

Our Maratea Wedding - 29 March 2012 (Piet and Riana Boonzaier)

Riana and I knew from the start that our wedding had to be something very special. We both agreed that it should be in Italy and so the search for a small, intimate church started.

Riana surfed the internet relentlessly, and she was astounded at how many automated replies she received from wedding planners in Europe. At last she saw the picture that became an icon in our lives - the church of the Lady of the Olives in Maratea along the Basilica coast of Italy. She sent an email and received a warm response from Gabriella and Ilaria from the Mondo Maratour Agency. There was an immediate spark and she knew that here was a company that took personal interest in our very special day. We asked all the relevant questions, and each one was answered to our satisfaction. We were offered a variety of packages, and it was even suggested that we could adjust the packages to suit our needs.



What really impressed us was the fact that the two ladies kept constant contact with us, and gave feedback to us on a regular basis. Their friendliness and helpful attitude improved our initial nervousness to make financial arrangements over the internet. We took the plunge, paid the deposit and we never looked back. Our wedding was the most spectacular and memorable event of our lives, and it will stay with us forever.

On our arrival in Maratea we were taken to the Villa Degli Aranci Hotel where our host, Biagio, greeted us warmly with cappuccinos and espresso. The view from our balcony was stunning, and we soon settled in. Then our first dinner, and although we looked forward to the authentic Italian pasta experience, the dishes that were served on our first night at the hotel were amazing. We were

treated with freshly baked Italian bread, served with local honey and cheese. The pasta and clams were delicious, and the fish was superb, all fresh local produce.



What we saw of the town and the church on the internet did not really reflect the true value of reality. When we arrived at the church the following day to meet all the people involved in our very special day, we were left speechless by the splendour of the venue. It had exceeded our wildest expectations. This is what we saw:



Our wedding was an unforgettable event, and we are extremely grateful to the two ladies of Mondomaratea wedding planners. They have really made this special day of our lives an experience that we can only reflect upon with very fond memories.

