



COME WHAT MAY

Storm clouds might panic some on their wedding day, but Katherine Harper and Jared Vanlandingham, who paused for a kiss post-vows, welcomed them as a spectacular ceremony backdrop.

DESERT DREAM

WHEN IT CAME TO PLANNING THEIR ULTIMATE DAY, THIS FOOD-LOVING COUPLE ENVISIONED A MODERN SANTA FE SOIRÉE. THEIR RECIPE? TAKE A SCENIC SPOT, ADD YOUR LOVED ONES, AND MIX WITH HOT SAUCE, A SWEET BURRO, AND A SPLASH OF TEQUILA.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRYCE COVEY
TEXT BY ISABEL BURTON

It was love at first bite for Jared Vanlandingham. Well, at the picture of a first bite, to be exact. “He ‘liked’ my food blog,” explains Katherine Harper, “so I sent him a thank-you note.” After a few e-mail exchanges, the two Dallas residents finally met. “We bonded over our cooking obsessions; he’s great with stick-to-your-ribs food. I’m all about plating it beautifully,” says Katherine, who is head of marketing for a movie studio. And for the next year, her relationship with Jared, an electrical manufacturer’s rep, cooked along nicely. Then, during a weekend at Rancho Loma, a cuisine-driven hotel in the middle of Nowheresville, Texas, Jared proposed. “We called our families with the one bar of reception we could get on our phones,” recalls Katherine. “That’s how remote this spot was.”

Picking the wedding destination was easy: Santa Fe, New Mexico, is a favorite getaway for the pair. Their decided aesthetic was also crystal clear. Says Katherine, “I didn’t want to translate Santa Fe literally with cacti and hanging chile peppers. I wanted a glamorous desert wedding showcasing the scenery’s natural colors.”

On April 12, 2014, they exchanged vows in a Presbyterian ceremony before 90 loved ones at the desert-luxe Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe. Mother Nature provided the décor. “There was a storm rolling in that created dramatic views, but luckily it passed us by,” remembers Katherine. After the I do’s, guests gathered around fire pits to dine on green-chile short ribs and sea bass with chorizo while watching the sunset. Then the tequila shots started and so did the dancing (it got so raucous the maid of honor sprained her ankle!). Along with revelry, the newlyweds made time for reflection. At one point, Katherine traded her heels for cowboy boots, and they hiked to the side of the mountain alone to absorb the majesty of the landscape—and the moment.



NATURAL BEAUTIES

1. The outdoor aisle was lined with clusters of succulents, coral peonies, and ranunculus that fit the event's peach-and-green palette. 2. "I wanted to celebrate the landscape in every detail," says Katherine. "Even the programs had the grounds' marble pattern and desert colors." 3. The bride gave her attendants bronze arrowhead necklaces from Vardonne, presented in boxes wrapped in malachite-print paper, tied with gold cord, and adorned with a sprig of rice flowers. 4. Katherine's six bridesmaids included a mix of old and new friends. They wore gold and taupe dresses from Nicole Miller, Rebecca Taylor, Badgley Mischka, David Meister, Laundry by Shelli Segal, and BCBG Max Azria.

MOUNTAIN HIGHS

1. A VIB (Very Important Burro) carried light bushels of amaryllis, viburnum, parrot tulips, and grevillea. He was the most popular guest with the selfie-taking attendees. 2. The couple had the iron ceremony marker built for their vows, which took place on a terraced patio at the resort. "I entered with my dad, walking in from a mountain trail—in heels!" says Katherine. 3. Dinner was served in a Spanish-style courtyard surrounded by long tables holding low arrangements of coral amaryllis, succulents, orange parrot tulips, roses, white freesia, tangerine ranunculus, and blush grevillea.



OFF THE BEATEN PATH

1. Muslin bags holding red-chile sauce mix from one of the newlyweds' favorite Santa Fe restaurants, The Shed, were given as favors. **2.** The bride wore a dress by Monique Lhuillier and carried a bouquet of peach grevillea, white sweet peas, and Sahara and Angie Romantica roses. The groom sported a custom tuxedo, shirt, and bow tie by Billy Reid. On his feet: cowboy boots, of course. **3.** After the vows, a mariachi band escorted guests to cocktails on a flagstone terrace just below the ceremony site.

KATHERINE AND JARED'S DESERT DETAILS

“ Things can go wrong. We had dyed the bridesmaids' bouquet ribbons green, but the color ended up bleeding all over the place. You just can't sweat it. In the end, it's those glitches that make for a better picture, a richer memory, and a more textured story. ”

KATHERINE, ON ONE THING SHE LEARNED

By the Numbers

11
Months between first date and proposal, and from engagement to “I do” (now it's the couple's magic number)

5
In the evening, when the ceremony took place, just as a big storm started brewing (and no, they didn't have a rain plan)

10
Options, in a range of similar hues, that Katherine picked for her bridesmaids' dresses

2
Readings during the nuptials: an Apache blessing and a passage from *Still Life With Woodpecker*, by Tom Robbins, about the problems of redheads—because the bride could relate

9
Pounds of caviar delivered during the cocktail hour as a surprise from a family friend

3
Interactive stations at the reception: a top-shelf tequila bar, a churro station, and a cigar roller

1
Burro, named Freighter, who hung out by the tequila bar

THEIR PLAYLIST

THE PROCESSIONAL
La Musica Notturna Delle Strade di Madrid by Boccherini; the bride entered to *Largo* from Lute Concerto in D Major by Vivaldi

THE RECESSIONAL
The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba by Handel

THE FIRST DANCE
“Nobody Knows Me,” a sweet Texas love song by Lyle Lovett

THE BRIDE'S LUCKY CHARMS

Something Old: Katherine's year-old engagement ring

New: Green-onyx-and-diamond earrings her parents gave her to match her green shoes

Borrowed: Her maid of honor's wedding band, which Katherine wore on her pinkie for good vibes

Blue: Her matching bra and undies

The Logistics

THE ACCOMMODATIONS
Some guests lodged at the **Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe**, the wedding site (fourseasons.com). Those wanting to be in town stayed at **La Posada de Santa Fe Resort & Spa** (laposada-desantafe.com).

THE WELCOME PARTY
On Thursday night, friends of the couple held a casual kickoff meal at **Santa Café** (santacafe.com). “It's one of our staples!” Katherine says.

THE REHEARSAL DINNER
The couple hosted a small supper Friday at **The Shed**, where they ate New Mexican classics such as pollo adobo and blue corn enchiladas (stshed.com). Afterward, they joined a come-all gathering with tapas and flamenco dancing at **El Farol**, the oldest bar in Santa Fe (elfarolof.com).

Dessert in the Desert

To play up the Southwestern theme, the pair arranged for a churro station where guests could dip the sugary dough in chocolate or caramel sauce. Other treats for those with a sweet tooth included a s'mores bar. A lemon-thyme wedding cake was also served.

Honeymoon Dispatch

Post-wedding, Katherine and Jared jetted down to Chile for 11 days. After a night in Santiago, they headed to Patagonia for nine nights at the **Hotel Explora Patagonia** in the Torres del Paine National Park, where their room had views of the Macizo del Paine mountains on one side and a waterfall on the other (explora.com). They spent the

afternoons hiking and horseback riding with gauchos. To refuel, they hit the cafés, including **Casa Lastarria** (casa-lastarria.cl) as well as “places called *quinchos*, gaucho-style barbecues serving lamb, beef, and homemade empanadas,” says Katherine. “Even the 13-mile hikes didn't prevent my jeans from feeling a bit tight by the end. But it was well worth it!”

SOURCES

Location, catering, and cake: Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe. Event design and flowers: Mindy Rice Floral & Event Design. Photography: Bryce Covey. Stationery/printing: Antiquaria Design Studio. Calligraphy: Papel Paper & Press. Music: Primavera Strings (ceremony), Rhythm Collective (reception). Videography and audio: Santa Fe Audio Visual. Bride's gown: Monique Lhuillier. Bride's accessories: Homa Bridal from Warren Barrón Bridal (veil), Armenta (jewelry), Jimmy Choo (shoes). Groom's tuxedo: Billy Reid.

See The Guide for more vendor sources