



Sarah Wagman’s wedding to Andrew Ellenbogen is proof that the best-laid plans aren’t always the best. The couple selected reliably sunny Southern California as the destination for their fall wedding in part for its proximity to major airports and for the beauty of its coast. However, unexpected rain would prevent the pair from exchanging vows while enjoying the famous coastline. “We were supposed to have the ceremony outdoors,”

shares the bride, “but it rained in October – in Southern California!” Rather than letting the rain dampen their spirits, the couple shifted the ceremony indoors; and much to their delight, it was an auspicious switch. “The fall décor actually translated better than it would have outside,” reveals Sarah of the serendipitous change of venues. “It was even more beautiful than getting married overlooking the ocean,” Andrew concurs.



SARAH WAGMAN & ANDREW ELLENBOGEN
OCTOBER 16, 2010 NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA
PHOTOGRAPHED BY IRA LIPPKE STUDIOS

FALLING FOR FALL

Beauty

Tiffany Monday - hair
Lettie Mix - makeup

Bridal Gown

Monique Lhuillier

Bridal Salon

Saks Fifth Avenue

Bridesmaids

Jenny Yoo

Calligrapher

Lettering by Leslie

Consultant

Jeannie Savage for Details Details

Entertainment

Enchanted Evening Productions -
ceremony
Impulse for West Coast Music -
reception

Floral Design

White Lilac

Invitations

Francis-Orr

Jewelry

Kwiat

Lighting Design

Shine Lighting

Photographer

Ira Lippke Studios

Registries

Crate and Barrel
Gearys
Williams-Sonoma

Rentals

White Lilac

Shoes

Christian Louboutin

Venue

Pelican Hill

Videographer

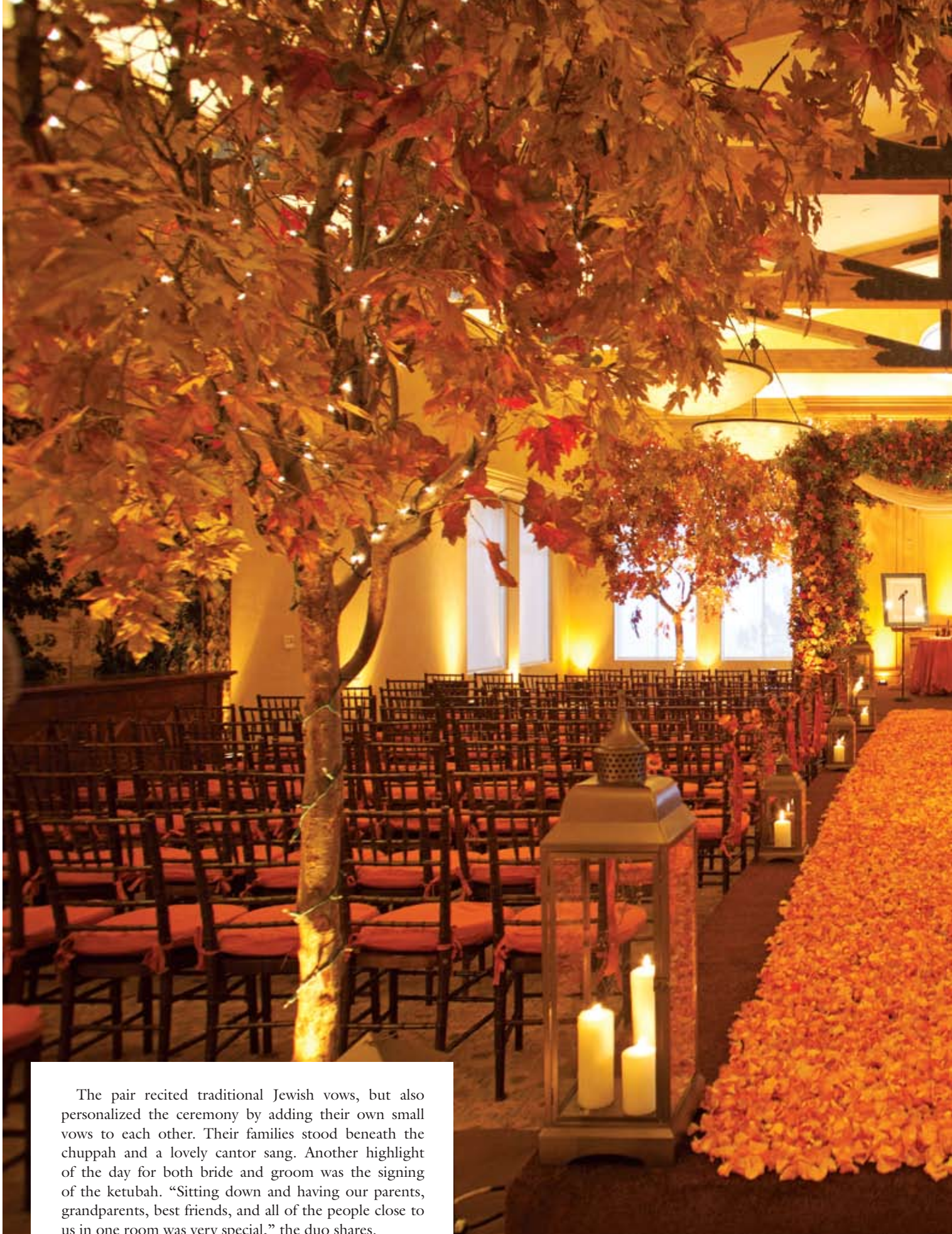
Elysium Productions



The visual design of the event was a true labor of love for the mother of the bride. “My mom – who worked closely with our coordinator and floral designer – is truly a creative genius, and without her attention to detail and eye for elegance, the wedding would not have been the same.” The intimate Jewish ceremony glowed with the richness of fall. Guests were seated in wooden Chiavari chairs with pumpkin-hued cushions. Trees featuring orange, red, and golden leaves were wrapped in twinkling white lights, creating a wonderful fall effect. The aisle was bathed in orange rose petals and lined with lanterns of various sizes. Each lantern housed a trio of white candles, yielding a soft flickering light. Ivy, blooms, twinkling lights, and cherry blossoms helped to form the grand chuppah. “It was perfect,” recalls Sarah.

The bride wore a strapless ivory gown with an embroidered sweetheart bodice and mermaid-style skirt. She held a bouquet of saffron-colored roses, yellow-tinged tulips, and salmon calla lilies wrapped with a thick ivory ribbon. Bridesmaids wore floor-grazing gowns in a mix of raspberry, stone, and deep chocolate, adding to the autumnal feel. The groom and his groomsmen donned classic black tuxes, each dotted with a sunset-hued boutonniere. “Walking down the aisle and seeing my groom standing beneath the chuppah was one of the most memorable moments of the entire day,” notes Sarah.





The pair recited traditional Jewish vows, but also personalized the ceremony by adding their own small vows to each other. Their families stood beneath the chuppah and a lovely cantor sang. Another highlight of the day for both bride and groom was the signing of the ketubah. "Sitting down and having our parents, grandparents, best friends, and all of the people close to us in one room was very special," the duo shares.







The reception continued the autumnal theme with hints of the season in every detail. In lieu of traditional table numbers, each table was named after a spice, a unique idea that the bride's father contributed. The colors of the spices coordinated with

the colors of fall. The seating-card table boasted jars filled with cinnamon, nutmeg, cumin, and cardamom. "The room smelled of aromatic spices and really added to the beauty of the evening," raves the bride. Adds Andrew, "Every sense was stirred."







It was important to the couple to create a warm, familial feel for both the ceremony and the reception. This was achieved through the use of long, communal tables draped with velvety orange linens reminiscent of flocked wallpaper, as well as creative lighting. Orange paper was wrapped around lights to create an effect that was evocative of fire. “The room glowed!” says Sarah. Both tall and low centerpieces were used, spilling vibrant red and peach roses, gaillardias (blanket flowers), red pyracantha berries, and lush greenery. Orange napkins were tied with gold velvet ribbon, golden leaves, and orange pyracantha berries.

Following a cocktail hour and seated multiple-course dinner, a five-tiered ivory wedding cake was served. The design featured the same motif that festooned the couple’s stationery suite and the dance floor. Orange, red, and yellow roses surrounded the entire confection, and each of the tiers featured a select bloom or two.

Great music was of supreme importance to both the bride and the

groom. As a nod to Andrew’s Peruvian family, the couple selected a band that moved seamlessly from pop music by the likes of Lady Gaga and Usher straight into Latin music. “We had the best band we have ever heard,” raves the couple. “Find music that you and your groom love, and make sure the dance floor is always full,” advises the bride. “I’ve been to weddings where that didn’t happen and I think it’s a disappointment for guests.”

The party continued well into the morning with an after party, where festive costumes, masks, glasses, and hats were on hand for revelers. The bride traded the mermaid-style skirt of her formal gown for a sleek black alternative that made dancing into the wee hours all the easier.

Parting words of wisdom from the happy couple: “I’m sure everyone says this, but enjoy every moment. It goes by so fast and you’ll never get another moment when you are surrounded by so many close friends and family.” Wise advice indeed. KELLY LEE