

Santa Barbara

MAGAZINE

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BLOOM
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Hollye Jacobs
in her garden

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FOOD + WINE



BUI'S TIPS for MEMORABLE ENTERTAINING

- 1 Choose refined details. Linens, tablewares, and favors should blend elegantly.
- 2 Stick with a color scheme and stay within two or three shades of the palette. Think pink but with pale, rose, and blush.
- 3 The more you can incorporate the character of the guest of honor, the more meaningful the event becomes.

WHERE TO FIND

CAKE Montecito Confections Bakery, 805-965-8150, montecitoconfections.com.
EVENT DESIGN Revelry Event Designers, 323-931-1880, revelryllc.com.
Classic Party Rentals, 805-566-3566, classic-partyrentals.com.
FLOWERS Mark's Garden, 310-271-5600, marksgarden.com.

TOP TO BOTTOM: Party favors of teas, chocolates, and cosmetics; a gift wrapped with love. OPPOSITE: Revelry Event Designers brought Simon's vision to fruition. Philippe Starck Ghost chairs accompany tables and canopies provided by Classic Party Rentals.

truffles, and more truffles ending with a sampler of sophisticated sugary bites. An amuse bouche of Bambina Black Truffle Fettucine to charge the palette, a Mon Petit Poulet blanketed with black truffles for the main course, and a finale of Baby Berry Cheesecake Lollipops, Pretty in Pink Tartlets and Giggle Pink Marshmallows. Veuve Clicquot Rosé flowed as toast after toast of well wishes were announced for the baby, and a spectacular cake crafted by Montecito Confections to resemble a luxe Louis Vuitton diaper bag was rolled out to more oohs and aahs.

But the sentimental host had a few more jaw-dropping moments up her sleeve: a surprise performance by Kenny Loggins (who originally sang at the friend's wedding 10 years ago) and a "shopping" spree at a full-scale baby boutique created on the premises for the guests to gather favors.

Simon sat by with the most satisfied smile as friends and family enjoyed her months of thoughtful preparation. "Anyone can throw a fancy party, but knowing your guest of honor and her favorite things—an event planner just can't guess that," says Simon. "I wanted to make sure that she was part of every aspect of that party. That is where the love comes from." ■



FOOD + WINE



**pretty
IN PINK**
Sumptuous sweets, truffles, and treats at the ultimate baby shower—some girls have all the luck!

FOOD + WINE



SOMETHING MAGICAL happens when a baby girl is about to arrive—pink ribbons and bows with rolls of tulle in blush, coral, and rose fill the mind in anticipation of welcoming the bundle of bliss. One such imaginative hostess put her passion for parties to the most sincere of tasks in throwing the ultimate baby shower for a close friend. Bui Simon is no stranger to extraordinary entertaining—birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries are all elegantly celebrated at her Il Brolino estate. But this fantasy-filled, baby-brimming, overflowing pink extravaganza may be her finest moment. “I wanted everything to smell of fresh flowers and taste of sweet treats with an abundance of love,” shares Simon, who planned the event herself. “I told the florists to keep everything looking alive and full of roses. Think the Rose Parade!”

Mark’s Garden of Los Angeles took her directions to lush heights and created a canopied tent filled with more than 7,000 pink roses from Holland, New Zealand, and South America and another 1,000 pink peonies mixed with layers of hyacinths, tulips, and hydrangeas. The cascading ceiling dripped with Dutch wisteria and was centered by a Simon-inspired custom “baby mobile” chandelier of floral alphabet blocks and balls monogrammed with the expectant mother’s and daughter’s initials. The awestruck 36 guests were seated (on blush pink Lucite Philippe Starck Ghost chairs) at the hand-dyed, linen-laced table for the festivities to ensue. Revelry Event Designers assisted Simon in fulfilling her adorable aspirations for the banquet by placing ribbon and rhinestone-encrusted wire baby carriages, bean-laden teddy bears, and sparkling crystal pacifiers as napkin holders parallel to each guest’s table setting.

Private chef Roberto Cortez conjured up a whimsical but fanciful menu to honor the mother-to-be’s favorite foods: truffles,

LEFT TO RIGHT: Host Bui Simon savors the moment; a crystal pacifier welcomed each guest to their seat. Invitations, menus, and place cards by Lehr & Black. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Truffle-infused chicken; a pink bunny greets guests; a diaper bag-inspired cake by Montecito Confections; a custom carriage by Revelry Event Designers; the guest of honor’s favorite treat: truffles; beautiful blossoms by Mark’s Garden; an amuse bouche for starters; a handcrafted lima bean and black-eyed pea teddy bear sits amid the ocean of roses.



MENU
Peach Pink Bellinis
Amuse Bouche
BAMBINA BLACK TRUFFLE FETTUCINE
CREAMY PECORINO, LARDONS, PARSLEY
Salad
BABY PEARS WITH BRIE, WALNUT OIL,
SHALLOT CONFIT, BASIL, ARUGULA,
AND SHERRY VINAIGRETTE
Entrée
MON PETIT POULET BLANKETED WITH
SHAVED BLACK TRUFFLES
LEMON SCALLION BUTTER, POTATO PUREE
Sweet Carriage Treats
BABY BERRY CHEESECAKE LOLLIPOPS
PRETTY IN PINK LEMON TARTLETS
GIGGLE PINK MARSHMALLOWS

