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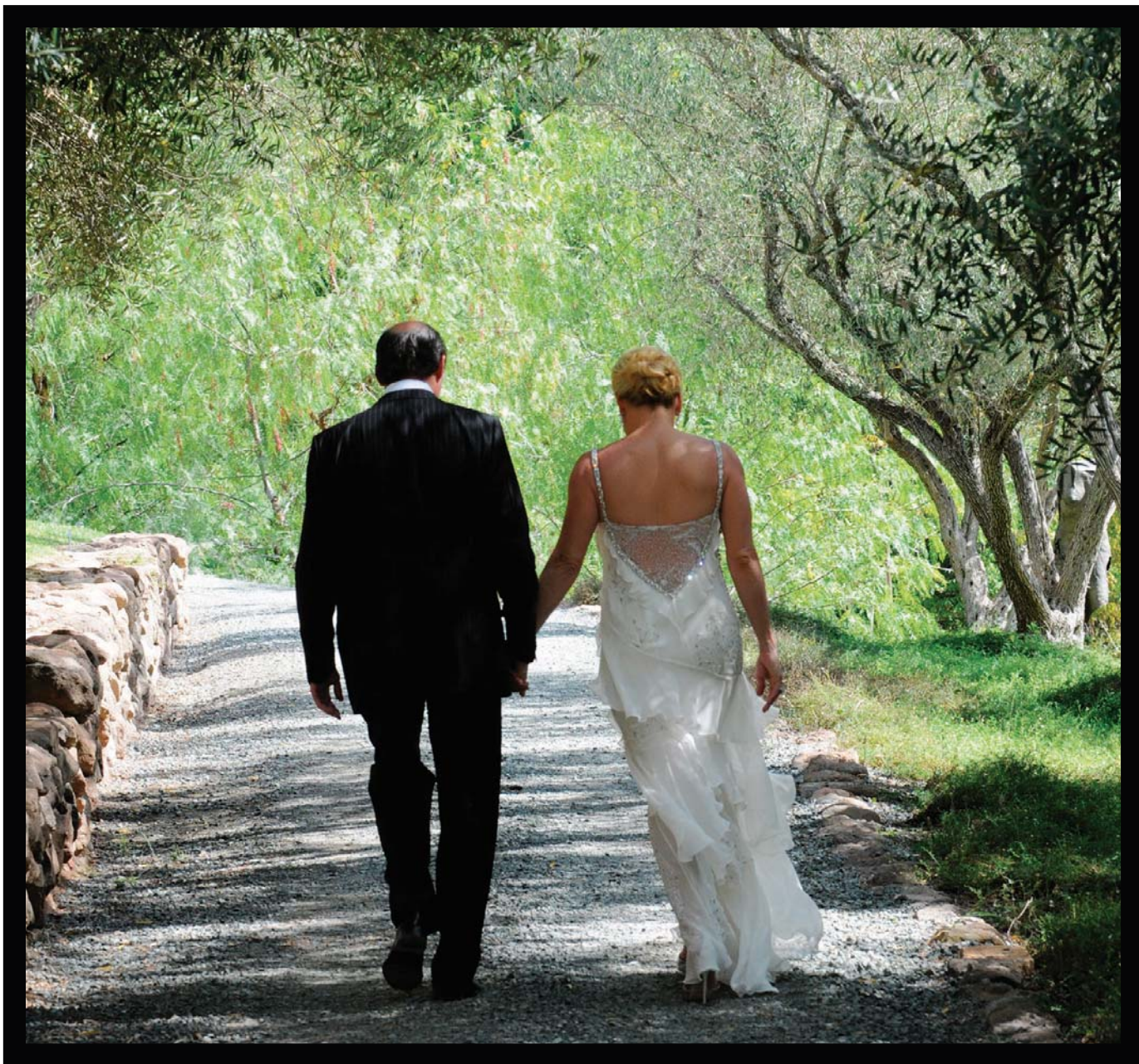
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DANA VIDAL & HARRIS POLAKOFF *October 3, 2009*

Crush Time

Business and pleasure marry seamlessly in a decadent grape escape in Napa Valley

| *By Stacy Girard | Photography by Richard Brooks* |

Romance and wine are never too far removed and always have a story to tell. The story of Dana Vidal and Harris Polakoff goes like this: On the couple's first date, Polakoff, owner of Pogo's Wine & Spirits and an accomplished guitarist, asked Vidal to name her favorite song. He wasn't familiar with the tune. But by date two, he'd learned the melody and strummed Neil Young's "Harvest Moon" to

a starry-eyed Vidal, who, almost two and a half years later, would become his wife in a wedding that carried the song's theme.

Once Polakoff asked for Vidal's hand on the Rosewood Mansion patio, sliding a canary diamond stunner onto her finger, the pair got to work, scripting a weekend of dazzling, camera-ready backdrops for an intimate cast of 60 friends and family. And when your business

is purveying wine, it's fitting that you'd stage the nuptial events in vine-rich Napa Valley during spirited crush season. "Full harvest moon only happens every third year in the month of October," Vidal explains, "and this seemed apropos, playing into our theme."

Vidal, an interior designer and Pogo's gift buyer, knew what she wanted—right down to the wall of wine bottles that would serve as clever hangers for her custom oxblood and chartreuse table cards. The green and deep red hues would serve as the palette for the wedding, which began with the exquisite custom calligraphed 12-part letterpress paper suite. Planning the detail-driven wedding, the bride-to-be made only two trips to the wine country—one of which included 28 appointments—to achieve their Harvest Moon dreamscape. "We wanted to give our friends and family a three-day Napa experience," she says.

Guests converged in Yountville on the wedding's eve at star-chef Michael Chiarello's Bottega-NapaStyle for bruschetta bar pickups and Chiarello's signature firecracker shrimp. Naturally, wine was the beverage of choice, with labels such as Caymus Napa Cab '07, PlumpJack Chardonnay '07, as well as sparkly Perrier-Jouët. The Food Network host even made an appearance, snapping photos with foodie wedding guests.

At noon on Saturday, Oct. 3, a guitar duo played "Gabriel's Oboe," the theme song from *The Mission*, as Vidal, flanked by 11-year-old daughter Sophia and 8-year-old son Augustus, walked to the Ceremonial Terrace of Napa resort Auberge du Soleil. As guests glimpsed the back of the bride's gossamer gown, they drew in a collective audible gasp. Michael Faircloth, longtime designer for Vidal, created the custom confection with a dramatic French illusion inset at the lower curve of the back. "I wanted it to look like a tattoo on the skin," Faircloth reveals. The dress, a soft column of bias-cut, silk chiffon layers, was beaded with caviar-size pearls and crystals. The straps were a collage of vintage and new Swarovski crystals designed in the spirit of Art Deco.

Serving as her "something old, new and blue," the bride donned an emerald-cut aquamarine ring, an estate piece found by the couple at St. Helena jewelry salon Patina. A pavé diamond dragonfly brooch with sapphire eyes, her "something borrowed" was on loan from best friend Sherilyn Williams.

Once the just-marrieds were announced as "Mr. and Mrs. Harris Polakoff," a Champagne sabrage ritual and reception brunch followed.

At sunset, guests boarded buses to the Clos Pegase Winery for a seated wedding dinner of Lobster Louie and red-wine-soaked petit filet mignon, paired with house varietals. Grabbing a glass of the first vintage, it was time for a

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Clockwise from top: Dinner was served in the candlelit Clos Pegase wine cave; the newlyweds on the terrace; guests celebrate on the dance floor; table tags hang from wine bottles; centerpieces of florals and suspended candles. *Below:* The bride and groom exchange vows.



Place of Ceremony and Reception: Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley, Rutherford, Calif.
Wedding Planner: Jenne Hohn, Auberge du Soleil
Flowers: Flock Design, San Francisco
Cake: Auberge du Soleil
Photography: Richard Brooks
Music: (Ceremony) Carter Bodlovich Duo; (Dinner and dancing) Brian Cline Band
Invitations: Custom Dauphine Press through Ann Grace Designs
Transportation: Classic Convertible Wine Tours
Bridal Gown: Michael Faircloth
Suit: Zegna
Hair and Makeup: Tanya Carpenter



tour of the winery's world-class art collection. Later, guests huddled in the wine cave, where tables were canopied with floating glass orbs lit by white votives and blooms of cymbidium orchids, green hydrangeas, oxblood calla lilies and white roses. The bride slipped into another Faircloth creation—a beaded silk charmeuse, "modern flapper" cocktail number with dyed ostrich feathers dripping from the hemline. Faircloth calls the color "Dana Green." After the fall feast, diners reveled in the sounds of the Brian Cline Band. The groom was prodded into picking up the guitar and playing Free's "All Right Now," which elicited screams from his fan base. The storybook evening culminated in a sentimental outdoor Champagne toast and a guitarist's "Harvest Moon" serenade. Making a dramatic exit, the newlyweds cruised off in a white '47 Packard Clipper convertible limo.

A farewell brunch at pastoral Hall Rutherford Winery, owned by Dallas' Kathryn and Craig Hall, had guests noshing on hearty, just-out-of-the-pizza-oven creations and making their last toast to the couple before leaving Napa positively moonstruck. ●

Michael Faircloth
469.227.9333.

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