Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

STORY BY KRISTY KURJAN · PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEN KROLL

Anna Nowak
Joseph Lazar

September 3, 2011

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT & SPA
ACME

Marie Antoinette's life inspired the romantic and whimsical wedding of Anna Nowak and Joe Lazar. The sophisticated and impeccably styled soirée kicked off with a ceremony under the pavilion at the Grand Traverse Resort. Surrounded by a lush rose garden and stately structured topiaries, the romantic scene was meant to transport guests to the French gardens of Versailles.

Alicia Caldecott, the creative talent behind A Day In May Events, helped the couple design their vision for separate environments, each of which built upon the romantic 18th-century French theme. After the garden ceremony, guests sipped cocktails in the resort's Michigan Ballroom, where the fun, flirty ambiance was highlighted by a color palette of aubergine, blush pink, duck egg, and tarnished golds. Old fashioned varieties of locally grown garden flowers created a secret garden feel.

As guests entered the Grand Ballroom for dinner their eyes were drawn upward along richly draped fabric walls and a ceiling graced with pink-hued chandeliers. The tables were dressed with 17 designs of textured linens. Bride and groom dined in the round on antique white chairs accented with seat fabric of dusty French-blue.

The final Marie Antoinette–inspired space of the night was hidden behind a fabric wall in the ballroom. The couple thanked their guests for attending and then turned and pulled back a glamorous room featuring custom mirrored tables, black chandeliers, and a hot pink dance floor. The song "Heads Will Roll," by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, played as the newlyweds and their guests hit the dance floor.

Opposite page: The bride was radiant in her Pnina Tornai strapless gown and sideswiped updo styled by Whitney Anderson from Cheeky Strut Salon in Grand Rapids. She carried a bouquet of pink and white garden flowers including David Austin Juliette roses and delicate spray. The custom aisle runner was inscribed with the bride and groom's name and wedding date. The floral aisle garland of hydrangeas, roses, stock and vines was tied to wrought iron stands with French ribbon. The bridesmaids carried bouquets of fuchsia and cream Yves Piaget garden roses, pink hybrid roses and blue hydrangea with clustered berries. All flowers were by Field of Flowers in Lake Leelanau.
This page: The bride toasted with her signature drink, "Ooh La La!," made of cranberry juice, citrus and raspberry vodkas, Chambord, freshly squeezed lime juice, simple syrup and a raspberry garnish. Dim lit candles, textured tablecloths, Chiavari chairs, and stunning flower arrangements beamed Marie Antoinettte–style opulence. Seating cards were tacked to pink boards in gold frames with pink pushpin—a color combination that played off the Secret Garden feel of the reception.

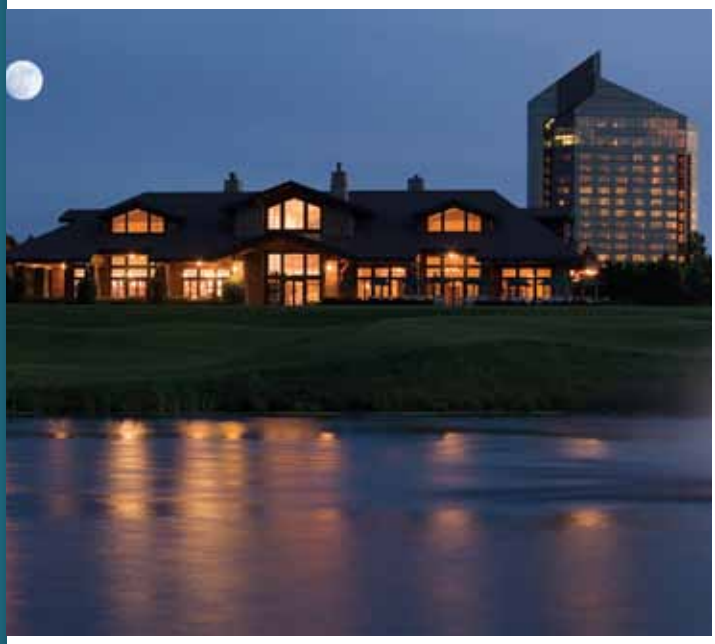
This page: Guests received two slices of the five-tiered wedding cake; chocolate cake with chocolate Bavarian cream filling and vanilla cake with vanilla Bavarian cream filling. The cake was decorated with garden flowers and topped with custom figurines dressed in Detroit Tigers uniforms. Mirrored cocktail bars with the bride and groom's names in pink matched the design on the Save the Date invitations. Tables of eight and ten were elegantly set with gold chargers, silver candleholders, textured tablecloths, and overflowing centerpieces of roses, hydrangeas and greenery. A photo booth featured wigs inspired by Marie Antoinette and King Louis XVI framed by a green hedge.

This page: The bride described her favorite moment of the night: "Walking into the candle lit reception and witnessing its breathtaking glow." Vintage silverware gifted by the Maid of Honor symbolized her "something old" accessory. The bride and groom danced to "Making Memories of Us" by Keith Urban. Afterwards, guests danced the night on a black and white checkered floor lit with dramatic black chandeliers. Wedding Planner Alicia Caldecott of A Day In May Event and Design helped make the couple's vision of a Palace of Versailles–inspired photo booth a reality with "must have" French accessories, like regal wigs, fake mustaches, cigarettes, berets, feathers, clip-on birds, and plastic strawberries.

PHOTOGRAPHY: *JEN KROLL PHOTOGRAPHY, 616.334.5569 JENKROLLPHOTOGRAPHY.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

86,500 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 groomsmen 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 specialty 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 breath-taking 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 161 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 nearly 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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Spa Manager
Dawn Olsen

Spa/Golf Sales Managers
Kris Ruckle

Reception Capacity
2,500

Event Rooms
35

Guest Rooms
585

Photo: Jen Kroll Photography

grand weddings

GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA

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 indoor and 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 | 231-534-6203

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

Sign-up online to receive our free wedding kit.