

*The duo held back happy tears (some-what successfully) during their first look.*

*Before the ceremony, Mariane and her bridesmaids, all outfitted in Kirstie Kelly dresses, posed in Presidio Park.*



## MARIANE ESCALONA & FLORIAN PURGANAN

October 5, 2013, San Francisco

Even though Seattle residents Mariane Escalona and Florian “Ian” Purganan had met briefly at a college leadership conference in 2009, Ian made a less-than-favorable second impression at a mutual friend’s birthday a few months later. Mariane, an online marketing associate, thought Ian, an immigration attorney, was a bit standoffish; in reality, he was too shy to buy her a drink. To break the ice, he had a friend do it instead.

But when the two went for sushi a week later, everything clicked. “We stayed out until 3 A.M., we were talking for so long,” Mariane recalls. Exactly two years after that first date, Ian was ready to propose during a fireworks show at Butchart Gardens in Victoria, British Columbia, an idea he got from an episode of *Full House*. (Editor’s note: We see why she loves him!) “What I didn’t realize was that we were close to the fireworks, and it was really loud,” he says. As a result, he ended up asking for Mariane’s hand later that night in another primetime-worthy setting: a bench inside the gardens. She happily agreed (“duuuuh” being her exact

response, according to Ian), and they began planning a family-oriented celebration in San Francisco, where Mariane grew up.

On a sunny, blue-sky fall day, surrounded by 145 loved ones, they exchanged vows in a Catholic service that included Filipino traditions, such as the veil and cord ceremony, in which the kneeling couple is draped in a veil and joined by a cord, to symbolize their union. For the reception, the group gathered at the Olympic Club, where guests sipped Flo-jitos (mango mojitos that nodded to Ian’s full name) and vodka Mari-tinis, while perusing old photos of the newlywed’s grandparents and parents and taking in the city views. After a dinner of salmon and short ribs, and the father-daughter and mother-son dances, Ian had a surprise for his bride. “My buddy had convinced me to sing at the wedding because I’m a big karaoke guy,” he says. “I didn’t want to ruin the whole experience, so I practiced beforehand and sang ‘Wonderful Tonight’ by Eric Clapton. Mariane was totally surprised.” It was one of the moments that made that night truly, well, wonderful. —Megan Deem

ELIZABETH MESSINA



The bride's bouquet combined peach orchids and tulips with white hellebores.



A long, rectangular king's table, set for the wedding party, was topped with roses, pistachio berries, spider orchids, and hydrangeas.

Flower girls carried wands with streamers down the aisle.



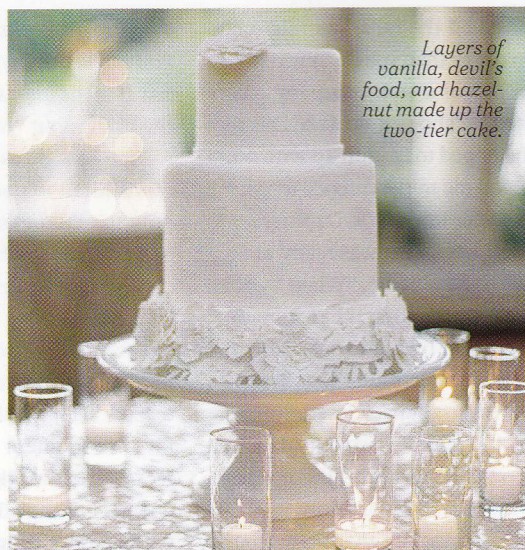
The couple displayed family photos, like this one of Mariane's grandmother, throughout the reception space.



Handmade ceramic signs from Susabella marked the newlyweds' chairs.



Layers of vanilla, devil's food, and hazelnut made up the two-tier cake.



## SOURCES

**Locations** St. Ignatius Church (ceremony); The Olympic Club (reception and catering)

**Event planning** Stacy McCain

**Event design and flowers** Atelier Joya

**Photography** Elizabeth Messina

**Videography** Derek Edamura

**Stationery** Chewing the Cud

**Calligraphy** Maybelle Imasa-Stukuls

**Cake** Cake Coquette

**Music and lighting** Denon & Doyle

**Bride's gown** Kirstie Kelly

**Bride's accessories** Veiled Beauty (headpiece); January Rose Bridal (jewelry)

**Hair and makeup** Amanda Phelps Makeup

See The Guide for more vendor sources

## ONE THING I LEARNED

"IT'S EASY TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THE LITTLE THINGS, BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU'RE MARRYING YOUR BEST FRIEND, THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE—THAT'S WHAT REALLY MATTERS." —Mariane