

## A BARN BASH



# Kristen Cunningham & James Burke

September 18, 2010

Photography by Trevor Brown, Jr.  
Planning by Jason Burns



**Who?** A pair of young Denver attorneys who met at Boston University just three weeks before graduating. Because they landed jobs in separate cities, the first two years of their relationship were long-distance.

**Where?** The Old Thompson Barn at River Valley Ranch, Carbondale.

**What?** A unique barn wedding for 100 lucky guests. Kristen and James always knew they wanted to marry at the base of Mount Sopris; they had shared many happy climbs up it, making the location an obvious choice. One small problem: the lack of a suitable venue. Events planner Jason Burns came to the rescue with his out-of-the-box thinking. An historic barn that normally functions as an office building was completely transformed into a breathtaking space with a vintage feel. Out went office furniture, computers, and unsightly wiring. Jason brought in antique café lamps, yellow and red linens, and flame-toned wildflowers.

The bride's exquisite lace dress (by bridal designer Marisa) fitted perfectly with the place's timeless aesthetic. Her overarching goal was to capture the essence of old-time Colorado.

The couple spent fifteen months planning their wedding, periodically taking romantic weekend trips from Denver to Aspen to work on details. The addition of skiing and hiking outings to the process made planning fun and relaxing instead of a stressful chore. In fact, it was so enjoyable that, contrary to many grooms' desires, James was happy to do much of the heavy lifting by arranging music and lighting and even addressing envelopes.

The big day arrived, bringing textbook-wedding weather: blinding sunshine without a cloud in sight. What's more, to Kristen's great joy, her grandfather from California managed to attend; he had been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer over three years prior and hadn't left California once during that time. But nothing would stand in the way of his sharing a dance—albeit a slow one—with his granddaughter on her wedding day.

