

SANTA BARBARA PRESIDIO

Old World Union

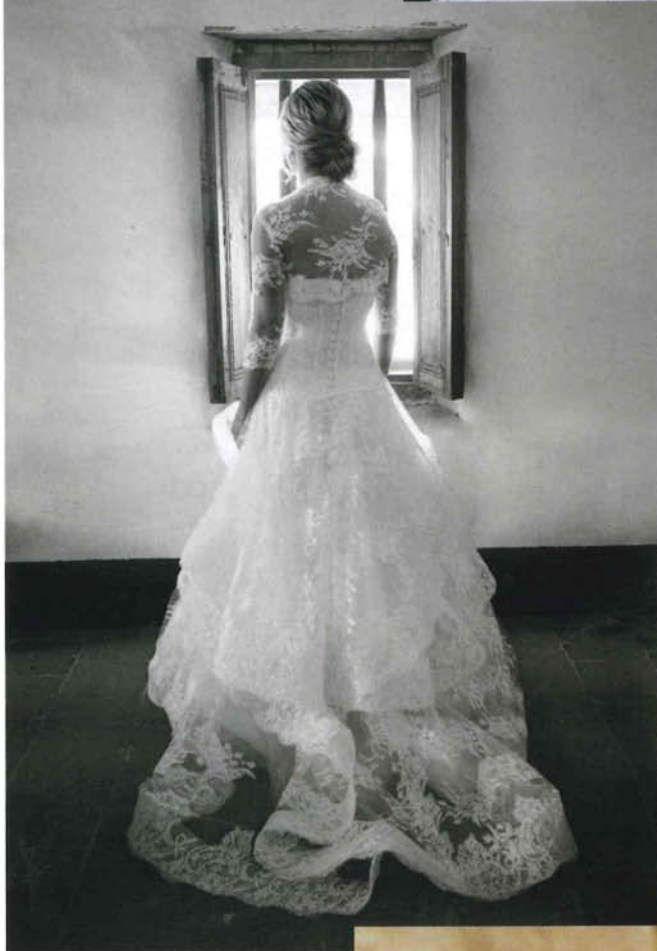
FOR BUSINESS OWNER, globe-trotter, designer, and blogger Caroline Diani, her engagement and ensuing wedding to actor, writer, and photographer Jeffrey Doornbos is markedly evocative of the very golden era of American Euro film that prized elegance and gave rise to her own style icon, Grace Kelly. Akin to a scene from *Roman Holiday*, the British expat met her prince charming on the steps of Hendry's Beach as he was passing through Santa Barbara on a motorcycle trip. "The rest is history," says Diani.

Designing their nuptials with help from like-minded event planner Kimberly Curtis of Toast, both Diani and Doornbos's shared tastes in art, architecture, and fashion proved invaluable in the planning process. "Once we articulated the general idea [of the design], we opened ourselves up to all the details we could think of," says Diani. Though her eponymous Santa Barbara boutique hints at her penchant for a restrained urban-chic aesthetic, her golden-hued, Italian-inspired wedding speaks to the couple's equally valued proclivity for time-honored tradition, European elegance, and class.

For their ceremony at Santa Barbara's El Presidio Chapel and reception in their backyard, details inspired by a Dolce & Gabbana aesthetic led to a feminine lace and gold palette that accentuated the historical architecture and blush tones of the Presidio and their backyard's majestic mountain views.

Guided by the axiom "Beauty always shows when you don't mess with timeless and classic," her lace Monique Lhuillier gown and lily of the valley bouquet—along with her late father's prayer book and mother's rosary—provided a source of comfort while she walked down the aisle.

While neither the bride nor the groom is Italian, community and family has "always coexisted very naturally for each of us," says Diani. Borrowing a page from the traditional weddings depicted in their favorite movie, *The Godfather*, the couple was "committed to making the day not just about us getting married, but about creating an extended family together." -A.D.H.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Flowers by Kimberly Curtis of Toast; Caroline Diani; Jeffrey Doornbos; the Toast-designed reception at the couple's home; Chanel pumps finished the bride's elegant Monique Lhuillier ensemble. OPPOSITE: Taking their vows in the Presidio.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHANNON JAYNE

