

Charlotte Ricard-Quesada
surrounded by her
bridesmaids and bridesman

BAZAAR

REAL WEDDINGS



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THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Five happy couples share their love stories



Place settings featured guests names attached to padlocks



The bride and groom's glistening rings



Charlotte's striking floral headpiece

CHARLOTTE RICARD-QUESADA

The spellbinding French island of Île de Ré served as a dream come true for this couple's intimate nuptials

Photography by MONRO PHOTOGRAPHY

Newlyweds Charlotte and Antonio in front of the floral arch — where they said their vows





Charlotte wore a custom-made Studio Non Sequitur gown

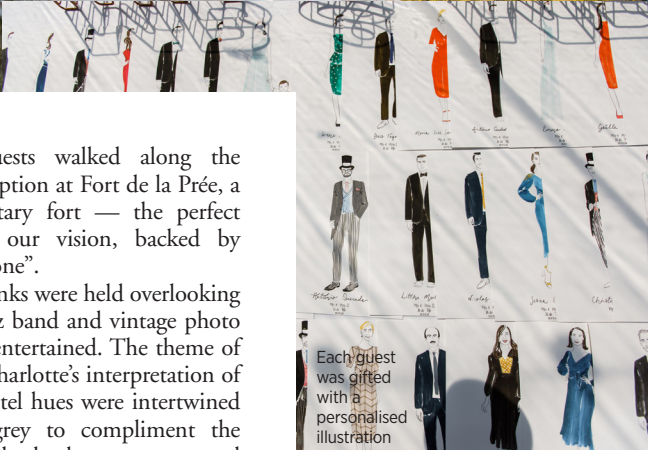
The bride's flower girl carried a basket of fresh rose petals



A classic French Citroën Méhari, restored and covered with flowers for the bride to arrive in



The happy couple take a stroll in the French countryside



Each guest was gifted with a personalised illustration

The Île de Ré is renowned for cycling, so the couple chose to use bicycles as photo props



It was in 2013 that Founder and Creative Director of La Fête Bespoke Wedding & Event Planners Charlotte, 30, met her now husband, 32 year old Architect, Antonio Quesada, in Spain through mutual friends. Charlotte was living in London and three months later, Spanish-born Antonio made the leap of faith to join her.

Fast forward to three years later, on a trip back to Seville, "Antonio took me on a sight-seeing trip around beautiful gardens. At the end of the day, in a quiet area of the Arabic gardens he asked me to marry him, and I of course, said yes."

Since British-French Charlotte was a little girl, she has dreamt about getting married in the ruins of a 12th century building on the island of Île de Ré, in France. "I've spent all of my summer's there since I was 11 years old," she explains.

Charlotte and Antonio hosted a casual pre-wedding dinner the evening before the big day, as most guests had already arrived on the island. The following afternoon, beside a floral archway, Charlotte's dream came true as they were married in front of 65 of their closest family and friends, officiated by one of the bride's oldest friends in a trilingual ceremony in tribute to the couple's backgrounds. "We are the only people to have held a wedding at the ruins, and it took nearly two years of handwritten letters to the mayor of the village to obtain permission. After the

ceremony, the guests walked along the seafront to our reception at Fort de la Prée, a 16th century military fort — the perfect blank canvas for our vision, backed by beautiful French stone".

Pre-reception drinks were held overlooking the sea, while a jazz band and vintage photo booth kept guests entertained. The theme of the wedding was Charlotte's interpretation of a secret garden. Pastel hues were intertwined with white and grey to compliment the natural beauty of both the ceremony and reception locations.

The evening's festivities were held in a transparent marquee so that the couple and their guests could enjoy the sunset, and the raw beauty of the local sandstone buildings. "The marquee ceiling was covered in lights and hanging greenery. Our tables were set up banquet-style and we had mismatched antique china and silverware. The tables featured tall candelabras filled with greenery, and small cages overflowing with moss and gypsophilia."

After dinner, the couple shared their first dance to *Have You Ever Really Loved A Woman?* by Bryan Adams and Paco de Lucia — Charlotte in her custom-made Studio Non Sequitur gown, and Antonio in his bespoke Canali morning suit. Music has always been a huge part of the couple's lives and their evening entertainment comprised of a DJ accompanied by a saxophonist and bongo player, making it a night full of dancing, smiling and most of all, love. ■



Antonio surrounded by his groomsmen and best friends



The bride and groom with their parents



Guests had a lot of fun with the vintage photobooth



A band entertained guests in the sunshine



Guests took their own snaps thanks to a vintage photobooth



The four-tier vanilla and milk chocolate cake was served with salted caramel sauce

BRIDE'S BLACK BOOK

DRESS: Studio Non Sequitur, Studsononsequitur.com

SHOES: Castañer, Castaner.com

JEWELLERY: Susannah Lovis, Susannahlovis.com (earrings)

Cartier, Cartier.com (bracelets)

Designed by the couple and made by a friend (wedding rings)

GROOM'S SUIT: Canali, Canali.com

VENUE: Abbaye des Châteliers and Fort de la Prée, Île de Ré, France

CATERER: Jessy Barbulée, Facebook.com/Barbulée-Traiteur

FLORIST: Louis Dubois, Louis-dubois.fr

CAKE : Cent Pour Cent Fait Maman,

Instagram/@centpourcentfaitmaman

MUSIC & AV: Sonomax, Sonomax.com

INVITATIONS: Ceci New York, Cecinewyork.com

PHOTOGRAPHER: Monro Photography, Monro.photography

VIDEOGRAPHER: Twix Video, Twix.pro

WEDDING PLANNER: La Fête, La-fete.com and MG Events,

Mgevents-iledere.com

HAIR & MAKE-UP: Eva Beauty, Instagram/@evabeautyart

PHOTOBOOTH: Wild Stories, Wildstories.fr

GUEST ILLUSTRATIONS: Sarah Smart Illustrations,

Sarahsmartillustration.com

VINTAGE CHINA: Blanche Patine, Blanchepatine.com

CHAIRS: Couture Chairs, Couturechairs.com



The couple share a moment on the dancefloor



The bride and groom chose a transparent marquee so that guests could watch the sunset