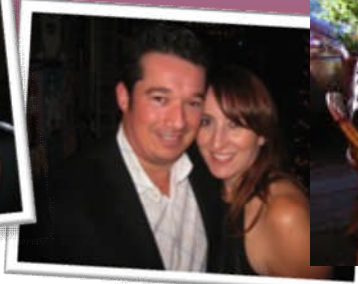


# Andrea & Max



First Date



Date Night



Max's Mom visiting  
from France



Ice Skating

## Dear Birth Mother,

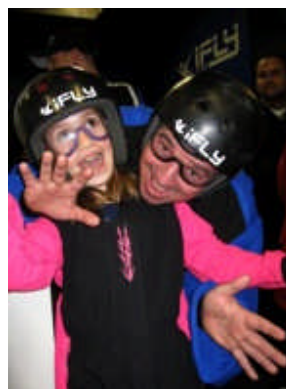
Hello from California! We thank you for taking a moment to learn a little more about us! We realize that you are in the process of making an incredibly difficult decision in finding that perfect home for your baby. Even though you may not feel it at the moment, you are a very strong, brave and selfless person to go through a process like this.

Should you decide to choose us to be the adoptive parents, we will do everything we can to ensure a smooth and comfortable transition for you. As the birthmother giving us the greatest gift we could ask for, we would treat you with the utmost respect, kindness and compassion.

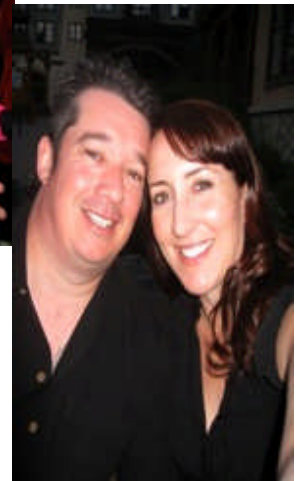
Nothing would make us happier than being given the opportunity to expand our family and be given the chance to enjoy the journey of parenthood. After two years of trying and many losses we learned that we are unable to have a child of our own. Adoption is our only chance to have a baby. We have a house full of love just waiting for his or her arrival!



*Just Married in Lake Tahoe!!!  
2009*



Indoor skydiving for  
Alexis' birthday



Honeymoon in Squaw Valley

## Andrea

Born and raised in the Bay Area and still live in the same neighborhood I grew up in. I attended junior college and received my AA degree in Early Childhood Education. I have worked as a substitute preschool/after schoolteacher for over twenty years. I have also spent time volunteering at the VA hospital and as an EMT at music venues in the area. My Father was Swiss and my Mother was French Canadian so I grew up with a lot of exposure to different foods, culture and languages. I am an only child and also first generation American! My parents have both passed but I have countless cousins and extended family scattered all over the US, Canada, Ireland and Switzerland.

In 2000, I was blessed with the birth of my daughter Alexis. Her father and I were together for thirteen years before our marriage ended. I raised her as a single parent from the age of two until she was eight. We are very close and have a lot of fun together.

I am planning on returning to college and finishing my bachelors degree in Psychology with hopes of someday having my own counseling practice specializing in helping families affected by Alzheimer's/Dementia. My Mother suffered from a form of dementia so it is a cause I hold near and dear to my heart.

My interests include photography, history, music, working out, gardening, travel and cooking. I am very outgoing, outdoorsy, friendly, compassionate, strong and daring.

I am 40 years old and I am 5'4 1/2" tall with auburn hair and green eyes.



*At one of my favorite spots in the mountains!*



At the Def Leppard Concert

## Max



I was born in a small town in the south of France. My Father was in the military so I spent a lot of my childhood on the base in Germany. I grew up speaking four languages but now only speak English, some Spanish and of course French. I spent my teenage years in the South of France and in Paris. I too am an only child with a huge extended family. Both my parents are from families of at least seven children. After finishing high school I came to the US when I was 21 to help my Uncle run his new restaurant. I have been in the US ever since. I have been the manager of my Uncle's restaurant now for over twenty years. I am working on opening my own restaurant in the area in the next year. A French bistro of course! I would also like to go to culinary school at some point. My parents and most of my family are in France but I have some extended family here in the Bay Area that we often spend the holidays with.

I am 40 years old and 5'7" tall with black hair and hazel eyes.

My hobbies/interests include cooking, travel, playing tennis, gardening, surfing, and restoring hot rods/classic cars.

I am very outgoing with a great sense of humor, hard working, daring and fun loving. Always the life of the party!



## Alexis



Alexis- age 11 and starting junior high.

Interests include hip-hop dance, tennis, music, singing, acting, playing with her cat and fun times with friends.

She is an avid reader, loves to write, is fluent in Spanish and is starting French.

She is outgoing, sweet, friendly, fearless and fun!

She is excited at the idea of being a big sister!

Alexis has brown hair and hazel eyes.

## Our Story



Tahoe Wedding 3/09



Our Family Life



Formal Wedding 7/09

When Max was fifteen he came out to California to spend the summer with his Uncle. A mutual family friend tried to set us up on a blind date but neither of us was interested. When Max was twenty one he returned to California to help run his Uncle's restaurant which just happened to be a few blocks from my where I lived. Little did we know, but we had many mutual friends. One of which was named Jessica. She was very ill and we both spent a lot of time at her house with her helping with the dog and various chores. I still vividly remember running into Max there one day but we never formally met. Jessica and I went to the restaurant for lunch at least once a month. We'd sit in our favorite booth and she would chat with Max. This went on for some time until her passing. I became a regular customer at the restaurant often bringing my daughter who loved the pancakes. Four years went by and never a word spoken between Max and myself until one day. My friend and I met for girls day out. Of course I had no makeup on and wearing my sweats and for some reason Max noticed me and came to our table. He left me his number and I waited an entire week to call him. My friend had to convince me to just have dinner and see how it goes. After many bad dating experiences I was hesitant but decided to give it a shot. We had many late night calls that lasted for hours before we finally met for coffee. I think I knew at the point that this was meant to be. Our first date was actually at Alexis' communion. I figured if he's going to survive he's going to have to pass the family test. Baptism by fire so to speak. So on that day he met my entire family, my friends, my ex and his family and my daughter's friends. He charmed everyone and by the end of the day my best friends, who were normally rather protective, were asking when we were getting married! Max thought he would be a bachelor forever but said that when he met me he just knew. It was like the universe was just waiting for the right time to put us together...that and a little help from our matchmaker up in heaven! We were engaged six months later. We had a small private winter wedding in Lake Tahoe in March 2009 followed by a huge, formal, Catholic wedding with all of our families and friends near our home. We pulled out all the stops and it was an amazing day! We honeymooned for a week in Lake Tahoe and then another week with Alexis at another mountain resort. We were thrilled to find out we were expecting soon after but it was the beginning of many heartbreaking losses until we finally learned that we would not be able to have a child of our own. Many of our friends have had great adoption experiences so we thought we would give it a shot!

## Religion

We are Catholic and we are raising Alexis as catholic We belong to a wonderful parish near our home full of families and fun activities We attend mass a few times a month and we never miss the holidays like Easter and Christmas.

## Our Home and Family Life

In 2009 we tore down my parents old home and built a new home in its place. Our house is 2 stories, 3000 square feet, 4 bedrooms & 4 baths. We have a big backyard with a garden. Since we love spending time in the mountains we decided to build our very own cabin here. As you can see it looks like it belongs in Lake Tahoe. I am proud to say that I designed and picked every detail and did the landscaping myself!



Our family also includes our three pets. Donner, our 18 mo. old 110 pound Bernese Mountain dog and our two cats, Tandy and Snoshoe. We live in the affluent area known as the Silicon Valley. We make a comfortable income from our jobs. We are near Stanford University, Google, Facebook and Hewlett-Packard. Our neighborhood is located within walking distance of a small downtown area, a library and several parks. We are also within a mile of some of the top rated schools in the country. Our tree lined neighborhood is full of families with children of all ages. This area has every possible activity for children ranging from horseback riding, basketball, swimming, acting, soccer, language classes, karate and so on. We are a half hour from the beach and about three hours from the snow. Two places we visit fairly often. We like to take road trips to nearby areas such as Napa, Carmel, Santa Cruz, San Francisco and Northern California. We enjoy going to car shows, museums, the beach, amusements parks, zoos, parks, going for bike rides, and taking the puppy for long walks. We are members of the Bernese club as well as a Swiss Club, which includes lots of fun events throughout the year. Every summer we go rafting in Lake Tahoe and go fishing at Pincrest Lake. We always head to the mountains in the wintertime for sledding and snow play. In the fall we always make a big deal about getting lots of pumpkins for Halloween and just after Thanksgiving we cut down our Christmas tree. We are hoping to visit Europe soon and see visit Max's family in France.

We love to entertain and have our friends and family over. A lot of our friends are French so what might start as a bbq might end up taking on a French theme with amazing food and French conversation. Alexis also enjoys having her friends over for playdates or slumber parties. We have become the cool house to hang out at.

Rafting in Lake Tahoe



Disneyland 2011



## Parenting Style

I would raise another child much like I raised Alexis. I was a very low-key parent. After being a preschool teacher for so many years it takes a lot to rattle me. I loved every minute of being a Mom from the bottles to the first steps. I spent every minute I could with my daughter taking her to the park, on walks, bike rides, playdates and all sorts of fun activities. Max is really excited at the idea of being a new Dad and being able to experience all the it entails! I enrolled Alexis in a parent co-op preschool when she was 18 mo. old and it was a fabulous experience I would do again in a heart beat. A great place to make friends, learn the basics but also to get dirty and have fun! We have no problem with our child coming home covered in paint and goo! We believe in letting kids be kids and that means trying new things, which is how they learn. Yes the kitchen might get messy with a 2 year old helping you bake cookies but who cares!? As they get older obviously education is important but we are not the type of parents who overschedule our child with activities. The teen years can definitely be challenging but I think if you lay good ground word when they are little and stick to what you preach, it makes it a lot easier later on. We feel that children of all ages need down time and time to just have fun and relax. We love books and encourage reading and trips to the library. Our child would start learning French from day one. He or she would also have dual US/French citizenship. This opens many doors for travel and free education. Living in an area where many overstress success we will not push our children to do more than they can handle or what is healthy for them high school should be a time to learn but also to have fun and far too many kids are stressed to the point of having physical and mental health issues. Our belief is to try your best, study hard, stay honest and set some goals. If my child gets into Harvard or Yale, that is great but we're not going to be one of those crazy parents who pushes them 24-7 to get there. We feel it is important for children to help in the family, to learn responsibility and how to do certain tasks like doing laundry, cooking, managing money and so on. These are things that they will carry on through life and will need when they go out on their own. We do not believe in nannies or full time day care. We also feel that having pets in the home is wonderful for children teaching them how to care and love another living creature who loves them back unconditionally. Children are only little so long so we cherish every minute and every opportunity to spend with them whether it be playing at the park, reading a bedtime story, or snuggling up to watch a movie at home. I've learned its not what you buy a child it's the time you spend with them and the effort you make that they will remember. We also keep it fun and magical with visits from the Easter Bunny and the tooth fairy, leaving cookies, milk and a nice note for Santa, as well as making gingerbread houses and holiday treats.

## Final Words...

We hope that this has helped you get to know us a little better. Should you decide to choose us I think you will find that we are very easy going, down to earth people who just want an opportunity to fulfill our dreams of raising a child together and giving it all that the world has to offer. We wish you all the best in your journey!

With love, Andrea & Max