

Crazy in Love

Sabrina and Andrew had a chocolate-orange themed wedding by the sea, for a traditional day with a twist



THE GROOM: Andrew Hutton, 39, oil rig worker
THE BRIDE: Sabrina Duckett, 27, disability education officer
DATE OF WEDDING: 4th October, 2008
CEREMONY VENUE: Clyne Chapel, Mumbles
RECEPTION VENUE: Oxwich Bay Hotel, Swansea

All images courtesy of *Andre Zavadskis* www.andreweddingphoto.com



How it all began:

Sabrina met her future husband in a traffic jam in Aberystwyth, over eight years ago. “Andrew was driving the car behind me and as I glanced in my rear view mirror he cheekily poked his tongue out!” says Sabrina. “When the traffic moved it resulted in a game of cat and mouse, with Andrew winning.” From that moment Andrew spent his time trying to find out who Sabrina was. “A few weeks passed and somehow he managed to get my number,” says Sabrina. “About 4,000 mobile phone minutes later we finally met.”

The pair both lived in Aberystwyth as children and Sabrina believes they were destined for one another. “We believe we were meant to meet that day. Andrew is my hero; he’s gorgeous, caring and has the most fantastic personality – he’s Peter Pan through and through.” Andrew describes falling in love with Sabrina as “a whirlwind”. “As soon as I saw her in the car she caught me with her smile and when we met in person I soon discovered I had fallen in love. Sabrina is the most beautiful woman inside and out.”

Within four months their whirlwind romance prompted Andrew to propose – twice. First at a restaurant where Sabrina says “everyone clapped and cheered,” and secondly – in what Andrew calls the “real proposal” – on a motorbike trip to Stonehenge. “Andrew waited until sunset, got down on one knee and presented me with a Victorian pill box,” says Sabrina. “Inside was a beautiful platinum diamond ring.”

The hen and stag parties:

Sabrina decided against a traditional hen night and instead jumped out of a plane at 14,000 feet. “It was the most amazing experience, words

cannot describe how exhilarating it was,” she says.

Andrew’s scheduled stag trip to Barcelona was cancelled at the last minute, prompting a night out in Aberdeen with his work friends, followed by a second celebration with friends and family in Port Talbot and Swansea. “I am yet to hear and see the photographs of what they really got up to!” says Sabrina.

The wedding party:

Sabrina’s childhood friend Adele was her matron-of-honour. Adele was joined by three bridesmaids, Sabrina’s cousin Danielle and twins Caitlin and Megan who Sabrina worked for as a nanny. Sabrina also had her twin sisters Sian and Ffion as well as the girl she cares for, Rhiannon, as her flowergirls. The elder bridesmaids wore rich chocolate-coloured gowns and the flower girls wore ivory dresses tied with satin sashes and pinned with a large chocolate-coloured rose.

Andrew’s groomsmen were his best man Geraint, a childhood friend, and three ushers: Johnny, another childhood friend, Vern, an old colleague and Perrie, Andrew’s godfather. All five men wore chocolate brown suits with ivory and frappucino-coloured waistcoats to complement the bridesmaids dresses. They finished the look with burnt orange-coloured cravats, in keeping with the wedding day’s chocolate-orange theme.

The setting:

Sabrina and Andrew chose Clyne Chapel as the spot in which to say ‘I do’. Sabrina says: “Clyne Gardens is our favorite park in Swansea. When we first saw the chapel we knew it was the one.”



Oxwich Bay Hotel was the chosen setting for their reception party as Andrew had previously taken Sabrina for a meal there. “The food was amazing and the location breathtaking,” says Sabrina. “We often surf at Gower beach so it was the perfect place to have our reception.”

With their wedding venues booked, Sabrina and Andrew prepared for a traditional wedding with a twist. “We wanted a traditional white wedding but one that was less formal so we added quirky touches and a chocolate–orange theme throughout,” says Sabrina.

The dress:

Sabrina looked every bit the fairytale bride in a classic, strapless A-line bridal gown with a bodice covered in Swarovski crystals. She finished the look with a handmade Swarovski crystal tiara and wore a long ivory veil, embellished with more crystals. “I bought my shoes for £5 from eBay,” says Sabrina. “They were unworn and the best bargain I found; the detailing on the toe matched my dress perfectly.”

It's all in the details:

On the big day the bride and groom arrived in VW Beetles, with Andrew travelling in a purple 1969 version and Sabrina in an ivory 1970 convertible, for a bridal look. The wedding party then followed in a limousine-style, stretched ivory 1970 VW Beetle.

To reflect their chocolate–orange theme, Sabrina chose chocolate and burnt orange–coloured flowers. Her bouquet and decorations included chocolate–coloured roses, orange calla lilies, freesias and autumn berries. “I even included chocolate brown–coloured foilage and small plastic oranges,” says Sabrina.

As man and wife, Sabrina and Andrew travelled to their reception venue where the adult guests were greeted with Champagne and the children chose from orange juice or chocolate milkshakes.

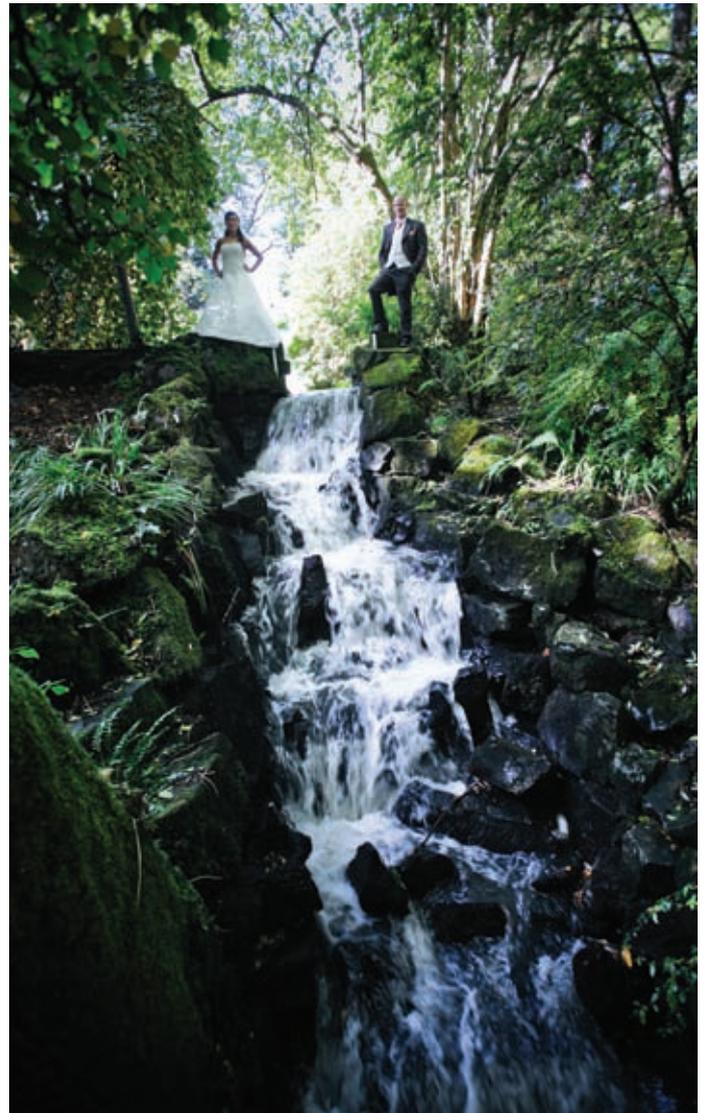
The wedding breakfast tables were adorned with vases filled with maltsters and orange candy balls, and the children's tables were decorated with orange, brown and ivory–coloured balloons. “Our place cards were chocolate brown butterflies placed on Champagne filled glasses,” says Sabrina. For favours the couple stayed true to their theme and treated every guest to a Terry's chocolate orange.

On reflection:

Looking back the couple say the chapel was their favourite moment of the day. “I was so nervous but at the same time really excited,” recalls Sabrina. “When I walked in and saw my groom, he was beaming – a memory I will never forget.” For Andrew, Sabrina's arrival was equally heartfelt: “I knew Sabrina would look beautiful but I was completely blown away. The whole day was perfect but this was the best part.”

Sabrina and Andrew's top tips:

- 1) Don't stress: Sabrina says: “Enjoy the planning and don't let it stress you out. In the last week hand everything over to someone else and go and have a massage or facial and try to relax!”
- 2) Catch it on camera: “Photos are an amazing keepsake but hearing the laughter and seeing the tears flowing again and again on video is money well spent,” says Sabrina.
- 3) Create a wedding website: “You can upload all your wedding day information and after the day you can upload your video and photos,” says Andrew.
- 4) Pick the best man for the job: “Choose the right people to be your groomsmen and have a few run throughs to be clear on what's expected on the day,” says Andrew. “Sadly Sabrina missed time and photos with some of our guests because she was busy doing the best man's job!”
- 5) Don't forget the bride: “It's hard to spend the same amount of time with all of your guests but don't forget your new wife,” says Andrew. “I lost Sabrina for two hours as we were both busy talking.”
- 6) Treat your fiancé: “I wanted to get Andrew a gift for the morning of the wedding so I had a boudoir bridal photo shoot,” says Sabrina. “I had my hair and make-up done and spent an hour in the studio with a female photographer.” www.fyeoportraits.com
- 7) Have fun. “We had a ‘marryoke’ where our videographer set up a video to music and our guests sang along to our chosen tracks. It was then added to our wedding video,” says Sabrina.



GET THE LOOK

Be inspired by Sabrina and Andrew's big day...



PURE INDULGENCE

Sabrina and Andrew indulged in chocolate heaven with a chocolate-orange theme, including Terry's chocolate orange favours, chocolate fountains, chocolate-coloured place names and chocolate-coloured suits for the groomsmen.

CITRUS BURST

If you want a vibrant colour that you and your groom-to-be will love, try burnt-orange. Sabrina and Andrew added bursts of orange to the day with flowers, decorations and cravats.



RAINY DAYS

If you're expecting rain, have fun outside and avoid ruining your wedding shoes. Sabrina picked a pair of love-heart wellington boots to wear during her wedding photos on the beach.



LOVE BUGS

Put a twist on traditional wedding cars like Sabrina and Andrew who got to the church in time courtesy of VW beetles. Sabrina picked an ivory-coloured beetle for wedding style.



USEFUL CONTACTS

Photographer: Andrejs Zavadskis www.andreweddingphoto.com

Bride's dress, tiara and veil: Rhapsody Bridal, Swansea
Tel: 01792 460 420 www.rhapsodybridal.co.uk

Groom and groomsmen outfits: Rhapsody Bridal, Swansea
Tel: 01792 460 420 www.rhapsodybridal.co.uk

Bridesmaids' dresses: Waters & Waters
www.HouseofBrides.com

Flowers: The Flower Box, Port Talbot
Tel: 01639 881 264 www.theflowerboxpt.com

Cars: VW Convertible: Love Bug
Tel: 01656 785 739 www.lovebugweddings.com

Wedding Video: Eye and I Video Services, Bridgend
Tel: 01443 222 503 www.eyeandi.co.uk

Make-up artist: Sascha Martini, Swansea
Tel: 01792 204 363 www.saschamartini.com