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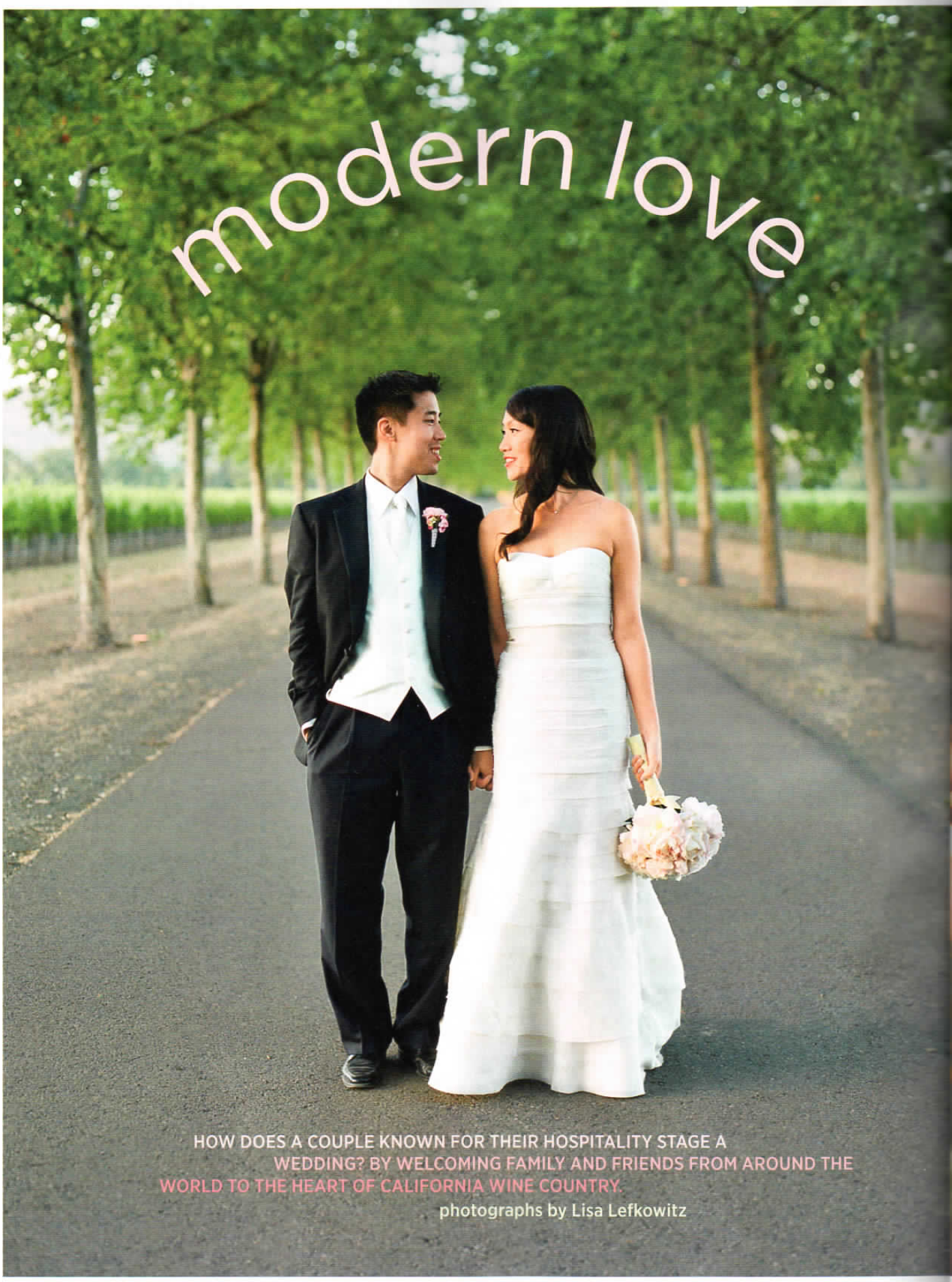

modern love

HOW DOES A COUPLE KNOWN FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY STAGE A WEDDING? BY WELCOMING FAMILY AND FRIENDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO THE HEART OF CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY.

photographs by Lisa Lefkowitz

THIS PAGE Inspired by the pleating on the bride's Vera Wang gown, the ombré wedding cake resembled layer upon layer of ribbon in gradations of the wedding color. The wow accent: a sugar peony.

OPPOSITE After the ceremony, "I had to pinch myself," says the bride. "I couldn't believe how happy we were."

leslie + jeffrey

Among their friends and family—who hail from California, Massachusetts, China, Taiwan, and India—Leslie Wang and Jeffrey Su, both 28, are known as superb hosts. "Friends who stay with us say our guest accommodations rival those of a nice hotel," says the bride of their current digs in Boston. So when it came time to plan their wedding, the couple—she's a brand consultant; he works at a private investment firm—knew they had to deliver some serious hospitality. With help from event designer Gloria Wong, they resolved that their wedding would feel like an enchanted evening at their fantasy summer home. Ah, but where? Since the globe-trotting pair had met and fallen in love in San Francisco, they quickly decided on California. And when they drove down the half-mile-long, sycamore tree–lined driveway at Beaulieu Garden, a lavish estate in Napa Valley with acres of vineyards and lush grounds, their search for a dream venue was over. To evoke a cozy "welcome to our home" feeling for their June 19 bash, they set up displays that showcased some of their favorite things—photos from Santorini, Greece, one of their best-loved vacation spots; framed artwork; cherished books; and other mementos from their four-year courtship. In honor of their heritage, they sprinkled in a bit of the Far East, giving out Pocky sticks and pineapple cake (both popular Asian sweets) as favors, and choosing peonies, the Chinese symbol of honor, beauty, and prosperity, as their primary decorating motif. Says Leslie, "They're a good omen for a happy marriage!" —*Barrie Gillies*

VENUE Beaulieu Garden; beaulieugarden.com.
EVENT DESIGNER Gloria Wong; gloriawongdesign.com.
WEDDING COORDINATOR Jubilee Lau; jubileelau events.com.
FLORIST Nancy Liu Chin Designs; nancyliuchin.com.
CATERER Paula LeDuc Fine Catering; paulaleduc.com.
STATIONER Good on Paper; goodonpaperdesign.com.
BAKER Cake Coquette; cake coquette.com.
BRIDE'S DRESS Vera Wang; verawang.com.
BRIDE'S HEADPIECE Amy Kuschel; amykuschel.com.
FLOWER-GIRL DRESS Sweet Plume; sweetplume.etsy.com.
PHOTOGRAPHER Lisa Lefkowitz; lisalefkowitz.com.

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Before the ceremony, Leslie posed with the bridesmaids, whose dove gray dresses and pink peony bouquets echoed the wedding palette. Flower girl Emilie Su, 6, decked out in blush tulle and Silly Bandz, carried peonies in a silk-dupioni bag. Guests were encouraged to peruse the couple's book collection on the welcome display. Leslie, waving her bouquet of blush peonies, and Jeffrey beamed after the I do's. Decorating doesn't get simpler than this: Clear glass cylinders with floating pink peonies lined the aisle and were used throughout the site.

OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT A pretty upholstery pattern that Leslie found was the inspiration for the wedding stationery, including the letterpress invitation. Her sister and maid of honor, Emily Wang, zipped up the dress. Says Leslie of these Manolos: "I wanted shoes I could wear beyond the wedding; these are the perfect shade of nude, and so comfortable!" The couple married under a canopy fashioned from white cotton voile and wooden poles; during the vows, "it felt as if time had stopped—nothing in the world could have penetrated our bliss," says the bride. A pink ranunculus (center) was destined for the groom's jacket; pink and white calla lilies awaited the ushers. Jeffrey was flanked by his two brothers and close pals shortly before the ceremony—not a jitter in sight!

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Leslie relived her first entrepreneurial venture—a lemonade stand at age eight—by treating guests to the classic refreshment. Escort cards were printed in various shades of pink to look like paint swatches, then pinned onto a frame that was positioned on a console; a dish with keys added to the at-home feel. On the dessert buffet, cupcakes iced in various shades of pink were neatly arranged on white ceramic stands. Leslie recalls that just before cutting the cake, "Jeff made a beautiful toast to our fathers—we felt really lucky that the next day, we could celebrate Father's Day by playing bocce with them." The bride cut linen fabric into strips to embellish the reception chairs she and Jeff would use.

THIS PAGE, CENTER Menu cards, which doubled as place cards, featured three different designs, each corresponding to a different entrée choice; they acted as a secret code for the team of waiters.

OPPOSITE When night fell, twinkle lights and votives gave the festivities loads of sparkle. Dinner was served in the arbor, where the 125 guests were seated at tables decorated with clear vases (some elevated on books), paper-wrapped votives, and glass bottles sporting the party's signature flower. Extra votives in glass holders were hung with ivory grosgrain ribbon.

{ LESLIE'S TOP 10 MEMORIES }

1. "Singing along to 'OMG,' by Usher and will.i.am, while getting ready."
2. "Entering the garden arbor and seeing the reception lit up."
3. "When Jeff saw me for the first time in all my 'bridalness.' It felt so right."
4. "Sharing a private moment with my husband right after the ceremony."
5. "Dancing to 'Like a Star,' by Corinne Bailey Rae, under actual stars."
6. "Jeffrey dipping me during our first dance—we'd taken lessons!"
7. "Seeing all our most favorite people together in one amazing setting."
8. "The heartfelt speeches from our maid of honor and best men!"
9. "The parents' dance."
10. "Jumping in our getaway car and feeling as if we'd pulled off the most perfect day of our lives."

savvy savings

bridesmaids' dresses The girls ordered their outfits from J.Crew. "They were affordable, plus I worked with a personal shopper who gave us twenty percent off and free shipping!" marvels Leslie.

flowers The couple were able to keep the floral budget to a minimum because of the setting's abundant natural beauty. The decision to use only peonies also made a difference. Says Leslie, "They're lush and puffy, so you don't need many."

containers The bride drinks Antipodes sparkling water and loves its elegant bottles, so she used them in the reception area and on dinner tables to display blooms.

transportation Instead of hiring limos, the couple rented SUVs for the bridal party.

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