

{ crystal coast wedding style }

DANIELLE & JAMIE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011
EMERALD ISLE &
BEAUFORT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
ELIZABETH CAYTON
PHOTOGRAPHY



IN HER WORDS

My family has a long history with the Crystal Coast. We have vacationed there with my father every September since I was a teenager. Out of every beach I've been to, I love the Crystal Coast most of all.

Jamie and I met at work when we were living in Charlotte. We had been together for about a year when our son, Ben, came along. Two years later, we had settled into domestic bliss. One evening, Jamie had put Ben in his high chair for dinner. I went to fasten the bib around his neck, and I noticed something written in colored marker on his sleeve. There in purple, pink, and blue was written, "Mommy, will you marry Daddy?"

My eyes instantly teared up as I turned around to face Jamie. He was down on one knee with a small cherry-stained wood box in his hands, and inside was the most beautiful, perfect ring. ▶



THEIR STYLE

I admit it: I'm a control freak. And my freakiness went into overload when we began planning our wedding. I had a vision for every little detail and design elements. I was lucky enough to find really amazing people to execute my ideas. I knew I wanted a nature-themed wedding. We love the outdoors and are sensitive to environmental issues.

I also wanted to mix in my favorite color, purple. We go way back. So it was just a matter of in what shade of purple we could get the bridesmaids' dresses. After that, I got to work scouring the internet and looking for all the right purple touches that would make our wedding pop.

Then the gown came into my life. I tried on maybe 50 gowns from boutiques all over the mid-Atlantic. I was just about to settle when I found *the* dress in Charlotte. It was the last dress I tried on, and it was worth the search. J. Major's Bridal Boutique custom made the veil with the feathers and birdcage, and from that was born the bird theme.

I highly recommend Etsy.com to any bride looking for those special touches. It was there that I found our bird cake topper, ring bearer pillow, invitations and Save the Date card, and so much more. ►



THEIR DAY

Our oceanfront ceremony and honeymoon vacation home was surrounded by huge, gorgeous live oaks, and I knew I wanted to do something to bring attention to them. I bought dozens of ivory and plum colored balls, and very early on the morning of the wedding, Jamie and I found ourselves literally in the trees, hanging them with brown raffia ribbon.

Our ceremony was on the beach at 5:00 PM. We added a hand fasting ceremony to our vows, a Celtic tradition that is the origin of the phrase “tying the knot.” Using 12 ribbons, we made six promises to each other for each pair of ribbons. After each promise, our minister tied each pair of ribbons to seal the promise.

We had decided early on that we wanted to have our reception at another location. Jamie and I had attended the Crystal Coast Wedding Salon the previous January where we met the wonderful folks from The Boathouse at Front Street Village. We knew the minute we saw the place that it was perfect for the reception and in keeping with our nature theme.

I loved our cake which we customized in a couple of ways. The cake stand was made from a piece of wood my father had cut from a tree at our house in Maryland. I glued some moss on it to emphasize the rustic feel—how country is that? I added an additional smaller bird in a newsboy cap to our cake topper, and it became a symbol for our family.

While it was fun designing my wedding, I also wanted to make one gesture that would have a lasting impact beyond the day. During my childhood Emerald Isle vacations, we usually came across one or two sea turtle nests. Every night, my brother and I would sit by the nests in hopes that we’d get to see the baby sea turtles hatch. We never did, but just the thought that we might was so magical and fun.

As our wedding favors, we donated money to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and gave our guests eco-friendly sea turtle ornaments for planting and growing forget-me-not flowers. I hung them from a wishing tree with an invitation to “Take a Turtle, Leave a Wish.” Guests took one of the ornaments and replaced it with a Best Wishes for the Mr. and Mrs. card.





THE TEAM

CEREMONY SITE:

Shorenough II, Emerald Isle Realty

RECEPTION SITE & CATERING:

The Boathouse at Front Street Village, Beaufort

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Elizabeth Cayton Photography

CINEMATOGRAPHY:

Brick Street Cinema

FLORAL DESIGN:

Roger Carter Designs

OFFICIANT:

Ron Lewis, A Beach Wedding Minister

EVENT RENTALS:

Island Essentials

BEACH ARBOR:

Sweetwater Bamboo Wedding Arbor Designs & Rentals

CEREMONY GUITARIST:

Justin Castellano

RECEPTION DISC JOCKEY:

DJ Mike, Triple V Entertainment

HAIR & MAKE UP:

Make Up For Your Day

CAKE:

A Piece of Cake

GUEST TRANSPORTATION:

Beaufort Historic Site's English Double Decker Bus

WEDDING PARTY TRANSPORTATION:

Twilight Limousine Co.

BRIDAL GOWN:

Lazaro from J.Major's Bridal Boutique

BRIDE'S JEWELRY:

Kate Spade

BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES:

Watters & Watters from J. Major's Bridal Boutique

BRIDESMAID'S JEWELRY:

J.Crew

FLOWER GIRL DRESSES:

All the Roses on etsy.com

MEN'S FORMALWEAR:

Jim's Formal Wear