

ASIA weddings & HONEYMOONS

+ HOT SPOTS

BALI
HOI AN
KERALA
LOMBOK
LUANG PRABANG
PHUKET

SUMMER *Style* ISSUE

SUMMER/FALL 2014



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SUMMER/FALL 2014

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David Whitehill weds wife Christie on the island of Lombok amidst environs as eye-catching and enchanting as the well-known Australian TV personality and wildlife presenter himself.



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Vintage Vietnam Vows

ANDY & QUINN'S VINTAGE VIETNAM VOWS WERE AS INTIMATE AS THEY WERE UNIQUE, AN ELEGANT BLENDING OF TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS AMIDST TIMELESS SETTINGS.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON DELESIE





WE WANTED ALL THE ROMANCE OF A TRADITIONAL WEDDING BUT IN A NON-TRADITIONAL ENVIRONMENT WITH JUST THE TWO OF US.

FACING PAGE (LEFT TO RIGHT):
 Traditional Vietnam pushcart; Chinese character for "Double Happiness" on menu cover; Neighborhood children in traditional Ao Dais; Custom lace lanterns with gauze vintage flowers; Posing under paper umbrella; Groom's ranunculus boutonniere trimmed with vintage cotton leaf and thin silk ribbon; traditional fishing pod; My Son Sanctuary is one of 981 locations deemed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO; newlyweds steal a kiss en route to reception on a vintage motorbike sporting "Just Married".

Once Andy Van Le and Quinn Le fully embraced the revelation of forgoing the traditional ballroom wedding in lieu of an elopement style celebration the real planning began in earnest. "We wanted all the romance of a traditional wedding—the dress, the flowers, photos, and food—minus the stress of guests," explains Quinn, "but in a non-traditional environment with just the two of us."

The romantic duo then enlisted *Oh How Charming's* Lisa Vorce. Quinn shared her ideas of vintage laces, white flowers, and a little

wooden boat with Lisa and her talented team: event stylist Mindy Rice and photographer Aaron Delesie, and gave them creative carte-blanc to transform their unique vision into an unforgettable destination wedding experience.

Fueled by romantic wanderlust the San Diego couple selected Hoi An - translated means "peaceful meeting place" - a historical riverside trading port on Vietnam's southeastern coast as the picturesque location to exchange their vows.



Quinn & Andy's photo tour through vintage Hoi An.



CLOCKWISE: Dinner for two: a vintage napkin ring and gold-rimmed plate; Quinn's gown by Rosa Clara, Andy's tux by Armani; A floating reception followed on a fishing boat decked out with vintage lace lanterns. "Our jaws dropped when we saw it," says Quinn. The on-deck dinner table was swathed in white, the bride's favorite color; Just Married vintage sidecar; tassled red lanterns; Quinn carried a lush clutch of sweet peas, jasmine, and lilacs; Sugar jasmine flowers from California's Sweet & Saucy Shop survived two international layovers to top off a chocolate cake iced with vanilla buttercream; Exchanging vows amid 4th-century temple ruins under a ritual canopy as musicians strum Vietnamese music; Quinn's shoes by Christian Louboutin;

Ceremony Location: Hoi An / My Son Sanctuary
 Event Planning & Design: Lisa Vorce
 Catering: Duc Tran of The Mango Mango
 Flowers & Event Design: Mindy Rice Floral and Event Design
 Photography: Aaron Delesie
 Stationery & Calligraphy: Vo Van Trong Sinh
 Sugar Flowers: Sweet and Saucy Shop
 Officiant: Daragh Halpin
 Music and Hair & Makeup: through Hoi An Events
 Motorbike: Victoria Hoi An Beach Resort & Spa



V Creative Vorce

LISA VORCE IS A WOMAN WHO LOVES A CHALLENGE. COMBINING AN ADVENTURER'S SPIRIT OF DERRING-DO WITH AN UNCANNY AND IMPECCABLE EYE FOR CREATIVE CONCEPTS, VORCE AND HER TALENTED TEAM HAVE FEW PEERS WHEN IT COMES TO UNIQUE DESTINATION WEDDINGS.

From Mexico to Marrakesh, Vietnam to Bali, Lisa and her incredibly talented team create the weddings dreams are made of. Together with Mindy Rice, a sensational floral and event designer, and internationally renowned photographer Aaron Delesie, the 'Dream Team' creates weddings that are as magical as they are memorable. Hot on the heels of their most recent success—an elegant Lake Como wedding for sultry singer John Legend and his supermodel wife, Chrissy Teigen—*Asia Weddings & Honeymoons* managed a catch up with the talented trio.

LISA, YOU RECENTLY REMARKED, "THE WEDDING WE DID IN VIETNAM TOGETHER WAS ONE OF THE BEST MOMENTS OF MY CAREER." AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF CREATING UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES, WHY DOES VIETNAM STAND OUT?

We had clients that trusted us completely and really wanted us

to "do our thing." For Mindy and I, that is the ultimate scenario. When clients trust us and give us full creative control, we tend to take more creative risks; it really produces the best results. We spend a lot of time trying to understand local customs, local flavors, food, etc.; "authenticity" is really what we strive for. For the planning of the Vietnam wedding we'd done some preliminary research, but all the magic happened as soon as we landed in Hoi An. It's the "quick fire" challenge for event designers to pull together a wedding in such short time upon arrival, but it's our favorite thing to do—so challenging and fun!

CAN YOU SHARE WITH US THE STORY OF THE AMAZING CHEF DUC TRAN FROM HOI AN'S MANGO MANGO WHO LET YOU BORROW HIS FAMILY'S TRADITIONAL WOODEN BOAT?

Mindy and I have an uncanny ability to land in foreign countries and make lifelong friends wherever we go—Duc and his wife Ly are two of those very special people.

Through happenstance, Mindy and I were introduced to Duc a day after we landed in Vietnam. When we explained to him that we were trying to create an exclusively authentic Vietnamese wedding for Quinn and Andy, Duc completely understood our vision and dove in head first to help us achieve our goal.

He happened to own a beautiful wooden boat (exactly what we were looking for) and offered it to us without flinching. The boat had bright blue cobalt trim, but within 2 hours, Duc had the trim on the boat changed from cobalt blue to ivory to fit our color scheme. Mindy had the idea to paint "Just Married" on the back of the boat, which she ended up doing pretty much upside down and in the rain!

WHAT ARE YOUR TAKEAWAYS FROM VIETNAM AS A DESTINATION?

Stunning, magical, incredible. Extraordinary people. I'd love to go back and do more events there!



Just Married. Mindy Rice applies creative flourishes to the couples traditional wooden boat

MAGIC HAPPENED

AS SOON AS WE LANDED IN HOI AN.



WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE ROMANTIC PLACES AND PROPERTIES TO VISIT IN ASIA?

Vietnam, Cambodia, and Bali are always at the top of my list. Amansara in Cambodia is one of my favorite places on earth, as is Amandari in Bali. I'm dying to do a wedding at Amankora in Bhutan! If there are any clients out there looking at Bhutan...you MUST call me!

WHY WEDDINGS? WHAT IS IT THAT SEDUCES YOU INTO DOING THEM AGAIN AND AGAIN?

Seduction is the perfect way to put it! You definitely have to have an intense passion to do what we do the way we do it. The stakes are incredibly high, the hours are grueling, and the amount of stress is unbearable at points. Being at the helm of one of the most important days in

someone's life is a hefty responsibility. Nonetheless, I'll always choose the intense emotion of a wedding over any other event. It is unbelievably rewarding to be able to deliver the gift of incredible memories to our clients, their families, and their friends.

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