

Real weddings

# WOODLAND

## wonder

*This couple brought the magic of an enchanted forest to a beautiful French chateau*

Photography | Mandorla London



### THE COUPLE

#### Laura & Stephen

Laura Ormerod, 32, and Stephen Moody, 33, held their ceremony and reception at Château de Saint-Martory, France

The fairy-tale castle setting may have been grand, but Laura and Stephen's French celebration was all about laid-back enjoyment. "We did away with formality in favour of fun!" says the bride. "We are quite relaxed, love a party and love nature, so those themes came through in the style we chose." The day began with a romantic ceremony under a 200-year-old oak tree on the chateau lawn. "We kept the decoration ultra-minimal – we simply draped a piece of material through the branches and had white petals on the ground." Guests were then treated to a leisurely reception. "We followed our planner Dominique Garay's lead on how southern French weddings are traditionally carried out. This meant a lovely, long, relaxed afternoon of cocktails, followed by a meal that lasted nearly four hours, with many courses." The wedding breakfast marquee was decorated to give a whimsical, woodland feel, referencing the work of Laura's late mother, children's illustrator Jan Ormerod. "Her illustrations



### AU NATUREL

The woodland-style marquee took inspiration from the illustrations by Laura's late mother.











for books such as *The Water Babies* and *The Frog Princess* inspired our magical, fairy-tale style," says Laura. "We had her books on the tables for people to read and enjoy." Florist Atelier Endémik adorned the marquee with pressed ferns, moss and succulents, and created a suitably bewitching bridal bouquet of trailing greenery.

As evening drew in, lanterns filled with fairy lights were placed around the chateau's grounds, and the real partying commenced. "For the disco, six of our friends, who are DJs, took turns playing '80s and '90s music all night," says Laura. "It was a riotous party and such fun." Any sore heads the next day were eased by a pool party and barbecue.

But Laura and Stephen's wedding journey didn't end there. "We were so inspired by the lovely venue and its incredible owner that we took a bold leap and decided to buy our own venue in England." Having quit her job, Laura now runs Suffolk manor house Ringshall Grange. "The whole wedding experience changed our lives for the better."

## WILD THINGS

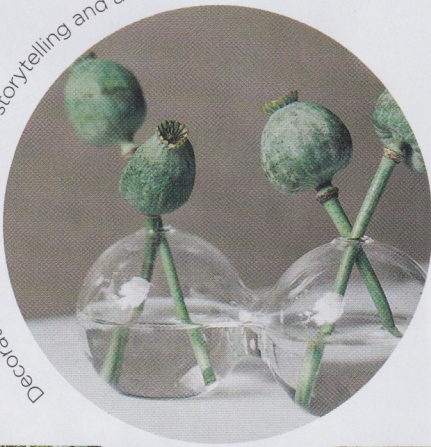
The woodland setting helped create a fairy-tale adventure for all the guests.



## THE DREAM TEAM

**Photography** mandorlalondon.com  
**Venue** saintmartory.com  
**Planner** dg-organisation.com  
**Bride's dress** Sharon Hoey at morgandaviesbridal.co.uk  
**Bridesmaids' jumpsuits** phase-eight.com  
**Groom's suit** hugoboss.com  
**Flowers** atelierendemik.com  
**Table plan and map** swarmstudio.co.uk  
**Catering** traiteurdeschimeres.com

Decorators were inspired by storytelling and a love of the wild



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WORDS BY HANNAH DAVIES