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# It's all about *you*

No theme, no colour scheme, just love and laughter

Image courtesy of Benjamin Mole

A house party set the scene for Louise and Faisal's first meeting. "Before he arrived, my friend told me she'd met a guy who she knew I'd like and that I should act cool," recalls Louise. "When he walked in I forgot her advice and practically threw myself at him – the rest is history, as they say!"

Their first date was at their reception venue, a restaurant called Rock and Rose in Richmond, and for that reason it's why they held their celebration there. "We have a slightly unconventional love story," says Louise. "After our date we did everything in the space of three weeks! We're a Muslim couple, so we had an Islamic marriage blessing at the mosque. Exactly a week later, we moved in together, and a week after that, Faisal proposed with the engagement ring my dad bought my mum. It was a crazy few weeks."

The couple were married at Pembroke Lodge a year to the day from their Islamic ceremony so the couple could celebrate their anniversary on the same date. "I loved organising the wedding, Faisal calls me Monica from *Friends*," laughs Louise. "It was all easy because it was such a laid-back affair; we knew what we wanted straightaway."

Here Louise tells *Your Surrey Wedding* more about their day...



Louise Robertson tied the knot with Faisal Abdalla on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, at Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park, followed by a reception at Rock and Rose in Richmond.



We go to Richmond Park all the time for walks, and as soon as we looked at Pembroke Lodge we fell in love. The ceremony room was so bright, with huge windows, and breathtaking views of the park and beyond. We said we wanted to book it before we even asked the price.





My best friend and chief bridesmaid owned the shop I bought my dress from. I couldn't make my mind up, but she had the patience of a saint. Having her involved was very special and I'll never forget it.

We used tall vases of calla lillies to line the aisle. My florist searched high and low for my dream vases – I showed her what I wanted and left it to her. She was fab, I totally trusted her. It was like having a best friend doing my flowers for me.



*"The service was flawless. I'm a control freak and I sent about 500 pages of instructions – with stick men drawings to boot. They were so calm and collected about it. We can't thank them enough."* – Louise



Faisal wore a navy three-piece slim-fit suit from Dapper in Dorking. He had two best men, his brother Hassan and friend Ross. They loved going suit shopping – any excuse to buy something new – it was a good job I went with them though as they made a beeline for the bright orange and yellow waistcoats.



Miriam Lewis and Ellea Taylor created my bridal look. They both do hair and make-up professionally, and Miriam is an up do genius. I wore a statement hair band – which I got from Bride by Natasha Jane – and a veil for the ceremony.

I hate normal wedding food, but Rock and Rose has such a cool menu. It's decorated to impress, – pure unadulterated glamour. I didn't have to bother with a single table decoration or flowers because it has it all. Faisal and I sat on a giant pink leather sofa at our head table – I loved how unconventional it was.





My best friend Natasha, school friend Frances and my cousin Sarah were my bridesmaids. They wore navy, knee-length dresses from Coast, with elegant straps. They were fitted at the top and floated beautifully at the bottom.



The bridesmaids carried bouquets of white, crystal blush lillies. I wanted clean lines with white flowers and lush, vivid greens.



We didn't have centrepieces because the restaurant was stunning; we did put in handmade Beauty & the Beast table numbers though. It's our favourite; he once gave me a long-stemmed rose to represent the one from the film. It was very cheesy, but I loved it and I still have the rose.



*I eventually chose my dress because I'd fallen in love with the sweeping back and the simplicity of it.*

A song on the playlist at our reception was *Jump On It* from the *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. I arranged for all of the women to jump into the routine as a surprise, but Faisal was so busy doing the routine himself, he missed it.





Our videographer has worked as an assistant director on a number of Hollywood films. We've just got it back and I'm still speechless.



I met our photographer Benjamin Mole when I was a journalist. He was the paper's photographer and his pictures were always a cut above the rest. I'm not comfortable having my photo taken, but he's so great at putting people at ease. His photos were stunning, as expected.



Faisal is a personal trainer, so our cake maker Amy made the cake topper as him lifting me above his head, with a weight bar and dumbbells at his feet – and our initials and wedding date – she even put him in his beloved Nike trainers, complete with ticks.



The cake was a reflection of what we love; it was chocolate and peanut butter flavour, topped with peanut M&Ms. It was colourful and fun, not at all like a traditional wedding cake. We also had cupcakes in different flavours.



Rebecca Lanehart sang at our ceremony and in the gardens with her guitar during the drinks reception. She's a busker at Euston station and we loved her as soon as we heard her on the way back from work one day.

### Louise and Faisal's little white book

#### Photographer

Benjamin Mole  
[www.benjaminmole.com](http://www.benjaminmole.com)

#### Videographer

Barnaby Riggs  
[www.barnabyriggsphotography.com](http://www.barnabyriggsphotography.com)

#### Ceremony venue

Pembroke Lodge  
[www.pembroke-lodge.co.uk](http://www.pembroke-lodge.co.uk)

#### Reception venue

Rock and Rose Restaurant  
[www.rockandroserecstaurant.com](http://www.rockandroserecstaurant.com)

#### Bride's dress and accessories

Bride by Natasha Jane  
[www.bride.uk.net](http://www.bride.uk.net)

#### Groom's and groomsmens suits

Dapper  
[www.dapper.co.uk](http://www.dapper.co.uk)

#### Rings

Goldfinger  
[www.goldfinger-rings.com](http://www.goldfinger-rings.com)

#### Flowers

Wrap and Tie  
[www.wrapandtiefloral.co.uk](http://www.wrapandtiefloral.co.uk)

#### Wedding favours

M&M  
[www.mymms.com](http://www.mymms.com)

#### Chair covers

Host With Style  
[www.hostwithstyle.co.uk](http://www.hostwithstyle.co.uk)