

Winners of the
New York City
Magical Wedding
Contest

Niaja & Christopher



As Featured In
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November 24, 2010
The Chateau Caterers · Carle Place, NY

Ceremony & Reception Location: The Chateau Caterers · Officiant: Pastor Juanita Shinaul
Wedding Coordinator: Perfect Wedding Planner · Photographer: Rick Helman Photography & Video, Inc.
Entertainment: Bravura Art of Entertainment · Limousine Service: Royalty Limousines
Florist: Perfect Wedding Planner Florals · Cake Designer: Pastry Girl Cakes
Bridal Salon, Veil & Headpiece: Pronovias · Formal Attire: Jakob Custom Clothiers
Invitations & Favors: Party City · Hair & Makeup Studio: Aveda Hair Salon · Jeweler: Michael C. Fina

Niaja and Christopher never imagined being winners of the New York City Magical Wedding Contest, presented by the Scotti Brothers and WPX 11, but they were fortunate enough to win a \$100,000 dream wedding that included a reception and all of their vendors. The couple submitted their love story and their secret to happiness, and after a panel of sponsor judges voted, Niaja and Christopher were announced as finalists, among two other couples. Niaja and Christopher's photographs and love stories were posted on the website where the public was then able to vote on their favorite couple. Luckily for Niaja and Christopher they were a fan favorite and were announced as the winning couple.

About a year prior to their November 24, 2010 wedding, Niaja and Christopher were spending Christmas Eve together at his parent's house. The family began exchanging gifts with everyone, and Christopher gave his girlfriend her gift last. When she opened the clothing box, she found a jewelry box inside that instantly made her scream and cry. "I was so surprised that he was proposing, and in between all of the emotions I said 'yes!'", shared Niaja. "I wanted her favorite holiday to be a Christmas she would never forget," added Christopher.

Although the ceremony and reception site was preselected by WPX 11 and The Scotti Brothers, the proprietors of The Chateau Caterers, the couple had looked at the facility before they won the contest. They especially loved the South Beach, Miami themed décor, the outside lounge area, the draping in the Leonardo Da Vinci room, and the welcoming staff that helped them every step of the way. Victoria Scotti, the business development and marketing manager at The Chateau Caterers took Niaja and Christopher on a tour of the facility and thoroughly explained every element they could enjoy on their wedding day.

After months of public voting on various elements, such as wedding attire, wedding bands, and the honeymoon location, the couple's magical wedding day finally arrived. Candles surrounded by fresh flowers and white rose petals lined the aisle in the Normandy room, where Niaja walked down it donning an elegant lace Pronovias gown, A cathedral-length veil and a tiara provided by Pronovias complimented her dress perfectly. Waiting under an arch made of white flowers and vines, wearing a custom black tuxedo with two buttons, collared shirt, and a patterned vest and tie from Jakob Custom Clothiers, Christopher waited for his bride to approach him. The couple wrote and exchanged heartfelt vows and participated in a unity candle service, making their ceremony intimate.

Since the wedding was held early on that Wednesday morning, the couple opted to begin the celebration with a variety of breakfast foods for cocktail hour including pancakes, sausage, bacon, an omelet station, French toast, and more. Lunch began with a duo of shrimp cocktail and a bruschetta appitizer, followed by a cucumber wrapped salad with citrus vinaigrette dressing, and an entree choice between Chateaubriand, chicken piccata, or grilled salmon. "The food was amazing. I never had salmon that tasted so delicious with a creamy clam sauce before," commented the groom. In addition to chocolate-covered strawberries and tiramisu, a five-tiered red velvet cake with cream cheese filling designed by Pastry Girl Cakes was served for dessert.

Pictures and video were captured throughout the day by Rick Helman Photography. The couple liked that Rick didn't pull them away from their guests for long amounts of time, allowing them to enjoy their reception. Bravura Art of Entertainment played a mix of genres that kept guests on the dance floor during the reception. For their first dance as newlyweds, Niaja and Christopher held the spotlight to "For You" by Kenny Lattimore. In addition to providing music, Bravura Art of Entertainment set up uplighting that changed throughout the celebration and a drum player that performed during many songs. "We really enjoyed the drum player, especially when I had the chance to play with him," noted the bride.

At the end of the celebration, guests were given a black-and-white damask photograph coaster set that contained the couple's engagement pictures. Niaja and Christopher continue to thank the Scotti Brothers, WPX 11, public voters, and the many other sponsors of the New York City Magical Wedding Contest who made their wedding dream a reality.

