



michelle & michael

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photography by Kellie Walsh

Tired of being single, Michelle Madhok (who's 34 and president of an online shopping service) made a New Year's resolution to join an online dating service and go on 100 dates. Her search ended at 20, when she met Michael Palka (41 and a technology consultant). In true New York style, Michael proposed to Michelle over cocktails in Tribeca. And for their wedding, they invited 87 guests to celebrate with them in a swanky rooftop celebration.

Using her professional (and personal) expertise, Michelle once again turned to the Internet when it came time to plan her wedding. "My business, SheFinds.com, is all about using the web to help find great style," she explains. "I was able to find nearly everything I needed." But in the end, Michelle enlisted the help of Diamond Gold Weddings coordinators—who came highly recommended on TheKnot.com message boards—to help her tie up the loose ends.

Michelle and Michael's chic New York City affair took place on a mild spring-like day at the Hudson Hotel. "I really think this is the most beautiful spot for a wedding ever," says Michelle. >>





Style tip: Simple details can go a long way. For Michelle and Michael's ceremony, candles illuminated the aisle, while a single orchid brightened up each reception place setting.



MICHELLE & MICHAEL CONT.

“Ivy-draped terraces, sleek indoor space, and never-ending views of the Hudson River.” The couple exchanged vows in front of a curtain of orchids, with Michelle looking ever so elegant in a cream silk satin slip gown. “I couldn’t stop hunting for the perfect dress,” remembers Michelle, who ended up buying four and posting them in her Knot bio for other Knotties to vote on. “In the end, I wore my favorite.” In remembrance of her grandmother, who had passed away the year before, Michelle accessorized her look with heirloom antique gold jewelry. Her shoes were gold too.

In a nod to her Indian heritage, the bride threw a pre-wedding henna party so that she and her maids could have their hands traditionally decorated for the occasion. She also bought her four attendants silk Indian shawls in brilliant shades of purple and gold for them to wear over their strapless black dresses. These shawls also coordinated with the lush pink, purple, and yellow flowers in the bouquets.

Before the wedding, Michelle and Michael headed over to Columbus Circle with their wedding party in tow for pictures. “They had just opened the beautiful new fountain, and we took advantage of it,” says Michelle. “It was very cool to have all of New York City in on our day.” The bride’s favorite photograph is one of Michael and her taken on the subway stairs: “This photo shows both of us so in love, looking elegant, against the urban city we embrace.”

After the ceremony, guests were invited up to the penthouse terrace, where they sipped ginger-vodka cocktails and took in the views of the Hudson and Statue of Liberty in the distance. Instead of a traditional wedding cake, Michelle and Michael offered their guests deliciously moist and colorful cupcakes. “People raved about them,” says Michelle. Downstairs, the bride and groom danced along with everyone to the sounds of Indian Bollywood music before making their great escape—by elevator—back up to the penthouse for their first night as man and wife. —C.V.



