



♡ Tammin Sursok ♡ MY ROMANTIC ITALIAN WEDDING

There wasn't a dry eye in the house when the Aussie actress married her director beau in an intimate ceremony in Florence. LUCY CHESTERTON reports

When it comes to weddings, Tammin Sursok could be forgiven for expecting a last-minute objection, the reappearance of a long-lost relative, or a misbehaving bridesmaid to be caught in a compromising position.

After all, the Australian actress saw many nuptials take a melodramatic turn in her breakthrough role as Colleen Carlton on daytime soapie *The Young And The Restless*.

When the time came to take her real-life vows, however, the day turned out to be a picture-perfect love story.

"It was the most magical, breathtaking, incredible and wonderful day of my life," Tammin, 28, beams. "People always told me that at your wedding, a lot of the time you don't really get to speak to people and enjoy yourself. But I got to spend magical moments with every person there. I would not have done it any other way. For me, it was perfect."

Set over three days, Tammin's impeccably planned nuptials began with a series of dinners, cocktail parties and elegant breakfasts in the romantic Italian city



Tammin and Sean, with Tammin's parents, Daryl and Julie (left of Sean), and the bridal party in the streets of Florence.

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of Florence. It culminated in an unforgettable ceremony, in a villa overlooking the city's famous Duomo (cathedral) as the sun set.

"I went to Italy when I was 13 years old and just fell in love with the place," says Tammin, who now stars in US series *Pretty Little Liars* and has numerous film projects due in 2012. "It's the most romantic place in the world."

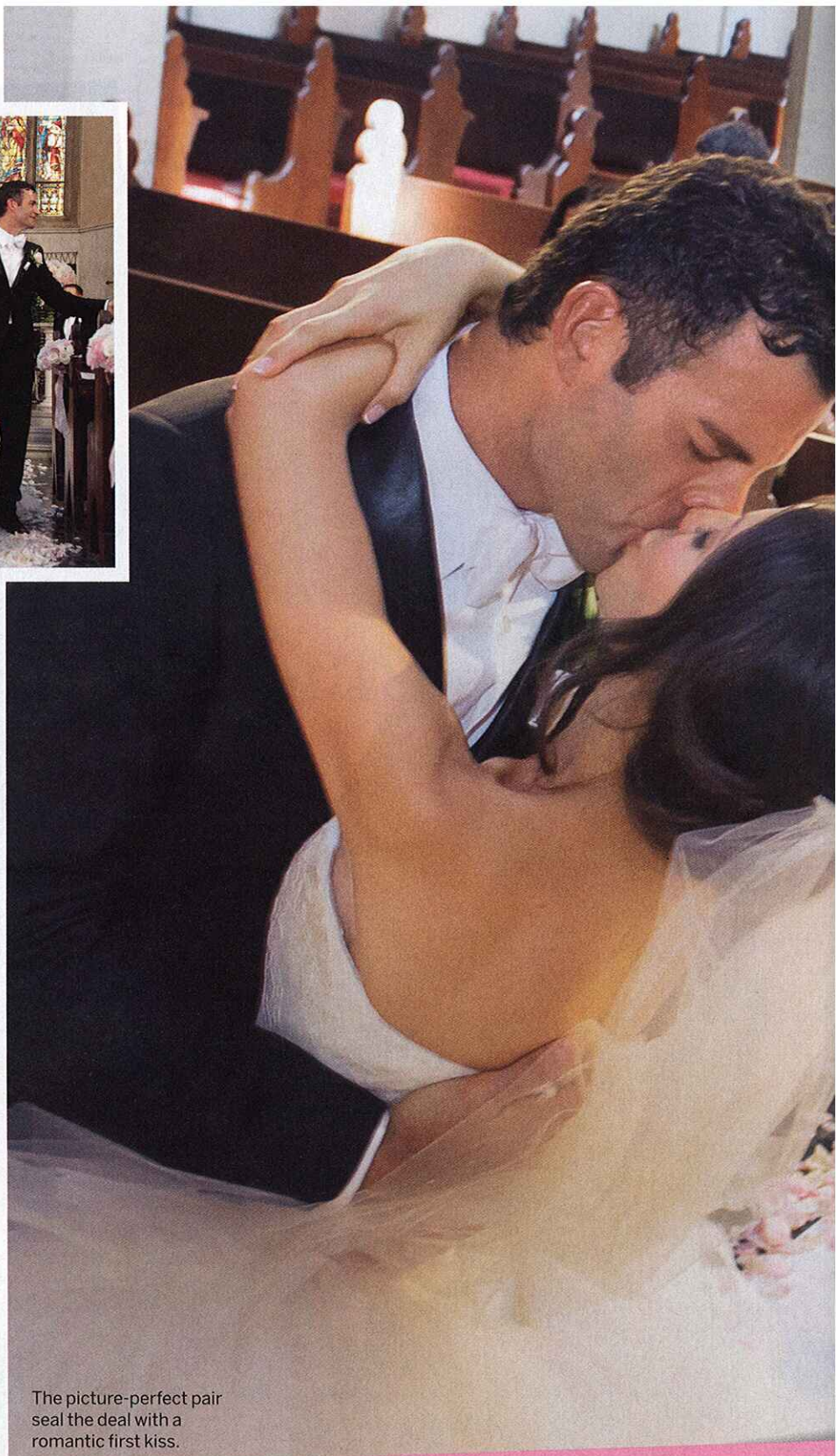
Tammin and her husband, writer and director Sean McEwen, 36, had holidayed in Italy the year before – and, like so much else in the couple's life, something just felt right.

"We fell in love with each other all over again," she says. "We'd been together almost five years – and we went to this hotel, a villa in Florence, and said, 'When we get married, this is where we want to do it. It's a little piece of paradise.' It's the most magical place."

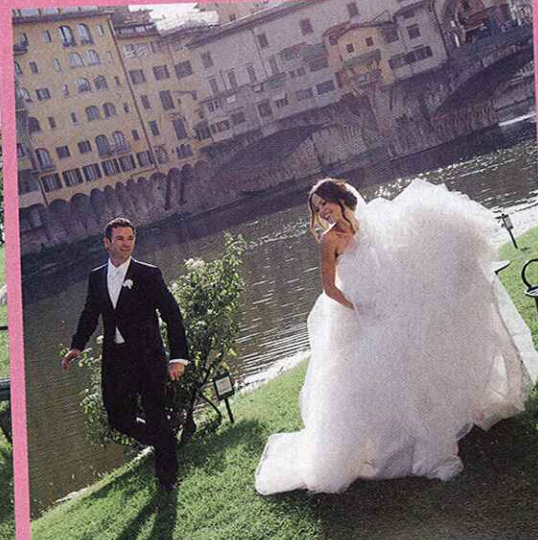
Going with their instincts paid off, as it did when the pair first chanced going on a date five years ago... to a fast-food joint in small-town Missouri in the US.

"It's funny, when you meet someone," Tammin says, thoughtfully. "You're like, 'Uh-oh, this is the rest of my life.' We kissed five years ago and I was like, 'That's it. We're getting married.' When you're young, you're unsettled, because you're always looking for that guy. You're always wondering, I'm so glad we met."

Sean echoes her feelings, and his emotions spilled over when he saw his beautiful bride walking toward him on their wedding day.



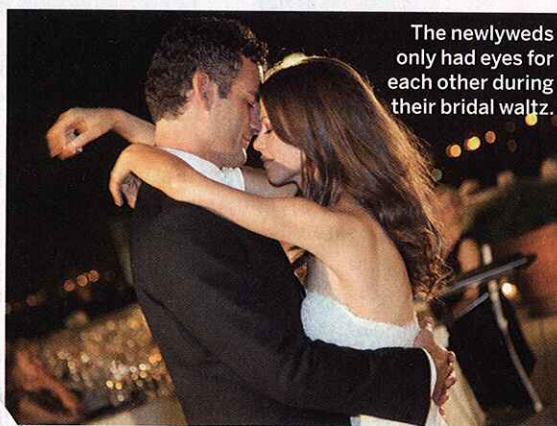
The picture-perfect pair seal the deal with a romantic first kiss.



Against the stunning Italian backdrop, Tammin and Sean's love was on display.

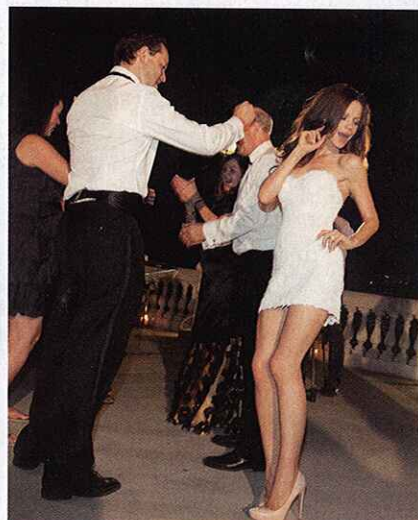
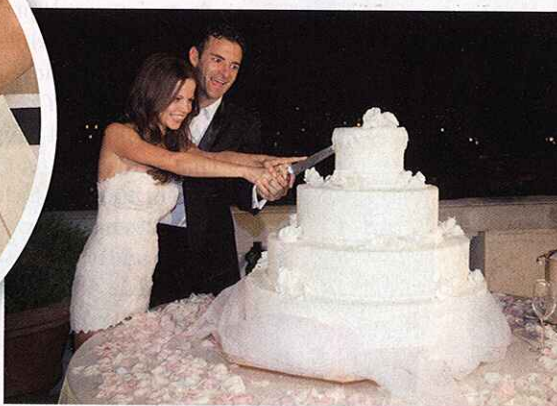


After a quick change, the bride and her groom spent the night celebrating with their 35 special guests.



The newlyweds only had eyes for each other during their bridal waltz.

'It was the most magical, breathtaking, incredible day of my life.'



Tammin wore a Vera Wang gown that she jokes was more suited to a wedding of 200 people than their private ceremony of only 35. "It threw me... how emotional I felt when I saw Tammin," Sean says. "I was prepared for her to cry. I was thinking, 'I'm going to be a man here.' As soon as they played the music and she stepped into the church, I got so emotional. "I was overcome with emotion. It was very unexpected. It was beautiful. I was done over..." Sean added an even more personal touch to proceedings, designing Tammin's three-carat round-cut diamond wedding band with the help of a New York jeweller. And Tammin's family added their own special moment. "My

mum sang *Hosanna* in the church and there was not a dry eye in the room," Tammin smiles. After exchanging vows, Tammin and Sean were ready to let their hair down. She changed into a chantilly lace shift dress by Monique Lhuillier to dance the bridal waltz – to Steven Curtis Chapman's *I Will Be Here* – while friends and family, including her proud parents Daryl and Julie, looked on. "We brought in beautiful white chairs, gold crockery and cutlery, and there were 150 votive candles and lanterns and a long table with all the guests at one table," Julie says. "As we sat, the sun set. Then there were the speeches: the bride and groom, the bridesmaids

and groomsmen, and us. We all talked. It was emotion like you wouldn't believe." The wedding party then celebrated by dancing to The Beatles, ABBA, Michael Jackson and Lady Gaga long into the night. "My dad and I danced to *Butterfly Kisses* [the 1997 hit ballad by Bob Carlisle], which, if you listen to it, will make you cry," Tammin says. And just to make sure they won't forget their big day in a hurry, the happy couple bought a puppy, that they named Valentina, in honour of their romantic Italian adventure. "It was very much a life-changing trip," Tammin says. "The whole experience is something we'll never forget."