

# *Real* WEDDINGS



## REFLECTIONS OF LOVE

*The region's most beautiful brides open up their wedding day albums to reveal best dressed style, locations to fall in love with and inspirational little extras*

*Bazaar Bride* editor  
Emily Baxter shares a  
quiet moment with her  
new husband, Matt

# EMILY BAXTER

*Lush green gardens combined with magical blue skies provided the perfect backdrop for the nature-inspired nuptials of Dubai's magazine editing duo*

*Photography by KIM GREGORY*

A typical English countryside garden provided a dream setting for Emily's Victoria Beckham dress

Stealing their first moment together as a married couple



Pure and simple: Victoria Beckham keeps things British



In lieu of bridesmaids, Emily recruited four 'best buddies': Annie, Philippa, Louise and Fran



**D**uring the September wedding ceremony of *Bazaar Bride* editor Emily Baxter and fellow Dubai-based journalist Matthew Priest, the organist, Matt's cousin, played a unique piece called *Autumn is the Wedding*, which was written and composed by the groom's father and sung by his uncle. "Truly amazing," smiles Emily recalling this perfect moment of familial harmony. It wasn't the only musically-inspired emotion to touch the bride on that sunny day; she walked up the aisle to Pachelbel's *Canon in D*, which was played at her father's funeral, "So it was incredibly important to me." Aside from the strong ties of family affection that defined the couple's special day, their love of animals and nature was also celebrated with gusto. From the 'Where to graze' seating plan, 'Feeding time at the zoo' menus, tables named after endangered species and life-size stuffed lion and giraffe welcoming guests to the venue, wildlife was the dominant theme. "We wanted to give something back to nature so we had collecting jars on each table with a little note gently requesting donations," Emily, 36, adds. The initiative paid off and the couple began their married life knowing that they have adopted four endangered animals as a result. "We were very, very happy," the bride smiles.

The couple, who met through work – Matt, 29, is the editor-in-chief of men's magazine *Edgar Middle East* – were never going to have a conventional wedding, with Matt's proposal setting a quirky tone from the outset. "He knows my favourite TV shows are *The Amazing Race* and *Survivor*, so he combined elements of both and created a treasure hunt around Dubai," explains Emily. The elaborate scheme ended with Matt getting down on one knee by a fountain at the One & Only Royal Mirage hotel and presenting Emily with a beautiful diamond ring, "Very romantic and very us," she smiles.

Planning the wedding for 96 guests in a rural Hampshire barn from Dubai in just four months meant that Emily relied heavily on her mother to look after the little details. "She was a godsend, I genuinely couldn't have done it without her."

The Victoria Beckham dress also became a huge preoccupation for the entire *Bazaar* fashion team from the moment Emily announced her engagement. "I tried it on in Dubai, then in London, then once more in London and I knew I had to have it!" Sold out everywhere, finally the team at Bloomingdale's Dubai tracked one down. "It's the first (and probably last) time I've ever worn anything so tight. I spent months working out, several weeks panicking and then let fate do the rest. I don't think I could have found a more beautiful dress though, it was perfect in every way." Much like Emily and Matt's wedding day.



Diamonds are forever



The beautiful ceremony room at Rivervale Barn, Hampshire, UK



Blush pink bridal shoes by Paul Andrew from Etolle "La boutique"



The groom and his mother, Luciana



Handwritten signs with the couple's nicknames for each other

Catching the rolling mist at sunset



The bouquet of hydrangea verena and bombastic spray roses



Chic table settings with white lilies, Antarctica white tulips, pittosporum and eucalyptus



Glamorous wedding guests

The in-laws: Matt's father, brother and mother with the newlyweds



An all-important photograph of the bride's father



Animal table favours in keeping with the wildlife-themed wedding



Autumn is the Wedding, written and composed by Matt's father



The groom's boutonniere of a bombastic spray rose and gypsophila



Family ties: the bride's step-father and mother



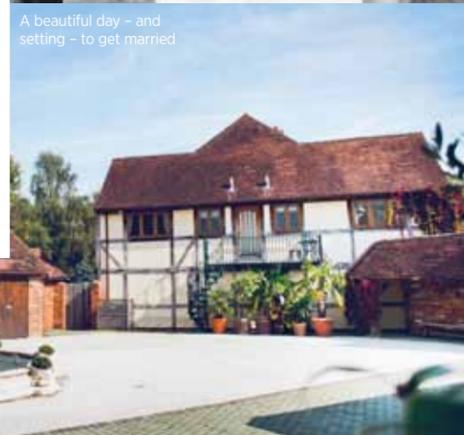
The fun begins...



Pre-wedding photoshoot giggles

**BRIDE'S BLACK BOOK**  
**DRESS:** Victoria Beckham at Bloomingdale's, +971 4 350 5333  
**SHOES:** Paul Andrew at Etoile "La boutique", +971 4 341 4166  
**BRIDE'S JEWELLERY:** Julie Hazell at Jewels, Jewelsgdpdubai.com  
**GROOM'S SUIT:** Tailor-made at Collars & Cuffs, +971 4 380 8283  
**GROOM'S SHOES:** Moreschi at Harvey Nichols, +971 4 409 8888  
**VENUE:** Rivervale Barn, Rivervale-barn-weddings.co.uk  
**FLORIST:** Tina Pringle at Flower Monkey, Flowermonkey.uk  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Kim Gregory, Kimgregoryimages.com  
**HAIR & MAKE-UP:** Annabel Hornsby, Annabelhornsby.com  
**LIVE BAND:** Roger Styles, Rogerstylesevents.com

A beautiful day - and setting - to get married



Speech bubbles say it all



Hand-stamped notes instead of a guest book



The groom's love heart socks and Moreschi shoes

