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Betsy & John

October 25, 2008 | Carlouel Yacht Club | Clearwater

A New York City-based couple returns to the bride's hometown to host a simple, stylish wedding celebration on the beach.

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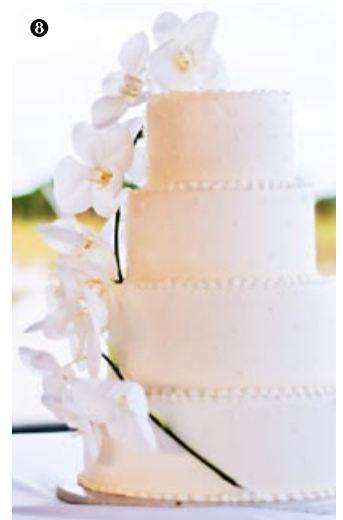
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The bride wore a Chantilly lace gown by Selia Yang (seliayang.com) ① purchased from the designer's boutique in New York City, where the couple currently resides. Betsy's bouquet ② featured a cascade of lilies of the valley, stephanotis, and orchids, including varieties of the bloom grown by her father. Floral design by Botanica International Design Studio (botanicaflorist.com). The ceremony was held at the Church of the Ascension ③ in Clearwater, the bride's hometown.

"The church is more than 100 years old and is architecturally stunning," says Betsy. The bridesmaids wore champagne-colored dresses ④ in styles they chose themselves. "I mailed swatches of ribbon and asked them to purchase dresses that matched," she says. Following the ceremony, the couple and their guests boarded a boat ⑤ and sailed to the Carlouel Yacht Club (carlouel.org) for the reception. Upon docking, they walked down the boardwalk to the festivities ⑥.

REAL WEDDINGS

The tented reception ⑦ was held on the club's private beach. "I used to come here as a child, so it's very meaningful to me and my family," says Betsy. The couple worked with Shannon Wilson from Table 6 Productions (table6productions.com) on the event details. During dinner, guests enjoyed a buffet-style meal featuring roast beef, chicken, seafood, and shrimp and grits—a nod to the groom's Southern roots. All catering was provided by the club. The cake ⑧, designed by Chantilly Cakes (chantillycakes.com), was decorated with a dramatic spray of fresh orchids.



Reception tables ⑨ were topped with burlap runners from Pottery Barn, as well as sleek hurricane vases filled with candles and ceramic bowls containing fresh flowers. "We wanted the reception décor to look chic yet understated," she says. In addition to slices of wedding cake, guests were also offered ice

cream cones ⑩. The newlyweds chose "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong for their first dance ⑪; Southtown Fever (southtownfever.com), a 12-piece band, provided the music. "We ended the night with two songs—'Sweet Caroline' and 'New York, New York'—which got everyone on the dance floor," says the bride.

