

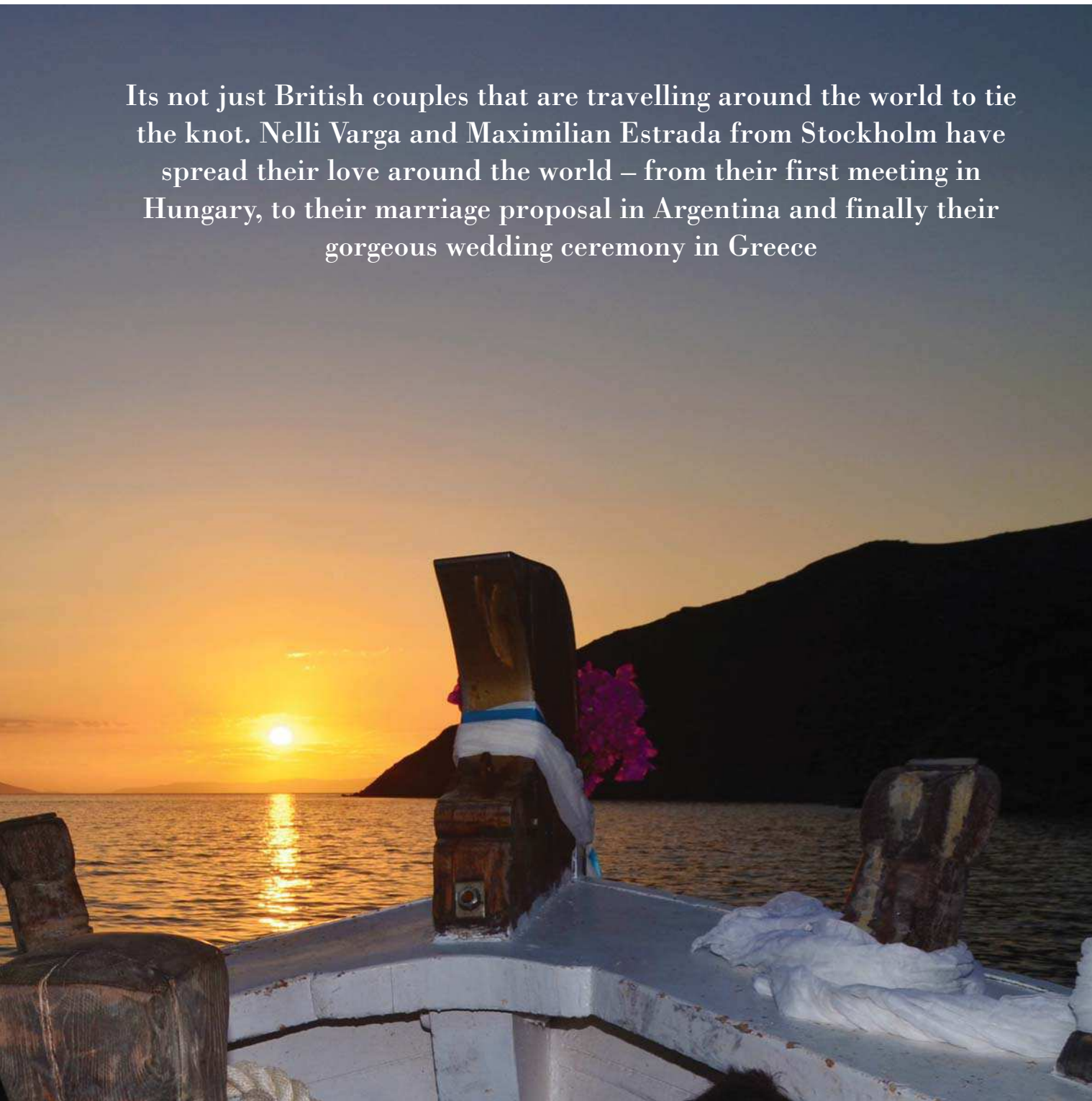
REAL WEDDINGS



# AMOUR IN AMIORGOS

*Nelli and Maximilian's Greek wedding afloat*

Its not just British couples that are travelling around the world to tie the knot. Nelli Varga and Maximilian Estrada from Stockholm have spread their love around the world – from their first meeting in Hungary, to their marriage proposal in Argentina and finally their gorgeous wedding ceremony in Greece



## Finding 'the one'

We met in Budapest, Hungary. We were working at the same place and one evening there was an after work get-together and there we started talking. It was more like curiosity at first sight than love at first sight – but I definitely fell for his eyes at first sight!

## The proposal

We were out for dinner on New Years Eve in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and between

the dessert and the fireworks he confessed his ever-growing love for me and showed me a ring. Even though we had talked about taking the next step at some point in life, he took me by surprise!

## Location, location

We realized that it was complicated to get all friends and families together within a couple of months, so we decided to escape abroad instead and have a family gathering at home in the future. We had been to Amorgos on two

occasions before and we loved it. The nature, the sea, the ambiance was just perfect for us!

## The planning

When we decided to get married on Amorgos it was obvious that we would need help. We had some ideas on how we wanted to get married, then we approached Aegialis Hotel and Spa, since they offered different packages which would match our wishes. We organized the travel ourselves, then the owner of the

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Aegialis Hotel and Spa took care of all the arrangements, including paperwork and translations. We already had an idea how we wanted the wedding to be and the hotel made sure it would happen.

## The guests

We decided that our wedding should just be the two of us.

## Getting the look

I wanted to have a Greek inspired, light, floaty gown to match the location. Finally I chose a wedding dress from a Swedish designer, Malina. It was just the perfect dress, beautiful lace and silk, very light and airy and easy to pack, even in the hand luggage. My mother-in-law lent me a golden necklace with the matching



earrings, to have something borrowed. And a hand-crafted silver ring, made by an Amorgian jewellery designer.

## Something old, something new

My Something Old and Borrowed was the necklace and earrings from my mother-in-law, Something New the silver ring which I got from my husband-to-be a few days earlier and Blue – well, the sea!!

## Groom & bridesmaids

Maximilian wore white linen trousers, dark blue shirt and blue shoes.

## The details

Our theme was to get married on a boat by the sea at sunset. The hotel provided

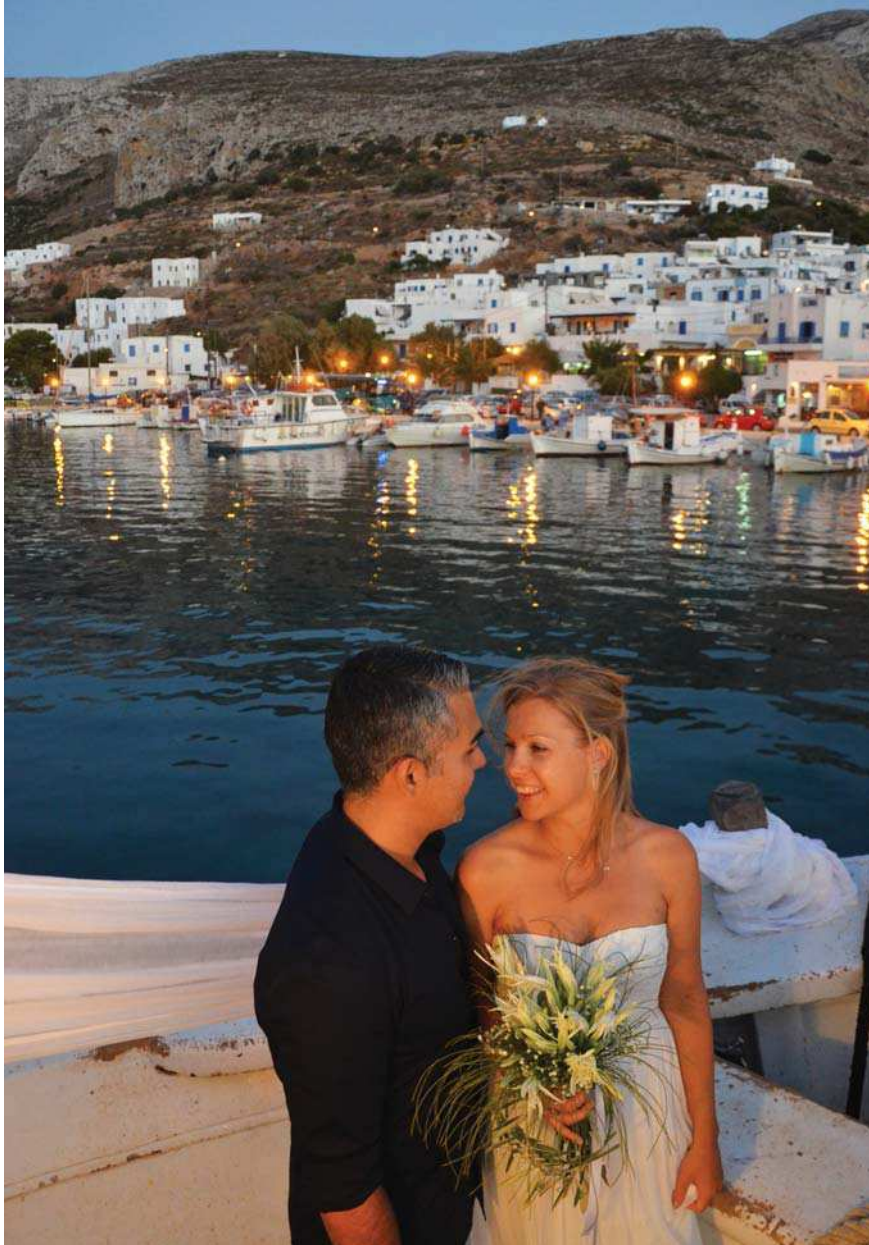
my wedding bouquet, perfectly suited my dress and accessories.

## The ceremony

The hotel arranged and decorated a boat ready for our wedding ceremony. We spent around an hour on the boat for our beautiful ceremony during which we both received an olive branch wreath, which was connected by a white strip – this represented a symbol of our unity. There were also two musicians with us on the boat, playing traditional Greek wedding songs.

## The reception

After the ceremony we went back to our hotel room, where the beautifully decorated terrace was waiting for us for our wedding dinner. We had salad, cheese, grilled fish and desert – everything was totally delicious. Again, the hotel took



care of our table decorations and did this beautifully with our favourite colours: blue and white. We dined on the terrace in the evening, by moon and candle light.

## Photographic memories

The hotel arranged the photographer as well who came out with us on the boat to photograph our ceremony. Earlier in the day, when we signed the papers in the town hall, the witnesses also took some pictures

## Magic moments

It is hard to pick the best memory since the whole wedding felt like being in a happy bubble. But one of the sweetest memories is definitely the exchange of the rings. I also found it quite charming that the captain drove around the bay a few times and sounded the horn of the boat – I was very proud.

## On budget?

Including the outfits, the travelling, paperwork and all the fees at the hotel, and a honeymoon in Amorgos, I think we paid about £3,980. We were on budget, the costs were known from the very beginning and there were no surprises!

### Further information:

#### Wedding planner:

Irene Giannakopoulos  
Aegialis Hotel & Spa  
[www.greek-weddings.com](http://www.greek-weddings.com)  
[www.amorgos-aegialis.com](http://www.amorgos-aegialis.com)

#### Venue:

Fishing boat at the port of Aegialis

#### Photographer:

Organized by Aegialis hotel and  
(Maria Theologitou)