

***NEW* Shana & Shawn: Classic Meets Contemporary in Rocheport, MO**

You could say Shawn Wedel and Shana Watkins are the perfect match...dot com. The pair eventually met in person and ultimately walked down the aisle -- two years after they met.



THE BRIDE Shana Watkins, 26, high school journalism teacher and photographer

THE GROOM Shawn Wedel, 31, American Studies PhD student

THE DATE October 4

THE SCENE The wedding took place in a quaint winery at the edge of a river bluff; followed by a travel themed reception that beautifully captured the couples love of exploration.



ENCHANTING ELEGANCE The unseasonably warm fall wedding day began at Les Bourgeois Winery, which provided the naturally beautiful setting for both ceremony and reception. Before a large iron arbor, surrounded by beautiful potted plants, the couple faced each other at the edge of the river bluff encircled by their bridesmaids (in V-neck gowns of iridescent blue taffeta with golden copper undertones) and groomsmen. Shana carried a dark red rose bouquet accented with irises, ranunculus, and calla lilies -- a dramatic contrast to her white A-line gown laced up the back with wide satin ribbon.



VENERATE VOWS "We wrote our vows to personally express values we mutually find most important in our relationship," Shawn explains. "A lust for



life, a relationship founded and based upon friendship, and a desire to explore the world that inspires awe and unbridled curiosity in both of us." His father, a minister, officiated on the 250-foot-high bluffs overlooking the Missouri River. Shana and her mother planned the wedding with a theme reflective of the couple's love of small Missouri towns and the wineries and antique shops they enjoy visiting. Reception tables were named after towns they'd visited and listed a few charming characteristics of each, including its location. A variety of flowers in old bottles from Shana's grandmother's and father's collections -- plus ones found at antique stores across the state -- dressed the tables. "We added antique gold-painted lanterns atop wood slices to add to the rustic feel," Shana says.

PLAYFUL PALETTE Evoking the wedding colors (antique gold, brown, and blue), the square invitations, which Shana designed herself, were iridescent gold with brown writing in a contemporary font and a logo she created incorporating both their names. The program tied together the travel theme, with ceremony and reception "itineraries" and a list of "intrepid explorers," who included family and the wedding party. On the back were directions for the "road trip" to the after-party at the Coliseum Bistro, plus a special thanks to family and friends who helped with the day.

URBAN RETREAT Guests then "traveled" to the city-themed reception where, Shawn confesses, "the parents of the wedding party outdanced, outpartied, and outlasted even those of us half their



age!" Local libations from the vineyard were served. But the evening's crowning glory had to be the chocolate pound cake cupcakes, iced in chocolate with a golden "S" and layered on a cake stand painted antique gold.

BRIGHT FUTURE Shana recalls their "amazing exit" from the reception: "Invited guests -- and even patrons of the winery -- lined the long walkway with sparklers and cheered us on as we left. The sparklers blazed beautifully against the star-filled sky. "It was a wonderful moment."

-- *Carol Itzkowitz*

Photography © Josie Kern, Aperture Photography

For the ingredients that make up this wedding, see the right-hand column of this page

