

**ceremony** The grooms escorted each other down the aisle to the chuppah, where they later joined in the Jewish tradition of breaking the glass. **tablescape** To keep the space feeling masculine and modern, the pair skipped floral centerpieces in favor of nearly 400 feet of knotted rope interspersed with candles along the table, a nod to their “tying the knot.” **food** The couple served dishes inspired by their favorite countries, including Spain, Turkey and Japan. “Each course was paired to projected imagery and music inspired by that country,” Michael says of the unique approach to a formal sit-down dinner.

THE COLOR PALETTE



Touches of gold accented the black-and-white palette of Carlos Ortiz (above right, 42 and a senior designer) and Michael Maya’s (36 and works in executive sales) masculine affair. Drawing from their joint Latin backgrounds, their travels and Carlos’s proposal on a rowboat, the couple focused on food, fashion, friends and family. Guests arrived at cocktail hour first, where they snacked on Cuban and Puerto Rican fare while sipping watermelon-jalapeño mojitos. After the ceremony, they headed to a culinary wonderland with 3-D projections on the walls and a Latin-band-led dance party. “We had the flexibility to pave our own aesthetic,” Michael says. “It didn’t need to be the expected.” —Stephanie Cain



CARLOS & MICHAEL  
SEPTEMBER 10 • LOS ANGELES

# Edgy Black Tie

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKI & SONJA PHOTOGRAPHY  
EVENT PLANNING & DESIGN BY KRISTIN BANTA EVENTS

# The Cheat Sheet | Carlos & Michael



## Ingredients

**Ceremony & Reception Site** Alexandria Ballrooms, Los Angeles **Photography** Miki and Sonja Rakicevic/Miki & Sonja Photography **Videography** Walter Pawluk Videography **Event Planning & Design** Kristin Banta/Kristin Banta Events **Officiant** Morris Maya (Michael's brother) **Formalwear** Carlos: Dolce & Gabbana; Michael: D.Gnak; bow ties: Title of Work **Groomsmail Dresses** Various **Groomsmen Formalwear** Men's Wearhouse **Hair** Tim Ou **Makeup** Jessy de Ortiz **Stationery** Invitations: Vera Wang; escort cards: Constantine Del Rosario; calligraphy: Anne Robin Calligraphy **Rentals** BBJ Linen; Casa de Perrin; Classic Party Rentals; High Voltage Lighting; Lilla Bello; Line 204; The Lighter Side; La Tavola; Town and Country Event Rentals **Catering** Haute Chefs **Bartending** Scarlett Bartending **Cake** Fantasy Frostings **Music** Yari Moré Latin Band; DJ: Luxury Entertainment Group **Installation Art** Constantine Del Rosario **Honeymoon** Asia **Guests** 204

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## Our Favorite Detail Gilded Bow Ties

Carlos and Michael paired their white dinner jackets with matching black bow ties featuring 24-karat gold edging for a stylish twist on tradition that perfectly echoed their vibe. The groomsmen got in on the action too, sporting vintage gold brooches instead of classic boutonnières, while the groomsmails wore stylish black evening wear for their walk down the runway-inspired aisle. "It all looked very 1950s James Bond," Michael says.

## Kristin Banta's Planning Tips Edgy

- **Work with unexpected materials.** Utilize unconventional décor, like centerpieces made from rope in lieu of florals or high-gloss, black china instead of something more classic. Mix in less commonly used materials like velvet too.
- **Use dark colors.** But be careful the palette doesn't become monochromatic. Add texture with linens, include pops of metallics and incorporate lighting techniques to make the space feel warm.
- **Add a graffiti "love wall."** Guests can sign messages with paint for a new twist on the guest book.

“Hold hands with your spouse throughout the whole evening. You'll experience the wedding you put together as one and have great photos.”

—MICHAEL MAYA, GROOM

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1 Gold flatware, \$150 for 5-piece place setting, Mepra, Barneys.com 2 White dinner jacket tuxedo, \$125 to rent, TheBlackTux.com 3 Cuff links, \$75, David Donahue, Nordstrom.com 4 Hanging terrarium, \$41, OliverBonas.com 5 Rope sphere, \$10, Pier1.com 6 Gobelets, \$45 for 4, Artland, Wayfair.com