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Location: Rome, Italy

Photography: Paola Colleoni



MILA MOURSI
PARIS

milamoursi.com

GRACE ORMONDE IN THIS ISSUE



Photography: Elizabeth Messina Photography

In Shelly's poem *Ode to the West Wind*, the poet beautifully proclaims "If winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" signifying the culmination of anticipation. That line comes to mind as we finish preparing the content for this Spring issue where we highlight and celebrate among other things, the Engagement experience.

Couples from around the world choose to travel and explore new places and locations with a sense of adventure, anticipation and excitement, and at each destination, wonderful proposals and unique experiences flourish.

Whether privately, between two people, or in the presence of family and friends, fiancés are planning and delivering creative proposals setting the stage for the wedding day. The focus is on creating meaningful moments to be remembered and cherished throughout the entire process—from proposal, to the wedding day, to the honeymoon.

Embellished with creativity that stems from the inspiration of mutual love, couples are defining what is important to them and joyously celebrate that ancient ritual of hope and promise.

Here's to the start of a fresh new season filled with love and meaningful moments!

Sincerely,

Grace Ormonde
Editor-in-Chief



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elizabethmessina.com

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> FEATURE WEDDINGS:
Michelle Leonardo
& Alexander Tan ⁷⁶
Yan Qiao &
Charles Dequeker ¹⁰⁴



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THE TOP WEDDING DESTINATIONS 2024

WeddingStyleMagazine.com

Photography:
Adam Alex





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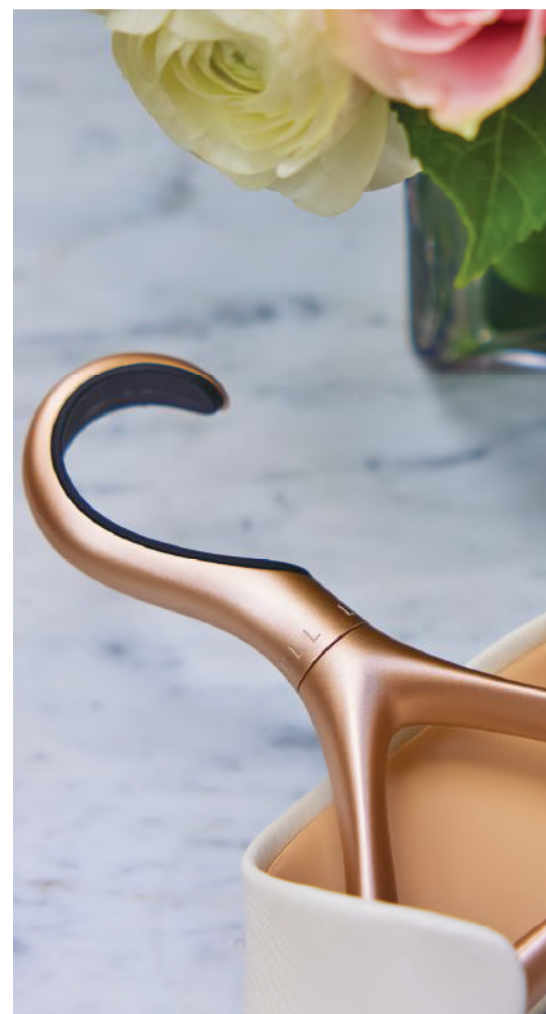
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EDITOR'S PICKS

1 **Benedetta Bruzichies** Elsa Hot Pink Satin Slingback. benedettabruzichies.com



1



2



3



4

2 Ole Lynggaard Crane Brooch in 18K gold with ruby and diamonds. olelynggaard.com

3 Ole Lynggaard Love Bands Twirl Earring. olelynggaard.com

4 Ole Lynggaard Boho Ring in 18K gold with blue-green aquamarine and diamonds. olelynggaard.com

5 Guerlain Rouge G Customizable Jewel Lipstick. guerlain.com



5



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1 Ole Lynggaard Gipsy Earrings.
olelynggaard.com

2 Lugano Diamonds Princess Cut Diamond
and Ceramic Earrings. luganodiamonds.com

3 Benedetta Bruzichies Elsa Black Satin
Slingback. benedettabruzichies.com

4-6 Benedetta Bruzichies Ariel
Collection in Giunone, Hera and Stardust.
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- 1 Cartier** Les Necessaires a Parfum Red Case. cartier.com
2 Brackish Parades Statement Earrings. brackish.com
3 Benedetta Bruzichies Cossyra White Mules. benedettabruzichies.com

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> MEN'S ACCESSORIES:

FOR HIM

1 Jan Leslie Tube Sterling Silver Cufflinks.
janleslie.com

2 Giberg Alagaro Metallic Watch.
giberg.com

3 Brackish Rice Bow Tie. brackish.com

4 David Oscarson Les Quatre Couleurs
Pen in Translucent Grey.
davidoscarson.com

5 Christian Louboutin Dandelion
Queenie Black Satin Loafer.
christianlouboutin.com
and bergdorfgoodman.com



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1





1 Rampley & Co Pocket Squares.
rampleyandco.com

2 Pisterzi Tonstrina 367 Cologne.
us.barberpisterzi.com

3 Pisterzi Grooming Collection.
us.barberpisterzi.com

4 Cartier Declaration Haute Fraicheur
Eau De Toilette Spray. Cartier.com



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1 Jan Leslie Be Mine Cufflinks. janleslie.com
2-5 Truefitt & Hill Shaving Set, Cream and Soap. truefittandhill.com



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> ENGAGEMENT:

CELEBRATING LOVE AROUND THE WORLD

Every couple has their own vision of the ideal engagement scenario. Some people love the idea of their friends and family being nearby to celebrate, while others would prefer their proposal to be a private moment in the comfort of their own home. Over the past few years, more couples have been choosing to celebrate love around the world by combining surprise engagements with a romantic getaway. With a bit of planning and foresight – not to mention, a top photographer in tow – destination engagements can be a unique opportunity for couples to experience a proposal amid beautiful surroundings, different cultures, and away from the distractions of their daily lives.

The Benefits of Destination Engagements

An extravagant vacation certainly isn't necessary in order to pull off the perfect engagement; but having a destination engagement adds a whole new layer of that "something special" to an already unforgettable moment. Traveling together is all about creating memories in a location that be-

1 Lugano Diamonds Pink and White Toi Et Moi Pear-Shaped Ring.
luganodiamonds.com

2 Graff Heart-Shaped Diamond Ring.
graff.com



2



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Photography:
Elizabeth Messina Photography
elizabethmessina.com



Photography:
Paola Colleoni
paolacolleoni.com

comes part of a couple's journey together. There's something truly intimate about exploring a location, taking in the local culture, engaging in new activities, and experiencing "firsts" as a couple. The joy and thrill of experiencing a new city together – or simply returning to a favorite destination – only adds to the excitement when it's time to get down on one knee.

Another reason why so many couples choose destination engagements is because it allows them to enjoy the process longer. Popping the question happens in the blink of an eye. If the person proposing has planned ahead, they may even be able to extend that excitement a bit with an engagement party that same day. But with a destination engagement, couples have their entire holiday to enjoy their newly engaged bliss. Even if the big question isn't asked until the last day, they'll still have the culmination of new travel memories, topped off with the perfect "grand finale."

Planning a Destination Engagement

The most important part about popping the question during a special trip – aside from remembering the engagement ring – is the planning process. Planning a destination engagement doesn't have to be incredibly complex. However, details like location, modes of transportation, accommodations, and booking the right photographer should all be considered.

After choosing the perfect engagement location, whether it's a European city or a remote island, the person planning the proposal may want to consider their travel options to make each detail of the experience as memorable as possible. Air Tahiti, for example, offers direct flights to Tahiti from Los Angeles, Seattle, Paris, Tokyo, and Auckland for a convenient journey to the South Pacific. The luxurious Aurora Anguilla now has chartered air service between White Plains, New York and Anguilla, should a destination engagement in the Caribbean be in the cards. And it doesn't get any more VIP than booking a private Four Seasons Jet.

The next step is finding the right accommodations. Many hotels and resorts offer engagement planning services to assist in all the details, from private dinners on the beach to live musicians in the background. Even if one is planning to pop the question at a public location or monument, the property's staff can help to set up a beautiful space for the newly engaged pair to find upon returning.

When George Tyler planned a destination engagement in Dubai for his (now) wife Danielle, he hired a yacht to take them on a sunset cruise, finally docking at The One&Only's private jetty.



1



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"We walked down the beach," he describes, "with an incognito photographer following us in the bushes to Eauzone, an Asian restaurant where I had organized a private dinner on the beach. As we walked nearer to the private beach cabana, Danielle said, 'Oh look, someone's having a private dinner on the beach.' Just before she could make out the 'Will you marry me' written in the sand with candles and rose petals, I was down on one knee."

Daniel Uchitel opted for a destination engagement in Portugal, where he planned an early morning excursion that included a private tour of Sintra and Peña Palace.

"Daniel had rented out an entire palace to ask me to marry him," says his wife, Jody. "Talk about a fairytale proposal. He got down on one knee and we both blacked out, but it was the easiest yes I had ever said."

1 Harry Winston Classic Emerald-Cut Diamond Ring. harrywinston.com

2 Harry Winston Bridal Couture Emerald-Shaped Diamond Ring. harrywinston.com



Photography: **Steven Lyon**
StevenLyon.com



With Santorini being such a beloved destination for weddings and honeymoons alike, it's no surprise that many couples choose its romantic setting for their proposals as well. When Daniel Mehmet popped the question to Natalie Guest, he arranged for a beautiful sunset dinner during the first night. When the couple returned to their room, the entryway was illuminated with candles and covered in rose petals leading to the bedroom for an intimate proposal complete with an extra special detail – a ring that belonged to Natalie's late-mother.

Top Destination Engagement Locations for 2024

Every year, there's a few places that tend to spring up on the popularity radar, giving couples new inspiration for potential destination engagement and wedding locations. Canada is becoming increasingly popular, specifically for winter and holiday engagements, as its snowy wonderlands are second to none. Montreal is always a stylish destination, while the resort town of Banff in Alberta is rich with natural beauty.

The islands of Malta, Dominica, and Thailand are projected as being among the top destination engagement locations for 2024, and there's no lack of luxury options for planning the perfect proposal. Couples may have their engagements at a Malta castle overlooking the Mediterranean sea. Adventurous types may find themselves scuba diving in Dominica for an underwater engagement, or saying "Yes" among the lush setting of one of the island's waterfalls. Or perhaps a sunset boat ride will be in store, with a future groom getting down on one knee after setting sail from the private pier of the Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok and popping the question while cruising the Chao Phraya river.

Of course, Paris and Greece – especially Santorini – still remain among the top destination engagement locations due to their iconic and timeless sense of romance. Whether couples are getting engaged atop the Eiffel Tower or while yachting among the Greek Isles, these are tried-and-true destinations that guarantee an unforgettable engagement experience.

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1 Kwiat Solitaire Diamond Ring.

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2 Graff Heart-Shaped Promise Ring.

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Romantic Wedding Filled with

MICHELLE LEONARDO AND ALEXANDER TAN
May 26, 2023. **Rome, Italy**

Photography:
Paola Colleoni

A photograph of a wedding ceremony taking place in a grand, ornate hall with high ceilings and arched doorways. In the foreground, the back of a bride is visible, wearing a white lace wedding dress and a long veil. She is holding a large, lush bouquet of white flowers, including several large white roses and a dense arrangement of baby's breath. In the background, guests are seated in rows, looking towards the front of the ceremony. The guests are dressed in formal attire, including tuxedos and evening gowns. The overall atmosphere is elegant and classic.

g in Rome Classic Elegance



MICHELLE & ALEXANDER



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By March fifteenth

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Joyfully

Regretfully

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for each of the following

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Please initial your meal choice

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Together with

Michelle

and

Alexander

request the honour

of their wedding

Friday the twenty

two thousand

at half past four

Basilica of St. Peter

in Rome

Dinner & dancing

at Villa

Black



Future Mr. and Mrs. Tan
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New Jersey
3 0



Itinerary

Welcome Dinner
Restorante Pacifico at the Palazzo Dama Hotel
Thursday May 25th at 8 pm
Attire: All White Cocktail

~

Wedding Ceremony
Basilica of Santa Cecilia
Friday May 26th at 4:30 pm
Attire: Black Tie

~

Reception & After Party
Villa Aurelia
Friday May 26th at 6 pm



It was a December night in 2018 – Christmas time in the heart of New York City. For Alexander Tan, it was the last Friday that everyone was in the office before heading home for the holidays. Alex had arrived to his office building on Madison Avenue, only to be sent home soon thereafter, because the Christmas decorations in the lobby quite literally went up in flames.

Along with his co-workers who were abandoning the city, there were two courtside tickets to that evening's Knicks game, which happened to be abandoned as well. Fortunately for Alex, he wasn't planning on heading home to Ohio until the next day.

The Knicks City Dancers and a Yankees Hat

At the start of every Knicks game, the Knicks City Dancers walk out onto the court along the baseline to start player introductions. As Michelle Leonardo was passing the courtside seats, she spotted Alex standing there in a Yankees hat. He caught her eye and made such an impression that she asked one of her teammates after performing, "Did you see that guy standing courtside in the Yankees hat? He's really cute."









Little did Michelle know that while she was performing, one of her former teammates had walked out onto the court and saw Alex. She knew him from college and immediately went up to say hello. While catching up, Alex made a joke asking if any of her friends were single.

As Michelle was changing for her next routine with the Knicks City Dancers, her former teammate walked into the locker room and said, “My friend from college is here; he’s sitting courtside and he’s single.” Michelle’s ears perked right up. She whipped around and asked, “What is he wearing?” to which her friend replied, “I think a Yankees hat.”

“Introduced that night, we felt an immediate connection,” Michelle recalls. “Despite Alex’s nervous chatter on our first date – he talked A LOT and so fast! – we had such a great time together and we stayed out far too late that night, reluctant to part ways.”

With NYC being the place where their love story began, it was only apropos for Alex to propose to Michelle atop One World Trade Center, overlooking the city that brought them together.

A Romantic Wedding in Rome, Italy

The couple decided to host a romantic wedding in Rome, Italy, and found the wedding planning process to be both exciting and overwhelming.

“Guided by our wonderful wedding planner, Federica at Italian Wedding Event,” Michelle describes, “we spent 18 months planning, making two memorable trips to Italy for venue tours and tastings. The process became a source of joy, a shared adventure that strengthened our bond.”

















The wedding day was filled with emotions. Alex was “profoundly moved,” and Michelle felt an unparalleled sense of joy, unlike anything she’d experienced before. She even told her friends that she couldn’t cry if she wanted to – she was too overwhelmed with joy, and the couple agrees it was the happiest day of their lives.

Celebrating the culmination of their NYC love story abroad in Rome, the couple opted to keep the ambiance classic and elegant. The wedding décor consisted of chandeliers, white roses, a glossy dance floor, and a scenographic string quartet to reflect their vision.

“We wanted to be able to look back at our wedding in 50 years and say it looked timeless,” the bride shares. “Our favorite little detail was our customized napkins that had an outline of our dog, Brady. He was the only one missing on our big day, so that was a nice way to have him there.”

The newlyweds remained in Europe for their honeymoon, choosing to split their time between Sicily and St. Tropez. Both destinations offered a dreamy escape filled with special moments.

“While Alex might have slept through much of the trip,” Michelle adds, “our time in Sicily remains etched in our hearts.”

> Written by Lauren Malamala

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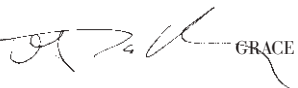






Ceremony Location: **Santa Cecilia**, Rome, Italy; Reception Location: **Villa Aurelia**, Rome, Italy; Planner: **The Italian Wedding Event**, Rome, Italy; Floral Design: **Leandro Flowers**, Rome, Italy; Invitations: **Em Paper Co**; Rentals: **Preludio**; Lighting: **Nico Celano**; Caterer & Cake: **Enoteco La Torre**; Entertainment: **Krystal Kaurtet** (Cocktail Hour & Dinner), **The Big Wave**, (Band); **DJ Zano & Toni On** (After Party)

Ceremony Dress Designer: **Ines Di Santo**; Bridal Salon: **Chic Parisien**; Reception Dress Designer: **Berta**; Bridal Salon: **Berta**; Groom's Attire Designer: **Tom Ford**; Groom's Watch: **Cartier**; Engagement Ring: **The Clear Cut**; Hair: **Ginevra Botticelli**; Makeup: **Angelica Alberti**; Cinematographer: **Matteo Castelluccia**; Photography: **Paola Colleoni**

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YAN QIAO AND CHARLES DEQUEKER
October 12, 2023. **Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, France**

Photography:
Tobiah Tayo



t Villa Ephrussi
de Rothschild
rst Love









Yan Qiao and Charles Dequeker were attending school in Nice, France when they first met in September of 2010. For Yan, her first impression was that Charles was a “cute and friendly classmate.” For Charles, it was more along the lines of love at first sight.

Just over seven years later, the couple was enjoying a trip to Iceland in November 2017. Charles booked an Icelandic opera show, followed by dinner at a romantic restaurant where he proposed.

Planning a Wedding at Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild

When it came time to start planning a wedding at Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, Yan and Charles were thrilled to have the opportunity to collaborate with several talented vendors. Located in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Villa Ephrussi is one of the most beloved wedding destinations in France, and the couple knew it'd be the perfect location for their celebration.

“Our favorite part of the planning was selecting and working with all the vendors, as they are amazing and inspiring,” Yan shares. “Since we met in Nice and spent many years of precious student life together there, we always wanted to host our wedding around Nice. The Villa de Rothschild is a premium venue for dream weddings, and you can hardly top it in terms of its iconicness, climate, convenience, and the quality of wedding vendors.”





















Wedding Décor and Guest Experience

Planned by Maia Organisation, Yan and Charles' wedding and décor was inspired by a concept rather than a tangible object.

"We went for décor that reminds you of first love," Yan explains. "It was classic and pure."

To highlight the innocence and purity of "first love," Miss Rose by Perrine created an effortlessly elegant floral design scape consisting of all-white calla lilies and roses for the dinner tabletops. The understated décor was a fitting complement to the villa's grand setting, creating the exact ambiance and guest experience that Yan wanted – "lovely, friendly, a bit extra, but not overwhelming."

"The garden of Villa de Rothschild has magnificent flowers cultivated by their gardener," she adds. "We hosted the cocktail hour and dinner in the garden, so we naturally had those flowers as a backdrop. We were grateful to the guests for being in our lives and wanted to treat them to an unforgettable night."







The Wedding Celebration

When the big day arrived, the bride and groom enjoyed a two-hour pre-wedding photo session with their wonderful photography team. Since the photo shoot began at 4 p.m., they were able to take full advantage of golden hour in the South of France, capturing some gorgeous snapshots.

The couple's outdoor wedding ceremony began at 7 p.m., with the celebration space lighting up the night sky. Yan walked down the aisle wearing a beaded off-shoulder wedding dress by BERTA, and the couple exchanged vows under a circle arch of roses.

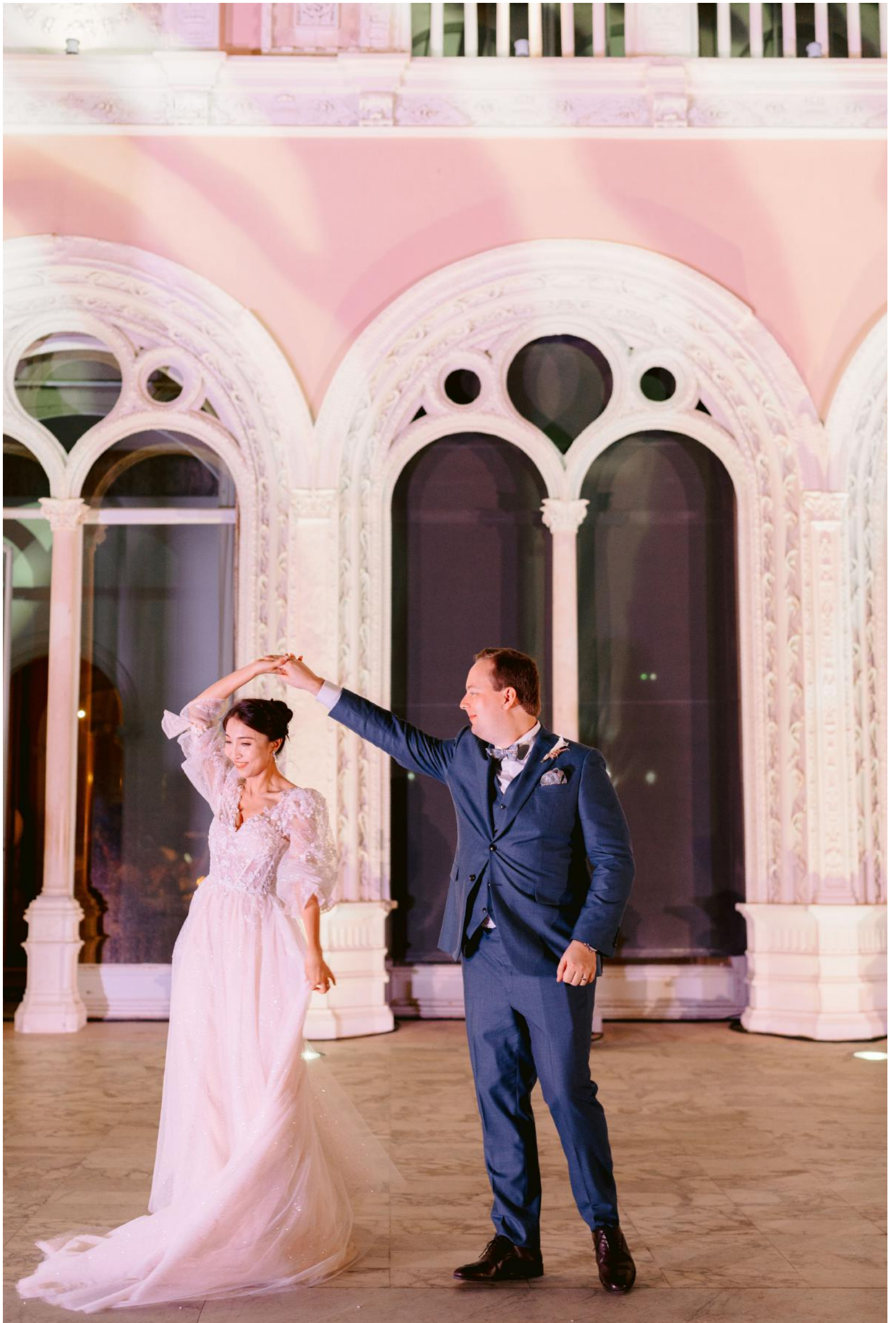
After the ceremony, guests enjoyed a cocktail hour that featured a music fountain, creating a halo around the stage. The newlyweds made their grand entrance to "Kill This Love" by BLACKPINK, and sparklers were passed around when it came time to cut the cake – a decadent croquembouche with macarons. The night's entertainment also included fire dancers, and the bride changed into a dress by Rebecca Valance for the afterparty.

Just as one would expect from a Villa Ephrussi wedding, the party lasted until 4 a.m. and beyond, as the couple returned to their accommodations at Four Seasons and enjoyed more champagne.

For their honeymoon, Yan and Charles are planning a trip to Japan and South Korea.

> Written by Lauren Malamala

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Location: **Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild** Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat,
France; Planner: **Maia Organisation**; Floral Design: **Miss Rose
by Perrine**; Production & Entertainment: **Riviera Organisation**;
Caterer: **Helen Traiteur**; Cake: **Lucille Pâtissier**; Invitations &
Stationery: **MarryMe by Amoretti**; Wedding Dress: **BERTA**;
Pre-Wedding Shoot & After Party Dress: **Rebecca Vallance**;
Hair & Makeup: **Cecilia Zhao**; Cinematography: **The Wedding
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www.ritzcarlton.com

Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

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COMO Parrot Cay

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The Shore Club

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www.theshoreclubtc.com

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The Cape, A Thompson Hotel

Cabo San Lucas
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Esperanza

Cabo San Lucas
www.esperanza.aubergeresorts.com

Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit

Riviera Nayarit, CP.
www.vallarta.grandvelas.com

Montage Los Cabos

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The Resort at Pedregal

Cabo San Lucas
www.theresortatpedregal.com

Sheraton Baganvillas Resort & Convention Center

Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico
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www.chableresort.com

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