

August 2024

# Real Brides

Spectacular  
Backdrops

Pink Book Weddings

South Africa's Best Wedding Directory

Pre loved wedding dresses  
from Sell My Dress

## Real South African Weddings

Cover: Sune Ribeiro - Rissiepit Photography - Collisheen Estate

# ATTENTION ALL BRIDES-TO-BE



Your wedding will be one of the most memorable days of your life.

There is the opportunity to make the occasion even more special by having your wedding featured in the Real Brides magazine.



In planning your wedding one of the most important decisions is the choice of your venue.

Your choice of venue will help you determine a multitude of important factors such as a theme, number of guests, decor, food and drink and accommodation requirements. But it may also decide if your wedding is featured in Real Brides.

A list of the country's Top Wedding Venues have entered into associate agreements with Real Brides to feature their brides in the magazine.

The result is that If you choose any of the venues below for your wedding then your wedding will be considered for featuring in Real Brides.

## VENUE LIST

The venues that provide this wonderful opportunity for all their brides are:

Tsekama: Marinda - 082 416 2363  
Collisheen: Wayne - 032 815 1107  
Oakfield Farm - 084 258 2226  
Riverside - 083 458 4449  
Silver Sixpence - 082 557 3304  
Fairview - 011 478 8000  
Tula Baba Game Lodge - 072 653 7244  
Memoire - 079 170 9431

NOTE: In this issue you will find

- full overview of the above venues
- A link to a virtual tour of the venues

So if you want to add to the memories of your big day by having your wedding featured in Real Brides then look no further than the list of venues above for your big day.

Cover Bride - Sune & Paulo  
Photo: Rissiepit Photography  
Venue: Collisheen Estate

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**TOPIC**

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**NEON**  
PRODUCTIONS

pinkbook



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# Note from the Editor

Dear Bride-to-be

Welcome to the most informative bridal magazine in South Africa. What makes us so unique is that we celebrate Real Weddings; SA's best wedding directory.

Another warm welcome to Sell my Dress; buy and sell pre-loved wedding dresses.

We are proud to showcase the top suppliers in the wedding industry to help you on your wedding planning journey.

Have you find all your suppliers? If not, have a look at this months issue to assist.

Planning your future family? Dont forget to book a maternity and newborn Photoshoot with Neon Productions. Details in the magazine (Gauteng Based).

Read through each story from our couples in the August issue to help guide you with ideas and advice.

Your Friend  
Morgan

**“Collisheen Estate made picking a wedding venue super easy for us.”**

- Sune & Paulo Ribeiro

Make your big day even more special.

Have your wedding featured, send us an email with your suppliers list and 3 photos of your day.

## July Issue

In this issue we read about beauty trends.

Download a copy:



Contact me today:  
[morgan@neonproductions.co.za](mailto:morgan@neonproductions.co.za)  
082 772 8980

# Sune & Paulo Ribeiro



*Collisheen Estate  
Rissiepit Photography*

*True love is always sacrificial, self-giving, merciful, compassionate, sympathetic, kind, generous and patient. 1 Corinthians 13*

## Tell us about how you met?

*Once Upon a time, there was this one winter day in 2013 when two people figured out that they could be perfect for each other!*

*Thanks to their clever mutual Best Friend, who insisted they should definitely become a couple or, at least exchange numbers. And so it started, a beautiful love story between two people who would have never met without the help of their mischievous and adventurous matchmaker! Months passed, they talked, laughed, argued and made amends over silly things and big decisions, all the while developing strands of a special tie that over the years, has grown stronger and stronger!*

This was a poem we had written on our wedding invite as a special tribute to our best friend, Kylee Erasmus, our matchmaker, who passed away shortly after from Leukaemia Cancer in 2016.

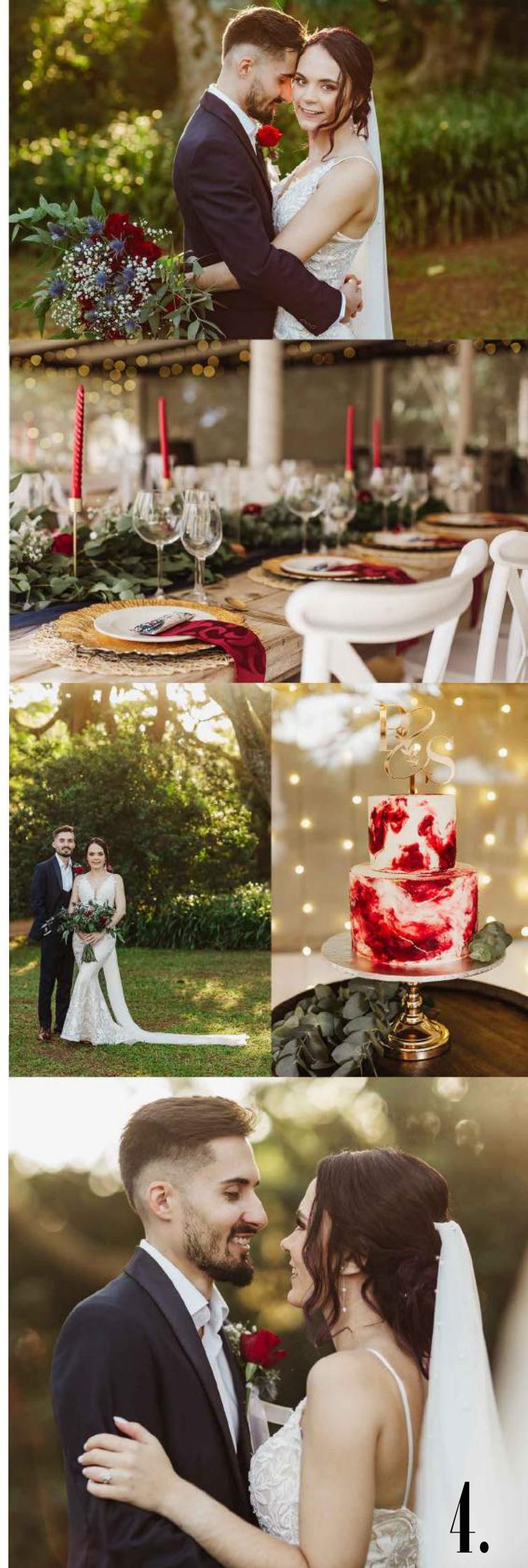
## Tell us about your venue?

Collisheen Estate made picking a wedding venue super easy for us. We were sold on the venue before we even went to view it! The chapel at the Orchid House was breathtaking with its exposed wooden rafters and dark stained wooden benches. Not to mention, the large glass window right at the front of the chapel that allows for natural lighting and an amazing view of greenery. The reception at Collisheen Estate still has our family and friends buzzing about our day. They served us a 3-course meal that will be impossible to compete with. From starters to dessert, it was a mouth-watering experience. With minimum effort and Collisheen's excellent service, we were able to set the exact tone and atmosphere we were going for, Elegantly Rustic.

## Tell us about your Photographers?

Leading up to the wedding, we met with Arista Marreiros, the owner and lead photographer of Rissiepit Photography. She instantly made us feel at ease and we quickly learnt how much we had in common. Arista stands out for her unique talent to utilize natural lighting and surroundings to

capture breathtaking moments. We appreciate her style of photography with minimum editing and filters. It was such a joy receiving our wedding album from Arista and having a chance to walk down memory lane.



**“Collisheen Estate made picking a wedding venue super easy for us. We were sold on the venue before we even went to view it!”**



Venue: Collisheen Estate

Food: Collisheen Estate

DJ: DJ Phat George

Decor: Thabzo Events (Colleague)

Cake: Nicole's Signature Cakes

Photographer: Rissiepit Photography

Groom and Groomsmen suites: Suite Society Durban North

Makeup & Hair: GLOW hair and makeup artistry - Sarah Hawthorn

Dress: La Principessa Umhlanga

Florist: Country Glam Durban

Bride's Ring - Sterns

Groom's Ring - Gia Jewellery La Lucia

MC: Robert Boucher (Family Friend)

Officiant: Pastor HJ Steyn (Bride's Father)

## How did the planning go?

Planning a wedding is always nerve-wrecking, but I'd like to believe that we didn't do so bad after all. A wedding has so many little details that you need to plan and budget for. Lots of which pops up when you least expect it, especially when you Do-It-Yourself. We did not make use of a wedding planner. Most of our chapel and reception décor were inspired by images we found on internet which were adapted to our preferences and brought to life by our very loving and supportive friends and family. A thankful shout-out to them!!



## Did you stick within your budget, what cost more than expected?

We managed to stay within budget! Keeping close track of our spending and doing most things ourselves really helped us have a few cents extra to spend on things that were most important to us, such as our wedding attire. A wedding planning register with estimates on what items could cost was a helpful planning tool. Wedding cakes and florals were more costly than what we expected. Be sure to do your homework on several bakers and florists in your area and choose the one that best understands your vision for the day. Reviews and pictures of previous work can be a helpful guideline in making the choice. Requesting a mock-up to be done with your flowers and a cake tasting surely helps with calming the nerves too.



## Any tips for brides-to-be?

Let your wedding day be a true reflection of who you are as a couple in the little and big details of YOUR day. Do not get overwhelmed by the opinions of family and friends about what or how your day should be. It causes unnecessary conflict between all parties involved and can have some serious unwanted financial implications. Choosing a naturally beautiful venue was what we as a couple really wanted and it greatly assisted in keeping the costs of decor to a minimum. Your wedding dress reflects who you are as an individual – wear what makes your heart happy and not what others think you should.





## THE MAGIC OF COLLISHEEN

Planning your dream day? Our stunning estate offers versatile venues to suit any occasion. From our magnificent Boma, surrounded by lush greenery and flickering torches, to our elegant Orchid House, we have the perfect space to make your event unforgettable. Our team of experienced venue coordinators are passionate about making your dream event a reality. From the moment you arrive, you can relax and enjoy the stunning surroundings, safe in the knowledge that every detail has been taken care of. You are invited to come and experience the magic of Collisheen Estate for yourself. Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or simply looking for a relaxing escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, we look forward to welcoming you to our little slice of paradise.



**COLLISHEEN**  
ESTATE

Contact us on 032 815 1107 or  
email us at [info@collisheen.co.za](mailto:info@collisheen.co.za) to make an appointment

[www.collisheen.co.za](http://www.collisheen.co.za)

# Be The Best You Can Be

## Mousse Magic: Rediscover your Natural Glow with essence!

**Are you ready to fall in love with your foundation all over again? Meet the all-new essence NATURAL MATTE MOUSSE FOUNDATION - a revamped, clean beauty version of the beloved soft touch mousse foundation that you've come to adore. Priced at just R79.95, this innovative foundation promises to deliver a worry-free natural beauty experience. Lightweight, easy to apply and buildable, this foundation ticks every box when it comes to value for your money. Intrigued? Let's dive into why this foundation is your next must-have!**

### What's New and Improved?

essence has taken everything you loved about the original soft touch mousse foundation and made it even better. With no compromise on quality, you can be rest assured that you are only applying gentle and caring ingredients to your face. The new and improved formula boasts several enhancements - let's unpack them.

**Clean Beauty:** Embrace a healthier beauty routine with vegan ingredients that are gentle on your skin and the environment.

**Innovative Texture:** Enjoy a soft, cloud-like mousse that feels weightless, allowing your skin to breathe while providing a natural matte finish.

**Flawless Blending:** Achieve a flawless look in seconds with medium coverage that effortlessly blends into your skin, blurring imperfections for a soft-focus effect.

**Effortless Touch-Ups:** Perfect for on-the-go applications, this foundation is ideal for quick, mess-free touch-ups.

### Want to know what we love about 'mousse'?

essence believes in making beauty fun and the NATURAL MATTE MOUSSE FOUNDATION embodies this philosophy by offering a product that's easy to use, effective and most importantly enjoyable. Whether you're new to makeup or a seasoned pro, this foundation is designed to enhance your natural beauty effortlessly.

essence is available at Ackermans Woman, Amazon, Clicks, Dis-Chem, Edgars, Foschini, MediRite, SkinMiles, Superbalist, Takealot, Woolworths and [www.houseofcosmetics.co.za](http://www.houseofcosmetics.co.za).

Real Brides will bring brides all the latest beauty services and/or products to help them look their best on their big day. It will also provide you an excellent opportunity to market your services and/or products.

### Benefits of the NEW essence NATURAL MATTE MOUSSE FOUNDATION

Get ready to achieve a naturally matte complexion that lasts all day. This foundation offers a powdery finish that looks flawless and feels incredible on your skin. It's specially designed to cover small imperfections without feeling heavy, giving you the perfect amount of coverage for an effortless, natural look. The mousse formula is incredibly light and comfortable, ensuring your skin feels as good as it looks. To apply, simply gently dab the product onto your face, applying more product where you would like extra coverage and then gently blend using a brush or your finger for a flawless finish.

Dermatologically tested and suitable for normal to oily skin, this foundation is both safe and effective. With 10 versatile shades available, finding your perfect match has never been easier. Plus, the packaging is 90% recyclable, so you can enjoy beautiful skin while being kind to the planet. Now, that's what we call a win-win!

Click Here to view our products

The advertisement features a woman with dark skin and curly hair smiling broadly. She is holding a jar of essence NATURAL MATTE MOUSSE FOUNDATION in her right hand. The jar is white with a brown lid, labeled 'essence NATURAL MATTE MOUSSE FOUNDATION' and '70'. Above the woman, the word 'essence' is written in a white, rounded font. To the right of the woman, the product name 'NATURAL MATTE MOUSSE FOUNDATION' is displayed in large, bold, white letters. Below it, 'Available in 10 shades' and 'R79,95 each' are written. In the bottom right corner, there is a pink circular badge with the text 'new & improved formula'. The background is a soft, out-of-focus pink and white.

MAKE  
BEAUTY  
FUN

new

essence

# NATURAL MATTE MOUSSE FOUNDATION

Available in **10** shades

- Clean Beauty
- Powdery like finish
- Blurs & evens out small imperfections in seconds
- Medium coverage
- Blends effortlessly
- Natural matte look
- Lightweight
- Suitable for normal to oily skin
- Dermatologically tested

new &  
improved  
formula



R79,95 each

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#essencesouthafrica #essencecosmetics #NaturalMatteSkinWithessence

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# SF PRO Makeup

SF PRO Makeup is a renowned professional makeup brand that has taken beauty industry by storm. With its high-quality products and innovative formulas, SF Pro Makeup has become a go-to choice for makeup artists, beauty enthusiasts, and individuals seeking to enhance their natural features.

## History and Philosophy

SF PRO Makeup was founded on the principles of empowering individuals to embrace their unique beauty. The brand's philosophy is centered around the idea that makeup should be a tool for self-expression and confidence-building, rather than a means to conform to societal standards. With a passion for innovation and creativity, SF Pro Makeup has developed a range of products that cater to diverse skin tones, types, and preferences.

## Product Range

SF Pro Makeup's product range is extensive and versatile, offering everything from foundation and lipstick. Some of the brand's best-selling products include: Pro Foundation: a highly pigmented, long-lasting foundation that provides flawless coverage and natural finish. Pro Concealer: a creamy, full-coverage concealer that effectively hides blemishes, dark circles, and imperfections. Pro Eyeshadow Palette: a collection of vibrant, blendable eyeshadows that can be used to create a variety of looks, from natural to dramatic. Pro Lipstick: a moisturizing, long-lasting lipstick available in a range of shades to suit different skin tones and personal styles.

## What Sets SF Pro Makeup Apart

SF Pro Makeup stands out from other makeup brands due to its commitment to quality, inclusivity, and innovation. Here are some key factors that contribute to the brand's success: High-quality ingredients, Inclusive shade range, Cruelty-free and vegan-friendly.

## Conclusion

SF Pro Makeup has revolutionized the industry with its exceptional products, inclusive approach, and passion for innovation. Whether you're a makeup artist, beauty enthusiast, or simply looking to enhance your natural features, SF Pro Makeup has something for everyone. Join the SF Makeup community today and discover the power of makeup as a tool for self-expression and confidence-building!



SF PRO Makeup  
082 924 7180  
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[www.sfpro.co.za](http://www.sfpro.co.za)



# OAKFIELD *Farm*

MAKING MEMORIES



*Making your dream wedding a reality*

# Making your dream wedding a reality!

Oakfield Farm located in Muldersdrift is easily accessible from both Pretoria & Johannesburg.

In 1988, Mary Slack fell in love with the farm, and with her long-time friend, David Stubbs, purchased the farm from the Harrison family. In 1991, David's son, Matthew Stubbs, left his teaching career and trekked from the Cape with a load of horses. The task of making the farm pay its way was not as easy as it seemed. Quail eggs were sold, guinea fowl were bred, and fifteen rather wild Warmblood horses arrived from Alzu Stud to be broken in and trained as show jumpers. However, it was the old barn overlooking the indigenous wood and freshwater stream which came to the rescue. This was converted into a reception venue and is now known as the Homestead Venue.

Established in 1991, the property is filled with history, from the Dairy Venue built by Italian prisoners of war in 1940, to the majestic Oak tree that once served as rest point for the Voortrekkers before crossing the flooded Juksei River. It sadly fell after a thunderstorm but pieces of the old trunk can still be seen memorialized in the garden.

Inspired by an old stone altar in an Oak Forest which has seen the marriage of five generations of Halse children on their beautiful family farm, a charming Chapel was built in the grove of Cottonwood trees. Having grown up on horseback, it also seemed obvious to include a horse-drawn carriage. So began the vision, the "one-stop" wedding venue. Over the years, the unique Summerhouse was completed, followed by the bridal suites and the Guest House. The old chicken run in which old Mrs Harrison grew her prized orchids, then became the beautiful Conservatory.

With all the history and the original farming background, Oakfield Farm ensured to retain as much of the old farm as possible. Nguni cows & horses graze the fields with geese & guineafowl foraging on the lawns.

A visit to Oakfield Farm is an inspiration. Explore the captivating English country gardens and historic old trees while also visiting the charming forest chapel, stunning conservatory, and magnificent glass-clad venues. The secret of a perfect wedding is the marriage of your pennies with your vision. It is here that Oakfield Farm's knowledgeable and flexible team excel by assisting you with a full costing of every aspect of your wedding. This includes an introduction to the wedding packages which include every conceivable extra from select décor to dressing rooms and even complimentary drinks to welcome your guests on arrival, not to mention the horse drawn carriage to take the bride to the chapel.

An exceptional wedding is no less than the sum of its parts. With your vision and Oakfield Farm's expertise, we will design your own bespoke wedding. Entrust us with your dream.

Oakfield Farm boosts 3 unique venues catering for every taste.

## *the Homestead & Forest chapel*

The HOMESTEAD venue paired with the FOREST CHAPEL is the choice venue for many magical celebrity weddings. The Homestead is a hidden gem tucked away in an enchanted indigenous forest. With the addition of fireplaces in the winter the Homestead offers a comfortable venue to celebrate with plenty of family & friends allowing up to 350 guests.



## *the Summerhouse & Conservatory*

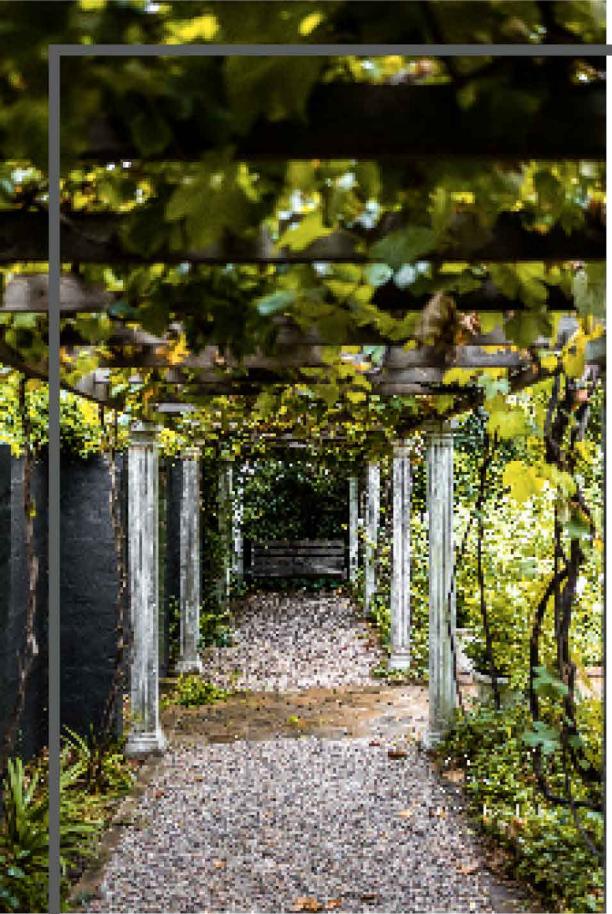
The SUMMERHOUSE venue paired with the CONSERVATORY CHAPEL is an intimate fusion of contemporary glass architecture set in an English country garden. The Summerhouse is a favourite due to the unique look of the venue. Crackling fires in the winter gives the venue a distinctive feel. Easily accommodating 120 or more of your closest family & friends. The Syringa tree that forms part of the venue has one foot inside and one outside, adding to the distinctive look of the venue.



## *the Dairy & Dairy chapel*

The historic DAIRY venue paired with the DAIRY CHAPEL is a lovely old venue offering magnificent sunsets and is surrounded by expansive golden fields. The perfect venue for intimate gatherings of less than 120 guests. An olive grove sits opposite the pink rose arches that hugs the venue from the cocktail area, and a secret garden allows for some of the most amazing pictures of the newly wed couples.







# NEON PRODUCTIONS

**Photography & Videography**

Please contact Morgan Brink:

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[www.neonproductions.co.za](http://www.neonproductions.co.za) 

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# Kristin & Ryan Nussey



Venue: The Silver Sixpence

Photographer: Henry O Photography

*"In a marriage, you're promising to care about everything. The good things, the bad things, the terrible things, the mundane things... all of it, all of the time, every day. You're saying 'Your life will not go unnoticed because I will notice it. Your life will not go un-witnessed because I will be your witness.'" - Susan Sarandon - Shall We Dance*

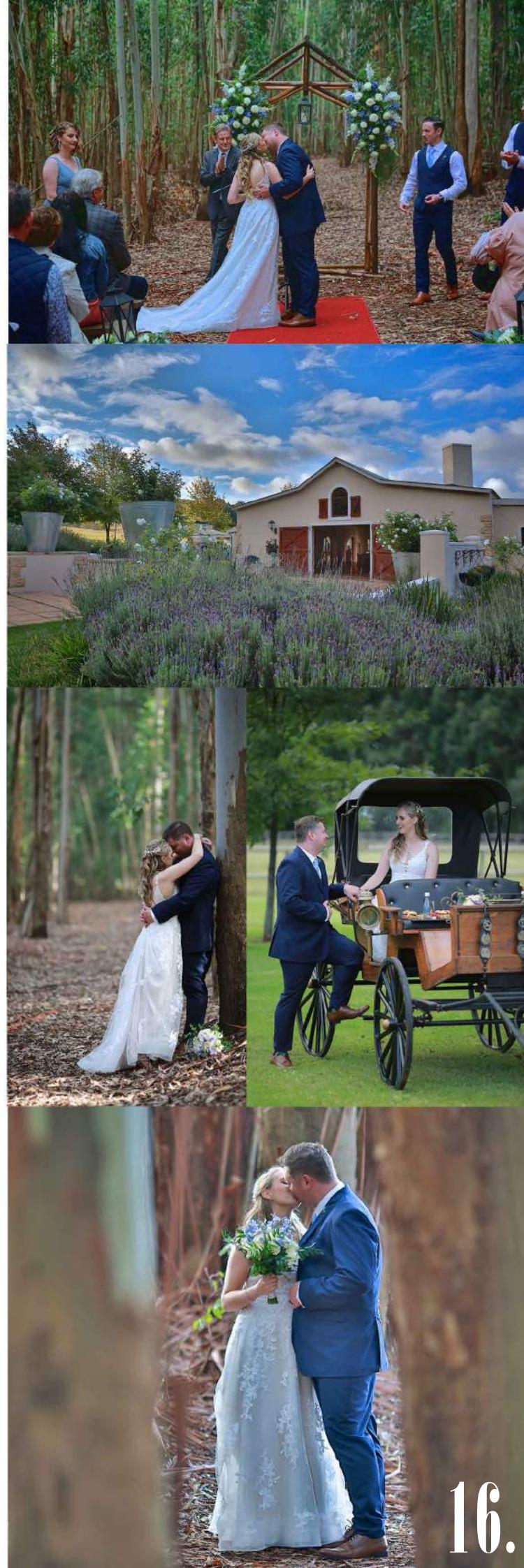
## Tell us about how you met?

We met at AFDA film school at the end of our first year. We'd seen each other around campus, but only really got to know each other in fourth term cinematography class. We became fast friends and formed a drinking society along with 2 other classmates. After a few months of being friends, Ryan asked me out for Valentine's Day. I thought it was a pity date, and that our friends would be meeting us. When Ryan tried to hold my hand in the movie theatre, I high fived him, I was so clueless. It only dawned on me at the end of the date when he kissed me. And the rest, as they say, is history.

## What made you choose your venue?

We always wanted to get married in Dullstroom. We'd seen a wedding at a local estate when we went away for our 2-year anniversary and we both said then that this was the place. 8 years later, when it came time to choose our venue, we did a lot of research into venues in the area, and my parents mentioned The Silver Sixpence – they had been to a wedding there years earlier. Before work started in January of 2023, my parents drove us to Milly's for breakfast and then to view The Silver Sixpence. We were blown away with how serene and beautiful it was, even in the rain. We knew instantly that this venue embodied everything that we wanted – fishing, horses, nature and a space for our family and friends to have a fun weekend away together.

Lesley and her team were so patient, kind and accommodating, answering every question we had, no matter how small or silly. Lesley coordinated our wedding day for us, and made sure that everyone was where they needed to be on time.



**“Lesley and her team were so patient, kind and accommodating, answering every question we had, no matter how small or silly.”**



Venue: The Silver Sixpence

Catering: Bevvie Marais at The Silver Sixpence

Flowers and Décor: Jacques from Pettey-Tredoux Concierge

Wedding Officiant: Ian from Pettey-Tredoux Concierge

Photographer: Henry O Photography

DJ: Hardus Vosloo from Shockwave Music

Hair and Makeup: Hauz of Hair and Beauté

Wedding Stationary: Courtney from Wedding Wonders

Cake: Carol Coetzee from SugaSuite.yum

## What food did you have?

Bevvie, the caterer at The Silver Sixpence, had us feasting non-stop during the weekend. From Thursday through to breakfast on Sunday, we ate, and ate, and ate. And it was delicious! Our guests commented on how good the food was, and how much of it there was! None of them had been to a wedding where they were so well fed before.

Thursday night bachelors and bachelorette parties: Lasagna and salad for the ladies and a fully catered braai for the guys.

Friday night: Burgers and chips

Saturday morning: Breakfast boxes

Wedding night: Platters for the bride and groom while doing photos, platters for the guests, Trio of Trout / Trio of Mushroom starters, Moroccan lamb roll / Vegan bobotie mains, and Malva Pudding for dessert. Plus, prego rolls for midnight snacks!

Sunday morning: Full continental breakfast.

I have a few food allergies, and Bevvie was so kind and accommodating. She made sure I had a separate dish for every meal, on a separate platter with my name on it!



## Tell us about your photographers?

When it came time to choose our photographer, we were cognisant of travel and accommodation costs for photographers traveling from Joburg, so we researched photographers in Dullstroom and found Henry O. We loved his use of nature and animals in his photos, as well as the pops of colour in his HDR shots. He also rides horses, and is a microlite pilot, so I knew he would be good with the Friesian horses at The Silver Sixpence, and that he would get along well with my family of pilots. Henry was so relaxed, and he put everyone at ease. He guided us every step of the way, which was great because we are super awkward and not at all comfortable in front of the camera.

## Do you have any Tips for Brides-to-be?

Your wedding is a very special day that you will look back on for the rest of your life. But it's also just one day, and it's over in a flash, so there really is no point in stressing about it. All you really need is your fiancé and the people you love most around you to celebrate. Everything else is just a bonus.

# 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](http://www.thesilversixpence.co.za)  
Email: [lesley@thesilversixpence.co.za](mailto:lesley@thesilversixpence.co.za)  
Call: 082 557 3304



**M**

**MEMOIRE**

Where every moment is a memory



Memoire is renowned for its picturesque surroundings, elegant architecture, and impeccable service. The venue offers a captivating ambiance, customizable spaces, and a dedicated team to ensure your wedding is a truly unforgettable experience.



Memoire offers various packages to suit your specific needs and requirements, giving you as much or as little assistance as you feel necessary to comfortably enjoy your wedding day free from any stress. We have a remarkable team who has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with you.



*Where every moment is a memory*

# Why choosing Memoire Wedding Venue

Here are some reasons why MEMOIRE was awarded as the best elite wedding venue:



## *Opulence, Style and personalised service*

**Exquisite Elegance:** Experience unparalleled sophistication and charm in every detail of your special day at MEMOIRE.

**Captivating Ambiance:** From enchanting gardens to grand staircases , our venue provides the perfect backdrop for your dream wedding.

**Impeccable Service:** Our dedicated team of professionals is committed to exceeding your expectations, ensuring a seamless and stress-free wedding planning experience.

**Culinary Excellence:** Indulge in culinary delights crafted with precision and passion, tailored to your tastes and preferences.

**Unforgettable Memories:** Create lasting memories surrounded by loved ones in a setting that epitomizes romance and beauty.

**Personalized Touches:** From customized decor to bespoke amenities, we go above and beyond to make your wedding day uniquely yours.

**Seamless Coordination:** Let us handle every detail, allowing you to relax and enjoy every moment of your celebration with confidence and peace of mind.



Memoire Wedding and conference venue

[www.memoire.co.za](http://www.memoire.co.za) [info@memoire.co.za](mailto:info@memoire.co.za)

079 170 9431 / 071 286 7774

Jaco Knight





# *Sell* MY **DRESS**

SELLMYWEDDINGDRESS.CO.ZA

## *Sell* WHAT TO DO WITH MY EXPENSIVE DRESS JUST HANGING IN MY CUPBOARD? **YOUR DRESS ONLINE**

### WHY Sell my Dress?

- It's a credible website where you can advertise your dress and recover some of your investment.
- It is not expensive to advertise!
- Buyers can contact you direct to fit and buy!
- No middlemen to take any commission.
- There is a market who don't mind buying a preloved dress at an affordable price.
- Because we do all the marketing for you – websites, online bridal forums, social media.



What can I advertise?

**Wedding Dresses  
Evening Dresses**

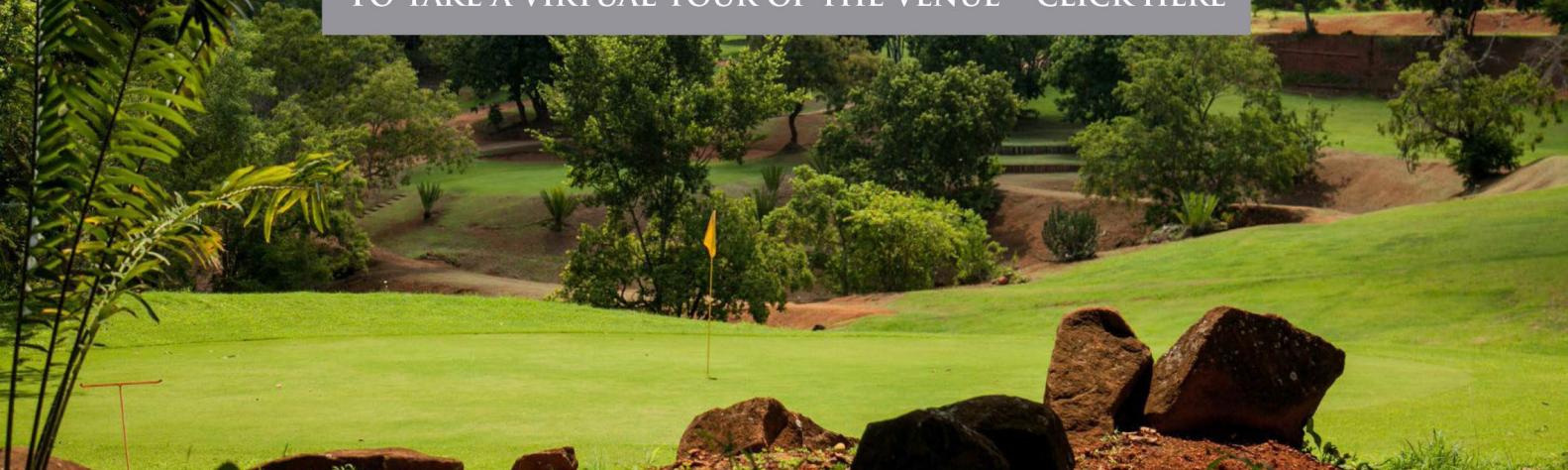
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# FAIRVIEW HOTEL

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The Fairview Hotel offers elegant 4\* thatched rooms decorated in Afro-Colonial style in a garden setting boasting an incredible variety of indigenous trees and colourful birdlife.

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**FAIRVIEW**  
Hotels, Spa & Golf Resort



Guests can indulge in the warm luxury of their suite fitted with a Nespresso coffee machine, a private balcony and a beautiful bathroom with a jumbo shower, heated towel rails, underfloor heating and jacuzzi baths to make their stay memorable. Dine in the spacious thatched Le'Thaba Restaurant or at the Fairview Clubhouse Restaurant and Bar, offering outstanding cuisine accompanied by an excellent selection of wines.

Fairview offers the perfect setting for a romantic wedding with its chapel, extensive lawns, and intimate feel.

Guests can arrange private smaller functions for large groups in various venues with distinct atmospheres. Other facilities include pampering treatments at the Fairview Spa & Rasul, golf, fly-fishing, walking trails, or relaxing at the private swimming pool.

Fairview is just 5 minutes from the heart of Tzaneen and an hour from the world-renowned Kruger National Park. The lush and tropical area of Tzaneen serves as a perfect base to explore the Wolkberg Mountains, Magoebaskloof, quaint Haenertsberg, Modjadji Cycad Forest and various other popular tourist attractions.

Swim in waterfalls, sample the freshest avocados, oranges and mangoes at roadside stalls and get your adrenaline pumping on a canopy tour.

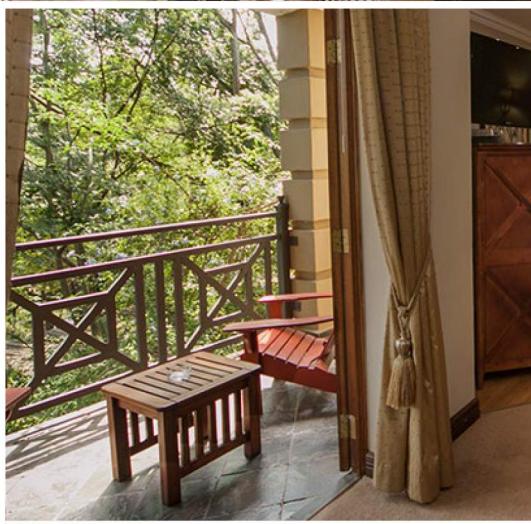
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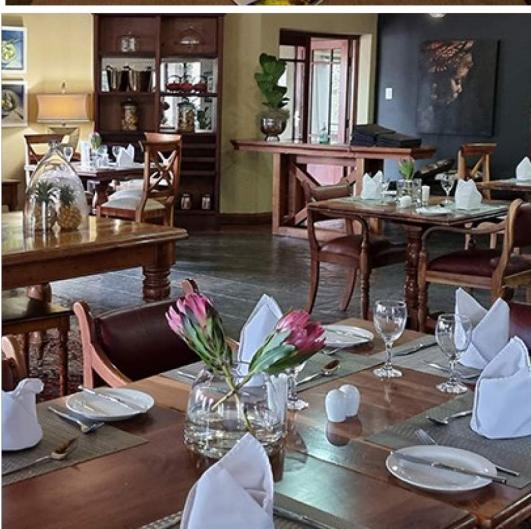


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**FAIRVIEW**  
Hotels, Spa & Golf Resort



# Chevaughn & Jeilyshon Vengethasamy



*It's a Bible scripture Lyshon had engraved on the inside of my engagement ring, from the book of (Solomon) CA 8:6,7 "Place me as a seal upon your heart.... for love is as strong as death is...."*

*Venue: Riverside Country Estate*

*Photographer: Splendid Productions*

## How special was your proposal?

It was very special. On the Friday evening of 17th November 2023, Lyshon arranged to come to the house before I got home. Lyshon made dinner and set everything up under the Pergola in the garden with fairy lights. Lyshon has a sweet tooth and loves giving gifts.... So, after dinner he handed me a personalized gift box full of sweets and under all the sweets was a little glass frame with the words "Will you marry me". When I looked up again, he was holding a Ring box, that when opened it shone a light on the Ring. Of course, I said "Yes!!".

## How did you settle on a wedding date?

We didn't want a very long engagement; we knew we had finally found "the one" in each other. We just allowed enough time to plan the wedding and because we're both extremely busy people, the 13th April was the soonest date we could both agree on.

## What made you choose your venue?

We looked at a number of venues online, Riverside was the first venue we actually viewed. But it was just so beautiful and the setting is so tranquil - it gave us all the right vibes.... Not to mention the professional manner in which Hein and his team handled the meeting and showed us around, we just fell in love with the place!

The cherry on top was that they took care of so many of the arrangements which took so much of the stress off of our shoulders... we could really just relax and enjoy the experience.

Springs...who would have thought that such a beautiful place existed right here! There was no need to look any further, we booked it!



**“Riverside was the first venue we actually viewed. But it was just so beautiful and the setting is so tranquil - it gave us all the right vibes...”**



Venue, Food & Decor: Riverside Country Estate

Photographers: Splendid Productions

Dress: Coco Lace Bridal

Bridesmaids' dresses: ElegantLeigh clothing

Music and Photobooth: Uplifting Melodies

Cake: Bakers House

Hair & Nails: Cheveux D'or

Bridal Party Makeup: Kayleigh Padiachee Makeup Artistry

Groom's Suit: Khaliques, Oriental Plaza

## What food did you have?

We had a Harvest table for the guests during the photoshoot.

We had a plated STARTER:

Pistachio and feta filled Roulade.

MAINS was a buffet of;

Slow roasted Beef roll, Creamy Honey & Mustard Chicken, Golden Roasted Potatoes, A selection of Artisan Bread & Rolls, Creamed Spinach, Pumpkin Fritters with Caramel sauce and A Harvest Style salad.

DESSERT:

Malva pudding, Mini Milk tarts, Duo Chocolate Mousse, Crème Brûlé and of course, an amazing and delicious Wedding Cake.

DRINKS:

We had a Wine bar and soft drinks.



## Tell us about your photographers?

I heard about Splendid Productions from a friend, who suggested I check them out on Instagram. When we saw their work, we were so impressed! I contacted them, they were very helpful. We were so happy with them on the day because they were very easy going and accommodating. We are generally awkward with photos of ourselves, but they made us feel so comfortable and very at ease. They have an incredible eye for different photo shots.

## Tell us about your wedding dress?

That was interesting... I'm not exactly a young bride and so I wanted something simple and understated but I didn't go to try different dresses on, as I should have – I found a picture on Pinterest and had a dressmaker make the dress for me. She did a lovely job and had the dress done 3 weeks before the wedding... but I wasn't convinced that it was the right dress for me. So, I decided to try a bridal boutique around the corner from my house, Coco Lace bridal. That is where I found my dress! I loved the simple, understated elegance of it and Karen was super helpful, she managed to have the dress ready for me in a very short space of time.

## Did you go on honeymoon?

Yes, Lyshon just loves the bush and the Kruger National Park, so we spent a Night at Sudwala lodge and a few days at Ngwenya Lodge. Then we spent a weekend at Hazyview Cabanas.

I am more of a beach person, so for the second half of the honeymoon we decided to do the Garden Route. We spent a couple of days at a friend in Pinnacle Point, Mossel Bay and then a few more days at Formosa in Plettenberg Bay.



# Riverside Country Estate



To take a virtual tour of the venue - [Click here](#)

## The Essence of Riverside

Discover the serene beauty and timeless elegance of Riverside Country Estate, where your dream wedding becomes reality. Nestled in the heart of nature, our venue offers a picturesque setting for your special day, making every moment unforgettable.

## Tailored to Perfection

At Riverside, we believe in making your wedding uniquely yours. Our dedicated team works closely with you to tailor every detail, from bespoke decor to personalized menus, ensuring your day is as unique as your love story.

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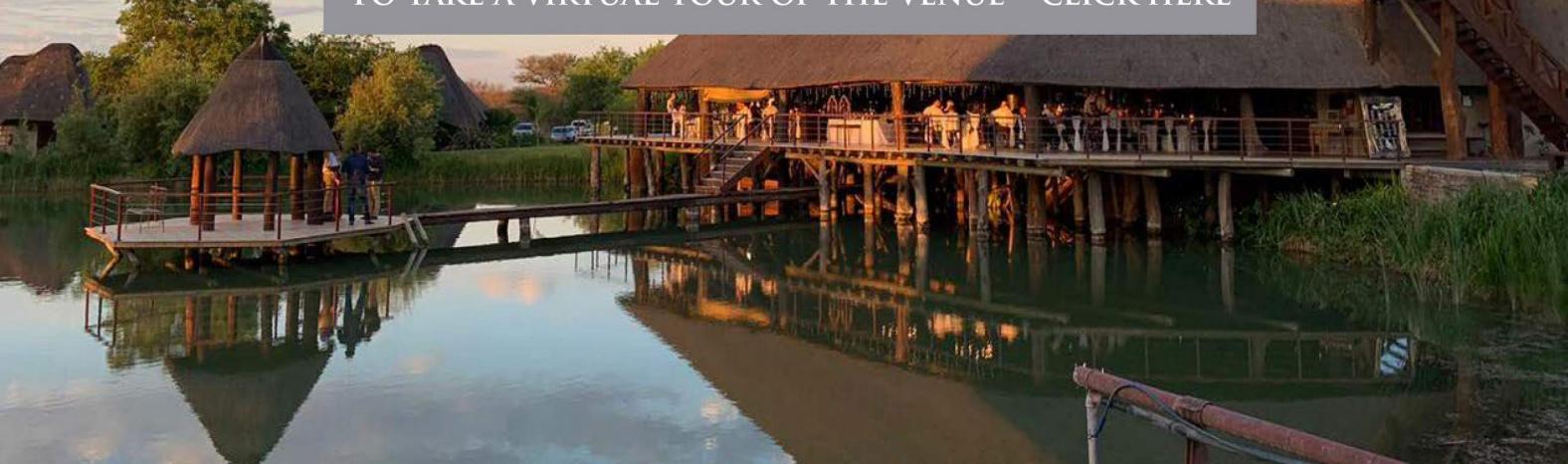




# TSEKAMA



TO TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE VENUE – [CLICK HERE](#)



## Tsekama

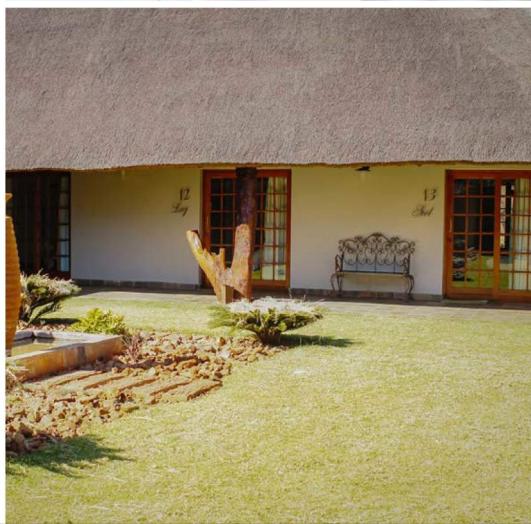
At Tsekama the spacious thatched roof and wooden wedding reception area built partly over the water, and the sprawling gardens and Bushveld scenery will turn every wedding photograph into a masterpiece.

For your big day – we will do the planning and execution so that you may have a relaxed, stress-free wedding ceremony and reception.

We will deliver an elegant, fun-filled wedding celebration to make your dreams come true.



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Website: [www.tsekama.co.za](http://www.tsekama.co.za)



Tsekama has an 80 guest minimum and a 300 guest maximum.

Our wedding packages are flexible to suit your personal style as well as your budget.

We provide tables, linen, chair covers, crockery, cutlery, and glasses. Flowers and a wide variety of modern equipment are available.

The venue has a fully licensed bar. Clients are welcome to bring their own wine and sparkling wine. A corkage fee will be charged.

The menu is flexible and can be tailor-made according to the couple's preferences for their celebration meal.

Whether it is a champagne breakfast or brunch, a lunch or dinner overlooking the dam or a romantic Boma dinner around the fire, under the stars.

Accommodation is available for 42 people in 18 luxury units.

We offer the complete wedding package, personalized service and attention.

We understand the dreams and wishes of every bride and groom, and we 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.



# Tsekama



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# Tsekama Lodge

*Wedding and conference venue*

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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](mailto:info@tsekama.co.za)





# Antenuptial Contracts

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# Melissa and Lourens Kleynhans



*Monte Bello Estate  
SJENEL studio photography*

*Unity. Unity is unmistakable and irreplaceable in a healthy marriage. God's word says "they shall become one flesh". Not two people with a common goal, but one flesh. Combined. Unified. A team.  
Marry your best friend.*

## The path that led to the engagement:

We met at Lourens' work. I am a Quantity Surveyor who moved back to Bloemfontein from the Cape with COVID. I struggled for a while to find work in my industry during lockdown, and then reached out to other opportunities. Lourens' company then had a position for a Project Coordinator for which I applied and got the job.

I started there, working under Lourens, but after two weeks of employment I got another opportunity to work in Ireland as a Cost Manager, which I accepted.

On the day I submitted my resignation, Lourens and I had a meeting. When we now realized that we would no longer be colleagues, some feelings surfaced during our conversations. He then opened up and started talking about the historic house he bought in Waverley with room for 40 cars, and the car lover that I am, I couldn't resist asking! Lourens then, after a long conversation, invited me to the house to view it and from there we never missed each other for a single day.

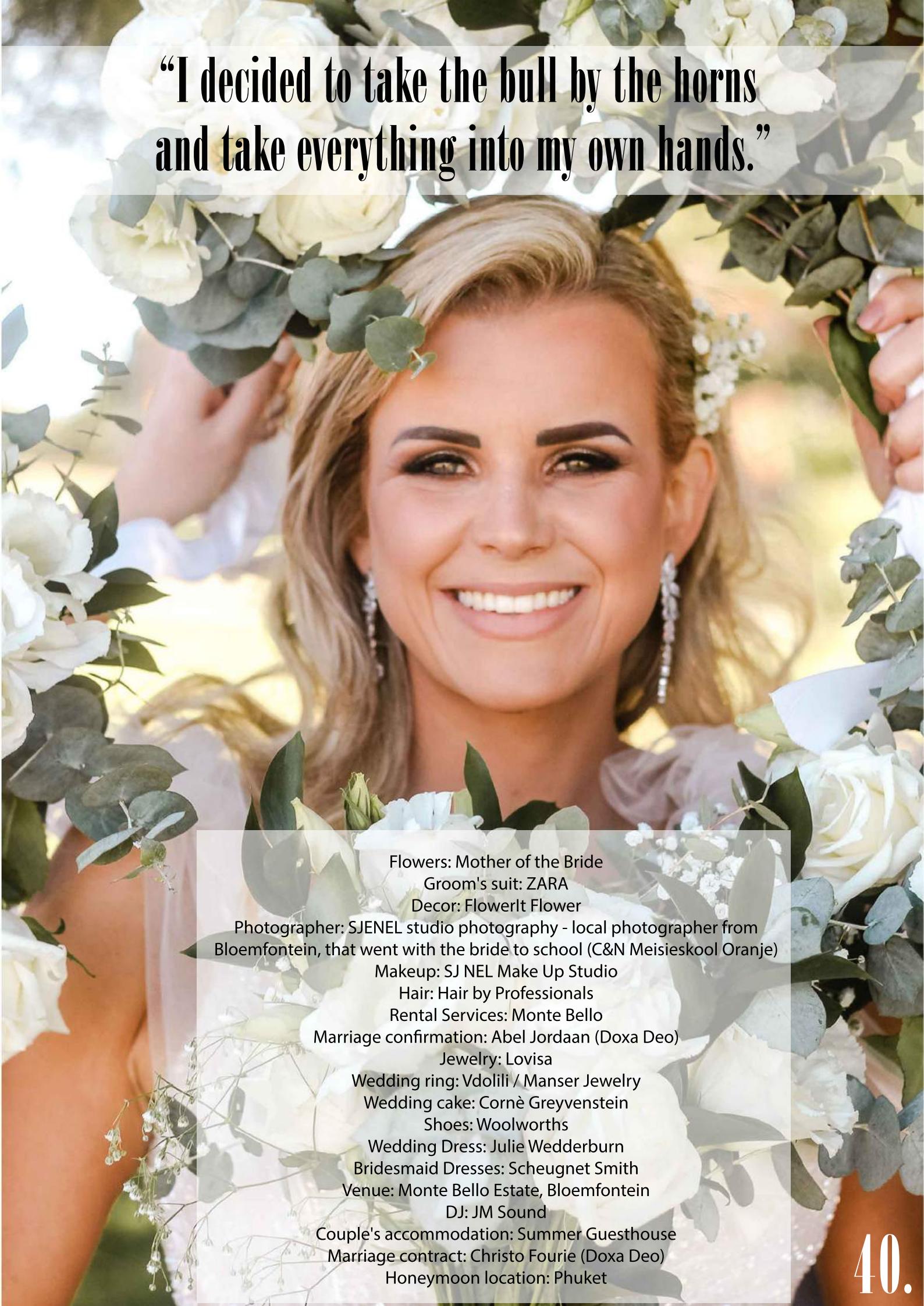
The next dates were hours of walking sessions of good laughs and getting to know each other.

The wedding planning had to happen quickly because we got engaged in August 2022 and decided on the date of 29 April 2023, at Monte Bello Estate, Bloemfontein.

## How did the planning go?

I decided to take the bull by the horns and take everything into my own hands. I planned a simple and elegant day. Where everyone could have a great time, eat and dance the night away. Something that is timeless and to which we can look back to breathtaking wedding photos in our old age.





**“I decided to take the bull by the horns  
and take everything into my own hands.”**

Flowers: Mother of the Bride

Groom's suit: ZARA

Decor: Flowerlt Flower

Photographer: SJNEL studio photography - local photographer from Bloemfontein, that went with the bride to school (C&N Meisieskool Oranje)

Makeup: SJ NEL Make Up Studio

Hair: Hair by Professionals

Rental Services: Monte Bello

Marriage confirmation: Abel Jordaan (Doxa Deo)

Jewelry: Lovisa

Wedding ring: Vdolili / Manser Jewelry

Wedding cake: Cornè Greyvenstein

Shoes: Woolworths

Wedding Dress: Julie Wedderburn

Bridesmaid Dresses: Scheugnet Smith

Venue: Monte Bello Estate, Bloemfontein

DJ: JM Sound

Couple's accommodation: Summer Guesthouse

Marriage contract: Christo Fourie (Doxa Deo)

Honeymoon location: Phuket

## Tell us about your Decor?

The decor consisted of elements of black and white - fairy lights and an overabundance of candles made the hall sparkle and kettles and cups of antique silver were filled with flowers. The carrot, vanilla and chocolate layer cake also reflected a touch of us as a couple with the unique topping.

## Tell us about your Attire?

My dream dress was specially designed by Aunt Julie Wedderburn. I went to her with my wildest ideas, and the design adventure was embarked on together. The result – a one-of-a-kind princess wedding dress! Beautifully decked out in "champa" with 3D detailing on the top and shimmering tulle made me sparkle with every turn.

Lourens came across his suit by chance one day and bought it at ZARA. He looked like my own James Bond!

The boys each wore a tux and walked down the aisle equally well. The little girls, decked out in pure white princess dresses with dainty black bows around the waist and black bow headbands, came galloping along just as happily. They stole everyone's hearts! Five bridesmaid sisters were stylishly dressed in black and the groomsmen in black and white made up the result.

## Anything special you would like to mention?

It was a perfect "summer" autumn day. I walked in to the notes of "What a Beautiful Name it is" by Hillsong, on the arm of my "Daddy". What a privilege! At the end of the black carpet, my best friend was waiting to make "forever and always" a reality.

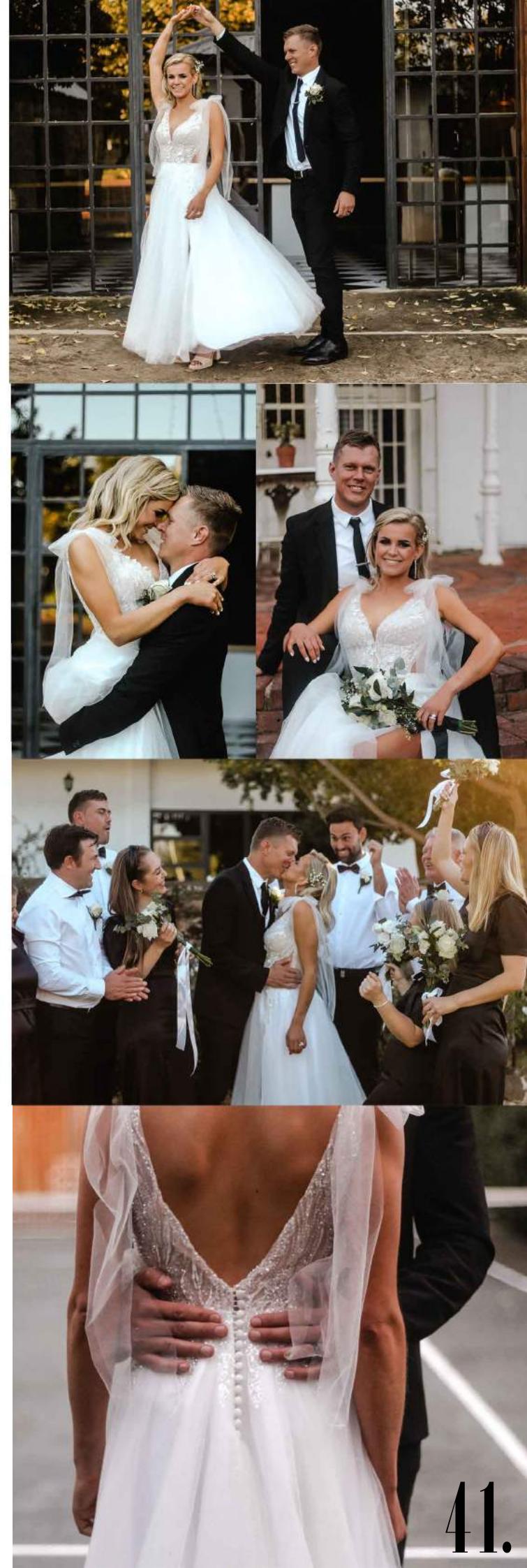
## Any tips for brides-to-be?

**Stay True to Yourself:** Amidst all the excitement and planning, remember that your wedding day should reflect you and your partner's personalities and values. Don't feel pressured to conform to anyone else's expectations.

**Plan Ahead, but Stay Flexible:** Planning is essential, but be prepared for unexpected changes or hiccups along the way. Stay calm and adaptable, and remember that sometimes the best moments are the unplanned ones.

**Focus on the Marriage, Not Just the Wedding:** While the wedding day is significant, remember that it's just the beginning of your journey together as a married couple. Keep the bigger picture in mind and invest time and effort into building a strong foundation for your marriage.

**Enjoy the Moment:** Your wedding day will fly by, so take moments throughout the day to pause, breathe, and soak it all in. Surround yourself with loved ones, create memories, and cherish every precious moment.





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**TULA BABA AFRICA**  
LODGE & VENUE



**If you are looking for an exclusive family friendly getaway where you will be welcomed with true African hospitality then look no further than Tula Baba Guest Lodge.**

Tula Baba Lodge is a sophisticated Lodge that has lovely entertainment and dining areas that overlook the bushveld and watering hole.

We are only 1 hour 30 minutes from OR Tambo International Airport and 1 hour from Lanseria Airport. We are just over an hour from Sun City and the famous Big Five Pilanesberg Game Reserve.

The Lodge is managed by a family and they are supported by a dedicated team of staff that provides a highly personalized experience. Your comfort is our priority.

For weddings we offer our couples the luxury of choice – whether you are looking for an upmarket or a rustic styled wedding, or anything in between, we have you covered.

Tula Baba caterers for intimate weddings and functions for up to 120 guests.

Our idea is for our guests to come and enjoy a special occasion without a series of rules and hidden costs.





Tula Venue at Tula Baba Game Lodge offers the ultimate wedding destination in South-Africa. Tula Baba Game Lodge is situated on an intimate game farm in the bushveld in the North-West area. It is the ideal wedding location for a unique destination wedding, also perfect for an extended weekend away.

Our couple have various options from a full package done by our vibrant Wedding Planner Andrew, you bring your ideas, and he makes the magic happen. We also offer active packages for fully catered to self-catering weddings. Our Venue is ideal for a small intimate wedding of 10 to 30 guests or a festival celebration of maximum 100 guest. A stylish celebration in the Bushveld, surrounded by the beauty of nature and wildlife as you recite your vows. We offer their bridal couple a wedding of their dreams with a luxurious bridal and groom suite. We work closely with our couples to bring their vision to life, so they can truly enjoy the day with their guests and family.

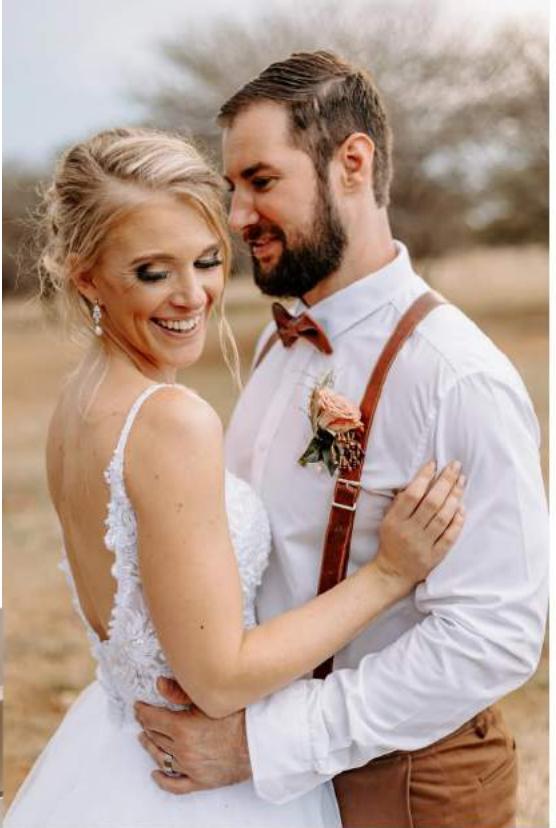
Tula Venue at Tula Baba Game Lodge believes that the focus of any celebration should be the enjoyment you share with your guests.

Tula Venue hosts weddings, corporate events, and milestone celebrations. This venue offers an elegant indoor facility offering a magical atmosphere for a stunning event. The Venue can comfortably accommodate 20 to 100 guests seated. Our Venue has immaculate finishes that gives a touch of elegance. We offer our couples an exclusive experience as we only host one function at a time. Our wedding Ceremonies are held in an open-air chapel under a beautiful Gazebo overlooking the bushveld with wildlife roaming past. Should the weather be a little wet we have a charming Chapel 4km from the Venue that will ensure our couple and their guest stay dry.

The Game Lodge has a Main Lodge that speaks for itself, when you walk into the front door the open plan entertainment area gives the WOW factor. Relaxing on the patios or enjoying a braai next to the pool. The main lodge has six bedrooms can sleep 12 guests and 5 additional cottages can accommodate 12 guests in total. Your wedding guest can stay over and enjoy a scrumptious breakfast the next morning. We have a few lovely accommodation options that provide additional place to stay for wedding parties and families.

Guests are greeted with a professional team. Andrew and his amazing team are available to assist our couple from the minute they arrive. We aim to exceed your expectation.







19

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# Melané & Juandré Hall



*Running Waters  
Gerber & Viljoen Wedding Photography*

*"Liefde Wen"*

## Tell us about how you met?

We met on WhatsApp, he got my number from a friend and we finally met each other when my brother started high school and Juandré was his prefect.

## Who walked you down the aisle?

My Father

## Tell us about your venue?

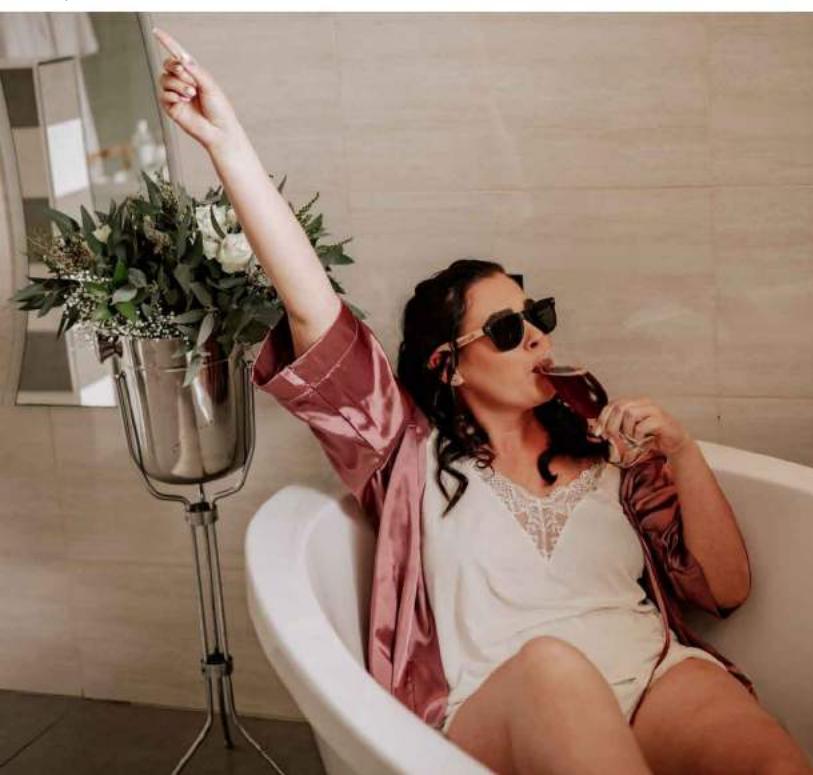
We got married by Running waters, one of the best venues...!

## More about us:

We are celebrating the 4th generation that got married on the 10th of February, we took Juande's parents away for a day after the wedding to celebrate.

We made a bottle of wine called LIEFDE WEN in December 2016, we only opened it on our wedding day.

My shoes broke so I went bare feet in church, and I loved it...!



**“We made a bottle of wine called “LIEFDE WEN” in December 2016, we only opened it on our wedding day.”**



Venue: Running Waters  
Photographer: Gerber & Viljoen Wedding Photography  
Dress: LOCA Bridal  
Decor: Juanita Beneke  
Hair: Leandi Davis  
Make-up: Mishka Glow Studio  
DJ: Zandre Kohne  
Neals: Carla Du Toit  
Cake: Tracy Van Rooyen

## **How did the planning go?**

Very quick, and I did everything alone as Juandré travels overseas from time to time.

## **Did you stick within your budget, what cost more than expected?**

We didn't have a budget, I just booked.

But my dress and food were expensive.

## **Did you go on honeymoon and where?**

We unfortunately did not go on honeymoon due to work. But we are planning for December going away on a road trip and see where the road takes us.

## **What should brides not bother with?**

Honestly, don't stress over anything, it will work out as it should.

Focus on yourself and your husband





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# Juanelle & Roan Strydom



Boschrievier Wine Estate  
CVP photography (Chanté van Pletsen)

*"I believe that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go, things go wrong so that you appreciate them when they're right, you believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together." – Marilyn Monroe*

## Tell us about how you met?

We had mutual friends that were dating at the time, that set us up.

They had invited us both separately to meet them for drinks, and when we arrived, we were set up to meet.

## Who walked you down the aisle?

My father, and grandfather to my beautiful boy – Johan van der Merwe.

## Tell us about your venue?

Our original venue got flooded away with the heavy rainfall and overflowing rivers in Caledon.

With two months away from our wedding date, we came across a small wine-tasting venue 5km away from our original wedding venue. Boschrievier Wines.

When we went to have a look, we immediately fell in love with the venue, and knew it was the perfect place for our small, intimate, outside wedding.

The venue has beautiful tall trees, green grass, and a backdrop of the beautiful mountain.

With a glass building for the reception, overlooking the trees and mountains? We knew it was meant to be for us!

## How did the planning go?

The planning was the toughest part of the wedding. Everything that could go wrong, possibly went wrong. We had to postpone our wedding by 2 years. We then lost our wedding venue due to a flood, and along with that, we lost our caterer and décor too, so we had to find a new venue, a new caterer, and new décor vendors two months before our wedding.



**“Honestly, my best tip is, to just breathe, and take one step at a time.”**



Makeup - Be.Focused (Sharné van der Merwe)

Dress - Ria Tener - Helen Dress (Blanco Bridal Couture)

Nails - Lavish Nail Couture (Lucinda Barnard)

Hair - Leandré Botha MUAH

Flowers - Winterbird Events (Denise)

Photography - CVP photography (Chanté van Pletsen)

Spray Tan – Go Brown Spray Tan

Wedding shoes & Accessories – SHEIN

Wedding Venue – Boschrievier Wine Estate

Food – Tinnah's Flavour Fusion

Groom's outfit - Markham's

Cake - Miss Dimples

## **Did you stick within your budget, what cost more than expected?**

Unfortunately, No...

Budgeting for a wedding is quite difficult...

My wedding dress was completely out of my budget, and the photographer cost more than I expected...

## **Did you go on honeymoon and where?**

We have not gone on honeymoon yet. We were blessed with a little boy just before the wedding. So, we are waiting for him to be old enough to stay with his grandparents for two weeks, so we can go on honeymoon.

When the time comes – we will be heading to Bali, Thailand and Phuket.

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

Honestly, my best tip is, to just breathe, and take one step at a time.

Planning a wedding is extremely stressful and takes a lot out of you.

I remember the last month before the wedding, I felt so defeated, and just wanted to elope.

The planning stressed me out, and it almost seemed as if I didn't look forward to the wedding anymore...

Trying to balance your budget, along with trying to keep everyone happy? Its... a lot!

But, just breathe, focus on one thing, and one category at a time, and remember this day is to celebrate the love between you and your partner. Everything else will fall in place. And I can promise you, the day will turn out even better than you imagined. Faults and all!



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"We take photos as return ticket to a moment otherwise gone"

# Tyla & Matthew Wagner



Venue & Caterer- Kleinkaap Boutique Hotel  
Photographer & Photobooth - Jenna Storey  
Photography

*"Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart"- Winnie the pooh.*

## Tell us about how you met?

Matt and I met on tinder. I wasn't interested in him as our online conversations were limited. He asked me on a date and I put such little effort in. As it was covid times we ended up meeting in a woolies and getting a coffee and walking around a closed mall. On this walk I learned two things. 1) that I wanted to marry him and 2) we had actually met before.

Turned out matt was a bar tender at a wits party I attended and made a massive fool out of myself at, and his best friend dated my sister's best friend.)

After that our conversations drastically improved. Matt invited me over an even got me to paint an artwork for him to keep me coming over.

When my family got covid he let me move in with him for 2 weeks to avoid catching the Rona. When I finally went back home with my stationary bike. He told me he hated living without me and asked me to move in. Naturally I said no as his complex didn't allow me to bring my cats. So, matt bought us a house.... since then, we chat, complain and fight together always.

## What made you choose your venue?

The venue was Kleinkaap Boutique hotel in centurion. The cape Dutch and forest themes were perfect and not very far away. The venue made a fairy light tent and chapel setting for us and it was completely idyllic. The venue included an amazing wedding planner. Anne, who made everything happen she was amazing. Nothing was too much and she really understood the assignment.

The food was also provided by the venue and the portions were huge. The food is also 5-star quality and really delicious. The venue catered for my vegan, vegetarian, halal and kosher guests and even made a special meal for me as I couldn't eat the chosen meal due to allergy's.



# **“I was a very chilled bride; I knew what I wanted.”**



Flowers and Décor- Love Beloved

Neon Sign- Cherry Neon

Dance Floor and DJ- Wedding Tunes

Venue & Caterer- Kleinkaap Boutique Hotel

Lights- Soft Lighting

Make-up & Hair - Liesl Van der Merwe

Dress- The wedding Boutique

Photographer & Photobooth- Jenna Storey Photography

Rings- Jack McCoy & Associates

## Tell us about your Photographer?

My photographer was Jenna Storey, from Jenna Storey Photographers. She had lovely packages including a photobook (which was a massive hit.)

She did our engagement shoot and really captured our love beautifully. She did her research on us and really got incredible pictures. She ensured we got the pictures we wanted and more. She made both Matt and I feel so comfortable even though we both are awful at taking picture. She even got a genuine smile out of matt which must have been hard work.

## How did the planning go?

I was a very chilled bride; I knew what I wanted with the fairy lights and let the flower provider make her own calls as long as she was within my budget. I knew I wanted a neon sign and I used the suggested service providers from the venue which were all amazing and did all the work. I was also writing exams during most of the planning and having a full-time job and full-time degree is really tough, so I basically chatted with matt made decisions, paid deposits and then let the providers take care of the rest.

The whole idea was fun, we had a flower man, a fun surprise dad daughter dance, all our animals on our cake as toppers. The idea of fun translated well as we still have guests raving about how much they enjoyed the wedding.

## Did you stick within your budget, what cost more than expected?

We did stick within the budget with everything except when planning, I forgot to include wedding rings. Luckily Matt stepped in and managed to sort them out (resulting in beautiful rings). Besides that, small faux pax the suppliers really were worth their value and stuck within my budget or cut down to get into the budget.

## Do you have any Tips for Brides-to-be?

Our wedding was simple and fun, don't get caught up in the drama of weddings rather just think about what you want, and everyone else will fit in. also money isn't everything Shien is your friend.



# Leonie & Riaan Coetzer



Venue: FBI Chef School & Catering  
Church / Photoshoot Location: Castello Sutil – Groenvlei  
Photographer: Maryke Venter Photography

*"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."*

## Tell us about how you met?

Riaan and I first met through a mutual friend at a quad bike gathering in Bloemfontein one Saturday morning. Every weekend, our group rode around the outskirts of the city, culminating our adventures at Stuck in the Mud in Langenhovenpark, a popular quad biking spot where we would spend the rest of the day until nightfall.

At that initial meeting, Riaan later confessed, I caught his eye immediately. However, it wasn't until later that day, when we had more time to talk, that I began to find him interesting. His excellent sense of humor shone through our conversation, making me laugh and feel at ease. We exchanged numbers that day, promising to ride together again soon.

What started as a shared passion for quad biking quickly blossomed into a beautiful friendship. For the next five years, Riaan and I were inseparable on and off the trails. We spent countless Saturdays exploring new terrains, facing challenges together, and enjoying the thrill of the ride. Our bond grew stronger with each adventure.

Over time, the friendship between us gradually transformed into something more profound. The connection we had, initially built on shared interests and mutual respect, evolved into a deep and abiding love. Riaan's unwavering support and infectious humor became the cornerstones of our relationship, and we realized that what we had was truly special.

Eventually, our beautiful friendship blossomed into a loving marriage. Looking back, it's incredible to see how a chance meeting at a quad bike gathering led us to where we are now. Our journey together has been filled with adventure, laughter, and unwavering support. From our early days of riding together in Bloemfontein to building a life together, our story is a testament to the power of shared passions and the magic of finding someone who truly understands and complements you.

Now, as we navigate life together, we cherish the memories of our early rides and look forward to creating many more. Our marriage, built on the foundation of a strong friendship and a shared love for adventure, continues to thrive, each day an exciting new chapter in our ongoing love story.



**“Now, as we navigate life together, we cherish the memories of our early rides and look forward to creating many more.”**



Wedding dress: Timeless Bridal – Pretoria. Contact: 071 549 5135

Photographer: Maryke Venter Photography

Makeup: Dannielle Profesional Makeup Artist

Hair: Lana Wiltshire

Flowers / Decorations: FBI Chef School & Catering – Bloemfontein. Contact:  
051-4519122

Catering: FBI Chef School & Catering – Bloemfontein. Contact:  
051-4519122

Venue: FBI Chef School & Catering – Bloemfontein. Contact: 051-4519122

Church / Photoshoot Location: Castello Sutil – Groenvlei, Bloemfontein.  
Contact: 073 139 8915 – Justina Sutil

## Tell us about your venue?

We had our hearts set on one venue: the FBI Chef School in Bloemfontein. We first encountered this exceptional location and its catering services at Riaan's cousin's wedding two years before our own. After that event, Riaan declared, "When we get married, we are hiring them." Located in Groenvlei, Bloemfontein, this beautiful venue not only trains aspiring chefs but also hosts weddings, baby showers, and year-end functions. The venue offers both indoor and outdoor spaces, accommodating 100-120 guests comfortably. They also handle all wedding decorations and flowers, ensuring a seamless experience.



## How long did it take to plan your wedding?

From the day of the proposal, it took us precisely three months to plan our wedding and get married.



## Tell us about your photographers?

I discovered Maryke Venter Design and Photography after numerous calls in search of a photographer during the busiest time of the year for weddings. Maryke was an absolute delight to work with, bringing a joyful and relaxed atmosphere to our entire wedding shoot. It felt like taking photos with a close friend. Contact: Tel: 0845227426. Website: Maryke Venter Photography.



## Who did your hair and makeup?

My makeup was expertly done by Dannielle Professional Makeup Artist, a highly talented and incredibly sweet professional makeup artist. Contact: 067 868 2363.

### The Hairstylist

Hair styling was handled by Lana Wiltshire, another exceptionally skilled professional. Contact: lana.wiltshire@vodamail.co.za.



## Tips for Brides-to-be?

On your wedding day, take a moment to pause and soak in the love and joy around you. Enjoy every second of your special day!



# Dorene & Mark Havemann



*Venue: Die Plaasskuur*  
*Photographer: Elysian Photography (Alida)*

## Tell us about how you met?

2002 The year of new beginnings where our story began. Early in the year we met when Mark played his heart out on the rugby field at Melmoth rugby club, little did he know his heart would no longer be only his.

On the 17th of April we went on our first date and in December 2002, Dorene left to venture in America as an Au Pair. Mark anxiously but truly patiently waited for the long year to pass for Dorene's return.

We realized that we want to be by each other's sides and decided to build a home together.

In 2006, we wanted to test the theory "distance makes the heart grow fonder" and Dorene left for America once again. And oh boy, is that theory true!!!

Our adventures began here.

The travel bug bit us... we started by traveling on Mark's Adventure motorbike from short trips around the country to longer trips travelling through the Cape, Kalahari, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia. Most trips just the two of us, some with awesome friends and others with new friends we met on the road.

Then we packed our tent and camping gear in the back of our bakkie. What fun we had... from rainstorms to extreme heat, camped did we camped. Exploring rivers in Tsitsikamma, flying between trees and mountains with canopy tours, to trying oysters and scratching in the sand for diamonds in Lüderitz.

Wanted to make our camping experience even more memorable we upgraded our faithful tent to an off-road caravan. With this we widen our travelling ground even more. Moving across our borders. From snorkeling in the Mozambican ocean to wild camping amongst lions in Botswana.

While venturing into Botswana in May 2022, Mark unexpectedly went down on one knee and popped the question!

We got ENGAGED!!!!  
Just under 2 years later, here we are...  
We Are Getting Married.  
READY FOR FOREVER!



“2002, The year of new beginnings, where our story began. “



We got married at Die Plaasskuur in Pongola, KZN

Dress – A'mour Bridal boutique

Photographer – Elysian Photography (Alida)

DJ – RCB Sounds – Ruan

Bar service – Spiller Bar Pongola

Makeup – Erica Inch

Hair – Vicky Terzona

## **Who walked you down the aisle?**

My mother walked me down the aisle

## **Tell us about your venue?**

When searching for a wedding venue, we wanted the perfect wedding venue. That venue that will be beautiful and unique, but also a venue that is refreshingly different.

We never imagined we would be getting THE PERFECT wedding venue that reflects not only our personalities but also capturing our love for the outdoors, all whilst still being elegant.

Then we found "Die Plaasskuur" in Pongola.

Die Plaasskuur spoke to our traveling and adventurous souls. A venue that took our guests' breaths away. And reminded us about the farm Mark grew up on.

Our wedding ceremony took place in the beautiful outdoors under a big thorn tree, and the reception was held indoors, where the hostess used greenery and simplistic décor to make you feel like you are still outside. Best of both worlds.

We were blessed with a wonderful hostess, Mirelle Brecher, who went out of her way in making our dream become a reality. She understood all our requests and went beyond making this the most memorable day ever.

## **How did the planning go?**

Planning of the venue décor etc. was a breeze... Mirelle Brecher was amazing!!!

Because we didn't get married in our home town, most our planning was done via WhatsApp... everything was perfect.

By sourcing other products like getting ready gowns etc. was a bit more challenging. There are some "Online" companies that's excellent and others not what they say they are. Let's not say more.

## **What should brides not bother with?**

Do what you want to do, don't do things just because everyone else does it.

Although we gave "Thank you, gifts" do not waste money on it, so many people leave/forget theirs at the venue.

Groomsmen and Bridesmaid gifts.... If you ready want to give them something, keep it small and inexpensive. Everything adds up!!!



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