

Real Weddings

June 2022

South Africa's Exciting
Wedding Magazine

*Unique Ring
Barer*

*Classic Wedding
Traditions*

Surprise Honeymoons

Real Weddings





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REAL BRIDES LATEST NEWS

Morgan joins the family

It is with great pleasure that Real Brides announces that Morgan Brink has joined us as managing editor.

Morgan began her journey with Real Brides Magazine in 2019 with video editing and consulting. She quickly became part of the Real Brides Family and starting from this issue Morgan is the one who all you brides will be chatting to on the phone, email or WhatsApp.

Morgan will be taking over from Robbyn Ramsay who sadly passed away last month. Discussing her new role Morgan said: I am honoured to be walking in the footsteps of Robbyn who was a most wonderful person and outstanding journalist, we all miss her dearly.

Commenting on her new role Morgan added: "I absolutely love chatting to all the amazing Brides and hearing and seeing their photos from their very special day! I look forward to exciting things happening in the future."

Morgan who is the Mom of two smart loving boys, and her biggest fan and supporter is her hubby Ruan. Apart from being a mother and wife Morgan is highly accomplished business woman and has two degrees and currently owes



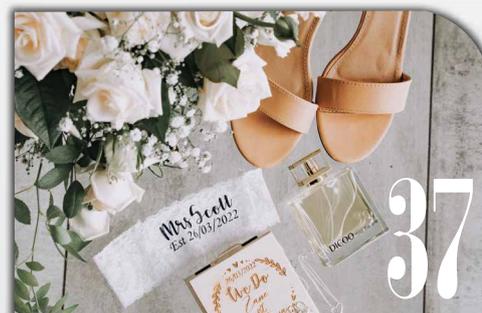
Morgan Brink

two businesses, mainly Neon Productions focusing on Newborns, Lifestyle and Corporate Photography

Want your wedding to be considered to be featured in Real Brides?

To be considered, write to morgan@neonproductions.co.za sending a sample wedding photo and a list of your services providers and your contact number.

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @realbride...



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Facebook.com/RealBridesMagazine

On the cover:

Bride: Chalita Le Roux

Photo: Mighty Fine

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CHALITA & PAUL LE ROUX



Sparklers on the dance floor!

Was your Proposal Romantic?

Our proposal was romantic and just perfect. We went on private hot air balloon, very early in the morning. By sunrise we were up in the air, and he went down on one knee when we flew over the river. It was a huge surprise on a beautiful morning. Thereafter we had a delicious buffet breakfast. We also had an engagement shoot on the day and went out for dinner the same night.

Who helped you with your planning?

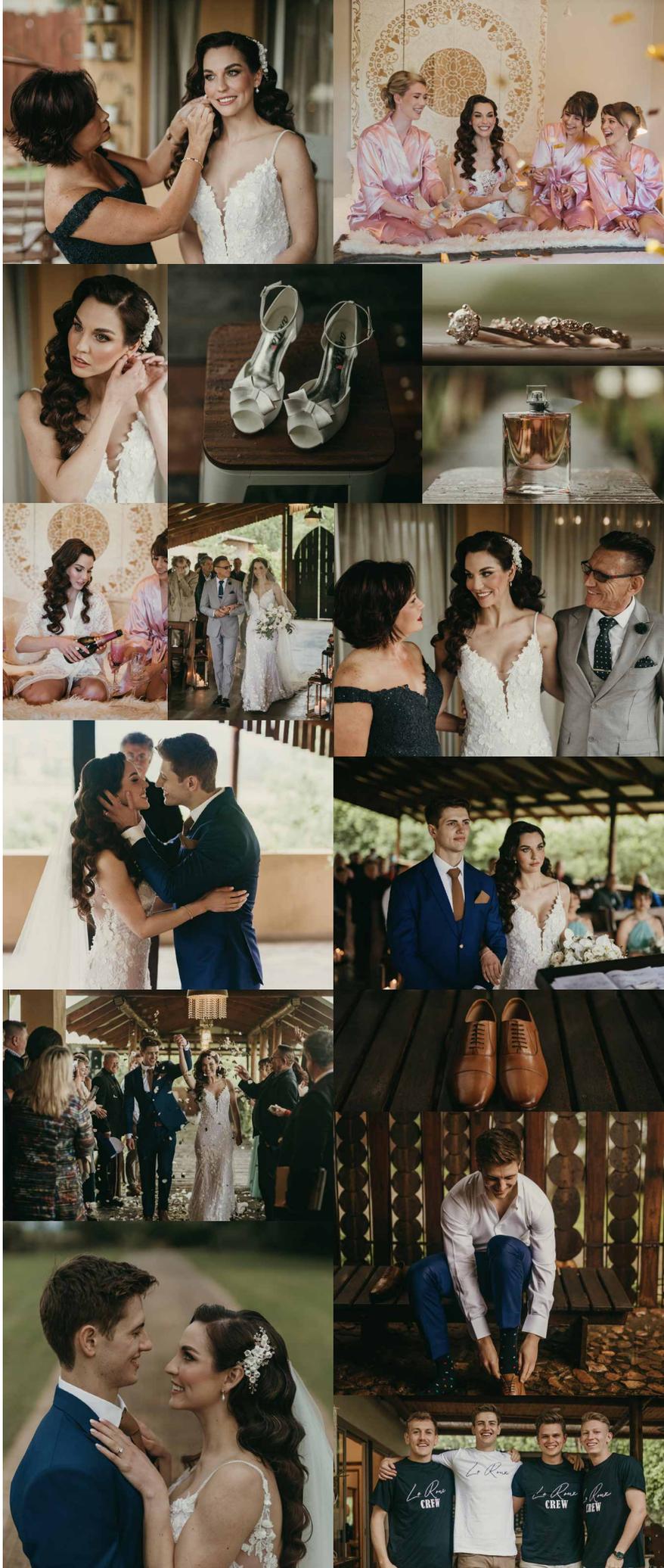
I did most of the planning self, together with my mother. The wedding coordinator of the venue also helped a lot with the planning and took a lot of stress away, especially on the big day. My amazing bridesmaids were also there every step of the way, and they made me feel very special.

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

Yes, most of the time, but with all the great and beautiful ideas on Pinterest one could get a little overwhelmed and I found myself changing my mind a lot in the beginning. Luckily, I knew exactly what "look" I was going for regarding the décor etc.

How many venues did you look at? And what made you choose Cradle Valley?

We looked at 3 Venues in total, Cradle valley was the 2nd venue we looked at. We got engaged on the 20 February 2021 and we wanted to get married in the same year and on a Saturday. I knew that it was going to be a challenge to find an open Saturday in 2021 with all the wedding postponements of 2020 due to covid. The venue had 3 dates available, and we chose the 27th of November 2021. My parents' anniversary is on the 28th of November, so this was special to me. We immediately secured our wedding date at the venue on the day we were viewing it. And it just felt right, it was perfect, and we had a lot of peace in our hearts about cradle valley. The people there are amazing, their service is fantastic and after getting married there they almost feel like family. It felt like home, and it is a beautiful venue. I loved everything from the Chapel, the reception, the dam and all the facilities of Cradle Valley. It had that warm, country look and feel which was exactly what I was looking for.



*“It’s your wedding and it should be exactly what you want
and how you want it.”*

*Bride & Groom: @chalitajohnson & @paul.le.roux
Photo and video: Mighty Fine
Venue: Cradle Valley Guesthouse
Photos & Video: Mighty Fine
Flowers & Décor: Suikerbekkie Floral Design
Stationery: Trendy Settings Paperworks
Wedding dress: Anel Botha Couture
Groom’s suit: Tailor Me
Bridesmaids dresses: Gelique
Make-up artist: @skulptedbykai
Hairstylist: Anika Lombard - Luxury Hair Artistry
Rings: YourDiamond & West Rand Diamond Cutting
Catering: JEM Exclusive Catering & Events
Cake: @winterberryandwhisk
DJ: @perfect_tone_music
Marriage officiant: Past. Danie van der Westhuizen
Photo booth: Selfie Cube*

Any advice for future Brides?

Don't ask too many people's advice and opinions (which sometimes even cause more confusion). Everybody has different tastes, but it's your wedding and it should be exactly what you want and how you want it.

We love your cake! Please tell us about it.

The buttercream cake was such a hit there wasn't anything left of it. It tasted just as good as it looked. A friend of mine which is a pharmacist, started her own business called Winterberry and Whisk in 2021. The cakes are pieces of art and I immediately fell in love with it. She gives you exactly what you want and the flavours you get to choose from are out of this world. The bottom tier was chocolate coffee caramel, and the top tier was white chocolate and raspberry.

Did you go for a Hair and Makeup Trail?

Yes. It is very important to let your hair stylist and make-up artist know what your expectations are and what look you are going for.

How many guests?

We invited 80 guests to our wedding. This was a safe amount with all the covid restrictions. We had 72 people at our wedding.

Did you buy or have your dress made?

Anel Botha designed and made my dream dress.

What made you choose your photographer and videographer?

I just loved their work. Their videos and photos are out of this world, and we wanted them to capture our big day. They are very professional and one of the best in business. I believe that photos are one of the only things you have left of your wedding day, and I didn't want to compromise on this. It was worth every cent.

Where did you go on Honeymoon?

Due to the covid outbreak at the end of November we decided to enjoy a South African honeymoon. We went to Thonga beach lodge, Thanda Safari, Oyster Box, Tintswalo at Boulders and Tintswalo Atlantic. We went to Zanzibar in April 2022.





Our attention to detail has taken comfort, convenience and hospitality service to new heights.

Cradle Valley is a beautiful and charming wedding, conference & function venue, overlooking a dam and horse paddocks on the edge of the Cradle of Humankind.

Cradle Valley offers full exclusivity of the venue in an intimate & romantic country setting.

You will fall in love with our breath-taking open aired chapel and its 360-degree views, the 70-meter aisle from the bridal suite, the beautiful reception hall with 12 large handmade solid wooden doors and unique oversized hinges opening towards the patios exposing our natural lush gardens.



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Accommodation

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Conferences, functions & events

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Physical address

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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.



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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”!



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~ WEDDING VENUE ~



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SIMONE & CRAIG VAN RENSBURG



Elegance, style and Grace, What a wedding!

Tell us about how you met?

I can't help but giggle whenever getting this question. We met on the trains in 2016. In South Africa, our train service is renowned for never operating efficiently, and this particular day was no different. I knew his face as we both frequented the trains, and that morning I saw him standing alone on the platform and decided to approach him under the guise of being curious as to 'why the trains were late'... we hit it off immediately, travelled together a few more mornings before trading numbers and spending time with one another outside of the trains.

What was your theme and colour scheme of the day?

I really wanted something timeless. I didn't want to look back at photos in 10 years' time and regret choosing a theme and colours that were popular at the time, so we chose a romantic wedding theme dripped in gold, champagne and black. We added as many candles as each table could take. It was a beautiful sight to walk into – a dim reception area sparkled by candles and fairy lights.

Any handy tips for Brides to be?

Skip the expense of physical invitations that will inevitably land up in guests' bottom drawers and sign up to a free wedding website like The Knot. You can update the website with information guests need to know, and you will have the website to look back on forever. Another tip is to choose your battles. Most brides can't and won't have it all, so choose what is important to you and let the rest slide.

Why did you choose your venue?

The venue encompassed everything we needed. It is undeniably beautiful with an intimate chapel, a striking green garden, and a reception hall that opens completely on one side to a view of the dam that is in the centre of the entire venue.

I also knew planning my wedding was going to be extremely stressful, so the less I did, the better. For this reason, I chose a venue that did everything - from the décor, flower arrangements, seating chart to even the gift box – all I had to do was arrange my dress, the cake, photographer and show up to my own wedding. I also loved the surprise of walking into my reception hall and being blown away. It was beautiful.



“It was something I always knew I’d have – a classic traditional wedding”



*Venue, décor & flowers: Goedgeleven Events Venue
Makeup artist & hairstylist: Amphora Beauty Salon
Dress: Tying the Knot
Groom's Suit: Romens Suits
Photographer: Charlie Jay Photography*

Tell us about your gorgeous wedding dress?

My dress was everything! Apart from marrying my amazing husband, my dress was the one thing I was most excited for. I bought my dress at Tying the Knot. Like every other bride-to-be, I had visions of what I wanted my dress to look like. I didn't want straps, but also felt strapless was too dull. Ultimately, I ended up falling in love with the off the shoulder sleeves. It was the one thing I was adamant on my dress having, and since I'm fairly petite, I went for a fit and flare style because I knew it would complement my body the most.

Did you follow all the wedding traditions?

Yes, with all of the bells and whistles. It was something I always knew I'd have – a classic traditional wedding.

Any oh no! moments?

I was vigorously warned by everyone that I cannot control everything that happens during the day. I am extremely OCD and had to have this same conversation with myself constantly – things will go wrong and it will be okay. Our venue had a beautiful garden and I wanted our guests to be able to utilise it, so my only wish was that there was no rain. Thankfully, my wish came true. I did notice one minor issue that actually made me laugh was that we forgot to get a cake topper for our cake.

How many guests?

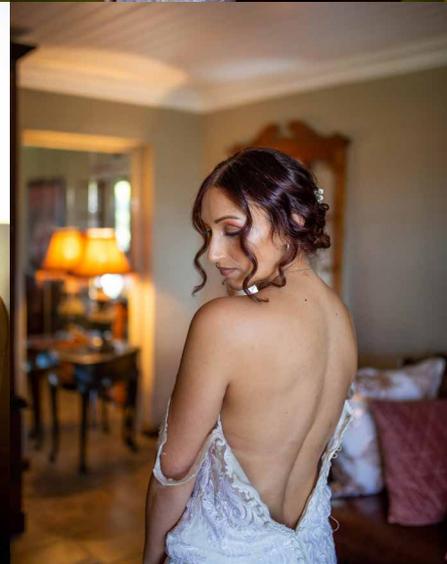
We started at about 120 and managed to narrow it down to 100 guests.

Did you give favors?. If yes what did you give your guests?

Initially I didn't plan for favours. It was often deemed as a waste of money whenever I did wedding research. My sister then suggested and offered to arrange for steel coasters with myself and my husband's initials and wedding date engraved on it. It's a useful gift that we ourselves use in our own home.

Where did you go on Honeymoon?

Our honeymoon was my husband's surprise and gift to me. He explained that we're spending all of this money on a wedding for our guests, and that we owe it to ourselves to have a proper honeymoon. I only found out 2 days before departure that we were going to Zanzibar for a week. It was amazing! When we came back, we spontaneously booked ourselves in at a cottage with a wood fire hot tub in Tulbagh. I would do both all over again.



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Competitive packages
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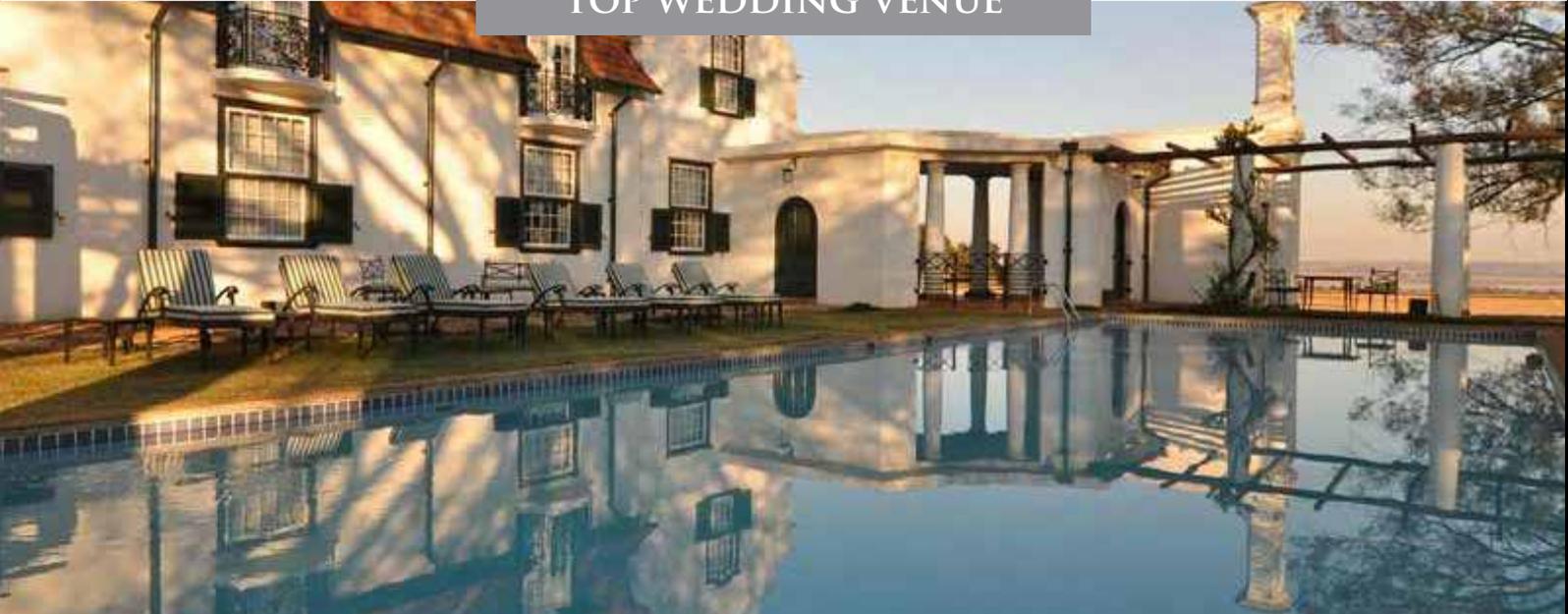




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WELGELEGEN MANOR

TOP WEDDING VENUE



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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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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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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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Natasha Malan

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www nmphotography.co.za

TIMOTHY & ILANDE BOWLER



A magical moment lasting a lifetime

How and when did Timothy Propose?

Timothy proposed on the 5th April 2018 on our family farm in Botswana at the dam wall.

What made you choose the flowers in your bouquet?

Just saw the idea and my venue made it come true.

Is there anything you would do differently?

No nothing everything was perfect.

How did you go about choosing your venue?

We saw the venue online and fell in love.

Any advice for future Brides?

Enjoy every moment, take everything in, it goes by so fast.

Did you buy or have your dress made?

I had my dress made .

What type of ceremony did you have?

In a chapel at Tsekama.

How many guests?

120 guests.

What was your 1st dance song?

Ons trou Juan Boucher.

Where did you go on Honeymoon?

To Hartbeespoort.



*“Enjoy every moment, take everything in, it goes
by so fast”*



*Venue :Tsekama Wedding Venue
Flowers:Tsekama wedding venue
Cake:Tsekama wedding venue
Dress:Madria Potgieter
Bridesmaid dresses:Madria Potgieter
Fotograaf: Hester engelbrecht(ECJ photography)
Hair: Angie Venter(Gezé)
Make up: Theresa Harrison (Glamour Express?)
Shoe : Bella Donna*





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





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ARIELLE & DANIEL VAN ZYL



Furkid Ring Bearer, how amazing!

How did you and your hubby meet?

Our love story began in high school. He was my brother's handsome friend and he would come over a lot. I mean, like a lot!! He caught my attention right away with his gorgeous green eyes and curly brown hair and I didn't mind seeing him a lot. His name is Daniel Christian Van Zyl and he's my husband and father of my children

April 7th, 2020 the love of my life asked me to marry him on a lovely afternoon hike with all of our fur-babies. He prepared a picnic for us with all of my favorite snacks.

Around the collar of each the dogs was a little love note. YZ - my little Chihuahua had a note popping the big question.

I said yes!!!!

Your doggy was at your wedding! Tell us more?

YZ was also the ring bearer at our wedding. I love him to bits as I'm sure you can tell.

Tell us more about your venue?

We finally tied the knot on a beautiful farm out on the midlands meander just outside of Pietermaritzburg - The Gallery Wedding Venue. We shared our day with 80 of our dearest friends and family. The day was perfect.

What song did you walk down the aisle to, and what was your 1st dance song?

My father walked me down the aisle to Daniel Yang's 'Can't help falling in love with you'. A special moment we both will hold dear for years to come.

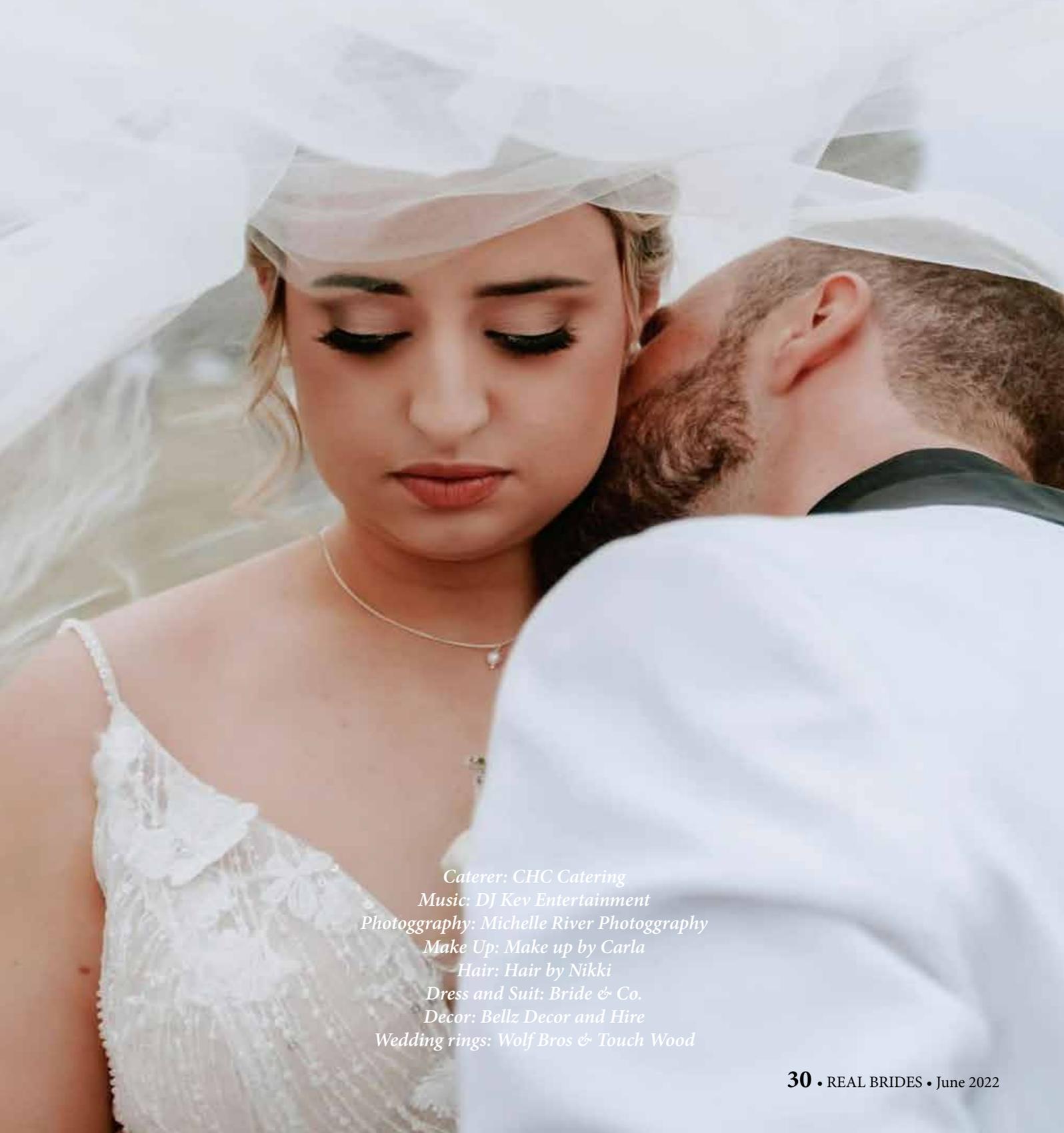
My husband and I opened the dance floor to Forever by Billy Raffoul. And thereafter, the party got started!!

Who were your photographers?

Michelle River Photography captured each moment of our day perfectly.



*“Bellz Décor and Hire were very prompt and professional
executing our vision with such grace”*



*Caterer: CHC Catering
Music: DJ Kev Entertainment
Photography: Michelle River Photoggraphy
Make Up: Make up by Carla
Hair: Hair by Nikki
Dress and Suit: Bride & Co.
Decor: Bellz Decor and Hire
Wedding rings: Wolf Bros & Touch Wood*

Please tell us more about your décor from Bellz Décor and Hire?

The wonderful staff at Bellz Decor and Hire assisted us with flower arrangements which perfectly complemented the venue and the farm-like feel we were going for, but remained true to a romantic and very luxurious touch.

Each table had on it a centre piece of red roses with eucalyptus leaves. The staff were very prompt and professional executing our vision with such grace.

Where did you go on Honeymoon?

We plan on spending our honeymoon in France in August later this year as a family of almost-four.



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BY OUR MOMS



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VREDENBURG MANOR

TOP WEDDING VENUE



A DREAM WEDDING VENUE

Vredenburg Manor House is a top four-Star Guest House, set in the heart of the Cape Winelands – the perfect setting for your dream wedding.

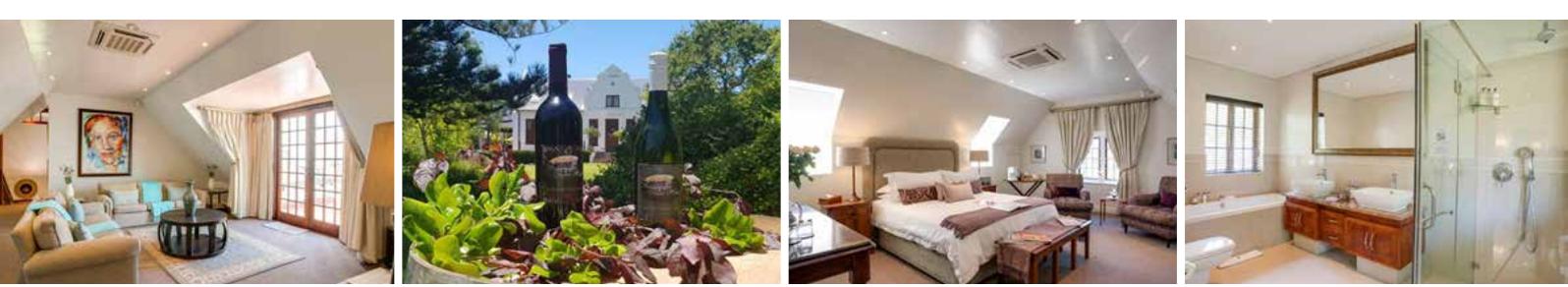
At Vredenburg you can have a true Cape-Dutch styled wedding on a spectacular 17th century estate, in the heart of the Winelands, surrounded by lush gardens and breathtakingly beautiful mountains. This beautiful, tranquil location is bound to turn any wedding into what dreams are made of. The carefully manicured gardens are big enough to cater for an intimate gathering or a large party up to 250 people. Carefully manicured gardens, flowing lawns and massive oak trees provide the perfect back drop for a picturesque garden

wedding and stunning photo sessions. Our refurbished original rustic barn with high exposed wooden beams can be transformed into a fabulous air-conditioned dinner hall or a dance floor. The massive wooden barn doors add to the nostalgic feel and can be closed for a cosier winter function or swung wide open for those balmy summer nights.

We offer a full in-house service. Set-up and Break-Down, Waiter and Bar Staff, Catering, Décor, Flowers and On-the-day coordination. We are more than willing to assist with providing preferred suppliers for music, photography, hair & makeup, guest entertainment etc. Book an appointment to meet our creative team, and will tailor make a package for you, should one of our standard packages not suit your exact needs. This venue is a designer's dream because the style is eclectic and lends itself to any theme or direction, wherever your mind may wonder.

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eMail: info@vredenburgmanor.co.za • Website: www.vredenburgmanor.com





TOP CLASS ACCOMMODATION

At Vredenburg we have high quality upmarket accommodation available. This Cape Dutch style guest house offers five spacious rooms and two cottages. Offering seven exquisitely decorated rooms with all the creature comforts of modern day living, the guest house gives you the feel of old world charm.

All 3 Deluxe Double Rooms are spacious suites with living room areas. Two are situated on the top floor with spectacular mountain / garden views. One of the rooms are situated on the Ground floor with its own entrance onto the verandah, overlooking the pool. The in-room amenities include satellite TV, courtesy-bar, a safe, a tea / coffee station with selection of teas and an Espresso machine. Each room offers a modern ensuite bathroom equipped with hairdryer, international razor plugs and exquisite bath amenities.

The two Classic Rooms enjoy mountain and / or garden views. Inroom amenities include satellite TV, underfloor heating and a safe, a tea / coffee station with selection of teas and an Espresso machine. Each room has an ensuite bathroom with a hairdryer, international razor plug and an array of exclusive bath amenities.

The two, open-plan one-bedroom cottages are stylishly decorated, each with a fully equipped kitchen, private garden with barbeque facilities, ensuite with bath and shower facilities, DSTv and are pet friendly, by management approval only! They are secure and totally private, separately situated away from the main house. Both cottages are fully equipped with a fully fitted modern kitchen, thus giving you the opportunity to book the cottages as self-catering or bed and breakfast.

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SPECTACULAR SURROUNDINGS

In addition, Vredenburg Manor House features an exotic garden, watered by borehole and greywater, and an outdoor swimming pool with lots of space to soak up the sun and enjoy a view of the Hottentot's Holland Mountain Range.

Situated between Stellenbosch and Somerset West, the historic property is close to a variety of restaurants and bars. Dinner, packed lunches and special diet menus are available on request and can be served in beautiful surroundings or next to a cosy fire place.

Other activities to be enjoyed includes hiking, wine tasting, mountain biking, and diving in the nearby surrounding areas. A bicycle rental service and free secure parking is available. Shuttle services are available at an extra surcharge.

Nominated by two leading booking portals, as the second-best establishment in Somerset West and Stellenbosch, Vredenburg Manor House is located on Winery Road, Somerset West, just 30 kilometres from the Cape Town International airport.

Contact us and come and see Vredenburg Manor House in all its splendour for yourself.

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Vredenburg MANOR HOUSE

GUESTHOUSE, CONFERENCE AND FUNCTION VENUE

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MELISSA & ZANE SCOTT



A night to remember

How did Zane propose?

Zane told me that he organized for us to go on a game drive at Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve on 20 March 2021. I didn't think much about it as we often do things spontaneously. On our drive it was only the game ranger and the two of us. Little did I know that Zane had been communicating with the game ranger throughout the week and he knew every step of the plan. Halfway through the drive we stopped and got out of the land cruiser. There was a giraffe in the bushes. The game ranger instructed us to look at the giraffe with our backs to him, as he wanted to take a picture for their advertising. When I turned away to face the camera, Zane was on one knee! And of course I said yes! It was definitely the most perfect proposal, just like a scene out of a movie.

What made you choose your colour scheme?

I was wanting a vibrant brighter colour. A colour to stand out in the photographs. After much deliberation I decided on aqua, a colour associated with the beach, peace and tranquility. Aqua marine also being my birthstone. Once browsing the fabric shops I found the perfect shade with matching satin and lace and knew I had made the right choice.

Who was in your bridal party?

Three Bridesmaids : Stacey Partridge (sister);
Elaine Strydom (best friend for 23 years);
Lisa Walsh (colleague and friend).

Three Groomsmen : Nathan Scott (cousin of groom);
Joshua Strydom (friend of groom);
Ruan Serfontein (friend of groom).

Why did you choose your venue?

Even though Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve was always our first option, after all it was where Zane proposed to me, we still kept our options open based on surrounds, atmosphere and affordability. We visited other venues but had our hearts set on Inkwenkwezi Game Reserve. It offers a unique, romantic, tranquil and stunning setting with huge trees that are lit up at night, waterfalls and streams, a real African experience where the guests are greeted at the main gates by inquisitive animals. The ceremony can be held outdoors under a thatched chapel. Unfortunately due to bad weather our ceremony had to be moved indoors, just as beautiful. The décor, rustic or



“Organisation is key to keeping everything on track when faced with decisions and deadlines”



Dress :Lady Marmalaide

Hair :Talking Headz

Make-up :Kirsty Pienaar

Suits :Bestman Suit Hire

Flowers :Murambi Roses

Cake :Windsong Cakes

Videographer :Slik Media

Photographer :Brad Taberer Photography

Venue :Inkwekwezi Private Game Reserve

elegant, can be selected according to your personal taste. We chose elegant. The food was delicious and plentiful and included African cuisine. The event Co-Ordinators were so professional, helpful and obliging leading up to our special day. After the exhausting happy day which went on well into the night, Zane and myself were treated to an overnight stay in their luxury tented accommodation. Overall it is the perfect venue choice.

Any advice or future brides?

Give yourself time to research for ideas, do the planning and set timelines. Involve your partner as the wedding represents both of you as a couple. Organisation is key to keeping everything on track when faced with decisions and deadlines. Keep a checklist, so that you keep on track with what and when tasks need to be done. Check it every day. Don't stress over tiny details however attention to detail often creates that wow factor. After deciding and booking a venue, finding the perfect wedding dress is a priority. Once you have finalized and made your decision, you'll feel more relaxed. Create a wedding day schedule. Relax and enjoy your special day.

Tell us about your cake.

We wanted a simple cake and chose a 3 tier round cake with marble icing, colouring white and aqua with gold ribbon. As Zane is a cricket fanatic, we chose a cake topping depicting a bride pulling her groom with a cricket bat in his hand. Cupcakes with matching colour icing were arranged around the cake for the guests.

Did you go for hair and make-up trials.

To save time and less stress on the special day I feel hair and make-up trials are very important. I knew what I wanted with regards to make-up and hair style. I chose a natural make up look and an elegant and feminine hair style.

How many guests?

We had 90 guests at our wedding.

Did you throw your bouquet and garter?

Yes, I did throw my bouquet and the groom threw my personalized garter.

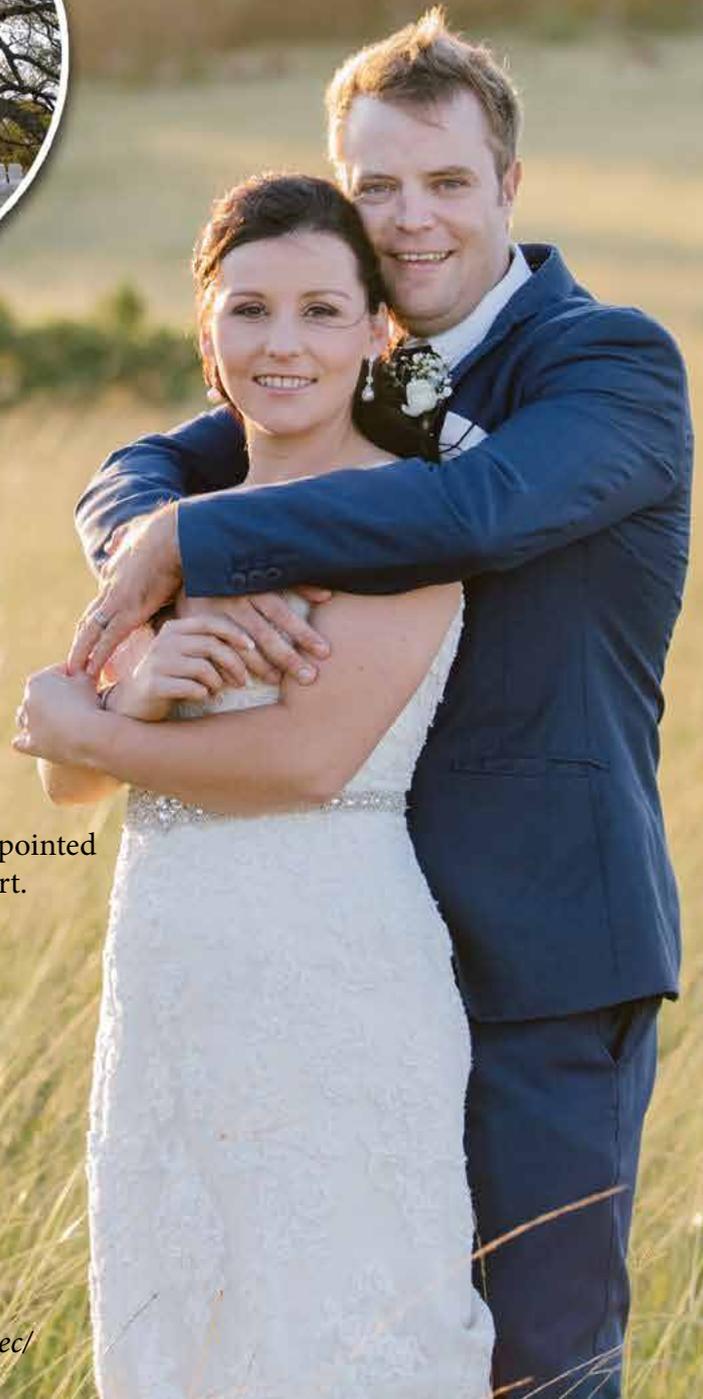
Where did you go on honeymoon?

As a couple, Zane and I have never been to Cape Town so we decided to save and plan our honeymoon in the mother city. We flew to Cape Town on the Sunday after our wedding. It is such a beautiful, romantic and adventurous city. During our week on honeymoon we did as many activities as we could, including the most popular tourist attractions such as Table Mountain, Seal Island and the Cape Wheel at the V and A Waterfront, to mention a few. We even went for a helicopter ride! This was such an amazing experience as both of us had never been in one before. It was most definitely a special moment being able to experience it together. I thank my husband for an amazing honeymoon.



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.

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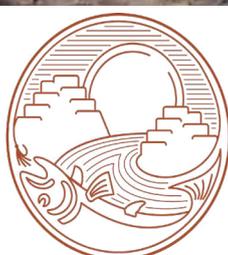
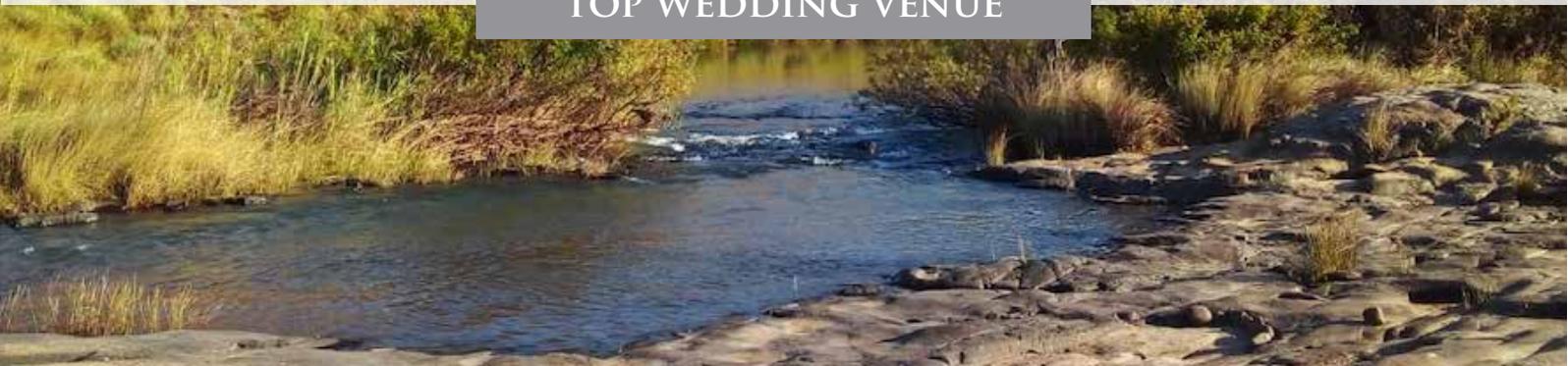
Please watch our latest video on You Tube:

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

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

KOMATI GORGE LODGE

TOP WEDDING VENUE



KOMATI GORGE LODGE

FLY FISHING & WILDLIFE RESERVE



Komati Gorge Lodge is the kind of place where you make memories to last a lifetime! On the banks of the Komati River, at the base of a miniature Grand Canyon, this small village of thatched dwellings provides affordable luxury in a most dramatic setting. A winding river, majestic cliffs, imposing krantzes and rolling hills – all these await you at Komati Gorge Lodge & Wildlife Reserve – one of the most alluring Lodges in Mpumalanga.

This untouched expanse of more than 2500 hectares with its thorn bushveld and highveld grassland offers an unparalleled experience to lovers of the outdoors. Whether your interest is fishing, bird-watching, wildlife, boating, walking or just relaxing in a beautiful, tranquil setting, you'll find what you want, and more, at Komati Gorge. Wherever you look, you will see breathtaking scenes of natural beauty. Mysterious gorges, dense forests, cascading water,

indigenous trees and flora and creatures of all kinds – from a brightly coloured butterfly to a stately Kudu. All these creations of nature in one place. Come to the resort and experience the joy and tranquility of Komati Gorge 4 Star Lodge.

Only 2½ hours from Gauteng, situated near the village of Dullstroom, Komati Gorge Lodge is a convenient stop over point from either Gauteng or KwaZulu Natal en-route to the Kruger National Park

If you are looking for one of the most unique Wedding Venues in the area, Komati Gorge Lodge can offer you an exquisite Bushveld Wedding Venue to host your intimate occasion in the midst of nature. Whether you are looking for the perfect scenery to set up a stylish wedding tent or just a warm setting to celebrate the coming together of two people in love, our reserve is the perfect place for your special day. After the celebrations, your guests can make use of our luxurious rooms and cottages



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KOMATI GORGE LODGE
FLY FISHING & WILDLIFE RESERVE
★★★★



Komati Gorge Lodge has a variety of accommodation options to choose from such as guesthouse rooms to entire self-contained units. The lodge is pet-friendly to allow guests to bring along their little furry friends to join them on holiday.

River Lodge Hotel Suites (x4):

These suites have a spacious bedroom (3 of the suites with a double bed and the 4th with twin three-quarter beds), lounge area and full bathroom with romantic corner bath. They are situated right on the Komati River and your private verandah affords you great views of the gorge and river. Meals are available in the restaurant.

Kingfisher House (sleeps 8):

Lounge with fire place, dining area and fully equipped kitchen, 3 bedrooms (2 with double beds and 1 with 4 single beds), 2 en-suite bathrooms and a guest loo. The large verandah with built-in braai is great for spending time outside enjoying the spectacular scenery.

Zebra Cottage (sleeps 7):

Huge lounge with fire place, dining area, fully equipped kitchen, 2 en-suite bedrooms (with double beds) and a loft room, and guest loo. The large verandah with built-in braai is great for spending time outside enjoying the spectacular scenery.

Fire Fly Cottage (sleeps 4):

Lounge with fire place and Bar, dining area, fully equipped kitchen, guest loo, 4 bedrooms en suite, loft room for kids, private verandah with braai area, DSTv and this house is situated right on the river.

The Leopard Suites:

The Leopard Suites are self catering units for 2 persons, each with a romantic canopied double bed with electric blanket and large bathroom with feature spa baths. Each additionally has a lounge area with an open fire place, a small fully equipped kitchen with dining area and a private verandah with a built-in braai area.

Butterfly House:

Butterfly House can sleep up to three guests in a Queen-size bed and a single bed. There is a full bathroom, fully equipped kitchen and outside there is a private patio with BBQ/ braai facilities. DSTV is available.

Gourmet meals and desserts compliments the exquisite service guests will receive at the restaurant, and the atmosphere is utterly alluring. There is also a fully stocked bar for guests to enjoy refreshments from the wide selection of beverages.

Or we can pack you a picnic and you can laze away the day under a tree and listen to the sound of the river, or lie in the hammock on your verandah and do absolutely nothing

A log fire, the smell of frying bacon and toast. That's breakfast at Komati Gorge after a peaceful nights sleep when all you can hear are the birds and the flow of the river.

Activities include

- Game viewing and bird watching
- Fly fishing in three trout dams or 8km of virgin Komati River, hiking, walking and exploring ancient ruins
- Canoeing and swimming
- Guided Horse Rides
- Paintball
- Archery

Awarded a four star grading by the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa and a Superior Accommodation rating by AA Travel, this untouched expanse of 2500ha with its thorn bushveld and highveld grassland offers an unparalleled experience

Bridal couple featured: Lianne and Darron Kensley



KOMATI GORGE LODGE
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KOMATI GORGE LODGE
FLY FISHING & WILDLIFE RESERVE
★★★★



Nicole-Alice & Renier Van Wyk



Laughter, sentiment and uniqueness, a wedding of the year!

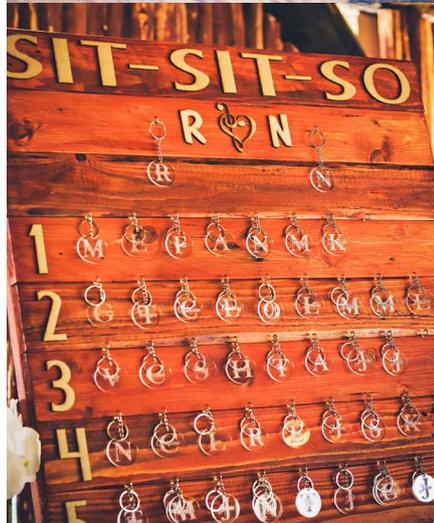
Where and how did you meet?

A Love story for our children's children one day. Renier and I met in December 2013 at Kokoriba Game Reserve and Lodge. I was working there as a waitress during my first year university holiday, and Renier was spending his Christmas holiday there with his family. I had been given all the larger family tables to waiter and was reserving a table for a very likable large family, when Renier kept sitting at my reserved table on his own ordering beers and not leaving. I had asked him several times to rather sit at the bar as the table was reserved, but he ignored me and kept ordering one beer at a time. Saying I was quite frustrated with him is putting it lightly.

After several hours the specific likeable family came to sit at the restaurant and when I wanted to apologize for the table being taken by Renier, the one lady greeted him as her SON and thanked him for 'keeping the table for them with their favorite waitress'....!!!! I was embarrassed for trying to get him away from the table to say the least! But it was all seen as pretty funny and sweet by both parties.

After a week of daily visits in the restaurant and serving their table, the cleaning ladies in the kitchen pointed out that every slip they had paid on for that week, had writing on the back asking for my cell number (which I never saw). The kitchen staff dared me to give him my cell number after that and it felt like I was part of their family ever since.

We both studied at the same university, on the same campus and were both in our first year of studies. We dated all through university where he asked me to marry him a few times, but I wanted to finish my studies first. We supported one another at the start of our careers, and then I finally asked HIM to marry me in December 2020 over a bottle of Blue Lable Whiskey at La Montagne in Harties.



“Heartfelt, unique, memorable and special to the bone.”



*All Inclusive Venue (Food (Breakfast and dinner), Flowers, DJ & Decor): Tholo Thabanyana
Photos: One Beat Photography by Gert Bos and Seugnet Visser Smit
Videographer: Pieter Swemmer of GPS Productions ZA
Stationary, small decor and gifts: Shandre Jansen van Vuuren of Gia'Nezz
Makeup: Share Andrews of Classic Laser SA
Hair was done by Chantelle Meyer's team with Stay Make Up and Beauty
Bridal Clothing and parts of the wedding dress was made by Leonie Architto of Archityo Boutique
Wedding website was created and managed ourselves on The Knot.Com*

Tell us more about your venue?

We are extremely grateful for their patience, hard work, support, friendly service, exceptional products and overall professionalism. This wedding could not have happened without any of them:

All Inclusive Venue (Food (Breakfast and dinner), Flowers, DJ & Decor): Tholo Thabanyana with Geraldine Swanepoel and her team- THE BEST prices, service, team who go out of their way to make your day/weekend special and memorable!

Who took your wedding photos and video?

One Beat Photography by Gert Bos and Seugnet Visser Smit they have sooo much personality and fun ideas. You are always at ease and they even join in on some tequila shots! - Wedding Photos & Boudoir shoot. Our Videographer was Pieter Swemmer of GPS Productions ZA is an amazing human being with a lot of creativity and the sweetest soul. He is an absolute pleasure to work with!

Did you have your dress made?

Bridal Clothing and parts of the wedding dress was made by Leonie Architto of Archityo Boutique - we kept her very busy for several months with bridal robes, unique colours, unique dresses as each bridesmaid and flower girl chose their own colour and design, I even had strange requests to make a dress glow in the dark and a lot of fittings. Thank you for the patience and help.

Describe your special day?

Heartfelt, unique, memorable and special to the bone only begins to describe this very long awaited wonderful day. Both myself and Renier's family and friends had been pining for our wedding since the day we met. The wedding had so much character, laughter, sentiment and uniqueness that could only be described when you put myself and Renier together. We are still glowing when we talk about it all. Sunday Morning 20 March was my birthday, and we celebrated it over breakfast in the wedding hall with the guests before everyone greeted and went on their merry ways.

What is your recipe for a Happy Marriage?

My grandmother always said that you LIKE someone BECAUSE of and you LOVE someone in SPITE of. Our understanding of that, having had the honor of getting to know one another for 8 years, walking into love instead of falling into it, is that marriage in the eyes of God, IS LOVE. And remembering this when things feel tough, is what holds a Friendship/Relationship i.e Marriage together. For our marriage, we will always hold onto 1 Corinthians 13 and the mutual agreement that our love is the condition in which the happiness of our other half is essential to our own.



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Let us plan your
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while you experience
a game drive to
see what we have on offer.



Marita Plus

PHEASANT HILL

TOP WEDDING VENUE



Pheasant Hill Boutique Hotel, Wedding & Function Venue is fully equipped with the necessary facilities to accommodate guests seeking to use our accommodation, conference rooms or even the garden for small weddings.

Eight of our 22 rooms are newly built and 6 of them are overlooking the pool area.

Seven of the rooms were existing stables that were changed to charming modern rooms with the feeling of the stables. These rooms overlook the beautiful gardens with all the birds ever-present.

The other rooms overlook the garden canopy or the charming koi pond. Each room is professionally and stylishly decorated for your comfort to make your stay a memorable and relaxing experience.

There numerous accommodation options available

The family room includes one room with a king-size bed and a single bed with a shower and a door to the other room with one king-size bed and bathroom. 2 x bar fridges, 2 x hairdryers, 2 x cupboards, 2 x TV's, coffee, tea, rusks and biscuits.

Then there is the Double / Twin Executive Room which has 1 double bed and one single bed with a bath. 1 x bar fridge, cupboard, TV, 1 x hairdryer, coffee, tea, rusks and biscuits in each room.

Also available is the Double Executive Room which has 1 double bed with a bath. 1 x bar fridge, 1 x hairdryer, 1 x cupboard, 1 x TV, coffee, tea, rusks and biscuits in each room

Next on the list is the Honey Moon Room which has 1 double bed with a bath. 1 x bar fridge, 1 x hairdryer, 1 x cupboard, 1 x TV, coffee, tea, rusks and biscuits in each room.



39 Sterkfontein Ave, Doornkloof East Pretoria
Website: www.pheasanthill.co.za
Tel: +27 12 941 1724



There is also the Double Room option which has 1 double bed with a shower. 1 x bar fridge, cupboard, TV, 1 x hairdryer, coffee, tea, rusks and biscuits in each room.

The accommodation options are completed by the Twin Room which has 2 separate beds with a shower. 1 x bar fridge, 1 x hairdryer, coffee, tea, rusks and biscuits in each room.

Pheasant Hill Boutique Hotel, Wedding & function Venue offers tranquil surroundings for weddings, conferences, or weekends away. Stay connected with unlimited FREE Wifi and get all the news or watch a movie on DSTv.

Take a relaxing, revitalizing bath in the en-suite bathroom, or enjoy the sparkling clear, cool waters of the swimming pool and the lush green gardens.

We have a conference facility for up to 30 delegates where people can meet in a relaxed atmosphere close to the city. Ideal for the weekend break away from the busy city life.

The splendour of Ile de France is a sight to be hold. A banquet room that can host events for up to 250 people seated. Elegantly decorated, with immaculate facilities.

Around the Gardens of Pheasant Hill there are numerous spaces that can be used for different type of events.

Outdoor Weddings are held at our Open Air Chapel. Special Celebrations at the lower terrace gazebo ideal for smaller groups of people.

High teas or sunset cocktails on the upper terrace, team building events are hosted in our show jumping arena PH

We provide in-house services, which includes catering as per your requirements & taste for events, banquets and conferences.

Available to you and your guests we have a fully stocked cash bar at our banqueting hall. We also organise as flower arrangements, table cloths and event decor.



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ELISE & MARTIN MURPHY



Family is everything

How did Martin Propose?

After being together for 10 years.....

We discussed marriage...

I had shown him a picture of a ring that I really liked, it was called Queen of my Heart

On the 14th February 2019 we went for a Valentines breakfast and afterwards he said lets go look at some chains to see if they had a chain he was looking for.

When we arrived, a lady had 3 diamonds laid out. I was a bit confused, we sat down, One diamond was much larger than the other two, Martin held my hand looked at me and said....The two diamonds on the right you can choose one of them for a gift, but if you choose the one on the left then you will have to commit to marry me, and gave me a big smile, I was so excited , I looked at Martin and said I will most definitely choose the one on the left. He then had it mounted into A "Queen of my Heart design, which was the one I showed him months before.

Who was in your bridal party? Who was in your bridal party?

Maid of Honour – My sister (Samantha)

Bridesmaid 1 – My now Step Daughter (Makhila)

Bridesmaid 2 – My now Step Daughter (Linda)

Bridesmaid 3 – My Middle Sons girlfriend (Micaela)

Bridesmaid 4 – My youngest sons girlfriend (Justine)

Flower Girl – My Niece

Best Man – My husbands best friend – (Stuart)

Groomsmen 1 – My Eldest Son – (Dean)

Groomsmen 2 – My Middle Son – (Aiden)

Groomsmen 3 – My youngest Son – (Bevan)

Our MC/Groomsmen – My husbands brother – (Lee)

Any handy tips for Brides to be?

Save , Believe me unexpected things come up, that are very costly. Plan well ahead of time. Time goes by so quickly. Get pictures together of things you like and want, it really helps when chatting with the suppliers, it gives them a good idea of what you are looking for. Each one of my suppliers saw and understood my vision of what I wanted and nailed it.



*“The rustic feel, the garden and the hall and chapel were perfect
for what we wanted”*

*The Moon and Sixpence – Venue
Ezinhle Flowers and Décor – Décor and Flowers
Neon Productions – Photography
Legendary Hair – Brides hair
Core Music – DJ
De La Vida Bridal Couture – Wedding Dress
KJ Artistry – Make Up (Bride and Bridesmaids)*

Why did you choose your venue?

It was one of the first venues we looked at, we loved it straight away, the garden was so beautiful, Rustic country setting, the people were so lovely it had everything we wanted. (The rustic feel, the garden and the hall and chapel were perfect for what we wanted.) The wedding package was Affordable with so many things included. Googled a few others but nothing compared to this one.

How many dresses did you try on before finding the one?

I tried on 7 dresses in total, my initial thought for a dress was a ball gown type dress, My first dress I tried on was one like that, my stepdaughter was with me and said I should try something that is more tight fitting, so I did, she showed me one that was on a mannequin and I said no way, eventually she convinced me to try it on, I did and absolutely loved it. I was ready to buy it, she then said lets just go and look at a few more just in case, so we did, did not find anything that I was in love with until the last place we visited, they brought me a dress that I initially would have never even considered, I put it on and literally got goosebumps. I found my DREAM DRESS. I am so glad that I did look at others. They ordered the material in from Spain and the process started, we changed a few things and what I wanted most of all was for the train to be the highlight, it was absolutely gorgeous. The end result was more than I imagined it would be.

Who gave you away?

My Dad

What was your favourite memory of the day?

There were so many wonderful memories on the day but the one that stood out for me was our first dance, Our song was from the movie About Time, called Heaven. We literally felt like we were in Heaven, we arranged for fog to be blown onto the dance floor during the song, it looked like we were in Heaven, dancing on a cloud. It was absolutely beautiful.

Who did your photography?

The awesome NEON PRODUCTIONS, Morgan, Lexi and Ruan.

What was your colour scheme?

We had a very rustic theme, and used subtle lighting to enhance and bring out the natural, rustic setting we chose. We had mint green, darker green, browns, cream and a bit of gold. It all flowed with the venue which had beautiful well established gardens and the thatch hall.

What did you do for your honeymoon?

We have not gone away for our honeymoon yet. We will be going to Ireland when the time is right. A lot of our guests came from overseas and stayed with us for quite some time after the wedding.





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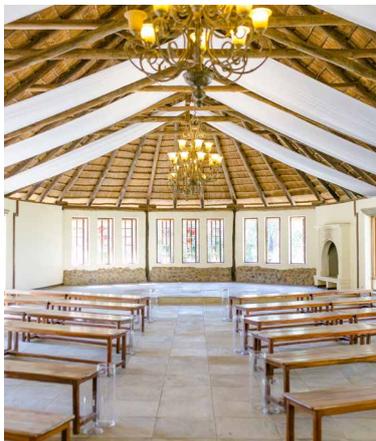


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