

Weddings in Tuscany

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There are very few places in the world that are as celebrated as Tuscany, where the past and present merge in perfect harmony. The region renowned for its rich culture, enchanting landscape and breathtaking art, is set in the heart of Italy between the beautiful Mediterranean Sea and the Chianti Hills, making it the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable wedding.

Dublin residents Brian and Caroline Maguire fell in love with Italy on their first visit in 2006. After becoming engaged they knew instantly that Italy was their dream wedding destination and decided to enlist the services of Paola Shanahan, from "Irish Weddings in Italy" to organise their wedding in the beautiful region of Tuscany.

Brian and Caroline had arrived in Tuscany prior to their wedding as recommended by Paola to enjoy a relaxed few days before their 'Big Day'.

"Both Brian and I fell in love with the region's endless vineyards, its rich history and the numerous pretty villages surrounding the area. On their day of arrival our guests were treated to a barbeque by the pool at sunset and we were all served fabulous food, Tuscan beef, lamb and pork served with grilled peppers, bruschetta, pecorino cheese and lots of Chianti wine. Our wedding ceremony was held in one of the oldest churches in Italy. The rolling Tuscan hills disappeared behind us as we travelled onto our wedding reception venue in a beautiful white 'Volkswagen Beetle', whilst our guests were chauffeured by a private coach. Our wedding reception started in the gardens, followed by an al fresco dinner reception. We all danced until the early hours of the morning and after a few hours rest, nice and refreshed, we were all whisked to a local agri-tourism farm for a relaxing late morning lunch and had a few drinks by the pool overlooking vineyards and an ancient olive grove."

Where did you and Brian meet?

We met on the August 15th 1996 during a night out in Dublin. I was out with some friends celebrating their Leaving Cert results and Brian was doing the same with his friends. We met on the way home, exchanged numbers and we've been together ever since.



Why did you choose to get married in Italy?

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Why Tuscany?

We went on a fantastic day preview arranged by Irish Weddings in Italy, it was only the third venue we had visited but we had such a good feeling about 'Badia' from the minute we arrived. We could actually visualise our friends and family there, everything about it inside and out ticked every box for us.

Comments made by your guests?

"This is the best wedding we've ever been to"

"You and Brian should be so proud of yourselves this is amazing"

"This is like something you would see in 'Hello' magazine, where's the paparazzi?"

"Everyone will remember this wedding for the rest of their lives"





What is your advice to future couples?

Build up a good line of communication and trust with your wedding planner, Paola from Irish Weddings in Italy was extremely helpful and fulfilled all our requests. Also, it is extremely important to relax and enjoy every minute as it'll be over before you know it. Brian and I arrived in Italy a week before the wedding day and had a very relaxing holiday with no wedding chores to be done, it did us the world of good and we were really relaxed before the 'Big Day'.



What did you like most about your Three Day Wedding?

The relaxed yet organised atmosphere and the attention to detail, some of our friends who are married told us they didn't remember the mass or the meal because they were so anxious and nervous. We had Cristina and Daniella, Irish Wedding in Italy representatives, on hand and they were so helpful for the three days we were able to relax and enjoy the whole experience.

What were the three most important things about your Wedding Day?

The atmosphere, everyone had a holiday in a fantastic setting that was out of this world.

The treatment we received, our family and friends were made to feel so special from the minute we arrived by Paola, Cristina, Daniella and the staff at the hotel.

Details, everything we requested was done, we have no regrets about anything.

What was the dress code?

Smart yet not too formal, after all we wanted people to be comfortable.

And a last word?

We're too blessed to be stressed!

Irish Weddings in Italy is an Irish company based in Dublin, Paola Shanahan and her team have a wealth of experience and intimate knowledge of Italy and Italian culture. The company provides Irish couples with a wedding service designed to fulfil the bride and grooms personal taste and requirements. Paola Shanahan encourages couples to choose individual services as this allows for better quality control over their wedding and to maximise the cost effectively without reducing the quality.

Irish Weddings in Italy handle all their brides and grooms paperwork, together with an array of other services such as photography, videography, flowers, music, accommodation and transport.





5 Romantic Tips

A place of great beauty teamed with a deep sense of history, glorious climate and wonderful food, Tuscany is undoubtedly one of the most romantic places in the world.

Explore romantic San Gimignano, with its 13 medieval towers and idyllic plazas. Learn about the Italian Renaissance and the history of Siena, through its cobbled streets and its palazzos, view the beautiful hills surrounding Pienza from the terrace of the historic Hotel Il Chiostro.

Take a walk across Florence's Arno River on the famous Ponte Vecchio and browse the shops of the goldsmiths and

silversmiths that have replaced the butchers and grocers of centuries gone by. See works by Caravaggio, Botticelli, Raffaello and Rembrandt at the Uffizi Gallery. Or just relax and enjoy a cappuccino or espresso in the Piazza del Signoria and Piazza del Duomo, where Florence's art and history surround you.

Admire handcrafted crystal in Colle Val d'Elsa or begin your day by driving to the Cecina Mare promenade en route to the Strada del Vino, one of the most beautiful of Italy's wine road. Your route traces the Ornellaia vineyard to Bolgheri along gently rolling hills. Bolgheri is known for its Viale dei Cipressi, a cypress-lined avenue immortalized in the poem "San Guido" by Giosue' Carducci.

Unwind on the beach in idyllic seaside towns like Marina di Castagneto along the Costa degli Etruschi. Situated on the slopes of the hills overlooking the Costa degli Etruschi, it is a true jewel, rich in history and art, set in the green valley of the river Cornia. The town displays architectural harmony its ancient walls enclose paved streets lined with stone houses, historical buildings, impressive churches and shadowy cloisters.

Explore the lovely Giglio Island with its quiet country lanes, passing olive trees, vineyards, sunflower fields, white beaches and cafes along the way.

For further information checkout
www.irishweddingsinitaly.ie or contact
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