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# Stafford's Perry Hotel

STORY BY RENEE RUDZEWICZ • PHOTOGRAPHY BY GAVIN SMITH

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## Ashley Boon Drew Piazza

December 19, 2009

STAFFORD'S PERRY HOTEL  
PETOSKEY



Ashley Boon grew up skiing at Boyne Highlands near her parents' winter getaway. She knows when the snow falls on the small towns that dot Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay the landscape becomes a winter wonderland. Little surprise she planned a winter wedding in beautiful Up North Michigan. The ceremony was at the historic Holy Childhood Church in Harbor Springs, with its spire that soars above narrow streets and old-fashioned storefronts dressed in garland and white lights for the holidays. The reception was at Stafford's Perry Hotel, a Victorian icon that has graced the Petoskey downtown since 1899.

The 175 guests traveled from as far away as California for this destination wedding that filled nearly every room in the hotel. The Perry's popular Noggin Room lounge buzzed days before the wedding with guests coming together to celebrate the event.

After a moving ceremony capped with an inspirational solo of "When Love is Found," by singer Amy Younkman, the guests headed for the Perry, while the bridal party piled into a luxe shuttle bus that toured them around the Petoskey Harbor area for photos that included a run through the snow—wedding slippers and all—to the Lake Michigan shore. "I couldn't feel my feet, but I didn't care, it was perfect," Ashley says.

The holiday décor and crackling fires in the fireplaces at the Perry added to the merriment of the occasion that included an elegant dinner featuring filet mignon and salmon. In honor of Drew's Italian heritage, dessert included cannolis made at a bakery in nearby Boyne City. Between dancing to the all-80's band The Square Pegs, guests mingled on the Perry's veranda to take in the clear Northern night—and enjoy the personalized cigars that Ashley and Drew handed out in celebration of their magic evening.





**Opposite page:** Ashley and Drew posed for pictures at Boyne Highlands, where the bride grew up skiing; Ashley is from Michigan, Drew is from Indiana. They met in graduate school at the University of Michigan. Ashley's father escorts her down the aisle. White spider mums sprinkled with snow glitter, silver pinecones and sprigs of evergreen played out the wedding's winter theme.

**This page:** The final touch at the Vogue salon in Petoskey. A moment in the historic Holy Childhood Church of Harbor Springs. Ring by Simon G. from Cooper and Binkley jewelers in Brighton; the bridal bouquet, by Monarch Garden and Floral in Petoskey ("The owner William Santos was so easy and great to work with," Ashley says), was of Polar Star roses with stemmed Swarovski crystals tied together with an antique ribbon. The newlyweds entering the Perry Hotel's elegant lobby.





Ashley and Drew outside the Perry Hotel. The couple, who have made their new home in Chicago where Ashley is a physical therapist and Drew is a business banker for Chase, personalized their table markers with framed photographs of landmarks from the Windy City; the photograph on their table is of their new apartment. Black and white menus and silver charger plates helped set the wintry monochromatic color palette. The newlyweds' first dance. Photos at Petoskey's romantic waterfront.





Decorated for the holidays, the Victorian-era Stafford's Perry Hotel was a storied setting. The bride's Ines Di Santo wedding gown was from Roma Sposa in Birmingham. The three-tiered cake was by Water Street Café in Boyne City—where the popular homemade cannoli was also baked. The wedding party poses in the luxurious glow of Perry's H.O. Rose Room, where the reception was held.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** GAVIN SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY, 810-771-7258, GAVINSMITHPHOTOGRAPHER.COM

**VENUE:** STAFFORD'S PERRY HOTEL, 231-347-4000, STAFFORDS.COM

# Wedding Notebook

## STAFFORD'S PERRY HOTEL



### Make your wedding a truly landmark event.

Built in 1899. Perched high on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, the Perry Hotel stands as a proud symbol of the early 1900s when northern Michigan tourism was in its infancy. Petoskey's



Photo courtesy of Harrison Studio

historic downtown Gaslight District grew up around the Perry Hotel and features premier shopping and dining opportunities. The Perry's unique downtown location provides the perfect backdrop for your upcoming event and offers a wonderful alternative to the sprawling resorts most commonly found along the northern Michigan landscape.

### guest services

Our onsite event coordinator will handle everything. Guests can take advantage of our 24-hour front desk. A breakfast voucher is included with all overnight stays. Our skilled staff of professional event planners can execute your wish to perfection, or create a truly special event from the ground up.

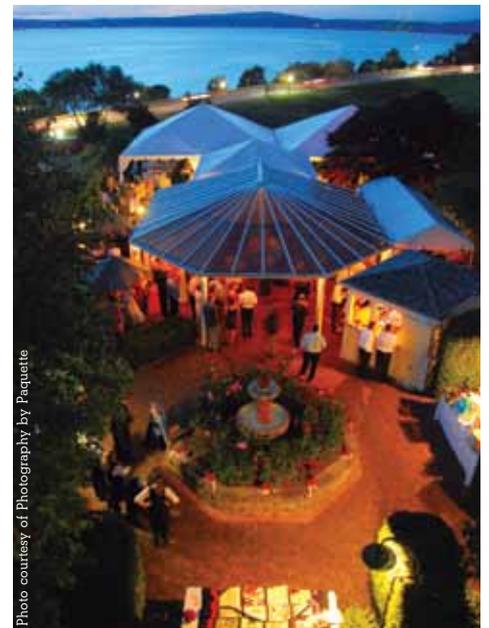


Photo courtesy of Photography by Paquette

### catering

It centers all around the food. Always fresh, always fabulous, and often coming from local area farms. Plated entrées can be selected to complement a theme or style. Fantastic buffets lend flexibility and depth. Some of northern Michigan's finest dining starts with Stafford's.



Photo courtesy of Harrison Studio

## event facilities

Weddings are a symphony of details, performed to perfection. The Perry Hotel offers an exceptional backdrop to ceremonies, receptions, rehearsals, post-wedding brunches and luncheons. Superb indoor and outdoor venues both make for unforgettable events. Choose from 3 distinct venues for your event. Each area boasts a singular feel all its own and includes Stafford's signature service.



## accommodations

Experience the grandeur and elegance of a bygone era without leaving modern day conveniences behind. Perched high on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan, the Perry Hotel stands as a proud symbol of the early 1900s when northern Michigan tourism was in its infancy. The Perry Hotel boasts eighty individually appointed guest rooms, many with private balconies overlooking the crystal clear waters of Little Traverse Bay. Guests of the Perry will enjoy a convenient downtown location and an array of onsite amenities including several dining options, spa room and massage services.



## recreation

This historic hotel is tucked away amidst the historic Gaslight District. It's an ideal jumping off point for all things north and just 35 miles from the Mackinac Bridge, about six hours from Chicago and four hours from Detroit. Pellston Regional Airport is right in the backyard.

And it's quite a backyard. Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay area is truly a state treasure. Guests can immerse themselves in this charming northern Michigan locale and sample its many intriguing tastes, season after season. Featuring world-class golf, skiing, beaches, shopping, cultural activities, biking, fishing and boating.



## STAFFORD'S PERRY HOTEL

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# STAFFORD'S

*Every season is special in northern Michigan. No matter when you decide to tie the knot, Stafford's Perry Hotel is the place to say, "I do!" with a view!*

*The Perry's unique downtown location provides the perfect backdrop for your upcoming event. Choose from memorable indoor facilities year 'round, or exquisite outdoor garden settings seasonally.*



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*All of Stafford's gracious properties are perfect for rehearsal dinners, receptions, brunches, luncheons or wedding showers.*



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