



Both grooms wore tuxes from Ralph Lauren Purple Label. "I kind of felt like James Bond," Jermaine (left) recalls with a laugh.

The pair arrived in a 1964 Rolls-Royce with a eucalyptus garland. Amaryllis Floral & Event Design decked out the doorway with white Tibet roses, smilax vines, bush ivy, and eucalyptus.



JERMAINE IVY & SCOTT BAUMGARTNER

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After two months of chatting through an online dating service, Scott Baumgartner was ready to meet Jermaine Ivy in person. The only problem? He wasn't sure Jermaine wanted to meet him. "We had set up a date, but when I texted to ask if we were still on, he said, 'Sorry, I'm not feeling well,'" Scott recalls. (In Jermaine's defense, he'd been out late the night before.) They set another date, but when that came around, Jermaine canceled again. "I had to ask, 'Okay, do you want to get together or not?'" Scott says.

Luckily, Jermaine was truly interested—and once the pair finally met up for drinks at Marvin, a bar named after Marvin Gaye in the heart of D.C., they discovered an instant connection. "It felt natural, because we'd been communicating for so long already," Jermaine says. They chatted for hours—and have been together ever since.

Early on, they started talking about a wedding and the names of future children. Around their two-year anniversary, Scott proposed while they were at a resort in Virginia. They decided on a two-year engagement, since Jermaine had started a new job and Scott was

planning to attend medical school. But Jermaine, a meeting planner, couldn't wait to dive in. "We weren't home more than five minutes before he pulled up a two-year timeline," says Scott, laughing.

They wanted a wedding that was "classic and elegant without pretense," so they chose the Meridian House—a historic D.C. home known for its impressive European-style architecture. Their intimate garden ceremony focused on family: Scott entered with his sisters, and Jermaine with his mom, and each chose a sibling to be his "best person." After the couple exchanged emotional vows, the 110 guests enjoyed cocktails in the property's grove of linden trees, then moved indoors for dinner.

The celebration continued the next day with a brunch at another D.C. landmark, the Hay-Adams hotel. The grooms were thrilled that the festivities gave their guests—who had come from far and wide—a chance to bond. "Some of my family members are now friends with people Jermaine knew growing up," Scott says. Jermaine adds: "It was definitely a lovefest." —Chrisanne Grisé

SOURCES Location Meridian House Event planning and design A. Dominick Events Catering Design Cuisine Floral design, furniture rental, and chandeliers Amaryllis Floral & Event Design Photography Abby Jiu Photography Officiant Rev. Michael Koppel Stationery Cheree Berry Paper Calligraphy Laura Hooper Calligraphy Cake and cookie favors Buttercream Bakeshop Music Nation Grooms' tuxedos Ralph Lauren Purple Label Lighting Frost Lighting Company of DC Transportation Regal Limousine Cocktail napkins ForYourParty.com See The Guide for more vendor details



The couple's dogs, Abby and Chloe, made a surprise appearance at the ceremony, acting as the "flower girls."

The two-flavored cake (red velvet and almond) featured a monogram inspired by details in the wrought-iron railing of the venue's staircase.



A bourbon bar added another touch of old-school style to the event.



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It was important that our guests be relaxed and comfortable. We wanted them to feel as though they were being welcomed into our home for a family dinner.
—JERMAINE



The couple's chic invitation suite was inspired by the gilded mirrors, gold trim, and architecture of Meridian House.



Guests dined in both the library (at right) and the drawing room, which are connected by a door.



Silhouettes of the couple's beloved dogs were subtly incorporated into the invitation suite and programs.