



location “We’re both born and raised Californians but loved the idea of a snowy wedding,” Sarah says of the mountain affair.



SARAH & JOHN
MARCH 19 • MAMMOTH LAKES, CA

mountain wonderland

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BENJ HAISCH PHOTOGRAPHY
EVENT DESIGN BY ALISON EVENTS

ceremony Sarah's father calmed her nerves before the processional by joking, "Bet you've never taken a selfie in a wedding dress."



A bottle of Malaga Wine nail polish inspired Sarah Sullivan (26 and a senior manager of sales) and John Houghton's (32 and a data analyst) colors for their mountain wedding in the Sierra Nevada. With deep red florals, burgundy-hued goblets and jewel-toned details, the couple transformed a ski lodge into a dreamy world full of "wow" moments. "We focused on experiences and comforts that would delight our guests," Sarah says. That included an ethereal ceremony setup with ghost chairs, fur accents, vintage rugs and a dramatic arch of cherry blossoms, plus mulled wine, roasted marshmallows, fireworks and even a grand groom's entrance by helicopter. "I wanted something magically elegant that still inspired curiosity and fun," she says. "At the tables, we felt as if we were royalty." —SC



REAL WEDDINGS

colors "I've been wearing the same nail polish since high school," Sarah says of using the Malaga Wine hue on everything from cozy blankets to the inside of the buttercream cake. **fashion** Striving to "feel like a snow queen," Sarah paired her dropped-waist ball gown with a fur-trimmed cape and crystal headpiece. She even wore fuzzy boots to stay warm. **wedding party** Sarah's seven bridesmaids draped faux-fur jackets over their wine-colored dresses, while the flower girls donned tutus reminiscent of Sarah's childhood ballet costumes.

THE COLOR
PALETTE





ingredients

Ceremony & Reception Site McCoy Station, Mammoth Lakes, CA
Photography Benj Haisch Photography
Videography Max and Molly Films
Event Design Alison Events
Floral Design Shotgun Floral Studio; ceremony arch: Proper Flower
Officiant William Snavelly (Sarah's godfather)
Gown & Veil Ines di Santo, M Bride, La Jolla, CA; cape: Neiman Marcus
Headpiece PARIS by Debra Moreland
Hair & Makeup Elite Makeup Designs
Engagement & Wedding Rings Derco Fine Jewelers
Bridesmaid Dresses Various; jackets: Express
Formalwear A Dong Silk, Hoian, Vietnam
Rentals Casa de Perrin; La Tavola
Stationery Design: Taylor Brown; printing: Hyegraph; calligraphy: Lettering by Lindsay
Catering Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
Cake The Breakfast Club
Music Ceremony: Felici Piano Trio; cocktail hour: Warren Priske; reception: DJ Pumpkin
Accommodations The Westin Monache Resort
Guests 178
Honeymoon Worldmark Whistler Cascade Lodge, Whistler, Canada

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the cheat sheet | sarah & john



our favorite detail the helicopter

John certainly made an entrance when he and his best man arrived to the ceremony by helicopter. But it was no small feat: It took months to secure the necessary permits, and even then, he faced a 50 percent chance he couldn't land due to weather. "Luckily it went off without a hitch," planner Alison Rinderknecht of Alison Events says of the highlight. "The guests witnessed a very James Bond landing."

*rinderknecht's
planning tips*

mountain venue

- **Embrace the setting.** Stick with décor that feels authentic to the location, like fire pits, cashmere wraps, woodland details and jewel tones.
- **Have a weather backup plan.** You can't control a storm. Set a solid plan B.
- **Understand lighting.** Shooting photos in the snow poses challenges. Work with an experienced photographer. And if it gets dark earlier, plan portrait sessions accordingly.
- **Beware of altitude sickness.** Set up an oxygen bar, sip water and remind guests to drink alcohol slowly.
- **Go skiing.** Grab guests and have fun.

“We loved using mountain-inspired materials, like birch branch vessels, woodland mosses, evergreens and faux fur throws on the chairs.”

—ALISON RINDERKNECHT, PLANNER

GET THE
LOOK



- 1 Persian-style wool rug, \$999, PotteryBarn.com 2 Satin bow tie, \$60, BrooksBrothers.com
 3 Gown, \$1,663, AllureBridals.com
 4 Infinite Shine nail polish in Malaga Wine, \$13, OPI, Ulta.com 5 Cake topper, \$50, CouplesonCakes.com 6 Louis ghost chair, \$450, Philippe Starck for Kartell, DWR.com