



PORTUGAL

WHO: Alexandra Selfe, 31, business and marketing manager, and Rik Hall, 33, architect and CEO. **WHEN:** September 13, 2008. **WHERE:** Carvoeiro, Algarve, Portugal. **GUESTS:** 90. **COST:** Approximately \$36,000*.

"Rik and I are from the UK and live in Sydney. Portugal was one of my family's favourite holiday spots when I was younger and it's only two-and-a-half hours from the UK, where most of our guests live. I got the wedding of my dreams; we didn't sacrifice anything, but kept a handle on the budget. There was no way we'd have been able to afford this kind of wedding in the UK or Australia.

It's quite complicated to organise the legal side of things in Portugal, so we were married in the UK in a small registry office. A lot of Rik's family and our grandmothers attended; it was a nice way for us to celebrate with our loved ones who couldn't travel.

Marrying overseas means accepting the cultural differences. While organising the wedding, I didn't always get an answer straightaway, but in the end, I left it in our suppliers' professional hands and it all worked out. My florist didn't know the English names of the flowers I wanted, so I showed her pictures. You have to approach things the way they do and be relaxed.

We laughed all the way through our Catholic service. Rik's hands were so hot he couldn't get his ring on, and he said 'I do' before the priest prompted him. We rode to the reception on the village train, waving at everyone in the town as we went by."

SUPPLIERS: **Reception:** Vale da Pinta Golf Course Clubhouse (www.carvoeiro.pestanagolf.com). **Photography:** Sally Mulholland (www.sam7photography.com). **Bride's dress:** Corston Couture (www.corston.com.au). **Wedding planner:** Sue Roberts-Foy (www.robertsfoy.com). **COSMO**



COMPILED BY RENATA CORTAN. GETTY IMAGES; PHOTOLIBRARY.COM.