



orontonians Renata De Thomasis and Aundrae Rollins met when they were teenagers. "Aundrae was on my dad's soccer team and became best friends with my brother," Renata explains. "He was always at our house and he eventually moved in with us." Although they were childhood friends, the two drifted apart and didn't reconnect until a New Year's Eve party in 2004.

As a wedding makeup artist, Renata had seen her fair share of celebrations, so when it came to planning her own party she looked to unique places for inspiration. "We loved Dolce & Gabbana's Fall 2014 collection with its warm golds, rich reds, black and a stained-glass-window blue," Renata says. The couple, together with their event planner and designer Melissa Andre, of Melissa Andre Events, dreamed up a list

of ideas to bring this colour palette to life.

"For my bouquet I went to Blush & Bloom and asked for a creation with red flowers," Renata shares. "I absolutely loved it when I saw it—it was like walking around with a piece of art." Ruby red shoes and black bridesmaid dresses also emphasized her motif. "For the decor, we left that up to Melissa and her team to help design, and we couldn't have asked for anything more 'us' than what we got," Renata confirms.

The wedding day began with a ceremony at The Spoke Club, located in downtown Toronto. The walk down the aisle was a special moment between the couple, not only because they were seeing each other for the first time, but also because they had placed a bet over whether Aundrae would cry. Dressed in a stunning Jenny Packham gown and cloaked in a custom-made cape from Valencienne, Renata knew the instant she locked eyes with Aundrae that he would have to pay his dues. "I will say proudly I lost the bet," Aundrae laughs. "I had so many emotions that day—excited, anxious and overjoyed about the whole moment of seeing her. When I saw her turn the corner with her parents, I was floored. To me, she couldn't have been more perfect."

For their reception, the two hosted their wedding festivities at the Berkeley Church. "We chose that particular venue because of its character," Renata says. "For the decorations, we added some modern elements and lots of florals. I loved seeing it all—it felt like we were in a very old European cathedral." Upon arrival guests were greeted with rows and rows of tables topped in a custom blue-and-white-patterned decal, black-and-white lampshades wrapped in garlands and roses, and gold-and-black dinnerware topped with an ultra-luxe treat: Christian Lacroix notebooks for guests to take home. The pièce de resistance was the beautiful head table decked in candles, a lush floral arch and a five-tiered wedding cake.

To officially open the main reception room, guests watched from the mezzanine of the church as Renata and Aundrae took their first twirl as Mr. & Mrs. to the sounds of "I Found My Everything" by Mary J. Blige. "We felt like we were alone, dancing on a stage," Renata recalls. "It felt like our moment—and it was amazing to have our closest friends and family watching us."



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