



weddings

CALIFORNIA STYLE

Love in Bloom

— *You're Invited* —

THE ULTIMATE GOLDEN STATE GOWNS, GEMS, GIFTS AND GETAWAYS

— *Grand Affairs* —

- * *A Montecito Masterpiece*
- * *Big Sur Bespoke*
- * *Heaven in St. Helena*
- * *Beverly Hills Bash*
- * *Malibu Magnificence*
- * *Vineyard Revelry*

READY
MAID

A Bridal
Attendant's
Must-Have
Guide



Honor Code

Managing a team of bridesmaids and the bride-to-be, Molly Sims' maid of honor recounts the job

BY KELSEY MCKINNON

Almost 20 years after Michelle Carlson and Molly Sims met as newly inducted Tri Deltas at Vanderbilt University, Carlson received a note last spring from her friend with a simple request: Will you be my Maid of Honor?

Planning for Sims' Napa Valley nuptials to producer Scott Stuber, though, was no easy task—even with the help of events expert Yifat Oren. Carlson immediately started an email chain among the bridesmaids to arrange the shower. Deciding on The Peninsula Beverly Hills' Verandah Room for an outdoor tea, she delegated tasks that played on the strengths of her co-attendants. While Carlson handled the invitations, Emese Szenasy made arrangements for Diane von Furstenberg to sponsor the shower. Sims' favorite sparkling wine, Schramsberg Brut Rosé, was poured, and goodie bags were filled with Dior lipsticks, shower caps, certificates for blowouts at DryBar and MattieLuxe place mats. Instead of individual gifts for Sims, the bridesmaids all went in on a set of Astier de Villatte bowls from ABC Home.

A bachelorette party in the Hamptons was followed by private sessions with fitness guru Tracey Anderson, and dinners at Nobu Next Door and The Surf Lodge in Montauk. Just six months after Stuber's proposal, the bridal party descended on Solage Calistoga for the wedding weekend, taking over the spa before the rehearsal dinner. By the big day, Carlson was ready. "It took about four weeks to write the speech. I had memorized it, but I also had it on paper to be safe." She suggests tributes stay between three to four minutes in length.

"At the reception, I made sure the dress was bustled and that she was drinking enough water," says Carlson, who was also witness on the couple's marriage license. "Be organized, communicate with your bridesmaids and remember that while she means the world to you, she also means the world to all the other girls." •

FROM TOP RIGHT Carlson and Sims at her shower. The bride, wearing Marchesa, had custom Elizabeth Kennedy gowns made for each bridesmaid and gave them French Tulle candles from Seda France. Sims and Stuber at the Napa Valley Reserve for the rehearsal dinner. Solage Calistoga. Schramsberg Brut Rosé.

