



40's



50's



60's



70's



Timeless Weddings

40s: Emeritus Censu (Ophthalmologist (doctor) and ex-President) and Maria Tabone

Where did you meet?
E: "We met in summer in Gozo. Maria used to come over for the summer period with her family."
M: "Drinks were held at the Kazin Malti, before going home, Censu asked me out."
How did you propose?
 "We decided between us to get married, and one year later we got married in 1941."
What was the best thing you remember about your wedding day?
E: "L-isqof Gonzi, who was a very good man, would only marry us in his Palace, which was opposite my house."
M: "The ceremony was in the morning and I had to come all the way from Marsalforn. My father was very excited so he wanted to leave early, but I told him we are going to be too early. When I arrived Censu was still at home."
What is your secret to such a happy and successful marriage?
E: "Love – there's nothing like it, and you have to love till the day you die."
M: "If you don't love each other, you will fight one day or another... not that we don't fight! We made a deal from the very beginning that we will never go to sleep angry at each other. We will not sleep until we make up. We have kept this pact ever since."

E: "Even if it's a little kiss before we sleep. We will not sleep otherwise. If you love, you will accept everything. I suggest this to every couple to keep the relationship together."
What is the difference between weddings then and weddings now?
E: "At that time the change of lifestyle was bigger. We had a few differences because of where we lived, but we were lucky to find a house just a month before the wedding."
M: "There is not much difference, but nowadays both partners work, which can sometimes cause marriages to break up. Whatever we have is ours, not mine or his alone."

50s: Professor Maestro Charles (musician) and Doris Camilleri

Where and how did you meet?
D: "Charles was visiting Malta to give concerts here. One day I was sitting having coffee at Cordina's Café with my friend when Charles came in. His friend came straight over to our table to invite us to join them at their table."
 "His first question to me was if I had been to his concert at which I expressed my regret. Then he asked me if I was attached to anyone and I replied that only months before I had broken off a long engagement and had no intention of any such ties. But by the time we left he had invited me out. I

had refused point blank saying I knew nothing about his life abroad. He then suggested I should bring my friend along just for tea at the Old Preluna and she was the first to accept. That was my first date with him. "I was invited to his next appearance on stage at the Embassy Charity Concert where I heard him play Melaguena. For me that was the most romantic music I had ever heard and I don't know if I fell in love with the music or with the performer!"
"We met every day for the rest of his visit here and he suggested I visit him in London. But I said we ought to just write to each other and see how we feel given time. He wrote every day for four months till September when he asked me to go over to London to get married. But I suggested he came over here instead. And he did!"
How did you propose?
C: "I said to Doris that I only had two weeks free from my tours that year, so she had to make up her mind whether she wanted to marry me during that period or wait..."
What was the best thing you remember about your wedding day?
D: "I don't think I remember anything special about my wedding day. But I had to make all the wedding preparations almost single-handed as my mother used to work full time."
What is your secret to such a happy and successful marriage?
D: "I don't think there are any secret formu-

las for happy or successful marriages. It isn't luck or one's parents' help. It is one's full commitment."
C: My mother, being French, before I got married told me, 'The institution of marriage is like a bank. You get out of it what you put in.' She was right."
What is the difference between weddings then and weddings now?
D: "Weddings in those days were romantic. People danced to music. They celebrated even if the guests were few. They danced more and ate less. Now I bewail the money spent on food and show. Also young couples rented accommodation – now they start life with a rope of impossible mortgages round their necks. We lived in many kinds of rented accommodation in three different countries and only bought property when we had cash in hand."
C: "In those days the men not only enjoyed the chase, they also made the woman feel secure within marriage."

60s: Professor Peter (university professor) and Madeleine Vassallo (retired head of kindergarten)

Where/how did you meet?
P & X: "We were introduced by a mutual friend after a lecture at the British Institute in Valletta."
How did you propose?

P & X: "Casually, but romantically! In a parked car overlooking the then unspoilt Madliena valley at sunset."
What was the best thing you remember about your wedding day?
P & X: "Walking down the aisle in 1964 as newly-weds!"
What is your secret to such a happy and successful marriage?
P & X: "Not so sure that ours is either happier or more successful than most – but we suppose ours was a 'marriage of true minds'. We also had excellent role models in both sets of parents."
What is the difference between weddings then and weddings now?
P & X: "In our time a church ceremony was simpler. Brides wanted more natural wedding receptions which were shorter and less expensive. Today, however, bride and groom have more of a say as regards to guest lists and choice of music. Honeymoons were just as lovely, even though we went to less exotic places."

70s: Laurence (editor – The Sunday Times) and Lilian Grech (teacher)

Where/how did you meet?
L: "We first met at my cousin's wedding reception; it was held at the University Junior Common Room in Tal-Qroqq, then a popular wedding venue. I spotted Lilian and

asked one of my cousins to introduce us... I gave her a date for that very evening."
How did you propose?
L: "The wedding proposal was made 'indirectly', when I told Lilian it was time we started looking for a house... We found one two years after we had first met."
What was the best thing you remember about your wedding day?
L: "It passed so quickly, it was as if we were in a daze... obviously, the best thing was when I carried Lilian over the threshold." ▶