

"We wanted something small and simple, but memorable – and no stress! We wanted something quiet and quaint, but outside. Other than that, we were not very picky."

Jacqui explains that she immediately understood what they wanted from their many emails. "I think I hit the nail on the head with the choice of venue and type of ceremony. About a month prior to their departure from USA they shipped their wedding outfits, IPOD, shoes, speakers and many other items to me to save them having to carry them across Europe. I collected them and brought them to over Gozo where we met for the first time."

Why the IPOD?

"Our friend, Gary Wells, recorded the music for the ceremony from our IPOD which we had shipped over to Jacqui ahead of our arrival," explains Kirsten.

Kirsten added: "It can be a little disconcerting planning a wedding through email with someone you have never met. However, we put our trust in Jacqui to find the perfect venue, and she definitely did. Of all of the wedding planners we spoke to, Jacqui was the only one who really understood that we wanted something simple and off the beaten track. She picked a great team – wonderful venue, food, photos, and flowers!"

Before heading to Malta for their wedding, Kirsten and Steve travelled around Europe for three weeks – the trip of a lifetime! "Out of the six countries we visited, we enjoyed Malta the most. We especially enjoyed Gozo's friendly people and the relaxed atmosphere," the couple said.

Jacqui suggested the herb garden at Ta' Frenc as the ceremony venue because they both love the outdoors, and the time of the ceremony meant that the restaurant was not yet open so they would not be disturbed by other

paying customers. The reception was the formal dining room which was set up with a fantastic dining table. With just 11 guests (nine from the USA and two from Sweden), the small wedding party was perfectly catered for by the Ta' French Restaurant which the couple described as "amazing."

It was booked on an exclusive basis and the double doors that opened onto the herb garden, linked the two venues together. Because of the heat, Jacqui felt it would be better for them to dine indoors with the comfort of the air conditioner. After the meal she introduced them to the head chef, Mario and organised a tour of the wine cellar just to finish the evening off with a touch of class.

The guests all stayed in farmhouses with a pool in a lovely quiet village in Ghasri. "It was just perfect because they all hired bicycles for days out (although in the heat I couldn't understand how they did it)," says Jacqui. "They found it amusing every time they saw a lizard scurrying across the floor and it was almost like a good luck omen to them - like a black cat crossing my path would be to me. It was a good crowd and everybody was relaxed with each other's company - the kind of wedding you enjoy working on."

Kirsten bought her dress online from J. Crew. "I wanted something simple and ivory in colour. My hairdresser here at home recommended J. Crew's dresses to me because she knew I would like the simple styles."

The make-up was done by Lillana from Bellezza in Gozo. She was asked to keep it very natural and as she is American herself Jacqui thought she would understand the taste better and it was a good decision. Everybody was pleased and looked (and felt) great. Hair was created by Richline from Beauty Emporium, whom Jacqui uses regularly. "I have so much faith in her work

that I brought her over from Malta rather than choosing somebody I had never worked with before. She even gave Steve a quick trim the morning of the wedding at no extra cost and it's that extra mile, the attention to detail that I love and why I enjoy working with her."



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK CASSAR