

yourinspiration



Beach PARTY

Sinem and Petros chose an intimate ceremony and reception on a Thai beach for their wedding in paradise



When Sinem Hussein and Petros Shacolas announced they would be skipping the traditional wedding and getting married in Thailand, their best man bet them £20 they wouldn't do it. He had to cough up in spectacular style (presenting their winnings on a wooden plaque engraved with 'Bet settled') when they married at Anantara Resort on Koh Samui in May 2009.

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE "When I met Pet, I thought he was Turkish Cypriot like me," says Sinem. "Although when I found out that he was Greek Cypriot, I knew my family wouldn't approve. Despite that, love conquered all and seven years

later Pet proposed on my birthday. Throughout the day he kept giving me envelopes with clues about what he'd planned and the last one led us to the London Eye. He'd hired a capsule and I thought it was a proposal waiting to happen, although he waited until we were coming back down (and I was fighting back tears of disappointment) before he popped the question!"

EASTERN PROMISE "We married in front of 20 friends and family on a Koh Samui beach. We chose Thailand because we love it – we've been going there for years to visit my cousin – and we didn't want to please anyone but ourselves. We married the way we wanted: minimum fuss, close friends and family,

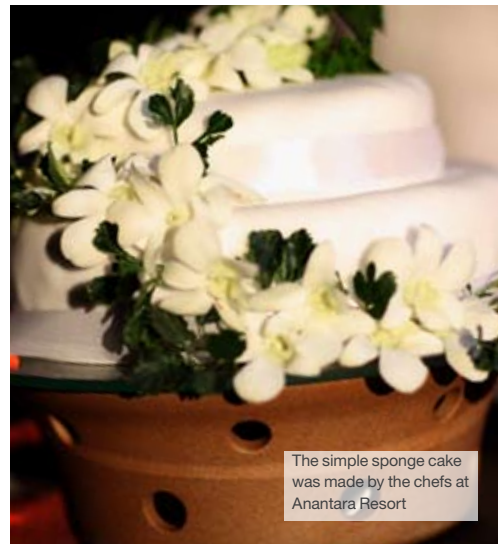
great Thai food and the ideal barefoot setting."

LUXURY SURROUNDINGS "We chose Anantara because it's a fantastic boutique resort with a real personal touch. We all stayed there for four nights and Pet and I had the honeymoon suite. I can honestly say it was the best suite I've ever stayed in – 5-star all the way! The hotel was recommended by Natasha at Creative Events in Bangkok who took care of our legal paperwork. She also introduced us to Air, the wedding planner at Anantara, who designed our gorgeous ceremony and reception, and organised our flowers."

BAREFOOT ON THE BEACH "We chose a simple, chic style for our ceremony and reception.



"I carried a few white lilies, as I didn't want anything too fussy," says Sinem. "My vintage earrings were my something old and borrowed – from my mum. My clip and veil were both from The Tailor's Cat."



The simple sponge cake was made by the chefs at Anantara Resort



Find similar oriental parasols at joythestore.com



The resort provided the finishing touches – fans and cameras

HOW TO... MAKE IT PERSONAL

GIVE YOURSELVES AN EXCUSE TO GO BACK! "We planted a 'love tree' (right) after the ceremony and put a plaque there. It means there's always a part of our special day at the resort – and a reason to visit!"

BE INSPIRED BY LOCAL CUSTOMS. "The venue wrote each guest's name on a leaf at each place setting, which was really unique and tied in with the surroundings."

BREAK WITH TRADITION "Pet really wanted all the guys to wear the straw tribbies which was a great

touch and helped to create a relaxed, laidback vibe: you can get similar styles at fastfancydress.co.uk, £2.95, or proidee.co.uk, £25.

DIY. Displaying homemade photo montages of you and your friends, asking a relative to write a moving reading, getting a friend to play guitar at your evening party, or making a speech with lots of anecdotes and in-jokes are all cheap and fun ways of personalising a small celebration where your guests know *everything* about you!



‘It was simple, unique
AND PERSONAL: WE WERE
living the dream!’



“The hired VW Beetle was a surprise gift from our best men who wanted to give us the classic wedding car experience!” says Sinem. In the UK, try classicroentabug.com



Guests ended the night by releasing sky lanterns – find them at the youandyourwedding.co.uk shop



The hot pink dresses looked fantastic against the beach backdrop

your **inspiration**

All the ladies were barefoot, while Pet wanted all the guys to wear trilby hats (bought from a Thai market) to add a funky, informal touch. I wore a beautiful Jenny Packham silk gown that I found at the National Wedding Show. It had silk flowers and beading on the skirt, and when I tried it on, I felt like a princess. Luckily I got it at a sample price from The Tailor’s Cat in Cambridge, which was amazing because I needed a silk dress to cope with the Thai humidity and they can be very expensive! Pet wore black linen trousers and a white shirt from Mulberry.”

PERSONAL & PERFECT “The ceremony on the beach was simple and special. We married under an arch covered with entwined flowers, which looked amazing. I walked down the aisle to traditional Thai music, and my best friend had written her own reading. It was about what love means and about our personal history – it was really moving.”

GLOBAL GATHERING “After the ceremony, the celebrations really began! Anantara had set up a kitchen and bar on the beach, and we tucked into Thai curries and prawn salads. As there were only 20 of us we could all sit around the same table, chat and laugh as the sun went down. It was very atmospheric – we didn’t want to get bogged down in arranging a big party. The speeches were hilarious – Pet had two best men and they created pictures of what our children would look like by merging a photo of Pet’s body and my head and vice versa! We danced all night to flamenco guitar music, played by a friend. The day was captured by our videographer (hired by my cousin) and we played the film and slideshow of our photos to our friends back in London at our post-wedding buffet at ottoman restaurant Kazan.”

YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

VENUE Anantara Resort, Koh Samui (samui.anantara.com)

WEDDING PLANNER Natasha at Creative Events Asia (creativeeventsasia.com)

BRIDE’S DRESS Jenny Packham (jennypackham.com) from The Tailor’s Cat (thetailorscat.co.uk) at the NWS (nationalweddingshow.co.uk)

GROOM’S OUTFIT Mulberry (mulberry.com)

BRIDESMAIDS’ DRESSES Dorothy Perkins

AFTER PARTY Kazan (kazan-restaurant.com)

PHOTOGRAPHER

PAM LAUHACHAI (PAMFOLIO.COM)