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**THE WEDDING
HAIRSTYLES GUYS
LOVE MOST**

PAGE 186

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670

FRESH DETAILS,
FLOWERS,
CAKES & MORE!

CAN I BREAK UP WITH
MY BRIDESMAID?
STICKY SITUATIONS SOLVED

**10 FUN IDEAS
THAT DON'T
COST A THING**

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BLING IT!
**OUR
ANNUAL
RING
BLOWOUT**

you're engaged!

THE BEST YEAR OF
YOUR LIFE STARTS **HERE**

CALIFORNIA *dreaming*

SEE HOW ONE COUPLE
BROUGHT BLACK-TIE
ELEGANCE TO LAID-BACK
MONTECITO, EVEN THE
DOG WORE TULLE!

BY AMANDA MACMILLAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY AARON DELESIE



The couple rented vintage chairs, green and had a rose petal aisle. The dog wore tulle! *—Amanda Macmillan*

THE COUPLE Brooke Wilson, 33, registered nurse, and Keith O'Neil, 38, sales exec

THE WEDDING At the Monastery in Torrey Canyon, California, on May 19, 2012

HOW THEY MET On a blind date set up by her sister and his close friend

THE PROPOSAL In a horse-drawn buggy while on vacation in Chicago

WEDDING FAVORITES Pastries, and Rome, Italy

For three years, Brooke Wilson's wedding plans stalled because, well, life got in the way. "I went back to school, and we were raising for Keith's job," says Brooke. "And it took me forever to choose a venue. I was all over the place, looking everywhere from Italy to Bora-Bora! Finally my parents said, 'Okay, you're getting this done. This is the year.'" Clearly, great things come to those who wait!

MODERN VIBE When Brooke laid eyes on the Monastery—a glass-and-steel estate on 30 acres of orange and olive groves, with sweeping Pacific views—she felt instantly

PARTY OF TWO Keith's young cousin, Ella, and Brooke's slick叔, Nigel, made up their minds to be the party.

KEY DETAILS Pastel florals, blush-colored glass, lace linens, and vintage silverware—"My mother-in-law had at more than a hundred of her own pieces!" says Brooke—warmed the industrial space.

ALL ABOUT THE FOOD Getting dug into a seven-course meal including wild-caught trout, traffic agnolotti, and miso-supporo-braised short ribs. At the after-party, they had a gourmet taco bar.



The florist created a romantic centerpiece by filling cut-crystal vases with floral glass candleholders with peonies, roses, ranunculus, white and blush bougainvillea, and succulents.



Guests sat to the right of one long table on the outdoor terrace.

Brooke chose Marlowe to embody the Monastery's own California in So and the City.

Venue: The Monastery in Torrey Canyon; www.themonastery.com

Planning: David Freeman, Esq., davidfreeman.com

Bride's dress: Monique Lhuillier; www.moniquelhuillier.com

Catering: Taste of Place; tasteofplace.com

Flowers: Create for Weddings; createforweddings.com

Rentals: Classic Party Rentals; classicpartyrentals.com; Another Rentals; anotherrentals.com

Photography: Aaron Valencia Photography; aaronvalenciaphoto.com

5 TAKEAWAY TIPS FROM BROOKE AND KEITH

For fast-track planning, get busy. Thanks to his angle, the brides, planner David Freeman pulled off the 40-person party in just four months.

It never hurts to ask. Brooke was surprised by how willing her salon was to customize her Monique Lhuillier gown. She added sleeves and deepened the V in the back. **Tip:** Use the list Keith loved being able to mention each guest during his toast.

Keep it real! The florist decorated the cake with actual peonies, ranunculus, and string glass.

Plan your photo ops. Brooke scheduled an outdoor cake cutting at 7:50 p.m. (and not a minute later!) to coincide with the sunset.

Brooke's mom made the tons of a last-minute surprise.



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GET THE LOOK ROMANCE BLOSSOMS WITH VINTAGE PINKS AND LACE

for the BRIDE



PINKS \$195, DODO Max Alter, dodoshoes.com



POWDER \$14 of net weight in Uncompromised, \$15

COMPLIANT Charol Lee Brides Healthily Glaze SPF 15 powder, \$37

GOWN Custom made with organic silk, \$8,200. Peek at the gown: www.themonastery.com



all the DETAILS



CAKE \$1,100 per slice (or less), \$5.50 a slice. O'Brien Cake Design; obriencakes.com



FAVOR BOXES \$1 for three. Suburban City; www.suburban-city.com; Red Rocker Candy; redrockercandy.com

LIQUOR \$65 for five pints of St. Supplice; www.stsupplice.com

CENTERPIECE Pastries, garden roses, Marlowe, succulents, eucalyptus, and ranunculus, \$115. Peonies & Posies; www.peoniesandposies.com



DRINKS \$10 per bottle (or less), \$190. Ivy & Aster; ivyandaster.com

WEDDING \$175 for 100 sets. Margaret Calligraphy; margaretcalligraphy.com

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