

Plan your Destination Wedding

Planning a destination wedding can be overwhelming with many different obstacles to overcome including language barriers and unfamiliar vendors. We spoke to couple Marsia Tamburrini and Alan Wise, a couple planning their wedding in Italy next summer who have enlisted the help of experienced planner Paola Shanahan of Irish Weddings in Italy. Examining the highlights and struggles for both couple and planner, we chart their journey to date.

Photography: **Julia Coptil**

The Planner: Paola Shanahan, Irish Weddings in Italy

Who are you and what makes you unique?

We are an Irish company which specializes in expert weddings in Italy. Organising wedding events everywhere in the Italian Peninsula since August 2000, we take our couples on a made to measure experience and match their style and personality with what Italy has to offer. Only the best will do.

What's your motto when planning each wedding?

I strive to organize stress-free, personal and unique weddings. Brides shouldn't try to take everything on themselves; it's extremely difficult for them to organize all elements of a wedding from a different country. A planner can keep a check on everything in the lead up to and on the day, this allows the bride to relax and fully enjoy the day without any worries! If you are determined to organize this yourself I would still recommend you to look into arranging a day-of coordinator to oversee the details, trust me - it's worth it.

What would you say about Marsia and Alan?

Life is meant to be shared and Marsia and Alan make a hell of a couple together; they complement each other perfectly. Meeting with them was so natural and the planning process was so fluid.

What makes a wedding fun?

Without a doubt the couple! While the locations are truly stunning, it's not about the when and where, it's all about the mood of the couple - if they are having fun it's contagious.



The Bride & Groom: Marsia Tamburrini & Alan Wise

So how did you and your fiancé meet?

Marsia: We first locked eyes on the dance floor of a well-known Irish nightclub where Alan was working at the time. While I wouldn't describe it as love at first sight per se, he definitely had me intrigued from our first date. He's so cheeky and charming, it didn't take long for me to fall for him.

What made you choose a wedding abroad?

Anyone who has ever dreamed of getting married in Italy knows the answer to this question. The weather is fantastic and you are blessed with the most romantic scenic views, you can't help but fall in love with Italy. And the food, no one can cook better food than the Italians!

How did you decide on a venue or location?

Marsia: I am totally in love with Italy. The venue we picked is everything we had imagined, I could instantly picture myself there with our families and friends, Italy is certainly not just for the wedding day, you and your guests are guaranteed memories to last a lifetime. We want our wedding to be beautiful and meaningful to us, and we consider Italy the most romantic place in the world. The place is just magical.

Alan: It was easy to pick the venue for our wedding. Paola had some great options for us to view and it was an easy decision once I realised I had to agree with Marsia...

What has proved most difficult in the planning process?

Choosing a good planner. We were not swayed by "packages" and "incentives" and were looking for the right company for