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jennifer & joel

NAPLES • November 8
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their story

Jennifer Flavin (26 and works in finance) was thrilled when her parents surprised her and Joel Gonzalez (26 and an Air Force veteran and student) with a trip to Puerto Rico. The couple, who met in middle school but didn't become close until 10 years later, had been dating for nine months and jumped at the chance to get away for their first vacation. They grew even more excited when they arrived at the hotel to find their own private paradise—they were the only guests! On the very first night, Jennifer and Joel ate at the hotel's five-star restaurant before taking a walk by the infinity pool that looked like it flowed right into the ocean. Joel popped the question, and as Jennifer yelled, "Yes!" over and over, the hotel bartender came walking over with a champagne bottle and two flutes. —CM

the centerpieces

While the flowers themselves (calla lilies, privet berries and roses) were traditional, the black urns holding them had a funky retro vibe.



the bridesmaid bouquets

Blackberry twigs gave an interesting shape to the anemone and ranunculus bouquets.

the desserts

Instead of a traditional cake, guests nibbled a variety of sweets, like raspberry Napoleons, crepes and crème brulee.

the ceremony

The couple exchanged traditional vows on top of an old-world style stone staircase.

the save the dates

The ornate script font added a formal edge to the tasselled save the dates. >>



the bridal gown
Jennifer's silk organdy dress by Vera Wang included a large cabbage rose on the left shoulder and two smaller versions cascading down the back for extra drama.

the ceremony décor
The scenic Ritz-Carlton courtyard required no additional decorations save for two simple hydrangea arrangements. The water view, large fountain and cathedral windows were gorgeous enough.

the escort cards
To give the damask escort cards the elegant display they deserved, the bride framed fabric-covered boards and decorated them with ribbon. >>



style notes

Jennifer and Joel share a love of all things vintage, so they included details like street lanterns, ostrich feathers and tassels. They also used black, white, champagne and peach throughout the ceremony and reception to create a formal look for their black tie—optional wedding.