

# perfect Wedding

CHANEL  
*Celebrates*  
80 years of  
BIJOUX DE  
DIAMANTS

7 *Inspiring  
Haute  
Weddings*

*Blue  
Paradise*

THE SURFER'S EDITION

*Luxury*  
FLORAL  
& DÉCOR





During their honeymoon, Erika and Ryan at Château de Chambord in Chambord, Loir-et-Cher, France.





**R**yan and I met when he was running a portrait studio and I came in as an entry level photographer/receptionist. He scheduled me with him for most of our shifts and we started dating. We became a good team and people started asking us to shoot their weddings and families outside of the studio. We left 8 months later and began starting our own business and our lives together.

Ryan proposed twice, and both times I said YES. We have been together for 8 years and Ryan proposed the first time when I was at work in 2005 and then again in 2010 in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

For our wedding we chose a lot of soft feminine colors (Pinks, peaches, lavenders and yellow) to contrast with grey at our English Garden influenced wedding. Ryan's suit and tie were grey and matched the sash on my dress and the table napkins, invites and guest signing book.

We visited Ukraine, Croatia and France. We decided to plan a big 3 week trip, spending one week in each location. Ukraine is where my family is from and I have spent years researching my roots in Ukraine and finally decided to make the trip over. We visited Kiev, Lviv and the Carpathian Mountains. It was an amazing experience, one I will never forget. Ukraine is so







beautiful, it's so green and clean, and has so much history. The architecture is unbelievable. We chose Split, Croatia because we thought it would be a nice relaxing vacation spot, and it was. We spent our days wandering the cobblestone streets and alleyways. Exploring Roman style buildings and sitting in cafes in the evenings, people watching. France is one of our favorite countries. We have been there many times, but this was the first time we would get to see the countryside. We did a road trip from Nice to Paris over 4 days. We stopped in Provence and the Loire Valley. We stayed on the castle property of Chateau Chambord where the famous Chambord liquors are made. It was like a fairy tale to wake up to the view of castle right outside our window.

The most memorable moment of our wedding day? Probably the speeches. I worked pretty hard on them, and then cried through the whole thing. haha. I had the whole room sobbing. I also spoke to my dad in Ukrainian for his speech. That was really special.

Flowers and Décor by Rachel A. Clingen / [www.rachelaclingen.com](http://www.rachelaclingen.com)

Location/Venue: Fairmont Royal York Hotel Toronto [www.fairmont.com/royalyork](http://www.fairmont.com/royalyork)

#### THEIR ADVICE

Your wedding day goes by too fast, don't be the crazy person running around making centerpieces last minute or wondering why the dj is late. Be the one who is relaxed







and is enjoying this time in their life. Let someone else do all the running around.

Your wedding will never be 'perfect!' even if you do everything yourself. There are too many variables. Instead of focusing your energy on all the things that may not be spot-on perfect, think about all the things that are amazing about this day. It only happens once and it goes by way too fast.

Remember this wedding isn't just about you! Weddings are a family affair, they bring families together. Make your family part of your wedding celebration and not part of the clean up crew. Honor them in a speech or make them part of the ceremony. Try to avoid giving them jobs to do. Let them enjoy this time with you

Finally, just hire good people and trust that they will do their best to create the wedding day of your dreams. Sometimes you have to spend more money to get them, but if it means that you get to enjoy the day you have been looking forward to for the last year or even your whole life, then its a small price to pay for that feeling. Trust me. ☺

