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Billowing blooms and magical moments continued to wow throughout the reception, even stunning the groom himself. "The overwhelming feeling the lighting and flowers created was unbelievable and truly unique," he says. Guests were guided to their seats with the help of seating cards perched atop tables festooned with countless pink roses. Clear, simple vases of varying heights housed candles that provided a romantic glow. A towering tree of pink and red roses mixed merrily with languid purple branches.

A mix of round and square tables had been chosen to add character while still accommodating the couple's 500 guests. The rounds

featured sky-reaching vases filled with arrangements of pink, purple, and white blooms from which crystals were draped alongside scarlet orchids. Groupings of smaller, lower arrangements featuring tight clusters of roses and camellias encircled the bases of the towering centerpieces. Square tables were topped with four tall stands that provided support for flowers to stretch. Lower arrangements surrounded these stands, a fanciful feast for the eyes. Clear plates edged with gleaming silver studs were each topped with a menu and a single purple calla lily. Lavender lighting cast a dreamlike glow overall. "It was truly remarkable," recalls the bride.





Guests feasted on a sit-down dinner that included a first course of wild mushroom lasagna, followed by a salad of frisée, endive, oak leaf, and Lola Rosa lettuce. The main course provided sea bass filet and petit filet mignon. For dessert: a wedding cake of five simple-but-elegant square white layers topped with a hot pink camellia. Surrounding the confection was a table paved entirely with pink and purple blooms, a sea of roses and three camellias surrounding the base of the cake. "We really wanted a cake that would wow our guests," says the couple. Mission accomplished.

The stunning floral theme continued onto the stage that hosted the musical entertainment. Fashioned to resemble

a garden, the platform featured various blooms while giant lavender roses were projected onto the wall behind the band. Oversized white roses, as well as the couple's initials, were projected onto the dance floor.

While the beauty of the event was undeniably extraordinary, what really made the day special was celebrating with friends and family. "Having so many loved ones from all over the world being in the same place to celebrate the most important day of our lives with us stands out the most," notes the groom. Concur the bride, "I love having friends and family come together and have fun. Seeing others having a great time truly makes me happy."

KELLY LEE



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ANNE LEMAN & ANDREW BAKER
JULY 17, 2010 BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN SOLANO

THOROUGHLY ROMANTIC

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Jewelry
Castler
Kwiat

Mother's Gown
Bruce Oldfield (Vintage) - MOB

Photographer
John Solano Photography

Shoes
Christian Louboutin

Veil
Bride's Head Revisited

Venue
The Beverly Hills Hotel



A gorgeous setting was first on the list of the bride's desires. "I really wanted an outdoor ceremony in a very intimate environment that was also classically romantic," emphasizes Anne. The Polo Private Dining Room at the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel fit the bill beautifully, boasting a lovely garden patio and private entrance. Seating comprised of crisp white sofas and settees made a striking contrast to the emerald lawn during the pre-ceremony cocktail hour. "We thought it was a nice way to break up the evening, especially as we had an elaborate dinner menu planned," says Anne. A chuppah wreathed in white blossoms stood at the end of an aisle patterned with rose petals, and blond chiavari chairs added an additional touch of elegance.

The bride wore a dress of her own design, accenting the shirred silk tulle and lace of the gown with a creamy bouquet of roses and stephanotis blossoms. Although the couple opted to forgo a wedding party, Anne's two closest girlfriends were on hand. "It felt like they were my bridesmaids, but without any drama or pressure!" The bride and groom were each accompanied down the aisle by their parents, and exchanged vows before a rabbi while their beautifully detailed Jewish marriage contract was displayed in the foreground.



Flowers in delicate shades of blush, crème brulee, and white liberally enhanced the space. Lush hydrangeas, peonies, dahlias, roses, and orchids were packed in silver vases and julep cups, and arranged atop vintage-style candelabras. Additional blooms accented the gathered columns of fabric that surrounded the space, the table upon which the towering wedding cake stood, and a lovely après-dinner display of desserts. A pair of oversized mirrors reflected and multiplied the candlelit beauty of the exquisite décor. "I really wanted it to be romantic, lush, and beautiful with lots of ivory and touches of soft pink and green to tribute the surrounding setting," explains Anne. "I am a romantic, and I think the wedding reflected that."

The result of the couple's ideas and intentions was a celebration they will cherish as distinctly their own. "Everything together really made for a memorable wedding from start to finish," says Andrew, and Anne firmly concurs. "Many people have ideas for their dream weddings that are different than yours, and that difference is what makes weddings so special and personal," she says. "My best advice is to stay true to your vision."

MARIYN OLIVERA

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