

Dominican couple wins dream wedding

THE Treasured Memories Wedding Competition organised by Your Wedding Canvas/ Destination Weddings Barbados and WSee TV/CBS Network once again gave two winning couples – residents of the Caribbean and Latin America as well of parts of New York and Pennsylvania – the chance to win an all-expenses paid wedding and honeymoon in Barbados and celebrate with friends and family. The main sponsors were Bagatelle Great House, Paulo's Churrasco do Brasil, Chatters Tea Room, Accra Beach Hotel & Spa, and Waves Hotel & Spa along with the assistance of the BHTA Romance Product Club.

Last week, the winning USA couple's wedding was featured and we now profile the Caribbean winning couple, who journeyed from Dominica to exchange marriage vows in Barbados. It began with a beautifully worded entry from Joan Buffong with her expression of her love and absolute trust in her fiancé, Angus Vidal, which impressed the judges.

Having successfully completed both phases of the competition, Joan was notified that she had won and her response was "I'm SOOOO EXCITED! I'm on Cloud 9 and don't know when I'll get down". The happy couple arrived on LIAT, the Caribbean airline, from Dominica on October 24, where they were given VIP treatment by a representative of Platinum Services Ltd. and whisked through Immigration and Customs to a waiting limousine for a fun-filled eight-day stay at Waves Barbados Hotel in St. James. They were enchanted with the picturesque beauty of the property as well as the warmth of the staff, where they also enjoyed the pampered services of The Waves Spa to ensure that they were relaxed and ready for their hectic week.

Joan and Angus travelled in top-of-the-line vehicles from Courtesy Car Rentals and McEneaney Quality Inc. to the Beach Extravaganza Dinner Show at The Harbour Lights, private golf lessons and lunch at the Barbados

Golf Club and the Harbour Master Dinner Cruise and Show with its tropical splendour.

The professional staff at

Your Wedding Canvas and the Discover Dominica Authority worked together to provide an incredible wedding gift to the couple – an all-expenses paid trip to Barbados with accommodation at the beautiful Golden Sands Hotel for her brother, so that he could surprise them and perform the duty of father of the bride. He arrived during the wedding rehearsal at Bagatelle Great House and it was an emotional time.

For an unusual change, after the

rehearsal, the wedding party sat down in the Chatters Tea Room at Bagatelle for a three-course full



Joan and Angus Vidal.

English tea service while they enjoyed the peaceful gardens and soft breezes. No everyday rehearsal dinner for them!

The Bagatelle staff prepared the areas and Flower Fantasy's Joan Linton began the preparations. The Richings Room with its featured antique crystal chandeliers was tastefully decorated and the main dining room, the location for the wedding reception beautifully transformed with beautiful orchids from

Orchid World and lush potted palms from Exotic Palms.

Meanwhile, at Waves Barbados Hotel, the bride prepared for the big moment, ably assisted by her two nieces who were her attendants. Joan donned her tiara, veil and beautiful fairy-tale white ball gown adorned with scattered sequins and crystals which were all provided by Wedding World Online Store. Professionally finished hair and makeup completed the picture perfect look.

Leslie St. John Photography was on hand to record all of the memorable moments of this dream wedding. The bridal party arrived at Bagatelle in a limousine from the Tanzanite Limousine Company where the groom and his groomsmen waited, nattily attired in tailored suits and accessories from the Bionic Shop.

Joan stepped out of a vintage 1900's black Ford Model T car from McEneaney Quality Inc. and entered the decorated Richings Room to the melodious sounds of a cappella singing group, G-Syndicate, where the happy couple exchanged vows in a moving ceremony before Canon Austin Carrington.

During the reception, the guests were entertained by live music and a sumptuous Churrasco style three-course meal was served.

Emotionally, Joan said: "I am overwhelmed since this fairy-tale wedding was the one that I always dreamt of and having family here to share it with, made it complete."

The WSee TV/CBS Network camera crew flew in to cover the complete wedding prize package of the USA & Caribbean competition winners and worked with the local videographers G's Photography & Video Productions as they captured every move for the two half-hour specials to be aired shortly on the CBS Network.

Your Wedding Canvas offers a special Thank You to all of the sponsors and individuals who assisted, as well as all of the contestants who entered our Treasured Memories Wedding Competition to win our fabulous Dream Wedding by logging on to www.yourweddingcanvas.com.