



Our cake was decorated with a vintage-style iced motif to tie in with the pearl details in our glamorous tablecentres

From Russia with love

Natalia & Richard's reception at Chandos House, near Regent's Park, London

The inspiration... I'm Russian and Richard is English, so it was important for us that the wedding reflected both our cultures. The ceremony took place in the Russian Orthodox cathedral in London, and we chose to hold the ceremony at nearby Chandos House because we loved the grand 17th-century architecture, glittering chandeliers and high ceilings.

The look... We were aiming for a feel of vintage glamour, with a predominant colour palette of ivory, soft pink and vibrant fuchsia. The dress I chose made me feel so elegant. It was made of French silk and lace, and I loved its soft honey colour and flattering shape. My beautiful bouquet of peonies and roses really made me feel like a bride, and the combination of pinks looked so striking.

The finishing touches... We carried the feminine colour palette throughout all the different elements of the day, from the stylish ivory menus placed on the tables to our amazing cake, which was decorated with pale pink roses. We also attached a simple placecard with diamanté detail to a single rose and tucked it into each guest's napkin for an indulgent touch.

My favourite moment... I loved the Russian traditions we included, such as presenting all our guests with traditional Russian spoons for favours, and I think the entire day was a real cultural experience for our English guests. I'll also never forget our beautiful ceremony. Standing next to Richard at the altar was, without doubt, one of the most amazing moments of my life. ❖



How to... Create chic and elegant vintage-style flowers

I saw some of my florist Marianne's designs in a magazine... and was so inspired by her style and the colour palette of antique pink that I booked her to create a similar look for my own wedding.

I wanted a glamorous take on vintage style... to suit the grand city venue we'd chosen. Although our florist wanted the floral arrangements to look unstructured, she avoided wild, rustic displays by restricting the amount of foliage used and keeping the type of flowers included to a minimum.

Marianne used English garden flowers for my bouquet and all the reception flowers... including pink peonies, stocks, hydrangeas and 'Amensia' roses, which have a faded pink colour that really summed up our theme. Gold candelabra tablecentres strewn with strings of pearls reflected the elegant side to our theme, and I even had pearl pins in my bouquet.



Natalia's address book

Photographer: Stephen Swain (020 8371 8726, www.stephenswain.com)

Venue: Chandos House (020 7290 2951, www.chandoshouse.co.uk)

Florist: Sweet Pea Floral Design (08445 617286, www.sweetpeaflowers.co.uk)

Dress: Sassi Holford (020 7584 1532, www.sassiholford.com)

Stationery: Borrowed Blue Press (01227 455500, www.borrowedbluepress.co.uk)

Cake: Little Venice Cake Company (020 7486 5252, www.lvcc.co.uk)

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