

yourwedding

Simply glamorous

Tina and Christian chose sparkling crystal details at their glamorous South African wedding



“Our stationery was bespoke – the order of service featured artistic drawings with peppermint paperweights hanging from it. This added an unusual, personal touch,” says Tina



Hang simple orders of service from the back of the chairs – they’re useful, look great, and cut costs as you don’t need chair backs!



Use your venue's natural features to create wow-factor for free! In the UK, try Seiont Manor in Snowdonia (handpickedhotels.co.uk) and Sharrow Bay in Cumbria (sharrowbay.co.uk)



Look of love Tina Tshuma and Christian Wiklund had been making eyes at each other all night when they met six years ago at a Halloween party in Johannesburg, South Africa. "As I was about to leave, Christian sat down next to me," says Tina. "We stayed up all night chatting and discovered we shared a love of Africa and good food. In the morning, we went to a cafe for breakfast and from then on we saw each other as often as we could."

Second time lucky Tina had no idea Christian was going to pop the question on a skiing holiday to Verbier, Switzerland, in 2007. "One evening, Christian suggested we go for a walk up a nearby slope," says Tina. "We were surrounded by snow and pine trees – it was beautiful. He got down on one knee but when he started to speak, I was so shocked I burst into tears and said, 'Are you serious?'. I didn't hear him ask me to marry him, so he had to get down on one knee and ask again!"

Candlelit ceremony "Christian and I wanted our big day to be simple yet with a glamorous twist," says Tina. "We chose a wedding at wine farm Vrede en Lust (vnl.co.za) in Franschhoek Valley, Cape Town. Our wedding planner Anne Mann from Wedding Concepts (weddingconcepts.co.za) really helped us to achieve the look with a chocolate brown and cream colour scheme." Guests gathered to watch the couple say their vows under a white gazebo laden with flowers. "I wanted some of the plants to be pointing forwards to symbolise Christian and I looking ahead to our future life together," says Tina. "My favourite part of the ceremony was when my mum and Christian's mum both lit candles, which they gave to us. Christian and I used them to light one big candle as a sign of our unity. Our guests found it very touching – the tears just started pouring out! I started crying as I was walking down the aisle, then Christian was moved to tears – and even his brothers got weepy. Later on, Christian and I escaped and went for a walk in the grounds together. We just looked at each other and said, 'Wow, we've done it!'"



Party time After the ceremony, guests moved into a white marquee and tucked into baked prawn soufflé, tuna tartare, Scottish salmon and stuffed loin of lamb created by Outcook Express (+2721 874 3991). Dessert was Belgian chocolate and hazelnut torte. Throughout the meal, a jazz band entertained guests with everything from Portuguese music (for Tina's friends who'd come over from Portugal) to Abba songs. "Our first dance was to *Fall Again* by Glenn Lewis," says Tina. "The words are lovely – it's about never wanting to be apart – and it means a lot to us. We made the party even more romantic by lining the walkways



Get this cute but classic look in the UK with dotty cakes from maisiefantaisie.co.uk



A cigar and whisky bar is a great idea for the gents – try simplycigars.co.uk



“We chose subtle pink chiffon for our bridesmaids’ dresses. They really complemented our chocolate brown and cream colour scheme – the colours worked well together without standing out too much.” says Tina



Tina and Christian enhanced the white in their marquee with great lighting – find cool cordless table lamps and chandeliers at ip-8.com

White roses and glass create a classic, modern feel to a top table



with candles which looked really magical. And Christian came up with the idea of having a Davidoff cigar bar as a treat for the guys, which they loved."

Glam rocks Tina wore a strapless dress with a long veil designed by Gert van de Merwe in London (gertvandemerwe.com). "I went for a mermaid dress to enhance my figure. I wanted to feel ultra-glamorous on my big day, so I had my gown and veil decorated

with crystals – I just loved the way they sparkled! Christian says that when he saw me walking down the aisle it took his breath away." She also wore crystal shoes from Dune (dune.co.uk) and crystal earrings from Accessorize (monsoon.co.uk, bottom left). Her five bridesmaids all wore three-quarter-length strapless chiffon dresses made by a dressmaker in Johannesburg. Find similar in the UK at Watters (watters.com).

Fabulous flowers "Our florist, Okasie (okasie.co.za), filled the venue with beautiful flowers," says Tina. "We had brown mahogany tables with white linen and we used chandeliers and cut crystal glasses, hired from Top Table (toptable.co.za), which looked fresh and light. I wanted every table to look unique, so we went for mixed arrangements of orchids and roses in creams and pinks. For a splash of colour, some tables had yellow tulips in vases. I kept my bouquet simple so it matched my dress – it was cream roses with orchids." The cake, made by Gina Buys in Capetown, had layers of chocolate, orange, coffee and vanilla sponge, and was decorated with cream icing with piped polka dots and white ribbons to create a classic feel.

Get Tina's look in the UK

Christina Holt – director of Wedding Concepts – shares her tips on how to get a simple but glamorous big-day look:

- Mix a light floral palette with mahogany tables or chocolate tablecloths from johnlewis.com
- Play with different heights with your centrepieces and place flowers and candles on small platforms. Use Perspex boxes from muji.com or make your own by covering aluminium cans with wallpaper (lauraashley.com)
- Use exquisite lampshades and chandeliers to add elegance to a room. Hire yours from themetraders.com
- Hire props instead of buying them. And intersperse with low vase flower arrangements to cut your florist's bill
- Use crystal glasses and silverware from joneshire.co.uk
- For abundant white flowers all year, choose amaryllis in spring; big balls of hydrangeas in summer; pretty gerberas in autumn; and in winter, go for stylish white orchids.

Photography: Garyth Bevan (garythbevan.com) and Wedding Concepts (weddingconcepts.co.za)



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