

WEDDINGS

SPOTLIGHT: “A garden wedding with a Napa Valley flair” is how Mary Ellen Murphy describes an event she orchestrated at a still-unfinished vineyard in St. Helena, Calif. The nuptials of Amy Long and Daniel Stoll were celebrated at the new Two Rocks Vineyard, owned by the bride’s father, which at the time was under construction. In the two years it took to plan the event, landscaping elements such as rock walls, hedges, olive trees and a sod lawn were installed on the property specifically for the wedding—adding to the natural beauty of an already stunning spot overlooking the **rolling hills of Napa Valley**.

The 6 p.m. ceremony took place at the end of an aisle festooned with an oversized magnolia garland, overlooking a reservoir. The 200 guests held khaki-colored parasols to shield them from the sun, while the bride and attendants carried white and yellow garden roses and hydrangea. At the post-ceremony reception, guests sipped drinks and nibbled *hors d’oeuvres* inside the skeleton of a house being built for the bride’s parents, admiring the views without any walls to impede them.

Meanwhile, a vintage Packard whisked the newlyweds to the mountaintop reception site, where they enjoyed champagne in private while being serenaded by a blues band. The guests soon followed, after boarding shuttles where they were offered lavender-infused towels. They disembarked at the portal of a wine cave, walked down a candlelit path, and emerged from the cave to the reception area glowing at sunset.

SPOTLIGHT: Even couples desiring a traditional church wedding can celebrate their nuptials in a fabulous locale. Through her company, Ceremonies of St. John, Stacy Mulcare assisted a Dallas-based couple in doing just that last summer in the **U.S. Virgin Islands**.

Most of the 50 guests arrived on St. Thomas on private jets, and were then whisked away by boat to the Westin Resort on St. John. In their rooms they found goodie-filled welcome bags in Tiffany blue—one of the wedding colors, echoing the groom’s wedding gift to the bride of a Tiffany diamond necklace. Open-air, canopied buses ferried the guests to Nazareth Lutheran Church, one of the oldest churches in the Caribbean, for the 6 p.m. ceremony. The bride carried an all-white cascading bouquet of roses, orchids and lilies. A flutist accompanied the ceremony, which was officiated by a Lutheran minister and Catholic deacon.

The reception at the Westin’s beachfront Palm Terrace highlighted the wedding’s island setting. Under a huge white tent festooned in tulle and white lights, chiffon panels dipped from the ceiling to mimic clouds. Palm trees studded the room, tropical flowers spilled out of conch-shell centerpieces and tiki torches lit up the sand in front of the tent. After a memorable evening of dancing, a dinner of beef tenderloin or fresh mahi-mahi, and a two-tiered cake filled with fresh mangoes and pastry cream, guests left one more remembrance for the newlyweds.