

to cherish

NATALIA CARTA AND
JASON LATIMER CALIFORNIA

Latin passion

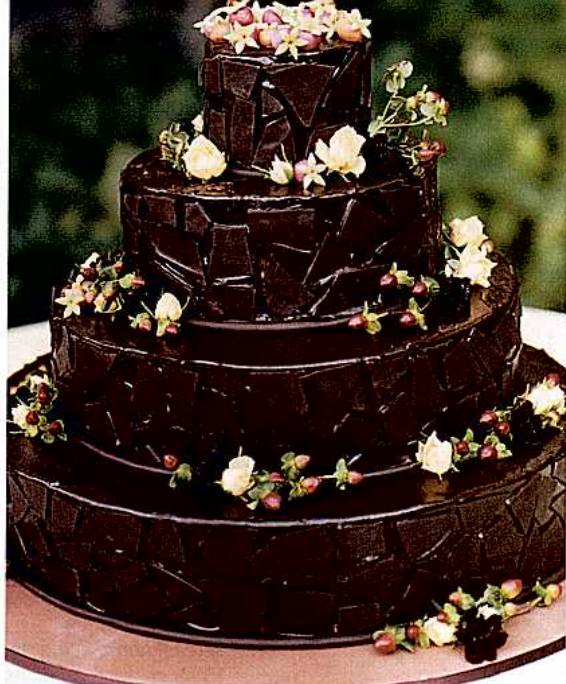
Soft California sunshine the colour of Chardonnay lit up Natalia and Jason's wedding at the Annadel Winery and Gardens. The couple, she Venezuelan, he American, said their vows in front of 160 guests on a warm August afternoon, before the South American-themed celebrations began in earnest. Mojitos and crab cakes with chilli sauce set a spicy tone for the reception which was held on a grassy terrace overlooking gardens planted with antique roses.

Natalia and Jason, both software experts, had dated years before, but their romance really took off when Jason called

Natalia for travel advice on a holiday to Caracas. After several nervous attempts, he proposed on a weekend at the beach.

For the wedding feast, long tables were laid with crisp white linen, with wooden boxes packed with hot-red gerberas and votive candles as centrepieces. The food was inspired by Natalia's culinary roots, with dishes of empanadas and paella.

The Venezuelan relatives and friends hosted a dinner-dance rehearsal for the other guests in preparation for the reception. So, as the band's Latin rhythms pulsed, everyone got on the dance floor and mamboed the night away. **B**



*This page, clockwise from top left Latin band Azabache got the guests dancing. The cake, covered in marzipan and dark-chocolate ganache. Natalia and her bridesmaids, who wore cocoa-coloured silk. Natalia's bouquet of velvety cosmos, gerberas, calla lilies and orchids, by the Sonoma Flower Company. Jason and Natalia, who bought her silk top and skirt from Gloria Saccucci Alta Moda Mariage in Florence, step out as man and wife. Natalia was wishing on a star when Jason proposed, hence the star-shaped cushion on which the rings were carried. Jason's mother made the painted steel cards for the tables, each named after a dance. Little petals. *Opposite So in love**

