

SOUTHERN FRIED CHIC

Two Arkansas expats tie the knot in a sophisticated celebration at Georgia's oldest heirloom plantation. By Reilly Mesco | Photography by Izzy Hudgins

WHEN SAVANNAH NEWCOMERS Kerri and Brad Hunter tied the knot, they brought together more than two separate families. Their wedding was a union of opposites: homespun charm and sophisticated style. It was also a crossroads between their Arkansas past and their Georgia future.

“Kerri just wanted a simple, rustic wedding—but she definitely has an elegant side that came through,” says wedding planner Tara Skinner of Posh Petals and Pearls, who suggested a location that would set the tone for the event.

Dunham Farms, a restorative retreat right on the coast, is the oldest plantation home in Georgia that remains with its original family.

Tara imbued the space with traditional touches—from the pale hydrangeas that lined the aisle to the sweetly scripted chalkboard signs that steered guests toward the festivities.



Kerri & Brad
Season: Fall
Palette: Purple
Planning time: 9 months
Guests: 150
Rehearsal dinner: Uncle Bubba's Oyster House
Ceremony and reception: Dunham Farms





The 30-acre estate contains not only a formal wedding garden, but also a refurbished barn and an expansive nature reserve.

“The farm is divided nicely up into sections, so the ceremony took place in one spot and cocktails and the reception took place in others,” Tara adds. “The guests ended making a full circle around the farm.”

The separate spaces, all within walking distance, kept the whole affair intimate and relaxed.

Guests sipped John Daly cocktails—named after the Arkansas golfer and chosen because of Brad’s ardent love for the sport. At the end of the night, they snacked on freshly boiled Georgia peanuts. Some might call that the perfect mix of hometown hospitality and coastal comfort. For Kerri and Brad, it was just the beginning.

Behind the Veil

The big day: Saturday, October 26, 2013
Ceremony coordinator: Tara Skinner, Posh Petals and Pearls
Rehearsal dinner: Uncle Bubba’s Oyster House
Ceremony/reception: Dunham Farms
Officiant: The Rev. Cherie Baker
Ceremony music: Classical South
Gown: Marisa, Bridals by Lori
Hair and makeup: Beyond Beautiful by Heather and Hannah Minkowitz
Bridesmaids’ dresses: Lela Rose, BleuBelle Bridal
Groom/groomsman’s attire: Brooks Brothers, Jos. A. Bank
Catering: Chef Nick Mueller & Co.
Reception music: All About You Entertainment
Florist: Jennifer Melear
Cake: Tier Luxury Cakes
Photography: Izzy Hudgins, Izzy Hudgins Photography, izzyhudgins.com



Inside Out

“(Kerri) was in love with these old church doors, so that’s what she walked through,” says Tara, who placed salvaged doors at the end of the outdoor aisle, creating a deconstructed sanctuary. She decorated them with the couple’s initials, made from Spanish moss.

States’ Rights

Signs made in the shapes of both the couple’s home state and new stomping ground hung on the backs of their chairs at the reception and were later used as photo props. “We wanted to highlight our Arkansas roots for all of our Georgia friends, but also to introduce our out-of-town friends and family to our life in Georgia,” says Kerri.

Low Country Lounge

Working with the sprawling space that Dunham Farms offers, Tara used unique pieces from Crush Event Rentals to set up distinctive lounge areas for cocktails before the reception started. “Kerri wanted to mix in these gorgeous crystal chandeliers, so they hung above the bar area and really made it very chic,” Tara says.

Sew Thoughtful

Creative details were everywhere at the Hunter wedding. “The save-the-dates were in a little burlap sack with instructions on how to tie a knot—playing off the whole ‘Kerri and Brad are tying the knot’ idea,” Tara notes. “And each important person received a hanky with a sweet note from Kerri embroidered on it.”

Sign Here

Inspired by a growing trend, Kerri and Brad’s “guest book” is now a lifelong keepsake. A friend designed a coffee table with metal inset in the shape of a branch that family and friends could sign. “His idea was that the table would be a reflection of our Arkansas ‘roots,’” the bride explains, “and it also represents the amazing trees that are such a part of Savannah culture—and our wedding scene at Dunham Farms.”

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