

EXCLUSIVE: 'Bachelor Pad 2' Winner and Newlywed Holly Durst Tells Us About Her "Perfect" Wedding and Honeymoon



By Whitney Baker

Fans know Holly Durst as the bubbly winner of 'Bachelor Pad 2,' but now, she's content just being a newlywed. Durst and Blake Julian, who met while competing on the reality show, tied the knot in South Carolina on June 2, 2012. The big day was perfect and more than she ever imagined. "I'm so happy! I love married life. It's just the best," she gushes.

Durst says her best piece of advice for brides-to-be is to hire a wedding planner. She adds, "I planned my whole wedding

on Pinterest. I wanted to make sure that I remembered all of the little things.”

For Durst, it was those small details that made the day so special. Even her wedding dress had a personal touch. She always thought she’d wear a Cinderella gown, but she tried “so many of them on and always felt overwhelmed.” Her final pick, however, was the perfect fit. “It elongated my already long body. I made it my own by removing the rhinestones and adding a sash.”

Related: [Exclusive: Bachelor Pad 2 Winner Holly Durst Plans Honeymoon in St. Lucia with Fiancé Blake Julian](#)

Surprisingly, Durst’s favorite moment of her wedding happened *before* the ceremony. “Blake and I both were in the same room, but we couldn’t see each other – there was a wall in between us. We got to reach around and pray together right before the wedding,” she reveals.

Even though Durst was the star of the show, she wanted to make sure that her guests felt loved too – especially the single ladies. She added a personal touch to the bouquet toss, making the lucky girl who caught it feel even luckier. “I wrote a little note and stuck it in the flowers,” she shares. “I told her to be patient, and when she finds love, it’s going to be perfect. I hope that, someday, she experiences the same love that I have with Blake.”

As for their honeymoon in St. Lucia, Durst says, “It was so good! I didn’t want to come back.”

The couple took a very practical approach to planning their trip. First, they wanted to stay in the same time zone. She tells us, “We thought about Fiji or Bora Bora, but we would’ve wasted so much time traveling. The Caribbean was a perfect choice.”

Plus, Durst let Julian make most of the decisions. “He

actually did all of the searching, and I just okayed things," she says. "I planned a wedding, so I let him plan the honeymoon!"

During their time in St. Lucia, the couple enjoyed the amenities at an all-inclusive resort. They signed up for "everything" – pool and beach volleyball, paddleboard racing, ping-pong. They even rallied the other honeymooners into playing too. Durst explains, "One day, we left the resort and did an excursion around the island. We came back, and everyone was like, 'No one did anything today because you guys weren't around!' We were the ones grabbing other people to join."

Now that they've returned from paradise, it's back to reality. As they settle into life as man and wife, they are keeping busy. According to an interview with Wetpaint, Durst, who has no desire to film her love life for reality television anymore, revealed that she would love to be a judge on 'Bachelor Pad 3.' However, when we asked her about any upcoming plans to do so, she simply replied, "No." Perhaps she changed her mind when ABC announced that ex-fiancé Michael Stagliano would be one of the cast members.

As for tuning in to watch the show? Durst hesitantly replied, "We'll see. I have so much to do!"

You can keep up with Durst on Twitter and her personal website, HollyDurst.com. Be sure to check out her new children's book ['Chocolate Socks'](#) as well. Congratulations to the happy couple!

Cupid wants to know: Will you be watching 'Bachelor Pad 3' this summer?

Exclusive: Bachelor Pad 2 Winner Holly Durst Plans Honeymoon in St. Lucia with Fiancé Blake Julian



By [Lori Bizzoco](#)

This summer, former *Bachelor Pad* reality stars Holly Durst and Blake Julian will have an intimate wedding in South Carolina and set off to the beautiful Caribbean island of St. Lucia for a romantic, one-week honeymoon.

“Blake is everything I’ve been looking for,” Holly gushed. “I liked him from the moment that I met him and I couldn’t deny that. We have the best chemistry together.”

Related: [Bachelor Pad 2 Recap: Blake Julian Gives Holly Durst a Rose](#)

As many fans know, Holly and Blake's path to wedded bliss was all but easy for fans who watched it unfold on national television. Holly and her ex-fiance, Season 5 *Bachelorette* contestant, Michael Stagliano both appeared on the spinoff series, *Bachelor Pad 2* last summer. Although the two weren't together romantically, they partnered as a team, and split the grand prize of \$250,000 dollars. But, for Holly money wasn't all that she won. It was on that show that she met her future husband, Greenville, South Carolina Dentist, Blake Julian.

When asked if she watches the current episode of *The Bachelor*, Holly says she "keeps up" with her reality TV Alma Mater, but says that Blake likes it more than she does. "He likes Ben a lot, they were buddies on their season together."

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Ben and most of their fellow contestants from *Bachelor Pad 2* will be invited to their June 2 wedding in South Carolina.

"Invitations are almost ready to go out," she laughs. "We had a little envelope emergency and the stamps wouldn't stick on the finish of the envelopes so we spread them all over the apartment to get the stamps to stick and dry." Holly says that's the only snafu they've faced, everything else has been easy sailing.

The wedding will take place June 2nd (one day before Blake's 29th birthday) and they are estimating about 150 guests to attend the southern affair that will be decorated in a neutral tone of white. "I wanted a color that wouldn't date the photos. But, there will be a hint of pink throughout, because I love pink so much." Holly chose Alfred Angelo for her dress and pink for her six bridesmaids, all of whom are close friends and family.

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I am the opposite of Bridezilla, she said. "I'm just going to

show up the day of the wedding and say alright that's good, thanks."

In addition to planning the wedding, this month Holly is launching her first children's book. "I have been writing for about six years and I have several children's books and a novel in the works." Holly says that she always wanted to write a book that inspired kids that they could be and do anything that they wanted to in life. "I wanted to encourage other kids growing up not to be afraid of anything and to follow their dreams." The result of this passion is "Chocolate Socks," a book about taking what you [love](#) and doing whatever you want with it. Holly has always had a love for children, and even went to school to be a teacher before deciding that writing children's books was her calling.

When asked about having kids of her own, she said we aren't planning for it but if it happens it happens. "Blake wants two kids, and I want two or three, preferably twins!" Dating Michael who was a twin wasn't what convinced her, she has eight sets of twins in her own family lineage.

Holly certainly keeps herself busy, dental assistant, children's author and soon-to-be wife. But, regardless of her hectic life, she is still booming with happiness about finally becoming Blake's wife.

The wedding festivities are set to begin this month with Blake's ski-themed bachelor party taking place this month in Colorado and Holly's bachelorette party in LA in May.

Visit [Amazon](#) to get your own copy of Holly Durst's new inspiring children's book, *Chocolate Socks*.

'Bachelor Pad 2' Winner: Michael Stagliano says "I've Never Been Happier"



By [Lori Bizzoco](#) and Melissa Caballero

It was exactly one month ago today that Michael Stagliano and his ex-fiance, Holly Durst had their victory win on the season finale of ABC's 'Bachelor Pad 2.' Despite the uncomfortable (and surprising) public announcement on the show that Holly was engaged to contestant Blake Julian, Michael took the high road and chose to share the winnings with her. But now, that's all behind him and it's his turn to smile. "Right now my job, my music and my life outside the *Bachelor Pad* are good. I've never been happier," he says.

Related Link: [Bachelor Pad's Michael Stagliano Reacts to Ex's Engagement](#)

Grabbing life by the reigns, this *Bachelor Pad* 2 winner is keeping his chin up and learning from his past experiences.

When it comes to finding love, Michael is definitely an optimist. "I am so ridiculously in love with love. I'm such a lover. Don't get me wrong, I was down and out for a bit. But, I'm back!" he says.

Yes, single ladies you heard that correctly: Michael Stagliano is on the prowl. "I like the hunt. I love the idea of finding love naturally; in the grocery store or just walking down the street." And, it's safe to say that if you do see this talented musician strolling around town or parading in the produce aisle, his mind is grooving to the beat of a song, preferably one of his own.

This former break-dance instructor is taking his energy and passion and putting it straight into singing and song writing. "I can talk about my music for days and days. I think there's nothing in the world like music," he says.

Related Link: [What Your Favorite Summer Song Says About Your Relationship Style](#)

Michael has always been in love with music and emphasizes the importance of his lyrics. When asked where he finds his inspiration, he says, "I think what I appreciate the most about my songwriting is that it comes from everywhere. I literally try to use everything. It sounds broad, but I mean it specifically. It's events, it's things in life, it's things I see and things I hear. I feel that songs write me rather than me writing songs."

For example, he tells us the story of how he recently bumped into his ex-girlfriend from college and there was a rush of nostalgia so big that he wrote his newest single, 'College Love,' on the car ride home. Michael's other two songs,

'Everything You Do' and 'Take Me To Her' were inspired by his relationship with Holly and a quote that his grandmother once said to him: "I lived my life. Now go live yours." As if there wasn't reason enough to fall in love with this former *Bachelorette* contestant, add "soulfully romantic musician" to the list.

Speaking of falling in love, when we asked Michael to name his celebrity crush, he didn't hesitate. **"Rachel McAdams. So hot. Call me!"** he chuckled.

If you're not Rachel McAdams, there's still hope. We asked Michael what he looks for in a woman, and he kindly shared his top three (more like 15) list of qualities and features:

1. Physical characteristics: He says this one is the most fun to talk about, but not the most important. "I'm a sucker for blondes. Always have been, always will be. Not *Playboy* bunny blonde; naturally blonde. I like shorter girls, 5'2 to 5'7. And, blue or green eyes, that would be great," he adds.

2. Showing love: "I really have that down. I know how to treat a woman, but still be the man. I know how to make them feel special and let them know that I'm not looking at anybody else. I just want someone who reciprocates that. I haven't had that yet."

3. Fruits of the Spirit: Michael says there's nine qualities he looks for that come from the biblical term called, 'Fruits of the Spirit.' "I'm totally going to misquote this, but basically I mean patience, kind, caring, forgiving, someone who is slow to anger and quick to forgive," he says. For those of you who are unfamiliar we thought we'd help out. The nine fruits are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Open and honest, you have to admire this reality star's take on life and love. After such a painful public experience, it's nice to see a renewed man coming out on top. We have a

feeling that this hopeless romantic will meet someone very special and that his music will be around for a long time.

To purchase Michael's singles, head to iTunes. Or, for more information on his show dates and appearances you can follow him on Facebook or Twitter.

He Said/She Said: Natalie Getz and David Good Discuss Bachelor Pad 2's Season Finale



This dramatic season of Bachelor Pad 2 has finally come to an end. In this

week's episode, the contenders performed with Cirque de Soleil's Ka, Blake proposed to Holly, the winners were declared and the next Bachelor was announced. We had a chance to chat with our Bachelor Pad 2 experts, David Good and Natalie Getz, to see what their thoughts were about the season finale.

Kasey and Vienna did quite well in the final challenge, but ultimately didn't get a chance to compete for the final prize. What are your closing thoughts on how they chose to play the game? Do you think they will remain together long-term?

He said: I think they played the game great! People can dislike them as a couple but they still controlled the whole show till the end. As far as a couple, I wish them the best but I don't see it working out from what we got to see of them on TV.

She said: They did a great job and really played off of each other's chemistry very well. I was super impressed! It was very close, so I think the judges could have gone either way. I was with them in San Diego for Jesse Kovac's wine bar/clothing boutique opening over the weekend, and they still seem very much in love. They certainly have their fair share of fights just like a lot of other couples, but they love each other. Now that they live together, I really can't see these two separating.

If you had been Michael and Holly, would you have made the same choice they did when they decided to let Graham and Michelle head to the finals with them?

He said: Yes, I would have. It's about friendship and integrity that goes beyond the show.

She said: No, I would have actually chosen Kasey and Vienna. Graham and Michelle had less drama with the cast, so they would have been a tougher competition. Strategically, they

would have received more votes. Turns out, they got all the votes anyway. Then again, had I been a part of season two and saw Michael hurting over the recent news of Holly's engagement to Blake, I would have voted Michael to win as well. At least he didn't walk away empty handed.

Michael didn't know about Holly and Blake's engagement before the finale. How do you think he handled the news on-camera? And were you surprised when he ultimately decided to "share" the money with Holly?

He said: I think he handled it with class. That goes to show what a good person he is and I would expect nothing less from him. I knew he would share the money with her. That's the kind of person he is. He deserves better than her anyway.

She said: I think he was in a state of shock that it actually happened and Holly didn't call to warn him. I was surprised she allowed them to film it to be honest with you. She could have said no and spared Michael's feelings. I wasn't surprised at all by Michael sharing the money. I know him well and he has the biggest heart and is sincerely kind and generous in everything he does. He is humble and logical. He once loved Holly and out of maturity, he still wouldn't want to screw her over. He is almost too good of a person to his own fault.

Are you surprised Blake and Holly are engaged and moving in together so quickly? And what did you think about their on-camera engagement; do you think we will see a Bachelor Pad wedding in the near future? Any other couples from this season that you think may have a wedding in their future?

He said: I am surprised because I know Holly and expected more out of her. She is in love with the thought of falling in love and that is her weakness. I promise you she is very unsure about all this and it's moving way too fast. I don't see a wedding in their future but even after everything they did, I still think they deserve to be happy if that's what they want.

She said: I don't think we will see any other couple engaged anytime soon unless producers push for it. I was so shocked about the engagement. I didn't really know what to think when Holly showed me her ring at the wrap party. Of course I was happy for her; she is my friend. That being said, I voiced my concern to her that I was worried about her moving across the country for a 2 month long distant relationship. But like they say...when you know, you know. I'm happy she is happy.

Michael and Holly are the winners of Bachelor Pad 2 – do you agree Michael was the strongest competitor this season? And what exactly do you think Holly brought to the partnership?

He said: Holly was a good support system for Mike believe it or not. He got sympathy points from everyone because of her. I think he played as good or the best of anyone there.

She said: Michael hands down won that game and deserved it. He was by far the strongest competitor with his genuine personality and athletic/coordination skills.

If you'll miss all the rose action, be sure to catch the **premiere of The Bachelor in January**, Ben Flajnik has been officially announced as the next Bachelor. Until next time!

Bachelor Pad's Michael Stagliano Reacts to Ex-Fiance Holly's Engagement to Blake





Michael

Stagliano, 27, may have won *The Bachelor Pad*, but he ultimately lost ex-fiance Holly Durst, 28, to fellow contestant Blake Julian. Durst's engagement to Julian was revealed to Stagliano on the show's finale. Putting that shocking news aside, our jars also dropped when we read the jilted bachelor's statement to [People](#), which read, "We were engaged and therefore I will always care about and love her so it makes me happy when she is happy." Way to take it like a man, Michael.

How do you deal when your ex decides to marry someone else?

Cupid's Advice:

Seeing your ex with another girl is a hard pill to swallow. Hearing your ex is engaged to someone else can be pure torture. Thankfully, we've got a few tips so that you can move on with your life without taking someone else's happiness away:

- 1. Happiness:** Were you happy with your ex? If so, try being happy for him or her to return the favor.
- 2. Think about yourself:** Being happy for someone else first means being satisfied with your own accomplishments.

3. No need to go congratulating your ex: As long as you know that you've moved on, that may be all that matters. At the bare minimum, don't ruin your ex's special time by being negative toward him. As the old adage goes, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

How did you react when your ex got engaged? Share your experience below.

'Bachelor Pad 2' Recap Episode 4: Blake Julian Gives Holly Durst a Rose



With Jake Pavelka eliminated, a new love triangle – involving Blake, Holly and

Michael – has emerged on this week's episode of *Bachelor Pad* 2. This week's challenge might have ended some relationships and put a spark on others.

Kissing Contest:

Chris Harrison claims this contest was the most popular competition last season, but it didn't seem like the contestants wanted to take part in it in this year. To set a good example for her 6-year-old daughter, Michelle Money backed out of the challenge. The ladies are first, and once they're blindfolded, they are kissed by every guy. When the winners were announced, Chris states that they won with an overwhelming majority of the votes.

Challenge Winners: Blake Julian and Ella Nolan

Immunity and Dates:

Ella chooses Kirk for her date, which involves driving a red Ferrari to the Casa Bachelor Annex, where they have dinner. Kirk tells Ella about his life-threatening battle with mold, and Ella talks about witnessing her mother's murder. She gives him a rose, and then they ride on a hot air balloon.

Blake invites Holly on a date, which naturally causes Melissa to throw a tantrum. They head to a ski slope on a private jet, and later spend time in front of a fire, where Blake asks Holly about her feelings toward Michael Stagliano. Holly decides to spend the night with Blake at the log cabin, while viewers get to see Michael alone in the pad, pining for his ex-fiancée.

Back at 'The Pad':

Michael and Holly:

Holly confesses to Michael that she kissed Blake and he breaks down, admitting that he's falling in love with her again.

She's torn between him and Blake.

Kasey and William:

As usual, the girls vote off a guy and vice versa. As the girls wonder whether to eliminate Kasey or William, Kasey comes up with a strategy that's he's sure will save him. He tells Ella and Kirk, "I'm not trying to sell a story, but just know that the money is necessary for my grandma to live."

Melissa:

Meanwhile, the guys join forces to vote Melissa off instead of Vienna because of all the drama she causes. "I can't imagine the amount of hell Melissa causes Blake, because I don't even speak to her and I feel like she drains the life out of me," says Graham. When William tells Melissa he voted for her, she freaks out and asks every guy to save her from elimination.

Elimination:

When all of the roses are handed out, William and Melissa are left empty-handed. While in the limo, they both shed tears – Melissa more so – and in voice-over, Michelle says "Melissa deserves all the happiness in the world" and William didn't deserve to be eliminated.

Predictions:

Our bet is still on Michelle Money, Michael Stagliano and Ella Nolan.

Stay tune for next week's recap. In the meantime, if you have questions about the *Bachelor Pad 2*, send them in. We will have former winners, Natalie Getz and David Good with us all season to answer them.