

BAZAAR BRIDE: MARTA & TOMEK

Inside the couple's romantic Sicilian nuptials.

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At *BAZAAR*, we're all about finding **inspiration** wherever it may come from. And that often comes from you, our readers.

Overwhelmed by the sheer quantity (and quality) of *stylish weddings* that are submitted for the *Real Brides* section of our annual *BAZAAR Bride* issue, we're taking things online so these stunning celebrations each get their moment to shine.

Today, we're showcasing the lavish Sicilian wedding of Marta and Tomek. Set in the Italian countryside, in a charming, rustic estate, this is their romantic affair.

The Bride's Little Black Book

Dress: Lihi Hod

Groom's Suit: Custom Bielenia

Hair: Serena Oddo Parrucchieri, Noto

Flowers & Invitations: Intrecci di Fiore e D'Arte

Location, Catering, Cake and Event Co-ordinator: Dimora delle Balze

Photographer/Videographer : Giuseppe Marano

Entertainment: DJ recommended by Dimora delle Balze



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On how they met:

We met at a friend's wedding in Athens. We've been together for just over two years.



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On the proposal:

Tomek took me on an unexpected two day trip to Vienna and proposed there. We stayed at the beautiful Grand Ferdinand Hotel. Vienna is a special city to me as my grandmother used to live there and I often visited her when I was a child and later came visit too. I'm happy he chose a location so close to my heart.



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On their vision for the day:

We wanted our wedding to have a relaxed and intimate feel. We invited around 65 our closest friends and family members. We had some amazing speeches from my father, sister and my husband's best man. The idea was to have delicious food in a beautiful venue—elegant but understated—where we could drink, dance and just enjoy our time together.



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On the location:

Our wedding took place at a breathtaking venue in south eastern Sicily called Dimora delle Balze, near a beautiful baroque town of Noto. Both the ceremony and the reception were held there, with the ceremony under the trees by the entrance to the venue, and the reception in a partially-covered area by the pool with a view of the surrounding hills and rugged countryside.



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On the location's significance:

We both love Italy (I studied there), particularly Sicily. My husband Tomek attended a friend's wedding at the Zash Boutique Hotel before we met and thoroughly enjoyed it. Since Poland's summer weather is quite unexpected, we decided to get married in a Mediterranean location. I also think destination weddings are much more exciting for guests—the travelling aspect and being in a different location to home makes it all feel much more special.



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How many guests attended:

We had 65 guests.



On the food:

We had informal antipasti and drinks (prosecco & wine) served from wooden banquettes in the patio area of Dimora delle Balze after the ceremony finished. From there, we all moved by the swimming pool, where we had dinner and a party. For the meal we had amazing Sicilian-infused dishes such as risotto with zucchini flowers and shrimps, ravioli alla Norma, fish with soft potatoes and onion ham and beef fillets cooked with Nero D'avola wine. We also had delicious local Sicilian wines from the Planeta winery. It's not true that brides don't eat during weddings—I ate so much.



On the reception:

Our reception was a sit-down dinner with assigned seating along one long table. Since we only had 65 people it still felt nice and intimate.



On the flowers:

I love peonies, so I had them in my bouquet. I wanted to keep the flower arrangements simple. I went for white and cream flowers with greens interspersed throughout. We had a beautiful two-piece flower installation by the altar and then flower arrangements on the tables.



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On their favourite element of the day:

A very memorable moment was getting ready in a room in the tower of Dimora overlooking the arriving guests, preparations and the sunset sprawling on the surrounding hills. It was also great when my dad walked me to the altar and I saw all the guests who arrived from different parts of the world to be there with us. It was very moving.



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On the dress:

I knew exactly what I wanted: a long dress, something understated and effortless but still beautiful. I'm not a fan of overdressing or traditional ballroom-style dresses. I actually had bought two other dresses and had another one sewn especially for me, before I found the ideal one by total accident during our trip to Tel Aviv.

My husband, Tomek, told me we were staying very near the atelier of a Tel Aviv bridal designer I mentioned a few months back (I immediately dropped the idea because we weren't planning a trip to Israel at that point). He encouraged me to make an appointment there despite already having a the perfect wedding dress almost ready back home! When I tried on the dress I chose, it was just perfect and I knew I had to get it. The designer was Lihi Hod (before establishing her own label in Tel Aviv she worked for Christian Dior in Paris). The dress is a long lace panelled dress with an open back—it's also very comfortable, which was really important to me.



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On the photographer:

We gave Giuseppe Marano complete creative freedom when capturing our event as we really trusted his abilities. He has got an impressive portfolio and manages to capture truly magical and romantic moments in a non-cliché way. We love his style.



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Was there anything the groom was particularly keen on including in the wedding?

My husband is a photographer and, similarly to me, he's a very visual person. He wanted to find a good photographer since he couldn't take pictures at his own wedding himself. He was also responsible for creating a music playlist with his best man.



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On the unexpected highlights of the day:

One of the highlights of the day was my dad stepping on my dress as he walked me down the aisle. Luckily nothing happened and everyone laughed! We were also surprised with a beautiful sunset.



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On their first dance:

We didn't have a traditional 'first dance' but when we started dancing 'This Must Be The Place' by Talking Heads was playing.



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On their arrival and exit:

My dad walked me to the altar from the hidden reception area and, after the ceremony, I had to knock on a big wooden door to access the patio where we had antipasti and drinks. I knocked, the doors opened, the local Sicilian band started playing live music with a bang and all the guests followed us inside the patio. It felt really exciting.



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On the cake:

Picking a cake was actually was very easy! We went for the first cake we tried at Dimora delle Balze, because it was so perfect—it had light wild strawberries, lemon and cream cake all rolled into one. It tasted like heaven in your mouth, very light, not too sweet, perfect for summer. Everyone loved it!



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On the entertainment:

Just after the ceremony, we had antipasti in the patio of Dimora delle Balze served from wooden stalls. There was also a local Sicilian band playing, which everyone loved. It really set the tone for the celebrations. Then we had a DJ recommended by Dimora delle Balze, who played a playlist we created before the event.



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Her one piece of advice to future brides:

Just go with the flow and be patient with Italians. Also, go for what you and your husband like most in terms of music, food, venue choice etc. as at the end of the day it is your day and the most important thing is for you two to feel great during the event and have great memories afterwards.