



Shutters
ON THE BEACH

BEACHSIDE ELEGANCE

*Emily Ferrera
Peter Carignan*

JUNE 27, 2009

“EVERY LITTLE GIRL DREAMS OF WHAT HER WEDDING WILL LOOK LIKE BUT AS YOU GET OLDER YOUR TASTE CHANGES,” EMILY SAYS. WHAT SHE KNEW FOR SURE WAS THAT SHE WANTED TO HAVE AN INTIMATE AFFAIR—JUST A SMALL GROUP OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN THEIR LIVES.

EMILY JOINED EARMONY WITH THE HOPE of finding true love but she didn't expect to find it with the first person she met on the site. When she and Peter set up their first date, Emily says that she was smitten from the start. The conversation just flowed and the ease of being together was just natural.

As their relationship grew to be more serious, Emily took Peter to England to meet her family and it was apparent that her family loved him as much as she did. From England, Peter whisked Emily off on a romantic getaway to Paris. “It was just perfect,” Emily says. After a picturesque dinner at the Eiffel Tower, Peter got down on one knee and asked Emily to marry him.

With the wedding date set for one year later, Emily began to visualize her dream wedding. “Every little girl dreams of what her wedding will look like but as you get older your taste changes,” Emily says. What she knew for sure was that she wanted to have an intimate affair—just a small group of the most important family and friends in their lives. “We wanted to be able to dance and connect with every single guest,” Emily says. “We wanted them to feel loved and important.”

She started the planning process slowly by scouring the Internet and searching through bridal magazines for inspiration. As soon as she chose Shutters on the Beach in Santa Monica, Calif. as her venue, it set the tone for the entire event. The bride and groom set a theme of comfortable elegance and chose a cool color palette of gray, cream and Tiffany blue to mimic the natural colors of the ocean.

With a guest list of just under 40, no detail was left out to make the wedding an absolute treat for everyone in attendance. Guests dined on a delectable meal of filet mignon and lobster tail on a table that was beautifully decorated with a long solid arrangement of fresh flowers down the center of the table. “I asked our florist to create a look of an unbroken sea of flowers,” Emily explains.

As a nod to her English grandmother, Emily opted for a wedding cake adorned with delicate sugar primroses. “They were the flowers my grandparents had at their 50th wedding anniversary,” Emily explains. The tiers of the cake were made up of white cake with Bavarian butter cream and raspberry and lemon cake with a layer of fudge cream.

Along the centerpiece were blue votive candles to create a romantic ambience. Each table setting was adorned with a gray satin ribbon, a napkin treatment and menu card that coordinated with the invitations. Alternating at each setting was a delicate starfish or an intricate rose that was whittled out of wood.

At the end of the night, guests were sent home with personalized bottles of water and Tiffany boxes filled with two Krispy Kreme doughnuts and Dunkin' Donuts coffee, the bride and groom's personal favorites.

As a special treat for her out-of-town guests, Emily provided welcome bags for them when they arrived. A Tiffany blue beach tote was filled with maps of Santa Monica, towels, sun tan lotion, snacks, personalized bottles of water and itineraries for guests to enjoy during their stay.

Thinking back on her special day, Emily wishes she could relive it over and over again. “I was over the moon the whole day,” she says. What was especially memorable for her was looking into Peter's eyes as they exchanged their vows. “That was so incredibly special,” she says. Also, Emily says that she will never forget how blown away she was when she saw the reception room for the first time. “It was amazing to see my vision come to life.”

If she could give any advice to newly engaged brides, she would like them to know that they will probably get nervous and stressed out on the big day but it is so important to stay present, be in the moment and remember to enjoy every magical second. 🌸



WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO FUTURE BRIDES?
"I recommend hiring a wedding planner early on in the planning process. Also, give your vendors a specific vision through photos and have trust in them."





Guests were sent home with a box of Krispy Kreme doughnuts and Dunkin' Donuts coffee.



As a nod to their dads, the couple served their two favorite drinks at the reception, Miller Lite and the Gin and Tonic.



REAL *weddings*

STYLEFILE

THEME

Comfortable Elegance

COLOR

Tiffany Blue, Gray, Cream



STYLETEAM

WEDDING COORDINATOR

LYNDSY HAMILTON EVENTS

BRIDAL GOWN

MONIQUE LHUILLIER

VEIL

GLAMOUR CLOSET

BRIDAL SHOES

MANOLO BLAHNIK

GROOM'S FORMALWEAR

BROOKS BROTHERS

GROOM'S SHOES

JOHNSTON & MURPHY

ENGAGEMENT & WEDDING RINGS

TIFFANY & CO.

HAIR STYLIST

HUSH HUSH SALON, HARMONY HUNT

MAKEUP ARTIST

MAKEUP BY RONANN

RECEPTION LOCATION

SHUTTERS ON THE BEACH

FLORIST

LILLA BELLO STUDIO

SPECIALTY RENTALS

CLASSIC PARTY RENTALS

ENTERTAINMENT

CITY CONNECTION

WEDDING CAKE

CAKE DIVAS

PHOTOGRAPHY

GARRETT PHOTOGRAPHY

TRANSPORTATION

CLASSIC LIMOS
INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

WEDDING NIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

SHUTTERS ON THE BEACH

HONEYMOON DESTINATION

MAUI, HI



Dainty sugar primroses covered the three-tier cake in homage to Emily's English grandmother.

