



Photography by  
**HONG PHOTOGRAPHY  
AND CINEMA INC.**

Momo Chen and Ray Xu were introduced to one another by a mutual friend in 2008. The two quickly realized it was meant to be after learning that they were both huge fans of NBA star Kevin Garnett. After talking day and night (mostly about basketball), Momo and Ray made their relationship official in December of that year.

Nearly seven years later, on Momo's birthday, Ray surprised her with a trip to Joffre Lakes Provincial Park, a stunning site roughly two and a half hours from Vancouver. Upon arriving at the park, the two embarked on a birthday hike that took them to a scenic lake. With the emerald blue waters beside them, Ray got down on one knee and asked Momo to be his wife. After accepting, she learned that Ray had been holding a GoPro in an effort to record the proposal. Unfortunately, they found out afterward that the camera only filmed half of their bodies!

The wedding took place on September 16, 2016 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Jessie Lo of **WEDO WEDDINGS ETC.** provided full event planning services.

The bridesmaids wore blush pink floor-length gowns from **DAVID'S BRIDAL** and accessories of their own choosing.

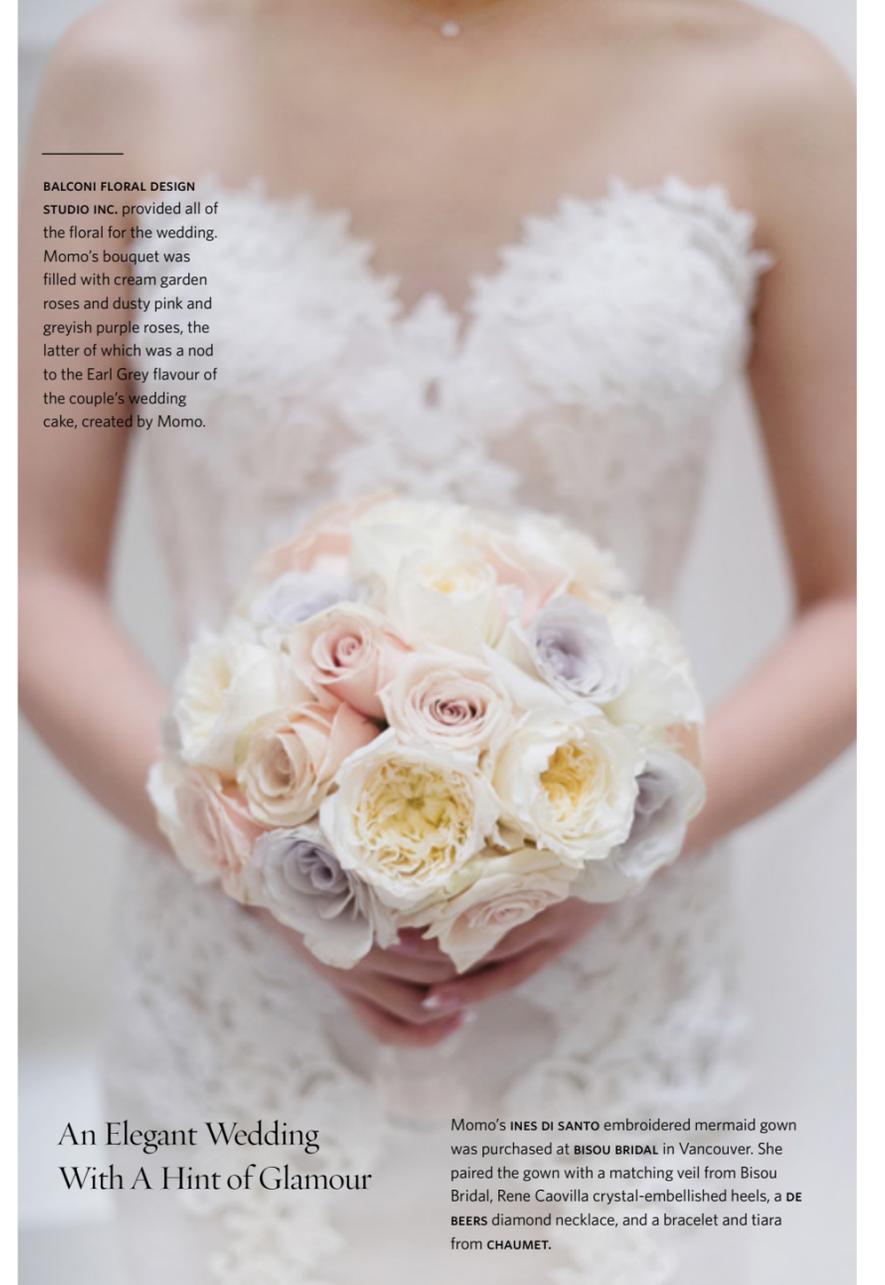
Hair styling and makeup application services were provided by **ANITA LEE BEAUTY AND STYLE.**



Ray wore an Armani tuxedo, Salvatore Ferragamo shoes, a Girard-Perregaux watch, and a bow tie gifted to him by his mother.



**BALCONI FLORAL DESIGN STUDIO INC.** provided all of the floral for the wedding. Momo's bouquet was filled with cream garden roses and dusty pink and greyish purple roses, the latter of which was a nod to the Earl Grey flavour of the couple's wedding cake, created by Momo.



An Elegant Wedding  
With A Hint of Glamour

Momo's **INES DI SANTO** embroidered mermaid gown was purchased at **BISOU BRIDAL** in Vancouver. She paired the gown with a matching veil from Bisou Bridal, Rene Caovilla crystal-embellished heels, a **DE BEERS** diamond necklace, and a bracelet and tiara from **CHAUMET.**

# MOMO & RAY



For the tea ceremony, Momo donned a traditional Chinese GUA dress. The ensemble featured 24-karat gold thread throughout and was accessorized with red Manolo Blahnik heels, gold earrings, and an ornate headpiece.

Handpainted cookies were created by Momo and served as desserts during the Chinese tea ceremony.



The couple were married in the Island Ballroom of the FAIRMONT HOTEL VANCOUVER. BALCONI FLORAL DESIGN STUDIO INC. lined the aisle with floral arrangements in crystal fluted pillars. The customized white aisle runner from WEDO WEDDINGS ETC. was printed by INSTYLE FLOOR WRAPS and was adorned with the couple's gold monogram. The gold Chiavari chairs were from REEL SILKS. Momo's favourite moment of the day came when Ray said his personal vows. "He began to tear up right after he said the first word of his vows which made everybody at the ceremony tear up as well, including me and the officiant!"

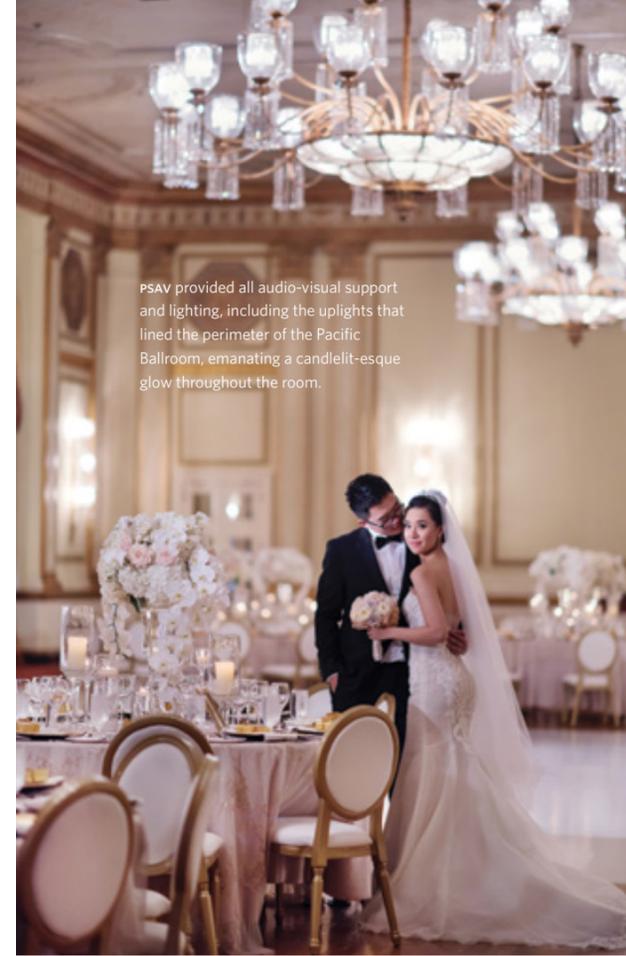


FLORISH BY COLLEEN WINTON designed the couple's wedding invitations, inspired by the delicate embroidery of the bride's INES DI SANTO gown. Each invite featured gold foil stamping, a customized monogram, and a wax seal.



Guests were greeted by a stunning silver-framed mirror from WeDo Weddings Etc. featuring a hand-written seating chart designed by MAURELLE CALLIGRAPHY.

The reception took place in the Pacific Ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Each round table was surrounded by gold and white Louis chairs from ÉCLAT DECOR INC. and covered in customized nude satin linens with a gold damask lace overlay from WeDo Weddings Etc. Atop each table were crystal vases filled with flowers, as well as floating candleholders of varying heights.



PSAV provided all audio-visual support and lighting, including the uplights that lined the perimeter of the Pacific Ballroom, emanating a candlelit-esque glow throughout the room.

Two gold vessels overflowing with hydrangea and Phalaenopsis orchids graced the head table. Low arrangements of roses, hydrangea, and orchids cascaded down the front.

Guests were presented with a gold box of Godiva chocolates. This wedding favor not only complemented the reception's colour scheme but fulfilled the bride and groom's wish to abide by the "cultural custom of giving sweets to wedding guests as this represents sharing our happiness and love with our family and friends," shares Momo.



Given that the bride is a professional wedding cake designer and founder of MOMO CHEN CAKES, it was no surprise that the reception revolved around the stunning 6-ft tall cake created by Momo herself. This one-of-a-kind cake was inspired by her embroidered INES DI SANTO gown. "I wanted my wedding cake to reflect my gorgeous gown, and so I created a lace pattern out of fondant that mimicked the lace on my dress. I also arranged sugar flowers at the bottom of the cake to mirror my gown's mermaid train," recalls Momo. Sugar flowers in the form of orchids, roses, and hydrangea were all handmade by the bride and were complemented by a floral arrangement by BALCONI FLORAL DESIGN STUDIO INC. that flowed downwards from the base of the cake. The sixth tier of the cake was adorned with the couple's gold monogram. It took Momo three months to complete the 1,500 sugar flowers found on the cake, not to mention that the eleven-tier cake was so tall it had to be assembled inside the reception venue.





Place settings were adorned with customized ivory silk napkins from WEDO WEDDINGS ETC. with the couple's monogram stitched in gold threading by BARVIVIAN SCREEN PRINTING & EMBROIDERY.

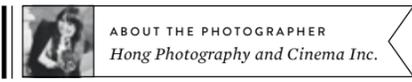


### END NOTES

To complement her towering wedding cake, Momo designed a regal desserts table which included buttercream cupcakes, candy, a pink and white macaron tower, and cakes of all sizes. The wedding's blush, white, and gold colour scheme was again utilized, with a mixture of white and pink cakes covered in everything from sugar flowers and gilding to the couple's gold monogram. One treat that stood out were the sugar cookies. "I created small wedding dress cookies which, like my main cake, were inspired by my **INES DI SANTO** gown and featured a miniature version of the lace pattern found on it," shares the bride.

Following their wedding, Momo and Ray travelled to Thailand for their honeymoon. They spent most of their time in a private villa at **THE PAVILIONS PHUKET**, however, the couple also visited Bangkok and Chiangmai before returning home. The couple resides in Richmond, British Columbia where Momo is the wedding cake designer at the helm of **MOMO CHEN CAKES** and Ray is an IT specialist.

"The best part of planning this wedding was being able to design and create my own wedding cake and desserts!" –MOMO



Ellen Ho is an international photographer who runs a top boutique-style-photography studio based in Vancouver, BC, Canada. With a background in art and fashion, Ellen incorporates her innate sense of design in her photography and gives something cosmopolitan, chic, and unique to her photos. A refined and polished boutique elegance has become her signature style. And while seeking to embody the very essence of haute couture and luxury, she also captures a person's unique personality and inner beauty.

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