

The Publishers' Wedding

by Samantha Sendor



Long before my engagement to my husband Steve, the Publisher of *Sophisticated Weddings: New York Edition*, we were eating at our favorite brunch locale, Park Avenue Autumn. Feasting on the pastry basket before us, and taking in the room's revolving seasonal décor, we pondered what our wedding might look like someday. We had envisioned something elegant, beautiful, intimate, and tasteful. From the atmosphere to the cuisine, we knew Park Avenue Autumn possessed all of these elements. So when Steve and I got engaged in March 2013, we knew just where to go.

Being the publishers of a wedding magazine, you might draw the natural conclusion that planning a wedding of our own would be a simple task. You would be partially correct. We have devoted our lives to knowing the ins-and-outs of New York weddings. We are practically walking encyclopedias for all things bridal in this bustling city. With that wealth of knowledge however, comes an unexpected challenge; with so much talent and beauty in this industry, how on earth does one decide between vendors, locations, and details? Let me tell you, it was not easy. We found ourselves in the perfect predicament- we had too much good to choose from. Ultimately, we could not lose, and what resulted was a wedding that was exactly what we had envisioned, wholly true to our collective taste and outlook on our future together.

When a wedding industry professional gets married, their wedding usually falls into one of two categories. It is either a tremendous occasion, filled with every magnificent detail imaginable, laid out before 400 guests, or on the other end of the spectrum, it is very low-key and bijou. We opted for the latter, which entailed a beautiful and intimate dinner reception with our closest friends and family, and an even smaller ceremony on the terrace of the Charles Pierre Suite at The Pierre Hotel. The ceremony was officiated by Rabbi Darren

Levine of Tamid Downtown Synagogue before a small number of guests.

It was a beautiful occasion, as we stood among our loved ones, and declared our adoration and devotion to one another. I had opted for a small bridal party that consisted of only one person, my Maid of Honor and stepdaughter, Madelyn. At just nine years of age, she was by far the most excited recipient of our engagement news, and was the perfect MOH companion, enthusiastically accompanying me to dress fittings at Mark Ingram Atelier, and assisting me with all of our plans. We were also honored to incorporate Steve's late grandfather, Willie Bly, into our ceremony, utilizing his tallis for our very own, homemade chuppah to stand beneath. The moment where we transitioned into husband and wife was one so consumed by love and lineage, it was truly the most magical day of our lives. The details of our ceremony, from the live violinist of 45 Riots, to the wild and earthy floral arrangements by Rountree Flowers, to the butler-served lemonade with candy fruit slice garnishes, was exactly what we had in mind all along.

Afterward we went on to meet the majority of our guests at our dinner reception. Being instantly met with outpouring love and congratulations by our friends and family during the cocktail hour, I had two missions: to greet all of our guests, and to eat, eat, eat. After all, Park Avenue Autumn is among my favorite restaurants, and I was starving. Having probably consumed more hors d'oeuvres than anyone else at our wedding that night, I had accomplished a goal that had plagued me with concern for weeks: I wanted to taste everything. Every bride knows this is no easy task, and thanks to Denise Bryant, our in-house planner at Park Avenue Autumn and Fourth Wall Restaurants, and José Rolón, our day-of coordinator, I was well taken care of. I am still dreaming of the perfection that was our wedding feast, and I still hear similar sentiments from our guests.

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Combined with the rustic autumn décor of The Archive Room, whimsical flowers paired with romantic candles by Rountree Flowers, impossibly creative and detailed wedding cake by Elegantly Iced, and musical trio offerings by 45 Riots, the room was festive and resplendent. It is common to feel that your wedding breezes by you- after months, maybe years of planning, the wedding happens all too fast. Luckily we had many opportunities to stop and take in the beauty around us, and share in these precious moments together. None of this would have been possible without our wonderful friends and partners in this industry. Our day-of coordinator, José Rolón of José Rolón Events, extended us friendship, sanity, and serenity in the process of planning our wedding. I had hoped for someone who would perhaps help us keep the flow of our day, and make sure we got a piece of cake, but what we ended up with was a calm presence with soldier dedication. José was my tireless companion in the months and weeks leading up to our wedding, ensuring that every detail was in place, while making priority of my enjoyment and peace of mind. More than ever before, did I absorb the value of his services.

To thank our guests for joining us in our celebration, we had personally prepared a ‘morning-after’ breakfast basket to take home at the end of the night, complete with fresh bagels from my all-time favorite, Brooklyn Bagel & Coffee Co., mini bottles of champagne and orange juice, mini jars of jam and granola, and homemade cookies. Our friends at Swallow My Words had even surprised us with delicious custom macarons engraved with the message “to the most sophisticated couple” to distribute to our guests. It was a perfect evening through and through, and to top it all off, we had one of the finest and most talented wedding photographers to capture it all for us, Felix Feygin of Fred Marcus Photography.

A wedding is a magical occasion, not just between two people, or even between families, but for everyone involved. I can say first-hand, as someone whose day-to-day life revolves around weddings, that our industry is made up of people who genuinely love what they do, and are cheerleaders for love. Whether a florist, planner, pastry chef, or that woman on Etsy who engraves your name and wedding date into a clothes pin, as a bride, you are surrounded by experts that want the very best for your wedding day. Although I am no longer a bride myself, I feel so fortunate to immerse myself in the magic of this occasion on a daily basis. **SW**

Ceremony Location: The Charles Pierre Suite at The Pierre Hotel
Reception Location: The Archive Room at Park Avenue Autumn

Photography: Fred Marcus Studio

Floral Design & Linens: Rountree Flowers

Wedding & Groom’s Cakes: Elegantly Iced

Live Music: 45 Riots

Day-Of Coordination: José Rolón Events

Officiant: Rabbi Darren Levine of Tamid Downtown Synagogue

Gift Baskets: Brooklyn Bagel & Coffee Co.

Custom Edibles: Swallow My Words

Invitations: Print Icon

The Bride:

Dress: Jenny Packham courtesy of Mark Ingram Atelier

Shoes: Badgely Mischka

Jewelry: Greenwich Jewelers

Hair & Make-Up: White Rose Collective

The Groom:

Bespoke Suit: Doyle+Mueser

Shoes: Allen Edmonds

Wedding Band: Greenwich Jewelers

Timepiece: Omega

Cufflinks: Tiffany & Co.

Tie: Thomas Pink

The Maid Of Honor:

Custom Dress: Synderela

Shoes: Stuart Weitzman

