

When There's Wild There's a Way

BY NINA LARY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JORDAN VOTH



Egypt has the Great Pyramids, India the Taj Mahal, and in the furthest northeast corner of Oregon lies one of our state's Seven Wonders — the Wallowa Mountains, also known as the "Swiss Alps of Oregon." Tanner, a local of the area, and his bride, Maria, knew they wanted the rugged alpine beauty of this place that brought them together to be the true centerpiece of their wedding.

The couple met one summer when she was on a family vacation at Wallowa Lake. Theirs was a whirlwind summer romance. They tried long-distance love for a year, but youth and timing drew them apart. Almost seven years later, Tanner and Maria ran into each other





at a random Seattle coffee shop. Nine months later they were engaged. Six weeks after that, married!

Gung-ho for the untraditional, Tanner and Maria tapped into a network of friends, family, and incredible local vendors to pull together an epic wedding in six short weeks. The day went off without a hitch, though in retrospect, Maria wishes she'd hired a wedding planner to relieve some of the pressure that came with the tight timeline.

Even with meticulous planning, most couples get 15-20 minutes with their photographer before or after family group shots. As

an Emmy award-winning photographer, Tanner was adamant about leaving unhurried time and space for wedding day photos. He and Maria even sacrificed precious sleep to capture the best possible light.

On their big day, they woke up at three in the morning and hiked 20 minutes to capture sunrise photos overlooking Wallowa Lake with their friend and photographer, Jordan Voth. Their stunning shoot is a testament to booking plenty of time with an extraordinary photographer. Instead of rushing through a checklist of posed group shots, embrace the day and explore all angles of your love. Hike that mountain, run through the field, get dusty!

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After their sunrise shoot, the couple shared a quiet breakfast alone before the day's hectic festivities began. Treating the wedding as an elopement — with its short engagement and a ceremony on a Tuesday deep in the wilds of Eastern Oregon — forced them to hone in quickly on what really mattered. “We wanted the day to be about adventure and spending time with the people we love the most,” notes Maria.

Following a simple ceremony on the ridge where Tanner proposed, Maria was led away on a white horse an old football coach loaned them for the day. That coach is also the owner of Appleflat Catering, which served up their signature wood-smoked BBQ for the reception. As Tanner says, “Growing up in a rodeo town has its perks!” Post-dinner, Melanee's Cakes, from the tiny town of



Joseph, Oregon, dished up what the happy couple declared “the best tasting wedding cake ever.”

By embracing the unbound wild of the Wallowas, the Stewarts pulled off a vibrant, elegant wedding. Their story proves that all you need to create an unforgettable day is lots of love and a sense of adventure. -WV



The Wedding Vendors:

Location: Wallowa Lake, Oregon | **Photographer:** Jordan Voth, @jordanoth, jordanoth.com | **Videographer:** Philip Leclerc, @philipleclerc | **Florist:** Tanner's mother | **Hair & Makeup:** Callyn Stewart, @hairbycallyn, salonvisio.com | **Catering:** Appleflat Catering, appleflat.com | **Cake:** Melanee's Cakes, @melaneescakes