

JOINED BY ROYALTY AND FAMOUS FRIENDS

# ZOE HARDMAN AND PAUL DORAN JONES

THE TV STAR AND RUGBY ACE SEAL THEIR LOVE IN AN IDYLIC ISLAND WEDDING

'Everyone told us they'd never been to a wedding so full of love'



The happy couple are joined by Zara and Mike Tindall as they tie the knot in Ibiza (above), with Paul having been a guest at his rugby mate's nuptials with the Queen's granddaughter in 2011. The newlyweds have the look of love (left) and when Paul first saw Zoe in her stunning bespoke Pronovias gown, he couldn't help but get emotional. "It was just as well I was wearing sunglasses. Behind them I was welling up," he says

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**'Marrying the man of my dreams on an island we both adore was amazing'**

**A**gainst a stunning backdrop of verdant countryside that leads down to the ink-blue Mediterranean, bride Zoe Hardman and her groom Paul Doran Jones exchanged wedding vows last week in an idyllic outdoor ceremony on the island of Ibiza.

Looking radiant in a bespoke one-shouldered, Grecian-style, white Pronovias gown, the TV presenter and Heart radio DJ glided down a path strewn with rose petals to meet her dapper husband-to-be.

"We couldn't take our eyes off one another," says Zoe, 34, in this exclusive interview with **HELLO!** "He looked devilishly handsome and the love I feel for him just rose up inside me."

The athletic Wasps and former Gloucester rugby union star, 32, was also overcome with emotion as he watched his bride-to-be walk up the aisle. "I couldn't wait for Zoe to reach me," he says. "Instead of standing there in the traditional way with my back to her, I turned around so that I didn't miss a second. She always looks beautiful, but in her wedding dress she was breathtaking. It was just as well I was wearing sunglasses. Behind them I was welling up."

Famous faces attending the couple's dream wedding included close friends Mike and Zara Tindall, rugby star and Paul's best man James Haskell with his girlfriend Chloe Madeley, *Love Island* presenter Caroline Flack, Sky News anchor Sarah-Jane Mee, TV presenter Matt Johnson, singer ▶

Zoe and proud mum Carol can't resist a peek at her Jimmy Choo shoes – a surprise gift from Paul, who greets his wife-to-be with a kiss (below right). The groom with Sam Haslam, best man James Haskell and Rich Harding (below left)



Celebrant Sebastian Lahora officiates at the intimate wedding ceremony (above) held in the grounds of a stunning villa (below) on Ibiza that is owned by a friend of the couple. The beautiful Spanish island is like a second home to Kent-born Zoe, who has been a regular visitor since she first came as a teenager. "Paul and I have spent holidays here with [their daughter] Luna, too, so it was the perfect place for us to tie the knot," she says



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The couple hold hands as they exchange vows (above) and rings – a platinum band for Paul and a diamond studded ring for Zoe (right). Zoe pledged to be “honest” and “loyal” while Paul promised to be “the best man possible”. The doting daddy has a cuddle for ten-month-old Luna (below)



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Heidi Range and her husband Alex Partakis, broadcaster Pips Taylor, model and DJ Lilah Parsons and actress Denise Van Outen and boyfriend Eddie Boxshall.

“Our friends are like family to us and we wanted everyone we love to be there,” says Zoe. “I wanted a relaxed, boho vibe, where family and friends could party until dawn.

“Marrying the man of my dreams on an island we both adore, was amazing,” she continues. “Our wedding day was absolutely perfect; we had the best four days of our lives.”

The 15 July wedding was the culmination of a romance that began two and a half years ago and led to the birth ten months ago of their beautiful baby daughter Luna.

Zoe tells **HELLO!** that before she met Paul, she wondered if she would ever find her Mr Right.

“I was never one of those girls who grew up thinking about the dress and the big day,” she says. “I’d hoped to experience those things one day, though, having grown up with two parents who were very much in love. Our household was so happy and I wanted to re-create that feeling with a family of my own. That moment came when I fell for Dozza, as I affectionately call him. I knew he was the right man for me.”

Last Christmas Eve, Paul surprised Zoe by proposing on bended knee outside Bath Abbey with a 3.2-carat cushion-cut diamond ring. “I was overjoyed,” says the former *Take Me Out*

Zoe and Paul celebrate as they walk back down the aisle showered in confetti after being declared husband and wife (above). The groom's squad of best men are also in high spirits at the fun-filled ceremony (below). A delighted Paul looks on as new wife Zoe completes the serious business of signing the marriage register (right)



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**'We wanted everyone we love to be there. The most important part of our plans was to be surrounded by family and friends in a great setting'**

Zoe and Paul invited famous friends to share their joy over four days of wedding celebrations on the renowned party island. The starry guest-list included (above, from left with the happy couple) Mike and Zara, Denise Van Outen and Eddie Boxshall (who were introduced by Zoe three years ago), best man James and girlfriend Chloe Madeley and Heidi Range with her husband of a year Alex Partakis. Food and drink flowed at the reception with the guests served sharing platters followed by white fish with couscous and salad and sipping drinks including Nespresso martinis. They later partied through the night in the villa's indoor nightclub, dubbed the "rave cave", with the just-married couple exuberantly spraying guests with a glitter cannon. "There were a few sore heads the next day, but a day at the beach and a dip in the sea soon sorted that out," laughs Paul



Here come the girls: The blushing bride delighted to be surrounded by her gal pals on her big day. Chloe, Zara, presenters Pips Taylor and Caroline Flack, Sarah-Jane Mee and Denise (above). Posing for photos for their wedding album, the newlyweds lock lips surrounded by bridesmaids Caroline Cowley, Zoe's sister Kathryn in a dress from Maids to Measure, Katy Wickremesinghe, Kirsty Williams and Lucy McClintock (below)



presenter. "We both wanted a quick engagement and it took us only six months to organise the wedding. We're a laid-back couple; the most important part of our plans was to create a party atmosphere and be surrounded by family and friends in a great setting."

After Zoe's close friend Ali Pittam offered to host the proceedings at her magnificent Ibiza villa, they turned to wedding planner Peachy Keane of Boutique Ibiza to devise an unforgettable celebration.

"I was blown away by Ali's amazing offer," says Zoe. "Ever since meeting her in Ibiza eight years ago, we've been like soul sisters."

"I've been coming to Ibiza since I was 16; it's like a second home to me. Paul and I have spent holidays here with Luna, too, so it was the perfect place for us to tie the knot and make a two-week bumper celebration, with honeymoon combined, with family and friends."

Zara and Mike (Paul was a guest at their 2011 wedding) were among the first to arrive to get the party started.

"Our friends enjoy letting their hair down and that includes Mike and Zara," says Paul. "He and I have been mates since we played rugby for

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Gloucester and we see a lot of him and Zara socially. Their little girl Mia plays with my daughter Isla and is energetic like her parents. She's always the first to take off her shoes and run around."

Also among the early arrivals were Denise and Eddie. "I played Cupid by setting them up on a blind date," Zoe says of the pair, who have been dating for three years. "Every time I see Denise, she says, 'Thank you for giving me Eddie.'"

On the big day, Paul woke Zoe up with a playful question. "Fancy getting married today?" he asked.

"There was nothing I wanted more than that," she says.

The bride-to-be got ready with the help of her maid of honour – sister Kathryn – bridesmaids Caroline Cowley, Katy Wickremesinghe, Kirsty Williams and Lucy McClintock and flower girls, Isla, four, and baby Luna. Meanwhile, the groom prepared with his best men, all in tailored blazers and chinos from Hawes & Curtis.

"I was super-excited," says Zoe. "As we drove to the wedding villa to get ready, I experienced the same sensation you feel in your tummy when you go on a roller-coaster."

### RIGHT TO CHOOSE

After slipping into her sumptuous dress, she started to put on her wedding shoes, but Kirsty stopped her.

"She told me not to wear them as she had a present from Dozza," Zoe says. "It was a pair of the strappy gold Jimmy Choos I'd admired months earlier, but didn't think I could splash out on. I was deeply touched, especially when I read the note that came with them. 'I love you so much and am looking forward to the next chapter of our lives together,' it said. 'I can't wait to see you so hurry up.'"

With her hair styled in beachy waves by James Wilson, flawless make-up by her friend Scarlett Rainer, and carrying a bouquet of cream roses from Floral Dreams Ibiza, Zoe looked a picture of perfection as she walked down the aisle on the arm of her mother Carol, who was giving her away in place of her father, Peter, who died in 2013.

"I just knew my dad was looking down on us, that he was there in spirit," says Zoe. "He would have absolutely loved it."

Enhancing the emotion of the occasion, Zoe's friend Andy Huntley played the Leon Bridges song *River* on guitar as the bride walked up the aisle.

"That track was on the radio when I first told Paul I loved him," says Zoe. "But he kept me waiting several weeks before saying it back."

"I was getting my own back because she took so long to agree to a first date," laughs Paul. "She thought I was a rascal when she met me so I had to prove her wrong."

The prop forward has certainly achieved that and as a doting daddy, his two little girls did him proud on his big day. ▶





**'I beamed so much throughout the day that it made my face sore' Paul**

Dressed in adorable white broderie anglaise dresses from Monsoon, flower girls Luna – carried by maid of honour Kathryn – and Isla scattered rose petals up the aisle.

“Luna was so happy and kept making cheering sounds,” says Zoe. “She didn’t cry once. She just sat on my sister’s knee, beaming at Paul and me.”

Then, after celebrant Sebastian Lahora brought the house down with a joke about how the couple first met at a nightclub, they declared their personal pledges to each other.

“I vowed to always be honest, loyal and communicate with an open heart,” says Zoe. “And to be the best mother possible. On a lighter note, I also promised to put the lids back on jars. At home I have this habit of leaving lids unlocked and when Paul tries to pick up a jar of honey, the lid comes off and it smashes.”

Laughing wryly at the memory, Paul says: “I vowed to be the best man possible – and to never make Zoe throw away any more shoes, such as wedges, espadrilles, jellies, Wellington boots... She has the most incredible shoe collection.”

**RINGS ON THEIR FINGERS**

After exchanging rings – a platinum band for Paul and a diamond studded ring for Zoe – the father of two placed a special ring on his little girl Isla’s finger, too.

“Everyone was so touched by this, and the sight of little Luna smiling away, that there were laughter and tears all round,” he says. “I beamed so much throughout the day that it made my face sore.”

At the lavish outdoor reception, an enchanting Midsummer Night’s Dream theme brought an ethereal feel to the nuptials.

With lanterns casting a magical light on the palm fronds, terrariums gently swaying in the warm breeze and candles flickering among the scented petals scattered over the pool, it was an exquisite setting for the star-studded wedding.

While guests tucked into a feast of sharing platters followed by white fish with couscous and salad and sipped Midsummer Moose Mule cocktails and after-dinner Nespresso martinis, Zoe’s mum, Paul and his best man James entertained everyone with their speeches.

“Mum recalled how I skied down a black run when I was eight, crashed into a Frenchman and broke all his eggs,” grins Zoe.

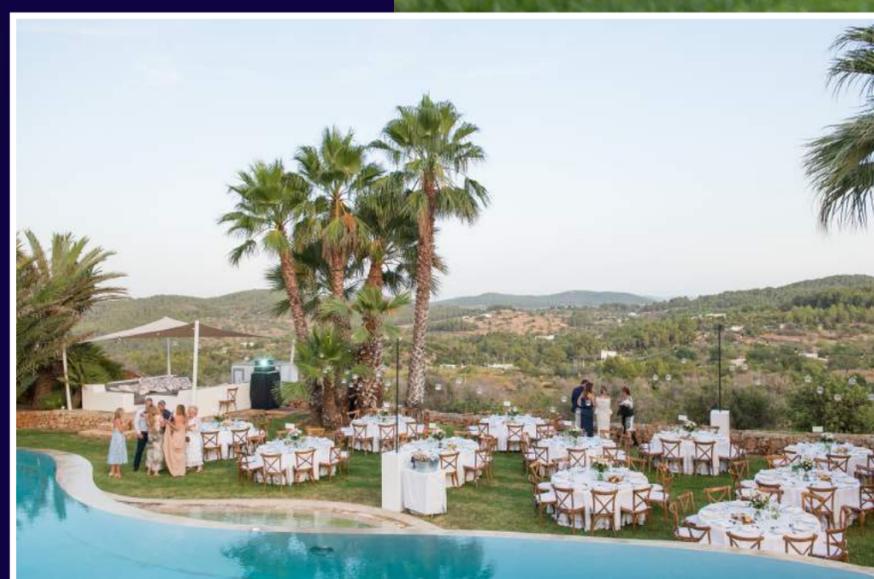
“When Paul spoke, it was very touching ▶



Ex-Sugababe Heidi and husband Alex (above) and Mike and Zara (right) are ready to let their hair down after the emotion of the ceremony. The theme of the reception was a Midsummer Night’s Dream with guests enjoying enchanting views from the poolside celebrations (below)



Cheers! Zoe and Paul toast their union with a specially created drink for their nuptials – a strawberry and lime Midsummer Moose Mule. Caroline (below left, rugby mate Owain Walbyoff (below centre) and Matt Johnson (below right) are among those at the Ibiza nuptials



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'Our wedding was absolutely perfect. We had the best four days of our lives'



The new Mr and Mrs Doran Jones with daughter Luna (above). The happy couple put a new twist on "cutting the cake" at the reception as they donned Mr and Mrs aprons to smash a strawberry, cream and meringue dessert with a rolling pin (left) before guests could get cracking on the sweet treat (below). As the sun went down the villa was lit with amazing projections by Joe Crossley



and from the heart. He talked about my energy, passion, dedication and kindness, which really made me well up."

But there were ripples of laughter as James brought out a foldable lectern to make the best man speech. "We were at school together so he knows everything about me," Paul smiles. "I was staying with him when I met Zoe and he said some lovely things about how she's had a brilliant effect on me and how special we are for each other."

As a grand finale, the happy newlyweds put a new spin on the traditional wedding cake – a giant meringue, berry and cream confection. "We put on Mr and Mrs aprons then smashed it with giant rolling pins," laughs Zoe. "We went a bit mad and I ended up accidentally covering a bridesmaid in cream."

After a surprise performance from singer Becky Hill – who dedicated Zoe's favourite song, *False Alarm*, to her – the bride and groom took to the floor, where DJ Chris Nicol played Fleetwood Mac's *Everywhere* for the couple's first dance.

Getting into the spirit of the night, guests partied until dawn in the villa's "rave cave" – an indoor club set up by The Shop Ibiza – where the newlyweds sprayed everyone with a glitter cannon.

"There were a few sore heads next day," laughs Paul. "But a day at the beach and a dip in the sea soon sorted that out."

Natalie Pinkham, who had missed the wedding as she was on presenting duties at the British Grand Prix, rocked up to join the post-nuptial celebrations and her husband Owain Walbyoff, who had arrived before the ceremony.

"It was so wonderful," says Zoe. "Everyone told us they'd never been to a wedding so full of love."

Now, as she looks forward to life as Mrs Doran Jones, she says: "I have everything I've ever wanted. Not a day goes by when I don't feel grateful for that. I wake up and think, 'I've got my beautiful daughter, my amazing stepdaughter, a loving husband, a great career and amazing friends.' Each time Paul goes out, I want to stand on the doorstep and wait for him to come back. I've never known love like it." **H**

INTERVIEW: SALLY MORGAN  
PHOTOS: GYPSY WESTWOOD

MAKE-UP: SCARLETT RAINER USING CHARLOTTE TILBURY  
HAIR: JAMES WILSON

