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Kat & Tripp

# Lake Tahoe

Words by Sarah Padilla

Photography by Mulberry Photography, [www.mulberryphoto.com](http://www.mulberryphoto.com)

It took Katherine “Kat” Mindel and Tripp Jones years to realize they were meant to be together – the first time they dated was in high school, yet it only took the couple a matter of minutes to decide on the location of their destination wedding.





Both Kat and Tripp were born and raised in northern California's Bay Area, so they had spent countless weekends and summer vacations at beautiful Lake Tahoe. "It was the natural place for us to get married," says Kat.

Lake Tahoe was an easy commute for the majority of the couple's 220 wedding guests. Not only that, the picturesque setting offered a perfect backdrop for the rustic, laid-back – yet beautiful – celebration the couple had in mind.

For most of the guests, the wedding weekend kicked off with a Friday night rehearsal dinner - a barbeque with a live bluegrass band - hosted by Tripp's parents. Kat recalls the evening of dancing under a starry sky with family and friends as being more than she could have hoped for.

The same could be said for the big day. The Saturday afternoon ceremony was held at a sprawling private estate on the lake's west shore. Not bent on tradition, Kat and Tripp instead incorporated elements that appealed to them. "We threw a lot of the typical wedding traditions out the window and instead did things that were significant to us and to our families," she says.

Kat's love of fly fishing was subtly incorporated into the rustic décor, which included old wooden barrels covered with vintage lace and old coffee cans and mason jars filled with wheat and local flowers.



*"Kat loves the rustic, natural feel of things and comes from an avid fly-fishing family, so we strove to marry these two loves with a 'River Runs Through It' influence," says event designer Merrily Rocco from Merrily Wed.*





Because Kat's family owns an Italian restaurant (who also catered the event), they also weaved Tuscan elements throughout. For example, the couple wasn't big on cake, so they served an Italian S'groppino for dessert.

Both music lovers, Kat and Tripp hired a guitar player to ensure the night ended in perfect harmony – singing, and in some cases, strumming along, eating grilled cheese and making s'mores around a roaring campfire.

"There are so many parts of the wedding that you carefully choreograph and coordinate, but it was the end of both evenings that was the best for me," says Kat. "That's when everyone's the most relaxed and you can just have fun."

It wasn't their first weekend under Tahoe's starry skies and it won't be their last, but it will certainly be the most memorable.

Location: Lake Tahoe Private Lakefront Estate  
Photographer: Mulberry Photography [www.mulberryphoto.com](http://www.mulberryphoto.com)  
Event Design/Planning: Merrily Wed, [www.merrilywed.com](http://www.merrilywed.com)  
Catering: Il Fornaio  
Flowers: Bellissima Floral Creations  
Wedding Gown: Carolina Herrera  
Bridesmaid's Gowns: Thread  
Groom's Attire: Zegna

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