



BRAINERD
Local Feature

NORTHERN NUPTIALS

tanya+cole

Cragun's Resort

A SNOWY HIKE, TURNED PROPOSAL. SHE SAID, YES!

written by Lori Shoberg

Minnesotans truly know the uniqueness and beauty of taking a winter hike, especially on newly fallen snow. Something magical occurs, almost Narnia-like, as one traipses through the loose snow. Tanya Pedersen and Cole Cimenski commenced on a hike such as this on November 21, 2015. Indeed, something magical was about to transpire, but it had nothing to do with snow. Tanya describes the scene, “The trail we normally hike was closed for hunting season, which we didn’t realize until we were almost there. We had to take another route, which was slightly more steep and a little slippery. I slipped and fell a couple of times, which added a few laughs to our hike. Once we reached the top, the sun was

setting and snow was lightly falling. I was taking a panorama photo of the view when I turned around to see Cole on one knee. It could not have been more perfect.”

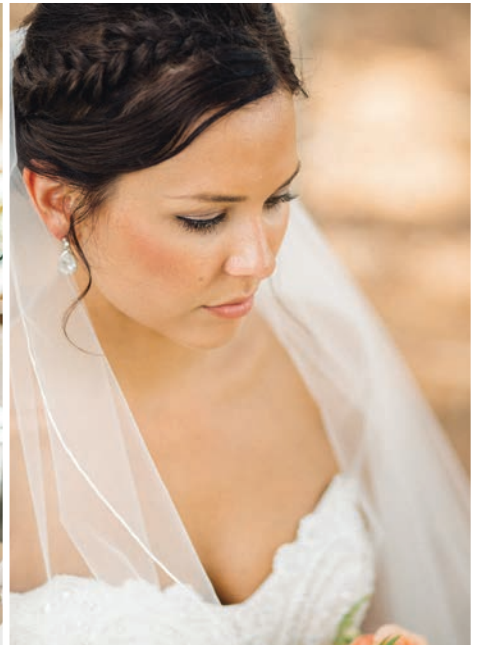
Tanya and Cole met in July 2011 at the Red Carpet Martini Lounge in St. Cloud, MN. Neither Tanya or Cole typically go out, but each of them decided to join friends at the lounge one particular evening. Tanya and Cole were introduced and spent the time acquainting themselves with one another. Something clicked in Tanya’s mind that night, a premonition of sorts, that Cole would be a very important person in her life. They began dating soon after their chance encounter that July night.

photography // **ANATOLIY D PHOTOGRAPHY**

Four years later and with the proposal behind them, Tanya and Cole set their sights on their wedding day. Since photography reached the top of the priority list, a June 18, 2016 date fit best with their top priority needs. Tanya selected natural spring colors, gray, green and coral, to enhance the venue and the season of the year. The ceremony and reception would take place at Cragun's Legacy Golf Course. Tanya and Cole preferred an intimate wedding with close family and friends to share in their day. They compiled a guest list of approximately 90 people and chose not to have attendants stand beside them. Their darling family members (nieces and nephews) processed down the aisle, capturing the hearts of the guests. Cole's cousin, Nathan Duschner, sweetly sought his ordination solely to officiate Tanya and Cole's wedding ceremony.

Tanya purchased her wedding gown at Celebrations Bridal and Formalwear in St. Cloud, MN, selecting one of the first gowns she tried on in the store. The David Tutera strapless, lace, A-line dress with a sweetheart neckline caught Tanya's attention immediately upon walking through the door. "I loved the scalloped lace along the waistline and train."







The white peonies, coral ranunculus, spray roses, with dusty miller and eucalyptus created by Bloom Designs accentuated Tanya's dream dress perfectly.

The wedding ceremony was a perfect reflection of Tanya and Cole's very personal and intimate style. Tanya's brother created and arranged the music selected for the procession while Cole's sister sang as his father played the piano during ceremony celebration.

With the wedding ceremony completed and their vows sealed with a kiss, the newly announced Mr. and Mrs. Cimenski led their guests to their reception location also at the Cragun's legacy Golf Course. Coral cherry blossoms, apple blossoms, white hydrangeas and branch centerpieces created a natural look that was simple and earthy as the ambiance inside their venue. Chandeliers and draping hung from the ceiling to achieve a romantic surrounding as guests dined on a buffet of herb roasted chicken, stuffed ricotta shells, green beans, and herb-roasted baby potatoes. Strawberry cheesecake accented the meal as the couples chosen dessert.

Cole's grandparents celebrated 71 years of marriage on the same weekend as Tanya and Cole's wedding celebration. To commemorate their anniversary, the DJ announced their 71st celebration and set them on the dance floor for a special dance to celebrate their love. "It was so sweet and truly memorable that they were there to show everyone a great example

of how special growing old together can be." Since Tanya and Cole did not have a typical wedding party to give the traditional speeches, they improvised and provided "kissing menus" for their guests attached to each guest table. "To get us to kiss, guests had a few options to choose from such as giving a toast, singing a song, reading a poem, etc. Our guests really got into it and we had a great time with everyone's 'performances'." Tanya and Cole danced their first dance as a married couple to *Unforgettable* by Nat King Cole and Natalie Cole. The title seemed perfectly fitting to cap off a such a wonderful and memorable day. "It was an absolutely perfect day. We received many compliments on our simple wedding ceremony, the dinner food, and our fun reception. We were so thankful for all of our guests who celebrated with us for the day and we felt so lucky to be surrounded by such loving friends and family."

Tanya and Cole delayed their honeymoon until January 2017 where they will be traveling to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic for rest and relaxation as the new Mr. and Mrs. Cimenski. Tanya is the daughter of Greg and Denise Pedersen of Breezy Point, MN. Cole is the son of Tony and Pam Cimenski of Royalton, MN. Tanya reminds brides to; "plan the wedding you want. Everyone will have opinions, it's your day and it is important to remember to plan your wedding the way you and your fiancé envision it."



HUES THEY USED



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WEDDING JEWELRY • Wedding Day Diamonds | **WEDDING PLANNER** • Carrie Hofman, Cragun's Resort