



"I wanted our wedding to be elegant without being stiff. Old Hollywood came to mind," explains Astrid. The reception was held under a tent draped dramatically with ecru fabric, trimmed in chocolate brown, and lit from within by hanging crystal chandeliers and delicate wall scones. As guests entered, they found their table assignments beneath a tall tree-like arrangement of branches covered with red orchid blooms. Each dinner table was surrounded by chocolate brown chairs and covered in burgundy linens and beaded overlays, which lent "romantic warmth" to the space. The oversized centerpieces were like abundant, multi-colored rose bushes accented by fall touches of hydrangea and berries. Three additional flowerpots filled with single varieties of orchids and roses encircled the centerpiece vases. "I loved these," says Astrid.





The kosher dinner was in keeping with the event's timelessness, and included classic dishes such as chicken Kiev and baby lamb chops. Wild mushroom ravioli and a salad of field greens, fennel, Asian pears, pistachios, and pomegranates paid tribute to the season. But the *pièce de résistance* was the wedding cake. The white three-layer cake was presented atop a tufted cushion, which lay on an overlay made entirely of rose petals. "It was a surprise and so beautiful," says Astrid. "When people talk of our wedding, it is the first thing they mention." The cake itself was also a hit. "It is not easy to find a beautiful kosher wedding cake, but the French bakery did a wonderful job," asserts the bride.

The dance floor was bordered by low hedges of greenery and framed by scrolling iron gates, bringing a garden-like feel to the bustling area. The guests enjoyed a variety of music – a *klezmer* band performed traditional Hebrew songs, another played Big Band standards, and a salsa band kept the dance floor humming all night long. Astrid and Judah – when not taking part in the action – had a perfect view of the festivities from a romantic sweetheart table arranged front and center.





