



The bride's bouquet included dusty miller and eco-friendly balsa wood flowers.

BELOW AND BOTTOM RIGHT: The bridesmaids wore different dresses in varying shades of blue. RIGHT: The classic architecture of the Clifton Inn was an ideal backdrop for the wedding.



ABOVE: The pair's monogram and date were sewn into the lining of Nick's suit.

Keli & Nick

JUNE 26, 2010 | CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

It didn't take long for Keli and Nick to know that their whirlwind romance was for keeps. "We decided early on to do a destination wedding," says Keli, who fell in love with Charlottesville, Virginia, during frequent trips from the couple's home in Washington, D.C. Inspired by the traditional Virginia countryside, Keli and Nick created a chic outdoor wedding with a blue-and-white scheme that was as classic as the groomsmen's seersucker suits.



LEFT: Burlap bags stamped with the wedding logo greeted guests in their rooms. **BELOW:** A Scottish bagpiper led everyone from the ceremony to the cocktail hour.



Real Advice from the Bride

Q ONE DETAIL THAT MADE THE WEDDING 'YOURS':

In lieu of a traditional guestbook, Keli and Nick's guests signed dinner napkins for the bride and groom to keep. "I read about a French tradition where dinner guests sign their napkins to use again if they plan to return," explains Keli. "Nick and I love to cook and entertain, and we hope to be able to host everyone again in our own home."

Q FAVORITE SOUTHERN TOUCH: "I have always admired the way Southern women host a dinner party," says Keli. "It appears so effortlessly elegant, though I have found that it is definitely not without effort. I think we created a beautiful, relaxed atmosphere that would have made both of my grandmothers proud."

Q BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU GOT: "Many people told us to completely relax on the day of the wedding and just enjoy it. I found this surprisingly easy to do, even though the day went by so quickly."

Q WORDS OF WISDOM TO PASS ON: "Learn to pick your battles," says Keli. She and Nick had a strong vision of having an outdoor ceremony and reception, but everyone else wanted a tent. Even though a tornado came through town two days before the wedding, the couple got their wish and exchanged vows on the lush lawn in front of the historic Clifton Inn.

Q ONE THING YOU PLANNED FOR THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN: At the end of the night, Carpe Donut, a local donut truck, made a stop to serve hot apple cider-flavored donuts and iced coffee to the guests. "I didn't want to do anything halfway, and had hoped to come up with a bag or another clever way to serve them, but it just didn't happen," says Keli. "In the end, that's one of those things only we knew about, and it didn't even matter because the donuts were so delicious."



ABOVE: Hand addressed by calligrapher Mara Zepeda, the invitations set the tone for the color scheme. **RIGHT:** The groomsmen's boutonnières were tied with burlap. **FAR RIGHT:** The couple served local wines, including Virginia FIZZ by Thibaut-Janisson.



An inexpensive alternative to traditional linens, burlap adds texture and an organic feel to wedding and table decor.

LEFT: A custom-built arbor was adorned with orchids.



BELOW: The vanilla wedding cake was covered in toasted Swiss meringue. **RIGHT:** Escort cards, made from matches, were a nod to Keli and Nick's meeting on match.com.



ABOVE: Flip-flops gave guests a comfortable rest from a long day in heels. **RIGHT:** A projector lit up the dance floor with the couple's monogram.



Sources

Ceremony and reception venue: Clifton Inn
Wedding planner: Easton Events
Photographer: Katie Stoops Photography
Flowers: Pat's Floral Designs
Lighting/staging: Skyline Tent Company
Rentals: Festive Fare
Wedding gown: Vera Wang
Groom's attire: Brooks Brothers

ABOVE: A local vendor surprised guests with hot apple cider-flavored donuts at the end of the evening.

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