



RESOURCES

At-Isle Runner
Special Event Contractors

Beauty
Pamela Bragardi

Bridal Gown, Veil & Salon
Monique Lhuillier

Bridal Stylist
Maradee Wahl

Bridesmaid Gowns
Amsale

Cake
Fantasy Frostings

Calligraphy
Cindy Concio Lettering & Design

Catering
Ojai Valley Inn

Consulting
Geller Events

Entertainment
DJ Denise Love Hewitt
Everyday People for West Coast Music
Music; String Quartet for West Coast Music

Floral Design
Cello's Design

Formalwear
Tom Ford

Headpiece
Monique Lhuillier

Invitations/Paper Goods
Letri and Black

Jewelry
XIV Karats, LTD

Lighting Design
Lighten Up Inc.

Linens
La Tavola Fine Linen

Photography
Heather Kincaid

Registries
Gearys
Zola

Rentals
Revelry Event Designers
Theani Collection

Venue
Ojai Valley Inn

Videography
Bluecat International



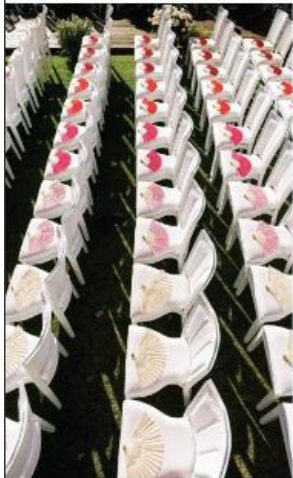
They dated during their freshman year, remained friends throughout college, and sadly lost touch when Brenna moved to New York City to be in an off-Broadway show, and Alex finished business school and traveled the world. Serendipitously, their paths crossed once again while attending a USC football game as alumni when they *physically* ran into each other at halftime. “When it’s right, it’s easy, and that’s how I knew,” shares Alex of their effortless relationship. “Every decision with Brenna – whether it was dating, moving in, or proposing – was easy for me to make.”

Brenna and Alex began planning their September nuptials with the help of Paige Blatt and Debbie Geller of Geller Events. “We truly had the best wedding planners in the business, so they prepared us for everything,” notes the bride. Though they’re both from Los Angeles, the duo chose a brand-new venue at one of their favorite resorts in Ojai, just over an hour drive from the city. “Once you arrive on property, you feel like you’ve been transported to the most tranquil location,” illustrates Brenna.





“We wanted our entire wedding day to feel warm, with love and with color.”



A gorgeous invitation suite designed by Lehr and Black showcasing an elegant burgundy border and laser-cut tree motif was sent to 365 guests, establishing the vibe of a luxury autumnal celebration from the very start. “We wanted our entire wedding day to feel warm, with love and with color,” the bride describes of their vision. “The ceremony felt ethereal and fairy tale-like, all while using colors guests wouldn’t expect.”

On the evening of the alfresco ceremony, loved ones discovered fans on their seats arranged in an ombré design, each row fading from ivory to oxblood. String renditions of popular songs performed by a quartet provided a classic, yet modern ambience for the day. Alex traversed the wood-plank aisle with his parents to Israel “IZ” Kamakawiwo’ole’s “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” the wedding party processed to “Halo” by Beyoncé, and Brenna and her parents walked down the aisle to “Make You Feel My Love” by Adele. She was radiant in a strapless lace gown and carried a bouquet of roses, dahlias, and peonies in blush and burgundy hues. “I had dreamed

about that moment my whole life,” confirms Alex of seeing his bride. “I was overcome with such joy and happiness, knowing that all of my decisions had led me to that moment, and I was marrying the most amazing woman in the world.”

Since Brenna and Alex were both raised Jewish, they incorporated traditional elements into the ceremony, while making sure their rabbi explained each custom. “The most important aspect of the celebration to me was actually marrying Brenna,” affirms the groom. “I wanted to make sure that love was the overarching theme and that the ceremony was meaningful, rather than just going through the motions.” They wrote personalized vows and included their own special twist on the circling tradition: “I did one circle around Alex, he then did one circle around me, and then we did the final one together,” recalls Brenna. The ceremony concluded with the breaking of the glass and a celebratory eruption of confetti as “Love on Top” by Beyoncé started the party.





"Once we stepped into the reception space, the color scheme flipped," reveals the bride of the décor, which focused on shades of red and just hints of light pink and vanilla tones. "The goal was for the reception to feel sexy, intimate, and fun!" Long, mirrored tables were adorned with tall glass candlesticks and low arrangements of dahlias, roses, tulips, and additional flowers in the fall-inspired color palette, and round varieties were strewn with bold velvet linens and towering centerpieces comprised of similar blossoms.

The bride's favorite arrangement, however, was a floral chandelier featuring a halo of greenery and cascading blooms in pink and burgundy. "It became a focal point that brought everyone right to the dance floor," shares Brenna, who removed her overskirt to create a second look for the reception full of entertainment. A live band performed in front of a stunning draped backdrop until midnight, then DJ Denise Love Hewett took over until the wee hours of the morning, and the USC Marching Band even surprised the couple – a "dream come true" for the groom.

"The entire weekend was filled with so much love," muses the bride. "From the moment all our guests arrived, the love in Ojai was palpable." Her groom adds: "It was just pure love the entire weekend. Everyone was happy, everyone was smiling, and everyone was there to celebrate us and have an amazing time."

KEICY CHRISTY





OCEANSIDE OPULENCE

LINDSAY MARCUS & CAMERON ST. HILAIRE

October 19, 2019 | Santa Barbara, California | Photographed by Valerie Darling Photography

While celebrating her boyfriend's birthday with a romantic stay-cation at a luxurious seaside resort in Santa Barbara, Lindsay Marcus soon realized that he had a different set of plans in store for them. Cameron St. Hilaire surprised his beloved with a proposal on a bluff overlooking the ocean just as the sun began to set. The

beautiful moment was also shared with their loved ones, thanks to Cameron's thoughtful planning. "After I said yes, I realized that my parents and Cam's family had surprised me and were on the balcony of a nearby suite watching the full moment unfold," tells Lindsay. "We all had dinner together to celebrate!"



RESOURCES

Aisle Runner

Town & Country Event Rentals

Beauty

Lauren Cory - hair
Jasmine Dashtizad - makeup

Bridal Gown

Nieta BenShabu

Bridal Salon, Headpiece & Veil

Kinsley James

Bridal Stylist

Maradee Wahl

Bridesmaid Gowns

Galvan

Cake

Ielè Pâtisserie

Formalwear

Armani; The Black Tux

Consulting & Design

Alexandra Kolendrianas

Entertainment

Jazz Quarter for Studio 1
Entertainment; The Midnight
Special for West Coast Music;
Subito Strings

Favors

MiMi Photo

Floral Design

The Hidden Garden

Invitations/Calligraphy

East Six

Jewelry

The Foundry Fine Jewelry by Janet
Heller; Joel's Fine Jewelry

Lighting Design

Images by Lighting

Linens

La Tavola Fine Linen

Photography

Valerie Darling Photography

Registries

Bloomingdale's; Crate and Barrel
Williams Sonoma

Rentals

Casa de Perrin; Revelry Event
Designers; Theoni Collection

Venue/Catering

The Ritz-Carlton Baccara, Santa
Barbara

Videography

Hoo Films



Settling on the locale for their wedding was met with ease. "Santa Barbara has been a very special place for us because this is the first city we have lived as a couple," explains Lindsay, also pointing out that their selected site was where Cameron proposed. "So when it came time to decide on a venue, it only seemed right for us to complete this circle!"

For most of the yearlong planning – or "31 years" as Lindsay jokes, she relied on her mother and her event planner. Cameron left the majority of the decisions up to them, but was heavily involved in the music and food selections. Lindsay chose a timeless color scheme of white and gold, and she wanted an abundance of flowers arranged by The Hidden Garden incorporated into the design. She came across a photo of a striking Lucite chuppah and drew inspiration from that concept. "With our ceremony taking place next to the ocean, we felt that Lucite pieces were fresh and current and allowed our chuppah to really be our focal point," illustrates the bride.

The big day had come, and it was time for the couple's "first look." "I was pretty calm while I was getting ready, but as the day went on, I got progressively antsy," Lindsay admits. "Once I saw him, all of the butterflies that I had started to feel went away, and I was so excited to get married!" As for her groom, he confides that the moment he saw her will be forever ingrained in his mind: "She looked gorgeous."

A three-piece band played acoustic versions of contemporary hits as guests were seated for the traditional Jewish service. The aisles were bedecked in frothy arrangements of ivory florals, as was the chuppah, while guests were seated on cream-cushioned chairs with acrylic backs as not to distract from the stunning ocean view. Lindsay gracefully made her way down the petal-strewn aisle on the arms of her parents. She wore a breathtaking fitted off-the-shoulder lace gown featuring a sheer bodice and held a nosegay of vanilla garden roses with gardenia foliage.





“It was truly spectacular and exactly what I had envisioned and more!”



Attendees enjoyed a lovely alfresco cocktail hour made complete with a live jazz band personally selected by the groom. For the reception, the bride had envisioned a classic, romantic vibe, and she was filled with excitement when she and Cameron saw the room before loved ones entered. “It was truly spectacular and exactly what I had envisioned and more!” remembers Lindsay. The ballroom was bedecked with sheer ivory draping and opulent masterpieces of white orchids, roses, and hydrangeas, and illuminated with assorted candles. A grandiose flower wall served as the backdrop for the band, whose members all wore smart black tuxedos.



Friends and family found their table assignments by way of personalized stir sticks in crystal Champagne flutes which had been placed on a mirrored table with fresh blooms and dreamy candlelight. To add depth to the space, both round and rectangle tables were adorned with an eclectic mix of vessels and a variety of high and low floral designs. "The centerpieces were grand and lush!" describes the bride.

Lindsay and Cameron had tirelessly prepared for their first dance, which was professionally choreographed. "We practiced perfectly leading up to the wedding. Still, I asked Cam if he wanted to practice one last time before we went out, and he very confidently told me that it wasn't necessary," explains Lindsay. "When it came time, Cam messed up the steps in the first two seconds and the rest was a disaster, but we laughed through it and agree it was one of our favorite moments from the evening."

The newlyweds were elated with the result of their celebration and say they are grateful they had made the decision to stay by each other's side throughout the party. "We are so happy we stuck to this idea because we have all of the same amazing memories and experiences to look back on," shares the groom. NICOLE PALACIOS





CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE

EMILY GOLDSTEIN & JUSTIN STRAUSS

October 26, 2019 | Los Angeles, California | Photographed by Jose Villa Photographer



RESOURCES

Beauty

Nancy Lador for Giuseppe Franco - hair
Chadd Bell - makeup

Bridal Gown, Veil & Salon

Manique Lhuiller

Bridal Stylist

Maradee Wahl

Bridesmaid Gowns

Twobirds

Catering/Cake

Hotel Bel-Air

Consulting

Mindy Weiss Party Consultants

Entertainment

DJ Bobby French, Haley Reinhart
The Midnight Special for West
Coast Music; String Quarter for
West Coast Music

Floral Design

Maon Canyon

Honeymoon

Bygones Resort Dubai; Four Seasons
Hotel The Westcliff, Johannesburg
Lezeu Estates; Landaolae; The Silo
Hotel; Victoria Falls River Lodge

Invitations/Stationery

Lehr and Black

Jewelry

EF Collection

Lighting Design

Daylight Event Lighting

Linens

J. Samuel Textiles - fabric
Resource One Inc. - seamstresses

Mother's Gown

Manique Lhuiller

Photography

Jose Villa Photographer

Registries

Bloomingdale's; Cearns
Williams Sonoma

Rentals

The Ark Rentals; Casa de Penin
Small Masterpieces; Theoni Collection;
Town & Country Event Rentals

Shoes

Tabitha Simmons

Venue

Hotel Bel-Air

Videography

Aaron Novak Films



Emily Goldstein and Justin Straus were instantly a perfect match six years ago – at least according to several online dating apps. Though the two exchanged numbers and texted, nothing romantic officially happened until four years later when mutual friends encouraged them to go on a date. “When he finally called me for the first time, his name and number were still in my phone,” exclaims Emily. “He was hiding in my back pocket the whole time!”

Their connection was undeniable, and the couple was engaged nine months later when Justin proposed at the restaurant where they had their first date. Since Emily is a talented jewelry designer, Justin meticulously searched for the right stone. “The diamond came from a cutter in Europe who specializes in antique cushion-cut stones,” he reveals. “When I saw it for the first time, it gave me that same feeling I had when I met Emily for the first time – she was perfect!”

When it came time for wedding planning, the bride worked closely with her mom, as well as her planner, famed event consultant Mindy Weiss. “Mindy and her team brought our vision to life and truly exceeded every expectation with their attention to details!” describes Emily. “Justin was supportive throughout the entire process, and his biggest concern was that I have my dream day.”



Coincidentally, Justin helped jumpstart the design process for the celebration. Being in the textile industry, it all began from a piece of fabric he was working with for a project. "I noticed a scrap of the most gorgeous sage green velvet in his work bag. I loved the idea of highlighting a color that was festive for fall, but also unique," shares Emily. "We wound up using the fabric consistently – beginning with the invitation suite [custom designed by Lehr and Black] and then as the tablecloths on our reception tables."

Electing to get married close to home, the couple wanted a venue that felt secluded and romantic as though you had ventured far outside of Los Angeles and its bustling atmosphere. "It's a dream venue," confirms the bride, who opted for the ceremony to take place near the site's swan lake. The décor was arranged to complement the naturally lush setting, such as the stunning chuppah comprised of blooms in hues of cream, sage, lavender, and apricot. "Considering it was a black-tie affair, we thought black chairs juxtaposed against the feminine florals would be a striking touch!" illustrates Emily of the unexpected element.



The bride wore a sophisticated gown of French Chantilly lace with a sweetheart neckline and jacket overlay that she removed after the ceremony. The lace pattern on her dress continued along the exquisite train. She was a vision of femininity as she started down the aisle on the arm of her brother to "Can't Help Falling in Love" performed live by former *American Idol* contestant Haley Reinhart. "My younger brother, Ryan, and I are extremely close. I wanted to honor him in some way and thought it would be special to have him walk me halfway down the aisle to my parents," Emily expresses. "I had never seen this done before, and it was a very special moment I will cherish forever!"

After the heartfelt service, the newlyweds and their 225 guests made their way over to a tented area. "I wanted our reception to feel like an intimate dinner party at home with our closest family and friends," tells Emily. "Mindy and her team had the amazing idea to design the front of our tent to look like the entrance of our home. One of my favorite details was our doormat with my new last name!"



“Mindy [Weiss] and her team had the amazing idea to design the front of our tent to look like the entrance of our home.”



The interior of the space was exquisite, displaying elements that complemented the luxe green velvet. Place settings showcased fine china with green leaf details and chic circular customized menu cards, accompanied by gleaming crystal glassware and gilt flatware. “From our hand-painted fabric panels that canopied from the ceiling, to monogrammed napkins with our intertwined initials, down to the masquerade masks at the after-party, as an ode to our wedding being the weekend of Halloween – everywhere you looked, there were thoughtful details!” says the groom of the big day.

Emily agrees, “It definitely was my dream day!” She encourages other brides and grooms: “Lose your phone, and be 100% present. Enjoy the memorable moments like all of the love and excitement in the room, as the guests that traveled near and far to celebrate, and seeing all of the hard work and special details come to life!” NICOLE PALACIOS

