

How did you 2 meet?

I was working at a restaurant in Temecula (I worked there in high school and throughout college). I worked with a woman named Lamara (Kyle's aunt) for about three years. Lamara and I got along very well, and one day she just asked me, "Kylie, do you have a boyfriend?" I said no and she proceeded to tell me about her wonderful nephew, Kyle ;) He had just moved to the Temecula area (for a job) from northern California. She told me about all of his wonderful qualities (he was an Eagle Scout, he's fun-loving, hard-working, likes the beach, movies, goes to church) and said she thought we would really get along. She asked if I would be interested in meeting him one day, and I said, "Sure!" After all, Lamara and I were friends, and he was family to her, so I trusted her judgment :) She gave him my number, and he called me the next day (it was a Friday).

The first time we met face to face was Saturday (after we talked on Friday), and he came in to the restaurant where I was working. He called me ahead of time and said he was going to come in with a couple of friends for dinner--well, when his friends found out he was going to the restaurant for more than just dinner (to meet me ;), his group of four friends turned into a group of 13! I was so nervous when I found out how many people he was with! ;) It was a busy night at the restaurant however, so I didn't end up waiting on his party; I just went over and said hi. After they were done with dinner, he came over to me and asked if I wanted to go to Starbucks after I got off. I said yes, and he met me after work with a bouquet of flowers :) I knew right then he was a keeper ;)

We went to Starbucks and talked, and we really hit it off. The rest, as they say, is history! We have not gone a day without talking since then! :) Thanks Lamara! ;)

What was it that attracted you to each other? (personality, looks, eyes, quirks...you get the idea)

When I first met Kyle, I was attracted to his overall appearance, but specifically I was attracted to his smile :). I thought he was very handsome ;) After talking with him that night at Starbucks, I was very attracted to his personality; his sense of humor, kindness, and demeanor. I thought he was very genuine; manly, yet with a gentleness about him.

How did he propose?

Kyle proposed on my 23rd birthday. We (my mom, dad, grandma, Kyle, and myself) had gone to Victoria Gardens to have dinner and do some birthday shopping. My parents knew he was going to ask me that night. After dinner, we were walking through this pretty courtyard with lights strung across the trees. Kyle and I were walking ahead of my mom, dad, and grandma, and he started saying things like, "I hope you know how much you mean to me...I love you so much...I want to spend the rest of my life with you..." Then he stopped, got down on one knee, and pulled out the ring ;) I was speechless! Of course I said yes, and he slipped it on my finger. It was very special because my family was there to see it :) Kyle knows how close I am with my family, so I was really touched that he chose a time when they could be there to see it happen.

How long were you together before the proposal?

We were together a little over two and a half years before he proposed.

How did you pick your location?

Well, it's kind of a funny story. I went to a wedding when I was 12 years old for one of my favorite teachers (Kelly Spahr). I remember going to her wedding and thinking, wow, this is how I want my wedding to be. I remember seeing her pictures as well and thinking, "I want my wedding pictures to look like that one day!" :) So when I got engaged, I remembered Monteleone Meadows and how beautiful it was...it was outside, with a beautiful pond and gazebo. It was elegant, yet comfortable. It almost has a winery-like feel---it definitely represented where I grew up very well :) And that's what I loved about it. It was actually the first place we went and visited, and we booked it! ;)

What were your colors and why did you choose them?

My colors were bright pink (like a watermelon color) and green (like a chartreuse green). I originally thought I wanted pink and black; but as soon as I visited Monteleone Meadows, and saw the natural beauty of it, I thought, "I want something a little lighter, springier, a little more fresh." Since I was getting married in May, I thought I should capitalize on those spring colors. In looking through magazines, I realized I was really attracted to those two colors, and thought the combination would be elegant, and perfect for spring.

What did you like about your flowers?

My flowers were gorgeous! Suzanna Smeerdyk (the florist who works with Monteleone Meadows) did a fabulous job in bringing the colors of the wedding together. She was the one who helped me realize the colors I loved, and how to tie them together for an elegant effect. I wanted an all-white bouquet, so she incorporated hydrangea, roses, and calla lilies. In my bridesmaids' bouquets, she incorporated the fuschia/watermelon colors with calla lilies and roses, and green with mini hydrangea. I LOVED our centerpieces as well...she again used fuschia roses with mini green hydrangea. My expectations of the flowers were beyond exceeded....I could not have asked for more beautiful arrangements! I cannot say enough about Suzanne and her talent in bringing your colors and style together with the flowers.

What did you love most about your location?

I touched a little on this already, but I felt as if Monteleone Meadows was a beautiful representation of where I grew up. The scenery is beautiful--it is very green. The pond with the swans and gazebo are so charming. I love it because when it is all "done up" for a wedding, it is the perfect atmosphere--it is elegant, yet our guests feel comfortable. And it brings in the beauty of the outdoors.

Did you have help planning your wedding? If so, who?

I did not hire a wedding planner--I did it myself! :) I wanted to. As far as planning the details of the wedding day, Hennie and Gaby of Monteleone Meadows helped in planning the schedule of events for the day, and the other details of the ceremony and reception. I cannot say enough about Hennie and Gaby! They were an absolute pleasure to work with. They truly want you to have the day of your dreams, and do everything they can to help you achieve that! They are great listeners and full of wonderful ideas. I cannot thank them enough for their support and help that day. Everything was executed beautifully--I didn't have to worry about anything, because I knew it was taken care of.

Was anything chosen for your wedding that had meaningful significance?

The location was probably the most significant thing about the wedding...we would be moving out of the area once we got married, so I wanted to have it somewhere that reminded me of all the beautiful things about the Temecula area--a place that reminded me of home, and it's best features. Also, it was sort of representative of the wedding I "dreamed of" when I was younger..since my teacher (who I am still friends with to this day) got married there, and I was so in awe of her wedding, I felt like I truly had the wedding of my dreams :)

What was the most exciting part about planning your special day?

Gosh, that's a tough one...I can say I really enjoyed every part of the planning experience. I think what was truly the most exciting was when I got to Monteleone the day of the wedding, and saw how all my colors and flower choices came together to make such beautiful centerpieces. I also made the table numbers myself, so it was really exciting to see everything come together so beautifully, and think "This is what all the planning and hard work was for." I was really speechless when I saw it all.

What did you look forward to the most?

I looked forward to marrying the man of my dreams of course! :) We were engaged for over a year (about a year and 3 months), so I was really looking forward to seeing all of the planning come together to make the day of my dreams. And the best part was that our perfect day would end in marrying my best friend, the one I will spend the rest of my life with ;) I just really looked forward to celebrating that joy with all of our family and friends.

What was your most memorable experience of your wedding?

I think my most memorable experience was when I first stepped into the aisle, and saw Kyle's face. Then I realized that all of our family and friends were there to support us and celebrate the best day of our lives. I was just overcome with emotion and joy. Everything just seemed so right and how it was supposed to be.

Looking back, what might you have changed?

Honestly, I don't know if I would have changed anything. It truly was the

day I dreamed of. The only minor thing that happened was that I had left the table numbers (which I had worked hard to make) at home...so my dad was nice enough to run home and get them...luckily we didn't live too far ;) Other than that little stress, everything was great.

Do you have any comments about your vendors?

Honestly, I cannot say enough about all the vendors we used. I know I already mentioned how thrilled we were with Hennie and Gaby. And we were referred to all of our vendors through them! ;)

Of course, I couldn't be happier with Imagery Concepts! :) We truly have the most beautiful wedding and engagement photos. I know we will treasure them (and our kids one day will treasure them) for years to come. Every single person who sees them is like, "Oh my gosh! These are soooo beautiful! You guys look amazing! You look like you should be in a magazine!" :)

The bakery who made our cake is Jodee's Bakery. Melinda and Kristen were wonderful! Our cake was not only breathtaking, it was absolutely delicious as well! :) I would recommend them to anyone...we also got my bridal shower cake there. Thank you Jodee's! ;)

Our DJ was Hugh Swanke of A New Song Entertainment. He is another vendor that our guests raved about after the wedding. He did our ceremony and reception music. He's got a great personality, and really wants to make the reception and ceremony a reflection of you. We met with him twice before the wedding, and gave him a list of some of the songs we would like played. He took that and ran with it; our reception music was beautifully styled, and people told me afterward how much they loved the music. He exceeded our expectations at the wedding. He's got a great sense of humor, and is sensitive to the energy of the guests. I would recommend him for anyone's wedding.

If you took a honeymoon, where did you go?

Yes, we drove up the coast and went to Morro Bay! ;) It was beautiful up there. We spent an entire day wine tasting in Paso Robles, then another day horseback riding on the beach. We stayed at an inn that gave us complimentary truffles and champagne each night of our stay! Our room had a fireplace, and we had our own private spa on the balcony with a view of the bay. It was a perfect trip :) As much as we enjoyed ourselves, we were excited to go "home" for the first time together as a married couple! ;)

Is there a question we forgot? Fill us in!

If I could give any advice to a bride, it would be to start working on your guest list as early as possible. Depending on the size of the wedding, and your budget, this is probably one of the hardest tasks. So start early :) Also, make sure that your day is a reflection of you and your fiancé. Don't get too stressed about the minor details...the most important thing is that the two of you are starting your lives together, and no matter what, that makes it a beautiful day ;)

