

DESTINATION WEDDING & HONEYMOON

tuscany

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

A Chicago-based content creator and her beau take their love abroad for a dreamy wedding in the Italian countryside.

By Elle Cashin // Photographed by Stefano Santucci Studio

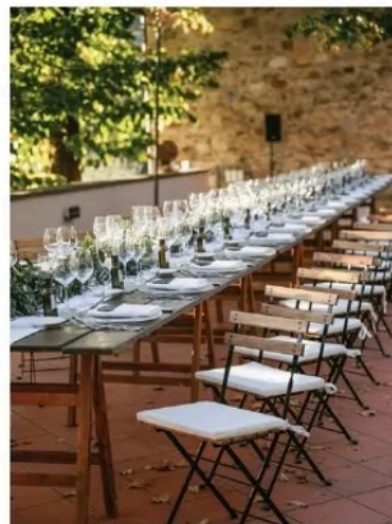
KIRA & JAMES
 SEPTEMBER 2, 2023
 TUSCANY, ITALY

James will say we met through Instagram, but it was so much more than that,” reminisces Kira West, a digital content creator and social impact lead for Expedia Group. She attests her connection with James Fiddmont was born of the fact that they both attended Cornell and had mutual friends—but yes, there were some DMs. Whichever way it happened, when they finally went on an official first date, sparks flew.

For their destination wedding, “we wanted a place where we could curate an amazing experience for our friends and family,” Kira says. “Italy is a country we had both visited and really loved, and it was also accessible and lent itself well to our overall vision.” They hosted the entire day at Borgo i Vicelli, which required little in the way of decor. “There is so much natural beauty in Italy, it was great to be able to use that as a starting point,” Kira says. Guests were encouraged to wear earth tones in order to enhance, rather than detract from, the beauty of the countryside.

In fact, fashion was a particular focus: The bride changed three times, wearing London-based Alonuko Bridal for the main event. “Investing in a Black designer was extremely important,” she says. (Bridesmaids wore champagne-hued gowns by Amsale, another Black-owned bridal brand.) Kira changed into a draped fringe mini by Cult Gaia for the party, which included an extra-special father-daughter dance. “My dad and I started with a slow traditional dance, and ended by pulling out Trinidadian flags as we ran to the dance floor, starting the party. Everyone was surprised and excited!”

It was just one of countless ways Kira and James made the day their own. “Tradition is a helpful starting point, but there is no one right way,” the bride says. “Do what brings you and your partner joy.” ■



The List

Venue Borgo i Vicelli, borgoivicelli.com/en/
 Wedding Planner & Designer Olivia Sodi, oliviasodi.com
 Bride's Gowns Ceremony: Alonuko, alonuko.co.uk; Reception: Cult Gaia, cultgaia.com
 Bride's Hair & Makeup Glamour by Shaniqua, instagram.com/glamourbyshaniqua
 Groom's Tux Ralph Lauren, ralphlauren.com
 Rings Alan Rocca Fine Jewelry, alanrocca.com
 Bridesmaids' Dresses Amsale, amsale.com
 Groomsmen's Tuxes Generation Tux, generationtux.com; Accessories: Tie Bar, thetiebar.com
 Florals & Decor Vogliadiverde, vogliadiverde.com
 Invitations & Signage Tuscan Lab, tuscanlab.com/it
 Catering Alessio Sedran, chefalessiosedran.com
 Gelato Cart Vivoli, viola.it
 Entertainment Ceremony: Firenze Classica, firenzeclassica.com; Reception: DJ Skoli, instagram.com/djskoli
 Production GB Audio, gbaudio.it
 Second Photographer Lucrezia Cosso, instagram.com/lucreziacosso
 Videographer Lumen Films, lumenfilms.org



Clockwise from top: Kira's gown featured an overskirt that she removed before making her grand entrance into the reception with James; "cacio e pepe" is one of my favorite pasta dishes, and our chef shifted to a smaller pasta to ensure that he could make it well for all guests; Kira changed into Cult Gaia's draped fringe Mara dress mid-reception; the Italian-inspired invitation suite; guests were seated at long outdoor tables. Opposite page: The newlyweds at golden hour.

