



GOOD AS GOLD

JACQUELINE LAURIAN & JAKE LONG

March 10, 2012 Naples, Florida | Photographed by Maloman Photographers

Miami Dolphins offensive tackle Jake Long knew he wanted to make Jacqueline Laurian his bride after he and the television host successfully survived his first year in the NFL while weathering a long-distance relationship. “I was sure that we could get through anything,” he affirms of his relationship with his college sweetheart. So, following a five-course dinner on a private beach at a Florida resort, Jacqueline found hundreds of candles illuminating the couple’s bungalow and bouquets of roses and rose petals strewn throughout. “I was so taken with the beauty of the room that I was completely startled when I heard a pretty loud thud behind me!” she shares. “I turned around to find Jake down on one knee – which he had just injured in a pre-season game and had difficulty kneeling

on – holding a ring and asking me to be his wife!” Overwhelmed and delighted, Jacqueline said yes.

A renowned luxury property nestled along the pure, white-sand beaches of Naples, Florida, was the gorgeous backdrop for the couple’s nuptials, with the hotel’s courtyard earmarked for the ceremony. “The setting was so naturally beautiful that it was easy to dress it up with luxurious chair covers and gorgeous floral arrangements to define the altar,” says Jacqueline. Snowy orchids, calla lilies, and hydrangeas spilled from clear vases of varying heights, and the perimeter of the courtyard’s bubbling fountain was illuminated with flickering white candles housed in hurricane vases.



Beauty
Gloria Pelo

Bridal Gown/Salon
Monique Lhuillier

Bridesmaid Gowns
Bari Jay

Consulting
Tiffany Nieves-Cook
Dream Design Weddings

Entertainment
DJ Sergio Ramirez
James Otto

Floral Design
Trias Flowers & Gifts

Honeymoon
Laucala Island
Park Hyatt Sydney

Invitations/Stationery
Tiffany Couture by Natural
Impression Design

Jewelry
Levinson Jewelers
Matthew's Jewelers

Lighting Design
Tiffany Nieves-Cook
Dream Design Weddings

Linens
Nüage Designs

Photography
Maloman Photographers

Rentals
Bubble Miami
Tiffany Nieves-Cook
Dream Design Weddings

Shoes
Jimmy Choo

Veil/Headpiece
Monique Lhuillier

Venue
The Ritz-Carlton, Naples

Videography
Utopia Video Productions





While the forecast threatened scattered showers the day of the wedding, only a scant few clouds floated above the courtyard, so the service proceeded as planned. The groom looked strapping in a classic charcoal suit, as did groomsmen clad in similar attire. Bridesmaids drifted down the aisle in floor-skimming eggplant gowns with pleated detailing that contrasted beautifully with nosegays of fiery roses and fuchsia florals. Jacqueline was resplendent in a breathtaking gown that featured a jewel-embellished bodice and embroidered organza skirt. Then, just as she reached the stairs to begin the walk down the aisle, light raindrops began to fall. “They looked magnificent as the sun shone through, like tiny diamonds falling from the heavens,” she recalls. As the bride reached her groom and the two clasped hands, the rain ceased and the sun shone brightly again. “I took it as the ultimate sign of good luck,” says Jacqueline, “a beautiful gift that was given to us on our wedding day.”







At the conclusion of the ceremony, “Hail to the Victors” – the University of Michigan fight song – was played by a string quartet in homage to the campus where the couple first met. Guests were then directed to a spectacular reception via escort cards on a striking table draped in platinum sequin fabric and illuminated with the couple’s monogram. Strands of clear beads were suspended from a platform of crystal vases atop which orchids were languidly strewn. The table cards embossed in elegant gold lettering also featured the pair’s monogram, a motif that was carried throughout the reception.

A mix of rectangular “royal” tables and rounds were alternately draped in copper sequin fabric and plum rosette linens topped with golden chargers and menus trimmed with opalescent borders. Table numbers glittered in gold, while crystal orbs added to the twinkle of the evening. Low, angular vessels housed arrangements of white hydrangeas, orchids, freesias, and roses while vases of supermodel proportions – tall, thin, and impossibly beautiful – spilled with white orchids and gleamed with bands of rhinestones. “Our floral arrangements were spectacular!” exclaims the bride. “We didn’t have a specific theme in mind, but we loved the rich colors of copper and eggplant with crystal accents, so we kept all of the flowers clean and white and really made the room pop with creative lighting.” The space was awash in layers of azure, pink, and lilac lighting, while tea lights cast an ambient glow down the length of each table.



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Guests twirled beneath a ceiling crafted from billowing alabaster fabric. Strands of crystals were suspended from the ceiling, creating a unique effect that even wowed the normally unflappable groom. “The ceremony space was so simple and classic, and the ballroom for the reception had a huge transformation from its original look,” recalls Jake. “It was awesome and felt like a completely different place entirely.” And while he was involved in all aspects of the wedding planning, it was of utmost importance to the groom to make the reception the best party loved ones had ever attended; so to that end, he crafted a stellar playlist for the DJ, and also invited his friend, country crooner James Otto, to play a set.

Both bride and groom advise other couples to do as much of the planning together as is comfortable and to stay flexible. “If there is something that is really important to your partner,” says the bride, “let him have it, because at the end of the day [the wedding] is about both of you, not just one person.” As for what he would change about his spectacular day, the athlete who proposed on injured knee has but a single response: “Make it last a week.”

KELLY LEE

