

# LOVE BY THE SEA

CHRISTI MALTHOUSE AND DEAN CASAMENTO

PORT MELBOURNE YACHT CLUB, PORT MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, 18TH OF NOVEMBER, 2007

STORY by Emma Duncan PHOTOGRAPHY by Tania Savage Photography



THESE PAGES A love of the water led the couple to Port Melbourne Yacht Club ♡ Christi's Baccini & Hill gown took six months to make due to the complicated diagonal seams and voluminous silk georgette fabric in the skirt and train. ♡ Christi worked with stylist Brett Currell to design a blue and white color palette interspersed with Asiatic style elements. ♡ Christi was escorted down the aisle by her dad, Mick Malthouse, coach of Collingwood football club.

BIKINI-CLAD AND STRUGGLING TO CATCH HER BREATH under a waterfall in Samoa, Christi Malthouse was the drenched but delighted recipient of a marriage proposal from Dean Casamento, on her 30th birthday.

The couple met through a friend, and had dated for a year when Dean took Christi to the tropics for a romantic surprise.

"A friend of mine started training with him and instantly announced she'd met my future husband!

"Turns out she was right, because after eventually letting her introduce us, we became friends straight away, started dating four months later, and were engaged a year after that. We still thank that friend all the time!!

Because Christi is a television presenter for Network Ten and Dean is a fitness trainer and businessman, the couple had to negotiate around their own career commitments, as well as that of Christi's high profile dad AFL Collingwood coach, Mick Malthouse, to pick a wedding date. That left only two weeks in November that they could feasibly hold their wedding.

"We ended up having a year to plan for the wedding, so it wasn't too stressful or hectic. Dean and I knew we wanted a wedding near the beach, and that we didn't want anything too formal. Once we booked the venue, the rest just fell into place."

Picking a theme for their nuptials was relatively simple as both Christi and Dean love the water. Securing Port Melbourne Yacht Club as their venue, the catchphrase became "Love by the Sea," which was printed on the invitations and reflected in the breezy, white and blue color scheme.

Christi is also a big fan of Asian-inspired design and worked with event stylist Brett Currell, to weave exotic elements into the surrounds.

"Brett came up with some amazing decorating ideas including a Buddha at the entrance with white lanterns inside and on the deck; and for the ceremony - prayer flags, mirrors, candles - and of course, beautiful flowers. It looked spectacular and was exactly what we wanted - beachy and elegant, with a touch of Asia."

Inspired by the French saying "If you want to know how great my love is, count the waves," Dean had 'Count the Waves' inscribed on his wedding band, while Christi repeated the quote on the name tags of guests who each received a soap favour resembling a wave.

The ceremonial part of the marriage was short and informal; Christi and Dean wrote their own vows and performed a sand ceremony symbolising their partnership, while a close friend read a passage from Shakespeare's "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?"

"The actual wedding was full of emotion, from Dean crying when I walked down the aisle - and me trying so hard not to - to the very emotional and honest speeches, including my dad playing the song 'A Little Ray of Sunshine' at the beginning of his speech - when I did cry!" said Christi.

The reception was made less formal by placing the bridal table in the middle of the room, so everyone could mix and mingle. Overlooking the water and the sun setting over Port Phillip Bay, the wedding surpassed Christi's expectations. "The flowers, the colours, the decorations and the food made it amazing, but I think it was more the laughter and fun that made it so special and memorable". ♡







THESE PAGES Event stylist, Brett Currell, combined white lanterns, prayer flags, mirrors, candles and beautiful white flowers to achieve a beachy, elegant look. ♡ Christi, her sister Danielle, and the flowergirl, were all dressed by Baccini & Hill. ♡ Christi and Dean laughed most when they kept forgetting the steps they'd learnt from Dancing with the Stars judge, Mark Wilson. Vocalist Lindsay Field sang their bridal waltz, Ben Fold's 'The Luckiest'. ♡ Christi carried Phalaenopsis orchids, and Danielle, David Austin roses with blue delphinium. ♡ The reception table centres were peony roses with delphinium hydrangeas and white orchids.



GOWN AND ACCESSORIES: Baccini & Hill, 03 9804 3200 PHOTOGRAPHER: Tania Savage Photography, 0419 323 739 CEREMONY AND RECEPTION LOCATION: Port Melbourne Yacht Club, 03 9825 000  
 RECEPTION CATERING: Peter Rowland 03 9825 0000 BRIDEMAID'S AND FLOWERGIRL'S OUTFITS: Baccini & Hill, 03 9804 3200 GROOM'S ATTIRE: SOHO Workshop, 03 9826 1990 FLORAL DECORATIONS AND  
 EVENT STYLING: Brett Currell, 0438 004 293 WEDDING AND ENGAGEMENT RINGS:  
 Charles Rose, 03 9642 8989 BRIDE'S & BRIDESMAIDS SHOES: Anna Fiori, 03 9827 6500  
 CELEBRANT: Brendan Nottle, 03 9653 3213 STATIONERY: R.S.V.P. Stationery, 03 9876 9161  
 TRANSPORT: Lexus Brighton HAIR & MAKE-UP: Lila Sideropoulos, 0400 014 943  
 CAKE: Cioccolata Bella, 0412 720 590 MUSIC: Top Dog Entertainment, 1300 658 718  
 GIFT REGISTRY: Freedom, 1300 669 612 and Myer, 13 14 43 FIRST NIGHT: Crown Towers, 03 9292 6868





