

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Two transplants give their guests a proper introduction to life in the South with a moonlit view of Savannah's historic riverfront. By Andrea Goto | Photography by Marielle Singletary and Julianne Blount



WHEN IT COMES TO WEDDING VENUES, Savannah is hardly a one-trick carriage horse. From sandy beaches and expansive marshes to historic cathedrals and live-oak-laden squares, the Hostess City goes out of its way to accommodate every couple's vision of sweet Southern nuptials.

Kate Schellie, an education specialist, and Sheldon Hodges, a captain in the U.S. Army, wanted a classic religious ceremony. They also wanted a reception that paid tribute to both their courtship in Annapolis, Maryland, and their new low country home on Savannah's outskirts.

Wedding planner and event designer Ashley Greene of Posh Petals and Pearls saw the perfect opportunity at The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa. The location gave out-of-town guests a breathtaking view of Savannah's historic waterfront, lit at night, and of the "Eagle," the boat Kate's father brought from Maryland to dock at The Westin. The two focal points—the boat and the horizon—served as reminder of the couple's past and an appreciation for their future together.



Kate & Sheldon

Season: Fall
Palette: White and pale pink with burgundy
Planning time: 10 months
Guests: 90
Rehearsal dinner: Garibaldi Café
Ceremony: First Presbyterian Church
Reception: The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa



real weddings



Behind the Veil

The big day: Saturday, October 11, 2014
Planner/event designer: Ashley Greene, Posh Petals and Pearls
Officiant: The Rev. Walter Hicks and The Rev. Stephen Williams
Ceremony music: Perez Strings
Gown: Designed by Mary Feeley, Mary's Designer Bridal Boutique (Annapolis)
Hair and makeup: Jessica Shefsick, Skinzin
Bridesmaids' dresses: After Six by Dessy, Bleubelle Bridal
Groom/groomsman's attire: Dress Blues (groom), Men's Warehouse (groomsman)
Reception site and catering: The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa
Reception music: The Rosies and All About You Entertainment
Florist: Amy Harvey, Harvey Designs
Cake: Sally Nicholson, Something Sweet Bakers
Rentals: Savannah Special Events
Transportation: Southern Comfort Limousine and Georgia Coastal Trailways
Videographer: Haint Blue Productions
Photographer: Marielle Singletary and Julianne Blount, Mark Williams Studio, markwilliamsstudio.com



Rolling on the River

In addition to gifting guests with a spectacular view of River Street, Kate and Sheldon assembled welcome bags for their out-of-town visitors. Along with the usual treats, the bags included a list of recommended restaurants and a schedule for the Savannah Belles Ferry. "We made sure that the ferry was still running at the end of the reception so their guests could go out on River Street if they wanted to," Greene explains.

Wine and Roses

The bride loved the color burgundy, but her planner was hesitant to incorporate such a bold color into the wedding palette. However, the skillful designer found ways to bring in pops of the hue without overwhelming the aesthetic. She used deep burgundy in the bridesmaids' dresses, the accent ribbons, and the table runners (in place of full-drape linens).

A Lighter Touch

Soft pink and dusty rose blooms paired with white hydrangeas run the risk of being swallowed up by a pale backdrop, but the bridesmaids' stately burgundy dresses made the posies pop. The bride's hand-tied bouquet was made entirely of bright white florals—no greenery—to emulate the color and texture of the lace overlay on her exquisite gown.

Sculpting Space

Though the Westin's lower ballroom allowed for access to the front lawn and riverfront views, the large space posed a challenge—especially when the guest list dropped dramatically due to a family illness. "We strove to make the room still feel intimate," says Greene, who used a mixture of high and low floral centerpieces and draped the ceiling to personalize and transform the hotel ballroom. ☺

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