



## RICK DAVIS & CHRISTOPHER VÁZQUEZ

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**N**ovember 18, 1994, is an important date for Christopher Vázquez and Rick Davis. It marks the night they met at a Capitol Hill watering hole. "Rick and I locked eyes across a crowded room," says Christopher, then a restaurant manager. "You think it could never happen, then it does." The next day, Christopher called to ask Rick out, and the rest is history.

Over the past two decades, the pair shared major life changes, with Christopher joining Rick's D.C.-area floral and event design business, Amaryllis, in 2005. They also planted roots (literally and figuratively) in Hollywood, Maryland, when they bought 27 acres of land in 2003 and built their home, No Fish Creek Farm. But one major step was still ahead. "Marriage was something we knew would happen down the road, but we wanted to get married in our home state," which wasn't an option, explains Christopher. Then, in January 2013, Maryland legalized same-sex marriage.

That November, on the anniversary of their meeting, Rick filled the house with yellow calla lilies—the bloom he had brought

Christopher on their first date. Every year that followed, Rick mistakenly gave orange calla lilies (a glaring error for a floral buff), until Christopher set the record straight in 2012. With Rick's proposal in a house full of yellow flowers and Christopher's "yes" on record, they set about planning their ideal wedding—a non-denominational vow exchange in one of Maryland's most historic churches, followed by a 100-person Sunday supper at the farm. Most of the produce, as well as the goat, duck, and venison served for the farm-to-table meal, was raised right on-site by the grooms, while Rick's brother and sister-in-law prepared the stuffed ham (a southern Maryland delicacy), and his sister and niece baked desserts from scratch. In a nod to Christopher's birthplace, his mom brought Puerto Rican pasteles to round out the hearty spread. The celebration was a dinner at home, but one that was bigger, better, and way more special than usual. "It made our relationship even stronger," says Christopher. And gave them a second date to celebrate with flowers, friends, and family for years to come. —Becky Mickel

**SOURCES** Locations The Brick Chapel at St. Mary's City (ceremony); No Fish Creek Farm (reception) Event coordination RJ Whyte Event Production Catering Canards Catering and Event Production Flowers, décor, and event design Amaryllis Floral + Event Design Photography Kate Headley Stationery Simple Song Design Calligraphy Arney Walker Calligraphy Music PopCulture Strings (ceremony) Rentals DC Rental; Party Rental Ltd. Menswear Ermenegildo Zegna; J.Crew Transportation Linder Global Events See The Guide for more vendor sources





**ONE THING I LEARNED**  
 "NO MATTER HOW GRAND THE WEDDINGS ARE THAT WE DESIGN AT AMARYLLIS, GOING HOME TO THE FARM IS 'US.' HAVING A SMALL CELEBRATION, WHERE WE COULD ENTERTAIN GUESTS IN AN INTIMATE SETTING, WAS THE BEST DECISION WE MADE." —Rick



*Revelers left with jars of hot-pepper-rosemary jelly, pickled beets, marinara sauce, and curried pickles, all sourced from the farm.*



*During cocktail hour on the deck, partygoers sipped bourbon-pear cider and snacked on fried oysters and home-made potato chips with caramelized onion dip while '80s music played.*