

True colours

LIZZIE & ASHLEY

Fun pops of colour helped these childhood sweethearts pull together a laidback day

PHOTOGRAPHY: **SARAH LEGGE** (SARAHLEGGEPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK)



“The wedding was on the same day as the World Cup England vs. Sweden game and at one point my dad even got everyone singing (Three Lions) Football’s Coming Home!”



Modern and full of natural light, Millbridge Court offered long-term loves Lizzie and Ashley the perfect canvas for creating their relaxed wedding day. “We didn’t have a strong theme, as such. From the very outset, all we wanted was to create a fun, laidback atmosphere in which to celebrate with our friends and family, rather than a formal occasion that’s not really us,” Lizzie explains, “so to go with the sense of fun, we opted for a bright colour scheme.”

Loosely-tied flower arrangements added to the day’s vibrant feel, with plinths, large centrepieces, floral arches and bouquets bursting with bright coral peonies, peach blooms and mint-green foliage.

Despite the easy feel of the day, the task of finding a dress had given Lizzie pre-wedding anxiety. “It was a struggle to find one I felt comfortable in, and this proved

especially important as it was one of the hottest days of the year!” With a romantic floral lace bodice, low back and pleated tulle skirt, her A-line Ellis Bridal gown felt contemporary yet classic.

Lizzie got ready with her maid of honour and two bridesmaids, who all looked the part in floor-length mint-green chiffon ASOS dresses and professionally-done hair and make-up. “I really wanted a natural look that enhanced

TOP TIP

“Have an engagement-style shoot with your chosen photographer a month or so before the wedding. This will make you more comfortable with them, and help you and your partner to get over the initial awkwardness that comes with posing for photos.”



CONTACT BOOK

- VENUE:** Millbridge Court (millbridgecourt.co.uk)
CATERING: Kalm Kitchen (kalmkitchen.co.uk)
DRESS: Ellis Bridal at Belles Bridal in Woking (belles-bridal.co.uk)
VEIL: The Farnham Boutique (thefarnhamboutique.com)
SHOES: Paradox London (paradoxlondon.com)
HAIRPIECE: Victoria Harper Bridal Accessories (victoriaharper.co.uk)
BRIDESMAIDS’ DRESSES: ASOS (asos.com)
GROOMSWEAR: Marks & Spencer (marksandspencer.com)
TIE AND POCKET SQUARE: Swagger & Swoon (swaggerandswoon.com)
HAIR AND MAKE-UP: Leigh Irving (leighirvingmakeup.co.uk)
FLOWERS: Boutique Blooms (boutiqueblooms.co.uk)
CAKE: Spongeworks (spongeworks.co.uk)
STATIONERY: Etsy (etsy.com)
POST BOX: To Have and To Hire (tohaveandtohiredweddings.com)
BALLOONS: Bubblegum Balloons (bubblegumballoons.co.uk)
ENTERTAINMENT: XO Party Band (xopartyband.co.uk)



my freckles, as Ashley has always loved them,” she smiles.

Following a civil ceremony and a golden-hour photo session hijacked by a curious herd of cows (“some of my favourite shots,” admits Lizzie), guests sat down to antipasti sharing boards overflowing with Italian meats, baby mozzarella, artichokes, sun-blushed tomatoes and mixed olives. A main course of pork belly, arancini balls and speeches followed, but some of the guests may have been preoccupied by the World Cup. “There were a few checking-the-score-on-the-phone-under-the-table situations,” Lizzie giggles. To finish the meal, a patisserie bar, presided over by the couple’s four-tier naked cake, offered up a selection of mini Eton messes, banoffee pots and chocolate treats.

Music is very important to Lizzie and Ashley, so a live band was an absolute must when planning the day. “We couldn’t have done much better than XO Party Band. A live trio played during the ceremony and drinks reception, and the group played acoustic covers outside while we all enjoyed the sun. After the meal, the full five-piece band played a series of live sets which ensured that none of us left the dancefloor until the end of the night.”

After the big day, the couple jetted off for a week’s safari in the Masai Mara in Kenya, followed by a week of total relaxation on Silhouette in the Seychelles. “We went on daily game drives and even took a hot-air balloon ride over the Mara river, then spent a week in paradise. It was absolute bliss!” 

