



A Matrimonial Mexican FIESTA!

A couple from New York fuse together two cultures in an intimate wedding celebration in Mexico full of history, community and stunning detail.

Photography by *Aaron Delesie*
Words by *Mary Lee Herrington*

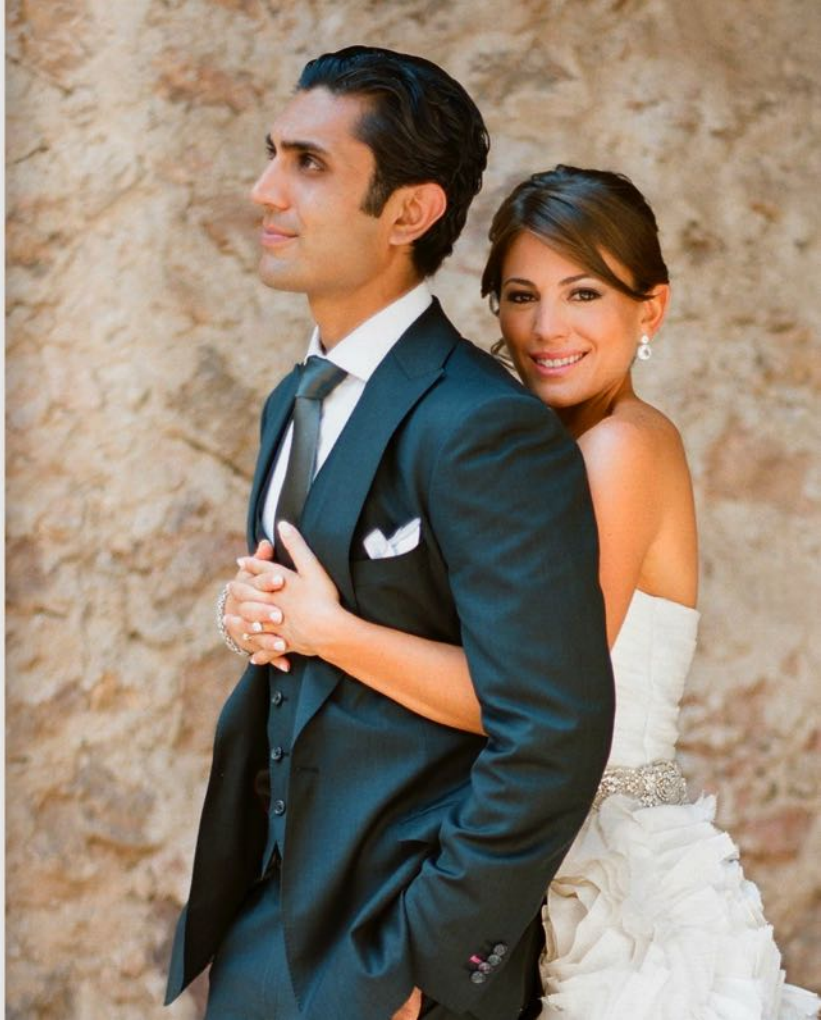
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hen Zaheen accidentally spilled red wine on Regina's best friend at a party, it naturally prompted conversation. Her friend's white shirt may have been ruined, but the mishap was easily forgiven and Regina and Zaheen still chuckle about the way they were introduced to this very day. As for her friend - she clearly did not hold it against Zaheen. This very same friend would later become the maid of honor at their wedding exactly six and a half years later.

As busy New Yorkers, Regina, who is pursuing management consulting, and Zaheen, who works in finance, wanted a wedding away from the hustle and bustle of the city. They decided to get away from their busy New York lives and host a wedding that reflected tradition, culture, and history with a modern twist - in Mexico.

The town of Zacatecas, Mexico, was hardly a random choice, however - it is where Regina's late father's family has roots, and where she felt she would feel his presence. The town also reflected the contrast of "Old World meets modern chic" - an overall spirit and theme that they wanted to infuse into their wedding celebration. As a former 19th century Spanish colony, Zacatecas boasts signs of Old European influences, including cobblestoned streets, colonial buildings made of pink stone and a striking luminous cathedral.

Also embodying the "Old World meets modern chic" theme was the Museo Rafael Coronel, a dilapidated hall whose ruins were an awe-inspiring backdrop for their ceremony in front of 67 of their closest family and friends.





THE GOWN

Regina's stunning Monique Lhuillier lace gown and Badgley Mischka veil had a timelessness to them that were perfect for the "Old World meets modern chic" theme. For her "something borrowed," Regina wore her paternal grandmother's silver bracelet originally from Zacatecas, and for her "something old," she wore a pearl ring passed down to her from her maternal great-grandmother. Sewn inside her dress was her "something blue": a handkerchief from her mother with "Z&R" stitched onto it. And for her "something new": Christian Louboutin heels.

THE BOUQUET

Regina held a monochromatic white bouquet of peonies, ranunculus and other heirloom flowers that echoed the stitching in her dramatic floral skirt.





THE INVITATIONS

Regina and Zaheen chose a letterpress invitation which combined an antique style with contemporary romantic touches, using fuchsia ribbon and custom calligraphy. The save-the-dates were inspired by traditional Mexican paper picados, perforated paper used for holiday decorations.



WELL GROOMED

Zaheen brought a bit of New York with him to Mexico, going for a very cosmopolitan style with a custom 3-piece suit from his friend's company, Bonobos. He also wore a custom-made shirt from Doyle Meuser, a West Village men's tailoring boutique, with monogrammed Tiffany cufflinks. To add some European flair to his New York look, he wore J.M. Weston shoes from Paris and a pocket square and tie from Brioni, along with an antique Patek Philippe watch that was a wedding gift from Regina. His entourage of groomsmen matched his New York look with custom-made suits from Bonobos.









In a stunning Monique Lhuillier ball gown with a dramatic floral skirt, Regina walked into the ruins of Museo Rafael Coronel with her two older brothers, who gave her away to Zaheen. "It was a very moving and special moment for all three of us," she said. The ceremony reflected the celebration and union of two cultures and families, joining together Zaheen's Muslim culture with Regina's Catholic and Unitarian and Methodist family, and marrying them that day was Regina's uncle, an

ordained minister. To honor the union of cultures, Regina and Zaheen chose significant readings to represent the different backgrounds: "On Marriage," an excerpt from Kahlil Gibran's book *The Prophet*, as well as a poem written by Regina's grandmother in 1934 for her own wedding. And during the traditional Mexican blessing known as the Lasso, an excerpt from the Q'uran was recited in Arabic by Zaheen's father as well as in Spanish by Regina's uncle.

After their moving ceremony, Regina and Zaheen treated their guests to a fun Mexican tradition – a callejoneada, a Mexican parade with music, dancing and tequila, complete with their very own donkey carrying their tequila, performing mariachis and Mexican folkloric dancers. Embracing the Mexican spirit of community, Regina spontaneously invited some of the local people to join in their celebration and to enjoy their food. It was during this callejoneado while dancing with the mariachis in the square that Regina was moved to tears, "I really felt my dad present. He was all around us – in the music [and] in the laughter of our guests... Zaheen had made all this possible for me."





For the reception, guests were welcomed to a historic bull-fighting ring in the Quinta Real Hotel, where they were served a meal of traditional Mexican specialties catered with contemporary flair and a touch of Zaheen's cultural background. To start, guests enjoyed a filo pastry basket with shrimp curry, followed by salmon risotto with almond sauce, steak with balsamic jus and a dessert of chocolate terrine before diving into the traditional wedding cake.



THE SETTING

With the collaboration of wedding designer Lisa Vorce and floral designer Mindy Rice, Regina and Zaheen's wedding reception included custom cream linens and crocheted overlays, natural woven placemats, and pops of bold fuchsia pink for their Mexican florals, all made of paper.



WEDDING FAVORS

Complete with kraft bags printed with their Mexican-inspired wedding motif, their dessert bar offered traditional Mexican sweets, helados and fresh churros made to order. Regina and Zaheen also made sure to provide “comfort essentials” as favors – flip flops, cream wraps (tied beautifully to the backs of each chair), and a traditional terracotta shot glass for mescal and tequila shots to use for the Mexican street party following their ceremony.

THE CAKE

With its cascading fuchsia paper flowers popping against the pure white icing, Regina and Zaheen’s wedding cake was truly a dramatic confection combining iconic and modern styles.



After the meal, just as Regina and Zaheen began dancing to Etta James' *At Last*, the unexpected happened. While it had been a perfectly gorgeous day until then, suddenly the heavens opened up, the winds raged, and everyone thought the tent would blow away. While guests sought shelter inside the building, Regina thought quickly about how to lighten the mood – she changed into a second party dress, grabbed a pair of sunglasses, a

black leather jacket and instructed the DJ to play Michael Jackson's *Beat It*. When he announced the bride back into the room, Regina broke out into an impromptu dance and all of their guests joined in. "Even though the rain was not ideal, we made the best of it and had a great time."

Following a day full of emotions and unexpected excitement, Regina and Zaheen left for London, where they had another celebration, this time a traditional Indian wedding celebration for 300 guests. But after two destination weddings, both Regina and Zaheen felt very much that they were in need of some rest and relaxation and headed off for just that at the Aman resort in the Turks & Caicos.



Click here to watch the beautiful film of Regina & Zaheen's wedding by

Manifest Videography

Creative Credits

Ceremony Location

Museo Rafael Coronel

Reception Location

Quinta Real Hotel

Photography

Aaron Delesie

Event Production & Design

Lisa Vorce

Floral & Event Design

Mindy Rice Floral Design

Videography

James Reid
of Manifest Videography

Stationery

Wiley Valentine
& Papel Paper & Press

Catering

Quinta Real Hotel

Cake

La Magnolia Pastelerias

DJ

Tony Red Shoe Los Angeles

Music

Local guitarist and mariachis
from Zacatecas

Hair

Marilee Albin & Jorge Serrano

Makeup

Freda de Orellana & Heather
Kublypepe from Fiore Beauty

Bride's Gown & Belt

Monique Lhuillier

Bride's Shoes

Christian Louboutin

Bride's Veil

Badgley Mischka

Rings

Harry Winston

Bridesmaids' Dresses

Vera Wang

Flower Girls' Dresses

Us Angels at Nordstrom with
custom sash from Lisa Vorce of
Oh, How Charming!

Groom's & Groomsman's Suits

Bonobos

Groom's Shirt

Doyle Meuser

Groom's Shoes

J.M. Weston

Groom's Tie & Pocket Square

Brioni

