

A full-page photograph of a wedding couple standing on a wooden dock. The groom, Mike Zurfluh, is wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a black bow tie. The bride, Brit Smith, is wearing a white, off-the-shoulder, floor-length wedding dress with a long veil and is holding a large bouquet of pink and white flowers. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The dock has two black and white striped mooring posts. In the background, there is a calm lake with a small white boat in the distance and steep, green mountains under a clear sky.

VILLA ROMANCE

BRIT SMITH & MIKE ZURFLUH

September 21, 2019 Lake Como, Italy | Photographed by The Day by Ira Lippke

"She walked in, and I noticed her right away," affirms the groom of the first moment he saw Brit Smith at a bar in New York City – on the same street where they now live. They chatted for a bit, and then Brit turned away to talk to her friends. "The next thing I knew, he was waving goodbye to me from across the room," she remembers of the brief exchange. Thankfully, Mike connected with

Brit on LinkedIn – the only social media he had at the time – and they exchanged phone numbers. A few years later while on vacation in Paris, Mike led Brit to a gorgeous suite decorated with roses that offered a perfect view of the Eiffel Tower. "When I turned back around to look at Mike, he was down on one knee," muses Brit of the private, picturesque proposal. "It was perfect."

RESOURCES

Beauty

Giles Robinson - hair
Dom Seeley - hair, second look
Vjosa Pacuku - makeup

Bridal Gown/Salon

Elie Saab; Inbal Dror - after-party

Bridal Stylist

The Stylish Bride

Bridesmaid Gowns

Jenny Yoo Collection

Cake

Marco Failla

Catering

Class Eventi

Consulting/Planning

Leslie Mastin Events

Entertainment

On the Move Entertainment

Fireworks/Electric Guitarist

Blunotte Eventi Sgl

Floral Design

Tulipina

Formalwear

Tom Ford

Invitations

Katie Fischer Design

Jewelry

David S. Diamonds

Lighting Design

Blunotte Eventi Sgl

Linens

Allegoria; Silk & Willow

Paper Goods

LetterInk

Photography

The Day by Ira Lippke

Production/Design

The Lake Como Wedding Planner

Rentals

Privitera Srl

Shoes

Gianvito Rossi

Veil

Elie Saab

Venue

Villa Balbiano

Videography

I Do Films



The pair set a date for their nuptials to take place nine months later, so they relied heavily on their exceptional wedding team to orchestrate a luxurious event in just five months. "We both knew that we wanted a destination wedding," notes the bride, who had fallen in love with Lake Como while visiting with her mother a few years prior. "It was one of the most beautiful places I'd ever seen - everywhere I looked was like a postcard." After she and Mike took a trip together, he too fell in love with the Italian locale.



The September sun created a glimmer along the lake as 115 loved ones found their seats on the lawn of an exquisite 16th-century palazzo, facing the breathtaking mountains that gracefully meet the clear blue water. Italian-themed music, including Dean Martin's "That's Amore" and "Vivo Per Lei" by Andrea Bocelli, set the tone for the romantic, alfresco ceremony. Brit and Mike exchanged vows in front of a floral installation featuring cascading Spanish moss, flowering branches, and vivid garden roses.

Friends and family then enjoyed a poolside cocktail hour on

the manicured grounds of the villa. As a nod to the groom's nickname for his beloved, escort cards were cut in the shape of doves and suspended from a tree with lavender ribbon. The greenhouse-inspired reception tent wowed everyone in attendance. Though she originally gravitated towards a timeless white color palette, the bride was overjoyed with the decision to incorporate vibrant hues. "I wanted it to look like *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – magical and very colorful," confirms Brit of the stunning décor.



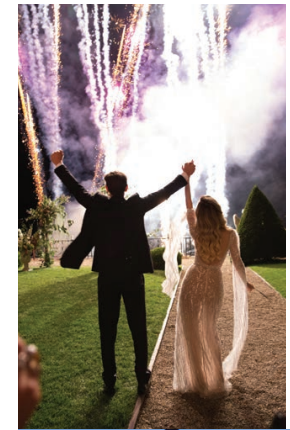


A lush ceiling installation of fuchsia wisteria and blue delphiniums, illuminated with crystal chandeliers, provided a cozy, elegant feel for the evening festivities. “One of my favorite parts of the reception was the head table, which was adorned with a centerline of flowers and foliage that resembled a garden growing in the center,” adds the bride. She envisioned tablescapes that looked as though they belonged at a decadent royal dinner. Mirrored tables were bedecked with hundreds of blooms, including anemones, roses, orchids, tulips, and delphiniums, as well as fresh fruits, such as grapes, figs, and currants. Guest settings were carefully selected and showcased “Iris” dinnerware from the Oriente Italiano collection by Richard

Ginori, crystal glassware, and vintage silver flatware. Mixed votives and light blue taper candles created a warm, romantic ambience.

Following Brit and Mike’s first dance, the bride changed into a sparkling second gown and styled her hair in glamorous flowing curls for a full night of merriment. She and her father shared a dance on the wooden dance floor and then stunned onlookers when they got on stage to perform a duet of “Shallow” by Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper from *A Star Is Born*. The rest of the night was spent celebrating to the sounds of a live band who performed pop, R&B, and Motown music. “Everybody was dancing from the moment they walked in,” smiles the groom.





Toward the end of the evening, revelers waved sparklers as they made their way outside with the newlyweds. As “Higher Love” by Whitney Houston played along with a live electric violinist, guests were surprised with a timed fireworks show over the water. “The fireworks over the lake kept the energy high, going into the after-party that went well into the night,” shares the groom. “No one wanted to leave!”

KELCY CHRISTY