

All Aboard For A Truly Epic Elopement On The Water

We can't begin to tell you how adoring we are of this gorgeous elopement which saw Nik and Angela exchange wedding vows aboard their yacht.

Floating on a majestic freshwater lake near New York this beautiful couple became Mr and Mrs Soderstrom on the most perfect day ever.

The groom and 10 guests boarded the charming yacht moored on Lake Champion to wait for the bride. Nik waited at the alter looking out at the water then Angela greeted him for a first look with a gentle tap on the shoulder. It's easy to see the love in their eyes and the intimate connection they share.

Nik looked super smart in a suit and paper buttonhole handmade by his artistically talented wife-to-be.

As for Angela, what a total stunner. She looked elegant and graceful in a strapless wedding gown with a jewel-encrusted bodice and crystal adorned rose gold belt. Her hair looked dreamy in a free-spirited style complimented by a stylish diamond engagement ring and matching jewelry that was sparkling in the sunlight. She was total perfection right down to her jewel-adorned bridal sandals.

Then there was a first look for Angela and her dad. First looks evoke such beautiful waves of emotion. I totally recommend them. And after the first look there is a new vibe as everyone relaxes, but the excitement remains in the air. It is probably one of my most favored wedding trends of the decade as it gives so many opportunities to capture a more creative collection of images that are full of love and gratitude.

It's safe to say the bride is a DIY genius. She created all the wedding decorations including her sweet handmade paper bouquet. You know me. I can't get enough of wedding decorations. I was in heaven photographing all the trendy ocean-themed wooden signs, pretty wedding stationary and handcrafted florals (in love with the floral initials A & N). Rose gold vases and sequined table runners added a touch of glam and many other gorgeous details had been thoughtfully created.

It's not easy to decorate a boat for a wedding. Angela did it so beautifully, especially the ceremony area with the mast lines completely covered with pink and white flowers and greenery. It added the perfect touch of bridal prettiness and looked stunning against the blue skies. She certainly has an eye for detail and talent for decorating and I love it when couples add their own personal stamp on the bridal decor.

After family photos and some sneaky shots in the gallery, it was time to set sail to moor the boat at a place where the backdrop made my heart sing. The cliffs provided some shelter but also were so absolutely stunning and you could see adventurous rock climbers in action in the

background. The skies were still blue with a hint of moody gray and white clouds gathering. It was an amazing sight in the afternoon sun.

Angela's dad walked her down the aisle, down the deck I should say. Then he proceeded to conduct the most heart-felt ceremony. A blessing came from the skies with the softest rain falling. Only during the ceremony it happened and it really did feel like a special moment.

I have to mention the styling again. The attention to detail was charming. See how Angela's dad's tie and the folder he held during the ceremony match in that lovely shade of green that goes with the greenery and flowers? And I've never seen this crafty idea before but Angela's dad had a photo of him and her as a baby sewed into the lining of his tie. How about that for an amazing keepsake? And Nik's accessories had a splash of pink to match the bouquet. I love that!

The couple exchanged moving vows and there were tears, laughter and joy flowing and champagne flowing too. How much do I love these two? They incorporated a champagne toast into the ceremony right before the first kiss. Champagne kisses are bliss!

Some of my favorite images from the day are of Angela and Nick on the bow of the boat together just after becoming newlyweds. With the wind blowing Angela's veil and hair they were relaxed and playful and might have had a Titanic moment.

Inside some formalities and paperwork were sealed with a group hug. More chilled champagne was sipped from these darling "I Do" champagne glasses. If you look closely at the photos you will see Nik's glass has smaller text that also says, "whatever the bride says." Cute.

We had three glorious hours on the lake that flows into the glorious Hudson River. After getting back to land, but not really back to earth yet, we took some time for a romantic couple shoot on the beach and marina area while the happy guests kicked off cocktail hour. Angela and Nik are originally from the area so it holds a special place in their hearts.

That evening everyone celebrated their love with dinner, cake cutting and party time!

Angela and Nik were my absolute dream clients. It was honestly so magical and I was so happy to be their photographer. They are such sweethearts with generous and loving spirits. I truly wish them all the best.

Here in the Hudson Valley area we are really blessed with many glorious wedding venues. Just out of New York and there's so many natural backdrops and scenic spots for bridal photography, engagement shoots and real weddings. Wineries, the riverside, parks, villas, farms, manors, country clubs and even a castle are some of the lit places around here to tie the knot.

If you are thinking of getting married in this area feel free to drop me a line. I know all the best places and am happy to share my knowledge.

