



# English romance

Olivia and Mark's classic country-style reception at Bamsley House, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

**The atmosphere...** Despite the fact that Mark and I live in London and are both originally from Los Angeles, we wanted to get married somewhere far away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Bamsley House is in a quaint little village in the Cotswolds and combines a classic country setting with sophisticated style. As many of our overseas guests had never been to the UK before, it was the perfect way to introduce them to the unique charm of the English countryside.

**The look...** We spent a lot of time looking at vintage photography and the style of the 1930s when planning the wedding, hence the soft pink, black and white details

and silvery tones. My dress was more girly than I'd originally planned, with a fishtail shape that was slinkier than a traditional, full-skirted gown. I accessorised it with a hand-tied bouquet of peonies, sweet peas, marguerites, phlox, astrantia, francoa and gypsophila. My sister was my only bridesmaid and carried a small posy of peonies, sweet peas and marguerites, while all the men in the bridal party wore smart black suits with varying wildflower boutonholes.


**The details...** Our florist owns a wildflower business, so all the seasonal flowers used on the day were grown in her own plot. The venue's interior and grounds



*"Our unusual red velvet and lemon cake, frosted with cream cheese and white chocolate shavings, took pride of place"*



are already beautiful, so we kept decorations very simple, filling old-fashioned milk bottles sourced from a local dairy with phlox, ammi, alliums, sweet williams, achillea, veronica, hydrangeas, astrantia and eucalyptus. We also suspended white paper lanterns from the trees in the garden, which gave the outside a real ethereal feel. As a finishing touch, we used an old-fashioned typewriter as a guestbook. It was so popular that our friends were still typing away at 1am. We ended up with more than 20 pages of touching words – although the messages deteriorated as the night wore on!

**My favourite moment...** It had been raining all morning, but just before the ceremony, the clouds parted and the sun beamed down. It really was perfect timing! 

## Olivia's address book

**Photographer:** Lisa Devlin (01273 231047, [www.devlinphotos.co.uk](http://www.devlinphotos.co.uk))

**Venue:** Bamsley House (01285 740000, [www.bamsleyhouse.com](http://www.bamsleyhouse.com))

**Florist:** The Real Cut Flower Garden (01497 831177, [www.cutflowergarden.co.uk](http://www.cutflowergarden.co.uk))

**Dress:** Winnie Couture ([www.winniecouture.com](http://www.winniecouture.com))

**Milk bottles:** For similar, try Bottle Green Homes (020 7684 1987, [www.bottlegreenhomes.co.uk](http://www.bottlegreenhomes.co.uk))

**Cake:** Vermontier (01386 853344, [www.vermontier.co.uk](http://www.vermontier.co.uk))

**Typewriter:** Sourced from eBay ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk))