



Lake Tahoe

By: Kate Darnell

Photography by Ben Chrisman, www.benchrisman.com

Little else compares to the splendor and beauty found in Lake Tahoe. Any time of year, there is something spectacular to see there. In the summer it's the breathtaking landscape of giant pine trees and sapphire blue water in the myriad of lakes surrounding the area. In the winter, it's the gorgeous mountains covered in snow and the feel of brisk cool air as you soar down one of the many ski runs found at Heavenly. After one visit, many people are desperate to find a way to call it home, if only for just a few weeks or months out of the year.

Numerous couples travel here from all over the world to say their I do's each year. If you've ever been, you know why it's one of Mother Nature's crown jewels and to share such a place with friends and family would be an unforgettable experience.

One couple got that very chance. Hilary Ley and Edwin Jager traveled all the way from New York City with friends and family to tie the knot. Three generations of Hilary's family had been going there for years since her family has a cabin in the area. "When we were deciding on where to have our wedding, we wanted a place that had meaning to us. Lake Tahoe is special because my family spent a fair amount of time there together," says Hilary.

With the help of Merrily Rocco from Merrily Wed, Hilary and Edwin got the wedding of their dreams, complete with a location the couple didn't think would happen. "The ceremony was right on the edge of the lake, which was what I had always envisioned but never thought possible but Merrily *made* it possible," recalls Hilary.

The casual yet elegant reception was complete with handmade pinwheel place cards, flip-flops for all the guests, constant dancing and a second meal later in the evening consisting of grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup to keep energy up for, well... more dancing. "What we really wanted were people on the dance floor all night, and our DJ had people out there the entire time. That was one of the best parts of the whole day for me," says Hilary.

Looking back, Hilary's one piece of advice? Hire a wedding planner. "I never could have done it without her. She was unbelievable in every detail. She kept my whole family calm. My guidance to other brides is to select a wedding planner you like and enjoy spending time with and someone who has a very calming influence," says Hilary.

When asked what made them want a destination wedding, Hillary answered, "It was a chance for our family and friends to be together, not just for the 5-6 hours of a typical wedding. Several of our friends have done destination weddings in Hawaii, Mexico and so on, and we found it to be such an escape for everyone. We enjoyed those weddings so much that we thought our guests would enjoy it too."

Looking at the pictures, it's apparent they did.

Wedding Coordination: Merrily Wed,
www.merrilywed.com

Bride's Gown: Vera Wang

Grooms Attire: Ermenegildo Zegna

Florist: Diana's Floral Design



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