



# love's journey

*Luahn Kailis and David Rosenthal*  
CENTENNIAL VINEYARDS, BOWRAL, NEW SOUTH WALES  
16TH OF JULY, 2011  
STORY by Gretel Sneath PHOTOGRAPHY by Inlighten Photography



DAVID ROSENTHAL HAD BEEN DATING LUAHN KAILIS FOR ALMOST A YEAR WHEN HE WAS OFFERED A JOB IN SHANGHAI. LUAHN NERVOUSLY AGREED TO JOIN HIM, AND SAID THE DECISION TO SHIFT ABROAD WAS ONE OF THE BEST THEY HAVE MADE. "WE LOVE LIVING HERE AND HAVE SHARED SOME AMAZING ADVENTURES ALONG THE WAY," SHE SAID.



One of them was a journey to the centre of China to a place called Huangshan. It was here, on top of a beautiful mountain, that Dave proposed. "It was very beautiful with the trees, rock formations and valley below bearing witness," Luahn said.

Planning a wedding in Bowral from China was a challenge made easier by the internet, and it helped that Luahn was able to source stationery and her gown from her new home. "My ivory silk gown was inspired by a Vera Wang design which I chose with my mother while she was visiting us in China. It was made to measure and featured a hand-beaded waistband and long veil," she explained.

Luahn returned home a month before her big day in order to attend to last-minute preparations, and before she knew it, the wedding day had arrived. "The girls and I were escorted to the vineyards by horse and carriage, and although it was winter and a tad cold, it felt so special – just like a fairytale; I'll never forget it."

A string quartet softly playing Jeff Buckley's 'Hallelujah' set the scene as Luahn made her entrance down a path filled with scattered petals. As she tightly clutched her father's arm, she walked towards family and friends she hadn't seen for a long time, and when she spotted Dave waiting at the end of the aisle, the happy tears flowed.

"From that moment on, I knew it really was going to be the wedding I had always dreamed of, and it ended up being the most beautiful day of our lives – everything we expected and more," she said.

Guests made an archway when it was time for the newlyweds to leave, and dear friends drove them to their honeymoon suite, where they celebrated with bottles of champagne.

"We spent a long time sharing stories and beautiful moments from the day, and what came out of it was one very important thing: regardless of how much planning is involved, as long as you have the people who matter most with you, nothing could be more beautiful," Luahn said. ♡



THESE PAGES Complementing the backdrop of the country vineyard in winter, Luahn and David decided upon a vintage shabby chic theme for their wedding. † Banquet tables were decorated with pretty garden roses and candelabra. ‡ Guests received small lace favour boxes filled with chocolates and sugar almonds inside. The boxes were decorated with a crystal and a taupe-coloured ribbon tied into bows. † Almost too pretty to cut, Luahn and Dave's cake was decorated with romantic white flowers. ‡ "Following the speeches, Dave and I had our first dance to 'At Last' by Etta James. It was made even more special by the fact that one of Dave's oldest friends sang it for us whilst playing his acoustic guitar," said Luahn.



*luahn's little bride's book*

GOWN: Zion Zion, Shanghai PHOTOGRAPHER: Inlighten Photography, 02 9550 0332 VIDEOGRAPHY: Paper Cranes, 1300 996 610 CEREMONY & RECEPTION VENUE: Centennial Vineyards, 02 4861 8701 SHOES: Nina Shoes, New York WEDDING RINGS: Tiffany and Co ; Jules Sarno, 02 8347 2896 GROOM'S ATTIRE: Hugo Boss, London BRIDESMAIDS' OUTFITS: Banana Republic, London FLOWERS & FLORAL DECORATIONS: Flowers by Zoe, 02 9663 1172 TRANSPORT: Elite Horse Drawn Carriages, 0414 633 614 HAIR & MAKE-UP: Simona Janek CAKE: The Cake Lady, 0416 297 899 MUSIC: Stringsplace, stringspace.com.au; DJ Solutions, 1300 8814 99 FIRST NIGHT: Peppers Craigieburn, 1300 737 444 HONEYMOON: Malaysia

