

one perfect day

Emma Anderson and Charles Stevens
STONES OF THE YARRA VALLEY, COLDSTREAM, VICTORIA
25TH OF APRIL, 2011

STORY by Gretel Sneath PHOTOGRAPHY by warrenphotography



A WEEK OF CRYPTIC TEXT MESSAGES FROM EMMA ANDERSON'S PARTNER, CHARLES STEVENS, CULMINATED IN A ROMANTIC WHALE BEACH WEDDING PROPOSAL. "WE WERE TOASTING EACH OTHER WITH CHAMPAGNE AND THEN CHARLIE PULLED A BEAUTIFUL ANTIQUE RING FROM HIS POCKET AND POPPED THE QUESTION!" EMMA SAID.



The happy couple loved the lead-up to their big day – but couldn't believe how time consuming it could be. "Someone said to me early on that it was like having a second full-time job and she wasn't far off! I wasn't prepared for the millions of tiny details that need to be taken care of, but for the most part, I really enjoyed the process," Emma said.

Choosing a wedding gown was a highlight, largely thanks to the efforts of "the world's greatest maid of honour".

"She booked all of the appointments, picked me up, brought water and a camera and snacks, and even dressed up to give the whole process a sense of occasion...she made it a joy," Emma said.

With her Melbourne-based mum also on hand for the emotional decision-making process, Emma settled for a dress from a Sydney boutique which was completely different to the empire line gown she had envisaged wearing.

"It was totally perfect for me and when I tried it on, I knew it was the one. Most importantly, I felt like myself in it," she said.

Charles and his groomsmen wore sharp black suits, while the bridesmaids selected their own gowns.

"I don't really want identical dresses; these are the girls I love most and it was important to me that they felt spectacular on the day in dresses they loved," Emma said. "They looked amazing together."

Charles said he will never forget the moment that Emma made her entrance through beams of sunlight in the doorway of the chapel at Stones of the Yarra Valley. The newlyweds also loved walking into the rustic French-themed reception and being introduced to their smiling guests as husband and wife. "The enormity of realising we were going to break from our families and begin our own life together was a powerful feeling," Emma said.

A pale green and white colour scheme featuring candles and massed vases of flowers added to the sense of celebration at the reception. Pears with small gift tags hanging from the stalks served as place settings, while Emma had hand embroidered linen napkins with the initials of each guest as a beautiful keepsake. "I really enjoy sewing and it was actually the most relaxing part of the wedding preparations – it was so special and personal," she said. ♡



THESE PAGES Following the couple's rustic French theme, white rose petal cones were placed outside the chapel in a vintage metal basket whilst single tulip stems, hyacinths and family candles adorned the altar. ♡ Carrying white rose and lisianthus bouquets, Emma's bridesmaids' dresses complemented the autumnal tones of the vineyard perfectly. ♡ Emma and Charlie included three readings in their ceremony. "We chose one each and the third together," said Emma. "I'm passionate about reading and writing and wanted something from a novel. I chose a beautiful passage from 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' where the father describes love to his daughter. It captures my feelings about love perfectly. Charlie chose a selection of Irish wedding blessings to send us on our happy way together. The last one we chose together was a lovely reading from Kahlil Gibran." ♡ With such beautiful lyrics which suited the sentiment that the couple wanted to share with each other, Emma and Charlie chose 'That's All' for their first dance.

*emma's
little bride's book*

GOWN: Skarr Bridal, 02 9909 8288
PHOTOGRAPHER: warrenphotography,
warrenphotography.com.au
CEREMONY & RECEPTION VENUE:
Stones of the Yarra Valley, 03 9739
0900 GROOM'S ATTIRE: Cavalier
Menswear BRIDESMAIDS' OUTFITS:
Seed and Satch FLOWERS & FLORAL
DECORATIONS: Blooming Brides,
0417 114 444 GIFT REGISTRY:
Wedding List Co., weddinglistco.
com.au FIRST NIGHT: The Sebel
Heritage Yarra Valley, 03 9760 3333
HONEYMOON: Fitzroy Island

