

The Old Mill charms host

Andrea Bain is the host of Toronto 1's new hit show *Exchanging Vows*, the one-hour reality show where two couples who are strangers compete for a honeymoon by planning each others' nuptials. The couple that provides the best wedding wins.

When I think of exchanging vows, I think of *The Old Mill*, where more than 600 couples a year enter into holy matrimony — so fittingly, that's where I asked Bain to join me for our celebrity dinner date.

"*Exchanging Vows* is about very brave couples that let somebody else plan their wedding . . . I first meet the couples when they meet each other and then at the end of the show to disclose who won. When we first meet, the couples are nervous because it is just hitting them about what they just signed up for. I have to get them to come out of their shell, so we get a good sense of who they are. So, I play part psychologist and part comedian —

on order

Kates: Would you have a stranger plan your dream wedding?

Bain: No. It is a great idea for the show and kudos to the people who come on our show, but for me — there's no way. My dream wedding would be intimate, to have a good time, for me to look fabulous — of course and to see at the end of the aisle that I've made the right choice.

CELEBRITY DINNER DATE



KATHRYN KATES

warming up the crowd," says the Toronto-born host.

While enjoying appetizers of Baby Spinach Salad with Duck Confit, Crisp Prosciutto, Port Marinated Stilton Pear and Blueberries, Duo of Wild Coho Smoked Salmon and Smoked Loin of Cod and Sweet Marinated Dried Beef Jerky Salad and Toasted Cashews created by executive chef Daniel Lamy and served by Peter Diamantakos, the very single Bain told me since doing the show, the question she's always being asked is if she's married.

Bain does know what she wants in a future groom — a great sense of humour, fantastic smile and thoughtfulness. Although with her busy work life, it might be tough scheduling in that certain someone. When she's not on air, she's behind the camera, as producer of Toronto 1's live late-night talk show, *Last Call*.

"*Last Call* is very different; we do it from a bar. It is kind of like *The View* meets *Letterman* meets *Jon Stewart* with a guest on every night," says Bain, who over the last seven years has worked at CFTO, Global Television and Rogers.

For her entrée, Bain selected Seared Atlantic



Andrea Bain heads up *Exchanging Vows*.

Salmon with Lemon Scented Shellfish Risotto, Scallions and Grilled Fennel accompanied with a glass of Ironstone Vineyards, 2001 Chardonnay, California.

The desserts alone would entice many to hold their wedding at *The Old Mill*. These sweet temptations included Napoleon of Fresh Strawberries and Mascarpone, Milk Chocolate Mousse Bombe and a platter for two called **Chocolate**Chocolate** Chocolate** that included Chocolate Grand Marnier Cake, Chocolate Cappuccino, Chocolate Crème Caramel, Chocolate Truffle, Chocolate Hazelnut Kiss and Chocolate Dipped Strawberries.

"The food is rich and delicious. The service is impeccable. It was absolutely fantastic," exclaims Bain.

Catch Andrea Bain on *Exchanging Vows*, Saturdays at 8 p.m. on Toronto 1.

Call *The Old Mill*, 21 Old Mill Rd., at 416-207-2020, for reservations.