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LOVE, UNDERCOVER



Beach, Va., wedding was hardly raw or rural, the site made for some tricky tent setups, says Boots Daugherty.

The president and owner of Affordable and Luxury Tent, Virginia Beach, notes in particular the 3,100 square feet of marquee tenting his team had to install on a span of land that descended steps down a 14-foot grade and made two sharp turns.

Then there was the 40-by-135-foot Future Trac clear-span dinner tent, which had to accommodate four chandeliers weighing a total of 2,000 pounds, not to mention a variety of sculptures, antique furniture and other props brought in from New York for the high-profile nuptials.

Prop protector: A 40-by-135-foot clear-span shields antiques, sculptures and other props trucked in by a 48-foot tractor-trailer.

With such a laundry list of demands, including one for 40,000 square feet of hand-pleated lining fabric ("They were real specific on wanting four-inch pleats—the planner had a tape measure"), it's no wonder, Affordable and Luxury Tent



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associate Cathy Pender calls the event "the most elaborate, over-the-edge wedding I've ever seen."

SOLE SOLUTION For a mid-summer wedding for a member of the Caymus winery family in Napa, Calif., Mary Ross of Napa-based Five Star Productions notes that the region's hotel event spaces are simply unable to accommodate the 250 guests. Luckily for her clients, a tent could be set up on the grounds of the family vineyard, and because the land was private property, the setup crew had two full days to prep.

Ross had Accent Party Rentals of Santa Rosa, Calif., bring in a 40-by-60-foot event pole tent, which remained walled until guests made their entry. Once inside, they found a "very romantic" atmosphere dominated by ceiling swags in shades of lavender and iridescent tupsuz, Ross says. And while the guests generated enough celebratory heat to merit removal of the tent's side walls, Ross notes that the region's unpredictable climate means that anyone planning an outdoor wedding must be ready for anything: "Sometimes you do what you have to do. August and September are the only two months that I would absolutely not worry about a tent."

For Joyce Scardina Becker of San

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LOVE, UNDERCOVER



Weather or not: A tent with removable side walls provides insurance against storms at a vineyard wedding.

Francisco-based Events of Distinction, it was not a question of space but of cultures that ultimately demanded the use of a wedding ceremony tent.

For the spring wedding she designed for the marriage of a Jewish-American bride and a Hindu-Indian groom, Becker settled on Fort Mason, a former military base in San Francisco. Its rustic setting provided not just a natural environment reminiscent of both India and Israel, she says, but proximity to Greens

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