

Rustic Done Right

Bay Street Biergarten owner (and recent bride) Laura Boyles gives tips for turning a preference for down-to-earth style into easy elegance

As the daughter of the husband-and-wife team who head **Patrick Properties Hospitality Group** (PPHG), the company behind luxury Charleston operations like The William Aiken House, Lowndes Grove Plantation, The American Theater, and Fish Restaurant, you might have expected **Laura Patrick** to go for an over-the-top super colorful, super fem style for her December 20, 2014 wedding. Not so. True to her unpretentious persona, Laura instead aimed toward the aesthetic of her own establishment, Bay Street Biergarten. The bar-restaurant, where she and her now-husband Andrew Boyles met, is known for being comfortably chic with its exposed beams, expansive beer lineup, and games. Laura brought **Melissa Barton of A Charleston Bride** on board and they banded together to pull off a day that met the bride's hopes: to spoil Andrew, showcase favorite PPHG elements, and, she adds, for guests to say, "That was one heck of a party!"

IMAGES BY *Virgil Bunao Photography*
WEDDING DESIGN BY *A Charleston Bride*

Charleston Weddings: How many weddings have you been to at Patrick Property venues?

Laura Patrick Boyles: I haven't actually been to many Patrick Property weddings, but I have been going to parties and events thrown by the company my whole life. I even had my fifth grade slumber party at the American Theater. So I guess you could say I've been partying with Patrick Properties for more than 20 years.

(right) A clear-top tent protected the ceremony site and the custom timber frame altar when the day turned rainy. Laura says she would hang these lanterns throughout her house if there were room. (below) Pulling inspiration from the tabby tiles, candles were nestled in oyster shells that were poured into vases.



Many elements were riffs off the Biergarten, like this "beer wall," which, Laura says, gave guests more brew options than standard bar service generally affords.

CW: How did you choose Lowndes Grove?

LPB: Ever since my parents acquired it, I wanted to get married there. They put their hearts and souls into restoring it and I have so many wonderful memories associated with the property—there was no contest. Andrew was totally on board, so we planned everything around when it was available. I couldn't have imagined a better place.

CW: What were your goals for the wedding?

LPB: Everyone says that a wedding day is all about the bride, but I wanted Andrew to have the best day, too. So we had a main dance tent that felt like a ballroom, a cocktail tent that felt like a VIP party, and a "man cave" tent with a beer wall, whiskey bar, and a cigar rolling station.



"My boots were one of the first things I picked out," says Laura. Andrew, who proposed to her on a shooting range, fittingly wore boots, too.



"Bacon is by far one of my and Andrew's favorite foods," says Laura of their bacon bar. Another must on their list? Tomato soup and grilled cheese appetizers.

CW: Why go rustic?

LPB: The style just felt right for us; Andrew's very outdoorsy while I'm more of a cocktail hour girl, but put us in either environment and we're comfortable.

CW: What tips do you have for brides who want a rustic wedding without the hay bales?

LPB: You can do rustic without a barn! Stick to a basic, muted color palette and incorporate exposed wood into the décor.

CW: Can you talk about the menu?

LPB: We narrowed it down into a Southern barbecue plus signature items from Fish and the Biergarten. Nico [Fish's chef] really wanted to use the Biergarten's smoker, so we decided on pork and fish as our proteins.

CW: Why did you skip a seated dinner?

LPB: Seated dinners are more stuffy than what we were going for. We had family and friends fly in from all over and we didn't want them

stuck at tables.

CW: What did you envision?

LPB: I imagined everyone dressed in cocktail attire but playing Jenga and cutting a rug. Late in the evening, the swing the bacon bar had been displayed on was re-purposed as a Jenga table (which everyone called "Swenga"). Misson accomplished!

vendors

- Wedding design:** A Charleston Bride
- Florals:** Jonie Larosee, A Charleston Bride
- Photography:** Virgil Bunao Photography
- Venue:** Lowndes Grove Plantation
- Catering, bar service:** Patrick Properties Hospitality Group
- Rentals:** Snyder Events
- Lighting:** Event-Haus
- Bridal attire:** Amsale gown, White on Daniel Island
- Beauty:** Paloosh Salon (hair and makeup)
- Menswear:** Vera Wang, Men's Wearhouse