

THE WEDDING OF
Diana Simaan AND Mark Kessler

The Date: December 10, 2010

The Proud Parents: Parvin Navid (bride's mother) and
Toufic Simaan Sr. (bride's father); Richard and Martha Kessler

The Ceremony: First United Methodist Church, Winter Park

The Reception: Grand Bohemian Hotel

Photographer: BRIAN FOX Photography

Videographer: Rainer Flor – Simply Cinematic

Florist: Town Center Florist

Makeup: Pegah Peymayesh

Hair: Tony with Mondri Salon

Cake: Empress Sissi – Karina Caligiuri



THEIR STORY:

The twisted tale of Mark and Diana began in Orlando in 2002. Mark was in town with a friend when he originally met Diana out with her girlfriends. Diana was in the process of moving to Atlanta to open the Baker Barrios Atlanta office, while Mark had just moved back to Orlando from Miami. Luckily, the two had a mutual friend, Debbie, who remained a point of contact, until one day when Diana and Mark happened to see each other at a convention in Miami in September 2006. After having dinner, a night of dancing ensued, and Mark and Diana found an immediate connection and chemistry on the dance floor that proved to last. The couple dated long distance until Diana moved to Orlando. Once she moved, the two decided to spend the remainder of their lives together.

THE PROPOSAL:

The couple was getting ready to leave for a South African safari when Mark proposed to Diana at their home just before the two left for the airport. "[It was a] great start to an awesome and adventurous trip!" Diana says.

THE CEREMONY AND RECEPTION:

The ceremony was held at the First United Methodist Church in Winter Park and conducted by Pastor Bill Barnes of St. Luke's Methodist Church. The reception was at the Grand Bohemian Hotel in downtown Orlando. "It was classical, fun (Mark even wore his tennis shoes to feel more comfortable) and full of love," Diana reflects.

"Since we both love to dance, we decided to do a choreographed first dance to Alicia Keys' 'No One,'" she continues. "It was so much fun!" They pulled it off with only a couple hours of practice, Diana adds. The newlyweds also surprised guests with an Argentinean Tango performance by Eddy and Veronica Hernandez Trill.

SPECIAL TOUCHES:

Diana designed many aspects of the wedding, including the programs that were hand-tied by her family, favor name cards, guestbook cards, menu cards and the cake. She also designed all the dresses featured in the wedding — wedding dress, bridesmaids, flower girls, mother-of-the-bride and mother-of-the-groom — through her custom design clothing business, Diana Simaan Couture.

PERSONAL THOUGHTS: DIANA

"It was the most perfect day. We talked about eloping at some point during our wedding planning, but it was important to us to have our families and closest friends with us to witness and share the most significant day of our lives. Everyone involved, families, friends and vendors, put so much love and effort to make sure our day was wonderful and just the way we envisioned it. We feel so blessed in many ways."

THE HONEYMOON:

Diana and Mark enjoyed a mini moon in Palm Beach immediately following their wedding, but are planning a honeymoon to Europe (Italy and France) for summer 2011.

WHERE THEY ARE NOW:

The couple lives in Windermere. Mark works for the family business, The Kessler Collection, while Diana is the owner of Diana Simaan Couture and a partner at Baker Barrios Architects.

