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# Modern Bride Boston

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aroundtown

# an oceanside celebration

By Laura MacNeil  
Photography by eliseinc.com

JEANNA BERMAN AND  
STEPHEN REIDY



**ON THE WATERFRONT**  
Clockwise from top, Cape Cod serves as an unforgettable backdrop for the couple's exchange of vows. Sage green typefaces continue the celebration's color scheme. Inside each place setting's napkin, a menu card details the meal to come.



And don't forget that meal you so carefully chose! Include a full-color shot or two of the buffets or food stations—or that gorgeously plated entrée—to show off your menu magic.

For your dessert shots, look for one of the cake by itself, and then one with you and your man cutting into it or enjoying its taste. If there's a groom's cake, one shot of it alone does the trick. Don't forget close-ups of any other special requests, like the tiramisu in honor of your Italian roots.

### THE BIG PICTURE

Sometimes, in the rush to capture every moment, a few key details get left out of the wedding album. “The most common mistake you can make is to neglect to choose overall scene shots of your childhood home, the ceremony setting and the reception site, inside and out,” West says. “In the flurry of excitement, these images, so crucial to telling the overall story, can get lost in the shuffle.”

To immortalize your ceremony and reception sites, choose images of them that are zoomed out for the full effect. While a bird's-eye view may not always be possible, a good lengthwise shot of the cathedral or outside garden where the ceremony or reception happened will do. One pointer: Consider choosing shots that feature the place without many people milling around, as crowds may take away from the location's ambiance.

### STAYING FOCUSED

It's easy to become overwhelmed when you're faced with a mountain of proofs. So make a checklist of all the images you'd like to have to keep you from straying too far from what you want.

“There are always too many good pictures and you will have to edit your selection down to key moments, important groupings and favorites,” says Nancy Adler of Nancy Adler Photography in New York City. “Look for the strongest images that support the narrative of the day so the pictures unfold in ‘a day in the life of...’ sequence.”

After all, this is a day in the lives of you and your families you'll want to savor forever. ■



Jeanna Berman and Steve Reidy didn't let bad timing stop them. So what if they were set up only weeks before Steve graduated from the University of Vermont? They were both going to spend the summer in Boston, and when Jeanna returned to Burlington, VT, for her last year at UVM, the couple had no trouble with the commute. "It wasn't a big deal," Steve says. "We were committed and made it work."

Steve also worked hard to find the perfect engagement ring. "I went back to the jeweler three or four times to swap stones and the band," Steve says. Once he finally settled on a ring, he couldn't wait to pop the question. So when Jeanna returned home late one night from a trip with her (future) sister-in-law, Steve proposed on the spot. "We got on the phone at 2 A.M. and called everyone," Steve recalls.

#### SEEING GREEN

Jeanna and Steve wanted the same thing for their wedding. "We wanted to be by the beach," Jeanna says. They found their spot at the Wequasset Inn Resort and Golf Club in Chatham, MA—right on the elbow of Cape Cod.

Sage green, which had recently become a favorite color of Jeanna's, an antique map of Cape Cod and a travel theme were carried into nearly every aspect of the wedding. Invitations clued their guests into the theme and style of the upcoming celebration, with details printed in sage green type over a soft background image of an old map of Cape Cod on cream ►



**ALL THE ANGLES** Clockwise from top left, Two of the wedding cake's four tiers were white cake with raspberry cream filling; the other two were white cake with mocha filling. Jeanna leads the way to the celebration. A heartfelt toast for the newlyweds. The couple shares their first dance. Candy makes a very sweet favor.



## aroundtown

card stock. The vellum program cover, overlaying sage green card stock, was shaped like a luggage tag and featured the map and the couple's names. The tables (which were named after places the couple had visited) were identified by signs printed on card stock with the Cape Cod image as the background. The place cards did double-duty as favors; guests found their seats by picking up silver luggage tags that were attached to miniature silver pill boxes in the shape of tiny suitcases and filled with travel-size aspirin.

### BREEZY BEGINNINGS

Guests gathered in the terraced garden facing the water for Steve and Jeanna's evening outdoor ceremony. A bagpiper played processional pieces, including a song from *Braveheart* he learned specifically for Jeanna's walk down the aisle.

Jeanna's Reem Acra wedding dress featured silver and pearl beading on the strapless bodice, while her 10 bridesmaids wore sage green Watters & Watters gowns. Jeanna's florist hot-glued crystals onto her lily of the valley bouquet to create a subtle sparkle; the bridesmaids carried a collection of sage green blossoms, including cymbidium orchids, hydrangea, lisianthus, berzelia and sedum.

### ARTFUL DECORATION

The couple wanted to include Catholic elements in their ceremony, so they asked their officiant, Reverend James Gibney, to incorporate traditional readings, a blessing of the rings and a sealing of their vows and of their marriage. Since a unity candle wouldn't work outdoors, Jeanna and Steve decided to create a new tradition: "a marriage vessel." "One of us held a silver cup and the other held a rose. We combined the two by putting the rose in the cup," Jeanna says. The couple's service ended with recollections from friends and family members about loved ones who had passed away. "We wanted to celebrate their connection to us," Jeanna says.

### TASTE OF THE SEA

Jeanna and Steve's 180 guests then climbed up to the reception site for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres like wild mushroom spring

rolls, bruschetta, chicken satay and, of course, a raw bar with littleneck clams, crab, lobster, shrimp and oysters. The wedding party remained below in the seaside garden for photographs. After the couple was announced, they immediately began their first dance, to Chantal Kreviazuk's "Feels Like Home."

After toasts, guests launched into the first course: a spinach salad with cranberries, toasted walnuts, goat cheese and a sherry vinaigrette. A combination entrée of lobster tail and filet mignon followed. "I gave guests a vegetarian option of pea shoot risotto," Jeanna says. After the main course, Jeanna danced with her father to "Lullaby" by Billy Joel—and then she surprised her mother by asking her to dance to Celine Dion's "Because You Loved Me." Steve and his mother danced to "When I Fall in Love" by Nat King Cole, the song his mother had danced to with his late father at their wedding. Everyone joined them on the dance floor and stayed there all evening.

### SWEET FINISH

The evening ended on a sweet note. Not only did the newlyweds pass out slices of their wedding cake—a white cake with mocha or raspberry cream filling, decorated with iridescent silver icing and white swirls—Jeanna's mother, who happens to own a favor company, set up a candy bar for the guests to indulge in throughout the celebration. Guests also were encouraged to fill silver organza bags with their favorites—a favor as sweet as guests' memories of the day. ■

### BEHIND THE SCENES

#### Ceremony and Reception Site:

Wequassett Inn Resort and Golf Club,  
508/430-3025

#### Wedding Day Coordinator:

Elegant Engagements, 508/833-8314

**Flowers:** Lilacs, 508/428-3515

**Entertainment:** Lewis Masson,

508/945-1146; All-Access

Entertainment, 508/553-9400

**Cake:** Delicious Desserts,

508/540-3352

