

Inspired by the movies

Story by Lauren Martin

Photos by Joe Mikos



JULIE *and* MICHAEL

Rehearsal Dinner – **Chappaquiddick Beach Club** 🦋 Ceremony and Reception – **Tom's Neck Farm** 🦋 Brunch – **Edgartown Yacht Club**
Wedding Planner – **Julie Hatt of Vineyard Weddings** 🦋 Celebrant – **Rabbi H. Hirsch Cohen** 🦋 Rehearsal Dinner Caterer – **Tea Lane Caterers**
Reception Caterer – **Annie Foley Catering and Party Planning** 🦋 Cake – **l'étoile** 🦋 Flowers – **Flowers on the Vineyard by Louise Sweet**
Music – **Sultans of Swing** 🦋 Rentals – **Big Sky Tent and Party Rentals** and **Classy Comforts** 🦋 Transportation – **Marlene's Taxi**
Gown – **Tulle** 🦋 Hair and Makeup – **Wave Lengths Salon and Day Spa** 🦋 Favors – **Chilmark Chocolates**



THE NEW YORK POST GOT THE DETAILS WRONG when it reported that Chelsea Clinton's nuptials were the reason for the elegant tents going up early last September on Chappaquiddick, the smaller sandy island off the island of Martha's Vineyard.

The couple who in fact exchanged their vows on Chappy that weekend, Julie Dangel and Michael Milberg, got all the details right – wedding details that reflected their love of Vineyard casual and the Island's blue sky and waters, details that reflected their attention to family, friends, food, and the environment. "But it definitely added more fun to the occasion," Julie says of the *Post's* Page Six gossip story peddling the Clinton wedding rumor. Julie and Michael had guests coming from both coasts, "and everyone e-mailed that story around, with the pictures of our set-up, the week before."

Julie's parents built a summer house on the Vineyard the year she was born. Now she and Michael live and work in Los Angeles. So they used their experience as film producers to make their Island wedding something extraordinary, even without the celebrity press. "When you do a set, you create a moving city, with bathrooms, food, a generator, a budget," Julie explains. The couple took on the challenge of producing all that on Chappy, where even in summer the last ferry to

Edgartown (the nearest place with a shop) leaves at midnight. "That was pretty tight for the caterer," says Julie, "but everybody made it."

Though guests came from Boston, where Julie grew up, Georgia, where Michael grew up, and from many places in between, the theme of this production was local and environmental. "Our save the dates, invitations, menus – they all were on recycled paper printed with soy ink. Jim Eddy [of Big Sky Tent and Party Rentals] got us a green diesel generator. We tried to use local flowers and food," says Julie. "It was as environmental as you can be when you're creating a little town in the middle of a yard with 200 people flying in from all over."

The couple hosted a welcome barbecue at a home in Edgartown. "It was casual, like Martha's Vineyard," says Julie. "Then we had this great rehearsal dinner at the Chappy beach club. By the time the wedding came, everyone was already very comfortable and we'd had a chance to talk to everyone, so at the actual reception they all knew each other. Everyone was friends and they were like, 'Get out there and dance, you don't have to catch up with us now.'"

Big Sky provided a dance floor with real flooring that makes a rolling landscape level. Julie's father gallantly



“tasted all the cakes on Martha’s Vineyard.” The restaurant l’Étoile, in Edgartown, made a red velvet cake – a Southern tradition, in honor of the bridegroom. “It was the best I’ve ever tasted,” the bride says. Caterer Annie Foley used Norton Farm tomatoes, North Tabor Farm greens, and seafood fresh from Vineyard waters – pan-seared sole topped with lobster in a lemon and caper butter sauce. “All delicious,” Julie says, savoring the memory.

She also talked to Louise Sweet of Flowers on the Vineyard about using as many local flowers as possible, which is why hydrangeas, practically the official flower of Edgartown, featured so prominently. “When I think of the Vineyard, I immediately think of the blues – the sky, the ocean,” says Julie. But blue flowers are uncommon, so Julie chose primarily white flowers and accented them with blues. “The blues and whites, coupled with the onion lamps on the mast-like tent poles, were meant to evoke a subtle nautical theme without bringing in any cheesy boat-themed items. We started to develop this with our save the dates and invitations, which featured dark blue ink on white paper, and carried it through to the wedding itself.”

At the Tom’s Neck Farm reception, “the star of the show was the view,” Julie points out. “It didn’t need to be enhanced.” The couple knew the reception would be somewhat formal, but not black-tie stiff. “We wanted a very warm, very comfortable event,” she says, “because God knows it was hard for them all to get there.”

And how did this production end? “I had this warm, happy feeling when I looked around that night – all these people who had helped raise me, been part of our lives. Everyone looked so happy. It was the perfect night.” 🍷

