



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 Cathedral

the Royal houses of Europe descended on Monte Carlo last weekend to celebrate the marriage of Prince Charles de Bourbon to his lovely bride Camilla Crociani. The couple chose Monaco for the two day celebration, believed to have cost more than £1 million pounds. It culminated with the wed-

ding 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 millionaire bride at a charity ball in Monaco in 1996: Charles's great friend Prince Albert of Monaco introduced the young couple and >



The bride and groom on the steps of the 200-year-old Catholic cathedral in Monte Carlo, where Prince Rainier, III of Monaco, the groom, married Princess Grace in 1956. The dress worn by Camilla was created by noted Italian couturier Renate...

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



Prince Albert and bride laughed as Charles tried to fit the diamond 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 St Tropez and then in Rome. We kept bumping into each other and then 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's 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; Prince Albert, Cristiani Crociani, and Prince Laurent of Belgium. The groom and bride first met through Prince Albert of Monaco

It surprisingly there were a few guests looking a little worse for wear at the wedding the next morning, but the ceremony was packed by the time the bride was wearing a stunning dress created by the Italian couturier Renato Ballestra. She walked up the aisle on the arm of Prince Rainier's father, the Duke of Castro. The wedding was attended by three bridesmaids and three maids of honour and a four-hour-long ceremony – attended by Prince Rainier and Albert – featured music by Purcell, Handel, Franck and Beethoven. There was a light moment when Prince Charles discovered that the wedding ring was a little too tight for Princess Camilla's finger, and later one of the bridesmaids started pulling faces at the watching guests. Immediately after the wedding, the couple were sent a message of congratulations by Pope John Paul II who has been a family friend for many years. The wedding party was then greeted at the Hotel de Paris by a full orchestra lined the reception hall. After champagne, the 700 guests were treated to a seven-course lunch – based on old recipes that Charles's family have used for hundreds of years. Wines from Princess Camilla's mother's vineyards were served 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



Above: Natasha Andress, the granddaughter of actress Ursula Andress, poses with Prince Emanuel of Venice



Princess Philippe and Prince Alexandre Erasme of Liechtenstein



Prince and Princess Ali of Yugoslavia arrive at the



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



Prince and Princess Haile Selassie of Ethiopia

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

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 Prince Charles does a wonderful job in the United Kingdom. I am sure his 50th birthday celebration will be a suitable occasion for the British people to reflect on what he has done for the country and to support him in the years ahead.'

Back to the Prince

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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*