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Natalie & Jake

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Old-fashioned floral designs and whimsical details unite at one couple's stylish late-summer wedding.

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1 "For my bouquet, I wanted something unstructured and vintage-looking," says Natalie, of her arrangement of dahlias, scabiosas, anemones, roses, and ferns. All floral design by Petal Play Design (petalplaydesign.com). 2 Natalie wore a silk gown by Vera Wang, purchased from Macy's, in Chicago. "I loved the luxurious fabric and the halter neckline," she says. Jake wore a Joseph Abboud tuxedo and bow tie from Nordstrom. 3 Cocktail hour took place in the alfresco beer garden

just outside Café Brauer (lpzoo.com).

4 Natalie wore teal-blue suede peep-toe pumps from J.Crew for her "something blue." 5 Natalie's bridesmaids and junior bridesmaid wore aubergine-hued silk douppioni dresses by Simple Silhouettes (purchased from vegastovenice.com), in styles they chose themselves.

6 Natalie and Jake were married at St. Clement Church in Lincoln Park, a church the bride used to attend when she lived in the area.

7 Table cards were fashioned using bird-themed counting cards by eeBoo; the cards were purchased from Paper Source (paper-source.com) and displayed on easels from Hobby Lobby (hobbylobby.com). 8 Natalie folded menu cards into “cootie catchers”; guests lifted each flap to reveal the evening’s offerings. Dinner started with grilled cheese sandwich wedges paired with a “shot” of tomato-basil soup, and continued with stuffed chicken, served with grilled asparagus and sweet potato fries. All catering by Calihan Catering (calihancatering.com).

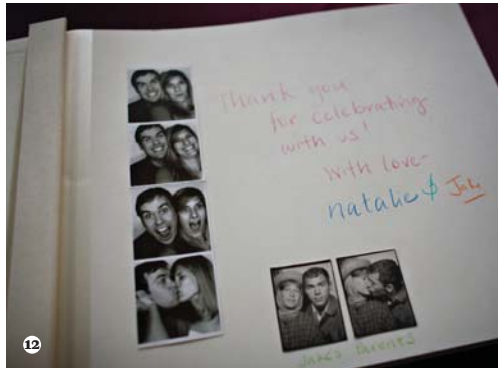


9 Guests were seated at banquet tables decorated with lush blooms arranged in milk glass vessels. “My grandmother collected milk glass,” says Natalie, who used those pieces on the tables. She sourced additional vessels from antique shops and on eBay. 10 The newlyweds danced to “You Got It,” by Roy Orbison, beneath the

glowing chandeliers at Café Brauer. (An illustration of one of the chandeliers graced the wedding invitations.) “Jake and I are always attracted to old things made new, and we wanted our reception to have the same vintage feel,” says Natalie. “Café Brauer totally fit the bill.”

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11 The fondant-covered cake was topped with a pair of “birds”; Natalie’s aunt fashioned the cake topper using wool from a family member’s alpaca farm. Cake by Turano Pastry Shop (turanopastry.com). 12 During the reception, guests took turns getting their photos taken in a photo booth (rented from photoboothexpress.com). Each person received two sets of photo strips—one to keep and another to paste into the couple’s guest book (a Kolo book purchased from paper-source.com). 13 Natalie’s siblings offered a heartfelt family toast to their sister. 14 “My mother is a little shy about dancing, but my youngest brother managed to coax her out of her seat,” says Natalie. “She and my father wound up dancing for quite a bit. It was wonderful to see both of our families having such a great time on the dance floor together.”

