

*\* Real weddings \**

# TWICE AS NICE

*Jennifer and Montana opted for a fabulous Oxford wedding to say 'I do', followed by an extravagant Mexican-themed celebration in Chicago*

Photography: Peartree Pictures

## CHARITY & LOVE

Jennifer and Montana first met when Jennifer wanted to volunteer for the charity Montana had set up. Things quickly changed from work meetings to dates and romantic dinners. Coming from USA, they decided to have two weddings - one in Oxford and the other in Chicago as they wanted it to be close to the kids from Montana's charity.

## OXFORD BLUES

"For our Oxford ceremony, we opted for

an over-the-top 'Royal Wedding' theme with three days of dressing up and lots of traditionally British touches," smiles Jennifer. It started with a hen and stag night with a golf theme, followed by the wedding day, which was a black tie affair. The reception took place in a blue painted room in the historic Town Hall, which set the colour palette of blue and cream. The bouquets followed the same theme with cream flowers and the pretty addition of butterflies scattered throughout each one.





## JENNIFER LOVED WALKING UP THE HIGH STREET TO THE RECEPTION VENUE

### FIT FOR A PRINCESS

"I wore a strapless, royal duchess satin ball gown with a softly draped bodice, adorned with roses and crystal accents and changed into a fitted, one-shoulder sequined dress with feather detail at the hem for the after-party," says Jennifer. Her outfits were accessorized with diamond earrings, made to match the style of the dress. The groom wore a formal suit with feature-designed cuffs and tails, whilst the bridesmaids wore strapless, silk taffeta gowns in midnight blue.

### EPITOME OF ENGLISH

"The ceremony was 100% personal, done in Old English," says Jennifer. "Complete with Shakespeare sonnets." Afterwards, guests were led to the reception venue by the toastmaster and a bagpiper. Canapés were served, followed by a melon mint salad and then salmon or filet entrée. The couple had two cakes - one was a surprise for the groom, made as a replica of his Oxford boat race win and the other was a traditional cake with

vanilla and lemon and chocolate and cherry layers. Mini cookies and a shot of milk were also served after the bar closed!

### AFTER THE PARTY

Guests were entertained by a swing band throughout the night, and the newlyweds danced to *Our Love Its Here To Stay* followed by *Swing* for their first dance. The reception ended on the stroke of midnight and Jennifer and Montana headed to the Old Parsonage for their first night. Their honeymoon was in Bruges, staying at the Hotel Swanne.

### THEIR ADVICE TO YOU

Jennifer advises, "Remember it's your special day - your chance to marry your man - so enjoy it," and adds, "Find somebody you trust to help bring your vision to life."

### MEMORABLE MOMENT

Jennifer loved walking up the high street to the reception venue: "It was so incredible seeing people coming out of stores waving and

cheering...I truly felt like a princess," beams Jennifer. "And because it was over three days, people really became friends and that was the best gift of all."



#### Venue:

Oxford Town Hall (oxford.gov.uk)

#### Photography:

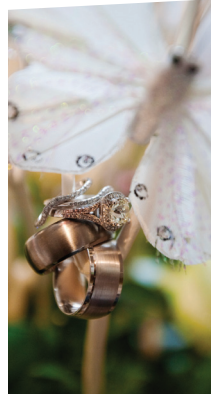
Peartree Pictures (peartreepictures.co.uk)

**Planner:** Absolute Perfections (absoluteperfections.co.uk)

**Caterers:** Fosters Catering (01865 252 364)

**Flowers:** Fabulous Flowers (fabulousflowers.biz)

**Cake:** The Cake Store (01865 248 691)



**AMERICAN DREAM**

4th September 2010

Their American celebration took place in the Chicago Training centre, with all the children from their rowing programme invited. Jennifer walked down the aisle, made up of tall oars held up by the children. They opted for a Mexican theme with a 12-piece Mariachi band, along with games and giant piñatas for the children. The reception was decorated with green orchids and hot pink roses on the tables. Authentic Mexican cuisine was served along with mocktails. The bride wore an ivory lace sheath gown by Monique Lhuillier with an open back, whilst the groom wore a white linen shirt, cargo pants and flip-flops. The couple made a grand exit with the children throwing hundreds of colourful rose petals, finishing the celebrations in style!

