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Besides a judicious openness to feedback and input, Adriana was also open to surprising new directions in planning her wedding. Although she had always thought she would want a fitted vintage-lace wedding gown, it turned out that she fell in love with the first gown she tried. Her mother very sensibly insisted that she not buy the first dress she looked at; but dozens of dresses later—among them the fitted vintage-lace dress of her dreams—Adriana did end up buying that first gown which was both consistent with the theme of the wedding and perfect for Adriana's figure and coloring.

A major challenge of planning the wedding was planning it long distance. In this regard, Adriana says, her mother was an indispensable help. She set up appointments with vendors, suggested ideas, and even helped design the invitations. One particular difficulty was, for Adriana, simply choosing the food. She wanted something beautiful, but it had to also taste good and blend together—and food just isn't really "her thing." R & R Catering, however, helped her choose a delicious—and gorgeous!—menu that included mozzarella and tomato skewers, bacon-wrapped scallops, a quesadilla station, sesame chicken, greens with strawberries. The wedding cake, selected basically sight-unseen, was produced by

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Lynette Drake from The Icing; it was so pretty that Adriana particularly recalls how delighted she was on seeing it for the first time at the wedding! She and her mother also added made sure to add certain careful, small but significant details. There were thick napkins in the washrooms for guests to use in drying their hands; the cocktail napkins were imprinted with the couple's names; and all the guests received "tears of joy" packets. (Adriana, laughing, said she comes from a "family of criers" so the tissues were a particularly good idea!) On the day of the wedding itself, they had wedding planner Claudia Lutman manage the day so everyone could sit back and enjoy the event without undue stress.

Thinking back to her wedding day, Adriana remembers especially the dance with her father, the joy of her family... and the music. Ryan, who is a drummer with the soon-to-tour band "Holler Wild Rose," has, with Adriana, many friends who are musicians. One of his bandmembers composed a song for their wedding; and one of Adriana's girlfriends sang at the reception. For their dance, the DJ played on the keyboard Sigur Rose's "Hopipolia," a beautiful melody, perfectly rendered for the tender yet elegant mood of the moment. Thus, surrounded by dear friends and family, she and Ryan celebrated their wedding in a way that truly suited who and what they are both individually and as a couple. ❖

