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Breathless

By Aidan Johannesson

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Vol. 4, Issue 1, No. 6 May 2004

[How They Did It](#)

When Parm Tatla and Jason Hari sat down to plan their wedding, key themes emerged immediately. They both wanted their special day to be not just elegant, but awe-inspiring.

"I was big on 'breathtaking,'" laughs Parm. From the clothes right down to the last morsel of food, she wanted her guests' mouths to drop with delight. Luckily, Jason had the same vision. "I asked Parm about the wedding she'd always imagined as a little girl, and then did my best to make it come true."

Scheduling their event over two days during the Remembrance Day long weekend certainly went a long way towards making things memorable. "I didn't want a typical Indian wedding," says Jason, who explained that it was important for the event to include elements of everything he and Parm had romanticized, including a strong Western influence. "I wanted to create the type of event that our guests had never experienced before."

In pursuit of an unforgettable event, Parm sought the assistance of Frontier Cloth House on Main Street, who special-ordered her handmade dress from Bombay six months in advance. Eschewing the customary Indian red attire, Parm selected instead a dusty rose ensemble and accented it with intricate, custom-made jewelry. Jason recalls his reaction to seeing his resplendent bride-to-be. "Traditionally, you are not supposed to speak to each other until the ceremony is over, but when Parm came and sat down beside me I had to tell her how beautiful she looked," says Jason. "She brought tears to my eyes."

Equally eye-catching were the bridesmaids, Parm's three sisters, also in handmade dresses ordered from India. "I had a huge sense of pride in seeing my sisters in their Indian outfits," says Parm. She admits that there was a tremendous amount of detail involved, but points out that it all contributed to the one-of-a-kind experience.

The two-day event began early Saturday morning when 300 guests were served a mouth-watering brunch at their Sikh temple. The couple wanted to cater to their guests' every need; so much so that Lori Fraser and Wendy Zelter from Grande Finale Wedding Coordinators & Party Divas arrived at 4:00 am to begin preparations. "We wanted to include beautiful aspects of Indian culture for our parents," explains Parm. "Saturday was for our parents as much as for ourselves."

The wedding continued the following evening at a reception held in the Grand Pavilion Ballroom at the Sheraton Wall Centre. To embrace the Western part of her heritage, Parm wore a traditional white wedding gown. "Her dress was phenomenal," smiles Jason. "She looked fantastic."

To dazzle their guests, Parm and Jason accentuated the frigid November weather by creating an elaborate winter wonderland. Recognizing the enormity of the task, the twosome turned once again to the masterful team at Grande Finale.

"The planners at Grande Finale were amazing," says Parm. "They oversaw our whole wedding."

Lori and Wendy were thrilled to help Parm and Jason achieve their dream, and coordinated a team of specialists to achieve the





complex undertaking. "We made sure every detail corresponded to their theme," says Lori. "It was wonderful to be trusted with complete creative freedom."

"We also did a lot of work with the decorators from Art of the Party, who really understood our vision," says Parm. Amidst ice sculptures, martini trees and falling snow, a harpist plucked melodies from an ice cave while guests snacked on delectable appetizers before the main course.

"The décor was astounding," says Jason. One of the highlights was the chandelier centrepieces decorated with snow twigs and candles. "When we saw the room in its entirety it was mesmerizing," agrees Parm. "Every little detail came together beautifully."

Parm and Jason spent a lot of time working with Leslie Stowe Fine Foods and Abby Lane Flowers to create a dramatic wedding cake. "When I first saw our cake, I was thrilled," says Parm. The cake consisted of four different flavoured layers stacked atop alternating tiers of flowers. With choices of chocolate, white chocolate raspberry, lemon mousse, or carrot cake layers, the delicacy was a conversation piece amongst guests throughout the night.

As the evening wound down, Parm and Jason's attention to detail surpassed expectations one last time. Though they had already handed out wedding favours incorporating Tiffany candles and personalized matches, the bride and groom couldn't resist indulging their guests one last time. As each friend and family member was personally thanked for their attendance, they were simultaneously presented with a deluxe box of chocolates from Daniel Le Chocolate Belge. Guests left feeling pampered and loved, knowing they'd been part of something truly exceptional.



"We spent a year-and-a-half planning this event, and afterwards it was nice to hear family and friends say they had really never been to anything like it," reminisces Parm. "It was really rewarding." Not to mention... breathtaking.

