



DESIRÉE *and* STEVEN

14.09 ROCOCO — REDUX 2024

DESIRÉE AND STEVEN'S WEDDING AT TORONTO'S FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK COMBINED TIMELESS ELEGANCE WITH FRESH ROCOCO STYLE. SOFT POWDER BLUE AND GOLD ACCENTS ELEVATED THE HISTORIC BALLROOM, CREATING A CHIC, DREAMY SETTING FOR OVER 400 GUESTS. FROM THE LUSH FLORALS TO THE CUSTOM DRAPERY, EVERY DETAIL PERFECTLY CAPTURED THEIR VISION OF CLASSIC MEETS CONTEMPORARY.

REAL WEDDING
Desirée & Steven



In early 2023, Desirée was ready to trade Toronto for a cruise ship sales role, yet something told her to stay put. Soon after, a mutual friend introduced her to Steven, who comes from a large Italian family. Although Desirée was (uncharacteristically!) late to their first date, the pair bonded instantly over dirty martinis, travel, and a shared love of family. A whirlwind romance—complete with a trip to Italy—led to a heartfelt Valentine's Day proposal in 2024.

The couple were married on September 14, 2024 with a ceremony at St. Basil's Catholic Parish, a setting that also inspired the custom invitations—its exterior was hand-drawn and lined the envelopes of the invitation suite. One of the most meaningful moments came as Desirée's 90-year-old grandmother walked her down the aisle, adding a deeply personal touch to the day. Their celebration continued at the Fairmont Royal York with a stunning Rococo-inspired reception, designed and planned by Rita Al-Shaikh of **Simply Sienna**.

Desirée wore the "Colette" gown by **Rita Vinieris** that featured a sheer floral skirt that shimmered in the light. She accessorized with satin gloves and a simple cathedral-length veil. A standout moment was receiving a pair of Victoria Pearl Diamond earrings from **Tiffany & Co.**, gifted by her future in-laws at the rehearsal dinner—a sentimental heirloom she plans to pass down. Steven wore a bespoke tuxedo with cufflinks gifted by his parents that morning—another nod to family heritage.



REAL WEDDING

Desirée & Steven



DREAM REALIZED

Steven promised Desirée a wedding beyond her dreams, and the celebration at Toronto's iconic FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK delivered exactly that.

The black-tie evening began with a cocktail reception, where guests were welcomed by the sounds of a string quartet. They then transitioned into the Concert Hall, where Desirée's dream vision came to life—a blend of French country charm and Regency-era formality, elevated with a fresh Rococo twist.



SOMETHING BLUE

The custom-designed, three-level curved stage—where Desirée and Steven's sweetheart table was placed—served as a regal, garden-inspired focal point, brought to life in collaboration with SIMPLY SIENNA and BLOSSOM BOUTIQUE. To enhance the atmosphere, the drapes of the Concert Hall were replaced with custom dusty blue panels, creating a soft, romantic backdrop that completely transformed the space. "The Fairmont Royal York usually has off-white drapery, and our planner, Rita, asked if we'd be open to changing them to our signature dusty blue colour. We were hesitant at first, wondering if it was necessary, but it made all the difference," shares Desirée. "It created such a dreamy atmosphere and was the perfect backdrop to an already stunning setup."



IN FULL BLOOM

The floral design was nothing short of spectacular, with approximately 8,000 blooms used throughout the celebration. The installations featured 2,500 white roses, 1,750 blue hydrangea, 1,000 white campanula, 750 blue delphinium, 500 locally sourced white ranunculus, and 500 helleborus imported from Holland. At each place setting, napkins were carefully hand-folded into delicate rose shapes, echoing the floral motif and adding a personal, artful detail to the table design.





“Desirée envisioned a blend of French country charm with the formal elegance of Regency-era England. We brought that vision to life with soft powder blue and gold tones, a custom three-level stage, and 8,000 blooms layered throughout the room. The dusty blue draping completely transformed the Concert Hall—it became something truly magical.”

— RITA AL-SHAIKH, SIMPLY SIENNA

REAL WEDDING

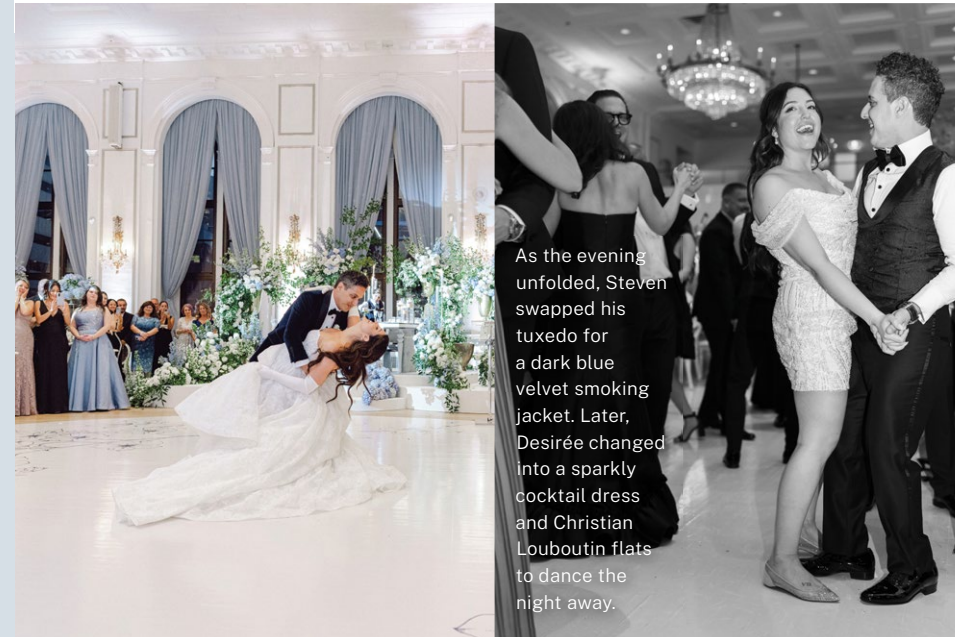
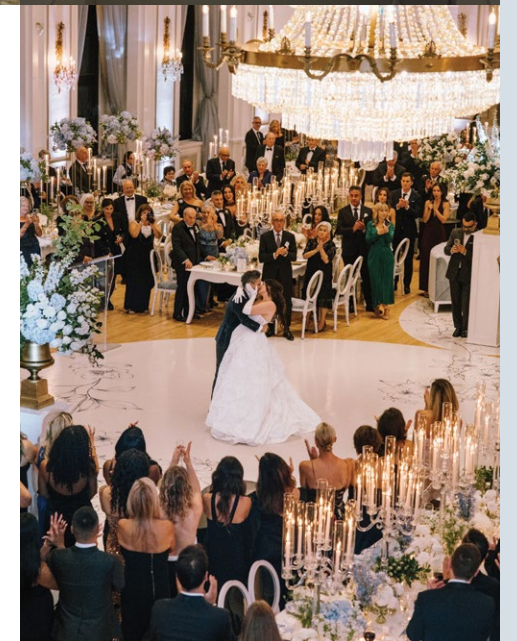
Desirée & Steven



ELEGANT ENERGY

Steven, a musician himself, took charge of all music selections — a role he was passionate about. “Steven’s only ask throughout our entire wedding planning process was to be in charge of music,” shares Desirée. For the reception, he chose MAIN EVENT MUSIC, whose high-energy performance had the band stepping off the stage and into the crowd, keeping the dance floor packed all night. An interactive photobooth offered a playful way for guests to capture memories, while wedding favors — gold brass picture frames engraved with the Royal York’s iconic window sketches and a thank-you message — served as elegant keepsakes of the day.

After the wedding, the couple embarked on a 3.5-week European honeymoon, starting with lakeside relaxation at VILLA D’ESTE in Lake Como, followed by romantic canal-side stays at the AMAN VENICE. They then traveled to Desirée’s hometown of San Sebastian, Spain, for beach time and family-rooted nostalgia before ending in Paris at the FOUR SEASONS HOTEL GEORGE V, dining with Eiffel Tower views and touring Versailles. Just ten days after returning home, the couple received the happiest surprise of all: they were expecting their first child, a daughter, due in June 2025.



As the evening unfolded, Steven swapped his tuxedo for a dark blue velvet smoking jacket. Later, Desirée changed into a sparkly cocktail dress and Christian Louboutin flats to dance the night away.

Credits

BRIDE @desi.saintg
 BRIDAL GOWN @ritavinieris RETAILER @superiorbridal
 BRIDAL GETTING-READY ROOM: DECOR AND STYLING & WEDDING FAVORS @maisondesienna
 CONFETTI FAVOUR POUCHES @sweetwonders.ca
 DANCE FLOOR VINYL @creativefloor
 EVENT PLANNING, DESIGN, & MGMT @simplysiennas
 ENTERTAINMENT (Band) @maineventmusic.ca
 FLORAL DESIGN @blossomboutiquebb
 FURNITURE RENTALS @detailzrentals
 GROOM’S FORMALWEAR @trendcustomtailors
 HAIR STYLIST @crystinamari SALON @headloftair
 LINENS AND TABLEWARE @simplybeautifuldecor
 MAKEUP ARTIST @alicia.nikole
 PHOTOBOOTH @mirmirphoto
 PHOTOGRAPHY @katemelconian
 SEATING CHART STRUCTURE @luxuryeventdecor_
 STATIONERY @eventthingsandco
 VENUE @fairmontroyalyork
 VIDEO @nazfilms
 WEDDING CAKE @patisserievmarie
 WINDOW DRAPING @eventuredesign