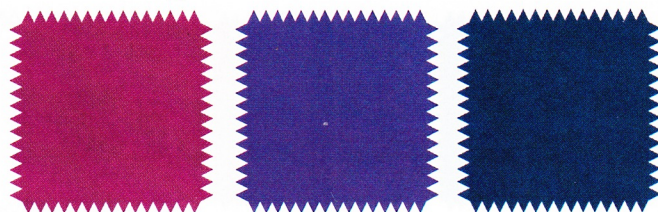


bride's tip

"Don't be turned off by ancient family traditions. Instead, find a way to modernize the rituals to fit your personal style. Your guests will enjoy being introduced to a new custom."

inspiration color board



deer valley, utah

Heather Brooks weds Teddy Karatz on September 4, 2011

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CALLAWAY GABLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Family means everything to New York City-based couple Heather and Teddy, so they built their wedding around the traditions of their families' Jewish culture. Based on opposite coasts, their clans converged near Park City, Utah, where the bride's family has a second home. The Montage Deer Valley was the perfect fit, thanks to its variety of event venues nestled closely together. "The resort has a mountain-style great room they allowed us to use for the reception," explains Heather. "It felt cozier than a standard ballroom."

On Friday afternoon, Heather's family hosted a Shabbat dinner at Montage, serving challah bread, matzah ball soup, chicken and dessert. The following morning, golfers ventured to Victory Ranch, while other guests hiked and biked the mountain's scenic trails. At 4 p.m. female guests joined the bride for a *bedecken*, while male guests met separately for a *tisch* with the groom. Forgoing traditional songs, dances and readings, the couple used these gatherings as an opportunity to simply toast the bride and groom. Next, the pair signed a *ketubah* (marriage contract) in a private room before a few witnesses, then headed outside to exchange vows in front of 200 guests. Heather circled Teddy seven times, they blessed the wine, and Teddy smashed a glass as the guests cheered, "*Mazel tov!*"

Cocktail hour on the patio featured sushi and slider stations, followed by braised kosher short rib and pan-roasted Chilean sea bass. In a joyous hora dance, men carried honored guests on chairs. "Our band was incredible," enthuses Heather. "They were able to play all different kinds of music and performed the hora perfectly." — *Susana Youngsteadt*

the details

BRIDE'S DRESS: Peter Langner

GROOM'S ATTIRE: Lord Willy

HAIR & MAKEUP: Lyndsey Luke of Spa Montage

VENUE & DESSERTS: Montage Deer Valley

FLOWERS: Decoration Inc.

MUSIC: Party Crashers

PLANNER: Soiree Productions

- 1 Guests looked on as Heather and Teddy stood beneath a traditional chuppa framed by a formal terrace.
- 2 Centerpieces sat atop twisted branches that represented intertwined lives.
- 3 Individual challah loaves were blessed and broken by hand, according to Jewish custom.
- 4 A traditional Jewish ceremony was important to both bride and groom; Heather is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors.
- 5 The couple shared a private moment against an alpine backdrop. (We love the purple socks!)
- 6 Heather's grandfather's *talit* (prayer shawl) was draped across the top of the chuppa.

