

weddings

unveiled

Inspiring Style for Southern Weddings



FALL 2008



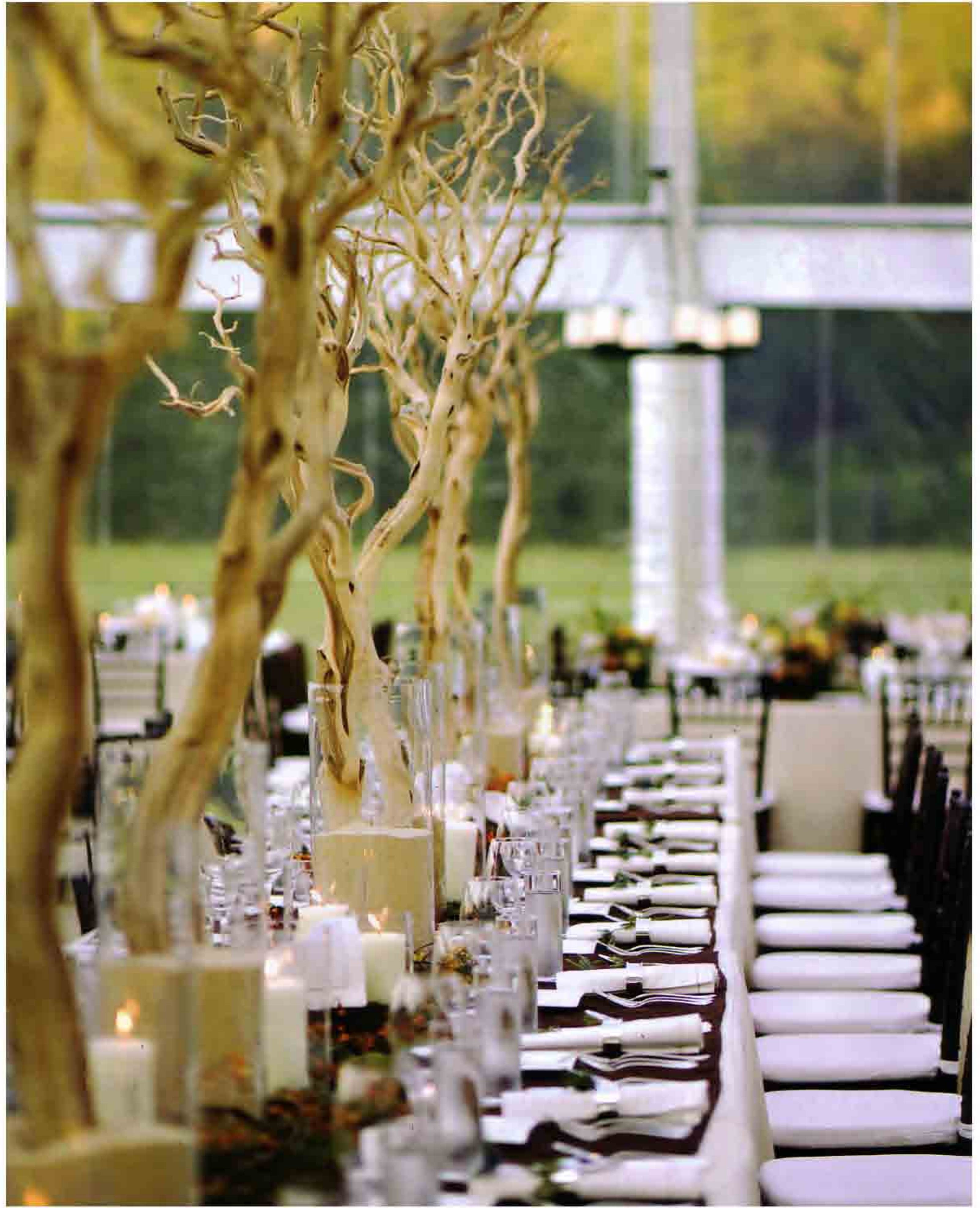
Cocktail hour was held beneath a huge oak, featuring Kir Royales, a family favorite cocktail. The long tables under the clear reception tent were a study in understated organic elegance, lined in moss with striking centerpieces of huge Manzanita branches. The floor was covered in seagrass and a large chandelier was hung, fashioned from oversized tree branches and candles. Dinner was a selection of Lowcountry fare, including sweet-pea risotto with local seafood, butternut squash bisque and bacon-wrapped quail. For dessert, the wedding cake was a five-tiered apple spice confection with caramel icing and caramelized apples baked into its layers. Its white exterior was decorated with seasonal vines and handmade sugared bittersweet and acorns. At the end of an evening filled with dancing, laughter and celebration, wedding guests walked Annie and Matt down to the dock, sparklers in-hand, and sent them off on the family boat.



When asked about her favorite part of the planning process, Annie says that "planning the wedding of my dreams with my mom and best friend by my side made the whole experience one that I will never forget. The creative team that we put together was so talented and such fun to work with. The end result was something Matt and I will cherish forever." ELF

Ceremony and Reception Site: Windy Knoll, family home in Bluffton, SC. Gown: Lela Rose. Boutique: Vermillion (NC). Veil: Maddison Row. Shoes: Manolo Blahnik. Hair and Makeup: Elysium Salon. Jewelry: Tiffany & Co. Bridesmaid Dresses: Lula Kate. Suits: Brooks Brothers. Officiant: Pastor Bob Thompson. Wedding Consultant and Designer: Kristin Newman Designs. Florist: Lotus Flower. Ceremony Musicians: Voices of Deliverance Gospel Choir. Catering: Cru Catering. Baker: Elaine's Events. Cocktail Music: Lowcountry Bluegrass. Reception Music: Voltage Brothers. Invitations: Gunter Design. Party Rentals: Snyder Event Rentals and Chattanooga Tent. Sound and Lighting: Big Hair Productions.

Photography: Leigh Webber Photography, www.leighwebber.com.





made me feel like they were with me every step of the way," she says. "To this day, when I wear those shoes, I get emotional!" Annie's ten bridesmaids wore knee-length silk Lula Kate dresses in varying shades of moss green and three different necklines so that no two dresses were alike. "I picked three different shades of moss green that complemented each other," she explains. "You could barely tell the colors were different – it just added a depth to the color palette." The bride's and bridesmaid's bouquets were made of a rich cluster of terracotta roses, billy balls, bittersweet, lotus pods and thistle among with other components indigenous to the Lowcountry. "I couldn't have been happier with the bouquets," Annie says. "Flowers are very important to me and Lotus Flower in Charleston took my vision and brought it to life."



Annie and Matt's weekend of celebration began with a "Down Home Supper" on the lawn of the guest house at Windy Knoll the night before the wedding. Charleston blues band Shrimp City Slim played while guests enjoyed an oyster roast, fried chicken, butterbean salad and corn soufflé. The day of the wedding, Annie and Matt's parents greeted guests at the front door before they were ushered to the back patio to sip sweet tea and lemonade while mingling to the soft sounds of a string quartet. Everyone was seated in the back yard overlooking the May River for the ceremony and before Annie walked down the aisle, the Voices of Deliverance gospel choir surprised everyone with a heart-felt rendition of *Down by the Riverside*. After the ceremony they sang *Oh Happy Day* for Annie and Matt's recessional and later led guests to the reception tent singing along the way. "Music is such an important part of my life," Annie says. "When they sang before I walked down the aisle, it sent chills down my spine. I was crying before I got down the aisle because it was so beautiful. Then, as we walked through the field to the reception tent, we were surrounded by their white robes and beautiful voices. Matt and I were holding hands and singing along. It was a wonderful moment."





annie and matt 10.13.07 bluffton, sc

"It was charming and down-to-earth, just like him," says Annie Byrd Hamnett of her husband Matt's marriage proposal. "If he had tried to plan anything elaborate, I would have known immediately, because that's just not who he is." After six years of dating, Annie and Matt were engaged on a quiet evening in the middle of their living room when Matt gave Annie a vintage-inspired Tiffany & Co. setting which Annie says "sums up our relationship perfectly."

Annie and Matt met while studying abroad in Florence, Italy. Annie was a student at the University of North Carolina and Matt was at the College of Charleston. They began dating in Italy and continued their relationship long distance once they came home, dating throughout their remaining college years. After graduation, they visited California's Napa Valley and "decided over a glass of wine that life would be good there" and moved to San Francisco for two years. Annie grew up in North Carolina and Matt in Virginia, so eventually the southern natives felt "the call of the south" and moved back east to settle in Charleston, South Carolina.

Annie and Matt wanted their wedding to be a family oriented celebration in an autumn style that Annie describes as "very organic and natural, but refined and elegant." For a truly southern, Lowcountry affair, they hosted the event at her parents' second home, an erstwhile horse farm named Windy Knoll in Bluffton, South Carolina, situated on the lovely banks of the May River. Annie and her mother hired Kristin Newman, of Kristin Newman Designs in Charleston to design the event and bring all their ideas to fruition.

When it came to her dress, Annie wore Lela Rose, a designer whose work epitomizes the concept of organic and elegant. Her sleeveless gown was covered in the delicate embroidered and crocheted flowers and vines typical of the designer. She added bronze and gold textured Manolo Blahnik pumps that she asked her bridesmaids and family to sign the soles of during her bridesmaid's luncheon. "It really

