

The design gurus at **Original Runner Company** just debuted a fresh new way to add style to your ceremony with the launch of their Damask aisle runners. Made of machine-washable non-slip fabric, the runners feature an elegant pattern that complements most décor and creates a luxurious look without a huge investment. Covered in an exclusive non-slip backing that works wonderfully on surfaces from grass to sand, each runner is custom cut to fit your size requirements. The Damask pattern is available in six color combinations, three of which offer the additional option of a shimmering glitter effect at no extra charge. *Shown here: Damask runner in Caviar with silver “Fanfare” chairs by Chameleon Chair Collection (chameleonchair.com, 888.242.4795). For a price quote call 973.744.7070; originalrunners.com.*

discoveries

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Photo by Jay Lawrence Goldman

Step Right Up

Pave the way to your vow exchange with a beautifully patterned aisle runner with timeless style.



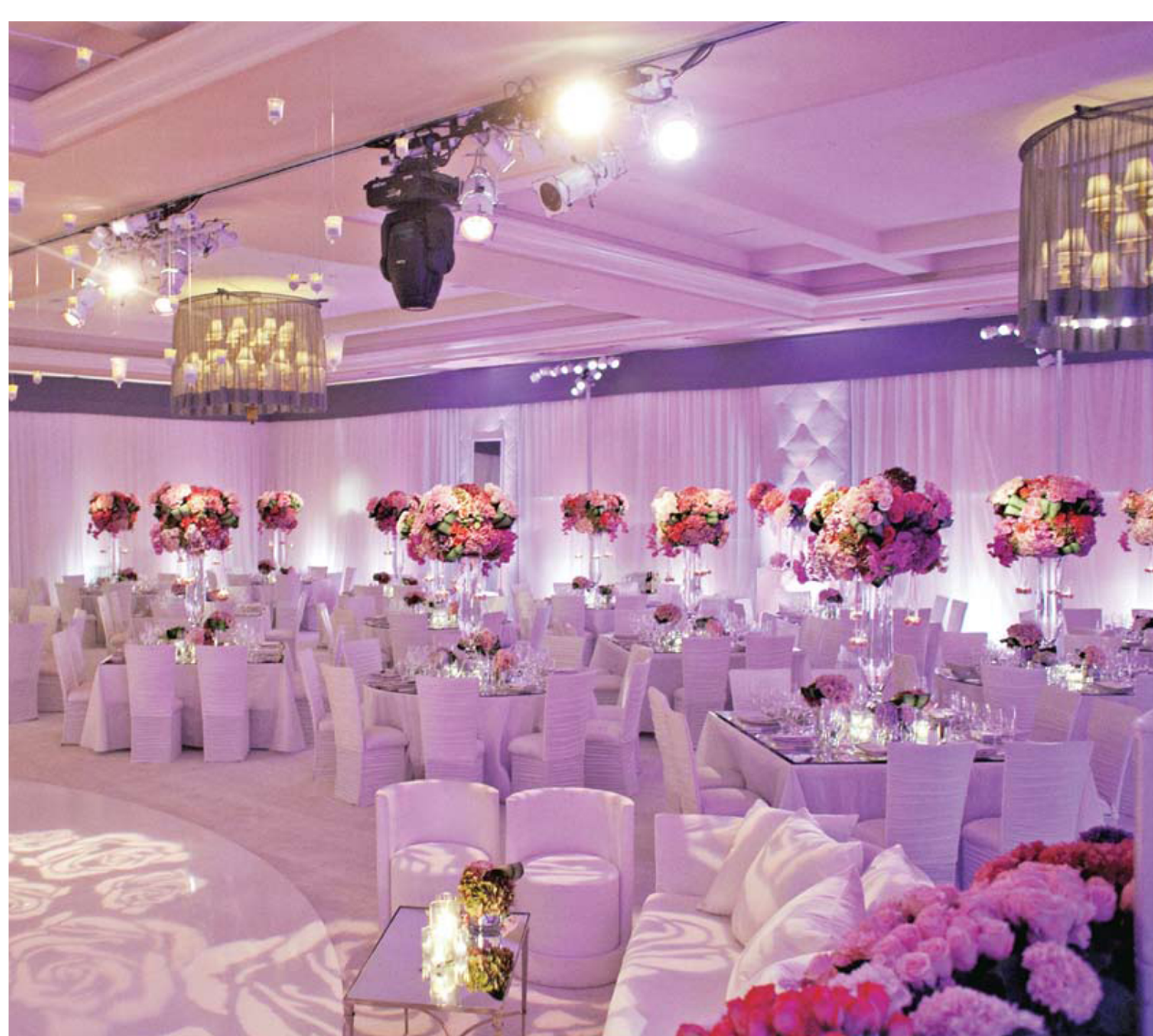
Contemporary white chairs and round tables cloaked in crisp fabric beckoned guests for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles following the ceremony. Seven different mini-appetizers were served, including tuna tartar, macaroni and cheese, margherita pizza, and baby frankfurters in puff pastry. Lilac- and lavender-hued flowers immersed in clear, water-filled cylinders arranged neatly on tall tables added a modern feel and a pop of color to the all-white landscape. A mariachi band played festive music, effectively incorporating the bride's Mexican and Spanish heritage into the cocktail hour. Christina's grandfather, formerly a member of a mariachi band himself, sang "La Mano de Dios" ("The Hand of God") to the wedding couple, a song that has special meaning to the Trujillo family. "He also sang it to my parents on their wedding day," Christina shares.

Après cocktails, guests made their way into the ballroom of the Montage, where they were met with another stunning vision in white. Soft lilac lighting cast a serene glow over a snowy carpet overlay, floating fabric-draped walls, and mirror-topped tables. Chameleon chairs were adorned with "Chloe" stretch-knit toppers, cushions, and skirts for a look that was tailored as well as textured. Centerpieces were fashioned from gleaming transparent vases topped with white,

pink, and purple roses, as well as mounds of hydrangea blossoms and a profusion of orchids. "They were spectacular," remembers the bride of the flowers. Dangling from the remarkable arrangements by ribbon were tiny glass votives encircled with roses. The dance floor was threaded to the floral theme through projections of roses that accented the names of the bride and groom.

White linens were topped with studded crystal plates, each presenting a menu of the four courses to follow, beginning with an appetizer of crab cake with arugula. A second course of spinach salad followed, and the main course featured a dual entrée of halibut and filet mignon accompanied by vegetables and potatoes. A dessert course of molten chocolate cake and warm apple pie provided a sweet finish to the meal, but the pièce de résistance was a six-foot-tall wedding cake at the head of the ballroom. A sea of lilac, pink, and scarlet roses accented with hydrangeas surrounded the base of the multi-tiered confection. Each subsequent layer was ringed by a row of flowers in a different hue from the last. Three different flavors composed the cake, each tier providing a different combination, and the entire masterpiece was highlighted by three-foot-high candleholders casting a dreamy glow.





The bride's sister, the owner of a popular Beverly Hills boutique purveying both fashion and candy, furnished a colorful candy buffet that was a huge hit with guests. Clear vases were filled with nostalgic sweets, and guests could fill individual bags as take-home favors. In-N-Out burgers and fries were served as a nighttime snack, rounding out the offerings and adding the perfect California flair to the proceedings.

While Christina was most overwhelmed by the floral arrangements, Basil was floored by the music that encompassed the cultures of both the bride and groom. Guests were treated to the stylings of a Spanish guitarist during dinner as well as to traditional Arabic music (a nod to the groom's culture) so all could celebrate the merging of the families. "The music had to be the most unique aspect of our wedding," says Basil.

Though stunning florals and meaningful music were definitely highlights, the couple agrees that being surrounded by family and friends was the best part of the day. "Even though our wedding was near where we reside, it was a destination wedding for most of our guests," says Basil. "We were honored that so many people traveled from near and far to celebrate with us."

Enjoying every single moment of the planning as well as the actual wedding is the one piece of advice the pair most strongly asserts. "It all goes by so fast!" Christina declares. "Everyone that had gone through this experience before me gave me this same advice, and it is so true. Planning your wedding is one of the best times of your life, and you should really cherish each and every minute. We love looking back and remembering it all!"

KELLY LEE

