

PETA & CHARLIE

After falling in love on holiday in the Greek islands, Peta Zappacosta and Charles Loveridge were the first to wed at a brand-new venue in the Hunter Valley.

HOW DID YOU MEET? “We have a lot of mutual friends – we met while on holiday in the Greek islands in 2010. We bonded over strawberry and Nutella pancakes – the rest is history!”

HOW DID YOUR HUSBAND PROPOSE? “It was our six-year anniversary and we went on our early morning walk. At Rushcutters Bay Park, we were at a spot that is very special to me (my mother’s ashes are buried under a tree), and the next thing I knew, Charlie was down on one knee, right in front of Mum! I screamed!”

WHAT WAS THE THEME OF YOUR WEDDING? “Rustic chic. We wanted to create something unique and special. It’s not that often a bride is the first to get married at a venue.”

HOW DID YOU APPROACH PLANNING YOUR WEDDING? “I think I had the entire wedding planned in the first month we were engaged.”

HOW DID YOUR WEDDING DIFFER FROM WHAT YOU HAD ORIGINALLY ENVISIONED? “It was beyond my wildest dreams. My Pinterest mood board on steroids.”

WERE YOU INVOLVED IN THE STYLING OF THE EVENT? “Yes, [florist and event stylist] Susan Avery and I worked very closely together on the styling, with amazing help from Doltone House, Hunter Valley, who helped put it all together.”

ANY LITTLE STYLING DETAILS? “All the personal touches go a long way. Take time to personalise: this is what brings back the event to the couple. We personalised all the menus by Think Calligraphy. We had water bottles in the buses, champagne on arrival, directional signage and so much more. Guests are still telling me how every little detail was covered.”

TELL US ABOUT YOUR DRESS AND WHY YOU PICKED IT. “My dress was handmade by the amazing Israeli designer Alon Livné, from Helen Rodrigues. I think it was the third dress I put on. I fell in love instantly.”

WHAT ABOUT YOUR ACCESSORIES? “I went very minimal with accessories. Charlie gave me diamond studs from Nicholas Haywood as a wedding gift. And I had my wedding bands, engagement ring and a stud diamond necklace, which was my mum’s.”

DESCRIBE YOUR HAIR AND MAKE-UP. “Natural, dewy golden make-up with loose curls in my hair.”

MOST MEMORABLE PART OF YOUR WEDDING DAY? “How incredible the barn looked. My goodness – still to this day, I’m speechless. And seeing Charlie’s face as I was walking down the aisle. It was a combination of excitement and nerves. I think I nearly broke my dad’s hand, I was squeezing it so tight.”

TELL US ABOUT YOUR MENU. “It was Italian-themed, of course. The menu was neverending. We had roaming canapés on the lawn, then guests sat down to antipasto boards. Then there was the most delicious homemade ravioli in a fresh Napolitana sauce (it literally melted in your mouth), wagyu beef steak char-grilled and drizzled with olive oil and rosemary and lemon-marinated spatchcock. Nobody went home hungry.”

ADVICE FOR OTHER BRIDES? “Don’t sweat the small stuff. Not everything goes to plan, and nobody will notice. Enjoy the lead-up: it is the most magical time of your life. Enjoy the wedding day, take it all in, take a step back with your new hubby throughout the night and have a moment – it’s what you will remember the most.” ■



Peta in her dress by Israeli designer Alon Livné.



Walking back down the aisle as husband and wife.



The barn at Anambah perfectly suited the rustic chic theme of the wedding.



Adorned in flowers, the ricotta wedding cake makes a stunning display.



Taking the first dance on the lawn illuminated by a string of overhead lights.

Little White Book

DRESS: ALON LIVNÉ
RINGS: NICHOLAS HAYWOOD
SHOES: STUART WEITZMAN
BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES: CAMILLA AND MARC
GROOM'S ATTIRE: REMY
HAIR: BRYONI STANDER
MAKE-UP: ANYA SPICER
FRAGRANCE: TOM FORD BLACK ORCHID
PHOTOGRAPHER: MINT PHOTOGRAPHY
VENUE AND CATERING: DOLTONE HOUSE, ANAMBAH, HUNTER VALLEY
FLORIST AND EVENT STYLIST: SUSAN AVERY
CAKE: PASTICCERIA PAPA
MUSIC: MARTINI CLUB
FIRST DANCE: *IS THIS LOVE* BY BOB MARLEY