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# A Tagaytay Wedding in Five Days

Text by **RITA NERI**  
Photos courtesy of **PATRICK UY**

**A**s destination weddings go, the five-day Tagaytay wedding of Mayumi Padre to Alain Ancheta was a shower of blessings from start to finish. Wanting a more unique experience than the usual church to reception city wedding, Mayumi and Alain truly outdid themselves by planning a five-day wedding in Tagaytay to be enjoyed by their 50 guests composed of close family and friends, most of whom flew in from Tokyo, California, Alaska, New Jersey and New York. No mean feat – considering that Alain and Mayumi were also busy meeting wedding suppliers and going about their usual work routine. What they wanted was a total experience where guests would enjoy not only the wedding but also share with them the novelty of the wedding destination. This is not surprising for a couple who had been together for 13 years. They first met in school in their freshman year at college and then became a couple on their third year. Both Alain and Mayumi had a clear picture of how they wanted their special day to unfold.

So how does a five-day Tagaytay wedding work? Here goes...

**Day 1:** Guests, together with Alain and Mayumi, board a coaster bound for Tagaytay. After

a quick stop at a gasoline station where photographer Patrick Uy, videographer Bong Sare of Threeology and the wedding coordinators from Rita Neri Event Planners joined the convoy, everyone proceeded to Bag of Beans in Tagaytay for lunch. From there, it was a short trip to The Spa and Lodge of Tagaytay Highlands where the guests checked in. Welcome baskets of assorted toiletries, bottled water and local goodies all labeled with the personal monogram of the couple awaited the guests in the rooms they would be using for the next five days. The welcome dinner held at the venue's China Palace was a sumptuous 10-course laurial feast which was topped off with a special mini chocolate cake dessert, a delicious favorite of the bride.

**Day 2:** After a continental buffet breakfast, guests again boarded the coaster for a day of sightseeing around Tagaytay. First stop was Ilog Maria Honeybee Farm to not only buy the many unique and eco-friendly bee and pollen based products but to learn about the many beneficial effects one can derive from bees. Then it was on to nearby Taal Vista Hotel for lunch, lots of scenic picture taking and enjoying a remarkably entertaining cultural show. Everyone was back at their hotel by 4pm to get ready for the night's festivities. Mrs. Noriko Padre, the mother of the bride, had arranged for the Despedida de Soltera to be held at Antonio's. Chef Tony was on hand to prepare the fantastic dinner which had a main course of grilled beef fillet

gratinated with wild mushroom. Talented harpist Holly Paraiso played sentimental favorites amid a dramatic setting of white, pink and purple hydrangeas creatively clustered at the dinner tables. The same hydrangea motif was echoed in the cake done by Marta Matute of Marta's Cakes and in the mini cupcake giveaways. As guests toasted to the couple's coming nuptials, photographer Patrick Uy made sure to capture the special moments to be enjoyed later on.

**Day 3:** The third day was left as a free day for the guests to enjoy the varied amenities of Tagaytay Highlands. It was also a day of pampering as many of the guests availed of the venue's spa services. Alain and Mayumi took this opportunity to go around and do a lot of pre-wedding pictures and video.

**Day 4:** D-DAY! After a lazy morning breakfast, things started to move as guests and entourage got busy being "beautified" in preparation for the 4 pm ceremony at Madre de Dios Chapel in Tagaytay Midlands. Mayumi's hair and make-up was in the very capable hands of Toto Bagamasbad and his team, while Art Agulay took care of most of the bridal entourage. The principal sponsors were shuttled to the church in a stretch limo, while the bride and her mother used a vintage Mark 2 Jaguar as the wedding car. At this point, two very special entourage members nearly stole the show from the bride and groom. Ring bearer

Maximus and flower girl Lucilla had all the guests' attention as they showed up in their designer attire made by Paul Cabral. They were present to watch their mom and dad walk down the aisle. But since Max and Lucy were a pair of lovable English bulldogs they were not allowed to enter the church. Too bad, they would have made a beautiful addition to the processional!

Mayumi was every bit, and more, a gorgeous vision in white in her lace couture gown created for her by Paul Cabral. Tall and willowy, she glided down the aisle to the song "Two Words" as performed by the String Minstrels of Ed and Tina Pasamba. Fr. Jerry Orbos officiated the solemn and meaningful nuptial mass and he requested the couple to always remember that they made a vow of togetherness forever. It was a short trip to the reception venue, The Highlander Steakhouse where an outdoor tent was set up for cocktails that featured a signature cocktail drink: Alain and Mayumi's Ever After. A splendid fireworks display had Dragon Fireworks creating a one of a kind pyrotechnic show set to the music of Katy Perry's "Firework" was held while guests enjoyed champagne and wine with their *hors d'oeuvres*. This was followed by a four course dinner that had at the end a truly sinful dessert of Haagen Dazs ice cream served together with slices from the seven-layer wedding cake – comprised of 13 pieces of cakes to symbolize the number of years they have been together – created by Penk Ching. Guests

were further treated to candy buffet giveaways plus pashminas to keep the ladies warm. Personalized imported chocolate tablets were also given to all those who attended. Master of ceremonies, RJ Ledesma kept all in high spirits and The Company was a crowd favorite as they serenaded the couple with their popular love songs. Several heartfelt speeches were given by the aunts and uncles of the couple and everyone enjoyed the audio visual presentation created by Threeology which had the music "On this Blessed Day" especially composed by Trinna Belamide for Alain and Mayumi. It was way past two in the morning before everyone called it a nite since DJ Tito Jante still had guests grooving on the dance floor. The happy smiles on the bride and groom was echoed on their guests' faces as it was obvious that enjoyment was had by all.

**Day 5:** Not even overcast skies could dim the spirits of the guests as they once again gathered for the Tuscan Country themed brunch preparatory to their trip back to Manila. In fact the slight downpour was rather apropos since the now married Alain and Mayumi handed out personalized umbrellas as their post wedding giveaways. After numerous group pictures and a lot of hugs and kisses, the couple bid *adieu* to their close family and friends who I am sure will never forget the five days they spent in Tagaytay in the truly blessed and memorable wedding of Alain and Mayumi Ancheta.



1. The blooming bride in her Paul Cabral gown 2. Alain and Mayumi with their host, RJ Ledesma, and 92 AD 3. The newlyweds 4. Bridal bouquet by Robert Blancaflor 5. Jimmy Choos for the bride 6. Something blue 7. The couple with Fr. Jerry Orbos 8. The couple's first dance 9. Madre de Dios chapel 10. Welcome basket for the guests 11. Wedding cake by Ms. Penk Ching