



Ashley & Ryan Selzer

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Photography by Jodi Yorston Photography

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Ashley and Ryan had been dating for eight years when they got engaged. But the proposal didn't go quite as planned. Ashley thought they were going to a friend's engagement party, but it was really a ploy to get her to the Bay Area. While getting ready for the party, she accidentally found what she thought was the engagement ring. But it was only a temporary ring worth seven dollars. Ryan proposed with that ring, but wanted Ashley to pick out what she loved. The next morning the couple went to design a real engagement ring. "I'm madly in love with my ring," Ashley says now.

The couple, who met in college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, married at David Girard Vineyards: a location that remained top secret for the guests until the big day. In fact, their guests thought that the wedding was at a Holiday Inn Express. Confused guests arrived to find an empty hotel ballroom before being surprised by getting bused to the real ceremony and reception site at David Girard Vineyards—a location that the couple absolutely loved.

"Guests were surprised. They said they felt like celebrities," says Ashley. "While I was getting ready, I got a lot of text messages asking, 'Where are you sending us?'" Ryan says his favorite part of the day was, "That we were able to provide busing for everyone, so they could drink and have a good time without worrying about driving."

The 150 wedding guests enjoyed dinner from three stations: chicken with potatoes; cioppino with bread; and fresh pasta with garlic. "We just love food," says Ashley. "It's a big part of our lives." In addition to all of the dinner options, a quirky cake topper made the bride so happy. The topper featured birds, named Fin and Ava, made out of vintage wedding dresses. "They look like husband and wife," says Ashley.

The real husband and wife had a black and white color theme with accent colors of orange and yellow. Ashley wore two gowns. The first was her mother's, an off-white dress with embroidery. The second, an off-white ankle-length design with satin buttons down the back, was handmade by a San Francisco designer. "Because the first dress had sentimental value, the second dress showed my personality," says Ashley who describes that second gown as "fun, flirty" and "fun, elegant." She wore cantaloupe colored peep-toe pumps, and the veil for the first gown turned into a wrap for the second dress.

A week before the wedding, there were a few added stresses: Ashley and Ryan moved into a new home in Folsom, and Ashley started a new position within her company. Her advice on the wedding planning and the big day? "Be flexible," she says. "Don't have your heart set on any one thing, but do all you can to make it work." The couple had some rain on their wedding day, but rather than get stressed out, Ashley saw the positive—the rain made for great photos. Ryan's wedding advice to other grooms? "Give your bride whatever she wants!"