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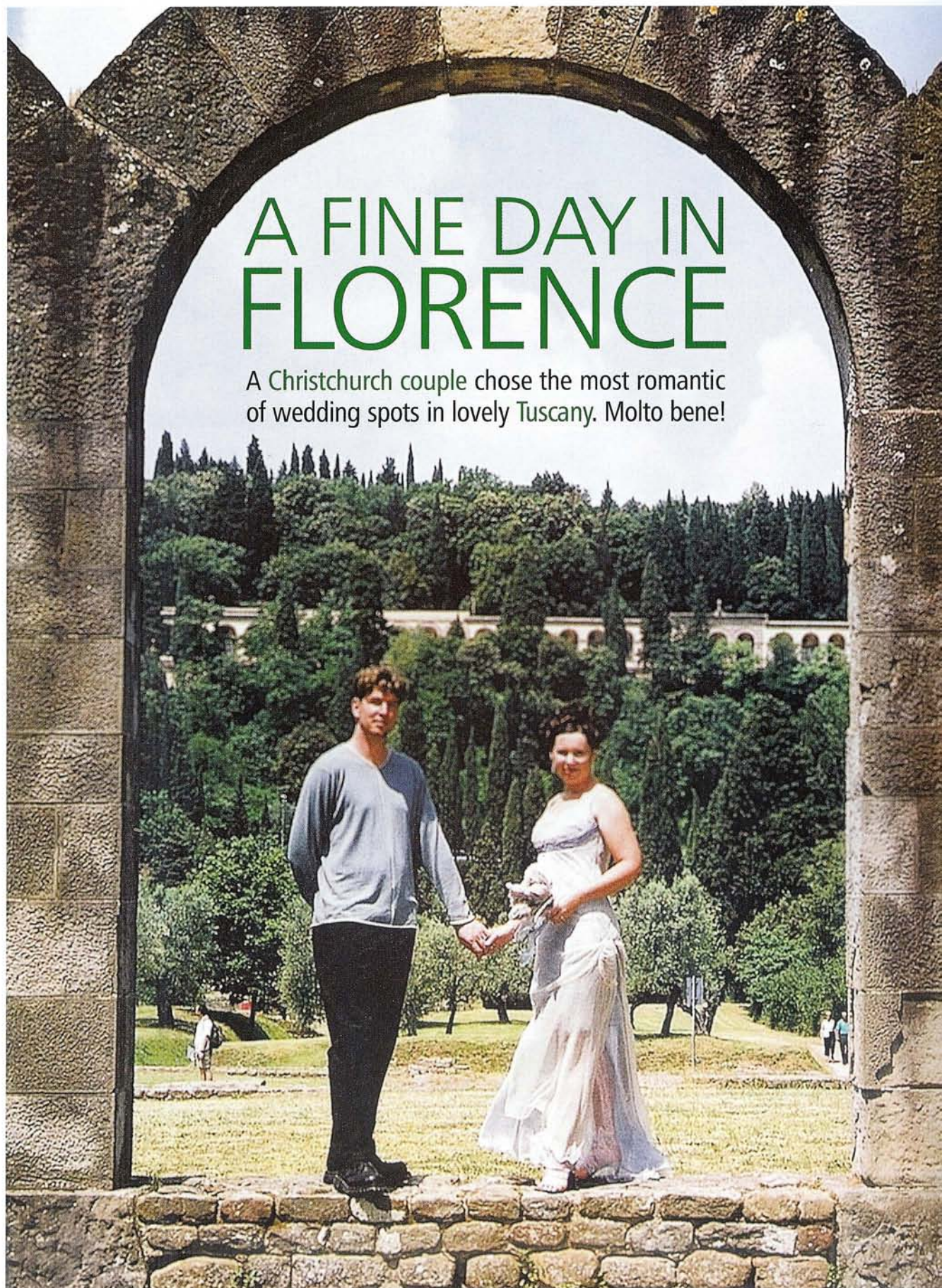
SUMMER LOVE

ALL YOU NEED FOR PLANNING THE BIG DAY!



A FINE DAY IN FLORENCE

A Christchurch couple chose the most romantic of wedding spots in lovely Tuscany. Molto bene!





The registry-office wedding was in Italian, translated into English.

Ah, Italia! The food, the wine, the music, the history – what a romantic place for a wedding. Cantabrians Shar Devine and Steve Wyatt turned the dream into reality when they married on June 1 this year in Fiesole, in the Tuscan hills overlooking Florence.

Neither of them had been to Europe before so when Steve suggested they combine a wonderful trip with a wedding, they quickly put the wheels in motion.

'We didn't want any fuss and for me the idea was wonderful as it didn't connect me with my wedding photography work at home,' says Shar. Close friends Patric and Angela Spori, who live in Switzerland with their son, Ben, were glad to act as witnesses and an Italian wedding-planning company, Atlantis Traduzioni, handled all the paperwork.

Shar and Steve had to supply, through the New Zealand Embassy in Rome, certified copies of passports and a 'Certificate of No Impediment' stating that there was no legal reason why they could not marry.

'Atlantis booked the registry office before we got to Florence,' says Shar, 'and we only had to be there a couple of days before the wedding to have our documents authenticated.'

Quick tips for any other couples planning an Italian wedding: 'Check all your documents. If there's a mistake the Prefettura office [Italian internal affairs] may not allow the wedding to go ahead and the documents might be sent back to Rome to be corrected.

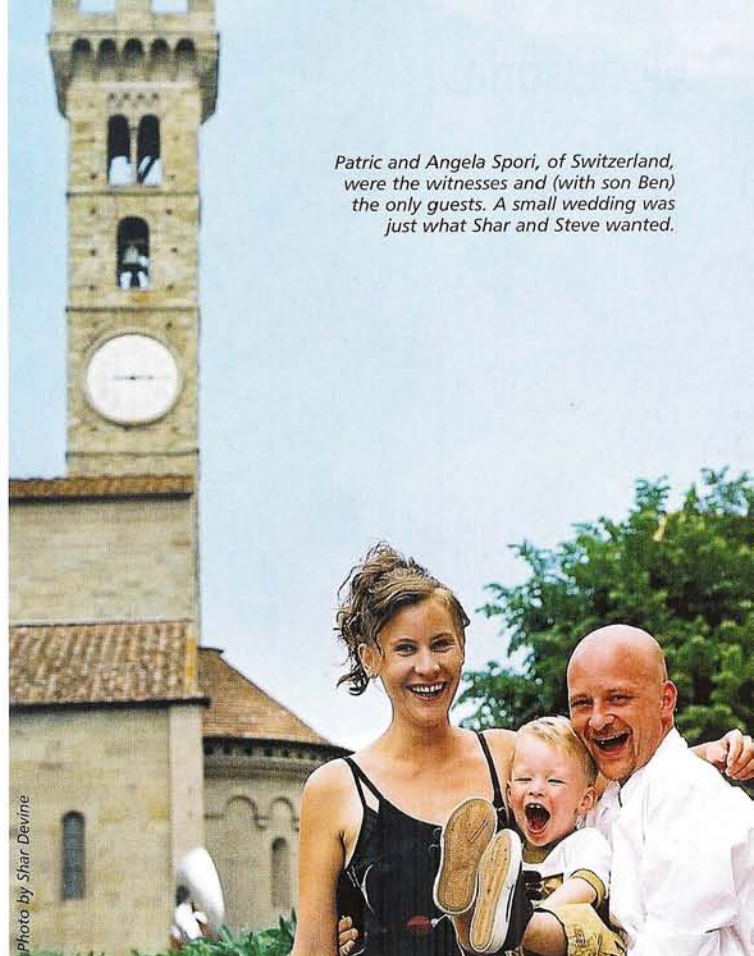
'Also, pre-book your taxis. There was a huge shortage on our wedding day, so I was very fashionably late. It was extremely hot that morning, but we made it!'

Shar wore a bias-cut gown of silk chiffon over organza, by Christchurch designer Louise Anderson. She carried it around the world as carry-on luggage. 'All the airlines were extremely helpful. We were even shouted a bottle of champagne on one flight.'

They spent a day in Rome before the wedding, 'so we had no pre-wedding-day stress. Instead we threw coins in the Trevi fountain and saw the Colosseum.'

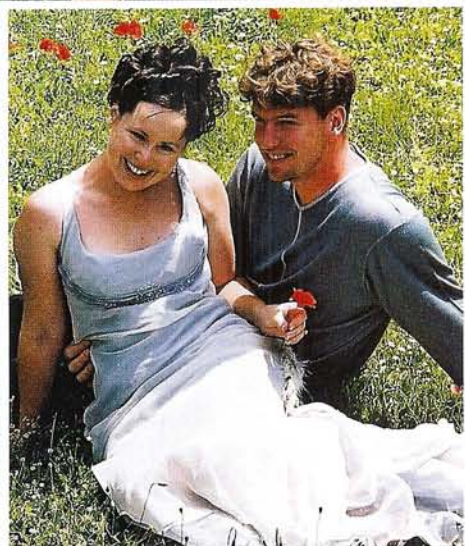
Their wedding service, in Italian, was translated by Sandra Santoro (of Atlantis), who also made sure of good communication with the photographer, Linda Forti. Patric read a 'wonderful passage' which Steve had selected from Romeo and Juliet.

Photos were taken in the ruins of a 1900-year-old Roman theatre before the wedding party had lunch at a hotel, trying local fare of porcini mushrooms, pasta and pigeon. And then it was honeymoon time on the coast north of Pisa.



Patric and Angela Spori, of Switzerland, were the witnesses and (with son Ben) the only guests. A small wedding was just what Shar and Steve wanted.

Photo by Shar Devine



Perfect moment against a verdant backdrop of Tuscan countryside.

