

Real Brides

November 2020

*BOYS
HAVING
FUN*

South Africa's Exciting
Wedding Magazine

*Popcorn
Confetti*

*Top
Weddings*
featured by Real Brides
see page 36

*Beating
Lockdown*

Real Weddings

Top Weddings

featured by Real Brides

Owing to the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions, it's been a rather thin year for weddings in 2020.

So, in this FREE digital edition of Real Brides, we have a treat for our readers - a special section featuring a selection of fabulous Top Weddings featured in Real Brides.

Find this special section on TOP WEDDINGS from page 36 onwards.

REAL BRIDES is a unique bridal/wedding magazine and

it's FREE. Real Brides is the only national monthly bridal/wedding magazine in South Africa and you can download it for FREE on www.realbrides.co.za

Real Brides features bring you the love stories, advice and ideas straight from the mouths of normal everyday brides - their proposals, their planning, their dresses and all the finer details of their big day. This is the key to the success of Real Brides.

Want To Be Featured?

If you managed to get married recently, you too could be part of Real Brides - it's simple. Email a sample wedding photo and list of your suppliers to robbyn@topicpublishing.co.za so that your wedding can be considered for publication.

All weddings submitted to Real Brides WILL be acknowledged and given fair consideration.



Contents



4. MICHELLE & VICTOR DA SILVA

8. JOHANETTE & KAILE TUCKER

12. JUDY & LINDANI NGCOBO

18. LOURENE & DANTÉ PIETERSE

22. ANNELIZE & TINUS JANSE van RENSBURG

28. SHANTY & HENDRIK BATT

32. CANDICE & DANIEL CLARK



Top Weddings

36. ALMORETTE & DEWALD LANDMAN

38. MEGAN & TYRON TUCKER

40. SARAH-ANN & MELCHIZEDEK VAN VREDEN

42. SHERRY & BRYCE HILLS

44. JOHANNÉ & BENNIE GENIS

46. SHANI & IVAN KNOETZE

48. NATASHA & IWAN KRÜGER



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Photo: Matt & Alexa Penberthy Photography

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MICHELLE & VICTOR DA SILVA



This couple met through Facebook and had never seen one another until they went on their first date – discovering that they had many mutual friends.

Was your proposal a surprise?

I did not see it coming at all. I had a suspicion it was going to happen later in the year, but I think Victor knew if he wanted to keep it a surprise he would have to pop the question when I least expected it. He took me for dinner to the same restaurant where we celebrated our first anniversary. When dessert came he got down on one knee and asked me to marry him on the 06/07/2018 - I have a thing for sequential dates!

How long did you have to plan your wedding?

We got engaged in 2018 and decided to enjoy our time as a newly engaged couple and only started planning our wedding in 2019, which gave us a whole year to plan for our big day. We started off with the venue in order to find a place we both loved. Green Leaves was the first venue we viewed and we both fell in love with it right away. We viewed four venues in total, but nothing compared to our first viewing and we booked immediately at Green Leaves. We didn't need more time to plan, a year is actually too much, eventually excitement and nerves kick in and you just want your big day to arrive. We are so grateful we got married when we did, call it fate that we got married and went on honeymoon just before lockdown started! We were truly blessed to have celebrated our big day just in time!

How far in advance did you send out your invitations?

We sent our Save the Dates out 9 months before the wedding and personally delivered our wedding invitations 3 months before the wedding date. We had all our RSVPs in by the beginning of February.

Colour scheme?

Blush pink with a hint of gold. Our florist pulled out all the stops to ensure our décor and flowers emphasized these subtle colours. They tried their best



*“I have
a thing for
sequential
dates.”*



Venue: Green Leaves Weddings & Conferences, Hartbeespoort

Bride's Dress: Essence of Australia, Bridal Emporium

Make Up: RoseSerene Studio, Makeup, Hair & Nail Artist

Hair: Claudia De Oliveira & Michelle Ponte

Flowers & Decor: Cafe Fleur & Cor de Rosa - The Art of Flowers, Decor & Draping

Wedding Stationery: Monroe's Planning, Printing & Promoting

Wedding Cake: Ria

Photography: Matt & Alexa Penberthy Photography (UK)

Videography: Margaux Cronje

to use my favourite flowers, which are peonies. They were unfortunately not in season so they made use of roses, which look similar, orchids and hydrangeas.

Did you include children on your invitation?

I'm a teacher by profession and I love children so they were definitely part of the guest list.

Soccer socks?

My husband is one of the biggest soccer fans I know! He was over the moon at being able to incorporate fun soccer socks for his wedding party.

Rain on your wedding day?

It poured but we both believe it to be a blessing - our grandparents in heaven crying tears of joy as they witnessed our union from up above! We embraced this as a sign we will be abundantly blessed.

How many guests?

160.

What cost more than you thought it would?

Definitely all the small things, which you don't think cost a lot, until you add them all up! It is all thanks to our parents that we got to have our dream wedding!

If you got married all over again, is there anything that you would not bother with?

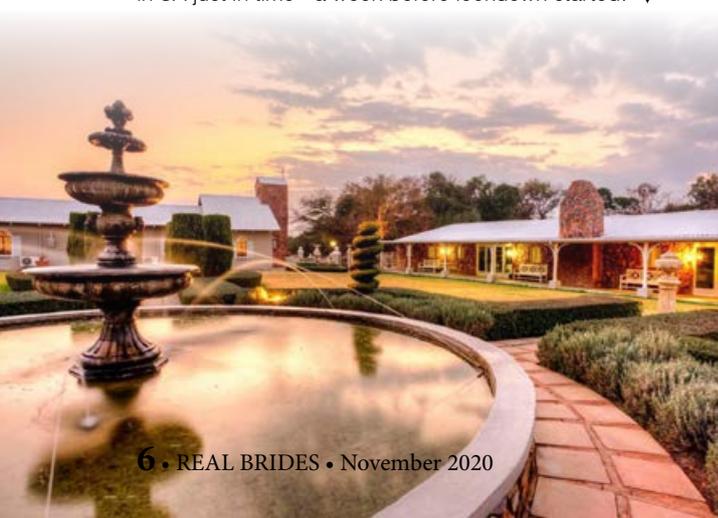
I am definitely a big control freak! I would not fret over the small things as much as I did, but other than that I am truly happy with how I handled the wedding planning and did everything to what we wanted and envisioned our wedding day to be.

The highlight of your big day?

I cannot choose just one highlight - from getting ready with my bridal party to saying "I Do" all the way through to dancing and throwing the bouquet, I had a blast! If I could relive that day, I would do it all again in a heartbeat!

Honeymoon?

We went to Portugal for 3 weeks and landed back in SA just in time - a week before lockdown started! ♥





JOHANETTE & KAILE TUCKER



This couple started chatting on BBM – she was in Saudi Arabia and he was in Pretoria. They then both moved to Cape Town and decided to meet. At that moment he stole her heart and she knew she was going to steal his surname!

Tell us about your proposal!

One evening Kaile told me to get ready and blindfolded me - said he wanted to take me somewhere. Finally, after a long drive he stopped and told me to keep sitting, he would be back in a second. He got out and opened my door and removed my blindfold. He'd taken me back to the place where we first met and was on one knee in front of me with a beautiful ring! Of course I said YES!

How long did you have to plan your wedding?

My parents live overseas and we really wanted them to be part of our special day. We got engaged in December and they came to visit in June so we decided to have a winter wedding! I was so happy to get to do some wedding planning with my Mom. We went wedding dress shopping first then we looked for a venue.

Tell us about your wedding venue.

We wanted to get married on a farm, so we looked for a place close to Somerset West and came across Vredenburg Manor House! We immediately phoned to book a viewing. Of course the wonderful Leon and Luke said we could come anytime! As we drove down the driveway we knew this was the venue! Vredenburg Manor House is stunning with amazing staff who become like family! They offer a lovely old wine cellar with a beautiful little chapel for small intimate weddings! They also offer beautiful lawns where ceremonies, functions and weddings can be held and lawn games can be played. They also offer wedding planning, catering, flowers and much more!

Did the Vredenburg Manor House people go the extra mile for you?

They sure did! They are beautiful people and we were so blessed to have them by our sides helping



“I really loved my unique bouquet.”

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

Wedding gown: Fatima, Bridal Unique

Hair: Thelma, THAIRapy

Make-up: Candice Harker

Décor, flowers & catering: Vredenburg Manor House

Wedding games: Mr. & Mrs. Wedding games

Photography: Zandri du Preez Photography

us plan our special day! We had a specific idea of what we wanted and they worked with us to make our vision come true!

Blowing the Shofar started proceedings?

Kaile, my Dad and my brother blew their Shofars to open our wedding ceremony. We are not Jewish, but Messianic believers. Kaile and I also served covenant meal (communion) to our parents to honour them and then we also served each other, as we know that God is our partner in this covenant and we wanted to remember Jesus on our special day and also start our journey with Him preparing the way for us. We both also took Mikvahs. Immersing in the mikvah prior to our wedding allowed us to quietly mark the transition from being single to being married. It can also create an island of peace, contemplation, and perspective amid the public ceremonies and celebrations that surround the big event.

Cold on your wedding day?

A nice cold rainy winters day yes! We knew it might rain and really wanted to bring the wedding games indoors for our guests to enjoy while we took our photos so the Vredenburg team obligingly set up the games beautifully inside the Manor House!

Unusual bouquet?

I had no specific request. I just asked Leon and the team to make me something beautiful, and I really loved how unique it was!

How many guests?

48.

Did Vredenburg do the catering?

Yes. The food was amazing! They suggested a menu and we loved it so we went for a tasting!

The best moment of your big day?

Every moment was so amazing! We were so blessed to have such a wonderful day filled with wonderful people! Our venue was stunning and the food was amazing too. I think the best moment for me was knowing I'd married the love of my life!

Any tips for brides-to-be?

If you are looking for a wonderful wedding planner and venue, then Vredenburg Manor House is the venue for you! ♥





GUESTHOUSE, CONFERENCE AND FUNCTION VENUE

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JUDY & LINDANI NGCOBO



A formal dress code set the tone for this very pretty wedding held at Chez Charlene in Pretoria East.

How did you and Lindani meet?

I was running errands for my Mom and we met at a bank. We were in different queues but when I turned to greet the person behind me, I saw Lindani staring and he flashed me a smile. When I was done, I found him waiting for me outside the bank. I must admit I was annoyed, but we ended up exchanging numbers because he was very persistent! We started dating officially a year later. And here we are now. I love him to bits....

How long did you have to plan your wedding?

The wedding, to be honest, was a bit on the spur-of-the-moment. It took us 4 months to plan it.

You chose a super wedding venue?

I must admit, God was at play when planning this wedding. We were told that if we wanted a beautiful venue then we should have done it earlier in the year. So, I took my chances and started searching for venues online and landed on a site where I was referred to Chez Charlene. I am originally from Limpopo and my husband is from Durban so we were looking for a central venue for both our families. Chez Charlene is in Pretoria East, Lynnwood and it is very beautiful. It's about 35 km from Centurion, where we live. The scenery is amazing, their chapel was the best, compared to other places we viewed, and it felt very private, which was what we both wanted.

Did you use any recommended suppliers?

Yes, we used most of the suppliers recommended to us by Chez Charlene. One has to remember that time was not on our side as well.

What did you like most about Chez Charlene?

What is there not to like? The outstanding feature for me was the Chapel. I am Catholic by religion, and our weddings must happen in church unless the Bishop



A bride and groom are shown in profile, kissing. The groom is on the left, wearing a dark, patterned tuxedo jacket, a white shirt, and a black bow tie. He has glasses and is bald. The bride is on the right, wearing a white lace wedding gown with a full-length veil. She has her hair styled in braids and is wearing large, sparkling earrings. They are standing in a lush garden with tall green grasses and trees in the background. A quote is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“Our wedding was pretty much a family affair.”

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

Wedding gown: Bridal Wardrobe, Menlyn

Hair: Braids by Schola and styled by Zhane Botle Cosmetics

Make up: Zhane Botle Cosmetics

Flowers: Caar'i Flora

Photography: Emotions Pictures

grants permission for compelling reasons. Like I said, God was at play and we were granted us permission. We were told we were the first ones to have such at my diocese. We truly felt honored.

Was there a traditional/cultural side to your wedding?

Yes, there was but our cultural ceremonies happened earlier on in the year. The first happened in April at my home in Polokwane and then at Lindani's at KwaMashu near Durban in June.

Tell us about your gorgeous dress?

My dress was an Enzoani and I bought it at Bridal Wardrobe in Menlyn, Pretoria. I wanted a trumpet style dress (a fitted dress that flares at the bottom, not mermaid), with a bit of lace and sparkle. The dress ticked all the boxes. I did try a couple, and I must say that it's not a process I'd like to go through again!

You wore sensible flat shoes?

I am very tall and Lindani and I are almost the same height, so I didn't want to be taller than him or outshine him either!

Who were your bridesmaids?

Our wedding was pretty much a family affair so all my bridesmaids were family. My first cousin was the flower girl and ring bearer with our daughter Thandeka - they were dressed alike in pink. The ladies dressed in emerald green were a sister, first cousin, cousin once removed and a sister-in-law.

Dress code?

Lindani and his groomsmen all wore tuxedos and our dress code was formal.

How many guests?

We catered for 150 guests of whom 90% were family members.

Were children included in your invitation?

We only had two children at our wedding. Our setup was not to include children as that would have disrupted other things.

What do you think worked best on your big day?

The venue, food and ceremony (blessings) worked well. The dessert was the star of the show for our guests.

Honeymoon?

Our friends gifted us with a week's fully paid holiday to the Seychelles. ♥



Chez Charlene Wedding Venue



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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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- 70 Buckingham Terrace, Westville, Durban



LOURENE & DANTÉ PIETERSE



This couple met whilst on holiday but lost touch until one day he slid into her Facebook Messenger and asked if they could meet up again. The rest is history.

Tell us about your proposal.

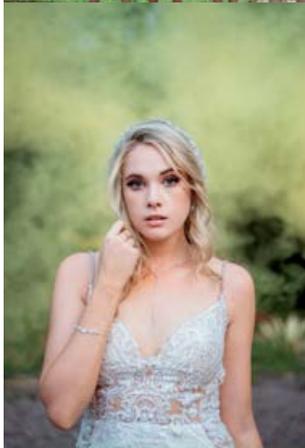
In 2017 we went on a MSC cruise to the Portuguese island off Mozambique with Dante's family. We went onto the island and had a fantastic day. Dante's sister Chanique Fourie is a photographer and while taking our photos we went to this beautiful old log. I saw a wooden box and my first reaction was "look at this beautiful box someone left here". Dante grabbed it out of my hand and went on his knees. I was completely shocked! I truly can't even remember what he said, I just started crying and nodded my head indicating YES. Everyone on the island cheered and congratulated us. It was truly a magical moment.

How did you start planning?

I began by pinning my ideal venues, flowers, and wedding gowns on Pinterest. But then my mother entered the picture. Let's just say that things changed, and fast too. No matter how old you get, sometimes mothers just know best!

Your Mom was your wedding planner?

Leading up to the wedding, friends would ask, "What kind of flowers are you having? What's your theme? What do your invitations look like?" In return, I'd just laugh and say: "I have no idea, my Mom is planning the entire wedding. I'm sure it will be elegant and just perfect." And it was. My Mom paid attention to every little detail. She planned a glamorous night for everyone, not just for me and really saved us from a lot of unwanted stress. We were able to focus on our new careers, and most importantly, our new life together. At first the idea of my Mom planning our wedding was a little scary. But I'm so glad I threw my hands up in the air. She loved it and was damn good at it too! I'm not only grateful that our parents paid for our wedding, but for the time that my mother put into planning the perfect day for us too. No, we didn't get



*“I decided on
army green and
dusty pink for my
colour scheme.”*



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

Wedding gown: Blue by Enzoani

Hair: Tetelestai Hair & Event Design, Chantelle Hansen

Make up: Roselle Jacobs Artistry

Décor and Flowers: San & Flam Pieterse

Cake: Paula Calitz

Photography: Randelhoff Media

to exchange our vows overlooking a mountain range like we had pictured, but I wouldn't have had it any other way. Everything was perfect.

Tell us why you chose Bell & Blossom as your wedding venue.

I took the day off of work to peruse wedding venues with my mother. "Have an open mind," she told me. Bell & Blossom was perfectly located and though the building was still in progress I could see how it would tick all the boxes. It's a real gem hidden in Montana, Pretoria.

Fun finding your dream dress?

Finding a dress was where I realised that Mom knows best! I was actually planning on making a dress for myself but I could see she was not impressed so, she booked a fitting for me. They gave me so many options and when I finally I tried on the Lena wedding dress, I just knew that it was my dress.

Veil?

I wore a veil on entering the chapel but it slid off during the service so one of my bridesmaids just removed it. My dress was so beautiful at the back so I decided to leave it off. For the photos however the veil contributed to some stunning shots.

Two different colours for your bridesmaid's dresses?

I decided on army green and dusty pink for my colour scheme. I asked my bridesmaids what colour they would prefer and those were the colours that they chose.

How many guests?

80.

Wedding favours?

My Mom planted desert roses in small tin buckets to give away to our guests as wedding favours.

Your first dance song?

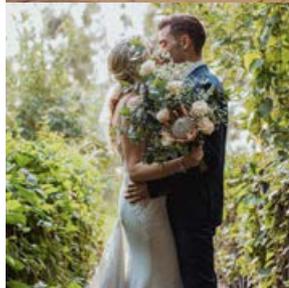
It was You are the reason by Calum Scott & Leona Lewis.

What time did the "party" end?

At midnight, when the heavens opened!

Any useful tips for brides-to-be?

Drink lots of water throughout the day to stay hydrated and make sure that you eat. ♥





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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

ANNELIZE & TINUS JANSE van RENSBURG



Following in the footsteps of her grandparents, this bride got engaged on Table Mountain.

Nostalgic proposal?

We visited Cape Town for the Seven's rugby and to visit some friends and took a day to hike up Table Mountain since I'd always wanted to do that. We almost cancelled the hike but the weather cleared at the last minute. Tinus had arranged for a photographer to accompany us and timed the hike so that we reached a lookout point shortly before sunset. Our photographer asked me to pose for a sunset shot and when I turned around Tinus was down on one knee holding a ring out to me! Table Mountain has always been a special landmark to me as my grandparents also got engaged there!

The most difficult part of planning?

The biggest challenge was that Tinus was working out of the country and all decisions had to be discussed and made via messages or calls. He couldn't help as much as he wanted to but I had a lot of support from my Mom and bridal party.

Choosing our venue?

Initially we wanted a venue in the Midlands but that changed once I read about Tsekama in the Real Brides magazine. We visited Tsekama and the staff was so warm, friendly and accommodating. We loved the artistic elements that Marinda Turvey added to the traditional bushveld venue making it not so traditional. Tsekama had an all-inclusive package and enough accommodation for most of our guests. They took care of the décor, flowers, catering, DJ, sound, chapel, etc. Marinda is excellent at what she does taking all my ideas and making it picture perfect.

Your theme/colours?

Maroon, blush and gold. Our theme was "Ringe in 'n bos" with emphasis on Proteas and circles which symbolise infinity. We also had a South Africa meets Namibia theme as we tried to incorporate different elements of our home countries - each guest received



A bride with long dark hair, wearing a white lace wedding dress and a long white veil, is smiling and holding a large bouquet of flowers. The bouquet includes white roses, yellow flowers, and dark red flowers with greenery. The background is a soft, out-of-focus outdoor setting.

*“ I first read
about Tsekama in
the Real Brides
magazine. ”*

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

Dress: Bridal House

Hair & make-up: Rosa-Lea Make-Up Artistry

Photography: Lens Flare Photography

a Kleiner Keiler (a true to Namibia German cherry shot) and our wedding favours were a Makalani pip with the SA and Namibian flag carved on it. The date, 8 December 2018 also has a deeper meaning as 8 in biblical scripture symbolises a new beginning.

Your dress?

Specific elements that I wanted included a beautiful back and lace. I went searching with my Mom and simply went with my gut on the rest.

Did you manage to stick to your budget?

We didn't want to be stuck with debt afterwards so didn't spend what we didn't have. I did a lot of research and got lots of quotes that helped me choose the best options for us financially. Talk to your venue about what you would like, they may be able to assist you in more ways than you think.

What cost more than you thought it would?

We wanted to make our wedding enjoyable and memorable for our guests so we had a photo booth, amazing live entertainment (a ukulele singer), a big sweets table and a gin stand. It all cost a bit more than we thought but our guests enjoyed all of it, which made it worth every cent.

How many guests?

120.

First dance song?

Tinus chose all our songs and selected "Ai my lam" by Ryno Velvet.

Highlights of your big day?

Having all our friends and family from both SA and Namibia together for the first time. We made the best of the weekend and our wedding night and celebrated until the sun came up. My grandparents, who celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary 2 weeks after our wedding, were our guests of honour and led the walk into the chapel. Their relationship and marriage symbolises love and companionship which has stood the test of time and is what we endeavour to achieve in our marriage. My wow moment was walking down the aisle. It was raining and the wind was blowing through the chapel. Everything felt magical and I knew that marrying Tinus was the best decision I'd ever made.

Honeymoon?

We travelled to Spain, stayed in Barcelona for a few days before embarking on a 7-day Mediterranean cruise, and then spent another week in Peñíscola in the south of Spain. ♥





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Wedding and conference venue

www.tsekama.co.za



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SHANTY & HENDRIK BATT



This love story began the day Shanty and her friends went out to celebrate the end of their school days and they bumped into Hendrik and his pals.

Was your proposal a surprise?

Yes, totally! Hendrik went overseas for a couple of months in 2018, and we planned a trip for me to join him for the last two weeks. We went on a tour from Nebraska to South Dakota and finally to Colorado. In Colorado we went on a hike in the Rocky Mountain National Park one day and at Dream Lake, a friend wanted to take a photo of us and the next thing I knew Hendrik was on one knee with the most beautiful ring ever - asking for my hand in marriage!

Did you choose your own engagement ring?

We were engaged for a little more than a year. I didn't exactly choose the ring. We talked about what I liked and I told Hendrik I loved rose gold and a pear or oval cut diamond, but that he could decide what he thought would suit me best. His choice exceeded my wildest dreams.

Digital invitations?

The formal invitation was created using "The Knot" website and we sent them out digitally. We saved a lot and we were very happy with the result.

Fun finding your dress?

It was actually very interesting. I arranged a trip to Centurion to visit my best friend. We made an appointment at Whimsical Bridal and what a lovely experience it was. The consultant asked me to choose a few dresses that I would like to try on. But, I actually didn't end up by picking the dress that I wore on my wedding day. While in the fitting room the consultant asked my best friend to pick a dress she thought Hendrik would love, and so it was she in fact who picked out my dream dress! The dress was the third one I tried on and I instantly fell in love with the dramatic train and stylish fit. It illustrated why it is so important to take someone to your appointment who knows you and whose opinion you trust.



“We sent all our invitations digitally.”

Venue: Tierkloof Educational Institute, Vryburg

Dress: Whimsical Bridal

Makeup: Blush Studio and Therapeutica Salon

Hair: Meraki Hair Salon

Nails: Bella vie Nail & Beauty Salon

Decor & Flowers: Thyme & Again

Cake: Marlieze van Aarde

Catering: E & M Catering

DJ: Coenraad du Toit

Photography: Frank and the Misses



Your bridesmaids all wore different dresses?

I wanted my girls each to feel comfortable in the dress she wore and also, I didn't want them to spend unnecessary money on something that they would never wear again. So, I basically showed them the colours I had in mind, and asked them to find something in that colour scheme that suited their budget. I think they turned out great.

What were your venue options in Vryburg?

There are actually quite a few venue options in and around Vryburg. All unique. I think the deciding factors were: The beautiful scenery surrounding the buildings; the amazing character of the chapel and reception hall with wooden floors, old brick walls etc and no draping was required.

How many guests?

120 adults and 20 children.

Who folded all those Origami cranes?

Me, my sister, sister-in-law and a few of my patients. It was so much fun. And it was a very cost effective way to decorate the reception hall.

Interesting table decor?

I told Petie and Carien-Mari from Thyme & Again that I wanted orchids as the centre pieces and no table cloths or runners since the tables were already so beautiful. My budget was actually very limited, and they had the idea of adding pink lady apples, roses etc for a little colour. Everything came together so perfectly.

The most amusing moment of your big day?

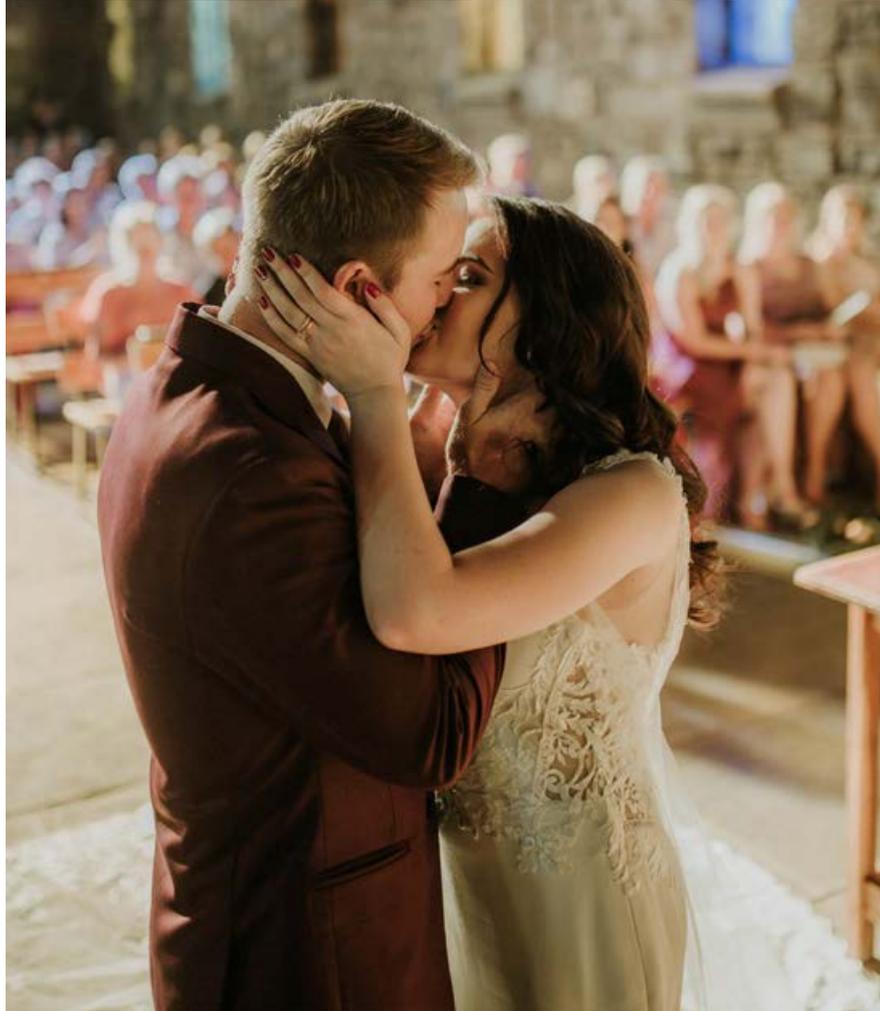
Probably when we cut the cake and, in true Hendrik style, he 'smashed' the cake onto my upper lip! If I didn't know before that day that my life will never have dull moments with him by my side, I certainly knew it in that moment!

What brides-to-be should watch out for?

I would advise brides-to-be to not colour their hair any weird colour or make any other drastic changes. Rather be the person who your husband fell in love with.

Honeymoon?

We travelled to Phuket, Thailand for 10 days. ❤️





CANDICE & DANIEL CLARK



This couple first met when they attended a worship evening at church in 2014 and after losing touch they reconnected on her birthday in 2017.

Was your proposal unexpected?

When I suggested we have a picnic with friends one day Daniel took the planning into his own hands. I was a bit suspicious as I am considered 'the planner' in our relationship! He surprised me at a fountain in the botanical gardens when he was leading me to 'our picnic'. Little did I know he had actually planned a picnic with all our closest family and friends waiting around the corner! He blew my heart away when he asked me to marry him. We were engaged for 4 quick and exciting months.

Did you choose your own engagement ring?

One word, Pinterest. I had a very particular style of the ring in mind and had been saving ideas on a Pinterest board. No doubt Daniel used that to help design my custom-made ring. The ring he gave me was far better than my heart desired.

Short time to plan your wedding?

I only had four months. I was in the final year of my degree and finals were approaching leaving me with little time to spare! Most of my research took place during my study breaks. Daniel and I did a lot ourselves. We made the seating chart, a fairy light memory photo frame, splash-painted flowerpots for the tables and all the thank you gifts. We had family help bake a gorgeous cake and decorate the hall with my Supermom making sure her only daughter had the best wedding ever!

Fun finding your dress?

The 11th dress I tried was my final choice. I thought I'd made the right choice but doubted myself the following week. I didn't really have time to try on more but upon stumbling on AmberRain I followed my heart and made an appointment. Susan was the wedding fairy I needed. She found the perfect dress for me after just a few minutes. I never wanted to take it off!



“We decided to write our own vows.”

Venue: De la Mas, Pretoria

Wedding dress: AmberRain Bridal Studio

Hair & makeup: Ruth Make-up & hairstyling

Nails: Nails by Zoë

Flowers, décor & cake: Myself and family

Photography: LouwLemmer Creative



The King Protea was your main flower?

It's not that I don't love roses, but they felt like such a cliché for a wedding because they are considered romantic. I wanted something different, something bold that expressed a sort of peaceful and emphasized beauty; what better than a King Protea?

Did you write your own vows?

Vows are extremely intimate and emphasize the intensity of the moment, especially when they are your own words. People connect with you on a new level of emotions when they can see and hear your heart in words. For this very reason we decided to write our own vows.

Any "oh no" moments?

The night before the wedding the weather forecast was nothing but rain! At the thought that everything could be ruined, my heart felt so heavy. With a lot of prayer, the wedding day dawned and it was nothing but walking on sunshine.

Your personal touch?

The idea of having poems incorporated into the wedding was there from the word 'YES.' I wrote a personal poem for each of my bridesmaids, flower girls and ring bearers when I asked them to fill those roles and I also wrote a thankyou poem for our guests.

The highlight of your big day?

My favourite part was the ceremony. When that song starts playing and the doors open up, your heart skips a few beats, that's when every little girls dream comes true. My dream was waiting for me at the end of the aisle and I couldn't wait to reach him.

Any budget advice for brides-to-be?

It's okay to not have the best of the best. Most of the guests won't even notice the difference between the flowers you picked from the garden and the ones you got at the market! Take your time and get lots of quotes.

Honeymoon?

I wanted a big wedding so we decided on an inexpensive honeymoon. We flew to Cape Town. The money we saved, we spent on activities like horseback riding on the beach, dinner out every night, and a weekend at a Game Reserve. ♥







Top Weddings

ALMORETTE & DEWALD *Landman*

Slipperfields

Candyfloss bouquets, Superheroes, Origami cranes and starting a wedding lock tradition for newlyweds at Slipperfields, are just some of the fun details that made this Eastern Cape wedding such fun.





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Top Weddings

MEGAN & TYRON Tucker

Welgelegen Cherry Estate

This fabulous weekend wedding took place at a stunning working farm venue called Welgelegen Cherry Estate in the Free State. Backdrops of the majestic Maluti Mountains and the orchards of Cherry trees in full bloom were a sight to behold.



Welgelegen

Cherry  Estate

The perfect venue for an unforgettable experience.

Welgelegen Cherry Estate is situated amongst the Witteberg mountains in the Eastern Free State. Built next to a beautiful, tranquil dam, overlooking the Maluti Mountains in the background, the photo opportunities are endless and guaranteed to be unique. The view from all angles includes cherry and apple orchards, water and mountains and exceptional hues at sunset!

Weekend destination weddings are our specialty and we have a passion to create dream weddings. From our breathtaking sandstone reception hall, to four unique locations to say "I do", our mouth-watering cuisine, luxurious accommodation for 79 guests and romantic Honeymoon suite, we'll make your dream wedding come true at Welgelegen Cherry Estate.

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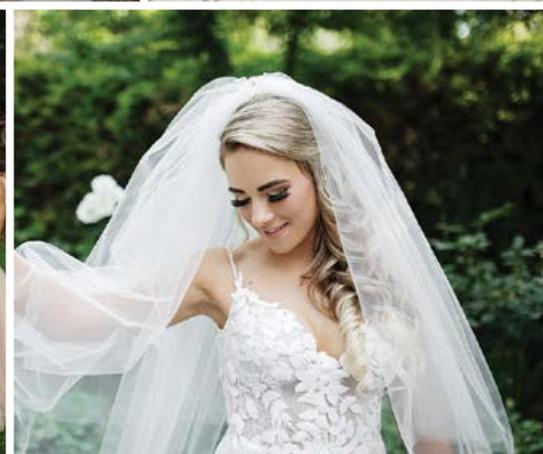
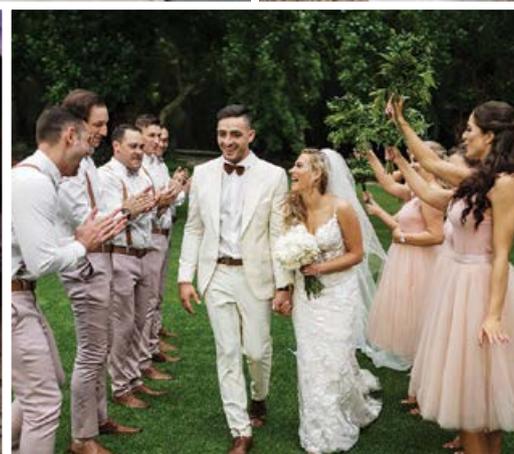
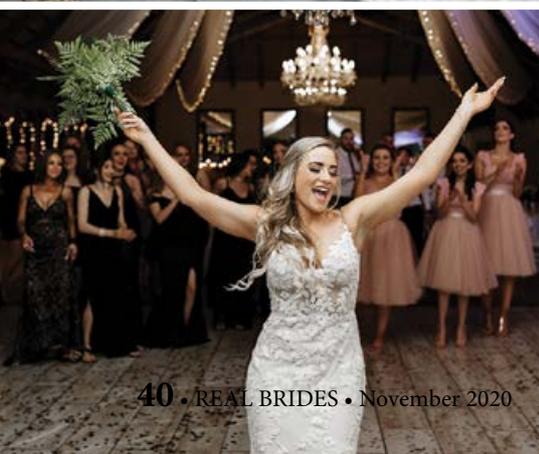


Top Weddings

SARAH-ANN & MELCHIZEDEK *van Dreden*

Oakfield Farm

Oakfield Farm's beautiful manicured gardens, pristine facilities and the impeccable service given by the highly efficient staff and co-ordinators at the venue ensured that this bride got to experience the wedding of her childhood dreams.



MAKING *Memories*



Couple: Michaela & Justin | Photography: Hilda Mans

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Top Weddings

SHERRY & BRYCE Hills

Haycroft Farm

A magical forest on the picturesque Haycroft Farm in the Natal Midlands was the perfect setting for this pair of nature lovers. Helpful family and friends and suppliers tried and tested by the venue all contributed to a very special day.



Haycroft Farm

country venue & accommodation

Wedding Venue:

If location is what you are looking for, you will not find anywhere more breathtaking!

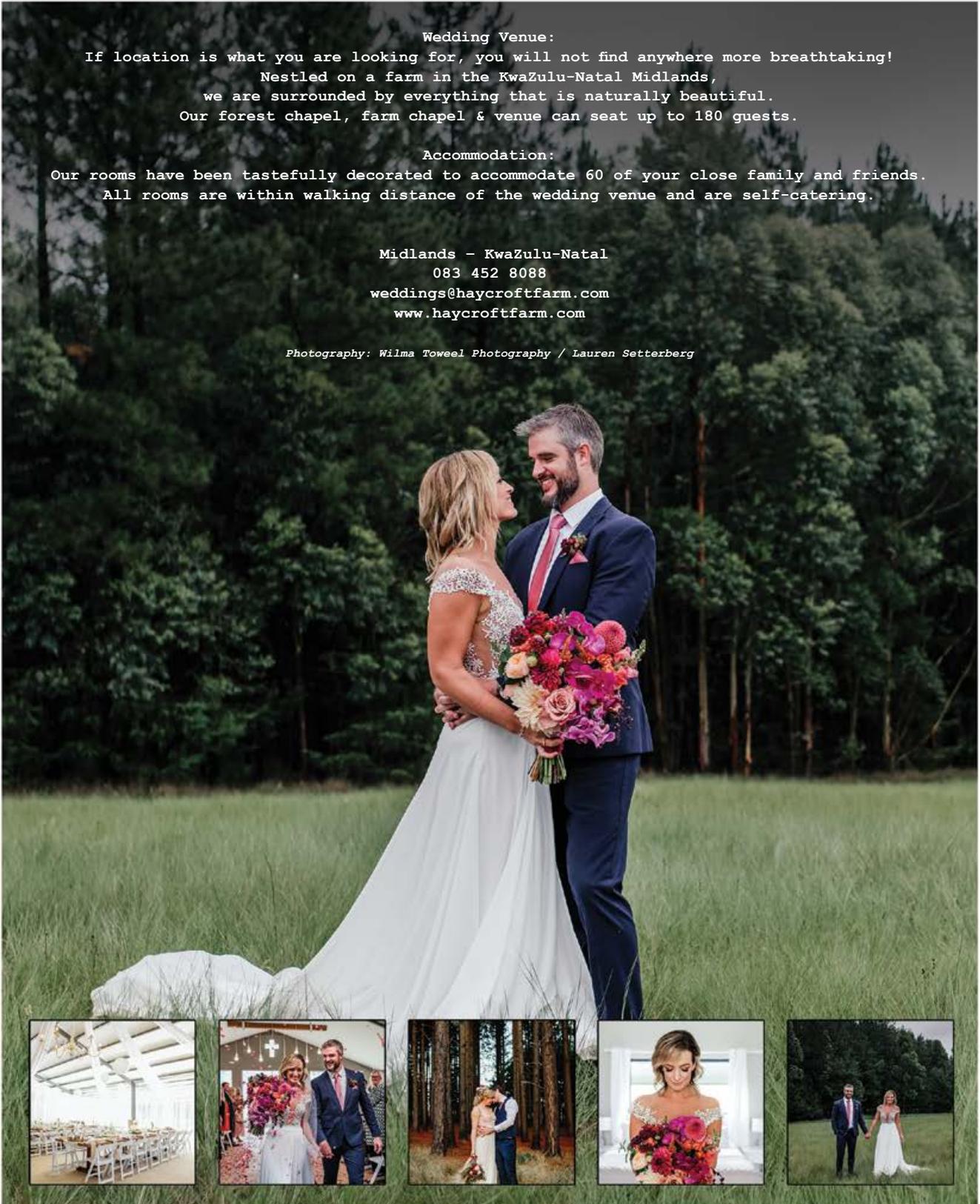
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Photography: Wilma Toweel Photography / Lauren Setterberg





Top Weddings

JOHANNÉ & BENNIE

Genis

Mooiplaas

This creative bride let her imagination run riot with some unusual attention to detail which ranged from two wedding dresses to wrist corsages and pom pom crowns. Exceptional 'boerekos' and service from Mooiplaas capped the happy occasion.



Mooiplaas

EST 2016

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Our venue is nestled deep within the Waterberg mountains, near Modimolle in Limpopo.

The bridal couple exchange vows under a beautiful big Wild Fig tree, against a breathtaking backdrop of Granadilla fields.

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Top Weddings

SHAN & IVAN Knoetze

Pheasant Hill

In keeping with the French vintage-inspired vision for their wedding, this gorgeous couple needed to look no further than the splendour of the surrounds and the elegant décor of the Ile de France banquet room at Pheasant Hill.





THE MEMORIES OF A LIFETIME AWAIT YOU AT PHEASANT HILL.

Pheasant Hill Wedding venue and Boutique hotel is situated just outside Irene close to the R21 and Irene Village Mall. This charmingly elegant gem is conveniently near Pretoria, Irene, Centurion and Pretoria East and next to the Rietvlei dam and Nature reserve.

The boutique hotel offers 22 ensuite rooms where your wedding guests can stay over for Breakfast the next morning.

Our mission at Pheasant Hill is to offer our Brides and Grooms a one-stop experience where we offer a full service at affordable prices. You come with all your ideas and we make it a reality without hassles.

As a couple you need to relax and enjoy your wedding without worries so leave it all in the experienced hands of the Pheasant Hill team and coordinator.

The splendor of Ile de France, our French style banquet hall, is a sight to behold. This banquet room can host events for up to 180 people seated. The room is elegantly decorated in a French Empire style, with immaculate finishes and facilities.

Wedding ceremonies are held at our open air Chapel in a built-in Amphitheatre style overlooking a small dam with ducks.

Pheasant Hill offers 3 small venues and 1 large banquet room. Though we have 4 venues, we only host one wedding per day in order to give you as the bride and groom the exclusivity you deserve on your big day.

As an award-winning venue and one of the top venues in Pretoria, our mission is to give our clients complete peace of mind when booking your wedding at Pheasant Hill.

Our professional team is there to assist you all the way and to make this special day in your life a day to remember forever.

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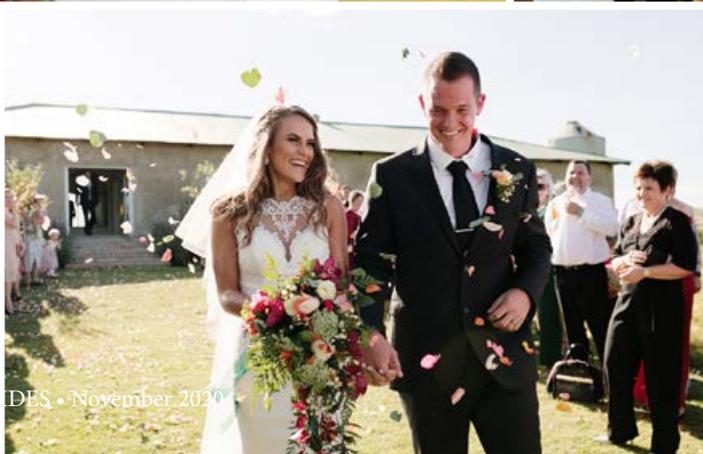
Top Weddings

NATASHA & IWAN

Krüger

Mighty Fine Productions

Nearly two years of careful planning went into this wedding and Mighty Fine Productions were the creative people entrusted by the bridal couple to capture all the details and all those special once-in-a-lifetime moments.



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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.

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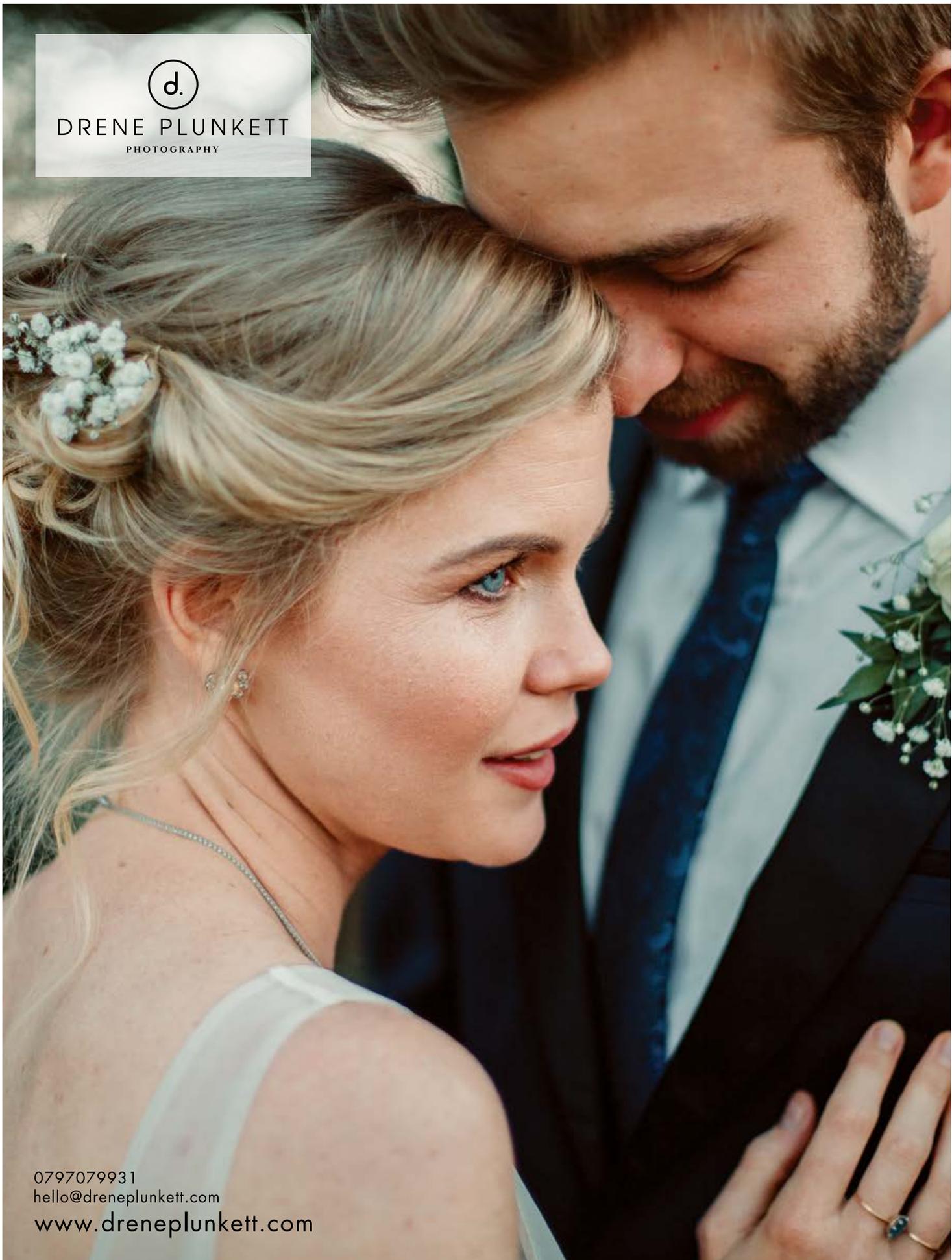
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