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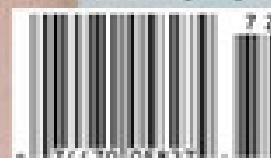
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In Full Bloom

Middleton Place's 18th-century grounds get the floral treatment for a high summer celebration

JARED COSEGLIA & CATHERINE SIRACUSA

July 10, 2016 • Middleton Place

Images by AMELIA + DAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Wedding design by GIBI EVENTS





Talk about a bold entrance: when Jared Cosciglia messaged Catherine Siracusa through her Match.com profile in 2012, he signed off with, "I don't know how to put this, but I'm kind of a big deal." The Ron Burgundy reference piqued fellow *Anchorman* fan Catherine's interest, and soon the pair met for their first date in Queens, New York. A Texas native himself, Jared was immediately charmed by New Jersey-born Catherine's accent, and, 48 hours later, knew he had found "the one" when she cheered alongside him in the stands of a boxing match.

Three years later, the New Jersey-based couple had a Folly Beach vacation home ("We love that you can run on the beach at sunrise and there won't be a soul in sight," says Catherine). While dolphin-watching from their dock one day, Jared proposed with their pug, Joey Bruno, looking on. When it came to their nuptials, they decided to stay in the Lowcountry. "We knew we wanted to get married in Charleston and make it a destination wedding for our families," says Catherine.

A World History teacher, the bride set her sights on Middleton Place—the grounds of which are styled similarly to those at the Palace of Versailles—and enlisted Christina Baxter of Cibi Events to collaborate on a classic garden affair meets all-out-fun fête. "They wanted an elegant and intimate gathering with a family-style setting," says Christina. As for their must-have details? "Catherine had dreamed of a magnificent flower wall behind the head table, and Jared—a former Broadway theater director and musician himself—wanted a band that would pack the dance floor."

On the Big Day, their personalities shone through: donning a princess-style tulle gown, Catherine walked down Middleton's octagonal gardens to an orchestral remix of Radiohead's "Reckoner." After a tippie by the Crane Pool, the pair and their 88 guests retreated to the venue's Pavilion to dine on a four-course tasting menu of Charleston favorites before grooving to the sounds of band Main Attraction. "We've never seen our friends and family let loose and enjoy themselves as much as they did dancing that night," says Catherine. All the while, a showstopping eight-foot wall of blooms stood as a sweetly scented backdrop for the revelry. —*Baren Kelley*

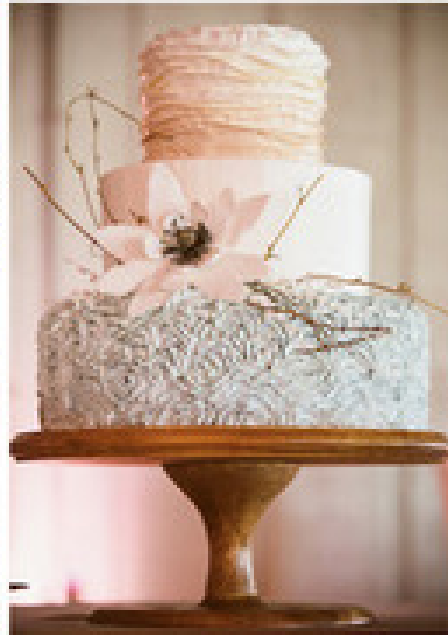
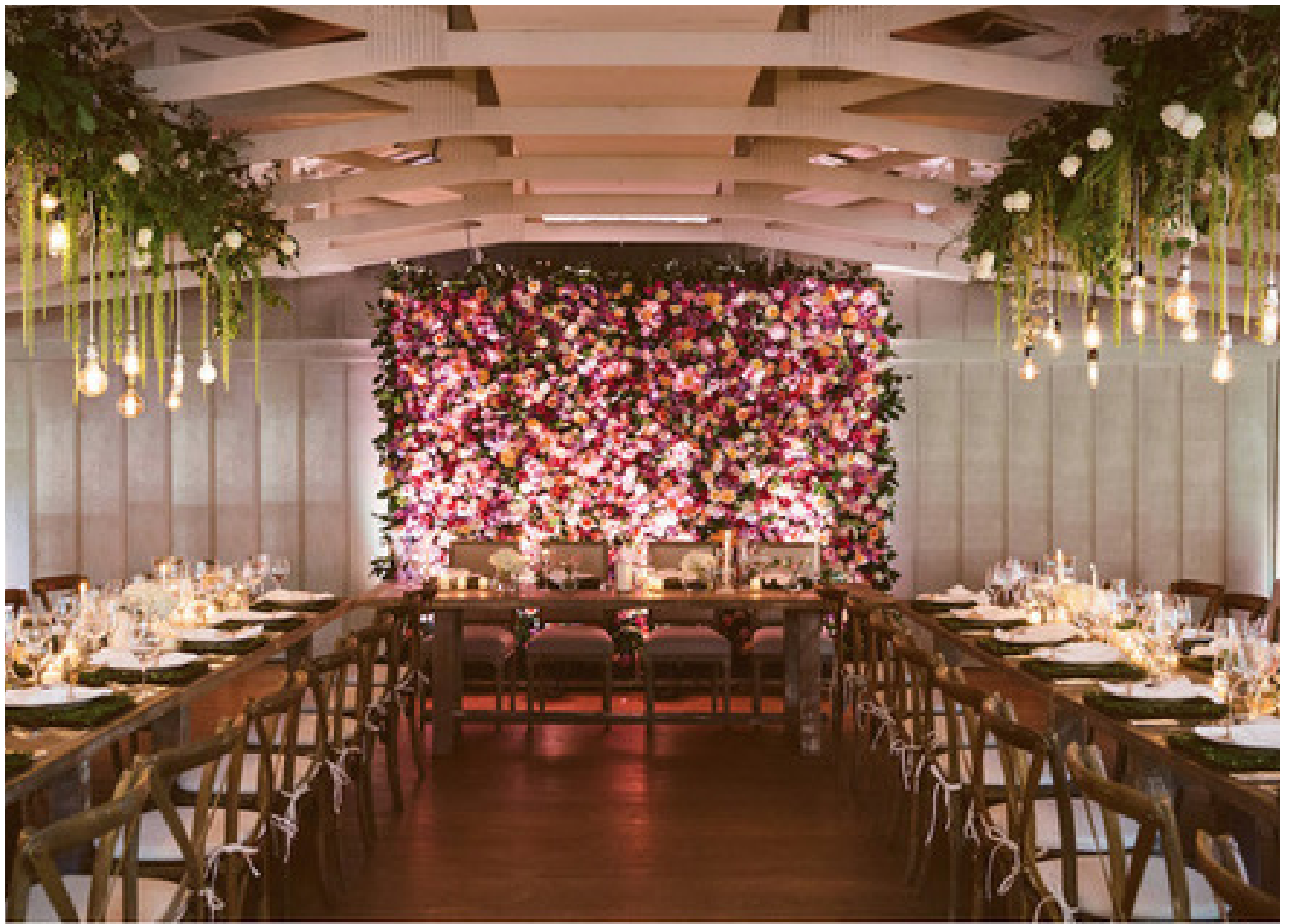


(top) "The most rewarding part was marrying my wife," says Jared of the day. "Her vows were the most memorable moment for me — she has never looked so happy." (above) With most guests traveling from afar, custom leather luggage tag save-the-dates engraved with an oak tree silhouette—a nod to the ceremony site—set the scene for the destination wedding. (right) Catherine and Jared arrived at their reception in true Charleston style, by horse.

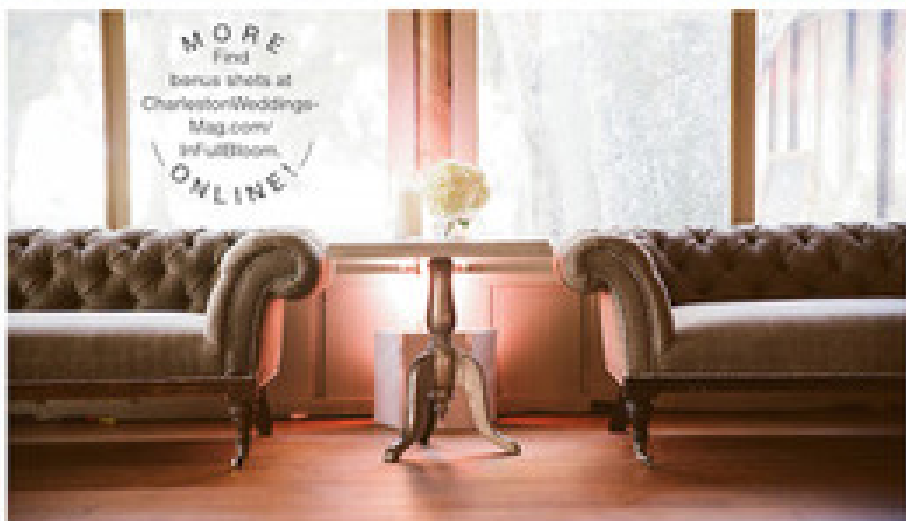




(top) "We wanted the wedding to be both a classic taste of Charleston—the garden walk on arrival, sweet tea, hand fans, oak bowls, shrimp 'W' gifts, fried green tomatoes, 10-piece big bands—and a highly progressive affair with Jared's one-time roommate serving as officiant," says the bride. *(above)* Catherine's niece's ruffled flower-girl frocks were pink-sized nods to her own tulle gown. *(left)* "We offered parasols, sweetgrass hand fans, and chilled hand towels to the guests during and after the ceremony," says planner Christina Bador on combating the summer heat. (They wed in July as Catherine is a teacher.)



(top) Christina worked with Petaloo to recreate Middleton's majestic gardens inside the stately Pavilion hall. The focal point? An eight-by-10-foot floral wall of roses and peonies that marked the head table. (bottom, from left) Delicate vases decorated tabletops so as not to compete with the flower feature wall and hanging arrangements. The Wedding Cakes by Jen Dineel creation was a true collaboration. Catherine chose the ruffles while Christina suggested the magnolia-inspired accent floral. "It needed some kind of natural, rustic element to make it a little less formal and a lot more fun," says Christina, "so we added the twigs and volles!" A lavender sprig and heart-shaped placeholder added romance to table settings.



(top left) The couple's Sunday evening reception was the grand finale of a wedding weekend full of festivities. On Friday, they hosted a party at their Folly Beach vacation home complete with food trucks, corn hole, and boat rides. Saturday featured a rehearsal dinner at the Italian eatery Trattoria Lucca. (top right) Inside the Pavilion, rows of naked Edison bulbs dangled from greenery, hanging amaranthus, and vintage roses. (middle right) "We collect coasters everywhere we go," says Catherine of the inspiration behind their favors. (above) Comfy sofas from Snyder Events offered guests respite from the lively dance floor.

vendors

- Wedding design:** GO Events
- Florals:** Petaloo
- Images:** Amelia + Dan Photography
- Ceremony and reception venue:** Middleton Place
- Rentals:** Snyder Events (furniture, tables, dishes); Technical Event Company (lighting); Ochi Events (grass placemats)
- Catering, bar service:** Cru-Catering
- Cake:** Wedding Cakes by Jim Street
- Stationery, calligraphy:** Studio R
- Bride's attire:** Hayley Page (available in Charleston through White on Daniel Island)
- Bridesmaid dresses:** Allure (available in Charleston through Brides by Jodi and Jean's Braid)
- Beauty:** Patrick Kazano (hair); Pamela Leach (makeup)
- Groom's attire:** Hugo Boss
- Groomsmen attire:** Various designers
- Save-the-date luggage tags, coasters:** Winning Promotions
- Parasols:** Luna Bazaar
- Guestbook:** Etsy
- Reception music:** Man Attraction via OneBrother Entertainment