

ONE FINE DAY



Marisa Landau and Doug Schatz's big day at Salamander Resort & Spa is one of 12 unforgettable weddings featured inside.



My father walked up to me as I loitered and kicked around nervously with my groomsmen outside the church. My wedding was 10 minutes from starting. “Hey, son, you look hot,” he said, putting me in a mock headlock—the same one he’d practiced on me since I was a kid.

“Dad, it’s 95 degrees in the shade,” I said, laughing. It was a mid-August wedding in DC, which is akin to getting married in the tropics, only with more architectural marble. A college friend named Mike walked over and said he couldn’t believe I was the first in our posse to get married. He asked to see the wedding rings, as if he needed golden proof.

I looked to my father, the gent I’d chosen to be my best man. “Dad, show Mike the rings—he doesn’t believe I’m going through with it.” My father looked at me blankly. I watched him search his pants and jacket pockets. Nothing. We didn’t have the rings, and the ceremony—a Catholic mass, which is big on blessing rings—was about to begin. Mike is a Navy fighter pilot, and he’s used to acting fast in crises. “I’ll go get them,” he said calmly. “Where do you think they are?” We told him they were likely at my parents’ house—which was 20 minutes away—and suggested he check the coffee tables, bedrooms and bathroom sink tops. Who knew? As I watched Mike speed his Mustang out of the lot, I tried to come up with a strategy for breaking this news to my future wife during the ceremony.

so beautiful. And, um... I don’t have the wedding rings.” Panic quickly invaded her eyes. “But don’t worry,” I said. “They’ll be here any minute.” She squeezed my hand like a boa constrictor.

Just as Father O’Brien was about to bless our wedding bands, I saw my friend Mike calmly walk down the aisle with a wry grin. He quietly passed the ring to one of my six groomsmen, who passed it down the line until the boxes reached my hands. “See?” I said to my bride. “It’s all going to be just fine. Let’s do this.” It was a precursor to what has been a wild and lovely ride with three kids, countless pets and many lost items. But we’ve never lost each other’s hearts.

The hearts that beat in this issue are profoundly inspiring. The weddings we feature—from elegant affairs at the Four Seasons to wine-country soirees at the Salamander Resort & Spa—are breathtaking examples of planning, refinement, luxury touches and unbridled fun. It was gratifying for everyone on my editorial team to get to know each of the couples as we prepared their stories for you.

Here’s to you and planning the perfect wedding day!

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MARISA LANDAU & DOUG SCHATZ

April 22, 2017

Ceremony & Reception:
Salamander Resort & Spa

Photography by Eli Turner, Eli Turner Studios

THE COUPLE It was stress and conflict that brought Doug and Marisa together during complications with roommates at their home in Bethesda, Md. Finding comfort in each other, the couple moved to their own homes before realizing they didn't want to be apart. They quickly resumed their roommate status, but this time as a family with their dog, Kaya.

THE PARTY Doug and Marisa, who wanted to incorporate the feeling of a destination wedding, fell in love with the beauty and charm of Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg, Va. As animal lovers—Marisa works with the Humane Society—the couple was also wowed by the equine-themed decor and dog-friendly facilities. “We knew that we wanted our wedding to reflect our love for our dog, Kaya, and the bonds with our new families,” says Marisa. Kaya could be spotted in various aspects of the wedding, from photos to dog-shaped cookies and topiaries. She also made an appearance on the invitations, which Marisa designed in soft watercolors of blues and pinks. That color scheme carried over to the wedding, with a rainbow palette for the flowers and bridesmaids' dresses.

THE HONEYMOON The couple took a mini vacation to West Palm Beach, Fla., before their larger excursion to Thailand. —*Lauren Staehle*



Clockwise from top: The bride wore Wtoo by Watters; Jimmy Choo shoes complemented a stunning gown; images of Kaya, the couple's dog, appeared throughout the programs, including on cookies; Bill Enright created lovely headtable arrangements.



The couple wanted a venue that felt like a destination wedding in DC's lush backyard. The interiors are also gorgeous and serve as memorable backdrops for wedding-party photos.



THE LIST

Wedding Planner Michele Hodges, michelehodgesevents.com
Bride's Gown Wtoo by Watters, Love Couture Bridal, lovecouturebridal.com
Bride's Shoes Jimmy Choo, Saks Fifth Avenue, saksfifthavenue.com
Bride's Jewelry Earrings: Debbie

Menditch, DFM Collection, dfmcollection.com
Bride's Hair & Makeup Becky Watson, Oxygen Salon and Day Spa, oxygensalonanddayspa.com
Groom's Tux M. Stein & Company Tuxedos, msteintuxedos.com
Rings DFM Collection, dfmcollection.com
Bridesmaids' Dresses

Dessy by The Dessy Group, Hitched, hitchedsalon.com
Groomsmen's Tuxes Ike Behar, M. Stein Tuxedos, msteaintuxedos.com
Florals Bill Enright, Edge Floral Event Designers, edgeflowers.com
Catering Salamander Resort & Spa, salamanderresort.com
Invitations Michelle Alberg,

Michelle's Memos, engagingaffairs.com
Lighting Digital Lighting, digitallighting.com
Entertainment Free Spirit, Entertainment Exchange, entertainmentexchange.com
Videographer Tom Bowen, Bowen Films, bowenfilms.net
Favors Cookies, Amphora Bakery, amphorabakery.com

