venice!

We don't just have wedding photos, we have masterpieces and are having real trouble creating a photo album!

Thank you for your story - Ideal Bride



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Their Bridal Insights:

Don't leave all the planning to others. Being involved will change you forever. Try to keep your guests informed. I loved planning my wedding so much; I already have plans for a 10-year renewal of our vows – maybe the Maldives! ♥

