

Sara & Donald

June 6, 2011
The Rockleigh
Rockleigh, NJ

Ceremony & Reception Location:
The Rockleigh

Officiant: Father Bob Daly

Photographer: Milton Gil Photographers

Videographer:
Videoccasions Video Productions

Entertainment:
Magic Moments Productions

Florist: Amaryllis Decorators

Limousine Service:
Town Limousine Service

Cake Designer: Le Petit Gateau

Groom's Cake: Sophie Sophia

Bridal Salon:
Bijou Bridal & Special Occassion

Headpiece: Jaehee Bridal Atelier

Formal Attire: Ideal Tuxedos

Invitations: Designing Moments, LLC

Photobooth:
Magic Moments Productions

Hair Stylist: Melissa D'Aloia & Co.

Makeup Artist: Melissa D'Aloia & Co.

Dance Lessons: The Grand Ballroom



High school sweethearts Tara and Donald met through the help of a friend. Although Donald was intimidated and shy at first, he knew he couldn't let Tara get away and kissed her the first night they hung out. The two began dating and about seven years later Donald proposed with the help of their dog, Lola, who had an engagement ring dangling from her collar. They set their wedding date for June 11, 2011.

Tara woke up calm the morning of her big day ready to be pampered to perfection with the assistance of Melissa D'Aloia & Co. The bride's hair was styled by Andrea Duarte Carbonaro in an elegant updo with two braids and loose, romantic curls. Her airbrush makeup was done beautifully in natural tones by Melissa D'Aloia. "My makeup looked flawless and lasted until the end of the night," Tara noted. While Tara and her bridesmaids continued to prepare, Donald and his groomsmen got ready at the hotel and then headed over to The Rockleigh.

Selected for its elegant charm, personable staff, notable reputation, and breathtaking grounds, Tara and Donald's wedding took place at The Rockleigh. Amid the lush landscaping of gazebos and fountain, Tara walked down the ceremony aisle donning a lace v-neck, A-line gown with a key hole back and adorned with flowers and crystals. Donald sported a Calvin Klein three-piece gray suit, while the groomsmen wore a gray suit with a black tie. The couple participated in a unity candle ceremony, exchanged heartfelt vows, and concluded the ceremony with a traditional Irish blessing.

Following the ceremony, guests headed to the lavish cocktail hour where they enjoyed a variety of food from a Taste of Italy station, carving station with corn beef brisket, maple glazed Smithfield ham, and rib eye top flank, a ka-bob station, and New England steamer station serving mussels and clams. Hors d'oeuvres of tuna tartare, baby croissants, miniature Kobe beef sliders, and cilantro grilled chicken were also available, in addition to a caviar station, ice bar and wine station. For dinner, guests were offered a choice of a ten-ounce filet mignon, coriander crusted halibut, or chicken scaloppini layered with spinach, prosciutto, fresh mozzarella, and a marsalla wine demi-glace. "The food was fresh and elegantly presented," noted Tara.

The five-tier vanilla and chocolate wedding cake with chocolate ganache filling was designed by Le Petit Gateau and was embellished with Swarovski bands around the base of each layer, three bows with a Swarovski brooch, and topped with a Swarovski single-monogram. Guests also indulged in chocolate mousse, chocolate lava cake, and chocolate milkshake shooters for dessert.

From the wedding day preparations, ceremony, and throughout the reception, Milton Gil Photographers captured the special moments in a photojournalistic style. At Tara and Donald's first consultation, Milton was cordial and professional. "During the reception our photographers casually blended in with the crowd. Milton captured so much without us ever knowing and the pictures came out amazing," exclaimed Tara.

The couple was equally impressed working with Matt of Videoccasions Video Productions who filmed their wedding on video. They used top of the line equipment and had back-ups to everything. Matt even sent Tara and Donald the raw footage shortly after the honeymoon, which included candid material of moments the couple missed.

Throughout the evening guests mingled and were dancing the night away with the help of Magic Moments Productions. Their emcee, Sal Consentino, played a variety of songs incorporating Motown, Golden Oldies, and recent hits. For their first dance as husband and wife, Tara and Donald shared a choreographed Rumba to "Hard to Concentrate" by Red Hot Chili Peppers. Magic Moments Productions also provided uplifting, plasma television screens, guest party hand outs, and a photo booth.

Following the reception, Donald surprised Tara with a honeymoon to St. Martin, where they stayed at La Sammanna. When asked what their favorite memory of the day was, Tara said, "Seeing Don for the first time. We have been living together for about seven years so I missed him even after just one night away." Donald commented, "Dancing with Tara after dinner to Jersey Girl by Bruce Springsteen. It was at that moment on I had nothing to worry about – no weather, special dances, nothing; Just looking forward to buying a house and starting a family."

