



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The flowers and decorations were organised by Take us to Thailand. "We wanted to use local flowers," says the bride. "The beauty of a destination wedding is you can just relax about all those details," she adds. Patting the trunk of the elephant that the couple rode to their reception. The sumptuous buffet featured fresh seafood, a BBQ, tropical fruits and desserts. The bride's Midas shoes. Overlooking the reception area at the Anantara Koh Samui resort on Koh Samui island. Cutting the chocolate cake dressed in lotus flowers with its base of chocolate truffles. After saying their vows, guests showered the newlyweds in rose petals. Inside the resort's secluded spa garden. Last-minute touches.



To Thailand *with love*

JOY LEAPER & LUKE SLOBIN
OCTOBER 5, 2008
ANANTARA KOH SAMUI RESORT, THAILAND

Grand entrance Few of the 60 guests at Joy Leaper and Luke Slobin's wedding will soon forget the sight of the newlyweds arriving to their reception atop an elephant. Held at the luxurious Anantara Resort on Koh Samui in Thailand, Joy and Luke, both 26, purposefully kept this detail a secret. "The sun was just setting as we plodded up the beach," says Joy. "People started cheering as we rode right to the tables."

Tropical theme A symbol of luck in Thailand, the elephant marked a new chapter in the couple's eight-year romance, which began when Luke convinced Joy to take one of his surfing classes. After several years together – most long-distance – Joy moved from Melbourne to Sydney and Luke soon proposed. Determined to marry overseas, the pair approached Australian-based event company Take us to Thailand, which organised all the details, including the photography and everyone's accommodation. "We were married in a private garden in the resort," explains Joy. "To get there, guests walked through huge, traditional Thai doorways and a maze of ponds covered in lotus blooms." For her gown, the bride visited Mariana Hardwick, where a Ballet Russes-inspired dress with a fishtail tulle skirt caught her eye. "I wanted something a little different," she adds.

Future travels Avid travellers, the couple opted out of a 'normal' honeymoon to backpack around Europe. "We left our jobs and packed up our belongings," says Joy. "We're calling it our 'funnymoon' because most of the time friends have been with us, so it's just been one big party!"





sources list

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 PHOTOGRAPHY: TAN TALAY

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Aware of the logistics of an overseas ceremony, the happy couple "told everyone about the wedding around February, so they could plan and save." Take us to Thailand ensured the reception was comfortable and stylish, with banana leaves, closed lotus flowers and tea light candles on the tables, and big pots of floating purple lotus blooms surrounding the eating and dancing areas. It only took one trip to Myer for Joy's best friend and two sisters to find these halter-neck All About Evie dresses. Exotic details. The bridal party on the beach in a jubilant mood. The couple were provided a wedding day weather prediction.

