



ITALY

TILL DEATH

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A RELATIVE'S EMOTION AT THE
BRIDE'S ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH.

GETTING MARRIED IN ITALY NOT ONLY MAKES COUPLES HAPPY, BUT WEDDING AGENCIES AND WEDDING PLANNERS TOO. IN THE COUNTRY, TURNOVER IS CLOSE TO HALF A BILLION EUROS, WITH ALMOST 1.4 MILLION VISITORS FOR A TOTAL OF OVER 8,000 EVENTS. THE TREND IS CONFIRMED BY HITCHED: ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER ONE WEDDING SITE IN BRITAIN, FOR MORE THAN 6,000 COUPLES ITALY REMAINS THE NUMBER ONE DREAM DESTINATION, SO MUCH SO THAT, ON AVERAGE, PEOPLE SPEND CLOSE TO 55,000 EUROS TO DO SO.

THIS MAY HELP TO EXPLAIN THE WILD EYES OF WOMEN AT THE ALTAR, THE PRAYERFUL GLANCES TO THE SKIES OF FUTURE HUSBANDS, THE EXHAUSTED BODIES OF PARENTS AND FRIENDS ON THE PEWS OF AN ANCIENT ESTATE OR MAYBE EVEN ABOVE THE TERRACES OF AN AGRITURISMO IN THE GREENS OF TUSCANY.

INDEED, THE REGION OF LEONARDO DA VINCI AND DANTE ALIGHIERI IS NUMBER ONE, ABOVE ALL, WITH FOREIGN COUPLES, WON OVER BY THE APPEAL OF THAT ITALIANITÀ WHICH INVARIABLY PROVIDES A ROMANTIC, PASSIONATE AND PLEASURABLE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL.

IN ADDITION TO TUSCANY, HOWEVER, THERE IS THE LAGO DI COMO OF GEORGE CLOONEY, THE VESUVIUS OF 'O SOLE MIO, THE VENETO OF THE SMIRKING GONDOLIERI OR GONDOLA DRIVERS: BUT THESE ARE NOTHING MORE THAN LUXURIOUS FRAMES, FOR THE REAL INTOXICATION OF A WEDDING ITALIAN STYLE IS ARRIVING AT THE CHURCH IN OLD FIAT 500, BITING INTO PIZZETTE JUST OUT OF THE OVEN IN ORDER TO LESSEN THE FEAR OF TAKING THE BIG STEP, A WOMAN IN A CHURCH HOLDING A CHILD AT HER BREAST LIKE A MADONNA DEL LATTE, OR IMMORTALIZING THE MOMENT ON A BEACH AMONG NUNS WITH BARE FEET.

DECADES LATER, ITALY REMAINS THE COUNTRY OF LA DOLCE VITA, WHERE IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE LABEL AND TO TRUST IN THE HELP OF COMPANIES WHICH ARE ALWAYS MORE THAN READY TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS FOR A DAY OF CELEBRATION. FOR ONLY RARELY DO WEDDINGS IN THE BELPAESE HAVE TO DO WITH THE COUPLE ALONE, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT THEY INVOLVE EXTENDED FAMILIES AND EVEN WHOLE COMMUNITIES.

AND, OF COURSE, THERE'S ALSO THE FOOD: IT TEMPTS EVERYONE, AND TAPS IN TO THE MOST CAREFULLY SELECTED REGIONAL SPECIALTIES IN A SEQUENCE OF COURSES THAT OFTEN RECALL THE SUMPTUOUS BANQUETS OF ANCIENT ROME OR THE RENAISSANCE COURTS. AND YET, FOR LOVERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, ITALY IS STILL THE COUNTRY WHERE ROMEO AND JULIET BECAME ENGAGED FOR ETERNITY, EVEN IF, IN THE END, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LOVE STORY REMAINS TO BE WRITTEN.

SOMEONE KICKS THE
FOOTBALL-PLAYING GROOM
A BALL THE MOMENT
HE EXITS THE CHURCH.



THE BRIDE AND GROOM SIGN THE REGISTER
AND THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.





GUESTS WALK DOWN THE STEEP STAIRS OF A MONASTERY BUILT IN 1200.

THE BRIDE AND GROOM'S ENTRANCE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY A PRIEST.





AN ELDERLY WOMAN OBSERVES THE BRIDE AND GROOM WITH CURIOSITY DURING A POSING SESSION IN THE CENTRE OF THE VILLAGE.



AN ALFETTA AWAITS THE BRIDE
TO TAKE HER TO THE CHURCH.



THE BRIDE CHECKS HER MAKEUP IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR BEFORE EXITING THE CAR AND ENTERING THE CHURCH.



THE GROOM'S GRANDMOTHER
FIXES THE BED.



THE FATHER AND MOTHER
OF THE GROOM TALK
BEFORE LEAVING HOME.

A SMALL KARAOKE SESSION
AT THE END OF THE PARTY.





ELDERLY WOMEN TRYING TO FIND A PLACE TO REST AT THE END OF THE PARTY.

NEIGHBOURS GREET THE GROOM
AS HE EXITS HIS HOME.







THE EMOTION OF THE BRIDE'S
SISTER BEFORE LEAVING THE HOUSE.

THE GARTER TOSS. THROWN BY THE
GROOM TO ALL THE SINGLE MEN. WHOEVER
CATCHES IT WILL BE THE NEXT TO MARRY.



SPECIAL EFFECTS WITH SMOKE AND LIGHTS AT THE
END OF A WEDDING IN AN ART-NOUVEAU VILLA.





A GUEST DURING A
BANQUET ON THE BEACH.

JOKING WITH THE WITNESSES
DURING A CEREMONY.





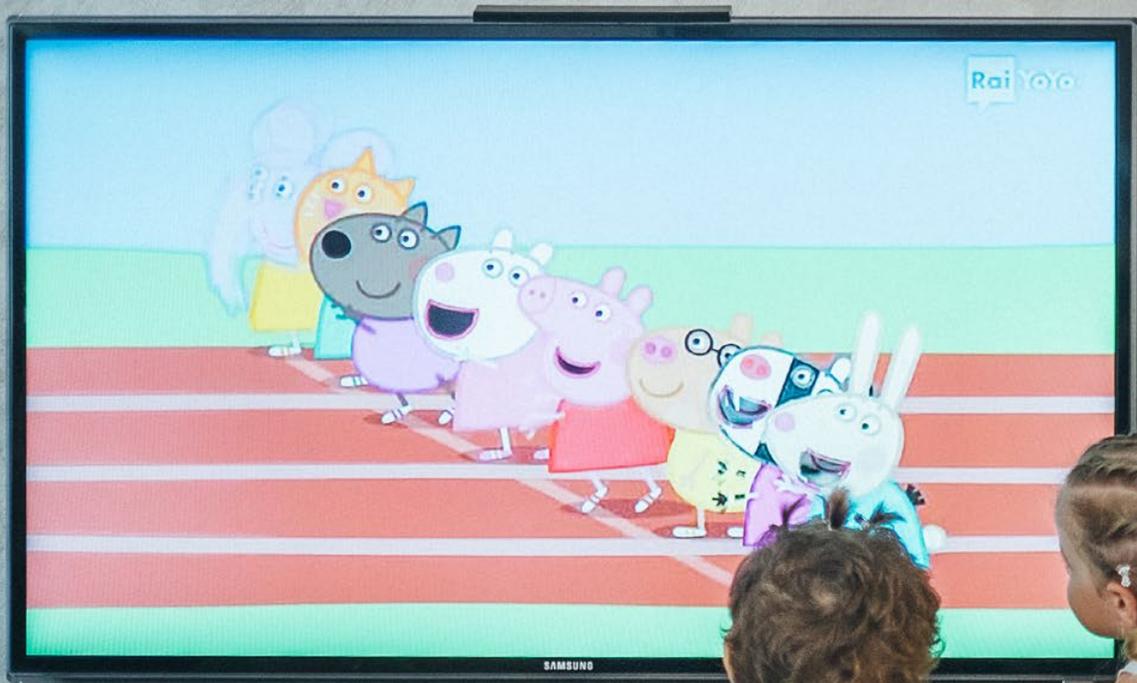
THE BRIDE LEAVES A GOTHIC
ABBAY WITH HER VOLUMINOUS GOWN.



SACRED FIGURES INSIDE AN
ANCIENT ABBEY DATING TO 1066.

A PRIEST DURING THE HOMILY.





THE DAUGHTERS OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM WHILE MOM AND DAD GET READY.

GUESTS DURING A CIVIL CEREMONY
IN A DECONSECRATED CHAPEL
IN A 13TH CENTURY MONASTERY.





A GUEST CELEBRATES AFTER BUFFON'S SAVE DURING THE ITALY-GERMANY QUARTER-FINALS MATCH IN THE 2016 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE. DURING THE WORLD CUP OR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, IT IS A CUSTOMARY TO ORGANIZE BANQUETS WITH LARGE-SCREEN TVs OR TABLETS SO GUESTS CAN FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF THEIR NATIONAL TEAM.



NUNS COOL OFF BY TAKING A WALK IN THE SURF WHILE THE BRIDE AND GROOM, IN TRADITIONAL INDIAN CLOTHES, ARE BUSY IN A PHOTO SESSION ON THE BEACH.

THE FATHER OF THE BRIDE WAITS
IMPATIENTLY FOR THE WOMEN
TO FINISH GETTING READY.



RELATIVES WAITING FOR THE BRIDE TO LEAVE
THE ROOM WHERE SHE HAS BEEN GETTING READY.



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