

REAL LIFE WEDDING IN GRAN CANARIA

Whimsical elegance



*Zoe, 32, and Chris, 30, chose the glorious island of Gran Canaria
for their secret garden themed wedding*

Photography by Jota Lamarque



These adorable page boys had outfits to match the groomsmen



The bridesmaids' gorgeous peach dresses, bouquets and matching flower crowns perfectly capture a enviable bohemian vibe



Zoe's top tip

A wedding planner is a must — Bernadette and her team were a fantastic help at all times and nothing was too much trouble. Also, enjoy the process and make it your day. Don't allow other people to change your mind or alter the wedding in a way you don't want



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We

chose *Gran Canaria* for our destination wedding as it has guaranteed sunshine and wasn't too far for our family to travel. After creating a shortlist of venues from our wedding planner's website, we flew to the island and did a roadshow of the main venues we wanted to look closer at. Our eventual venue was the last one we looked at and we pinned all our hopes on it. It was called *Finca Justus Frantz* and situated high up in the hills overlooking *Maspalomas*. It certainly didn't disappoint — we absolutely loved it!

I got my dress from *The Confetti Box* in *Eccles, Manchester*. The first dress I tried on was perfect — it made my mum and Maid of Honour cry! It was a fitted fishtail dress with a sweetheart neckline, lace and some sparkle. Michelle Keegan inspired my hair and beauty looks. As I am a makeup artist, I wanted to do my own makeup as I know what suits me. I also did my own hair. For my makeup, I went for a natural smokey look and my hair was similar to how I normally have it — partly lifted at the top with some volume to allow my veil to be attached. I wanted to keep my appearance similar to how Chris knows and loves!

After a lot of research, we decided on pastel peach and sage green colours for our main theme as these fitted with the secret garden feel we were looking for. Pinterest was a great help in deciding the colours and sharing our ideas with the main wedding party. We didn't need an awful lot of decorations as the grounds were naturally pretty, but what we did have done was excellent. The decoration team did a fantastic job with flowers, professional signage and little trinkets. We had "did you know?" signs, a makeup table with flowers on it, a floral arch and a rustic wheelbarrow for water on arrival.

Having a destination wedding meant that we had to rely heavily on our wedding planner to find suppliers and guide us on the best routes to take. We also had to separate all our decorations, clothing and shoes into hand luggage bags and asked our guests to take it with them, so that nothing valuable went in the hold area of the plane. We also made sure that all guests were looked after by tailoring things for different people as we wanted everyone to enjoy the day equally.



Entertainment included a 12-man band, flamenco dancers, fireworks and a choreographed dance by the couple!



Notebook // Wedding planner *Bernadette Garside* from *The Perfect Wedding Company*, perfectweddingcompany.com Venue *Finca Justus Frantz*, fincajustusfrantz.es Photography *Jotz Lamerque*, jotalamerque.com Bride's dress *The Confetti Box*, confettibox.com Bride's shoes *Jimmy Choo*, jimmychoo.com Bride's earrings *Swarovski*, swarovski.com Groom's suit *Moss Bros*, moss.co.uk Groom's shirt *T.M.Lewin*, tmlawin.co.uk Groom's cufflinks *Tateossian*, tateossian.com Cake *Proyectos de Azúcar*, proyectosdeazucar.com Catering *Vintia Catering*, vintia.es Big band *Unahoramenos*, unahoramenos.es Entertainment *Furia Flamenco Dancers & Arba String Quartet*, newwaycanarias.com Fireworks *Protecnica San Miguel*, protecniasanmiguel.com Sound and lighting *Proevento*, proevento.es Marquees *Garotecnica*, garotecnica.com