

Real Prides

A bride with long blonde hair, wearing a white lace wedding dress, is shown from the waist up. She is holding a large, rustic-style bouquet of flowers, including white roses, greenery, and dried pampas grass. The background is a soft-focus forest with tall trees and dappled sunlight.

January 2022

*Bliss in the
Bushveld*

South Africa's Exciting
Wedding Magazine

*Black Tie
Affair*

Forest Ceremony

Real Weddings

Take a virtual tour of these top wedding venues

One of the most important decisions you will have to make when planning your wedding is to choose your venue.

Your choice will help you determine a multitude of important factors such as a theme, number of guests, décor, food and drink and accommodation requirements.

There are literally hundreds of venues to choose from countrywide. So, looking for the right venue to host your wedding is time-consuming and can be a difficult task.

TOP VENUES FEATURED

In this edition we feature and highlight seven of the country's Top Rated Wedding Venues to help you choose.



To take a VIRTUAL TOUR of these seven Top Wedding Venues just click on the links below.

Click On Links Below

Tsekama

The Silver Sixpence

Welgelegen Manor

Toadbury Hall

Bergvallei Estate

Inkwenkwezi

Brahman Hills

VISIT OUR VIRTUAL WEDDING EXPO

Also don't forget to visit the Real Brides Virtual Wedding Expo - <https://realbrides.co.za/exhibition-floor-plan/>

At 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



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On the cover:

Bride: Robyn Bonnar

Photo: Michigan Behn Photography

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24. LUFUNO & MUKOVHE MULAUDZI

28. Top Wedding Venue INKWENKWEZI Private Game Reserve

34. MYNIE & MARNITZ BAIRD

40. Top Wedding Venue - THE SILVER SIXPENCE

45. NIKI & DYLAN BOOTH

49. Top Wedding Venue – TOADBURY HALL

RING IN THE NEW YEAR

Newly married? Would you like to see your wedding featured in Real Brides during 2022? 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 so that we can consider your wedding. All weddings submitted will be acknowledged and given fair consideration.

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

Happy New Year!

ROBYN & KEEGAN BONNAR



A lovely forest ceremony kicked off this pretty wedding at Haycroft Farm in the KZN Midlands.

Your love story?

We met in 2012 when we both started our first year at Rhodes University. After we graduated in 2015 we spent the following year travelling. We moved to Thailand in 2016 and spent the year teaching at a school and travelling to numerous other islands. After moving back to Durban in 2017 we moved in together and our love story has grown from there.

Tell us about your proposal.

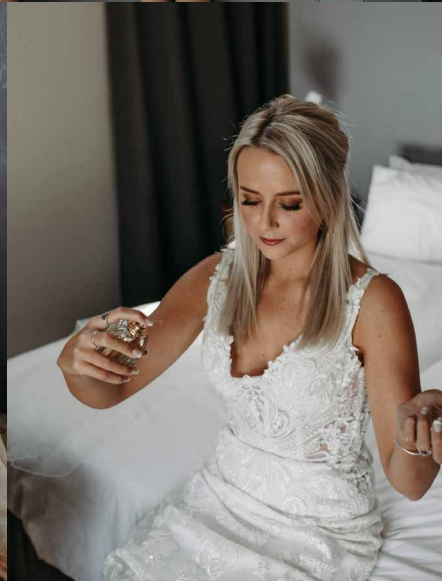
It was a Friday morning and Keegs had told me that his car was in for a service and therefore had to use my car that day. After picking me up from work that afternoon I must admit I thought I had done something wrong because he didn't say one word to me the whole trip home! As I walked in, our apartment was full of roses and candles. I was shocked, and then as I turned around he was on one knee. It was very romantic and personal.

The most difficult part of planning your wedding?

It was relatively easy. I had a lot of family and friends who helped me and made the process a lot less stressful. The main difficulty for us was Covid. We originally planned for our wedding to be in September 2020, but as time got closer we realised it wasn't going to happen. We decided to postpone until September 2021, and I am so glad we did. We were lucky that restrictions had eased a lot by that time and our dream wedding was finally able to become a reality.

Tell us a bit about your wedding venue and why you chose it.

We had a list of about 5 different venues we were considering. Haycroft Farm was first on our list, as we had attended a wedding there the year before and had loved everything about it. As we got there we knew that Haycroft was the place for us, we immediately cancelled all our other viewings and booked there and then. It has everything - beautiful scenery, lots of accommodation options and amazing staff that truly made the day what it was.



“The simplicity of the décor just enhanced the beauty of Haycroft Farm itself.”



*Venue: Haycroft Farm, KZN Midlands
Wedding Dress: Bridal Mall Couture, Durban North
Hair & make-up: Nixon, Laura Halgreen
Décor: Haycroft Farm, Studio Petals and Muirheads Hiring
Photography: Michigan Behn Photography*

Outdoor forest ceremony?

It was absolutely beautiful, and lucky for us the weather was incredible, which made it even better. One nice thing about Haycroft is the fact that they also have a stunning chapel to offer, so even if the weather wasn't great – it still would have worked out perfectly.

Your dress?

I bought my dress. The process of picking the right dress is quite stressful, but the trick is to enjoy it and always trust yourself. I went dress shopping with my Dad and my sister, it was a very special day and they helped me a lot in deciding what I actually wanted.

Theme/colour scheme?

We picked an earthy/natural colour scheme, mainly white, olive and beige undertones.

You kept your décor simple?

Keegan and I are both very chilled individuals and therefore wanted to keep it more natural with lots of woven baskets, rattan mats and wood. We decided to focus on dried grasses, pampas grass, penny gum and bunny tails and loved the way it all turned out. The simplicity of the décor just enhanced the beauty of Haycroft Farm itself.

Wedding favours?

A close family friend makes the most amazing chilli jam. So each guest got a jar of homemade chilli jam, and the girls also got a bracelet. This bracelet represents a huge part in my life as it is the bracelet that forms part of the foundation my Mom started when she got diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease (MND). It is called the 'MND Leaf for Life' foundation which focuses on supporting underprivileged patients with MND.

Ice cream bar?

We did a self-service ice cream bar for dessert and it was such a great idea! Everyone loved it and it definitely avoided wasting plated desserts!

How many guests?

120.

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

Always be willing to accept help from family or friends, every bride needs support - it makes the process a lot less stressful.

Honeymoon?

We were lucky enough to have made it to the Maldives! It was a dream trip and unbelievably special.



Haycroft Farm

country venue & accommodation

Wedding Venue:

If location is what you are looking for, you will not find anywhere more breathtaking!
Nestled on a farm in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands,
we are surrounded by everything that is naturally beautiful.
Our forest chapel, farm chapel & venue can seat up to 180 guests.

Accommodation:

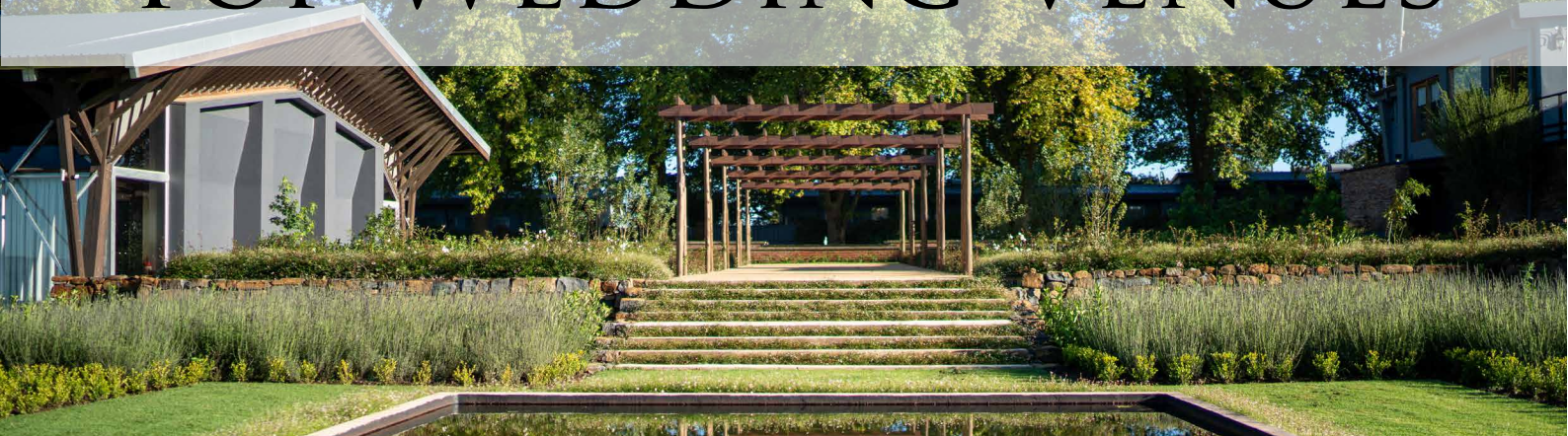
Our rooms have been tastefully decorated to accommodate 60 of your close family and friends.
All rooms are within walking distance of the wedding venue and are self-catering.

Midlands - KwaZulu-Natal
083 452 8088
weddings@haycroftfarm.com
www.haycroftfarm.com

Photography: Wilma Toweel Photography / Lauren Setterberg



TOP WEDDING VENUES



BRAHMAN HILLS CREATING HARMONY, TOGETHER

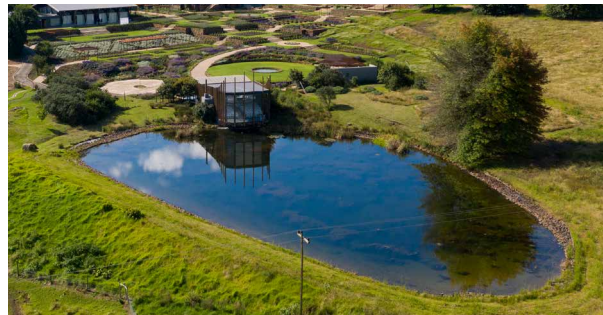
Situated in the heart of the KwaZulu Natal Midlands, Brahman Hills is a destination of choice for weddings, conferences, holistic experiences and romantic country escapes.

Offering accommodation in both hotel rooms and self-catering cottages in the Blue Crane Nature Reserve; with extensive facilities open to the public; including a world class Spa by Healing Earth, two amazing restaurants, an underground wine cellar and bar.

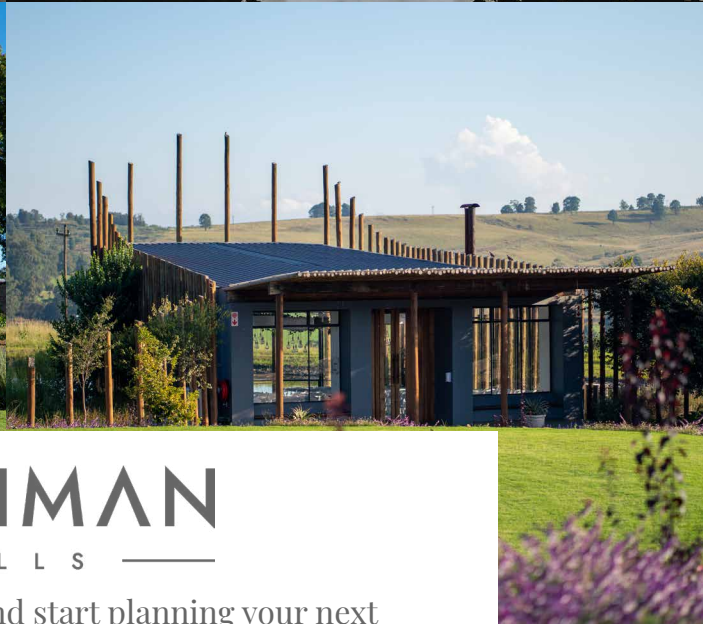
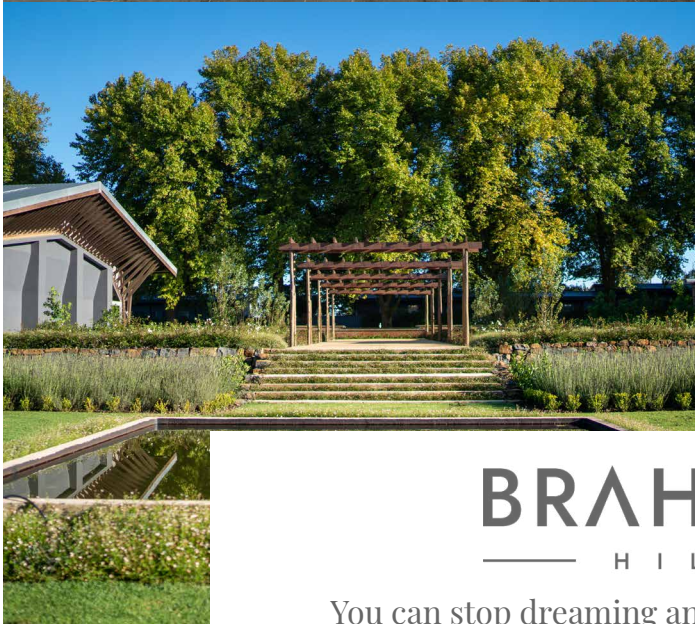
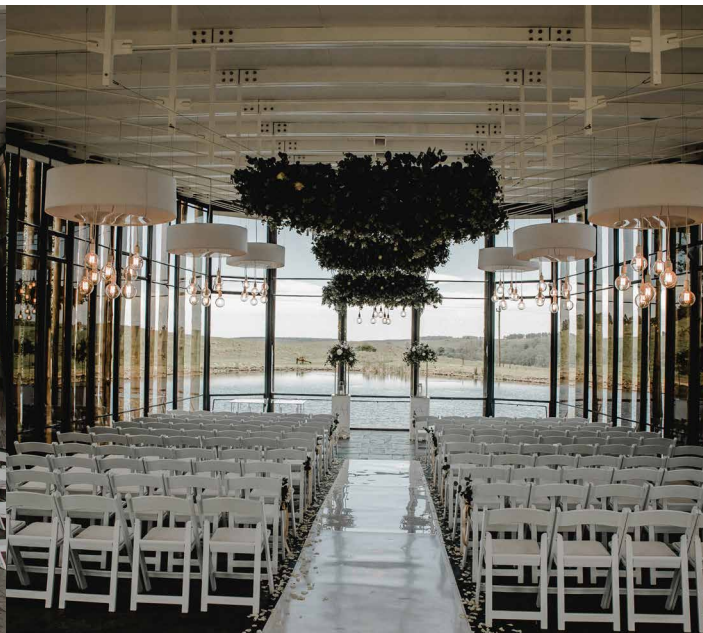
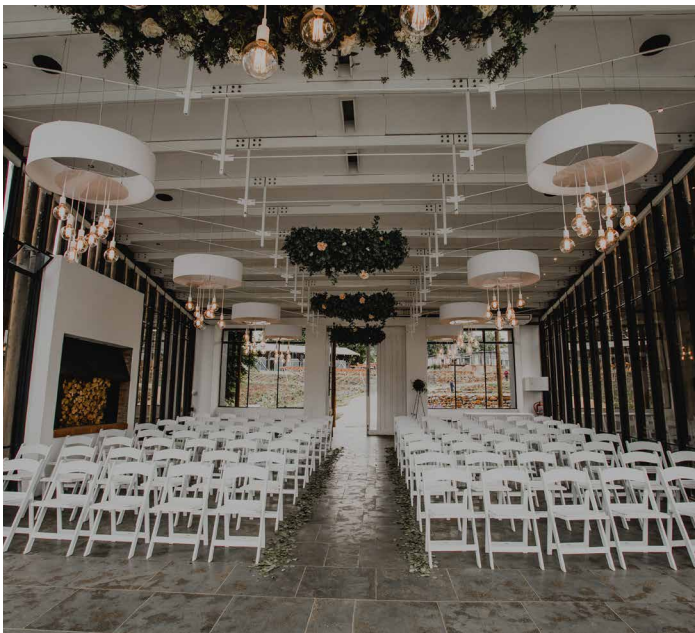
Two uniquely situated chapels, with additional eventing spaces seating up to 400 people; create a beautiful setting for an elegant countryside celebration. Brahman Hills is ready to make your event a magical and memorable experience.

Magnificent gardens that are the source of our very own herbs, fruits and vegetables; farm to table, local and fresh. This is the strong ethos behind our great food.

Relax and rejuvenate at the Spa by Healing Earth at Brahman Hills, where everything is ready for you; just the way you like it. Conclude off your day package experience with a glass of bubbly in the indoor heated pool overlooking the glorious rolling hills of the Blue Crane Nature Reserve.

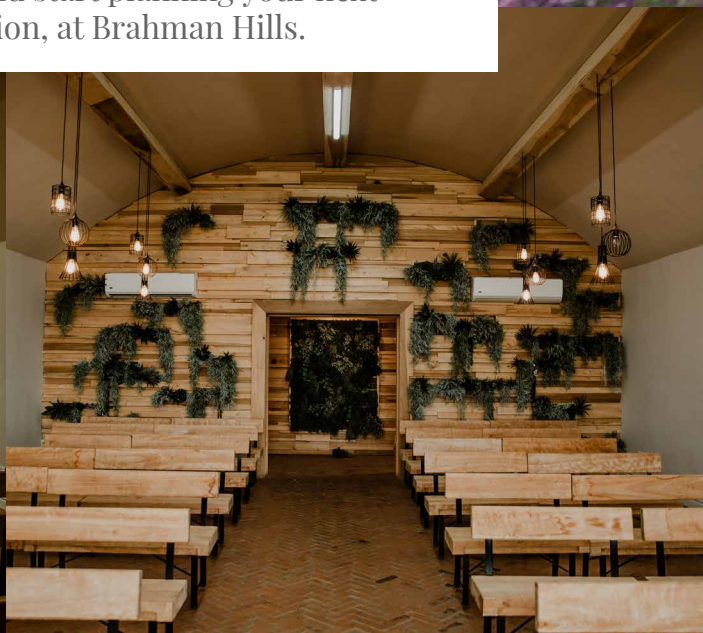
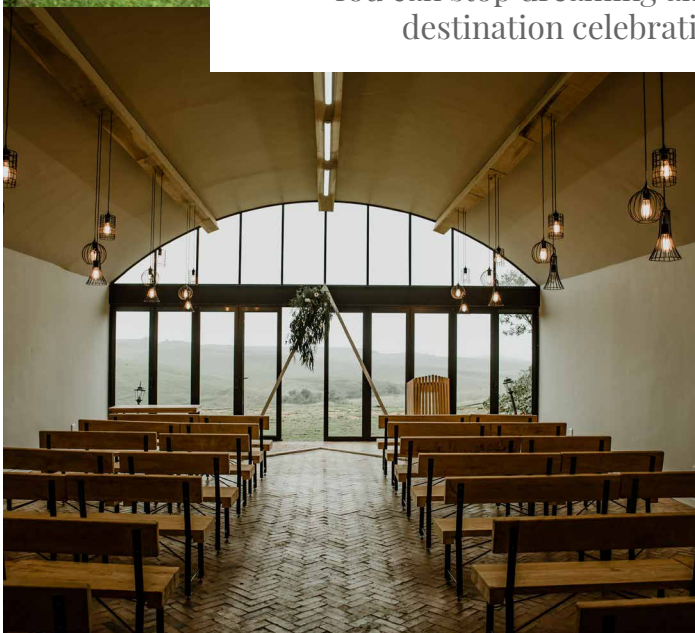


Website: www.brahmanhills.co.za
Email: weddings@brahmanhills.co.za
Call: 033 2666 965



BRAHMAN
HILLS

You can stop dreaming and start planning your next destination celebration, at Brahman Hills.



Our accommodation options include:

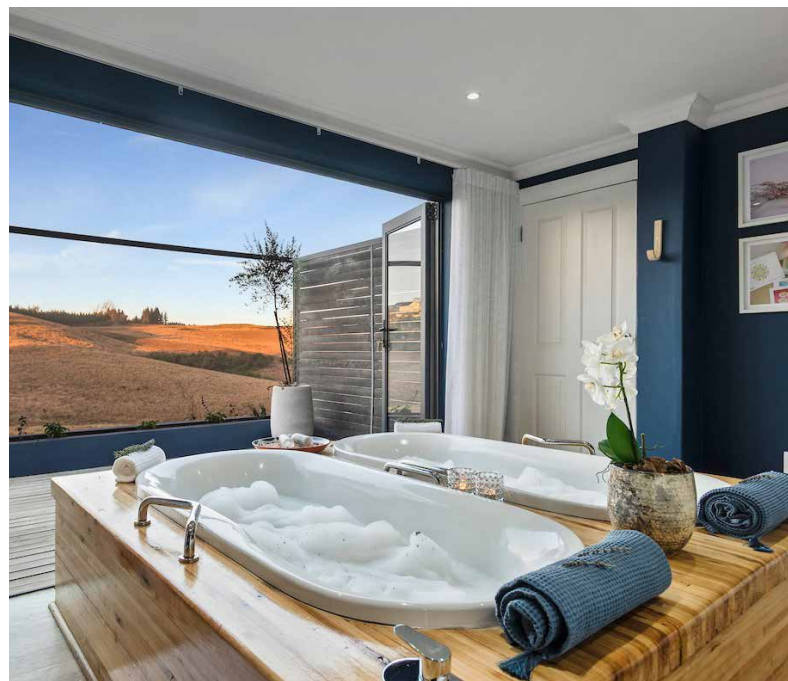
- 20 x standard hotel rooms
- 10 x deluxe garden rooms

Blue Crane Nature reserve cottages

- 3 x one bedroom cottages
- 2 x two bedroom cottages
- 5 x three bedroom cottages
- 2 x four bedroom cottages

Springholm Cottages – 4km from Brahman Hills on a gravel road

- 1 x Honeymoon Suite
- 3 x Waterfront 4-sleeper cottages
- 3 x Stone 6-sleeper cottages
- 1 x Double Room
- 3 x Standard Rooms



BRAHMAN

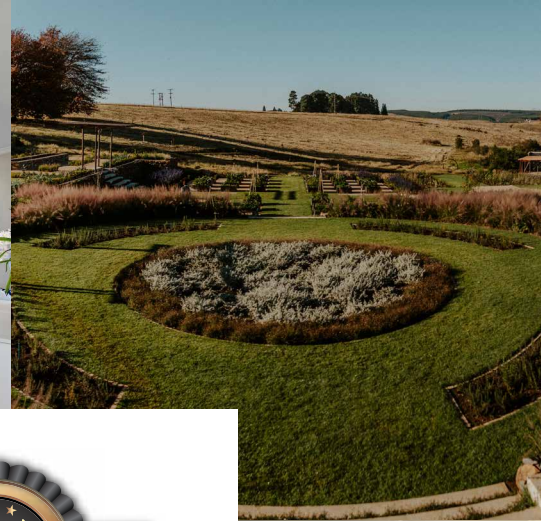
HILLS

CREATING HARMONY, TOGETHER



Website: www.brahmanhills.co.za
Email: weddings@brahmanhills.co.za
Call: 033 2666 965





BRAHMAN
 HILLS
 CREATING HARMONY, TOGETHER



TOP WEDDING VENUES



MAKE YOUR WEDDING DAY UNFORGETTABLE

Your big day deserves nothing less than to be as perfect as possible, and that is a promise at WELGELEGEN MANOR - in classic English residential style.

Named the Land of Abundance, Balfour is located south east of Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve, just off the R23 that leaves the N3 north of Heidelberg and heads into the province of Mpumalanga. Balfour nestles in a region given over mostly to farms, game farms and bushveld.

It is called Cosmos Country because it is this area that annually explodes with varying pink and white cosmos flowers during autumn, a breath-taking sight for any visitor.

Although our facilities at Welgelegen Manor are best suited for smaller groups, we work hard to make sure this special occasion takes off stress-free, and has the class and luxury elements we pride ourselves on.

We further offer professional, flexible and personalised wedding and function services. Be it a small intimate and romantic weddings to larger special birthday or anniversary, we are here to assist you in create a truly unusual and memorable experience just a short drive from Johannesburg.

The extensive gardens and Manor house are perfect for signature weddings or small intimate celebrations as a wedding venue near Johannesburg. This ideal setting accompanied by our exquisite rooms, superb service and exceptional food will make your special wedding simply unforgettable.



Tel: +27(0)17 773 9000
Fax: +27(0)17 773 9001
Cell: +27(0)83 281 1706

Email: info@welgelegenmanor.co.za
Physical Address: Farm Rietbult , R51 /
Balfour Road, Balfour, Mpumalanga



Welgelegen Manor is equally a perfect wedding venue option near Johannesburg, or as a romantic honeymoon choice for couples looking to make their new beginnings extra special.

The four suites in the manor house are exceptionally large and overlook the pool and side rose garden whilst the four suites in the carriage houses offer two twin suites on the upper level and two garden suites with entrances to the inner rose courtyard.

All of our luxury accommodation options at the Manor stay true to Welgelegen Manor's classic English residential style. The eight suites fuse contemporary comfort with the timeless glamour and heritage associated with this historical property.

Hand-in-hand with the luxury of your rooms and facilities, the extraordinary dining at Welgelegen Manor is an experience on its own. Welgelegen Manor's resident chefs ensure luxury dining experiences during your stay.

Whether it's a picnic in a secluded spot on the estate or gardens, a lavish celebration dinner in the private dining room, or dinner a deux in your suite, our passionate staff will ensure your meal is a special experience.

After your gourmet dining experience and a day spent exploring the beautiful sights and scenery the Manor has to offer, we welcome you into your classic, elegantly perfected accommodation for the night. All of our luxury accommodation options at the Manor stay true to Welgelegen Manor's classic English residential style.



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 Balfour Road, Balfour, Mpumalanga



The eight suites fuse contemporary comfort with the timeless glamour and heritage associated with this historical property. Each suite offers exceptional grace and comfort with views over the landscaped terraces, pool or rose gardens.

The bathrooms are welcoming and spacious, offering a unique combination of style and function. The four suites in the manor house are exceptionally large and overlook the pool and side rose garden whilst the four suites in the carriage houses offer two twin suites on the upper level and two garden suites with entrances to the inner rose courtyard.

The Carriage House Suites (Luxury Suites), the twin suites on the upper level of the Manor House, offer beautiful views of the grounds. These rooms accommodate either single beds or a king size bed, and all rooms have en-suite bathrooms.

The Deluxe Garden Suites have the advantage of an entrance to the inner herb courtyard. These rooms have a king size bed for those needing some time out and relaxation.

The Manor House Suites (Superior Suites) offer exceptional grace and comfort with views over the landscaped terraces, pool or rose gardens. The bathrooms are welcoming and spacious, offering a unique combination of style and function.

Contact us today for more information on booking your escape, your wedding and conferencing facilities, or about our current specials and packages. We will tell you how we can help you create the perfect day – we promise to give all our attention to every detail, and that we will sure that the day goes as smoothly as possible.

Our friendly family of staff at Welgelegen Manor are happy to keep in touch before your arrival to ensure every detail of your wedding or getaway is met and perfected.

Welgelegen Manor is situated 30km south of Heidelberg, Gauteng. Please see our map for more information on the best possible routes from your side of the country, or contact us directly for assistance.



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Fax: +27(0)17 773 9001
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Email: info@welgelegenmanor.co.za
Physical Address: Farm Rietbult , R51 / Balfour Road, Balfour, Mpumalanga





DAJANA & GERRIE HAVENGA



This lovely couple met during a modelling competition at High School where they were crowned Mr and Miss Spring. Many years later they were united as Mr and Mrs.

You've been together a long time?

After almost two years of dating, my 21st Birthday was a Hollywood-themed party. All our closest friends and family were there. This is when Gerrie decided to pop the question. He made me stand in front and watch a slide show he'd made of us and when it ended I turned around and found him down on one knee. We were engaged for 8 years.

Your wedding was postponed a number of times?

We were supposed to get married in 2019. Gerrie went overseas to do a male pageant, which he won, and the rules stated that he couldn't be married! So we postponed to August 2020 and when that date came around the Coronavirus had hit hard! So we decided to wait and rather postpone to August 2021. Three months before our wedding date in August 2021 I had a feeling we were going to go into stricter lockdown again. Gerrie and I decided to go and meet with the manager at Oakfield Farm to discuss moving the date hopefully one last time. Luckily our vendors were all available for 29 October 2021 as it was the only date available. It was a long hard wait that really stood the test of time. Our wedding was so emotional, not only for us but for our family and friends who knew how long we had waited for our big day!

What made you choose Oakfield Farm as your venue?

I love greenery and their gardens are picture perfect. Their service is highly spoken of and they treated us like King and Queen. I have always wanted to be ushered to church by horse and carriage and they had that option available too. We also loved the open glass effect of the Summerhouse where the reception was held.

Did your venue guide you with vendor suggestions?

Yes, they gave us a few brochures with all their trusted vendors and information. It was very helpful. They also host a bridal expo, which we went to twice.



A bride in a white gown stands in a vine-covered pergola. The bride is wearing a white, off-the-shoulder, long-sleeved gown with lace detailing and a full skirt. She is looking to her left with a smile. The pergola is made of dark wood and is covered in green vines and leaves. The background is a lush green garden.

*“Vows are special because they are words
that come from the heart.”*

Venue: Oakfield Farm, Muldersdrift
Dress and suit: Bondesio Couture
Makeup Artist: Michelle Draper and Savannah Georgia
Hairstylist: Samantha Moller, Vanilla
Florist: Deidre, Krimpvarkies en Vlinder
Photographer: Courtney Robinson, Wildflower Photography

Your dress?

My dress was designed with love by a dear friend and celebrity designer Peter Bondesio from Bondesio Couture. Gerrie and I have modelled many fashion shows for him in the past. He made all the garments for our wedding day – including Gerrie's suit and my bridesmaid's dresses. An interesting fact about my wedding dress is that I only got to see it on the day of my wedding! Not a lot of brides can say that! It was scary but exciting. I also had a first dance dress and a jumpsuit that I partied in afterwards – all made by Peter.

You included children in your entourage?

Because of the limit on guests allowed indoors we unfortunately had to cut some guests and children. Only children from intermediate families and some exceptions were made. I'd always wanted flower girls and page boys on our wedding day - especially family.

You wrote your own vows?

Vows are special because they are words that come from the heart. It was very emotional, we both cried like babies! I am Croatian-born and Gerrie surprised us with a piece of his vows in Croatian. A Croatian now married to an Afrikaner - interesting cultural mix!

How many guests?

70.

Most amusing part of your big day?

Gerrie had the most interesting way of removing my garter! He was chiselling away under my dress with all sorts of tools pretending to be removing a Chastity belt! He then pulled out a large pair of granny underwear! People laughed until they cried! It was truly hilarious and so entertaining!

Your first dance song?

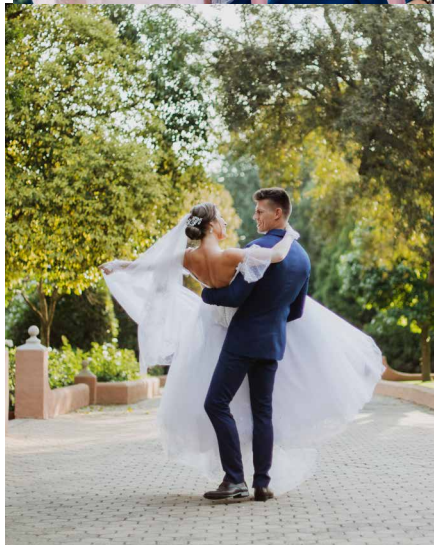
We danced to Lover by Taylor Swift and Shaun Mendez. We practised super hard. Staff said it was one of the best first dances they have ever witnessed at Oakfield Farm. We were super chuffed with all the compliments we received.

Any handy tips for brides-to-be?

No matter how much you try plan things to the T, things can still go wrong. Just stay calm and everything will sort itself out.

Honeymoon?

Friends lent us their house by the beach in Margate for a week. It was so lovely and relaxing.



MAKING *Memories*



Couple: Michaela & Justin | Photography: Hilda Mans

The Most Gorgeous Venue -
Timeless Beauty, Country Cuisine, Superior
Service, Fantastic Specials, Outstanding Value



OAKFIELD
Farm
MAKING MEMORIES

TOP WEDDING VENUES



PERFECT FOR A MEMORABLE WEDDING

The Bergvallei Estate has its own special character and atmosphere with striking green and white Stellenbosch-type buildings surrounded by rose gardens, fountains and Roman statues.

Ideally situated on the R28 (the highway between Krugersdorp and Pretoria) in the Muldersdrift area – we are only 30 short minutes away from both Johannesburg and Pretoria, but with the surrounding tranquillity, it could be hours away!

There are 2 reception venues at Bergvallei Estate, which cater for between 40 and 230 guests. Our Main Hall boasts four large fireplaces, which also makes it the perfect setting for a comfortable and cosy Winter wedding or function.

Bergvallei Estate also has two charming chapels, one conventional and the other one with a roof and open sides. The Open Chapel seats from 40 to 120 guests and the Conventional Chapel seats from 40 to 250 guests.

For those wishing to stay over, Bergvallei Estate also has affordable accommodation available, which is very convenient for guests and family members coming to your wedding or function from afar.

14 x rooms with 2 x double beds in the same room; 2 x rooms with 1 x double bed each; 2 x bridal rooms and 1 x luxury double room.

All the rooms have en-suite bathrooms and coffee and tea-making facilities are provided. An added extra are our delicious cookies! There are no TVs available - to ensure a quiet and peaceful stay.

We provide bedding and some of the rooms have doors leading out onto a veranda overlooking the valley leading down to the Crocodile River, which runs through the bottom part of the property.



Website: www.bergvallei.co.za
Email: info@bergvallei.co.za
Call: 082 806 1260




Berquallei
estate



The Bergvallei Estate is the perfect venue for beautiful and memorable wedding parties or corporate functions.

Other services provided include flower arrangements for weddings. "Linen and Things" also operate from Bergvallei Estate and they can take care of the rental of overlays, sashes, chair covers, fairy lights, under plates etc.

Breakfast is not included in the accommodation. Bergvallei Estate is situated in the greater Cradle of Humankind area and there are many country restaurants and activities available in the vicinity. They include the nearby Happy Island Waterworld, the Silverstar Casino, Cradlestone Mall and the Sterkfontein Caves to name just a few.

Contact Bergvallei Estate

Address: R28/N14 Highway, Muldersdrift, Gauteng

Phone: Vanessa on 082 806 1260

E-mail: info@bergvallei.co.za

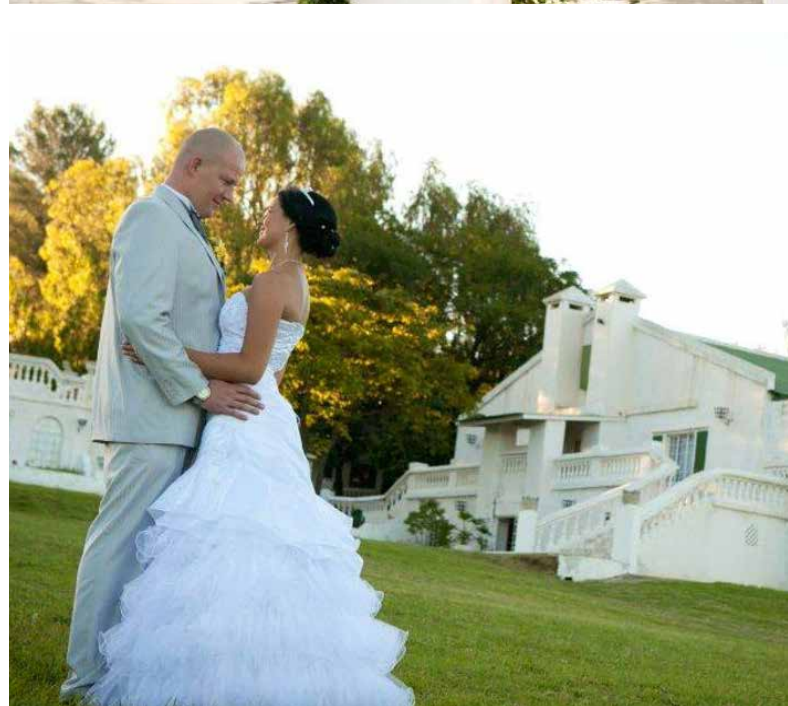
Website: www.bergvallei.co.za

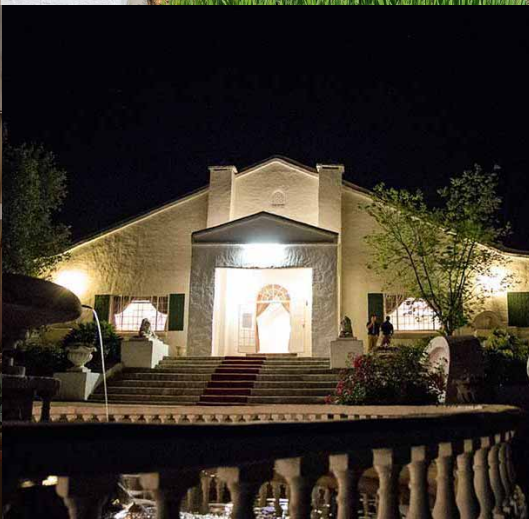


Website: www.bergvallei.co.za

Email: info@bergvallei.co.za

Call: 082 806 1260





Bergvallei estate



LUFUNO & MUKOVHE MULAUDZI



This cute couple set aside the disappointment of having to cut down on their guest list due to restrictions and thoroughly enjoyed their scaled down wedding.

How did you and Mukovhe meet?

Mukovhe is my high school friend's cousin. We first met back in 2004 and dated but it was nothing serious. We both then went to university; I was in Bloemfontein and he was in Gauteng. Our relationship started getting serious during our university break in 2006. We have never looked back and we finally tied the knot after 14 years!

Was there a formal marriage proposal?

Funnily enough there wasn't! Mukovhe told me in 2015 he would be sending his uncle for Lobola negotiation with my family the following year - we had been dating for more than 9 years by then. I guess that was our kind of proposal!

Did you have a traditional wedding too?

Yes, after finally sending his family for Lobola negotiation in 2016, we had a small celebration. We had another bigger celebration when the Lobola process was concluded in 2019, which included the handing over and receiving of the bride.

How long did you have to plan your formal white wedding?

We started our planning in October 2020. Initially we decided to have 100 guests, but due to the Covid-19 restrictions we had to cut our numbers down to just 50 guests. Having a small intimate wedding actually turned out to be an amazing way to celebrate our love.

The most difficult part of planning?

Mukovhe and I both come from big families so it was very difficult to choose our initial 100 guests. When we finally got it right, there were further Covid restrictions and having to cut half of our guests just two months before the wedding was so heart breaking. But, not as heart breaking as losing my Dad two weeks before our big day.



“Our theme was strictly Black Tie and our guests indulged us.”

*Venue: Bell & Blossom, Muldersdrift
Wedding Gown: Euphal The Florist
MC: Mukondi Muthambi
Wedding planner: Euphal The Florist and Vusani Mbobvu
Nails: Nails bytsepang
Make-up: Elarte Makeup Artist
Décor & flowers: Bell & Blossom and Euphal The Florist
Cake: Kelly Jaynes Cakes
Sound and lights: Kilowattavza
Photography: Jepson Myles & Soulsecured*

Did Mukovhe get involved with the wedding planning?

He was 110% involved and I am grateful that we planned and organised our big day together. It brought us even closer.

Your dress?

My dress was custom made. I was involved in every step of the making. I still cannot believe that my team and I pulled it off.

How did you choose your bridesmaids?

Because it was a small wedding, I chose my siblings as my bridesmaids - they are my girls. My maid-of-honour was my friend/Mukovhe's cousin - there would not be an "US" if it were not for her!

Formal dress code?

Our theme was strictly Black Tie and we feel so honoured that our guests indulged us and adhered to the dress code.

What made you choose Bell & Blossom?

We checked out a few venues and decided on Bell and Blossom. We fell in love with the chapel and the dome and the package suited our budget.

How many guests were catered for?

55, including our service providers.

Entertainment?

We arranged our playlist and included our favourite love songs played during our dating days, African wedding songs and dance songs. It was the best thing ever. Our guests still talk about the music.

The best part of your wedding day?

Walking down the aisle to one of our favourite songs surrounded by my loved ones and marrying my soul mate. I was living my dream.

First dance?

Lights off, bridesmaids holding LED warm white balloons, fairy lights from the ceiling reflecting on the windows and dancefloor, a fog machine blowing at our feet and loved ones surrounding us. That's what I call magical. It felt like heaven on earth!

Any advice for brides-to-be?

Wedding planning requires time and money. Plan everything properly to avoid being pressured by time. If there is no need to have a lot of guests, cut down to avoid unnecessary expense. Go all out on your wedding rings and honeymoon. Small weddings are great. On the day of the wedding be fully present.

Honeymoon?

We were so fortunate that at the time of our wedding, our honeymoon dream destination was open to South Africans. We jetted off to the Maldives three days after our wedding day – on the sunny side of the world!





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

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

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

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

info@bellandblossom.co.za
www.bellandblossom.co.za
0828526184 to book an appointment to view

TOP WEDDING VENUES



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.

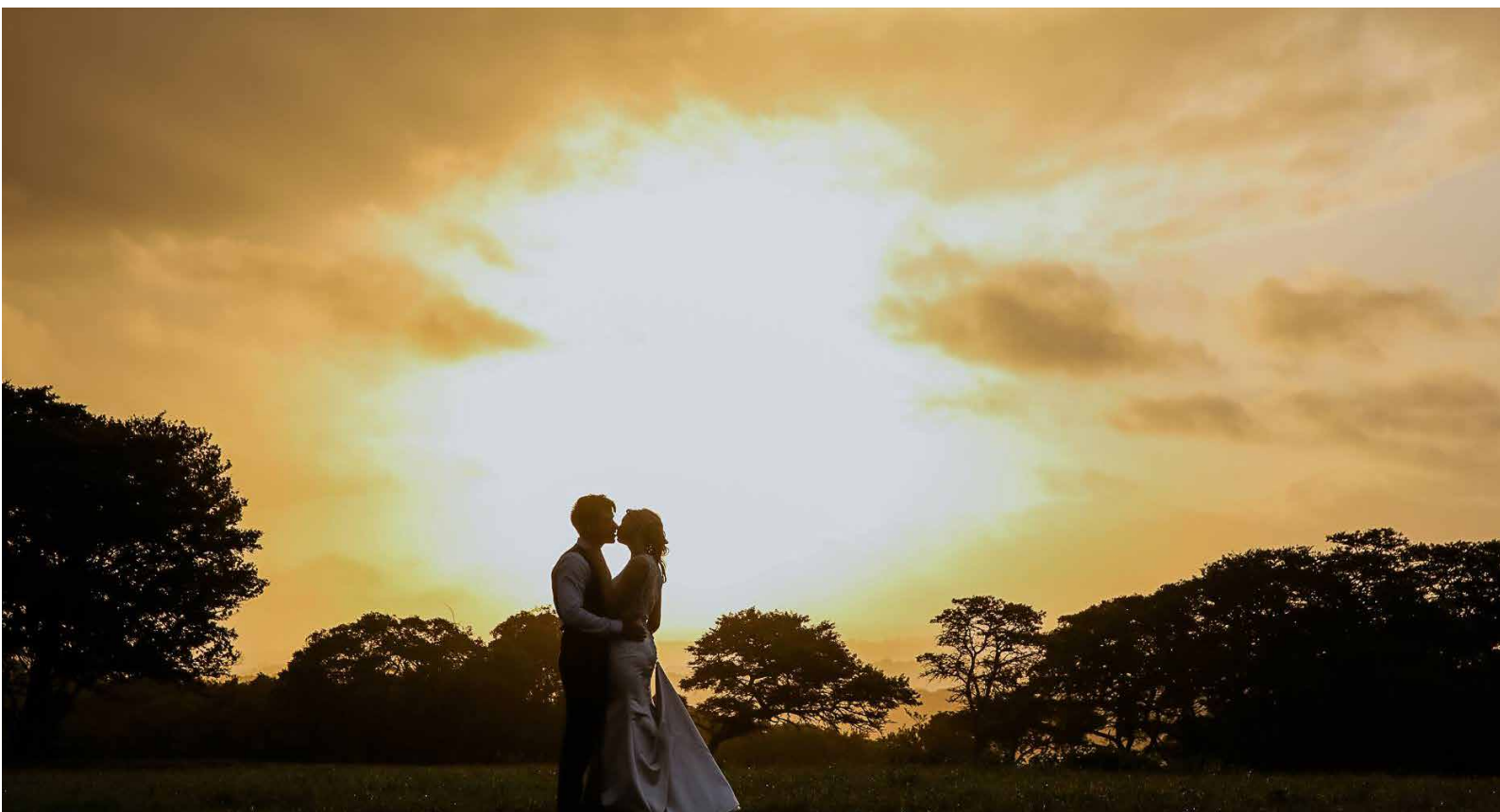
You will dance your way into a new life together as music and laughter echo into the starry skies.

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 private 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 3* Bush Lodge, 4* Valley Lodge, 3* Chintsa Sands Guesthouse and 3*Umnenga Lodge.

Bookings 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



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

30 kms from East London

• Weddings • Functions • Conferences

Tel 043 734 3234 / Fax 043 734 3888

PO Box 236, Kwelera, 5259

E-mail: marketing@inkwenkwezi.co.za

Website: www.inkwenkwezi.com

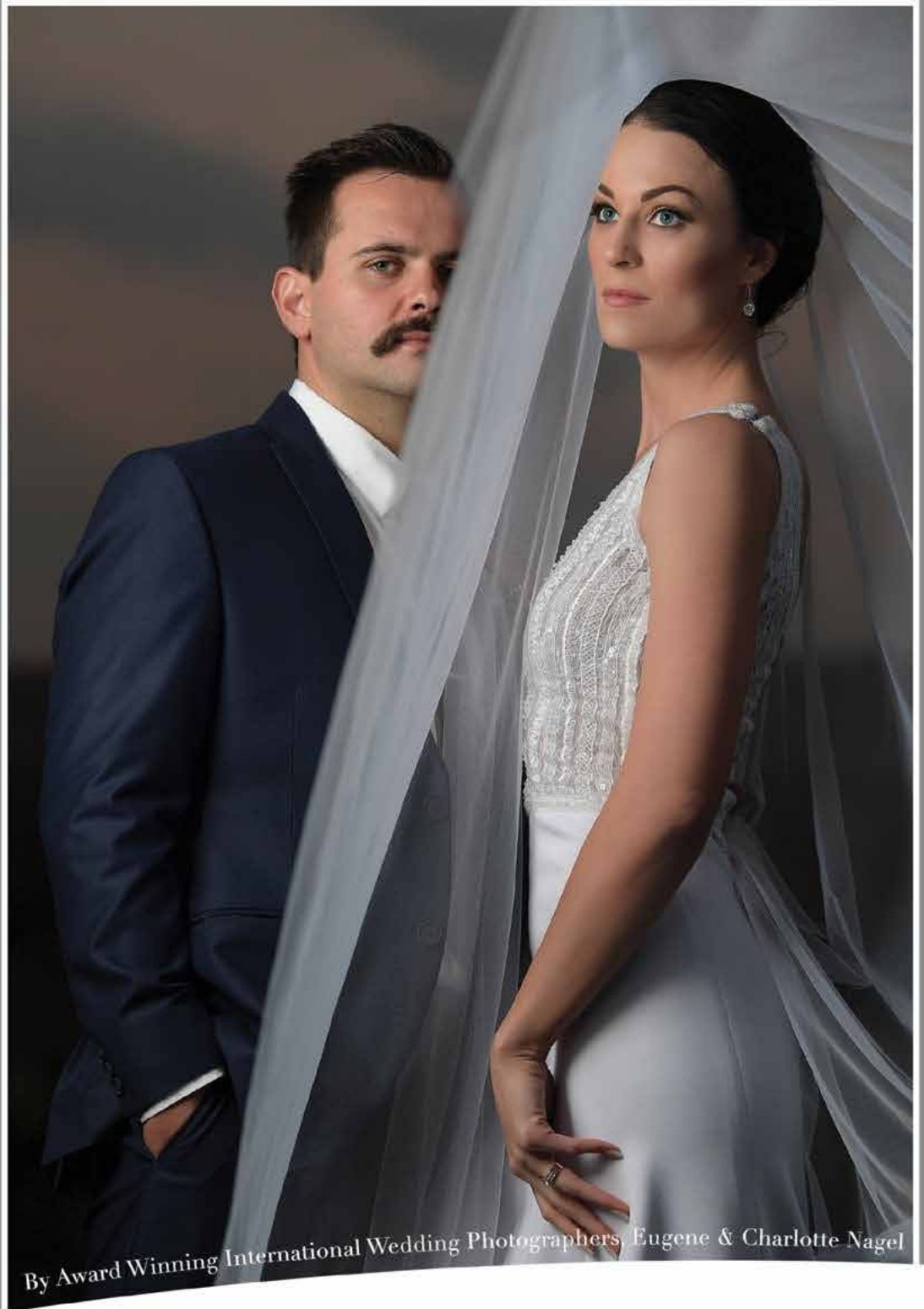
Please watch our latest video on You Tube:

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

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

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MYNIE & MARNITZ BAIRD



This couple met on a blind date and they were engaged just three months later!

Tell us about your proposal?

It didn't take Marnitz long to decide I was the one! We got engaged just three months after we met. His proposal was a big surprise. He organised a weekend away with both our families and so many things went wrong before the big moment! The idea was to have a sunset picnic on a mountain but due to rain it was moved inside and earlier. When the two of us arrived at the chalet, where the surprise picnic was, I was under the impression that we were just doing a game drive! I was thinking that I was the worse girlfriend for forgetting an anniversary. Therefore, when Marnitz went on one knee, I couldn't stop giggling. I couldn't wait to say yes. We were married 8 months later.

How long did you have to plan your wedding and did Marnitz get involved?

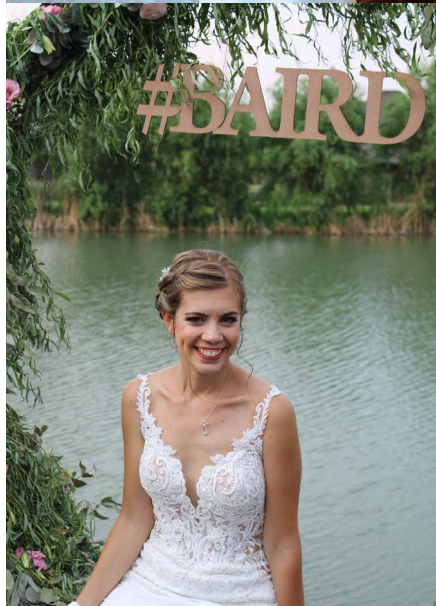
We decided on October, based on the 2020 trend with Covid, and hoped it would be the best time. We were definitely lucky because we were on Lockdown Level 1. We didn't wait long and our first step was to secure a venue. Marnitz was involved from day one. He bought me a wedding guide to assist with what needed to be done and having a proper checklist did make things easier.

What made you choose Tsekama as your venue?

We planned to look at three venues but ended up only looking at two. We saw Tsekama in a bridal magazine and it was a favourite for Marnitz as a friend's wedding was there. My sister also recommended them. Tsekama was exactly what we wanted for a bushveld weekend wedding and it was an easy choice after just one visit.

Did the fact that the venue has a chapel on site influence your decision?

Yes, it was important for us to have a relaxing weekend and we didn't want our guests having to go from one site to another.



“Tsekama is a venue that under promises and over delivers!”



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

Wedding gown: LadyAnne Bridal

Hair: LamoreMUAandHair

Make up: Evette Terol

Cake: Retha Viljoen

Photography: Arline

Did Tsekama meet all your expectations?

Tsekama is a venue that under promises and over delivers! They assist from start to finish and if you forgot anything (like flowers for the flowergirl) they even assist with that on the wedding day. The team is great and so supportive. If I had realised beforehand how much they are willing to do, I would have let them do a lot more! They know what they are doing and do it exceptionally well.

Your dress?

Due to Covid I had time constraints and only one morning to find a dress. My dress was on a mannequin and it was not what I wanted - until I tried it on! It was definitely one of those "Say Yes to the Dress" moments. I had a free-hanging veil which could be removed easily without messing up your hair! A tip - make sure you store your veil properly or else there will show kinks in your photos!

Big entourage?

It wasn't planned but when deciding who to choose it was about who we wanted up there with us. I had my two sisters, my sister-in-law and my two best friends. Marnitz had the same with close friends, his brother and my brother-in-law. We had to draw the line at close family with the kids, which wasn't easy.

Your bridesmaids wore different colours?

We chose colours from Proteas which we thought suited each bridesmaid, trying to take into consideration their body types too.

Your Mom spent hours on her décor contribution?

My Mom loves to crochet. She made a table placemat and coaster for each guest. Then she crocheted covers for coffee bottles with candles in them, creating a romantic feeling and rounding off the special day.

How many guests?

120. Most were with us for the whole weekend.

Your most sentimental wedding gifts?

On my wedding day my Mom gave me a letter with good luck wishes. It was written by her Mom, who passed away before her wedding. So special. Something also sentimental and special for me was to get married wearing my Mom's wedding shoes! They were 33 years old, which presented a challenge! I ended up having to go barefoot for photos but I cherish that "something old and borrowed" sentiment.

Any advice for brides-to-be?

Make sure that you ask other brides for service provider references - it will save you a lot of stress.





Tsekama Lodge

Wedding and conference venue

www.tsekama.co.za



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

We understand the dreams and wishes of every bride and groom, and will go the extra mile to make sure that all requirements are met.

Tsekama is the perfect venue for adding a touch of magic and style to your wedding day.

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

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

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

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

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





Natasha Malan

☎ 084 587 1931

✉ natasha@nmphotography.co.za

www nmphotography.co.za

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PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY



TOP WEDDING VENUES



The Silver Sixpence wedding venue offers you the opportunity to be part of an exclusive group who have embraced the magic of "The Silver Sixpence" experience!

Allow yourself to be seduced by the beauty and tranquillity of rolling grasslands, forests, and lakes – providing you with the perfect setting for a romantic weekend wedding experience.

The Silver Sixpence Wedding Venue is tucked away in the hills of the Mpumalanga Highlands, near the popular trout fishing village of Dullstroom – 2,5 hours from Johannesburg.

The stunning Architecturally designed Venue and Lodges, with luxurious en-suite accommodation for 38 guests - including a romantic Honeymoon Suite with a beautiful well-appointed Bridal dressing room, a Micro-Brewery for a Friday night get-together, and the option of either a forest or Chapel ceremony ensures the realisation of all your wishes and dreams!

A weekend wedding at The Silver Sixpence gives you exclusive use of the 300 Hectare Estate – for the weekend - Friday to Sunday - so you enjoy your wedding for 3 days, not 8 hours!

The excitement and exhilaration begins the moment you arrive at The Silver Sixpence – the spectacular natural beauty, along with the peaceful seclusion and tranquillity of the surroundings allows you to immerse yourself in the transformation of the estate into your own personal fairy-tale wedding venue.

Fly-fishing, mountain biking, hiking, bird watching, or relaxing in front of a log fire - your guests will be spoiled for choice!

To fully appreciate this exceptional environment of beautifully maintained landscaped gardens, paddocks with Friesian Horses, trout dams, as well as blue-gum and pine forests, a site-visit is essential!



Website: www.thesilversixpence.co.za
Email: lesley@thesilversixpence.co.za
Call: 082 557 3304

Our Microbrewery – The Old Oak Brewery - has proven to be the perfect “launch pad” on Friday evening for your weekend celebrations and catching up with family and friends. For those cooler evenings there is a large indoor fireplace as well as an outdoor fire pit and braai area.

We have a full liquor licence and our own unique craft beer is available in The Brewery on Friday night – along with our full bar list, - and, if requested, a keg or two of our craft beer can be available on Saturday too...(especially during the photo session time) in our quirky mobile wagon!

On your wedding day, wake up to the sound of birdsong, relaxed in the knowledge that you are already at your venue and can continue to enjoy the build-up to that magical moment when you walk down the aisle – either in the forest or our quaint country chapel!

Hairdressing and makeup in our well-appointed Bridal Dressing room adds to the excitement of the day!

Every bride is given a sixpence on her wedding day which is to be placed in her shoe... This age-old tradition ensures prosperity, health, and happiness for the newly married couple!

Arrive at your ceremony in our beautiful horse drawn carriage, and say your vows under a canopy of leaves in the forest, or candle chandeliers in our charming chapel.

After your ceremony, whilst you are having photographs taken, your guests can begin to enjoy the mouth-watering cuisine prepared by our in-house caterer. Canapés and refreshments are served on the patio and lawn in front of the large outdoor fireplace alongside the reception hall, and guests can entertain themselves by playing one of the lawn games, or fly-fishing in the nearby trout dam.

At the end of your photo session, the Chapel bell can be rung to remind guests they are at a wedding and need to enter the hall for the evening celebrations to begin!

Dance the night away under a sparkling galaxy of fairy lights and crystal chandeliers in our hall, with the cosy ambience of two large indoor fireplaces.



Website: www.thesilversixpence.co.za
Email: lesley@thesilversixpence.co.za
Call: 082 557 3304



Our luxurious on-site accommodation (all rooms are en-suite) ensures that the family and close friends of the bridal couple don't have far to walk after the party.

We currently have accommodation for 38 guests, including a complimentary romantic Honeymoon Suite adjacent to our beautiful bridal dressing room. All rooms are serviced by our dedicated staff.

Cairnfern Country Lodge, the Manor house, has accommodation for 8 guests in 4 ensuite rooms, and has a large lounge where family and friends can relax in front of a large log fireplace before the festivities get underway. All the bedrooms open up onto a large veranda overlooking the Friesian horse paddocks.

The Paddocks accommodation (approximately 150m from the hall) consists of 6 suites – all with fireplaces – and is ideal for bridesmaids and groomsmen. There are also two lovely rooms alongside The Brewery – in close proximity to the hall.

The Carriage House – an authentic log cabin – is a cosy romantic cottage for two guests.

The Highland Suites, our lodge which is situated on top of the mountain – ideal for pre-wedding photos – accommodates 10 guests in 5 ultra-luxurious suites, each one being a separate unit, all of them having their own private entrance off a central garden courtyard and linked via a covered walkway/patio. Each individual suite has a balcony with magnificent views towards the escarpment, a small lounge area, fireplace, tea and coffee station, desk, twin beds, dressing area with dressing table, full bathroom and heated towel rails.

For outdoor entertaining, there is a braai and wooden deck in front of the lodge...the deck is built over the edge of the mountain with magnificent panoramic views! Enjoy an early morning cup of coffee on your private balcony or on the deck whilst watching the mist slowly dissipate – anticipating the excitement of the day ahead!

Within an 8km radius, there is accommodation to suit all your guests – a 4-star hotel, B&B's, and self-catering cottages.

There are four stocked dams for the fly-fishing enthusiast (stocked with rainbow trout) – ideal for the men who want to escape from the wedding preparations for a few hours! For the non-fishermen there are lovely forest and mountain walks (to a waterfall), or just relax under the trees or read on the patio!

A memorable wedding weekend celebration at the exclusive Silver Sixpence wedding venue is a truly magical beginning to your "Happily-Ever-After"!



Website: www.thesilversixpence.co.za
Email: lesley@thesilversixpence.co.za
Call: 082 557 3304





THE
SILVER
SIXPENCE
~ WEDDING VENUE ~





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NIKI & DYLAN BOOTH



This couple met in 2014 when they were both tutoring at the same home school.

How long did you date before getting engaged?

We dated for about 5 years before Dylan popped the question. He definitely caught me off guard, I wasn't photo ready for an engagement shoot! We went walking our 4 dogs and, in an open clearing just outside a forest, he pulled out a book he had made and had printed. He had taken photos of all our animals (including my horse) indicating that they had all accepted to take his last name, and on the last page asked if I would be a "Booth" as well! He was on his knee at this point. It was just perfect.

Did you choose your own engagement ring?

No, Dylan had asked my best friend to help get ideas of what I wanted, but he chose the design himself.

How long did you have to plan your wedding and what did you start with?

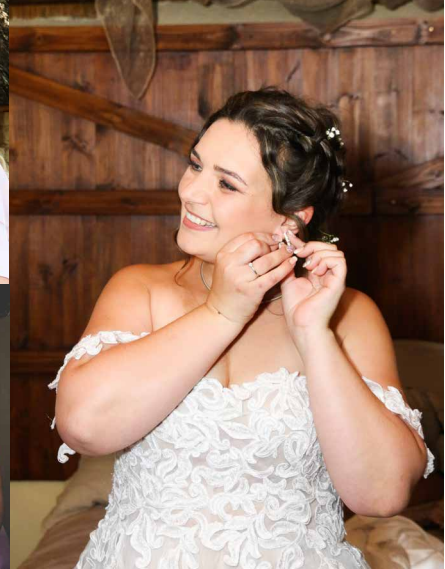
We had just over 2 years to plan our wedding. Covid moved the idea of getting married in 2020 to 2021. I thought I had found my perfect wedding venue; we paid deposit and chosen our date. About 6 months before our wedding, I started looking for a florist to do our flowers. I just had no luck as the prices were astronomical for just flowers that were out of our budget. At this point I started to become a little negative about my big day as it just seemed to be impossible to have what I had imagined. This is when we decided to look for a venue that was all inclusive. We were so lucky to find our venue and manage to keep our date!

What appealed to you most about your chosen venue?

When we walked down the stairs to the outside river chapel, I knew this was it. The rock face down the one side, river beneath and the bush on the other side. It was breath-taking! Just natural beauty.

Your dress – specially made or bought?

My sisters friend is a designer. I was lucky that she could make my dress for me.



*“My theme was Boho,
and I chose a lilac
colour scheme.”*



Venue: Tholo Thabanyane, Swartruggens, NWP
Wedding gown: Smishbymich
Hair: Couture Hairstyling by Megan
Make-up: Naturally Obsessed Artistry
Bridesmaid & flowergirl dresses: The Maiden
Décor & flowers: Tholo Thabanyane
Photography: Neon Productions

Your theme/colour scheme?

My theme was Boho, and I chose a lilac colour scheme.

No veil?

With my Boho style I decided that I didn't want a veil, but had little flowers in my hair instead. For me, it was not a very traditional wedding so I didn't feel the need to have one.

Outdoor ceremony?

I was very stressed the day before and the day of. I had pictured this beautiful outdoor chapel for months. The rain clouds were just not budging. But, about 2 hours before the ceremony, the clouds cleared and there were bright blue skies. Definitely a sign it was meant to be!

Anything you now think was really unnecessary?

We spent a lot of time and effort on a photo booth that was hardly used. Many chose to take their photos in other spaces.

How did you choose your photographer?

Photos are the only thing that you have left after your big day, so it's important that you choose a photographer that you feel will capture the photos you would want. Don't just choose someone because they have a good deal. We know Morgan from Neon Productions and have used her for other shoots in the past. She makes us feel so comfortable so it was a no brainer.

How many guests?

We decided to keep it small at 60 guests. We agreed that we would only invite guests that we both know, and who we see ourselves still being friends with in the next year. There is no point inviting people you will never see again.

The most touching moment of your big day?

Walking through a circle of flowers before going down the stairs to the river chapel and walking to an emotional, teary groom - happy tears of course!

Your first dance song and why you chose it?

Falling by Oh Gravity. The words are so beautiful and they resonated with us.

Any advice for brides-to-be?

Have a hair and makeup trial and make sure that you are 100% happy with it. Don't be shy to speak up if it's not what you want. Budget for travel costs of vendors, if not included in your package.







NEON PRODUCTIONS

Photography & Videography

Please contact Morgan Brink:

morgan@neonproductions.co.za 

www.neonproductions.co.za 

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram

@neonphotoproductions 

@neonproductionssa 

TOP WEDDING VENUES



AN EXCEPTIONAL COUNTRY HOTEL

Toadbury Hall has established itself as one of Gauteng's finest country hotels of choice for life's celebrations and special occasions - with continued focus on exclusivity.

We are a mere 20-minute drive from both Johannesburg and Pretoria and within a 5-minute drive of the Lanseria International Airport.

Toadbury Hall prides itself on hosting creating lasting memories for all our guests.

We offer discerning guests the versatility of so much to choose from, be it a celebration of a memorable wedding or a special occasion in our Banquet Hall, a corporate business meeting or team build in our Conference Centre or a leisurely weekend outing at our fine dining Bijou Restaurant or more informal Otter's Deli, Badger's Boma or Wildwood Brasserie.

Toadbury Country Hotel may just be the perfect function venue for your important event. Whether you are looking to celebrate an engagement, bachelorette party, adventure bachelor's party, anniversary, baby shower, important birthday or memorial service in our chapel, Toadbury Hall has so much to choose from.

For weddings we offer three options:

- Contemporary outdoor picnic weddings
- Elegant fine dining weddings
- Intimate weddings

For your ceremony you can choose from:

- Toad Chapel - a beautiful and quaint, old English-style chapel set in a tranquil garden setting
- Rose Chapel - a romantic outdoor venue surrounded by lush rose and lavender gardens

Our reception options are:

- Toad Hall - the estate's main banqueting hall provides a blend of charm and elegance
- Rose Gardens - a romantic outdoor venue surrounded by luscious rose and lavender gardens
- WildWood Island & Riverside Chapel - a perfect 5-star romantic setting for an outdoor ceremony
- Wildwood Gardens & Deck - a romantic outdoor venue out on the lawns or on the deck alongside the river



Website: www.toadbury.co.za
Email: cro@thatco.co.za
Call: 011 568 2734

We invite you to stay in our five-star hotel. Choose from five executive suites and five standard suites. Each suite is exquisitely furnished with a Queen size bed. Since your luxury and comfort is important to us, our guests can look forward to top quality linen and fluffy towels.

Your comfort is therefore ensured. For your convenience there is a mini bar and coffee station in your room. Relax in the lounge area and catch up on some DSTV.

Large en-suite bathrooms with a bath and a spacious shower ensure comfort. There is under-floor heating and fireplaces in selected suites. As, above all, we care about your possessions, each suite is also equipped with a digital safe.

Our relaxed, country-style atmosphere, offers diners the option to choose between Bijou Restaurant, Otter's Deli, Badger's Boma and the Wildwood Brasserie. They provide a vibrant dining atmosphere for every occasion from breakfast to late-night cocktails. Expect fine dining, classical dishes and avant-garde cuisine.

Bijou Restaurant caters for that fine dining experience. This flagship restaurant boasts beautifully manicured expansive gardens with sunset vistas, a platform for avant-garde cuisine featuring classical dishes with a focus on seasonality and local provenance. Each dish boasts high quality ingredients and is beautifully presented with locally sourced and produced premium South African wines. Bijou Restaurant is open for lunch and dinner, afternoon snacks and cocktails.

Otter's Deli offers an all year round casual country-side setting with a beautiful outdoor deck overlooking lush gardens and majestic lakes. Otter's Deli is a great place for breakfast, tapas treats or gourmet burgers and salads. Perfect for that contemporary, delectable outdoor picnic, keeping with the tradition of elegance and fine dining and adding in the element of a casual lifestyle. Toadbury Hall's famous Gourmet Picnic Baskets are all freshly prepared from Otter's Deli.



TOADBURY HALL
COUNTRY HOTEL
★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Website: www.toadbury.co.za
Email: cro@thatco.co.za
Call: 011 568 2734

This country style, open deck **Wildwood Brasserie** overlooks the Crocodile River with a warm, relaxed and welcoming ambience. We serve craft beers, handcrafted cocktails, boutique wines, and culinary delights at a reasonable price. Wildwood welcomes foodies, winos, and beer geeks looking for that Gastropub experience. Sit back and enjoy the quiet murmur of the river and watch the sun rise or set either from the deck or from a picturesque picnic spot along the banks of the river.

Badger's Boma is a unique outdoor area under the African stars where special tribal dining experiences are hosted. Feel at one with nature in an African boma where bonfires are lit to create that an unforgettable ambience. Badger's is the perfect place to experience that true African Braai "Barbeque". Celebrate, relax and enjoy hearty food prepared by our chefs on open coals.

Our team is available to discuss your picnic, hotel, dining, wedding, conference, team building or function requirements.

Arrange your true country experience today at Toadbury Hall one of Gauteng's finest country hotels of choice.

Plot 64, Beyers Naude Ext. Elandsdrift

T: 010 593 7523

Central Reservations:

E: cro@thatco.co.za | T: 011 568 2734



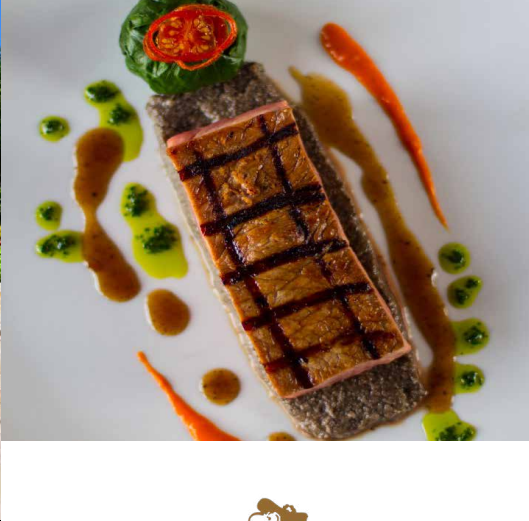
TOADBURY HALL

COUNTRY HOTEL



Website: www.toadbury.co.za
 Email: cro@thatco.co.za
 Call: 011 568 2734





TOADBURY HALL
COUNTRY HOTEL

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TOP
venue

