



Showered with Kindness

A group of fashionable friends plan a low-key affair for affianced gifting goddess Simone LeBlanc **BY CHRISTINE LENNON**



For Simone LeBlanc's friends, throwing the ultimate wedding shower felt like the least they could do. LeBlanc is a gifting expert who carefully selects and wraps the most exquisite gifts for everyone on her clients' lists (don't log on to SimoneLeBlanc.com unless you have an hour to spend ogling). Before her Hotel Bel-Air summer wedding to producer Ross Jacobson, her creative hosts—gallery owner Heather Taylor, shoe designer Beatrice Valenzuela, photographer and style blogger Jeana Sohn and vintage textile purveyor/tastemaker Joanna Williams—pooled their collective talents.

"Beatrice's house in Echo Park was the perfect location," says Taylor, who provided the linens from her home line. "It's got this great indoor-outdoor feel. And it was such a beautiful day. The original thought was that it would be a tea party, but it turned into an iced tea-with-rosewater party."

For decoration, exotic paper lanterns and straw hat party favors were purchased in L.A.'s Chinatown when the four hostesses met for a shower planning coffee date. "Our friends at Hollyflora made great loose arrangements, and each guest pulled stems from them to make her own floral crown when she arrived," adds Taylor.

Paper Palate's gluten-free buffet included a lavender and ricotta tomato tart, fava bean and asparagus pasta salad, and chocolate-dipped strawberries. Valenzuela baked an orange blossom angel food cake and decorated it with fresh-cut blooms.

Unique, laid-back and colorful, the event was exactly what LeBlanc wanted. "I knew it would be beautiful, thanks to all of the creative women in my life," says LeBlanc. "But when I walked in, it was just blissful. No uptight perfectionism. All of us could relax and enjoy that magical day." •

FROM TOP Friends Beatrice Valenzuela, Heather Taylor, Simone LeBlanc, Jeana Sohn, Joanna Williams. Afternoon cocktails. Hollyflora stems for headpieces. Paper Palate's dipped strawberries. Rosewater iced tea. Authentic sips. Valenzuela's Echo Park home. Ranunculus topped the cake. Fans arranged in a basket. Gluten-free tart. Colorful lanterns from Chinatown.





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