



Deepika Surendra & Dejan Stojanovic

April 9 & 10, 2005

Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa

& Ritz-Carlton Bali Resort & Spa, Bali, Indonesia



**The proposal** A park at sunset provided the romantic backdrop for Dejan's bended-knee proposal to Deepika, an events producer who he met in New Zealand. Deepika, 26, designed a four-claw setting in 18-carat white gold for the solitaire diamond which Dejan, 27, a jeweller by trade, had chosen.

**Good things come in threes** The newlyweds celebrated their marriage with three ceremonies – the official wedding in Australia, which was a low-key registry affair, followed by an elaborate, colourful Indian ceremony and a final traditional white wedding ceremony, both in Bali. Guests travelled from Ireland, the US, New Zealand, Croatia and India. "Seeing Deepika in her third wedding dress was my best moment," says Dejan. "She'd been hiding from me and finally when I saw her walking up the aisle it was like, wow."

**All in the planning** Deepika and her Dubai-based mother, Usha, ventured on fact-finding missions and shopping expeditions to India and Dubai for the Indian wedding saris and jewellery, while the couple also visited Bali to scout for locations for their final commitment ceremony.

**A stitch in time** "The bridesmaids' dresses were made in Dubai, but as the girls live in New Zealand, New York and Ireland they sent measurements to the dressmaker... who told me their measurements were impossible!" says Deepika.

**OPPOSITE:** Deepika's hands and feet were intricately tattooed with 'Mendhi', made from henna, in traditional bridal designs which wear off in a couple of weeks. Even the boys got into the act, tattooing a henna 'D' on their biceps (for Deepika and Dejan) in a circle of flames. **ABOVE:** Dejan wore a gold sherwani custom-made outfit in Mumbai, while Deepika wore a traditional gold and ivory sari. **RIGHT:** Dejan arrives on the shoulders of local Balinese to his waiting bride in the Hindu ceremony.





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1800 654 176, oberoihotels.com

WEDDING GIFTS DIRECT (REGISTRY)

weddinggiftsdirect.com.au

**Bliss in Bali** The four days of celebrations, started with 'Mendhi', where the henna painting took place, and then, that evening, 'Sangeet', a traditional cocktail party where everyone gets to mingle and meet each other at a private villa, Istana, in southern Bali. There was a day's break where guests could go on a day trip before meeting back up that evening for a barbecue. The next day was the Indian ceremony – "I was up at 5am!" says Deepika – for the exchange of Vedic marriage vows followed by lunch at the Nusa Dua Beach Hotel and Spa, and the commitment ceremony at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel the final evening, followed by another dinner, and dancing.

**All that glitters** For the Indian ceremony, the bride wore a centre pendant of pearls on her forehead and uncut diamonds set in gold, teamed with a matching necklace, as well as pearl and gold earrings. She also wore gold bangles and anklets, with slip-off shoes, specifically because shoes aren't to be worn on the bridal podium.

**Floral choices** Deepika carried moon orchids for the commitment ceremony. "I've always loved orchids and being in Bali, they suited the location."

**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT** Beautiful jewellery was a feature throughout the ceremonies, which is not surprising considering the groom's profession as a jeweller. After walking down an aisle carpeted with traditional Indian wedding flowers of sweet jasmine, the couple sat on the bridal podium in front of a curtain of frangipanis and marigolds. Here they exchanged traditional Vedic marriage vows.



# commitment ceremony



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE The commitment ceremony was held at dusk atop a cliff, overlooking the ocean at Bali's picturesque Jimbaran Bay. "The photographer was panicking because the light was running out!" say the couple. More than 100 guests travelled from around the world from Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Croatia, Ireland, the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, India and Singapore to Indonesia, to celebrate with the newlyweds. Deepika and Dejan started the night's dancing with their bridal waltz, to At Last by Ella Fitzgerald. Groomsmen Vedran Stojanovic, Sotir Stojceviski, Jaldeep Surendra, Alen Ivankovic and Pravin Premkumar wore traditional suits. Bridesmaids (from left) Leanne Collins, Louise Norton, Carly Yates, Manzanita Fine and Priya Premkumar (not shown), wore aqua-green dresses in silk chiffon to the Western ceremony. "We chose the particular style and colour for the bridesmaids because they were all so different and the colour suited everyone," Deepika says.



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