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Inspired by the
Gardens of Venice

Charmaine's Inbal Dror wedding gown, veil, and Jennifer Behr headpiece were from **WHITE TORONTO**. She also accessorized with earrings from **VAN CLEEF AND ARPELS**, and a custom-made diamond necklace that was a family heirloom.

Hair styling and makeup application services provided by **Bene Pham**.

Andrew wore formalwear from **GARRISON BESPOKE** with black patent Hugo Boss shoes from **DAVIDS FOOTWEAR**, engraved cufflinks from **LINKS OF LONDON**, a Dion bow tie from **HARRY ROSEN**, and a customized pocket square, also from **Garrison Bespoke**.

Charmaine Kwong and Andrew Chung met in Toronto at a mutual friend's birthday party in 2013. While the circumstances of their first encounter may have been somewhat ordinary, Andrew's proposal was everything but. It was roughly two and a half years later while on a trip to Venice, Italy that Andrew proposed to Charmaine on a hot and humid Italian day. The two had just finished exploring Piazza San Marco when a private boat pulled up beside them. The couple boarded the boat that was transporting them to Hotel Cipriani, where Charmaine thought the two were going to dinner to celebrate her birthday. After exploring the hotel's romantic garden, Andrew found the perfect spot to ask the most important question of his life. As Andrew got down on one knee, Charmaine realized what was happening and tears began to fill her eyes. Andrew retrieved a black box from his pocket, and as he presented her with the ring, he said, "Char, you are the most thoughtful, kind, lovely, intelligent, and beautiful human being I know. There is no one else I'd rather spend the rest of my life with." After Charmaine excitedly replied, "yes," Andrew introduced her to the photographer he had hired to capture the proposal. The newly-engaged couple then had an impromptu engagement shoot, followed by oceanside drinks and a seven-course tasting menu overlooking the Venetian sunset. It was nothing short of perfect.

The wedding took place on August 27, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario. Laura Atendido of **LAURA & CO. EVENTS** provided full planning services.



Charmaine and Andrew's customized double-sided invitations were designed by **PAPER & POSTE** and featured a fun map, which at the bride and groom's request, noted all McDonald's locations near the venue.



Andrew designed Charmaine's engagement ring himself. The emerald cut diamond stunner had a double halo and pavé diamond band. He even incorporated a heart into the setting, "designed to mimic a Venetian bridge," shares Charmaine. The ring was purchased from **SELECT DIAMOND IMPORTS**.

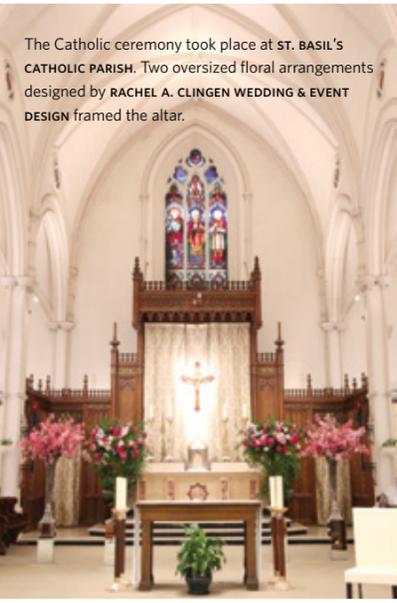
CHARMAINE & ANDREW



The bridesmaids wore gold sequin gowns by **Sorella Vita** purchased at **JEALOUS BRIDESMAIDS**.



The bride's clutch was custom-made from **EDIE PARKER**.



The Catholic ceremony took place at **ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH**. Two oversized floral arrangements designed by **RACHEL A. CLINGEN WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN** framed the altar.



Ceremony programs by **PAPER & POSTE**.

Charmaine's second dress, worn during the traditional Chinese tea ceremony, was a family heirloom. It was originally handmade in Hong Kong for her grandmother to wear on her wedding day. It was then passed down to the bride's mother, and then to the bride, who shares that it is believed "if you wear the same gown as a woman who has a fulfilling and happy marriage, that you will also have a great marriage." To complement the customized tea ceremony dress, the bride wore gold flats by Roger Vivier and gold Love bracelets from **CARTIER**, which were gifts from her mother and grandmother.



Following the ceremony, guests made their way to the **GRANITE CLUB**, where both the cocktail hour and wedding reception took place.



RACHEL A. CLINGEN WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN provided all of the floral and decor for the wedding, including Charmaine's organic bouquet of raspberry-hued garden roses, pink ranunculus and dahlias, purple Vanda orchids, and mixed trailing greens. The bouquet was tied with cascading fuchsia ribbons that provided an added pop of colour.

A FLORAL ODE TO VENICE

RACHEL A. CLINGEN WEDDING & EVENT DESIGN transformed the **GRANITE CLUB's** Grand Ballroom into a modern take on a Venetian garden. The bride and groom sat beneath a custom-made 20-ft pink canopy tree made up of cherry blossom stems, wisteria, roses, and mixed foliage with cascading florals wrapped around the trunk. Romantic white uplighting and draping from **EVENTURE CUSTOM ENVIRONMENTS AND EVENT DRAPING** provided additional drama. The arrangement's "impressive design had guests swooning," shares event planner Laura Atendido.



"Our goal was to transport our guests back to Venice and to recreate the lavish Venetian garden where we got engaged. Despite a large guest count of 300 people, we were focused on trying to create a feeling of warmth and intimacy. We wanted people to be excited and to feel loved."

—CHARMAINE

The dance floor was designed by **PAPER & POSTE** and installed by **EVENT GRAFFITI**.



Taking inspiration from the Venetian garden in which Andrew proposed, vibrant pink floral arrangements with purple accents and fresh foliage filled the room from top to bottom.

Low groupings of pink floral arrangements alongside a combination of modern crystal candelabras and varying-height crystal candleholders with pink pillar candles, acted as centerpieces on the gallery tables provided by **DETAILZ COUTURE EVENT RENTALS**.



For added height, round tables from the **GRANITE CLUB** featured two types of arrangements that mirrored those at the ceremony. One contained a sea of pink and purple florals and greenery, while the other consisted of simple yet beautiful pink cherry blossom stems. Both arrangements were set inside tall, narrow crystal vases, giving off the illusion that they were floating.

The gold Tiffany chairs, gold-rimmed charger plates, gallery tables, and gold-rimmed dessert table were provided by **DETAILZ COUTURE EVENT RENTALS**.



In addition to the organic foliage that served as an homage to Italian flora, hand-tied mini baguettes with a rosemary sprig were prepared by the **Granite Club** for every guest. Tableware, flatware, and stemware were provided by the **Granite Club**.



Table numbers and menus were designed by **PAPER & POSTE** and featured the pink and white floral motif from the couple's invitations.

All catering was provided by the **Granite Club**.





The gelato cart, supplied by SWEETHEARTS SUGAR CARTS, was rolled out as a late-night snack and was customized with a graphic design by PAPER & POSTE that mimicked the floral motif used on the couple's stationery.



A SWEET SENDOFF

The couple's dessert table was nothing short of divine. Their love of travel was evident, not only through the selection of sweets but also through the wedding cake design. The pristine five-tier cake from **TRUFFLE CAKE & PASTRY** featured a white finish, cascading sugar flowers in complementary blush pink and raspberry hues, and the pièce de résistance, an edible gold foil map. The regal sweets table, like the decor, was accented with metallic gold in the form of edible gold flecks that topped an array of treats, including mini donuts, brownies, cupcakes, chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies, cake pops, and French macarons, all of which were prepared by Truffle Cake & Pastry. Cinematography was provided by **HIDDEN LIGHT FILMS**.

For their honeymoon, the groom planned a romantic getaway to northern California. He surprised the bride by announcing their honeymoon destination via a short video clip that he uploaded to her iPhone on their wedding day. The newlyweds first spent time in San Francisco, before driving to Sonoma and Napa, staying in multiple romantic bed and breakfasts along the way. Although the vineyards and wine tastings were lovely, it was the incredible dining experiences at world-renowned restaurants **THE FRENCH LAUNDRY**, **ATELIER CRENN**, **COMMIS**, and **THE RESTAURANT AT MEADOWOOD**, that truly made the trip one-of-a-kind. The couple resides in North York where Charmaine is a dentist and Andrew is a head of product management.



The gold silhouette of a world map on the couple's cake included hearts indicating the places that Charmaine and Andrew had travelled to.

Later in the night, Charmaine changed into a third gown designed by Hervé Leger. She accessorized the gown with pleated chiffon Christian Louboutin heels, a custom bangle from her mother, and an antique ring, earrings, and choker necklace from her grandmother.

LADY KANE performed at the reception. Audio-visual support was provided by the GRANITE CLUB.



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