

Fall Colors *and a*

As Seen in WEDDINGS

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Photos by Adam Frehm

Mountain View



Julie and Mark got married in late September, when Vermont's fall colors would be at their best and brightest. The immediate family stayed at the Inn at Mountain View Farm, where the wedding and reception were held.

Julie Vanier & Mark Rollins

Inn at Mountain View Farm
East Burke

September 27, 2008

WHEN JULIE VANIER and Mark Rollins married in East Burke on September 27, 2008, the surrounding mountains weren't green. Instead, the landscape was alive with shades of deep red, burnt orange and golden yellow. "We picked September 27 because we knew it would be prime foliage," says Mark. The couple wanted their wedding theme to be autumn in Vermont.

"My family has had a house in Vermont since I was about six or seven, so my family would travel from Toronto every long weekend and holiday when I was growing up," says Julie. A native of Canada, Julie developed a love for skiing and hiking in Vermont, and when she started dating Mark, he began spending time with Julie and her family at their vacation home.

Mark is from Duxbury, Massachu-

setts, so most of his family traveled to the wedding from the Boston area, and Julie's came from Toronto and Montreal. Exactly 100 people, including Julie and Mark, took part in the wedding festivities at the Inn at Mountain View Farm in East Burke. Since everyone was from out of town, the couple invited their guests to stay for the weekend. Immediate family members stayed at the inn, and a shuttle bussed everyone else between the inn and the places where they were staying in town.

"One of the important things for us was to have a weekend where everyone was together," says Mark. "We could have had our wedding in downtown Boston, but part of the lure of Vermont is that you can just relax and show people what we love about it."

A rehearsal dinner barbecue took place Friday night, and people played



Above: The flowers (by Danika Johnson of Blomma Flicka Flowers) and the food (by Willy's Catering) were inspired by autumn. Each guest received a small bottle of Vermont honey from Buck Hollow Apiary in Fairfax as a party favor. At left: Santa Mamba rocks out during the reception.

golf, hiked or did other activities on Saturday morning. Some of the women enjoyed a luncheon and afternoon at Shear Sensations Salon and Spa in Lyndonville. The ceremony was held late in the day on Saturday, with a cocktail hour and reception following. A big brunch was held Sunday morning. "When you have a wedding that lasts only one night, it's rare that you get to speak to everybody," says Julie. "So it was nice to see everyone again the next morning and have some extra time to spend with friends and family."

They married in a garden at the inn with colorful mountains as a back-

drop. Afterward, everyone had drinks and *hors d'oeuvres* outside the barn where dinner was later served.

"One thing I don't like about weddings is when there's a break between the ceremony and the reception, so we had the wedding late in the afternoon and rolled into the party," Julie says.

Inside the barn, hundreds of tiny votive candles glittered along the window sills, on the tables and across other surfaces, supplying just enough light for an intimate dinner. Willy's Catering in East Burke prepared dinner. A first course of mixed specialty lettuce, mandarin oranges, toasted

pumpkin seeds and blood-orange vinaigrette set the stage for a butternut squash bisque and the main entrée, roasted chicken breast with a mulberry fig sauce, potatoes and sautéed greens. The couple decided against having a traditional wedding cake and instead brought cupcakes from the South End Buttery in Boston, where they live.

"What really sold us about Willy's is that he grows a lot of his vegetables," Mark says. "The meat was also locally raised. The theme was autumn, so we wanted to focus on harvest vegetables." Because they wanted the food to be local, fresh and in season, Mark and



Just the facts

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The Inn at Mountain View Farm

Rehearsal dinner, ceremony
& reception (location)
The Inn at Mountain View Farm
East Burke
(802) 626-9924
innmntnview.com

Rehearsal dinner & reception (catering)
Willy's Restaurant & Catering
East Burke
(802) 626-9900
villageinnofeastburke.com

Music (ceremony & cocktails)
Saint J Jazz
St. Johnsbury
(802) 748-8150
stjjazz.org

Music (reception)
Santa Mamba
santamamba.com
(617) 861-1771

Limo/shuttle service
Butler's Bus Service
St. Johnsbury
(802) 748-4655

Photographer
Adam Frehm
Colchester
(802) 879-3380
photographyvermont.com

Hair & makeup
Shear Sensations
Lyndonville
(802) 626-8200

Florist
Blomma Flicka Flowers
Greensboro
(802) 533-2158
blommaflicka.com

Tent, chairs, linens & table settings
Northern Vermont Tent Rental
& Awnings (Newport)
(802) 744-6502
northernvermonttentrental.com

Julie didn't know what their caterer would pick for the final menu until a week before the wedding. For instance, they knew the main dish would involve chicken, but they didn't know what sauce might accompany it.

Not only was the food inspired by the fall season, but so was the color scheme. "Both sides of the hilltop were oceans of beautiful color," says Mark. "We tried to pick colors that would complement that." Navy and light blue acted as the base colors to make the reds and oranges shine.

Danika Johnson of Blomma Flicka Flowers worked on the flowers for Julie and Mark's wedding. Touches of ivory, light blue and orange put the floral arrangements in sync with the environment. "She had done weddings at the site before, so she knew how to complement the barn and landscape," Mark says. "She used a lot of fresh, local elements to design our wedding and that was important to us."

Looking back, Mark and Julie learned quite a bit in the process of planning their wedding. "Do everything together," says Julie. "Mark was involved in every aspect. Having both people put care and attention into it makes it easier for both people." **F**