



GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA

STORY BY EMILY BETZ TYRA • WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN THRASHER
• FACILITIES PHOTOGRAPHY BY COREENE SMITH OF TAVLA STUDIO



GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA, ACME

This grand affair at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa began with the rehearsal dinner on the shores of East Grand Traverse Bay. Guests mingled on the deck and beach at the resort's Shores Beach Club, sipping margaritas and enjoying a specialty kebab menu.

The next morning groomsmen enjoyed golf at the resort's Jack Nicklaus-designed championship course, The Bear, while the bride and her attendants indulged at Spa Grand Traverse.

The couple spent an intimate moment in the serene Aerie lounge on the resort's 16th floor overlooking the bay, forests and orchards just before walking down the aisle.

And what an aisle it was—the 141-foot walkway leading from the doors of the hotels to the Pavilion created quite a grand entrance for the guests and, of course, the bride. After the ceremony, resort staff was at the ready, flawless in their white-gloved formal uniforms, to butler-pass jumbo shrimp, crab cakes with red pepper aioli and spanakopita. The Lower Michigan-based Spanish flamenco band Domingo and accompanying flamenco dancers entertained the guests before a luscious dinner and dancing in the resort's Governors' Hall. *W*

The entire wedding party, including six flower girls in teams of two walked down the pink plush carpet runner. In addition to the bouquets, Gerych's Distinctive Flowers based in Fenton supplied the aisle runner, the pergola draping and the arbor for the ceremony. Post-ceremony, the wedding party headed to the golf course for photo ops amid the ponds and trees.





The Governors' Hall was a grand backdrop for the bride's dream reception. "She wanted her guests to come in and say, Wow," says special events manager Rachelle Grockau. A whole team from the Fenton florist and rental company Gerych's came up with a semi the week of the wedding to stage the hall with special linens, white leather slipper chairs with custom pillows and rose balls hung from the ceiling. The resort's chef created a filet and lobster dinner complete with a pink grapefruit sorbet intermezzo.



Grand Traverse Resort and Spa's pastry chef Carolyn Riley created the resort's signature cake, La Dame Blanche—white cake with white chocolate cream over whole raspberries and raspberry puree, masked in Italian buttercream.

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY: JONATHAN THRASHER, JONATHAN THRASHER PHOTOGRAPHY, 616-304-6924, JTHRASHERPHOTO.COM
FACILITIES PHOTOGRAPHY: COREENE SMITH, TAVLA STUDIO, 231-715-6814, TAVLASTUDIO.COM
VENUE: GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA, 800-748-0303, GRANDTRAVERSERESORT.COM



Wedding Notebook

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT & SPA



Michigan's Premier Resort Experience

People often remark that the most appealing thing about the 900-acre Grand Traverse Resort & Spa is its sense of the genuine. So when couples choose to exchange their vows here, it feels especially romantic. Sincerity resonates among the trees, and love sparkles on the water. Simply put, it just feels right.

Our wedding staff is practiced at transforming the banquet room or ballroom of your choice into a truly unforgettable environment. You'll appreciate the smooth, detail-oriented leadership of our event professionals, as they execute your vision to perfection. Pre-event parties and rehearsal dinners are easily arranged.

From our convenient, centrally located Midwest location, Grand Traverse Resort & Spa is easily accessible to all of your guests – just ten minutes by Resort shuttle from Traverse City's Cherry Capital Airport (TVC).

event facilities

85,000 square feet of versatile indoor and outdoor function space gives you ultimate flexibility in selecting the venues for your special day. Our wedding staff is practiced at transforming the ballroom or outdoor venue of your choice into a truly unforgettable environment. You'll appreciate the smooth, detail-oriented leadership of our event professionals, as they execute your vision to perfection.

Bridal parties delight in our spa and salon, while groomsman typically prefer golf and our nearby Turtle Creek Casino. And with multiple wedding and reception venues, our planners create a brand of seamless perfection, regardless of scale. From intimate unions to grand affairs, your guests will feel every bit as loved, cherished and honored as the Bride and Groom.



catering



From 2 people to 2,000 people, our Catering department can make an unforgettable experience for your wedding. Our experienced staff can work with any budget and is committed to great guest service. Weddings are a time for celebration, and our catering staff can work with you on any special-

ty menu to suit your attendees and their finer tastes! And special meals are no problem for guests with special food needs, and dietary considerations.

accommodations



Whether you stay in the Hotel, the Tower or a Condominium, you'll revel in the natural splendor of the outdoors, and the luxurious amenities and outstanding accommodations within.

- The Hotel - Our six-story hotel offers 238 spacious guest rooms, many with gorgeous views and wireless high-speed Internet access. Conveniences include: color cable television, bathroom television speakers, hair dryers, and much more.
- The Tower - Our beautiful 17-story glass structure offers 186 large, luxuriously appointed rooms and suites each with wireless high-speed Internet access. You'll relax amid breathtaking views of sumptuous forests and the rolling hills and orchards of the surrounding golf courses. Deluxe amenities include: wet bars, Jacuzzi whirlpool tubs, bathroom phones, cable TV, refrigerators, and more.
- Condominiums - Sample fairway or beachfront living when you get away to one of our 190 condominiums. Studio, one, two and three bedroom accommodations are available in a variety of locations.

Guest Services



At Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, you'll find 600 rooms, suites, and condominiums plus a combination of services and amenities unmatched elsewhere. The expert hands of our spa professionals relax bride and attendants with luxurious treatments and massages, and can create perfectly styled hair and makeup for the bridal party. Groomsmen and guests will

enjoy a pre-wedding round of golf on one of our three premier courses, a tension-releasing game of tennis, or a relaxing whirlpool. Pristine beaches and exciting water sports are additional options that will make your wedding a memorable mini-getaway for each and every guest. Winter weddings have a special allure with our crackling fireplaces, snow-covered views, and elegant lodge atmosphere. Your guests can also enjoy cross-country skiing, sleigh rides, and other winter activities.

Recreation

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa is renowned for many things, but the golf experience is among the best anywhere. For each of our three signature courses, we sought out the finest designers the industry has to offer.

- The Bear by Jack Nicklaus.
- The Wolverine by Gary Player.
- Spruce Run by William Newcomb.

Our 100,000 square foot Health Club offers something for everyone. Features include:

- Fully equipped Cardio and Weight Room
- Fitness Classes
- 15,000 square foot Indoor Water Playground
- Recreation Pool
- 5 Indoor and 4 Outdoor Tennis Courts



GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT & SPA

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SPECIAL EVENTS MANAGER Rachelle Grockau	RECEPTION CAPACITY 2,500
SPA MANAGER Dawn Olsen	EVENT ROOMS 35
SPA/GOLF SALES MANAGERS Kris Ruckle, Camille Johnston	GUEST ROOMS 600



To Love & to Cherish

At Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, you'll find a combination of wedding services and amenities unmatched elsewhere. Bridal parties delight in our 22-room spa and salon, while groomsmen relax during a round of golf. With multiple outdoor venues, our wedding planners create a brand of seamless perfection, regardless of scale. From intimate unions to grand affairs, your guests will feel every bit as loved, cherished, and honored as you do.

GrandTraverseResort.com | 800.748.0303

Owned & Operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians

