

MODERN LUXURY

# Brides

CALIFORNIA

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

### MODERN ROMANCE

ALFRESCO AFFAIRS TO REMEMBER,  
FROM TOPANGA CANYON TO LAKE TAHOE

*Peter Otero's Wow-Worthy Table Settings*

CUTTING-EDGE INVITATIONS

*Sausalito's New High-Design Hideaway*

JENNY YOO'S LATEST COUP

### PLUS

*Dream-Day Gowns From  
Vera Wang, Marchesa and More!*

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*RIVIERA SAN DIEGO* AND  
*SAN FRANCISCO* MAGAZINES





# Suzanne & James

Writer and bride Suzanne Weinstock Klein looks back on her international courtship and sun-soaked St. Helena vows.

| Photography by Shira Weinberger |

I was so sure that James was the man I was going to marry that I chased him to the other side of the world.

We first met in New York—I was working as a writer and he as an event producer—but after two months of dating, James had to return to his native Australia to request a reissue of his U.S. visa. A few days later, I followed. To make a long story short, it wasn't long before he proposed, underneath the Harbour Bridge overlooking the Sydney Opera House.

Between James and our incredible wedding planner-to-the-stars Stefanie Cove of Yifat Oren & Associates, I felt as though I had my own personal genies—I made wishes and on August 18, 2012, they turned them into reality. The inspiration for the wedding was the film *Under the Tuscan Sun*, with the more geographically convenient Napa standing in for Tuscany. We only looked at one venue: a private property that was everything I was looking for and more with a lake, vineyards, charming paths, spectacular gardens and cypress trees.

We got married in a simple, Jewish ceremony. No bridesmaids. No groomsmen. Just me, James and our families in front of 100 guests. In place of vows, we exchanged letters under the chuppah to be read on our first anniversary.

For our reception, I wanted an atmosphere that was chic, yet unpretentious and warm. We used local wildflowers, substituted muslin runners for tablecloths, served Tuscan food family-style, skipped the wedding cake and had a firepit for late-night s'mores.

From the moment the band got going, our dance floor was packed. A couple of my stylist friends helped pin my dress up so I could partake in the rowdy fun.

As night fell, the property came alive. James designed lighting across the estate that highlighted its beauty and changed as the night progressed. He even installed smoke machines so that a romantic mist floated across the vines.

The highlight of the evening was when my 90-year-old grandfather got up and sang Gershwin's "Our Love Is Here to Stay" for our first dance. Afterward, he tearfully told me it was the best night of his life. It was mine as well. ■



Clockwise from far left: Our inspiration was Tuscan romance in Napa; my cascading bouquet included local wildflowers; James wore a Yves Saint Laurent suit and I wore a Vera Wang dress with exquisite pleating; table settings included white hemstitch napkins treated with sprigs of rosemary; we had cold towels on hand for the boys after the rowdy hora; found objects complemented the florals.



## The List

Venue Private estate, St. Helena  
Wedding Planner Stefanie Cove  
of Yifat Oren & Associates  
Catering Elaine Bell Catering  
Invitations East Six  
Videographer Hart Pictures  
Lighting and Sound Got Light?  
Rentals Found Vintage Rentals,  
Hartmann Rentals, Wine  
Country Rentals

Florals Floral Theory  
Ceremony Music Entire  
Productions  
Band Bobby Yang and His  
Unrivaled Players  
DJ DJ Nabs  
Gown Vera Wang



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