

Nikki  
and Matthew

~ MAY 4, 2013 ~





*"Because Nikki's parents and younger brother lost their lives at sea trying to escape from Vietnam, I wanted to propose over water," Boston-born groom Matthew recounts. In the city of his birth, he rented a gazebo over Boston Harbor and created a circle of white candles, roses and lilies. "I led Nikki to the gazebo, where she said, 'We cannot go in there, it's set up for someone.' I brought her to the center of the circle and told her I wanted her parents and brother to be with us. I then proposed, she said, 'Yes,' and we received an ovation from the crowd of onlookers. It was perfect!" Their wedding, too, was the picture of perfection, starting on Friday with a traditional Vietnamese tea ceremony, and commencing with a grand reception on Saturday for more than 300 guests gathered at the Royal Sonesta Hotel Houston. "The entire night was perfect," Matthew says, "and seeing Nikki smile all night, having the time of her life, is a vision I will never forget."*

writer NATASHA GARBER ~ photography JOHN LY PHOTOGRAPHY



NAMES NICOLE DAO & MATTHEW RIPALDI ♦ NUMBER OF GUESTS 320 ♦ VENUE ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL  
HOUSTON ♦ WEDDING DRESS MIA BRIDAL COUTURE ♦ TUXEDOS AL'S FORMAL WEAR ♦ CAKE WHO  
MADE THE CAKE ♦ LIGHTING BRIGHT STAR PRODUCTIONS ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN LY PHOTOGRAPHY  
♦ VIDEOGRAPHY A&A VIDEO PRODUCTIONS ♦ CONSULTANT SCHWARTZ & WOODWARD ♦ HONEYMOON MAUI