

LOVE IS IN THE HEIR! PRINCESS EUGENIE

THE YOUNGER DAUGHTER OF THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK
ANNOUNCES HER BETROTHAL TO LONGTIME LOVE JACK BROOKSBANK



Looking completely at peace as her new fiancé envelops her in his arms in their official engagement photos (here and opposite, in Erdem dress and Jimmy Choo shoes), Princess Eugenie is clearly a very happy bride-to-be.

Another day, another joyous occasion for the Royal Family to celebrate: Princess Eugenie is getting married!

Eugenie, the 27-year-old younger daughter of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson (the Duke and Duchess of York), will marry her boyfriend of seven years, Jack Brooksbank, at St George's Chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle this fall.

"I'm absolutely overjoyed for them," said Prince Andrew. "Jack is an absolutely outstanding young man and Eugenie and he have got to know each other over a number of years, and I'm really thrilled."

Jack, 31, proposed while the couple were on holiday in Nicaragua, surprising his girlfriend by getting down on one knee atop a volcano as the sun was setting and birds flew overhead.

"The lake was so beautiful," gushed Eugenie as she recalled the moment. "The light was just a special light that I've never seen. I actually said this is an incredible moment, and then he popped the question, which was really surprising even though we have been together seven years. I was over the moon. I was crying. [It was a] complete surprise but it was the perfect moment. We couldn't be happier because we knew this was going to happen."

LONG-DISTANCE ROMANCE

While Eugenie may have been caught off-guard by the proposal, the couple's close family and friends knew it was imminent. She and Jack first met while skiing with friends in Switzerland and, according to the proud groom-to-be, it was "love at first sight."

She moved to New York City in 2013 for two years to work at an auction house but, despite the distance, their devotion to each other never wavered. The eighth in line to the throne (ninth after Prince William and Kate's baby is born in April) returned to London in 2015 to become associate director of art gallery Hauser & Wirth.

British-born Jack, a former nightclub manager, ▶



'I was over the moon and crying. It was a complete surprise'

Eugenie and Jack designed their engagement ring (above) together using an exquisite padparadscha sapphire that Jack had selected. The orange-pink stone is surrounded by diamonds. It is similar to the engagement ring that her mom, Sarah Ferguson, received from dad Prince Andrew (below).



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: JONATHAN BRADY/PA IMAGES VIA GETTY IMAGES (3); TIM GRAHAM/GETTY IMAGES (2); NO CREDIT



'We fell in love and we have the same passions and drive for life'

want to do anything until Eugenie had signed off on it!

And how long have you been wearing it now?
Eugenie: Literally less than 24 hours! The first time was last night and it feels very strange to have it.

You look down at your hands and say, "Wow, I'm engaged!" Yes! It's so nice.

Jack, did you get down on one knee?
I did get down on one knee. [Laughs]

Eugenie, for all those people who don't read gossip columns, introduce us to your husband-to-be. Wow, that's the first time someone's said that. [Laughs] Umm, this is Jack. We met when I was 20 and Jack was 24 and fell in love and we have the same passions and drive for life. It's so nice that we get to share this moment with everyone and that you get to meet Jack.

With a background in hospitality, are you planning on doing most of the planning for the wedding?

Jack: [Laughs] I'm not sure I'll get a word in edgeways! [Eugenie pulls a surprised face] I'm joking.
Eugenie: Yeah, we'll do it together.

Do you have a dress in mind? Straight or meringue? Oh, I don't know, maybe a mix of both! Can you do that? Is there such a thing? No meringue shoulders, that's a little bit out of fashion. Or maybe it is in fashion now. We'll see what happens, but planning will start as of tomorrow, I assume. ▶

markets Casamigos tequila – the brand once part-owned by actor George Clooney.

If their engagement and vacation photos are any indication, they're clearly at their best when they're together. As the news broke, Eugenie's mother, Sarah, posted a series of photos on Twitter showing the smiling couple nestled in each other's arms. One of the captions read: "We love Jack and I'm so excited to have a son, a brother, a best friend. Eugenie is one of the finest people I know and so together it will be harmony."

Eugenie's parents will surely be an inspiration as the young couple begin building a life together. Prince Andrew and Sarah have been divorced for years yet remain close friends and are constant sources of support to Eugenie and her beloved older sister, 29-year-old Beatrice.

As is customary, Eugenie and Jack's engagement was announced by Buckingham Palace. Then the

couple posed for official engagement photos and concluded their special day with a televised BBC interview.

Read on as the happy couple share their joy in their own words.

Huge congratulations! How does it feel that the news is finally out there?

Eugenie: It's so exciting!
Jack: Very, very happy, very excited.

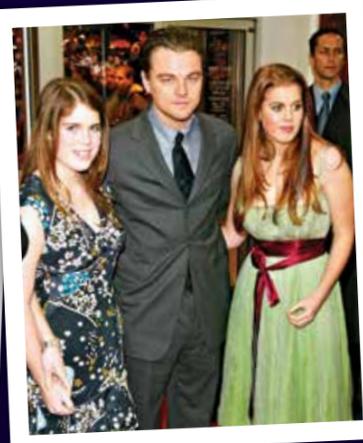
How many people knew then, up until today?

Eugenie: We literally told just our mothers and fathers, our brother and sister and my grandparents.
Jack: Very few people kept it a secret.

Everyone will want to see the ring, Eugenie. What's the story behind this, Jack? I went and found an amazing padparadscha sapphire, but then didn't



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: CAMERA PRESS/GENE NOON; TIM OCKENDE/PA IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES; MARTIN KEENE/PA IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES; DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES (2); ANWAR HUSSEIN/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN CARTER/MAIL ON SUNDAY/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; TIM GRAHAM/GETTY IMAGES



Born March 23, 1990, at a London hospital, Princess Eugenie Victoria Helena of York (opposite page, top, with her older sister, Beatrice, and her proud parents, the Duke and Duchess of York; and far left, at her christening) has grown up in the royal spotlight and has developed a strong bond with her extended family. She's especially close to her red-headed older sister, with the two often hanging out together (left, as bridesmaids in 1993; above, on Eugenie's first day of school; centre, hamming it up with their mom and the Spice Girls in 1999 and with Leonardo DiCaprio in 2004). Despite her privileged upbringing, the brunette has managed to keep a lower profile than her cousins, Princes William and Harry (right, at Trooping the Colour in 2012 and top right, skiing in Switzerland in 1995) and currently works at a London art gallery.





Although she holds a royal title, Eugenie doesn't carry out official duties on behalf of the Royal Family. Instead, she and Jack (above, leaving a nightclub in 2010) attend traditional events such as Royal Ascot (clockwise from top right, in 2011 and 2015) and family parties (far right, at Pippa Middleton's wedding). Opposite centre, taking in a New York Knicks game with Ellie Goulding last fall.



'Granny actually knew right at the beginning... She was very happy, as was my grandfather'

Where did you meet?

Jack: We were skiing, weren't we?

Eugenie: Yeah, Verbier.

Jack: In a friend's place in Nendaz, next to Verbier. We were skiing, which was amazing. Love at first sight. [Laughs]

Was it? For the pair of you?

Eugenie: [Smiles and nods]

Have you had a word with Her Majesty the Queen about this? Was she on the list of phone calls you made this morning? Granny actually knew right at the beginning, she was one of the very few people at the beginning and we left her this weekend and had a

lovely time and she was very happy, as was my grandfather.

What did she say to you, Jack? That she was incredibly happy and wished us well, [Eugenie nods] which was amazing. It was very, very nice that she was so happy for us.

Do you feel quite royal? Or do you feel like you're going to have to learn to be royal? How does that fit in your mind? [Looks at Eugenie] It's very, very special to – I suppose – be a part of your family now, but no, just "Jack and Eug," I suppose, but it's very nice to be a part of it, very special.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BACKGRID/INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES; MARK CUTHBERT/UK PRESS VIA GETTY IMAGES; RETROPIX/SPLASH NEWS; JAMES DEWANE/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; FROM LEFT (SIDE BAR): DOMINIC LIPINSKI - WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES; MARTIN RICKETT/PA IMAGES VIA GETTY IMAGES; POOL/ANWAR HUSSEIN COLLECTION/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; KARWAI TANG/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES



What about your family, Jack, what do they make of all this? Mum and Dad are great. Mum and Dad and my little brother are very, very happy for us. They're very chuffed

Eugenie: As happy as Jack is to support me and love my family, I'm just as happy to support his family. They're really, really wonderful people and they've been so lovely this whole time. In seven years you get to know people really well so, yeah, they're already sort of parents and little brother – big brother.

You've been together seven years now. Does your relationship feel

different this morning, Jack? Yeah, and for the better! It's amazing and I love Eugenie so much and we're just very, very happy and over the moon for what is to come and so excited now to be telling friends and family and just very, very excited to spend a lifetime together, which is amazing.

After seven years, were you wondering what was keeping him so long?

Eugenie: [Laughs] Maybe! No, I knew, I knew. **H**

REPORT: SUZANNE WINTROB



THE GRANDCHILDREN GET MARRIED

What lucky grandparents they are! The Queen, 91, and Prince Philip, 96, are no doubt thrilled to see five of their eight grandchildren settle down with their soulmates. With Princess Eugenie now engaged to Jack Brooksbank, the monarch and her husband will once again get a chance to walk down the aisle at a family wedding. The nuptials will take place in the fall at St George's Chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle – the same venue where Eugenie's cousin, Prince Harry, is set to tie the knot with Meghan Markle on May 19 and where her uncle, Prince Charles, married the Duchess of Cornwall in 2005. Here, we look in on the young royals whose example Jack and Eugenie can follow.



PETER PHILLIPS
WIFE: Canadian Autumn Kelly
MET: At the Montreal Grand Prix
HE PROPOSED: Outside their Gloucestershire home in the rain
WED: May 17, 2008
VENUE: St George's Chapel



PRINCE WILLIAM
MARRIED: Kate Middleton
MET: The University of St Andrews when they were freshmen
HE PROPOSED: In a log cabin in Kenya
WED: April 29, 2011
VENUE: Westminster Abbey



ZARA TINDALL
HUSBAND: Mike Tindall
MET: In a bar during the 2003 Rugby World Cup in Australia
HE PROPOSED: At home in Cheltenham
WED: July 30, 2011
VENUE: Canongate Kirk in Edinburgh



PRINCE HARRY
FIANCEE: Meghan Markle
MET: In London through friends
HE PROPOSED: In Nottingham Cottage
TO BE WED: May 19, 2018
VENUE: St George's Chapel