

WEDDING *Collection*

Bridal & Evening Gowns

ISSUE 25

The art of wedding photography

2024
*Wedding
Trends*

Grand & Midlands
Venues

Timeless
ELEGANCE
IN SPRING



Timeless Elegance in Spring

Our Timeless Elegance shoot was hosted at "The Four Seasons Westcliff Hotel" perfectly situated at the top of the lush area of Westcliff in Johannesburg. This venue is going through some exciting changes, keep your eyes peeled for more. The models and vendors that joined us at this fabulous event were all fantastic and the day was enjoyed by all.

Looking to buy and affordable preloved gown, then look no further than Timeless Tulle, see details on page 14. Mellona Creations can make almost any gown your heart desires, wedding, bridesmaids and evening wear. The Corsetiere will certainly add the sizzle to your honeymoon with their imported lingerie to suit any body shape or size. On that note, Bunny Tummy will give you the confidence you need to rock your wedding gown or any outfit for that matter. They can be found on page 26.

If you are planning you wedding in 2024, we bring you some trends, hair and makeup, décor and flowers and just overall wedding trends to expect in 2024, enjoy.

Under the venue section you will find an array of stunning venues, get in touch with them to start planning your perfect day.

Draw inspiration from our real wedding stories and how these brides and grooms planned their weddings. It's always a good idea to read how real brides and grooms planned their weddings and what they considered important for their special day, see our real wedding stories towards the back of the magazine.

Enjoy planning your wedding day or weekend and drop us an email if there is anything you would like us to cover in our upcoming issue.

Here is a link to both of our Facebook and Instagram pages for your convenience.

Lots of Love and God Bless
Maggie
maggie@wedding-collection.co.za



Ed's Note

THE PROFESSIONALS WHO MADE OUR SHOOT POSSIBLE:



Timeless Tulle <https://www.instagram.com/timelesstulle/>

The Corsetiere <https://www.instagram.com/thecorsetiereza/>

Mellona Creations https://www.instagram.com/mellona_creations/

Exclusive Weddings & Events <https://web.facebook.com/WOHEExclusiveEvents/>

Photographer: Infinite Revere <https://www.instagram.com/infinite.revere/>

Videographer: Vellies Productions <https://www.instagram.com/velliesproductions95/>

Makeup and Hair: Lianke https://www.instagram.com/lianke_makeup_artist/

MODELS

Madelaine Snyman https://www.instagram.com/madelaine_snyman/

Melany Jacobs https://www.instagram.com/ultra_mella/

Zandile Masia https://www.instagram.com/zandile_fazillah_masia/



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FACEBOOK

9150

INSTAGRAM

1242

WEBSITE

2241

MENTS

MAKE UP:

latest hair and make up trends

S:

the Grand venues as well as two
in the beautiful Kwa Zulu Natal.

OGRAPHY & PHY:

ionals who took the photographs
shoot.
dding photography.

ITE

20

REACH

60530



On the cover:

Couple: Andries & Anelle Cooper

Photograph: Bianca from Infinite Revere

6 WEDDING TRENDS! 2024



TRENDING INTO HOTTEST WEDDING

Weddings are timeless celebrations of love, but they're also a reflection of the times we live in. As we step into 2024, the wedding industry is embracing new trends that combine tradition with modernity, resulting in unique and memorable experiences. From innovative décor to sustainable choices and personalized touches, here are some of the hottest wedding trends of 2024.

SUSTAINABLE WEDDINGS

Sustainability is no longer just a buzzword; it's a way of life, and weddings are no exception. Couples are increasingly conscious of their carbon footprint, and they're finding creative ways to make their weddings eco-friendlier. In 2024, expect to see weddings featuring locally sourced flowers, plant-based menus, and even green energy sources like solar panels.



TO FOREVER: THE ING TRENDS OF 2024







INTIMATE GATHERINGS

The pandemic has reshaped the way we celebrate, and intimate weddings are here to stay. Smaller guest lists allow for more personalized experiences and deeper connections with loved ones. Couples are choosing quality over quantity, resulting in more intimate and memorable affairs.

TECH-SAVVY CELEBRATIONS

Incorporating technology into weddings has become more popular than ever. From live-streaming ceremonies for remote guests to virtual reality wedding tours, couples are finding innovative ways to include everyone in their big day, no matter where they are in the world.

SUSTAINABLE FASHION

Brides and grooms are becoming increasingly conscious of the environmental impact of their wedding attire. Sustainable fashion choices, such as renting wedding dresses or suits, repurposing vintage gowns, or choosing eco-friendly materials, are gaining popularity.

PERSONALIZED EXPERIENCES

Customization is key in 2024. Couples are infusing their weddings with personal touches that reflect their unique love story. From custom-designed stationery to signature cocktails and personalized guest favours, weddings have never been more individualized.

DESTINATION MICRO-WEDDINGS

Micro-weddings are not limited to hometowns. Couples are exploring breathtaking destinations for their intimate celebrations. Beachfront elopements, mountaintop vows, and charming countryside gatherings are becoming increasingly popular.

DESTINATION WEDDINGS

Couples are seizing the opportunity to explore the world while tying the knot. Destination weddings are on the rise, with couples choosing picturesque locations that hold sentimental value or offer stunning natural backdrops for their special day.

INTERACTIVE FOOD AND DRINK STATIONS

Food and drink take centre stage at 2024 weddings. Couples are opting for interactive food stations, like DIY taco bars, sushi rolling stations, or craft cocktail mixology counters. These stations encourage guests to engage and customize their dining experience.

ARTISTIC WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

Wedding photography is evolving, with couples seeking out artistic and unconventional styles. Expect to see more candid shots, drone photography, and creative compositions capturing the essence of the day in a unique way.

TECH-ENHANCED INVITATIONS

Paper invitations are getting a high-tech makeover in 2024. Couples are using augmented reality and QR codes to create interactive invitations that provide a sneak peek into their love story or wedding details.

CONCLUSION

As 2024 unfolds, wedding trends are reflecting the changing times. Sustainability, intimacy, and personalization are at the core of these trends, as couples seek to create memorable, meaningful, and eco-conscious celebrations. Whether it's a micro-wedding, a virtual ceremony, or a destination extravaganza, the key is to embrace the future while honouring the timeless tradition of love and commitment.





We're getting married!



Save the date!

Stephanie & David

Mark your calendar!

We are tying the knot on June 6th, 2024 in London.

Invitations to follow, but in the mean time, check out our website below.

[Visit our Website](#)



GOW



NS & LINGERIE







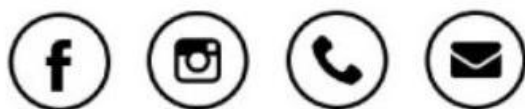
LUXURY REPURPOSED BRIDAL

TIMELESS *Tulle*

Timeless Tulle offers brides a carefully curated collection of luxury upcycled bridal dresses, emphasizing the power of repurposed fashion and cherishing the past. By bringing together a stunning array of pre-loved designer wedding gowns, bridesmaid and mother-of-the-bride dresses, Timeless Tulle aims to redefine the notion of luxury, demonstrating that sustainability and elegance can harmoniously coexist.

We invite you to explore our exquisite collection, where every dress whispers stories of love, celebration, and a commitment to making a difference.

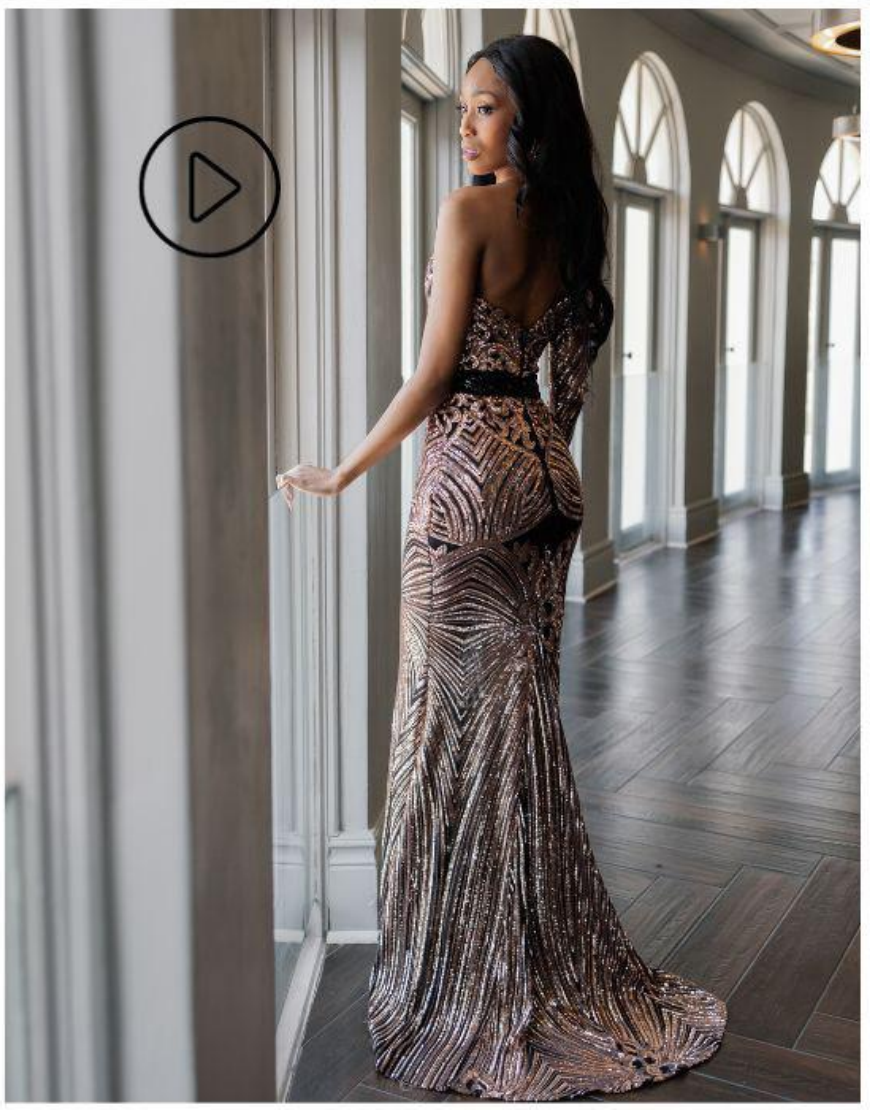
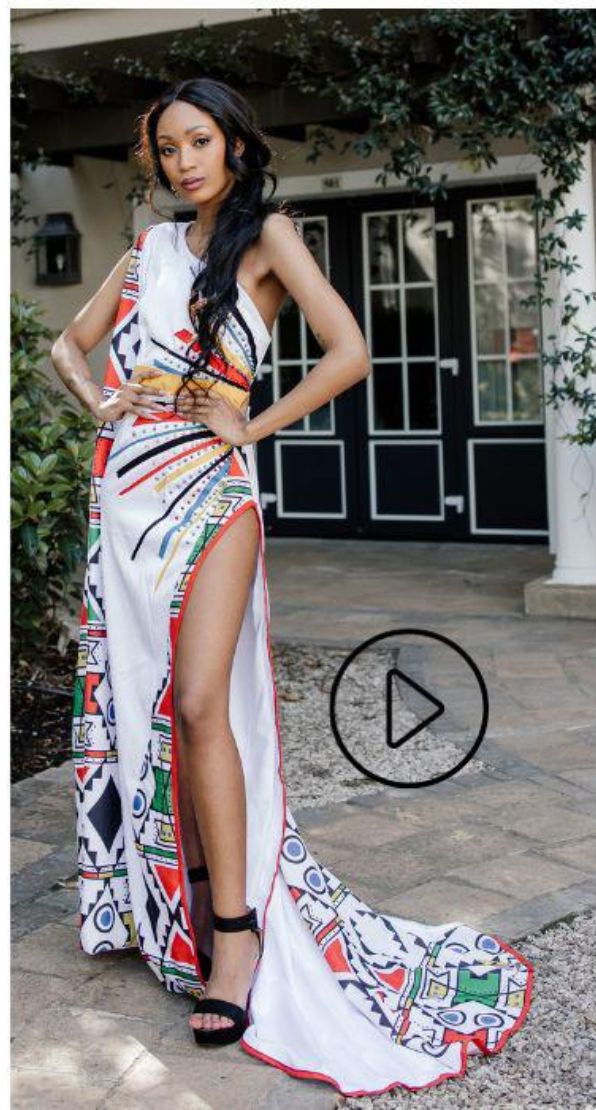
Get in touch to join the cycle and sell or buy pre-loved!



Dress Designers (From Left to Right): Page 1: Custom Design; Milla Nova; Anna Kara; Eva Lendel
Page 2: Modeca; Demetrios Bridal

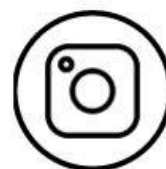




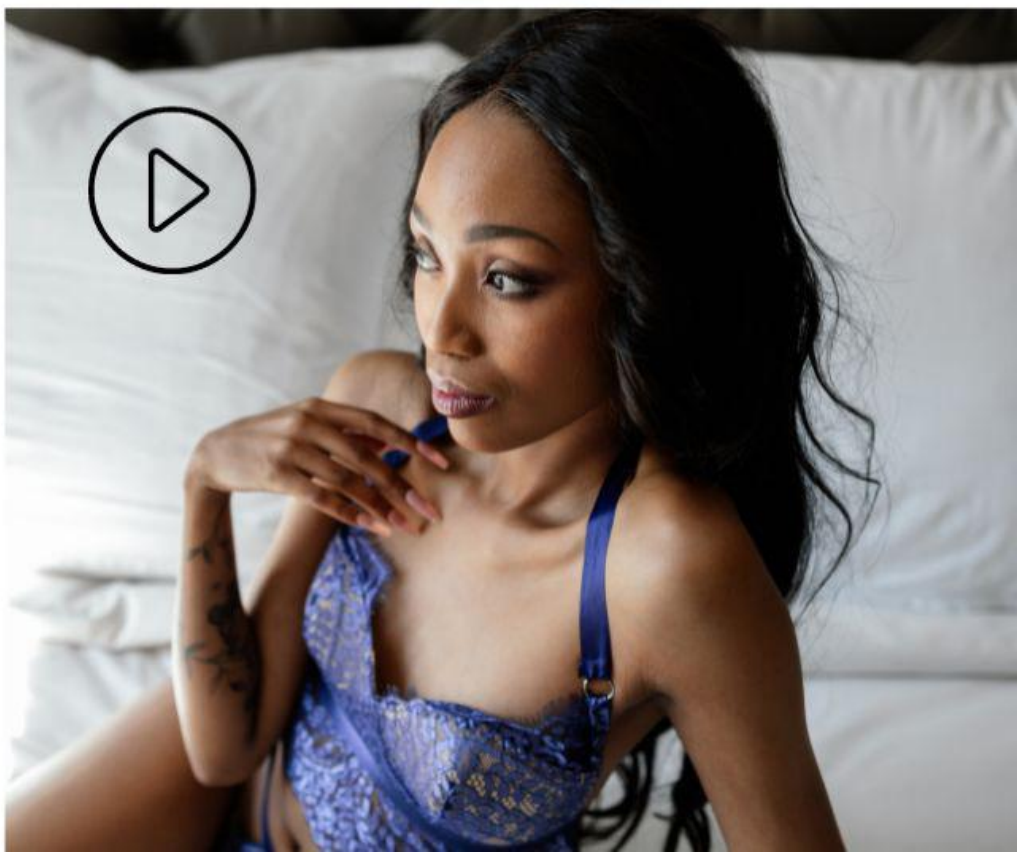


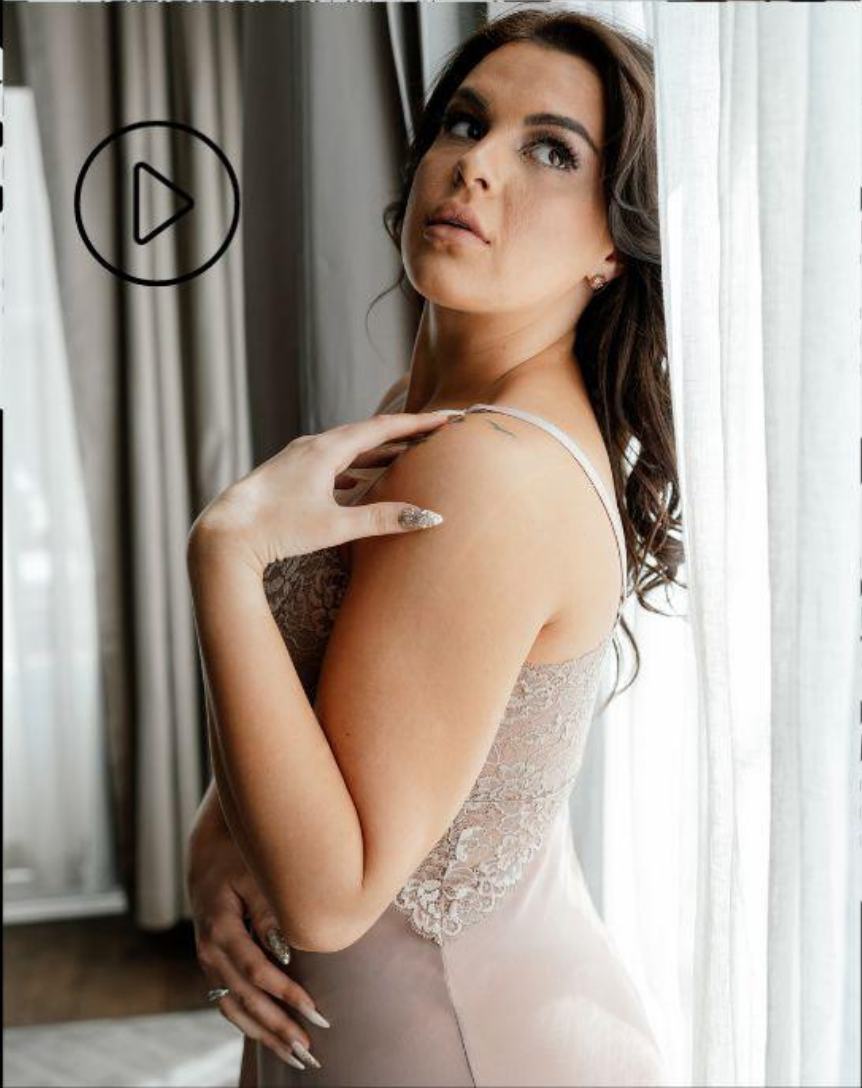
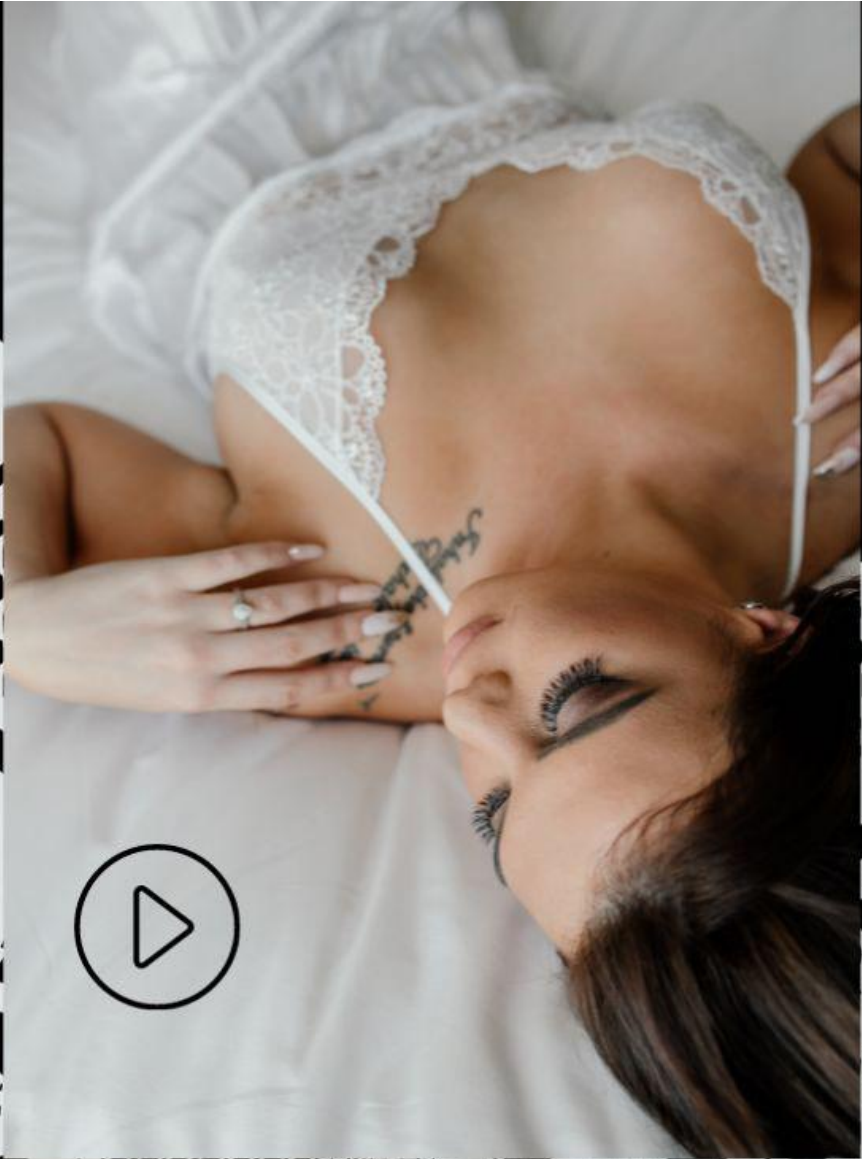


MC
Mellona Creations
FASHION DESIGNER















BUNNYTUMMY

shapewear



Get powerful high-tech support with our Shapewear, Cinches and SEAMLESS Collection



Our years of research and development made us experts in smoothing, sculpting, and toning. discovering how uncomfortable and restrictive the majority of shapewear is.

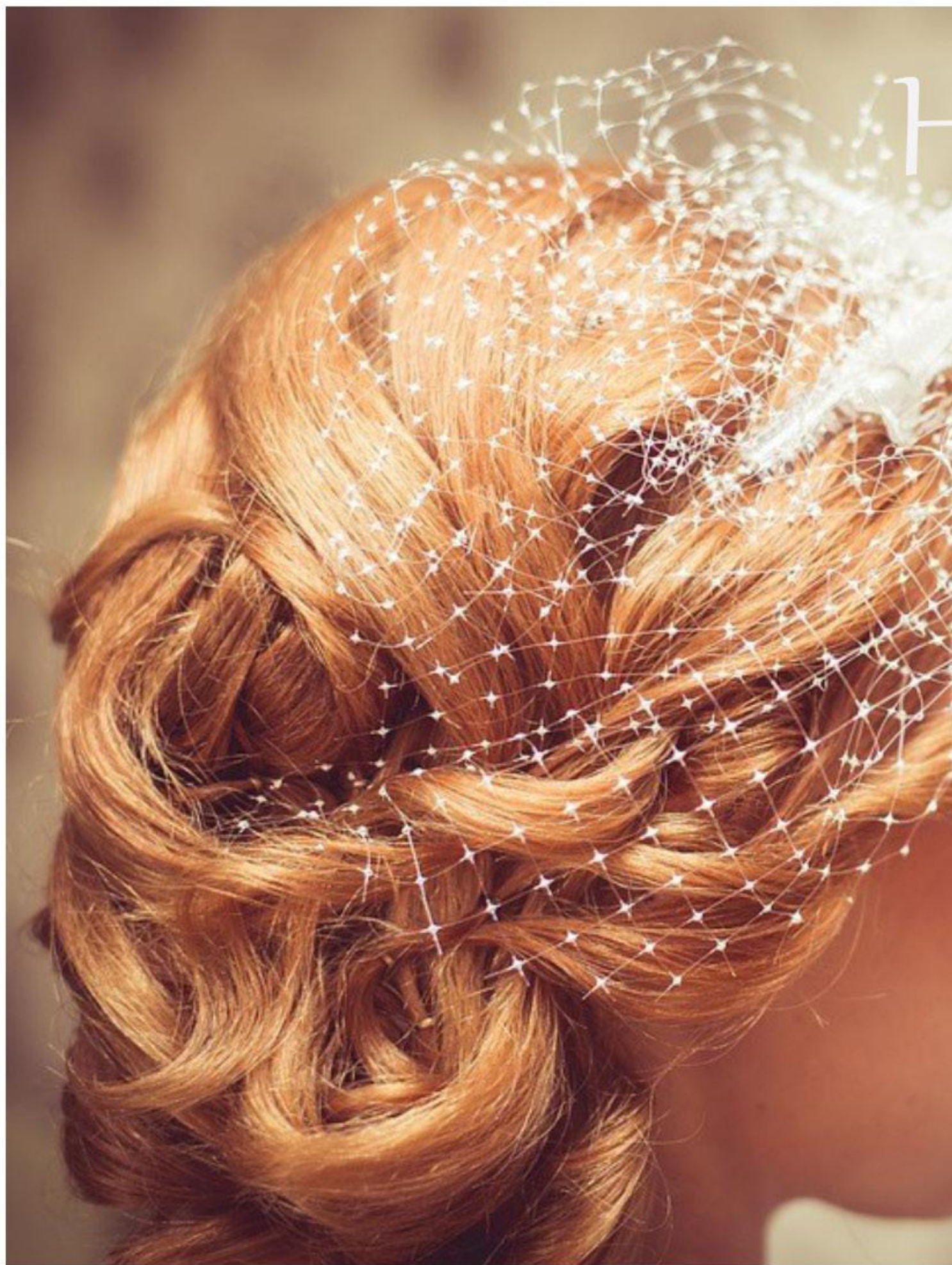
We painstakingly developed and perfected the extraordinary technology behind our SEAMLESS collection. Hence, all our products are breathable, comfortable, and elastic fabric you can wear anytime, looking beautifully lifted and smooth in all the right places.

Sewn from the highest quality fabric, our breathable products also include cooling vents suitable for the weather in Israel and other hot or humid environments.

All our trainers, cinchers and shapewear are exclusively made by BunnyTummy and are only available on our site after we've tested them ourselves. As a result, you get access to high-quality and extremely effective shapewear products which you'll discover- just as we did- are the perfect solution you've been looking for..

Instagram and Facebook - @bunnytummy_sa

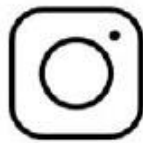
www.limbaoriginals.co.za/shapewear



HAIR & MAKEUP







RADIANT BRIDES: UNVEIL AND MAKEUP TRENDS



BRING THE LATEST HAIR TRENDS TO YOUR WEDDING

Your wedding day is one of the most special and unforgettable moments in your life, and every bride wants to look and feel her absolute best. The perfect bridal look requires meticulous planning, and that includes keeping up with the latest trends in hair and makeup. In this article, we'll explore the hottest hair and makeup trends that are captivating brides around the world, helping you achieve a timeless yet trendy bridal look that will leave everyone in awe.

1. NATURAL BEAUTY REIGNS SUPREME

In recent years, the bridal beauty scene has seen a shift towards embracing natural beauty. Brides are opting for makeup looks that enhance their features rather than masking them. Soft, dewy skin with a natural glow, subtle contouring, and a nude or neutral colour palette are all the rage. This approach not only ensures you look like the best version of yourself but also allows your personality to shine through on your big day.

2. ETHEREAL ELEGANCE WITH SOFT PASTELS

Soft pastel shades have made a stunning comeback in bridal makeup. Think delicate pinks, peaches, and dusty mauves for your eyeshadow and lip colours. These hues exude a sense of romance and whimsy, creating a dreamy and ethereal look. A soft, blended smoky eye with pastel shades can add depth and dimension to your eyes without overpowering your overall look.

3. BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL LIPS

While subtle and understated makeup is a trend, some brides are choosing to make a statement with bold lips. Deep reds, rich plums, and classic scarlet shades are making a comeback. A bold lip can instantly elevate your bridal look and make a memorable impression. Just remember to choose a long-lasting lipstick or stain that won't smudge during all the kisses and toasts.

4. DEWY SKIN AND SUBTLE HIGHLIGHTING

Achieving that radiant, dewy skin is a trend that's here to stay. Brides are steering away from matte foundations and embracing lightweight, luminous formulas that give their skin a fresh and youthful appearance. Subtle highlighting along the high points of the face, such as the cheekbones and brow bones, adds a touch of glamour without going overboard.

5. BOHEMIAN BRAIDS AND EFFORTLESS UPDOS

When it comes to bridal hairstyles, bohemian braids and effortless updos are having a moment. Loose, undone braids, whether as a crown or incorporated into a flowing, low bun, exude a whimsical and carefree vibe. These styles are perfect for outdoor and rustic weddings but can also be adapted for more formal affairs.

6. STATEMENT HAIR ACCESSORIES

Statement hair accessories, from oversized floral pins to crystal-encrusted headbands, are taking bridal hair to the next level. These eye-catching adornments can transform a simple hairstyle into a work of art. Whether you prefer a vintage look or a contemporary twist, there's a hair accessory to suit every bride's style.

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7. MINIMALISTIC NAILS

Gone are the days of elaborate nail art for brides. Minimalistic nails with soft, neutral tones or a sheer, glossy finish is the trend du jour. These understated nails allow your hands to complement your overall look without stealing the spotlight.

8. PERSONALIZED FRAGRANCE

While not strictly a hair or makeup trend, selecting a signature fragrance for your wedding day is becoming increasingly popular. A scent can evoke memories and emotions, making it an essential part of your bridal ensemble.

CONCLUSION

Your wedding day is a celebration of love, and your beauty should radiate that sentiment. The trends in bridal hair and makeup for today's brides reflect a blend of classic elegance and modern sophistication. Whether you choose to go natural or bold, ethereal, or glamorous, the key is to feel comfortable and confident in your chosen look. Consult with a professional makeup artist and hairstylist who can help you achieve the bridal beauty of your dreams, ensuring that you look and feel your best on this momentous occasion. Remember, the most beautiful bride is the one who radiates joy, love, and authenticity.





Image Courtesy of Exclusive Weddings & Events

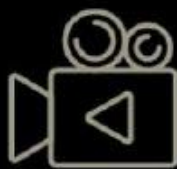


DÉCO



OR & FLOWERS





TRENDING WEDDING

Wedding décor in 2024 has always played a significant role in setting the tone and atmosphere of a wedding ceremony and reception. It reflects the couple's personality, style, and the overall theme of the celebration.

As we step into 2024, the world of wedding décor continues to evolve, bringing in fresh and exciting trends. Whether you're planning a wedding or just curious about the latest in nuptial aesthetics, here's what to look for in wedding décor this year.

SUSTAINABLE DÉCOR

In 2024, couples are increasingly conscious of their environmental impact. Sustainable wedding décor is gaining popularity, with couples opting for eco-friendly and reusable materials. Expect to see décor elements made from recycled or repurposed items, biodegradable flowers, and energy-efficient lighting. Sustainable weddings not only look beautiful but also leave a minimal carbon footprint.

MINIMALISM AND SIMPLICITY

The minimalist trend continues to dominate wedding décor. Couples are choosing clean lines, simple colour palettes, and uncluttered designs. Less is more, and simplicity is the key. Minimalistic décor not only exudes elegance but also allows the couple's love and personalities to take centre stage.

STATEMENT FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

In 2024, flowers are making a big statement in wedding décor. Oversized and dramatic floral installations, such as arches, hanging gardens, and flower walls, are all the rage. Rich, bold colours like deep reds, purples, and jewel tones are replacing the more traditional pastels. Couples are also incorporating locally sourced and seasonal flowers to add a personalized touch.

TECHNFUSED DÉCOR

Technology is becoming an integral part of wedding décor. LED dance floors, projection mapping, and interactive photo booths are all in vogue. Couples are using technology to enhance the guest experience and create memorable moments. Personalized LED displays with animations, light shows, and digital guestbooks are just a few examples of how tech is revolutionizing wedding décor.

MIX OF OLD AND NEW

The fusion of vintage and modern elements is a trend that's gaining momentum. Couples are combining antique furniture, vintage tableware, and classic motifs with contemporary design elements. This juxtaposition creates a unique and nostalgic atmosphere that resonates with both the past and the present.



ING DÉCOR IN 2024





SUSTAINABLE LIGHTING

Lighting plays a crucial role in creating the ambiance of a wedding. In 2024, sustainable lighting options are taking centre stage. Couples are opting for energy-efficient LED lighting, solar-powered lanterns, and even candlelit ceremonies. Soft, warm lighting enhances the romantic atmosphere and complements other décor elements beautifully.

PERSONALIZED DETAILS

Personalization is still a key trend in wedding décor. Couples are infusing their love story, hobbies, and interests into every aspect of the décor. From custom signage and monograms to themed decorations that reflect their journey together, every detail is an opportunity to showcase their unique bond.

CULTURAL FUSION

Weddings are increasingly embracing cultural diversity, and this is reflected in the décor. Couples are incorporating elements from their cultural backgrounds or mixing traditions to create a harmonious fusion. Expect to see vibrant colours, traditional attire, and cultural motifs interwoven into the wedding décor.

CONCLUSION

In 2024, wedding décor is all about sustainability, personalization, and a perfect blend of old and new. Couples are taking creative risks to make their wedding décor uniquely theirs, while also being mindful of the environment. Whether you're planning a wedding or just appreciating the beauty of these trends, the world of wedding décor in 2024 promises to be a captivating and inspiring journey of love and artistry.



Venues





Pic courtesy of Cradle Valley Guesthouse

LYTHWOOD LODGE

Farm 37, Lidgetton West, KwaZulu-Natal Midlands

Cell:+27 (0)82 681 3934



Lythwood, located in the breathtaking Lidgetton Valley within the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, boasts a rich history that weaves together heritage, craftsmanship, and natural beauty. The name 'Lythwood' draws from the Greek word 'lith,' signifying stone—a tribute to the estate's origins near an old quarry. This legacy of strength and enduring beauty laid the foundation for a venue that's more than just a place—it's an experience.



Lythwood stands apart with its captivating history and blend of old-world charm and modern luxury. Its story dates back to the mid-1940s when skilled Italian prisoners of war contributed their craftsmanship, leaving an indelible mark on its character. This infusion of artistry, coupled with the surrounding beauty of the estate, creates an ambiance that's enchanting and distinctive.



Lythwood isn't just a wedding venue; it's a living legacy. It's history, Italian craftsmanship, and passion of the present owners infuse the space with character and warmth. From intimate gatherings to grand celebrations, Lythwood offers a range of options, including the glass-enclosed Avellini Tent—a testament to blending tradition with innovation. The commitment to the community through the employee share trust reflects Lythwood's values, symbolising a place where heritage, hospitality, and love converge to create unforgettable moments.



Choosing Lythwood for your wedding means immersing yourselves in a story steeped in history and romance. Their carefully preserved manor house, adorned with intricate wrought ironwork and elegant finishes, offers a backdrop that effortlessly blends the old with the new. The surrounding Midlands countryside lends an ethereal charm that's hard to replicate. Our wedding becomes a part of Lythwood's legacy—a celebration of love that resonates through generations. Something else that truly sets Lythwood apart is the seamless fusion of diverse ceremony and reception options that cater to your unique vision.

Your wedding becomes a part of Lythwood's legacy—a celebration of love that resonates through generations. Something else that truly sets Lythwood apart is the seamless fusion of diverse ceremony and reception options that cater to your unique vision.

Photography: Sams Photo Studio

What tips do you have to our brides-to-be for hosting a successful Midlands wedding?

Celebrate Nature's Beauty: The Midlands offers a stunning canvas. Let nature inspire your décor and photography, creating a celebration that's one with the landscape.

Plan for Weather: Midlands' weather can be unpredictable. Have a contingency plan for both outdoor and indoor events, ensuring your day runs smoothly, rain or shine. Lythwood has varied ceremony and receptions options to suit changeable weather conditions – and they are all gorgeous.

Savour Local Flavours: The region is known for artisanal produce. Infuse local flavours into your wedding menu and beverages to give guests a true taste of the Midlands. Lythwood boasts an award-winning restaurant, and their chef is a master at creating the perfect menu for you.

Comfortable Accommodation: Since the area draws visitors, ensure guests have comfortable accommodation near your chosen venue. Lythwood's on-site accommodation boasts a blend of rooms and cottages that cater to different preferences. Lythwood is a great venue for that full weekend destination wedding experience!

Capture the Moments: Picturesque surroundings provide ample photo opportunities. Work closely with your photographer to make the most of the landscape. Make the most of Lythwood's breathtaking surroundings: beautiful gardens, rolling countryside, flowering trees, and surrounding forests. And Lythwood's beautiful historical wrought-iron gate framing the top of the stairs to the Avellini Tent is a very popular, must-have backdrop!

Lythwood is a canvas that adapts to your vision, whether you're drawn to the rustic charm of their chapel, which happens to be an old, transformed dairy, or the elegance of garden ceremonies framed by lush surroundings. The glass-enclosed Avellini Tent offers panoramic views and the Khaya Centre offers sophisticated elegance. This adaptability is what truly sets Lythwood apart. Their commitment to community is exemplified through an employee share plan. Every celebration adds to this narrative, embodying the essence of love and connection. From diverse ceremony options to the allure of a weekend destination, Lythwood crafts an experience that resonates deeply.



Photo Credits top to bottom:

David Rees Photography; Wild Olive Photography; Classfully Yours Photography; Yajur Chotail Photo & Film



Lythwood

NETHERWOOD FARM

Nottingham Road, KwaZulu-Natal Midlands

Netherwood Weddings: Where Love Meets Timeless Beauty



Netherwood Weddings, nestled in the heart of South Africa's captivating Midlands Meander, combines rustic charm and modern elegance, making it a dream destination for couples seeking a memorable wedding venue. Surrounded by undulating hills and breath taking views, it provides a serene backdrop for intimate ceremonies and lavish celebrations.



What sets Netherwood apart is its ability to turn couples' wedding fantasies into reality. It offers a blank canvas for couples to design their day precisely as they envision, from floral arrangements to themed decor. Located within the picturesque Nottingham Road, Netherwood pays homage to farming culture with lush surroundings, making every moment a magical countryside to remember.



The Netherwood team offers exceptional service providers, who ensure that every detail, no matter how small, is expertly taken care of. With versatile spaces accommodating various themes and wedding sizes, Netherwood provides more than just a venue; it offers a canvas for couples to paint their love story with grace and originality.

In a world where every love story is unique, Netherwood stands out for its dedication to making dreams come true. The venue's adaptable spaces, awe-inspiring backdrop, and unwavering commitment to perfection, transform weddings into unforgettable journeys.

For brides-to-be planning a Midlands weddings, some key tips include embracing the region's natural beauty in decor, planning for erratic weather, working with local experts, suggesting Midlands Meander activities for guests, and arranging accommodation for out-of-town visitors.

By blending the Midlands Meander's charm with personal touches and meticulous planning, anyone getting married at Netherwood can create a wedding that's not only successful but also unforgettable for everyone involved. In choosing Netherwood Weddings, you're choosing more than a venue; you're choosing a partner in crafting the wedding of your dreams. Your love story is unique, and we're here to ensure that every moment is as exceptional as your love. So, let Netherwood be the canvas where your love story unfolds, where dreams are transformed into treasured memories, and where your journey into forever begins with grace, originality, and an unwavering dedication to perfection.



+27 (0)81 850 6000



netherwood.

GRAND AFRICA LOOKOUT BEACH

Hill Street, Lookout Beach, Plettenberg Bay, Garden Route

(e) LookoutBeach@GrandAfrica.com (t) +27 (0) 44 533 0637

Feet in the sand!

Isn't it quite grand to dine by the sea with your feet in the sand? Our elegant nephew Grand Africa Lookout Beach has opened its doors in a unique location right on the beach in Plett. In a trendy and sophisticated ambience, you may very well be at our Grand Beach in Cape Town, sip on a glass of wine, lay back, and be grand...

Our mantra, our wandering spirit took us all over the world on a voyage of self-discovery of love, all unique and beautiful (and sometimes not). Forever changed by what is seen, felt and experienced ...by people you meet and books you read. Drawing from those wonderful and sometimes seemingly crazy ideas and emotions, jotted in our minds, we created our beloved Grand Africa. Share this with us, feel loved by the space you are in ... and embark on a voyage to become more you ...





Catering to groups ranging from small and intimate party sizes of 12 all the way up to events of 1050 guests, Grand Africa Café & Beach offers function hosts a choice of nine different venue areas available for private and exclusive functions as well as on an 'entire venue – solo use' basis.

Grand Africa Café & Beach offers a multi-functional venue for corporate events, weddings, private celebrations, launches, engagement parties, bachelorettes, milestone celebrations and bespoke tailored group functions. View the list of venue choices below and get in touch to arrange your next special event.

What tips do you have to our brides-to-be for hosting a successful unique wedding?

*Start your venue search early- This will make sure that you have your dream venue booked and ready for your special day.

*Grand Africa Collection staff is there to assist you in any way to help make your special day a memorable one.

*We have event planners who will assist the bride-to-be with all the admin and make sure there are no bumps on the big day.



GRAND AFRICA CAFE & BEACH

1 Haul Road, V&A Waterfront, Granger Bay, Cape Town

(e) Beach@GrandAfrica.com (t) +27 (0) 21 425 0551



Grand Africa Café & Beach embraces a free-spirited beach café culture, nestled poignantly on the sea-front shoreline and flaunting her majestic views of the mighty Atlantic and Robben Island.

With iconic style and playful luxury, Grand captures the quintessential charm and colloquial effervescence of the bustling city vibe while offering a quaint and relaxing escape, 'a world away' in the heart of Cape Town's social mile.

With a choice of five bars, ocean-view decks, nine private function venue areas, and on-beach dining, you're sure to find the perfect spot to capture that unforgettable magic, that is simply Grand.



Our mantra, our wandering spirit took us all over the world on a voyage of self-discovery of love, all unique and beautiful (and sometimes not). Forever changed by what is seen, felt and experienced ...by people you meet and books you read. Drawing from those wonderful and sometimes seemingly crazy ideas and emotions, jotted in our minds, we created our beloved Grand Africa. Share this with us, feel loved by the space you are in ... and embark on a voyage to become more you ...





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COUNTRY GRAND

Dieu Donne Vineyards, Witkys Street, Franschhoek

(e) Country@GrandAfrica.com (t) +27 (0) 21 569 9352



Country Grand embraces a free-spirited countryside café culture, nestled high on the steep south-west facing slopes of the Franschhoek Mountains, which tempers the sun, flaunting her majestic views of the famous landmarks of Franschhoek.

With iconic style and playful luxury, Country Grand captures the quintessential charm and colloquial effervescence of the vineyards while offering a quaint and relaxing escape, 'a world away' in the Franschhoek mountains.

Our mantra, our wandering spirit took us all over the world on a voyage of self-discovery of love, all unique and beautiful (and sometimes not). Forever changed by what is seen, felt and experienced ...by people you meet and books you read. Drawing from those wonderful and sometimes seemingly crazy ideas and emotions, jotted in our minds, we created our beloved Grand Africa. Share this with us, feel loved by the space you are in ... and embark on a voyage to become more you ...





Franschhoek lies in one of the most beautiful wine valleys in the world, just 45 minutes from Cape Town and within half an hour of the Stellenbosch, Paarl, Wellington, and Somerset West wine routes. This traditionally French town is the food and wine capital of the country. Originally known as the Valley of the Huguenots, many of the wine farms still bear their original French names. Dieu Donn , the new home of Country Grand, is a prime example. Translated as "A gift from God", the name could not be more fitting. With panoramic views of the Franschhoek valley, neighbouring Stellenbosch and Drakenstein mountain ranges, the quiet creeks, and vast vineyards of Dieu Donn  bode the perfect sanctuary for this unique Countryside Caf .



What tips do you have to our brides-to-be for hosting a successful unique wedding?

*Start your venue search early- This will make sure that you have your dream venue booked and ready for your special day.

*Grand Africa Collection staff is there to assist you in any way to help make your special day a memorable one.

*We have event planners who will assist the bride-to-be with all the admin and make sure there are no bumps on the big day.







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HOTEL

THE WESTCLIFF, JOHANNESBURG

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THE GARDEN VENUE



011 795 0000 | info@thegardenvenue.co.za | www.thegardenvenue.co.za

Award-winning wedding venue

The Garden Venue in Randburg is an award-winning wedding venue offering bespoke wedding packages. Set across 3 hectares, only minutes from the Northgate Dome, we enjoy an authentic country feel.

Upon arrival it is undeniable that the most distinctive feature of our award-winning venue is our lovely landscaped gardens – idyllic, meticulously maintained spaces adorned with captivating water features. Furthermore, The Garden Venue's ability to bring the beauty of nature inside really differentiates us from other establishments.

Three of our event halls embrace a traditional thatch design, exuding a sophisticated and warm character, while two are loved for their contemporary, minimalist style. Regardless of their architecture, all these spaces are surrounded by magnificent greenery, punctuated by multiple water accents.

These incredible venues can host celebrations ranging from 30 to 450 guests per wedding. Accompanying the multiple reception and ceremony spaces are a range of services and packages, including catering and décor. Our team of wedding coordinators can present personalised solutions for an expertly coordinated, magical day.

The Garden Venue team is a tight knit family from diverse backgrounds, with years of wedding and hospitality experience behind us. We have the capacity, flexibility and expertise to create a memorable day that meets all your requirements.

We offer a full complement of staff. Your experience starts with a sales consultant and then you are allocated a senior wedding coordinator who will look after you from the beginning of your planning process to the end of the wedding.

A second coordinator is also allocated who will manage all the practical responsibilities including coordinating our waiters, barman and cleaners on the day.

We also offer a complimentary, romantic one-night stay with dinner to celebrate your one-year anniversary.

Your wedding is important to us, no matter how big or how small. We are here to help you make your special day as exquisite as possible, so please feel free to contact us for a wedding consultation.

RECEPTION BANQUET HALLS

Choose from 5 elegant banquet halls:

- The Garden Arena Hall - Seats 150 to 450 Guests
- The Forest Banquet Hall - Seats 150 to 350 Guests
- The Elephant Banquet Hall - Seats 80 to 140 Guests
- The Olive Tree Hide - Seats 50 to 80 Guests
- The Peacock Room - Seats 30 to 60 Guests

GARDEN CEREMONY CHAPELS

Each banquet hall seamlessly twins with a wedding ceremony space.

- The Garden Arena Cascades Pavilion
- The Forest Lily Pond Amphitheatre Chapel
- The Koi Pond Pavilion
- The Lawn Terrace Chapel



Photography & V



Videography



Infinite Revere

Creating infinite admiration
through photo and video.

At Infinite Revere, we are more than just a team behind the lens; we're a husband-and-wife duo committed to capturing the most precious moments of your special day. With a style that can be best described as elegance and grace, our goal is to create timeless memories that you will cherish for a lifetime. We believe in going the extra mile for our clients, whether it's ensuring that your shoes are pristine or mending a dress with a needle and thread, so you can fully enjoy your wedding day.

Soft Cinematic moments the make your story unique

We deeply understand the significance of your wedding day and recognize that our work is the only lasting memory you'll have to cherish after the celebrations are over. With our artistic and heartfelt approach to photography and videography, we are dedicated to preserving every beautiful detail and emotion, ensuring that your wedding day lives on forever through our lens.



hello@inf-revere.co.za



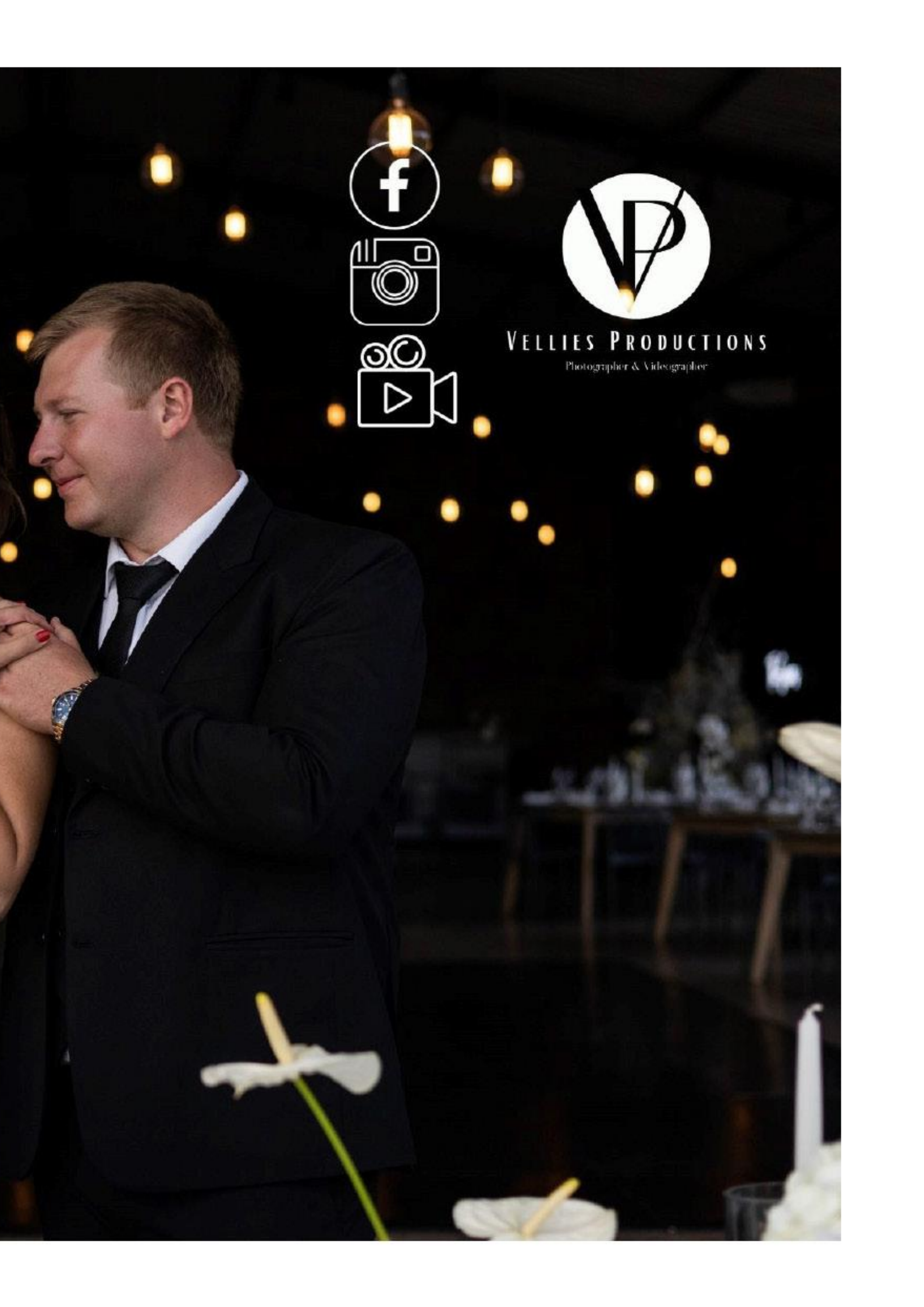
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www.inf-revere.com







VELLIES PRODUCTIONS

Photographer & Videographer

THE ART CAPTURIN



OF WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY: NG LOVE & MOMENTS

Wedding photography is more than just taking pictures; it's an art form that freezes time and preserves the most cherished moments of a couple's special day. A wedding is a celebration of love and commitment.

A skilled wedding photographer plays a pivotal role in documenting this beautiful journey. Here we will explore the world of wedding photography, its importance, and the key elements that make it a vital part of every wedding.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

A wedding is a significant milestone in a couple's life, and it's only natural that they want to remember it forever. While memories fade with time, photographs remain as a timeless reminder of the joy, love, and emotions experienced on that special day. Here's why wedding photography is so important:

1. **Preserving Memories:** Wedding photos capture not only the moments but also the emotions, allowing couples to relive their special day whenever they flip through their wedding album.
2. **Family Heirlooms:** Wedding photographs become family heirlooms, passed down through generations, connecting future family members to the love story that started it all.
3. **Emotional Value:** These photos evoke emotions and transport the viewer back to the day, allowing friends and family who couldn't attend to feel like they were part of the celebration.
4. **Artistic Expression:** Wedding photographers are artists who use their skills to create beautiful, unique, and creative images that tell a couple's love story in a visually stunning way.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PHOTOGRAPHER

Selecting the right wedding photographer is a critical decision in the wedding planning process. Here are some tips to help you make the right choice:

1. **Research:** Look at portfolios, read reviews, and ask for recommendations to find photographers whose style aligns with your vision.
2. **Meet in Person:** Schedule meetings or consultations with potential photographers to discuss your expectations, vision, and any specific shots you want.
3. **Experience Matters:** Experienced wedding photographers are better equipped to handle unexpected situations and deliver consistently high-quality results.
4. **Communication:** Good communication is key. Ensure that you and your photographer understand each other and are on the same page regarding timelines, shot lists, and any special requests.
5. **Budget:** Wedding photography can vary widely in cost. Set a realistic budget and find a photographer who offers packages within your price range.



KEY ELEMENTS OF WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

Successful wedding photography is more than simply pointing a camera at the shutter button. Here are some key elements that make wedding photography an art form.

1. **Storytelling:** A great wedding photographer is a visual storyteller. They capture the entire day, from the bride and groom getting ready, the emotional ceremony, the joyous reception, and the candid moments in between.
2. **Composition:** Composition is a key element in visually appealing photography. Wedding photographers use techniques like leading lines, framing, and the rule of thirds to create compelling images.
3. **Lighting:** Understanding and mastering light is fundamental in photography. Wedding photographers must be proficient in various lighting conditions, from harsh sunlight to dimly lit reception halls.
4. **Candid Moments:** Some of the most memorable wedding photos come from candid, unscripted moments – a teary-eyed bride, the groom's laughter, or a stolen kiss.
5. **Posed Portraits:** While candid shots are essential, posed portraits also play a significant role. A skilled photographer can make subjects feel comfortable and bring out their natural beauty.
6. **Editing and Post-Production:** The final touch is editing, where the magic happens. Professional photographers use editing software to enhance colors, correct exposure, and create a consistent look that reflects their artistic vision.

CONCLUSION

Wedding photography is more than just a job; it's a passion that allows photographers to capture the essence of love and commitment. Through storytelling, composition, and the use of light, wedding photographers create lasting memories that will be treasured for generations. As a wedding photographer, remember that you are not just taking photos; you are creating a reflection of your special day, so approach your work with your vision and expectations. Investing in a talented wedding photographer is an investment in the preservation of your memories for years to come.

WEDDING

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A photograph of a woman from the back, wearing a white off-the-shoulder dress and a thin necklace. She is holding hands with another person whose hands are visible on the right side of the frame. The background features a window with a grid pattern, through which a bright outdoor scene is visible. The overall lighting is soft and warm.

REAL LIVE WE

DDINGS



A CLASSY BUSHVELD CELEBRATION

PHOTOGRAPHY: INFINITE REVERE



CELEBRATION

Andries & Annelie



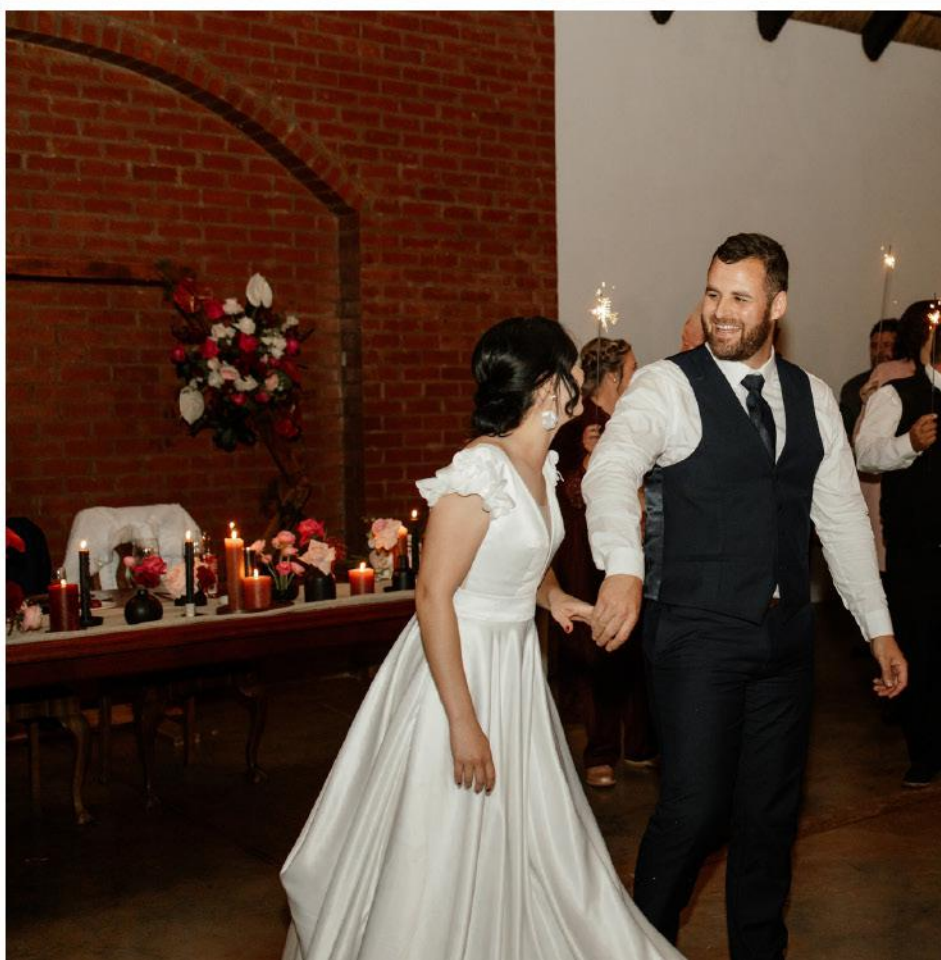
Andries is originally from Cape Town. He was offered a rugby contract with the Blue Bulls between 2015-2017. He and the u/19 Blue Bulls team did a meet and greet at Laerskool Lynnwood. On that day the principle, invited Andries to be interviewed as an assistant teacher as Andries was studying education and sports coaching at that time. He started working at Laerskool Lynnwood in 2018, and Annelle transferred to the same school in 2019. Both were in long relationships before they met. They started as colleagues and became very good friends. He invited her for a dinner date at the end of 2019. She admits that she was very attracted to this handsome, funny, friendly, and spontaneous man.

On 30 April 2022 Annelle's best friend took her on a spa spoil day to celebrate her birthday. Later in the afternoon her friend then took her on a dinner date. She had no idea that all her close friend and family as well as her parents who had flown in from Cape Town would be there to witness the proposal. Anelle says it was the most perfect day. There was a candlelight path which added the romance, and then Andries got down on one knee and gave the most heartfelt, memorable speech and asked her if she would marry him. The moment she said yes, all their friends and family started cheering, and it was only then that she realized that they were all there. She was in total shock at the huge surprise he had arranged. The day ended with them all having an amazing dinner party.

This energetic couple both love their two German shepherd fur babies. Annelle describes Andries's personality as fun, energetic and people loving, she likes her alone time, which her husband respects. Both being teachers, they possess a huge passion for children and the importance of the impact they have on young lives. As with many relationships, they have their differences, but Anelle says that since day one they have accepted each other knowing that God is in the centre of their relationship, and the glue that keeps them together!

The venue they chose, namely Mooiplaas, was the perfect combination for them as it has a bushveld, her favourite as well as Cape Holland, Andries's preference, style which appealed to them. Anelle uses the words minimalistic yet classy and timeless to describe their special day.









The vision they had for their wedding was that it was to be in winter, and in the bushveld. They therefore opted for rich, deep, wine reds- and maroon-coloured flowers as well as the bridesmaid's gowns which exudes warmth and happiness. They also wanted it to be a classy affair and requested that their guests dress in formal attire.

For her gown, Annelle's dream was a timeless A-line dress made from bridal satin. "Marié at The Wedding Collective has the most amazing choices of gowns, and she was most helpful. It was very difficult to only choose only one dress. I chose the Flora from her Wishbone and Ivory collection. The bold florals on the shoulders with tiny pearls were the perfect small details that I wished to have part of my wedding dress. It fitted perfectly and I felt like a queen!" says Annelle.

Annelle says she got exactly what she was looking for, for her makeup and hair. She communicated her ideas, and they were perfectly matched. She always wears her hair down and wanted something different for the day, and a dramatic red lip to match the rest of her winter theme. Sarita from Canvas Makeup Artistry created the magic for the day!

Janique from Blom Bespoke was their choice for their décor and flower settings. Annelle says that she is truly an amazingly talented creative as well as professional as she provided a questionnaire to find out exactly what they wanted from the big to the smallest of detail. Annelle says the result was even more perfect than they could ever have imagined and that she is most grateful.

The cake was a wedding gift from Corli from Corli's kitchen. They wanted something simplistic but still elegant and classy. The touch of gold perfectly complemented the red and black décor besides the fact that it was delicious and enjoyed by all.









Two of their best friends were their “flower boys” dancing to the song “Pour some sugar on me” whilst tossing flower petals to set a cheerful vibe. The MC announced that when the couple walk into the reception hall, the table and group photos would be taking place to the song “Ballroom Blitz” which set an energetic vibe and the pics went super quick too! They offered a complimentary Gin bar to their guests as their favours.

Describing the highlights of their day, Annelle says “the whole day was amazing and unforgettable. Every minute from getting ready and pampered with my bridesmaids, walking down the aisle with my dad, seeing my husband being very emotional and excited as I walk down the aisle, every moment during the ceremony, being in the presence of God and sharing every moment with my husband, photo sessions, speeches, dancing, and the food was perfect!”

Advice Annelle gives our readers planning their wedding day is to take in EVERY moment, the small ones, and the big ones. The most expensive things won’t make your day perfect – your love for each other will.



A DREAM COME TRUE

BRIDALS TOUCH PHOTOGRAPHY

GOWN BY WEVU SEE AD ON PAGE 9



Brian & Najma Dlamini



Brian and Najma met in April 2014, by introduction of a mutual friend. They would text back and forth until he finally asked her on a date. Our first date was at a Wiz Khalifa concert that June of 2014. Najma says, "he was different from the guys I'd normally date, so I decided to follow my heart and give him a chance."

They navigated a long-distance relationship for a couple of years as she lived in Johannesburg at the time and Brian in Middelburg. Then in November 2016 she decided to take a leap of faith and move to Middelburg. Many things happened in 2017, Brian paid for her lobola, they started building their dream home and moved into it in November and best thing that happened was that she fell pregnant with their son.

“









"My husband is my best friend and my family, and after 9 years of being together we are an unstoppable force. We both love food and enjoy trying new things. We live in a small town and do not have access to a lot of restaurants, so I like playing master chef with my husband, we try out new recipes and he'd taste them and tell me how they taste. Thus far I've had only positive comments so I could be the next Gordon Ramsey, or my husband is just too nice to tell me the truth. He's very quiet and reserved while I am the life of the party, a classic story of how opposites do attract," tells Najma.

In 2019 Brian booked a trip to George for them, which is situated in the Western Cape, to fulfil a wish Najma had. Brian had planned a special dinner for us them at 'Serendipity' an award-winning fine dining restaurant overlooking the Touws River estuary in the heart of the Garden Route. After an incredible meal and whilst they were waiting for their dessert, Brian proceeded to tell her how he felt about her and how much he loves her and before she knew it, he went down on one knee, and asked her if she would marry him. And of course, she said Yes!!



The next morning, they announced their engagement to their friends and family. It was only in 2022 after having breast reduction surgery that she was ready to plan the wedding of her dreams.

After scouting more than 10 wedding venues around Joburg and Mpumalanga, they arrived at Inimitable and Najma said her heart skipped a beat. It was everything they were looking for, elegance, modern, and very appealing to the eye, a mini paradise and she could immediately picture herself walking down that aisle, Najma said that from the moment she laid eyes on it she was in love.

The words to describe their wedding was 'a dream come true'. Najma remembers "I wanted it to be memorable not only for Brian and myself but our friends and family. And the guests were not disappointed. Brian's Aunt mentioned that, to her, it was the wedding of the year."

Initially Najma didn't have a clear vision of what she wanted her theme to be except that she wanted to include pink as it is her favourite colour. Her bridesmaids wore dusty pink gowns, her bouquet had splashes of pink and the table settings had pink and gold for elegance. She was happy that Brian did not oppose to her choice of pink for their day.

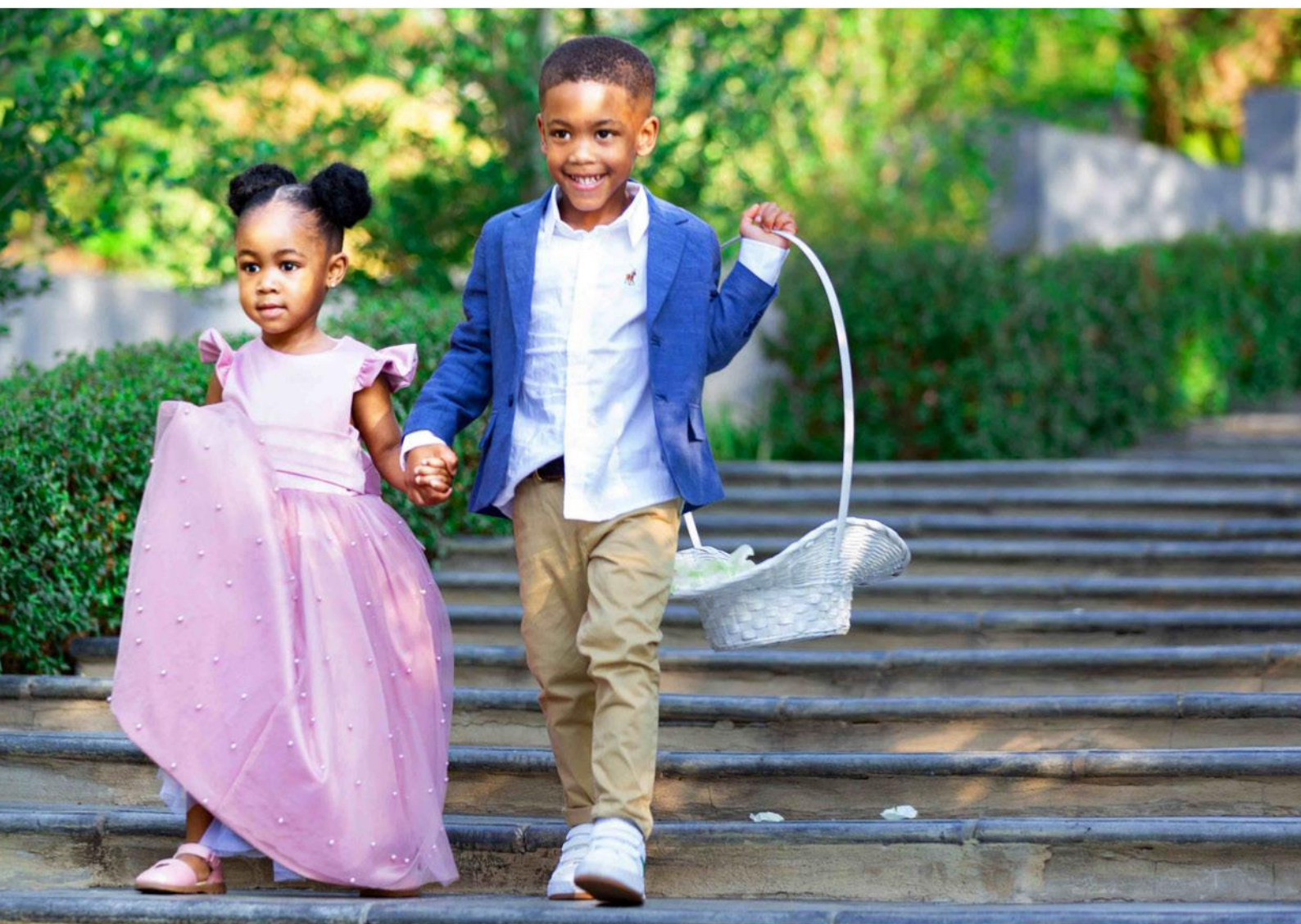
Najma tells us that Pinterest was her main source of inspiration, a compilation of different flower and bridal boards really made her vision come to life. When she communicated her vision to Zavion's team, they knew exactly what to do, and the result was more than she could ever have imaged or dreamed.

The ceremony boasted beautiful tiffany chairs and an arch which included the same flowers as her bouquet, really added that wow factor! For the reception she chose square tables and clear ghost chairs. The centre pieces included mirrors and glass under plates with white upside-down croissant style napkins, gold cutlery and dinner and pillars candles with grouping style florals. Draping fairy lights everywhere brought the whole look together beautifully.

Najma was always in love with the idea of looking like a princess on her wedding day. Her vision included a ball gown, long veil, lots of flowers and feathers, an updo and a face looking like pure innocence. Finding the right makeup artist was the first step, however, she made it happen. Najma admits to not being a heel girl, fortunately she found a comfortable sparkly Jimmy Choo shoe. As she chose a 6-metre-long veil she opted for little or no accessories and had only a gorgeous hairpiece included in her classy up style.

Their children were involved in their wedding and Najma said it was a highlight for her to watch her 2-year-old daughter who was their flower girl, holding onto her brother as they walked down the aisle together. Her brother carried her flower basket as she was too shy to. Najma says she wanted them to see what love looks like and share this special moment filled with happiness, love, and joy.









Other fun elements to their wedding were the sparkle and bubble machines, which the guests really enjoyed. They asked the guests who were making speeches at their wedding what their favourite love songs were, and they used these songs as an introduction for their speeches.

The food was a unique experience as they were able to curate their own menu from scratch including African food which Brian loves and Mexican which she loves, resulting in a very different taste!

“The whole day was a highlight for me, my close friends and family got to celebrate such a wonderful union between my husband and me. From the moment I entered the venue where I was treated like a queen, to getting dressed and walking down the aisle seeing everyone I love, smiling and crying. To all the pastors blessing our marriage by surrounding us with prayer. And the food being exactly what we wanted. To the decor and the best part my photographer. My brother-in-law killing it as our MC. Dancing and celebrating with my family and friends. I could go on and on. However, worth mentioning is the service at Inimitable, it truly is 5 star and the staff are remarkable,” tells Najma.

They come from a very diverse family with people living in different parts of the continent (Kenya, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) and them being able to attend the wedding made it extremely special.

Advice Najma tells us is to take in every moment because time really does fly. Having a wedding planner is important, it helps to manage stress. Having that extra person doing research and calling and emailing vendors on your behalf is a massive win. Budget, budget, budget! Discuss this with your partner before anything, making decision clear from the start. Seek spiritual and marriage guidance beforehand, wedding planning can take a toll on your mental health, and it helps when you have someone helping you see the big picture and end goal.





**A FUN, HAPPY &
INTIMATE
CELEBRATION**

HEUNINGSOET PHOTOGRAPHY



Irene & Russel Whiteley



Irene and Russ met a local pizzeria/brewery in Umkomaas in Kwa Zulu Natal. Irene was doing her community service year and Russ was working at that stage of their lives. Russ was enjoying friends at the pizzeria when he first saw Irene. He says that the moment he saw Irene walking through the door he knew she was the one he would marry.

Fast forward a couple of years and after spending an adventurous day visiting all their favourite locations down the South Coast, Russ proposed at sunset at the last stop they had planned which was a picnic area on their family farm. Russ had built a "marry me" sign that popped out of the grass.



This couple's love languages are clearly 'spending time'! Irene says they love sharing meals together as well as exploring new places but most of all they love spending time together and at the top of their list of favourite things to do is taking long drives around the farm with their fur babies.

What they loved most about the venue they chose, was the forest chapel, the large reception hall and the active farming. It immediately felt like home to both, says Irene.



As they are both very family oriented, they made sure to spend quality time with each guest by waiting at the end of the aisle to greet each one individually as they made their way to the canapes area. They wanted to make the day personal and as special for everyone as it would be for them.

The style and vision they had for their day was rustic and simple. They did most of the setup and décor themselves and worth mentioning is that they spent a lot of time planning every detail of their special day.

They didn't want their tables to look too cluttered and busy, so they chose a simple setup using only greenery and proteas which looked gorgeous and exactly what they had envisioned.

Irene tells us how she wanted to surprise Russ on the day by cutting off her long hair the morning of the wedding, we think that is very brave. Candice, her hairdresser was happy to oblige. To add sentimental value to her look, Irene wore mostly heirloom jewellery.

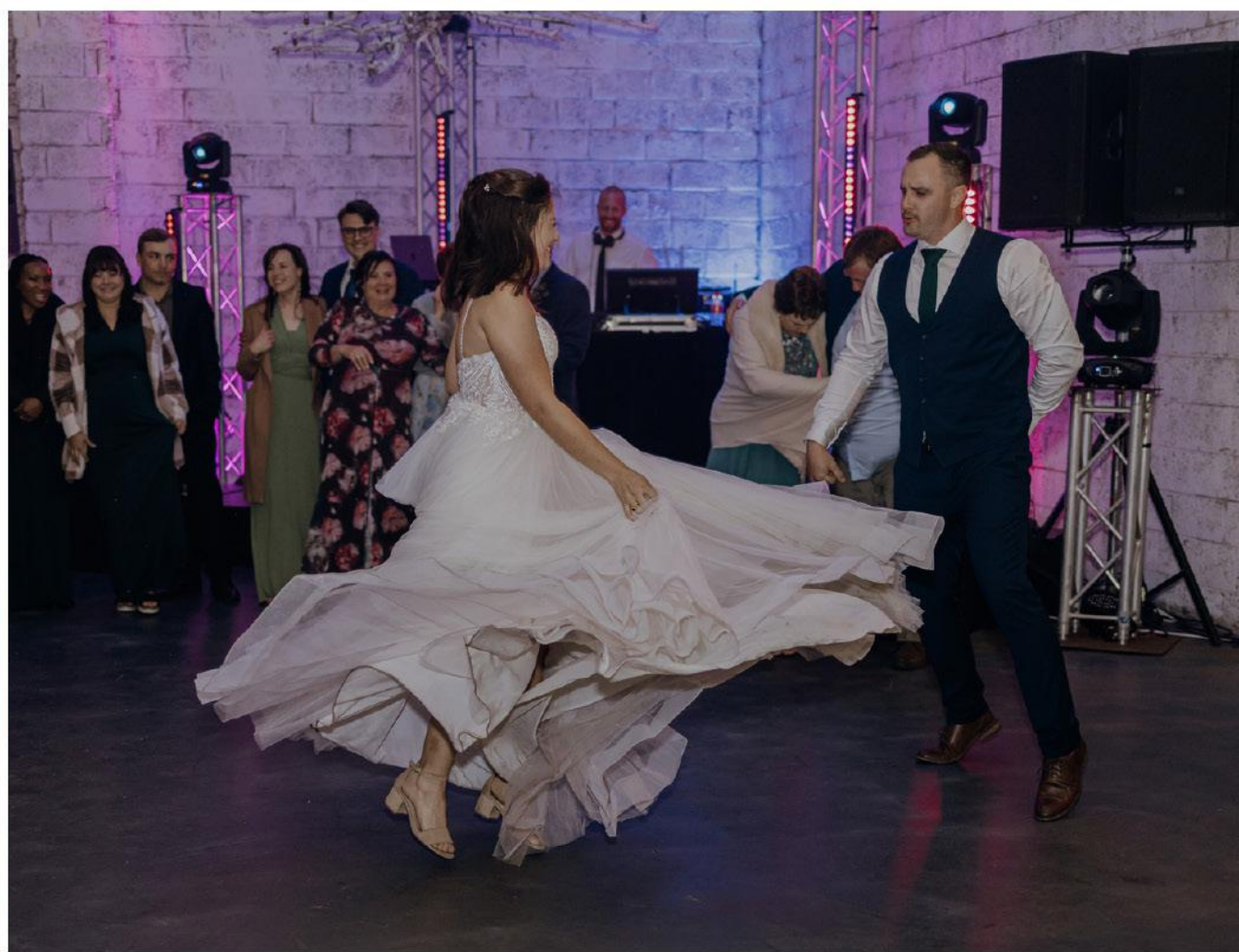
Something which added excitement to their day was the sound and lighting. Russ owns CB Sound and Light and all the technical installations and equipment was provided by him and his team.

During her community service year two of her colleagues became good friends. They were part of the wedding party and played an integral role in that they personally picked the song to walk down the aisle to, which Irene admits that it was great fun and added just that something unique to their day. A surprise that only Russ and Irene knew about was that they had handpicked songs for each one of their bridal team who also made speeches.

"Russ spent an incredible amount of time on ensuring our timeline was perfect. Our Best men and Maids of Honour were absolute stars in ensuring our day went smoothly," tells Irene.

The highlight of their day was, thanks to Russ and his business, they had custom light shows programmed for both their father daughter dance and their first dance. Another highlight was seeing Russ's face when he saw her and noticed that her hair was cut off, the look on his face was priceless! The incredible sunset whilst taking pictures was unforgettable, something only Kwa Zulu winters can offer, says Irene. The best highlight for them was having everyone they love under the same roof celebrating their union.









We asked this couple to describe what was special and/or unique about their wedding?

Irene tells us that their flower 'girls' were grown women. Irene's dad hand made ring boxes from pieces of wood in the shape of a hand, mounted on a plaque, very unique and they still find them useful. They displayed pictures of our grandparents and parents, and other family members they love, some of them are no longer with them.

We asked Irene to share advice to our readers who are planning their wedding day and she told us the following:

"Perfect your timeline and share only one final timeline with your bridal party and service providers. Consult with professionals to make sure you didn't miss anything.

Take time selecting the photography, videography, and DJ. This is such a huge element of the day and should be carefully researched.

If possible, employ a wedding planner.

All payments should be made at least two weeks before.

Take a break together and do something you love in that time and finally, enjoy every moment the day has to offer!"



Moodboard Issue 26



Romantic Summer Soiree



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