

a Boathouse wedding story



The Diver Wolfe Wedding

THE BOATHOUSE RESTAURANT



This is the story of two people pouring their love into creating the wedding of their dreams. Melinda grew up in London, Ontario in Canada, while Andy grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Both Melinda and Andy came to Manhattan to pursue their fascination with scientific discovery. As many before us had done, we found love in New York City. Andy proposed to Melinda and she said, "Yes baby!" The time had come for us to plan our wedding, and to find the perfect wedding venue.

We started looking for venues located approximately halfway in between our hometowns. While we are both big city people who love living in Manhattan, we wanted to be married outdoors surrounded by water and beautiful scenery. Since all of our guests would be traveling to attend our wedding, we also wanted a venue with a destination-y feel where our friends and relatives could enjoy a weekend getaway.

We found everything we were looking for and more at The Lodges at Cresthaven and The Boathouse Restaurant in Lake George, New York.

During our first visit to Lake George, we drove through the main street of town, then around the lake, directly to The Lodges at Cresthaven. Its charm was immediately apparent. The property has gorgeous views of the lake with fabulous foliage, an idyllic setting for a fall wedding. And The Boathouse Restaurant is a truly unique venue, an actual historic boathouse converted to a restaurant situated above the waters of Lake George, and surrounded by a series of docks below. The venue's size was perfect for our intimate wedding of 65 guests, but could have comfortably held up to 100. The venue became our inspiration, and we selected a fall motif for our wedding. Our colors were orange and light blue, and we used leaf imagery on our save-the-dates, invitations, programs, place cards, guestbook, and table numbers. We were quickly swept away in the beauty of The Lodges at Cresthaven.

Throughout the wedding planning process, Jayne, Dan, and the other members of the staff were incredibly helpful. They always gave prompt and thoughtful responses to our questions. They were flexible with everything, which was great for us because we had lots of really specific creative ideas. Jayne was very organized - a week or so before the wedding, she emailed us a few final questions, then compiled all





the important information from our lengthy correspondence and made a document for the staff that detailed how we wanted everything at our wedding.

There were ample luxury accommodations at The Lodges at Cresthaven, such that all of our family and friends who were interested could stay on site. The lodges are equipped with full kitchens, gas fire places, and many have whirlpool tubs, perfect for The Wedding Night. This destination feeling was very important for the tone of our wedding. Many of our guests extended their trips past our wedding and people had lots to do. Among other things, guests hiked on Prospect Mountain, enjoyed shopping at the outlet malls, and took foliage tours. They were also free to indulge in the on-site amenities, such as the indoor and outdoor heated pools, exercise facility, and private beach.



On the day before the wedding, we held a rehearsal at our ceremony site. In the evening we invited all of our guests to join us at a welcome barbeque, which was held at Veteran's Memorial Park about 20 minutes away in Bolton Landing. Alongside hot dogs, burgers and salads, we served beer from the local Adirondack Brewery.

That night, the Bride and Groom stayed in separate rooms. We rented two cabins side-by-side, a "Mancabin" for the Groom and all the Groomsmen and a Ladies' Cabin for the Bride, the Maid of Honor, and the Bridesman (our cute name for the male Bridesmaid). On the morning of the wedding, the two cabins served as the perfect space for getting ready. A hairdresser and makeup artist traveled to the Ladies' cabin to get the Bride, the Maid of Honor, and the Mother of the Bride ready, and our photographer came to document the process. Our photographer was careful to alert the Groom not to look outside of his cabin, as he shot the Bride's wedding dress elegantly hanging from a tree.

A big advantage of the Lodges at Cresthaven was that its scenery provided a phenomenal backdrop for our wedding photos. To preserve daylight hours, we had the majority of our photos taken before the 4:30 pm ceremony. Our photographer set up a first look "reveal" where the Groom first saw the Bride in her dress, and then we set out to document the many beautiful locations that the venue has to offer.





There were opportunities for photos on the private beach, amongst the leaves, on the docks, and in the Adirondack chairs.

For our ceremony location, we choose the lawn overlooking Lake George, which has an amazing view of the water and the thousands of colorful trees across the lake. Our wedding day was sunny and warm, absolutely perfect weather for our outdoor ceremony without cover - just as we had envisioned.

In the case of rain, we could have held our ceremony under a tent, however after careful examination of the weather forecast on the Thursday before our wedding, this did not appear to be necessary. The Lodges at Cresthaven set up white chairs, our florist lined the aisle with fall leaves, and the Mother of the Bride handmade felt program holders in our wedding colors to hang off the back of each chair. The Ladies' Cabin was located right above the ceremony site, so Melinda's walk down the aisle with her Father could begin from the cabin.

We had a lovely, personalized ceremony that tied in the uniqueness of the location with our loving natures and the fact that we are both scientists by profession. Music was provided by a trio of musicians – a violinist, a cellist, and a flutist. The Mother of the Groom performed a reading and a recording was played of a special song about us that the Mother of the Bride wrote and recorded. We are both scientists

by profession, so for our unity ceremony, we carried out a chemistry experiment where we combined two compounds to make something new (“an irreversible reaction” in the words of our life celebrant). After a beautiful ceremony, the guests headed down the hill to the cocktail hour.

The cocktail hour was held on a gorgeous veranda at The Boathouse Restaurant adjacent to (but distinct from) the reception space. We opted for an extended 6-hour reception. In addition to beer, wine and soft drinks, there were two specialty cocktails for guests to enjoy. The specialty cocktails that we designed, the White Dress Cosmopolitan and the Black Tuxedo Chocolate Martini, were very popular. And the bartenders did a perfect job with both the taste and presentation. Melinda has a wheat allergy, and it was important to us that at her own wedding, she would be able to



eat everything on the menu. Dan and the chef at The Boathouse Restaurant were very knowledgeable about dietary restrictions. They worked with us to tailor one of the menus, the Red Rock Bay, to be completely wheat-free. The Lodges at Cresthaven simply offered an unprecedented number of opportunities for the customization of our big day. This is one of the rare and unique traits that makes this venue so special. There were a variety of appetizers served including stationary displays of cheese, vegetables and fruit as well as a series of passed hot hors d'oeuvres. For the hors d'oeuvre selection, we chose shrimp cocktail, scallops wrapped in bacon, vegetarian stuffed mushrooms, chicken satays, caprese bites (mozzarella cheese with tomatoes) and Swedish meatballs. Having taken the majority of our photos beforehand, we were really able to enjoy the cocktail hour alongside friends and family. The offerings were incredible. As the cocktail hour was ending, we took a few minutes to capture some sunset photos on the docks with our photographer.

The reception space was fantastic! The Boathouse Restaurant had ample space for all our guests, a band, a dance floor, a bar, and even a lovely gazebo outfitted with a circular table and chairs so our guests could relax in a partially outdoor area. We were thrilled with the look of our reception space. The staff had been given boxes of items accompanied by our directions for their set-up, and on the day of the wedding we found the space exactly as we had imagined. We had assumed that we would need help from our family and friends, but this was completely unnecessary, as the staff took care of every last detail. The Boathouse Restaurant is capable of some truly breathtaking transformations. We opted for chair covers with blue ribbons, and paper lanterns of various sizes hanging from the ceiling, to contrast the space made primarily of wood with some elegant white. Our florist designed and set-up two types of centerpieces, one larger and one smaller, and she added silk leaves to the tables. The large centerpieces were absolutely gorgeous and caught people's attention immediately upon entrance. Our table numbers were homemade by the Mother of the Bride with childhood photos of the Bride and Groom, where the age in the photo matched the number of the table. Candy apple favors made by a sweets shop in Lake George were a finishing touch to each place setting. Additionally, guests were invited to write their well wishes and advice to us on paper leaves placed in the center of each table, then put their leaves in a jar that we would open in 1 month, 3 months, 1 year, 2 years, 5 years, 10 years, or 25 years. Baskets were placed in both bathrooms containing some necessities items, including gum, hand lotion, band-aids, and tissues. In the ladies room, there were also flip-flops as back-up dancing shoes. For our guestbook, we printed a poster board of a tree and





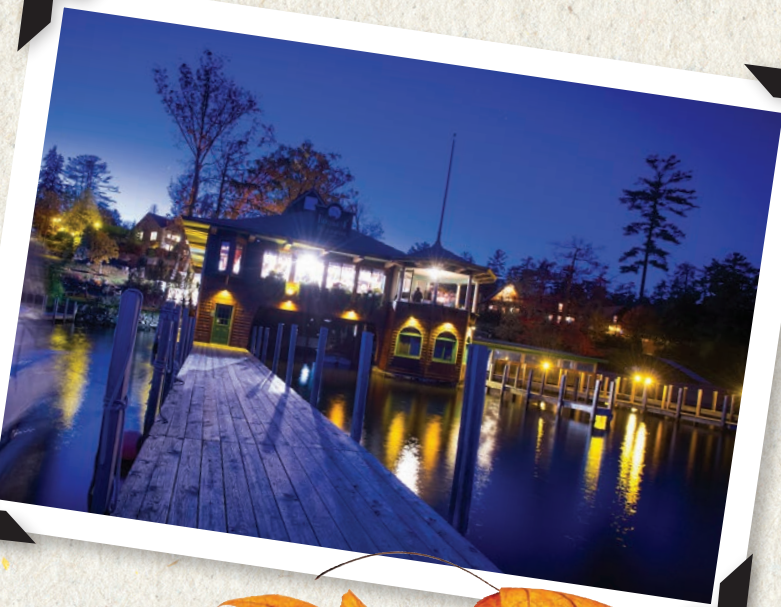
gave our guests the opportunity to “leaf” us their fingerprint in fall colored ink. They also signed their name so we knew whose “leafingerprint” was whose. The result was a beautiful keepsake that reminds us of our loving friends and family, and our wonderful wedding at The Lodges at Cresthaven, every time we see it framed on our wall at home.

Following our big entrance, the band immediately started to play When I Fall in Love, for our carefully choreographed first dance as a married couple. As our dance instructor had predicted, it was a big hit, especially the final dip. After the Father-Daughter Dance, guests were invited to the dance floor. We opted to have some dancing right away so the guests could

regain their appetite following the delicious cocktail hour and prior to the large multi-course dinner. Once again, at most venues this deviation from the standard wedding reception would be considered too bothersome to accommodate, but not at The Lodges at Cresthaven. Dancing before dinner was a popular idea with our guests. The staff's service throughout the night was impeccable. Everything was punctual and organized perfectly. We had tried most of our wedding menu during our tasting, so we were very excited for the dinner. It was original and fantastic! First the guests were served a yummy pumpkin soup, then a field green salad, followed by a main course selection of either Cornish Hen or Grouper based on the guest's specification. The Cornish Hen stuffed with wild rice was a unique and delicious touch. We chose to order one of each of the main courses, so we could share. For dessert, we had a marvelous gluten-free cake covered in fondant leaves. The staff organized the serving of the cake after we cut it, as well as a dessert table with dip-able items and a chocolate fountain. Following the champagne toasts from the Fathers of the Bride and Groom, as well as members of our wedding party, we danced well into the night enjoying the live music.

A major highlight was the Hora – Andy's friends lifted us up on chairs as everyone danced in a circle around us. As the night ended, the guests assembled to wish us well with a sparkler send-off. The Bride and Groom exited The Boathouse Restaurant between two rows of loving family and friends with bright sparkly lights. It was a great finale.





After the wedding, the staff was incredibly helpful. They boxed up all our precious wedding memorabilia, leftover cake, and presents for us. We heard many comments from family and friends in the days to follow that our wedding was beautiful, unique, and fun. The Lodges at Cresthaven and The Boathouse Restaurant turned our dream of a breathtaking fall wedding into a reality. We are perfectionists and The Lodges at Cresthaven exceeded our expectations from the first moment that we laid eyes on the property until the last guest had departed.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Melinda & Andy

