**The Promised Land – Caterers for Our Wedding**

*Initial Contact*

As we began wedding planning, Kris and I just knew that we wanted a relaxed family feel for our wedding meal. After searching the internet at length and enquiring with several businesses I was unsure how we would get exactly what we wanted without paying a fortune. After a discussion with a good friend of mine, who had been to an event catered by The Promised Land, I was directed to the Hardy’s and decided to contact Katie.

Straight away the initial contact from Katie was excellent, and we were quickly able to establish the basics by exchanging messages and then we decided to chat on the phone. The phone call was just fantastic. Instantly I felt at ease talking to Katie, also excitement and joy as she was sharing ideas for the food. It is hard to explain how much peace I had after chatting things through with Katie for over an hour. I was gripped by the way their charity was run, the food that would come from the allotment and local businesses, the family involvement and inclusion of people who they were in relationship with. Very quickly we decided…they were the caterers for us!

*First Meeting*

Katie and Chris invited us to their home to sample some pudding, get to know one another and chat about plans for the wedding meal. We felt so welcomed as we arrived and an instant warmth from the Hardy’s. We chatted for hours, indulged in their scrumptious desserts, and talked about all things wedding. Chris and Katie were very thorough in their questioning and attention to detail, whilst offering suggestions and checking what food we did and did not like. We covered budget, drinks, serving etc. Initial plans were complete, and we left feeling so happy. With smiles on our faces we couldn’t wait to see them again and sample some more delights.

*Run up to the Wedding*

We were in constant communication with the Hardy’s throughout the whole process. Continually bouncing ideas off one another, figuring out the logistics of the wedding day and facilities at the venue. Our wedding was completely DIY. We rented a barn, a complete shell and then everything else was down to us. We decided with the Hardy’s that the wedding food would consist of canapes upon arrival, a main course of sharing dishes and a selection of mini puddings. Additionally, we added in some filled pittas and snacks for an evening buffet.

We returned to the Hardy’s to sample some main courses, and canapes. Our minds were blown, the taste was outstanding, the flavours extraordinary and we couldn’t have been happier. We completely trusted them with the food for our big day. They incorporated our favourite foods in a way that we would never have been able to do. Very quickly our menu was established and finalised.

In addition to designing our menu for us Katie and Chris visited the venue to see what facilities they were working with. They decided that it was possible, they were going to be based in a cottage kitchen and they would bring extra equipment to facilitate the day, which even included a massive fridge! During this process I had no worries at all. Everything came together so well, and the provisions that the Hardy’s were offering was just fantastic. We also coordinated with them what cutlery and crockery was required, and Katie was full of fantastic ideas to tie into the theme of our wedding.

Furthermore, Chris and Katie were able to offer the whole package. Within their charity they work with rehabilitated adults who would be able to join us on the day and serve the drinks and food, along with some family members. This was so special to us and we loved that this was part of what the Promised Land do. It is also important to mention that they were very honest with the financial aspect of catering for us and allowed us to set the budget whilst offering alternatives to fit our needs.

*The Big Day*

Just WOW. When we arrived at the venue on our wedding day, Chris and Katie were hard at work with their team, all dressed professionally and so happy and welcoming to us and our guests. They were ensuring everyone had a drink and circulating with canapés. The atmosphere was lovely and calm and friendly. Our guests were interacting with the team and chatting throughout the day.

As per most weddings, our timings were completely off. We had to delay the meal due to the late arrival of guests (some traffic in local villages) and photos. Chris and Katie were completely accommodating and served the meal so professionally and it was DELICIOUS!!! Our main meal consisted of Chicken Parmesan, two salads and fresh bread. The portions were fantastic, and the family feel we wanted was instantly created. Chris and Katie completed the main meal by providing desserts, and despite us forgetting to bring them the seating plan they were super smooth in ensuring the dietary needs of our guests were met.

Throughout the day I was able to speak to Chris and Katie and could not convey my thanks enough for all that they had done. It is hard to express in words how wonderful and pivotal their part in our wedding was. Still to this day our friends and family comment on the outstanding food and extremely friendly team that were serving it.

Thank you, Katie and Chris and The Promised Land, for all that you did for the best day of our lives.

Lots of Love,

Kate and Kris xxx