

People Weddings

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JESSICA & ERIC



GABRIELLE & DWYANE



George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin, Sept. 27, 2014, Venice

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'I Do!'

TODAY'S BIGGEST STARS TIE THE KNOT

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TIME INC. SPECIALS

Gabrielle Union & Dwyane Wade

THE HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS AND
NBA STAR CREATED A MEMORABLE
DAY FILLED WITH LOVE AND MUSIC



Union, in Dennis Basso, and Wade, in DSquared2, set the formal black-and-white tone for the event. They'd asked their guests to dress in these basic colors (black for men, white for women) because "they wanted all guests to feel like they were part of the wedding party," says Bonnie Walker.



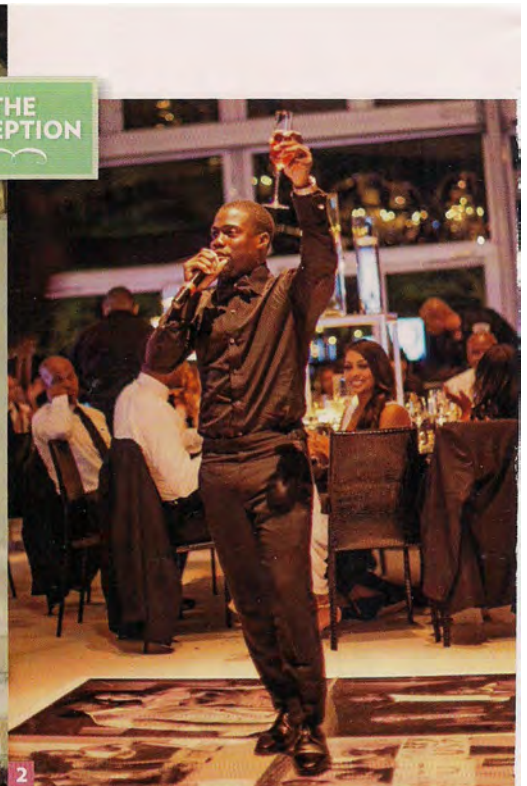
THE CEREMONY



AS IF THE CASTLE-like Chateau Artisan—with its ruins and labyrinth, a waterfall and moat—weren't spectacular *enough*, the dramatic flourishes at Gabrielle Union and Dwyane Wade's Miami wedding just kept coming: tribal dancers, for instance, who swarmed the hill behind the house to booming music from the film *Coming to America*. "They wanted to delight their guests with lots of twists and turns, fun and surprises," says the events planner and producer for the Aug. 30 affair, Bonnie Walker. Job done.

The ingeniously costumed dancers crossed the moat (on a bridge built specially for the day) and snaked through the assembled guests to claim the Miami Heat guard and deliver him to the ceremony area. A pianist played John Legend's "You and I" until he was interrupted—by Legend himself. "I think I got this one," the crooner said, amusing guests as he took over. All this provided cover for the bride's appearance high on the hill amid the ruins. She floated down the steps—actually cut-stone blocks over which the waterfall usually flowed—to meet the groom's

kids Zaire and Zion and nephew Dahveon Morris, her escorts to Wade. Once together, the couple faced the wedding's officiants, close friends Essence Atkins and Jaime Mendez, to exchange their self-written vows. Notably, no bridesmaids or groomsmen stood with them. But Union and Wade had that covered: When Atkins asked, "Who gives this man away?" all the men answered, "We do!" The women followed suit. When the "I dos" were done, the waterfall roared to life. The whole ceremony, says Walker, was "enchanting and legendary." And that was just the beginning...



The Details

The creative elements woven through the affair came from Union and Wade's joint vision for the day. "The result was a wonderful collection of all things the couple loves," says Bonnie Walker, who coordinated the extravaganza. (1) The custom-built glass structure glowed with hundreds of candles, welcoming guests to a seated dinner under huge mirrored chandeliers. The day's color scheme continued with black-and-white mirrored tables and black "croc" chairs. As the newlyweds entered, Ludacris performed "All I Do Is Win (Remix)." (2) Later, at the dinner, funnyman Kevin Hart, who starred with Union in the two *Think Like a Man* films, offered some thoughts—and a toast. Guests "adored him," Walker says. (3) The New Birth Baptist Church gospel choir and its rousing rendition of "God Is Trying to Tell You Something," from *The Color Purple*, moved guests from dinner into a nearby tent for the afterparty. (4) The R&B band Guy started things off with "Teddy's Jam 2." (5) Here, Walker delivered on Union's request for a "rockin' juke joint," creating "an authentic 1940s rustic music hall [with] elevated porches, rusted corrugated roofing, aged-oak-plank floors." Mixologists stirred up craft cocktails at a zinc-topped bar, while the menu offered chicken, waffles, cheeseburgers and fries. For dessert, cupcakes and cookies from Robert and Deborah Dimond (she's known as the Cookie Lady to Miami Heat players). (6) Guests rocked out to deejay Questlove so "the dance floor was never empty." (7) For Union's third outfit, stylist Jason Bolden helped select a red Valentino jumper. His inspiration? "Nothing says it's 'my day' like classic Valentino red!" (Wade was styled by Calyann Barnett.)

