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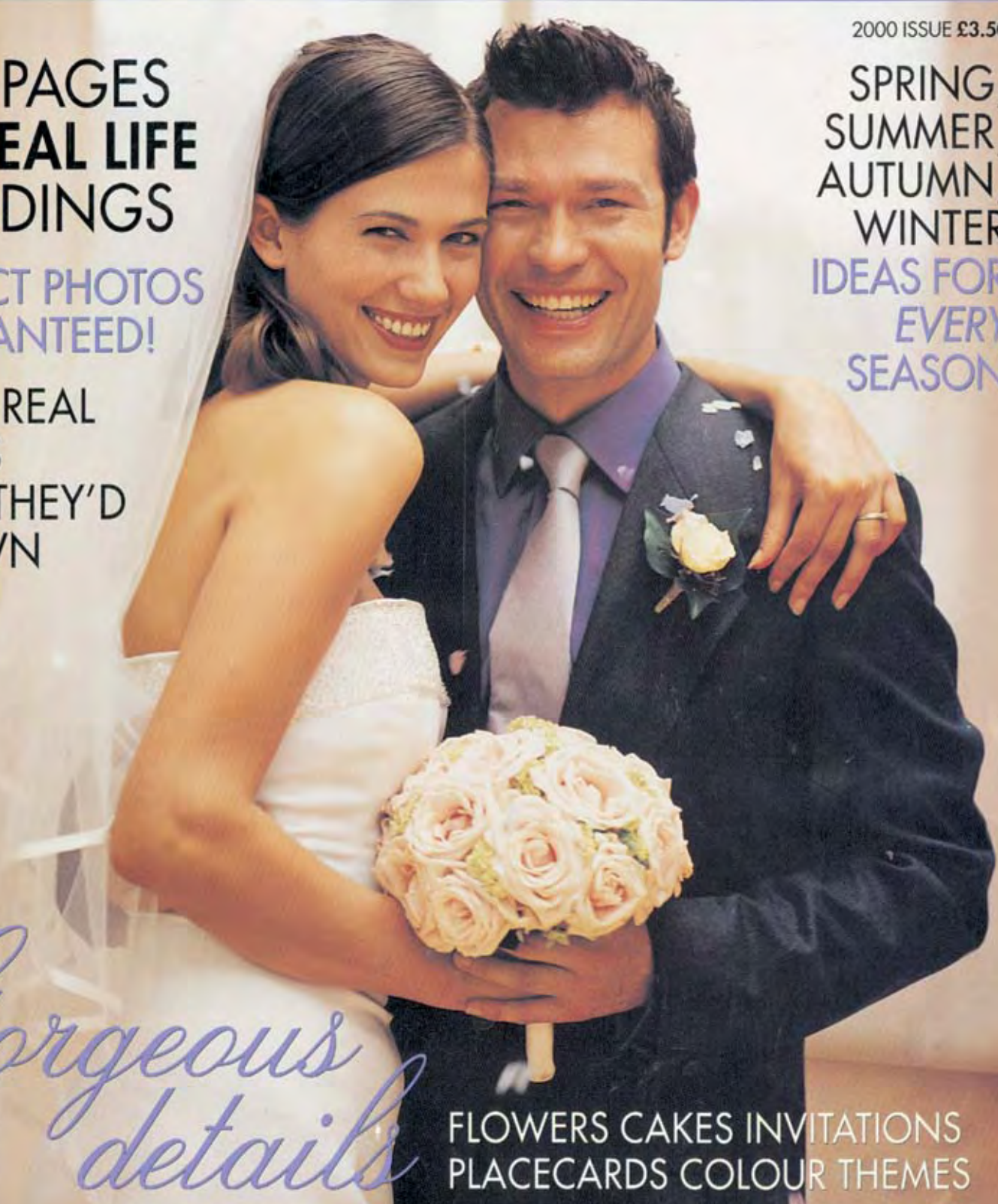
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*Gorgeous
details*

FLOWERS CAKES INVITATIONS
PLACECARDS COLOUR THEMES





LEIGH VOLSKY AND
STEPHEN CLARKE
NOTRE DAME OF ST LOUP, LOIRE VALLEY,
FRANCE MAY 29 1999



As soon as Stephen set eyes on Leigh when he was dining in a restaurant one day, he knew he would marry her, but it wasn't until a couple of years later, when they both ended up working for the same consulting company in Washington DC, that they got together. 'We decided to move in together after just two weeks,' laughs Leigh. 'It was a definite case of instant attraction!' Both Americans, the couple relocated to England and, six years after meeting, decided to tie the knot in a civil ceremony in Bristol. Four days later they crossed the channel to France, a country they both love, for a romantic church blessing in the beautiful Notre Dame of St Loup church in the beautiful Loire Valley. On the big day the couple and their 37 guests felt like they had the entire village to themselves, 'although when the wedding bells started ringing locals suddenly appeared, lining the streets as my father and stepfather walked me to the church,' reveals Leigh. Every inch the radiant bride in her gorgeous Fifties-style straight dress, Leigh was followed down the aisle by her glamorous attendant, Holly: 'I told her to go out and buy the dress of her dreams as my wedding present to her!' The little bridesmaids carried cute teddy bear brides as an original alternative to bouquets and Leigh's cream and white flowers complemented her simple and stylish look. The Continental theme continued with the ceremony being spoken entirely in French. 'We also had a French choir singing between each reading,' explains Leigh. 'Which really gave our ceremony a special touch.' ▶



TOP RIGHT The bride with her two cute little flower girls, Michelle and Hannah, and, above left, the teddybear brides they carried in place of flowers
TOP LEFT Leigh's beautiful up-do was completed with a gold and pearl crown
FAR LEFT Stephen places Leigh's wedding ring on her finger, watched by their ring-bearer, Leigh's younger brother, Richard

One of the most memorable parts of the day was the sunny walk to the spectacular reception venue, the Château St Loup. 'En route the villagers wished us good luck and congratulated us,' remembers Leigh. 'It was so touching.' While the couple sneaked off for extra wedding photos, the guests enjoyed cocktails under the shade of the château's huge copper beech tree, before sitting down to a French banquet in the magnificent Great Hall.

'The whole day exceeded all my expectations,' smiles Leigh. 'Intimate and relaxed but very elegant.' The party mood continued the following day, when all the guests enjoyed a huge, unplanned meal together. 'It was wonderful,' remembers Leigh, 'And really confirmed that everyone had loved our wedding day - there's no better feeling Stephen or I could have had about the day than to know that it was as special for our guests as it was for us!'

Photography Eric Malmarche of *Entre Noire* (tel/fax 00 33 1 3921 0570)
For further details turn to our Directory on page 76

Entre Noire would like to give their thanks to Leigh and Stephen



FAR LEFT Leigh carried a sophisticated bouquet of Casablanca lilies, yellow ferns, white roses and mini-gerberas
RIGHT A towering croûte nuptiale, a traditional French wedding cake, looked spectacular lit up with sparklers

