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Married - and made - in Michigan

Couple focus on local products for nuptials

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Mike Vial and Natalie Burg are having their wedding with Michigan-made products, including Michigan wines. They are holding Michigan-made McClure's products that they will be using along with Michigan beers. / Greg DeRuiter/Lansing State Journal



Written by
Tricia Bobeda

Natalie Burg and Mike Vial of Howell are such avid Michiganders that they decided their wedding should be Michigan-themed.

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The couple are using local vendors and Michigan-based businesses for everything from the invitations to her dress for their wedding in early August.

In hopes of inspiring other wedding planners to think local, they're

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writing about their experiences in a blog.

“My Mitten in Yours” chronicles their progress.

Posts include the search for the perfect Michigan reception band, which is key for Vial, 30, as a local musician.

Follow along at mymitteninyours.wordpress.com to find out more about the Michigan vendors and products Burg and Vial will include in their wedding.

They’re plotting every last detail, including which locally made pickles to serve in Bloody Marys at the bar.

Bride-to-be Natalie Burg, 29, explained why the hand-shaped state is so close to her heart that she’s willing to make it a co-star on her wedding day.

What made you decide to blog about your wedding planning experience and its Michigan theme?

“The idea of sharing it was initially to highlight all our Michigan vendors. Sometimes people said, “Oh gosh, isn’t it going to be hard?” when we told them the theme, and their reaction was that we were going to be limiting ourselves. We felt the opposite — that this is going to be opening a lot of opportunities for us.

“Being a writer, it never takes a whole lot to convince me to write about something. We decided that we would start the blog as our piece by piece testimony of all the talents and creative vendors in Michigan.

“What we’re finding is that putting together a wedding is kind of a collection of talents. Every single facet of that from the catering to the dresses to the flowers are all readily available here.”

How did you choose the venue?

“A lot of (Vial’s) family is from the Metro Detroit area. A lot of my family is at this point spread all over the United States, but I come from a small town Up North. Half the town is coming (to the wedding).

“It was kind of nerve-wracking going into it. We decided that we would pick the place that worked best for us and people who were going to come instead of it being in one of our hometowns.

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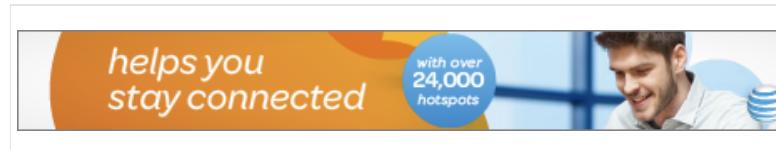
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