



Flying high

Butterflies and balloons saw this overseas couple fly in to be wed

TEXT TRACY LYNN CHEMALY PHOTOGRAPHS JEAN-PIERRE UYS

W

hen Ukrainian Irina Udalova and German-born Andreas Stamm journeyed from their home in Frankfurt to holiday in South Africa two summers ago, the African bug bit them. So when Andreas proposed later, the Cape was the obvious choice for this cosy, colourful wedding.

'We wanted to have an international wedding with an African touch,' says Irina, who radiated in her non-traditional Valentino butterfly wedding dress. 'Valentino is my favourite designer, and I loved the soft colours, the touch of summer, flowers, and of course the romance.'

Complementary pale-coloured flowers and lots of candles were used in the decor to keep the unusual dress the focal point. Attention was turned away from the sparkling couple for a while when the colourfully dressed African Children's Choir performed.

'We wanted a private and relaxed atmosphere,' says Irina, explaining why Wedding Concepts chose the intimate setting of the St James Villa for the 15 guests to celebrate the union. All the couple wanted was 'a romantic place with a beautiful ocean view, and a lot of flowers around us'.

The got more than they bargained for when their guests surprised them with helium balloons attached to postcards addressed to the couple's German residence. These cards, with special wishes written by each guest, were released into the African sky. 'We're still waiting for the cards to arrive,' says Irina with a smile.

VENUE Villa St James 082-784-8000

WEDDING COORDINATOR Christina at

Wedding Concepts 021-426-5783

PHOTOGRAPHER Jean-Pierre Uys 084-577-4686

FLOWERS Flowers in the Foyer 021-887-8138

CAKE Anny Mac 082-473-9513

CATERING Plum Events 072-534-7532



WEDDING



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Thank-you cigars were presented to guests; Irina wanted her surroundings to match her floral butterfly Valentino dress; the wedding cake incorporated the couple's favourite things – Irina loves chocolate, and Andreas is addicted to marzipan; the African Children's Choir entertained the international party; South Africa's national flower was a favourite with the European couple; all 15 guests ate around one long, elegant table



TOP BILLING MAY 2008 00