

Real Brides

South Africa's Exciting
Wedding Magazine

May 2021

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We are excited to introduce our WINTER WEEKEND RATES!

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We look forward to planning & hosting your dream event!

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On The Cover

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REAL BRIDES is published independently by
Topic Publishing (Pty) Limited.

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Share Your Covid Wedding Story

The extraordinary happenings of the past year or so of lockdowns, restrictions and curfews are unprecedented and have wreaked havoc worldwide. One of the industries hardest hit has been the wedding industry.

Postponements, restricting numbers, social distancing, compulsory mask-wearing and having to cancel overseas travel plans are just some of the many realities brides-to-be have had to face in this time of Covid.

Despite these hurdles, many weddings have gone ahead and life goes on. If you were lucky enough get married in these trying times and would like your Covid wedding story to be considered for a feature in Real Brides, send a sample wedding photo and a list of your vendors to robbyn@topicpublishing.co.za. We'd love to hear from you.



THE ART OF DISTINCTIVE WEDDINGS

The venue is covered in glittering fairy lights creating the perfect enchanting scene for your special day. The black and white marble tiled floors and octagonal skylight are the perfect backdrops for a show-stopping reception or intimate celebration. The choices for decor are endless against neutral colours. Let us plan your special day by offering the following services:

- Conceptualisation & design by our own in-house decorator
 - Personalized Wedding Coordination
- Tailored menu's & refreshments with a wide variety of Liquor
- All the extras (décor/flower arrangements/entertainment/Honeymoon and Getaway Travel)

We are excited to introduce our WINTER WEEKEND RATES!

Book with us now for either a Wedding or Special Event in June or July 2021 and receive a large reduction on Venue Hire!

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We look forward to planning & hosting your dream event!



CHANTAL & CHRISTOPHER JOHN BOSMAN



This sweet couple met at the University of the Western Cape and they officially started dating on Valentine's Day in 2008.

Tell us about your proposal?

Christopher-John proposed on New Year's Day 2018 at the water fountain at the Strand Pavilion. It was totally unexpected. He planned the entire night – from my outfit right down to my nails! Little did I know that he had a diamond ring up his sleeve!

Clear idea of what you wanted for your big day?

Yes, we did! We wanted our wedding to be one that everyone would remember and talk about.

What made you choose Vredenburg Manor House as your venue?

Vredenburg Manor House was the fifth venue we considered and we looked no further - the decision was final! We were absolutely blown away by this breath-taking venue and the warm hospitality. We booked a date with Vredenburg Manor House because we wanted our wedding guests to experience the same incredible treatment we did.

How long did you have to plan your wedding?

We had 6 months to plan our wedding. The Vredenburg Manor House staff were right on top of their game. They helped us plan and did so effortlessly. With the difficult circumstances surrounding the Covid -19 situation, they had a contingency plan for every possible restriction level too.

What did the Vredenburg Manor House package include?

Our package included literally everything - the Manor House and cottages, canapés, drinks, main course, dessert, flowers, décor, a jukebox and the use of the Boma. Our wedding ceremony took place in their chapel, which was decorated with white roses and candles. Later on in the bridal suite we were surprised



*“We celebrated our special day with
50 close friends and family.”*



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

Wedding gown: Weddingtime Bridal

Hair & Make up: Zita

Food: Vredenburg Manor House

Flowers: Vredenburg Manor House

Photography: Zan Le Jon

with white roses, champagne and even a Mr & Mrs wedding gift! They really went out of their way to make our day extra special – we felt like royalty!

Tell us about your dress.

At first I was very indecisive about what I wanted. My sister-in-law hooked me up with Weddingtime Bridal, who knew exactly what I had in mind and what would suit my personality - something conservative yet dramatic. They very generously gifted me with a cocktail dress for the after party at the Boma too.

Your entourage?

The decision was easy. My bridesmaids Elizma and Bevenia are like family; the best man Ronald is a lifelong friend and Meikle-John is my only brother.

Outdoor reception in the garden?

It was amazing. Our wedding colours were dusty blue with a dash of purple and complemented the beautiful gardens. Vredenburg Manor House set up the tables exactly as we wanted them and also added some of their own exquisite touches.

Tell us about your menu.

Vredenburg Manor House helped us with the menu. We had one vegetarian guest who was even allocated a waiter for the duration of the reception! Our guests couldn't stop complimenting the delicious tender Lamb Shank with roasted vegetables and mashed potatoes and the heavenly Vanilla chocolate ice cream dessert.

The highlights of your day?

The wedding ceremony and our first dance. It also gave us great pleasure to see our guests having fun and, like us, being treated like royalty from the start of the ceremony right through to the next morning of departure, which ended with a lovely breakfast at the swimming pool.

Any tips for brides-to-be?

Good service will set the tone - choose a venue that will treat your guests well. Then, to capture every moment, book a photographer who will avail themselves right until the party ends.

Honeymoon?

We decided to spend the following Sunday and Monday with some of our family members as it was the Easter weekend. After that we went sightseeing - stopping at Pearly Beach, Bettys Bay and Hermanus. We then booked ourselves into a self-catering holiday house at Kleinmond, where we had a wonderful time. It is situated at the beach and we were treated to good food, good wine and a wonderful sunset. With wonderful company, what more could a girl ask for? ♡





Vredenburg MANOR HOUSE

GUESTHOUSE, CONFERENCE AND FUNCTION VENUE

Contact us – Vredenburg Manor House, Winery Road, Somerset West

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ZAIDA & ISAIÁS GUERRA



Choosing a proven and highly efficient wedding venue helped ensure that this wedding was absolutely on point.

How did you meet?

We met at a birthday party. A cousin of mine told me that he knew someone who was my "perfect fit" and brought Isaiás over to the party to introduce him to me! As soon as they arrived at the party I was so nervous I couldn't move! We became friends and grew our friendship over two years before we started dating.

Great proposal?

Isaiás is obsessed with BMW so I surprised him with tickets to the BMW festival at Kyalami in October 2019. As soon as I told him about it he counter surprised me by arranging with the event organisers to propose to me on stage at the festival. It was amazing!

How long were you engaged?

We are both Angolan, so traditionally our engagement is only acceptable if it's done in front of the family, whereby a dowry must be paid! So we flew to Luanda in November 2019 for our engagement. By February 2020 we had settled on our wedding date for November 2020, so the announcement of the lockdown left us extremely anxious about how things would turn out. Thankfully the lockdown rules had eased up by the time our wedding was due and so we never had to alter our date.

Tell us about your wedding venue.

We viewed and re-viewed about 5 to 6 venues before settling on Chez Charlene! Many were beautiful but there was always something missing. But, the first time we went to Chez Charlene I could almost immediately see myself getting married there. Everything was exactly what I wanted and more and Isaiás, being a practical man, also knew that we had found the one. When you're organising your own wedding, convenience is key! What stood out the most about Chez Charlene, apart from the beautiful venue, is the fact that Charlene herself helps you to structure your entire wedding and offers you an



“The lockdown rules eased up so we never had to alter our date.”



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

Wedding gown: Bridal Wardrobe, Pretoria

Hair: TBR Hair & Nails

Make-up: Luminous Beauty

Groom's outfit: Wedding Hub

Wedding Cake: Baker Boys

Electronic wedding invitations: Nordasync

Photography: Pink Flower Photography

Videography: Brightmoon Videography

extremely competent wedding coordinator, who makes everything feel easy and possible. If I stressed about anything with regards to planning the wedding, then it must've been something they really had no control over, such as the lockdown, bridal entourage details and things of that sort. Everything else Chez Charlene would either provide or help you find it!

Wedding gown nightmare?

It's a very long story! I was one of those unfortunate brides distressed and enraged by the sudden closure of one of Johannesburg's well-known bridal stores. I had paid in full for my wedding dress more than 6 months prior to the wedding only to find out a month before the wedding that no dress had actually been tailored! I was eventually blessed to find my beautiful gown literally a few weeks before my wedding.

Your colour theme?

I opted for an elegant combination of white, sage green and gold, which matched perfectly with the outfits worn by our entourage.

Your bridesmaids?

Emerald is my birthstone and a stunning colour, so I chose the colour and the girls helped to choose their dresses.

How many guests?

We planned on having a hundred guests and actually paid the deposit accordingly but due to Covid we had to make changes. We lowered numbers to 50 guests as per the lockdown restrictions.

How did your budget fare?

Lowering the numbers obviously helped us so the only major blow was having to pay for another wedding dress so close to the wedding.

Food?

We had a delicious menu suggested by Charlene, including a special dish prepared for my brother who is Vegan. Our dessert was served literally on fire in such a memorable way!

Advice for brides-to-be?

Start planning your wedding early and get as many references as possible before making decisions. A friend advised me, and I pass it forward; to take a moment during your reception where it's just you and your husband to really take in the fact that it's YOUR wedding day!

Honeymoon?

We had a beautiful 7-day getaway to Humala River Lodge in Elukwatini. ♥



Chez Charlene Wedding Venue



Five Star Wedding Venue

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Perfection is the only option

TOP WEDDING VENUES



Inkwenkwezi
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve's prime location in the malaria-free Eastern Cape offers many unique opportunities, as it encompasses five different regional ecosystems and a tidal estuary.

This rich diversity of landscape offers unparalleled wildlife viewing. Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve is just five minutes from magnificent beaches and a short, convenient drive from the East London airport.

Weddings at Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve are as romantic and unique as the Wild Coast itself; as unforgettable as the love that brought you together.

Contemporary and yet, authentically African, the perfectly-appointed venue is the ideal mix of wild beauty and modern comfort.

Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve's has a charming open-air chapel with its red carpet laid out for the bridal couple to walk down to say "I do".

The chapel is situated at Emthombeni (under the old wild fig tree) and paradise garden settings with water features incorporating waterfalls and small ponds.

Walking down the red carpet to take your vows in Inkwenkwezi's charming open-air chapel, nestled in the gardens amongst the trees, is the beginning of your happily ever after dreams.

To capture this beauty way into the night, strategically placed lights light up the garden.

After the service the couple may wonder into our paradise garden for their photo session. The variety of breathtaking scenes and interesting features will give you the opportunity to have a range of unique photographs to keep as mementoes of your special day. During the photo session your guests are invited to have pre-arranged welcoming drink and snacks or cocktails and canapés – depending on what you have chosen for them – provided by Inkwenkwezi.





Inkwenkwezi focuses on attention to detail so that your wedding is everything you ever dreamed of. Prior to your big day you are invited to meet with to discuss, in detail, the various options available to you.

Once you have taken your vows and are ready to celebrate, you and your guests will enjoy a banquet of a lifetime – made from the freshest, hand-picked ingredients, accompanied by a selection of the finest wines.

You will dance your way into a new life together as music and laughter echo into the starry skies.

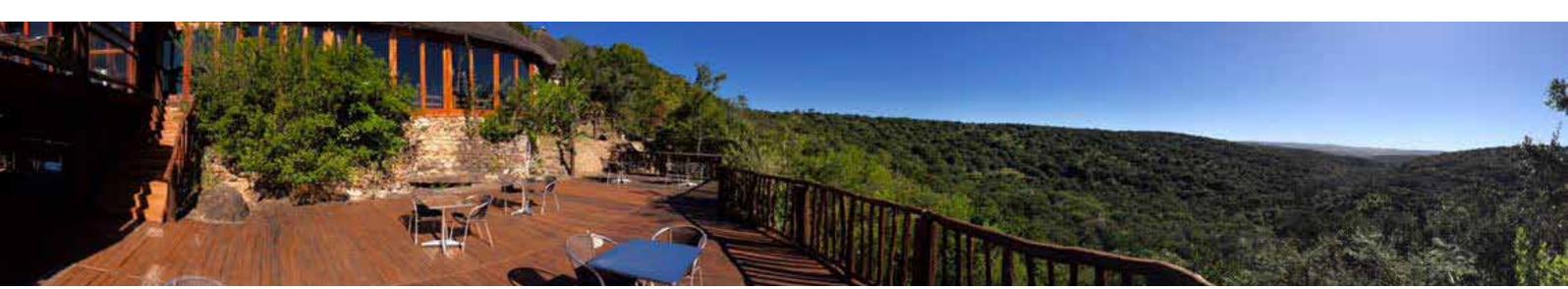
On walking into the thatched Emthombeni, you are welcomed and become one with the enchanting gardens when the big sliding glass doors are opened.

Your unique table décor and artistic displays will ensure that your special occasion is not short of being exclusively to your needs. The most magical setting with fairy lights- Tiffany chairs-and soft flowers and fabrics to create the elegance and charm of a romantic fairy tale wedding.

The beautiful, well-designed and equipped bar is operated as per your instructions. You are offered a Cash Bar or a Tab Bar. You are required you to hand in your Tab Bar requirements prior to your special day.

The kitchen will cater according to your requirements and only the finest and freshest ingredients are used. On the buffet, more than generous portions are served.





Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve is a world-class game reserve with an emphasis on luxury and thoughtful details.

Inkwenkwezi has three types of accommodation to offer you and your guests:

- Bush camp tented accommodation: Situated in the reserve.
- Bush Camp offers accommodation for 12 guests (sharing).

All tents have electric lights and twin beds with comfortable Cloud 9 mattresses. From the hilltop site the camp overlooks a valley and each safari tent is positioned on a raised timber deck offering you your own private viewing. Each tent has its own bathroom resembling a cave.

- Valley Camp Tented Accommodation:
Also situated in the reserve
- Valley Camp offers 12 guests accommodation in 6 custom designed luxury tents, the bathrooms are ensuite with a slipper bath and shower.

Tents are furnished with twin three quarter beds. (The Honeymoon suite has a queen size bed). This tent is situated within the reserve. Guests are welcome to contact Inkwenkwezi if accommodation

is needed for out-of-town guests. We will gladly assist you and arrange special accommodation rates at The Bush Lodge, Valley Lodge, Chintsa Sands Guesthouse and Umnenga Lodge.

Booking must be made in advance in order to avoid disappointment, and all accommodation is subject to availability
To take a Virtual Tour of Inkwenkwezi – Click on this link
<https://realbrides.co.za/inkwenkwezi-game-reserve/>

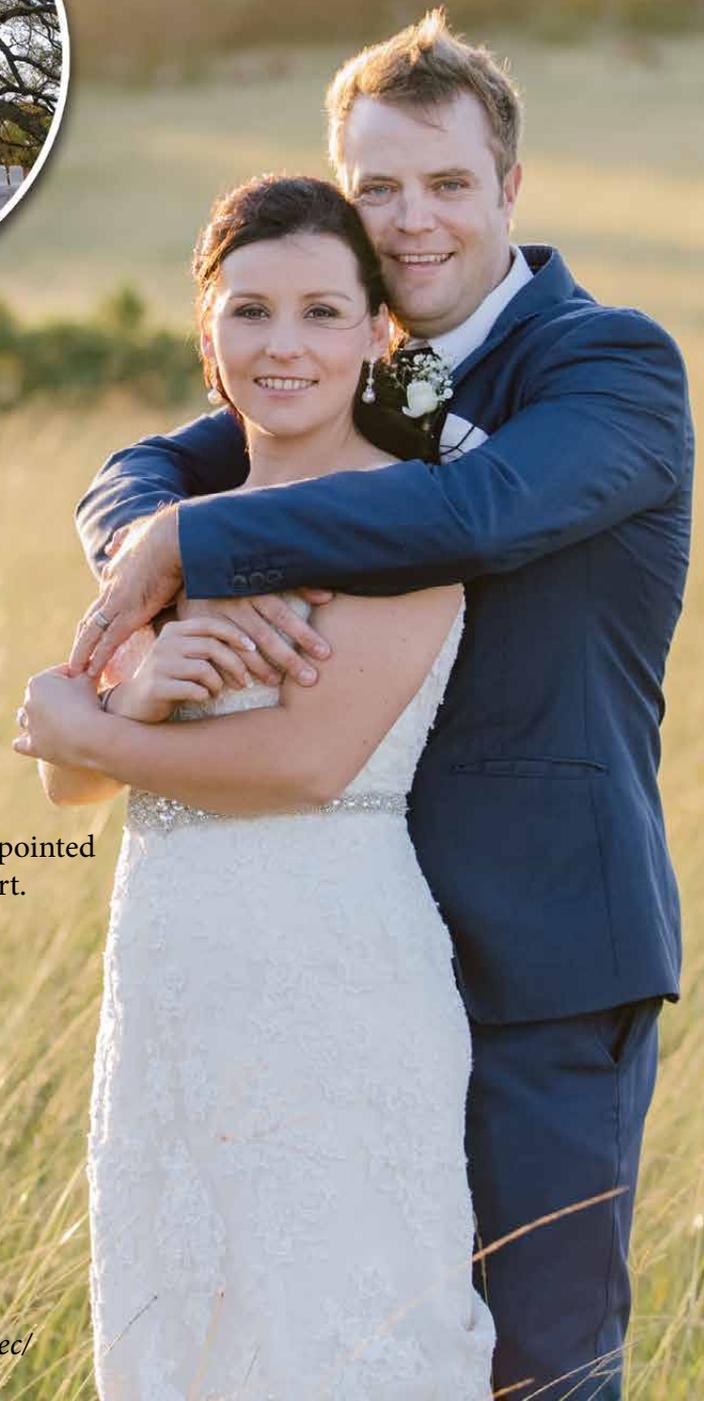


Inkwenkwezi
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



Inkwenkwezi

PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



Weddings at Inkwenkwezi Private Game Reserve are as romantic and unique as the Wild Coast itself; as unforgettable as the love that brings you together.

Contemporary and yet authentically African, our perfectly-appointed venue is the ideal mix of wild beauty and modern comfort.

Game Reserve

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Website: www.inkwenkwezi.com

Please watch our latest video on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zXO6P6ssOE>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/inkwenkwezi.reserveec/>

JANELLE & CHARL GRIESSEL



This fun couple made the most of their wedding held in difficult Covid-19 circumstances.

How did you and Charl meet?

Charl and I met at his niece's 21st in 2018. The first time we chatted, I actually threatened to throw him into the pool! We got to know each other whilst playing a game of Cards Against Humanity later that evening and that's when I realised that he can be a lot of fun! The rest is history!

Surprise proposal?

It was and it wasn't! We had already chosen and bought an engagement ring so it was just a matter of Charl deciding on the date. He'd arranged a few outings in November 2019 so I didn't know exactly when he was going to propose. So, I had to be ready and fabulous for each outing, just in case, and there was a photographer around! On the day he proposed, he had arranged a picnic at a local game park and as we were enjoying lunch, he went down on one knee and popped the question! Then a photographer arrived and the champagne was popped!

Stressful planning your own wedding?

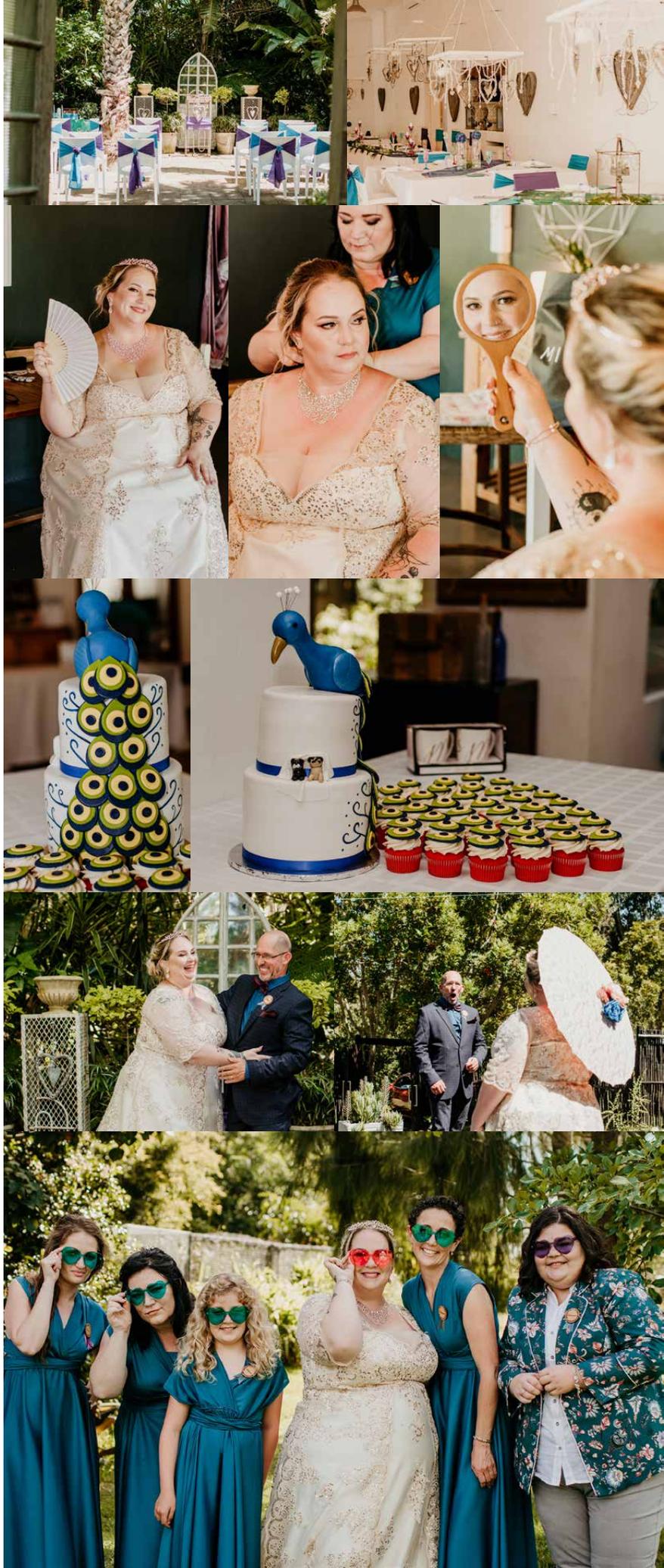
I have organised big events before but it's amazing how stressful it is when it's your own wedding! I did most of the planning, with Charl alongside as he wanted to be involved too. Most of my décor was preloved because I wanted to support fellow brides who were selling their décor that fitted with my theme.

How many venue options did you explore?

Swanlake Gardens was actually our first choice because of the beautiful setting and gardens. We wanted a tropical forest feeling for the ceremony. Our wedding day was on one of the hottest and most humid days of 2020 - I guess if you want tropical, then you get the humidity too! We also wanted a venue where we could get ready in a forest environment that was comfortable and casual.

Tell us about your dress.

My dress was also preloved. I saw it on a local Facebook bridal group and immediately fell in love





“My dress and most of my décor was preloved.”

Venue: Swanlake Gardens, Gqeberha, Eastern Cape

Hair: Angelique Hansen, Beauty Couture

Bride's Make Up: Kayleigh Stopforth

Bridesmaids' Hair & Make Up: Sherie Leigh Van Greunen, POUT

Cake: Cakes by Kel

Photography: Mel's Photography

with it. I decided to wear a tiara with no veil because the dress was already so beautiful that I didn't want to detract from it.

More girls than guys in your entourage?

I included my closest and oldest friends who have supported me over the years and have been there for me during my darkest times. I thank them. Charl only wanted a best man, my brother Pierre. They have developed a close bond and it was heart-warming to see them enjoying the day so much. I made the bridesmaid dresses myself.

How many guests?

Originally we wanted a maximum of 50 guests, but fear of travelling to Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha) when we were a Covid-19 hot spot, our guest list went down to about 25. Everyone wore their masks and social distanced, but the whole day was special and intimate. We had to begin our ceremony an hour earlier and end our reception at 21:00 in order for everyone to get home before the 10pm curfew.

No flowers?

Flowers, whilst beautiful, were not something we were prepared to spend money on. Friends lent us the peacock feathers from their wedding reception and the other décor was either done by myself or preloved.

Your cake was a work of art?

We were so impressed with how well our cake turned out. It was served as dessert and our guests could take the cupcakes home as favours.

Your first dance song?

Charl and I are both huge romantics, and so a power ballad from the 80's was most appropriate. We chose "Glory of Love" by Peter Cetera and we sang to each other - because we obviously know all the words! Halfway through the song, we invited my Mom and Dad to join us, which was so special.

Any advice for brides-to-be?

If you can, buy preloved décor or consider wearing a preloved dress. I bought my dress at half the price it would've cost new.

Honeymoon?

My parents gifted us our honeymoon and we spent it at Seagulls Beach Hotel on the Wild Coast. ♥





NEON PRODUCTIONS

Photography & Videography

Please contact Morgan Brink:

morgan@neonproductions.co.za 

www.neonproductions.co.za 

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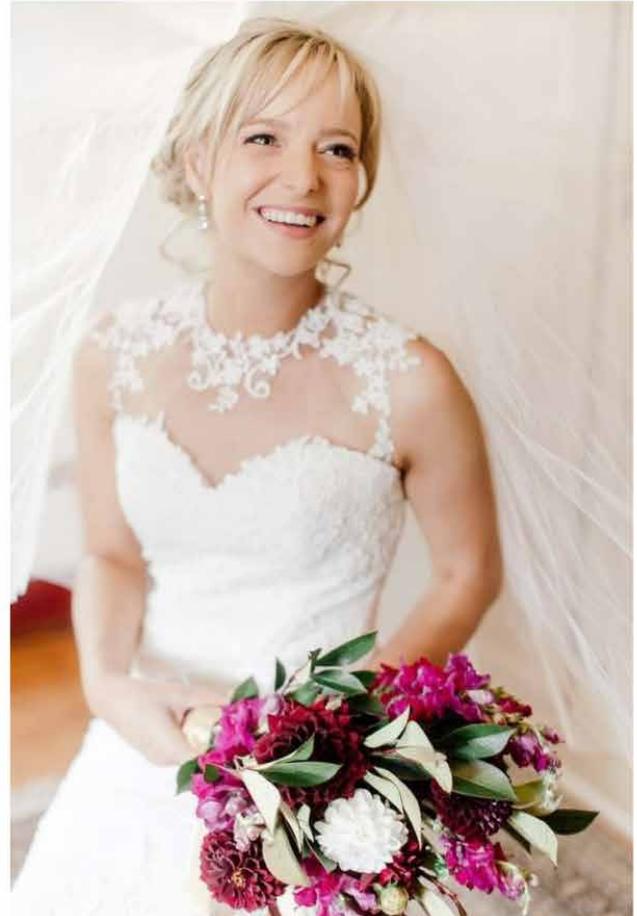
Unveiled SA

List and Sell your Dress

Unveiled SA is a South African based platform where buying and selling of preloved and new dresses is made easier and more convenient for all. Unveiled SA has the most affordable package prices to suit your budget under our circumstances with the option of listing your dress until sold. We have many wedding dresses, matric dance dresses and evening dresses listed with a client base all over South Africa.



(Natalie Lambert) - 'Unveiled SA - wedding dress sold. The platform was so easy to use! All I had to do was upload some photos and details about my preloved dress. Thank you for amazing service and helping me to sell my beautiful wedding dress!'



(Nadia Vijoer) - 'Appreciation post! Thanks to this amazing platform I was able to sell my very special wedding dress to someone who loves it just as much as I do! Thank you for your friendly help and the professional manner in which you do your business by providing safety and reliability in selling our dresses. Unveiled! I highly recommend using this platform as a means of selling your beloved dress with confidence! So much gratitude!'

PACKAGE 1

Listed on Unveiled SA
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The Clarendon

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SHANELLE & JOSHUA CHELLADU



This couple met about 13 years ago through mutual friends and clicked instantly.

Tell us about your proposal.

It was a complete surprise. It was my birthday and Josh made reservations at a restaurant – supposedly for a “quiet” dinner for two. We got there and he started acting a little suspiciously. I was like “yep he’s definitely throwing me a surprise party!” He left the table for a few minutes and a waiter then came and said I should go upstairs. There I was, still thinking it was a birthday party; little did I know it was the most perfect proposal ever. As I walked up the stairs there was Josh kneeling down in front of me holding a ring! Huge ‘Will you marry me’ balloons, rose petals, a beautiful table setting and dimmed lights completed the romantic mood. It was everything I could have imagined and more!

How long were you engaged?

We were engaged for a year. Our parents were the first to know but Josh’s twin brother and his fiancée were there so they witnessed the proposal and took all the photos.

Did Covid restrictions dictate your wedding date?

We had already set our date when the Covid restrictions came into play! It was a very stressful year as things were getting worse and we didn’t know if we were going to be able to have our wedding or not. As the date drew closer we were determined not to postpone - even if it meant getting married with just our parents present. A week before our date the restrictions on numbers at weddings were eased but rumours started about new restrictions for the festive period! We just prayed as we had already finalised everything and were ready for our big day. We were actually very lucky because just a few days after our wedding we were moved up a level.

Would you recommend Collisheen Estate?

I loved the rustic intimate wedding chapel. We used the lovely garden area for canapés and a Gin Bar for our guests to socialise while we went off for our photo shoot. If good food and atmosphere is what you are



*“Plan everything your heart desires
and never look back with regrets.”*



Venue: Collisheen Estate, Umhlali - www.collisheen.co.za

Wedding gown: Jasmin's Bridal

Hair & Make-up: Beauty In a Box

Flowers & décor: Suntide Décor & North Coast Floral & Décor

Photography: Exquisite Photography by Kimeshan

looking for in a venue, then Collisheen is the place for you. They cater for any type of wedding. It is a beautiful, versatile and intimate place.

Happy with your photographer?

I came across Kimeshan's page on the internet and he had really good reviews. We had also been referred to him by family and friends so I contacted him and it was the best decision we ever made.

Your dress?

I always wanted a ball gown style - to feel like a princess. Two dresses really caught my eye. The first dress I really loved but it was not white so I tried on the second one and it was perfect, so I chose it. A couple months later however I went back with my parents and noticed the first dress I had tried on was there but it was in ice white with a glitter finish. I tried it on and my parents were in tears. That's when I knew I had found the right dress. No alterations were necessary as the size and the length were perfect. My dress was a gift from my Mum.

How many guests?

We initially planned for 250 guests but ended up having to downsize to about 150.

Your first dance song and why you chose it?

A Shania Twain medley (Smash-up) - From this moment and You're still the one. Those two songs described our relationship perfectly. We didn't even rehearse our first dance yet we had everyone cheering and it went miraculously well!

Your menu?

The food was a mixture of traditional and modern food. Starters was a spicy chicken wrap with rocket; mains were Mutton Biryani, Butter Chicken and Veg Biryani and for dessert Oreo chocolate cheesecake with salted caramel drizzle.

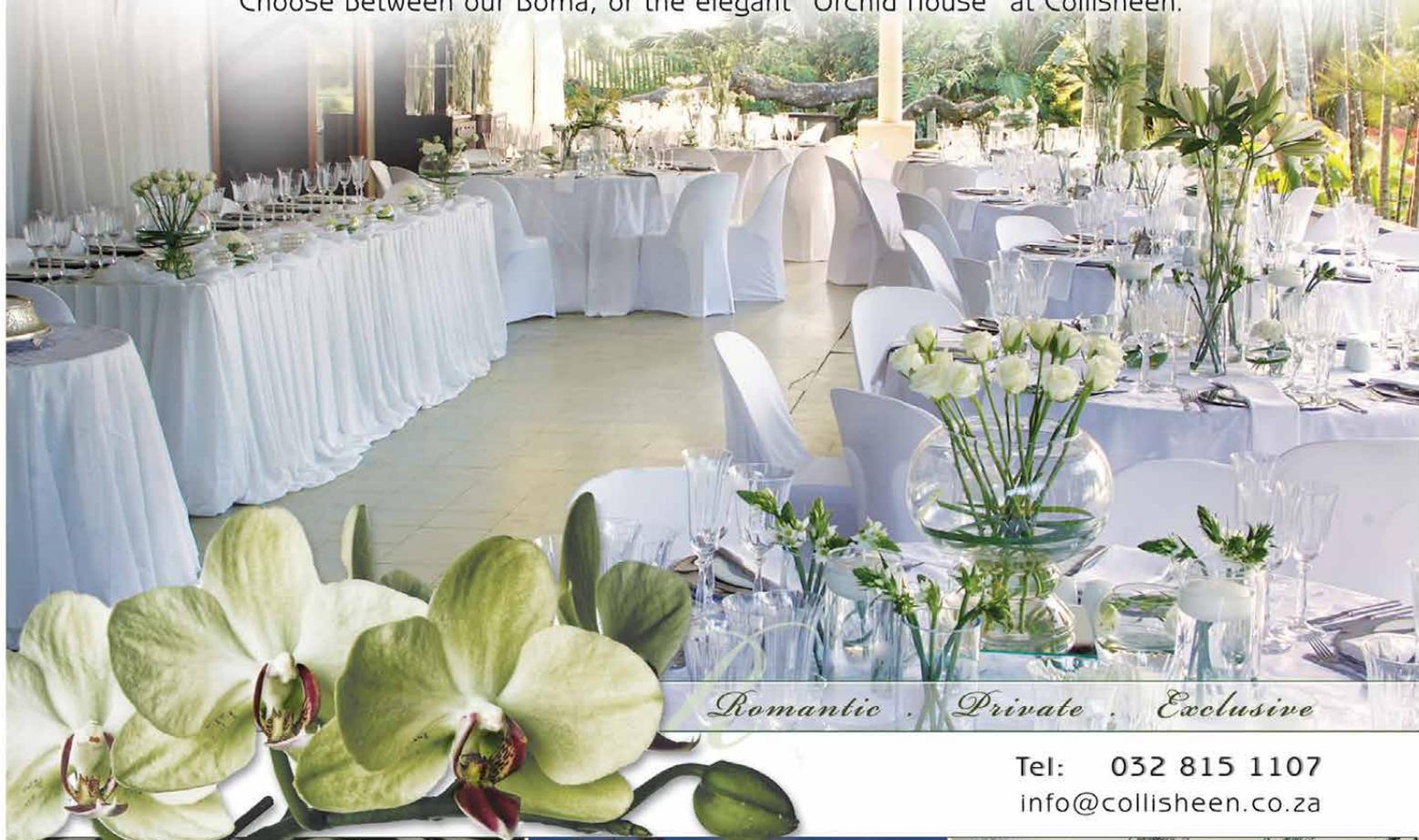
Advice for brides-to-be?

Plan everything your heart desires and never look back with regrets. Your wedding day should be the start of the next chapter in your lives and a reminder of the love and commitment you have made to one another. ♥





Collisheen Estate is a world class wedding and function venue situated in the rolling green hills of Kwa-Zulu Natal's North Coast. Collisheen now offers two gorgeous venues for that special day. Choose between our Boma, or the elegant "Orchid House" at Collisheen.



Romantic . Private . Exclusive

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Pic by Jacki Bruniquel



DRENE PLUNKETT
PHOTOGRAPHY

0797079931

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www.dreneplunkett.com



The Clarendon

FRESNAYE

The Clarendon has a rich history having once been owned by the Earl of Clarendon, the Governor of the Cape. Being a heritage building, this family-run boutique hotel boasts 16 luxurious bedrooms and was established in 1996 by the present owner.

Cradled along the slopes of Lions Head, in the idyllic suburb of Fresnaye, it caters to families, honeymooners and the exclusive traveller who wants to enjoy the best of Cape Town. A wonderful oasis of rich green lawns and sparkling swimming pools, set in a tranquil paradise against the backdrop of a mass of pink bougainvillea.

An opulent and expansive garden with two sparkling swimming pools. Within walking distance to the world famous Clifton beaches and Sea Point Promenade, where you can stroll, swim or hire bicycles or e-scooters. 10 minute drive to hike Lions Head or Table Mountain.

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SIMONE & WILLEM VAN DER WALT



A stunning hotel wedding worked out so well for this Karoo-based couple.

How unexpected was your proposal?

I had no idea! Willem took me away to a really romantic game reserve for the weekend. He arranged a private game drive and there in the middle of the bush was a table set up with champagne and snacks. He said something very short and sweet (I can't remember exactly what because I was so excited), got down on one knee and asked me to marry him.

What was the most difficult part of planning your wedding?

We set our wedding date before the initial lockdown, but held off on all other planning until January because we weren't entirely sure what would happen with Covid restrictions. The only thing that was difficult was trying to plan a wedding in two months. There are plenty of little things that pop up last minute. Janus at The Drostdy Hotel assisted us a lot. We gave him a brief idea of what we wanted and he ran with it. Janus and the team went above and beyond.

You had your dress made?

I searched Pinterest, found the dress I liked most, searched for the bridal studio closest to me (and checked the reviews of course), tried on a few other dresses just to be sure, and then gave her the picture to make the dress for me. I'm keeping it for now, and then I will likely give it away to someone less fortunate.

Very big entourage?

It was so tricky choosing. I have a big family and we are very good friends with every single person we invited to the wedding. So, we thought, why not just have plenty of bridesmaids and groomsmen? We only gave the bridal party a colour palette to stick to and didn't insist on specific outfits. No real tradition in that the bridesmaids didn't walk down the aisle and the groomsmen didn't stand up front during the ceremony.



“The Drostdy Hotel is a Karoo gem.”



Venue: *The Drostdy Hotel, Graaff-Reinet – www.newmarkhotels.com*

Dress: *Robyn Roberts Bridal*

Hair & make-up: *Lizeldi Samuel from Tittewyt*

Decor: *Drostdy Hotel, Graaff-Reinet*

Flowers & bouquets: *Lyell van Rensburg, Rietvallei Landgoed*

Photography: *Ebert Steyn Films*

Great choice of venue?

The Drostdy Hotel was the only place we considered. The hotel holds very special memories for us, and even more so now. It is an absolute Karoo gem.

Outdoor ceremony and reception?

We always wanted to get married outside. This is why we picked Graaff-Reinet in March. Graaff-Reinet almost never gets much rain and it also isn't too hot in March.

Would you recommend a Hotel wedding?

Definitely. It was so much fun to have all of our guests stay at the hotel. Getting married and staying at the venue made the whole experience stress-free. You don't need to rush, worry about guests being late or forgetting something important, because everything is all in one place. We stayed at the hotel for five nights, and I would suggest couples make at least a weekend of it. Try to make the celebration last as long as possible.

An essential for a bride?

Don't fall into the trap of thinking bridesmaids aren't necessary. I almost did. My bridesmaids helped me so much - on the day and leading up to the wedding. They are essential to assist you with all the nitty gritty arrangements, and of course to drink champagne with you and help calm your nerves!

How many guests?

94.

Did you choose your menu?

I told The Drostdy Hotel that I wanted at least one lamb dish, but other than that I trusted them to set the menu. The food at The Drostdy Hotel is always fantastic – we knew that whatever was served, we would love!

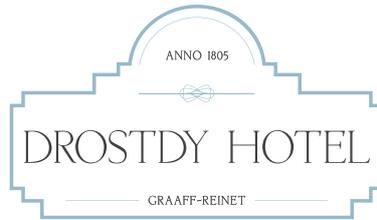
Oops?

I tried to, very elegantly, eat a deep fried blue cheese ball, and the cheese literally squirted directly into my eye! It burnt like hell and I had to redo the make-up on my one eye! So, be very careful what you eat on your wedding day!

Honeymoon?

We have decided to hold off on our honeymoon until it is safer to travel. We did however get a really nice weekend away as a wedding gift from a few family members. We consider this weekend to be our mini-moon until we are able to do it properly! ♥





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TOP WEDDING VENUES



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YOUR MAGICAL DAY ...

Zorgvliet Wines is the perfect wedding venue, where you can add a touch of magic, class, and style to your big day!

The estate is nestled in the Banghoek Valley near Stellenbosch. The breath-taking views of both the majestic Simonsberg and Drakenstein Mountains that surround the beautiful vineyards will amaze you.

Your wedding pictures will be absolutely spectacular! At Zorgvliet there are so many options to create your perfect wedding day, big or small!

They have a very elegant wedding venue, The Oak Room, for your reception and a Chapel for your ceremony.

The Banghoek Room is the ideal setting for pre-reception drinks.

At Zorgvliet Wine estate we pride ourselves on customizing every event to suit your needs and taste.

We offer a wide variety of function venues and styles to choose from, so at Zorgvliet you will find exactly what you are looking for.

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Please get in touch with us at 021 885 1399/info@zorgvliet.com, we would love to share our portfolio with you.





STAY WITH US ...

Zorgvliet Wine Estate's warm and welcoming Country Lodge caters for the needs of every individual with exceptional attention to detail.

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The Lodge offers guests an opportunity to truly experience the unique personality of the Stellenbosch Winelands, from service and hospitality, through to accommodation and dining. Splendid grandeur and warm hospitality is the core of your experience at Zorgvliet. Their rooms are spacious, comfortable,

luxurious and individually decorated. All the rooms offer views of the surrounding vineyards and mountains and features a private lounge and outdoor swimming pool area.

CONTACT US

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ZORGVLIEET
BANGHOEK STELLENBOSCH





PRE or POST WEDDING ACTIVITIES ...

Zorgvliet Wine Estate also offers other activities on the farm such as wine tastings and also a picnic area that will provide the perfect spot to unwind during your stay.

For pre- or post-wedding activities, the Picnic Area, with a country style restaurant and a deli can host various events.

You can choose from a pre-wedding BBQ under the stars, to a post-wedding picnic on the lush green lawns. The possibilities are endless.

They have a modern Cellar that you can tour by appointment or pay a visit to Wine Tasting and savour the taste of Zorgvliet.

Zorgvliet Wines is a secure estate, with a 24-hour security service and secure parking areas for your guests.

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ZINICIA & ZIEGLER VAN ZYL



This couple set their hearts on getting married in the Bushveld and found the perfect venue for their wedding at Kuthaba Bush Lodge near Modimolle in Limpopo.

How did you and Ziegler meet?

Ziegler and I grew up in the same street and our friendship grew into love. We dated for a while in high school but our paths then separated for a few years. We are both however strong believers in “everything happens for a reason” and we know that the few years apart only made us realise that we were just meant to be!

Tell us about your proposal?

Ziegler went to great lengths to plan and keep the proposal a surprise and I will forever be grateful to him for making it one of the best days of my life! I'd always wanted to visit the Kruger National Park to experience animals in the wild. He planned the whole trip. Illegally (sorry Kruger National Park) we climbed out of the car to take a quick photo in the middle of the road next to a huge tree (we could hear the sound of hippos close by) and as I was striking a pose, Ziegler went down on one knee! My heart was pounding and my “YES” was quick and loud!

Your dress, did you know what you wanted?

I only knew I wanted a dress made and we crossed paths with Marius from Designs by Marius. Meeting and talking to him about my dream dress was an unforgettable experience! We spoke about my personality, my likes and dislikes etc. and he was busy sketching my dream dress as we talked!

Hair and make-up trials?

I went for make-up and hair trials and took my Mother with me, which was such a special bonding moment.

How did you get to hear about your venue, Kuthaba Bush Lodge?

We always knew we wanted to get married in the Bushveld and Kuthaba Bush Lodge is literally in the heart of the bushveld. It was the first venue we saw



“The spectacular view at Kuthaba was the perfect backdrop for our wedding.”



Venue: Kuthaba Bush Lodge, Limpopo – www.kuthaba.co.za

Wedding gown: Designs by Marius

Bridesmaid dresses: Marie Dreyer

Hair & make-up: Karin Roode

Flowers: Flowers by Joey

Cake: Nicholette van Buuren

Photography: ChilliPix

on Google when typing in “Bushveld weddings” and after looking at Kuthaba’s website we immediately fell in love with the place. The unique reception boma really sealed the deal for us!

Could all your guests be accommodated at Kuthaba?

Yes, Charlotte, Matt and the team made our lives much easier by helping us every step of the way. Our guests still speak about the unique Bushveld vibe that they experienced.

How did you choose your photographer?

Early on in the planning phase we realised that the photographers were going to play a BIG role in capturing our special day. We met Eugene and Charlotte from Chillipix at an Oakfield Farm bridal expo. Their photos caught our eye but it was their personalities that captured our hearts! We’d highly recommend Chillipix for any function!

Outdoor ceremony?

Once we saw the Cliff venue at Kuthaba we both had a calm yet exciting feeling of knowing that this would be the place where we would start our lives together as husband and wife. The spectacular view was the perfect backdrop for our wedding.

How many guests?

80 of our closest family and friends.

You “trashed” your dress?

You only get married once! It’s not every day that I get to wear my dream wedding dress and, with the blessing of our designer Marius, I trashed my dress. It was so much fun – maybe too much fun as one of our photographers broke his toe while trying to capture the perfect picture in the river!

The best moments of your big day?

Ziegler’s answer, without hesitation, was the moment the pastor said “you may now kiss the bride”! I can’t choose one or two best moments, as the WHOLE DAY was special and I would not have changed a thing. It was the day I married my best friend and the day we made a vow before our Heavenly Father, family and friends!

Honeymoon?

No honeymoon yet as the pandemic derailed our plans! But, as soon as the Covid travel restrictions are lifted we hope to go on a honeymoon trip overseas. ♥





KUTHABA

Bush Lodge

Kuthaba Bush Lodge is a private game reserve situated near Modimolle in Limpopo Province and forms part of the serene Waterberg Mountain Range, renowned for its exquisite scenery.

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The venue can host up to 120 wedding guests, accommodating 80 overnight making it an ideal venue for both weddings and getaways.

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We look forward to hosting you!

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ANDEA & GAVIN ENGELBRECHT



This is a classic love story of a couple who were High School sweethearts.

Tell us about your proposal.

After dating for about 10 years, we were on holiday in Mozambique with our parents and my sister-in-law and her husband. It happened on Christmas Eve, 2019, while we were unwrapping presents. While I was unwrapping my last present, I saw Gavin get down on one knee right behind me. I just started crying as I had been waiting for that moment for years!

Your engagement ring?

Gavin chose it and it is absolutely PERFECT. From the day we got engaged, I have probably looked at my ring more than 100 times a day! I still cannot believe I am married to the most perfect husband – well, as perfect as he can be!

Wedding date changed?

We initially decided that we would like to be engaged for at least a year but decided to get married on 15 August 2020 as 15 is a lucky number for me - my birthday is on 15 October. But, COVID then happened and we had to postpone our wedding date to the 20 February 2021. Gavin's birthday is on 18 February, so I thought it would be an easy date for him to remember. We planned the wedding in just over 6 months but I sort of left everything until the last month. If it hadn't been for my sister, who was my Maid of Honour, the wedding would not have turned it the way it did.

Did you have a Bridal shower?

Yes, my sister Elaine, sister-in-law Shannon, and best friends Johanita and Angelique planned everything. I had a bachelorette as well as a bridal shower. I am still in awe of everything they did for me.

How many wedding venues did you consider and visit?

When my sister was scouting for venues in 2016, Gavin and I joined them on the hunt. Back then,





*“Finding my
dress was fun,
and fairly easy.”*

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

Wedding dress: Olivelli Bridal Boutique, Dress by Rebecca Ingram

Hair & Make-up: Skulpted by Kai

Décor & flowers: Tsekama Wedding Venue

Videography: Peach Tree Productions

Photography: Petal & Leaf Photography

Gavin decided that he would one day like us to get married at Tsekama Wedding Venue.

Tell us a bit about Tsekama.

I would recommend Tsekama to everyone. The venue itself is picturesque. They literally do everything, which makes planning for a bride a whole lot easier. From flower arrangements, décor, food, literally everything. Marinda Turvey and her team are the most welcoming and heart-warming people, which makes the whole process a whole lot more memorable too.

Hunting for your dress – fun or frustrating?

Finding my dress was fun and fairly easy. Myself, my Mom and mother-in-law, as well as my bridal party, visited one boutique, and I found my dream wedding dress there and then.

Can you remember what you were thinking as you walked down the aisle?

I am generally a very calm person, so nerves weren't a problem. I kept on thinking of how blessed I was that all the guests were there for Gavin and myself. Almost 80 people attended to witness our love story and to be there with us on our wedding day. I still feel truly blessed that we have such wonderful friends and family in our lives.

You wrote your own wedding vows?

We decided that we were going to write down our vows on a piece of paper. We handed over our vows to one another, along with our wedding gifts, on the morning of our wedding day.

Did you have to cut back guest numbers?

Luckily we didn't have to cut back numbers as the venue can cater for up to 300 people. So, we basically had less than 50% capacity as was allowed by the Covid regulations.

Your first dance song?

Our first dance song was 'Can't help Falling in Love' by Demi Lee Moore. This song, specifically sung by Demi Lee Moore, is everything.

Any good advice to share with brides-to-be?

Do not sweat the small things and enjoy every single second of the day. It goes by so fast, and it will be the best day of your life.

Honeymoon?

We spent our mini-moon at Mount Sheba, just outside Pilgrims Rest and Millstream in Dullstroom. Wine & whiskey tasting, eating too much, and simply just enjoying our time together. ♥





Tsekama Lodge

Wedding and conference venue

www.tsekama.co.za



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

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TARRYN & JAENDRÉ SMITH



This couple, who met on a night out with friends, chose a stunning venue for their wedding on the Leap Year date of 29th February, which fell just a month before the big Covid-19 lockdown.

Was your proposal a surprise?

I had a feeling that it was going to happen because we had spoken about marriage. I suspected that Jaendré would pop the question on Valentines Day, which never happened, but he caught me by total surprise two weeks later!

Did you choose your own engagement ring?

I never chose my own engagement ring. Jaendré did ask me a few times what my choice would be, and he chose my ring all by himself. I love it.

How much of your planning did you delegate?

Very little actually, our wedding was all planned by my Mom and I.

You got married a month before the Covid crisis?

Yes, we got married on the special leap year date – 29th February 2020. We were very lucky as our wedding took place just before the Covid-19 hard lockdown happened.

How many venues did you look at before deciding on Pheasant Hill?

I never actually viewed any other venues. A friend had her wedding at Pheasant Hill and I saw her photos on social media. That is when I decided to visit Pheasant Hills. Upon our visit there Jaendré and I just had that feeling of knowing that it was the right place to have our wedding. With our creativity flowing our wedding planning was a breeze.

Name three things that you liked most about Pheasant Hill?

There is just so much that we loved about Pheasant Hill that it is difficult to narrow down. I loved the total ambience that Pheasant Hill exudes. The service was also exceptional when it came to the décor all our needs were met.





*“There is just so much
that we loved about
Pheasant Hill.”*

Venue: Pheasant Hill Boutique Hotel, Pretoria – www.pheasanthill.co.za

Wedding gown: Cinderella's Closest

Hair & Make-up: Karin Roode Hair & Make-up

Flowers: Ann, Flower Fantasy

Cake: J's Cakes

Caricaturist/artist: Gary Carvalho

Photography: Morgan, Neon Productions

Video: Ruan, Neon Productions

Where did you have your actual ceremony?

Our wedding ceremony was held at Shelanti Chapel, which is about 15km away from Pheasant Hill. We choose Shelanti because it is a traditional chapel.

Did you write your own vows?

No we didn't as we decided to stick to traditional marriage vows.

Did you use a wedding planner?

I never had a wedding planner however Pieter from Pheasant Hill went out of his way to help with any queries or questions that I had.

Did you have fun finding your dress or was it difficult?

My Mom and I went to a few dress shops and I was undecided as to what dress style I wanted. But, when I fitted my wedding dress it was an instant SAY YES TO THE DRESS! I never doubted my choice and felt like a real princess on my special day.

How many guests?

70.

Explain your table names?

Our table names were the French names of wedding things, which just complemented the elegant ambience at Pheasant Hill.

What were your wedding favours?

We gifted the ladies a little potted succulent plant and the men a handy pocket multi-tool. Each couple was also spoilt with a sketch done by a caricature artist.

What did you do about wedding gifts?

We left gifting entirely up to our guests and enjoyed personal gifts from some and money from others.

The most touching moment of your big day?

It was when I walked down the aisle with my Dad and Jaendré and my eyes met.

The song chosen for your first dance?

We listened to many songs but wanted a song that was not often known or used and we therefore went with music that was actually a backtrack from a movie – I don't remember the name.

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

Enjoy every moment of the journey from being engaged up to your wedding day. The big day itself passes in the blink of an eye, then you are left with only the magical memories you have captured and created. ♥





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.

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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.

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 Irene Pretoria.



GHISLAINE & JACO JOUBERT



The stark beauty of the Karoo was the spectacular setting for this pretty wedding.

How did you and Jaco meet?

We first met on Facebook.

You knew your proposal was coming?

The proposal was not a surprise as I knew it was coming. My rings were designed by me with the help of a designer, Erika Cronje from V'dodili.

Covid regulations dictated your wedding date?

We had had to postpone our wedding so many times! So when we heard the news of 80 guests being allowed we jumped in and quickly got our plans together for fear that there might be a third wave of the virus!

Your dress – was it easy to find?

I found it quite a difficult task to find a dress that didn't show too much skin! I eventually found my dress at Lorette's Bridal in Port Elizabeth. I went to Lorette for four dress fittings before deciding on the Adrianna dress from the Etoile 2021 Collection Elysee. Lorette was so helpful and patient and, despite facing some personal challenges at the time, she still made certain that I was 100% happy with my dress, my pearl veil, and the alterations that were made to the dress.

Bridesmaid's dresses?

I chose the colours and the design, I wanted a train. Thankfully Heather Crompton from Chocolates for Breakfast was kind enough to make them up for me at very short notice, as well as the little flower girl's dresses and the gowns we got ready in. I am so grateful for Heather's help!

Your entourage included children?

I decided I wanted both my sisters as my bridesmaids and my best friend as my Maid of Honour. Jaco did not want to have to choose a best man. I have 2 children (5 & 2); Jaco has 2 children (5 & 3) and his sister has a 3 year-old so we had a whole bunch of cute kids to use in our entourage.



“We had had to postpone our wedding so many times!”

Venue: Buccara Wildlife Reserve Karoo, Graaff-Reinet - www.buccara-africa.com

Dress: Adrianna 2021 ETOILE Collection Elysee, Lorette's Bridal

Hair: Salon Continental, Ursula Du Toit

Make-up: Healthiskin, Carlin Loots

Bridesmaid & flower girl dresses: Chocolates for Breakfast, Heather Crompton

Wedding Ring: V'dodili by Erika Cronje

Flowers: Sophia's Roses, Sophia van Heerden

Catering: Ava & Ellie- Hestie Van der Mescht, Muller House, Labarre du Preez

Live Band: Classical Entertainment, Charlotte Grundling

DJ: Occasion DJs, Shane Barnes

Photography: Prinsloo Photography, Charlene & Chevonne Prinsloo

Wedding Stationery: Country Mouse Design, Nicola Woods

Wedding traditions followed?

Yes. I had a blue perfume, my venue was old, my dress was new. I had borrowed a necklace, which my sister had inherited from my grandmother, but I never wore it for fear that it might break! I also carried a Sixpence in my shoe.

How many venues did you have to choose from?

We originally wanted to get married on our farm near Steytleville, but due to the severe drought we just couldn't do it. We found the Buccara Wildlife Reserve when searching for other farm venues nearby. When I saw the beautiful gables with the date on the old building at Buccara; the beautiful huge lawns, a dam with geese and the weeping willow trees, I knew it would be the perfect setting for our wedding.

Accommodation at your venue?

My bridesmaids and I slept over at the venue the night before the wedding. We had an amazing chef come to prepare us the most succulent venison steak with delicious vegetables, followed by dessert. In the morning he came to prepare us an array of fruit and eggs, bacon etc. for breakfast. It was amazing. The accommodation was excellent. Everything was perfect and all the staff were so friendly.

Wedding favours?

My caterer made each guest a macaroon, on which she used a spray gun to stencil the words Thank You.

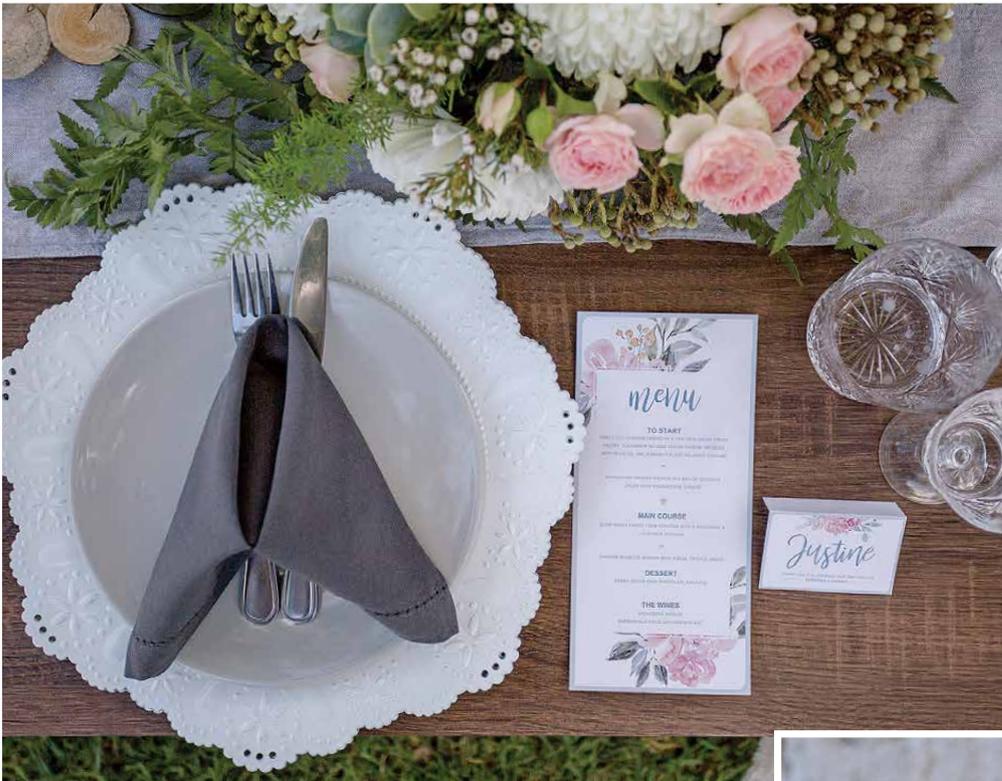
Any advice for brides-to-be?

Get yourself a comfortable wedding dress - something you can move in and dance in too! Make sure that you remember to eat before your wedding or else you will feel so faint! Try to take it all in - especially the ceremony; like really listen to the pastor's words and really absorb and appreciate your husband.

Honeymoon?

We would like to go to Zanzibar for our honeymoon but are awaiting any new Covid regulations before setting an actual honeymoon date. ♥





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Real Brides launched South Africa's first Virtual Wedding Expo. Visit the EXPO www.realbrides.co.za

Enter the Real Brides *VIRTUAL WEDDING EXPO* and you will find an audio visual presentation for each Exhibitor together with a full overview of what they have to offer brides-to-be.

PLUS – You will find a link to take you directly to the Exhibitor's website.

FULLY MOBILE

The Real Brides *VIRTUAL WEDDING EXPO* is fully mobile. You can view it on your Computer, Tablet or Cellphone.

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The following advertisers are Exhibitors in the Real Brides Virtual Expo.

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The Clarendon VILLAS

Modern and elegant, VILLA TRITON nestles between Camps Bay and the Cape Town Waterfront with eye-catching ocean views from a 50m elevation above the sea, but only 400m from the beach.

Perfect for families or groups Villa Triton offers 3 beautifully spacious bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms. The two main bedrooms have a private balcony where guests can relax and enjoy the magnificent sea view and sun sets. Meals may be taken at The Clarendon hotel, just 50m away, or served directly to the villa. A housekeeper is on hand to deal with requirements of guests.

Set on the exclusive Atlantic Seaboard in peaceful Fresnaye, the stylish VILLA NORMANDIE is oriented around family stays and has 4 bedrooms with ocean and city views. Elegantly furnished and beautifully designed, the fabulous entertainment areas make it hard to leave to enjoy the attractions that Cape Town offers.

General living areas are open-plan and outdoor areas have been designed for any kind of weather with an enclosed swimming pool, and sun loungers.

THE NEPTUNE is a private apartment 30 seconds walk from the The Clarendon boutique hotel with its own private entrance. The apartment boasts 5-star luxury with a sumptuous double room and large bathroom. All rooms enjoy magnificent sea views over Bantry Bay. Meals can be taken at the hotel or arranged privately in the suite with waiter service. Drinks and snacks can also be ordered directly from the hotel.

Step outside to a private pool with luxurious sun loungers and a six seater dining-table to enjoy the same Atlantic views.

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TRITON



NORMANDIE