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The Wedding of Samantha Pacaccio and Charles George

AUGUST 5, 2005

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Photography by Rick Fisher Photography



It only took Samantha Pacaccio three months to know Charles George was the man for her. The proposal came while the couple was vacationing in Colorado. Samantha thought it would be the perfect time for Charles to propose, but by the last day of their trip he still had not asked her to marry him. Needless to say, Samantha was disappointed. "We were supposed to be going to dinner with his family, but we got in an argument about how he had led me to believe he wanted to marry me," Samantha remembered. "Everyone started backing out of the dinner plans, so we decided to go ahead and take a sleigh ride up the mountain to where we would have dinner." Once the dessert came, so did the proposal, which was captured by a photographer Charles had pre-arranged to be there. When the couple returned from dinner, they went to share the exciting news with his parents and to Samantha's surprise found her parents also at the house.

"Planning for the proposal was very nerve-racking," Charles said. "I wanted it to be perfect and I really wanted Samantha to think I would not propose for a long time, but I didn't intend for her to get so upset. The actual proposal was one of the greatest experiences of my life."

Four-hundred guests attended the August 5th wedding at the Botanic Gardens in Memphis. Samantha admits they were not thinking of the Memphis heat in August, but the couple accommodated guests by printing their programs on fans and setting up lemonade stands of lemon-limeade and pink lemonade.

The ceremony was decorated with vines, pink peonies, roses, larkspur and apples. Life-size sculptures of the bride and groom adorned with flowers and ribbons were also placed at the site, along with an aisle runner of cerise bengaline trimmed in apple green bengaline, hot pink and baby pink rose petals and green apple towers adorned with pink and green flowers. The music for the ceremony was provided by six harpists. "Pink and green were incorporated into the wedding in every way you can imagine," said Samantha. The bridesmaids donned tea-length gowns of pink silk dupioni with apple green trim, and the maids of honor wore apple green silk dupioni with pink trim. The bride wore a white silk charmeuse gown with a V-neckline, fitted bodice, fluted skirt and godet train, attached was a silk charmeuse chapel-length train.

An antique two-person Schwinn bicycle that belonged to a family friend was restored for the wedding and given to the newlyweds by the father of the bride. It was painted pink and a Just Married license plate was attached to the back.

The reception began with a Spanish cocktail hour that included Spanish hors d'oeuvres, harp music and pink sangria. Samantha had studied the

Spanish culture and language, and the couple planned to study in Spain for three months soon after their honeymoon. "We wanted to share with our guests a little bit of what we knew we would soon experience," Samantha explained. A buffet followed that included a mashed potato bar where mashed potatoes were served in martini glasses with "fixin's" such as shredded cheese, crumbled bacon and chopped onions. Apricot glazed pork tenderloin, mushrooms stuffed with crabmeat, steamed asparagus with lemon butter, hot pepper cream cheese rolls, roasted

chicken tapas and orechiette with smoked salmon and fresh dill sauce were also served. A coffee bar was provided alongside the alcohol bar, and guests were given rock candy and chocolate stir spoons for sweetener. Salsa music was provided during the reception by SoulSations, a band from Tennessee, and an Elvis impersonator made a surprise appearance to serenade guests, pose for pictures and pass scarves out to the ladies.

"The wedding was more than I expected," said Charles. "We had so much fun and so did everyone else. I felt like it was a true representation of Samantha's personality and our relationship."

Written by Michelle Gee



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**Acknowledgements and Special Thanks
From the Pacaccio/George Wedding**

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