



SIMPLY *Romantic*

After a **chance meeting** and a **perfect proposal**, expert planning helps a couple achieve the **elegant** and **warm** wedding of their dreams.

ON A CHICAGO summer evening in 2012, Molly Friedlich, a Highland Park native, and Matt Linder struck up a conversation while having drinks on NoMI's romantic rooftop. Two wonderful years later, Matt proposed on the eve of his birthday (with the help of Molly's beloved pup, Izzy) on the patio of their home. "I was really surprised," Molly says. "I love how he included the dog because she is such an important part of our lives. It was very cute."

The couple immediately called upon industry veteran Reva Nathan to help Molly and her grandmother plan the day. "I never could have done it without her," Molly gushes. "I thought the process was a lot of fun, and I had expected it to be stressful."

Molly and Matt wanted a small and intimate wedding, so they selected the Ivy Room for the ceremony and reception. "The Ivy Room's setting provides such a romantic space that the whole evening just felt warm," says the bride. "I also think our wedding was cozy because we kept our guest list to close friends and family."

The space also provided a perfect canvas for elegant outdoor touches. The warm lighting and colorful flowers provided a pretty background as the bride walked down the aisle in a Monique Lhuillier gown.

"Matt and I have a thing for residential outdoor spaces with romantic lighting," Molly explains. "The whole space was mismatched



but perfectly coordinated. Lanterns hung from the ceiling and under the chuppah. My grandma suggested using bright flowers so they were a presence in the room and not something that just blended into the space.”

Following the ceremony, Rendezvous Music kicked off the reception and, thanks to Nathan’s suggestion, the band’s front-and-center placement kept the dance floor full throughout the evening. A photo booth also was a big hit among guests.

After the wedding, the couple embarked on a SeaDream Yacht Club cruise from Venice to Rome with stops in Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, the Amalfi Coast, Sicily and Capri. Molly adds, “We chose it because it was the perfect balance of exploration, activities, delicious food and relaxing.” ●

“What We Learned
“Know what you want and stick with it,” says Molly. “We wanted a smaller wedding, and I thought the terrace of the Ivy Room was beautiful. It was really the only place we considered. We just loved it.”

Clockwise from left: The colorful towering centerpieces with bold florals and hanging greenery were inspired by the couple’s love of romantic outdoor spaces; Amy Beck Cake Design created a stunning four-tier cake featuring the couple’s eye-catching florals; Molly with her bridesmaids, in navy Jenny Yoo dresses, and their bright blooms; the bride’s beautiful rings posed atop the couple’s beautifully embossed invites by Haute Papier; Burt Rubenstein of HMR Designs brought the outdoors in with stunning hanging lanterns and a floral-accented chuppah.

The List

Venue The Ivy Room,
 ivyroomchicago.com

Planner Reva Nathan,
 revanathan.com

Flowers & Decor HMR Designs,
 hmrdesigns.com

Bride’s Gown Monique Lhuillier,
 Ultimate Bride, ultimatebride.com

Bridesmaids’ Gowns Jenny Yoo, Bella
 Bridesmaids, bellabridesmaids.com

Catering Entertaining Company,
 entertainingcompany.com

Cake Amy Beck Cake Design,

amybeckcakedesign.com

Music Rendezvous,
 rendezvousmusic.net

Videographer VDO Productions,
 vdoevents.com

Invitations Haute Papier,
 hautepapier.com

Linen BBJ Linen, bbjlinen.com

Lighting Frost, frostchicago.com

Hair & Makeup Hair: Kimberly
 Schmidt McKean; makeup:

Stella Mikhail,
 bestmakeupartistchicago.com

