

# WEDDING

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# 237

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# Hannah & Anthony

A civil ceremony and evening reception at  
The George in Rye, East Sussex

**The proposal...** Anthony and I first met at my cousin's fancy dress party in May 2007. I remember hearing his lovely Australian accent and couldn't resist commenting on it. There was a special connection straight away, and after our first couple of dates we both knew we were meant for each other. I was very lucky to have Anthony propose to me twice, and both times I said yes! The first time was eight months after we met, while we were on holiday, relaxing on a beach in Tasmania. It was a beautiful sunny day and Anthony wrote "Will you marry me?" in the sand. Afterwards, as a gesture towards my parents, Anthony asked my dad before officially proposing with a stunning engagement ring.

**The venue...** After we announced our engagement, my sister bought us a copy of *Wedding* to help get our planning underway. Inside, we saw a competition to win a reception at The George In Rye hotel in East Sussex. The hotel looked amazing, and we could just imagine ourselves

exchanging our vows in the magnificent Georgian ballroom under the antique chandeliers, so we entered. We couldn't believe it when we actually won!

**The look...** We wanted a classic, romantic look, which would reflect our style and complement the hotel's elegant decor. The gorgeous, floral silk paintings in the ballroom inspired the day's blue, green and ivory colour scheme, which was beautifully interpreted by The Real Flower Company. The talented team took our brief and created wonderful arrangements using plenty of ivory roses – our favourite flower. The ceremony room was decorated with silver pedestals filled with lilies, while the aisle was strewn with ivory rose petals. I chose a simple bouquet of scented cream roses, which looked stunning against my mermaid-style ruched dress from Ellis Bridals. My two sisters wore striking teal bridesmaid dresses from Jim Hjelm Occasions and each carried a single rose, while Anthony wore a rose buttonhole. ►





**The reception...** We wanted to repeat the classic, romantic theme of our ceremony during our reception, so we decorated the tables with low silver vases filled with beautifully scented roses in shades of pale peach, cream and ivory, along with deep green foliage and lilies. Rose petals were scattered on the tables and flickering tea lights were dotted around the room to give a warm glow. We wanted to incorporate Anthony's Australian roots into our wedding, so we named the tables after each of the Australian states.

**The details...** My mum and sister found some lovely, vibrant blue glittery butterflies that we used to decorate our simple ivory and teal namecards, before they were tied to the back of each chair with ribbon.

Place settings were also decorated with a single butterfly tied to a bunch of fresh herbs, and we added a few heart-shaped chocolates as a treat for our guests. Our cake was a three-tier double chocolate cake with white chocolate swirls. It tasted divine and looked wonderful decorated with roses, lilies and more blue butterflies as a finishing touch.

**The icing on the cake...** One of our favourite moments of the day was when everyone was being seated for dinner in the ballroom and we had some time to ourselves before being introduced as Mr and Mrs Smith. This was a perfect opportunity to reflect on our vows and everything that had happened so far, rather than letting it all pass in a blur. 📷

COMPILED BY: CARRIE MITCHELL