

# the key to love



EMILY MCLENNAN AND BEN BEARD

STONES OF THE YARRA VALLEY, COLDSTREAM, VICTORIA, 29TH OF MARCH, 2008

STORY by Sheriden Rhodes PHOTOGRAPHY by Ms Jane



IT WAS A COOL AUTUMN day in the beautiful Yarra Valley. As Emily drove up to the beautiful chapel at Stones of the Yarra Valley, with its hand rendered walls, stained-glass windows and sweeping views across acres of vines, she prayed it would stop raining. As the car pulled up out front under the century old oak trees, the weather miraculously cleared allowing Emily in her elegant Johanna Johnson gown to make her grand entrance.

Earlier, in an arrival that almost outdid his bride's, Ben and his groomsmen had flown in via helicopter. "This was definitely a highlight for our guests," Emily said.

During an intimate ceremony, both Emily and Ben's mothers read two beautiful pieces – 'I Carry Your Heart with Me' and 'The Key to Love'. After the exchange of vows, guests threw white rose petals over the newlyweds as they left the chapel. And the rain

THESE PAGES With the green vines providing the perfect backdrop for photographs,

Emily looked stunning in her gown from Johanna Johnson. "Emily's 'Rose' gown was delicately made in heavy 'Vintage' silk satin with an A-line skirt featuring a sweeping full godet train.


Flowing Grecian ties were wrapped and gently clasped at her torso and shoulders," said Johanna.

held off just long enough for Emily and Ben to have their photos taken amongst the vines on one of the Yarra Valley's most picturesque and historic properties, before everyone made their way across the manicured lawns to the reception.

Three long tables were set in white linen with impressive candelabras and stunning all white floral centrepieces. Bottles of olive oil and balsamic vinegar inscribed with the couple's name and wedding date were given to guests as bonbonniere. "They were perfect as we both love cooking and they were locally made from the Yarra Valley," Ben explained. Accompanied by local wines, guests were served a Mezze style menu on large platters which proved a big hit and suited the table arrangements. The bridal table meanwhile was incorporated into the middle of the second table so the bride and groom could sit with their parents and partners of the bridal party.

After a fantastic evening in which the two groomsmen acted as MC's, a bus collected those guests who were staying with the bride and groom at a nearby country estate; this avoided a long drive home for many and continued the celebrations over the weekend. "This was one of the highlights as we were able to sit back, relax and take the time to talk to our family and friends," Emily explained. The following morning, the bridal party and remaining wedding guests shared breakfast together, which proved to be another one of the couple's favourite memories. "Our wedding was fabulous – it just went way too quick." ♣




  
 EMILY'S STYLE GUIDE

GOWN: Johanna Johnson, 02 9360 9411  
 PHOTOGRAPHER: Ms Jane, 03 9328 2848  
 CEREMONY AND RECEPTION LOCATION  
 AND CATERING: Stones of the Yarra Valley,  
 03 9739 0900 SHOES: Enzo Angiolini, 03  
 9569 6285 BRIDES AND BRIDESMAIDS' ACCESSORIES:  
 Stephanie Browne, 03 9525 3022 GROOM'S  
 ATTIRE: Prinzi Collections, 03 9347 2188  
 BRIDESMAIDS' OUTFITS: Third Millennium, 07  
 5563 9800 FLOWERS AND FLORAL DECORATIONS:  
 Victoria Whitelaw, 03 9821 4613 CAKE:  
 Let Them Eat Cake, 03 9686 0077 MAKE-UP:  
 Livia Milazzo, 0421 556 781 HAIR: The Hair  
 Chamber, 03 9510 5288 GIFT REGISTRY:  
 GK Travel, 03 9752 2943



THESE PAGES Emily and Ben's wedding followed a theme of simple elegance. A soft colour palette of white, champagne and latte was used for the flowers, bridesmaids' dresses, invitations and bridal cars. ♡ Masses of stunning white flowers including Oriental lilies, roses and hydrangea decorated the room and the long banquet tables. ♡ Emily and her bridesmaids carried fragrant bouquets of Oriental lilies and bouvardia. The tiered wedding cake was also decorated with lilies. ♡ One of Emily and Ben's favourite memories was enjoying breakfast the next day with their friends, many of who had stayed overnight in the Yarra Valley.