

CHARLES & CAMILLA MARRY IN MONACO

PRINCE CHARLES DE BOURBON AND CAMILLA CROCIANI ENJOY A LAVISH £1M WEDDING



Prince Laurent of Belgium; Mrs Edoarda Crociani; Prince Charles de Bourbon with his bride, Camilla Crociani; and the Duke of Pages and bridesmaids included Prince and Princess Napoleon, and the Prince and Princess of Tunisia *Top left:* Monaco Cathedra

the Royal houses of Europe descended on Monte Carlo last weekend to celebrate the marriage of Prince Charles de boon to his lovely bride Camilla Crociani. couple chose Monaco for the two day ration, believed to have cost more than lion pounds. It culminated with the wedding in the 200-year-old Catholic cathedral – where Prince Rainier famously married Grace Kelly – and a lavish luncheon for 600 guests at Monte Carlo's famous Hotel de Paris.

Royal families from Belgium, France, Austria, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Poland were among the hundreds of revellers who

flew into Nice airport, before being whisked off to Monte Carlo in a fleet of helicopters and limousines.

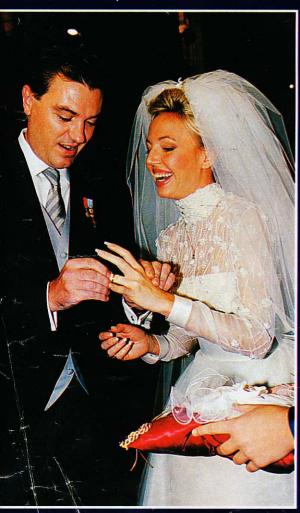
The 35-year-old Prince met his 27-year-old millionairess bride at a charity ball in Monaco in 1996: Charles's great friend Prince Albert of Monaco introduced the young couple and ▷



uest at this wedding, married Princess Grace in 1956. The dress worn by Camilla was created by noted Italian couturier Renat_{the I}



Monseigneur Joseph Sardou, the Archbishop of Monaco, who conducted the marriage ceremony, stands to the left of Prince Albe Enaco and his father, Prince Rainier of Monaco. The page boys and bridesmaids came from some of the most noble families in Europ



room and bride laughed as Charles tried to fit idal ring on her finger – it was a bit too small

they were quickly inseparable. 'We met purely by chance,' Charles told *OK*!, 'and we have Prince Albert to thank for that. Camilla and I were seated next to each other on his table and the relationship blossomed from there.

'During the evening we realised we had so much in common in our interests and hobbies. We met again in Staglamorous Red Cross Ball and presti-glamorous and then in Rome. We kept gious World Music Awards. Prince bumping into each other and then Albert was the guest of honour and realised we had fallen in love.'

'Prince Albert played cupid that night!' added Camilla.

Charles said that it took him an age to work up the courage to propose to Camilla, but in June he finally popped the question in Rome – where they both have homes – as they strolled by the beautiful Trevi Fountain. 'Of course I said yes,' said Camilla. 'I could not believe it at first, but I knew destiny was on our side and I really love Charles.'

'The Fountain is supposed to make wishes come true,' added Charles, 'and it didn't let me down.'

The two days of celebration started with a cocktail party hosted by Princes Rainier and Albert at the Palace, which sits on a hill overlooking the Bay of Monte Carlo. Fleets of Mercedes, Rolls Royces and Ferraris dropped guests off

in the courtyard before they were ushered into the Palace's state rooms.

After the party, more than 700 people attended the wedding ball at the exclusive Sporting Club. This incredible building has a roof that slides open so revellers can dine under the stars and annually is the venue for the glamorous Red Cross Ball and prestigious World Music Awards. Prince Albert was the guest of honour and arrived in a state Mercedes before being taken to the table he shared with Camilla, Charles and their parents. The 60 tables were decorated with glorious floral arrangements crowned with a series of love hearts.

Diners enjoyed a lavish five course meal, and Pommery champagne, before dancing to the sounds of an exotic live cabaret. Charles and Camilla led the opening dance and were soon joined by their friends who danced to soul classics such as James Brown's *Sex Machine*. The dancing became more riotous as the Gipsy Kings took to the stage and played for over an hour. The Ball was buzzing well into the early hours before many guests moved on to Jimmy'z nightclub – owned by Prince Rainier – and carried on partying until dawn.



row (from left): Princess Beatrice de Bourbon; the Duke of Castro; Duchess of Castro; Prince Rainier; Mrs Edoarda Crociani; e Albert, Cristiani Crociani, and Prince Laurent of Belgium. The groom and bride first met through Prince Albert of Monaco

t surprisingly there were a few is looking a little worse for wear at redding the next morning, but the dral was packed by the time the wearing a stunning dress created alian couturier Renato Ballestra, and up the aisle on the arm of Prince es's father, the Duke of Castro.

milla was attended by three and three maids of honour and bur-long ceremony – attended by es Rainier and Albert – featured by Purcell, Handel, Franck and bert. There was a light moment Charles discovered that the wedring was a little too tight for la's finger, and later one of the smaid's started pulling faces at atching guests. Immediately after redding, the couple were sent a tige of congratulations by Pope Paul who has been a family for many years.

e wedding party was then greeted Hotel de Paris by a full orchestra lined the reception hall. After bagne, the 700 guests were treated even-course lunch – based on old is that Charles's family have used undreds of years. Wines from la's mother's vineyards were I and guests cheered as Camilla



The de Bourbon bridal cake was 15ft high and was cut during a reception at the Hotel de Paris, at which guests enjoyed a seven-course lunch and were entertained by an orchestra





Princess Philippe and Prince Alexandre Erasme of Liechtenstein



Prince and Princess Al Yugoslavia arrive at th



Above: Olivier Picasso and girlfriend, English model and actress Alice Evans



Prince and Prince Haile Selassie of

at the

and Charles cut a wedding cake which towered at an amazing 15ft high!

Ursula Andress, poses with Prince Emanuel of Venice

Speaking after the reception Prince Charles remained coy about their honeymoon plans: That's the question everyone keeps asking us, but we are keeping it a secret. It's some-

where special away from everything and somewhere where we can relax.

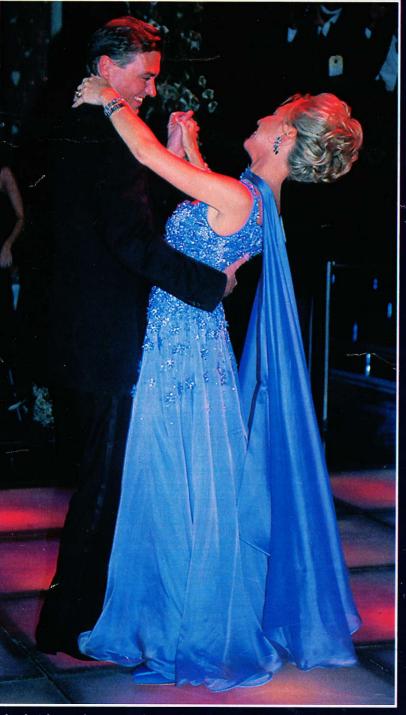
The couple could see no parallels with their situation and that of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles, but hoped their fairytale romance might be repeated in due

course. Charles said: I think Pri who does a wonderful job in the Unite I am sure his 50th birthday cele be a suitable occasion for the Brito reflect on what he has done for his to support him in the years ahead served.

INTERVIEW BY RUPERT HALDEN AND ANTHONY BAILEY PHOTOGRAPHS BY NICK STERN



The Duke and Duchess of Castro with (right) Mrs Edoarda Crociani, whose vineyard supplied the wine for the reception



The bride and groom danced to live music to the Gipsy Kings and soul classics, such as James Brown's Sex Machine