

AUSTRALIA

BRIDE TO BE

YOUR ULTIMATE WEDDING GUIDE

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HOT LIST

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themes TO LOVE

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rings GUIDE

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REALLY SUCH A
DIRTY WORD?

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lavish party

ATHENA AMARANDOS & DARIUSZ BRATKO
25 SEPTEMBER, 2010

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST GEORGE & THE GREEK CLUB, SOUTH BRISBANE, QLD

Lawyers Athena, 25, and Dariusz, 27, met at university after being paired for a group assignment. 'We both knew relatively soon after that this was the beginning of a special relationship,' the bride says. 'It was each other's personality, sense of humour and common interests we found appealing.'



FRESH FLORALS The bride carried a simple posy of white phalaenopsis orchids and white roses, finished with ribbon and a lariat to match the fabric of her gown. The venue's table centres incorporated flowers in shades of pink, rose, cream and white. 'We wanted to create a garden paradise,' Athena explains.

CRIMSON COLOUR The bridesmaids wore crimson dresses with an oyster-coloured trim, embellished with Swarovski crystals, pearls and French lace. 'From the outset, I knew the exact colour theme I was after – oyster, vintage gold, rose and sage,' says Athena.



stylist's tip...

Keep accessories to a minimum if your gown has intricate lace detail or crystal embellishments.



CRYSTAL GOWN The radiant bride wore an oyster silk J'Aton Couture gown with a heavily embellished French lace bodice with hand-sewn Swarovski crystals. 'I wanted a "gown" – something that was custom-made for me, classic in style, truly feminine and was able to capture my personality. I think the designer managed to do all of that!'

GREEK CEREMONY Athena and Dariusz married in front of 270 guests at The Greek Orthodox Church of St George. 'A highlight of our ceremony was walking down the aisle. Not because people were focused on me, but because it was just me and my dad and we were walking towards my future,' the bride recalls. 'It was special to marry in the church as it was where my parents married and I was later christened.'

ATHENA & DARIUSZ



‘The most special part of our wedding day was being able to have our closest family and friends present to share with us such a significant step in our lives.’

SUGAR HIGH The couple’s four-tier cake by Sweetums Designer Cakes featured two tiers of chocolate hazelnut and two of fruit cake, and each tier was separated by sugar roses, orchids and sweet peas to suit the reception’s floral design. ‘Sweetums is renowned for its distinctive sugar art,’ says the bride.

OPULENT RECEPTION ‘We wanted to create a garden paradise, so ensured guests were seated at tables adorned with beautiful fresh flowers, all of which filled the space with their delicious scent,’ says Athena. Each guest received a Royal Doulton 100 years of Royal Albert commemorative mug. ‘These were wrapped in vintage gold paper and a white satin ribbon and placed on guests’ gold Napoleon chairs,’ says the bride.



sources list

- ALWAYS FABULOUS FLOWERS (FLOWERS) allfabflowers.com.au
- J'ATON COUTURE (GOWN) jatoncouture.com
- KELLY COOPER (BRIDESMAID DRESSES) 0408 790 128
- STUDIO IMPRESSIONS (PHOTOS) studioimpressions.com.au
- SWEETUMS DESIGNER CAKES (CAKE) sweetums.com.au
- W.EDDING & CO (EVENT PLANNER) weddingco.org

stylist’s tip...

Create a garden paradise using masses of blooms in vases and hanging flower balls from the ceiling.



DAZZLING DIAMONDS Given the intricate crystal detail of her gown, Athena kept her accessories to a minimum – diamond stud earrings and her stunning engagement ring. ‘For years, I’d made it known that I loved pear-shaped diamonds and particularly liked Katherine Heigl’s engagement ring. Dariusz and Mum actually became Katherine Heigl Fan Club members to secure a picture of the ring and have it made.’