

7  
x  
7

*Real Weddings*  
GET INSPIRED

WEDDINGS  
CALIFORNIA & BEYOND

**BIG DAY**  
FASHION

THE **ULTIMATE**  
GIFT REGISTRY

**GUMP'S**  
SAN FRANCISCO

DISPLAY UNTIL JUNE 30, 2013 \$9.99  
MCEVOY MEDIA 35 >  
0 71658 02643 8



**ONE SHINING MOMENT**

TARA  
DONNELLY  
&  
STEPHANIE  
AMERIAN

July 30, 2011 | Boonville

On the morning of the big day, Tara was filled with anticipation. She awoke early, and as the couple's guests were just beginning to rouse at the hotel, she assembled by hand the ceremony's piece de resistance, a floral wreath—300 flowers in all. "It was a centering and wonderful moment," she says. "I couldn't wait to see it at the end of the aisle as I made my way to marry Stephanie."

Produced with Emily de Ayora of Downey Street Events, the celebration featured several personal DIY installations, including a tree decorated with photos of their 72 guests and custom-printed cocktail napkins telling the story of how they met—while studying abroad in Florence. Tara, a veteran hostess, says, "Our wedding was the best dinner party we've ever thrown."

—ANNE SAGE AND C.L.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
BELATHÉE PHOTOGRAPHY





## DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

**1.** Tara found Reem Acra's Grace gown, with its sweeping train, at Encore Bridal. Buying consignment allowed her to wear designer while staying within budget. Her feathered fascinator from Emiliner—an Etsy vendor—served as the day's "something blue." **2.** A tree at the venue was covered with photos of the many adventures the couple has shared with friends and family. **3.** In lieu of a chuppah, which was not within the couple's budget, Tara designed a wreath made of grapevines and 300 paper flowers, created from coffee filters that were individually hand-dyed. The installation was hung with a clear line and ribbon so that it looked like it was floating. **4.** Mismatched picture frames held all the guests' names and indicated the seating assignments.

# GARDEN OF DELIGHTS

1. David Tanis' cookbook *Heart of the Artichoke* doubled as a guest book. Many of the day's dishes, from the green bean salad to the Meyer lemon cake, were inspired by the former Chez Panisse chef. 2. Known for its epicurean approach to family-style dining, The Boonville Hotel provided the ideal backdrop for an all-inclusive weekend of revelry. 3. Ordered from SF-based website Minted, the invitations mirrored Boonville's rustic-meets-elegant ethos. 4. The newlyweds, all smiles, grooved to "You Are the Best Thing" by Ray LaMontagne, selected by Stephanie for their first dance. 5. The story of Tara and Stephanie's international romance was printed on colorful cocktail napkins. Rather than sticking with a strict palette, the pair let a vision of a garden in high summer guide their color choices.



## SOURCES

- VENUE** Boonville Hotel, [boonvillehotel.com](http://boonvillehotel.com)
- CATERING** Boonville Hotel
- FLOWERS** Natalie Bowen Designs, 415-948-6035
- STATIONERY** Minted, [minted.com](http://minted.com)
- PHOTOGRAPHY** Belathée Photography, [belatheephotography.com](http://belatheephotography.com)
- TARA'S GOWN** Reem Acra "Grace" at Encore Bridal, [encorebridal.com](http://encorebridal.com)
- STEPHANIE'S SUIT** Theory, [theory.com](http://theory.com)
- LIGHTING** Boonville Hotel
- RENTALS** Classic Party Rentals, [classicpartyrentals.com](http://classicpartyrentals.com)