

SEPTEMBER 1, 2008
People



MICHAEL PHELPS
The Making
of a Champion



**CHRISTINA
APPLEGATE**
Breasts Removed
to Stop Cancer



DR. PHIL TALKS
The Truth About
My Marriage



"It's just one of those corny things where you know you've found your soul mate; that you were born to be with this person," says DeGeneres (with de Rossi at home in L.A. on their wedding day).



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JLC/LARA PORZAK PHOTOGRAPHY

Ellen & Portia's WEDDING

*"I'm the
LUCKIEST
Girl in the
WORLD"*

An ecstatic Ellen DeGeneres opens up about marrying her 'soul mate,' Portia de Rossi, and the newlyweds share all the details from their romantic big day

**EXCLUSIVE
PHOTOS & INTERVIEW**
**ELLEN & PORTIA'S
WEDDING!**
The rings, the cake, the flowers!
All the details from their emotional
and intimate at-home ceremony

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As the minutes ticked down before their wedding, Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi spent most of the day padding around their L.A. house in matching "I Do" slippers, busily putting the finishing touches on the preparations. "They were walking on air from the minute they woke up," says their wedding planner Mindy Weiss. Then, at 7:15 p.m. on Aug. 16, the women—both in custom-made Zac Posen designs and carrying Hot Chocolate spray roses—walked together into their candlelit den, where they were greeted by 19 of their closest friends and relatives. Taking a seat on floor pillows at the front of the room, the couple exchanged personal vows—with the talk show host, naturally, showing off her signature self-deprecating humor. "Portia went first, and when she finished, Ellen said, 'Well, that

was everything I was going to say! Now what do I do?'" recalls Weiss. "They were both sensitive, funny, and they both cried a bit. They just promised 'forever' to each other."

It's a forever that the newlyweds can't wait to begin together. "What can I say? I'm the luckiest girl in the world," says DeGeneres, 50. "She's now officially off the market. No one else gets her. And now she'll cook and clean for me." Adds de Rossi, 35: "The love we felt from the people surrounding us, and the love we have for each other, made it the most beautiful and emotional day. And one that we'll never forget."

The intimate affair—which was officiated by their friend, author Wayne Dyer—was far smaller than originally envisioned, which "just got to be too big and stressful," says DeGeneres. Instead "it was really important for us that the wedding be something that we would enjoy," says de Rossi, "and that would be fun

for our close family and friends."

And so it was. From the vegan red-velvet wedding cake to the hand-calligraphed (by Ellen's mom, Betty!) place cards to the vintage handkerchiefs given to weepy guests before the ceremony, every detail was a reflection of the brides. After the ceremony, the group—which included Betty, and de Rossi's mom, Margaret Rogers, who flew in from the actress's native Australia—gathered around the fireplace, where "everyone just talked and laughed," says Weiss. "Their moms never thought they would ever see their daughters get married, so they were having a wonderful time."

At the reception that followed, guests dined on vegetable spring rolls and miniature "beef" sliders (the food was all vegan) prepared by their personal chef David Silberkleit along with chef Tal Ronnen. Later the newlyweds danced to their favorite love song, Stevie Wonder's "Ribbon in the

"I think the most beautiful thing about this relationship is that she makes me better" —ELLEN



Mark Held of Mark's Garden florist designed the flowers, including the centerpiece of Ecuadorian roses and café au lait dahlias.

Getting married "is not something we've ever taken for granted," says de Rossi (enjoying a newlywed moment with DeGeneres). "That we get to do this, it means a lot."



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I'm a mother-in-law. It was a magical evening. My daughter and the love of her life are legally married. They have the legal civil rights that every other loving couple has. And what's wrong with that?"

—ELLEN'S MOM, BETTY