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A Little Bit Country

Taylor and Brandon say "I do" in their romantic, rustic-chic wedding.



The adoring newlyweds take in the natural scenery at the Earnhardt Estate.



LEFT: Bride and groom surrounded by their bridal party—cowboy hats required!
BELOW: The groom's cream-colored peony boutonniere.



TAYLOR EARNHARDT & BRANDON PUTNAM
WEDDING LOCATION: THE EARNHARDT ESTATE
BRIDAL PARTY: 5 BRIDESMAIDS, 5 GROOMSMEN
NUMBER OF GUESTS: 230
BIGGEST SPLURGE: CUSTOM-BUILT RECEPTION PAVILION
BIGGEST SAVINGS: HEIRLOOM ELEMENTS

Taylor and Brandon were engaged a few years after they met while Taylor was competing in her 207th rodeo competition—and so, the wedding planning ensued. They enlisted the help of celebrity planner David Tutera, who made their vision a reality. The couple strove for a celebration that showcased country elegance—reflecting their personalities and roots. To that end, they worked with a predominantly earth-toned color palette: brown with hints of peach, green and blue, to complement the bucolic theme. The couple chose the Earnhardt Estate for their venue due to its inherently rustic quality and also as a nod to the bride's late father, seven-time NASCAR Champion, Dale Earnhardt, who owned the estate. The reception decor featured wooden tables with towering floral arrangements, candles galore and hand-crocheted lace doilies. Outside, guests found a lounge area with fire pits, a photo booth and two tents. One served as the women's lounge, offering custom perfumes, the other, the men's lounge, was stocked with cigars and vintage whiskey. Various heirlooms were woven throughout the decor, transportation and venue to pay homage to Taylor's late father. The couple reflects, "We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day." —Brittany Robins

A wagon at the reception entrance holds flowers and deer antlers—a tribute to the bride's late father, who collected the antlers.



Personal Touches

- ▶ A locket displaying a sentimental photo of Taylor and her late father hung from her bouquet.
- ▶ The oversized window that stood behind the altar during the ceremony was taken from Taylor's childhood bedroom.
- ▶ A wagon was decorated with flowers and a mass of deer antlers that had been collected by the bride's late father.
- ▶ Taylor was escorted to the ceremony by horse and carriage—the carriage was a gift given to her by her dad when she was a little girl.



Bride and groom share a dramatic kiss at the reception.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The ceremony programs feature the couple's wedding monogram logo, bound by branches; the escort cards are displayed on rustic birch logs; each place setting includes leather chargers, custom china and a leather-bound menu card embellished with a feather; the couple arrives at the reception in a vintage 1947 Chevy pickup truck, a favorite car that belonged to Taylor's late father; the escort card table is punctuated with a lush floral arrangement (designed by David Tutera) of hydrangea, peonies, lilacs and fern.



Menu

APPETIZERS

Jumbo Lump Crab with Georgia Peaches and Citrus-Basil Vinaigrette, Honeycomb over Ice, Celery Gelée

ENTRÉES

Braised Short Ribs with Early Harvest Succotash, Pan-Seared Sea Bass with a Citrus Beurre Blanc, Mascarpone Risotto and Purple Asparagus, Roasted Chicken with a Bourbon Glaze, Creamed Corn and Mascarpone White Bean Purée

DESSERT

Five-Tier German Chocolate Wedding Cake



The outdoor lounge area flanking the reception pavilion contains cozy fire pits overlooking the lake.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Guests are treated to a vintage whiskey bar and cigar lounge; the five-tier wedding cake by The Wow Factor features the couple's monogram and is embellished with a spun-sugar lace doily and white, pink and peach sugar flowers; custom leather coasters at the cigar lounge are also imprinted with the couple's monogram; the reception tables boast lavish floral arrangements of roses, hydrangea, peonies, lilacs and fern, encircled by candles.



Favorite Moments

- ▶ "Riding to the reception in my dad's favorite pick-up truck and seeing all the decor for the first time was truly an exciting moment for me," the bride gushes.
- ▶ The bride confesses, "After the ceremony, I was so hungry—so a friend snuck me a mini cast-iron skillet of shrimp and grits before the reception—that moment definitely made me happy."
- ▶ "In between bouts of dancing and mingling, we would get pulled into impromptu and amusing photo ops at the photo booth," the couple recalls.