

VIEW FROM THE TOP

A PAIR OF TEXANS TOOK
TO THE MOUNTAINS OF
UTAH TO THROW A MAJOR
BASH THAT DID THEIR
HOME STATE PROUD

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY **BRITT CHUDLEIGH**
OF CHUDLEIGH WEDDINGS



With 14 bridesmaids
and 15 groomsmen,
bigger really was
better for this couple!



W

hen Michaela Stanwood, 30, and Adam McLeod, 32, decided to say their I do's in Park City, Utah (where the groom's family has a home), instead of their hometown in Texas, they knew their family and friends would be counting on them to still represent the Lone Star State in go-big-or-go-home style. They did not disappoint.

Their destination nuptials kicked off with a southwestern-themed rehearsal dinner held beneath tents decked out with wagon wheels and tumbleweed-inspired chandeliers. The big celebration was held the next day, August 16, 2014, at the Montage Deer Valley resort and featured sweeping views of the 13,000-foot Uinta Mountain range, a bridal party of 29 attendants, a four-foot-tall hedge of lavender, sage, and delphiniums that lined the reclaimed-wood aisle, and a groom rocking alligator cowboy boots. After the couple's outdoor vows, their 210 guests enjoyed their signature drink, the McLeod Mule, on the resort's Grand Lawn. Then everyone headed inside to the Vista Lounge, which had been done up in blooms intertwined with gilded antlers and a 64-foot-long floral garland on the head table—a bounty of more than 7,000 individual flowers sourced locally from Utah and special-ordered from Oregon, California, South America, and Holland. In between dances, guests

1 "We knew from the moment we toured the Montage that we wanted to get married there," Michaela says of the breathtaking property. "You can't beat the view from the Grand Lawn!" **2** Textural ferns added just the right amount of rustic style to the otherwise classic bouquets of hydrangeas, café au lait dahlias, and garden roses. **3** Michaela and Adam's signature cocktail was a Moscow Mule made with local High West 7000 vodka and served in requisite copper mugs. **4** Metallic linens and lush centerpieces of ranunculus, roses, and hydrangeas brought romance to the reception space. **5** The couple's four-tiered chocolate and vanilla wedding cake was decorated with fresh orchids, garden roses, ferns, and lots of frosting. "I love buttercream more than anything!" says the bride.

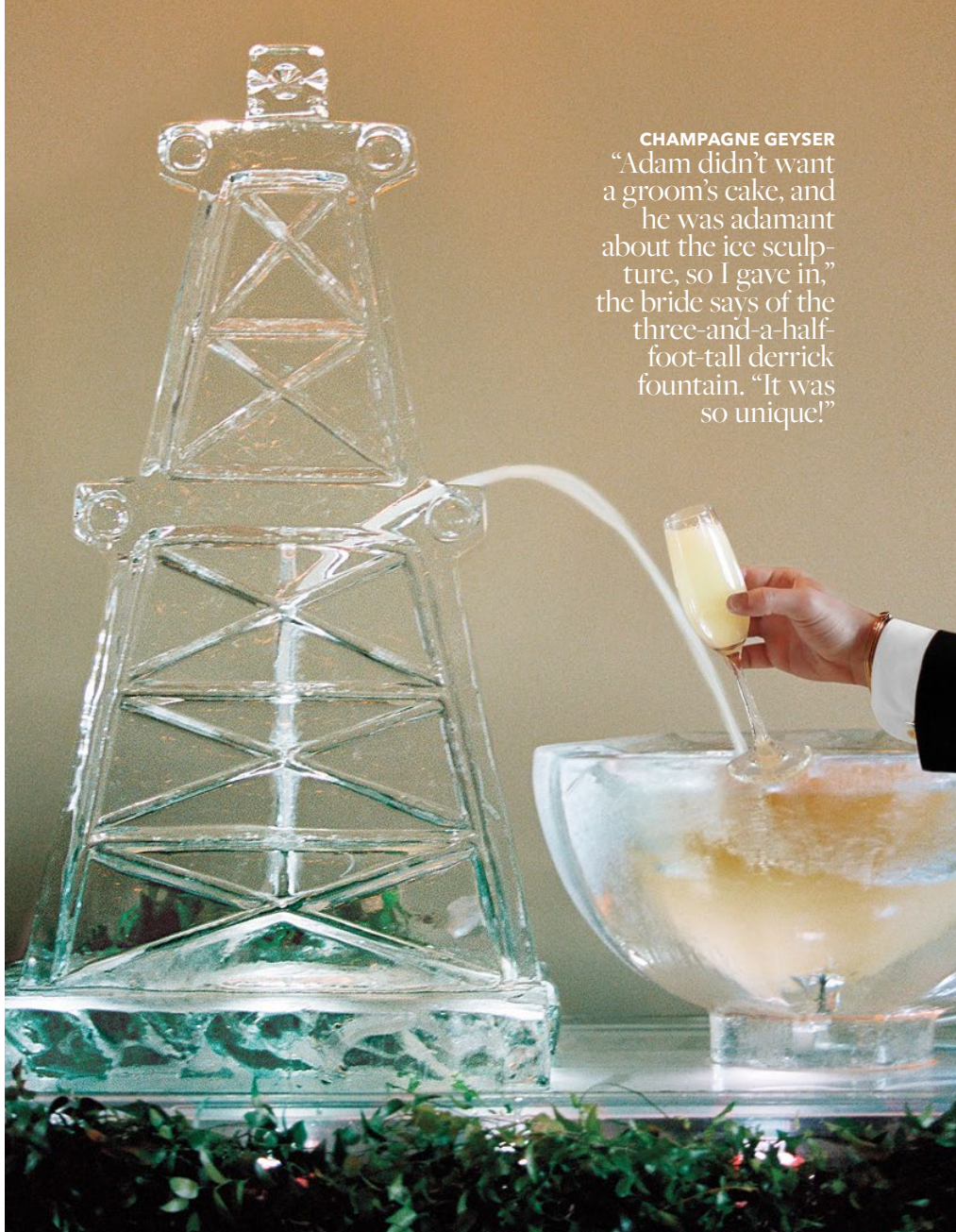


"I never in a million years thought I'd throw a destination wedding!" Michaela says. "But since I wanted to get married in August, Texas didn't work."

VENUE Montage Deer Valley; montagehotels.com. **WEDDING PLANNER** Bluebird Event Destination Management; bluebirddmc.com. **DRESS** Monique Lhuillier; moniqueLhuillier.com. **PHOTOGRAPHY** Chudleigh Weddings; chudleighweddings.com. For more information, see Shopping Guide.

grabbed flutes of bubbly from the ice sculpture/champagne fountain in the shape of a derrick, a nod to Adam's job in the oil industry. "Everyone had already done the Dallas wedding," Michaela says. "Being able to introduce our friends to such a beautiful place was a dream." **B**





CHAMPAGNE GEYSER
“Adam didn’t want a groom’s cake, and he was adamant about the ice sculpture, so I gave in,” the bride says of the three-and-a-half-foot-tall derrick fountain. “It was so unique!”

