



"We were going for old-school sophistication with southern flair," says Eva Amurri, who paired her lace Lela Rose gown with a pearl bracelet and matching earrings. Her groom, Kyle Martino, looked dapper in a crisply tailored Brioni tuxedo. **Opposite:** The newlyweds marked their spots at the head table with the Italian words for "to have" and "to hold," a nod to their roots.

# CAROLINA DREAMIN'

Southern hospitality, meet Hollywood glamour: Historic Charleston was the charming setting for the heartfelt nuptials of actress Eva Amurri and sports commentator Kyle Martino.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY *Tec Petaja* TEXT BY *Karen Palmer*





YOU COULD CALL the love story of Eva Amurri and Kyle Martino a series of happy accidents, starting with their first meeting. Eva, an actress, had just moved to Los Angeles from New York City. Kyle had recently switched coasts, too, but in the opposite direction. Still, fates collided in March 2010 at an L.A. hotel lounge, when Kyle was in town on business. ("Don't let anyone tell you that you can't meet your future wife at a bar," Kyle, an NBC soccer commentator and former pro player, jokes.) When the two had dinner the following night, Eva texted her mother, actress Susan Sarandon, that she was out with "the guy I'm going to marry."

Nine months (and a one-way ticket back to L.A. for Kyle) later, the newly engaged couple were scouting wedding sites in Charleston, South Carolina, a location chosen for its genteel southern flavor and for the nostalgia factor: Kyle had vacationed there as a child, and all his siblings had wed there, too. After a fruitless morning in search of the perfect spot, the two called it a day and went for a leisurely stroll downtown. That's when they happened upon the stately Confederate Home, built in the early 1800s. In another fortuitous turn, the gates to the estate were open, and the duo ducked inside for a closer look. "We saw a beautiful courtyard filled with giant oaks, and we knew immediately," says Kyle.

Their October 29, 2011, wedding capped off a grand three-day affair, complete with a bridal luncheon, cocktail party, and scavenger hunt organized by the pair. Friday's Lowcountry boil and oyster roast, both local traditions, turned into a rollicking open-mic night: Eva's brother and her stepfather, actor Tim Robbins, as well as the maid of honor and best man, fêted the couple with speeches and songs (Robbins composed one especially for the occasion). And before drifting off to sleep, Eva and Kyle each wrote two letters to the other: one to be read the next

day, and another to be opened on their five-year anniversary. "I spent that night alone, writing to Kyle," Eva says. "It was so special."

The next afternoon, Eva, flanked by Sarandon and Robbins, walked down the aisle to a gospel choir's

rendition of Beyoncé's "Halo" before joining her groom to exchange self-penned vows. "We promised to enjoy each other every day," she says.

After the ceremony—presided over by family friend Sister Helen Prejean, whom Sarandon portrayed in *Dead Man Walking*—160 guests made their way down a cobblestone path to the reception hall, where they sipped cocktails and feasted on a hearty Italian meal of pasta and seared halibut. As for the toasts, those had been reserved for the night before. "We wanted to get right down to partying," explains Kyle.

And get down they did. After the newlyweds took a spin to Ray LaMontagne's "You Are the Best Thing," guests joined them on the dance floor and stayed there for the better part of four hours. A high point? Kyle's brother jumping onstage to belt out James Brown's "Sex Machine" with the band—a Martino family wedding custom. "All of a sudden, I noticed everyone was dancing," says Kyle. "It was incredible." A happy moment that, this time, was no accident.

## COUNTRY STRONG

1. Despite morning rain, "the sun came out during our ceremony," says Eva. 2. The Cheree Berry-designed suite included whimsical taglines, like "meet us on the coast" printed on save-the-dates. 3. Like mother, like daughter: Lela Rose made a knee-length charcoal dress for Sarandon that complemented the bride's. 4. Maids carried petite posies of garden roses, trachelium, lisianthus, and dusty miller. 5. A sky-high grouping of polo roses, peonies, and viburnum towered over the escort cards, each of which was slipped between the coils of a vintage spring. 6. Servers presented cleverly named cocktails—Big Apple Bromance, Just Married Julep, and Marry Me Margarita—on lacquered trays. 7. Tables, punctuated by tall glass lamps, were dressed in the day's color scheme: slate gray and sienna. 8. Instead of cake, guests chose from a spread of tasty treats, including apple strudels and mini Key-lime pies (the bride's favorite). 9. To show off her gown's dramatic back, Eva swapped her cathedral-length veil for two white orchids.

## SOURCES

**LOCATIONS** The Confederate Home; Hibernian Society Hall (843-722-1463)

**EVENT PLANNING** Calder Clark Designs ([calderclark.com](http://calderclark.com))

**FLOWERS** Blossoms Events ([blossomsevents.com](http://blossomsevents.com))

**CATERING** Cru Catering ([cru catering.com](http://cru catering.com))

**BRIDE'S GOWN** Lela Rose ([lelarose.com](http://lelarose.com))

**GROOM'S ATTIRE** Brioni ([brioni.com](http://brioni.com))

➤ SEE THE GUIDE FOR MORE VENDOR SOURCES

FOR MORE FROM THIS SOIRÉE, including additional photos, visit [marthastewartweddings.com/fall2012](http://marthastewartweddings.com/fall2012)

"I expected OUR VOWS to be the HIGHLIGHT, but when I looked around and saw all the people who had shown up for us, I was AMAZED." —Eva Amurri



1



SAVE THE DATE  
FOR OUR  
WEDDING WEEKEND

*Eva and Kyle*

OCTOBER 29, 2011  
CHARLESTON,  
SOUTH CAROLINA

*meet us on the coast*

2



3



4



5



6

