



FIRST SIGHT 'I imagined myself in silky soft fabric with a vintage look, capped lace sleeves and a dramatic, backless, figure-hugging design,' says Michelle. 'How wrong I was! It just didn't suit me.' She spent several weekends going to different bridal stores, and was having cocktails opposite Moira Hughes' boutique when she spied the 'Grace' gown in the window. 'Grace had a bit of everything I wanted,' she says. 'Strapless with a low back, a beautiful Parisian lace bodice, and a tight Italian silk skirt overlaid with a romantic tulle skirt.'

stylist's tip

In an historical venue, keep floral decorations sparse and let the architectural details of the space take centre stage.



Michelle Kulbicki & Marc Lomas

2 JULY, 2015
SPONZA PALACE & PALMS EXCELSIOR HOTEL, DUBROVNIK, CROATIA
PHOTOGRAPHY: MINT PHOTOGRAPHY

'It all started with a cheeky kiss outside a pub in the middle of the night after a work party,' says Michelle, 30, of her romance with Marc, 33. They thought it was a secret, 'but we soon found out people suspected something was going on!' Marc proposed on Michelle's birthday after lunch by the water in Sydney.

YOUR DAY

PRETTY MAIDS For her bridesmaids, Michelle picked ten dresses from White Runway and let the girls choose. 'That way they could walk down the aisle in a dress they loved, and feel special on the big day.' The groom and his groomsmen wore custom-made tuxedos. 'We wanted to give them a classy gift, made especially for them, that was timeless and sophisticated,' says Michelle.

'Each suit was embroidered with their name and the wedding date as a special touch.'

stylist's tip

Take advantage of a waterside setting and hold your reception al fresco. Use candlelight to transition from day to night.

OCEAN VIEWS

Michelle's family is Croatian, and Marc's family and friends live in the UK, so a celebration in Dubrovnik suited everyone.

'Dubrovnik is such a stunning, romantic and classic location,' says Michelle. 'The blue of the ocean and the white walls of the Old Town were all the inspiration I needed.' Romance was the theme of the day, with blush pink and golden accents. 'I wanted it to feel light and bright, yet classy. I didn't want too many theatrics and over-theming to take away from the natural beauty of the location.'



MICHELLE & MARC



stylist's tip
It's simple to incorporate cultural traditions at your reception – serve a local liqueur or wine, or a regional dish.





stylist's tip
 An outdoor reception can still be a glamorous affair. Incorporate sequins, metallic details and candles to create an elegant setting.



the couple's suppliers

FOOD FIESTA The wedding took place in the picturesque, high-walled Sponza Palace, and guests enjoyed cocktails in the Piano Bar at the Palms Excelsior Hotel before a five-course, sit-down meal. 'The food was exceptional and we had many guests saying it was the best wedding meal they'd ever had,' says Michelle. 'For dessert we served up a buffet which had eight different types of cake along with the wedding cake – red velvet, of course!'

- PHOTOS** MINT PHOTOGRAPHY mintphotography.com.au
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- CEREMONY** SPONZA PALACE +385 20 323 887
- RECEPTION** PALMS EXCELSIOR HOTEL adriaticluxuryhotels.com
- FLOWERS** DUBROVNIK LUXURY WEDDINGS dubrovnikluxuryweddings.com
- GOWN** MOIRA HUGHES COUTURE moirahughes.com.au
- SHOES** PANACHE BRIDAL SHOES bridalshoes.com.au
- BRIDESMAIDS** WHITE RUNWAY whiterunway.com.au
- SEATING** CERRONE cerrone.com.au
- BRIDE'S JEWELLERY** SAMANTHA WILLS samanthawills.com

CROATIAN STYLE Michelle styled the wedding herself, sourcing elements from websites such as Etsy and Wedding Paper Divas. The bomboniere was a glass bottle filled with Grappa – a Croatian alcoholic drink made from plums – which is traditionally drunk as a shot after each speech. 'Needless to say, it was a talking point of the evening and a touch of crazy Croatian culture,' says the bride. Guests were also given rosemary to pin to their lapels or dresses – the traditional way to welcome guests to a Croatian wedding.

