



stylist's tip

Your aisle doesn't have to be straight! Curving heaped mounds of white rose petals marked Linh's path.

SWEET SURPRISE One rainy March weekend, Lionel insisted on taking a day trip to the hot springs in the Blue Mountains. In the gazebo overlooking Lake Lyell, he left Linh for a moment to get something from his locker. It was a Tiffany 'Ribbon' ring. When he opened the box and asked Linh to marry him she says she 'squealed with delight and said, "Yes!"' Because they were about to go overseas for several months, they hired a wedding planner to help organise their celebration.

PURPLE REIGN Linh's gown, a Vera Wang design called 'Eliza', with a full but ethereally fashioned skirt, influenced many aspects of the wedding styling. The bride wore the dress with a lavender sash, so soft purples were used for the bridesmaids' dresses, the stationery, and many of the lavish flower displays created by the couple's florist.

Linh Cao & Lionel Alcala

2 NOVEMBER, 2013

LION'S GATE LODGE, ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS & PARK HYATT HOTEL, NSW

PHOTOGRAPHY: INLIGHTEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Linh, 23, and Lionel, 25, met at Linh's Year 10 formal. Although Lionel had accompanied one of her friends, he and Linh talked all night. 'Funnily,' says Linh, 'by the time we said goodbye, I didn't really know what he looked like, because I hadn't been wearing my glasses.' She wasn't disappointed when she really saw him again a year later and they started dating.

stylist's tip

Use your cake as a styling element at your reception, by making a centrepiece of it on a central table, with flowers and a tall cake stand.



LINH & LIONEL



FLORAL FANTASY Magnificent floral arrangements decorated the gardens' Lion's Gate Lodge. Linh and Lionel married under a lavender canopy with a header of phalaenopsis orchids and a central chandelier. 'It was very emotional for us to share our feelings, our hopes and promises for the future in front of our family and friends,' says the bride.

PERFECT SETTING The couple lives in the Sydney CBD, and often runs through the Domain, around the Opera House and through the Botanic Gardens in the mornings. 'We thought it would be perfect for us to have a garden wedding there, with a city backdrop,' explains Linh.

stylist's tip

Echo details from your gown in your room styling, including on the chair covers for your bridal table, and in the icing of the wedding cake.





stylist's tip

Look for convertible bridesmaid gowns like these ones by Twobirds' which can be worn a number of different ways.



WOW FACTOR A ceremonial release of doves marked the end of the ceremony, and after photos in the gardens, the wedding party travelled in champagne coloured Rolls Royces to the Park Hyatt where florist Maria Lush had organised a series of floral wow. For example, says Linh, 'The candy buffet's arched canopy was covered with flowers and vines, with hanging crystals and glass balls to create a whimsical look.'

GRAND FINALE Tables at the reception were named after Linh's favourite flowers. She and Lionel say their favourite moment of the night was 'towards the end, when we watched the fireworks over the harbour together, and finally had a private moment to reflect on what an amazing day it had been.' A week later, they had a second reception in Linh's home country Vietnam, and travelled around there with close friends.



the couple's suppliers

PHOTOS INLIGHTEN PHOTOGRAPHY inlighten.com.au

CEREMONY STYLING CIRCLE OF LOVE WEDDINGS
circleofloveweddings.com.au

PLANNER COUTURE WEDDING PLANNING
coutureweddingplanning.com.au

CEREMONY LION'S GATE LODGE rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

RECEPTION PARK HYATT HOTEL sydney.park.hyatt.com

FLOWERS MARIA LUSH marialush.com

GOWN VERA WANG verawang.com

SHOES MANOLO BLAHNIK shopsavannahs.com

BRIDESMAIDS TWOBIRDS twobirdsbridesmaid.com.au

RINGS TIFFANY & CO tiffany.com.au & CARTIER au.cartier.com

EARRINGS CERRONE cerrone.com.au

BRACELET & HAIR COMB STEPHANIE BROWNE
stephaniebrowne.com.au

SUIT EMPORIO ARMANI armani.com.au

GROOMSMEN PEPPERS FORMAL WEAR
peppersformalwear.com.au

MAKE-UP FACES MAKEUP AND HAIR
facesmakeupandhair.com.au

HAIR ANNIE JOHNSON WEDDING HAIRSTYLIST
anniejohnson.com.au

STATIONERY HUETOPIA DESIGN huetopiadesign.com

CAKE FAYE CAHILL fayecahill.com.au

BOMBONIERE LIFE IS SWEET CANDY BUFFETS
lifeissweetbuffets.com.au

TRANSPORT 7TH HEAVEN WEDDING CARS 7thheaven.com.au

CELEBRANT ELIZABETH TREVAN etrevan.com.au

MUSIC SALT STRING QUARTET saltstringquartet.com.au

ELLIPSIS JAZZ BAND ellipsisjazzband.com.au & XYDJ xydj.com.au

ENTERTAINMENT WHITE DOVES R US whitedovesrus.com

FILM SODA FILMS sodafilms.com.au