

Real Wedding



NAME/CREDENTIALS: Michelle Johnstone Clark, Waterlily Weddings, Odenton, Md., 443.517.9870, and Wicklow Ireland, 087.284.0284, michelle@waterlilyweddings.com, www.waterlilyweddings.com.

NON-MEMBER BUSINESSES INVOLVED: Ballinacurra House, Kinsale; Aspect Photography, Waterford; Daisychain (floral), Kinsale; Celtic Music Agency, Donegal; and Celebrant Dara Molloy, Aran Islands.

THE COUPLE: Jenn Brown and Aaron Finigan began dating while in college in San Luis Obispo, Calif., in 2001, and have been together ever since. Aaron proposed on New Year's Day, 2011, during a small but very special family gathering at their home. After all those years, it still caught Jennifer by surprise. Fifteen months later, on their 11-year anniversary as a couple, they tied the knot. Since both families have Irish roots, the bride and groom chose to have their wedding on the Emerald Isle so friends and family could vacation together and visit beautiful Ireland.

INSPIRATION: All things Irish. Waterlily Weddings was tasked and inspired by the couple to create a "fun, memorable, lighthearted wedding day in a uniquely Irish, exclusive venue and in a stunning location." Jenn and Aaron also wanted a modern wedding that incorporated traditional Irish elements.

COLOR PALETTE: The couple cleverly incorporated the colors orange, white, and green to represent the poppy, California's state flower, the Irish clover, and the colors of the Irish flag.

BUDGET: Under €20,000 (around \$28,000 United States' dollars).

MOST UNIQUE DESIGN ELEMENT: The mother of the bride designed the motif, which incorporated the California poppy and the Irish clover. It was very clean, modern, and truly unique to the couple.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE: The couple was not going to arrive in Kinsale until just a couple of days before the wedding, so making sure they had realistic expectations for the location and venue, along with all the other details, was a little challenging, but definitely achievable.

HINDSIGHT: Get everything in writing. Unlike many other countries, written contracts aren't always the norm in Ireland, but there is no reason not to get essential details confirmed in writing. ••

