

DESTINATION WEDDING & HONEYMOON

miami

HEARTS ON FIRE

Cubs superstar Anthony Rizzo married Dallas native Emily Vakos in a stunning celebration worthy of fireworks.

By Elle Cashin
Photography by Nina Sutherland Photography

EMILY & ANTHONY
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There were almost instant fireworks when Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo met Emily Vakos in Arizona—he was there for spring training, and she was working with the team’s nutritionists—and fireworks have been a recurring theme in their relationship ever since. When based in Chicago during baseball season, the duo love to watch the city’s displays, so when he proposed, Anthony worked them in as part of his big surprise.

“To my knowledge, the night he proposed, we had a photo shoot for a magazine article,” Emily says. “They had me completely duped—his agent had sent over interview questions, attire [requirements] and everything.” But as they were posing for their final shot on the front of a boat in Lake Michigan, Anthony got down on one knee. “As soon as I said yes, fireworks erupted in the sky behind us.”

Fast-forward to their wedding day, and as guests arrived at the couple’s cocktail hour at the Trump National Doral Miami, fireworks lit up the sky once again. It was a perfect kickoff to a night of partying—complete with club-like confetti and blasts of CO2. More personalized details were sprinkled throughout the night, like Anthony’s custom tuxedo jacket lined with fabric printed with photos of the couple. The menu for their white-glove-service dinner featured an array of foods from their hometowns, including the Rizzo family’s favorite cannoli flown in from New Jersey.

“I had a wedding beyond anything I could have ever dreamt,” the bride says, noting that even if something had gone wrong, she’d feel the same way. “It’s going to be perfect no matter what, because you’re marrying your best friend.” ■



Clockwise from top: Fireworks have been a theme throughout the bride and groom’s relationship, so it was only fitting they featured in their wedding; the bridesmaids wore the Legacy gown by Katie May in Bordeaux; the Trump National Doral Miami was the last venue the couple toured, but “as soon as we drove up, we knew it was where we were getting married,” the bride says; the cake’s elegant exterior belied a Funfetti interior; garden roses, phalaenopsis orchids and white delphinium made for elegant centerpieces. Opposite page: Emily wore an illusion-sleeve gown by Lee Petra Grebenau, and Anthony’s tuxedo was custom.

The List

Venue & Catering Trump National Doral Miami, trumphotels.com/miami

Wedding Planner Danielle Dworkowitz & Jessica Weot, Creative Touch Party Design, creativetouchparties.com

Bride’s Gown & Veil Lee Petra Grebenau, Boca Raton Bridal, bocaratonbridal.com

Bride’s Jewelry Earrings: Maria Elena Headpieces, mariaelenaheadpieces.com

Bride’s Hair & Makeup Hair: Amanda Diedrich, Blohaute, blohaute.com; Makeup: Makeup by Toshi, makeupbytoshi.com

Groom’s Tux Cedric’s Custom Apparel, instagram.com/cedricsuits

Rings Rascals Jewelry, goldmansofflorida.com

Bridesmaids’ Dresses Katie May, Bella

Bridesmaids, bellabridesmaids.com

Groomsmen’s Tuxes Vera Wang, Men’s

Warehouse, menswarehouse.com

Florals Jon Buick, Xquisite Events, xfla.com

Cake Earth & Sugar, earthandsugar.com

Invitations Designers’ Fine Press, designersfinepress.com

Calligraphy Carla Hagan Designs, carlahagandesigns.com

Rentals Elements & Accents, elementsandaccents.com

Linens Nüage Designs, nuagedesigns.com; Over the Top, overtthetopinc.com

Entertainment Ceremony: Master Musicians, mastermusiciansinc.com; Reception: Libido, tropicentertainment.com; Late-Night: DJ Jacob Co., djjacobco.com

Videographer Senderey Video Productions, sendereyvideo.com

Favors custom calligraphed Moët

Champagne bottles, moet.com; photos,

Forte, forte-nes.com

Getaway Car AraLimo, aralimos.com

Fireworks Light F/X Pro’s, lightfxpros.com