

SUMMER

By Angelique & Costa Stavrinos

Saturday 5th March 2005 – Greek Orthodox Church & Oakfield

Our Greek Fairytale Wedding – The Engagement

There is considerable preparation involved in the months before a wedding, and Greek weddings are no different. It is in these times that we depend on our close relatives, our Koumbaros (best men) and Koumbara (maid of honour) to assist in all the planning and execution of tasks. A Greek couple are only engaged after an official Engagement Party. This “party” takes place when the groom-to-be asks the father of his bride-to-be for permission to marry his daughter. This was a mammoth task for Costa, as fathers are so protective over their daughters – especially since I was the first child in the family to get married. Once all had agreed to the marriage, the Priest was invited to bless our wedding rings.

The “Prikia” (Dowry)

From the day a mother gives birth to a baby girl, she starts to collect sheets, towels and tablecloths for a “Prikia” or a dowry that she will one day give to her daughter before her wedding. The handing over of the “Prikia” occurs two days before the wedding. The festivities begin with the single girls making up the bed with the sheets and pillow cases given by my mother. There is a race for the single girls to get the first pillow case on, as tradition has it that the first one to put on the pillow case will be the next person to get married. Once the bed is made, rose petals, rice, money, sugar coated almonds and a gold coin are placed on the bed. Each item on the bed has a symbolic relevance. The almonds are to sweeten the couple, the money is to bring wealth into the home and the rice and the rose petals are for fertility.

The Reception

The Homestead lends itself to a rustic look – this really stressed my mother who, as in true fairytale style, wanted a white, lavender and silver colour scheme. Together with the event planners at Oakfield, event décor and Café Fleur, we managed to create the ideal fairytale look, which still complemented the rustic feel of the farm and the beautiful Summer day. We wanted to look after our guests and made sure that we organised good food, plenty to drink, and because dancing plays such an important role at a wedding, a brilliant DJ. Everything ran so perfectly that I really felt like a princess for the day – a Greek wedding of the purest kind, a true celebration where everyone has only good wishes for the couple and their lives together.

Photographer	Patrick Furter
Videographer	Jenny Chapman
Florist	Café Fleur
Cake	Sugar ‘n Ice
DJ	Kosta Kostaras
Dress	Simon Rademan
Bomboniere	La Koufeta