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Seattle Couple Wins Potato Lover's Month Wedding Giveaway

The love of potatoes was in the air this past month, however only one couple could be named Washington's greatest potato loving fans. Audra Giese and John Barber, both of Seattle, WA are the lucky winners of the 2015 Potato Lover's Month wedding giveaway from the [Washington State Potato Commission](http://www.potatoes.com) (WSPC). The WSPC spent all of February inviting those who felt they were Washington's most devout potato couple to enter their giveaway.

Contestants were asked to submit a short video of themselves showing their potato love and describing why they should be chosen to win the grand prize, a potato-themed wedding banquet. Based on their video submission, Audra and John were chosen as the ultimate potato loving couple and winners of a potato-themed wedding banquet catered by Blue Ribbon Cooking of Seattle (valued at \$5,000).

Audra heard about the contest on the radio and she and John felt they had a good chance of winning based on how much they enjoy potatoes.

"I have always loved the versatility of potatoes!" said Audra. "In fact, I dreamt about having a mashed potato martini bar for my wedding once I heard that such a thing even existed. I thought this contest was the chance to make that dream come true."

Audra and John's video highlighted the numerous ways they would like to enjoy potatoes at their wedding. They both credited the efforts of their friends and family who helped vote for their video and were also very enthused about having a potato themed wedding reception.

"We were incredibly excited to hear the news. The competition got a little fierce at the end, but the process of sharing the video was really fun," said Giese. "All of our friends and family who are coming to the wedding probably did a lot more work to share the video and make our victory possible. Each of their efforts will prove worthwhile as we enjoy a potato feast at our reception."

Although they were students during different times, Audra and John both studied at the same university in Germany (Universität Heidelberg) and met through the school's alumni program.

“We had originally thought about getting married in Germany, but after thinking more about it, we felt that Leavenworth would be an even better choice. Due to the fact that more of our loved ones will be able to come and celebrate with us while also allowing us to keep the German theme,” said Barber. “Now that has proven to be an even better decision because we can have our potato themed wedding reception.”

The couple will be married June 14, 2015 in Leavenworth, WA. Following their wedding they will be visiting Ireland and Germany on their honeymoon.

“We are both thankful for winning the WSPC’s contest and appreciate them seeing how much we truly loved potatoes,” said Giese. “Washington state potatoes are the best around because they are grown in wonderful regions throughout the state and you can find so many different types and varieties.”

You can view Audra and John’s video, as well as the other video entries by visiting www.potatoes.com and linking to the commission’s YouTube page.

Established in 1956, the mission of the WSPC is to support an economically and environmentally sustainable Washington State potato industry by providing strong leadership and innovation and building partnerships to meet the demands of global consumers. For more information about the WSPC, Washington potatoes or other general inquiries please visit www.potatoes.com or call 509.765.8845.

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