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Your essential guide to getting married in Italy



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JULIET'S BALCONY
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MOTHER OF THE BRIDE

One bride becomes
QUEEN FOR
THE DAY

Victoria & Brent
get married in style

...in the beautiful town of Ravello on the Amalfi Coast



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mother of the bride

We follow one couple's unforgettable wedding day in Ravello as seen through the eyes of the *Chairman of the London Debutante Season* – the mother of the bride...

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IMAGES : ANGELO OLIVA (WWW.ANGELOLIVA.IT)
FLOWERS : LA VIOLETTA (WWW.LAVIOLETTA.COM)

WHEN Mrs David Hallam-Peel, the Chairman of the London Debutante Season, sets out to organise her daughter's wedding, you can be sure that this is a lady who knows a thing or two about organising gala occasions and will have uncompromisingly high standards. Busy as in the planning, it was soon decided that the bride and groom would choose Ravello as a wedding destination. Partly because Ravello had

been a family holiday destination for many years and partly because this was where daughter Victoria and her fiancé Brent became engaged.

But as many mothers of the bride know, planning a wedding from afar can be a tricky business, and in cases like this, a woman's best friend is definitely her planner. So what helped Mrs. Hallam-Peel make the decision to engage Linda Gatto at Amalfi Wedding Planners, and what kind of help did Linda

provide? 'I telephoned several wedding planners in the area,' says Mrs. Hallam-Peel, 'but Linda and her mother were the most warmly responsive and well organised of those I had contacted. Most of the initial planning for legal and church requirements was done by Linda with many suggestions and ideas which would have been impossible for anyone in this country to achieve, and everything Linda did, she carried out with such efficiency and charm.'



VICTORIA WORE A LACE AND ORGANZA GOWN BY PRONOVIAS WITH MY GRANDMOTHER'S DIAMOND TIARA...



A BREATHTAKING BRIDE

After all that careful planning, did Victoria's big day go as planned; was it everything they could have hoped for? 'Victoria's wedding was a dream wedding in every sense of the word,' says her mother. 'The Canuso Hotel which was the wedding venue donated a beautiful suite for Victoria and her bridesmaids to prepare for the wedding with her flower girls and page boy, and her day began with a champagne brunch. Linda arranged an

amazing hairdresser for everyone and superb make up artist. Victoria wore a lace and organza gown by Pronovias with my grandmother's diamond tiara, my own cathedral wedding veil and my mother's pearl and diamond choker. My husband and I gave her an antique diamond dress ring to wear on her right hand and a pearl and diamond watch. Her wedding ring was designed by SJ Phillips of Bond St London. The bridesmaids wore long pale blue voile

dresses, the flower girls white organza with blue sashes, and the page boy wore white silk trousers and shirt with blue cummerbund. I wore Valentino and a hat by the royal milliner, John Boyd.

The wedding took place at the Church of Santa Maria Gradillo in Ravello and Reverend Pegg officiated. Linda had arranged wonderful musicians from the Conservatoire and soloists and trumpeters. The entire church floor was covered in rose petals and



THE *PIECE DE RESISTANCE* WAS A SEVEN TIER WEDDING CAKE PREPARED BY THE CHEF...

➤ Linda had arranged hundreds of beautiful white and yellow flowers to cover the entire front of the church, with lemon trees at the entrance. Victoria and her father arrived at the church in an authentic horse and carriage led by plumed white horses, and the whole effect was breathtaking. The bridesmaids entered into the church with a Trumpet Voluntary, and the bride with a soprano singing Puccini's 'O mio Babbino Caro'. The chosen hymns were 'Guide me, o thou great redeemer' and 'I Vow to thee my country'.


'And finally, the photographer Linda had chosen was superb, as were the resulting photographs.'



WEDDING TIERS

'Afterwards, guests were accompanied back to the Canuso by musicians playing through the streets following the horse and carriage with the bridal couple. This was followed

by a champagne and canapé reception for 98 guests at the Canuso, after which came a fabulous five course dinner then dancing and spectacular fireworks. The *piece de resistance* was a seven tier wedding cake prepared by the chef at the Canuso where the service and the kindness of the staff excelled all expectations.

'Moreover, thanks to Linda and Violetta, the wedding flowers were the most spectacular that any of our guests had ever seen. The warmth and kindness of the Italians, Linda and the Canuso Hotel and their participating in everything with such enthusiasm was what impressed us most in Ravello - utter perfection! And as a final thought Mrs Hallam-Peel admits: 'It was a magical dream which we will never forget, and if we could do it all over again we would! 



For more information on Amalfi Wedding Planners, please visit www.amalfi-wedding-planner.com • Email: info@amalfi-wedding-planner.com

EPILOGUE

Dear Linda...

Thanks to you, the bridal couple had their dream wedding with every aspect meticulously planned and carried out. We did not have to think of anything except to enjoy the day. The guests were full of praise and the whole event will be remembered with great joy for years to come. We are so glad we found you! With warmest regards and thanks,

Jessie Hallam-Peel
(Mrs David Hallam-Peel)
Chairman, The London Debutante Society