

hula hoop romance

Cathy Hobbs and Wilfried Baeker
August 20, 2004 Middleburg, Virginia



When their paths crossed for the second time at a picnic in Central Park, Cathy Hobbs didn't remember that she'd met Wilfried Baeker before. Will, however, was pleased to finally chat with the girl who'd enlivened an otherwise dull party for his roommate two years prior with her disastrous attempts to hula hoop.

Will called Cathy two days later, and they agreed to meet at The Met. Will arranged a romantic dinner, as well, but Cathy already had plans. "She basically left me standing at the stairs of the museum," said Will, who acted quickly to ensure a follow-up date was secured. "He was the one guy who at the end of each date asked me for another date," said Cathy. "I never had to wonder if he would call."

Nine months later, Will asked Cathy to marry him as they walked along Nantucket's Cisco Beach at sunset.

In addition to being an Emmy award-winning reporter, Cathy owns an interior and event-design business, Aphereä. She and Will collaborated to create a very personal wedding. "We literally looked at 25 places in seven states," Cathy said. The Goodstone Inn & Estate in Virginia was bucolic, beautiful, flexible, and entirely theirs for a four-day weekend.



The nearby Piedmont Vineyards tasting room was open throughout the night as festivities began with a New England-style clambake rehearsal dinner. Cathy said she and Will, who is a shipping company CFO, "both have a passion for wine."

Cathy had surprises for two men she loves the next day. She'd initially vetoed her grandfather's desire to wear white, but she switched his tuxedo order at the last minute. Will, who adores vintage cars, was

stunned when the white-clad pair arrived for the outdoor wedding ceremony in a 1957 Bentley ... and even more floored when his bride professed her love in his native German.

Inside a tent glowing red with lanterns imported from Vietnam, guests found hand-painted escort cards directing them to their tables, each named after places significant in the couple's relationship, such as Central Park and Nantucket. American and German wines accompanied dinner, and Black Forest Cake was among the desserts.

The Maxx, from Atlanta, played hip-hop and R&B, and when guests needed a breather, they soaked up the New York vibe in the Lounge Tent. "It was a big, amazing party," said Will.

The Baekers deferred a celebratory trip in order to spend time with family from overseas. The newlyweds complement each other perfectly: he's shy and steady; she's outgoing and spontaneous. "I still can't hula hoop," said Cathy. "It doesn't matter to me," reassured Will.

Location: The Goodstone Inn & Estate, Middleburg, VA. **Wedding Coordinator:** Engaging Affairs, Inc., Alexandria, VA. **Wedding Gown:** Amsale. **Tiara:** ParisTiaras, Cincinnati, OH. **Florist:** Distinctive Floral Designs, Great Falls, VA. **Catering:** Design Cuisine, Arlington, VA. **Tent:** Sugarplum Tent Company, Boyds, MD. **Escort Cards:** Cindy Ruskin, New York, NY. **Photography:** Michelle Frankfurter, Takoma Park, MD. **Contributing Photographers:** Aida Owens, Davis Richardson, Kent Smith, Anthony Washington. **Written by** Kim Knox Beckius

