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# Newport Wedding

2008 & 2009

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A Brilliant Photo

## Belle Mer



## Stephanie & Eric Skelly

**F**rom the streets of Boston where Stephanie Hayes met Eric Skelly at Suffolk University Law School to a romantic proposal on the steps of the famed Trevi Fountain in Rome, the couple knew their dream wedding would come true in the Water Salon at Belle Mer. "As soon as we entered Belle Mer we knew it would be perfect for us," Stephanie says. "We were looking for a bright, airy, welcoming, modern, very stylish venue.... From Goat Island, Belle Mer showcases some of Newport's best attributes."

Neither the couple, nor their 150 guests, could refute the stunning views from the glamorous retreat, which accommodated each discriminating taste. It was this seaside glamour and a splash of blue, the bride describes, that set the ideal theme for the couple's perfectly orchestrated wedding day. From the sea green bridesmaids' dresses to the three-flavored, five-tiered, Tiffany blue cake adorned with white sugar calla lilies (see page 94), Stephanie and Eric immersed themselves in the colors of the City-by-the-Sea. Floral bouquets from hand to table complemented the blue hues with ivory roses and hydrangeas as well as two varieties of white orchids. The bride also wore three different dresses because "I envisioned our wedding day in three very different segments," she says. Stephanie donned a tra-

ditional gown with a cathedral length train during the ceremony, a stylish mermaid silhouette for the modern reception, and toward the end of the event, she changed into a white cocktail dress accented by crystal beadwork.

Queen Mary 2 also paid a visit to Newport that day, dropping anchor in Narragansett Bay within view of Belle Mer, which Stephanie says was a particularly poignant coincidence. "Eric's grandparents and mother arrived in this country on the Queen Mary more than 45 years ago, so everything came full circle."

As if marrying her Prince Charming were not enough, the whole day swept Stephanie off her feet. "Newport is such a special place for us," she says. "We loved the moment we stood atop the grand staircase inside Belle Mer looking at the ballroom ... They announced us as husband and wife and we entered with all of our family and friends standing and cheering!" 🍷 -AS



## the details



**Bridal Gown:** Sueno's Bride, Smithfield

**Rings:** J&J Zaidman, New York City

**Invitations:** Colonial Printing, Warwick

**Rehearsal Dinner:** The Mooring, Newport

**Flowers:** Florals by Alisa, Barrington

**Hair:** Salon Nuvo, Middletown

**Nails:** Angel Nails, Newport

**Cake:** Sweet Sophistications, Newport

**Bride and Groom, and Bridal Party**

**Transportation:** All Occasion Transportation, Pawtucket

**Reception Entertainment:** Nancy Paolino and The Black Tie Band, Portsmouth

**Photographer:** A Brilliant Photo, Boston, MA

**Wedding Night Stay:** Almondy Inn, Newport

**Guest Accommodations:** Comfort Inn and Atlantic Beach Club, Middletown

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