



On the bastion walls overlooking Mtarfa



The bride and her best friends Giselle Gimblett and Kerry Coles.



The groom and the best man, David Monaghan.



Russell and Karla invited 75 guests for the wedding dinner with catering provided by the De Mondion restaurant. Many of the guests travelled from England, Ireland, Wales, Spain and Sweden for the wedding, and just 16 were from Malta.

Live music for the ceremony and reception was provided by Musical Tones, DJ while the flowers were by David Grech at The Floral Designer, Qormi.

Having said all this, Malta was not the original choice for the wedding.

"Originally we had considered getting married in Italy, and so we had already realised that we would need a wedding planner," says Russell. "We changed our minds to Malta when we went to the Weddings Fair and met Jacqui from Magic Moments. In terms of pure quality of venue we felt that Malta had more to offer and was better value too. I'm glad at that point that we didn't try and do everything ourselves because it would have been much more stressful. I can happily say that I didn't have to do any organising myself; it was nice to just have to make decisions from the choices you are presented with. The wedding planner was especially important for us due to the tight schedule."

The couple met Jacqui in March and started planning their wedding the following month. By mid April they had confirmed the venue and set the date. It took 4 months to plan the wedding from start to end.

Karla was very involved with the planning and preparation of the wedding, down to every minute detail, "Some might say I'm a bit of a control freak," she confesses. "Russell was more laid back and happy for it to be 'the bride's day'. Russell was ardent about the food, wine and music and was heavily involved in these areas. We hired Jacqui for the full wedding planning services and she was invaluable to us, especially since we're not Maltese and haven't lived on the island for very long. Jacqui provided a fantastic service, from researching the best suppliers, to negotiating contracts and collecting the necessary paperwork. Throughout the planning stages she was also the stand in for our parents, since our wedding party all live in England and therefore couldn't help us as much as they would have like to."

Karla's wedding dress came from Ivory and Co. in Attard.

"It was quite easy to find; I only went to two shops and I saw two dresses that I liked so I

stopped looking immediately. I took Jacqui along for a second opinion and chose between them. I had wondered whether to shop in London for my dress but I decided not to give myself the extra headache of trips to England for fittings, besides which, the dress prices in Malta are very competitive compared to the UK. The interesting thing is that I ended up with something completely different to what I set out for. You just can't imagine what will suit you until you start trying the dresses on. I knew that I wanted something that wasn't very fussy, frilly or large, I loved the dress and felt very lucky to find it so quickly."

The bride's hair was in the hands of Richline Testa from The Beauty Emporium, and the make up was by Jean.

Karla says she wasn't stressed out what so ever with the preparations until... "a last minute change in numbers meant re-organising the seating plan the day before!"

Aside from that, the preparations went very smoothly.

"Actually, it was always going to be well organised since Russell, Jacqui and I are very organised people; none of us are the type to leave things to chance. There are some things

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