




Princess  
Beatrice &  
Edoardo  
Mapelli Mozzi



**The Newlyweds**  
“They are very  
sweet together—  
they just fit,”  
a friend says of the  
couple (on their July  
17 wedding day).

***EXCLUSIVE  
DETAILS!***

# *Surprise Royal Wedding!*

THE QUEEN'S GRANDDAUGHTER QUIETLY TIES THE KNOT AFTER CANCELING  
HER ORIGINALLY PLANNED CEREMONY AMID THE PANDEMIC

By **ERIN HILL**



'It felt super-romantic and lovely'  
— A FRIEND

Princess Beatrice has always been close with her grandmother Queen Elizabeth. So when the coronavirus pandemic disrupted Beatrice's original wedding plans, forcing her to postpone her May nuptials to Italian property developer Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, the bride's top consideration was ensuring her grandmother could still attend the rescheduled ceremony—in safe, socially distanced style. In return the 94-year-old monarch bestowed the ultimate “something borrowed” upon her granddaughter, 31: a hand-me-down dress crafted by the Queen's own wedding-gown designer, Norman Hartnell, and the stunning Queen Mary diamond fringe tiara, the same one the Queen wore at her 1947 wedding to Prince Philip. After a last-minute change of heart about her dress, “she made a request [to borrow one from the Queen], and that was kindly granted—and it looked amazing!” says a friend of the bride and groom. “It was touching for both of them.” As for the historic tiara, “the Queen saved it specifically for Beatrice,” says a source. “They are exceptionally close.”

Their tight bond was clear at Beatrice's surprise July 17 nuptials—even if the Queen and Prince Philip, 99, had to stand the required six feet away from the newlyweds. The intimate day was unlike any royal wedding before: With no public announcement ahead of time, there were no fans or cameras lined up as Beatrice and Mapelli Mozzi, 36, exchanged vows before fewer than 20 relatives at the Royal Chapel of All Saints in Windsor Great Park, a short drive from Windsor Castle. The couple, along with Beatrice's mother, the Duchess of York Sarah “Fergie” Ferguson, and the



## DETAILS of the DAY



### The Location

The small ceremony was held in the Royal Chapel of All Saints at Royal Lodge, the York family home near Windsor Castle. Queen Elizabeth regularly worships at the intimate chapel.



### The Rings

British jeweler Shaun Leane designed Beatrice's platinum-and-diamond engagement and wedding rings—a fusion of Victorian and Art Deco designs that sit seamlessly together—after a detailed consultation with the groom.





**Sentimental Statement**  
 “Beatrice talks about her grandmother often, and it’s clear there’s a strong bond there—the dress and the tiara could not have been more perfect,” says the friend.

groom’s mother, Nikki Williams-Ellis, planned the revamped day in record time after the U.K. government announced that the wedding ban due to lockdown measures would be lifted in England on July 4. “They swung into action and brought it all together in two weeks, which is quite extraordinary,” says the friend of the couple, noting that the Queen is imminently headed for her annual summer vacation at Balmoral. Adds another friend: “Beatrice was so excited about it all, and I think they just jumped at the chance when the ban was removed. They were both desperate for it to happen. They wanted everything to be very classic and elegant; small but refined. It felt super-romantic and lovely.”



**The short service featured both personal touches and current pandemic health practices:** In accordance with government guidelines, no hymns were sung, but the bride’s and groom’s mothers read two of the couple’s favorite poems, Sonnet 116 by William Shakespeare and “I Carry Your Heart with Me” by American poet E.E. Cummings. Beatrice’s father, Prince Andrew, 60, walked her down the aisle. “Everyone had to be extremely cautious leading up to the big day, because the Queen was in attendance,” says the source. “They had to make sure everyone who was attending was in perfect health.” (Given the small guest list, Prince William and Princess Kate were not among the invitees, nor were Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.) Beatrice’s sister Princess Eugenie, 30, served as matron of honor, and Mapelli Mozzi’s son, 4-year-old Wolfie, whom he shares with his former girlfriend Dara Huang, an architect and designer, was best man and page boy. “He is very much part of their life,” an insider previously told *People*. “Beatrice has embraced him as part of her life from the outset.” Adds the source: “Beatrice is



← **The Bridal Bouquet**

The bouquet of roses, sweet peas and jasmine was later placed on the tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey—a royal-wedding tradition started by the Queen Mother in 1923.

→ **The Guests**

Beatrice’s sister Princess Eugenie and her parents, Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson (in June 2019), all attended the wedding. “It was very much a private family ceremony,” says a royal source.





## The DRESS & TIARA



### Royal Rewear

The Queen wore the Norman Hartnell ivory silk dress with diamanté on several occasions in the 1960s. It was reworked for Beatrice by the Queen's own dresser and dressmaker.



### Grand Topper

The Queen Mary fringe tiara (worn by both Elizabeth and her daughter Princess Anne at their weddings) was made for Mary in 1919 from a diamond necklace given by Queen Victoria.



a wonderful and very hands-on stepmom.”

Following the ceremony the bride and groom kicked off the celebrations with an outdoor party on the grounds of Royal Lodge, the shared home of Beatrice's parents, who divorced in 1996. While their original reception was planned for more than 100 guests at the Queen's Buckingham Palace gardens, around 30 people attended the scaled-down party. “A few more people were there than the wedding, but it was still very small and intimate. It was all outdoors and under a tent with the same matching floral design and theme as the wedding,” the source says. Andrew, Mapelli Mozzi and the groom's stepbrother Alby Shale all gave toasts, and because live music is still banned under the current U.K. government guidelines, the couple streamed music from an iPhone to speakers set up outside. The bride and groom and their guests stayed in special glamping pods that were erected on the grounds about 100 yards from the church and partied into the night.

The low-key celebration also avoided drawing attention to the ongoing scandal surrounding Andrew, whose connection to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein forced him to step down from royal duty in 2019. He was notably absent from the official wedding portraits, along with ex-wife Ferguson, 60, and Eugenie. “I think because of everything going on with her dad, this [scaled-down wedding] was actually better in many ways,” says the friend, who notes that compared to Eugenie—whose 2018 wedding to Jack Brooksbank was a lavish affair—“Beatrice has always been more low-key. She is a little more



serious and more traditional, and she would have been very conscious to do the right thing.”

As they settle into newlywed life, the couple will continue to reside in London, where Beatrice works for Boston-based tech company Afiniti, which has offices around the globe. They are also planning a honeymoon at a later date. “They're terribly happy. They're besotted with each other,” says a source close to the family. “They're down-to-earth and fun and have a great sense of humor. They're close to Eugenie and Jack, and it's all lovely.”

  
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 CLOSE TO THE  
 FAMILY

With **MONIQUE JESSEN, MARIA MERCEDES LARA** and **SIMON PERRY**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: BENJAMIN WHEELER/GETTY IMAGES; PA IMAGES; TOPICAL PRESS AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES; HULTON-DEUTSCH/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES