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Tropical Extravaganza

ASHLEY NEWBORN to ANTHONY BERTOLINI

The Palace at Somerset Park, Somerset



Having their engagement photos snapped at Costin, where they first met six years ago, was just the start of this fun-loving couple's wedding extravaganza. After all, Ashley Newborn and Anthony Bertolini, both from Brick, did have a three-year engagement that kept guests on the edge of their seats. "It felt like the day would never come," says Ashley. But with the amazing wedding and reception the pair had in store, it was well worth the wait.

The wedding and reception were held at the Palace at Somerset Park in Somerset on June 26, 2010, and from the very start, guests were blown away. All of the songs in the ceremony were Beatles tunes, music the couple really loves. The bride's party walked down to "Imagine," while the flower girl—Juicy, the couple's Yorkie—came down in a wagon pulled by the couple's 8-year-old nephew, Josh, to the sound of "Juicy in the Sky with Diamonds." Ashley walked down the aisle to a beautiful and unique version of "All You Need is Love," and the couple's wedding planner, Jennifer Orosin, owner of Pampered Bride Weddings in Springfield, also officiated.

In addition to the Beatles theme, which was incorporated into the table names and escort table, the design was mainly a tropical paradise. Palm trees, bamboo accents, live fish, bright colors, and kissing

parrots all helped tie it together. The kissing parrots were incorporated into the invitations, the aisle runner, and even the cake, which was real velvet with raspberry Chambord. Ashley's unique tropical bouquet was filled with hot-pink gerberas and roses; birds of paradise; tokaes, dendrobium, and cyrtidium orchids; tropical greenery; and cascading green amaranthus.

The color pink was everywhere—from the pink custom crystals on Ashley's dress and her Manolo Blahnik shoes to the pink sapphires on her diamond engagement ring, the fuchsia chiffon bridesmaid dresses, and the bright pink limes. There was even a "swelling table" that featured a woman in an ornate pink dress, serving the couple's custom cocktails, the Bertolini-Tini and Hen Comes the Sun.

Then there was the surprise first-dance routine. "It started out to a Beatles song, but about halfway through, the band switched it up," Ashley says. "I was able to really play it up and look angry, and nobody knew what we had planned. We broke into a choreographed dance that my friend had taught us. Everyone loved it."

"Everything came together so perfectly," says Orosin. "It was breathtaking to see it come to an end." After a honeymoon to the Bahamas, the couple is at home in Brick.—Janey Getz



Sources:

PHOTOGRAPHER: CLB Photography, Shoreline, 732-670-1238, clbphoto.com
CHARMANTS & RECEPTION: The Palace at Somerset Park, Somerset, 607-723-2234, palacesomersetpark.com
WEDDING PLANNER: Jennifer Orent, Paupered Bride Weddings, Springfield, 973-812-8399, pauperedbrideweddings.com
FLORAL DESIGN: A Touch of Elegance, Randolph, 973-504-8300, ajewelofelegance.com
BRIDE'S GROOM'S: Prana Torus from Klardoll, Methuen, 949-633-4300, klardoll.com
BRIDESMAID DRESSES: Jen Hylton from Bridefriends at Nonchalance, Montclair, 973-282-0902, nonchalanceny.com
SEATCOVERS: Jar of Ideas Design Studio, North Plainfield, 908-432-2994, jarofideasdesign.com
LICENSES: Table Wraps, Jonico, NJ, 516-334-8833, tablewraps.com
LIGHTING: Infinity Entertainment, Randolph, 973-598-0202; infinityentertainmentnj.com
STROLLING TABLE: Screaming Queens, New York City, 212-714-6097, screamingqueens.com
CAKE: Pink Cake Box, Devils, 973-998-4445, pinkcakebox.com
BEAR: Pink Cakes Sales, Nially, 973-320-5650, pinkcakesales.com
MAKEUP: Makeup Artistry, 973-953-3228, esperanzenparlory.com
CAKE BOX: Creative Customs Card Boxes, creativecustomscardboxes.com
ANCEP RUNNER: The Original Runner Co., Monclair, 973-744-7070, originalrunners.com
CANDY BUFFET: Lisa's Candy Buffet, 908-278-4810; liscandybuffet.com
PLATES & CHARGERS: Something Different Party Rental, Passaic, 973-742-1779, somethingdifferentparty.com



Backyard Chic

CARLA STRONG to CIAN GRAY

Family residence, Glen Ridge



For Carla Strong and Cian Gray, the perfect wedding venue was in their own backyard—literally. Classmates during their early years at Sacred Heart School in Bloomfield, they lost touch when she transferred to public school and he moved to Glen Ridge. Years later, they reconnected and were married on September 26, 2009, at Sacred Heart Church. “We wanted to keep our reception intimate,” says Carla, a social worker. “But since we’re both from big Irish-Italian families, our list grew to 85 very quickly!” Cian, a sales account executive, adds, “It wasn’t our style to have a big production. We just wanted everyone to be comfortable.” So when his parents suggested their spacious Glen Ridge backyard as the reception venue, the couple agreed.

Wedding planner Stacy Kallenberg of *As You Wish Wedding & Event Design* in Millard Park enlisted *Culinary Creations of Hillsborough* to create a casually elegant reception that began with butter-passed drinks and hors d’oeuvres on the home’s front lawn, and later moved to a tented backyard barbecue. The buffet included whiskey-and-brown-sugar spare ribs, grilled chicken and Italian sausage,

veggie kebabs, field-greens salad, pesto vegetables, black-bean-and-grilled-corn salad, and cornbread. Guests especially liked the signature drink—vodka-spiked Arnold Palmers served in mason jars.

The chocolate, yellow, and ivory color scheme was accented by mason-jar centerpieces with orange, white, and cocoa roses, as well as hydrangea, hypericum berries, and wheat sprigs. Rather than a cake, the couple opted for a crème brûlée station, and chocolate-covered Granny Smith apples were presented in an antique fruit crate.

Cian surprised his buddies with matching chocolate-brown Chuck Taylor Converse sneakers, which made the guys feel right at home. Toward the end of the party, as the heavens opened and everyone ran from the tent to dance in the downpour, one happy guest observed, “We wouldn’t be doing this if we were at a country club!”

“The backyard concept worked for us,” adds Carla. “It was a memorable, memorable event, and I was able to visit with everyone.” After a honeymoon to San Francisco and Napa Valley, the couple is at home in Easton, Pennsylvania.—Susan Briery



Sources:

PHOTOGRAPHER: Tania Lusak Photography, Uster, PA, 215-512-5817; tusakphotography.com
WEDDING PLANNER: Stacy Kofentberg, As You Wish Wedding & Event Design, Millard Park, 201-421-6394; asyouwishwed.com
CATERER: Culinary Creations, Hillsborough, 908-281-3894; culinarycreations.com
FLOWERS: Blossoms by Carrie Barnes, West Orange, 973-445-0876; blossomsbycarrie.com
BRIDE'S GOWN: Alvina Valentin from Bonaldi by Roma, Clifton, 973-277-9144; alvinavalentinbyroma.com
GROOM'S SUIT: Bestman Republic, bestmanrepublic.com
HAIR AND MAKEUP: Michelle La-Costa, I Do Hair and Make-up, 973-975-7979; idohairandmakeup.com
BRIDE'S RINGS: Gregg Bush rings from Gregg Press Fine Jewelers, Livingston, 973-992-7797; greggpress.com
GROOM'S RING: Titanium Jewelry, 800-570-2646; titanium-jewelry.com
CUSTOM EARRINGS: CMJL Earrings; addjenclothingandaccessories.etsy.com
STATIONERY: Designs by MK; designsbymk.com
WEDDING MUSIC: Organist Ryan Malone, violinist Kathryn Anderson, and cantor Jennifer Behrke through Sacred Heart Church, Bloomfield, 973-248-0820
WOODEN TABLE NUMBERS: The Back Porch Shoppe; etsy.com/shop/thebackporchshoppe
CHOCOLATE APPLES: Carol Weaver of the Occasional Treat, Millard Park, 201-888-2796
MONOGRAMS & SAVE-THE-DATES: Peck-a-boo Paperie; peckaboopaperie.com
TRANSPORTATION: 1962 white Bentley from Santos VIP Limousine, 752-596-1100; santosvip.com



beauty

tips for looking your best

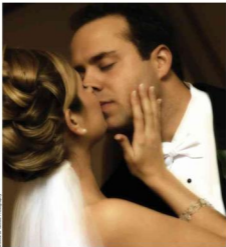


Photo: © David Laundy

THE RETURN OF THE UPDO. Bridal hairstyles are reaching new heights. It's a reflection of the sexy, swept-up celebrity tresses making an appearance on the red carpet lately, and reminiscent of the timeless movie-star looks of past decades. Without a doubt, the updo is very hot, and it's back in a big way. "Brides are asking for loose and sexy updo styles, not too tight or too high, because it's a simple but glamorous statement," says Michelle Lo Conte, owner of Pink Comb in Nutley (973-320-5650; pinkcombeaton.com), a full-service salon that offers in-house and on-location hair and makeup services. "One of the extra benefits of wearing the hair up is that it accentuates your ears, neck, jaw line, and shoulders. Since you're showing more skin, you have more options to wear dramatic jewelry."

Maids are following suit, pinning up their locks with pretty combs, brooches, and headbands—not to compete with the bride, but to complement her regal look. Another trend is deeper hair color and greater contrast achieved with highlights. "Your color should be as dramatic as

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your updo," says Lo Conte. "Years from now, when you look at your wedding photos, you'll be glad you went with perfectly placed highlights and a stunning updo because you will look elegant in every photo, from every angle." —*Susan Briely*

For more beauty tips and advice, see newjerseybride.com.

Bridal Boot Camps and Fitness

Fitness Consulting

11 Pine Street, Morristown
22 Evergreen Place, Sparta
973-214-3679
fitnessconsultinginc.com

Become the bride of your dreams with Fitness Consulting's Bridal Bootcamp twelve-week wedding makeover. The makeover program includes before-and-after fitness training, your choice of 24 or 36 personalized training sessions, nutrition coaching, and a personalized eating plan, massage therapy sessions, before-and-after photos, and great results.

Fitness Together

53 Madier Street, Morristown
973-538-1313

Personal fitness training within your own private space. Whether your goal is to lose weight, gain lean muscle, or reshape and tone your body for your wedding day, Fitness Together will help you get healthy.

Cosmetic Surgery

Sheila A. Bond, M.D., F.A.C.S.

59 South Fullerton Avenue
Moonclair
973-509-0007
bondplasticsurgery.com

Sheila Bond, M.D., offers a wide array of cosmetic procedures, including facelifts (rhytidectomy), laser resurfacing, upper and lower lid blepharoplasty (eyelids), brow lifts, and neck recontouring. She also has nonurgical methods to enhance one's attractiveness with the use of Botox, Restylane, Radiesse, and the Neostretta skin-care line, which can treat fine wrinkles, age spots, sun damage, acne, uneven pigmentation, and scarring. She has the ability to decrease unightly hair growth with a hair-removal laser. The appropriate plan of treatment is tailored to your

needs. Breast surgery, reconstructive surgery, tummy tucks, and liposuction are also large parts of her practice.

Eye Care

Marano Eye Care Centers

973-226-4211, Roseland
973-822-0100, Livingston
973-877-5554, Newark
maranoeyecare.com

Marano Eye Care Centers are one of the premier locations to have laser vision correction in New Jersey. Their highly trained surgeons are renowned in the tri-state area in all areas of laser vision correction and for their use of cutting-edge technologies. Combined with a commitment to the highest level of personalized care and a customized vision correction experience, they have performed more than 80,000 procedures.

Makeup Artists

Ashimoto Essential Beauty

306 Millburn Avenue, Millburn
973-579-8009
ashimoto.com

By appointment only. Specializing in lash extensions and air-brushing, this exclusive bridal and makeup boutique emphasizes a natural, understated, elegant look. The team has nearly two decades of experience with runway shows and fashion magazine shoots from New York to Milan. Meryl Schwartz has worked with many supermodels, including Naomi Campbell and Cindy Crawford, and enjoys a long-term working relationship with Bobbi Brown.

At Long Lash

Red Bank
732-977-2854
atlonglash.com

Jennifer Andree is a New York City-trained makeup artist who specializes in bridal makeup. Her goal is to give each bride a natural yet elegant look. She will travel on your wedding to the location of your choice and offers a pre-wedding consultation and trial. She is available for special occasions and for makeup lessons.

Stephanie Belasco

Makeup Artistry
908-233-8494

Stephanie Belasco has more than 25 years of experience preparing brides for their big day. With much enthusiasm and a love

for teaching, she offers highly personalized pre-wedding bridal consultations and will travel to you on your wedding day. In her individualized one-on-one makeup lessons, she will impart makeup tips and tricks you can take with you even after the wedding. Her expertise is in creating a "no makeup" makeup look, which ensures that you will look like yourself—only better—on the day of the wedding. Belasco, a certified teacher who also teaches group seminars on makeup application techniques, can recommend hairstyles or photographers.

Bella Angel

109 No. Blackhorse Pike
Blackwood
856-227-7774
bella-angel.com

A staff of hair and makeup stylists specializes in serving the entire bridal party—from the flower girl to the mother of the bride—on location.

Deborah's Bridal Concepts

732-253-6475
deborahsbridalconcepts.com

Deborah's Bridal Concepts offers special-occasion and bridal accessories—all the finishing touches the bride needs for her wedding. Deborah's can also provide makeup on location.

Makeup Naturally

Summer
908-299-6829; makeup-naturally.com
Maria Pecoraro has more than fifteen years of experience with bridal makeup and specializes in eyebrow shaping, which she believes can dramatically change your overall look. She uses several product lines and suggests that you book a consultation about four months before your wedding date. Pecoraro will travel to you for both the consultation and on your wedding day.

Michele Falco

908-309-5523
bridallymichele.com

Michele Falco, with more than 25 years of experience as a hairstylist, colorist, and air makeup artist, believes that on your wedding day you should look like yourself, only more stunning. Air makeup, which Falco has worked with since its conception, has been formulated for an airbrush that gives flawless-finish results in seconds. She will travel to your site and can accommodate large bridal parties. A trial is recommended. Her work has been published in magazines. A complimentary lip gloss is included for the bride.