

NEWLY WED At the Vizcaya Museum, Karla Azen and Peter Harwich share their first astonished moments as husband and wife.

A WEDDING IN  
**MIAMI**

KARLA AZEN TO PETER HARWICH

MIAMI, FLORIDA 10.2.99

TEXT BY LESLEY PORCELLI PHOTOGRAPHS BY ELLISTON LUTZ

RED VELVET Some brides agonize over color palettes, but Karla never flinched. "I had this vision of red roses and white linens," she says. Deep-scarlet 'Black Magic' roses were arranged into centerpieces, gathered into bouquets, and plucked for their velvety petals.





THE AIR WAS JUST THE PERFECT MIX OF WIND AND WARMTH, AND THE OCEAN'S WAVES were faintly audible. Surrounded by their families and closest friends, Karla Azen and Peter Harwich exchanged vows in a setting so peaceful it seemed impossible that the city of Miami was just beyond its perimeter. But it was: The couple had returned to the place where Karla had grown up, to become husband and wife.

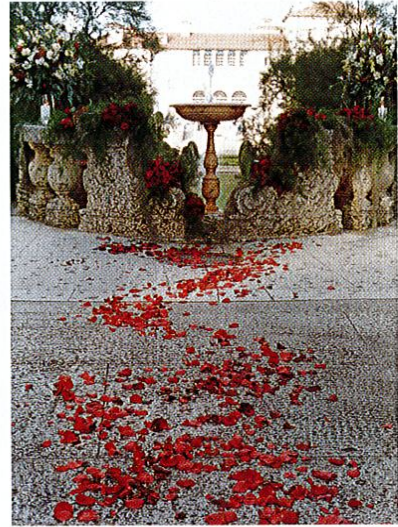
Four years earlier in New York City, they had been introduced at a party and had instantly taken a liking to each other. "I guess it was magic," Karla says. Both had a feeling early on that they would marry, but they wanted to wait until the time was right. Three years later, Peter surprised Karla with a trip to France—and stashed an engagement ring in his wallet. "It was burning a hole in my pocket," he says. Over lunch at a restaurant in the French countryside, he proposed, and Karla happily accepted.

Back home, the couple began to envision their ideal wedding. "We wanted it to be natural and personal," says Karla, "as if we were having friends and family over to our house for dinner." That meant choosing a meaningful location, playing music they loved, and serving their favorite foods. And both agreed it had to be romantic.

As a child, Karla had lived on the same street as the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, an Italian Renaissance-style villa and National Historic Landmark completed in 1916; it seemed the perfect location because it was both familiar and luxurious. "We wanted to see our friends and family all dressed up, but still wanted the wedding to be relaxed," says Peter.

Guests listened to a string quartet during the cocktail hour and dined on pears wrapped in prosciutto and miniature croque monsieur sandwiches. At the reception, vichyssoise, grilled veal chops, and a cheese course were served as a live ten-man band played big-band classics. During the musicians' breaks, a disc jockey spun Latin music. "My goal was for everyone to dance at least one dance," says Karla.

Karla and Peter had a wonderful time and stayed at the reception much longer than they had planned—but they really knew the party was a success when even the band members couldn't tear themselves away from it. "It was the happiest occasion ever," says Karla.



READY. SET Ushers and bridesmaids assemble for the receiving line, top; the bridesmaids wear taffeta dresses, and each groomsman bears a red anemone in his lapel. A trail of rose petals marks the way to the fountain, center, where the bride and groom will say their vows, accompanied by the sound of trickling water. During cocktails, roses in silver Revere bowls top the coral balustrade, bottom.



DAY INTO NIGHT (opposite)

The lacy fondant decorations on the dazzling wedding cake resemble the cutwork table linens; the roses and berries were crafted from sugar and are almost indistinguishable from the real things.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT:

Karla and Peter lead the way to their celebration. The female guests find fans at their place settings, strung with ribbons, "so they can wear them on their wrists while dancing," says Karla—

"I had envisioned a balmy night, with all the ladies fanning themselves." Friends and family wander freely through the gardens and on the terrace, which overlooks the water. "While the musicians played, their music drifted out toward the ocean," says

Peter. "It seemed like we were really far away from everything,"

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Photo by Dange Sivrye

## THE GUIDE

and *Bergdorf Goodman Bridal Salon*, 754 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10019; 212-872-8957. **BRIDE'S SHOES**, by Bruno Magli, available at *Saks Fifth Avenue stores*. **BRIDE'S VEIL**, by *Myriam Correa*, 954-581-6466; by appointment. **BRIDESMAID DRESSES**, custom-made: **FABRIC**, camel silk taffeta, \$42.95 per yard, from *B&J Fabrics*, 263 West 40th Street, New York, NY 10018; 212-354-8150. **LOCATION**, *Vizcaya Museum and Gardens*, 3251 South Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33129; 305-250-9133 or 305-285-2004 (fax); special events coordinator: *Adrienne Kaiser*. **CATERER/COORDINATOR**, *Le Basque Productions*, 4004 San Amaro Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33146; 305-669-1070, or 305-598-5791 (fax). **PARTY RENTALS**, by *Panache Party Rental*, 650 SW 16th Terrace, Pompano Beach, FL 33069; 800-307-2789. **FLORIST**, by *Always Flowers Events*, 60 NE 39th Street, Miami, FL 33137; 877-325-9297 or 305-572-1122 (fax). **CAKE**, by *Cake Designs by Edda*, 4315 SW 72nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33155; 305-666-6999. **INVITATIONS**, by *Dempsey & Carroll*, 110 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022; 212-486-7526. **CALLIGRAPHY**, by *Kaleidokolor*, 201 East 17th Street, Suite 5C, New York, NY 10003; 212-475-1653 or megnycl123@aol.com. **MUSIC FOR CEREMONY AND COCKTAILS**, by *Arabesque* (chamber ensemble), 7700 SW 90th Avenue, Miami, FL 33173; 305-274-7000. **MUSIC FOR DINNER**, by *Neal Smith Orchestra*, 120 South Olive Avenue, Suite 205, West Palm Beach, FL 33401; 561-655-4160. **DISC JOCKEY**, from *Party Time DJs*, 11850 State Road 84, Suite A10, Davie, FL 33325; 800-825-6499. **BRIDE'S PHOTOGRAPHER**, *ZekeBel*, 5520 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33134; 305-269-9268 or www.zekebel.com. **HAIR AND MAKEUP**, by *Jimmy Lennis*, 305-495-3571. Wedding favor: Natural wood **FAN** (#AS10012), painted black, \$2.95 each, available at *Pearl River*, 277 Canal Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10013; 212-431-4770. Dark red 13-mm **RIBBON**, color #50, \$8.60 for 5-yard reel, or \$61.60 for 50-meter reel, from *YLI Corp.*, 161 Main Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730; 800-296-8139.

### ALL DRESSED IN WHITE

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*Marcel Wolterinck*, Maarder Straat 13, 1251 Aw, Laren, Holland; 011-31-35-538-3909. **CHAIRS**, **TABLES**, and **TABLE SETTINGS** from *Party Rental Ltd.*, Teterboro, NJ; 888-774-4776.

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One-of-a-kind antique white **CHANDELIER** from *Paterae Antiques & Decorations*, 458 Broome Street, New York, NY 10013; 212-941-0880. Tall **GLASS VASES** and **HURRICANE**, by *Marcel Wolterinck*, see above.

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Silk satin and silk "Gazar" **GOWN** (A311), \$3,300, by *Amsale*, available at *Amsale*, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022; 212-583-1700. Also available at *Saks Fifth Avenue*, Frontenac, MO; 314-567-9200; *The Wedding Shoppe*, Strafford, PA; 610-293-1299.

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**TALL VASES, HURRICANES, CUPS WITH CANDIES, CANDELABRA, WICKER AND WOODEN CHARGERS, CAKE STANDS, WHITE URN**, all by *Marcel Wolterinck*, see above. **ORIGINAL COOL BEAN MINTS**, \$9.95 for a 1-pound bag, from *Cool Bean Mints*, P.O. Box, 320715, Los Gatos, CA 95032; 800-959-7670. **CHAMPAGNE BUBBLES CANDIES**, \$5.99 per pound, from *The Sweet Life*, 63 Hester Street, New York, NY 10002; 212-598-0092. **WHITE DRAGEES** from *Drageés Pecou*, \$26.80 for 2.2 pounds, from *Crossings*, 800-209-6141.

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**URN** from *Treillage*, 418 East 75th Street, New York, NY 10021; 212-535-2288. **TABLE**, \$3,900, from *Evergreen Antiques*, 1249 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10021; 212-744-5664. **LINEN TABLE RUNNER** (DAT 001), \$66, from *Martha by Mail*, 800-950-7130, www.marthabymail.com.

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Scalloped cream **MINK BRIDAL JACKET**, \$8,800, by *Christina Perrin*; available by specialty order from *Stanley Korsbak Women's Couture*, 500 Crescent Court, Suite 100, Dallas, TX 75201; 214-871-3626. **6-INCH-WIDE HORSEHAIR BRAID**, \$3.25 per yard, from *Manny's Millinery Supply Center*, 26 West 38th Street, New York, NY 10018; 212-840-2235; minimum order \$25.

Page 337, top left photograph

Silk satin duchesse **BRIDAL DRESS** (#737), \$2,300, by *Birnbaum & Bullock*, from *Wearstatt Bridal Salon*, 33 Greene Street, New York, NY 10013; 212-334-9494. Also available from *Bridals By Lori*, Atlanta, 404-252-8767; and *Bea's Bridal Nook*, Denver, 303-333-4588. 1½-inch-wide "Luxury" **SATIN RIBBON**, white, \$2.10 per yard, from *Masterstroke Canada*, 416-751-4193. Diamond **RING** with handmade setting of platinum and 18-karat-gold, by *Gregory Edens for Julius Cohen*; 699 Madison Avenue, Suite 4, New York, NY 10021; 212-371-3050.

Page 337, top center photograph

**4-TIERED VASE** (GDV 001), \$86, from *Martha by Mail*, 800-950-7130 or www.marthabymail.com.

Page 337, top right photograph

**VASE** by *Marcel Wolterinck*, see above.

Page 337, middle left photograph

**HUGE WHITE URN, TALL GLASS VASES, AND GLASS HURRICANES** by *Marcel Wolterinck*, see above.