

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

Two longtime sweethearts invited friends, family, and teammates to Aspen for a glamorous

party at 11,000 feet

BY JAIMIE SCHOEN PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURA AND GENNIA FOR DOCUVITAE



Bre Ladd and Luke Walton's ceremony arch had to be tall: She's six feet; he's six-eight!

Willow-branch chandeliers added a rustic touch to the formal decor in the Little Nell's Sundeck event space.



Bre, in a Hayley Paige mermaid, walked the aisle with her groom, a former player for the L.A. Lakers (and son of basketball legend Bill Walton).

Bre Ladd, 30, a doula, and Luke Walton, 34, an assistant coach in the NBA, get around. They met in 2002 at the University of Arizona, where they were both varsity athletes (he played basketball and she played volleyball), were engaged 10 years later in Cleveland, and now call southern California home. But for their wedding on August 17, 2013, says Bre, “We wanted a remote location with plenty of outdoorsy stuff to do. When we heard about Aspen’s Little Nell hotel, we booked it sight unseen.” There was one problem, she says: “I got altitude sickness the morning of the wedding. I’d been laid-back through the entire process—but that stressed me out!” A massage and brunch with her girls had her ready to take the 16-minute gondola ride up Aspen Mountain for the late-afternoon ceremony overlooking the Rockies.

After outdoor cocktails with lobster-ceviche tacos, elk tartare, and sunset views, 225 guests went inside for an elegant white-and-gold reception. Chris McGee, a friend and TV sportscaster, had everyone laughing as he roasted the wedding party. Bre and

“Our officiant read letters we’d written about each other,” says Bre. “It was right from the heart.”

Luke spun into their first dance, to Van Morrison’s “Crazy Love,” before a dinner of short ribs and sea bass. Guests then congregated at the outdoor cigar bar or hit the dance floor, where the DJ spun everything from Michael Jackson to Jay Z without a break until the lights came on at 1:30 a.m. “After all,” says Bre, “if you’re having an incredible time, why stop?” **B**

Bre’s bridesmaids chose their own floor-length black dresses.





Luke (and his hard-core sweet tooth) chose the chocolate-raspberry-lemon cake.

Venue and catering: The Little Nell; thelittle.nell.com. **Wedding planner:** Brooke Keegan Weddings & Events; brookekeegan.com. **Wedding resource:** The Bridal Bar; bridalbar.com. **Bride's dress:** Hayley Paige; jlmcouture.com. **Groom's suit:** Tom James; tomjames.com. **Cake:** D'Elissious Cake Studio; delissiouscakestudio.com. **Flowers:** The Aspen Branch; aspenbranch.com. **Stationery:** Laura Hooper Calligraphy; lhcalligraphy.com. **Photography:** Docuvitae; docuvitae.com.



The ring bearer carried a gold aspen-leaf dish.



"Flowers were a priority," says Bre of her white-rose-and-hydrangea centerpieces.



Richard Jefferson, a forward with the Dallas Mavericks, rounded out Luke's group of baller groomsmen.

"After eight years together, Luke and I just have one huge group of friends," says Bre. "The cast of characters really made the party!"