



# Anna & Dave



*Dave and Anna celebrated their wedding nuptials' at the iconic Castle Leslie Estate, Monaghan. Just over an hour from Dublin and a million miles from anywhere, Castle Leslie Estate was the perfect setting for their romantic tale to culminate. Anna gives us an insight into her perfect day and lead up to the wedding.*



Dave and I met in a nightclub in Dublin on a night that featured a suspicious looking shirt (AKA the super split). Much to my Dad's delight, the shirt secretly made it all the way from Dave's wardrobe in Dubai to feature in the wedding speeches! Our first date was an eventful trip to the cinema that left me with a bruised knee, very little dignity and popcorn all over the cinema floor. Thankfully things improved rapidly from this point! After our first year together, Dave and I moved to Dubai where we have been living since.

After 5 wonderful years and many adventures together, it was a big surprise when Dave proposed on a very romantic night in Vienna. He proposed just at the beginning of a 2 week trip to Montenegro and the two of us celebrated with lots of bubbles for two full weeks. It was an amazing holiday, one we will never forget.

*Waking up to blue skies and sunshine was the perfect start to the day*

We both love coming home to Ireland to spend time with family and friends so the decision to have our wedding at home was a pretty easy one. Having visited a number of venues in Ireland, we fell in love with Castle Leslie Estate in Co. Monaghan the moment we first arrived. The setting, ambiance and friendliness of the staff really was second to none. When we visited Castle Leslie Estate in the months before our wedding, we realised more and more how very special it is, full of character and history, it really was the perfect venue for us. We love the old world charm, the quirky castle rooms

and the home like village cottages which all combined provided the most luxurious setting for our Wedding. The staff at Castle Leslie Estate made planning a wedding from thousands of miles away a dream. Their attention to detail, organisation and professionalism was exceptional. We worked with Deneise Larmar and her events team throughout the planning stages, all of whom could not have been more accommodating, professional and personable from our first visit to the Castle right through to our big day.

I got my dress, a David Fielden gown, in Myrtle Ivory in Dublin. It was very simple....very me!! My bridesmaids (two of my 4 sisters) wore short lace dresses. With me based in Dubai, one pregnant bridesmaid living in Ireland and the other living in Sydney, organizing the bridesmaids dresses could have been a nightmare but I decided to buy the material in Dubai and sent it to the girls for them to get them made directly, which worked perfectly. They both looked absolutely beautiful. Dave, his best man Shane and all of the boys looked very handsome in their traditional tails suits, which were hired from Protocol menswear in Dublin.

As one can imagine, the lead up to the wedding was hectic but very exciting. We really wanted to put our personal stamp on the day so there was an endless to do list! I am lucky to come from a family of 5 girls so I had a huge amount of support from all of my family which made it so much easier. Both Dave's and my parents were also a great support to us in the lead up to the wedding and we really couldn't have done it without their help.



The day before the wedding, many of our guests travelled to Monaghan, where we hosted a pre wedding drinks party on the grounds of Castle Leslie Estate. The fact that the majority of our guests could be accommodated on the grounds created an intimate, vibrant atmosphere among all our family and friends.

The morning of the wedding was a really special time for me. Waking up to blue skies and sunshine was the perfect start to the day and there was a real buzz around the village. My 4 sisters and Mum were on hand to help with the getting ready process, my poor dad occupied himself somehow! The champagne helped to keep everybody relaxed and although a hectic few hours we had great fun.

Our ceremony took place in a cute local church, 10 mins away from the Castle in St. Patricks Corracrin. We put a lot of thought into our ceremony and it was really special for us. We involved as many of our friends and family as we could, it was beautiful.

The drive from the church to the Estate is through the rolling hills of Monaghan and our amazing photographer, Shane O'Neill [Aspect Photography] brought us on a little detour to a discreet lake, fishermen, ducks, the lot! Shane has an amazing eye for detail and is so easy to work with! We love Shane's natural photographic style and highly recommend his work.

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From there we drove through the quaint Glaslough village and into Castle Leslie Estate to be greeted by the ever so welcoming staff. The Castle blends perfectly with the surroundings and with the village which ooze romantic country chic. The stunning grounds and the variety of reception rooms in the Castle allowed our guests to wander around, chatting and mingling before dinner. It made for a very relaxed and homely atmosphere on our wedding day which is exactly as we wished.

I am not sure if I can pick a favourite part of the wedding day, the walk down the isle with my Dad, seeing Dave in the church, the ceremony, getting ready with my mum and sisters, my Dads speech, Dave's speech, having all of our closest friends and family in one room.....actually marrying my best friend. We have wonderful memories of our wedding weekend, it was so special to have all of our family and friends with us to celebrate, they are memories that we will cherish forever.

We travelled to the beautiful Amalfi Coast in Italy the week after our wedding. It was fabulous, such a beautiful part of Italy and such a relaxing break. The second part of our honeymoon is a trip to the Maldives which we are planning at the moment

