

Real Brides

May 2022

South Africa's Exciting
Wedding Magazine

*Photographer or
Videographer*

*Local
Honeymoon Trends*

Vellies for wedding shoes

Real Weddings

ROBBYN'S REAL BRIDES

In memory of Robbyn Ramsay

This edition of Real Brides is dedicated to the memory of Robbyn Ramsay who sadly passed away on April 9 this year.

Robbyn was the creator – founder and managing editor of Real Brides.

Prior to the launching of Real Brides in 2002 Robbyn undertook in depth surveys with brides-to-be.

Almost unanimously the brides canvassed stated that they wanted information from “real” brides as to how they had planned their weddings.

They rated information from other brides to be of major importance in their wedding planning. They wanted to see what other brides and bridesmaids wore; how they picked their venues; how they chose their photographers etc, etc.

Based on the surveys Robbyn assessed that the concept on which Real Brides should be based was to bring readers the stories and wedding planning advice from Real Brides.

Her assessment was 100 percent correct.

Over the last 10 years Robbyn interviewed and produce a feature on the weddings of nearly 2000 brides.

Her outstanding efforts turned Real Brides into the



The first Real Bride – Robbyn and Stewart on their wedding day

most powerful marketing medium in the wedding industry.

At the time of her death Robbyn was 66 years old. She is survived by her husband Stewart – sons Lloyd and Craig and daughter-in-law Rusti. Robbyn herself was a Real Bride and she and Stewart were married for 46 years.

The Real Brides magazine is a lasting tribute and memory to an outstanding journalist-wife & mother.



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Facebook.com/RealBridesMagazine

On the cover:

Bride: Charlene Phiffer

Photo: Justin and Simone Photography

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HERE COMES THE BRIDE ...

Don't you love our cover bride this month? She dared to be different.

Would you like to share the best day of your life with the readers of Real Brides?

If you got married recently and would like your wedding to be considered for a feature in Real Brides then email us at stewart@topicpublishing.co.za . Include a sample wedding photo, the name of your venue and a list of your service providers and we could just make your dream come true.

Real Brides features dozens and dozens of "real" weddings every year – brides just like you, me and the girl next door ... real people that we can all relate to.

For more info visit our website www.realbrides.co.za or find Real Brides on Facebook.

Charlene & Andre Pheiffer



Sit back and enjoy all the moments...

Where and how did Andre Propose?

It was on the 17th of July 2020. The travelling restrictions were just relaxed, and we were planning on visiting my parents in Struisbaai for the weekend. I was the only one working on the day and I remember Andre', my brother and my sister waiting for me to finish at 13:00 so we can get onto the road. I remember my brother asking me a few times whether I was going to change my clothes (I was in a grey tracksuit) and I still argued asking why I would change my clothes if we were just going home. As we got into Struisbaai, my brother called my father and said we are just going to the beach because it is such a lovely day. On the beach we walked around a little, posed next to a beautiful piece of driftwood and after one of the photos I started walking, saying we should go home. As I started walking, my brother pushed me back and as I stumbled back, I turned around and saw Andre's very nervous face. I remember Andre' starting to tell me how much he loves me and then he went on one knee. I did not hear much after that, I was ecstatic. After I say YES, he told me to turn around and there my parent and his parent were waiting for us. I never suspected a thing.

How did you feel when you found "the" dress?

Relieved. I waited a little longer to start trying on dresses, my poor mother and sister were panicking already when I told them I made appointments to go dress fitting. My first appointment was at Brides of Somerset in Somerset West. As we walked into the little boutique, we saw this dress on one of the mannequins and decided I need to try this specific dress on. Once I had the dress on my mother and sister started crying, I knew I had found the one. I tried on a few other dresses however none came close to the feeling I had when I tried on the first one.

Did you have a clear idea of what you wanted for your big day?

I had somewhat of an idea. I knew I did not want an extremely fancy wedding and I knew I did not want our wedding to be too rustic. I loved the raw wood/ barn wedding look. I, however, wanted our wedding to be elegant.

Why did you choose Vredenburg Manor House as your venue?

I was looking for an eclectic venue. We were looking for a beautiful garden for the photoshoot, a place we



*“A classic, intimate, elegant wedding with a touch of magic,
a beautiful couple surrounded by love and fairy lights”*

*Hair and make-up - Lisa Brown
Dress - Maggie Soterro supplied by Brides of Somerset
Bridesmaid dresses - The Maiden Dresses
Photographers - Justin and Simone Photography
Videography - Boland Weddings
Cake - Delana's Cakes
Flowers and décor setup - A Dream Come True Events
Décor supplied by - Baie Goeters
Venue - Vredenburg Manor House
Band - The Hungarian trio*

can get ready, and have our ceremony and reception. Vredenburg Manor House offered all of that and as a bonus, the Manor house is in our hometown and several guests could sleep over. After meeting Leon and Luke, we knew we found our venue. They were very helpful, and they know just how to make a nervous bride feel at ease.

Any advice for future Brides?

The advice I got from my sister-in-law: If anything does not go to plan on your big day, you will be the only one who knows about it, so don't stress about it. Enjoy every moment.

What was your favourite part of your big day?

Everyone we spoke to leading up to our wedding day, told us how quick the day goes by. After hearing that and realising how true it might be, we decided to take a moment every now and then, to take it all in. To really sit back in awe of the beauty and magnificence of the day. Those little moments we had, were my favourite. We are also thankful, that due to the intimacy of the wedding, we were able to connect and spend time with all of our guests.

What was your colour scheme and theme?

The initial colour scheme was blush pink and sage, however, we ended up having a lot of white, pink, and mint green/ eucalyptus green and hints of gold. The theme was elegant/ rustic.

Where was your ceremony?

Our ceremony was on the lawn in front of the Manor house.

How many guests?

53 Guests.

Your wedding songs?

We had a lovely band trio that played "I Can't Help Falling in Love" when I walked down the aisle. I knew from the beginning that I did not want the traditional wedding march to play, and I have always been an Elvis Presley fan. Our first dance was to "Time after Time" by Cindy Lauper.

What cost more than you thought it would?

Flowers and décor, especially the fairy lights and the dancefloor.

What made you choose your photographer and videographer?

I loved their style. I made sure to look at their samples on their respective websites and I immediately knew that they were offering what I was looking for. Honestly, I could not recommend them enough. Both the photographers (Justin and Simone) and the videographers (Boland Weddings) made us feel so comfortable in front of all the cameras and the end products were amazing. I do not know of one person who did not shed a tear after seeing the pictures and video.

Where did you go on Honeymoon?

We went to the lovely Knysna. Due to the uncertainty that revolved around the pandemic at the time, we decided to keep the honeymoon local, and we could not be happier about our decision, we have such a beautiful country. We went to Amanzi Island Boutique Hotel on Leisure Island and to Forest Valley Cottages, both in Knysna.





Vredenburg MANOR HOUSE

GUESTHOUSE, CONFERENCE AND FUNCTION VENUE

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

Tel: +27 21 842 3264 • Cell: +27 61 725 9120

eMail: info@vredenburgmanor.co.za

www.vredenburgmanor.co.za



DIEP IN DIE BERG

TOP WEDDING VENUE



Diep in die Berg has a luxurious modern Wedding, Conference and Function Centre nestled on the slopes of the picturesque Bronberg Mountain Range in Pretoria East, only minutes away from the N1 and N4 highway.

Our breathtaking gardens with its tranquil water features are one of the many things that make our venue so charming. With over fifty indigenous trees, beautiful sunsets over the mountain and indoor and outdoor fire places, our clients can be sure that their next corporate function, special event or wedding will be an unforgettable experience.

Diep in die Berg has a soft elegant indoor chapel for your wedding ceremony as well as a beautiful modern reception venue that can accommodate up to 230 guests with a dance floor. Our breathtaking gardens are green throughout the year and can be reserved for an optional outdoor experience.

Diep in die Berg's Wedding Planner will bring elegance, quality and personal attention to the planning of your wedding including her vast experience, from the first meeting to your perfectly orchestrated wedding day.

EXPERIENCE LUXURY AT ITS BEST!



BOHEMIAN LOVE & ELOPE 2022

4 HOURS | 20 MINIMUM TO 50 MAXIMUM GUESTS

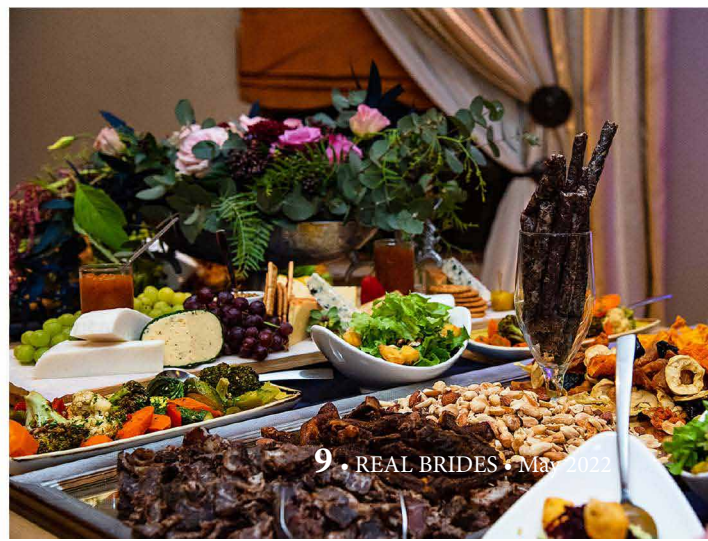


BOHEMIAN LOVE IS A 4 HOUR MODERNISED ROMANTIC FAIR PACKAGE THAT WAS CREATED FOR OUR SMALLER WEDDINGS THAT WANTS TO MOVE AWAY FROM OLD TRADITION. LOVE & ELOPE ♥



WHAT TO EXPECT

- Outdoor Experience in our tranquil lush gardens or Indoor Experience in our quaint Chapel / VIP Venue against the Bronberg Mountain (weather permitted)
- Bohemian Flowers & Décor for your Ceremony and Reception Area
- Full Wedding Planning and Coordination Included
- Service Staff (Waiters & Barmen)
- Infused Oasis filtered water with Seasonal Fruit (Chef's Choice) to be served on Arrival
- Gin & Tonic Interactive Drinks Station with Garnish or Tea, Coffee & Juice Bar for the earlier weddings that do not want to start off with a "G&T"
- Luxury Cocktail Menu or Savoury Harvest Station
- On-site Dressing Area Only
- Bridal Basket with snacks and drinks to take on your photo shoot
- Complimentary Kitchen Tea Area at our Restaurant
- Customised High Wooden Tables or Glass Top Wrought Iron Twirl Tables (Availability Dependent)
- Picturesque Gardens with Water Features and lots of Photo Opportunities



SEALED WITH A KISS

ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE | MINIMUM OF 50 GUESTS



SEALED WITH A KISS WAS CREATED AS AN ALL INCLUSIVE "ENTRY LEVEL" PACKAGE. PERSONALISE THIS PACKAGE TO YOUR NEEDS AND SPECIFICATIONS ♥



WHAT TO EXPECT

- Luxurious Reception Venue with Quaint Chapel against the Bronberg Mountain for Weddings over 70 Guests
- Quaint Reception Venue against the Bronberg Mountain with either an Outdoor Ceremony or a combined Indoor Ceremony / Reception Experience for Weddings below 70 Guests (weather permitted)
- Full Wedding Planning and Coordination Included
- Service Staff (Waiters & Barmen)
- Infused Oasis filtered water with Seasonal Fruit (Chef's Choice) to be served on Arrival
- Gin & Tonic interactive Station served with Garnish as Welcoming Drinks
- Pita Bread and dips served as Welcoming Snacks
- Scrumptious Three Course "I DO" Buffet (Plated Starter / Buffet Main Course / Buffet Dessert OR Plated Meal (1x Starter / 1x Main / 1x Dessert))
- Honeymoon Suite for the night of your Wedding including Breakfast
- Grooms on-site Dressing Area
- "Survival Pack" for your Service Providers (DJ, Photographers, Video)
- Bridal Basket with snacks and drinks to take on your photo shoot
- Complimentary Kitchen Tea Venue / Area at our Restaurant
- Diep in die Berg Ceremony Stands and a choice of either Table Décor (Table Cloths, Underplates, Centre Piece Candelabra / Vase) or beautiful Wooden tables (availability dependant)
- Picturesque Gardens with Water Features and lots of Photo Opportunities

HEAD OVER HEELS

LUXURY PACKAGE | MINIMUM OF 50 GUESTS



WHAT TO EXPECT

HEAD OVER HEELS IS A LUXURIOUS ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE WITH ALL THAT YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR DREAM WEDDING MOST MEMORABLE. EXPERIENCE LUXURY AT ITS BEST ♥

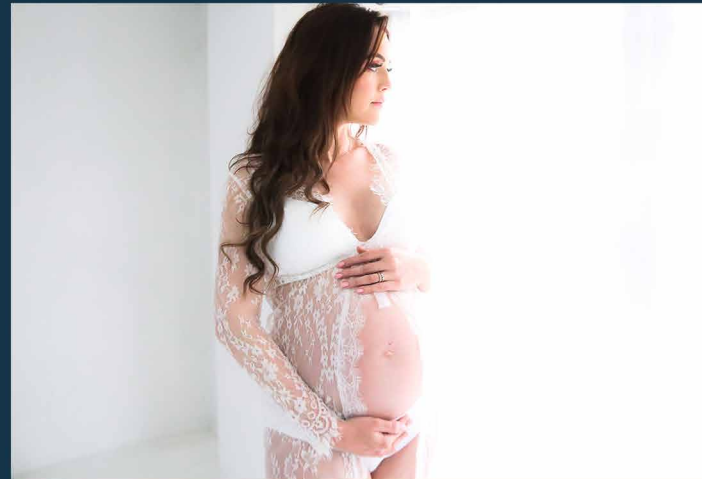
- Luxurious Reception Venue with Quaint Chapel against the Bronberg Mountain for Weddings over 70 Guests
- Quaint Reception Venue against the Bronberg Mountain with either an Outdoor Ceremony or a combined Indoor Ceremony / Reception Experience for Weddings below 70 Guests (weather permitted)
- Bridal Hair & Make-Up Cash Voucher
- Wedding Cake Cash Voucher
- Flowers & Décor Cash Voucher
- DJ Cash Voucher
- Full Wedding Planning and Coordination Included
- Service Staff (Waiters & Barmen)
- Infused Oasis filtered water with Seasonal Fruit (Chef's Choice) to be served on Arrival
- Gin & Tonic interactive Station served with Garnish as Welcoming Drinks
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- Picturesque Gardens with Water Features and lots of Photo Opportunities



FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US REGARDING OUR THREE ALL-INCLUSIVE WEDDING PACKAGES OR LET US TAILOR-MAKE YOUR PACKAGE TO SUIT YOUR BUDGET AND NEEDS.



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Maternity & Newborn Photography

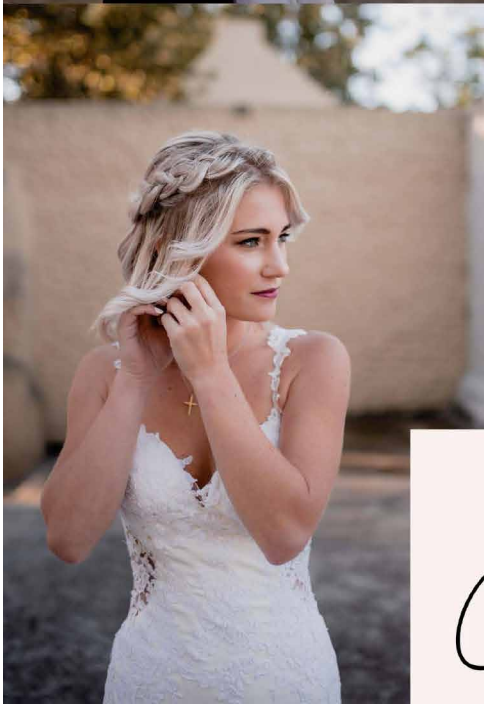
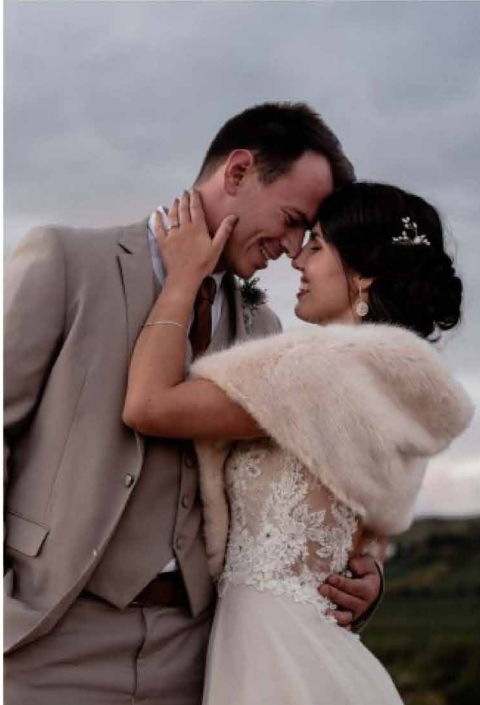
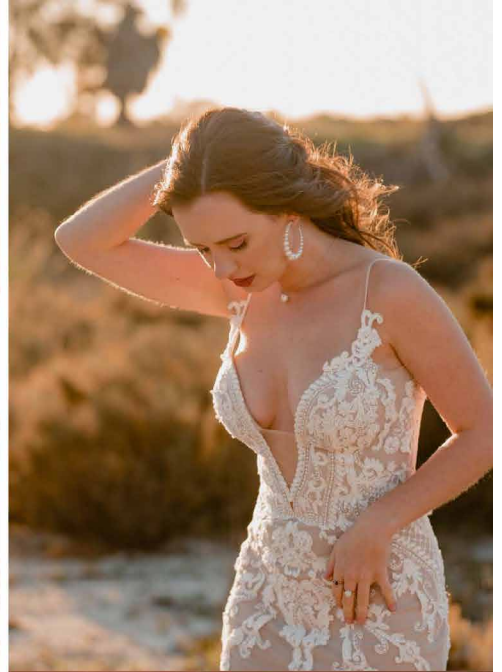


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THE SHARK BAY

TOP WEDDING VENUE



SB

The Shark Bay

– Boutique Hotel & Spa Langebaan –

There are so many important parts that make up a wedding. But which should be prioritised? The catering? The décor? The wedding dress? Some of these, but not all of them? When it comes to the venue, everyone can agree on its importance. Setting the right balance between splendour and grace sets the right tone for the rest of this special occasion.

Natural beauty and sheer class are what The Shark Bay Boutique Accommodation & Spa can offer you on your special day. You can opt for a poolside lookout with a view of the white-tipped surf complimented with an elegant indoors venue. When the scene is set right, the day is poised for magic.

The Shark Bay Hotel has a reputation for catering holiday bliss – walking distance from the Langebaan Lagoon, it offers the best of both worlds depending on your needs. Whether it's restorative R&R or that special spark of adventure that is lacking in your life, we've got you. The Shark Bay is the perfect destination for you, catering for both your holiday and wedding in one. Let us help you plan your perfect holiday today.

It has now expanded its gifts to help you plan the perfect wedding day. With packages tailor-made to suit your needs, you can have a conversation about all of the other crucial parts of a wedding: how to do the catering right, accommodation for you and your guests and the tasteful décor you envision for that magical day. Not to mention the dancefloor and how to help your guests get down to the business of celebrating.



Email: events@touchdown-africa.com
Call: 0800 008 710 *1



SB

The Shark Bay
— Boutique Hotel & Spa Langebaan —



If you'd like your guests to enjoy some canapé delights while admiring the view of the lagoon, The Shark Bay Boutique Accommodation & Spa has packages catering for that. While you prepare for your moment in a private villa, your loved ones can sip on a drink, enjoy the West Coast wildflowers and marvel at the beauty of the nearby West Coast National Park. Talk about setting the scene; make your entrance when you're ready, beautiful!

Accommodation options include four luxurious villas – all as beautiful as the fynbos flowers that grace the hotel. There are also different hotel room options for your guests, ranging from the Deluxe Room to the Executive Room. Your milestone is one to be languished in and the beauty of you sharing the space with your guests is that each beautiful table décor choice, each ocean breeze, each special delicacy, can be savoured and treasured forever.

The Shark Bay and the Langebaan Lagoon area are two of the Western Cape's special gems. Pre-wedding excitement will go hand-in-hand with a visit to these holiday destinations before tying the knot there. Bond with your fiancé over some kitesurfing, fishing or birding.

As if it couldn't get any better, there are also spa facilities at The Shark Bay Hotel and so when it comes time for your wedding, your entourage will be spoilt for choice. What better way to celebrate this beautiful thing called love than to take the time out to savour all of the good things in life: friends, family, beauty and joy!

Start planning that dream day in a dream location. The Shark Bay Boutique Accommodation & Spa has all the event planning expertise you and your person deserve.

Pictures by Christelle Rall

SB

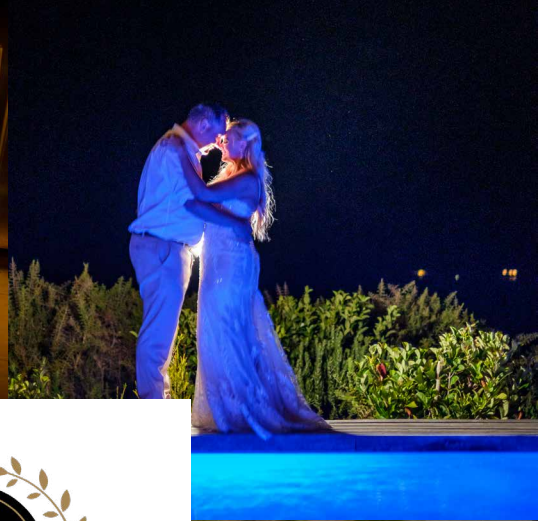
The Shark Bay

– Boutique Hotel & Spa Langebaan –



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SB

The Shark Bay
 – Boutique Hotel & Spa Langebaan –

NICOLA AND HENRICO ALBERS



Boots, Burgers and Leather Jackets...

How did you and your hubby Meet?

In the year after we finished matric, we both entered to do a gap year. We were on different campuses, but on our adventure camps, the different campuses always came together. On the first adventure camp that all the campuses attended together, we were placed in the same team. From the first time we met, we just clicked and for the rest of the year it was like fate put us together, as we always ended up on the same teams. The year after we finished our gap year, in our first year of studies, we started dating, and stayed together for 5 years before we got engaged.

How long did you plan your wedding for?

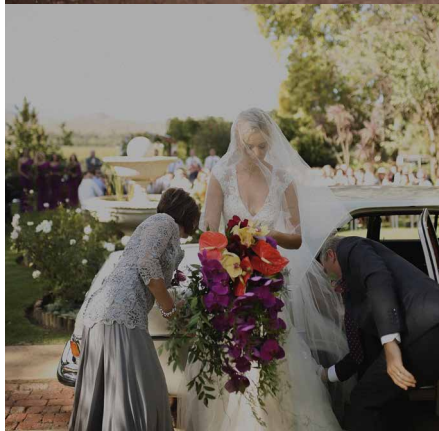
As a qualified wedding planner, it was quite easy for me to plan our wedding as I knew exactly what I wanted and where to get the suppliers to do it. Henrico was involved with the planning from the start, but since I had experience in planning weddings, he was very relaxed and trusted me to handle everything by myself. We were engaged for 7 months, and the planning took all of 2 months to do!

We love your big bouquet, please tell us the story about that?

I have always disagreed with the quote "less is more", and my bouquet was the one thing that I wanted to have completely over-the-top. I sat with my florist and gave her my colour scheme and floral preferences, but completely let her take initiative with creating my bouquet. She did warn me, however, that I might gain a few extra muscles after the wedding day from carrying my bouquet around, and that's exactly how it felt, but I loved it and would not have changed it if I had a choice.

How big was your bridal party, and who stood by your side on the day?

My bridal party consisted of my sisters, who are twins, as well as my cousin and my best friend. The best bride tribe by FAR! They were the best hype-crew, and looked incredible in their hot pink bridesmaids' jumpsuits.



*“More is More,” a Texas inspired wedding with
Bride Tribe goals!”*



*Venue: Wederom Wedding Venue
Catering: Jack Rabbit Mobile Kitchen & Boulevard 82 Food Truck
Photographer: Who'sAnnah Photography
Hair & Make Up: Anne-Mart Strydom
Décor Hire: Flamboijant
Flowers: AlsMoi
Wedding dress: Bride & Co
Grooms Suit: Euro Suit
Live caricature artist: Peter Mascher
DJ: Soundthought
Bridesmaids' jumpsuits: Ciska Barnard Couture
Marquee Lights: Lekker Trou Letters & Lights
Wedding Cake: Jana van Dalen
Beer Bar: Saggy Stone Brewery*

Burgers and Chips!? How awesome! What made you choose your menu?

Who doesn't love a good burger and chips ;-) For our wedding, our idea was to have a festival-feel with lots of carnival lights, live entertainment and food trucks. We also got married on our own wedding venue on our family farm, and since I am the on-site wedding co-ordinator, I knew I had to create a menu that would require minimum involvement from my side, so the food trucks seemed like the best option to ensure a hassle-free dinner and our guests absolutely loved it. They were able to eat whenever they felt ready, from the different food trucks. The food choices were between Burgers, Taco's, Espetada's and Butter Chicken, all being prepared while you wait.

Did you do a hair and makeup trial?

Yes, I went for a hair and makeup trial 3 weeks prior to my wedding day.

What was your first dance song and why?

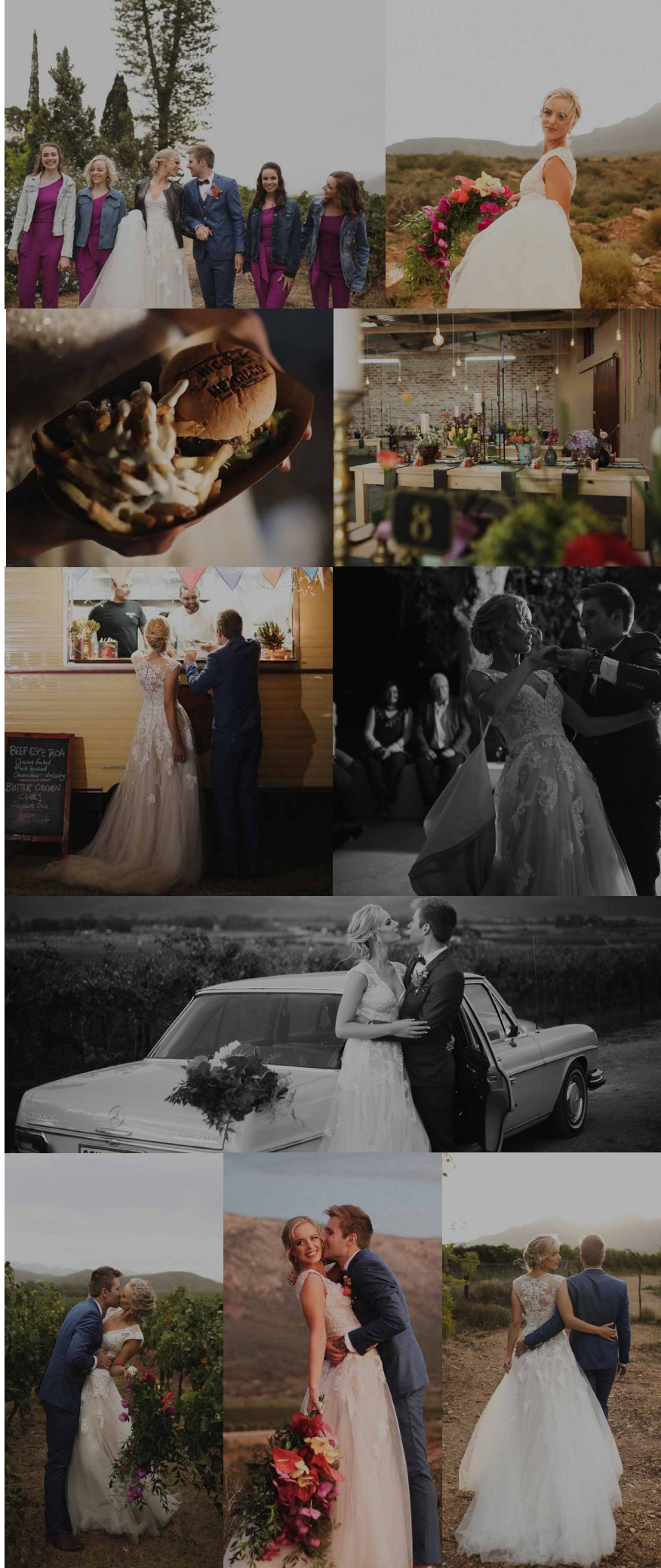
Our first dance song was "My Beloved" by Joshua Aaron. The song had a lot of spiritual meaning to us, as the lyrics are scripture verses from Song of Solomon that say: "I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine"

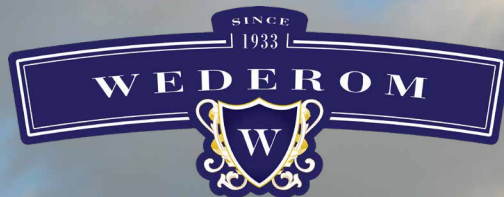
Tell us about your wedding boots!?

I received my cowboy boots as a gift from my aunt when I was 16 years old. She bought them in Texas, USA, and knowing my taste for all things over-the-top, she bought me the brightest funkiest pair of brown leather cowboy boots, covered in leopard print with embroidered flowers all over. When I had to choose wedding shoes, I knew I did not want to go for a heeled wedding shoe as we got married on our farm, so the first thing that came to my mind was to wear my cowboy boots. They were incredibly comfortable, and I was on the dance floor all night! I paired the cowboy boots with a custom-made leather jacket (also made by my aunt) that had my new surname embroidered with flowers on the back.

Where did you go on Honeymoon?

My husband took me to Mauritius for our honeymoon. We stayed in the Veranda Point Aux Biches Hotel near Grand Baie. It was the best honeymoon destination and we loved every minute of exploring the island.





MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE

At Wederom Boutique Winery we pride ourselves in offering an exceptional experience on the joyous occasion of your marriage.

Imagine being wed in the heart of the Robertson Wine Valley, tucked between vineyards and orchards, with the foothills of the Langeberg Mountains as your backdrop.

Share your vision - country chic, rustic, farm-style - you name it. On your big day, our sole focus is to ensure that everything goes off without a hitch. Our dedicated wedding co-ordinator will do the rest!

You want the first day of the rest of your lives to be unforgettable and we will stop at nothing to make it so!



THE SILVER SIXPENCE

TOP WEDDING VENUE



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 50 guests, a Micro-Brewery for a Friday night get-together, and the option of either a forest or Chapel ceremony ensures a perfect setting for 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 spoilt 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 on-site luxurious accommodation ensures excellent convenience for the family and close friends of the bridal couple. Each room has tea & coffee making facilities.

Included in our Accommodation Package is a complimentary romantic Honeymoon Suite adjacent to our well-appointed Bridal Dressing Room.

Cairnfern Country Lodge, (the Manor House which has self-catering facilities), has accommodation for 8 guests in 4 en-suite rooms. It has a large lounge where family and friends can relax in front of a log fireplace before the festivities get underway. All the bedrooms open up onto a spacious veranda overlooking the Friesian horse paddocks.

The Paddocks accommodation (approximately 150m from the hall) accommodates 12 guests in 6 well-appointed suites. All rooms have fireplaces – and are ideal for the bridesmaids and groomsmen. There are two comfortable 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 Ferns – our 6 new rooms for 12 guests – is situated opposite The Brewery, and each en-suite room has a cosy fireplace and a little patio with a lovely view to the horse paddocks.

The Highland Suites, our self-catering lodge which is situated on top of the mountain, is ideal for preserving the tradition of preventing the Bride and Groom from seeing one another before the Ceremony begins. This Lodge has accommodation for 10 guests in 5 ultra-luxurious suites (individual units) – each with its own private balcony with magnificent views towards the escarpment. Each suite has its own entrance off a central garden courtyard and is linked via a covered walkway/patio. Additionally each has 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 incredible panoramic views and is ideal for pre-wedding photos! Enjoy an early morning cup of coffee on your balcony or the deck whilst watching the sun rise over the misty valley - 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



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DANIELLE & ABRAHAM THEUNISSEN



Rustic Magic, a sunset wedding to envy...

Why did you choose your venue?

Tsekama's breath-taking Bushveld / Aquatic ambience and Marinda's proficiency and attention to detail overwhelmed us when we first visited the venue. The venue was big enough, also perfectly located and central to all quests travelling to our wedding ceremony. We wanted sufficient comfortable overnight accommodation for the Bridal Party and family at the venue and the beautiful rooms were just perfect! Ilze ensured a flawless booking experience. The very unique Bottle- and Freight Container house was picture-perfect and spacious to use while getting ready with the bridesmaids before the Ceremony. We literally got goosebumps when we opened the majestic wooden doors to the striking church! The canape and reception area were exactly what we had in mind with dainty fairy lights dancing on the water surrounding the area and, in that moment, envisioned our perfect day! We fell in love with Tsekama! The delectable Reception Catering (Harvest Table and Plated Menu), beautiful available décor, and spectacular flower arrangements, amazing resident DJ / Music were all included in the rate per person - we literally only had to bring my wedding dress and Abraham's suit on the day and all else were expertly taken care of by Tsekama – and WOW did Marinda deliver and even overdeliver on every promise to make our special day the most BEAUTIFUL, extraordinary and memorable!

We love your shoes, please tell us why you chose them?

I am an authentic farm girl at heart and love adventure! I always had my own unique individual style and ideas... – getting married in my Vellies was not only exactly who Danielle is, but sooo comfortable!

What was your colour scheme and why did you choose that?

Our colour palette was primarily Sage Green, with White and a touch of Vintage Rose – we looked to nature for our colour scheme. Sage Green is a calm and timeless shade that not only invited the outdoors in but also complimented the Bushveld atmosphere perfectly.

A naked cake, was it delicious and who made it?

Our fabulous 3 tier naked wedding cake was made by Marinda at Tsekama.. O my word YES it was a delicious dreamy vanilla, red velvet and chocolate cake.

Any advice for future Brides?

Wedding planning can be a bit unnerving, but when you have the support of your parents, fiancé, bridesmaids, family and friends who listens to your vision for your



“An authentic farm girl means getting married in the bush with vellies, Danielle & Abraham’s dream come true!”

*1 Venue: Tsekama Wedding Venue
(Marinda Turvey - Flowers; Wedding Cake and Décor)
Photographer: Rustic Barn Productions
Videographer: Flash Films
Wedding Dress: The Bridal House Waterkloof Pretoria
Groom Suit: Eurosuit - Bride & Co.
MUA: Bennedy Visagie Makeup@benjakkals
Hair: Chantel Geyser Naboomspruit*

wedding and entrusting your "little girl dream" of the perfect wedding day to a team of experts it's easier to focus on the task at hand and understand that your engagement should be an exciting time to celebrate your love leading up to your big day! Don't be afraid to be different, it's ok to come up with your own creative ideas. The schedule is not always followed and things can go wrong but see the beauty even in the flaws. We had a little rain after the ceremony and then in turn received the most beautiful rainbow and breath-taking sunset! Find the wonder, excitement and fun in the whole process. Live in the moment and set aside time during the wedding with your husband to look around the reception and take in all the love your loved ones and close friends share with you. Remember that this is a very special time and only happens once in a lifetime!

What was your favourite part of your big day?

I have two favourite parts ... My 1st favourite part was when the church doors opened and I walked down the aisle with my dad at my side and looked at my fiancé – his eyes and face portrayed so many sincere emotions - honest love, passion and respect. The other favourite part was when we entered the reception hall and had our fist dance as Mr and Mrs Theunissen.

Did you always want to get married in the bush?

Absolutely, we moved to the bushveld when I was 7 years old and I completely fell in love with the rugged exterior which hid a heart of gold... I knew that this is my happy place, a place to call my forever home with calm, adventure, wildlife and everything in between...

What were your favors for your guests?

Our guest favors were chocolate wrapped in a special casing – I always say that you cannot go wrong with something sweet.

Did you do a bouquet and garter toss?

Yes, we had both. The bouquet was caught by Caitlin a friend of one of the groomsmen and the garter caught by non-other than Willem thé groomsmen. Who knows, this might just be the wonderful beginning of their happily ever after...

What was your 1st dance song, and did you go for dance lessons?

We both love Juan Boucher and chose "Ons Word Een" as our 1st dance song. We did not go for dance lessons... we have been dancing together for 4 years.. and 'n "boertjie" knows how to "sokkie"

You had photography and videography, why is having both so important to you?

We decided to invest in the best photographers and videographer because there are so many moments you forget about or miss on the day and to have your special moments, expressions and laughter proficiently caught on camera from every angle, to relive the greatest day of your lives with all your loved ones and friends for many years to come, both in actual sound and motion as well as still images of a moment in time is way more intimate and definitely priceless.

Where did you go on Honeymoon?

We stayed at Ngwenya Lodge in the Kruger National Park. We originally reserved a standard chalet but upon our arrival they surprised us with a Suite on the banks of the Crocodile River! We are truly grateful to the management and staff of Ngwenya and blessed to have had the best wedding and honeymoon!





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



BELLE MAROC

TOP WEDDING VENUE



BELLE MAROC
Blouberg, Cape Town



If you're planning your wedding and want it to be as magical and special as your love, then Belle Maroc Boutique Hotel & Spa is for you. This gorgeous accommodation spot in Blouberg, located on the beach, is especially made for lovers of luxurious and exotic destinations. Belle Maroc – Beautiful Morocco – has all the seductive appeal and elegance a beautiful and romantic wedding deserves.

Belle Maroc boasts tasteful and considered details, from the Moroccan art to the delightful cuisine, from the resident chef to the linen in the luxurious rooms. The end goal is beauty and class, and if that's what your heart desires, then let this elegant boutique hotel set the mood for your special occasion.

Planning a wedding often involves keeping track of multiple moving pieces in different places.

Our team at Belle Maroc will help you coordinate these pieces so that everything runs smoothly and does your day justice. Consult with the boutique hotel's experienced staff about all the wonderful parts that can make or break your day, from catering to ceremony and reception décor. Work closely with experts to share your vision of how to celebrate the romance and beauty of your union.

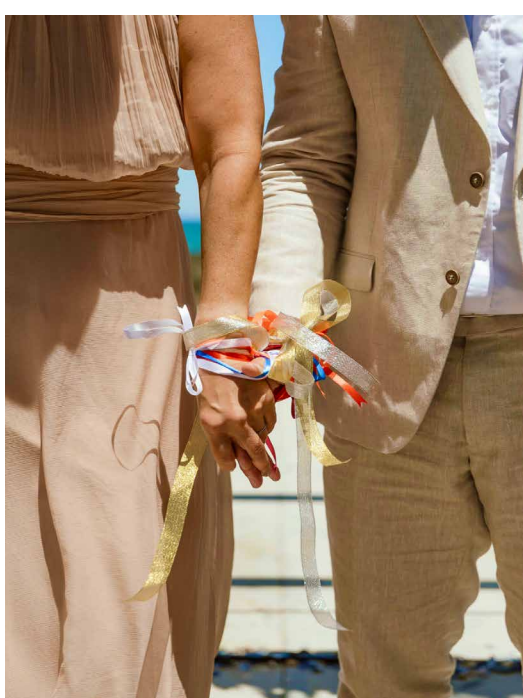
Belle Maroc has intimate spa facilities and a first-class restaurant. Positively reviewed for its excellent service towards guests, its reputation as a luxury leisure stay has been cemented. And now, its repertoire includes venue capabilities. It has the facilities, the expertise – and the class – to help you plan the foundational – and finer – details. Once the day has been planned, it's on to planning the stay!



Email: events@touchdown-africa.com
Call: 0800 008 710 *1




BELLE MAROC
Blouberg, Cape Town

The hotel allows you and your guests to pair a perfect wedding with an idyllic holiday. Combining your celebration with all the treats available at Belle Maroc ensures that you'll have treasured memories for life and – very importantly – that you'll feel at ease during this magical time. Imagine having a delicious gourmet meal, followed by a relaxing Aromastone full body massage, the night before the big day. Or even better, a calming and intimate couple's massage as a newly-married couple after your big day. In fact – why not both?

There are options galore for you and your wedding party. The surrounding areas to this stylish boutique hotel is a host of beaches that stretch all the way from Blouberg to Melkbosstrand, and we are ideally located at a stone's throw away. These areas are perfect for surfing, stand-up boarding, running and cycling. The Blaauwberg Nature Reserve is also close by. Hikes and walks, idyllic picnic spots and an environmental education centre make for bonding activities and memories for life. The protected Sable Antelope and Cape Buffalo that grace these areas are a special kind of magical to spot.

Celebrating your union at Belle Maroc Boutique Hotel & Spa means class and beauty in one spot. The bride-to-be gets to focus on the importance of the day, rather than the stresses of the planning.

Contact our team at 0800 008 710 *1 or email events@touchdown-africa.com



BELLE MAROC
Blouberg, Cape Town



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BELLE MAROC
Blouberg, Cape Town






LOOK WHAT AWAITS YOU ...

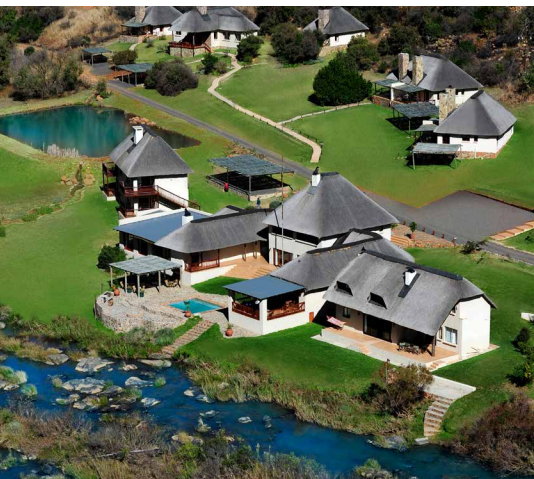
A winding river, majestic krantzies and an untouched expanse of 2500 hectares of rolling hills of thorn bushveld and highveld grassland offers an unparalleled experience to lovers of the great outdoors.

Whether your interest is fishing, bird-watching, wildlife, boating, walking or just relaxing in a beautiful, tranquil setting, you'll find all that, and more, at Komati Gorge.

The accommodation varies from the Hotel Suites and 2-sleeper self-catering Leopard units up to a 12-sleeper House. The Lodge can accommodate a total of 54 guests.

All this awaits you at Komati Gorge Lodge & Wildlife Reserve – one of the most alluring Lodges in Mpumalanga.

Come and experience the joy and tranquillity of Komati Gorge 4 Star Lodge. It is less than three hours from Johannesburg on the Drakensberg Escarpment in Mpumalanga between Carolina and Machadodorp.



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CHIZELLE & PIERRE-HENRI VERMEULEN



Champagne and Sunglasses in the sunset...

Your Love story?

Pierre-Henri and I met for the first time when we were in Primary school. We met at a public swimming pool, located very close to where we live. We were 12 years old at the time and I was very intrigued by this boy making backflips into the swimming pool. As a joke, my friend that was with me on the day dared me to ask for his cell phone number. Unfortunately, I couldn't go through with it. Luckily, a few years later, our paths crossed again when we went to the same high school. Our love story only began in our final matric year when we had our first dance at a friend's birthday party. This led to many more in the following months and 2 months in, I officially became his girlfriend. Fast forward 4 years and 10 months later, I found myself standing at the most beautiful lavender farm in Stellenbosch, with my high school love and man of my dreams on one knee in front of me.

Was your proposal a surprise?

Yes it was a surprise. Our engagement was 2 days after my birthday. We went for a couple's photoshoot which seemed to be a birthday present at that time. Midway through the photoshoot, he threw out a picnic blanket and a basket full of snacks. Just as we sat down, it started to drizzle. The rain began to pick up, and I could see that Pierre-Henri was anxiously fiddling with something at the bottom of the picnic basket. He took out the ring and asked me to marry him while raining soaking wet. We still laugh every time we think of that specific moment. After leaving the farm, we met with family and friends at a surprise gathering and celebrated the engagement.

How did you feel when you found "the" dress?

When we arrived at the dress shop, I did not have a good idea of what I wanted. Of course, I had a lot of ideas, but I did not have an exact picture. At first, I tried on a lot of beautiful tight-fitted dresses, but I felt uncomfortable and did not feel like myself in them. When I finally tried on "the" dress, I burst into tears as I felt pleasantly overwhelmed with the idea that "this is how I will look when I walk down the aisle". The dress was everything I wanted, classy but exciting and dramatic. After choosing the dress, I realised that it is very similar to my mother's dress at her and my father's wedding. It just made it so much more special.

What was your favourite part of your big day?

There was not a single moment during the day I



*“Shangri-la meaning “a remote beautiful
imaginary place where life approaches perfection”*



*Goedgeleven
Lilac Photography
My green love affair
DJ Etienne le Roux
Mooi Grimmering
Johan Botha
Bridal emporium*

did not enjoy. The entire day was magical. The ceremony was joyous and light-hearted, and during the reception speeches, it was all laughs. The evening was an absolute celebration as everyone was ready to party and dance. I stepped aside from the dancefloor a few times and just observed and took in the moment. Seeing all our loved ones and friends enjoying and celebrating the day with us made me realise how fortunate we are to have such amazing people in our lives. All these moments during the day and evening were so special. But my absolute favourite moment was my husband's reaction when he saw me for the first time, walking down the aisle. Thankfully Lilac Photography captured that exact moment so that I can cherish it forever.

What was your colour scheme and theme?

Our colour scheme was a collection of autumn colours with the theme- Shangri-la meaning "a remote beautiful imaginary place where life approaches perfection". This day was our shangri-la and we wanted our guests to experience our perspective on how such a place and moment in time might be.

How and why did you choose your bouquet?

For the bouquet, I only provided the florist with my colour scheme and the request for an orchid as it is my favourite flower. Thankfully My Green Love Affair understood exactly what I wanted with minimal information from my side.

How many guests?

We had 90 guests in total, which consisted of our closest friends and family. Every single one that was there, played a profound role in our lives and their presence contributed to us having the most special day.

Your wedding songs?

I chose "Lose Myself-Nick Wilson" for my walking down the aisle song. Shangri-la by Heuwels fantasies for our confetti song. This song was our inspiration for the theme and is also our favourite song as a couple. Not romantic at all, but we absolutely love it. We walked into the reception on MIKA-love today, and our first dance was on Juan Boucher-Gebore om by jou te wees.

Why did you choose your venue?

We chose Goedgeleven due to the beautiful and calming atmosphere one experiences outside under the trees and next to the water. The venue has a welcoming and "homey" feeling to it. One immediately feels welcome at Goedgeleven with their warm environment, extremely friendly and professional staff members and excellent service.

Most difficult part of planning your wedding?

Stying in budget! You see so many beautiful and creative things you want to add to the wedding to make it unique and personal, but everything adds to the costs. I would have loved to do more DIY things for the wedding to make it more personal, but there was not enough time. Even though Pierre-Henri and I were engaged for a year and a half, time seemed to slip through my hands extremely fast. I was finishing my Masters's degree during the engagement period, making wedding planning a bit difficult. But after appointing my fantastic service providers, things just fell perfectly into place.

Best advice you were given as a-bride-to-be?

The day goes by extremely fast. So don't stress about unnecessary things, just try to enjoy every single experience of the day. Step back every now and then and try to take in the moment.



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Competitive packages
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In-house DJ
Catering of the highest standard
Honeymoon suite
Beautiful landscaped gardens



Goedgeleven nestles in scenic farmlands outside Durbanville in the Western Cape. With more than 25 years experience in the wedding industry, Charmaine brings passion to life at Goedgeleven.



So much more than just a Wedding Venue...
Goedgeleven is available for events and special occasions of groups of between 40 – 250 guests.

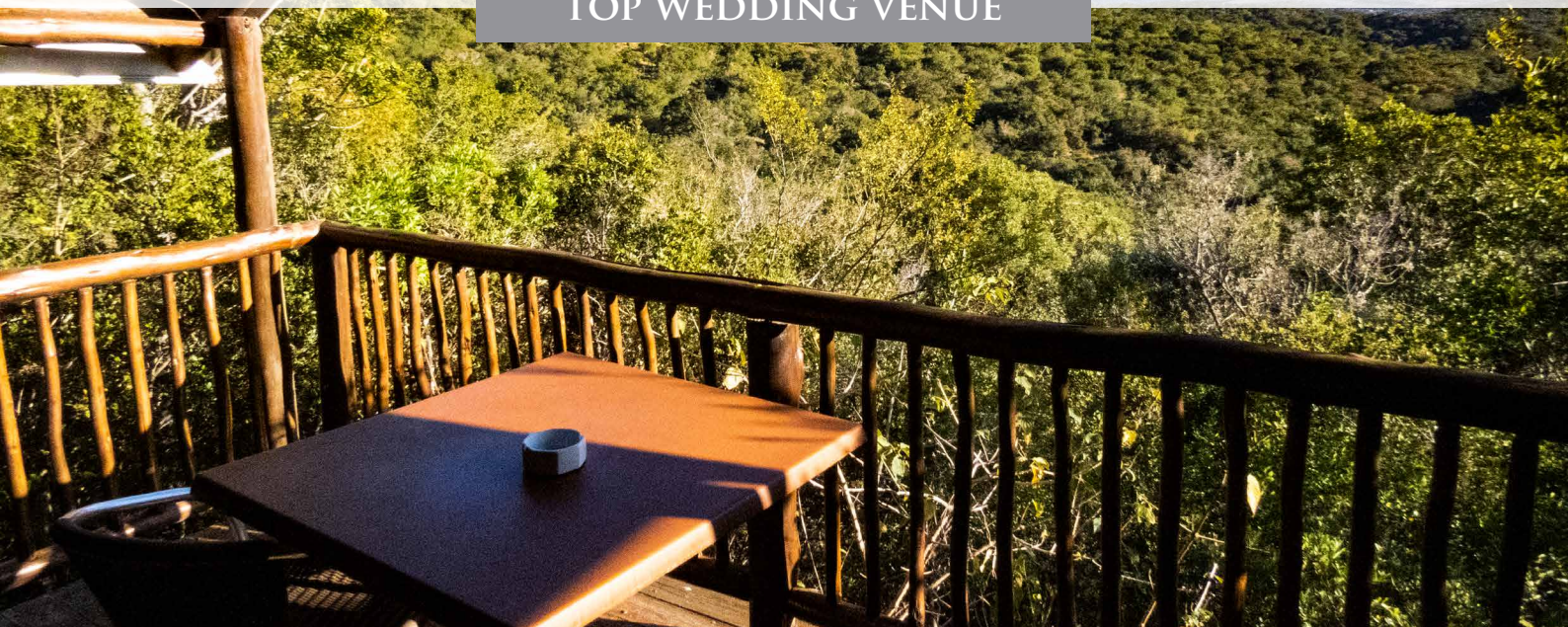
Charmaine Gouws:

067 702 8363 | info@goedgeleven.co.za
www.goedgeleven.co.za



INKWENKWEZI

TOP WEDDING VENUE



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.

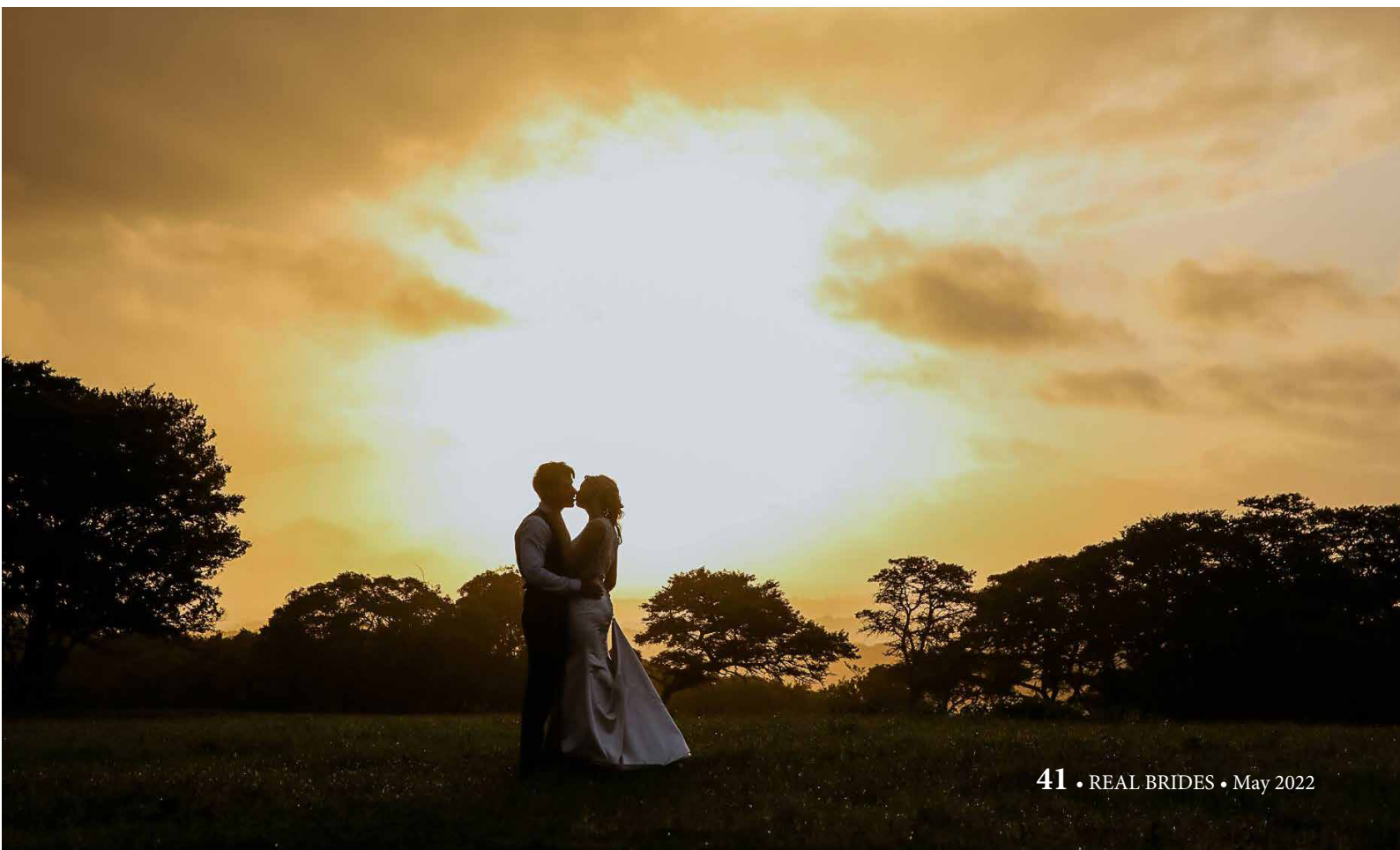
Your unique table décor and artistic displays will ensure that your special occasion is not short of being exclusively to your needs. The most magical setting with fairy lights- Tiffany chairs-and soft flowers and fabrics to create the elegance and charm of a romantic fairy tale wedding.

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
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE





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

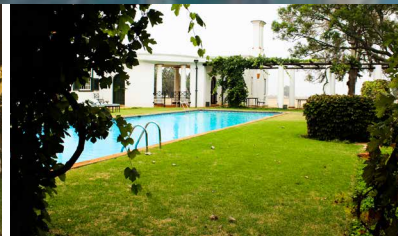
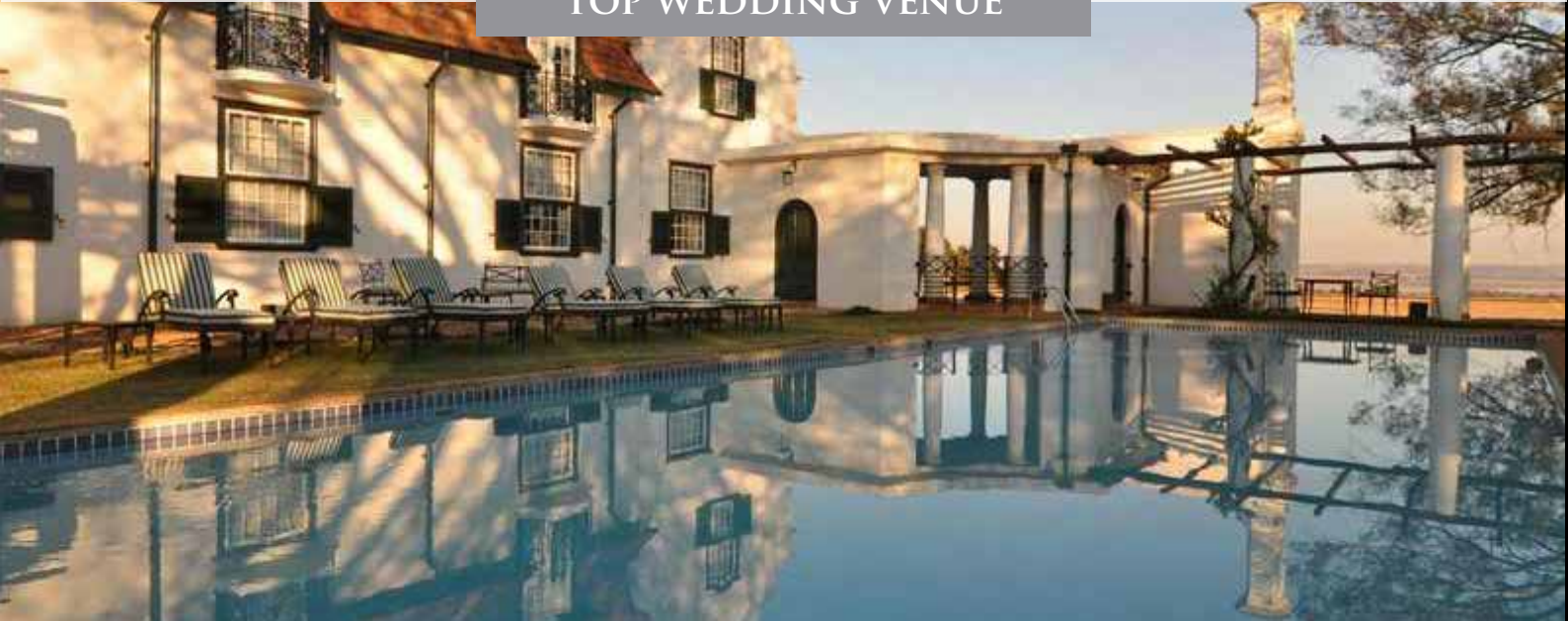




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WELGELEGEN MANOR

TOP WEDDING VENUE



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.

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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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Email: info@welgelegenmanor.co.za
 Physical Address: Farm Rietbult , R51 /
 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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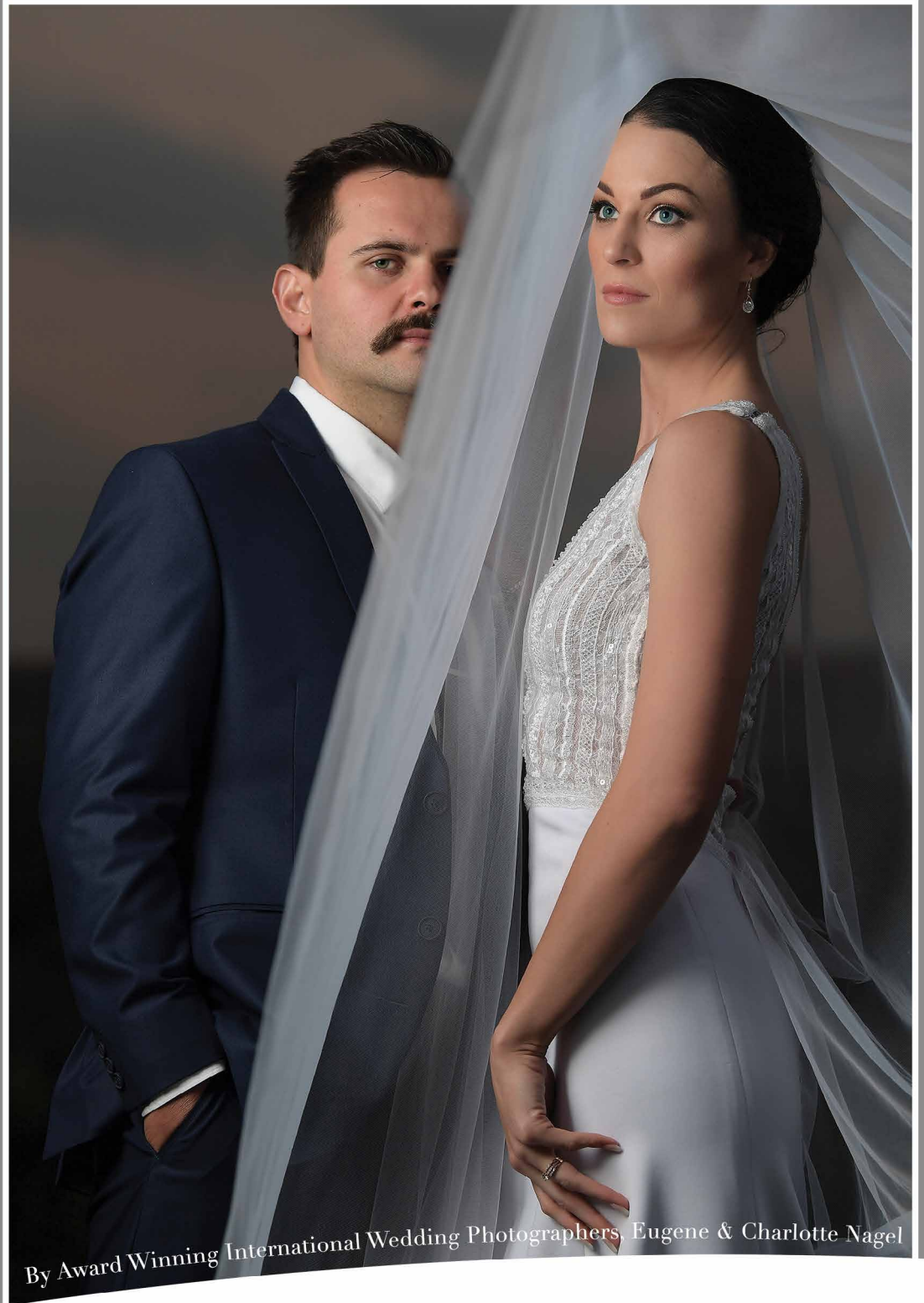
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Natasha Malan

📞 084 587 1931

✉️ natasha@nmphotography.co.za

www nmphotography.co.za