

LOS CABOS, MEXICO  
ANN & KYLE

photography ELIZABETH MESSINA | design & production LISA VORCE CO.

*College sweethearts Ann and Kyle know a thing or two about how much absence truly makes the heart grow fonder. The two bit it off after a chance meeting in 2005 at a fraternity party, of all places. Shortly thereafter, Ann & Kyle decided to enjoy a week-long getaway to Los Cabos, Mexico, and “halfway through the trip, I realized that we hadn’t stopped talking, swimming, laughing, and just being ourselves, [and in that instant] I knew that I was in love with him,” gushes Ann. Upon graduation, Kyle moved back home to Northern California, while Ann continued with her studies. “It was difficult having to move away, but [the distance] really made me realize how much I loved Annie and wanted to be with her forever.” But Kyle’s plans to surprise Ann with his proposal didn’t go off without a hitch because as soon as he mentioned taking her out for a fancy dinner, Ann’s ‘girl obsessed proposal radar went off!’ It wasn’t too difficult for Ann to realize that Kyle was up to something. Given their jam-packed work schedules (Ann is a global beauty authority for Benefit Cosmetics, while Kyle is a financial risk analyst for Franklin Templeton), the two homebodies prefer to lounge in their pajamas whenever they can. As they sat watching the sun set over the bay bridge in San Francisco, Kyle finally asked the long-awaited question, and surprised or not, Ann still couldn’t hold back the tears streaming down her face as she gladly said, “Yes!” to marrying her best friend and the love of her life.*












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*about* THE WEDDING
 

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Ann and Kyle have always loved Mexico – having gone at least once a year since they’ve been together – so it was only befitting that their wedding encapsulate the beauty of a place that was close to their hearts. Situated along the tip of the Baja Peninsula where the cerulean waters of the Pacific Ocean meets the Sea of Cortez, the Palmilla Resort in Los Cabos provided an idyllic setting for a tropical oasis drenched in the charm of Old Mexico. “When Kyle proposed, we instantly knew that besides our parents, and wedding planner, Lisa Vorce, the Palmilla was our next call. We wanted a place where we could host 85 of our closest friends and family for a 4-day vacation and get married in the

middle of it. It was a real dream come true for us,” beams Ann. As a way to honor family members who could not be there on their wedding day, Ann and Kyle had their ceremony programs printed with an endearing quote by her grandmother: “Build a little fence of trust around today; fill the space with loving deeds, and therein stay.” The couple exchanged vows in front of a traditional Mexican-style chapel surrounded by their loved ones, and the moment was made even more meaningful when the entire bride’s side of the family stood up to sing “Going to the Chapel,” a favorite tradition from Ann’s family. “It felt really special to finally be the ones being serenaded!”









insights from LISA VORCE CO.

The wailing of gale force winds rudely awakens you from your slumber just as raindrops begin tap dancing on your windowpane. As you peek out from under the covers, a blanket of ominous clouds loom in the horizon. It's the morning before your wedding day, so you do what every bride should do given this situation: go back to bed and leave your worries in the hands of your trusted wedding planner. After all, when you've entrusted the team of Lisa Vorce Co., a California-based boutique event design and production studio, to manage every last detail of your special day, not even the rumblings of inclement weather conditions can put a damper on those plans. And rightly so because the very next day, you and your groom celebrate the beginning of your lives together in sweet revelry—just like you had always envisioned, and exactly what Lisa Vorce, owner and creative director, had promised and delivered, right down to a tee.

Who would have known that the night prior to the planned nuptials, the wedding reception tent had been ripped from its moorings or that Vorce and her team had spent their first waking hours diligently working on getting another tent shipped in overnight just to make sure that you and your guests are able to enjoy every minute of your celebration? Frankly, nobody needs to know unless you're a part of Vorce's staff or her amazing team of vendors. The weather is the one thing beyond Vorce's control, but with over 20 years of industry experience, she's learned that strategic planning and a determination to make things happen can overcome even something as unpredictable and fickle as Mother Nature.

"I always have a plan B," Vorce says. "I insist upon it for outdoor weddings." Weather conditions can still be a factor for indoor weddings, Vorce cautions. "Many of the weddings I do are destination weddings. The bridal party, as well as their guests, will be traveling to the event." Weather, among other things, can wreak havoc with those travel plans, but it shouldn't ruin your wedding plans.

The challenge of creating an experience that is fresh, new, and completely personalized to the client is what energizes Vorce, and it's part of the reason why she's chosen to specialize in destination weddings. It is also the reason she prefers not to do events more than once in any given location. On the rare occasion when she has gone back to the same destination for different clients, the challenge is to conceptualize a whole new experience in an already familiar surrounding. Vorce, an avid traveler herself, enjoys discovering the uniqueness of each geographic location she visits along with the cultural traditions that are inherent of the region. Whether she's planning an intimate wedding for two in a sanctuary in Vietnam or orchestrating an elaborate soirée for 100 along the Amalfi Coast, Vorce believes in incorporating elements and artifacts of the surrounding culture and landscape into her designs; it is part of what sets a destination wedding apart from one celebrated closer to home.

Vorce's love for travel is only matched by her love for providing the highest level of service for her clients and their guests. She places a strong emphasis on making sure that guests are well cared for and come away from the event complimenting their hosts.

"You can judge the success of an event by the comments of the guests," Vorce insists. "A positive guest experience makes the bridal couple look good."

Too many couples are so focused on the ceremony and other event particulars that they can overlook details related to their guest's enjoyment. Vorce and her team serve as the concierge, fielding questions about travel, lodging, menus and even attractions in the area for those who may want to extend their stay beyond the events themselves.

Providing such a highly personalized level of care and attention is all part of what Vorce terms as a boutique sensibility—a focus on a smaller clientele with and a keen awareness for details—an experience that Vorce's team is known to execute exceptionally well. It comes as no surprise, then, that Vorce limits the number of events she takes on each year to under a dozen so that she can fully commit her time and energy to each of her clients. Vendors for each event are carefully selected from Vorce's preferred vendor list. They understand Vorce's "no excuse" policy of delivering on what was promised and the premiere quality she expects for her clients.

If the bride or her mother are worrying about the catering or the flowers or any other details related to the occasion, they only need to pick up the phone and call Vorce rather than each individual vendor. Vorce refers to her service as an "insurance policy for weddings." She also cautions her clients to avoid overscheduling events. When a couple attempts to fit too many gatherings into too short of a timeframe, it is bound to increase the stress level of everyone involved, and ultimately detracts from the celebratory atmosphere that they are trying to create.

"The biggest gift I can give my clients is to remove the stress and allow them to be in the moment," Vorce explains. "If you're not going to be able to enjoy your day, then don't do it."

When interviewing wedding planners, finding someone who is a good fit, personality-wise, is critical, according to Vorce. It is important to gauge your comfort level with your wedding planner right from the start. Will you be comfortable calling him/her with questions? Does s/he evoke a sense of trust? "With my clients, it's kind of like having one of their girlfriends planning their wedding, [one] who happens to be incredibly talented and knowledgeable about planning weddings," says Vorce.

Not every wedding planner will operate in this fashion, so it is important to understand the scope of your wedding planner's professional boundaries. Some planners would not welcome an evening call from a client who is stressing out over which shade of white to choose for the table linens, but that's fair game for Vorce.

In spite of an often hectic schedule, Vorce enjoys her down time at home. When she isn't jetting off to some romantic destination, she's usually curled up on the couch in her pajamas relaxing with her husband and the furry friends that share their home.





*vendor* DETAILS

*photography* ELIZABETH MESSINA | *event design & production* LISA VORCE CO. | *floral & event design* MINDY RICE | *venue* PALMILLA, LOS CABOS, MEXICO | *catering* PALMILLA | *rentals* DEL CABO EVENT DESIGN | *linens* LA TAVOLA | *paper goods* AVIE DESIGNS & PAPEL PAPER AND PRESS | *cake* PALMILLA | *hair* PALMILLA SALON | *makeup* BRIDE | *bride's gown* MONIQUE LHULLIER | *groom's suit* ARMANI | *bridemaids dresses* J-CREW & JOANNA AUGUST | *production & lighting* OXTEN | *videography* JEROME DIEU



