

charleston weddings

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Your Lowcountry bridal guide from the publishers of charleston magazine

Summer 2008

50

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Beachy Keen

RELAXED STYLE RULES THIS FAMILY AFFAIR

NUMBER OF GUESTS: 50

ESTIMATED COST: \$55,000

EVENT DESIGN: **WED** (*Weddings Elegantly Designed*)

Beach ceremonies and receptions don't have to be barefoot affairs. Take this sweet but sophisticated reception at a Sullivan's Island beach house, for instance. Here, WED owner and designer Katie Huebel and manager Ellen Robinson conspired to create a uniquely Lowcountry party that took its cue from the shabby chic style of a green, breeze-filled beach house, and an elegant silk fabric embroidered with yellow flowers that echoed blooms growing on the nearby dunes.

INVITATIONS & FAVORS

Using the motif from the patterned floral fabric, invitations were decorated with yellow flowers and tied off with a modest grosgrain ribbon to complement the casual setting. Burlap totes embroidered with yellow flowers and stuffed with local treats became handy welcome bags for guests. And to add a homespun touch to the end of the night, Katie and Ellen popped mini lemon poppyseed loaves into tins belted with a pale green ribbon and sealed with a wax stamp bearing the initial of the couple's surname.

SETTING & DÉCOR

When working with a location as magical as a seaside cottage, you need only accent the area's existing natural beauty. Given that, and since the reception's Sullivan's Island location epitomizes old-time Lowcountry style, Katie and Ellen designed the fête to have a relaxed, vintage look with a contemporary twist. That meant cushioning weathered wicker chairs with custom-made pillows of their favorite silk floral fabric, dressing sun-bleached porches with whitewashed iron vessels filled with



(this page)
ROCK 'N' ROLL: Katie and Ellen placed rocking chairs to take in the setting sun and accented the porch with lush clusters of yellow "Massage" roses displayed in antiqued vases and on this topiary form.

(opposite page, clockwise from top)
LOW RIDERS: Low floral arrangements like these facilitate conversations. **SIP IN SUMMER:** Fresh lemonade can be served au naturel for kids or spiked for adults. Place different swizzle sticks in each to set the types apart. **DO ME A FAVOR:** The yellow and green color theme played out from start (welcome bags) to finish (favor-filled tins).



"Family-style meals are great for small gatherings where you can enjoy food and conversation."

—Ellen Robinson



(counterclockwise from top left) **RED ALERT:** Cocktail hour began with succulent, colorful lobster tails. **BURGERETTE:** Tiny lobster patties were served on fennel yeast rolls as an appetizer. **HOMEGROWN GOODNESS:** John's Island heirloom tomatoes made the dinner's salad irresistible, while fresh local fingerling potatoes in thyme and olive oil accented certified prime Angus sirloin. **TIN TO GO:** Small lemon poppyseed bread leaves were goodies-to-go for guests.



HANGING OUT: Small copper lanterns hung with humble twine and filled with yellow rose blooms cast their sweet scent over the ambulating waterfront porch.

antique yellow roses, and topping off gently worn green dining tables with elegant runners and a host of candles and bouquets.

FOOD

Maximizing interaction among the small guest party, playing up the season, and celebrating the seaside location each influenced the colorful menu. And since Katie imagined wedding goers would retreat to the screened-in porch for a fun, family-style (or passed dish) dinner, heaping vessels of locally raised vegetables also played a starring role. To continue with the casual, colorful theme, Katie and Ellen skipped a traditional wedding cake and instead loaded a sideboard with lemon desserts. "There's something inspirational in being different," says Katie, who opted for just that and succeeded tenfold.

Reception Resources

China, glassware, furniture, & linens: WED
Florals: HB Stems
Food: Granville's Catering
Lighting: Production Design Associates
Location: Exit Realty Charleston Group
Printed materials: Studio R
Sweets & lemon poppyseed bread: The Cake Stand
Wreath: Katie Huebel, WED

