

CALIFORNIA DREAMS

*Silvie Hwang
Stan Lim*



SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

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SILVIE AND STAN'S ROMANCE BEGAN when they were both working on getting their MBA degrees from the University of California, Irvine. Their first encounter took place during orientation class where they each had to evaluate the other's presentation skills. Clearly, they both passed with flying colors because that initial meeting spiraled into a two-year romance.

For Silvie's birthday, Stan decided to surprise her with a trip to Hawaii where he had planned to pop the question. "The weekend excursion was filled with great food and fun activities," Silvie says. But it was when Stan insisted on trekking the "semi-dangerous" trails of Manoa Falls in Oahu that Silvie knew he was up to something. "As the sun began to set, we made it to a small remote waterfall," she says. "He asked me to stand by the waterfall for a picture and instead of pulling out the camera, he pulled out a ring." Silvie jubilantly accepted and their engagement was underway.

As soon as they got back from their trip to Hawaii, the couple immediately began their search for the perfect wedding planner. "It was really important for us to find someone who we could collaborate with and help craft and design something unique for our special day," Silvie says. Then, they met Carolyn Chen from "The Special Day" and they knew they had found the right candidate.

Silvie chose a fresh color palette of green and orange for the big day to coordinate with their Californian relaxed and organic theme. For her venue, she wanted to make sure it included California's most beautiful feature—the majestic ocean. So, the couple chose a private estate in Pacific Palisades, which boasted sweeping 180-degree views of the coastline. "The location was perfect for us to hold an outdoor ceremony and reception for our 160 guests," she says.

To tie in the decor with the venue, Silvie and Stan chose an array of tropical blooms. An assortment of orchids, succulents and other tropical foliage were used in the centerpieces and bouquets. To bring in the theme to the ceremony, a canopy made

out of bamboo was artfully crafted and covered with orange tropical flowers.

As the day progressed and guests were able to enjoy the incredible sunset, the dinner tables lit up as tall cylindrical vases filled with orchids and floating candles dreamily began to glow. Each table setting was decorated with a stem of tropical foliage and an orange napkin and menu card. After a delectable dinner, guests danced the night away or lounged in one of the several white-tented cabanas that were decorated with glittering chandeliers and sofas.

Instead of a wedding cake, Silvie opted for a cupcake tower filled with mini cupcakes that were decorated with her wedding colors. This made for a striking display and a tasty treat for guests. As for the dessert bar, Silvie says that it was decadent and endless with guilty pleasures. "The assortment kept everyone coming back for more," she says. Guests had their choice of chocolate dipped strawberries, soufflés, dark chocolate coconut sushi, citrus crepes and Silvie's personal favorite, the kiwi mint cooler and the tangerine sorbet, which matched the color scheme.

At the end of the evening, guests were given organic cotton shopping bags printed with Silvie and Stan's wedding logo to take home. Inside was an environmentally friendly "Green To-Do List." The name cards were also designed for guests to take home. "They were mini succulents planted in small jars and were printed with the guests' names on them," Silvie explains. "We chose gifts that were sustainable, useful and green."

Silvie and Stan's big day was filled with so many beautiful memories. Silvie particularly remembers when Stan saw her in her dress for the first time. "He got very emotional," she says. "He used my grandfather's handkerchief that I had given him beforehand." But, equally amazing, Silvie says, was when they stood together before all of their family and friends and exchanged their wedding vows—this was a moment she will never forget. 🌿

Photography IRA LIPPKE

STYLEFILE

THEME
Tropical and Organic

COLOR
Orange, Green, Cream



STYLETEAM

WEDDING COORDINATOR
THE SPECIAL DAY, CAROLYN CHEN

BRIDAL GOWN
NAZZY NAZARI

JEWELRY
ANNA SELENA

BRIDAL SHOES
CHANEL

GROOM'S FORMALWEAR
ELITE TUXEDO

BRIDESMAID DRESSES
KAY UNGER NEW YORK

HAIR & MAKEUP ARTIST
JOYCE LUCK STYLE

CEREMONY & RECEPTION LOCATION
PRIVATE ESTATE

CATERER
GOOD GRACIOUS!

INVITATION
PAPER-GIRL

FLORIST
NISIE'S ENCHANTED FLORIST

ENTERTAINMENT
MASS ENSEMBLE
HEY MISTER DJ, DJ CASEY

SPECIALTY LINENS
WILDFLOWER LINEN

SPECIALTY LIGHTING
G2 AUDIO AND LIGHTING

FAVORS
VITRONIC PROMOTIONAL GROUP

CUPCAKE TOWER
VANILLA BAKE SHOP

PHOTOGRAPHY
IRA LIPPKE

VIDEOGRAPHY
ELYSIUM PRODUCTIONS

WEDDING NIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS
THE HUNTLEY HOTEL

HONEYMOON DESTINATION
BALI



A delectable mini cupcake tower was displayed in lieu of a wedding cake.



WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO FUTURE BRIDES?
"Every bride probably says that time flies during the wedding and it's over before you know it. It's so true! Find a good photographer and videographer who really fits your style, understands what you want and is easy to work with."



Guests took away eco-friendly shopping bags and "To-Do" lists as favors.



Silvie's dog, Uci, strutted down the aisle with a specially designed leash covered in orange orchids.



Succulents planted in mini jars acted as both escort cards and favors.

