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HAWAII'S
BIG ISLAND

Sandro was a handsome groom in a Gucci tuxedo and Giorgio Armani shoes. In a heartfelt ceremony, Sandro presented his blushing bride with a gorgeous cushion-cut diamond ring, custom-designed with Santa Monica jeweler Refinity Inc. "My husband paid attention for the past seven and a half years of our relationship!" Shawna jokes. "If I had designed it, I wouldn't have done it nearly as well as he did." The bride sparkled in Refinity's 6-carat yellow and white diamond chandelier earrings and a right-hand 6-carat yellow diamond ring. In a sign of gratitude, Shawna gifted her bridesmaids with lemon quartz stud earrings, while Sandro's groomsmen received leather dopp kits and Hofbräuhaus beer steins from Munich, Germany.

"Our wedding day was, in a word, lavish," says the bride. "It was modern, elegant and boundless." The sweethearts wished to keep the emotions strong with an intimate guest list of 140 attendees. The Motown soul quartet Side Effect played an a cappella rendition of "My Girl" as guests made their way to The Oceanside Terrace for cocktail hour. A modern lounge setting prevailed with bundles of crisp white and bold orange calla lilies in 6-foot clear vases. The pair adhered to a fresh palette of lemon yellow and silvery grey in La Pacifica Ballroom for the reception. Elegant tables were dressed in grey rosette linens by Nuage Designs with monochromatic yellow centerpieces of mini calla lilies, orchids and roses. The bridal table stood out with modern all-white floral arrangements. Lehr and Black Invitations designed the escort cards, a diagram of the ballroom enclosed. In lieu of a traditional guest book, the groom hand-painted branches on canvas and celebrants were invited to leave their thumbprint to symbolize a leaf on a tree. While dinner was served, florist Jeff Leatham transformed the Oceanside Terrace, adding fuchsia flowers to the space along with magenta throw pillows and dramatic mood lighting. "Jeff kept every stage of the day progressing beautifully with his designs," Shawna says. "When the guests began trickling outside after dinner, it was a big shock to see the swanky, crisp look of the Terrace!"

Party-goers mingled beneath the moonlight then took to the dance floor for the lively sounds of The Cowling band. "Dancing with our family and friends was the highlight for us," says the bride. "It's hard to say when the party reached its peak because the whole day just kept getting better and better." A candy-laden dessert table dressed in magenta linens and calla lilies satisfied the guests' sweet tooth, capped by a fun crepe station. "Sandro and I are both really creative, opinionated people but our wedding cake was the one thing that we couldn't nail-down a vision for," Shawna says. "We met with the girls from Cupcakes Couture of Manhattan Beach in Mindy's office and they presented us with the most delicious flavors using all fresh fruit." The couple decided on the first sketch—a cascading polka dot almond cake with salted caramel frosting alternated with red velvet cake with a fresh raspberry filling and cream cheese frosting.

"What we envisioned for our day was far exceeded thanks to the vision of Jeff Leatham and a talented team of designers" says the bride. "Everything came together beautifully. Celebrating with our closest friends and family surrounding us was more than we could have ever imagined!"

