



“Walking down the aisle and seeing Jackson waiting under the trees was an amazing moment”




# Gallic charm

Beth and Jackson's blessing and reception at Château de Cazenac, Dordogne, France

**The inspiration...** Jackson and I have enjoyed so many memorable holidays in the Dordogne, so we started looking for venues there as soon as we got engaged. Château de Cazenac is beautiful and privately owned, so it was perfect for our intimate celebration.

**The look...** I chose a lace dress by Rosetta Nicolini at Berketex Bride, and carried a hand-tied posy of ranunculus, gypsophila and veronica. We wanted the wedding party to be comfortable in the heat, so my bridesmaids wore white cotton summer dresses from various high street shops, while the men kept cool in casual suits without ties. The bridesmaids also pinned a single flower in their hair, which matched their simple wrist corsages.

**The finishing touches...** The château was so stunning that we decided against lots of over-the-top decorations. Instead, we had informal floral displays inspired by the colourful wild flowers in the surrounding meadows. The reception was held in a converted barn in the grounds, which had a wonderful, rustic atmosphere. Each table was decorated with simple displays of colourful flowers, including sweet william, roses and gerberas. I collected jam jars from friends and made my own candles, which looked so pretty with coloured ribbon tied round them. We also went for an eight-tiered cake made from cheese – well, we were in France!

**My favourite moment...** I purposefully didn't look out of the window as our guests were arriving, so I could savour seeing their faces when I walked down the aisle. 



**Beth's address book**  
 Photographer: Fred Marigaux ([www.fredmphotos.com](http://www.fredmphotos.com))  
 Wedding planner: Beth Stretton at Get Married in France ([www.getmarriedinfrance.co.uk](http://www.getmarriedinfrance.co.uk))  
 Venue: Château de Cazenac ([www.cazenac.fr](http://www.cazenac.fr))  
 Florist: Mairie Fleurs at Fleurs & Deco ([www.mairiefleurs.fr](http://www.mairiefleurs.fr))  
 Dress: Rosetta Nicolini at Berketex Bride (01476 593311, [www.berketexbride.com](http://www.berketexbride.com))  
 Groom's suit: Paul Smith (0800 023 4006, [www.paulsmith.co.uk](http://www.paulsmith.co.uk))

COMPILED BY: SARAH ROBERTS

## How to... Get married in France

**You need to be resident in France for 40 days to get married there...** so we had a small civil ceremony in England a few weeks beforehand. But knowing we were already married didn't take anything away from the day, and our humanist blessing felt just as special as a traditional wedding ceremony.

**Don't forget the language barrier...** Jackson and I speak a little conversational French, but not enough to arrange a wedding, so we hired a wedding planner, who was a lifesaver. We couldn't have done it without her.

**Do lots of wine-tasting...** One of the reasons we chose to get married in France was the local wine. Prior to the wedding, we went to tastings at regional vineyards and bought lots of delicious red, white and sparkling wine to serve at the reception, which cost a fraction of the price you'd pay in the UK. French venues tend not to charge corkage either, which saved us a lot of money.

