

Jennifer Gurick & Tom Shashaty

Above *Ballroom Fit for a King & Queen*

CEREMONY: *St. Charles Church*

RECEPTION: *Above*

GOWN: *Mori Lee*

BRIDESMAIDS: *Jordan*

MAKEUP: *Makeup by Marti*

HAIR: *Robert Palumbo's Hair Design*

FLORIST: *Carrol's Florist*

CAKE: *Jackie's Cake Boutique*

PHOTOGRAPHER: *Joey G's Memories*

DJ: *Platinum Entertainment*

Tommy and I both work for the same insurance company, but didn't formally meet until our holiday party. We started dating later that year and eventually moved in together. Tommy proposed the week after our company's next holiday party and I had no idea it was coming. He told me to look at the new ornament he bought for our little Charlie Brown Christmas tree. I must have stood in front of it for five minutes before I noticed the ring sitting in an open box underneath the lights!

We chose Above because it was not like any other venue. After seeing pictures of Above online, I had no intention of looking any further. The pictures only capture part of how breathtaking it is when you are standing in the middle of the ballroom. Above was the clear choice. Jennifer Finch, our event planner, made the process so easy for us. She puts her heart and soul into each couple she plans for. I felt like I should have had her in my wedding party! The whole staff went out of their way to make us feel like royalty.

Our ceremony was held at St. Charles Church in Staten Island. Next, we arrived at Above for the cocktail hour. There was so much food! The selections were beyond your traditional menu, with specialties like baby lamb chops with pomegranate pinot noir glaze, sweet potato dumplings with ponzu sauce, and my favorite, lobster mac and cheese.

The ballroom was fit for a king and queen with its square white tables, light gray carpeting, lavender up-lighting, and one-of-a-kind chandelier. The alternating tables were decorated with tall arrangements of birch tree branches and crystals or a set of three crystal candelabras with feathers. Our sweetheart table, decorated with a silver lace overlay, picked up the room's romantic lighting.

Our dinner menu consisted of three entrees to choose from: duck with roasted figs and creamy polenta, lemon-crusted sea bass with citrus butter sauce, and short ribs with chianti glaze, which was the most popular. Our cinnamon bun wedding cake with cannoli filling was delicious. I cannot wait for our one year anniversary so I can defrost the top layer and have more!

I do not think we stopped dancing the whole night, thanks to our DJ. Everyone we talk to says it was the best wedding they have ever been to. I cannot thank Jennifer Finch, the Above staff, and the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Nicotra, enough. This establishment is a step "Above" the rest!

Above

Staten Island, NY

718.477.2400 x 5, www.eventabove.com