



# Indian Summer



LISA REYNOLDS AND PATRICK HADDOCK

MUDGE, NEW SOUTH WALES, 11TH OF MARCH, 2006

STORY by Philippa Moore PHOTOGRAPHY by gm photographics

## THE BEAUTY OF TRADITIONAL INDIAN CULTURE

set the scene for Lisa and Patrick's petal-strewn wedding. While it was no mean feat to transport the atmosphere of the English Raj days to a riverbank in Mudgee wine country, this couple achieved it with style. "I wanted to recreate the colour, smells, sounds and sights, the sensory experience you get in India itself," says Lisa.

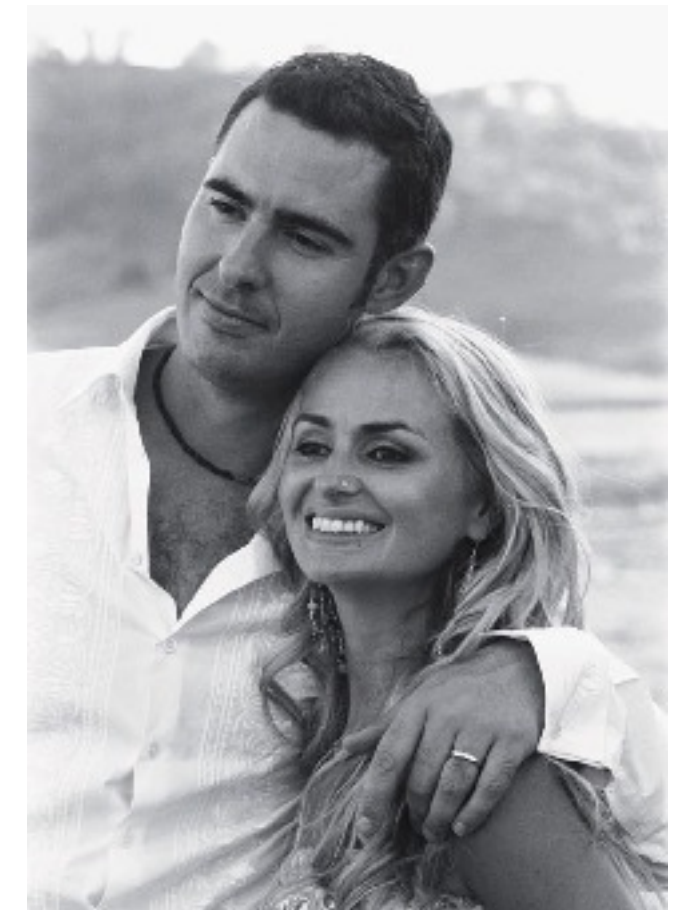
The evocative music of the sitar accompanied the arrival of Patrick and his groomsmen, who rode camels. Three bridesmaids attired in jewel-like colours followed, and finally the bride made her entrance, carried in a Doli by her dad and three strapping friends. "It was so small," jokes Lisa of her wooden chariot, "I felt like Houdini getting inside!"

Scented with Jo Malone's Nectarine Blossom & Honey, her hair flowing, the bride was dazzling in a strapless bias-cut gown. "My bouquet was always going to be daisies!" says Lisa, the organic arrangement matching the flowers tattooed on the bride's foot, as well as her nickname; Daisy. The groom looked the part in a neutral Ted Baker suit, trilby hat and Havianna thongs. Patrick had proposed to Lisa 14 months earlier on their six year anniversary during a romantic weekend away. While his bride-to-be relaxed with a massage, a nervous Patrick surreptitiously swapped places with the masseuse and popped the question.

The ceremony was conducted beneath a Mandap, an Indian tent, surrounded by silken umbrellas fringed with glimmering beads, and the celebrant's incorporation of Indian traditions maintained the jewel-in-the-empire theme. Special songs, and readings from 'Another Roadside Attraction' by Tom Robbins and Paulo Coelho's 'The Alchemist' also featured in the ceremony. In the early days of their relationship, the couple had both unwittingly quoted the same passage from 'The Alchemist' in letters to each other. "It was uncanny," says Lisa.

Post-ceremony, guests and bridal party adjourned to a white silk marquee on the balcony of the Logan Wines' cellar door, pitched above views of vineyards and emerald hills. Pink lotus candles and copper bowls filled with rose petals sat atop table runners made from sari material bought in India. With a traditional Indian feast served on stainless steel platters and banana leaves, the kangaroos grazing on the grass beyond were the only clue that this was country Australia.

Fine attention to detail and Lisa's own creativity lent the day a unique ambience: she even made the ceremony booklets and the invitations. "I bought dried leaves that were all hand-



OPPOSITE Lisa arrived at the ceremony in a beautiful wooden doli carried by her father and three friends. † Guests were taken to the ceremony on a red double decker bus, where they were greeted with a glass of Pimms and received an Indian woven fan.

Painted individually with Hindu gods, which I then mounted on to gold cards," explains Lisa. "They looked amazing." A few small mishaps only added to the joyfulness of the occasion – a well-aimed fan had the best man's speech notes airborne above the marquee, and Ganesh, the Indian elephant god, toppled over during the ceremony – "Everyone was in fits of laughter," recalls Lisa. "It really summed up the feeling of our day."

The bride and groom finally bid guests farewell at seven in the morning, following an after-party and an 'after-after-party'. And where did Lisa and Patrick set off to for their honeymoon? Why, India, of course.



**ADDRESS BOOK**

PHOTOGRAPHER: gm photographs, 02 9960 4600 GOWN: Culture Shock, 02 9569 0551 CEREMONY & RECEPTION: Logan Wines, 02 6373 1333 DECORATIONS: Nishana, 0411 323 205 EVENT HIRE: marquee, tables, chairs - Western Event Hire, 02 6332 9511 BRIDAL ACCESSORIES: Valeska Designs, 1300 799 224 GROOM'S ATTIRE: Ted Baker suit and Morrissey embroidered shirt, chinos, trilby hat and Haviانا thongs BRIDESMAID'S OUTFITS: Grain of Bondi Beach, 0405 026 323 FLOWERS AND FLORAL DECORATIONS: Simply Rose Petals, 1300 785 101 VIDEOGRAPHY: White Design, 02 9968 4217 TRANSPORT: Big Red Party Bus, 1800 779 997 HAIR & MAKE-UP: Simona Janek, 0414 525 027 CAKE: Planet Cake, 02 9810 3843 MUSIC: Sydney Wedding DJ's, 02 9365 1107 GIFT REGISTRY: David Jones, 1300 300 111 FIRST NIGHT: Bella Casa, Mudgee, 0416 120 606 GUEST BOOK: Message Scrolls, 03 9489 1400

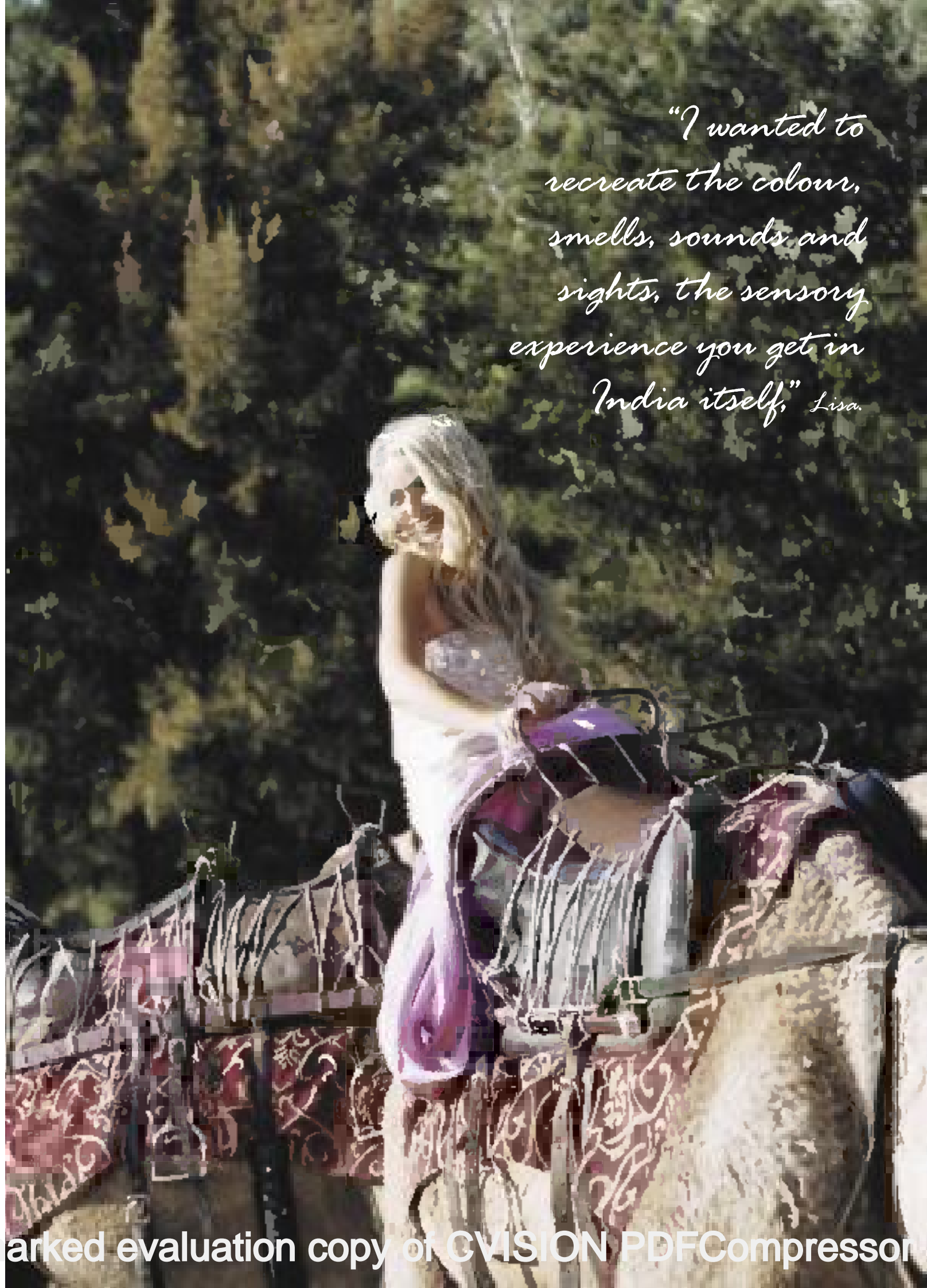
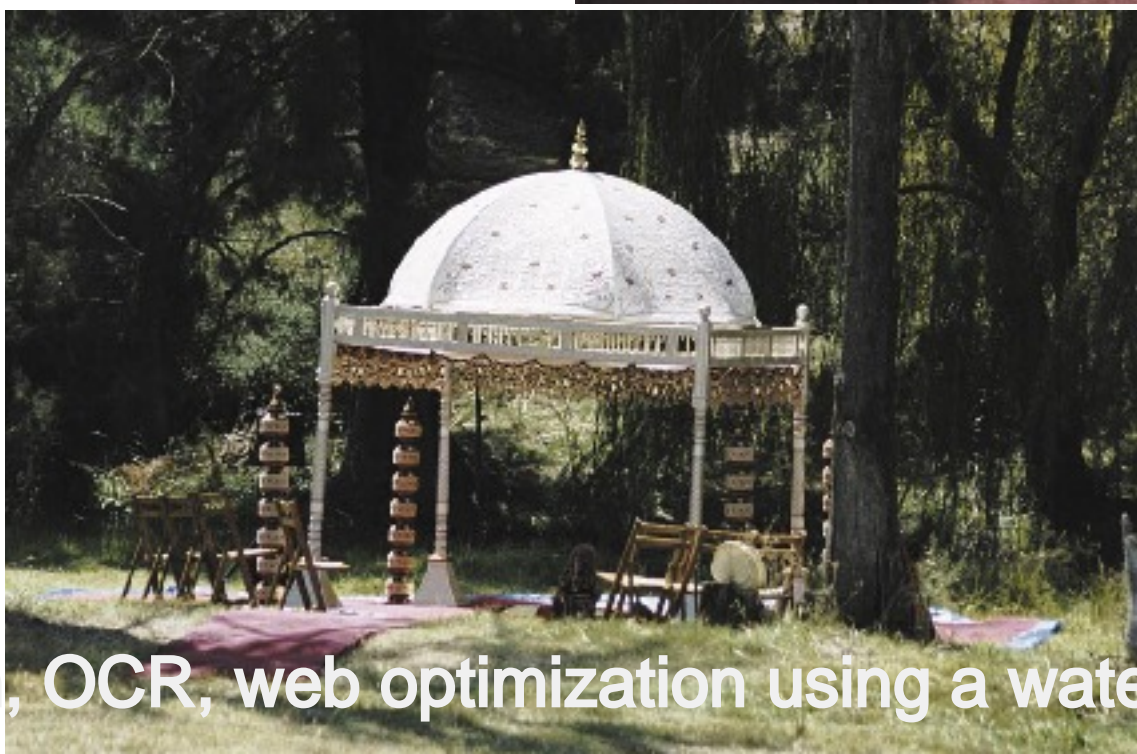


THIS PAGE The bodice of Lisa's exotic Indian princess-inspired dress was decorated with hand-stitched Rajasthani mirrors, pink, silver and latte vintage sari braid appliqué and Swarovski crystals.

OPPOSITE PAGE Lisa's bridesmaids wore Indian-inspired sundresses with jewelled thongs, colourful Indian bracelets and an Indian 'bindi' on their forehead. They carried gold Hindu bowls filled with colourful dried petals. † Guests enjoyed a spectacular view of vineyards and rolling green hills. † Lisa carried an organic bouquet of wild daisies with moss and dodder vine. † The groom and groomsmen arrived on camels to the sound of sitar music. † Guests were given 'bindis' as favours.



THIS PAGE Indian details such as copper elephants, silver camels and Hindu deities surrounded the room. ♣ Guests were given cones of petals with the couple's names written in Sanskrit. ♣ Behind the bridal table was an amazing wall length beaded hanging which was lit from behind. ♣ Order or service books were handmade with sari material sewn on the cover. ♣ The couple married under an exquisite Indian mandap. ♣ The wedding cake was three tiers of pink, red and gold with tiny mirrors, topped off with a sugar Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity. ♣ A red carpet led to the ceremonial Mandap, which was surrounded by silk beaded Indian umbrellas. ♣ The reception was held in a white silk marquee. Pink and gold runners made from sari material covered the banquet tables. Colourful Indian bracelets were used as napkin rings. ♣ The bride finished her look with a silver bindi in the centre of her forehead ♣ Instead of flowers, pink lotus candles were placed on each table at the reception. ♣ A highlight of the evening was an impromptu Bollywood dance by the bride and her bridesmaids.



*"I wanted to recreate the colour, smells, sounds and sights, the sensory experience you get in India itself," Lisa.*