THE TRAVEL PUBLICATION FOR ENGAGED COUPLES & ROMANCE TRAVELERS

DESTINATION



ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

ITALY: TUSCANY AND BEYOND

36 PERFECT WEDDING LOCALES: From the U.S. to the U.K.

10 WAYS TO GET HONEYMOON HOT

\$6.95 51> 0 74470 01596

DISPLAY UNTIL MAY 12, 2015



CALIFORNIA

Words by Kinsley Brown I Images by Jen Philips Photography, jenphilips.com



On a chilly afternoon in Paris, Erika had the surprise of a lifetime in store for her. In town to continue her education, her love, Karim, had arranged a special birthday surprise, all the way from the U.S. – or so Erika thought. "I arrived in Montmartre...and Karim popped out of the crowd, got down on one knee and proposed! It was one of the most romantic and memorable moments that we'll forever share." As a second surprise, Karim had arranged for Erika's friend, who is a photographer, to be on-site and capture the entire scene. We did an amazing job of keeping the secret that we'd choreographed a dance... although my sweet husband forgot a good part of it...



After saying "yes," the bride set to planning straight away. After selecting the scenic and relaxing Lake Tahoe, California for their destination, Erika quickly hired a wedding planner.

"You hire a lawyer because they know the law. You take your car to the auto mechanic because they specialize in fixing cars. Trust a wedding planner because they too, know best! I don't think it's prudent to depend too much on friends and family to assist you and I definitely don't think, as the bride, you can and want to know all that goes into the orchestration of your wedding day," says Erika.

These two had a very specific "peaches and cream" vision in mind and were able to execute it to perfection with the help of their wedding planner, Merrily Wed. One thing the couple was exclusively responsible for was their first dance – and they didn't let their guests down.

"We did an amazing job of keeping the secret that we'd choreographed a dance...although my sweet husband forgot a good part of it, hitting some of those Michael Jackson moves simultaneously and hearing the crowd roar at the end, put a huge smile on our faces," says the bride. "It was such an entertaining and free spirited way to showcase our relationship in front of our friends and families."

By sticking to a particular theme and organizing several pre-andpost-wedding events for their guests, Erika and Karim really got it all: the wedding of their dreams and happy, satisfied guests.

Photographer: Jen Philips Photography (Assisted by Tess Pace Photography), jenphilips.com, Wedding Design/Planning: Merrily Wed, merril