



weddings

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hen I would be heartbroken from missing him, he would always reassure me that we'd have our someday," says Lauren Gores of her now-husband Jake Ireland. With an unbreakable bond, the young couple endured four years of long distance after graduating from Indiana University—Lauren moved to Missouri to pursue a career as a news anchor, while Jake landed in Phoenix to get a doctorate in physical therapy.

On one of his many trips to Missouri, Jake proposed with a custom Neil Lane sparkler and their "someday" quickly began to take shape. Lauren took a job at Newway and moved back to L.A. She and event planner Mindy Weiss started arrangements for a wedding at the Beverly Park estate of her father, Chairman of Gores Group, Alec Gores—the same setting and weekend her sister and maid of honor Rochelle chose four years prior. Of her father's many business holdings, one of them is design house J. Mendel. The bride-to-be and her mother (who lives in Michigan) flew to New York five times over the course of the year for fittings with designer Gilles Mendel, who outfitted her with three exquisite white custom gowns (ceremony, reception and a dress for a family-only church service the following week).

As Lauren stepped onto the wood-plank aisle, her father kept whispering, "slow down!" Overlooking the sprawling canyon, there certainly was a lot to take in: Jake stood under a magnificent 20-foot altar swept in white garden roses. Before exchanging vows, Jason Paige and Lucy Woodward performed a song Lauren had written for Jake called "Our Someday."

Following an emotional ceremony, 418 guests (a who's who in social and fashion circles) walked down a manicured pathway, stopping for Nobu sushi and champagne, before entering the formal mega-tent that was erected on the neighboring lot. Sculptural floral centerpieces soared above courses of filet mignon and porcini-crusted halibut by Wolfgang Puck. During the reception, a father/daughter song was performed by son of Willie, Lukas Nelson ("We were all waterworks," the bride remembers). Lauren's father then surprised her with a set from Colbie Caillat. Around midnight, it was a shock to all when the back tent wall magically rose to reveal a second structure where the party continued. "Jake and I were the last ones there. We waited until every last person left and then went to the Hotel Bel-Air at 5:30 in the morning."

Guests met the couple at the hotel for brunch the following day. "No one was talking about how nice my dad's house was or how nice the linens were. They all talked about how much love they felt, and I think that was the biggest compliment to Jake and myself. We felt it, too." •

VENUE Private estate **CAKE** Sweet Lady Jane **MENU** Wolfgang Puck, Nobu **DRESS** J. Mendel **FLORIST** Mark's Garden **RENTALS** Classic Party Rentals **BINGS** Neil Lane **ENTERTAINMENT** Colbie Caillat, Jason Paige and Lucy Woodward, Lukas Nelson, West Coast Music's J.B. Project **PLANNER** Mindy Weiss **STATIONERY** Lehr & Black **VIDEOGRAPHY** Vidcam Productions **HONEYMOON** Bone Bona, Hawaii



White garden roses surrounded the altar, above the bride's place setting with dried lavender.



FROM TOP: Traditional wedding almonds as gifts. Taking a moment. The reception tent. Boxes of roses for guests to throw petals. Cutting the Sweet Lady Jane triple-berry cake, with Lauren with her niece Colette.

Lauren's wedding backdrop is a nod to her late-night dad's party. A botanical after-dinner Manhattan for guests' appreciation.