

From Manhattan to the Marsh

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A feature highlighting Caroline Yevak and Bobby Ross's wedding at Kiawah Island's River Course, focusing on the couple's story, design inspiration, and celebration details.

Read Sample →

Sparks were already lighting up the sky when Caroline Yevak first met Bobby Ross on the Fourth of July in 2017. Introduced through mutual friends during a holiday weekend at Sprite Island in Connecticut, the two instantly realized they were both interning in Manhattan that same summer, just across the street from one another. Over the years, much of their relationship unfolded in the cozy glow of New York's neighborhood restaurants, where lingering dinners and weekends spent trying new places became one of their favorite rituals together.

Years later, Bobby proposed in a quiet corner of a park in Boston before surprising her by flying in both of their families for the weekend. For their wedding, the couple chose Kiawah Island's River Course, a place already deeply tied to their relationship through Caroline's family. Inspired by the intimacy of their favorite New York restaurants, Caroline and Bobby envisioned an elegant dinner-party atmosphere that still embraced the natural beauty of the Lowcountry.

With the help of Sarah Lillie Designs, the celebration blended whimsical and refined details, from watercolor illustrations by Julie King Studio to custom-bound bar menus and calligraphed matches that doubled as escort cards. Surrounded by 165 loved ones, the couple exchanged personal vows before dancing the night away beneath jewel-toned florals and wispy greenery. One of the evening's most unforgettable moments came when Bobby secretly moved "Sweet Caroline" from the "do not play" list to the "must play" list, sending guests into a frenzy on the dance floor.

Invest in Expert Guidance

"The best decision we made was hiring Lillie early in the process," says Caroline. "The first few weeks after getting engaged moved faster than we expected. Suddenly we needed to lock down a date, a venue, and a planner all at once." From choosing a date and venue to building your vendor team, the biggest decisions often happen right away. Having someone you trust helps bring clarity and confidence to the swift process.

Prioritize the Guest Experience

While the design process is tedious, the thoughtful behind-the-scenes details, from seamless timing to unexpected touches is what made the weekend feel effortless and fun for guests. "One thing I came to appreciate was just how much the guest experience shapes the overall energy of a wedding," says Caroline.

Personalize the Ceremony

The couple's close friend, Alex, officiated the ceremony and interviewed their parents and siblings beforehand to gather stories and perspectives on their relationship. Caroline and Bobby also decided to write their own vows, since personal vows are often the most memorable part of weddings they've attended.

Vendors:

Venue: The River Course; Kiawah Island

Planning & Design: Sarah Lillie Designs

Photographer: Laura Watson

Florist: Bearded Florist

Caterer: The River Course

Cake: Flower Child

Stationery: Julie King Studio

Rentals: Crush by Eventworks, Curated Events CHS, Snyder Events, Cheers CHS, Emerson James Rental, Adorn Charleston

Entertainment: Sol Fusion (reception), Palmetto Strings (ceremony and cocktail hour)

Transportation: Whip Dash CHS, Low Country Valet

Custom Painted Lamps + Table Numbers: Hatch Cove Designs

Bar Sign Folios: Ross Press & Bindery

Linens: BBJ La Tavola, Reverie

Videographer: Palmetto Wedding Films

Content Creator: Dreamy Content