



Lucky in Love

Amy Ryan and Derek Dowsett

Amy Ryan, 33, had a number in mind. Not the number of carats in her ring, not the number of bridesmaids, but a number for her wedding date: 8/8/08. Eight was her favorite number (her grandmother is Chinese; it's a lucky number in that culture), and she was determined to get married on that day—even though her boyfriend, Derek Dowsett, 39, had yet to propose. She also wanted a bouquet full of peonies, but no luck: They aren't in season in August. Fortunately, the location, a winery in Sonoma, California, grows flowers, so seasonal pink dahlias and garden roses stood in, with a few peonies flown in as a special touch. The date was changed to Saturday the 9th to accommodate out-of-town guests. And Derek? He proposed two months before the big day—as luck (and the bride and groom) would have it.



Flower girls (nieces of the bride and groom) wore green Lilly Pulitzer dresses with pink trim to match the flowers.



The bride's family vacations in Nantucket; the pink-and-green palette was a nod to her East Coast roots.



The ceremony, under a magnolia tree, was officiated by a friend's mother, who is an Episcopalian priest.



Florist Anne Appleman used bright pink dahlias and roses to get the fluffy look of peonies the bride initially wanted.



Amy and Derek finished an Ironman triathlon in June; she showed off her toned body in a sample dress, altered to fit.



The groom's brother and the bride's stepfather wore pale pink ties, complementing the rosebud boutonnieres.



Stone walls, part of ruins at the Annadel 1880 Winery & Gardens, served as a romantic backdrop for dinner.



Flowers grown on the property are sold in local farmers' markets; here, centerpieces of roses, dahlias, and orchids.



The chocolate cake was iced with a mix of buttercream and meringue. Big bowls of berries, for topping, sat alongside.