

Southern Bride®

A full-page photograph of a wedding couple. The groom, on the left, is wearing a dark tuxedo with a white shirt and a black bow tie. He has a boutonniere of white roses on his lapel. The bride, on the right, is wearing a white lace wedding dress and has her hair styled in an updo with white roses. She is holding a large bouquet of white roses. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a white building.

WINTER/SPRING 2019

100+
WANDERLUST
FASHIONS
at SANDALS RESORTS
in JAMAICA

"This Is It"
for
AMERICAN
IDOL
WINNER
Scotty McCreery

Let's Groove Tonight

MARY McCLUGGAGE AND RYAN KEITH

BELLE MEADE, TENNESSEE

APRIL 28, 2018





THE PROPOSAL Ryan and I met in 2013 at Sully's Bar in Louisville, Kentucky while working for the same consulting firm. A few months later, I moved to Nashville to be close to Ryan while he finished his MBA at Vanderbilt. In the Spring of 2017, Ryan proposed. He even included our sweet dog, Sullivan (named after the bar where we met), in the proposal with red roses on Sullivan's collar. The surprises continued with our extended families flying in for the proposal. Together we all went "honky tonkin" in a Nashville styled celebration.

THE PREPARATION My Mom and I began planning our dream celebration right away. With Ryan's family in the Northeast and mine on the West Coast, Nashville made the most sense, as it was a fun destination for our guests. We were excited to show everyone what Nashville is all about – country music, rich and delicious food, and southern hospitality.

THE BIG DAY Festivities began on Friday evening at Belle Meade Plantation where we hosted a "Red, White and Blue BBQ before they say I do." The night was filled with fun southern elements such as fried chicken and biscuits from the famous Loveless Café, a bourbon tasting bar with Ryan's favorites, tables named after our favorite Nashville honky tonks, and dancing to country classics from Shania Twain to Johnny Cash. It was the perfect way to soak in the beginning of our wedding weekend.

For our wedding day, my Mom and I envisioned an elegant Spring dinner party under the stars with fresh garden elements that incorporated my love of blue and white Chinoiserie and flowers galore. After looking at several venues, we realized that the personal touch of a wedding at home felt perfect for us. It helped that one of my favorite movies was 'Father of the Bride!'

Our wedding day dawned with perfect weather. We were married in a two o'clock mass at the Cathedral of the Incarnation officiated by Father Seyer, who was the former director of the Catholic center at my

alma mater. Guests were then shuttled to my parents' home and gardens in Belle Meade. Upon arrival, guests were greeted with their choice of champagne or our signature cocktail, 'the Louisville Slugger', an homage to where we met.

As guests strolled through the flower-adorned home into the poolside and gardens, they were offered southern-infused appetizers (Nashville's famous Hot chicken). As the sun began to set, guests were escorted to the main tent, where we incorporated the magnificent trees growing in my parent's yard for a stunning, dramatic space inspired by open-air conservatories. The party promptly began with a surprise performance from my all-time favorite band, Earth, Wind & Fire. This moment was indescribable for us. We kept this secret for so long and were thrilled to see all our friends and family share in this once-in-a-lifetime show with us.

A few of our favorite wedding memories were the driveway lit up with fireworks upon our exit, the beautiful toasts by our siblings and parents, and our custom bespoke crest (Heritage Monograms) that perfectly expressed the elements of our lives and families and even had an icon of home plate anchoring the base of the crest, a nod to our shared love of baseball. We utilized this custom artwork throughout the celebration, from our cocktail napkins to the custom dance floor.

The next morning, family and friends gathered together for a lovely farewell brunch hosted by our dogs. It was the perfect final "treat" to toast to the best weekend of our lives! The dog "hosts" even sent off our guests with dog treats and human approved cookies for safe travels home.

THE HONEYMOON Ryan planned the entire trip. We left for Italy on Monday for a three-week adventure that started in Lago D'Orta and concluded in Positano on the Amalfi Coast. Our route included a stop in Milan, wine tasting, sightseeing, and cooking lessons through Tuscany, and a brief stop in Sperlonga.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PLANNER + COLLABORATIVE EVENT DESIGN H Three Events, hthreeevents.com

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RECEPTION VENUE McCluggage Home & Gardens, private residence

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CAKE Dessert Designs, dessertdesignsbyleland.com

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