

MOUNTAIN WEDDING



*The Perfect Couple
at The Perfect Place*

Contributed by Elizabeth Fletcher, I Do Events

Photos by Terri Clark Photography
terriclarkphotography.com





Louise DeLong had just moved to Atlanta from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and friends decided to play matchmaker. Over a dinner party at their home, Louise met Johnny and sparks instantly ignited. Louise is a veterinarian and Johnny a real estate developer with Gables Residential. Eleven months later Johnny asked Louise to marry him and both knew immediately that they wanted to be married in Highlands.

Johnny's parents have a place in Highlands and the couple had spent a lot of time in Highlands hiking with their dogs, canoeing and enjoying the outdoors.

"The Inn at Half Mile Farm is near Johnny's parent's home in Mirror Lake and we loved the proximity to the area where we had spent so much time together and that the inn is so near to town," says Louise. "We wanted our group of friends to all

be in one place to get to know one another, like an adult camp for the weekend. The setting is beautiful and I was especially drawn to the staff, especially the innkeepers who were so laid back and told us that the inn was our place for the weekend and we could do whatever we wanted."

The Bascom was chosen for the rehearsal dinner and Tim Lundy of Rosewood/Distinctive Design Events was hired for the rehearsal dinner and the wedding. The food component to this weekend of festivities was most important to the bride and groom and the culinary team at Rosewood/Distinctive Events created a heavily-laden game menu for the rehearsal dinner which included duck, quail, lamb and a roasted elk chop carving station.

The wedding reception menu was a southern menu with a

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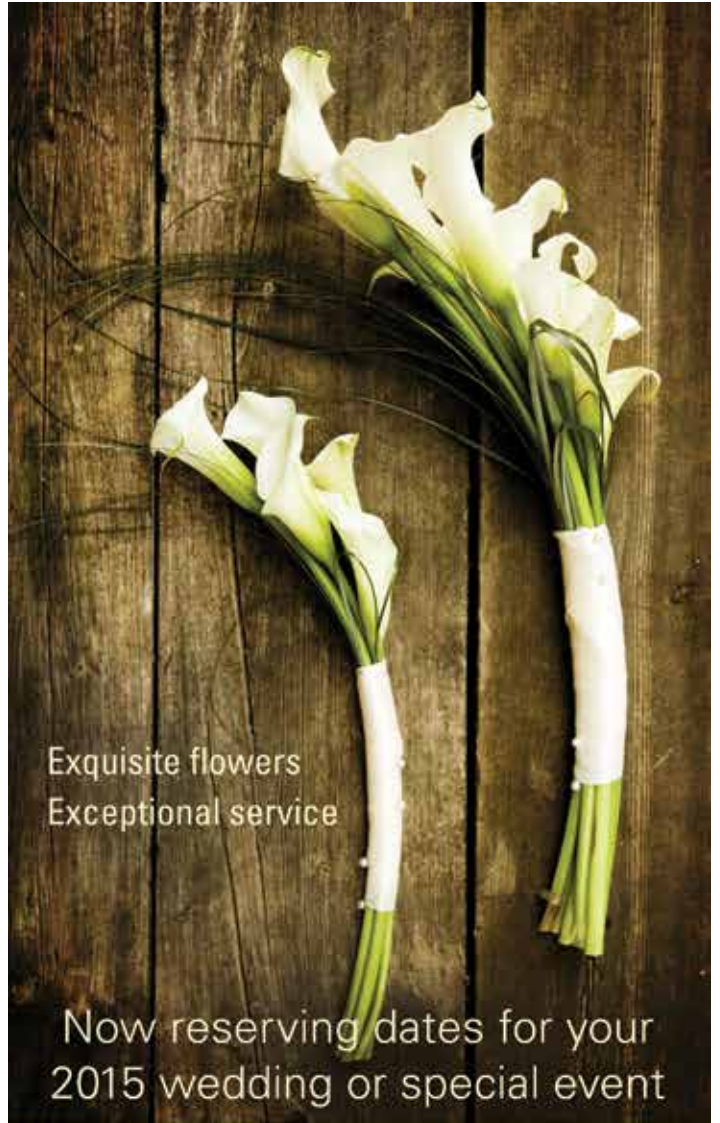
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touch of Britain. Louise's mom is British and she wanted to represent that part of her heritage. Rosewood/Distinctive Design Events created a "southern inspired" menu for the wedding couple, contrasting a local red trout BLT with Venison Blue Cheese Meatballs, while adding NC Stone-Ground Grits with Sautéed Atlantic Coast Shrimp with Roasted Garlic Gravy and finishing the meal with an English Lemon Sponge Cake and Fresh Raspberries and Pimms cups.

Rosewood/Distinctive Design Events not only handled the catering but also did the florals and cakes.

"Tim was very easy to work with and I was astonished at how much he could take on and he was always organized," says Louise. "He totally blew us away at the tasting and wanted to make sure I had exactly what I envisioned for that day, and we did."

"My inspiration for this beautiful wedding was the premise of two families blending together, the bride's family had

an English background and the groom's family was a strong Southeastern family," Tim says. "We blended touches of old world English silver with mountain touches of stained hardwood farm tables and driftwood slat-back chairs and finished it off with soft pastel florals of roses, Ranunculus, Hydrangeas, French Stock, Lisianthus and Hypericum berries."

Louise's favorite detail of the day was her Reem Acra wedding dress.

"I had never envisioned what I would wear at my wedding and found my dress at Kelly's Closet in Atlanta. It made me feel so beautiful! I am dying to wear it again and so sad to have to put it in my closet. Walking down the aisle was my favorite moment, it was cool because at that moment I was in the center of my family and friends and walking toward the person I love, it was a surreal moment. There was a lot of emotion watching Johnny's face," says Louise.

Louise hired Terri Clark Photography out of Sylva to capture

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the memories of the day and her favorite image was of the two of them together at the ceremony site.

Louise's father is a graphic designer and designed her paper suite for the wedding. He designed a floral liner for the wedding invitation, giving guests a glimpse of what was to come. Louise and her mom did the gift bags with lots of personal touches. They made trail mix and put in iced dog cookies, a lab and a golden. It was a family affair and everyone put their

special touch on the wedding.

The couple now resides in Atlanta and is searching for a home for their blended family of four-legged kids. Louise came to the marriage with a four-and-a-half-year-old chocolate lab and a 10-year-old orange tabby and Johnny has a 14-year-old golden retriever and an outdoor cat. It has been a smooth transition to married life and since the animals absolutely are totally good with one another, it's a happy place.

