

los cabos, mexico

Madeleine Nguyen weds John Nguyen on January 26, 2010

hen Madeleine went in to train for her new job at a mortgage company, she had no idea she would also meet her future husband — the man who was leading the two-week training. "John and I had so much in common, it was unreal," she says. "We just clicked." And even though she was living in San Francisco and he was in Seattle, they saw each other every few weeks. Four years later, he had moved to San Francisco and they were engaged.

The couple knew they wanted a beach wedding, and with guests coming in from all across the West, it also had to be in an accessible locale. After considering various destinations, Los Cabos won out — it had reasonable airfare and an abundance of activities for guests. Bonus: The Westin Resort & Spa offered a great rate and enough room for all of their guests to stay in one place.

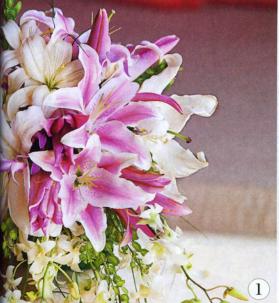
The five-day fiesta began on Wednesday, when the majority of the 60 guests arrived. That night, the couple invited the gang to one of their favorite restaurants, Mi Casa, for a seafood welcome dinner. Thursday was completely informal. Guests took advantage of the pool and beach before a group happy hour at the Westin, after which some jumped into cabs for a

night of barhopping downtown. Friday's itinerary featured a catamaran trip with swimming, snorkeling, cocktails and burgers, followed by a lobster dinner at Cabo Wabo Cantina.

The pair had legally married earlier at San Francisco's city hall, so this time was all about fun. The pre-sunset ceremony was held on the property's beach. Clad in an A-line Blue by Enzoani gown, the bride walked herself down the aisle, preceded by her bridesmaids in fuchsia dresses from Zara (with the exception of her bridesman, who matched the groomsmen in khakis, but with a pink tie). After a 15-minute ceremony officiated by a friend of the couple, the gang gathered for a group photo. Then, as guests sipped margaritas on the sand, John changed into a traditional Vietnamese *ao dai* while his bride switched it up with a Cinderella-style Casablanca gown.

For the reception — held at the hotel's La Playa restaurant, just up the stairs from the beach — an all-white wedding cake followed a seafood menu. DJ Mijares headed up the dancing, while in the background, a slide show flashed photos from the catamaran trip. Then, to the shock of their guests, the couple jumped into the pool — followed shortly by the rest of the party. (Thankfully, Just Add Rosie Productions was on hand to capture it all on video.) Come late night, everyone dried off at a beachfront bonfire. — TB

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHOCO STUDIO









the details

Bride's Dresses: Blue by Enzoani, Casablanca

Groom's Attire: Tuxedo Fashions

Hair & Makeup: Kimberly Taylor

Cake: The Westin Resort & Spa, Los Cabos

Flowers: Florenta Flower Design

Music: Alonso Aguirre, DJ Mijares

Planner: Tejel Patel of Ambiance by Tejel, Juan Colmenero of the Westin

1. The cascade bouquet had La Mancha and white oriental lilies. 2. The ring bearer and flower girl paved the way with blooms. 3. The reception area. 4. Alonso Aguirre played during both the ceremony and the cocktail hour. 5. The Westin prepared a lovely two-tier chocolate cake. 6. The aisle was laid with a wooden runner to keep sand off everyone's formal clothing.



