



**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW AND PHOTOS**

**A SECOND CHANCE FOR  
ROBERTO  
ALOMAR AND  
KIM PERKS  
REUNITED WITH A FORMER  
LOVE, THE LEGENDARY  
TORONTO BLUE JAY SAYS 'I DO'**

**'Kim's a special person. I knew from Day One she was the woman for me'**



More than two decades after first falling for each other, Roberto and Kim said 'I do' at the Art Gallery of Ontario on Dec. 12, 2012. They reconnected in 2010 when Robbie reached out to his former love on Facebook.





**C**all it love at first catch. Twenty-two years ago, young Toronto Blue Jays newcomer Roberto Alomar tossed a ball up to a beautiful girl working as a sky-box hostess at the then-SkyDome. Her name was Kim Perks and the two fell head over heels for each other.

Even though they later went their separate ways, this relationship always seemed destined for a happier ending. It finally arrived when the couple said "I do" in a lavish and emotional ceremony in front of 220 of their closest friends and family at the Art Gallery



Glowing bride Kim wore two beautiful custom-made gowns by Toronto designer Ines Di Santo. She walked down the aisle in her 'statement' dress, a frothy white gown (above) and later switched into the second, equally gorgeous creation, 'which was just so comfortable to move around in!' said Kim. Completing her elegant look were sky-high Giuseppe Zanotti peep-toe heels and her stunning 10-carat diamond engagement ring. Robbie presented the ring and popped the question while he and Kim were visiting his native Puerto Rico – and he had a mariachi band as backup!

## 'We are soulmates reconnected and never want to part ways again'

of Ontario in Toronto.

"We realized in mid-2010 that we wanted to be together for the rest of our lives – married. We should have chosen to do it in 1991 when we first met," the couple tell *Hello!* "We are soulmates reconnected and never want to part ways again."

Their dream wedding was a long time coming, so Robbie, 44, and Kim, 41, – who have both been married before – wanted the day to be perfect. And when discussing where to wed, they considered only one city: Toronto. Kim, who comes from Montreal, has lived most of her life in Toronto, and Puerto Rico native Robbie also considers it his second home. The second baseman spent some of the best years of his career in the city, helping lead the Blue Jays to World Series victories in 1992 and 1993. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2011 and the Blue Jays soon retired his number, 12.

The number is so important to the couple that he and Kim selected it as their wedding date, marrying on the 12th day of the 12th month of 2012. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime date for a once-in-a-lifetime love," says Kim.

Fittingly, their special day was truly one of a kind. Wedding planner Melissa Andre and her team transformed the art gallery into a winter wonderland peppered with splashes of blue – from blue cocktails to a long blue carpet – in a homage to his team.

There were many Blue Jays past and present in attendance, including team president and CEO Paul Beeston, former Jays manager Cito Gaston and former player Kelly Gruber. But the most important guest was Kim's daughter Robyn, 16.

Here, the couple open up exclusively to *Hello! Canada* about their home run of a day and why they are so happy their love went into extra innings.

### Congratulations! How do you feel, Robbie?

It was the highlight of my life! We are so happy. We both are in love; it was beautiful that we got to share this moment with our friends and family. That is special to us.

### What was your reaction when you first saw each other at the ceremony?

**Robbie:** I just went "Wow." That's all I could say. She was stunning. She looked beautiful.

**Kim:** When "Ave Maria" came on, I was just telling my mom, "Don't even look at me right now – I'm about to cry and I haven't even seen Robbie yet!" When I saw my handsome husband waiting for me, it was very difficult for me to hold it in. ▶



When it came time to scout locations to tie the knot, Robbie and Kim didn't hesitate to choose Toronto, where they first met and fell in love.





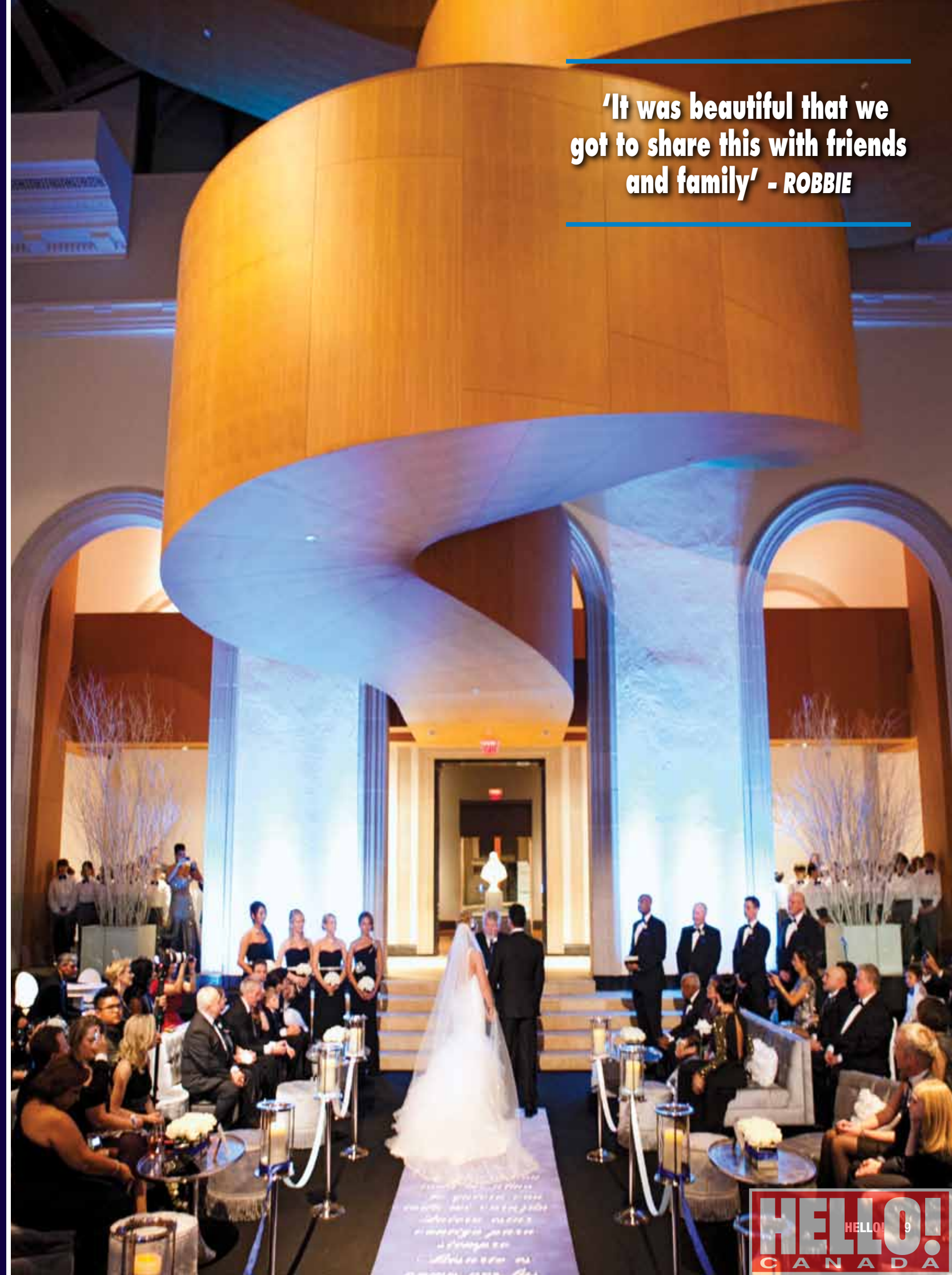
Kim's parents, Kilby and Marie Perks, walk her up the blue carpet – inscribed with a romantic Spanish poem and the couple's wedding date – while a boys' choir sings 'Ave Maria.' Said her beaming groom (below), 'She looked stunning. She was beautiful. I have no words to describe how beautiful that dress was.' Opposite: Reciting their vows.



**Robbie, your brother and best man, Sandy Alomar Jr., said this is the happiest he's seen you. How did you know that Kim was the one for you?** Kim is a special person. She treats me with respect. She loves me for who I am, not because I'm a ball player. She's beautiful on the outside and more beautiful on the inside. I knew from Day One that she was the woman for me. Not only is she my wife, but she's my best friend.

**And Kim?** We met so many years ago and when we came back together we had the experience to share everything we went through. I think that maturity made a big difference. You learn to appreciate each other so much more and I just love him for so many more things that I couldn't see when I was 17 years old. His passion for life. The way he loves his family. My daughter, Robyn, more importantly. He just took her on as his own and Robyn's very thankful for that.

**Robbie, you shared a father-daughter dance with Robyn and gave her a ring. Tell us about your relationship.** The whole night we had a beautiful time, but when it was time for me to give a little gift to my daughter, [I wanted her to] understand that I'm not only marrying her mom, I'm marrying her, too. That ▶



**'It was beautiful that we got to share this with friends and family' - ROBBIE**



'I don't know where we are going on our honeymoon yet! I'm full of surprises!' - ROBBIE



was a special moment for me and for Kim. Robyn is a part of our life. She's a beautiful girl and it was a big surprise for her. It was one of the biggest highlights of the day.

**How did that make you feel, Kim?** That's when I started bawling. That was pretty emotional. It takes a very special man to totally raise your child. Robyn's only known Robbie as a father so it's very important and special for her. He's here for her as her father, as her friend, as her support. It was very beautiful.

**What did it mean to get married in Toronto?**

**Robbie:** A lot! When I got traded here, nobody knew who I was, so for me it was really difficult in the beginning. But the Canadian people, all the Jays family, embraced me. This is like my second home.

**Kim:** Toronto will always be our special place. We met here and it's like a home base for us.

**Did you have a favourite moment during the ceremony or reception?**

**Robbie:** I was so impressed by everything. The setting. And don't forget about my mariachi band! [Robbie surprised Kim by having a band play at the reception.]

**Kim:** That was beautiful. That's actually how he proposed to me. We were visiting family in Puerto Rico and we went out for a beautiful dinner and the full mariachi crew came in and he proposed there on the spot at the ►



The newlyweds tell *Hello!* they wanted to marry in front of their loved ones. 'Family for me and Kim is so, so important. Without family we would not have a foundation,' says Robbie.





Thanks to wedding planner Melissa Andre and her team, the event was a 'dream come true,' says Robbie (above, taking it all in with his bride). Among some of the favourite touches were the baseball favours inscribed with the couple's names and the wedding date (left). They were so coveted that guests kept asking for more! Cascades of flowers by Jackie O and a cake by Cake Opera Co. (below) highlighted the evening's elegant black, white and blue theme.

## 'To keep each other happy and laughing is key' - KIM

table with the most gorgeous, gorgeous ring. And, of course, my answer was more than yes.

**How long had that been in the works?**

**Robbie:** I met her 22 years ago! I used to throw baseballs at her. I knew she was a catch because she caught the ball.

**Kim:** I still have that ball today!

**So baseball brought you together! Kim, do you like sports?** I love baseball! We go to games. Robbie loves every sport so he loves to go to Raptors games, hockey games. We love the same things. We enjoy travel so we're back and forth from different places. [But] it doesn't matter where we are. We laugh, we play. To keep each other happy and laughing is just key.

**Robbie, what's in store for the honeymoon?**

Feb. 5 is my birthday; we were talking about going on our honeymoon to celebrate my birthday at the same time. But I don't know yet. I'm full of surprises! **H**

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