

'I'LL BE DRESSING MY GUESTS TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T RUIN THE LOOK OF MY BIG DAY'

VIK KUMAR, 41, A FILM MARKETING DIRECTOR, PLANS TO MARRY AUDREY SHEILS, 31, IN AUGUST 2009. THEY LIVE IN LONDON

'As far as I'm concerned, it shouldn't just be the bride causing a stir on the wedding day. There should be as much focus on the groom, and I don't care if that makes me sound high-maintenance. A friend told me, "The wedding is the bride's day, and the groom is just a guest," but that's rubbish. It's unfair for men to blow a month's wages on the engagement ring and stump up loads of cash for the wedding, only for the bride to steal all the glory. That's why I'm already planning my outfit, even though my wedding isn't even scheduled until summer 2009.

'I used to work in fashion and am now in film marketing so style encompasses all aspects of my life. All I want is to inject the same magic into our wedding. That's why we're not getting married in

London – far too dull. So after looking at various venue options – the fairytale wedding in an Irish castle; the three-week extravaganza in India where I ride in on an elephant – I've settled on a week for 120 guests at an exclusive Tuscan villa. I chose Italy to respect the fact that Audrey's family are Catholic, but also because the Italians are so stylish. My suit will be Italian – probably Dolce & Gabbana – to continue the theme. I've spent months dreaming about it. White suits are my summer trademark, so I'll need a new one, made-to-measure. I'm going to spend £2,000 on something that's achingly cool and fits like a glove, so I'll feel like a million dollars.

'Audrey, on the other hand, loves a bargain. She'll buy something gorgeous but I wouldn't be surprised if it's under £100. She's much more laid-back about the wedding than I am, and she doesn't like too much fuss. She just wants to be surrounded by friends and family, while I'm imagining a scene out of *The Talented Mr Ripley*. Getting married in a Tuscan villa surrounded by vineyards, Prada and Gucci stores, I want our loved ones to dress their best and feel like part of a movie. My worst nightmare would be guests turning up in dreary, grey, three-piece suits, or tacky miniskirts. It just wouldn't fit with my vision. So we're planning lots of shopping trips before the big day to get everyone looking amazing – a bit



like Coleen did for her family and friends. I'm also going to insist on black and white photography, because the shots look so timeless. My friend James runs a wedding planning service, Love and Lord, and he is helping with the arrangements. He thinks I'm the most demanding client he's ever had – but I prefer to think of myself as "particular". I've been to the most extravagant parties and the best locations in the world – I'm determined my wedding will top them all.'