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January-February 2004

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FAMILY VACATION

Nicole Engles & David Nussbaum

APRIL 5, 2003



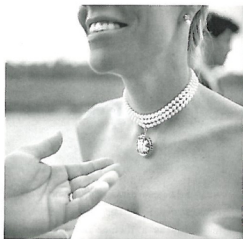
Just married on the back lawn at Boone Hall Plantation, *Nicole and David* depart the ceremony newly minted as husband and wife. Guests were to toss *Rose Petals* over the couple as they passed by. After a lull, Nicole looked at her grandmother Alvis. "Without missing a beat, she threw the whole cone of petals above my head," says Nicole. "After that everybody started throwing them, and we laughed the whole way down the aisle."

We met on the Love Boat," says Nicole—and she's not kidding. About five years ago, when the advertising pro was working in Manhattan and her now-banker husband, David, was a grad student in Minnesota, each of their families climbed aboard a Princess Line cruise for a getaway. Nicole, her sisters, and cousins watched the older-skewed crowd board, and when she spotted David among the passengers, she



called dibs. "That," she joked to her family, "is my boyfriend for the week." Little did she know that comment would become a reality and much more.

A few years of long distance phone calls and e-mails turned into a full-fledged relationship, and eventually, one summer's night David started talking about how great it would be if they lived closer—a lot closer. The conversation went from hypothetical to the real deal so fast that by the time he was on bended knee, all Nicole could muster was



Nicole's mother lent her this *"lance"*, which she inherited from a beloved aunt. The newlyweds posed for *family* photos as the sun set over Boone Hall Creek. Guests made their way to the reception under a canopy of centuries-old *oaks*. Shy *"Honey Girl"* Sidney Joline was relieved after her walk down the aisle was complete. Along with wreaths of magnolia leaves, *Hydrangeas* were central to the decor of the outdoor ceremony.

"No way!" Out came the ring and she said yes, bemoaning to this day that her first words were, well, not quite as eloquent as she might have hoped.

Because their families were so spread out, a destination wedding made sense, and the Holy City was tops on their list. "Charleston is cosmopolitan but still so friendly in the way a big city just can't be," explains Nicole. The pair came down to scout things out, and after a weekend with dinner at McCrady's, a stroll through the Market, a visit to Wild Dunes, and a meeting with planner Katie Huebel of WED, they were sold.

"Katie told us that people lean toward Tara-like, *Gone With the Wind* weddings, or beach ones," Nicole says, "and we just needed to check out a few locations to see what spoke to us." A drive down Boone Hall's avenue of oaks sealed the ceremony and reception location for the bride-to-be. "I was more inclined toward a beach event, and certainly didn't expect to fall in love with a plantation," says Nicole. "But everything about it felt right—the horses, the beautiful trees, the lawns, the water in the back, and how rustic Cotton Dock House looked."

Natural elegance set the tone for the



"Throughout the weekend, I was amazed at how involved all the guests were in the activities we had planned. In the end, we couldn't have asked for a better way for everyone to get to know one another."

—Nicole Nussbaum



WEEKEND FESTIVITIES

Friday evening:
Reception at Wild Dunes for all guests.

Friday night:
Rehearsal at Boone Hall Plantation and dinner for 50 at Charleston Grill.

Saturday morning:
Golfing at Wild Dunes (rained out) and a downtown tour of Charleston.

Saturday night:
Ceremony on the lawn at Boone Hall; cocktails at the Cotton Dock followed by a sit-down dinner inside.

Sunday morning:
Brunch on the croquet lawn at Wild Dunes.





The bride's favorite color, *Blue*, showed up time and again in the bridesmaids's dresses, in the flowers, and in *Ribbon* accents. Because Nicole and David limited their guest list to 100, they were able to spend *Quality Time* with relatives like her grandfather Peter Smyth. In keeping with the theme of *Rustic Elegance*, votives were placed in tiny jars and hung as chandeliers throughout the Dock House.



weekend's festivities. After doing a little Lowcountry research, Nicole settled on magnolias as a theme, and her graphic designer sister Kristen created invitations accordingly. Later, magnolia wreaths decked the Cotton Dock doors, and garlands of glossy magnolia leaves and tiny twinkling lights covered the bare beams of the building. "We kept things really simple, with blue hydrangeas, magnolias, and white tulips and roses for the flowers," says Nicole.

And everything went off as serendipitously as the couple's meeting. Remember how last spring was the wettest on record for generations? How it rained for weeks on end? The Nussbaum wedding marked the eve of the monsoons. "It was barely sprinkling, but the skies cleared just after the ceremony," says Nicole. From the oak-framed riverbank setting, guests listened to the couple say their vows as dolphins played in the nearby water. Nicole's father, who had been seriously ill, was well enough to give her away, and as the couple turned to face a little more than 100 of their friends and family, a rainbow appeared in the distance.

"My favorite part of all," says Nicole, "was the walk to the Cotton Dock. David and I had backup rides in case it rained, but we skipped those. We chose an outdoor wedding to be outside, so we walked. And that—heading across the grounds at sunset with the water beside us, just the two of us—was wonderful." When all was said and done, what began with the gathering of one family ended with the union of two.

There were plenty of glasses to raise for the many *toasts* given during the three-course seated dinner. Custom-dyed *lilacs* ribbon dressed up the tables. Tulips in *bird houses* at the seating chart directed guests to their tables and made a great take-home gift.



HOW-TO: *Petal Cones*

Supplies

- Heavy stock art paper
- Scissors (both straight-edge and border-makers, similar to pinking shears)
- Hot Glue Gun (or Glue Stick)
- Roses

Step One: Cut art paper into seven-by-seven-inch squares.

Step Two: Trim two tangential sides with border-cutting scissors for a decorative edge.

Step Three: Roll the square into a cone, making sure the decorative edge is on the outside.

Step Four: Use the hot glue gun (or a glue stick) along the inner edge of the outer seam to seal the cone in place.

Step Five: Strip flowers of their petals.

Step Six: Fill cones with rose petals and place where guests can find them when the couple departs the ceremony or reception.

