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"I think everybody was charmed by Manzanita," Derek said. "It was a beautiful setting."

There was a momentary panic, however, when a rainstorm broke out 45 minutes before the wedding. But it quickly passed, and the 6 p.m. beach ceremony went on as planned. Meghan's sister officiated; her niece was the flower girl and her nephew, the ring bearer.

Meghan wore a strapless dress, with a soft, English-lace bodice. Derek wore a tailored vest, rolled up gray pants, an ivory shirt and bow tie. Both were barefoot.

"Our strategy was as if we had been to a formal event and decided to go to the beach afterwards," Derek said.

"Derek had a vision of a deconstructed ceremony," Meghan added.

Following the wedding, everyone walked from the beach to Bread and Ocean for the reception.

"I loved it," Meghan said of the day. "It was very mellow."

Their wedding photos feature Meghan spinning around, her dress flaring out and the ocean in the background.

"It felt decadent," Meghan said.

The couple went on two honeymoons: They drove down the coast and visited some wineries on a leisurely drive back to Colorado, and, later, they spent time in Italy.

Derek has one suggestion for couples who may be considering a wedding at the beach, even in the summer: "Plan for the weather."

"Our Plan A was to wait out the rain," he said. "Our Plan B was to go inside one of the houses we had rented."

Despite that one small concern, however, Meghan and Derek said their wedding day, which can be tense, was relaxed. Meghan attributes that to the beach-town ambience. They have become fans of Manzanita.

"We're going back next summer," she said. ■

