



ava & shane

AUGUST 6, LOS GATOS

photography by Augie Chang

Ava Hristova and Shane Rogers have been putting their own twist on convention ever since they met—in fact, *she* made the first move at romance by asking him to accompany her to a concert. After Shane (a 36-year-old program manager) surprised Ava (a 26-year-old front-end engineering manager) with a proposal in Hawaii, followed by a romantic beach-side dinner for two, the couple planned a wedding that reflected their fun-loving style.

The couple chose a palette of orange and silver, and since “we both know the importance of branding,” Ava says, they made sure the fonts and colors stayed consistent throughout every element. The couple certainly garnered their guest’s attention with cardstock invites that fanned open like a paint-color swatch: They were long, narrow, and held together with a small screw post in the corner.

Since Ava and Shane are avid skydivers, some of their friends suggested skydiving into Nestltdown, where the outdoor ceremony and reception took place. “But considering the trees and the logistics, it was highly unlikely,” Ava says. Instead, the couple added a personal (and much safer!) touch to the ceremony by passing their rings around and asking each guest to think of a blessing while holding their bands.

Following the ceremony, two bottles of grappa were opened during the cocktail hour in honor of Ava’s grandparents (who had done the same thing for their wedding day). Dinner was served on the main lawn, where the head table was draped with a crushed orange overlay. After the meal, guests were invited for dancing and cake in the redwood barn, where tall posts were wrapped with sheets of tulle filled with hundreds of orange silk petals.

Ava and Shane started taking dance lessons a few months before their wedding, and the two performed the foxtrot to “It’s Been a Long, Long Time” by Harry James. After a wedding sprinkled with personal flavor, Ava and Shane honeymooned their own way, too. The pair waited a few months before making a great getaway to Australia. —M.S. >>



Style tip: Choose an unexpected color combo. Instead of the popular hot pink and green palette, Stacey and Scott set a summery tone with orange and silver.





AVA & SHANE'S INGREDIENTS

SITE Tall redwood trees created a natural amphitheater where Ava and Shane exchanged vows. Nestldown (408) 353-5311 **PHOTOGRAPHY** “We loved Augie Chang’s work, and he had a great way of keeping us both at ease in front of the camera,” Ava says. Augie Chang Photography, AugieChang.com, San Francisco **VIDEOGRAPHY** Sound In Motion (408) 354-4050, Campbell **CONSULTANT** Marcia Coleman-Joyner, CWC, A Joyous Occasion (408) 267-0773, San Jose **OFFICIANT** Shannon Winks, a friend of Ava’s **GOWN** The bride wore “Avalon”—a strapless, diamond white A-line dress with a corset back by Maggie Sottero. **HAIR AND MAKEUP** Monina Wright, Natural Images (408) 299-9644, San Jose **BRIDESMAID DRESSES** Ava’s three bridesmaids wore strapless, black empire-waist dresses by Mackenzie Michaels. **INVITATIONS** The couple designed and assembled the invites themselves. Printing by The Copy Factory (650) 856-2020, Palo Alto **FLOWERS** Luxuries Florist **CATERING** Menu highlights included entrées of seared chicken breast; pasta purses filled with butternut squash, ricotta, and spinach; and a Portobello mushroom tower with garlic mashed potatoes. Restaurant-O (408) 871-3131, Campbell; bartender from Best Beverage Catering (415) 642-2410, San Francisco **MUSIC** Sound In Motion **DANCE LESSONS** Melissa Saphir, Metronome Ballroom (415) 252-9000, San Francisco **CAKE** Dessert was a three-tiered cake covered in white French buttercream with silver ribbon wrapping the base of each tier and small scrollwork above the ribbon. Layers consisted of chocolate raspberry mousse torte, tiramisu, and strawberry Grand Marnier. Margaret’s French Bakery (408) 379-2226, Campbell **FAVORS** Hyegraph Invitations (415) 626-0461, San Francisco **ACCOMMODATIONS** Los Gatos Garden Inn (408) 354-6446 **HONEYMOON** Booked through Just Honeymoons (408) 377-7167, Campbell