

Southern Living

# WEDDINGS

*Classic  
Style*

FOR YOUR  
BIG DAY



25  
REAL SOUTHERN  
WEDDINGS

INSPIRED IDEAS  
FOR FLOWERS,  
INVITATIONS,  
GIFTS & MORE!

DREAMY  
CAKE DESIGNS

LITTLE DETAILS  
THAT MAKE  
A LASTING  
IMPRESSION



## Mary & John

JULY 23, 2011 • THE HAY-ADAMS • WASHINGTON D.C.

"It's hard to believe we were just 18 years old," says Texas-born Mary of meeting John at Davidson College, where they lived down the hall from one another. Years later, the pair was visiting John's family for Thanksgiving when he proposed in New York's Central Park. The couple then began to plan a classic, elegant wedding full of nostalgic charm near Washington, D.C., where Mary spent her high school years. Choosing a wedding location proved to be a challenge. "It's hard not to be in Texas," says Mary of choosing to be married in D.C., "but it is such a beautiful place, we didn't want to take it for granted."

1. Mary's silk tulle bodice featured a ruffled collar. 2. Orange flowers adorned pews in the church. 3. Ceremony programs were printed with the couple's initials. 4. Mary's Kate Spade heels. 5. Instead of a tuxedo, John wore a navy pinstrip suit.

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1. John's high school Latin teacher flew in from Connecticut to say Mass during the ceremony. 2. Graphics were influenced by a Hay-Adams menu from the 1940s. 3. GSA WS LOVE: Guest bags featured a watercolor map of Washington that Mary called "nostalgical and charming." 4. The pair stopped for a photo along Pennsylvania Avenue. 5. Ruffie details on the cake resembled Mary's dress. 6. The bridesmaids carried peach garden roses, blue hydrangeas, seeded eucalyptus, and hypericum berries. 7. The bride party waved floral fabric flags and carried a burlesq sign painted with the couple's initials as they walked to the reception.

#### REAL ADVICE FROM THE BRIDE

##### ONE DETAIL THAT MADE THE WEDDING 'YOURS'

Mary, her mom, and her sister enjoy cooking and eating together, so one detail they closely managed was the menu. "The Hay-Adams staff was very flexible," says Mary. "We suggested all kinds of things, and they basically created the menu for us."

##### GROOM'S REQUEST:

John asked that the rehearsal dinner accommodate a

Washington family tradition, in which each family unit sings a toast they've written to the bride and groom. "As you can imagine, this requires an open bar," says Mary.

##### HELPING HANDS:

"My mom imparted a love of entertaining and food to my sister and me, so planning the wedding together was a really fun way to celebrate that

shared love," says Mary. "And Alison Jackson [Team Pinapple Productions] was a wealth of practical knowledge about what would and would not work."

##### FAVORITE SOUTHERN TOUCH:

While planning, Mary says that she was thinking about the meaning of "Southern hospitality" and how she could apply it to the wedding. "I wanted to

make people feel really special, like it was a special occasion, but where they could sit down, have a drink, and chat," she says.

##### WORDS OF WISDOM:

Mary recalls that getting to know her vendors was an unexpectedly fun aspect of the process. "They are amazingly creative people who are doing what they love," she says.

**SOURCES:** **CEREMONY VENUE:** St. Mary's Catholic Church **RECEPTION VENUE:** The Hay-Adams **PLANNER:** Alison Jackson of Pinapple Productions **HAIR/BEAUTY:** Kate Healey **INVITATIONS:** Just Paper and Tea **LAKE-FRONT CATERING & MENU:** Empire Stationery **WATERCOLOR MAP:** Robin Sutton Anders **ALBERT:** Holly Heider **CHAMPLE FLOWERS:** CASE: Kendra's Cakes **WEDDING DRESS:** Annalise **SHOES:** Kate Spade **GROOM'S SUIT:** Joe A. Roth **REHEARSAL DINNER:** BILDFIN **GROOMSMEN'S SUIT:** Joe A. Roth **YES:** Vineyard Vines