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LUXURY AS VEGAS

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NAPA VALLEY *soiree*

Mary Litzinger, CSER of VP Events, creates destination weddings that embrace the experience and celebrate the couple's lifestyle. "Brides and grooms often choose a destination wedding to allow more time to be spent with family and friends," states Litzinger. "We will work with them to plan additional events such as a welcome reception, intimate rehearsal dinner, brunch and activities such as tours and local adventures which let guests get a true sense as to why the couple selected this location."



According to Litzinger, the unique vineyard destination wedding shown in these photos included a menu of events all leading up to the fabulous ceremony amongst the vines. There were wine tasting excursions, wine pairings and regional menus by celebrated chefs, picturesque sunsets and Tuscan inspirations.



The barrel room was transformed into an elegant dinner party for the reception and the chefs managed to create an incredible cake resembling a wine barrel that was placed on top of an actual wooden barrel. Litzinger truly pulled off an amazing array of events in a vineyard destination that will never be duplicated.

Not only is Litzinger a specialist in creating bridal experiences, but she is also an affiliate instructor at UNLV for social event planning. www.vp-events.com

EXTRAORDINARY LIVING FOR EXTRAORDINARY LIVES

LUXURY

AS VEGAS

A woman with blonde hair styled in a braid, wearing a white strapless wedding dress with a large bow at the back, stands in front of white lace curtains. She is looking back over her right shoulder towards the camera.

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THE HOME *front*

The success of a bridal event today is not based merely on the how fabulous the bride looks and how well the menu was planned by the caterer. The entire event experience holds so much more -- it is about a couple's lifestyle or based on their special memories in time. The key to making all this happen is a creative mind and a seamless, well-planned production. The more original, the better.

Brides and grooms want the entire experience to be memorable for the guests as well as themselves. Unique touches include using antique silver serving pieces from a great grandmother. Rental furniture is not just folding tables and chairs under a big white tent, it is so much more luxurious. Couples are renting silk sofas to create special lounging areas and crystal chandeliers are incorporated, hanging from large trees. Oriental rugs are even being thrown down over grassy areas to create ambiance and warmth in garden weddings.

Photo Courtesy of M. Benedicte Verley Photography
www.mbvphotography.com



LUXURY HOME WEDDINGS

BRIDAL EXPERIENCES CREATED THROUGH IMAGINATIVE DESIGN

BY KASSIE SMITH, SENIOR INTERIOR DESIGNER, ALLIED ASID



While events have become more casual in how the evening plays out, the décor has gone over-the-top. In this month's *Home Front*, we speak with four fabulous luxury bridal design consultants about how they have created some truly unique experiences in transforming estate homes into bridal paradises. Maybe it's the backdrop of a family home or a special friend's fabulous seaside estate or vineyard that will now hold incredible memories all on their own. Not just a simplistic banquet hall, decorated for

another wedding, but a special location with true meaning to the couple.

It starts from the heart as memories often do. Our design experts get to know their couples, understand where they come from and who they are. They get involved with every aspect of making these events spectacular and heartfelt up to the point when the bride takes her first step down the grand staircase of her childhood estate home to start new memories. How perfect is that day -- stepping out of memories from the past and into a lifetime of new ones.



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AN ASIAN *affair*



For over a decade, Thomas Bui of Thomas Bui Lifestyle has been presenting his avant-garde and distinctive style with passion, catering to the bride who wants a unique and intimate event. Bringing us a high-style Asian themed bridal affair, he explains, "The event was embellished with orchids. Everywhere you looked was a traditional Asian flower. Shades of brown and red accents

in the linens were used to bring out the red-ish wood elements in the orchid stems. It was a simplistic wedding, but very high in style."

An energetic designer with a definite passion for an intimate experience, Bui truly designs his events with the couple's lifestyle in mind, thus the name of his company.

www.thomasbuilifestyle.com



Linda Howard of Sensational Celebrations believes her 20-year background in interior design has brought her to where she is today. Describing her style as "sophisticated, elegant and over-the-top," she is the first choice of Hollywood celebrities that need to plan a wedding. Called "Hollywood's best kept secret," her high profile clients know that by contracting her, the wedding will be handled much like a big production movie.

After speaking to her at length, Howard's calm lovely demeanor is refreshing since she boasts such a large reputation. Her background in psychology gives her a step up in really getting to know her clients. She prides herself on her deep interview process and states she is there for them 24/7 handling every detail to the end.

Her creations include the use of elaborate crystals and expansive chandeliers, and an obscene amount of lush roses everywhere. Howard was recognized as "one of the finest wedding planners in Southern California" by *Wedding Bells*. Based in west Los Angeles, Linda's work has been featured in numerous magazines including *Inside Weddings*, *Elegant Bride*, *OnSite Weddings*, *The Knot Wedding Pages*, and *Bridal Guide*, as well as a number of television shows.
www.lindahowardweddings.com



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aisleSTYLE

AN EXQUISITE ENTRANCE ENHANCED BY DESIGN

The grounds of these fabulous estates were transformed into enchanted bridal paths. Fragrant flowers and meandering gardens set the stage for a special memory. Each bridal path creates an exquisite theme of it's own for the bride to make her entrance and procession down the aisle. The accents of color and personality bring the gardens to life.



A traditional Indian wedding was brought to life by authentic colors of the region.
Photo Courtesy of Thomas Bui Lifestyle



Adding the roses along each side of the path creates even more elegant transition.
Photo courtesy of James Johnson Photography



EQUINE *extravaganza*



Jeannelle Muhammad Designs is about creating events that allow guests the opportunity to experience the true essence of the couple. "When a couple is true to themselves, they and the guests have a unique opportunity to enjoy a day of reflection on a life lived and expectation of a great future," explains Muhammad of her event planning philosophy.

With obvious designs from the heart, Muhammad seems to embrace events that the couples share together and emulates them on their special day. Her clients Marilyn and Ben are lovers of everything familial and equestrian. "That is one of the reasons we chose to have the reception on the family farm," says Muhammad. "Not only is it home, but it is where they fell in love. From naming the tables after horses that

family members rode in the Grand Prix to Ben designing a hand-blown glass cake topper of the two of them riding together, the wedding focused on their love of the great outdoors."

The enchantment of the estate's grounds was the obvious gift to the honored guests of this event. Muhammad explains that to enhance the location she wanted to ensure that the senses were tantalized sufficiently. Guests were surrounded with mounds of soft hydrangea and roses embedded with crystals that caused candlelight to dance across the table, lighting that changed with each dinner course, and a live band offered sounds of every music genre from R&B and Hip-Hop to Motown and Country. Finally, a delightful aroma filled the senses from a menu where even the mashed potatoes were shaped like apples. Against this backdrop, the innocent beauty of the young couple seemed to pull at heartstrings even more. www.jeannellemuhammaddesigns.com