





The secret garden

Emily and John enjoyed a stunning countryside-inspired ceremony and reception at Northbrook Park in Surrey



The atmosphere... Our inspiration behind the big day was a country-garden party and we used the phrase 'love in bloom' as a central theme. We were looking for somewhere with beautiful outdoor scenery so Northbrook Park was absolutely perfect for our springtime celebration, as the gorgeous gardens were flowering.

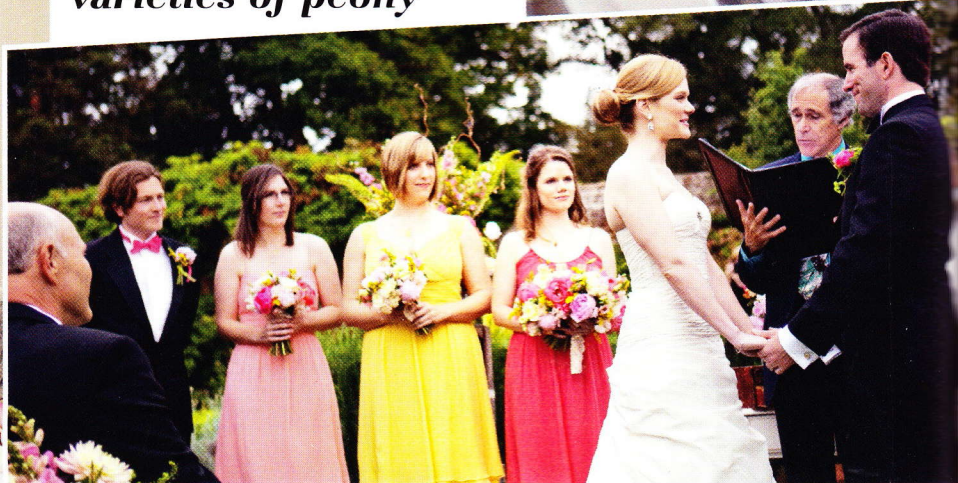
The look... I found my dress after only a few weeks of being engaged. It was a strapless, ivory, A-line design from the Vineyard Collection. For the bouquets we chose 'Coral Charm', 'Coral Sunset' and 'Sarah Bernhardt' peonies, sweet peas, dahlias, lisianthus, green bell and solidago in coral, sunset pink and sunshine yellow.

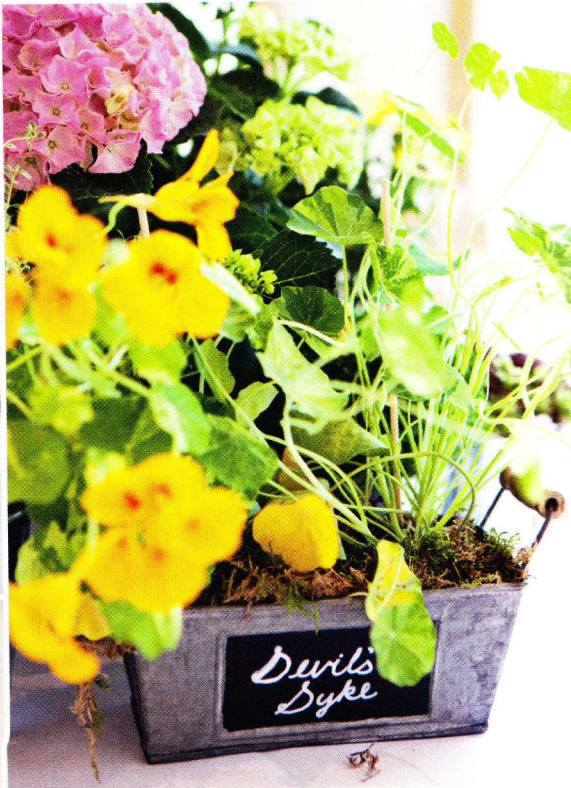
John wore a hired tuxedo – he wanted a classic formal look, with that 'James Bond' edge. We added a 'Coral Charm' peony, alchemilla mollis, solidago and rosemary buttonhole. The bridesmaids wore crinkled chiffon dresses by Jenny Yoo. Each dress was a different colour and style, but they all had a triple skirt hemline that flowed beautifully.

The details... Our humanist ceremony took place in the venue's walled garden. We attached vintage jars, filled with stocks, dahlias, peonies, lisianthus, solidago, green bell and rosemary, to the ceremony chairs. In keeping with the garden-party theme, we named our tables after our favourite parks and gardens. Our florist used a variety of potted tablecentres, including hydrangeas, dahlias, poppies, parsley, mint, thyme, sage, asters and nasturtium. I found some perfect zinc planters ▶



“I wanted our cake to look rustic yet elegant. We decorated it with hydrangeas, dahlias and three varieties of peony”





Steal their style

Silver cake stand: Create a focal point by displaying your cake on a beautiful ornate stand.

Hire a similar style from www.rayners.co.uk.

Stationery: For elegant menus and place settings, try www.dottiecreations.com.

Mini suitcases: Present your younger guests with little suitcases full of fun treats – visit www.berryred.co.uk for lots of storage options.

Zinc planters: Blackboard buckets help make great centrepieces. Find a lovely selection at www.theweddingofmydreams.co.uk.

Katie's address book

Photographer: Marianne Taylor (www.mariannetaylorphotography.co.uk)

Venue: Northbrook Park (www.northbrookpark.co.uk)

Dress: Priscilla of Boston, Phoenix, USA (www.priscillaofboston.com)

Bridesmaid dresses: Jenny Yoo from Bella Bridesmaid, Los Gatos, USA (www.bellabridesmaid.com)

Groomswear: Neal & Palmer (www.nealandpalmer.com)

Flowers: Fairynuff Flowers (www.fairynuff-flowers.co.uk)

Cake: Ema Wedding Cake Collection (www.emacakes.com)

Wedding co-ordinator: Always Andri (www.alwaysandri.co.uk)

Stationery: Wedding Paper Divas (www.weddingpaperdivas.com)

Hair and make-up: Lovehair and Tanya Gent (www.lovehair.co.uk)

with chalkboard labels, so we were able to write the table names straight onto the containers. For the favours, we sourced vintage bottles from markets in London and France and filled them with a mix of ornithogalum, sweet peas, stocks, lisianthus, roses, alstroemeria, solidago and alchemilla mollis. We attached name tags and table numbers to each bottle, showing our guests where they were seated. I also put together gift packs for our younger guests using little suitcases filled with activity books, sweets and toys. As a finishing touch, our beautiful rabbit, Shakespeare, attended the wedding in his own carry case, decorated with a corsage of 'Coral Sunset' peony, rosemary, sweet peas, alstroemeria and carrots, all tied with vintage lace. It was created as a surprise by our florist!

My favourite moment... Our choreographed first dance to *You Make My Dreams Come True* by Hall & Oates. Our entire bridal party joined in and it was on YouTube within hours! 