



THE TASTE FOR LIVING

A MAGAZINE MAVEN FINDS HER TOP CHEF

BY LISA SHAMES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER WYNN THOMPSON

Obviously, we have nothing but glowing things to say about our sister publication *CS* magazine (we'll spare you the insider praise of its spot-on editorials and fab fashion spreads). But now the mag can add one more attribute to its list: matchmaking. Or, at least that's the case for Annette Mangubat, a sales executive for *Cookie* magazine, and Michael Taus, chef/owner of Zealous and chef/partner of Duchamp.

It was three years ago that Taus first became smitten with Mangubat when he saw a photo of her in the Social Study pages of *CS*. Even though his then-manager of Zealous was an old friend of hers, that didn't stop Taus from thinking it was destiny when Mangubat walked into his restaurant a few weeks later, blind date or not. "I usually don't hit on girls who are with other guys, but this time there was a divine reason," says Taus.



STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART *Below:* A Caprese salad with heirloom tomatoes. *Right:* Dramatic flower arrangements from Ronsley Special Events. *Opposite page, clockwise from top:* Mr. and Mrs. Michael Taus. A three-tiered cake from Take the Cake. Rows of votive candles set the romantic mood at the Peninsula Chicago.



Turns out he was right. Their initial meeting was followed by an impromptu meal at Zealous, followed by a first date at Spring restaurant. “We’ve been together ever since,” says Mangubat.

When it came time for the proposal, this well-known Chicago chef picked NoMI at the Park Hyatt, where the couple had already spent many a significant meal. Taus got creative, placing a beautiful 4-carat diamond engagement ring atop shells from the Philippines—that’s where Mangubat’s family is from—and rocks from Italy (a nod to his Italian roots).

As they were planning their July 5th wedding, a few things became evident from the start. “It was important to us that the wedding be modern and elegant, but we also wanted everyone to have fun,” says Mangubat. Another non-negotiable was the food. After a tasting that was “out of this world,” according to the groom, with a chef who was open to suggestions—executive chef Terry Crandall—the couple chose the Peninsula Chicago for their reception. There, the 150 guests enjoyed a Caprese salad with heirloom tomatoes, followed by a scallop, cannelloni beans and smoked bacon dish straight off the menu at Zealous. For the entrée, the couple opted for wild sea bass and filet of beef. The cake was a flower-topped, three-layer style from Take the Cake. Then there was a candy bar and cupcakes in the lobby, as well as lots of “good ‘bad’ food” at the after-party like pigs in a blanket, trays of fries and mini burgers. “There wasn’t an ounce of food or drink left,” says Taus.

To initially get the ball rolling, Mangubat turned to childhood friend Colin Falco of Pulp & Ink, who not only offered advice on wedding planners (Heather Moore) but helped with the invitations and programs. For the ceremony, some unfinished construction work meant their first choice, Holy Name Cathedral, had to be swapped for St. Joseph’s Church. But a small hiccup didn’t stop their nuptials from being

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breathtaking: The bride wore a strapless Vera Wang gown with a bouquet of red roses, calla lilies and pink cymbidium orchids; while the groom looked handsome in Armani.

Once the serious part of the wedding was over, the fun began, first with a trolley ride for the wedding party, including an unscheduled stop at Sam’s Wines & Spirits (for the record, Taus wasn’t the least bit surprised the case of Champagne they brought along ran out). Then, it was off to the cocktail reception on the Peninsula terrace where guests imbibed signature drinks—“The Miguel” (a Piña Colada on the rocks with a shot of Midori for Taus) and “The Mangubat-arita” (a mango Margarita for his bride)—while kicking back in lounge chairs.

Inside the Peninsula’s Grand Ballroom, chocolate brown linens complemented the bridesmaids’ dresses. On the tables—designated by the names of the couple’s favorite places, like “Vegas, Baby” and “Carneros,” instead of numbers—tall, slender vases with white calla lilies echoed the clean design lines of the décor.

But perhaps the most revealing moment of the day came when Mangubat and Taus took to the dance floor for their first turn as a married couple. Their song? “Believe It Or Not” from the ’80s TV show *The Greatest American Hero*. “Doesn’t everyone choose that?” laughs Mangubat. Says Taus: “That’s what I love about her, that not everything has to be serious.” ■

PLACE OF CEREMONY

St. Joseph’s Church

PLACE OF RECEPTION

Grand Ballroom at the Peninsula Chicago

WEDDING PLANNER

Heather Moore

FLORALS

Ronsley

Special Events

INVITATIONS

Pulp & Ink

CAKE

Take The Cake

MUSIC

Lynne Jordan and the Shivers

LINENS

BBJ Linen

LIGHTING

Frost Lighting

RINGS

New York Jewelers

BRIDAL GOWN

Vera Wang

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Watters & Watters

TUXEDO

Giorgio Armani

HAIR

Aysa Rodriguez

MAKEUP

Tiffany Topps

TRANSPORTATION

Chicago Trolley