



# MAGIC IN MARRAKECH



## *Bella and Talal*

Bella and Talal met by chance almost 15 years ago, when Talal (then living in Toronto) was visiting friends at Bella's university just outside of London, England. While their initial meeting didn't spark instant romance, they felt a connection that prompted them to stay in touch. Though the jury is still out on who made the first move, a few months later they struck up an online friendship. Their relationship grew with visits between Toronto, London, and Malta (Bella's home country) before Bella eventually moved to Toronto so they could be together. That same year, Bella joined the team at WedLuxe and has been with the company, aka her "chosen family," ever since! Eventually, Talal proposed during a winter night ice skating session, leading to an intimate wedding celebrated with close family and friends in Marrakech — fulfilling a long-held dream and bringing together their multicultural families in a vibrant, unforgettable setting.

EVENT PLANNING AND COORDINATION • Bruce Russell Events

VENUE, FLORAL, DECOR, ENTERTAINMENT, AND CATERING • Jnane Tamsna

PHOTOGRAPHY • Sanshine Photography

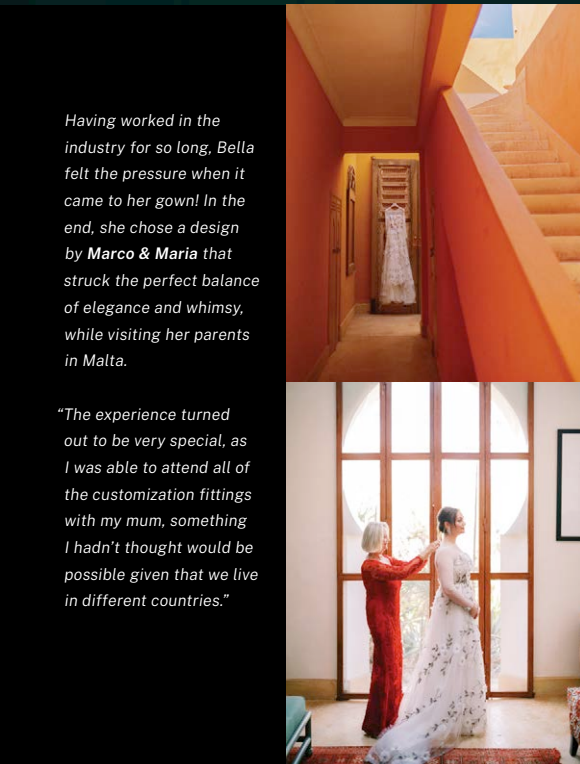


Bella's mother handpainted watercolor illustrations of Jnane Tamsna that were featured in the wedding invitations, designed by Bella's sister, a graphic designer.



"I knew I wanted an outfit that exuded 'Moroccan chic,' so I had a kaftan made in raw silk, embroidered with crystals and pearl tassels," shares Bella.

"To complete the look, I accessorized with the Aleena earrings from Jennifer Behr, pink Amina Muaddi pumps, and the Babi Crystal Pearl Bracelet bag from British designer Mae Cassidy, which added just the right amount of sparkle!"



Having worked in the industry for so long, Bella felt the pressure when it came to her gown! In the end, she chose a design by **Marco & Maria** that struck the perfect balance of elegance and whimsy, while visiting her parents in Malta.

"The experience turned out to be very special, as I was able to attend all of the customization fittings with my mum, something I hadn't thought would be possible given that we live in different countries."



## The LOCATION

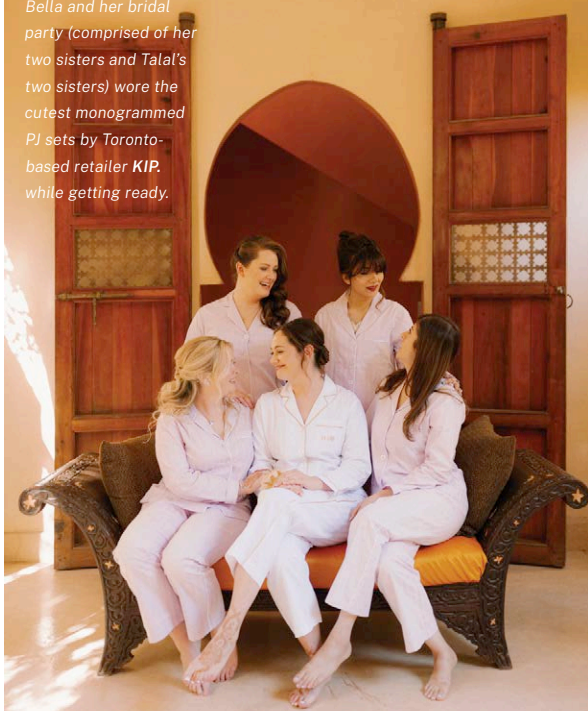
Bella and Talal's destination wedding was held in Marrakech, Morocco, a location that had been on their bucket list for many years. It ticked many boxes as the perfect spot to bring their multi-cultural families together. The event was planned with the guidance of Bruce Russell of **BRUCE RUSSELL EVENTS**.

"Bruce is a true expert on Marrakech, having produced numerous spectacular weddings and events there and I was so fortunate to have his guidance, and calming reassurance every step of the way," shares Bella.

The celebrations began with a welcome party overlooking the city, held on the circular rooftop event space at **NOBU MARRAKECH**.

The wedding ceremony and reception took place at **JNANE TAMSNA**, a peaceful countryside venue just outside Marrakech's hustle and bustle. Built with traditional Moorish architecture, it features multiple open-air event spaces where the day unfolded.

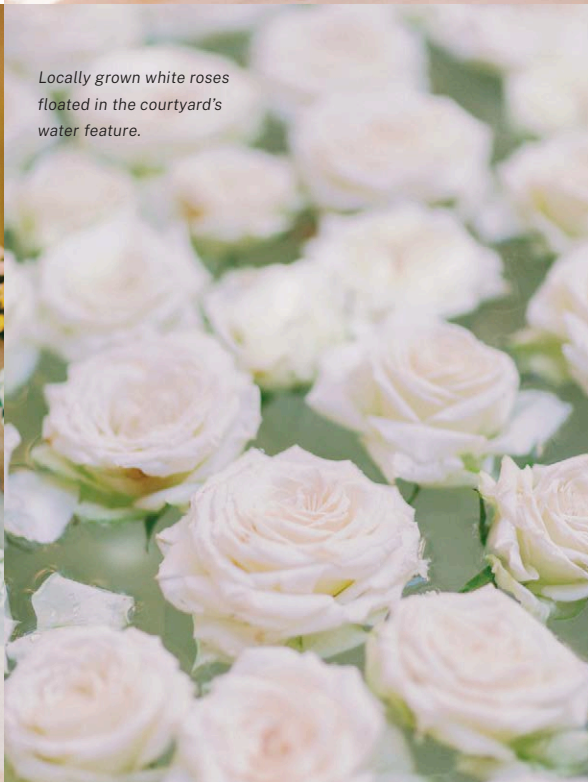
Bella and her bridal party (comprised of her two sisters and Talal's two sisters) wore the cutest monogrammed PJ sets by Toronto-based retailer **KIP**, while getting ready.



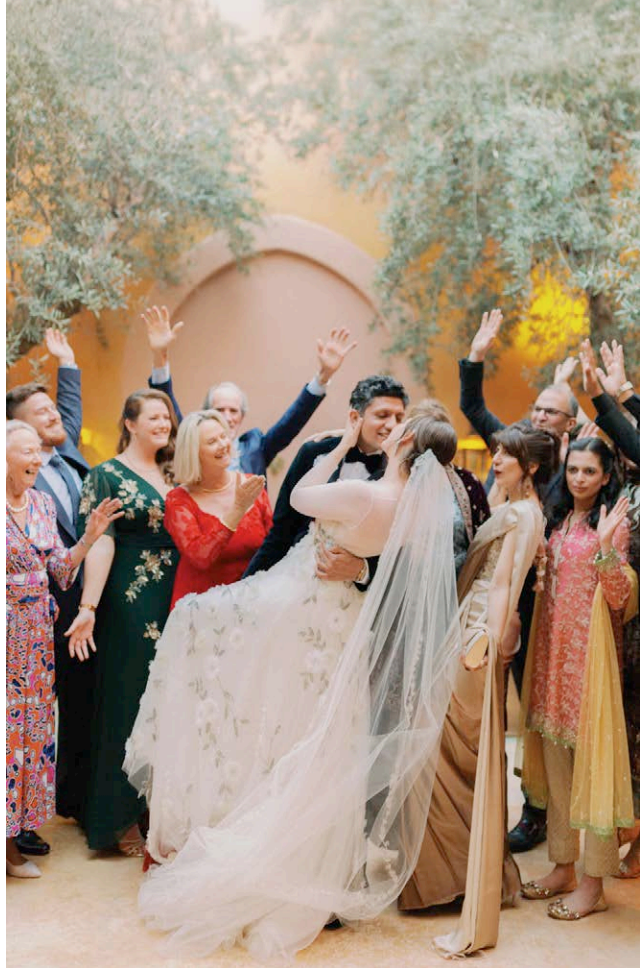
Talal wore a tuxedo by **Reiss**.



Locally grown white roses floated in the courtyard's water feature.



**THE CEREMONY**  
Bella and Talal exchanged vows in the serene, open-air courtyard of **JNANE TAMSNA**, surrounded by trees and archways. Meryanne Loum-Martin, the owner, and her team beautifully decorated the space, placing urns filled with locally grown roses around a water feature. Peter from **MARRYKECH WEDDING** led a heartfelt ceremony, accentuated by birdsong, which celebrated the couple's journey and commitment. Embracing Moroccan tradition, the couple shared dates and milk, symbolizing peace and happiness as they began their new life together.



#### COLOURFUL COCKTAIL HOUR

Cocktail hour took place on the rooftop just before sunset. The team at JNANE TAMSNA transformed the space with eclectic lounge furniture, Moroccan rugs, tabletop florals, and an abundance of candlelight. Guests sipped on custom cocktails and mocktails as they watched the sun set. The highlight of the evening was when a local Dakka Marrakchia troupe surprised guests on the rooftop, singing and dancing, before leading them downstairs and along candlelit garden pathways to the long reception table on the far side of the garden.



#### ALL IN THE FAMILY

Angela Desveaux, founder and creative director of WEDLUXE and self-proclaimed 'honorary big sister' to Bella, designed the day-of wedding stationery. Her designs featured Moroccan-inspired graphics juxtaposed with watercolor scenes of JNANE TAMSNA, painted by Bella's mother. Additionally, Angela created leaf-shaped place cards that were pinned into individual mandarins, sourced locally in Morocco. These mandarins, placed on each setting, added a pop of orange to the table's palette of greens and golds.

Guests received mini tagines, which Bella sourced locally upon the recommendation of event planner Bruce Russell.



#### GOLDEN GLOW

The reception table (and its dramatic reveal!) was the highlight of the night for the couple and their guests alike!

The entire wedding party was led by the Dakka Marrakchia troupe (and their lively drums!) through the winding gardens and along candlelit pathways to the fairytale-like setting of the table, tucked away in a beautiful, private grove of trees.

The floral and event design was provided by the venue's owner Meryanne and her team, who exceeded all expectations.

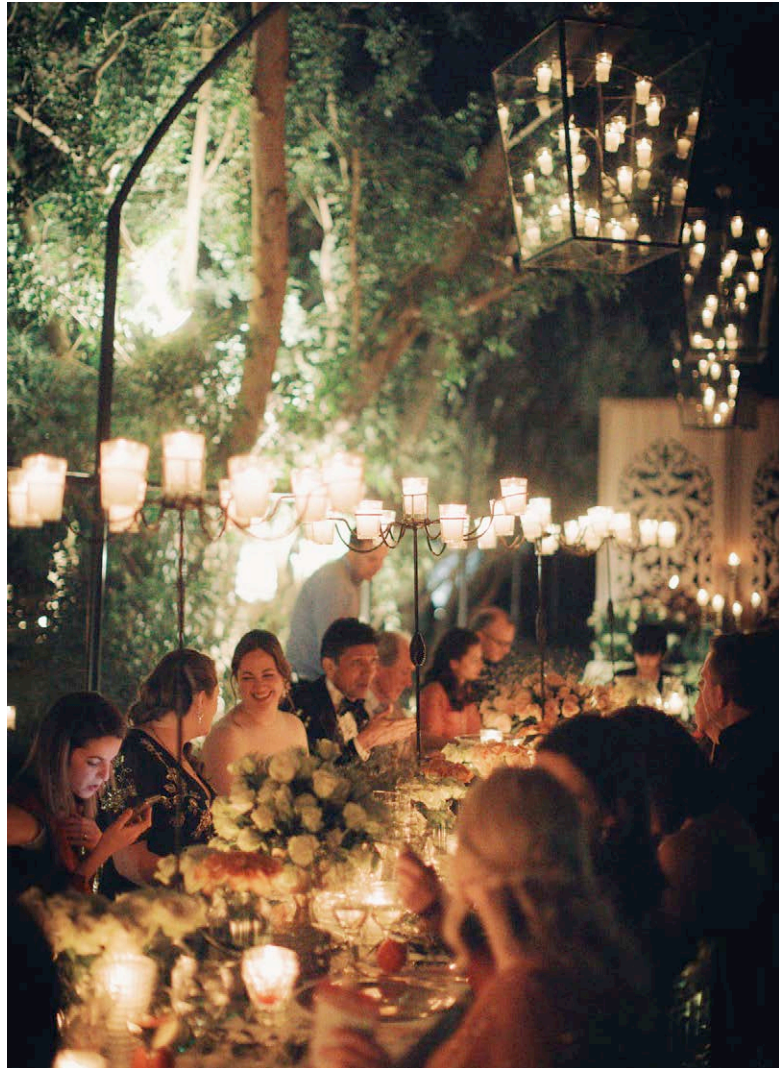
"We wanted a design aesthetic that would complement the venue's deep yellow-gold tones and lush green gardens, with a nod to the mandarin oranges that are native to Marrakech."

-Bella, Bride



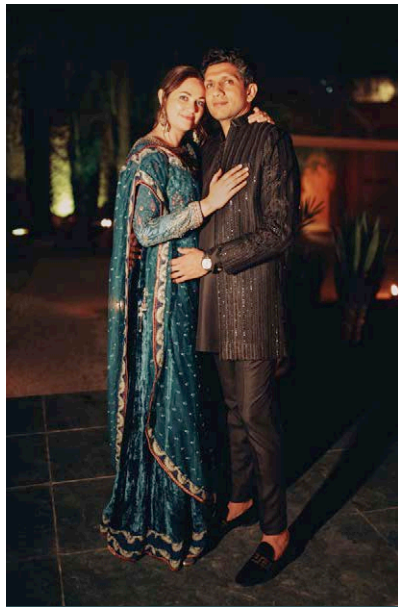
“As we walked along the garden path, the glow from the table intensified with every step until we turned the last corner, and it took our breath away—it was absolutely magical!”

-Bella, Bride



**AFTER GLOW**

The celebration continued with an ‘after-party’ at Jnane Tamsna’s poolside library bar. Guests enjoyed a fire dance performance, indulged in croquembouche cake, and danced the night away!



For the ‘after-party’ portion of the night, Talal changed into a black and silver sherwani from Pakistani designer Humayun Alamgir. Bella opted for an embellished blue velvet lehenga from Farah Talib Aziz and Allure By MHT earrings (all sourced by Bella’s sister-in-law who is based in Karachi.)



*Credits*

- BRIDAL GOWN @marcoymaria from @ivoryandcomalta
- BRIDAL SHOES @bellabelleshoes
- BRIDAL CLUTCH @mae\_cassidy
- SILK KAFAN @humayunalamgirwomenswear
- CELEBRANT @marrykechwedding
- DESIGN, STYLING, AND DAY-OF STATIONERY @wedluxeagency
- EVENT PLANNING & COORDINATION @brucerussellevents
- EARRINGS @jenniferbehr
- FAVOURS @chabichimorocco
- FLORAL, DECOR, VENUE, ENTERTAINMENT, AND CATERING @jnanetamsna
- GROOM’S FORMALWEAR @reiss @harryroseninc
- GROOM’S SHERWANI @humayunalamgirofficial
- HAIR STYLING @kahina\_hairartist
- INVITATIONS Emily Geraghty
- MAKEUP ARTIST @ornellazaffani
- NAPKINS @nuagedesignsinc
- PHOTOGRAPHY @sanshinephoto
- PJ SETS @kip\_sleepwear
- RECEPTION LEHenga @farahtalibaziz
- VEIL @laurajaynebride
- VIDEOGRAPHY @audric.odrian.filmaker
- WATERCOLOURS Melanie Geraghty