

From first date to wedding: four couples share details of their special day.
BY KIER HOLMES, LEELA LINDNER AND KASIA PAWLOWSKA

TAKING THE *Plunge*



VENUE: The Fairmont San Francisco, fairmont.com/san-francisco
EVENT PLANNING AND DESIGN F. Duncan Reyes Events by Design, duncanreyesevents.com
PHOTOGRAPHY Clane Gessel Photography, clanegessel.com
FLORAL Jeeryn Dang at Tanjeeryn Designs, tanjeeryn-designs.com
RENTALS Pleasanton Event Rentals, pleasantonrentals.com
SIGNAGE Etsy
DRESS Allure Bridals, allurebridals.com
GROOM'S SUIT Black Tie Tuxedos, blacktietuxedos.com
BRIDESMAID DRESSES Bill Levkoff, billlevkoff.com
HAIR AND MAKEUP Hair by Le Reve Salon, lerevesalon.com; makeup by My Beauty Innovations, mybeautyinnovations.com
MUSIC Pure Ecstasy Band, pure-ecstasy.com
INVITATIONS Paper Caper, papercaper.net

Cyndi Hicks + Adam Ramirez The Fairmont, San Francisco, May 6, 2017

IT ALL STARTED off right for Cyndi and Adam — as in right swipe. Like so many present-day relationships, the San Francisco-based couple first connected on the popular dating app Tinder. “We had 45 friends in common and had no idea how we hadn’t known each other already,” Cyndi says. Shortly after their mobile match, they both realized they had met “the one.” While they were strolling along the water by the Ritz-Carlton in Half Moon Bay, Adam caught Cyndi off guard: he dropped to one knee and proposed. When it came time to select the wedding venue, neither had their heart set on a specific place until they saw the Fairmont. “The Fairmont is quintessential old San Francisco; when we walked into the Gold Room — modeled after Versailles — it took our breath away,” Cyndi says. The couple enlisted planner Duncan Reyes to help create the event, but also had other assistance. “We had an *extreme* amount of help from Cyndi’s mom and would have been so lost without that amazing woman,” says the groom. For the theme, they went classic but not stuffy. “While we wanted glamorous and traditional, we tried to incorporate fun aspects of ourselves like full champagne bottles in place of seating cards, an ice sculpture to pour drinks through and late-night It’s-It ice cream,” the bride says. The fete went off without a hitch, including the ceremony itself. “The most special moment for both of us was meeting at the altar,” Cyndi says. In keeping with tradition, Cyndi and Adam opted against a “first look”: “The moment the church doors opened and we made eye contact was so emotional for both of us,” she says. Seeing her fairy-tale wedding come to life was a high point in itself: “We peeked into the ballroom before the reception started and it was amazing — the Gold Room looked even more magical than we imagined it would.” Anything they would have done differently? Says the groom: “We are happy to say there isn’t anything we would have changed! It was truly the best day of our lives.”



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