



The bride and groom flank chef Daniel Boulud, with his team of cooks. Right: The newlyweds after making it official.



The Details

# STEPHANIE MARCH and BOBBY FLAY

New York City



IT WAS STEPHANIE MARCH'S FIRST AND LAST BLIND DATE EVER. AFTER WEEKS of delays, March, then starring on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, finally agreed to meet Food Network chef and Mesa Grill owner Bobby Flay for dinner at Nobu in N.Y.C. in early 2001. Within seconds of meeting Flay, her misgivings about blind dates were dispelled. "I know it's a cliché, but I remember thinking, Oh my gosh, this is the rest of my life," says March. She was right: Just before Christmas 2003, Flay took March ice-skating at Rockefeller Center, where he surprised her with another kind of ice—a princess-cut diamond ring—and a proposal.

**The "I Do's"** On February 20, four years to the day after meeting, the couple wed at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The bride wore a satin-crêpe bias-cut Vera Wang gown and satin

Manolo Blahnik shoes dyed blue. March, 31, and Flay, 41, exchanged vows from the Book of Common Prayer, as well as personalized ones. Hers included, "I give you my complete trust ... and our table will never be empty ... and I will never go camping." Among Flay's vows: "I promise to treat you with respect ... to listen to you even if there's a football game on, and to keep your stomach full with your favorite things, especially biscuits and gravy."

**The Reception** The 152 guests, including Mariska Hargitay and Flay's daughter from a previous marriage, Sophie, gathered for dinner at the acclaimed restaurant Daniel, where florist L'Olivier had created lush arrangements of lisianthus, tulips and mandarin oranges. After cutting the cake the couple had their first dance, to "All for You" by Janet Jackson. "What I loved most was that it didn't feel like a typical wedding," says event planner Kate Nixon. "It was a dinner party, and Stephanie happened to be in a white dress." After midnight, snow began to fall. "It was the perfect conclusion," March says. "There were big, fat snowflakes, and we got in the car and drove to the hotel. It was a winter fairyland." —Rory Evans

## DECADENT DINNER

As he's occasionally done for special evenings, chef Boulud prepared two menus: for the gentlemen, smoked lobster, pancetta-wrapped tuna and squab stuffed with foie gras; for the ladies, ginger-crusted langoustines, Dover sole and rib-eye steak. The ornate six-tier Margaret Braun wedding cake, above, was the perfect finale. The gilded confection consisted of blackout cake layered with toffee-crunch ganache. "If you can't blow your diet for one free meal, then don't come to my wedding," jokes March.

