newly-weds
DAVID NIOTAKIS
& DORENE LIM
celebration
A GREEN AND WHITE GARDEN SERVICE FOLLOWED BY A DINNER RECEPTION FOR ABOUT 120 GUESTS UNDER A MARQUEE AT CARCOSA SERI NEGARA
theme
A GARDEN AFFAIR

fun festivity

BY **NICOLETTE ONG** PHOTOGRAPHY **EVENTS WIZARD & JIM & NING/JIM LIAW PHOTOGRAPHY** WEDDING PLANNERS **LETICIA/EVENTS WIZARD**

Corporate finance manager David and lawyer Dorene first laid eyes on each other at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. "When I arrived, he was the first fellow student that I met," says Dorene. Shortly after becoming friends, David, who is from Queensland, Australia, and Dorene, who is from Kuala Lumpur, started dating each other.

Little did they know that more than 13 years later, they would tie the knot in KL. Although the couple is currently residing in The Netherlands, they wanted to have the ceremony and reception in Dorene's hometown. And the Carcosa Seri Negara was the perfect intimate venue for the couple, with its elegant settings and charming ambience. "We wanted to keep the wedding small so we could spend more time with our guests, who were travelling from Australia, Netherlands, the UK and the US to attend our bridal bash."

The beautiful ceremony was held in the lush gardens. "We chose an outdoor ceremony because we are both quite sporty and enjoy the outdoors," says Dorene. During the ceremony and reception, a string quartet played lovely tunes while the best man, Liam McLachlan, sang an opera classic, *Nessun Dorma* from Puccini's *Turandot*.

In the evening, guests were ushered to a marquée for a Chinese dinner. The tables were named after places David and Dorene had stayed before or even the places their parents came from. "It really told a story of where we came from and where we experienced our lives together as a couple," explains Dorene.

When the couple made their entrance, everyone stood up and flung their napkins about cheerily. "This is a traditional French wedding custom. We first experienced it at my cousin's wedding in Brittany, France. Everyone loved the concept and it was such a talking point that we decided we had to do it as well," David explains.

After everyone had their fill of yummy Chinese cuisine, DJ Jungle Jerry rocked the house and got people up and dancing. "Even our older relatives boogied on the dance floor," smiles Dorene.

It was truly a memorable party. "We had so much fun, we felt like doing it all over again," she says.

EASY PLANNING

With 11 months to go to their wedding date, the busy couple had little time to plan their celebration. So they engaged Leticia from Events Wizard to help plan everything. "The entire wedding was planned from the Netherlands, with Leticia's help," says David. "We did not come back to KL to review anything. Leticia gave us all the options and provided her recommendations. We then chose or asked for her top picks," adds Dorene.

This made the wedding very easy to plan, stress-free and fun.

To top it off, Leticia surprised the lovebirds with an informal pattern at the altar, of rose petals forming a heart shape. She also went out of her way to decorate the honeymoon suite with petals and candles.

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