



# *Magic at midnight*

Rich colours and lavish styling combine to create a dazzling theme for weddings after dark

With party season upon us, thoughts have turned to late-night celebrations. And what better excuse to put on the glitz and party until dawn than a wedding! Using dark hues as his inspiration, decor expert Stefan Norval of Afresh Event and Design has created a glamorous wedding theme that is both dazzling and dramatic. Read on for his advice on how to throw a stellar bash after dark...



■ For an unexpected, but still extremely beautiful look, embrace dark hues such as midnight blues and violet purples. There's an element of mystery to these shades, which we mixed with dirty pinks for depth. Worldwide, brides and grooms are embracing colour and this vivid scheme is right on trend. Blue in particular is a rising wedding favourite and its use here as a base colour (rather than your traditional white or cream) is unusual and very effective.

■ Setting the scene in an evening venue such as the stylish nightclub featured here, helps to create a feeling of romance and classic style, but with a modern twist. Consider marrying at midnight for added impact!



■ The flowers used in this shoot are all quite theatrical and sculptural. We chose blue and dusty pink hydrangeas, purple arum lilies, dusty pink/purple roses (Pink Faith), Spanish moss, dark blue delphiniums, soft pink cymbidium orchids and trachelium. When recreating this look, it is important to select blooms with the correct form and structure; colour choice is also key.





■ We've kept the table decor deliberately clean and classic, using colour to add interest. Simple crystal blocks with single arum lilies provide a contemporary touch, while oversized vases creates a sense of opulence and grandeur, and make a striking impact. Lighting is very important to this look. Light boxes on the table cast a romantic glow while pin spots on the flower arrangements make sure they stand out from the shadows.





- This theme is best suited to urban couples who want the sophistication of a classic wedding but without the usual restrictions – in other words, people who want to create the unexpected and thus surprise (and delight) their guests.
- The traditional three-tiered wedding cake has been modernised here with luxurious macaroons, ribbon, fresh flowers and a monogrammed cake topper. Carry the same elegant feel through to your menu: a classy, three-course plated meal, followed by cheeses and coffee.



**Concept, styling and decor:** Stefan Norval, Afresh Event and Design 082 940 8282; [www.afreshevent.co.za](http://www.afreshevent.co.za) (find them also on Facebook)  
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**Wedding gown:** Kristin Masters, Garnish Couture 082 684 1630; [www.garnishcouture.co.za](http://www.garnishcouture.co.za)  
**Groom's attire:** Fabiani (shop U42a Sandton City) 011 783 0066; [www.fabiani.co.za](http://www.fabiani.co.za)  
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