



alyssa & ben

OCTOBER 2, BOSTON

photography by Nancy Gould and Matthew Griswold

Alyssa Amundson and Benjamin LaMora, now 26 and 27 respectively and the co-owners of a design and construction firm, met on their first day of college at Syracuse University School of Architecture. They got engaged years later when they were with 12 of their friends from school on a mini reunion in Tuscany. One night, Ben surprised Alyssa by taking her to a romantic villa, where he asked the proprietor to bring out the ring box before the wine was served. When the wine came out with no ring, though, Ben started to get nervous. Alyssa noticed, but had no idea what was happening until a waiter came out and placed the box on her plate, and Ben dropped to one knee at her side. “Afterward, everyone who was dining came over to congratulate us,” Alyssa says. “They were from all over the world so it was interesting to hear their words of advice.”

For their Boston wedding, Alyssa chose a palette of pale pink and chocolate brown. “I liked those colors because they weren’t the typical fall colors, but still had an elegant, warm feel to them,” she explains. To be sure their celebration stood out, Alyssa and Ben incorporated an Italian theme >>



Flower tip: Look for special meaning in your blooms. In honor of Ben's Tuscan proposal, Alyssa sprinkled Italian herbs into her pink rose bouquet.





ALYSSA & BEN CONT.

inspired by the Tuscan proposal. They chose an Italian menu and incorporated many of the herbs used in the cuisine in the bouquets and centerpieces. Family contributions played a huge part in the affair as well—one of the bride’s aunts hand-painted a design onto the small bottles of olive oil that the couple gave as favors, and another aunt lettered the pink and brown escort cards attached to each.

Alyssa and Ben married at the Arlington Street Church across from Boston Common. It was a perfect fit for the couple—“we loved the location, we loved that it’s a Unitarian church, and we loved the simple white interior set against the dark wooden pews,” she says. She and Ben worked with their minister to create the ceremony, which included readings from the couples’ parents and friends.

Afterward, a pair of limos shuttled guests to the Harvard Club while the wedding party stayed behind to shoot some photos at the church and on Boston Common. In the meantime, guests enjoyed antipasti and passed hors d’oeuvres during the cocktail hour, plus a video the bride’s father had put together of pictures of Alyssa and Ben growing up.

The reception unfolded in Harvard Hall at the Harvard Club, which the couple chose for its Italian ambience—marble floors, tapestries on the walls, and high ceilings set off by plenty of candlelight. Each table boasted a candelabra centerpiece—dozens of votives around a vase stuffed with curly willow and theme-colored blooms. Once the party started, no one wanted it to stop, and luckily Alyssa and Ben were able to convince the band and the site to extend the party by an extra hour. Finally, at midnight, the couple had their last dance to “That’s Amore!”—perfect for the newlyweds. —K.W.





ALYSSA & BEN'S INGREDIENTS

CEREMONY SITE Arlington Street Church (617) 536-7050 **RECEPTION SITE** Harvard Club of Boston (617) 536-1260 **PHOTOGRAPHY** Alyssa and Ben had great rapport with their photographer. "She was wonderful on the wedding day, even hitching a ride from the church to the reception when it was taking too long to pick up her car from the valet," Alyssa recalls. Nancy Gould and Matthew Griswold/Nancy Gould Photography, NancyGould.com **VIDEOGRAPHY** Eugeneworks.com (508) 888-0789, Plymouth **OFFICIANT** Rev. David Ebert, Arlington Street Church **GOWN** Alyssa loved her halter-style Paloma Blanca gown. "I felt so comfortable in it, I even went out in Boston after the wedding with the full wedding attire, veil and all," she says. La Reine Bridal (781) 899-0348, Waltham **VEIL AND SHOES** Sposabella Bridal (508) 790-4453, Hyannis **HAIR AND MAKEUP** Cheryl Evans, Salon 350 (617) 236-0025 **BRIDESMAID DRESSES** Each of Alyssa's six bridesmaids chose her own style of chocolate brown dress from After Six. They also each selected their own pale pink shoes. La Reine Bridal **FORMALWEAR** Classic Tuxedo (617) 424-7707 **INVITATIONS** "I definitely feel that the paper products played a huge role in the overall look and feel of our wedding," Alyssa says. The save-the-date cards were done in pink and brown with a modern circle theme, which was also picked up in the invitations. Save-the-dates: The Paper Guppy (303) 725-6001, Denver, CO; invitations: Marca Design (617) 596-8329 **FLOWERS** Mary Lally, Five Petals Flower Shop (617) 846-0030, Winthrop **CATERING** Italian minestrone with pesto and white beans; rosemary marinated filet mignon; Italian stuffed chicken with roasted eggplant, red peppers, provolone, prosciutto, basil olive oil and a tomato demi-glace; Milanese or vegetarian strudel with roasted tomato coulis; Harvard Club of Boston **MUSIC** Reception band: The Love Dogs kept things rocking all night long. (617) 735-0604, Brookline **CAKE** Alyssa and Ben's four-tier pink and brown cake featured a different design on each tier as well as different fillings in the layers within—carrot cake, vanilla with raspberry filling, and marble with mocha and truffle fudge filling. Montilio's Baking Co. (508) 894-8866, Brockton **FAVORS** "My Aunt Georgeanne hand painted about 100 olive oil bottles with different herbs and wrote our names and wedding date on them," Alyssa says. "We then filled the bottles with Italian olive oil and sealed them with a cork and wax. My Aunt Richelle wrote out names and table assignments on a pink circle card that we tied to the bottles with chocolate brown ribbon." **ACCOMMODATIONS** Harvard Club of Boston **HONEYMOON** After staying on at the Harvard Club for a few days to relax and enjoy the city, Alyssa and Ben jetted off to St. Lucia for a week—a gift from the groom's parents.

