



Hearts Collide

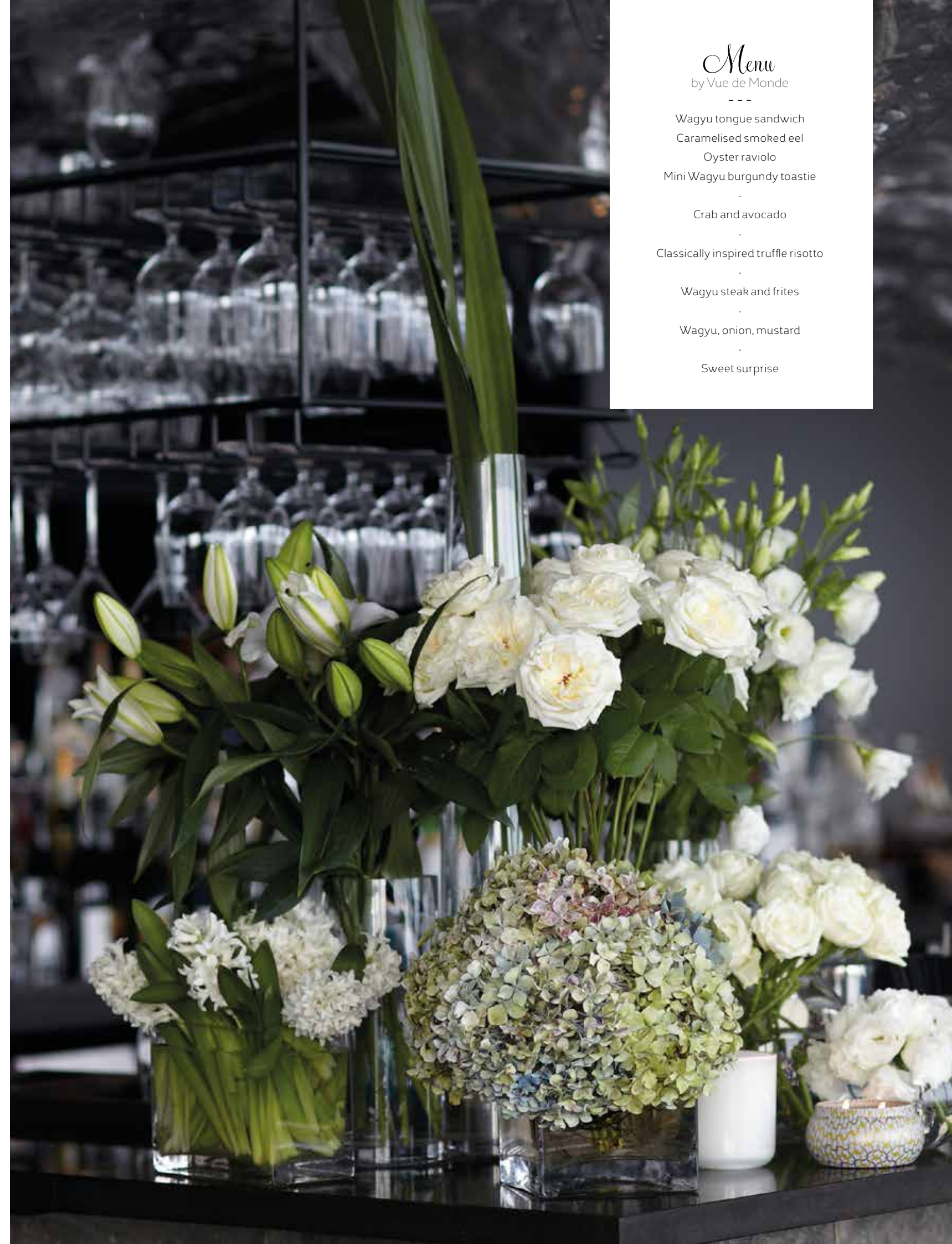
REBECCA WILSON AND BEN BLACKMORE
VUE DE MONDE, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA
11TH OF MARCH, 2012

STORY by Gretel Sneath PHOTOGRAPHY by Blumenthal Photography



REBECCA WILSON HAD ONLY RECENTLY MOVED TO MELBOURNE FROM QUEENSLAND WHEN SHE MET BEN BLACKMORE IN A ST. KILDA BAR. WHILE MUTUAL FRIENDS WERE CHATTING, THE PAIR STRUCK UP THEIR OWN CONVERSATION, AND TO HER DESPAIR, REBECCA DISCOVERED THAT THIS "TRUE GENTLEMAN" WAS ABOUT TO MOVE TO THE COUNTRY!





Menu

by Vue de Monde

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- Wagyu tongue sandwich
- Caramelised smoked eel
- Oyster raviolo
- Mini Wagyu burgundy toastie
- Crab and avocado
- Classically inspired truffle risotto
- Wagyu steak and frites
- Wagyu, onion, mustard
- Sweet surprise

“It didn’t look like things would work out as he was taking up a new job five hours away from Melbourne and I had just started a new life in the city,” Rebecca explained. But love proved her wrong! The pair endured 12 months of weekend commuting before realising they couldn’t be apart, and six years after they met, Ben proposed.

Rebecca is a fashion designer and knew that she wanted “something a bit different” when it came to her wedding gown. She steered away from the traditional white, taking her cue from movie star Reese Witherspoon.

“I loved her gown, and after some research, I found the most perfect blush coloured beaded gown by the same designer. It was the first one I tried on and straight away, I knew it was the one.”

A bouquet of roses by florist Victoria Whitelaw completed the breathtaking look when Rebecca made her stunning entrance at Melbourne’s Royal Botanic Gardens down an aisle lined with roses, hydrangeas and ivy.

“I could see Ben was wiping away the tears, it was a really beautiful moment,” she said.

Guests toasted the happy couple during a reception at Vue de Monde at the top of the iconic Rialto Towers. The Japanese wagyu beef produced by Ben’s family features on the restaurant menu, and the newlyweds were keen to showcase it in style - as soon as guests left the elevator, they were greeted with a large ice sculpture of a wagyu bull head.

“This was our way of paying homage to this amazing animal and Ben’s family business, and the guests loved it!” Rebecca said.

The pared back, sophisticated space at Vue de Monde references the glory days of the gold rush, and Victoria Whitelaw built on this concept, creating centrepieces which featured 100-year-old railway sleepers and orchids. The chefs then added gold-brushed chocolate which guests could break off and eat during the reception overlooking the spectacular Melbourne skyline.

“We were lucky to share our wedding date with the Moomba festival which meant that at 9.30pm everyone was treated to a spectacular fireworks display. Ben’s groomsmen tried to claim that as our wedding gift!” Rebecca laughed. >

THESE PAGES “Ben and I had two ‘first dances’”, laughed Rebecca. “First we danced to ‘L.O.V.E.’ by Nat King Cole, a song both Ben and I have loved for a long time. Then we invited all of our guests up onto the dancefloor and danced to Calvin Harris ‘Feel So Close To You Right Now’ which really got the party started.” ➤ During the ceremony, Rebecca asked one of her ‘bridesmen’ to read one of the couple’s favourite poems, ‘Desiderata’. “It’s a guide to life and sums up the way Ben and I would like to lead our married life.”



rebecca's little bride's book

GOWN: Monique L'hullier from Helen Rodrigues, 02 9904 5700 PHOTOGRAPHER: Blumenthal Photography, 1300 140 125 VIDEOGRAPHY: C2 Video, c2video.com.au CEREMONY LOCATION: Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens RECEPTION LOCATION: Vue de Monde, 03 9691 3888 FLOWERS & FLORAL DECORATIONS: Victoria Whitelaw, 03 9821 4613 SHOES: Miu Miu, 03 9530 4767 BRIDAL ACCESSORIES: Jenny Packham earrings from Helen Rodrigues GROOM'S ATTIRE: Dolce and Gabbana BRIDESMAIDS' OUTFITS: Harvey & Ella, 0487 333 188 FLOWER GIRL'S OUTFIT: Tutu de Monde, tutudemonde.com TRANSPORT: Hyatt Chauffeured Vehicles, 1300 553 621 CAKE: Cake Art Julie Gunthorpe GIFT REGISTRY: Wedding List Co, weddinglistco.com.au FIRST NIGHT: Grand Hyatt Melbourne, 03 9657 1234 WEDDING PLANNER: A Lavish Affair, 1300 767 710