

Modern Bride

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LET IT SNOW

A bride and groom are sitting on a sled in a snowy forest. The groom is wearing a dark quilted jacket and a white scarf, and the bride is wearing a white wedding dress and a white headpiece. They are both smiling. The sled is covered with a thick, brown, shaggy fur blanket. The background is a soft-focus winter scene with snow-covered trees.

Cozy meets
contemporary when
MODERN BRIDE and
wedding designer
Michelle Rago infuse a
winter reception
with warmth and style



INN-TIMATE SETTING

Left: The Jackson House Inn & Restaurant, a restored country manor in Woodstock, VT, is the site of our reception. The 15-room inn sits on five acres of gardens, features a dining room with cathedral ceiling and open-hearth granite fireplace, and can accommodate indoor weddings with up to 65 guests.

WRITE IMPRESSIONS

This page, below: Taupe tones and faux Persian lamb give an unexpected feel to this frosted Plexiglas invitation, price upon request, and program, \$45 each, both by Karen Bartolomei for Grapevine. Opposite: In lieu of a traditional guest book, this vintage postbox holds guests' good wishes; they're inscribed on postcards, \$400 for 25, by Karen Bartolomei for Grapevine, to be mailed to the couple post-wedding.

"WINTER WEDDINGS SHOULD ALWAYS BE VERY WARM AND INVITING," says designer Michelle Rago. "We kept this in mind when searching for a site. The one we chose—The Jackson House Inn & Restaurant in Woodstock, VT—is a Victorian style country manor built in 1890; it was updated a few years ago by owners Carl and Linda Delnegro to incorporate airy design elements and contemporary cuisine.

We combined vintage pieces, such as tulip centerpieces in wrought-iron urns, with sleeker elements, like "lanterns" made from Plexiglas boxes holding candles. We also veered from wintertime's typically dark color schemes and went with soothing neutrals instead. Richly textured elements—from handmade microsuede-covered invitation boxes to pussywillows in the bride's bouquet to a cake decorated with coconut resembling snow—all gave a nod to the season in a sophisticated way. Finally, a horse-drawn sleigh made for a memorable entrance and exit. "The goal," says Rago, "was to create a party that was lighthearted, but chic. This went into every detail." —Betsy Goldberg





MELISSA AND EDWARD
CLEVELAND, OHIO

LETTERS

U.S.
MAIL

Melissa and Edward
THE WEDDING MAIL BOX
MAY 15, 2010

PLEASE WRITE YOUR BEST WISHES
TO MELISSA AND EDWARD ON POSTCARD
AND DROP IT IN THE MAIL BOX

(YOUR POSTCARDS WILL BE MAILED AFTER THE WEDDING
CELEBRATION SO THAT MELISSA AND EDWARD CAN RETURN FROM
THEIR HONEYMOON TO A MAILBOX FULL OF CONGRATULATIONS
AND LOVE FROM THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!)





TASTEFUL TOUCHES

Above: A departure from hearty winter fare, Executive Chef Jason Merrill's Ahi tuna main course is dressed with watercress-and-apple salad and served atop curried rice. Right: Fabric binds the menu card, \$22, by Karen Bartolomei for Grapevine, to neutral plates and linens, from TriServe Party Rental.



LIGHTENING UP

The room's soothing aura comes from the fabric-covered chairs and suede tablecloths in a crisscross pintucked pattern, from TriServe Party Rental. Riedel crystal and flatware, The Jackson House Inn's own. Rustic, wrought-iron urns, filled with Candela and Sweetheart tulips and pussywillows, top the tables. Flowers by Michelle Rago Ltd.