

# you & your wedding



Sept/Oct 2007 £4.60

# 486

beautiful ideas

cakes • tables  
flowergirls • veils  
shoes • jewellery  
stationery • gifts

### INSIDER SECRETS

## TAILOR-MAKE YOUR DAY

How to get the best from bespoke bridal services

## Flawless big-day make-up

CREATE YOUR PERFECT LOOK

## STEAL THEIR STYLE REAL-LIFE WEDDINGS

SEASIDE, CITY & COUNTRY THEMES

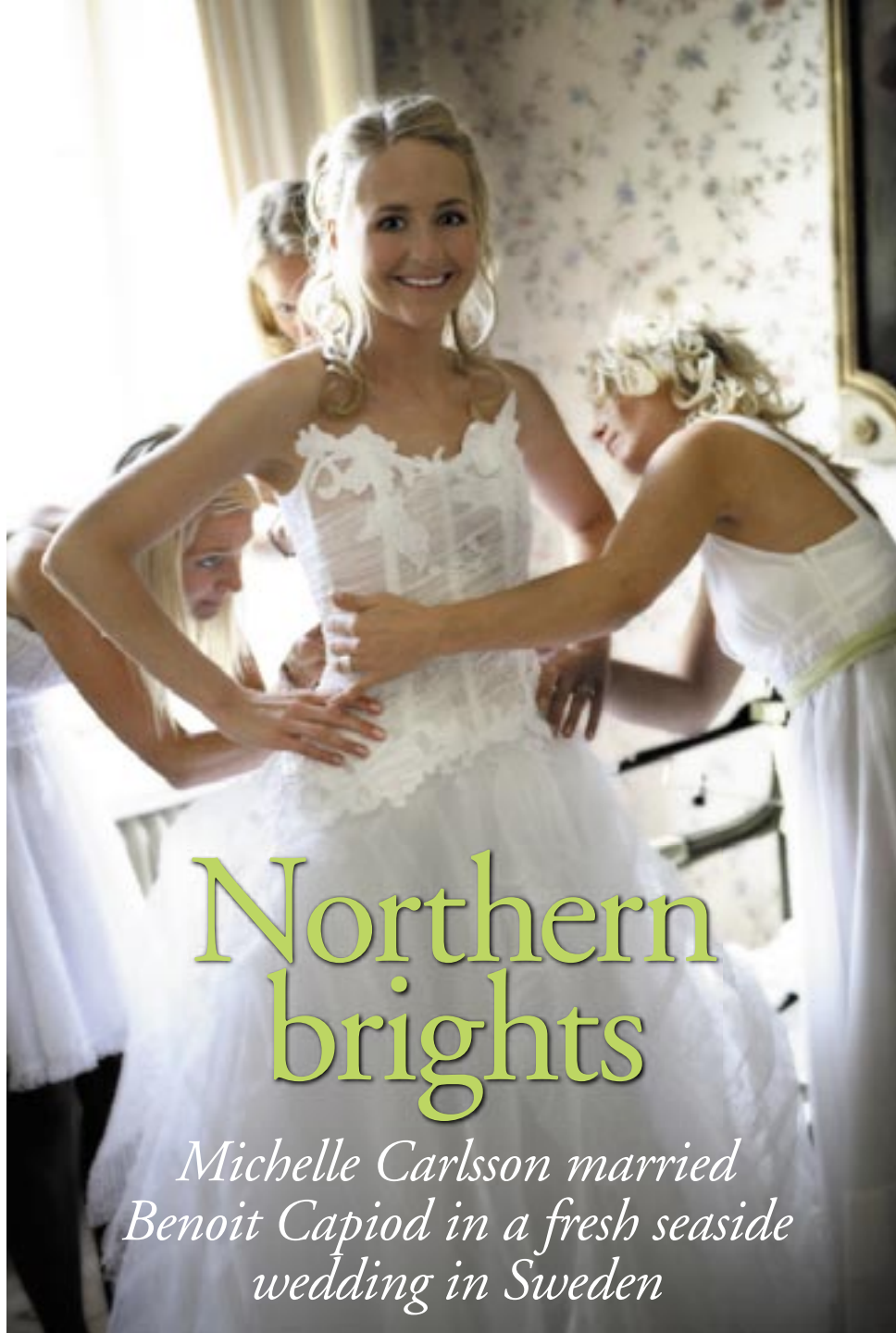
## Marrying abroad?

Throw a 'welcome back' party to remember

# fabulous dresses

whatever your style & budget

\*Source: NRS Jan-Dec 06



# Northern brights

*Michelle Carlsson married  
Benoit Capiod in a fresh seaside  
wedding in Sweden*

*Love at first sight?* Michelle and Benoit first met on a team-building day while they were both analysts on secondment at Merrill Lynch. “I fell in love with Benoit but he wasn’t available at the time,” says Michelle. “About a year later we met again, this time in New York, where we were attending a training programme before starting full-time jobs at the same bank. Benoit invited me over to his apartment for dinner. He’d prepared a lovely meal of lots of fruits and little pastries – he can’t cook! – and we’ve been together ever since, which is almost five years.”

*The question* “Benoit invited me on a weekend in Rome to see his cousin but had a secret plan,” says Michelle. “Instead, he took me to the fabulous Il Pellicano hotel ([pellicanohotel.com](http://pellicanohotel.com)) on the coast in Tuscany but I still didn’t suspect a thing. We’d planned to go to Africa later in the year and I was sure that he would propose there! We had a wonderful time and, after an amazing dinner, Benoit suggested we go for a walk. We went down to the sea and he made a long and loving speech. Then, in Swedish, my mother tongue, he asked whether I would marry him. Of course I said yes!”

*Where and when* Michelle and Benoit married in a tiny church overlooking the sea in south-east Sweden last August. “We chose this location as it’s near where I grew up and we both just love the beauty of this part of Sweden,” says Michelle. “The church is called Vitaby Kyrka and has loads of character due to its unusual shape and its location perched on top of a little hill.” ▶





*“Our colour scheme was simply white and lime green, chosen because it felt very pure, young and fresh”*

**THE BRIDE**

*My favourite moments of the day were hearing Benoit say his vows and, after the ceremony, playing on the beach while the photographer took lots of pictures...*



**The look** “We didn’t have a specific theme for the wedding but our colour scheme was simply white and lime green,” says Michelle. “We loved the colour combination because it felt very pure, young and fresh, and we used it throughout the flowers, the table decorations and the wedding party’s outfits.”

**The outfits** Michelle wore a strapless tulle Max Chaoul dress (maxchaoulcouture.com), which was made to measure in Paris, and silver beaded Rene Caovilla shoes (renecaovilla.com). “I went to wedding shows in London and Paris and visited designers in both cities. In the end I went for my princess-style dress and don’t regret it – Max’s designs are a piece of art!” says Michelle. She wore a simple necklace and bracelet from Kirsten Goss (kirstengoss.com) of unpolished rock crystal and green Swarovski crystals. Benoit wore a made-to-measure dark-blue tailcoat, brown Berluti shoes

and a light-green tie. “I had three bridesmaids – close friends from my childhood, teenage and university years – who all wore white dresses in different styles with lime-green ribbon around the waist.” The bouquet was made of green and white roses with green berries, and her maids carried smaller versions.

**The ceremony** “We exchanged our vows at the altar of the church,” says Michelle. “The ceremony was in Swedish and French, as Benoit is French, and we were married by a female priest. As we wanted a Swedish and French-speaking protestant priest it took a long time to find her! Benoit and I just beamed at each other. I felt wonderful! It was a mix of happiness, pride, excitement and nerves. My favourite moments of the day were hearing Benoit say his vows and, after the ceremony, playing on the beach while the photographer took pictures.”



*Let's party!* After the ceremony, guests headed to Kronovalls Vinslott ([petripumpa.se](http://petripumpa.se)) for champagne in the baroque castle's gardens. "The reception was held in three connecting dining rooms," says Michelle. "On each round table were big church candles in vases. Each seat was decorated with a white favour box tied with lime-green ribbon and filled with chocolate almonds and dragées, which is a typically French tradition," says Michelle. "Guests received a menu in Swedish and English." On the menu was grilled Norwegian langoustine followed by organic veal and desserts of cloudberry sorbet with ginger pears and white-chocolate flans with berries. The wedding cake was a strawberry and chocolate cake decorated with rose petals. "The speeches were followed by my bridesmaids performing *Barbie Girl* by Aqua. They even made their boyfriends join in and rap – it was hilarious! Then, my parents and their friends sang a song for Benoit and me, which told

the story of how we met and where we will go from here – it was terribly embarrassing!" The couple also had a troupe of fire artists who performed before Michelle and Benoit had their first dance at half-past midnight. Guests carried on partying until the small hours, though. "We had a DJ playing until 4am when he had to pack up – even though everyone was begging him to continue!" says Michelle.

*The best day of our lives?* "Lots of feelings run through you. I felt emotional, nervous, happy, energetic and in love all at the same time!" says Michelle. "I enjoyed every moment," says Benoit. "It's amazing to be the centre of attention for the whole day, although exhausting as well. It was probably the best day of my life!" ■

**Photography: Julia Boggio (020 8543 3349, [juliaboggiophotography.com](http://juliaboggiophotography.com))**

### When in Sweden...

- It's traditional in Sweden for the groom to get his wedding ring when the couple get engaged rather than on the wedding day itself. Michelle and Benoit decided to follow French and English tradition, though, and exchange both wedding rings on the big day.
- Songs, jokes and funny stories – like the ones performed by Michelle's bridesmaids and parents – form a part of most Swedish wedding breakfasts.
- In Sweden, the bride and groom usually enter the church together and whoever steps in first is said to be the one who will have control in the marriage. If you'd rather the groom wait at the altar, that same tradition holds true for the one who says, "I do" the loudest!