



# PARTY AT

AN INTERNATIONAL COUPLE INVITED GUESTS FROM AROUND THE



# THE PALACE

WORLD TO AN ENGLISH CELEBRATION FIT FOR ROYALTY

BY JAIMIE SCHOEN PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT FAIRER

After the ceremony, guests sipped champagne beneath the 67-foot-high ceilings of the Great Hall at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, England.





A fleet of classic taxis brought guests to the palace.

**N**

ina Sarin, 30, a fashion marketer from California, and Joaquín Romero, 33, a trader from A Coruña, Spain, were both far from home when they met at a London Business School party in 2010. So when Joaquín was ready to propose three years later, it wasn't a stretch for him to whisk Nina off to Paris, a city she would return to seven times for dress fittings at Giambattista Valli's atelier. "Working with him on a custom gown was a dream come true," she says.

On June 21, 2014, 210 guests from two continents joined the pair in the English countryside for a Catholic ceremony at the Oxford Oratory, a Gothic Revival-style church. Following the 1 do's, British black cabs drove attendees to Blenheim Palace, an 18th-century Oxfordshire estate (where Winston Churchill was born). Welcomed with champagne, they headed to the library, where two long tables were set for dinner. After a meal of tuna carpaccio and short-rib ragù, guests moved to a Studio 54-themed bash in the gardens. "Dinner was refined and romantic, and the after-party was pure fun," Nina says. The couple finally ducked out at 2:30. "There was so much love and happiness," she says. "It was a beautiful night." **B**



Nina's Giambattista Valli gown was inspired by a coatdress from a recent collection.

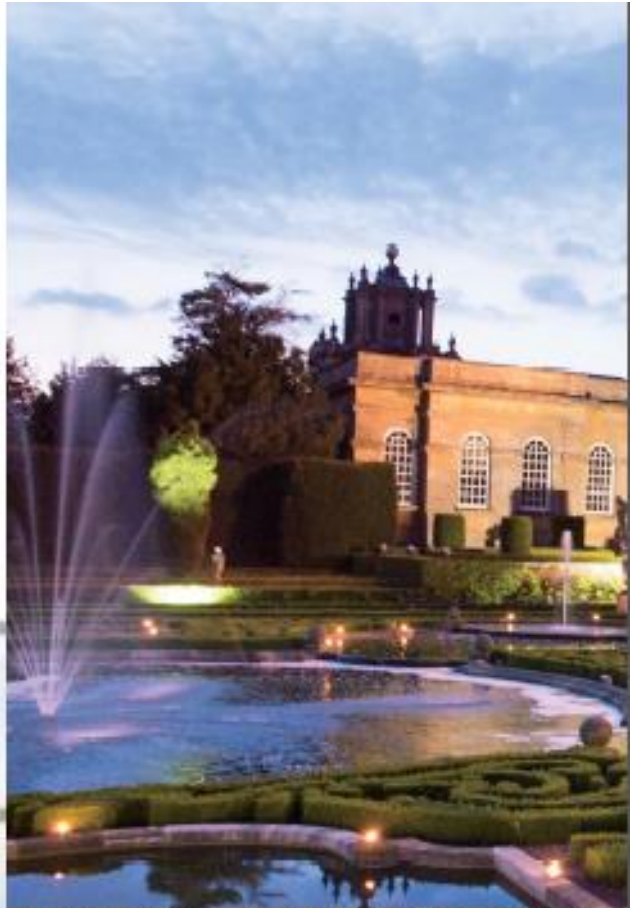


*Crystal candelabras and overstuffed arrangements of peonies and garden roses filled the baroque Great Hall.*





The bride also wore Giambattista Valli to Priday's welcome dinner at the University of Oxford's Bodleian Library.



The towering vanilla-raspberry cake was decorated with sugar peonies to match Nina's dress.

"I'VE NEVER SEEN JOAQUIN SMILE AS



Spanish-style fans placed at formal guests' seats were embossed with gold peonies.

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Guests danced all night at the tented indoor-outdoor after-party at Blenheim Palace's Water Terrace.

**BIG AS WHEN I WALKED DOWN THE AISLE," SAYS THE BRIDE.**



Before their exit, Nina slipped on a Chanel blazer and a simple floor-length sheath. "I'd had that dress in my closet for years," she said.

**Ceremony venue:** The Oxford Oratory; [oxfordoratory.org.uk](http://oxfordoratory.org.uk). **Reception venue:** Blenheim Palace; [blenheimpalace.com](http://blenheimpalace.com). **Wedding planner:** Fiona Leahy Design; [fionaleahy.com](http://fionaleahy.com). **Bride's dress:** Giambattista Valli; [giambattistavalli.com](http://giambattistavalli.com). **Catering:** Alain Price & Company; [alainprice.co.uk](http://alainprice.co.uk). **Cake:** Rosalind Miller Cakes; [rosalindmillercakes.com](http://rosalindmillercakes.com). **Flowers:** Wild at Heart; [wildatheart.com](http://wildatheart.com). **Photography:** Robert Falzer; [robertfalzer.com](http://robertfalzer.com)