

Real Brides

August 2020

South Africa's Exciting
Wedding Magazine

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Weddings*

*Implementing
A Dress Code*

*COVID-19
Stories*

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On the cover:

Bride: Chantell de Bruin

Photography: Daniel West

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Tell Us Your Love Story ...

Our "real" brides featured in Real Brides hail from all walks of life. Each wedding is unique in its own way and offers something different.

If you would like the opportunity to share your photos and your wedding story with our readers, send a sample wedding photo and a list of your service providers to robbyn@topicpublishing.co.za so that we can put your wedding on our list for consideration. REAL BRIDES is produced monthly. For more info visit

www.realbrides.co.za. You will also find us on Facebook and Instagram.

CHANTELL & LOUIS DE BRUIN



This gorgeous wedding, with some amazing fun events leading up to the big day, and incredible attention to detail, was a major production.

How did they meet?

Like so many modern couples, Chantell and Louis fell in love after connecting on the popular dating App Tinder.

The proposal?

Louis worked really hard to surprise Chantell with an amazing, perfectly planned marriage proposal. During a welcome weekend breakaway – supposedly for a visit to an uncle’s farm to look at some boats and then to rest and relax, the couple stopped at Glen Afric Country Lodge. There two game rangers accompanied them on a walk with the resident elephants. Poor Louis had quite a battle trying to get the timing right. Suddenly all was still and he seized the moment getting down onto his knee to propose to Chantell with some beautiful words. The one “ranger” supposedly taking photos for the lodge’s website, was in fact photographer Daniel West capturing the magic moment for prosperity.

The engagement.

A romantic picnic and photo session followed the dreamy proposal and then an overnight stay at the picturesque Galagos Lodge, overlooking the Hartbeespoort Dam. That overnight stay gave rise to the idea to have a fabulous fun engagement party on a boat, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Bach Party.

Instead of the boys going in one direction and the girls in another to celebrate the last of their single days, Chantell and Louis decided to have a combined Bachelor/Bachelorette party. Guests dressed up as Rockers and Pop Stars and they boarded a fun party bus - Chantell dressed as Cyndi Lauper and Louis as David Bowie. Again an evening of great fun was had by all.



A bride with long dark hair, wearing a white lace wedding dress with long sleeves and a full skirt, stands on a balcony. She is holding a bouquet of flowers, including pink and yellow roses. The balcony has a decorative stone railing and a checkered tile floor. The background shows green trees and a stone building.

*“It was a day filled
with beautiful things.”*

Venue: Shepstone Gardens

Wedding dress: Carike Nel Designs

Brides Hair & make-up: Annie B Makeup Studio

Bride's jewellery: Tanya Marais Jewellery

Spray Tan: The Tan Lab

Wedding planner: Karine Antonian

Flowers & décor: Karine Antonian & Cara Luiters

Catering: Taste Explosion

Wedding favours: Honey Bee Baker

Cookies: Ana Katjana Creations

Poptails: The Popsicle Parlour

String trio: A String of Pearls

Guest Artist: Elandre Schwartz

DJ: Henk Kotze, Zoom DJ's

MC: Dawid Louw

Stationery & décor: Creative Company by MB

Banner: JAPS Printing

Magazine: Wizard Worx, MSF Editing, Ronel Schmahl & Business Print

Invitations: Saoirse Lou Scribbles & Greenvelope.com

Officiant: Ds Sebastiaan van Dyk

Bridal car: Royal Rides

Photography: Daniel West

Videography: White Motion Films

Service providers.

Spectacular Shepstone Gardens, a gem in the heart of the city of Johannesburg, was the gorgeous romantic venue chosen to host the big wedding day and photographer Daniel West was once again the photographer entrusted to capture all those special moments. Dozens of people worked tirelessly to make this beautiful day happen. Thank you to everybody who played a part in some way or another.

The wedding.

Planning Chantelle and Louis' wedding took a year and a half. The couple were supported all the way by friends and family who included Chantell's energetic and super enthusiastic Mom, Mabel. There were hundreds of calls, thousands of emails, countless trips to and from Johannesburg, early mornings, long days and many a late night. All necessary for the next big step in the De Bruin's journey of life. It was a day filled with beautiful things – beautiful people, beautiful flowers, beautiful music, beautiful food and much happiness and joy.

Wedding donations.

Highlighting their love of animals and care for their community and in lieu of gifts, Chantell and Louis and their guests made donations to two organisations – Great Dane Rescue South Africa and the Pharos Community Centre in their hometown of Pretoria.

The Honeymoon.

Chantell and Louis planned their honeymoon together – she fancied a tour of Spain, Portugal and Morocco but he rather fancied the beaches of Jamaica. They eventually settled on a gorgeous happy medium – a resort on a beautiful private island in the Maldives. Hours of relaxation, good food, snorkelling in idyllic surrounds and taking thousands of photos topped the agenda. ♥







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MICHELLE & LUHAN WEIDEMAN



This couple first met in their second year at varsity in class. Today they are both doctors and living in Kimberley.

Was your proposal a surprise?

It was. It was the weekend of 22 September 2018. We had a weekend planned with my parents, but for “some” reason Luhan wanted to go hiking on the Saturday morning. This was something we did frequently so I thought nothing of it. He packed a picnic bag and everything. After 3 hours he finally decided we could picnic and found a spot. I was confused as to why it took so long, so naturally I was agitated but then I ended up pulling the box with the ring from the bag and all that fight disappeared. It was a very special and intimate moment and I’m glad we had it all to ourselves.

How long did it take you to plan your wedding?

We took a while to decide on a venue, since we were moving from Gauteng to Kimberley at the time, so we only started planning about a year after our engagement. Overall it took about 6 months. Luhan was helpful in deciding the big things like the venue and the honeymoon and the seating arrangements, but he let me have my fun with the details.

What made you choose Chez Charlene as your venue?

It was the perfect location. Most of our family is in Gauteng so it made sense to have it in Gauteng. I think the final “yes” to the venue came after the welcome we received. We instantly loved the place! The atmosphere and the way Deone and Charlene painted us a picture of how the wedding would look, was the selling point for us.

Was it important to find a venue with a chapel on site?

Yes. I wanted to get married in a church/chapel.

Did Chez Charlene meet with all your expectations?

They over-achieved on every single one.



A bride is shown from the back, wearing a long, flowing white wedding gown with intricate lace detailing on the bodice and a deep, open back. Her hair is styled in an elegant updo. She stands on a stone-paved path next to a set of stone steps leading up to a building. The background features a well-maintained lawn, a white fence, and lush green trees under a bright sky.

“The most sentimental wedding gifts were probably the ones we gave each other.”

Venue: Chez Charlene, Pretoria – www.chezcharlene.co.za

Wedding gown: Enzoani from Bridal Wardrobe

Hair and make-up: Marike Nel, To Be Hair and Make-up

Photography: Bianca Romanos Photography

You narrowly missed the pandemic interfering with your wedding plans?

At the time of our wedding, it was mostly an overseas problem and the one case in KZN. I wouldn't say that we were affected by it. Lucky!

Did you choose your own menu?

We did. Chez Charlene have their own professional chef, Derrick Brink, who has a sit down with you beforehand to figure out what kind of food you like and you then plan your menu together. We just had a few non-alcoholic drink options added. Other than that, we didn't have any special food requirements.

Colour scheme?

Protea colours like burgundy, olive green, dusty pink.

How many guests?

70.

Did you encourage your guests to share the photos they took on social media?

We didn't need too - haha - they did that all by themselves.

Your most sentimental wedding gift?

The most sentimental gifts were probably the ones we gave each other. I bought Luhan a watch with our wedding date engraved on the back and he bought me the most beautiful necklace and earrings that I ended up wearing on my wedding day.

Wedding favours?

We didn't give anything specific. We just had a photo booth where everyone could take a photo, stick one copy in a photo album for us and take the other copy for themselves.

Your songs for walking down the aisle and your first dance?

For walking down the aisle: I get to love you by Ruelle and our first dance: I don't want to miss a thing by Aerosmith.

The two best moments of your big day?

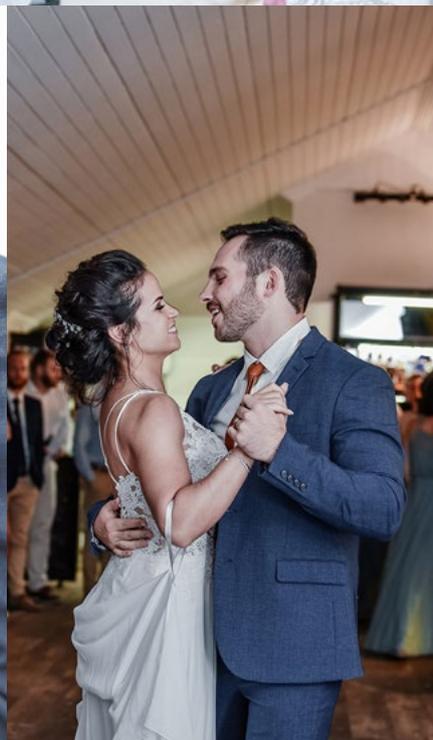
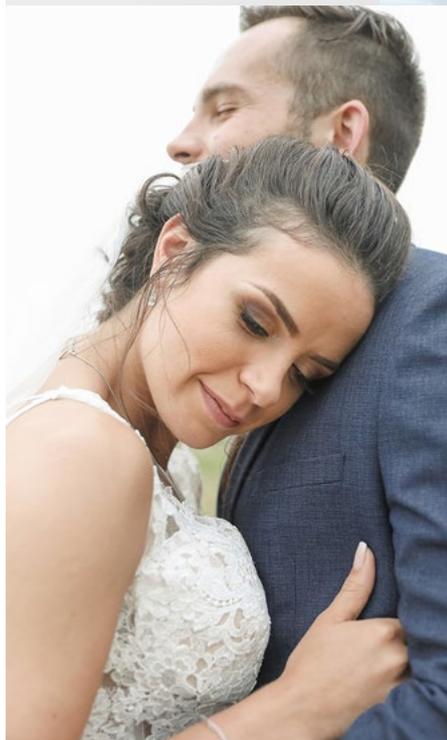
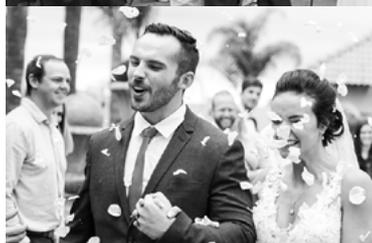
Walking down the aisle and being able to fall asleep next to Luhan knowing he was now my husband.

Any advice for brides-to-be?

Don't sweat the small stuff and enjoy every moment of the day as it goes by so fast.

Honeymoon?

We went to Zanzibar for 8 days. Best vacation of my life. We went snorkelling, diving, chilling at the beach. It was amazing. ♥



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Perfection is the only option

CHARISSA & JANRAS VAN DER WESTHUIZEN



In true South African style, this couple met at a braai while visiting friends and made an instant connection.

Proposal plans changed?

It didn't quite go as planned, JanRas asked the big question on the 24th of December 2019, which also happened to be my Mom's 50th birthday. The night before there was a big thunderstorm in my hometown of Groblersdal. JanRas wanted to propose to me on a mountain overlooking a beautiful game farm, but due to the heavy rain the trail road up to the top was washed away. He ended up asking me at the lodge in front of my parents. He was so nervous, he was shaking, and I was in tears instantly. It was one of the most emotional and the happiest moments of my life.

Did you choose your own ring?

No, I didn't. JanRas chose my ring. Great taste!

What did you want your wedding to be like?

We wanted our wedding to be romantic and soft, not a "stiff" formal wedding. We wanted everyone to feel at ease and to really enjoy the night celebrating with us. In the end it was a great party.

Tell us about your wedding venue.

Tsekama Lodge is just too beautiful, the venue everything. But the thing I absolutely loved the most was that Tannie Marinda was always available, always helpful and always went the extra mile for us. Despite what was going on with the coronavirus and everything, she made me feel so at ease about everything; I could phone her at any time and she was always there helping and giving advice. She and her whole team at Tsekama Lodge are simply amazing!

Colours?

Very earthy, natural colours. Olive green, white, gold and beige. Again very romantic and nothing over the top.



*“Be patient and
try every dress
style there is, you
might just surprise
yourself.”*



Venue: Tsekama Lodge, Limpopo – www.tsekama.co.za

Wedding gown: Zonika Engelbrecht

Hair: Hair by Shantelle, Shantelle Jacobs

Make-up: Makeup with Tylah, Tylah Walters

Flowers: Tsekama

Photography: Poembox Creative Studio

Any advice for finding the right dress?

Be patient and try every style that there is - even if you have a certain picture in mind. You might just surprise yourself by choosing something completely different to what you had imagined.

No veil?

There was no specific reason for not wearing a veil. I just didn't picture myself wearing one, and that's what I stuck with.

Big entourage?

Yes, quite big. We had 6 attendants each. I have 4 sisters so I wanted to include them all, and we also have so many friends who mean a lot to us. We wanted to include all of them.

How many guests?

There were about 80-90 guests - not quite sure what the final number was.

Wedding favours?

We had lighters and scratch cards, where you could win a free drink or shooter at the bar.

What do you think worked best on your big day?

I think the fact that everyone was so helpful and relaxed. The atmosphere literally felt like it was one big braai and that really was the cherry on the cake for us. Our MC was great too. And the fact that JanRas and I didn't take anything too seriously either; we really enjoyed ourselves and were laughing and giggling all the way.

Funny moments?

Our MC had some tricks up his sleeve which it was really funny. He had some of my girlfriends give back underwear, a toothbrush and so on to JanRas before the speeches started. Everyone had a good laugh.

Any advice for brides-to-be?

Relax, everything will work out in the end. Yes, you will look stunning. Stop worrying about everyone else and just enjoy every second of your wedding as it goes by so quickly.

Honeymoon?

We were supposed to go to Zanzibar, but due to the Covid-19 lockdown our plans changed and our honeymoon package is on hold for now. But, hopefully we will be able to go on our proper honeymoon in the very near future. ♥





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TANYA & RHYNO BEUKES



Sharing the same surname led to this groom accidentally following his bride-to-be on Instagram and Cupid's arrow struck when they eventually met face to face!

Was your proposal a surprise?

Rhyno doesn't have a single romantic hair on his head so I never expected a rose garden proposal from him, but it was exactly the way I wanted it! It happened on a rainy summer Sunday afternoon at a look-out point on the farm. I only heard "Tanya Beukes..." turned around and saw Rhyno on one knee. It was an indescribable feeling where it felt like my heart was beating out of my body!

Tell us about your wedding venue.

I always dreamed about getting married in a beautiful chapel in the woods with a lake in the background. Florence Farm ticked all the boxes with its old-world, whimsical charm! We had a full weekend celebration, which started on the Friday evening. The majority of our guests stayed at the venue, which made the celebrations very intimate. Rhyno and his groomsmen stayed in "Ramkamp" and my bridesmaids and I stayed in "Mooinooi", which was even equipped with a salon. The venue carries the stress-burden on their shoulders, which makes the planning very convenient.

You had your dress specially made?

I had a picture in my head of my perfect dream wedding dress, but I didn't know if I had enough time to have it designed, but Werner is really extraordinary! I wanted that wow-factor. He came up with the brilliant idea of wearing a detailed dress, comfortable to dance in, but to give it a ballgown skirt in royal duchess satin for the wow-factor I wanted when I walked down the aisle. My dress surpassed my wildest dreams!

Dress code for your guests?

I wanted a classic black and white wedding. A dress code for guests was a big stumbling block to overcome, because Rhyno didn't want me to "tell



“I wanted a classic black and white wedding.”

Venue: Florence Guest Farm & Wedding Venue, Chrissiesmeer, Mpumalanga – www.florence.co.za

Wedding dress: Werner Dey Couture

Bridesmaids dresses: Princess Lola Boutique

Make up: JDK makeup - Jeandelene de Kock

Hair: The Loft - Theresa

DJ & live band: Strings on fire

Wedding cake: Biscuit King

Flowers & Décor: Jurie Blignaut

Photographer: Wildflower Photography

Videographer: Tintype Productions

the guests what to wear” and I didn’t want shocking colours in the wedding photos to spoil the black and white colour scheme. So we compromised by making the dress code semi-formal, with black and white being optional. Luckily most people did wear black!

Any real challenges?

I went for hair trials, but the whole week before our wedding was unable to reach the hairdresser who did them. Obviously I got into a flat spin, because it’s not that easy to find a good hairdresser at such short notice. On the Thursday before the wedding I started searching for another hairdresser and luckily found Theresa from The Loft in Ermelo. I sent her a picture of what I wanted and she did it exactly like the picture, without a trial, on my wedding day. She also helped out with my bridesmaids’ and my mother’s hair.

Your flowers?

My first and only condition was that I didn’t want to see ANYTHING green in the flowers so Jurie used minimalistic greenery. The flowers were mainly white roses, which he combined with a few other white flowers to create the perfect look.

How many guests?

122.

Live entertainment?

Strings On Fire, a very talented duo consisting of a guitarist Dirkie van Staden and a violist, Johann Scheppel, brought a grand level of elegance and sophistication to our wedding. They entertained the guests in the chapel before the ceremony and during canapés when we went for the couple shoot.

Any “oh no” moments?

A big “oh no” moment for me was when the chapel doors opened and my Dad and I started walking down the aisle, but the music wasn’t playing yet! I had really wanted it to be a “wow” moment and not an “oh no” moment!

Any advice for brides-to-be?

The wedding isn’t about the wedding guests and what they like or dislike. It’s about you and your groom and about what you like!

Honeymoon?

We went to Phi Phi Island in Thailand for 10 days. ♥





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NANRI & JACO VAN STADEN



This one is for our readers who truly believe in love at first sight.

How did you and Jaco meet?

We met in a small town, Kestell, in the Eastern Free State. I was a teacher there and Jaco came from Limpopo to visit his family for the weekend. My now sister-in-law planned to introduce us to each other, but destiny brought us together at a braai on the night before the big meet-and-greet! Unexpected, but love at first sight!

How romantic was your proposal?

Very romantic and one of a kind! Instead of a candlelight dinner with champagne, Jaco proposed to me on the morning of 5 June 2019 at 5:30am in my pyjamas with coffee and an English breakfast! My hair was a mess, no time for make-up, but it was definitely one of my favourite memories! We'd been dating for 4 years and were engaged for 8 months.

How did you get to know about Mooiplaas?

We once attended a wedding at Mooiplaas and immediately fell in love with this venue. We said; "one day this will also be our forever after!" Mooiplaas is situated just outside Modimolle, Limpopo, in the heart of the Bushveld. Nature and its beauty surrounds you, while it's stylish, rustic and a vintage vibe completes the picture! The catering offer included all cutlery, glasses, napkins, under plates and furniture. There was a choice of a 3-course meal with specialities included. We wanted to have the ceremony and reception at one place and the chapel at Mooiplaas was perfect!

Accommodation at Mooiplaas?

There is accommodation available for 22 people. There are chalets and a spacious house overlooking a granadilla farmland. The swimming pool and braai area are ideal for loved ones to gather before the wedding celebrations!





*“The right
music makes
or breaks the
party!”*

Venue: Mooiplaas, Modimolle, Limpopo – www.mooiplaasvenue.com

Dress: Lollie B Clothing, Dienie Fourie

Hair: Creative Hair, Nici Stolp

Make-up: Perfect Reflection, Sammy Schultz

Décor and Flowers: Extreme Flowers and Events, Tilly de Villiers

Photographer: Gutsch Film and Photography

Your theme / colour scheme?

My theme was a mixture of Bohemian and rustic, with a blast of colour! I wanted a lot of textures and berry / gem colours to be used. These blended well with the venue's wooden beauty.

Lots of special detail with your flowers?

I wanted my flowers and bridal bouquet to portray my personality. I am lively and a bit eccentric! Every day is an adventure and life is too short to be dull! The day I met with the florist, I gave her guidelines but mostly I said "surprise me!" I loved the fruits with their colours and detail, it reminded me of true love blossoming! My bridesmaids had circular bouquets. The Bohemian look and a ring of unity was portrayed. We have a special bond and on our wedding day the circle was completed - from friendships to family!

Did you do hair trials with your girls?

Yes, I did a trial on my hair because I wanted to make sure a "Bohemian- Nymph" look was created. I wanted my hairdresser to feel at ease on the wedding day, if I said "I want crazy curls!"

Big cake ... was it all eaten up?

We had a wonderful 3-layer cake! Carrot, Red Velvet and Black Forest. No, it wasn't all eaten up, but it was a wonderful delight to enjoy on the day after while relaxing with a cup of coffee and looking at some paparazzi photos the guests took of our special day!

How many guests?

150.

Two things you think are essential to a wedding day and two which you think are not?

Essential: Photographer and Videographer. Spend money on a good photographer because your photos will remind you of your wonderful day and everything that built up to each specific moment! The DJ: This person makes or breaks the party! Non-Essential: Limit your guest list. Don't feel obligated to invite people that you don't really know!

The best advice you could give a bride-to-be?

Do your planning thoroughly and make notes as you go along. On your wedding day just enjoy every moment, even if it is not according to your sticky notes, because it passes so quickly! Dance till your feet hurt and your dress colour changes from white to a dusty brown. Let loose your hair and enjoy your forever after that has just begun!

Honeymoon?

We went to Zanzibar, and it was spectacular! ♥



Mooiplaas

EST 2016

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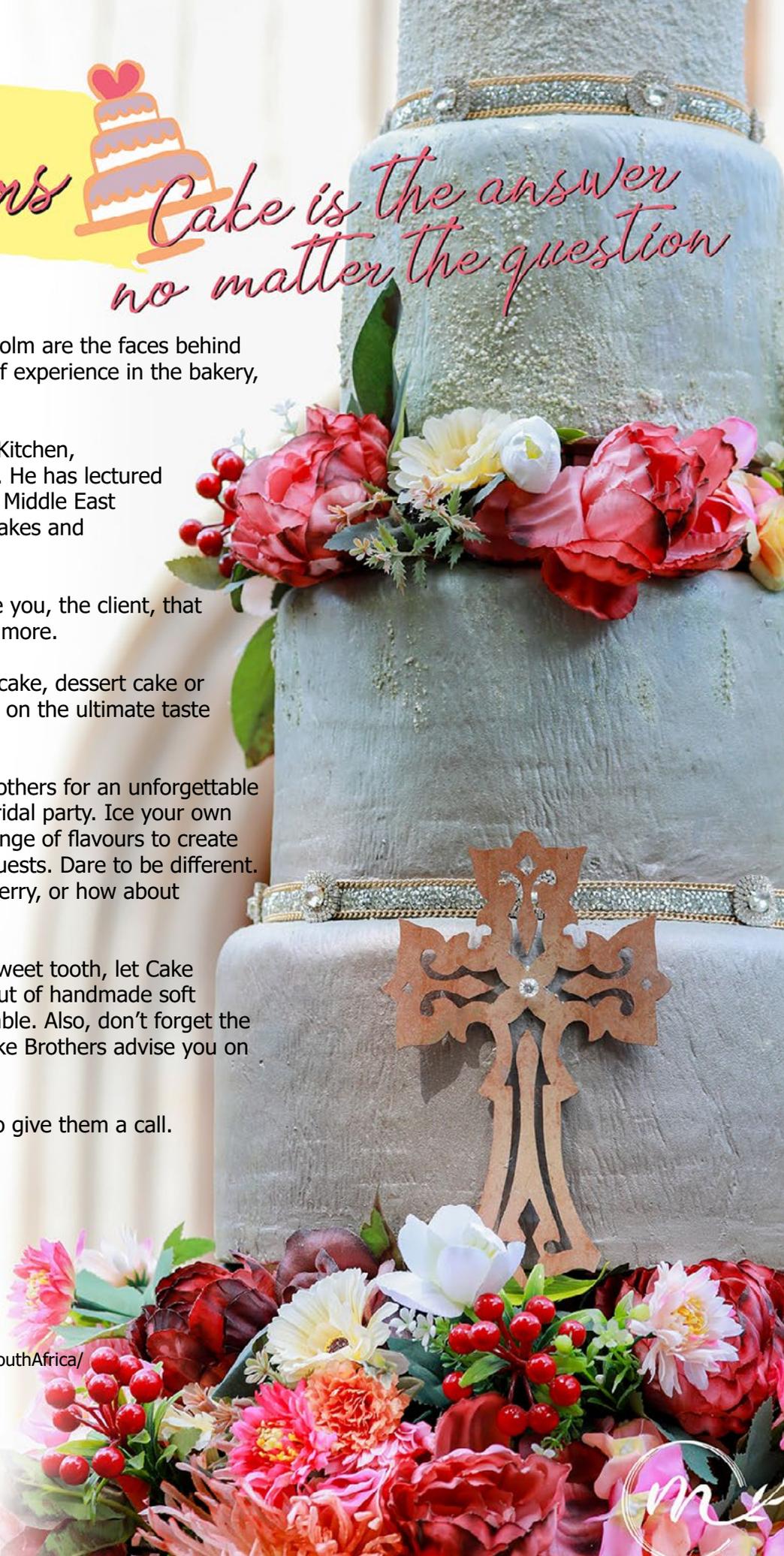
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CAKE TO WOW YOUR GUESTS



JANI & MAJID PATTISON



Beautiful happy wedding but this couple's honeymoon plans went a bit awry!

Tell us about your proposal.

We came home from Vietnam for a visit. The day we arrived my Dad had cooked us a beautiful meal. Cesaria Evora playing in the background; warm candle light and the safe feeling of family filling the whole room. During the evening, I saw Majid downing one glass of wine after the other (now I realise he was drowning the nerves!) asking me 500 times: "Are you happy, my love?" He held my hand and started playing with something on my palm. I remember thinking to myself: "Relax, Jani! It's just a key!" Next thing I knew, he turned my hand over and placed a ring on my palm. Surrounded by the people that we love most in the world. It was magical.

Planning from afar a problem?

My wonderful sister Liesl (AKA my wedding planner) made appointments for us to do all the wedding things before returning to Vietnam. She ticked the whole checklist in the two weeks we were here. I am honestly so blessed to have her because she handled everything for me while I was abroad. Budgeting was the challenge, we wanted to keep it as budget-friendly as possible, while inviting 130 guests! We had amazing vendors at such affordable prices.

How many venues did you consider?

We had appointments to view four venues. Bell and Blossom was the first one. Majid and I drove in and we immediately knew it was our venue. We were absolutely blown away. All the infrastructure was stunning; such meticulous attention to detail and modern finishes. We did the tour and then cancelled our other viewings! We just knew it had to be Bell and Blossom.

Outdoor ceremony?

I had two requirements; I wanted a long walk with my Dad before Majid saw me and then I wanted a long walk to get to him. I really wanted the moment



*“We did the Bell and Blossom tour
and cancelled our other viewings!”*

Venue: Bell and Blossom Wedding Venue, Pretoria – www.bellandblossom.co.za

Wedding gown: Whimsical Bridal

Hair and make-up: Karin Roode

Wedding favours: Soetmuis Deli Goods

Cake: Lily Blossom Bakes

DJ: EME Music Productions

Photography: Evergreen Photography and Maleene Hinrichsen

of privacy with my Dad and then the eye-lock “this is really happening” moment with Majid. Both moments were achieved.

Did your venue meet with all your expectations?

ABOVE AND BEYOND! Myrna, the coordinator, handled EVERYTHING. We did not have to think about anything. She made it SO easy and fun and laid back. Her right hand woman, Tsiki, was right there with her as well, making everything run effortlessly. The food was also sensational.

Huge entourage plus a bridesman and a bridesmaid?

These really are the people we are closest to. They came from all over to be with us, representing Vietnam, Sweden, Britain, Australia, Zimbabwe, The Netherlands, Thailand and Cape Town. Armand, our bridesman, is my absolute soulmate. Samantha, our bridesmaid, is such a big part of our lives. Majid and I actually had to “ching-chong-cha” about who got to have her! We were neighbours in Thailand, and now she is family!

Fun finding your wedding dress?

So much fun! My sister arranged a surprise fitting. Her, my Mom and my artsy aunt got to choose a dress each. I ended up choosing my aunt's option. It was everything I dreamed for it to be. Dreamy, dramatic and flowy.

The highlights of your big day?

My Mom painting my toenails. The reveal with my Dad. Mimosas with the entourage. The moment I saw Majid at the end of the aisle and then walking into the reception hall, surrounded by our people.

Honeymoon?

A “buddy-moon” with four of our entourage, who came with us from Vietnam. We road-tripped from Kruger down to Cape Town where the pandemic started to become an issue. Bars and restaurants started closing - Cape Town was a ghost town. Then, Majid jumped in the ocean, while we were chasing the sunset, and landed feet first on a sandbank shattering his ankle and tearing all his ligaments! This resulted in an unplanned extended honeymoon as we couldn't travel back to Pretoria and ended up being stuck in Paarl for the initial 6 weeks of lockdown. 14 weeks of casts, surgery and rehab, we are still in the country as Covid 19 has prevented us from returning to our lives in Vietnam. ♥





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ADELE & RYAN CHETTY



This couple met through the once very popular social media platform Mxit and got married just before the national Covid-19 lockdown.

Your proposal?

It was a moment I will cherish forever. It took place at my sister-in-law's wedding at the bridal bouquet toss. Little did I know she was going to walk right up to me and hand me her bouquet - followed by a sweet voice in the background expressing his love for me!

Your wedding date?

Our wedding was initially planned for 21 March 2020, however our venue gave us the option to move it back to 14 March which, in hindsight, was the best decision we could have made as we were not aware of what was going to take place just a few weeks later. We actually got married the day before our President could give his speech to the nation about the Covid-19 lockdown!

Biggest planning challenge?

Time management, as I was finishing my studies and working at the same time. This took its toll and was very stressful but I prayed daily for strength and I eventually achieved my goals. Nothing is impossible with God.

Your venue?

We chose Durban Exhibition Centre (Coast of Dreams) because we wanted the entire wedding to take place at one venue. We had a beautiful garden ceremony followed by a spectacular reception.

Your dream dress?

As a big dreamer I always had my wedding dress envisioned in my head and knew exactly what I wanted. My Mom, my cousins and I decided one day to go to a few bridal stores to look at what was in. To my amazement the second store I went to, and the third wedding dress I ever tried on, was perfect, with the most amazing detail and train. I immediately said Yes to the Dress.



"We had a beautiful garden ceremony followed by a spectacular reception."



Venue: Durban Exhibition Centre (Coast of Dreams)

Wedding dress: La Principessa Bridal Wear

Hair & Make up: BeautyInABox

Décor and Catering: The Eastern Touch

Décor: Lifestyle Decor

Staging and Flooring: Flights Events

MC: Alan Chetty

Canapés: Chilli Chocolate Chefs

Mini Desserts: Decadent Desserts

Photo Booth: South Coast Photobooth

Cake: Sugar Coated Cakes

Videography: Mist & Magic Videography

Photography: Kevin Hsu Photography & Film

Kevin Hsu
REAL BRIDES
& film

Your wedding colours?

Gold and white. However, I always wanted the retinue to stand out to complement the bridal couple so we chose a strong rich navy, which everyone loved. The bridesmaid's dresses were easy to find and so affordable; the girls loved them and each one of them looked outstanding.

Choosing your retinue?

Easy as it was planned a while before the wedding. I knew I wanted fun, energetic and lovable girls to make my day a memorable one and that's exactly what I achieved. We had the best time and shared so many special moments together.

Outdoor ceremony?

It was always my dream and Ryan supported my dream. I loved the beautiful trees and the vibrantly green lawn. The weather and the atmosphere outdoors was exhilarating. We drove to the Botanic Gardens in Durban for our formal photoshoot, which was however cut short due to the unbearable heat. A post shoot is soon to be carried out.

Tables at your reception?

We had a mixture of tables in our reception hall. They comprised oval, rectangle and square tables. This was done to give the venue a classy and elegant look allowing everyone to be seated.

Wedding planner?

I planned most of our wedding on my own however I did have a lot of help from my uncle who owns a décor and catering company. He helped me bring my vision to life affordably.

Wedding favours?

Our wedding favours were bath salts in a small jar - handmade by my aunty. We also had delicious customised mini chocolates for each person and a sweet treat. Totally worth it.

How many guests?

We catered for 300.

You really enjoyed your video?

I was so impressed with our wedding highlights and video that I've watched it more than 50 times! I love how every detail was captured so beautifully.

Best memories?

A special memory of the day is a fast track dance with my father and using my Mom's wedding dress from 1983 to create a garter to throw and a garter for a keepsake. ♥





VIRUSKA & CLAYTON CLAASEN



Planning a wedding long distance was confidently handled by this couple!

How did you and Clayton meet?

Clayton 'stalked' me way before I even knew he existed, but he was too afraid to approach me! We met officially after a church service and I was the one who made sure our paths would cross by joining the fitness club where he worked!

The most difficult part of planning your wedding?

I work in Dubai, so having to plan the wedding from there was tricky but not impossible. The digital age gave me a platform to communicate easily with service providers and to check out their previous work on websites.

Did Clayton get involved in the planning?

As I was in Dubai Clayton was my help in Cape Town and he did a good job at consulting where I couldn't. He is however also the reason why our wedding cake made a trip to the wrong venue! I only found this out afterwards!

Did anything go wrong?

Three weeks prior to the wedding we received notice from our flower and décor provider that they were being liquidated, which was a bit terrifying! But, Pretty and Stains came to our rescue at very short notice. I just sent a picture of what I desired and they excelled in delivering my dream.

You hired your wedding dress?

I thought I knew what I wanted but realised what I'd imagined was not what my silhouette looked good in! I'm a curvy girl and it was a challenge for me so I decided to hire a dress instead of buying one.

Tell us about your entourage.

I only wanted someone who I can truly call my friend and who had walked the path from being single to marriage with me; so my cousin and soul sister was always going to be my maid-of-honour and the same applied for Clayton's best man. I've never made any other girl friends with deep connections and didn't want to add to the bridal party just for the fun of it. I



“It was so special that our daughter, Ana could be a part of our entourage.”

Venue: Glen Carlou Vineyards, Klapmuts, W. Cape

Wedding gown: The Wedding Boutique, Cape Town

Hair: Hair by C

Make-up: Glow Makeup Artistry

Flowers & Décor: Pretty in Stains, Cape Town

Bridal Car: Cape Cobra Hire

DJ: Spinning Dex-DJ Service

Videography: Aletta Francina Film

Photography: Tanya Kinnear

then chose the innocence of little girls as they all love and want to dress up and it was so special that our daughter Ana could be a part of our entourage.

Special moments with family?

My grandmother of 98 blessed our union on the day and my eldest son Jordan met me half way down the aisle, collecting me from my Dad, to give me away to Clayton. Clayton is not Jordan's biological father so it was important that he knew his blessing of our marriage was appreciated as we become a family.

Colour scheme?

Emerald green, white and gold.

Budget tips?

Our venue covered most things and was inclusive of waiter fees, bar fees, cleaning fees etc., which many venues only disclose afterwards ... and that can add to costs. So, finding a venue that is inclusive will save not just money but also time and effort in sourcing vendors.

How many guests?

80.

Interesting wedding cake?

Our cake was based on the scripture for the foundation of our relationship, 1 Corinthians 13, and displayed our love for God. Crumb Cakes SA amazingly hand-painted the scripture with edible ink.

Live music?

It was important that we kept our guests entertained as we knew the couple photo session might take long. Clayton tracked down Martinus van Tee Caricatures, whose wonderful sketches were given away as our wedding favours, and Micaela Music for the live music. I came across her playing at the Waterfront and she had me in tears with her angelic voice. I promised her she would play at our wedding, so I kept my vow and our guests still talk about their performance.

The funniest question during the "shoe game"?

Our guests and Clayton teamed up against me for the question "Who is always late?" They have their facts wrong ... now I record the moments to prove that I'm not to blame!

Honeymoon?

Planned by myself. We travelled the day after our wedding to Paris, Rome and Venice. ♥





PAULA & ARIE OELOFSE



Browsing around a market choosing the flowers and then helping arrange them for her wedding was pure joy for this bride.

How did you meet?

Arie and I met on an evangelical outreach camp, I had a black eye from netball, which seemed to mesmerise him! We quickly became best friends, but after a few months Arie clawed his way out of the friend zone, and love took over!

Was your proposal romantic and unexpected?

A complete surprise. Story like my morning started with a pebble against my window in Stellenbosch and Arie holding a box of blue Otees, my favourite! He got me into the car at 6am with some elaborate story about why we had to go zip lining that early. Conveniently, none of our “expected friends” showed up, so it was just us and the guides. The nature was breathtaking. Halfway through, while on a high from the ziplining, Arie went down on one knee on a little suspension bridge across a gorge. And there I was in my vellies and khaki top, my fear of heights long forgotten, saying the biggest yes I had ever said!

How easy was it to find your dream wedding dress?

Extremely difficult. I visited seven different bridal boutiques and still ended up by having my dress made a month before the wedding.

You did your own flowers?

Choosing the flowers was one of my favourite tasks. At first, I did not have a clear picture of what I wanted so my Mom, Arie and I went to the Johannesburg flower market. It was amazing to be able to choose my flowers right there from what caught my heart in the moment. It was a lot of fun doing the flowers together with close family. My bouquet was my pride on the day, knowing I'd made it myself. Even though I never had that magical moment with my dress, I definitely had it with my flowers.





*“Your wedding day
is only as stressful as
you make it.”*

Venue: Kralinbergh Estate, Ermelo

Dress: Jacqueline's Bridal Couture

Ring: Vonkel Jewellery Design by Louise van Graan

Hair stylist: Hair Fanatics

Makeup artist: Esperanzi Makeup

Caterer: Kralinbergh Estate

Flowers & Décor: DIY

Bridal accommodation: Highveld Splendour Boutique Hotel

Photographer: Mona-Liza Photography

Kids at your wedding?

We both love kids, so having them there was a no brainer. It was fun having them running around and at one point taking over the dance floor. When one of the little four-year-old girls grabbed my hand to thank me for the fun wedding, my heart just melted.

How many guests?

120.

What do you think worked best on your big day?

The gin-bar with a selection of garnishes was a hit. Oh and Mugg & Bean's cheesecake as our wedding cake.

Funny moments?

After the vows, the minister accidentally said: "Paula, you may now kiss your bride", in the moment it was quite hilarious!

Easy to choose your bridesmaids?

I wanted all of my best friends there for the special moments leading up to the wedding. Unfortunately, not all of them could attend but they were still part of the process. They gave me a 30-day countdown in the form of 30 gifts. It was very exciting opening a gift every day. My sister was the best maid-of-honour, and exceeded my expectations.

Did you manage to stick to your budget?

More or less; the DIY helped a lot. Due to all my research, there were no surprises. I had a budget and compromised accordingly.

Any handy tips for brides-to-be?

Enjoy every part of the process for what it is. Most importantly, always remember what your wedding is about - the moment the two of you declare your love for each other. Don't let that get lost in the chaos of chasing a "perfect" wedding. Your wedding day is not supposed to be stressful. It is only as stressful as you make it. P.S. You are allowed to feel like a princess!

Your first dance song and why you chose it?

Alles by Bobby van Jaarsveld. The song came from our first holiday together, and the lyrics capture our journey to some extent. That song still makes my heart beat faster when I hear it.

Honeymoon?

Arie took me to Zanzibar. It was completely unexpected and a dream come true. Ice cream, white sand, blue water, pizza by the pool, cute outfits and not having to make my own bed! Bliss! ♥





CHANTÉ & TIAAN VAN ROOYEN



It took just two dates for this couple to decide that they were meant to be together forever!

Tell us about your proposal?

It was a complete surprise. We dressed up for church in the morning and afterwards we went to meet my parents at Hartebeespoort. We arrived, met my parents and were on our way to meet the rest of the family. I discovered they were all in on my surprise and had a perfect picnic set up. Before I could even comprehend what was going on, Tiaan got down on one knee and asked me to be his wife!

Wedding theme/colours?

We wanted our guests to enjoy the beach, the ocean and all the beauty that the Garden Route has to offer. Our theme was simple and elegant with green and white décor and flowers. The team from Ecozest truly did the most wonderful job with our wedding décor and flowers. A big part of our wedding décor was white candles. I've always loved candles and the way they create a warm and romantic atmosphere. There were candles on the steps leading up to the reception, where there were two long tables with even more candles on them.

Any trouble finding your dream dress?

I tried on quite a few different styles, but had a good idea of what I wanted. The stunning Lunaire dress from Enzoani with the open back, sweetheart neckline and the spectacular cape was everything I dreamt of. I definitely intend to keep it.

Wardrobe and gifts for our entourage?

The groomsmen wore navy blue pants with a white shirt and a navy blue bow tie, all neatly boxed together with a few other items to spoil them. The bridesmaids wore long, navy blue dresses to match our beach wedding theme. They were also given a box full of spoils as a token of our appreciation.



*“I definitely intend
to keep my dress.”*

Venue, Catering and Cake: Butterfly Blu, Knysna
Wedding dress and cape: Bridal Wardrobe
Flowers and Décor: Ecozest
Videography: JVS Film Productions
Stationery: I DO Creative Concepts
Entertainment: Mix Academy Entertainment
Photography: Miracles Photography

Tips for remaining calm before you walk down the aisle?

This magical moment is filled with so many different emotions. But, with my Dad next to me and the thought of walking down the aisle about to marry the man of my dreams, it was easy to stay calm. The most important tip I would give any bride is to walk slowly and take it all in.

Interesting venue on the Garden Route?

Our ceremony was held in a small church at Buffelsbaai, which is a regular Christmas holiday destination for our family. It had always been my dream to get married there. Our reception was at the breath-taking Butterfly Blu, Brenton Haven. They have limited space for weddings throughout the year and also had discounted accommodation for our guests plus a luxury honeymoon suite.

Easy access to the beach?

The beach is easily accessible for young people and with a perfectly sunny day we got to have most of our wedding pictures taken on the beach. With elderly family members and unpredictable weather however, we opted to have the ceremony in the small church that is so familiar to me and my family; it's only a few meters away from the beach.

How many guests?

80.

Wedding favours?

We wanted to give our guests a gift that will always remind them of our wedding day at the beach together with a lovely quote from William Shakespeare about time. We gave them an hour glass filled with white sand; it suited our theme for the gifts.

What was your entertainment?

At our ceremony we had the talented violinist, Kallie Landman, who played all our favourite love songs. Our guests later arrived at our reception to delight in welcoming cocktails, canapés and a breath-taking view of the sunset over the ocean. The DJ also made the night spectacular.

What do you think was well worth it and what wasn't?

Everything was as we wanted it and well worth it; if we had to do it all over again, we wouldn't actually change a thing.

Was your honeymoon destination a surprise?

Yes, right up until the day before the wedding - Tiaan couldn't keep it a secret any longer! We went to Zanzibar. A marvellous place to spend our first week as newlyweds. ♥







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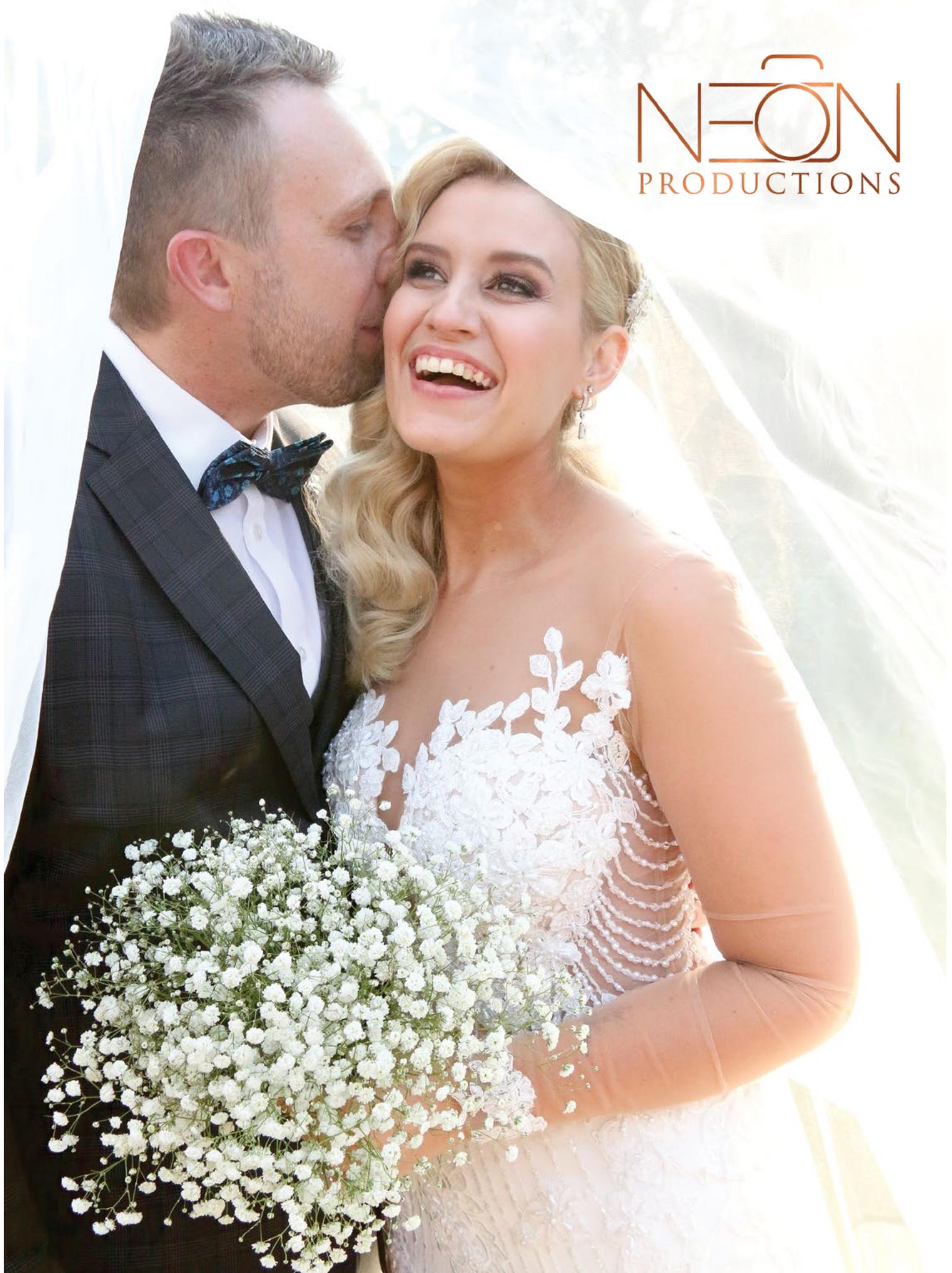
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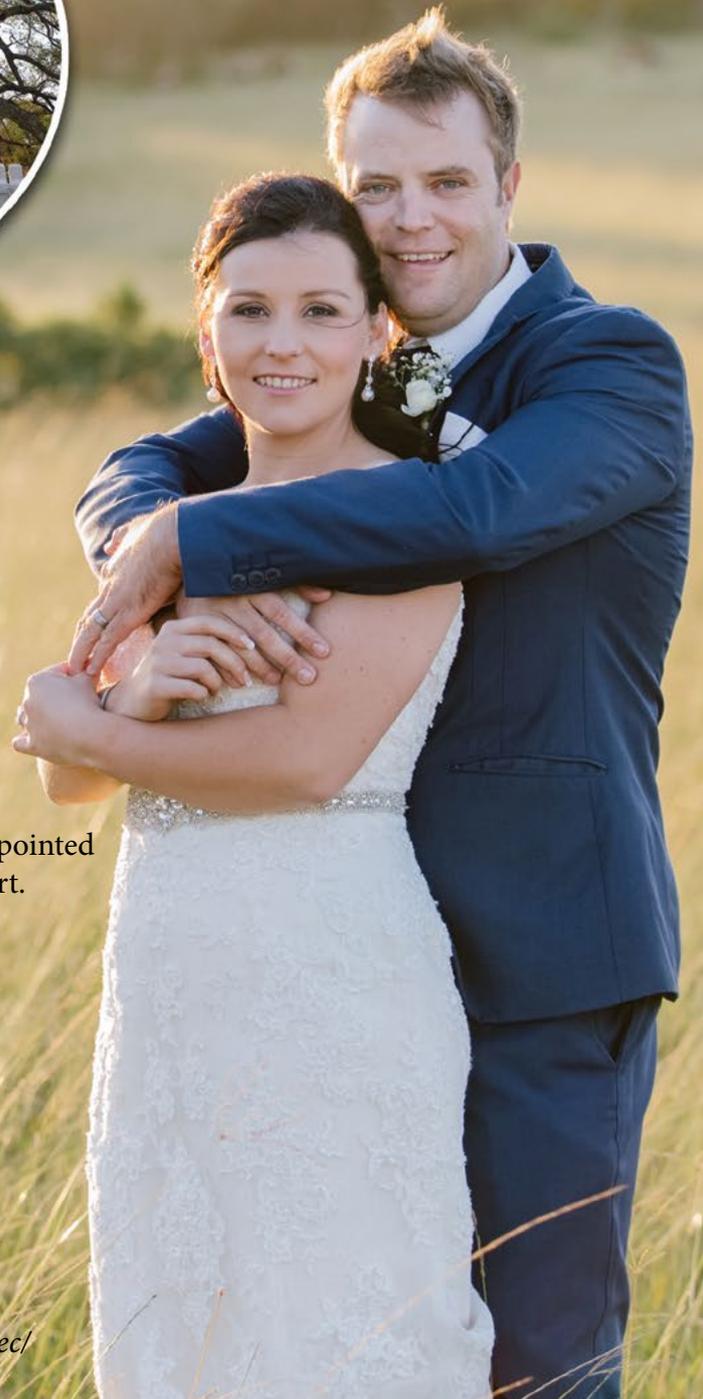


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