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gorgeous real-life weddings & other nuptial events



When Bride Lauren tried a Hibiscus Mule at Slightly North of Broad, while on a girls' trip to Charleston, she was smitten. The restaurant, says Lauren, was kind enough to share the recipe so she and her groom, Brian, could serve them at their Lowndes Grove wedding. Tip: Note the source of such finds on signage so guests can sample the treats again at local bars and restaurants. (Turn the page for more from the couple's Big Day.)

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{Understated Glamour}



LAUREN JONES & BRIAN ZWART

March 31, 2019 / Lowndes Grove

Following a Christmas proposal, Houston natives Lauren Jones and Brian Zwart set out to plan their dream wedding at Lowndes Grove—the snag? The only available day for them was a Sunday. “But we decided to go for it,” says Lauren. “It made a great excuse for our out-of-town guests to make a long weekend trip to Charleston and allowed us to have multiple pre-wedding events.” But as the large-scale production was underway—“Most vendors were on-site starting at 6 a.m., some even before then with headlamps on,” says Chloe Ewing from A Charleston Bride of the Big Day—the planned open-air ceremony had to be reworked as rain loomed. “Hire a great planner, and they will develop multiple back-up plans,” says Lauren, who didn’t sweat the switcheroo, because the ACB team joined with Blossom Events and The Social Spool to create a tented ceremony site that still let guests admire the Ashley River rolling by in the distance. “It went off without a hitch,” says Lauren. “The whole look and feel was simply magical.”

vendors

Design: A Charleston Bride
Venue, catering, bar service: Patrick Properties Hospitality Group
Images: Gayle Brooker
Florals: Blossom Events
Rentals: EventWorks (dance floor, stage); La Tavola Fine Linen (linens); Nüage Design (linens); Ooh! Events (lounge); Party Tables (linens); Snyder Events (tents); The Social Spool (draping); Technical Event Company (lighting)
Stationery: Dear Eloise
Calligraphy: Elizabeth Porcher Jones
Bride’s attire: Monique Lhuillier (gown)
Beauty: Ash and Co.
Groom’s attire: Giorgio Armani (tuxedo); Cole Haan (shoes); Hugo Boss (bow tie)



- **Pace and temper patterns.** Lauren is a fan of ornate Chinoiserie so it was incorporated throughout widespread keystones of the wedding, like on the stationery and in the wallpaper behind the custom bar. Pair with subtle linens in neutral shades for a delicate touch.
- **Stick to one family.** For a glam look that’s impactful without being over-the-top, keep singular textures like sequins and velvet in the same tonal color family.
- **Big-production wedding? Choose a big-time planner.** If your vision is extravagant and your guest list runs long, enlist a planner who’s been there, done-that background will make things (including backup plans) run seamlessly.

