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Classic Romance

GEMMA COOK AND CHRISTIAN BOVA

THE TEA ROOM, QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDING, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, 5TH OF APRIL, 2008

STORY by Sheriden Rhodes PHOTOGRAPHY by Rhonda Hemmingway Photography



IT WAS A GORGEOUS, CLEAR AUTUMN DAY in Sydney. Gemma and Christian felt like movie stars in a classic black and white romance movie. The pair, who met at university, had just been married at St Joseph's College in Hunters Hill where Christian's parents had also married. They mingled with their guests on the grass before driving off in a classic white Rolls Royce to have their photos taken at Lavender Bay.

Earlier that day preparations for the afternoon ceremony went so smoothly the girls found themselves with a bit of extra time up their sleeves. "We opened some Champagne and danced around the living room," Gemma said with a laugh. But an earlier hiccup almost unraveled the calm and organised bride. Gemma was to borrow a stunning antique diamond bracelet from her mother to wear on her big day, and had even taken it along to fittings to ensure the gown matched its timeless style. But on the morning of the wedding, Gemma's family could not open the safe where it was held. Thankfully a thoughtful bridesmaid went into damage control and lent Gemma another stunning bracelet to wear instead, along with Gemma's mother's engagement ring. The 'borrowed' bracelet and ring were absolutely beautiful and I felt honored to be wearing them."

As Gemma and Christian entered the reception at The Tea Room in Sydney's Queen Victoria Building their 200 guests let out a loud cheer. The room with its old world charm and soaring ceilings

was stunningly decorated in a classic black, pewter, ivory and pale pink colour scheme. Much of the inspiration for the couple's classic romance theme came from Gemma's grandmother. "As a child I spent hours looking at her wedding photos and imagined wearing lace and having a wedding just like hers," Gemma explained. "Sadly she passed away not long after Christian and I were engaged but we used these memories of her as our inspiration."

Gemma's bridesmaids wore Harvey and Ella pewter dresses which contrasted beautifully with their apricot bouquets. Her three flower girls wore handmade ivory dresses with pewter sashes, embodying both Gemma's gown and those of her bridesmaids. At the church and the reception, Gemma's love of flowers was clearly evident. Tables dressed in white linen were decorated with vases of freesias, David Austin roses and lisianthas poised on round mirror bases.

A creative 'reception booklet' which doubled as a place card was tied with black ribbon and placed over each guest's napkin. Inspired by Christian who is known for his love of sweet things, an incredible 'biscuit bar' table displayed intricately detailed cakes, tarts, chocolate, almonds and nougat sweets.

The glamorous couple enjoyed a fantastic evening of superb food and wine, speeches and dancing long into the night - with even a game of limbo. "It was truly a wonderful day," Gemma said with a sigh. ♡

With all the old world glamour of a vintage Hollywood movie, Gemma and Christian's romantic wedding followed a classic scheme of ivory, pink, pewter and black. ♡ Carrying a graceful bouquet of David Austin roses, Gemma's stunning gown was designed by Mira Mandic. "Chantilly" is a close fitting French Chantilly lace and silk satin classically cut gown with scooped décolletage and empire proportions. The fine scallops of the lace hem gently flow into masses of silk organza frills. Complementing her own brooch, the straps were made of Swarovski crystals," said Mira Mandic.




GEMMA'S STYLE GUIDE

GOWN AND BRIDAL ACCESSORIES: Mira Mandic, 02 9363 8844 PHOTOGRAPHER: Rhonda Hemmingway Photography, 02 9362 3733 VIDEOGRAPHY: Soda Films, 02 9436 2268 CEREMONY LOCATION: St Joseph's College Chapel, 02 9816 0922 RECEPTION LOCATION: The Tea Room, 02 9283 7279 RECEPTION DECORATIONS: Chair Covers & Candelabra, 02 9517 9000 GROOM'S ATTIRE: Arthur Galan, 02 9332 4777 BRIDESMAIDS' OUTHITS: Harvey & Ella, 03 9509 3126 FLOWERGIRLS OUTHITS: Magi European Dress Maker, 0404 028 803 FLOWERS AND FLORAL DECORATIONS: Plumbago Flowers, 02 9958 4556 TRANSPORT: Variety Wedding Cars, 02 9955 6920 CAKE: Faye Cahill Cake Design, 02 9568 3165 GIFT REGISTRY: Peters of Kensington, 02 9662 1099 & David Jones 1300 300 111



THIS PAGE Gemma's bridesmaids wore storm coloured Harvey & Ella dresses. "Featuring cap sleeves and a cross over draped bodice, the 'Ava' dress is finished with Swarovski crystal buttons and a full circle skirt," said Louise from Harvey & Ella. ♡ In charming ivory dresses with pewter sashes, Gemma's three flower girls carried pretty posies of pink, apricot and cream roses. ♡ Tables were decorated with vases of David Austin roses, freesias, lisianthus and hydrangeas. ♡ Gemma and Christian's soft rose pink cake was decorated with sugar roses.