

# Real Brides



South Africa's Exciting  
Wedding Magazine

January 2021

## Postponed Wedding

*2020  
Weddings  
Revisited*

# *Beating Lockdown Real Weddings*



## 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*

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**On the cover:**

**Bride: Caitlin De Vries**

**Photo: Mighty Fine Productions**

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## *Ring In The New Year*

Newly married? Would you like to see your wedding featured in Real Brides during 2021? We could make your dream come true.

Here's how to do it: Mail a sample wedding photo and a list of your vendors/suppliers to: [robbyn@topicpublishing.co.za](mailto:robbyn@topicpublishing.co.za) so that we can consider your wedding. All weddings submitted will be acknowledged and given fair consideration.

Visit our website: [www.realbrides.co.za](http://www.realbrides.co.za) and you will also find us on Facebook, we've got loads to share.

Happy New Year!

# CAITLIN & ELMO DE VRIES



*Choosing your photographer and videographer is one of the most important decisions to be made when getting married and this bride and groom got it spot on when they chose Mighty Fine Productions.*

## **How did you and Elmo meet?**

I was in Grade 9 when I first met Elmo. He was in Matric at the time and we went to the same high school, Helpmekaar. We exchanged kisses here and there but nothing really came of our rather casual high school teen romance. Three years later when I'd finished Matric, the flame however sparked again when our paths crossed again unexpectedly.

## **Was your proposal a surprise?**

It was an absolute surprise! Elmo is obsessed with hunting. We went on a trip, and on that day, after about 30 kilometres of walking, he went down on his knee and proposed marriage to me with the most beautiful sunset in the background.

## **The most difficult part of planning your wedding?**

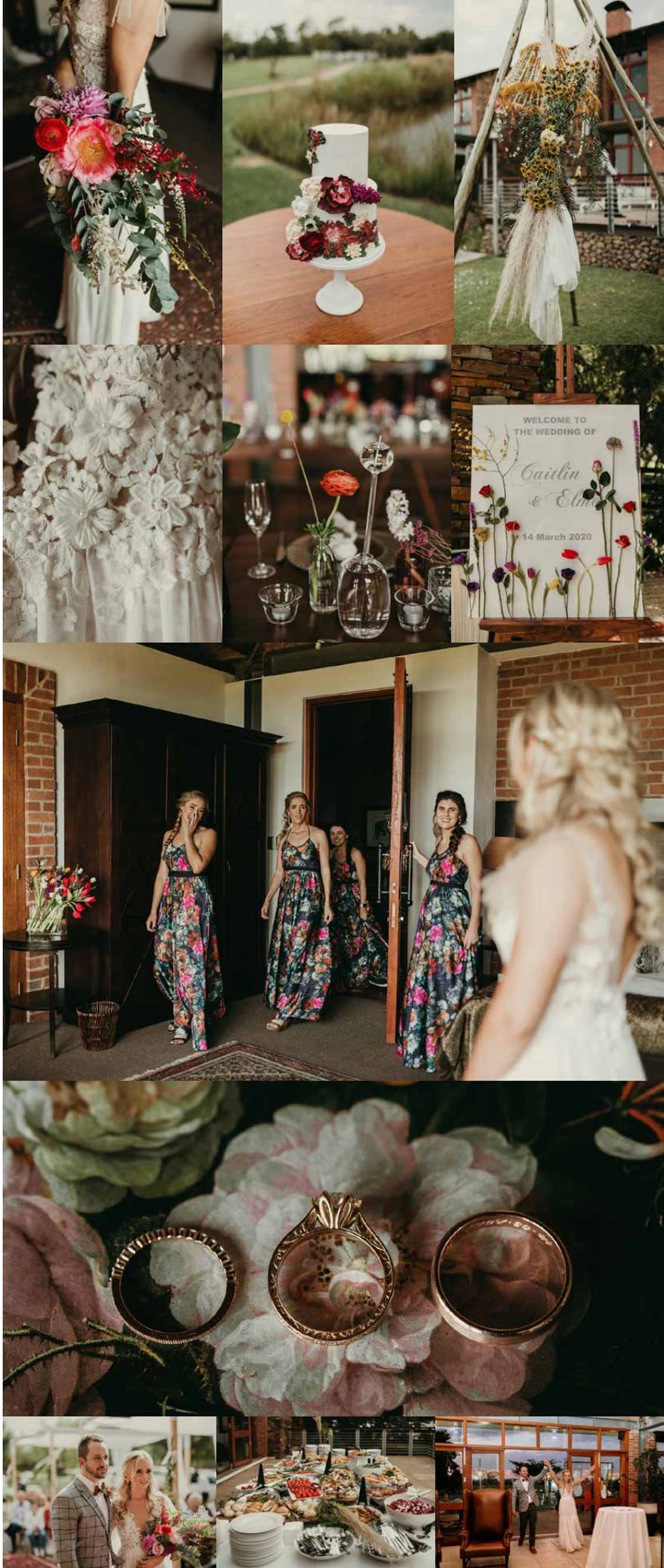
We got married on 14 March 2020, a weekend just before the national lockdown was announced by the President. At the time of planning the wedding, we knew COVID-19 was lurking somewhere in the background but we were kind of oblivious to it and living/planning everything with rose-tinted glasses! Fortunately for us, we just made it in time for our big day to go ahead. Our honeymoon however was a different story!

## **Did Elmo get involved in the planning?**

Honestly, he just wanted me to be happy and left everything to me and my very capable Mom. My Mom did all the planning, décor and flowers for our wedding. In fact, she was so inspired by it all that she actually started her own business called The Hanging Inspiration after my wedding.

## **Your dress plan changed?**

From day one I'd actually wanted to have a dress specially made. But, one weekend I just felt I'd like to



*“We had a Bohemian theme and used a mixture of different colours.”*



*Venue: Riboville Boutique Hotel*

*Make up: NOIR Professional Hair & Makeup*

*Hair Stylist: Mooi Nooi Haarsalon*

*Coordination, flowers & décor: Rina van Niekerk @ The Hanging Inspiration*

*Wedding Cake: Sweetly Detailed*

*DJ: Cream Cheese DJ's*

*Artist: Nariska Zietsman*

*Photography & videography: Mighty Fine Productions, Pretoria - [weddings.mightyfine.co.za](http://weddings.mightyfine.co.za)*

get the feeling of fitting wedding dresses and I found the perfect one!

### Theme/colour scheme?

We had a Bohemian theme and used a mixture of different colours.

### How did you go about choosing your wedding photographer?

My brother and his wife used Mighty Fine Productions for their wedding. They did such a great job that I decided that I wanted to use them as well.

### You also had a wedding video shot?

Yes, Mighty Fine Productions also did us a wedding video and it was absolutely so worth it. Elmo actually prefers to look back at the videos rather than at still photos, and I feel that a video just takes you back to that day so easily. So much so that you can almost feel that special day happening all over again!

### Would you recommend Mighty Fine Productions to other couples?

Any day, over and over again.

### Where was money well spent?

We sort of managed to stick to our budget! We thought it was definitely worthwhile to spend money on securing a good photographer and videographer as the photos and videos will serve as precious memories for decades to come.

### How many guests?

Happily, we had no restrictions as we got married just before the Covid-19 pandemic really hit South Africa. We were therefore able to host our full list of 110 wedding guests without having to cut back on numbers in order to comply with the restrictions that were to follow shortly after we got married.

### Any advice for brides-to-be?

My advice to all brides is to enjoy every moment of your wedding and try not to over-complicate it.

### Honeymoon?

We had planned the most perfect ski-honeymoon-holiday in Italy. But, it sadly all had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 travel restrictions. Elmo promised me we'll go and exchange the 'honey' for a 'baby'! We ended up spending non-stop time together in lockdown - an experience I would not trade for anything. ♥



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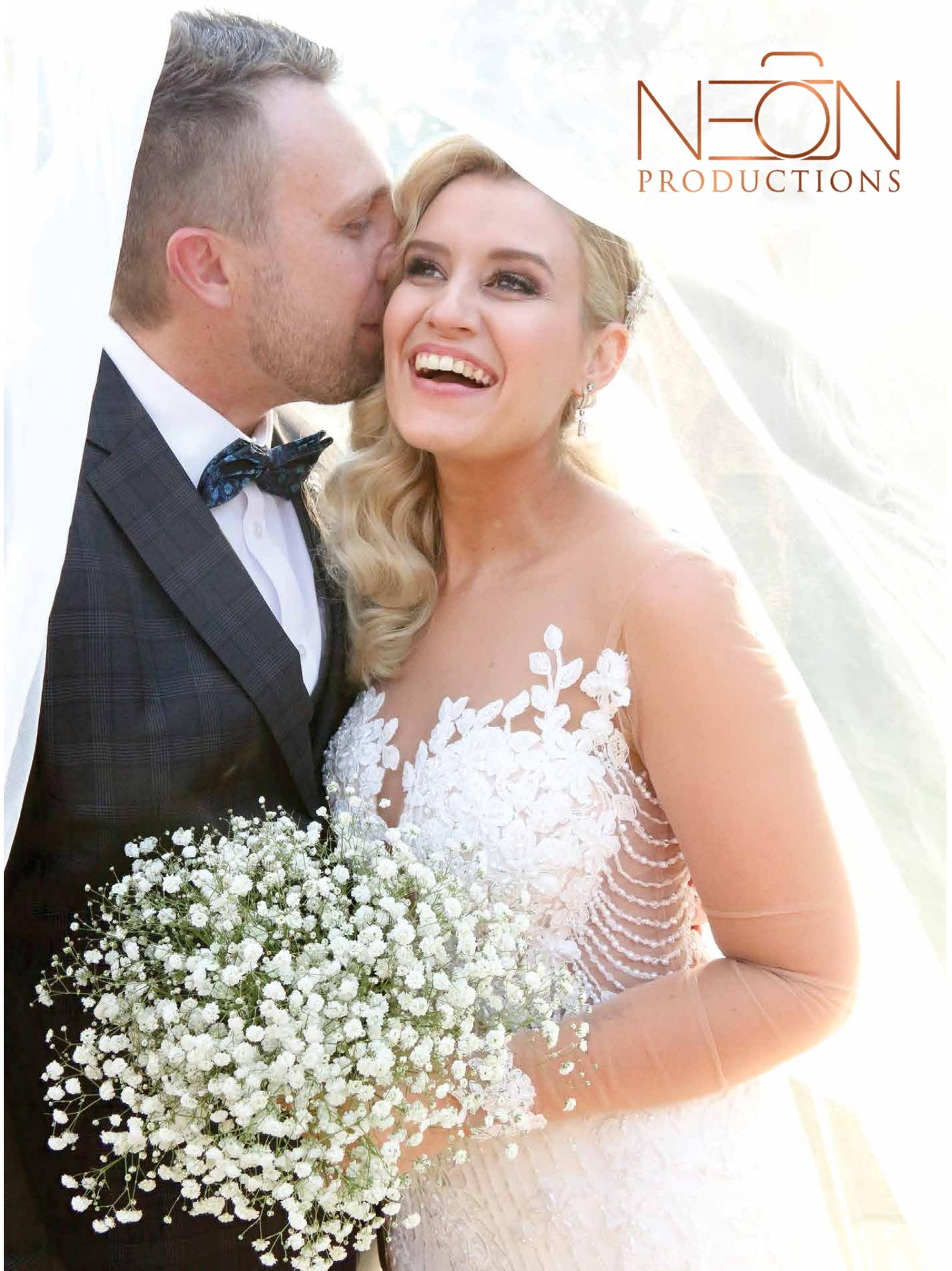
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NEON  
PRODUCTIONS



# ELLENICE & SHAWN MATHYSE



*This couple dated for 6 years before getting married and they chose the lovely Vredenburg Manor House as their wedding venue.*

## **Your marriage proposal was a big surprise?**

Shawn planned a trip to Oudtshoorn. As we usually take a trip towards the end of the year I didn't think much of it. He planned an outing to the Safari Ostrich farm in Oudtshoorn and while I asked my cousin to take a photo of us he went on one knee in front of everyone and asked me to marry him!

## **The most difficult part of planning a wedding?**

For us the most difficult part was definitely drawing up the guest list. Initially we planned on inviting 80 people but then, because of the Covid regulations, we could only invite 50 guests. We still have family members who are mad at us for not getting an invitation - even though we tried to explain to them that it was Covid restrictions. Our venue obviously had to comply and so could only allow a certain number of guests!

## **You only had eyes for Vredenburg Manor House as your venue?**

Yes, Vredenburg Manor House was the only place we went to. Being in Somerset West it was close to home and we decided right away that it was going to be the perfect place for us to celebrate our special day.

## **Were you happy with the co-ordination and help you received from the staff at Vredenburg Manor House?**

Absolutely. One of our guests is a hostess and she even commented on their great all round service. It's like Leon, Luke and their team just know what your needs are and they produced the best results on our big day. There wasn't even a hint of pressure from them because they know exactly what they doing and you could see their passion shining through.

## **Who did your flowers and what did you think of them?**

Janice and her team at Vredenburg Manor House did all that for me. I sent Leon a picture of what I had





*“Vredenburg Manor House really exceeded all our expectations.”*

*Venue: Vredenburg Manor House, Somerset West – [www.vredenburgmanor.co.za](http://www.vredenburgmanor.co.za)*

*Dress: Elle’s Bridal Studio, Durbanville*

*Hair: Kim de Bruin*

*Make Up: Jessica Hendriks*

*Food and décor: Vredenburg Manor House*

*Flowers & bouquets: Vredenburg Manor House*

*Photography: Frankie’s Photography*

in mind and they did just that. They were absolutely perfect and exactly what I wanted.

### Who did the catering?

Vredenburg Manor House also did the catering. We were so pleased with the menu. They produced great canapés for pre drinks and then we had scrumptious lamb shank, which was soft and tender and came right off the bone. For dessert we had cheesecake, which was also so delicious.

### You had your wedding party in the boma area at Vredenburg?

Our guests were blown away by the boma because they didn't expect another 'rabbit out of the hat' - that's what Vredenburg Manor House can pull off! Even the DJ's said they had never setup 3 times at one venue in their 27 years of being DJs! The weather was perfect and the lights over the dance floor made it magnificent. The fire pit in the center with seating around, where guests can chill with a hookah (like my cousin did!) was fantastic. The bar was in the perfect spot too! It was just the most perfect place for a big JOL!

### Tell us about your dress?

I contacted Ellenore at Elle's Bridal Studio after one of my friends recommended her. She was the only person I went to and I decided right on the spot that I would hire a dress from her.

### Just 1 bridesmaid and groomsman?

They are a married couple and we have been friends for such a long time. I met Candice when I was at college and Gershwin and Shawn found out a few years ago that they are actually related! They are the people we look forward to spending time with in the future.

### The best moments of your big day?

The whole day was a highlight for both me and Shawn. It's a day we will never forget. Vredenburg Manor really exceeded all our expectations.

### Two things essential for a bride?

A bride can never do without lipstick and comfortable shoes!

### Honeymoon?

We did a road trip for a week up the Cape West Coast. ♥





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# MERIZA & DUAN VILJOEN



*This couple met at University where they were both studying for their teaching degrees.*

## **Romantic proposal?**

We were celebrating my Dad's 60th birthday at a game farm in Limpopo. The day we left Duan said that since we were in the area, he wanted to show me the wedding venue where I'd always wanted to get married. When we got to Tsekama we received a private tour that led to the chapel. When we were sitting in the chapel, he asked me if I could see myself getting married there? I told him of course, but sensed that he was starting to get nervous. As I went to leave he called me to stand with him at the front of the chapel. He got down on one knee and said; "Since you already gave me a yes for the venue, I only need one more yes and that is to spend the rest of your life with me? It was an instant YES, followed by tears, a ring and overwhelming joy.

## **You had to postpone your wedding?**

We were supposed to get married on the 13 June, on my Dad's birthday, but unfortunately, we were placed on Level 5 lockdown which meant that we had to postpone our wedding. We both made the very difficult decision to be apart from one another during lockdown as Duan's mother is a single mom who lives alone. It was extremely difficult to be separated for so long, but we knew we were going to get married in 2020 and that the hardship would soon be overshadowed by the joy of our big day.

## **Had you already done quite a lot of your wedding planning?**

Yes, I was one of those girls who'd always dreamed about her wedding day. I kept a folder on my phone with many Pinterest ideas even before we got engaged!

## **Your venue was obliging with the date change?**

We already had everything planned and organised for our original date so we phoned Tsekama when we moved down to Level 3. It was a gamble changing



*“Level 5 lockdown meant that we had to postpone our wedding.”*

*Venue: Tsekama Lodge, Nylstroom, Limpopo – [www.tsekama.co.za](http://www.tsekama.co.za)*

*Dress: Trés Jolie Bridal*

*Hair: Captivating Mobile hair & Make-up*

*Make-up: Swan Creations*

*Flowers & Cake: Tsekama*

*Photography: Lilatography*



our date, but we went for it and luckily they had a cancellation on 17 October. We booked that date and finally got to have our dream wedding.

### Tell us a bit about Tsekama.

Tsekama is situated near Nylstroom, Limpopo. It is a beautiful venue surrounded by wildlife and luscious green trees. The venue has an indoor chapel and a reception area overlooking a dam. Tsekama are truly exceptional at what they do and include everything in the price - from the flowers to the catering. They organised and planned everything according to my vision. I worried about nothing on my wedding day and would honestly give them a 11/10.

### Did you have your dress specially made or was it bought?

I bought my wedding dress and added long lace sleeves as we were originally meant to get married in Winter. I decided to keep the long sleeves after we changed the date as I absolutely loved the final look.

### Emotional walk down the aisle?

The whole day was very emotional for me, especially when I saw my Dad as we have a very special bond. The walk down the aisle is a memory that will forever be embedded in my mind. I chose Ruelle's song 'I get to love you'. I was filled with so much joy that I could not stop smiling. Duan was very emotional as the words of the song and the moment itself were very special to him too.

### How many guests?

We had 83 guests and were fortunate not to have to cut down our numbers. The venue could accommodate 200 and, in compliance with the Covid restrictions, we were allowed to have half the capacity of the venue.

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

Pick a venue that can organise most of the items on your to-do list as your wedding day should be one where you only relax and make memories.

### Honeymoon?

We did have a honeymoon where we got to explore the Kruger National Park and God's Window. We will however go on our original planned honeymoon when we are allowed to travel internationally. ♥





# Tsekama Lodge

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# MOTLAGAE & OUPA SENAMELA



*Once upon a time there was a young lady who needed to see a doctor urgently after hours. The visit to his practice ultimately led to a lunch date ... and that's how this happy union all began.*

## **You had to postpone your wedding because of Covid?**

Initially our wedding date was 25 April 2020 and we had planned to invite 120 guests or more. When the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown happened we had to move it to a later available date. We then chose 25 September 2020 hoping the lockdown would be over by then. After the President's announcement on 15 August that the limit on numbers at public gatherings could be increased, it was too late to make more adjustments as we had already had to cut down in order to accommodate our suppliers too. It was so difficult to choose from our list as we both have big families and many friends.

## **You chose Chez Charlene as your venue, why?**

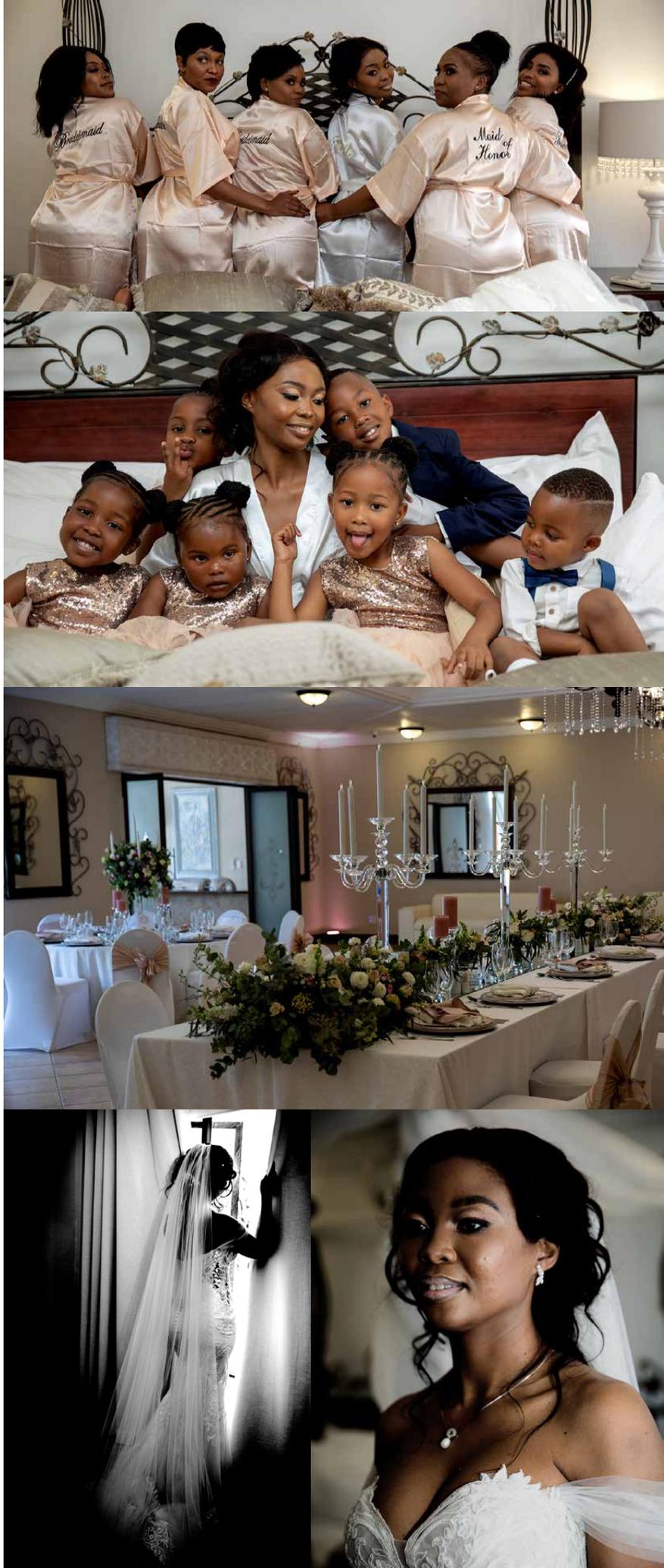
After we had agreed on the postponed wedding date, I started to search for the best wedding venues around Pretoria. I made a list and took my mother for a drive. We visited many venues but the day we went to Chez Charlene I just felt the ambiance and elegance of the place from the moment the gate opened. The staff were amazing too so it had to be the one.

## **Good experience at Chez Charlene?**

Right from the first day we went to view the venue, Charlene and her staff were very warm and welcoming. We started sharing our ideas right there and then. I felt it was the perfect venue and I had trust that we would have a beautiful wedding. They listen to your ideas and then perfect them. They were amazing, patient and supportive all the way. Chez Charlene's Deone is a life saver and always managed to keep me calm and is a very good, clear and informative communicator.

## **Were there any traditional aspects to your marriage?**

Lobola was paid in 2018, then we did the traditional



*“I still get butterflies when I think back on the day.”*



**Venue: Chez Charlene, Pretoria. [www.chezcharlene.co.za](http://www.chezcharlene.co.za)**

**Wedding gown: Bridal Wardrobe**

**Bridesmaid's dresses: JackyT Productions**

**Hair & make-up: @ Beauty by Kholz**

**Photography: Superlative Image**

wedding celebrations on the same weekend as our formal nuptials. We had the traditional wedding (Mahlabiso) at my home on Thursday 24 September; 25 September was the day of our nuptials at Chez Charlene and the following day, 26 September, was spent at Oupa's home for the traditional "welcoming makoti" celebration.

**Tell us about your dress?**

My dress! Breath-taking from the moment I laid eyes on it after a long search. We bought it at Bridal Wardrobe – it's from the Elysee range, Athenais style. Beautiful in Ivory. I can't bring myself to sell it and I think I'll keep it for our 10-year anniversary!

**Who were your bridesmaids and was it difficult to choose them?**

I chose my sister as my Maid of Honour then two of my cousins and two of Oupa's nieces. We are a close family and I chose people who are close to my heart.

**You included 5 kids in your entourage?**

Yes, all of them call me "mommy" and I had to have them all!

**Your colour scheme?**

Blush pink, Champagne and touch of Blue.

**Any surprises on your big day?**

The flaming dessert at our reception was a showstopper, classic. The surprise performance that came with the dessert was first class. We were on fire!

**The highlights of your day?**

Our first dance. The band was amazing. But mostly the ambiance, food and the elegant touches to the décor.

**Any handy tips for brides-to-be?**

Do it for yourselves; do not compromise on how you want your day to be. I still get butterflies when I think back on the day. And the budget well "of course"!

**Honeymoon?**

We didn't get to go away on a honeymoon right away. In fact, we were both back at work on the Monday after our 3-day wedding celebration! In December will we did a self-drive overland tour visiting Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and Namibia. ♥



# *Chez Charlene Wedding Venue*

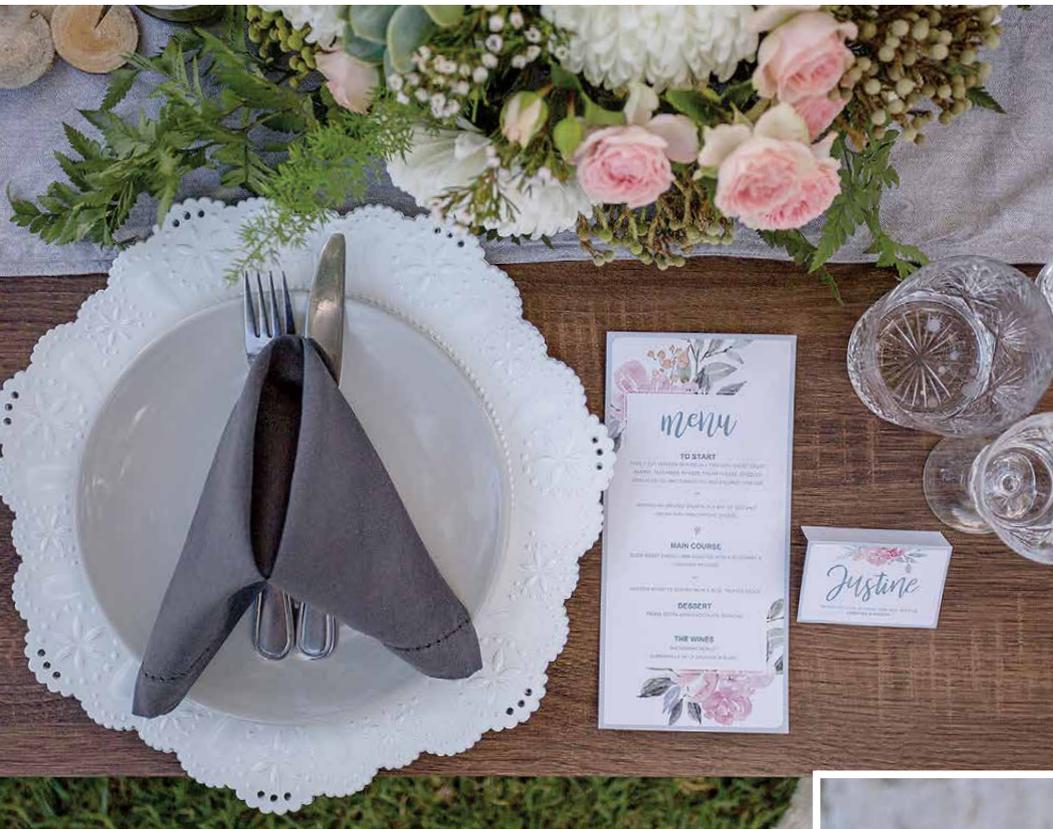


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# PREPARING FOR A FINANCIALLY SOUND MARRIAGE

For many couples, marriage is the beginning of a long, rewarding life together. However, somewhere amid the romance, diamond rings and honeymoon, the big financial conversations are often lost. Talking about money may feel like a dampener to the excitement, but a clear understanding of each other's goals and approach to finances is arguably one of the key factors in staying together.

Ensure your goals are aligned and discuss what is important to you both. For example, if one of you is saving to quit their job and travel the world while the other wants to rise up the corporate ladder and buy a house, it may set you up for conflict later on.

Surprisingly few couples discuss whether or not they want children – discovering different views on this will have an emotional and financial impact at a later stage. There are no right or wrong answers - it is simply a case of determining whether or not you are on the same page.

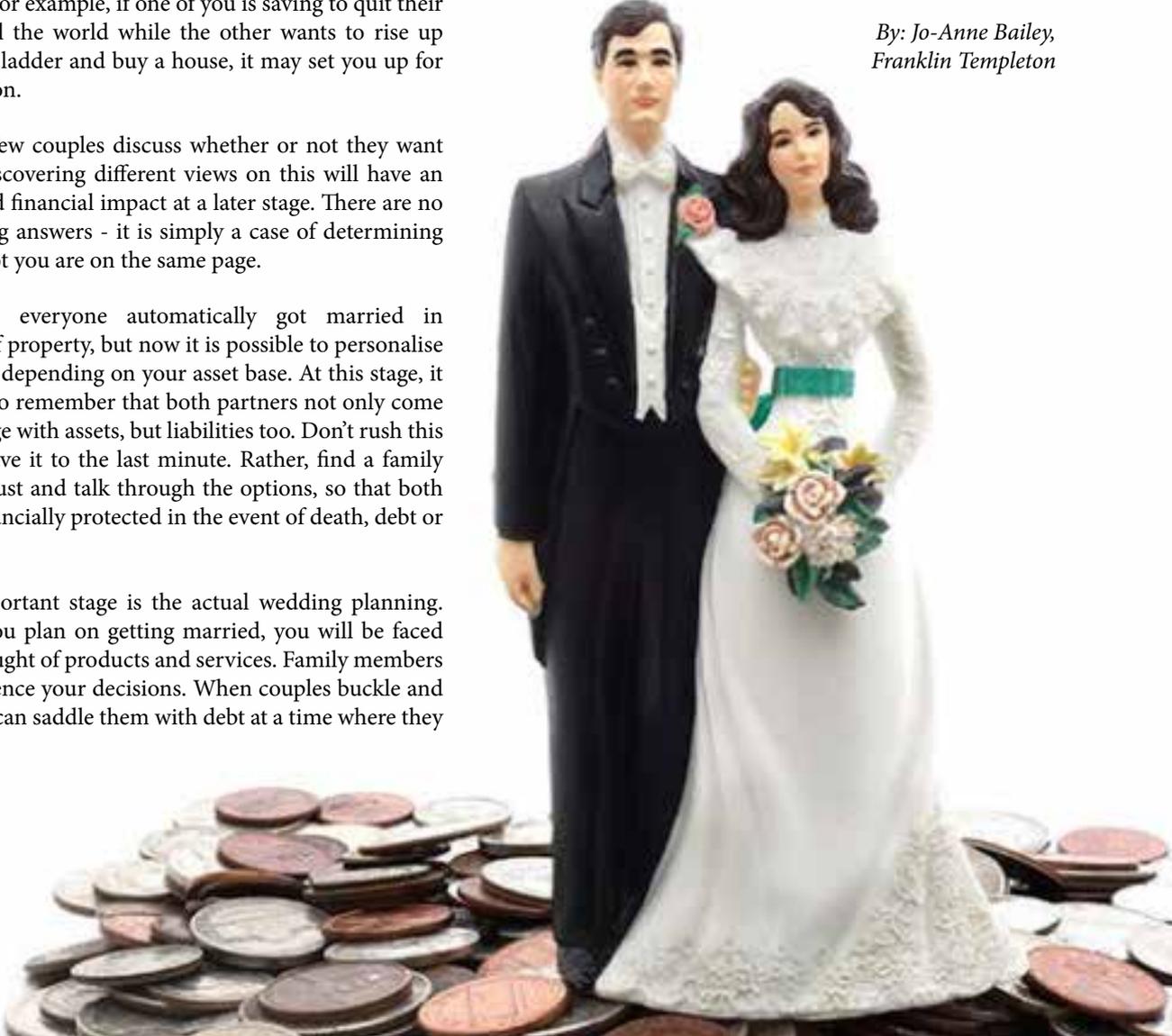
In the past, everyone automatically got married in community of property, but now it is possible to personalise your contract depending on your asset base. At this stage, it is important to remember that both partners not only come to the marriage with assets, but liabilities too. Don't rush this process or leave it to the last minute. Rather, find a family lawyer you trust and talk through the options, so that both of you are financially protected in the event of death, debt or divorce.

The next important stage is the actual wedding planning. As soon as you plan on getting married, you will be faced with an onslaught of products and services. Family members may try influence your decisions. When couples buckle and overspend, it can saddle them with debt at a time where they

should be working on building their life together. Consult a third party who will bring some perspective to the emotion of planning a wedding.

When the wedding is over, don't be tempted to take out a personal loan or credit card debt to go on an enviable honeymoon. This would only ensure that you start your marriage in a weak position. Rather build a strong foundation first and go on a holiday you can afford.

*By: Jo-Anne Bailey,  
Franklin Templeton*



# 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.

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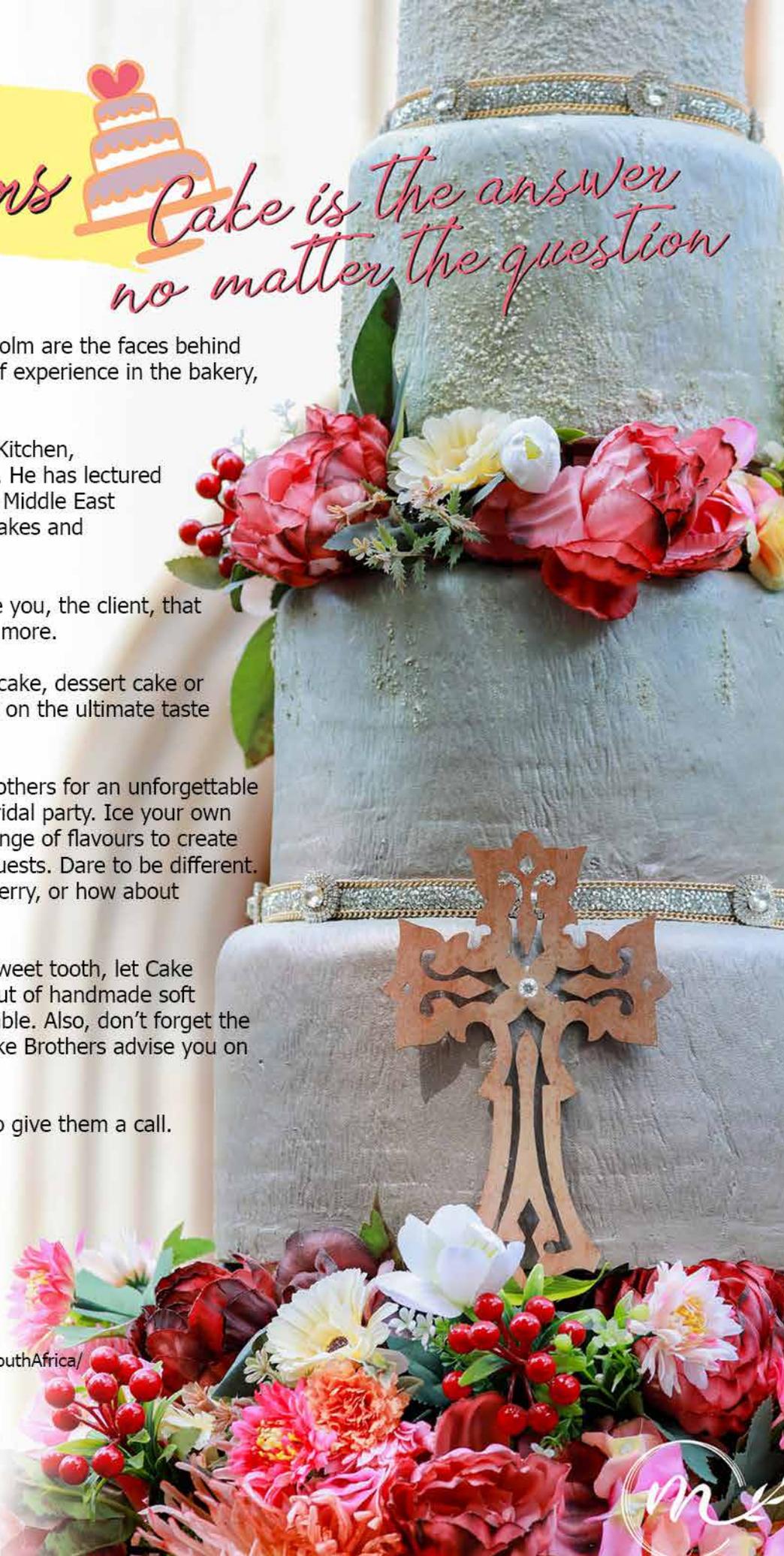
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CAKE TO WOW YOUR GUESTS



# CHANEL & WIAN DE LANGE



*This was not love at first sight but love at second glance!*

## Tell us about your proposal.

The proposal was a surprise for me but Wian needed to call in help from my friends to get me off track because I was becoming a bit suspicious! While on holiday at our favourite place, we went for a game drive which was all part of the plan of course! Our final destination was an arranged picnic in the mountains. As we sipped on champagne, Wian went down on one knee and proposed.

## Your engagement ring?

Pinterest was my best friend and a little hint or two never hurt anyone! We were engaged for one year and five months.

## Three reasons why you chose @Boshhoek as your venue?

The view overlooking the mountain and the venue overall was breath-taking and picture perfect. After looking at approximately 15 other venues, @Boshhoek was the first venue we could both agree on. And finally, the service we received from day one from the @Boshhoek team was exceptional.

## Did the pandemic interfere with your wedding plans?

It most definitely did. Our initial wedding date was set for 8 August 2020 but the pandemic happened and so our wedding was rescheduled to 28 November. This hampered our planning and literally brought it to a halt and then we pretty much had just a month to pick up the planning before the rescheduled date. All the excitement around the planning at the beginning of the year, seemed to subside and the wedding was put aside for what felt like a very long time. Having to explain to friends and family what the new plans were, was just as difficult as the uncertainties that just kept rolling in and no one really had any answers for anything. We wondered if our beautiful wedding would only be a dream that remained just out of our reach?



*“Our wedding was rescheduled due to the pandemic.”*

*Venue: @Boshoek Weddings, Lydenburg, Mpumalanga – [www.atboshoek.co.za](http://www.atboshoek.co.za)*

*Dress: Bride & Co*

*Hair & make-up: Unmissable Makeup Artist by Michelle*

*Décor: @Boshoek and DIY*

*Flowers: Supplied by Flowerart*

*Photography: Obsession Photography, Chantelle Lubbe*

*Videography: YuBiah Videography*

### Tell us about your dress?

Searching for “the” dress was like any girl dreamed it should be. It was no easy task, but I knew exactly what I wanted in a dress right from day one. After three shopping attempts (my Maid of Honour believed it was “third time lucky”), I went back to the first shop to buy my perfect dress. I had seen it on the first day and nothing else after that seemed to compare to that one dress that first caught my eye on day one. I was looking for something fitted, plain and simple, but elegant. The lace bodice was perfect and I believed Wian would be happy to see me walking down the aisle in some lace.

### Did your wedding invitation include kids?

Yes, it did. Kids play a big role in both of our families and so we just had to have them with us on the big day.

### Your colour scheme?

Navy blue and dusty pink.

### How many guests?

90.

### What did you do about wedding gifts?

If our guests felt they wanted to give us a little something, they could contribute to our Honeymoon Fund as our house is already an established home. Our venue supplied what they called a “Lobola box” for this purpose!

### Any good advice for brides-to-be?

Enjoy the planning process. It forms such a big part of the actual excitement that comes along with the big day. Remember to include your beloved fiancé in the planning as you should not forget that it is his big day too. Rope in your loved ones to give you a hand wherever they can. Whether it is someone to help you cut out a menu, or paint your table numbers, one thing ticked off the list is one thing less for you to have to worry about.

### Honeymoon?

It came full circle as we went on honeymoon to the place where we initially fell in love. Our honeymoon was a gift from my eldest brother, who could not attend our wedding as he currently lives abroad. It was as 2-night all-inclusive stay with guided walks at a 5-star lodge in the Kruger National Park. We had a spectacular time! ♥





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# CLAIRE & IAN STURGEON



*Lovely words about her groom from this happy bride: "Ian is the calm to my storm!"*

## **Your proposal?**

We went to Tembe Elephant Park for our anniversary and Ian proposed to me in a beautiful hide overlooking a waterhole shaped like a heart! I'm not joking! It was so special.

## **Your original wedding plans changed?**

We actually hadn't planned on getting married prior to lockdown and hadn't set a date. We actually wanted to do a complete surprise wedding and not tell any of our guests until the night before! But, because travel regulations kept on changing we had to tell them. Having under 50 people suited us perfectly as we wanted a weekend away with our closest friends and family.

## **Tell us a bit about your venue.**

We arrived at Bayala having only ever seen photos of the place and were overjoyed at how beautiful it was, it far exceeded our expectations. The boma was so stunning at night - I think I just melted into a puddle on the spot! It was the most magical, enchanting, incredible place and so PERFECT!

## **Your wedding day started with a game drive?**

We had one car filled with the girls and the boys went in another. We came across two male cheetahs, recently released into the park, and spent about 45 minutes watching them - such an awesome omen for our wedding day! The rangers then took us on a drive and we then we went to one of the dams to enjoy some Mimosas!

## **Your wedding was quite casual?**

Ian and I are very laid back; we just wanted the day to be fun and special and intimate. We wanted everyone to be comfortable and just to have a great time.

## **Your dress?**

My dress was bought and I altered it slightly with a bling belt and it was tailored to fit me perfectly.



A bride with blonde hair styled in an updo with a tiara, wearing a white lace wedding dress and holding a bouquet of flowers. The bouquet features large protea flowers, smaller pink roses, and greenery. She is smiling and looking down at the bouquet.

*“It was  
important to us to  
have the intimacy  
of a small group.”*

*Venue: Bayala Private Safari Camp and Lodge, Hluhluwe, Zululand*

*Dress: Jasmin's Bridal*

*Hair: My Mom, Julie*

*Make-up: Me!*

*Flowers: Lily of the Valley*

*Photography: African Bear Photography*

### Outdoor ceremony?

Outside in the bush, our favourite! We even had armed game rangers around the ceremony site as apparently ellies are quite inquisitive and may have wanted to visit!

### Your Dads were with you in spirit?

I very sadly lost both my Dad and my step-Dad prior to the wedding. They both passed within 5 months of each other but, I know that they were both there in spirit to celebrate with us. My Mom walked me down the aisle, she is my rock and we've been through so much together.

### Great backdrops for formal photos?

While out on our drive taking photos we came across a giraffe who let us take the most amazing photos with him. He seemed to pose for us, even changing sides for a different angle. I think he may have enjoyed it too!

### Outdoor Boma reception?

We had our reception under what I call the "magic" tree. They hung gorgeous lights from the branches and it honestly looked like something out of a fairy tale. The buffet dinner included roast lamb, beef fillet and the most delicious chicken. Sensational - with enough food to feed an army!

### How many guests?

30 people, including us! We got to spend time with each person and enjoy that time without feeling stressed about trying to speak to too many people. It was important to us to have the intimacy of a small group.

### Ian family is musical; did they contribute to the occasion?

They are all musical, his sister sings professionally, plays piano and guitar, his Dad sings and loves the drums and guitar. His Mom also sings beautifully and... Ian sings like a canary too although he's too shy to sing in public! I tried to convince him to sing on our wedding day but I didn't win! His sister Zoe sang as I walked down the aisle and for our first dance too. She had everyone in tears, her voice and the ukulele resonating through the trees was just insane!

### The highlights of your day?

Marrying Ian was pretty amazing! The whole day so far exceeded my expectations that I don't think I've taken the smile off my face since!

### Honeymoon?

No honeymoon yet but we plan to do some awesome trips in 2021! ♥





2020

# Weddings Revisited

2020 will obviously go down in history for all the wrong reasons but, the year was a highlight for many couples who managed to tie the knot and whose happy weddings were featured in Real Brides through the year.

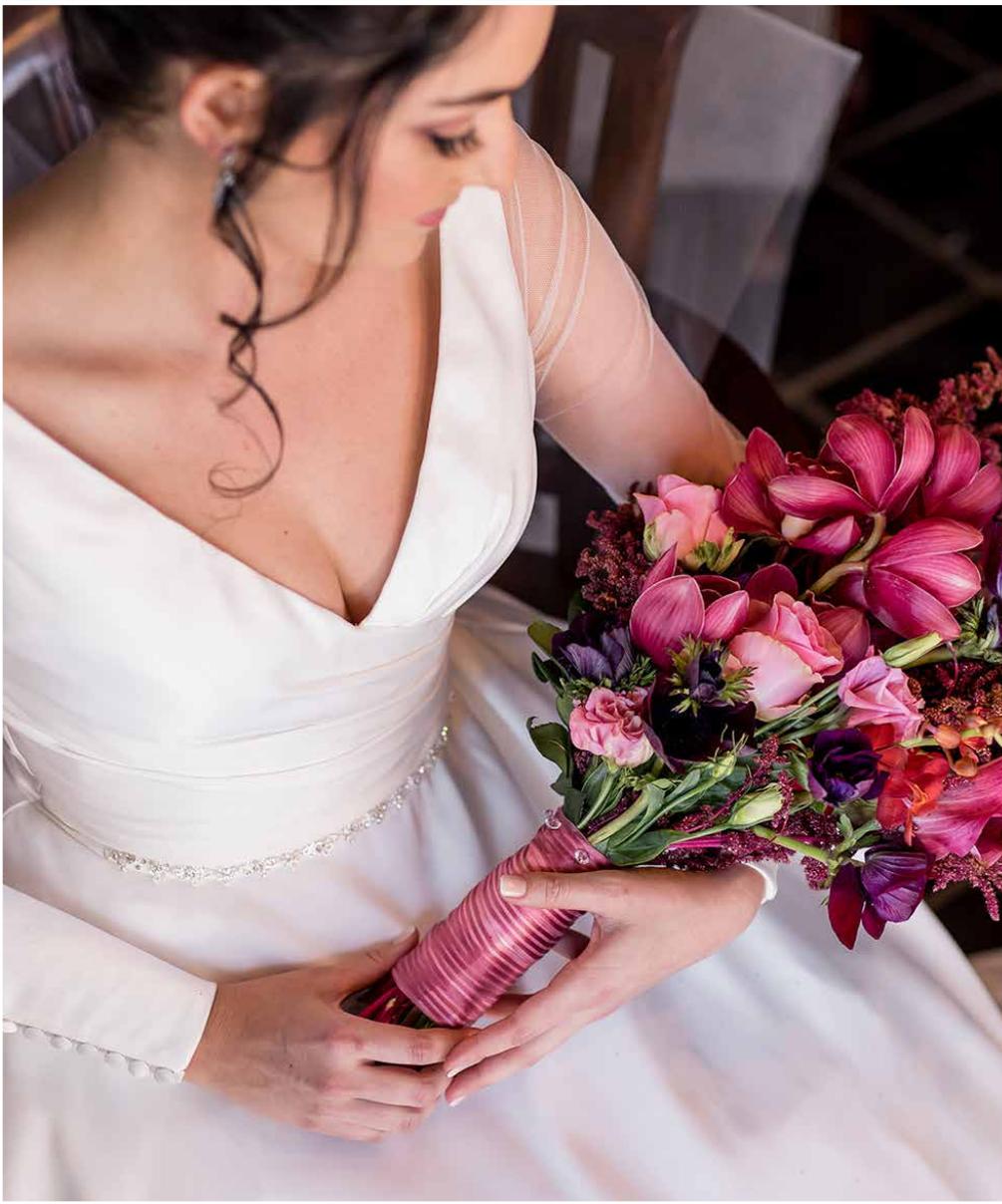
We picked out just some of our favourite photos from 2020 – a mix of beautiful brides, fabulous couples, fun entourages, gorgeous bouquets and amazing wedding cakes.

A real feast for your eyes. Enjoy.

*All photos previously credited in Real Brides*

## BOUQUETS







# BRIDAL GROUPS

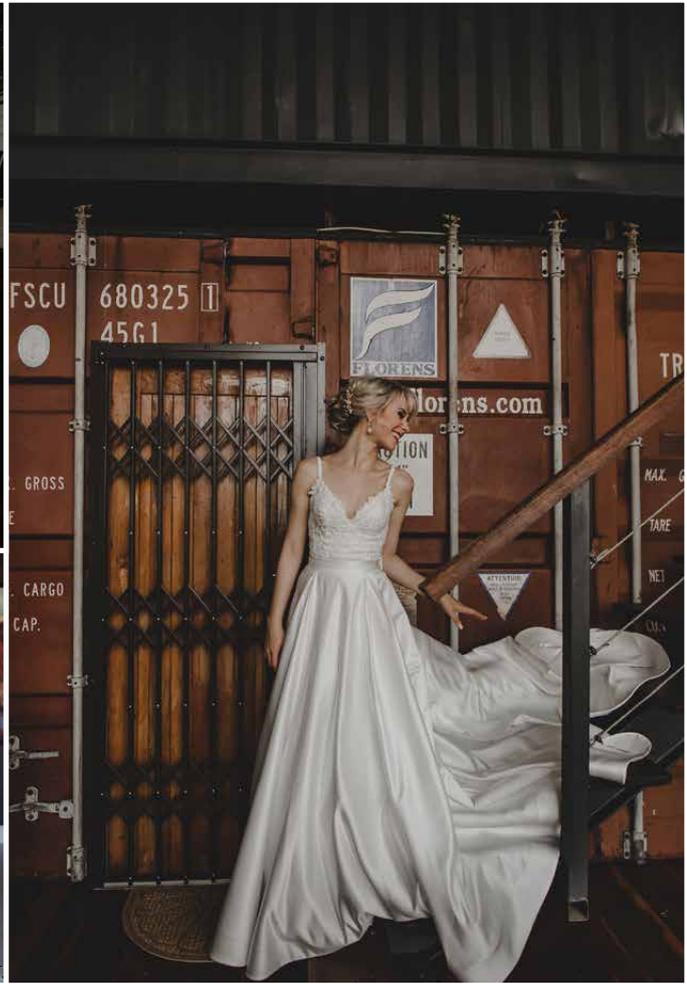






BRIDES







CAKES





# COUPLES





# Add A Little Extra

*So, you've got everything you need for your wedding, all the basics are sorted but you feel the need to add something a little bit extra to your big day?*

## **The Love Actually Experience**

Yes, this is exactly what it sounds like! Just after you are announced married by your celebrant, a bunch of singers and musicians (who appear to be guests) belt out "All you need is love", and your guests will go wild. If you've never seen the film Love Actually, do yourself a favour and make that a priority!

## **Flying High**

If you want something a bit extra as you exit your ceremony, a dove or butterfly release could be memorable and become a talking point.

## **Personalised Cocktails**

If you want an extra touch of luxury, you could invest in some welcome cocktails for your guests adorned with your own customised labels?

## **Tip Top Entertainment**

Live music is always a hit and there is some fantastic local talent around. Or how about a magician to delight your guests with their skills; roving or feature performances from professional entertainers. Or you could go for dance lessons and entertain your guests with an epic first dance.

## **Painter or Caricature Artist**

You've got your photographer and your videographer so why not add in a live artist or a painter? They could transcribe your reception onto canvas right before your eyes, and your guests will love to watch the painting in progress. A caricature artist will draw your guests and get them talking, laughing and leave them with a cool keepsake too.

## **Honeymoon Packages**

If you still have some wedding budget left over, then why not put it towards your honeymoon? No need to go overseas or some exotic island; search for competitive honeymoon deals to all sorts of amazing destinations right here in our very own awesome country.



# Real Brides Takes Planning To Another Level

*Real Brides magazine has taken its service to brides-to-be to another level.*

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