



# WEDDING

*Collection*

ISSUE  
31

*Gown Silhouettes*

EXPERT  
WEDDING  
PLANNING  
SOLUTIONS

*Styled to  
Perfection  
Furniture Hire*

A WEEKEND  
TO  
REMEMBER

*Lovely Lingerie*



# Editor's Note – Issue 31

## *Where Love Finds Its Style*

### Welcome to Issue 31!

As always, it's an incredible honour to bring you a new edition filled with love, creativity, and inspiration – a celebration of everything that makes weddings so magical. Whether you're a newly engaged couple at the start of your planning journey or just weeks away from your “I do,” this issue is here to guide, inspire, and excite.

In these pages, we explore the art of modern bridal fashion and — from silhouettes that flatter every body shape to the delicate, handcrafted beauty of couture lingerie by The Corsetiere. Grooms, you're not forgotten — we've curated a stylish collection of suits that exude confidence and class.

Planning your big day? We introduce trusted event partners who are experts in creating seamless celebrations, plus hand-picked venues like Beaurain, The Oyster Box, and Lanzerac that are perfect for a weekend of love and luxury.

We take a sweet turn with exquisite creations from Miss Cake and Stanley's Bakery and set the scene with furniture hire inspiration from Inspire Rentals. For those moments you want to remember forever, turn to our photography and videography highlights — featuring Picture Us and other visual storytellers who capture every glance and every tear.

And when it's all said and done? We whisk you away to some of the most enchanting honeymoon destinations across Africa and South Africa — because the adventure is only just beginning.

Finally, don't miss our real love wedding story of Joy & Herve and the precious engagement story of Rebecca & Jean—authentic stories that remind us of what this is all about: connection, commitment, and celebration.

Thank you for letting us be a part of your journey.

With love,

*Maggie*



**3 GOWNS**

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**On the Cover**



Couple: Herve & Joy  
Photography: Bridals Touch  
Wedding Planner:  
Juanita Beukes  
Your Event Solutions







# Gowns





























# Wedding Gown Silhouettes



#2017 *BrideAccess*



# A Guide to Wedding Gown Silhouettes: Finding Your Perfect Fit

*Choosing a wedding gown is one of the most exciting and emotional decisions a bride will make. While fabric, lace, and embellishments all play a role, the silhouette of the gown sets the tone for the entire bridal look. Understanding the different types of wedding gown silhouettes can help narrow down choices and ensure the perfect fit for your body type, personal style, and dream wedding vibe.*

Here's a guide to seven of the most popular and timeless wedding dress silhouettes:

## 1. A-Line

Flattering for: Most body types

Style vibe: Classic, romantic, effortless

The A-line silhouette is one of the most universally flattering styles. It gently flares out from the waist to form the shape of an "A", which elongates the body and provides balance. This silhouette is ideal for brides looking for something timeless with just enough volume to feel bridal without going full princess.

## 2. Ball Gown

Flattering for: Pear-shaped, tall, or slender body types

Style vibe: Regal, dramatic, fairy tale

The ball gown is the ultimate princess dress, known for its fitted bodice and full, voluminous skirt. It adds drama and elegance and is perfect for formal or traditional weddings. This silhouette can help create a defined waist while disguising the lower body, making it a favorite for brides seeking a storybook look.

## 3. Mermaid

Flattering for: Hourglass and slender body types

Style vibe: Glamorous, sultry, red carpet

The mermaid silhouette hugs the body closely from the chest to the knees and then flares out at the bottom, creating a dramatic and striking shape. It's perfect for confident brides looking to showcase their curves and make a bold statement.



#### **4. Trumpet**

Flattering for: Hourglass, curvy, or athletic figures

Style vibe: Sophisticated, modern, sleek

Often confused with the mermaid, the trumpet silhouette is slightly more forgiving, flaring out mid-thigh rather than at the knees. It provides a similar fitted look while allowing for more movement and comfort. It's a refined choice for brides who want a body-hugging gown with a softer flare.

#### **5. Sheath**

Flattering for: Petite, athletic, or lean body types

Style vibe: Minimalist, elegant, contemporary

The sheath silhouette skims the body without much flare or fullness, creating a sleek and streamlined look. It's a great option for destination weddings or casual ceremonies, offering an effortless beauty that allows the bride to move freely.

#### **6. Empire Waist**

Flattering for: Petite, pregnant, or pear-shaped brides

Style vibe: Vintage, whimsical, ethereal

The empire waist gown features a high waistline just below the bust, from which the rest of the dress flows down. This silhouette is ideal for brides who want to draw attention to their upper body while allowing freedom and softness around the midsection and hips. It has a graceful, almost Grecian feel to it.

#### **7. Tea-Length**

Flattering for: Petite or retro-inspired brides

Style vibe: Fun, vintage, playful

Tea-length gowns end mid-calf and are often associated with 1950s fashion. They're perfect for garden weddings, courthouse ceremonies, or brides who want to dance the night away. This silhouette has a charming vintage feel while keeping things lighthearted and flirty.

*Each wedding dress silhouette offers its own unique charm and suits different body shapes, venues, and bridal aesthetics. Whether you're dreaming of a full ball gown or a sleek sheath dress, the most important thing is how the dress makes you feel. Try on a variety of styles to see what resonates, and let your personality shine through.*

*After all, the perfect silhouette is the one that helps you walk down the aisle feeling confident, beautiful, and completely you.*





Grooming





# Groom often gets overlooked in all the wedding chaos! Beyond the obvious style and responsibilities, here are some unusual but important things a groom should consider:



## 1. Signature Scent for the Day

People remember scents long after the moment is gone. Choosing a special cologne for the wedding day can create a sensory memory trigger for both of you. That scent will forever remind you of your wedding.

## 2. Pocket Details (Love Note or Keepsake)

Tuck a handwritten note to your bride or a small heirloom (like a grandfather's coin or a charm) into your suit pocket. It's sentimental, meaningful, and makes for a lovely photo moment when discovered later.



## 3. Hands & Nails Matter

You'll be photographed exchanging rings, holding hands, etc. Clean, moisturized hands and neatly trimmed nails go a long way—even a quick groom's mani the day before is worth it.

## 4. Comfort Check: Socks, Shoes, and Underwear

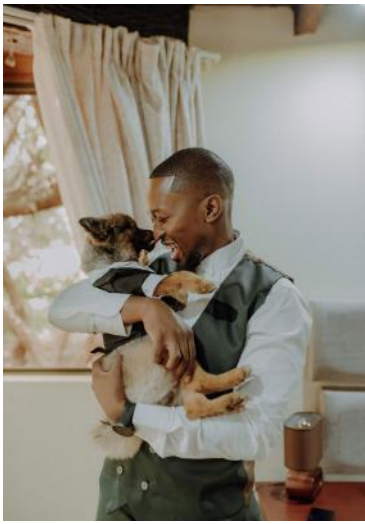
You're going to be on your feet a lot. Break in your shoes ahead of time. Also, don't wear brand-new socks or uncomfortable underwear. You want to look dapper, not be dancing awkwardly because of itchy briefs.



## 5. First-Look Letter or Voice Note

Record a short message or write a letter for your partner to read before the ceremony. It doesn't have to be poetic—just genuine. It sets the tone emotionally and is a beautiful way to connect before the big moment.





## 6. Overnight Bag & Day-After Plan

Whether you're staying at a hotel or heading straight to honeymoon mode, pack an essentials bag. Include painkillers, mints, comfy clothes, a charger, and snacks for post-party recovery. You'll thank yourself later.

## 7. Unexpected Toasts or Thank-You's

Consider privately thanking people who may not get the spotlight—like the bride's parents, your siblings, or that friend who handled logistics. Those small, quiet acknowledgments leave lasting impressions.



## 8. Groom's POV Video Clips

Assign a groomsman to grab a few clips from the groom's perspective throughout the day. Morning prep, heading to the venue, a shot of the ceremony from the aisle... those raw moments are gold.



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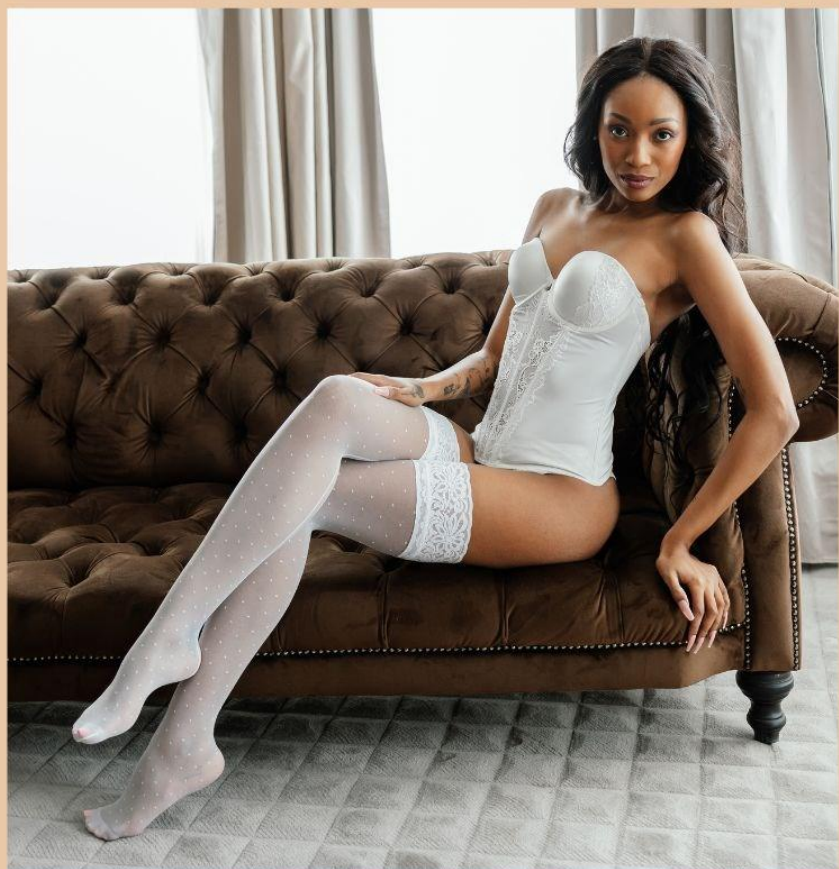
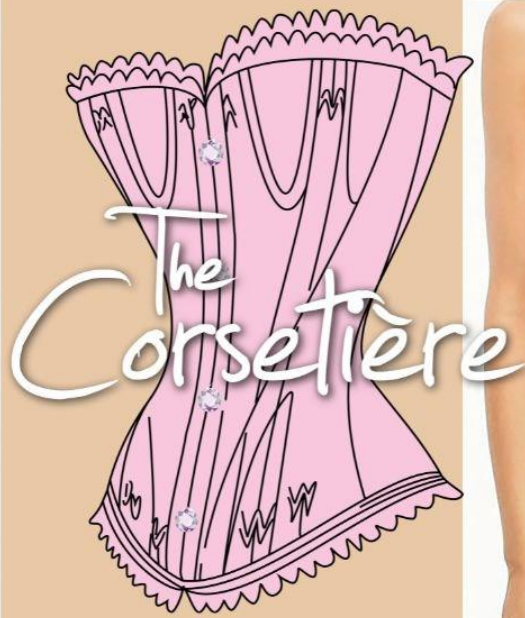




*Lingerie*



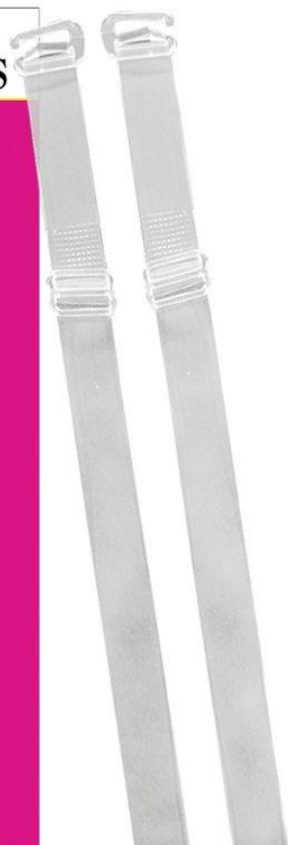
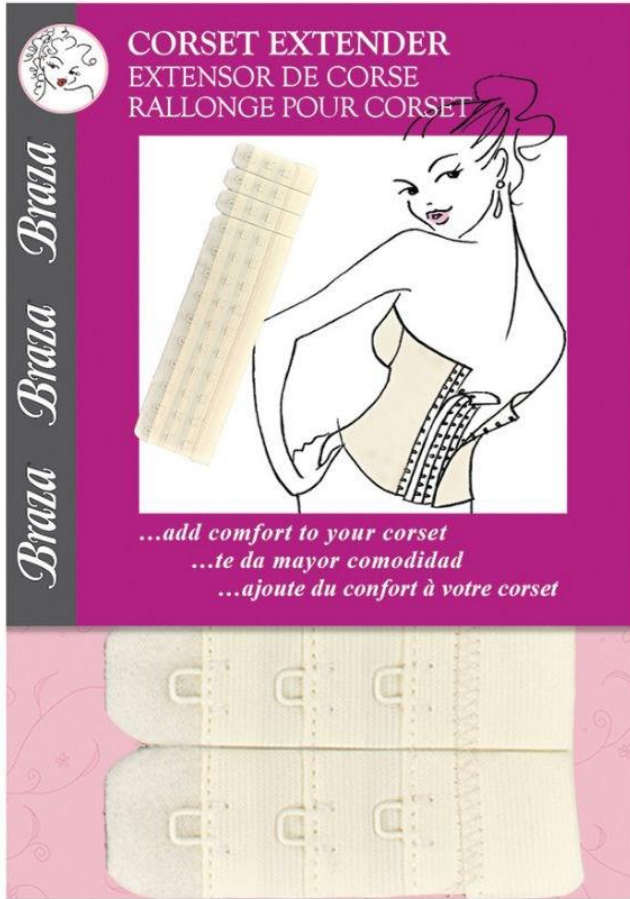






# Elegance Beneath the Dress

Your perfect day deserves perfect lingerie. Discover exquisite lace, luxurious satin, and the ultimate in bridal comfort. Designed to make you feel as beautiful underneath as you do in your dress











# Wedding Planning & Cakes



# YOUR EVENT SOLUTIONS

Bringing your events to life, one solution at a time



## Your Event Solutions – Bringing Your Vision to Life

Welcome to Your Event Solutions, one of South Africa's top event management companies. Led by Juanita Beukes, who brings 35 years of experience, we specialize in crafting exceptional events, from weddings and corporate functions to social gatherings and business consulting. Juanita's impressive portfolio includes managing events for up to 10,000 attendees, ensuring seamless execution with creativity and precision.

Our dedicated team takes care of every detail, allowing you to relax and enjoy your event. Whether you're planning an elegant wedding, a high-profile corporate function, or a private celebration, we tailor each experience to reflect your vision.

### Our Services

#### Weddings

At Your Event Solutions, we create unforgettable weddings tailored to your unique style. Whether it's a traditional ceremony, white wedding, or a destination celebration, we handle everything—from venue selection and décor to entertainment and catering—so you can focus on making memories.

#### Corporate Events

From conferences and award evenings to team-building sessions and product launches, we deliver seamless, professional corporate events that leave a lasting impression. Our expertise ensures a stress-free experience, allowing you to focus on your business while we handle the details.

#### Social Events

Make every occasion special with our expertly curated social events, including birthday parties, anniversaries, gala dinners, and charity functions. We bring your vision to life with meticulous planning and flawless execution, creating moments to cherish.

#### Business Consulting

With extensive experience in the hospitality industry, Juanita Beukes offers strategic consulting to help businesses maximize efficiency, improve guest experiences, and enhance profitability. Her expertise includes budgeting, financial analysis, marketing, staff training, and regulatory compliance, ensuring long-term success.

**Your Event Solutions transforms ideas into reality.  
Let's create something extraordinary together!**



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### Testimonial from Nagitta Kasiye

Our wedding planner, the incredible Juanita Beukes (Your Events Solutions), was nothing short of a fairy godmother. With her intuitive touch and warm heart, she brought our dream wedding to life effortlessly. From sharing ideas to cherishing special moments, her unmatched resourcefulness and dedication made our journey to 'I do' truly exceptional. Juanita wasn't just a planner—she was the heart behind our perfect day, and we couldn't have done it without her.















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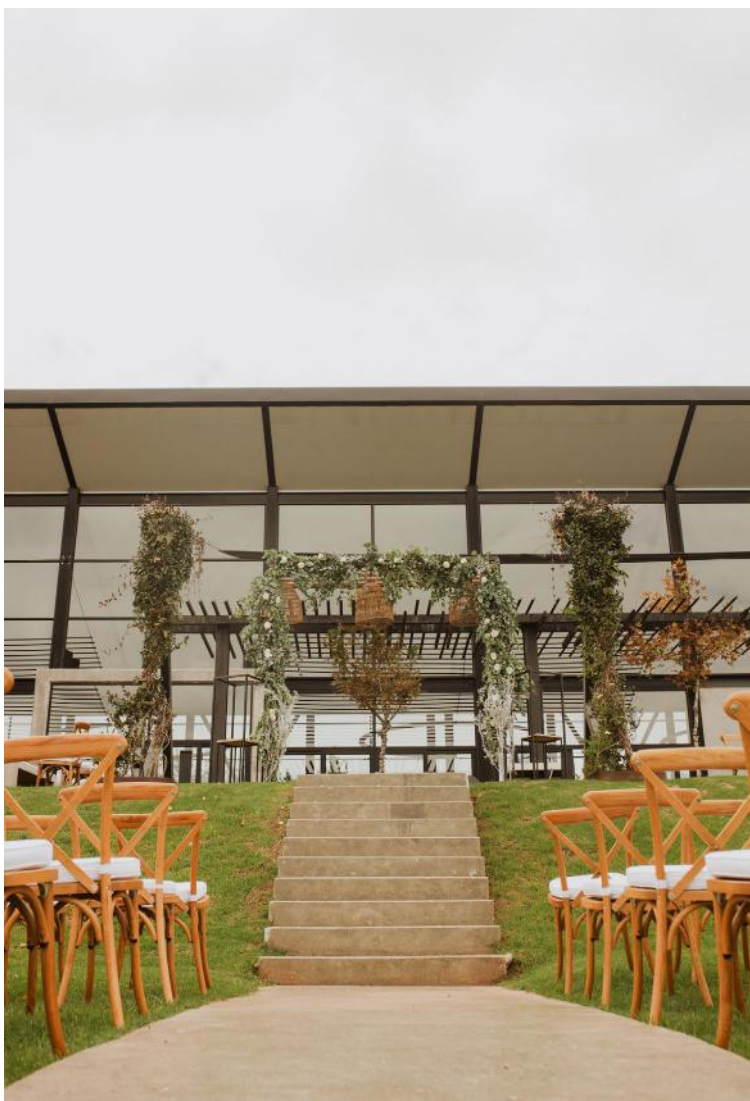
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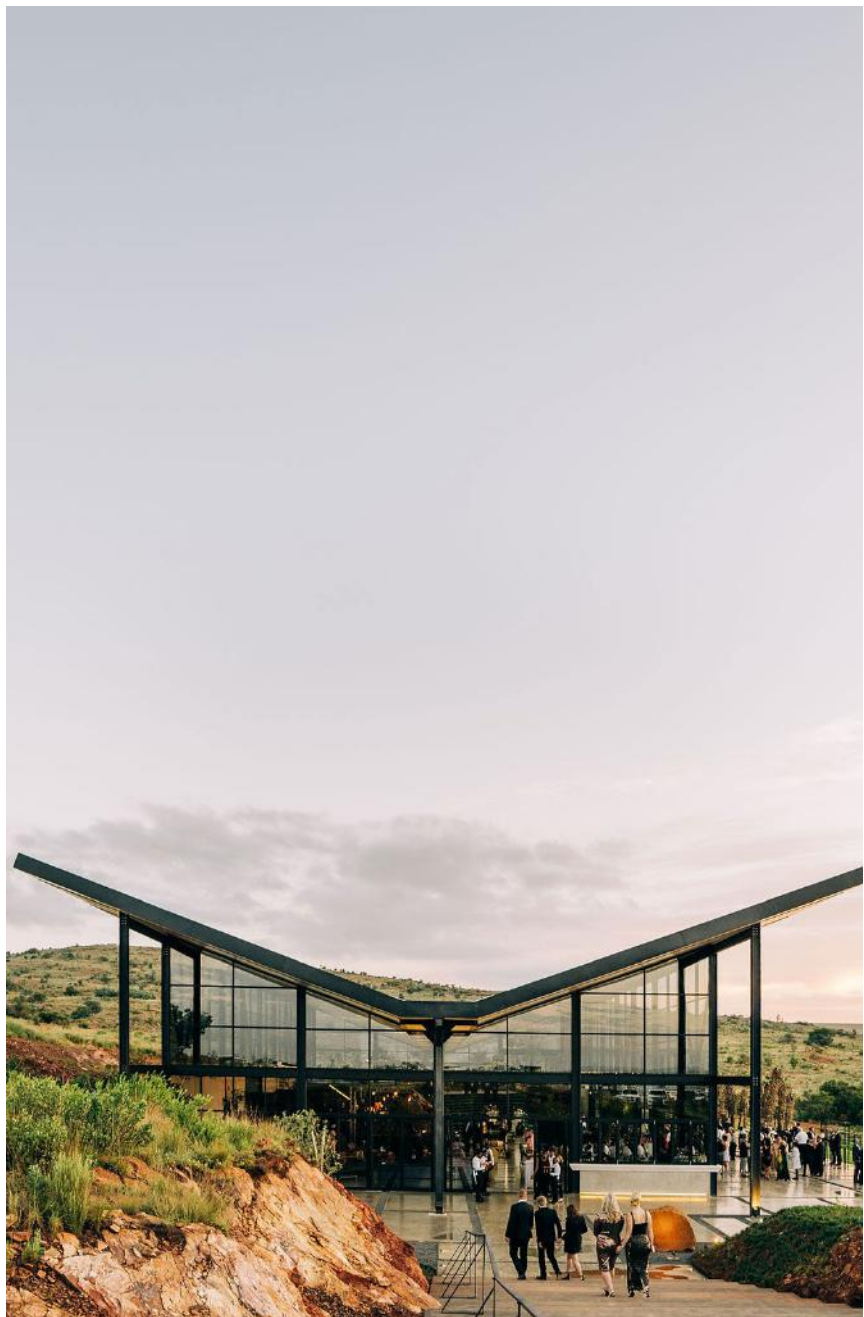


Venues





# BEAURAIN















*The Oyster Box*

# YOUR DREAM WEDDING



Nestled on the picturesque uMhlanga Beach seafront, The Oyster Box offers contemporary venues for both intimate ceremonies and larger celebrations. Whether you envision a wedding surrounded by dozens of friends and family or a small gathering with just a few loved ones, we have the perfect setting for your special day.



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**LANZERAC**

1692



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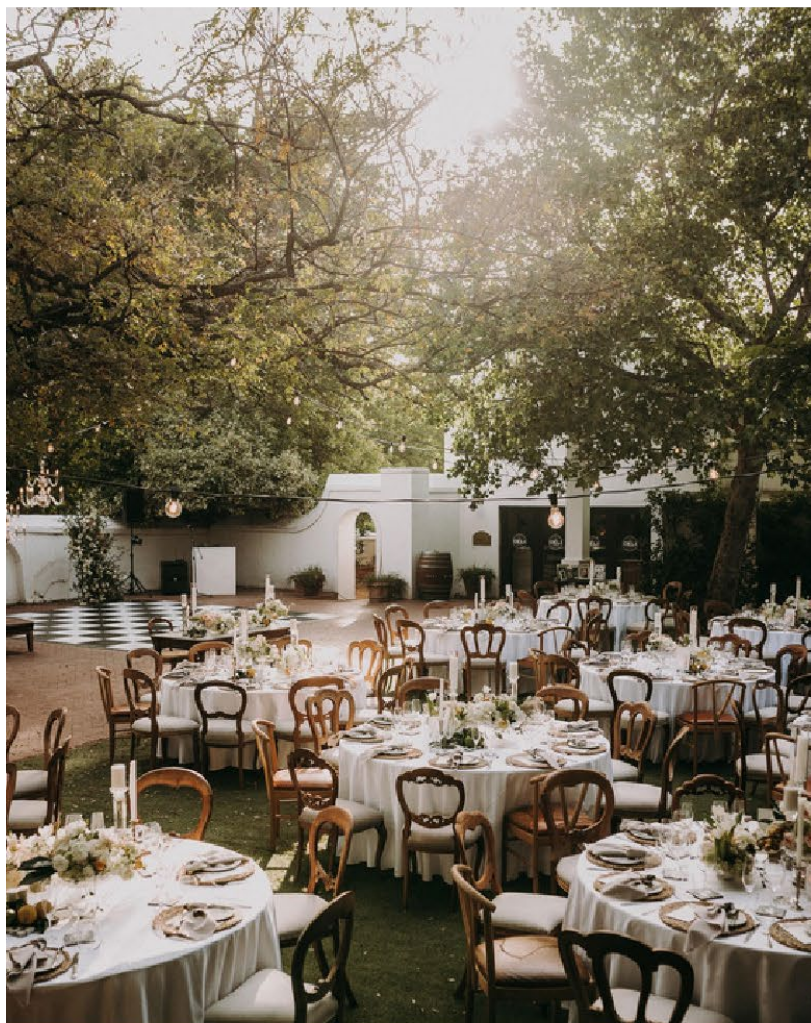
**L**anzerac is steeped in history dating back to 1692. Nestled in the foothills of the idyllic Jonkershoek Valley of Stellenbosch. Synonymous with old-world charm and rich Cape Heritage, it offers the finest hospitality the Cape Winelands has to offer, indulging guests with warm and passionate service, exquisite wine and cuisine, and elegantly styled rooms. The fifty-four en suite bedrooms at Lanzerac invite complete relaxation amid welcoming interiors, which blend both period grandeur and contemporary style. Each room is individually decorated with elegant finishes and a unique selection of timeless pieces, offering revered guests spacious interiors that honour their desire for privacy.





Set on a working wine farm, Lanzerac provides easy access to the cellar and the Tasting Room & Deli, where guests can enjoy innovative wine and chocolate pairings. Additional amenities include indoor and outdoor swimming pools, various dining options such as a Whiskey Bar/Lounge, and the Lanzerac Spa, a sought-after wellness retreat.

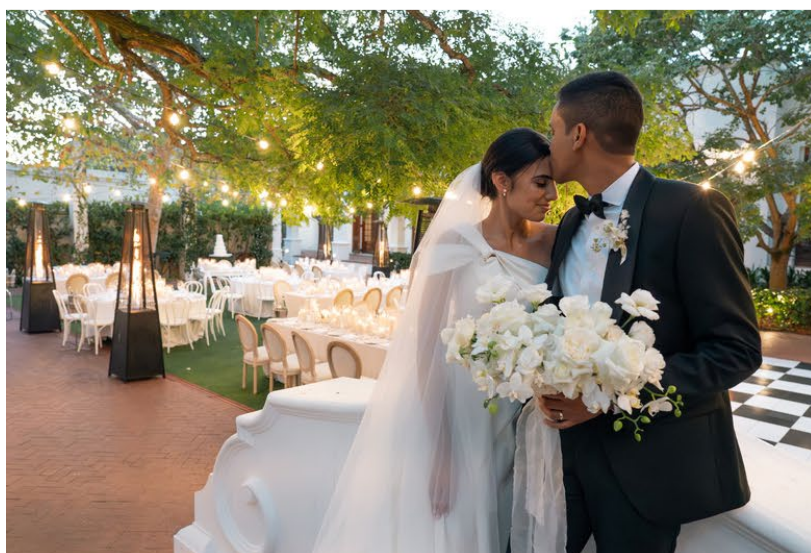
Lanzerac stands apart with its majestic Oak-lined driveway and over 300 years of history. This Stellenbosch landmark exudes old-world charm, an unrivaled attraction for wedding couples. Ceremonies and outdoor receptions are set against the scenic Cape Dutch Manor House or in the indoor Cellar Hall venue, which accommodates up to 150 guests, while the spacious lawns can host up to 250 guests. The Cellar Hall is a fully air-conditioned indoor venue with high-end facilities and upmarket amenities. Lanzerac guarantees an unforgettable celebration defined by world-class service hospitality and exclusive personalized included in all packages.



A weekend or country wedding at Lanzerac offers a chance to slow down and savor each moment. The expansive spaces and abundant experiences provide opportunities for pre-wedding gatherings while maintaining the element of surprise for the ceremony and reception. Lanzerac's serene vineyard vistas and the magnificent Jonkershoek mountains create a picturesque backdrop, ideal for stunning photography and everlasting memories.

Brides-to-be can benefit from the following tips for hosting a successful weekend wedding at Lanzerac:

- Set aside time for planning with Lanzerac's Meetings and Events team. Consider weather
- conditions and the season when choosing locations and flowers. Most importantly, enjoy
- the time with family and friends, leaving the details to Lanzerac's expert team.



Lanzerac offers three exclusive wedding packages ideal for larger groups, but the Meetings and Events team can assist with tailor-made options for intimate occasions. Guests can enjoy luxurious accommodations, exquisite dining experiences, wine tastings, and the award-winning Spa. The Craven Lounge serves as the perfect location for the groom and groomsmen to enjoy refreshments before the wedding celebration.

For more information on Lanzerac's wedding packages, visit: <https://lanzerac.co.za/weddings/>





Jenny Elizabeth Photography



# BOSCHENDAL

FOUNDED 1685

Boschendal is one of South Africa's oldest wine farms, with a rich cultural and historical legacy dating back to 1685. Surrounded by the majestic Groot Drakenstein and Simonsberg Mountains, deep ravines, and spectacular views of the Franschhoek Wine Valley, Boschendal Farm offers a blank canvas to create your perfect wedding from small intimate celebrations to showstopper weddings.

Boschendal is ideally situated in the heart of the Winelands, only a stone's-throw away from Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl and a 40-minute drive from CT International Airport.

We offer an authentic, working farm experience, with world class service and a dedicated team of experts ready to meet every need. Our offering includes a range of wedding venues to choose from that can be tailored to suit a variety of functions, large or small.

Our Werf precinct with iconic manor houses and buildings sits at the heart of our farm and provides a gateway connection to the 1800ha of farmland through our two Soil to Fork Dining Restaurants, Wine Tasting and Cellar Door, Picnics, Farm & Homeware Shops and Art Gallery.

We offer an exceptionally high standard of world-class service, experiences, and personalisation. All our facilities make creative use of centuries-old buildings that have become an integral part of our guest experience.

Our offering includes a selection of luxury wine farm accommodation, much of it converted from old farm buildings steeped in history, with an emphasis on stylish simplicity and contemporary country living. We can accommodate 166 guests, which allows accommodation ranging from our historical Herbert Baker-designed Cottage 1685, to beautifully restored farm cottages in the Orchards, Retreat and the Werf, and Mountain Villa, a spacious and luxurious spoil, with sweeping vistas

Boschendal is the perfect place to celebrate your special day with five breath-taking venues to choose from and a dedicated functions team to make sure all your dreams come true. Each beautiful space on our farm brings with it the opportunity to make lasting memories with the ones you love most.





He is Visual

Jenny Elizabeth Photography

Guests and bridal couple can enjoy luxurious, farm style accommodation on our farm, as well as dining and picnic options, a Gallery, Wine Tastings and pairings, Farm Shop & Butchery and Homeware Shop and additional experiences for the wedding party and guests to enjoy, including mountain biking routes, walking paths and horse riding.

Our dedicated team is here to meet your every need, remove any stress and to welcome you and your guests to experience exceptional farm living and hospitality.

#### **What tips do you have to our brides-to-be for hosting a successful winelands/weekend wedding?**

Think of a weather back-up for outdoor weddings as the weather can be unpredictable in the Winelands.

Consider having an “On-site wedding” – it will greatly simplify the planning process as the venue will provide everything from food to chairs and tables. A wedding coordinator can help make the day run smoother and assist you and your vendors with arrangements.

Account for pre-wedding events. Consider wedding venues that are not just a venue but provide activities that your guest can enjoy before the big day. At Boschendal our special pre events options including wine tasting and braai/spit braai options.

#### **Tips:**

Our venue can accommodate 166 guests which allows more of a stress-free environment and provides guests the chance to spend more family time together and enjoy all activities that our farm has to offer.



Jenny Elizabeth Photography

Jenny Elizabeth Photography

[boschendal.com](http://boschendal.com)







Set against the sloping hills of Stellenbosch Farms, Eikenhof Estate is a 3km scenic drive along Fischers Road, just off the Bottelary Road.

Centrally located between Stellenbosch, Brackenfell and Kuilsriver, the Estate is easily accessible, yet tucked away just far enough from the busy main road to make visitors feel like they have arrived at their own private and peaceful hideaway.

Remote from the hustle and bustle, Eikenhof is more than just a venue, it's a destination. The Estate is a hidden gem specializing in creating bespoke experiences. We have managed to achieve the marriage between elegance,

contemporary and a little bit of a rustic flair. All encapsulated by the rolling hills engulfed with vineyards.

The Eikenhof Team as a collective, takes a personal approach to each wedding and prides in attention to detail to guarantee a magical memorable experience.

As a boutique venue, Eikenhof offers opportunities for exclusive use of the Estate. We strongly do not believe in 'copy paste' weddings. Couples are unique in their own special way. The memorable day should be indicative of their personalities, flair and showcase who they are as a couple.



Eikenhof has been blessed by the delightful offerings presented by our ever so popular chef Renshaw Adams. Cap Classique boasts beautiful chandeliers, recessed bulkheads, under cover patio, open lawn areas and a wooden pergola for the ceremony. Our classic wooden tables require only basic décor to transform the venue into the fairy-tale destination.

The big day belongs exclusively to the Bridal Couple. So, it must be owned by them. Their dreams and aspirations should be showcased during the entire day, from cuisine, décor through to the formalities.

Finding your perfect destination is most certainly a daunting task. From the get-go we recommend that a budget should be established and from there venues should be shortlisted. When you walk into a venue and it shouts THIS IS US, this is where we want to start our journey as husband & wife, stop looking. There will always be a unique element from another venue that you wish you could have incorporated.

The estate has two luxurious villas. The Château is a four-bedroom Villa complete with en-suite bathrooms, open plan kitchen and dining room. A large lounge with a fireplace. Patio with an undercover braai and a jacuzzi.

The Manor House offers five-bedroom with en-suite bathrooms. Common areas include a Lounge, Dining Room and an undercover braai area on the open patio. The Manor House overlooks the estate swimming pool.









# Photography







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# Honeymoons





# Why Choose Southern Africa for Your Honeymoon?

*Southern Africa offers a perfect blend of luxury, nature, culture, and seclusion. Whether you're chasing sunsets on a safari, sipping vintage wines in the Cape, or soaking in ocean views from your private beach villa, the region offers something for every couple. Add to that the friendliness of the people, the exceptional cuisine, and the unique experiences—and you'll have a honeymoon that's as unforgettable as your love story.*

## Add Exotic Africa: Unveiling Southern Africa's Most Enchanting Honeymoon Escapes

When the wedding bells fade into a soft memory and the celebration settles, it's time to begin your next chapter: the honeymoon. Africa, with her untamed wilderness, world-class luxury, and breathtaking diversity, offers couples the kind of romance that is as wild as it is timeless. From the sun-drenched beaches of Mozambique to the dreamy vineyards of the Cape Winelands, Southern Africa is an undiscovered gem for honeymooners seeking something truly extraordinary.

### 1. Victoria Falls—Romance on the Edge of Wonder

Straddling the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, Victoria Falls is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and an awe-inspiring honeymoon destination. Here, couples can experience luxury riverside lodges, sunset cruises along the Zambezi River, and candlelit dinners under African skies. Adventure-seekers can enjoy helicopter flips over the falls or even a dip in the famous Devil's Pool.

Best for: Couples who want a mix of luxury, adventure, and natural wonder.





## 2. The Cape Winelands—Wine, Mountains, and Timeless Elegance

Just an hour outside Cape Town, the Cape Winelands offer a European-style escape with a distinct African flair. Think historic estates, five-star boutique hotels, horse-drawn carriage rides through vineyards, and long, lazy lunches under oak trees. Franschhoek and Stellenbosch, in particular, are famed for their romance, world-class wine, and award-winning cuisine.

Best for: Foodies, wine lovers, and those who appreciate quiet sophistication.



## 3. Mozambique—Castaway Romance in Paradise

For couples dreaming of a barefoot honeymoon on a pristine beach, Mozambique's Bazaruto and Quirimbas Archipelagos offer a postcard-perfect escape. Imagine private villas nestled on white sands, crystal-clear turquoise waters, and long strolls with only the ocean breeze for company. With world-class scuba diving, sailing, and fresh seafood, Mozambique is Africa's answer to the Maldives—without the crowds.

Best for: Beach lovers and island dreamers.





#### 4. Botswana—Intimate Luxury in the Wild

Botswana is renowned for its exclusive, eco-luxury safaris. The Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a maze of lush waterways and hidden lagoons, perfect for romantic mokoro (canoe) excursions and game viewing from your private plunge pool. With a strong focus on conservation and low-impact tourism, Botswana promises privacy, beauty, and unforgettable wildlife encounters.

Best for: Safari-loving couples with a taste for luxury and seclusion.



#### 5. South Africa’s Garden Route – Road Trip Romance

This iconic stretch between Cape Town and the Eastern Cape offers a self-drive honeymoon packed with adventure and charm. From whale watching in Hermanus to forest hideaways in Knysna and beachside bliss in Plettenberg Bay, the Garden Route combines nature, culture, and romance effortlessly. Add in a Big Five safari at one of the nearby game reserves, and you’ve got the ultimate “best of both worlds” trip.

Best for: Couples who want to explore, discover, and adventure together.





## 6. Namibia—Desert Magic and Stargazing Nights

Namibia's surreal landscapes—towering red dunes, vast desert plains, and hauntingly beautiful coastlines—offer a honeymoon unlike any other. Stay in luxury lodges overlooking the Namib Desert, go hot air ballooning over Sossusvlei at sunrise, and fall asleep under the Milky Way in some of the darkest skies on Earth.

Best for: Couples who crave something off the beaten path and otherworldly.



## 7. KwaZulu-Natal—Mountains, Wildlife & Indian Ocean Charm

Combining bush, berg, and beach, KwaZulu-Natal is a hidden gem. Spend your honeymoon hiking the Drakensberg Mountains, indulging in a private safari in Phinda or Thanda game reserve, and then unwinding on the warm beaches of the Dolphin Coast. The Zulu culture adds depth and richness to every experience.

Best for: Couples who want variety, culture, and adventure.



## Ready to turn your honeymoon dreams into reality?

Let Southern Africa sweep you off your feet, one unforgettable moment at a time.



*Real Live  
Wedding*





# Engagement



*Andrew Zamboni*



*Love at First Message*  
*Joy & Herve*







Photography: Bridals Touch

Wedding Venue: Chez Charlene

Wedding Planner: Juanita Beukes - Your Event Solutions

Décor: Juanita Beukes - Your Event Solutions

Flowers: Juanita Beukes - Your Event Solutions

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In a moment of quiet reflection and prayer, Herve Muteba found himself at a crossroads. Having faced numerous disappointments in love, he was ready to surrender his search for a soulmate. But as December settled in, Herve felt a renewed sense of hope and began a prayer program, seeking divine clarity for his future.

As the new year began, Herve felt a powerful conviction to discuss his desire for a life partner with a mutual friend. Although his friend offered several names, none seemed right. Undeterred, Herve continued to pray for guidance. Then, one day, he was compelled to reach out to Joy Songabau. A message was sent through social media, but it took ten days for Joy to respond. When she did, their conversation took off, revealing a connection that felt both profound and destined.

On her end, Joy had been immersed in a month-long fast, staying away from social media. When she finally returned, she discovered Herve's message waiting for her. Something about his profile and the sincerity in his words gave her a deep sense of knowing that he might be the one. Their first meeting was a date at the cinema—an experience Joy had longed for since before the pandemic. The fact that Herve had remembered and acted on this simple desire touched her deeply.

As their relationship developed, Joy was continually amazed by Herve's nurturing spirit and the warmth of his presence. His kindness and thoughtful nature were qualities she cherished. She saw in him a true servant of God; someone whose love and support made her feel truly seen and valued.

For Herve, Joy's personality and kindness were striking from the very beginning. Her welcoming nature and the ease with which they connected made it clear that he had met someone exceptional. Her way of thinking was an eye-opener for him, and he knew he had found the right person to share his life with.



Their journey together has been a testament to the power of faith and divine guidance. Both Herve and Joy had prayed for their future partners, trusting that God's hand was in their search. As they prepare to unite their lives, they are grounded in the scripture from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV), which encapsulates their vision of love: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud. It does not dishonour others; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres."

With hearts full of gratitude and anticipation, they look forward to spending a lifetime together, united in faith and bound by a love that feels both divinely inspired and deeply personal.



## *Falling in Love with the Venue: What Made It the Perfect Choice?*

Having attended weddings at the venue, Chez Charlene, before, I was always struck by the well-maintained grounds and their photographic beauty. The elegant interiors further captivated me with their timeless charm.

Beyond aesthetics, the venue's flexibility was a significant draw. They accommodated our desire for custom décor and menu options, which made personalizing our day easy. Practical considerations like ample guest accommodation, secure and accessible parking, and the ability to host our 260 guests comfortably sealed the deal.

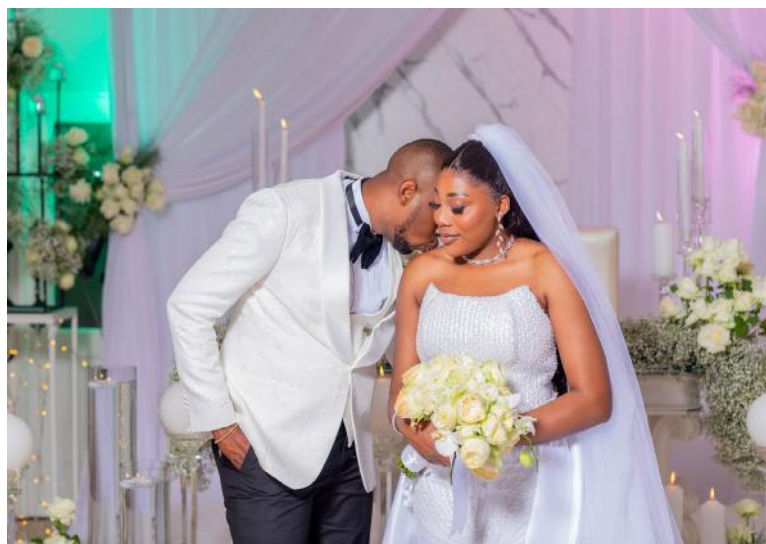
## *In Three Words: How Would You Describe Your Wedding?*

- A Divine Union—a blessing from God.
- Elegant—timeless and sophisticated.
- Joyful—filled with love, laughter, and celebration.

## *How Did You Announce Your Wedding?*

We first sent out a "Save the Date" to ensure our loved ones had the date marked on their calendars. Following that, we shared a special video on WhatsApp with all our guests, which allowed us to personally connect and share our excitement. Lastly, we sent out a link to our beautiful wedding website, where all the important details about the big day were shared.

We loved being able to keep everyone updated digitally, from our traditional engagement to our religious ceremony, and this approach made it easy for everyone to stay in the loop and join in on the celebration!





## *What Are the Differences and Similarities Between the Two of you?*

I am continually amazed by Herve's nurturing spirit and the warmth he brings into every interaction. His kindness, thoughtfulness, and unwavering faith in God are qualities I deeply admire.

We both share a loving and compassionate nature and align closely in how we view life. This mutual understanding creates a strong foundation of love and respect in our relationship.

## *Did You Have a Specific Theme for Your Wedding?*

Our vision was simple yet sophisticated. I wanted an atmosphere of elegance without overwhelming colour palettes. We chose white as the primary hue for the chapel and reception, symbolizing purity and timeless beauty.

Green, my husband's favourite colour, was chosen for the bridal party. It symbolizes wealth, renewal, and fertility—fitting sentiments for the beginning of our marriage journey.

## *What Was Your Approach to Flowers and Décor?*

We opted for seasonal flowers combined with classic white roses to balance beauty and affordability. Our custom-made centerpieces featured white floral arrangements intertwined with candles and crystals, adding a touch of refined elegance.





## *Any Special Details About the Cake, Music, or Bridal Party?*

Our four-tier wedding cake was a crowd-pleaser, with each tier offering a unique flavour for our guests to enjoy. The music was unforgettable—our DJ was so incredible that the dance floor stayed packed until 2 AM (we even extended our venue time by an hour!).

## *Did You Have Unique Wedding Favours?*

While we didn't have traditional wedding favours, we gave our guests beautiful, custom-designed hand fans printed with the day's schedule. Additionally, a 360-degree photo booth captured special moments, and guests could instantly retrieve their videos via mobile.





## *Any Unique Ideas or Advice for Future Brides and Grooms?*

1. Plan and Budget Wisely: Weddings are expensive—save where you can, and don't underestimate post-wedding costs (like your honeymoon!).
2. Invest in a Planner: A professional wedding planner is invaluable, especially when you're working with tight schedules.
3. Cake Considerations: If you want a multi-tier cake, ask the venue to cut and serve it immediately to avoid wastage—or consider artificial tiers for aesthetics.
4. Personal Touches Matter: We personalized every invite with guests' names and seat numbers—small details make a big impact.
5. Prioritize the Marriage: While the wedding is a once-in-a-lifetime event, the marriage itself is the true journey—invest in both wisely.
6. Enjoy the Moment: Amid the planning and stress, don't forget to savour the joy of your day!









# *Jean & Rebecca*

Photography: Hold That Smile





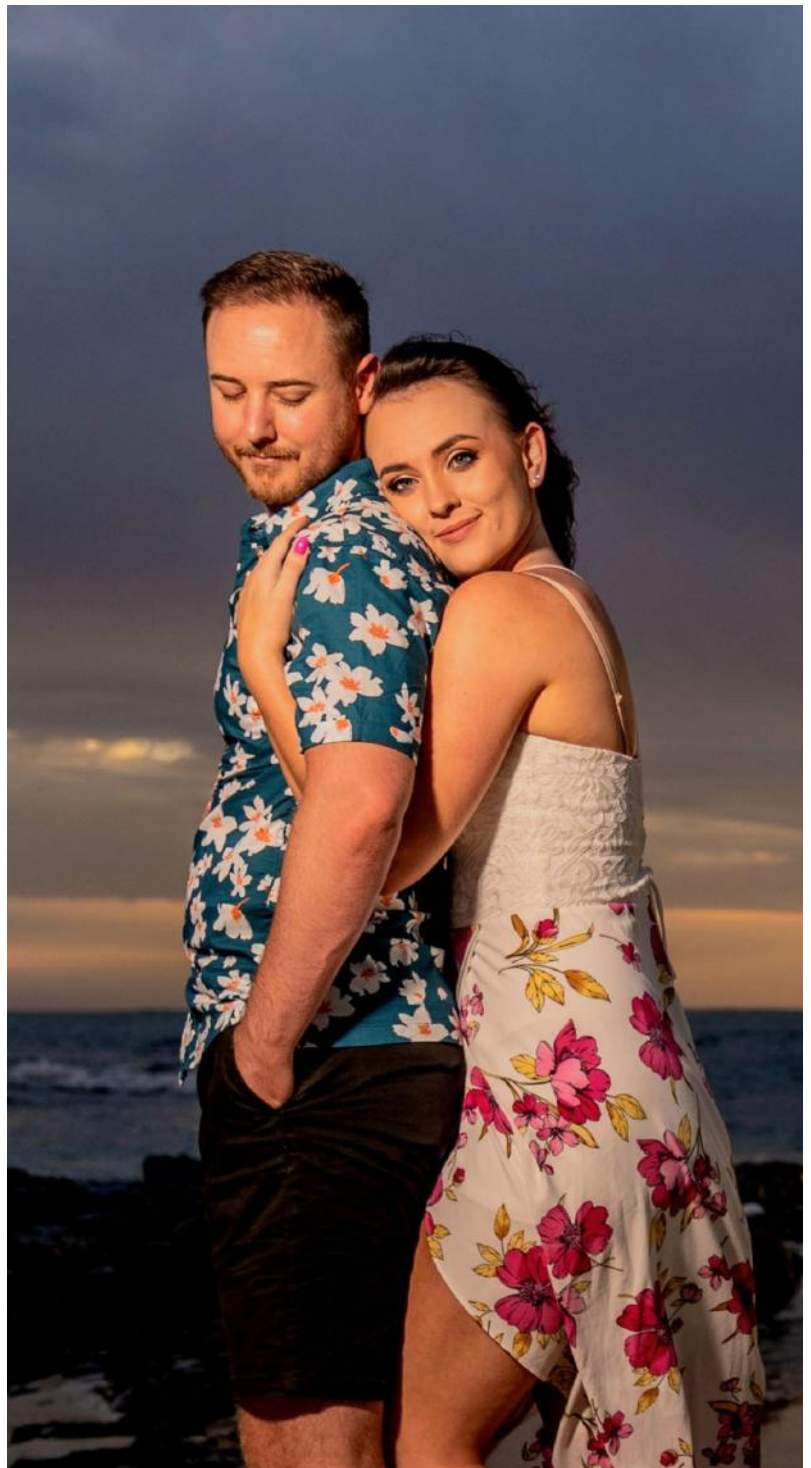
*1. How did you meet, and how did your fiancé propose?*

Jean and I first met in 2017 through our shared passion for Latin American dancing. Over the years, we remained friends, but it wasn't until mid-2023 that we started getting to know each other on a deeper level. Our relationship officially began on November 12, 2023.

Jean proposed in the most magical way on December 27, 2024, during a sunrise photoshoot on the beach in Jeffreys Bay. It was an unforgettable moment—just the two of us, the sound of the waves, and the most beautiful beginning to our forever.

*2. What date have you chosen for your wedding day, and why?*

We have chosen May 2025 for our wedding. We are beyond excited to start this next chapter of our lives together. As a couple, we share many dreams and aspirations, and we can't wait to embark on this incredible journey of building a future filled with love, success, and adventure.







*3. Have you booked a venue yet, and if so, which one have you chosen and why?*

Yes! We will be getting married at Makiti Wedding Venue, which holds a special place in our hearts as it belongs to Jean's family. It means so much to us to celebrate our love at a venue built with so much dedication and passion. Makiti is a breathtaking all-inclusive venue, featuring stunning gardens, elegant spaces, and everything needed to create a truly unforgettable day.

*4. Are you going to make use of a wedding planner?*

The venue provides a wedding planner, but I will be handling most of the planning myself, alongside Jean and our families. We want every detail to reflect our vision, and planning together makes it even more meaningful.

*5. Why did you choose the photographer that you did?*

We have chosen Hold That Smile Photography because the owner and photographer is a close friend of Jean's, and we couldn't be more excited to share our special day with someone who truly knows us. We have also booked Reeler Videography to capture all the beautiful moments on film.





*6. What is your vision for your wedding day?*

Our theme is Elegant Glam, with a classic Black & White colour scheme. The décor will feature all-white florals, and our guests will be dressed in full black to create a timeless and sophisticated look. To add a touch of warmth, we will incorporate subtle rose gold elements into the décor.



*7. Do you have any idea where you will be spending your honeymoon?*

We are currently exploring options and looking at various island honeymoon packages. We want a destination that offers both relaxation and adventure—a perfect way to celebrate the beginning of our married life.



*8. What are your aspirations for your marriage?*

At the heart of our marriage is friendship, love, and a shared vision for the future. We want to be the best team—supporting each other, growing together, and achieving our dreams side by side. Our relationship is built on faith, and we strive to honour God in all that we do. He truly blessed us by bringing us together, and we are so grateful for this beautiful journey ahead.





# Alice in Winterland Issue 32





