

# True Life Love Stories

## That Will Make You Believe in Happily Ever After



### Newsworthy Nuptials

#### Tara Hitchcock & Kenneth Francis

"If someone tells you to take the plunge, and they say, 'Jump in...it's only ankle deep,' ask them if they jumped in feet first or dove. I dove," says Kenneth Francis of his romance with Tara Hitchcock, which began under the most unlikely of circumstances. While on a guy's trip to Telluride the same weekend *Good Morning Arizona*, the morning news show Hitchcock hosts, took their show to the historic mountain town, the two met in the airport. It's not exactly violins and candlelight, but they both agree it was love at first sight and there's nothing unromantic about that.

Dating since late spring of 2002, the couples wed on October 2 on a ranch in the city where they met. After helping their dad out with the unforgettable proposal — "His three kids took turns getting down on one knee and they all asked me to marry 'them.' It was amazing." — each of the young Francis' joined their father and new stepmother on the altar as an intricate part of the wedding party. A reception for family and friends will follow at **Barcelona** in Scottsdale sometime in November.

As for the honeymoon, it was off to the islands for a little fun in the sun. All three kids joined the newlyweds on the second leg of their honeymoon in Bora Bora and Hawaii.

As for advice to other couples ready to take the plunge, Hitchcock blissfully counsels, "Be picky, take your time, it's so worth the wait!" —AF

#### THE LOGISTICS OF THEIR LOVE:

**Who Would Play Them in a Movie About Their Love:** Meg Ryan and Viggo Mortensen  
**First Kiss in a Word:** Wow!  
**Movie Reminiscent About Their Relationship:** *Shrek 2*, without the disapproving parents

### French Kiss

#### Mary Jane Jarvis & André M. Rochat

If French is the language of love, then André Rochat must have been speaking in his native tongue the day he met Mary Jane Jarvis. With nothing more than a simple introduction by friends on St. Patrick's Day in 1985, the French Alps native knew he had fallen.

Although Mary Jane admits it took her longer to know she was in love, she recalls how her first impression of André left her pleasantly skeptical, "I just couldn't believe that André was as romantic, generous and gentle as he was."

André proved his sincerity to Mary Jane on what they call their "first hot date." Over a romantic dinner at **Caesar's Palace**, André told Mary Jane he was falling in love with her in French. Later in the evening, André translated his feelings in English so there would be no doubt in Mary Jane's mind.

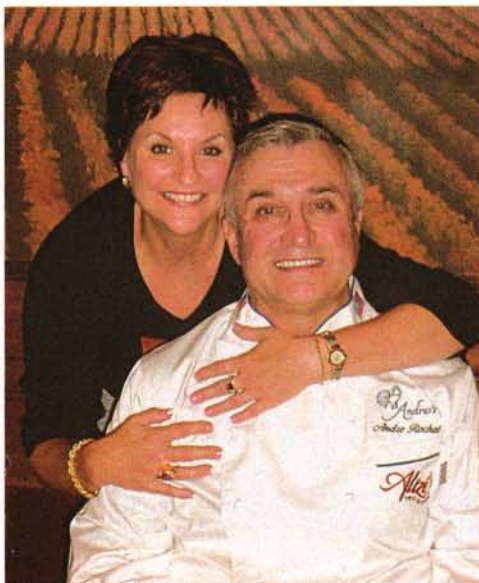
Although André and Mary Jane live in the city known for shotgun weddings, they have never taken that fateful walk down the aisle together. Still, nearly 20 years after meeting, the couple has remained united, personally and professionally. André is the chef and proprietor of three restaurants in Las Vegas — **André's Downtown**, **André's at the Monte Carlo**, and **Alizé** on top of the **Palms Casino Resort**.

Starting out as a server at the original André's, Mary Jane eventually became co-owner of the André restaurants, putting all her skills to work, including making the window treatments and writing the monthly newsletters for each establishment.

Together, this power couple is making plans to open a new André's at the **Las Vegas Hilton** in 2005. —AF

#### THE LOGISTICS OF THEIR LOVE:

**Pets:** 3 Cats; **Gourmet:** Champagne and Caviar  
**First Kiss in a Word:** Passionate  
**Favorite Friday Night Hangout:** *Firefly* for tapas



### Second Chance Romance

#### Mike & Irena Medavoy

If you ever meet someone who instantly makes your knees go weak, the Medavoys have some advice for you... don't ignore the feeling!

Irena Medavoy says she first met her husband, Mike, in a Los Angeles restaurant. She was a model and Mike was producing the latest *James Bond* flick. "We were both Russian and we just clicked," says Irena. "I still remember my heart pounding, but I never called him and he never called me."

As fate would have it, 12 years later the two were set up on a blind date. Irena says they looked at each other and just knew. "After we met again we were never apart again," says Irena.

Making their home in Beverly Hills, the Medavoys have been married almost 10 years. They have a six and half year old son together, and Mike has a son from a previous marriage.

For the Medavoys, the ideal evening is having close friends over for dinner and a movie. "We're pretty much homebodies, our friends are our extended family," says Irena.

Despite Mike's hectic schedule (he has been involved in more than 300 movies) Irena says their marriage works because they both respect family and each other.

"Irena is the most honest women I've ever met," adds Mike.

Both still marvel at the second chance they were given to be together. "You never forget that chemistry," Irena sighs. "We may not be perfect people but we're perfect for each other."

—KAREN SCHALER

#### THE LOGISTICS OF THEIR LOVE:

**Favorite Book:** *War and Peace*, both  
**Their Song:** *Unforgettable* by Nat King Cole  
**Weekend Escape:** Second home in La Quinta

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