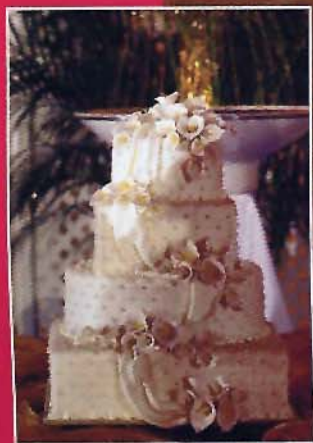


THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

SOPHIA & NOMAN ANSARI

AUGUST 16, 2003

Weddings UNVEILED



By: Joe Halbrucker
Photography by: John Unrue Photography

It was important to Sophia and Noman to incorporate western culture in to their Pakistani wedding.

Sophia and Noman wore traditional Pakistani wedding attire with a twist. The bride's dress, normally red, was white to reflect Sophia's mother's Catholic heritage. Noman, wore a Sherwani, traditional Pakistani grooms attire, with a boutonniere which is not.



Their wedding weekend started on Thursday. Sophia had henna designs applied to her hands before the Mehndi. The Mehndi is a prenuptial celebration with family and close friends in which the bride wears simpler cloths and less make-up. Rather than having one for the men and one for the women, Sophia and Noman incorporated theirs together.

The Muslim ceremony had a very western look. "It was mostly an American wedding," Sophia recalled. From Sophia's father walking her down the aisle, to the presents of bridesmaids and groomsmen at the altar it looked like most other weddings in Central Florida.



After 440 guests witnessed their very western first dance, Sophia's father got a long time wish granted by dancing with his daughter on her wedding day.

"The music was important to me," Sophia said. "It was important that we had a good mix of music for our guests," she added. American, Spanish as well as Pakistani favorites were all played throughout the evening.



Another very western tradition incorporated into their wedding was the tossing of the bouquet. Not to be left out, Noman tossed his hat to the gentleman in lieu of the garter toss.

The following day the couple continued their wedding celebration. The groom's family hosted a second reception called a Valima, at the Renaissance Resort. 440 guests once again, helped them celebrated the night away.

I psyched myself out that something would go wrong, but nothing ever did, Sophia said. Their perfectly extended wedding weekend, was truly the best of both worlds.

JH



SOPHIA & NOMAN'S VENDOR LIST:
CEREMONY/RECEPTION: Hyatt Grand Cypress
OFFICIATE: Imam Tariq Rasheed
WEDDING COORDINATOR: Weddings Unique
PHOTOGRAPHER: Unrue Photography
FLORAL & DÉCOR: Floral Artistry
LINEN: Connie Duglin
VIDEOGRAPHY: Stoner Video
TUXEDOS: After Hours
HAIR: Version Originale
MAKE-UP: About Face Design Team