

MARTHA
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Living

A SPECIAL ISSUE FOR
THE BRIDE AND GROOM

WEDDINGS

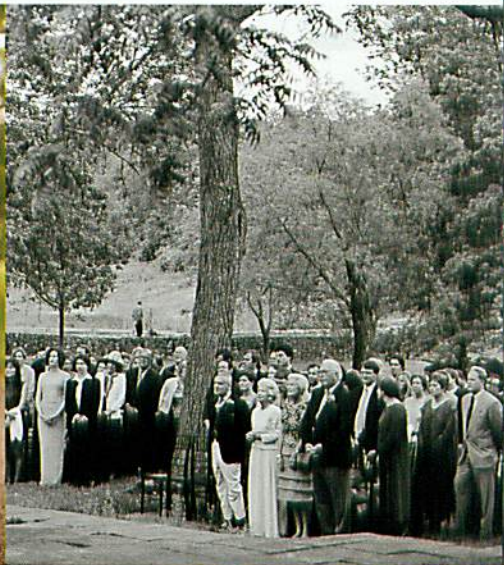
FLORAL DRESSES FAVORS CAKES
VEILS BUFFETS BOUQUETS BOUTONNIERES



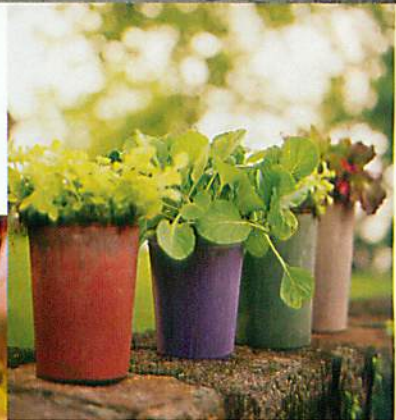
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SOMETHING OLD "My favorite memories are from here," says Josephine Sasso of her family's eighteenth-century farm. "It's an incredible place for a child." Rolling grounds and weathered buildings also make it wonderful for a wedding. Peter's 9-year-old son, Hart (below left), is best man and ring bearer. Guests gather at dusk for the ceremony (below right). "I love the transition from daylight to darkness," says Peter. Josephine and Peter say their vows (left) in front of the 1713 springhouse. The blowsy beauty of the gardens in bloom (bottom left) is echoed in the decorations, which include herbs and greens in painted buckets (bottom right). A ribbon adorns a pasture bell (above). Opposite: The couple marches down an allée of potted dogwood trees. Triplet flower girls Tori, Elli, and Liesl Benecchi (top right) carry moss baskets filled with rose petals (center right).



JOSEPHINE SASSO TO PETER CALLAHAN
VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA 6.7.97







For most couples, falling in love is easy; getting married is the tricky part. But Josephine Sasso and Peter Callahan had plenty of experience with weddings. He's a New York-based caterer; she's a New York-based designer whose dresses are popular with bridesmaids. It was the romance that nearly did them in.

Their courtship unfolded like a Shakespearean comedy, full of twists and misunderstandings. The couple met when he catered her brother's wedding; according to Peter, "there were fireworks then." But whenever they saw each other after that—he became a guest at her family's parties—their signals got hopelessly crossed. At one event a family friend spent hours trying to fix up Peter with her niece. "I couldn't figure out why I wasn't being set up with Josephine," says Peter. At another, Peter paid all his attention to one of Josephine's

friends. "I thought Peter was interested in her," says Josephine, "so I completely ignored him." But, Peter says, "I was only talking to her because Josephine wasn't talking to me."

Finally, Josephine realized something had to be done. "I had given him all the wrong messages," she says. So she called him up, and they decided to go out—just the two of them, alone.

Their first date was at a masquerade party. Despite their disguises, they began to see each other clearly. "We had a wonderful time together," says Josephine. "We stayed up half the night."

Less than a year later, they were married. Peter's company did the catering, and Josephine designed the dresses for the wedding party. For them, that was easy. More important, when the time came for Josephine and Peter to say their vows, their message was perfectly clear.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AMY NEUNSINGER TEXT BY CELIA BARBOUR



A FARM-FRESH THEME Shades of lettuce green and white appear throughout the setting. Josephine's bouquet (above left) is a globe of fragrant roses, gardenias, and freesia. Josephine designed the bridesmaids' dresses (center left) as well as helped plan the bouquets (center); in the weeks before the wedding, she began collecting clippings from around the farm. "We'd be talking," says Peter, "and suddenly Josephine would reach up and grab a branch and say, 'Oh, this would be great in my bridesmaids' bouquets.'" Peter helps Josephine negotiate the dam across the springhouse stream (above right). The menu (top left) lists a wealth of choices: salmon with foie gras, filet mignon, risotto with truffles, soft-shell crab, and Peking duck. Josephine had the napkins (top right) custom-made out of white cotton piqué edged with China-silk piping. Guests Bill Manger and Andrea Lans converse in a converted corncrib (above center).



GARDEN OF DELIGHTS Every tabletop becomes a miniature garden (top left): Topiary rosebushes sprout from concrete urns capped in moss; nearby, herbs trail from silver cups. The vanilla cake (top center) is decorated with crystallized flowers. Josephine's mother, Anna Sasso, talks with Peter's mother, Betsy Callaban (top right). Favors (above left) are nonpareils in plastic boxes finished with monogrammed stickers. "I wanted to use my new initials the first opportunity I had," says Josephine. Petits fours are arranged in a checkerboard pattern (center). Luminarias light the pathway to the farmhouse (above right), where Peter and Josephine will live after the wedding. A food station (above center) includes salmon topped with foie gras, and stuffed cherry tomatoes. Peter and Josephine dance on a canvas floor (right), painted black and white to resemble a tiled ballroom. SEE THE GUIDE FOR SOURCES

