

A LIFE OF PASSION

Kat Bass has followed her passion for flowers since childhood. Now running her own business in Over, the Swiss-born florist is living her dream. Lisa Millard stops to smell the roses

Picking flowers while walking as a child in the Swiss hills of her home country is one of florist Kat Bass' earliest memories.

"We lived in a little village nestled in the hills and surrounded by pastures, woodlands and rivers. I would pick flowers as I walked along with my family and prepare little bouquets to present to my mum," remembers Kat, whose passion for flowers has always shaped her life.

"I loved making my mother happy by making her bouquets and soon realised that everyone is made happy when they receive a bouquet of flowers. It is such a lovely thing to be able to do for people and I am still doing it," continues Kat, who runs her business, Passionate Flowers, from her now-home village of Over.

In fact, Kat was so smitten with flowers she signed up for a floristry apprenticeship at 15 and enjoyed three years at the College of Floristry in Brugg, Switzerland, combining her love of flowers with theoretical and practical training – and learning the Latin for more than 500 flower and foliage names. By the time she was 18 Kat was a qualified florist.

Life did not go quite as Kat planned. Hours of standing and bending over flowers took its toll on her back forcing Kat to take a break from her chosen career. "I was so sad as I loved my job but with every cloud comes a silver lining and I started working in bars and restaurants

where I discovered a new love of cocktail making," she says. "I found that all the creativity I was putting into my floristry could be equally useful when making cocktails. The perfect bouquet is a finely tuned mix of flowers and foliage and the same balance of colour and taste served in the perfect glass resulted in a fantastic cocktail. Once again I could make people smile by presenting them with a delicious drink."

A bigger change of life came in the shape of an Englishman, her now-husband Darryl: "It was love at first sight and I then moved to the UK. Three children later I found myself looking to begin the next phase of my life. I had always held on to my dream of having my own floristry business and it seemed this was the perfect time to make my dream come true."

Passionate Flowers was launched in 2014 when Kat would buy flowers from her local supermarket and make arrangements to sell from outside her house and on a local Facebook selling page. "My business grew very quickly," she says with a flick of her distinctive turquoise coloured curls. "Really, I could not have imagined I would be running such a busy business with my flowers. I am very lucky to have built a loyal following of customers who seem to love my particular style of floristry. Every piece of work I



create is unique and I make flowers for weddings and all sorts of celebrations which is wonderful."

Kat's vibrant designs mix pops of jewel colours with verdant foliage in bundles of floral joy. Some designs reflect traditional elegance with cream puffs of roses and twirls and swirls of greenery; others go wild with rainbow colours and trails of textured leaves and flower heads. Reviews on the Passionate Flowers website are as bright and glowing as Kat's flowers.

"I have found my life taking me a full circle and here I am back to my roots with Passionate Flowers," says Kat, about to prepare a bundle of bouquets for her next wedding booking. "And I never tire of seeing someone smile when I hand them a bouquet."



Photo: Keith Heppell

NOW TRENDING

We asked Kat to create three bridal bouquets that capture current floral style trends and are head over heels with them all. . .

BOUQUET 1: FLORAL WATERFALL

“This design reflects the vintage drop or what is called a waterfall bouquet trend and is a dreamy swirl of pink and white avalanche roses. The waterfall part of the bouquet cascades white and blush pink phalaenopsis orchids and elegant white cala lilies while hydrangeas add an impressionistic splash of blue. There is a country feel to this bouquet but it has a touch of luxury and is not short on sophistication.”

BOUQUET 2: IN THE ROUND

“Small flowers are used to create this delicate rounded bouquet that is simple but beautiful. I chose light orange Prima Donna roses, salmon hypericum, green bupleurem and chamomile which adds a mist-like hazy texture to the array of autumnal hues. This is a very romantic, almost enchanting design and just so pretty.”

BOUQUET 3: THE SCEPTRE BOUQUET

“Much more dramatic, this sceptre design would suit a bride looking for something completely different – I chose a sceptre bouquet for my wedding. There is something quite magical about this look and it brings Alice in Wonderland to mind. Long wand-like stems and swathes of bright ribbon add to the drama topped by deep red Black Baccara and lilac Lovelace roses, purple lisianthus, purple curcuma, red hypericum. A winter wonderland wedding is the perfect setting for this bouquet.”

BOUQUET 1



Photo: Keith Heppell

Passionate Flowers is based in the village of Over, Cambridgeshire. See passionate-flowers.com and contact Kat on 07531 582620.

BOUQUET 2



Photo: Maya Swan

BOUQUET 3



Photo: Maya Swan