



8 Exquisite Vegan Weddings

From the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains to the sun-dappled City by the Bay, vegan weddings are becoming the new standard for progressive would-be marrieds. Meet eight modern couples who blended their ethics with their nuptials, with lovely—and delicious—results. *By Jolia Sidona Allen*

2008 marks VegNews Magazine's eighth year showcasing breathtaking vegan weddings, each one as unique as the brides and grooms who host them. VN editors have confirmed that pulling off a sensational, crowd-pleasing celebration that doesn't involve compromising values is no longer the challenge it once was. Today, the toughest questions for couples planning their perfect vegan wedding are of the mouth-watering variety, such as, "Do you prefer a layer of chocolate ganache or raspberry mousse in the Fudgy Chocolate Cake?" or, "Did we order enough Lemon Risotto Croquettes?"

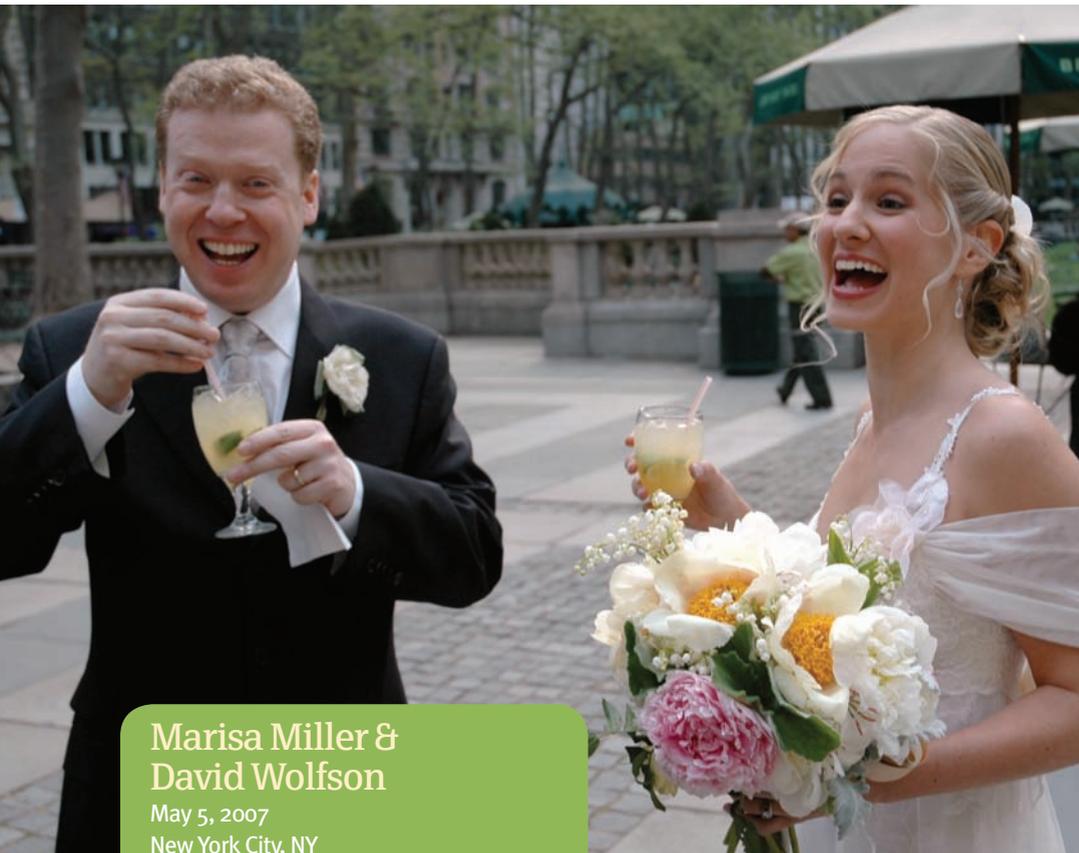
The wedding industry, perhaps the most traditional and decadent of all, is finally awakening from a gaudy nightmare of overindulgence. Imaginative and resourceful vendors determined to realize the fairy tales of a new breed of visionary brides and grooms are now catering to the demands of their increasingly conscientious clientele, right down to the dazzling details like organic flower bouquets, elegant gowns sewn with high-tech plant-based fibers, and fair-trade, ethically produced favors.

Throw in the grassroots gusto of everyone involved in the planning process—family, friends, and the brides and grooms themselves—and you're in for a truly lovely procession of compassionate and eco-conscious weddings, page after page. Read 'em and weep, but not for the animals or the planet.





A Bite out of the Big, Organic Apple



Marisa Miller & David Wolfson

May 5, 2007

New York City, NY

Guests: 160

Honeymoon: Hong Kong, Cambodia, England, and Italy

Their story: Marisa and David locked eyes from across the room at a Farm Sanctuary forum and rally. Marisa was in the audience. David—a lawyer who counsels Farm Sanctuary—was speaking from the podium. Marisa was so “charmed by his English accent, self-deprecating jokes, and knowledge of all things bovine and porcine” that she even crashed a few of his animal-law classes. The friendship sparked into romance when David asked Marisa out via e-mail. On their first date, they journeyed up the Empire State Building on a Sunday night to find they had the place completely to themselves, then sat on a Central Park bench talking until sunrise, falling head over heels for each other in the city that never sleeps.

Wedding highlights: When Marisa

found out that the bridal shop where she fell in love with a flower-adorned wedding dress (reflecting her love of nature) was about to open a fur gallery, her inner activist was awoken. She penned an anti-fur manifesto and sent it to the store’s CEO, bought the gown directly from the designer, and requested it be lined with cotton instead of silk. The couple’s passion for compassion shined throughout the ceremony (conducted by both a rabbi and a vegetarian Unitarian Universalist minister), which incorporated a reading from the children’s book *The Velveteen Rabbit* and a statement on the injustice of gays not being allowed to marry. Reception highlights included a Cinco De Mayo-themed cocktail hour, a full-blown dance party, and fair-trade chocolate favors.

Best wedding gift: “We ended up raising around \$8,000 in donations for Farm Sanctuary, Global Green Foundation (now Kind Green Planet), and Children International.”



Menu

Hors d’oeuvres

Fresh Middle-Eastern falafel with rich tahini sauce

Crisp vegetable samosas

Spring rolls with soy-ginger dipping sauce

Avocado and cucumber sushi with pickled ginger and wasabi

Toasted bruschetta with vine-ripened tomatoes and olive oil

Dinner

Refried black beans and tomato rice with guacamole

Sweet plantains and corn tortillas with pico de gallo

Grilled vegetables

Country salad of field greens with sliced pears

Spiced walnuts and *haricot verts* with Dijon vinaigrette

Couscous, chickpea, and sun-dried fruit salad

Vegetable Thai curry with steamed quinoa

Peppers stuffed with rice and vegetables

Pasta served with roasted-tomato sauce

Wedding cake

Chocolate and vanilla cupcakes with chocolate, lemon, and vanilla icing, served with seasonal fruit

Chocolate, raspberry, and coconut sorbets

Chocolate-covered strawberries

Brownies and peanut butter cookies

Caterer: The Bryant Park Grill, New York, NY
Cake maker: Babycakes, New York, NY

