



New mates for new year

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It's nice 2011 begins with some happy wedding news. Let's just hope these marriages last — at least longer than most in Hollywood!

Most intriguing is Shania Twain's New Year's Day wedding with Frederic Thiebaud — their engagement only announced last month. The couple tied the knot at a friend's villa in Rincon, Puerto Rico.

While the world knows Twain divorced ex-husband Robert Lange after discovering he cheated on her with her friend and Thiebaud's then wife, Marie-Anne, those painful memories (including Marie-Anne and Robert's subsequent marriage) were totally ignored at the small, beachside ceremony Saturday.

The 40-some family members and friends knew better. "I think seeing all those armed guards keeping the paparazzi at bay was enough of a deterrent," joked a spy at the scene.

While Twain's wedding in Puerto Rico was intimate and didn't include other famous faces, Valerie Bertinelli's own surprise walk down the aisle in Malibu, Calif., with longtime beau Tom Vitale — also New Year's Day — could have used a red carpet! There were lots of Bertinelli's friends from her TV shows, both past and present. Along with current "Hot in Cleveland" co-stars Jane Leeves and Wendie Malick, the guest list also included Mackenzie Phillips and Pat Harrington from "One Day at a Time" — plus Bertinelli's ex-husband (but still good friend) Eddie Van Halen and his wife, Janie.

Phillips told a fellow guest she "wouldn't have missed Valerie's wedding for anything," citing Bertinelli's constant friendship and support during the many years Phillips has battled her additions. As for Pat "Schneider" Harrington, People reports the crowd roared with laughter when his toast was continuously interrupted by the "One Day at a Time" theme song, piped in over loudspeakers.

NEW YEAR'S FUN: "The Big Bang Theory" star Johnny Galecki chowed down Friday on an Asian feast with Billy Dec at Sunda. ... Among those spied toasting 2011 under the silver and black balloons at Gibsons on Rush were CBS-2's Jim Williams, Desiree Rogers, Elaine and Burt Gordon, Neal Zucker, Julie Latsko, Robin Berger, Whitney and Jerry Lasky, Marko Iglendza and Goodman Theatre chair Patricia Cox, who reported seeing newly engaged Reese Witherspoon partying quietly earlier in the week down in Puerta Vallarta.

THE BABY BEAT: On a personal note, I'm delighted to announce the arrival of my third grandson, Winston Alley, who was among the first born at Prentice Women's Hospital on New Year's Day — that lucky 1-1-11 date— and a huge thrill for his big brothers, Pittman and Grant.