

A winter's tale

It was a cosy and romantic affair for James and Emma, as they celebrated a winter wedding full of festive touches. Images courtesy of Nic Cleave Photography

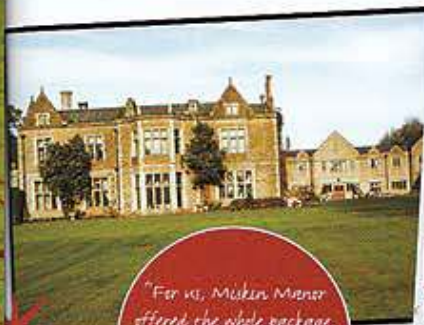


IN THE BEGINNING... Emma and James met one another at Swansea University, where they studied the same degree course in business studies. "After graduating in 2004, James and I rented a property together in Swansea for two years before buying our first house," says Emma. "We had been together six years by the time he proposed."

The proposal came as a big surprise for Emma, when James decided to whisk her away for a romantic weekend. "He had secretly organised with my boss for me to take an afternoon of holiday, and turned up at my work one Friday after lunch. James took me to Bath, where we stayed in the most beautiful five-star hotel. He popped the question over dinner that evening. It really was the perfect weekend for both of us."

A WINTER WONDERLAND... "I'd always dreamed of having an intimate winter wedding," says Emma. "So before I decided on anything else I chose the colour scheme, which was red. I wanted warm, rich colours, in traditional and romantic surroundings."

After visiting a selection of venues around South Wales, the couple chose Miskin Manor. "For us, it offered the whole package," says Emma. "The grounds were beautiful and the interior was stunning enough for photos if we were unlucky with the weather. It's such a perfect setting for a winter wedding, with open fires, high beamed ceilings and cosy rooms that oozed character and charm."



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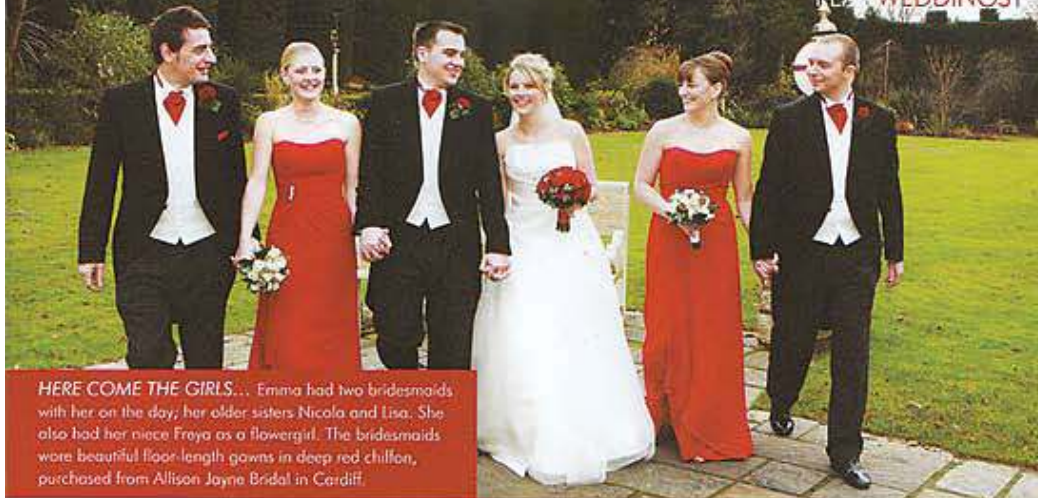
— Bride



PARTY STARTER... Emma and James decided to make their wedding a weekend affair. Many of their guests stayed at Miskin Manor the Friday and Saturday evening, enabling them to share a celebratory family breakfast with the couple the following morning. "It was fun to chat and reflect on the wedding day," adds Emma.



The couple: Emma Martin and James Moore, both 26
The date: Saturday 29th November, 2008
The venue: Miskin Manor Hotel, near Cardiff



HERE COME THE GIRLS... Emma had two bridesmaids with her on the day; her older sisters Nicola and Lisa. She also had her niece Freya as a flowergirl. The bridesmaids wore beautiful floor-length gowns in deep red chiffon, purchased from Allison Jayne Bridal in Cardiff.

CREATING THE LOOK... To keep with the colour scheme, Emma held a hand-tied bouquet of red roses and winter berries. "The venue was decorated beautifully by florist Alison Bentley," she says. "On the tables were posies of roses and winter berries, along with glowing candles. The décor really made the room look magical and added a festive touch to the day."

The couple's cake was handmade by sister Lisa. It was a simple white iced design decorated with deep red flowers to match the bride's bouquet. "We had mini Welshcake favours on the tables, all tied up with red ribbon. They also doubled up as place names," says Emma.

HONEYMOONERS... For a luxurious treat after their big day, Emma and James jetted off to America where they spent two weeks in New York, Las Vegas and Florida. "It was magical visiting New York in the run up to Christmas," says Emma. "We did all the usual sightseeing; the Empire State Building, Central Park and the Statue of Liberty, and we also visited the Christmas tree at the Rockefeller Centre."

"After New York came the bright lights of Las Vegas," she continues. "The whole place is so vibrant with its amazing hotels and casinos. We also visited the Grand Canyon which was phenomenal – I'd recommend it to everyone."



Romantic in red: The couple's colour scheme was present in all the little details



EMMA AND JAMES' CONTACT BOOK

Photographer
Nic Cleave Photography
Tel: 01792 863 571
www.niccleave.com

Venue
Miskin Manor Hotel
Tel: 01443 224 204
www.miskin-manor.co.uk

Bride's dress
Pronuptia
Tel: 02920 396 315
www.pronuptia.co.uk

Groom's suit
Stephen Allen Menswear
Tel: 0844 3511 4689
www.stephenallenmenswear.co.uk

Flowers
Alison Bentley Flowers
Tel: 02920 591 638
www.bentleyflowers.com

Disco
Cardiff M Disco Services
Tel: 01656 648 170
www.cardiffm.co.uk

Favours
Fabulous Welshcakes
Tel: 02920 456 593
www.fabulouswelshcakes.co.uk



THE OUTFIT

Emma wore a stunning ivory satin gown, with pretty red floral detailing to match her colour scheme. The dress had a laced back, with crystal beading on the bodice and skirt.

"My gown was from Romantica at Pronuptia in Cardiff," says Emma. "It was the very first dress I tried on, and I just fell in love with it straight away. Needless to say, I tried on 15 others just to make sure."

Emma accessorised with a simple Swarovski crystal pendant and matching earrings. Her tiara was her 'something borrowed', originally worn by her friend Gemma on her wedding day. ♥

Emma's top tip
Take some time out of your planning to relax before the wedding. I spent some 'me' time having my nails done with my mum and sisters at Bliss Beauty by Ceys, on Talbot Green. They did a fantastic job! Visit www.blissbeautybyceys.co.uk

Get the look

Steal Emma and James' festive style



Emma and James chose personalised favours which doubled up as place names. Why not do the same with these gorgeous personalised candles. Priced at £3.40 each, from www.lovelyfavours.co.uk

Create a warm, romantic glow with candlelight. For a Christmassy touch, we like these red tea light holders, £3.50 each, from Marks & Spencer, www.marksandspencer.co.uk



Don't take a risk with the winter weather; invest in a stylish broly for outdoor photographs. We love this vintage design, just £25, from www.highsocietybride.co.uk