

MODERN LUXURY BRIDES

NORTH SHORE



So in Love

10 NORTH SHORE WEDDINGS TO INSPIRE
FASHION REPORT: TOP RUNWAY LOOKS AND ACCESSORIES
TRENDING NOW: THE LATEST IN CAKES, FLOWERS AND MORE
COLOR ROCKS: ENGAGEMENT RINGS TO WOW

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The Essential Resource for Stylish Couples

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PHOTOGRAPHY: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BROOKE BAILEY THOMAS, CANDICE CULSIC PHOTOGRAPHY, JASON KACZOROWSKI, CRYSTAL ROSE

INDOOR WEDDING

Charlotte Melcher & Michael Berlin

JULY 12, 2014

Sophisticated SOIREE

From the **North Shore to New York** and back again, one couple **finds love** and then celebrates with a **opulent affair**.

DESPITE AN AVERSION to online dating, in a moment of weakness, Charlotte, a former New Yorker, caved in to her friends' suggestions and signed up for JDate. With her subscription about to run out and no intention of renewal, she got a message from Mike, whose subscription was also just about to run out. "I remember I was sitting on my couch with a friend, and she said, 'There's something different and special about this guy. I think you should go.'" A date at a wine bar in Union Square turned out to be the beginning of a whirlwind romance.

Originally from Glencoe, Charlotte's goal had always been to move back to be close to her family—so when Mike landed a job as an account executive at Groupon, the groundwork was set. Although they had talked about an engagement, the actual proposal came as a complete surprise. During a Sunday stroll on the beach, Mike suddenly got down on bended knee, and a photographer appeared out of nowhere, capturing Charlotte's surprise and joy. The brunch that followed included Charlotte's entire family—another surprise Mike had arranged.

Held at The Standard Club in the very room where Charlotte's parents had been married, the wedding was a true family affair that drew friends from all over the world and was performed by Mike's family rabbi from New Jersey. "To be in a room with people you love from all stages of your life is just so moving," Charlotte says. The love in the air was complemented by blush pink tones, from the soft and feminine Monique Lhuillier bridesmaid dresses to the

PERFECT PAIR
Charlotte and Michael take
a stroll on their big day.

By Kerrie Kennedy

Photography by Robyn Lindemann, Robyn Rachel Photography

abundantly romantic bouquets of garden roses by HMR Designs. Six-foot mirrored troughs with boxwood hedges lined the aisle accented with pale pink garden roses, and the breathtaking centerpieces featured a mix of candle-filled lanterns, mercury glass vases and loads of gorgeous blooms like green hydrangeas, Juliet garden roses, Tiffany roses, dusty miller and white lisianthus.

"When the band plays slow music, it scares people off the dance floor," says Charlotte, who is the public relations director for Four Seasons Hotel Chicago and The Ritz-Carlton Chicago. "We wanted people dancing all night, so we told our band, 'No slow music.' While people were dancing, we passed out cold lavender towels and sweet bites, including raw cookie dough on spoons. People loved it and are still talking about it." No doubt they are still talking about the perfect execution of this utterly gorgeous affair too. ■

“What We've Learned
"Writing your own vows is so special and so worth it. It added so much meaning to our ceremony, and I'm so glad we did it," says Charlotte.



ELEGANT ENGAGEMENT Clockwise from top: Lush greenery from HMR Designs flanked the aisle; mercury glass vases spilled over with soft blush and dusty green blooms; the tablescapes were all about glitter and glitz with sparkling linens, towering centerpieces and metallic china; Charlotte wowed in a strapless beaded gown by Vera Wang and an orb of powdered pink garden roses; Haute Papier Collections created a stationery suite to stun, and the bride's metallic Jimmy Choo slingbacks added the perfect pop of glam.

The List

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| Location The Standard Club | Invitations Haute Papier Collections |
| Wedding Planner Reva Nathan | Cake Amy Beck Cake Designs |
| Bride's Gown Vera Wang | Music Ken Arlen Orchestra |
| Bride's Shoes Jimmy Choo | Flowers HMR Designs |
| Bride's Hair Ashley Young Styling | Linen Rentals BBJ |
| Bride's Makeup Rachel Reiman | Videographer VDO Productions |
| Groom's Tuxedo Hugo Boss | |