

Real Brides

October 2020

South Africa's Exciting
Wedding Magazine

Rocking
Those
Heels

*Live
Music*

*All White
Flowers*

Real Weddings





Marriage is a wonderful event in anyone's life that is full of joint decisions. But these decisions start before the marriage begins, and one of those is to enter into a marriage contract.

Any marriage out of community of property is reached by drawing up an ante-nuptial contract (or ANC). This marriage contract is not to say that the marriage is set out to fail, it is just designed to assist the couple in the future, regardless of whether the couple divorces or not.

The ante-nuptial agreements are the most significant contract that a married couple will sign throughout their marriage. It is carried out before the marriage; the function of the contract is to alter or adjust some or all of the inevitable financial dividends of the marriage. The ante-nuptial is more commonly known as a prenup.

Dreyer Engelbrecht Attorneys Inc. is a law firm specialising in a broad spectrum of legal services and remain driven by passion, integrity, innovation and we are forever in the pursuit of excellent customer service and complete customer satisfaction. We can assist you with the drafting and registration of Ante-Nuptial Agreements.

Our firm is comprised of a collection of legal specialists from varying fields, including conveyancing, litigation and family law. Exceptional combined experience, passion driven by ethics, and a sense of empathy for the cases we handle, is at the heart of everything we do.

Dreyer Engelbrecht Attorneys Inc. is an Alberton Law Firm and has satellite offices in Bedfordview, Johannesburg and Vereeniging. We have a well-established network of dedicated correspondents and we can provide legal services, nationwide.

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We Live In Interesting Times

THE Covid-19 pandemic has literally turned all our lives upside down and couples looking to get married in 2020 have had most of their plans derailed. At Real Brides we have endeavoured to keep things as “normal” as possible and the new “normal” is to go digital. As you know, we offer our readers a FREE download each month.

The “real” brides featured this October come from far and wide and were fortunate enough to have tied the knot before the national lockdown. Each wedding is unique in its own way and offers something different and, more importantly, inspiration for brides-to-be of the future.

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.

While you are on our website, take a look at our VIRTUAL WEDDING EXPO and support the exhibitors where you can. Remember ... Local is Lekker! You will also find Real Brides on Facebook and Instagram.

Stay safe.

MICAILA & MICHAEL THOMSON



This cute couple were High School sweethearts and sealed their love with a pretty wedding held at the Bell & Blossom venue in the Pretoria area.

Was your proposal a surprise?

I was quite surprised when Michel proposed to me. It was the night of my 21st birthday party. That night, after the party, we were locked out of my parent's house and sitting in the car in front of the gate waiting for them, when Michael asked me to come and stand outside with him. When I walked around the car, he got down on one knee and asked me to be his wife! I would not change anything.

Your wedding narrowly missed the national Lockdown?

Yes, our wedding missed it by just two weeks, how lucky can one get!? It didn't really create any problems as far as our wedding was concerned as the State of Disaster lockdown was only announced a week after we got married.

Your wedding invitations?

I designed and printed our invitations with the help of my mother and my best friend. Michael and I then hand-delivered them to our guests. Most of our guests only RSVP'd within the last week before the RSVP date we'd set.

Who helped you put your wedding together?

I could not have done it without the help of my mother, best friend and my sister. And not forgetting the amazing vendors, who all gave me great advice.

How many venues did you look at?

We viewed two other venues prior to viewing Bell and Blossom and it was a clear first choice when we saw the venue.

What "sold" Bell & Blossom to you?

When we went for the viewing Michael just looked at me and said 'wow' and that is when I knew that Bell and Blossom was the right venue for us. We both love nature and the venue actually makes you forget that you are in fact in the city.



“Michael and I hand-delivered the wedding invitations to our guests.”



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

Dress: Bellissimo Bridal Boutique

Hair & make-up: Karin Roode Professional Make-up & Bridal Hair

Décor: Made it myself

Flowers: Therina Gilardi

Cake: Hilda Britz

Photography: Jacolette Kriel Photography

How many dresses did you try and who helped you choose?

I actually only tried on one dress, but it was in pink, so I asked them to make the dress up for me in white. My mother was with me when we saw the pink dress and we both knew that was the dress for me.

Special photos in your bouquet?

This was a really special way of honouring my late grandmother and grandfather. On the day of my wedding I carried a photo of each of them on their wedding day in lockets attached to my bouquet.

How many guests?

55-60 guests.

You encouraged your guests to share photos on social media?

Yes, we did not want to miss any of those special moments as seen through our guest's eyes. In the end, everyone sent the photos to us personally, to post if we wished to do so.

Your first dance song?

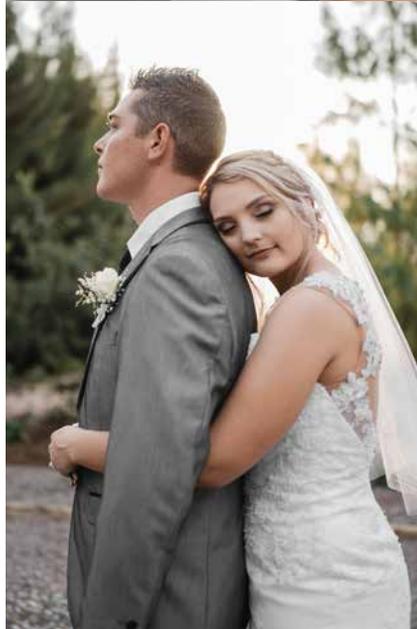
We danced to a lovely version of 'Can't help falling in love' by the very talented and popular South African singer Demi Lee Moore.

Any good advice for sticking to the wedding budget?

Try to do some of the stuff yourself, like making and printing your own wedding invitations and stationery. Canva is a great app for doing this. Make your own thank you gifts, etc. and don't just go ahead and use the first supplier you come across, ask for a few quotations and make a decision based on value for money.

Did you manage to go on honeymoon?

We did not get to go on a traditional honeymoon as such. We visited local tourist attractions instead, which was actually so much fun. We played with a little tiger cub, went to the Pilanesberg National Park, had to change a flat tyre in the Dinokeng Nature Reserve and so much more. Spending time with each other was all we wanted. ❤️





 **Bell & Blossom**
Wedding Venue

Bell & Blossom Wedding Venue is a one-of-a-kind venue in Pretoria, nestled in a forest like surrounding with stunning evergreen gardens.

Our unique reception hall with a translucent roof, exposed timber trusses and impressively large chandeliers creates a magical and unforgettable evening with friends and family. Hundreds of fairy lights and a large cosy fireplace makes the venue come to life at night.

Walk over our 12-meter iron bridge, into our breath-taking garden chapel, between a beautiful aisle of white roses. Promise your forever underneath our elegant arches with a massive wooden gate as a backdrop.

Our beautiful chandelier lit glass chapel is also perfect for saying your "I do's" in a romantic setting.

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0828526184 to book an appointment to view



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ANTENUPTIAL CONTRACTS

What You Need To Know

An Antenuptial contract sets out the manner in which your property is dealt with in the event that a marriage comes to an end through death or divorce.

In South Africa, we have three types of marriage regimes, being married in community of property, being married out of community of property with the inclusion of the accrual and being married out of community of property with the express exclusion of the accrual system.

What are the legal consequences of the different marital regimes?

a) Antenuptial contract with the inclusion of the accrual system

- the two parties remain separate legal entities and may contract in their individual capacities;
- you are not liable for the debts incurred by your spouse;
- you both share equally in the growth of your estates from the time you get married, you share what you have built up together and
- if you have a wealthy estate before marriage, you can exclude it specifically from the accrual.

b) Antenuptial contract with the exclusion of the accrual system

- The two parties remain separate legal entities and may contract in their individual capacities:
- you are not liable for the debts incurred by your spouse; and
- you do not share in the growth of your spouse's estate.

c) Marriage in community of property

- everything the couple owns, and all their debts and assets are shared equally;
- the property of each party automatically becomes the property of both parties and forms a part of the joint estate;
- in the event of death or divorce, both parties will be entitled to their half share of the assets and liable for the half share of all debts.

We look forward to drafting your tailormade contract for you!

Annette Stewart has two degrees in Law and two degrees in Psychology and have been a runner up in Africa's Most Influential Business Women on two occasions. I am the first female legal practitioner whose practice is virtual with all my ladies working from home, which enables business sustainability. I believe we all have an obligation to make a difference.

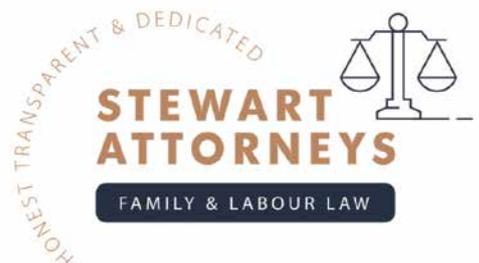
I have been fortunate in receiving the following awards

*Most influential Business Woman In Africa: 2014 Finalist • 2015 Runner-Up
• Most Successful Law Practice in South Africa awarded by the MEA 2017 •
Nominated as a finalist in Acquisition International in the category Legal Awards
2020 • Most innovated Modern Women Driven Practice in South Africa*

Languages: Afrikaans, English

ANNETTE STEWART

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NICOLE & CARLOS ORIZABA



This couple met as travellers visiting the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Their eyes met when he heard her accent; they exchanged contact details and the rest is history!

Great proposal?

We got engaged in Guadalajara, Mexico (Carlos' city of origin) on 01 January 2013. It was a total surprise. Carlos planned a romantic dinner for me and played a self-produced "movie" containing a special engagement skit, put together by him and a few close friends. At the end of this humorous and entertaining "movie" that he had produced and starred in, Carlos then walked down the stairs of the apartment (both in the movie and in person) and proposed!

Your wedding venue?

We chose Vredenburg Manor House – a beautiful gem nestled between Somerset West and Stellenbosch with the most spectacular views of the Winelands! As we'd met in Paris, we wanted a regal, vintage flair to our wedding and Vredenburg Manor House offered exactly that. The cosy Manor House has its own unique vintage interior and the lush, green lawns offered a regal atmosphere, making it a perfect garden for a ceremony. They also have their own events planner and team. I mapped out the basic outline and sent a vision board through to Leon and he and his team then assisted with sourcing décor items and helped set up on the day. We liked that the venue lacked nothing in terms of natural beauty and aesthetics. The managing team and staff were extremely friendly, helpful and engaging throughout. They welcomed Carlos' family from Mexico with open arms and gave them a bespoke South African experience. Offering all services from wedding coordination to setting up on the day and even creating and cooking our bespoke menu made this venue absolutely perfect.

Your wedding dress?

I wanted a vintage, timeless and princess-inspired look. Given my background as a Classical Ballet Dancer, I wanted a romantic tutu skirt with layers of satin, tulle and a bodice of Chantilly lace. My Mom was with me throughout my wedding dress journey and it was eventually made as a unique piece to



*“We wanted
to bring a piece
of Mexico to
South Africa.”*

Venue: Vredenburg Manor House, Somerset West – www.vredenburgmanor.co.za

Wedding gown: Bridal Unique

Hair: Young Stylist Emporium Hair Salon

Make up: Bride (Nicole Ludwig Orizaba)

Flowers décor & food: Vredenburg Manor House

Photography: Wayne Sylvester Photography

suit all my wishes, specifications and body-type. My inspiration was a combination of Grace-Kelly's and Princess Sofia of Sweden's wedding dresses. A tiara finished off my vintage, princess look. I do not wear any jewellery and therefore I wanted a statement hair accessory to add a touch of sparkle to my hair and face and bring out the diamanté detail on the sash of my dress.

You wrote your own vows?

We wrote our own vows in part Spanish, part English. This was one of the highlights of our day as it really brings the vow-exchanging to life and makes it extremely personal and emotive.

Your theme/colour scheme.

We are an inter-cultural couple and wanted to bring a piece of Mexico to South Africa and our guests. The primary theme was: regal, royal, Vintage-Parisian, timeless and elegant. We did so by incorporating vibrant florals and used a Spanish text "Nuestra Boda" (Our wedding) as our cake topper. The floral theme cohesively followed through on all our stationery too. We decided on the burgundy, navy, blush and gold colour palate as they both resembled the regal attributes of a "royal wedding" and added that Mexican flair as well. The handmade "Maria" dolls were gifted by Carlos' parents and each guest received one as a favour. They made for a lovely memoir of our special day.

Your menu?

Because it was Carlos' family's first visit to South Africa and more so to Cape Town, we wanted our menu to be inspired by our traditional Capetonian cuisine and the buffet menu included all our favourite dishes!

Live music?

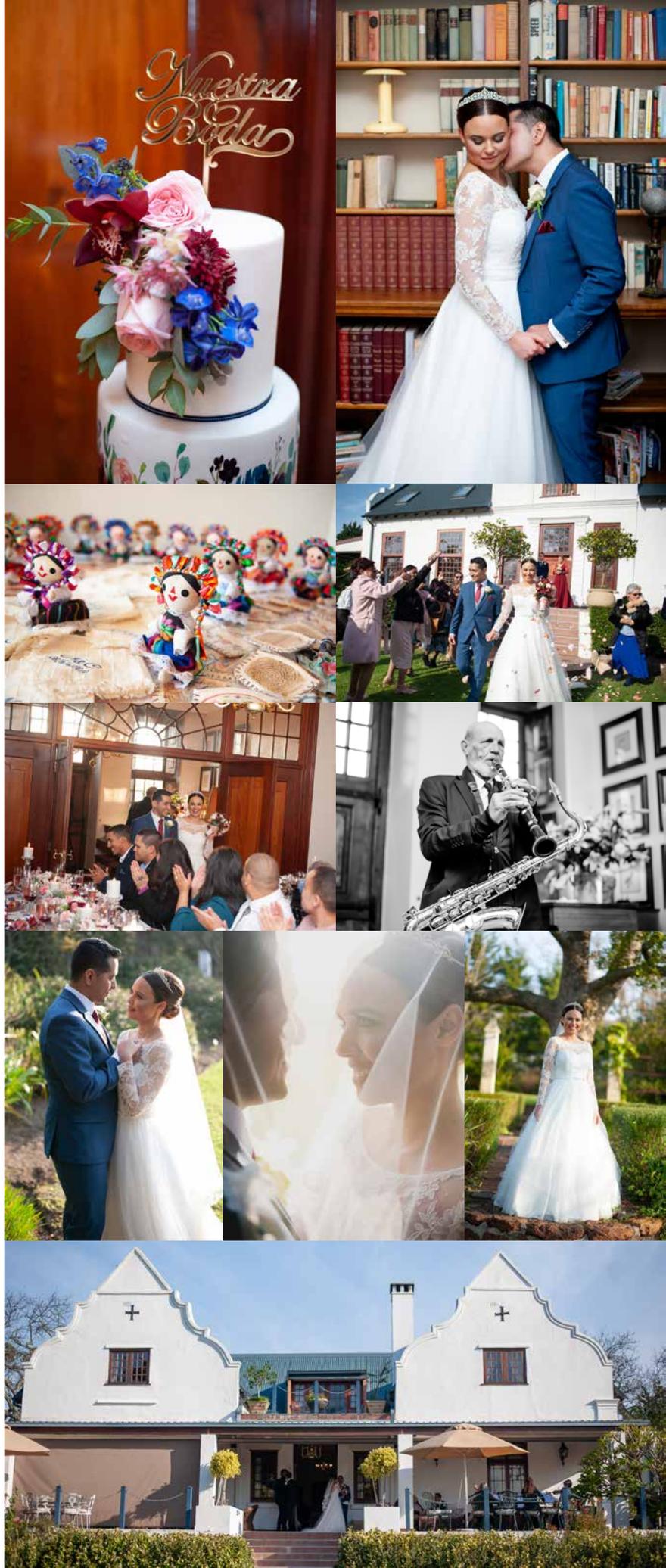
We had live music for both our ceremony and reception. We had a string trio that played our prelude music and pieces ranged from Air on the G String by Bach to La Vie en Rose. The trio were followed by a saxophonist and guitarist duo who treated us to light jazz and soft Mexican Boleros. This created a warm, romantic atmosphere.

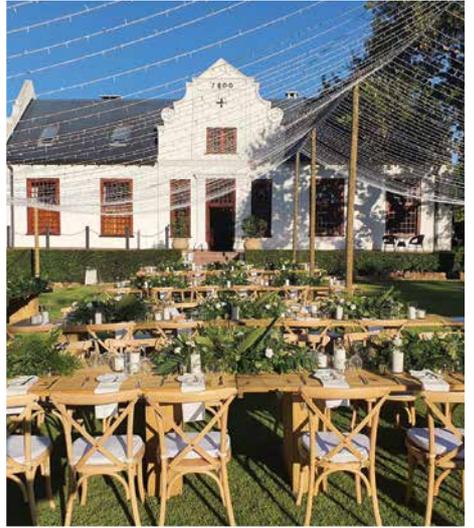
How many guests?

38.

Honeymoon?

We spent our honeymoon in Chiapas in southern Mexico!





Vredenburg Manor House



GUESTHOUSE, CONFERENCE AND FUNCTION VENUE

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eMail: info@vredenburgmanor.co.za

www.vredenburgmanor.co.za

NATASHA & ANDRÉ VAN ZYL



This wedding at Tsekama was at one with Nature.

Lured to your proposal?

During a weekend away in the Kruger National Park to celebrate our 7-year anniversary, Andre asked that we extend it to make it a long weekend to visit his friend working at Sabi Sands. I did not suspect anything. He and his friend went "fishing" whilst I had an afternoon nap before a game drive. On their return they explained we would need to take a detour before going on the game drive as a group of baboons had damaged a nearby tree-house and we had to go and look and take some insurance photos. On arrival at the tree-house our friend got the game viewer and told us to stay put so he could confirm that it was safe. After a few minutes he called us to go and take a look. I remember thinking to myself, as I was walking up the staircase built around this large old tree with lanterns lit all the way to the top, that these poor people must have had got such a fright being chased away by baboons! At the top I saw an amazing view of wild animals and out the corner of my eye caught a glimpse of a white board which read: "Natasha, sal jy asseblief my ex-meisie word sodat jy my vrou kan wees?" I turned around and Andre was on his knee with a beautiful ring in his hand!

Your rings?

Andre had my ring made - based on a few hints I'd thrown in his direction. My idea was a plain design so that the diamond stayed the focus of the ring. Andre, being an engineer, loved the mechanical gears and mechanism in the 'steampunk' design and the oak trimmings of his ring.

How many venues did you look at before Tsekama?

Andre's response when he read this question was, 1000 venues, but it was actually only 15! When we were about to call it a day, I came across Tsekama Wedding Venue and I immediately arranged a viewing. We both loved the venue on sight.



*“The photo booth
brought out the comedian
in everyone.”*



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

Wedding gown: Bridal Manor

Hair: Deftig Kapsalon, Anja Venter

Make up: Beautifully-You Makeup Artistry, Carmia Nel

Photography: Carmia Philzani Photography

Outdoor ceremony?

We both love nature and did not want our special day to be held between four walls but rather out under a big beautiful green tree on a game farm. The theme was focussed on nature. The colour scheme was gold, white and different shades of green. Geometric shapes, Protea wine bottles and natural flower arrangements were incorporated to give a modern look and feel.



Lots of help from your venue?

Tsekama did everything! Each and every idea we had and would have liked for our special day was executed perfectly, which made our lives extremely easy.

How did you send out your invitations?

We used wix.com to create our wedding website. We sent out all invitations and reminders via email. The bridal party and family members however received a handmade invitation, which we delivered personally.



Did you enjoy dress hunting?

Loved it. My Mom and I did the initial searching and for the final selection my sister, my Mom, my mother-in-law and Andre's two cousins (our flower girls) joined in. Funny story, one day I went into a random shop and found the perfect wedding shoes. I ended up matching my wedding dress to those rose gold shoes! The shoes matched the geometric shapes and also inspired my jewellery choices.

Lots of extras?

We tried to incorporate modern into the bush. Even the canapés were in the bush. Our guests sat on couches and hay bales whilst enjoying a G&T from the Gin Bar. A tot of sherry aided a warm welcome and the milk tart shots for the toasts ensured a good start to proceedings. The photo booth brought out the comedian in everyone and our 'musical chair treasure hunt' game got the party started!



How many guests?

90.

Wedding favours?

Wooden cutting boards with 'Van Zyls EST. 2019' branded on them. Well worth it because everyone loves them and still uses them.



Honeymoon?

We spent a few days at a 5-star game lodge to rest and then spent 7 days in the Maldives and 5 days in Dubai. ♥





Tsekama Lodge

Wedding and conference venue

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Relax while our team take care of every small detail to contribute to the *perfect* day in your life.

We understand the dreams and wishes of every bride and groom, and will go the extra mile to make sure that all requirements are met. Tsekama is the perfect venue for adding a touch of magic and style to your wedding day.

Tranquil, serene and picturesque, providing a natural but very romantic atmosphere.

The Lodge is a mere 130 km north of Pretoria near the Kranskop Toll plaza and offers the ideal location for a wedding with a difference.

Imagine your ceremony in the natural splendor of the African bush with buffalo, giraffe, zebra and a wide variety of antelope partaking in your wedding celebration.

Please note we have a 80 guest minimum and a 300 guest maximum.

Contact Marinda: 082 416 2363 or Ilze: 084 497 8388
e-mail: info@tsekama.co.za



DEONA & CHRISTOFF JANSEN VAN RENSBURG



This couple were able to enjoy their wedding, held just a couple of weeks before the national lockdown, blissfully unaware of the impending global social restrictions the Covid-19 pandemic would bring.

How and where did you and Christoff meet?

We officially met at House Church in Pretoria on 10 May 2018.

How long were you together before deciding to get married?

We got engaged 8 months after we started dating.

Was there a formal proposal?

Yes, there was. I had organised a Birthday dinner with all my close friends and Christoff went behind my back and told them that he wanted to get engaged! He then told me that he would plan the rest of my birthday and arranged everything with the help of a friend. They organised a cake, roses, table décor etc. When Christoff and I arrived at the restaurant there was a cake and more than a 100 white roses. As the night went on, he organised with them to play the Bruno Mars song Marry Me. I first didn't hear the song as I was busy chatting with my friends. Christoff came and stood next to me, holding me and bent down, telling me to listen to the song! He took my hand and we danced in front of the whole restaurant. I obviously knew by then what was about to happen! He went down on one knee and asked me to marry him! It was an absolutely AMAZING evening! Words can't describe how special it was and it's a moment and night that I shall never forget.

Did your wedding invitation include children?

It did not include children but there are always one or two guests who will ask if their children can come along too.

How many venues did you consider?

We considered 3 venues and Chez Charlene was one of them - my sister also got married there. The owner Charlene is very elegant and so is her venue and décor.



*“We got married just 2 weeks
before Lockdown.”*

*Venue: Chez Charlene, Pretoria
Wedding gown: Claris by Gerrit Pienaar
Hair: Rootz Salon
Make-up: Fafa from FDK Styling
Décor: Chez Charlene
Photography: Charl van der Merwe*

You narrowly missed the Covid-19 lockdown?

We got married about 2 weeks before Lockdown. We never even realised that there was a possibility that the Lockdown would happen so soon.

Tell us about your wedding gown?

I only decided what I wanted in December, just before all the businesses closed for the holidays. I phoned a designer friend of mine, Gerrit Pienaar, on a Saturday. I sent him a photo of what I wanted and we then met to look for material, which we found very quickly. He started on my dress in January 2020 and we got married on the 7th of March 2020 which was quite a close call! Gerrit was outstanding.

Veil?

I had a veil but after my Dad removed it in church I never used it again for photos or anything.

More girls than guys in your entourage?

It wasn't really intentional. It just so happened that I had more girls that I wanted to be part of our entourage. Two of them were my sisters.

You only used white flowers and greenery?

We wanted only white and greenery as Christoff likes neutral and plain colours. We added a hint of rose gold as that's one of my favourite colours.

How many guests?

We had 95 guests. We felt that if there were any more people than that, we wouldn't have the time to greet or chat with all of your guests.

The best advice you were given as a bride-to-be?

Don't rush anything and enjoy EVERY MOMENT as the day goes by so quickly. Before you know it, the whole day is all over.

Honeymoon or did the pandemic interfere?

We just went to the Pilanesberg as Covid-19 was already becoming a serious issue worldwide. We obviously could not fly anywhere so we decided to just go somewhere close to Pretoria. We also only had a few days due to the fact that my father-in-law sadly passed away the day after our wedding. ♥



Chez Charlene Wedding Venue



Five Star Wedding Venue

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Perfection is the only option

NANGAMSO & JOSHUA MOKOENA



This Eastern Cape wedding was a grand occasion.

How did you and Joshua meet?

We met at Varsity in 2008. One day when he was coming from the book shop our paths crossed and he decided to ask me about a textbook our Lecturer had recommended in class. A month later we started chatting regularly and the rest is history.

Did you have a traditional wedding too?

A week after our white wedding we had a traditional wedding in Bronkhorstspuit. I arrived at my in-laws with my family from the Eastern Cape the day before the wedding. We were welcomed with prayer, song and dancing. On the day of the wedding I first walked in my white wedding gown and then the entire bridal party changed into traditional attire and moved to a nearby beautifully decorated venue that was hired to accommodate our more than 300 guests. In my culture, I wouldn't be married to him if Joshua hadn't paid lobola. When the first round of lobola negotiations started my in-laws travelled all the way from Bronkhorstspuit to Qutsa village in Tsomo, a distance of approximately 2024 Km to pay lobola. The first round went well, and they had to travel the same road for the second round and final conclusion.

Did Joshua get involved with the wedding planning?

Yes, he was partially involved but mostly interested in the wedding costs!

How many venues did you visit or consider?

We considered six venues, three around Cintsas and three in East London and we visited five of the six. I was born in Butterworth and I wanted my entourage to leave from my mother and grandmothers house and not from a hotel. East London became the best choice as it was closer to home and convenient for my family members and friends whilst also accommodating my husband's family members, our friends and colleagues from afar and landing at the East London airport.





“I rocked my Jimmy Choos from noon to midnight!”

Venue: East London Golf Club
Wedding gown: Bridal & Tuxedo
Bridesmaid dresses: Tshidi Lydia Petersen
Hair: Brazilian hair
Make-up: AfikaM Hair & Beauty Salon
Décor: Silver Fox Events & Leeglam Events
Flowers: Leeglam Events
Photography: Candice Dollery

Tell us about your dress.

We visited a few bridal shops in Johannesburg for dress fittings. When we got to Bridal & Tuxedo in Fourways, I tried a couple of dresses and was captured by two. However, the dress I wanted as my first dress was only in ivory. After deliberations with the team they phoned the designer of the dress, Lux & Love in Australia who agreed to make the dress for me. The team here in South Africa took my measurements and sent them to Australia where my first dress was specifically made for me. It was shipped to South Africa on time for the wedding. Final adjustments were done and completed a week before the wedding. The dress made me look and feel amazingly magical and great. The second dress fitted me perfectly like a glove as if it had been there and waiting for me all this time. It accentuated my figure and the bling on the dress made it a perfect choice for a first dance.

How long were you able to rock those beautiful Jimmy Choos?

I rocked my Jimmy Choo shoes from 12 noon at my parents' house in Butterworth until midnight in East London. I walked down the aisle in them, performed the step in them, performed our first dance with my husband in them. I just can't concentrate in flats!

Who were your bridesmaids?

Akhona Ntungwa, Bukiwe Ntungwa, Lungelo Memela & Khosi Ndala. My maid of honour was my sister Thuliswa Ntungwa.

Were children invited?

Children were not invited - only those in our bridal party. The beautiful and adorable little flower girl is our daughter Ayakha - she mastered her role and had the time of her life! She was accompanied by the gorgeous Mapaseka, the groom's sister, and the handsome ring bearer is my husband's uncle's son.

How many guests?

200.

What did you do about entertainment and music?

Our MC Casey Mthobeli August, a former DJ at Umhlobo Wenene FM, kept our guests in stitches from beginning to end. We also had a DJ from Avrite who kept us entertained with good music.

The highlights of your big day?

The wedding ceremony, both my dresses, the décor, hair & make up, food, the groom's suit – literally everything. ♥





Cake Brothers



*Cake is the answer
no matter the question*

Brothers Chef Bryan and Chef Malcolm are the faces behind Cake Brothers and have a wealth of experience in the bakery, restaurant and catering industry.

Chef Malcolm is trained in the Hot Kitchen, Cold Kitchen, Chocolate and Cakes. He has lectured extensively overseas, including the Middle East creating wedding cakes, birthday cakes and specialized cake desserts.

Together the brothers strive to give you, the client, that WOW factor. Your guests will want more.

Place your order for your wedding cake, dessert cake or birthday cake now. Let us take you on the ultimate taste journey.

Or, better still, contact the Cake Brothers for an unforgettable cake tasting. Have fun with your bridal party. Ice your own tasting cake from the marvelous range of flavours to create something unique to dazzle your guests. Dare to be different. Try Pina Colada, or maybe Sour Cherry, or how about Cappuccino with caramel?

And for those who do not have a sweet tooth, let Cake Brothers create your dream cake out of handmade soft cheese - perfect for that Harvest table. Also, don't forget the guest wedding favours - let the Cake Brothers advise you on different options.

Cake Brothers - your go to guys, so give them a call.

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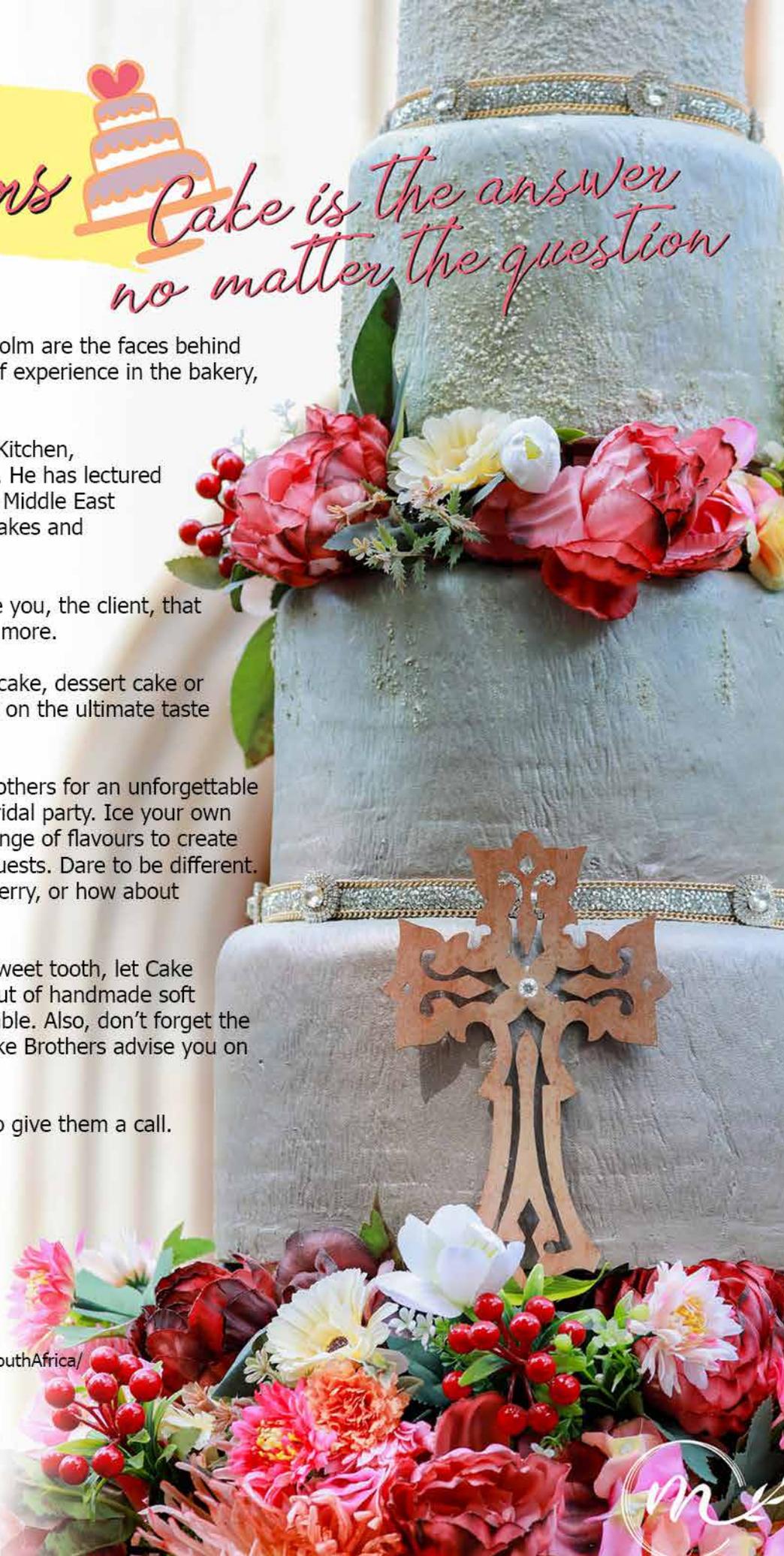
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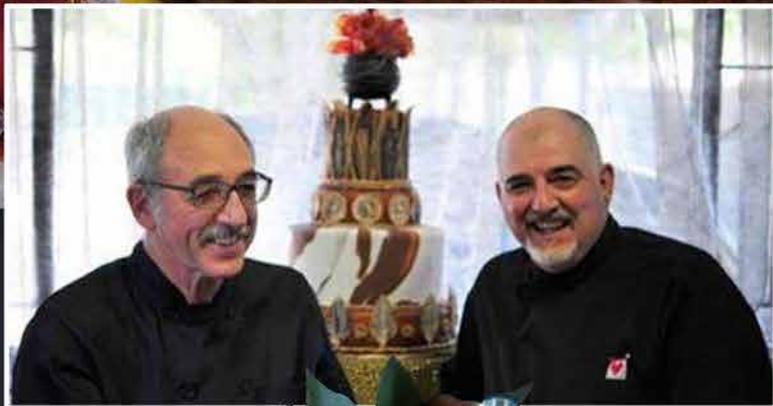


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CAKE TO WOW YOUR GUESTS



LAURA & SEAN BOTES



This relationship stood the test of long distance dating while Sean worked in the USA.

Was your proposal a surprise?

It's a standing joke that Sean and I can't keep secrets from one another! The proposal was, however, a complete surprise for me. Sean worked in Seattle for a couple of months and had my ring designed while he was there, and I had absolutely no idea. On 17 December 2018, he arranged a picnic at our favourite beach location and asked me to be part of his life forever.

Did you enjoy hunting for your wedding dress?

We had so much fun! I booked an appointment at Lorette Designs after seeing the gorgeous Enzoani Blue Lila dress showcased at an Expo. The dress was imported from the USA and customised with lace shoulder straps in SA. Embroidered lace and tulle over the delicate Chantilly lace made me feel like a princess.

Bridesmaid's dresses?

We didn't have a particular theme for the wedding, but I adore flowers and anything in a floral motif. The floral material, and the colours matched my vision perfectly. We decided on floral bodices paired with burgundy floor-length skirts for the bridesmaids, and a solid burgundy dress in a slightly different style for Xandri, my maid-of-honour. She introduced me to Sean, so it made sense that my dearest friend had a dress that made her stand out.

Two very special little flower girls?

Having our two dogs, Daisy and Lola, as our flower girls was a no-brainer! We couldn't imagine our wedding day without them. We had their collars custom made, and they even had their own playpen right behind us at the reception. They are going to be big sisters soon, as we're having a baby girl who is due on our first wedding anniversary!



*“Our two dogs, Daisy
and Lola, were our
flower girls.”*

Venue: Andante Wedding and Conference Venue, PE

Flowers & décor: Floral Creations and The Hire Warehouse

Wedding dress: Lorette Designs (Enzoani Blue)

Bridesmaid dresses: Hoiden Bridesmaids

Hair: Jordan Botha, The Fountain Hair, Beauty & Aesthetics

Make-up: Theano Zenios

Nails: Beauty by Michelle

Wedding cake: Nan's Place (Leonie de Wet)

Stationery design & printing: Papermaster

Cartoon for invitations: Lindell van Vuuren

Drinks in canapé area: Bridge Street Brewery

Photographer: VanBode Wedding Photographers

Videographer: Iron Glacier Creative



Who walked you down the aisle?

Unfortunately, my Dad passed away in 2010 and so my brother, James, walked me down the aisle. We've always been very close, even though we have a 16-year age gap. It was a very emotional moment for both of us.

Smoke flares and confetti?

We used traditional petal confetti and smoke flares to create the "wow" and dramatic effect when we left the chapel.

Tell us about your flowers.

I had my heart set on having Peonies in the main arrangements and my bridal bouquet. As it was not Peony season in SA we ordered from Chile. However, on the Monday before the wedding the importers advised that although our order was ready to leave, flights from Chile had been grounded due to political instability. Fortunately, we were able to source Peony Roses and stunning garden Roses from Kenya via the importer. The Peony Rose looks just like a Peony and the fragrance is incredible. The ceiling installation consisted of 700 Roses and 700 stems of Ruscus, which were suspended from the roof.

How many guests?

122.

Wedding favours for guests?

For our guests, we had hangover kits, personalised filter coffee favours and flip flops for dancing. We also had dog treats for them to take home to thank their fur babies for allowing their parents to join us for the night!

Live entertainment?

We both enjoy jazz music so we had a saxophonist entertain our guests on arrival to the chapel, as well as outside during the canapés.

Any tips for sticking to the budget?

Sean jokingly said that I'm not allowed to answer this question, since I couldn't stick to the budget myself! But honestly, my biggest tip would be to use reputable vendors that you feel comfortable with.

First dance song?

What would an Afrikaans wedding be without dancing! We opened the dance floor to "Ons word een" by Juan Boucher.

Honeymoon?

Sean booked us into a five-star, all-inclusive resort in Zanzibar and we spent an entire week on a private beach in the sun. ♥





CHARLENE & NELSON DE SOUSA



This couple kicked off their relationship by chatting on good old Mxit and 13 years later they are Mr and Mrs!

Tell us about your proposal?

Nelson took me to the Elephant Sanctuary at Hartbeespoort. He had to make sure I wasn't suspicious and made me think friends were joining us. We camped the day before, enjoyed a lovely sunset, and woke up early for the elephant event. I was super excited as elephants are my favourite animals and thought nothing of our friends "conveniently" running late! On our turn to go touch the elephant called Khumba, they told me to turn around for a surprise. I turned and I saw a box in Khumba's trunk and as I opened it, I saw the ring. Nelson and Khumba then both went down on one knee to propose. Plenty of happy tears! We were engaged for 2 years.

Were you good at delegating planning tasks?

We planned most of the wedding on our own. We made task lists for our entourage so everyone knew what to do and where to go before and on the wedding day. When everything had to come together the main go-to person was Joy at Val Bonne. Every time we sat down, we made sure we were clear and straight to the point, which helped keep our meetings short, pleasant and avoided any confusion. We tried not to change things unless necessary and we made her a list of all times of events on the day and people she could phone if she can't get hold of either of us. She really went above and beyond and was a tremendous help.

Tell us about your dress?

Galia Lahav is my favourite wedding dress designer. I fell in love with one of their designs and local designer Angelique Gomes made my beautiful dress come true. I have kept my dress and framed it along with Nelson's wedding shirt that everyone signed.



A bride with dark hair styled in a low bun, wearing a white lace gown with a high collar and long sleeves, stands leaning against a large tree trunk with peeling bark. The background shows a natural outdoor setting with other trees and a dirt path.

“We had a blast in Bali.”

Venue: Val Bonne Estate, Modderfontein

Dress: Gate Apparel, Angelique Gomes

Bridesmaids, flowergirls & pages: Butterfly Couture

Make-up: Make up by Stephanie

Hair: Hair by Dez

Décor hire and flowers: De Stelo Stem

Photography: Birdhouse Photographic

Videography: Philmeister

Kids in your entourage?

Yes, there were; we kept all the kids at one table filled with goodies. The parents were placed right next to them on the opposite table. They had separate meals so we didn't have to pay full adult price per head. At night there was section for them to sleep where their parents could still keep an eye on them and enjoy the wedding.

Where was your wedding ceremony held?

Malvern Catholic Church, this is our church community and we always wanted a church wedding. The sermon given by our Priest Father Andrew and Deacon Drummond was emotional. Those words and vows said will never be forgotten.

How did you choose your photographer?

Someone spunky and bubbly and who didn't just follow the conventional way of wedding photography and would get to know us before the day to get a feel of what we were like. We also wanted someone that uses natural light, allowed us to be our natural selves and just take photos from there - letting the love on the day do all the posing!

How many guests?

90.

What did you do about wedding gifts?

We asked for money but also welcomed any gifts – no registry as we didn't want guests to feel obliged to only give money or feel forced with a registry.

Any near disasters, bad forgets or really funny moments?

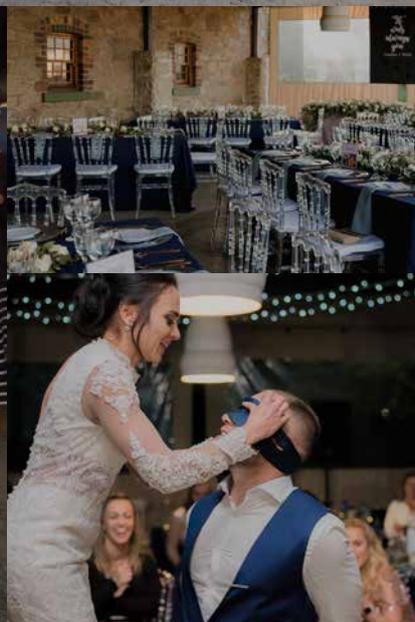
Nelson was late so I had to wait for him to arrive first at the church! He was so nervous and when the Priest was about to announce our surname as husband and wife my darling gave him the wrong surname! Luckily, I quickly corrected him before it was announced!

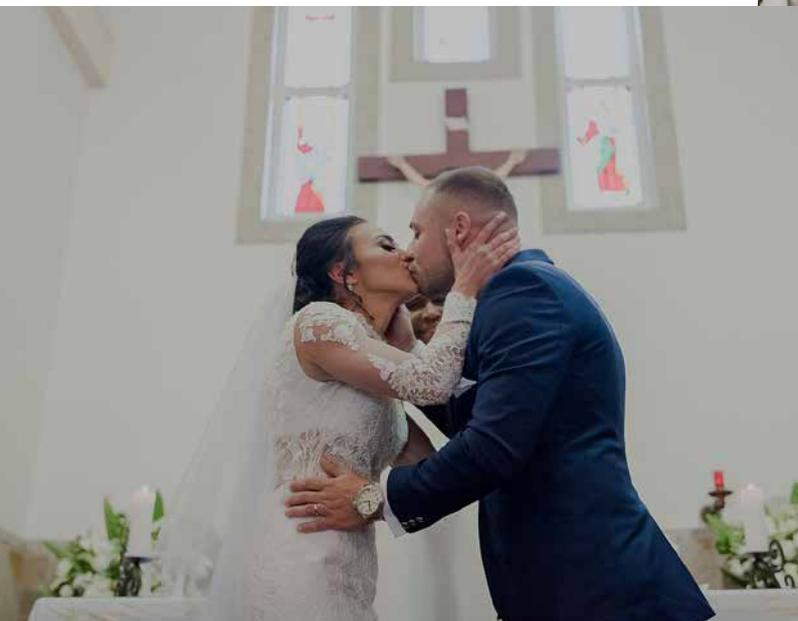
What would you advise brides-to-be not to bother with?

The wedding cake! Less is more! It can go to waste as most guests are already full from supper and dessert, unless it is your dessert and sometimes even then plenty is left behind. Another thing ... other people's opinions on your wedding decisions! If it makes you happy, go for it as it's YOUR special day.

Honeymoon destination?

We both decided where we wanted to go and planned everything together. We had a blast in Bali. ♥





LIZ & NICO BASSON



This couple met as students at Stellenbosch University.

Friend-zoning became Love?

We kept bumping into each other - I was honestly worried Nico would think I was stalking him, but Stellenbosch is pretty small! He asked for my number but his phone was stolen and a month or so later I noticed him as a mutual Facebook friend and added him on a whim. He immediately messaged me and we proceeded to meet up for coffee semi-regularly. I was comfortably friend-zoning him until he cut his hair - I don't personally fancy long hair on men! Not long afterwards he finally made it official. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Was your proposal expected?

I expected Nico to propose, but it was still a shock! It was our 5th anniversary and he booked a table at one of our favourite restaurants. They have beautiful art sculptures displayed in their vineyard and because it was Easter, a lot of them were rabbits. My nickname is Bunny, so it was fate! We took a walk and he found a private spot with the most breath-taking view. He got down on one knee and said the most heartfelt things that I just started tearing up. I don't really remember much else, except that I said YES!

Kitchen tea/bachelorette party?

Beyond my wildest dreams! My bridesmaids did an extraordinary job! The kitchen tea was an all-white High Tea affair at La Paris Estate in Franschhoek. We then went to Babylonstoren for a wine tasting and a mini photoshoot. A house in Stellenbosch was rented and one of my bridesmaids/MC, Lize, surprised us with a Sushi masterclass from the owner of my favourite sushi restaurant! We then had a slumber party with plenty of sparkling wine and sushi! I still cannot put into words how much it meant to have these wonderful women to support me. Choosing the right bridesmaids is such a vital part of your day.



*“We are foodies
at heart, so the
food was really
important to us.”*



***Venue: Hudson's Loft, Stellenbosch
Dress: Blue by Enzoani – Katalina
Hair Colour: Gabby, Blondie the Blond Specialist
Make up & Hair: Taryn and Niki, Anchor & Rose
Cake: Inke Cake Design
Photography: Sulet Fourie Photography***

Was it difficult finding your dream dress?

It took a long time! I tried on different styles, but with that came an overwhelming number of choices. I had family and friends accompany me to a few appointments, but I ended up finding 'the dress' on my own, with my husband-to-be patiently waiting in the car! It was both classic and elegant: exactly the style I had been searching for. It's a little difficult because you can't check with the one person you trust the most, as he's not meant to see it before the big day! I did second guess myself leading up to the wedding, but no longer, the photos and groom's reaction are proof of that!

Your bridesmaids wore black dresses?

My bridesmaids came from all over the world so I couldn't arrange dress fittings with each of them. So, we decided to let them choose their own dresses, so long as they were long and black. Being a classically-themed black and white wedding, I thought it would look beautiful and interesting to see their individual personalities shining through. They have all since worn their dresses for other occasions.

All white flowers?

I wanted classic elegance, but with a slight dramatic flair and the bouquets I looked at were too 'busy' for my taste. During my search for the perfect bouquet one of my bridesmaids sent me a photo of a bridal bouquet of cascading orchids. I love orchids and it was the perfect fit. I wanted my bridesmaids to also carry white flowers and ended up choosing white roses and eucalyptus leaves.

Your menu?

We are foodies at heart, so the food was really important to us. To this day our guests are still commending us on the food! The starter was Smoked Duck and Goat's Cheese Salad with Honey and Walnut Dressing. For mains, we chose Fillet of beef with pepper sauce, honey roast potatoes, and vegetables. The dessert was Dark Mocca torte with honeycomb ice cream.

Tips for brides-to-be?

Stop two days before your wedding. My fondest memories are the peaceful moments I spent with my family and Nico before the big day. I remember and experienced every moment of the day because I slowed myself down beforehand. ♥







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