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# Allison & Mark

July 19, 2008 | Atwood Ranch | Glen Ellen

One creative couple plan a stylish summertime fête filled with exuberant colors and whimsical, artistic details.

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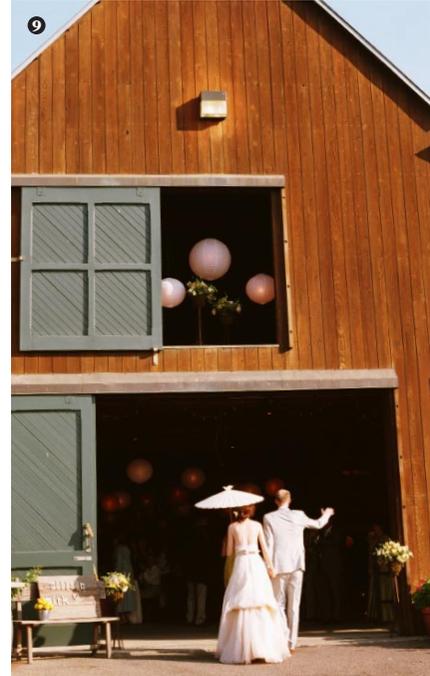
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1 Allison wore an Amsale gown, while Mark suited up in Jil Sander. 2 The ceremony was held on a lawn surrounded by vineyards at the Atwood Ranch, a 170-acre estate managed by Julie Atwood Events (sonomacatering.com); Julie also served as the couple's planner. Allison walked down the yellow-rose-petal-strewn aisle to The Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun," played by guitarist David Blakey, who was booked through Innovative Entertainment (inn-entertainment.com).

3 The couple, both graphic designers, created all the wedding's paper elements themselves, including these ceremony programs. 4 Mark's boutonniere was fashioned from stephanotis and pieris flowers. 5 This sign, made by Julie's staff, was set up near the entrance to the barn. 6 Allison's bridesmaids wore their own knee-length yellow dresses. Their bouquets, and all flowers, were created by Anne Appleman, Flowers & Plants (anneappleman.com).



7 After the ceremony, the couple and their 88 guests enjoyed the views of the surrounding Sonoma Valley during the short walk to the patio where the cocktail hour was held. 8 "We used a combination of our own handwriting, scanned fabrics, rubber stamps, and illustrations to create each piece," Allison says of the wedding's paper elements. The table runners were sewn by Mark's mother using various patterned fabrics from Purl Patchwork ([purlsoho.com](http://purlsoho.com)). 9 The reception took place inside the ranch's split-level cedar barn. "We loved the outdoorsy, off-the-beaten-path feel of Atwood Ranch," says Allison. "Being able to have the whole property to ourselves for the entire day was also a big plus." 10 Colored paper lanterns and string lights cast a soft glow inside the rustic barn. "We wanted every element of the wedding to have a textural, mix-and-match style," says Allison. "We thought the yellows, oranges, and light grays would complement the season and the environment." Family-style tables were decorated with galvanized-tin pails and milk glass vases filled with vibrant, seasonal flowers.



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11 Some of the reception-table centerpieces were displayed atop stacks of hardcover books with yellow, orange, or gray bindings, which Allison and Mark collected from second-hand bookstores. 12 The napkins were tied with frayed fabric strips left over from the making of the table runners. 13 "We wanted to serve simple, summer-appropriate food that was reflective of the region, like organic chicken, heirloom tomatoes, grilled asparagus, and gazpacho," says Allison. All catering by Sage Catering (sage-catering.com). 14 Guests were offered custom buttons (from Busy Beaver Button Co., busybeaver.net) that featured various illustrations and sayings like "I totally know the bride" and "I'm from Ohio." "They were great conversation starters," says Allison. 15

Allison and Mark chose "Honey Hi," by Fleetwood Mac, for their first dance. "It's a song that reminds us of when we first started dating," says Allison. A DJ from Platinum Entertainment Group (platinumentertainmentgroup.com) provided the music. 16 The banana and chocolate ganache cake was frosted with chocolate buttercream. "We wanted the cake to look homemade—like something you'd actually want to eat!" says Allison. The cake was decorated with fresh roses and a bride-and-groom cake topper that originally appeared on Allison's grandparents' wedding cake. Cake by Fleur de Lisa (fleurdelisacakes.com). 17 The couple used custom-designed rubber stamps to stamp the wedding date on the ceremony program covers.



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