

The Art Of Love

Creative couple Nicky and John decked out an Andalucían country house with rustic florals and folksy touches

VIVA ESPAÑA

John and I had spent most of our relationship on an amazing 15 month world trip so it seemed natural for us to extend that adventure for our wedding! We have both always been drawn to the Spanish way of life, which we experienced on our travels, the fiestas, the siestas, tapas and wine, the style and the feel and so we felt Spain was the right choice for us.

AU NATURAL

We stumbled upon El Molino Del Conde via google and knew it was perfect. It was a beautiful old restored Mill in incredible grounds, complete with a little river and ducks and chickens! It just felt like home; but a really, really amazing home. A call to the two lovely owners, Nick and Amanda, just emphasized how we felt, and we booked and paid for El Molino without even seeing it in the flesh! It turned out to be the best risk we took.

We visited El Molino in February to see what it was like. The different parts of the property each had their own feel. A lovely area by a stream at the bottom of the garden seemed like it was made for a ceremony with the sound of the water and its dappled shade. We wanted to stay true to the natural surroundings and didn't want anything too 'man-made' like a gazebo to stand under or hard chairs. We had haystacks from a nearby farm, and we hung jars of flowers from the trees around.

CALLING IN A FAVOUR

Food is so central to a wedding and is a big talking point. John

is also an amazing cook and I had to really persuade him that he couldn't cook for 80 people at his own wedding! We wanted the feeling of a big feast and so opted for no seating plan. Everyone just sat where they wanted at our four long tables under a canopy of lights. Elena, our chef and her team cooked an enormous Paella outside under the stars and we also feasted on lots of tapas. The wedding attire brought a few smiles. Our 'dress code' was "wear something nice" and John really maximized on this one – he bought three suits in the run up to the wedding! I had some special bonding time with my mum and sister shopping for 'the one'. I gave the bridesmaids a palette of ribbons in certain colours and allowed them to buy anything they felt good in.



We never really settled on a style other than homemade. In the run up to the wedding, a lot of people pitched in to help decorate the land and we couldn't have done it without them.

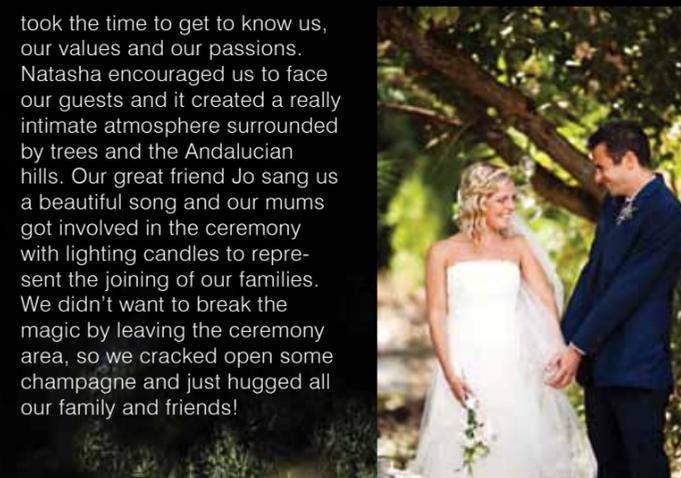
FUN AND GAMES

We wanted a bit of mischief on the day – something to surprise and delight! We had a fancy dress photo area with colourful props to take pictures. Some of our best photos were from here and the imagination was great. It was so funny seeing our moms and dads getting stuck in too! We also had a wishing tree as a guest book and a couple of hula hoops scattered around for impromptu hooping which turned out to be brilliant fun. My mum also made beautiful badges which you pinned on yourself as you arrived, which in a small way united everyone there.

The 'Father of the Bride' speech really got the laughter and tears flowing and I turned tradition on its head by breaking the 'brides don't speak' rule and instead surprised everyone by doing a funny dance for John together with the bridesmaids to Prince's 'Kiss'. We also had an after party until sunrise at a hidden tree house at the bottom of the garden which my sister decorated secretly with lots of photos and memories for us!

HAPPY EVER AFTER

The ceremony itself was just absolutely perfect. Our minister, Natasha, was the reason for this. She really made us think about what our wedding meant to us personally and she also



Nicky's Address Book

Photographer: Andreas Holm
andreasholm.com

Hair: Amanda Eakins

Dress: Angelica
angelicabridal.co.uk

Celebrant: Natasha Johnson
malagaminister.com

Food: Elena D'Orso, from
Hotel Rural La Paloma
hotelruralapaloma.com

Venue: El Molino del Conde
elmolinospain.com