“First Time I Ever Saw Your Face” was Celine Marko (now 38 and a personal assistant) and David Alper’s first dance song—a fitting choice since the first time they ever laid eyes on each other, they didn’t actually have a chance to speak. A couple of weeks later, the two were introduced at a party but didn’t say more than hello. Nevertheless, it was enough for David (39 and a general manager) to ask a mutual friend for Celine’s phone number. The two met up for tea, and a year later, David proposed with a ring he’d designed using heirloom stones.

The couple planned a Boulder wedding in just seven months, alerting guests right away with save-the-dates that featured David, an avid cyclist, peddling a bicycle with Celine sitting in the front basket. Bicycles also showed up in other wedding details, including a bike on top of the cake! The late fall season—Celine’s favorite—also served as inspiration, with rich autumnal hues of brown, rust, plum, cream, and gold tying everything together.

Celine and David wed outdoors beneath a huppah that the groom and his parents had assembled with poles borrowed from close friends who had handmade and used them at their own wedding. The huppah top was covered with two prayer shawls—one belonging to David’s maternal grandmother and one that Celine gave to David as a wedding gift. Though the couple opted not to have a wedding party, their sisters and parents stood by their sides as the rabbi read from the ketubah that Celine and David had written together.

Afterward, guests headed indoors for the reception, which was set up with a lounge-style feel. A mix of high and low tables were adorned with linens in rust, brown, and gold and topped with fall-colored floral arrangements. Votive candles and dramatic uplighting gave the room a romantic glow. It was the perfect setting for the raucous party to come. “The consensus is that we had the longest Horah in history; it lasted at least an hour!” Celine says. “The band kept playing, and our friends and family kept on dancing! It was such a wonderful experience to be honored in that way.” —K.W.
Planning tip: Take time to personalize your ceremony. Celine and David wrote their ketubah together and had their family stand as they recited their vows.
CELINE & DAVID’S INGREDIENTS

SITE A Spice of Life Event Center (303) 444-3452

PHOTOGRAPHY “It was very important to me to find a photographer that could tell the story of the day and really capture the mood,” Celine says. Peggy Dyer Photography, PeggyDyer.com

CONSULTANT Joan Heddles “was a true gem in putting together this wedding,” Celine says. Joan Heddles at A Spice of Life Event Center

OFFICIANT Rabbi Korngold actually had a hand in bringing Celine and David together. David first spotted Celine at one of the rabbi’s “Sushi Socials.” Rabbi Jamie Korngold (aka The Adventure Rabbi) (303) 443-2642

GOWN “I had a real problem when it came to dress shopping in that I did not have very much time. I knew I wanted a halter style, so that made my selection much smaller,” Celine remembers. She finally found a dress off the rack in off-white silk that—after many alterations—fit perfectly. A Formal Affair (303) 444-8294

VEIL Handmade by the bride’s friend Jennifer LaBrecque

HAIR Salon at St. Julien Hotel & Spa (303) 329-6229

BRIDESMAID DRESSES Though the couple opted not to have a wedding party, each of their sisters stood with them at the huppah. Both wore halter-neck dresses from David’s Bridal in autumn colors.

INVITATIONS Celine designed the invites with supplies from Two Hands Paperie, and she assembled and addressed them with help from a friend. Two Hands Paperie (303) 444-0124

FLOWERS European Flower Shop & Design (303) 442-7802

KETUBAH Ordered online from Ketubah Studio by MP Artworks, KetubahStudio.com

RENTAL EQUIPMENT A Spice of Life Event Center

CATERING A Spice of Life Event Center

MUSIC Charlie Provenza’s Gypsy Mandolin (303) 697-0304, Denver

CAKE Celine and David actually had two cakes—a traditional European croquembouche and a chocolate cake with chocolate and ivory frosting. Shamane’s Bake Shoppe (303) 434-4315; Breadworks Café (303) 444-5667

TRANSPORTATION Foothills Limousine (303) 530-0781

ACCOMMODATIONS St. Julien Hotel and Spa (720) 406-9696

HONEYMOON Costa Rica