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gorgeous!

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Carolina Herrera, Monique Lhuillier, Marchesa & Zac Posen!



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from the publisher of Vogue & Glamour

real weddings

SEE HOW THESE COUPLES WALKED DOWN THE AISLE IN STYLE

FAIRY TALE IN FRANCE

RED-CARPET
REPORTER ASHLAN
GORSE AND EXPLORER
PHILIPPE COUSTEAU
FOUND THEIR HAPPILY-
EVER-AFTER AT A
CHATEAU OUTSIDE
OF PARIS

BY HEATHER LEE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ONE AND ONLY PARIS PHOTOGRAPHY



"It took only one trip up the driveway of the castle to know it was perfect," says the bride.

PLUS ... A black-tie affair at a gorgeous coastal farm ... page 398 ▶ A plantation wedding that made every penny count ... page 400

THE COUPLE

Ashlan Gorse, 32, entertainment reporter, and Philippe Cousteau, 33, environmental advocate and explorer

THE WEDDING At the Château d'Esclimont outside Paris on September 28, 2013

HOW THEY MET At an ecological conference in 2010

THE PROPOSAL On the roof of the Hotel Georges V in Paris

HONEYMOON St. Tropez

The next time a friend invites you to an event you aren't in the mood for, go anyway. That's how Ashlan Gorse found herself at an environmental conference locking eyes with a gorgeous Frenchman. It was Philippe Cousteau—grandson of famous under-sea adventurer Jacques—who gave a speech about ocean health. Philippe followed her around all night, and they've been together ever since. The couple celebrated their wedding with 60 guests in his native France.

ALL TOGETHER "We wanted a venue where our guests could stay for the weekend," says Ashlan. They heard about Château d'Esclimont, a Renaissance-style castle 45 minutes from Paris. "We saw it and fell in love," she says.

WING IT The couple improvised their vows! "We just spoke from the heart," says Ashlan. "It was scary but so special."

PARTY ANIMALS At 2:00 a.m., the festivities moved outside for an impromptu pool party. "Some of my girlfriends jumped in with their dresses on!" says Ashlan.



The groom used a saber to slice off the top of a celebratory bottle of champagne (right at the altar!) after kissing his bride.



Ashlan and Philippe's eco-friendly bamboo invitations, by Smock, had a fleur-de-lis motif.

Canon, the flower girl, started walking around the rows of chairs until her father redirected her down the aisle.





Everyone was invited to stop by the bridal suite as Ashlan got ready. ("Well, everyone but Philippe!" she says.)

The reception was held in the chateau's trophy room, where guests sat at two long tables for the four-course dinner.



The menu featured fresh local ingredients and a favorite Bordeaux from Philippe's cousin's vineyard.

TAKEAWAY TIPS FROM ASHLAN AND PHILIPPE

Pick a meaningful palette "Philippe spent his childhood summers in Provence, so we chose lavender and deep purple as our colors," says Ashlan.

Embrace digital Instead of feeling tacky, "the e-save-the-dates our calligrapher designed ended up being so

helpful! Our guests had everything in their inbox," says the bride.

Give everyone a ride The couple arranged a shuttle to bring guests from Paris to the chateau.

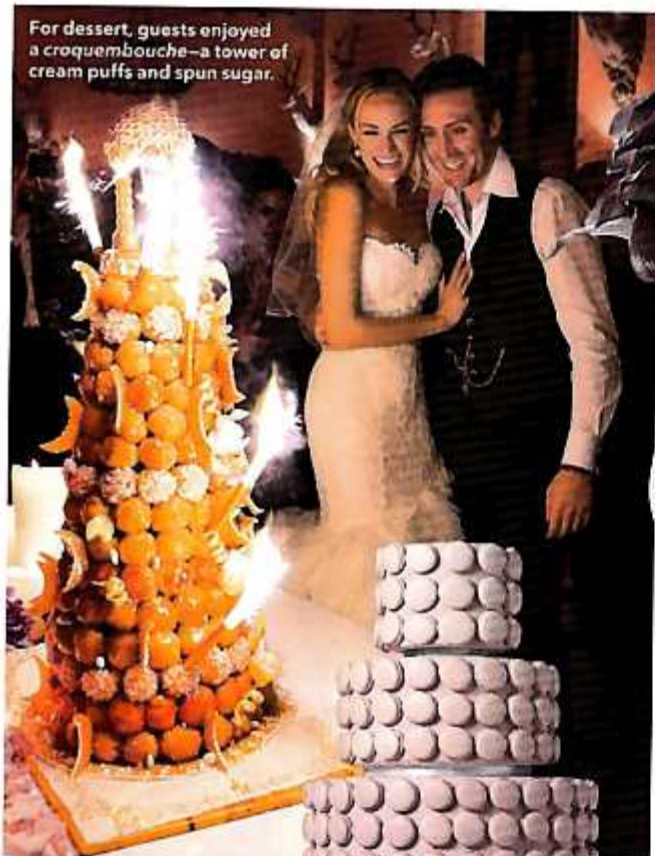
Go all-inclusive Everything, from the chairs to the crystal, was included in the venue's price. "It would have cost a fortune

to rent it all ourselves," says the bride.

Do the brunch thing "It was so fun to regroup with friends and family in the morning, trading stories and seeing the photos everyone took the night before," she says. And because her guests stayed on site, it was an easy commute!

GET THE LOOK

VIVE L'AMOUR! HOW TO INFUSE YOUR FETE WITH FRENCH FLAIR.



For dessert, guests enjoyed a croque-monsieur—a tower of cream puffs and spun sugar.



BOUQUET
\$250,
Polux
Fleuriste;
polux
nyc.com.



TABLE NUMBER
\$20 for 12,
White Willow
Paper; etsy.com.
CARD HOLDER
\$26 for three,
the Home Part
Collection,
thetrest
tulsa.com.

DRESS Venise lace
with tiered tulle skirt,
\$2,310, Tara Keely;
tarakeely.com.

ENGAGEMENT RING
\$4,275 (excluding
center diamond),
A. Jaffe; ajaffe.com.



Venue and catering:

Château d'Esclimont;
grandesetapes.fr/
en/chateau-hotel-
esclimont

Bride's dress:

Lazaro; jimcouture
.com/lazaro

Flowers:

Jeff Leatham;
jeffleatham.com.

Invitations:

Smock; smock
paper.com

Calligraphy:

Yellow House Calligra-
phy; yhcalligraphy.com

Entertainment:

Scarlett Entertainment;
scarlettentertainment
.com

Photography:

One and Only Paris
Photography;
oneandonlyparis
photography.com



MACARON CAKE
\$16 per slice (serves
100), Francois
Payard; payard.com



ESCORT CARDS
\$8 each, Laura Hooper
Calligraphy; etsy.com.



INVITATION
"French
Quarter,"
\$845 for 100,
Oblation
Papers &
Press;
oblation
papers.com.

SHOES \$185,
Badgley Mischka;
zappos.com



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ONE AND ONLY PARIS PHOTOGRAPHY;
LUCAS VESSEY; CATHY CRAWFORD; STYLING BY RENE VAN ZIJ