

# Los Angeles Times Magazine

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The Wedding  
Dream Team

Vows With  
Attitude

And  
Toasters  
Too

## TOAST THE BRIDE

( She has no idea how complicated marriage can be )

**LOVE AND POLITICS** When He's Red and She's Blue | **BABY LOVE** The Artist, Her Husband and the Sudanese Twins | **NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN** Dan Neil on the Third Time Around



LARA PORZAK  
FINE-ART  
PHOTOGRAPHER

Many of Los Angeles' most prominent couples scramble to book fine-art photographer Lara Porzak, who limits herself to eight to 15 weddings a year. "It's something I do so I can stay fresh," she says. Porzak's art prints have found their way onto the small screen, in the opening credits for "Felicity" and on HBO's "Six Feet Under" (the character Claire's photos were actually Porzak's work). Shooting weddings solely on film ("Don't even think of saying the 'D' word"), Porzak works mostly in black and white, and prints by hand on fiber paper. Her photojournalistic style combines with the romantic influences of European photographers from the 1930s and '40s to give her work a timeless quality with a strong sense of narrative, something she may have picked up from her mother, award-winning novelist Marianne Wiggins. Shooting more than 130 rolls of film per wedding, Porzak says she tries to find the day's hidden moments as seen by the bride and groom. "I try to not witness the event, but experience the event, and not just archive it, but try to see it through their eyes," she says. "There is so much drama going on at a wedding. If you can be at the right place at the right time, you can get the shot." [www.laraporzak.com](http://www.laraporzak.com)—Wayne Niemi





## CAMELIZED PRODUCTIONS CATERER

**How far will chefs** Vinny Dotolo, left, and Jon Shook go to spice up wedding fare? Consider this menu for a spring wedding they're planning: lamb sliders with feta cheese and harissa aioli; bacon-fried oysters with horseradish tartar sauce; gem lettuce with Maytag vinaigrette and candied pecans; grouper with carrots, melted leeks, spinach and chervil butter; pork shoulder with apples, navy beans and green garlic. For dessert, rhubarb and strawberry cobbler with cream in a lavender crust. In the four years since the launch of their Caramelized Productions catering business, Dotolo and Shook—known to Food Network fans as "2 Dudes Catering"—have become celebrity favorites, recently catering the postnuptial bash of "American Idol" beauty Katharine McPhee and groom Nick Cokas. Graduates of the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, Shook and Dotolo customize the menus for the 100-plus weddings they cater each year, which range in size from 1,500 guests to just three. No matter what they're serving, it's made with whatever is fresh at local farmers markets and their favorite L.A. shops, including BreadBar, the Cheese Store of Beverly Hills and Chef's Warehouse. Between gigs, they're preparing for the June debut of their first restaurant, animal, five doors north of Canter's Deli on Fairfax Avenue. And Clarkson Potter is set to publish their cookbook, "Two Dudes, One Pan," in August. Even with his busy schedule, Shook says, he has no plans to leave weddings behind: "We love seeing where people want to go. Then we'll run with it." (954) 599-6990

—Wayne Niemi





## LEIGH KARIN PADILLA HONEYMOON SPECIALIST

After nine years as the personal travel agent for Dodi Fayed, Leigh Karin Padilla now sends blissful newlyweds on Kenyan safaris and tours of the Indonesian Spice Islands. The owner of World Leigh Travel has earned a reputation as a honeymoon specialist, arranging exotic excursions for studio heads and the Hollywood elite. Padilla continually hunts for up-and-coming hot spots, such as new favorites in New Zealand and the eastern side of the Yucatan Peninsula. This year, Padilla says, she'll be scouting resorts in Botswana and Zambia. Though romantic spots such as France, Italy and Hawaii remain top destinations for Angelenos, Padilla says, Tahiti is growing in popularity for the choosiest—eight nights at a five-star resort in Bora Bora runs \$25,000. "You can obviously do it less expensively," she says, "but if you want a really nice honeymoon, it starts at about \$20,000." Ultimately, Padilla says, matching the right couple with the right destination requires her to build a relationship with the honeymooners so she can learn about their personal tastes. "You talk to them, you get a feel for them and what they think makes up a dream honeymoon," she says. "Then, we talk about how to make that happen." [www.worldleightravel.com](http://www.worldleightravel.com)—Wayne Niemi