

# WINELANDS WONDER

KIKI CHIORI & SAMUEL UDUMA



DANCE OF  
LOVE

04.01.2014

**VENUE:** LOURENSFORD WINE ESTATE,  
SOMERSET WEST

**DÉCOR STYLE:** ELEGANT &  
GLAMOROUS

**NUMBER OF GUESTS:** 200

**HOMETOWN:** LAGOS, NIGERIA

This couple met while both were studying at the University of Bristol in the UK in 2006. "Sam was doing a postgraduate programme, and I was an undergraduate. We met when I bumped into a mutual friend on the street who Sam was with. We ended up meeting again when he came to a get together my flatmates and I were hosting at our apartment, where we eventually hit it off."

Sam proposed in September of 2012, when they were both in London. "Sam planned a trip back to Bristol where we first met. We explored the city in a way we couldn't when we were students. We ended the day with a romantic dinner at a wonderful restaurant in the city. He proposed over dessert while our favourite song played in the background."

The ceremony took place overlooking the beautiful landscape offered by Lourensford Wine Estate. "It was breathtaking and emotional to walk down the aisle and see Sam waiting for me surrounded by such stunning scenery, and our friends and family. The ceremony was brief but very touching, and something that we will never forget."

"Sam's helicopter arrival was definitely one of the highlights of the wedding that our guests can't stop talking about. He definitely upstaged the bride during that moment! Another highlight was when Sam and I danced into the reception venue with our retinue - it was a fun way to get the reception started and get into the party mood. Sam and I also have fond memories of the photo and video shoots on the day. We had an amazing photographer and videographer so we felt really comfortable in front of the camera, and just focused on enjoying the experience."

They were not aware that the Cape Town Carnival/Kaapse Klopse was going to be on the same day as their wedding. "This was a bit tricky as we opted to get ready for the wedding in the city, and head out to the winelands for the event. All the roads were completely blocked and there were people everywhere! This could have really worried us, but our wedding planner Kim did such a good job in coordinating our movements that we even ended up enjoying the hustle and bustle vibe of the festival as we made our way out of the city. Some members of our retinue even managed to do a bit of shopping as they made their way through the market-lined streets!"

Kiki's advice to those of you planning your own wedding is to "Make sure you eat! Sam and I were so busy trying to make sure our guests were comfortable and having a good time that we forgot to eat, and ended up being so hungry at the end of the night. Also, take a minute to do nothing but look around and appreciate the moment. The day goes by so quickly and after all that planning and anticipating it is easy to get lost in the whole thing. So take a second to soak it all in." ♦







SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Photographer:** Vivid Blue
- Wedding coordinator:** Kim Werner, Wedding Concepts
- Design company:** Wedding Concepts
- Dress:** Pronovias
- Bridesmaid dresses:** Liberal Designs
- Make-up:** Tayo Oshodi
- Hair:** Namhla
- Groom's suit:** E20 Creazoni
- Cake:** Wade's Cakes
- Décor & flowers:** Fleur Le Cordeur
- Lighting:** Something Different
- Food:** Stir Food
- Bride's jewellery:** ABS by Allen Schwartz Jewellery
- Bride's shoes:** Badgley Mischka
- Wedding rings:** Aliverti
- Stationery:** Seven Swans
- DJ/band:** DJ Scratch and Breakfast Included
- Bridal & guest accommodation:** Travel Concepts



ON TREND. EXTRAORDINARY. FLAWLESS.

Photo: Jean-Pierre Uys

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**WEDDING**  
CONCEPTS

# How to plan the perfect wedding

Wedding Concepts has been setting trends and creating bespoke celebrations in Southern Africa for just over a decade now. With over 450 weddings under their belt, they offer an exclusive wedding management and design service for clients from around the world. MD Christina Holt tells us what it really takes to plan the perfect wedding.



So how does one plan the perfect wedding? Is it the perfect venue paired with the perfect suppliers? Or is it having an in-depth knowledge of the latest catwalk and lifestyle trends from Europe and the USA? Actually, planning a wedding encompasses all of these factors - and more.

To begin, let's start with large and lavish marquee weddings, known as 'flagship weddings'. Here it is all about understanding the connection between grand scale and design. Managing and executing one of these celebrations is not for the faint-hearted, and realistically requires months of detailed planning - and at least a week dedicated to on-site set-up alone!

To design a prestigious wedding for 600 guests that reflects chic sophistication, where every detail and nuance has been taken into

consideration, requires experienced project and budget management as well as the ability to envision the finished look of a grand marquee. This is where the benefit of having an experienced wedding planner is key.

Couples still feel very involved in the overall arrangements, but safe in the knowledge that experts are there to give them peace of mind. We thrive on creating weddings of distinction where every single design element and feature is conceptualised and executed meticulously and stylishly.

However, a decrease in guest list certainly does not mean a decrease in creative conceptualisation and detailed planning. Also, while a couple's favourite style may be effortless and elegant, or speak of understated rustic charm, even these seemingly uncomplicated approaches require

conceptualisation and detailed expert input. We find that weddings with décor that whispers rather than shouts often need to be orchestrated with even more attention, in order to subtly make a strong impact. Clients often think that for smaller, intimate celebrations they don't need a coordinator - but in reality all of the same things need to be considered as for a large-scale function.

With a large percentage of couples flocking to South Africa from around the world for their wedding - each needs to ooze individual style, personality and glamour, while taking into account traditions and cultural preferences from their home country.

We look at every part of the day and make specific recommendations reflecting our clients' personalities and style. For us weddings are celebrations of the senses, and



we take great care to ensure that gastronomic and artistic appetites are equally satiated.

Menus are tailored to suit specific palates, wines are matched expertly and personalised cocktails created with interesting twists for those with an adventurous streak. On the entertainment side we don't hold back either! Whether our clients want to book a renowned band, an African children's choir, a well-known DJ or a trapeze artist, we source, brief and book the sought-after talents across South Africa.

We often get asked how we create new designs for each of our clients, and how we keep each wedding uniquely stylish with different concepts and looks. Our multinational team combines European style and African knowledge, and we make sure to stay at the forefront of trends - both locally and internationally. We look for inspiration from our travels, lifestyle and fashion magazines, as well as blogs and websites from around the world. We are constantly discussing and sharing new ideas that we can use.

We also contribute to this 'worldwide discussion' through our own Wedding Concepts Blog, that has a large following and inspires couples from across the globe. Here we discuss and share our expert opinions and creative tips on all elements that go into making any celebration - not only weddings - extraordinary and of course reflective of the couple's personal style and tastes.

I am proud to say that our team at Wedding Concepts offers integrity, innovation and passion with substance in all that they do. They will guide you in defining your wedding day as you've always imagined it - from managing complex technical logistics to tailoring interior designs. They customise each nuance of your day, suggesting and inspiring with creative on-trend ideas and practical solutions. They also offer an in-house travel and concierge service, Travel Concepts, with an expert team tailoring unique guest accommodation and travel experiences as well as exclusive honeymoons. ♦

**Web:** [www.weddingconcepts.co.za](http://www.weddingconcepts.co.za)  
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