

WEDDING

ISSUE 29

Collection

elbeth gillis

*Say I do to Opulent
Serenity*

**WHAT EVERY GROOM
NEEDS TO KNOW**

**Honeymoon in
Mauritius & Seychelles**

Beautify yourself
with Transfigure

*Beach & Garden
Route Venues*

Relive your wedding day



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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Welcome to this exciting issue of Wedding Collection Online Magazine, where we celebrate the magic of weddings in all their beauty and grandeur. Whether you're a bride, groom, or simply dreaming of your perfect day, we have curated inspiration for every element of your wedding journey.

In this issue, we turn our spotlight to the mesmerizing "Opulent Serenity" collection by renowned designer Elbeth Gillis. Her gowns effortlessly combine elegance and sophistication, offering the modern bride an unforgettable bridal look.

For the grooms, we have put together an essential editorial covering everything you need to know—because let's face it, every detail counts when it comes to your big day.

Looking your best is non-negotiable, and Transfigure Aesthetics is here to help you achieve flawless results. From beauty techniques to aesthetic treatments, we explore how you can glow with confidence on your special day.

Planning a spring wedding? Our editorial on décor, flowers, and cakes is brimming with ideas for a dreamy celebration. Whether you're seeking a lush floral arrangement, whimsical cake design, or eye-catching décor, this feature will leave you inspired.

In our venue section, we highlight some of South Africa's most breathtaking beach and Garden Route weddings. From stunning ocean views to majestic views, these venues promise an unforgettable backdrop to your special day.

Don't forget the power of photography and videography! Our editorial reveals why capturing your wedding on film is a priceless investment you'll cherish for years to come.

Dreaming of the perfect honeymoon? We explore the serene beaches of Mauritius and Seychelles, the ultimate destinations for newlywed bliss.

Finally, be inspired by the real-life wedding stories featured in this issue. Each meticulously planned and beautifully executed wedding offers a glimpse into the magic of a perfect day.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Here's to making your wedding dreams come true!

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "M" and "G" being particularly prominent.

A photograph of a window with white curtains and a brass handle. The word "GOWNS" is overlaid in a black serif font. The window looks out onto a green, out-of-focus landscape. A small plant is visible in the bottom left corner.

GOWNS



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GROOMS



What Every Groom Needs to Know: Essential Tips for the Big Day

Planning a wedding can be overwhelming, especially for grooms who may not be as involved in the finer details of the process. However, there's more to being a groom than just showing up in a suit on the big day. Here are some essential tips every groom should keep in mind to ensure the day runs smoothly and that you fully enjoy this milestone moment.

1. Your Input Matters: Be Involved in the Planning

While many grooms leave the wedding planning to their partners, your input is essential. Whether it's deciding on the theme, selecting vendors, or choosing your attire, showing interest will create a more balanced dynamic and help create a day that reflects both of you. It also shows your partner that you're invested in making the day as memorable as possible.

2. Suiting Up: Choose Your Outfit Wisely

Your wedding day look is just as important as the bride's attire. Whether you opt for a classic tuxedo, a formal suit, or something more casual, make sure your attire reflects the tone and theme of the wedding. Ensure your outfit fits perfectly and plan for at least one fitting before the big day. Don't forget the accessories – cufflinks, ties, pocket squares, and shoes should complement your look. Consider how your style matches the bride's outfit as well.

3. Manage Pre-Wedding Nerves

Feeling a bit nervous before your wedding is normal. To ease pre-wedding jitters, make sure you're mentally and emotionally prepared. Focus on the excitement of spending your life with your partner rather than the pressures of the day. Take time for yourself in the days leading up to the wedding – whether it's through exercise, relaxation, or meditation – to keep calm and centered.

4. The Importance of the Best Man

Your best man plays a significant role in helping you manage the wedding. Choose someone you trust to handle key responsibilities like organizing your bachelor party, helping with pre-wedding tasks, and supporting you on the day. Your best man should also help keep you relaxed, manage time, and ensure your groomsmen are on point.

5. Communicate with Vendors

Even if your partner is more involved in vendor communication, make sure you're familiar with key details such as who's in charge of catering, entertainment, and photography. Be available to answer questions, offer feedback, and double-check contracts to ensure everything is in place.

6. Don't Forget Your Vows

Whether you're writing your own vows or sticking with traditional ones, take time to prepare. Writing personal vows can add a special, heartfelt element to your ceremony, but even if you're using standard vows, practice saying them aloud. If you're nervous about speaking in public, rehearse in front of close friends or family members to build confidence.

7. Take Care of the Marriage License

While it's easy to get caught up in the excitement of planning the day, don't forget the legal details. Make sure you know the process for obtaining a marriage license in your location, as this can vary. Have all the necessary paperwork filled out in advance, and don't wait until the last minute.



8. Plan Your Morning

The morning of the wedding can set the tone for the entire day. Make sure you have a plan that allows enough time for breakfast, getting dressed, and any last-minute tasks. Avoid a packed morning that leaves you stressed or rushed. If you have groomsmen, gather them for a calm and focused preparation session.

9. Give a Thoughtful Gift to Your Bride

A thoughtful gesture before the ceremony can be a great way to express your feelings. A handwritten note, a special gift, or even a brief phone call can help calm nerves and create a meaningful moment between you and your partner.

10. Enjoy the Moment

The wedding day will go by quickly, and it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle. Remember to slow down, take a deep breath, and appreciate the moments. Don't get bogged down by small details that may go wrong – the most important thing is celebrating your love with family and friends.

11. Stay Hydrated and Eat

It's easy to forget to drink water or eat while you're busy taking photos, chatting with guests, and dancing. Make sure you stay hydrated and have a snack to keep your energy levels up throughout the day. You don't want to feel faint during your first dance!

12. Prepare for the Speech

Your speech is a big moment, and it's worth putting in the effort to prepare. Speak from the heart, thank everyone who helped with the wedding, and remember to acknowledge your partner and your families. Keep it light, sincere, and personal – humor is welcome but make sure it's appropriate.

13. Delegate Responsibilities

You don't have to manage everything on your wedding day. Whether it's checking in with vendors, keeping the schedule on track, or managing the wedding party, delegate these tasks to trusted people like your best man, groomsmen, or a wedding planner.

14. Post-Wedding Plans

While the wedding is a significant event, don't forget to plan for the days after. Whether you're heading off on a honeymoon or taking a mini-break, make sure your post-wedding plans are in place. This includes packing your bags, organizing transport, and ensuring you have everything you need for the days ahead.

Final Thoughts

As a groom, your role is just as important in creating the magic of your wedding day. By being present, involved, and prepared, you'll not only alleviate potential stress but also help create memories that you and your partner will cherish forever.

SMART GUY   SMART BRIDE





SMART
GUY



SMART
BRIDE



SMART
GUY



SMART
BRIDE





SMART
GUY



SMART
BRIDE







BEAUTY



Our Services:

- Botox ✓
- Fillers ✓
- Threads ✓
- Growth Factors ✓
- IV Therapy ✓
- Hair Regeneration ✓
- Hair Loss ✓
- Pigment Correcting ✓
- IV Therapy ✓

Transfigure Aesthetics

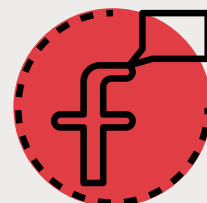


Before

After

Skin tags, Moles, warts

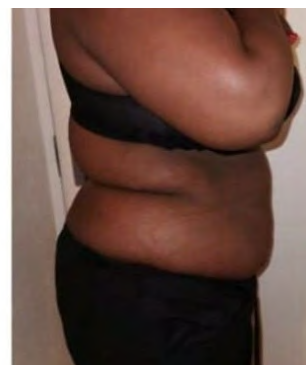
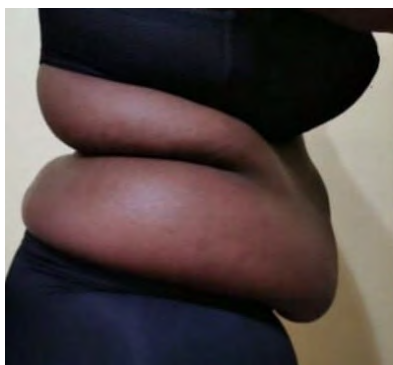
Removal



What inspired you to become a doctor and then to specialize in beauty and aesthetics, and how did your journey in this field begin?

My journey to becoming an aesthetic doctor was inspired by a deep-rooted desire to help people not only improve their physical health but also restore their self-confidence. From a young age, I was drawn to the transformative power of medicine, and once I became a doctor, I realized that beauty and aesthetics had an incredible impact on people's emotional and psychological well-being. Seeing how insecurities related to appearance can affect one's confidence made me want to specialize in this area.

I began my journey in non-surgical aesthetics in 2017. I believe that looking good often translates to feeling good. By helping people enhance their natural beauty, I get to be a part of the process that puts smiles back on their faces and restores the confidence they might have lost. This motivation has been a driving force in my career, and I take immense pride in knowing that my work goes beyond the surface, positively impacting lives on a deeper level. The field of beauty and aesthetics is continuously evolving, and this keeps me passionate about my work, always seeking to refine my skills and offer the latest innovations to my clients. It's truly rewarding to help people feel like the best version of themselves..





For the Bride:

What are the most effective skincare treatments you recommend ensuring a bride's skin is glowing and radiant on her wedding day?

At Transfigure Aesthetics, we offer a wide range of treatments designed to give brides that radiant, glowing look for their special day. One of the top treatments I recommend is NCTF mesotherapy, a powerful skin booster that deeply hydrates and revitalizes the skin from within, leaving it luminous. In addition, mild peels like the milk peel or the fire and ice treatment are excellent options to refine texture and brighten the complexion.

We also suggest micro needling, which promotes collagen production and improves skin tone and texture, ensuring the skin looks fresh and rejuvenated.

How far in advance should a bride start a beauty regimen to achieve the best results for her skin and overall appearance?

To achieve optimal results, I recommend starting a personalized beauty regimen about two months before the wedding. This allows sufficient time for treatments like NCTF mesotherapy and micro needling to take effect, with the final session done well before the wedding to avoid any last-minute skin sensitivity.

For peels such as the milk peel or fire and ice, scheduling the final treatment about six weeks prior will ensure smooth, glowing skin without any downtime. Consistency with treatments and at-home skincare will lead to the best possible outcome like the overnight rejuvenating or Oxygen gel (Fillmed) are some home care ranges to keep.





Before

Transfigure Aesthetics

Are there any specific treatments or products that you suggest helping a bride look fresh and well-rested, especially with all the stress and preparation leading up to the wedding?

Stress is inevitable during wedding preparations, but a bride can still look fresh and well-rested with the right treatments and products. In addition to NCTF mesotherapy and mild peels,

Non-surgical Facelift



After



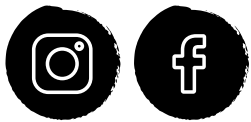
Side profile



Dr. Blessing highly recommends incorporating supplements into the skincare routine. The Annique range, made from largely natural products, is an excellent option to support the skin from the inside out. Also, medical-grade liquid collagen (Proactive) is fantastic for improving skin elasticity and hydration, giving the bride that plump, well-rested look on her wedding day.

These treatments and products are designed to help brides not only look radiant but feel confident and refreshed as they walk down the aisle. We have these products in stock and have capacity to ship to the bride to be doorstep to reduce any added stress.





Heck Yes

MAKEUP ARTISTRY

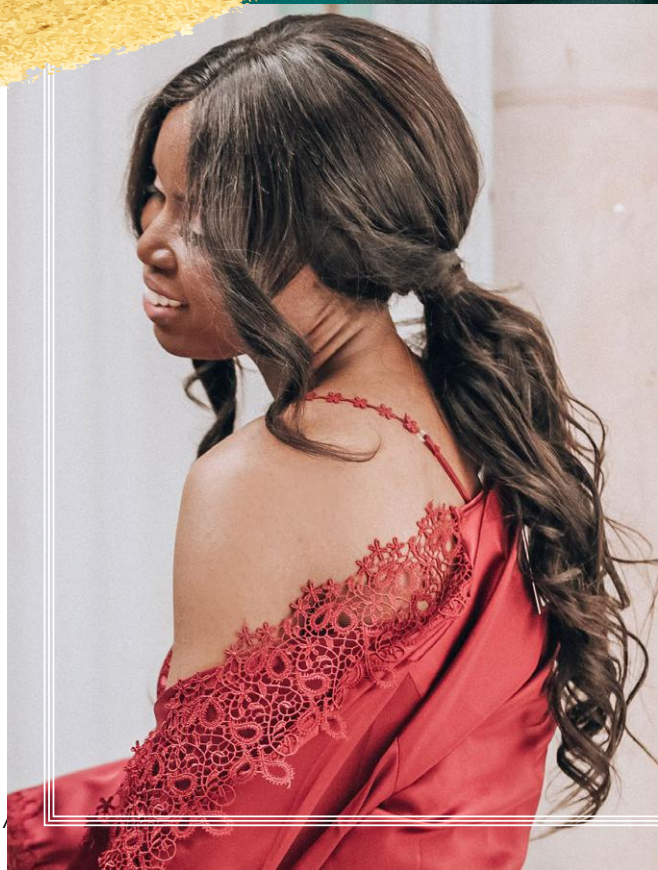
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0815126642



espaVO
HAIRDESIGN





CAKES, DECOR, FLOWERS





VDKcakes
GOURMET PARTY CAKES







Spring Wedding Ideas: Décor, Flowers, and Cakes for a Dreamy Celebration

Spring is one of the most magical seasons for a wedding, with nature blooming into life and an abundance of colour and beauty all around.

Whether you're planning an intimate garden ceremony or a lavish ballroom affair, spring weddings offer endless possibilities to incorporate fresh flowers, light décor, and whimsical cakes that perfectly capture the essence of the season.

Here's a guide to inspire your spring wedding décor, flowers, and cake design.



1. Décor: *Light, Airy, and Nature-Inspired*

Colour Palette:

Spring's natural vibrance calls for a soft and romantic colour palette, featuring pastels, delicate neutrals, and pops of vibrant shades. Consider blush pink, pale peach, lavender, mint, soft yellow, and sky blue. Pair these tones with earthy accents like sage green, tan, or even copper for an elegant contrast.

Venue Décor:

Floral Arches and Backdrops: Embrace nature's beauty by incorporating floral arches or lush green backdrops. These work perfectly for ceremony spaces or even photo booths. Use a mix of cascading flowers, vines, and delicate ferns for a wild yet romantic look.

Hanging Installations: Create a whimsical atmosphere with suspended floral arrangements or fairy lights. Hanging décor such as lanterns or crystal chandeliers surrounded by greenery will make your reception area feel like an enchanted garden.

Garden-Inspired Table Settings: For your tables, go for greenery runners, and pair them with candles in glass holders for an ethereal touch. Vintage lace tablecloths or embroidered napkins can add a charming, rustic feel to your table settings.

Natural Elements: Wood, rattan, and woven details are perfect to evoke a fresh, outdoor-inspired look. Whether it's through wooden table numbers, wicker baskets for your confetti, or even chairs wrapped in soft fabrics, it adds a relaxed, springtime vibe.

Delicate Stationery: Invitations and menus adorned with watercolour floral designs or leaf motifs are an elegant way to tie the spring theme into the smaller details.





2. Flowers: Fresh, Vibrant, and Romantic

Blooms in Season:

Spring brings an abundance of stunning flowers, and choosing seasonal blooms not only ensures your arrangements are fresh but also more sustainable and cost-effective. Here are some top picks:

Peonies: Lush and full, these flowers add romance and drama to any bouquet or centrepiece. Their soft, pastel shades are perfect for spring.

Ranunculi's: Known for their delicate, paper-thin petals, ranunculi's adds a touch of whimsy to floral arrangements. Their colours range from white to blush to vibrant orange and pink.

Sweet Peas: These dainty, fragrant flowers add a dreamy, vintage feel to bouquets and centrepieces.

Tulips: Classic and simple, tulips symbolize love and are available in an array of colours.

Daffodils: Bright yellow or white daffodils are a cheerful addition to spring arrangements, adding a pop of colour.

Bouquet Ideas:

Wildflower Bouquets: opt for a less structured, organic bouquet by combining various spring blooms like daisies, anemones, lavender, and greenery. The result is a fresh, garden-picked look that perfectly suits an outdoor or boho-inspired wedding.

Romantic Pastel Arrangements: For a more elegant and romantic vibe, go for a mix of peonies, roses, and ranunculi in soft pinks, creams, and whites, accented with eucalyptus or dusty miller leaves for a silvery touch.

Pops of Colour: If you want to make a statement, incorporate brighter blooms like coral peonies or vibrant fuchsia roses for a burst of color against softer hues.

Floral Accessories:

Floral Crowns and Hairpieces: Instead of traditional veils or tiaras, floral crowns or hair combs adorned with fresh flowers like baby's breath, roses, or lavender can add a touch of bohemian elegance to your bridal look.

Flower Petal Aisles: Instead of rolling out a traditional aisle runner, consider scattering petals down the aisle for a soft, romantic walk to the altar.



3. Wedding Cakes: Fresh, Floral, and Artful

Spring-inspired cakes are all about lightness and a connection to nature, featuring fresh floral elements, pastel colours, and delicate details.

Floral Cakes:

Edible Flowers: Decorate your cake with real, edible flowers like pansies, violets, and marigolds for a fresh, garden-like feel. These blooms can adorn each tier or be scattered along the base for a more subtle touch.

Sugar Flowers: For a more polished look, consider having your cake adorned with intricately crafted sugar flowers. These can be used to mimic real blooms in your wedding décor, and they add an elegant, lifelike touch.

Pressed Flower Cakes: A modern trend in spring cakes is to use dried, pressed flowers or herbs on the cake's exterior. This not only adds a unique artistic touch but also keeps with the season's natural, earthy vibe.

Pastel Cakes:

Watercolour Designs: Soft, watercolour-inspired cakes are perfect for spring. Gentle washes of pastel colours on buttercream or fondant create a dreamy, ethereal look that complements the season.

Naked Cakes: For a more rustic, organic feel, naked or semi-naked cakes are a great option. These cakes feature minimal frosting, allowing the cake itself to show through,

and are often decorated with fresh flowers or berries for a charming springtime aesthetic.

Fresh Fruit Accents: Incorporate fresh fruits like berries, figs, or even citrus slices for a burst of colour and flavour. These add a refreshing touch to the cake while also staying true to the season's lightness.

Flavour Suggestions:

Lemon and Elderflower: A light, citrusy flavour is perfect for a spring wedding, and elderflower adds a touch of sweetness.

Lavender and Honey: For something unique yet delicate, a lavender-infused cake with honey buttercream reflects spring's floral and fragrant nature.

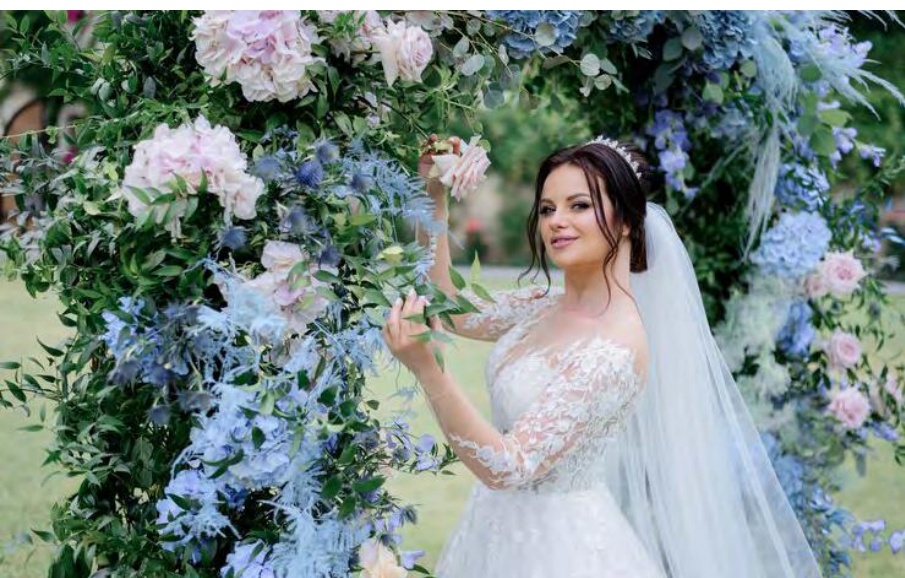
Strawberry and Cream: Fresh berries combined with whipped cream, or a light sponge cake are a classic and delicious choice for spring.

Almond and Apricot: A delightful combination of nutty and fruity flavours that feels just right for a spring celebration.

Shape

Spring is the perfect season to celebrate love, with its natural beauty providing a stunning backdrop for your wedding. By incorporating fresh blooms, light décor, and nature-inspired cakes, you'll create an unforgettable atmosphere that captures the essence of this enchanting time of year. Let the spirit of spring guide your creativity and design a wedding filled with beauty, romance, and joy.







A rustic wooden table, possibly made of reclaimed wood, is the central focus. On the table sits a large, lush floral centerpiece featuring white roses, red flowers, and greenery. To the right of the flowers are two ornate, dark-colored candle holders; the one on the right holds a single white pillar candle. The table is set outdoors in a garden or park-like setting. In the background, there are trees and hanging white string lights. The foreground is filled with out-of-focus red and white flowers, creating a bokeh effect. The overall lighting is warm and soft, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

BEACH & GARDEN ROUTE WEDDING VENUES



Eternity Event Space is the latest addition to the Beach House Collection in the seaside village of Yzerfontein. It is a gorgeous state of the art open plan venue that is set on the dunes of the Cape West Coast.

Picture the guests as they watch the bride walking barefoot in the sand towards her groom, salty sea air blowing gently through her hair, and the soft glow of sunlight making her absolutely radiant. Feel the ocean breeze dancing around you as you take your vows, while seagulls observe the goings on with curiosity. Gather your guests around you on the dunes for unforgettable photographs.

Endless sea and beach views from every window make this venue unique, and it gives you a feeling of actually being on the sand dunes and at one with nature. You can hear the sound of the waves crashing on the shore and scent of the salty sea air wafting on the breeze. It is an open plan space that can be tailor made and designed as you want it and decorated according to your personal preferences to make the event uniquely yours.



The Sunset Deck

The sun sets slowly over the sea, and the sky turns hues of orange, while you feast on fresh succulent seafood, sip on chilled champagne and gently dance the night away under the stars. Whether it is a total extravaganza or a laid back private affair, allow us to make your beach wedding fantasies a reality.

Space at Eternity is dedicated to the wedding only and not shared with any other function. We allow guests to bring in their own caterers and decor specialists so they are not locked into any surprise hidden fees. Also guests are welcome to bring their own drinks and alcohol which can be a huge saving. We can also supply all of this should the wedding couple want a hands-off approach.

Our in-house team is constantly praised for their professionalism, friendliness and willingness to go above and beyond to make each occasion as perfect as it is memorable.

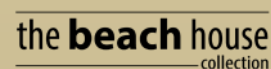
We also offer a gorgeous and luxurious penthouse suite. This is an especially curated space on the top floor of the venue, finished off in tones of dark charcoal, brushed gold, bronze mirrors and rich textured linens. It has a huge bedroom with a 4-poster bed, an open plan bathroom with a gold bathtub and marble shower, as well as a second bathroom with a shower.

The open plan lounge and dining area is done in neutral textured tones of sandy beige and stone, proving a sense of calm and tranquility. There is a well-designed black marble kitchenette area which has everything you need in it, from Nespresso machine, to the brushed gold Smeg appliances.

This area opens up and spills out onto the large wooden sun drenched deck with sea views of the Dassen Island Lighthouse. There are also braai facilities on this deck, so no need to cook inside. There is a fireplace to warm you on those cosy Winter Nights and a is a separate staircase entrance giving you an extra level of complete privacy.

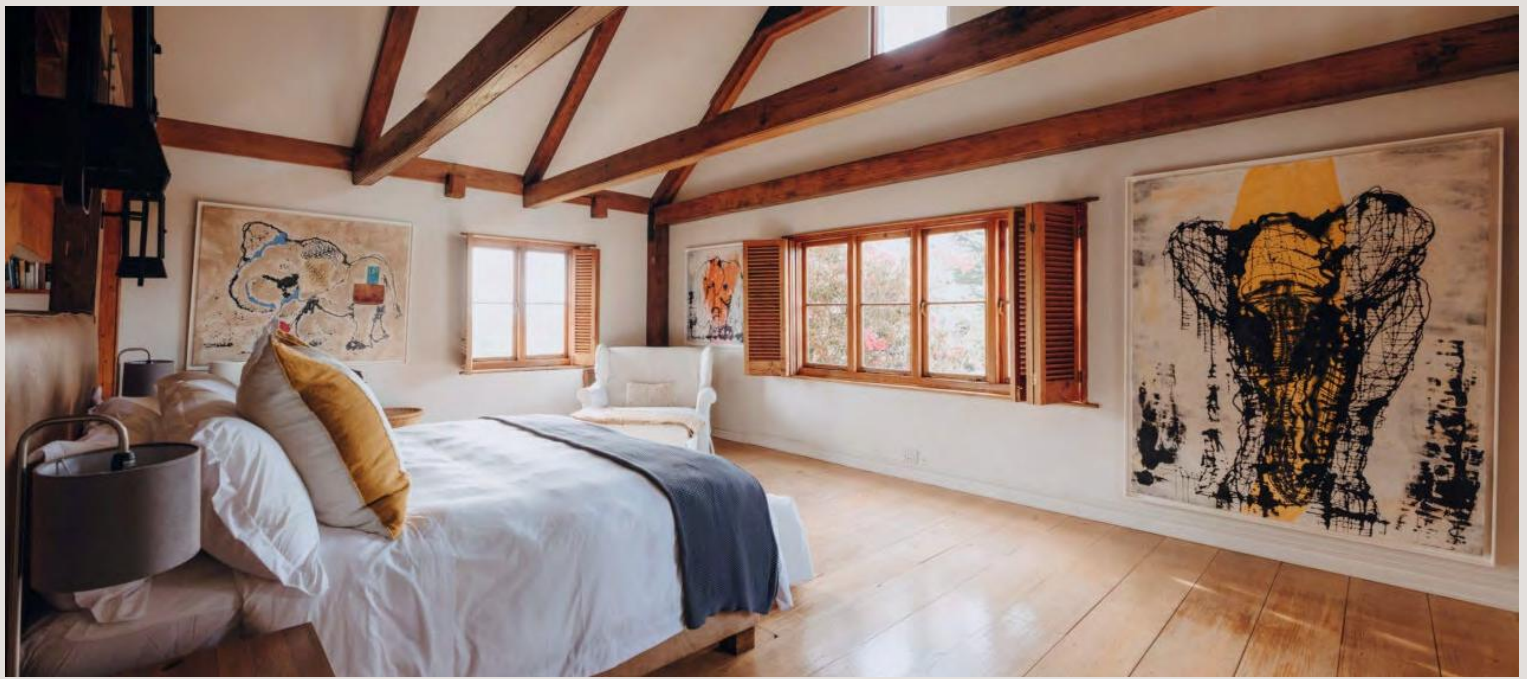
Further accommodation in The Beach House Collection is offered at our 3 beach villas; Thyme & Tide, White Sands and Pearl Bay. Situated directly on the beach, you can walk from the house onto the pristine white sand dunes. They are classic clapperboard houses with wraparound wooden decks, fabulous flow for entertaining. The view from each house is spectacular.

We encourage wedding couples to take a minimum of a 2-night stay so that they can really enjoy themselves and not feel rushed to be somewhere else.



FOREST HALL ESTATE





The Victorian Manor House, built in 1864, is one of the first homes in the Craggs and Plettenberg Bay area along the Garden Route. Declared a Historical Monument by the South African Heritage Authority in 1992, it has been meticulously restored to its original splendour.

The home's original yellow-wood and stinkwood floors, stairs, and doors have been beautifully preserved, highlighting the prized qualities of these woods. The nearby forest, from which the wood was sourced, enhances the house's authentic and timeless character, evoking the peace and tranquillity of a bygone era.

Surrounded by lush green lawns and indigenous forest, the Manor House offers breath taking views—from the foothills above the Kurland Polo fields and the Outeniqua mountains in one direction to the Tsitsikamma and the Indian Ocean in the other.

The Estate's indigenous forest is home to vervet monkeys, baboons, bushbuck, and wild pigs, often spotted at dawn along the forest's edge. Recognized for its irreplaceable structure and historical value, Forest Hall was declared a National Monument by the South African Heritage Authority in 1992.

Despite the changes around it, the essential character of this historic monument remains unchanged.

Privacy and seclusion define the Estate, making it the perfect location for your special day. Nestled within a 400-hectare nature reserve, guests can enjoy the tranquillity of the wilderness, far removed from the outside world. With 2.5 km of private coastline and helicopter access, this hidden gem caters to the most discerning travellers.

Whether for a romantic retreat, a family vacation, or a corporate getaway, the Estate offers an unparalleled blend of luxury, privacy, and natural beauty, ensuring an extraordinary experience.



The Manor House comfortably accommodates 10 adults (5 bedrooms) and 5 children, with additional cottages available on the grounds. Guests can enjoy:

- Spacious, elegantly decorated bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms.
- A fully equipped gourmet kitchen with modern appliances.
- Multiple living areas, including a formal dining room, lounge, and outdoor entertainment spaces.
- Amenities like a swimming pool, private beach, and walking trails, perfect for hosting gatherings and events.
- High-speed internet connectivity.
- Housekeeping and concierge services for a hassle-free stay.

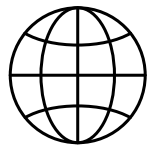
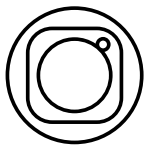




CAPE TOWN

LAGOON BEACH

hotel | conference | spa



Embark on the journey of a lifetime as you say "I do" amidst the breath taking beauty and serene elegance of Lagoon Beach Hotel. This enchanting venue offers the perfect backdrop for your fairytale wedding.

The Lagoon Beach Hotel, Conference Centre, and Spa, established in 2004, is situated in a prime location in Cape Town, offering an unparalleled blend of luxury, comfort, and scenic beauty. Nestled along the pristine shores of Milnerton Beach, the hotel provides direct beach access and breathtaking panoramic views of some of Cape Town's most iconic landmarks, including Table Mountain, the Atlantic Ocean, Robben Island, and the Cape Town city skyline. This distinctive setting offers guests a unique combination of coastal serenity and urban vibrancy, all within easy reach of the city's top attractions and business districts.

The Lagoon Beach Hotel distinguishes itself through its vast and versatile event spaces, paired with extensive accommodation options, making it one of the largest and most flexible venues in Cape Town. The hotel features a diverse range of indoor and outdoor venues, including spacious exhibition areas, intimate function rooms, and expansive outdoor terraces, allowing it to cater to a wide variety of events—from small gatherings and private celebrations to grand conferences and elaborate weddings. Additionally, ample undercover parking ensures convenience for all guests.

What truly sets Lagoon Beach Hotel apart is the array of ancillary services designed to enhance every guest's experience. The on-site Camelot Spa and Simply Hair salon offer relaxation and pampering, while the dedicated kids and adult games rooms, bicycle rental services, and complimentary shuttles to the V&A Waterfront and Canal Walk provide entertainment and easy access to local attractions. The hotel also boasts diverse dining options with three restaurants on-site—The Brasserie, La Mizu, and Wang Thai—as well as nearby dining establishments like Bossa and 91 Haute Indian Cuisine, providing a variety of culinary experiences.

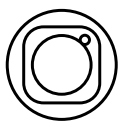
Lagoon Beach Hotel is an ideal choice for bridal couples seeking a memorable wedding experience. The venue offers bespoke wedding packages, customizable options, and the dedicated services of an in-house wedding coordinator, supported by a skilled events and operations team. For couples planning a destination wedding or a local celebration, the hotel's exceptional location, combined with its comprehensive services and amenities, provides a seamless and enjoyable experience. In addition to the wedding itself, the hotel offers numerous opportunities for guests to engage in pre- and post-wedding activities, ensuring that every moment spent with loved ones is cherished.

To host a successful beach wedding, it is essential to have a solid backup plan. Weather and other natural elements can be unpredictable, so it's crucial to have an alternative arrangement that is just as beautiful and special as your original plan. This is where the expertise of a wedding coordinator becomes invaluable, ensuring smooth decision-making and execution while keeping the couple stress-free. Investing in these services allows couples to focus on enjoying their wedding day to the fullest.





Belle Balance Bush Hideout



Belle Balance Bush Hideout is a tranquil, privately owned South African safari lodge where nature and comfort seamlessly blend.

The wedding venue, The Belle, is surrounded by fynbos and overlooks the majestic Tsitsikamma forest. Built in 2023, this breath taking sanctuary offers a unique experience, combining modern comforts with the raw beauty of the African wilderness.

Located within the malaria-free Plettenberg Bay Game Reserve, Belle Balance Bush Hideout is just a 20-minute drive from the renowned seaside town of Plettenberg Bay, or "Plett." Famous for its internationally acclaimed beaches and abundant outdoor activities, the area is a prime destination for nature lovers and adventurers alike.

Belle Balance Bush Hideout stands out for its stunning natural beauty and expansive views. Nestled in the largest private game reserve in the Southern Cape, the venue offers a serene escape, surrounded by the pristine wilderness.



Belle Balance Bush Hideout provides an extraordinary experience that goes beyond expectations, immersing couples and their guests in the heart of the African wilderness. The venue offers a magical, one-of-a-kind backdrop for a truly unforgettable wedding celebration.

The Garden Route is an ideal setting for any dream wedding. Whether you choose to exchange vows in a lush forest or on a sun-kissed beach, this region offers the perfect combination of natural beauty and romantic ambiance.

Belle Balance Bush Hideout offers comfortable accommodation with awe-inspiring views of the untamed wilderness. The Plettenberg Bay Game Reserve, spanning 2,000 hectares, is the largest in the Southern Cape and home to a diverse array of wildlife and bird species..

Facilities & Special Features:

- Limited Wi-Fi
- Fireplaces
- Plunge Pool
- Inverters
- Wood for Fireplaces
- Boma with Fire Pit
- Library
- Function Venue
- Laundry Service
- Fully Licensed Bar
- Lounge Areas
- Free Parking
- Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
- Swimming Pool with Loungers
- Housekeeping & Laundry Service

Belle Balnce Bush Hideout offers not only breakfast but also light lunches, dinners, and a fully stocked bar to cater to your dining needs.

Important Information:

- Check-in time: 14:00
- Check-out time: 10:00

Activities (available to book upon arrival):

- Spa treatments
- Forest walks
- Game drives
- Bush picnics

PHOTOGRAPHY &
VIDEOGRAPHY





Jenna Zeah
Photography

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WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO

HAVE A VIDEO OF YOUR WEDDING DAY

Your wedding day is one of the most significant moments of your life. It's a day filled with love, joy, and countless memories that you'll want to treasure forever. While photography has long been the staple for capturing wedding moments, videography adds an extra dimension, allowing you to relive the magic of your day in a way that photos simply can't. Here are several reasons why having a video of your wedding day is an investment you won't regret.



1. Relive the Emotional Moments

A wedding day is filled with emotions, from the anxious excitement before the ceremony to the heartfelt vows and joyous celebration afterward. While photos can capture the essence of these moments, only video can fully convey the tone of your voice as you say “I do,” the laughter during the speeches, or the happy tears that might otherwise be forgotten. A wedding video immortalizes these raw, emotional moments, letting you experience them again in real-time.

2. Capture the Things You Might Miss

Your wedding day will go by in a blur, and it's impossible for you to be everywhere at once. You might miss the candid moments of your guests, the kids playing on the dance floor, or the expressions on your loved ones' faces as they witness your vows. A professional videographer captures these moments, providing you with a fuller picture of the day. Your wedding video ensures that you can enjoy all the little details, even the ones you didn't get to see at the time.

3. Preserve the Voices and Sounds

Hearing the music that played during your first dance or the heartfelt words from your father's toast can instantly transport you back to that moment in a way that photos cannot. The sounds of your wedding day—the music, the laughter, the speeches, and the vows—are just as important as the visuals. Video captures this auditory layer, creating a more immersive way to experience your memories.

4. A Treasure for Future Generations

Your wedding video becomes a family heirloom, something you can share with your children, grandchildren, and future generations. Being able to show your loved ones not just how your wedding looked but how it felt—complete with the sounds, the movement, and the emotions—allows your story to be told in a deeply personal way.

5. Relive the Dance Party

The reception is often where the party really starts—everyone is relaxed, the formalities are over, and it's time to celebrate! Capturing these high-energy moments on video ensures you'll always have a way to relive the fun of the dance floor. Whether it's a choreographed routine, hilarious dance-offs, or spontaneous crowd surfing, the joy of these moments is best experienced in motion.

6. Professional Editing Creates a Cinematic Experience

A wedding video is more than just raw footage of your day—it's a professionally edited story. Modern wedding videographers can create cinematic films with a narrative that reflects the unique character of your relationship. From slow-motion shots to beautiful music overlays, your wedding video can feel like a movie in which you're the stars. With creative editing, your video becomes a timeless keepsake that is a pleasure to watch, over and over again.

7. Easily Shareable with Loved Ones Who Couldn't Attend

Sometimes, not everyone you love can make it to your wedding. Whether it's because of distance, health reasons, or other commitments, a video allows those who couldn't attend to still be part of your big day. A well-crafted video captures the spirit of the entire event, making it easy to share the joy with those who were unable to witness it firsthand.

8. Capture the Day as It Really Happened

With all the excitement and adrenaline, many couples find that they can hardly remember the details of their wedding day afterward. A video helps you recall exactly how things happened—how you felt when you first saw each other, the look in your partner's eyes during the vows, and all the joyful and meaningful interactions throughout the day. It serves as an accurate, heartfelt record of one of the most important days of your life.

9. Preserve the Magic in Motion

Your wedding dress flowing as you walk down the aisle, the flicker of candlelight during your

evening reception, the breeze during your outdoor vows—some of the most beautiful aspects of a wedding are best captured through movement. A video preserves this magic in a way that still images simply cannot

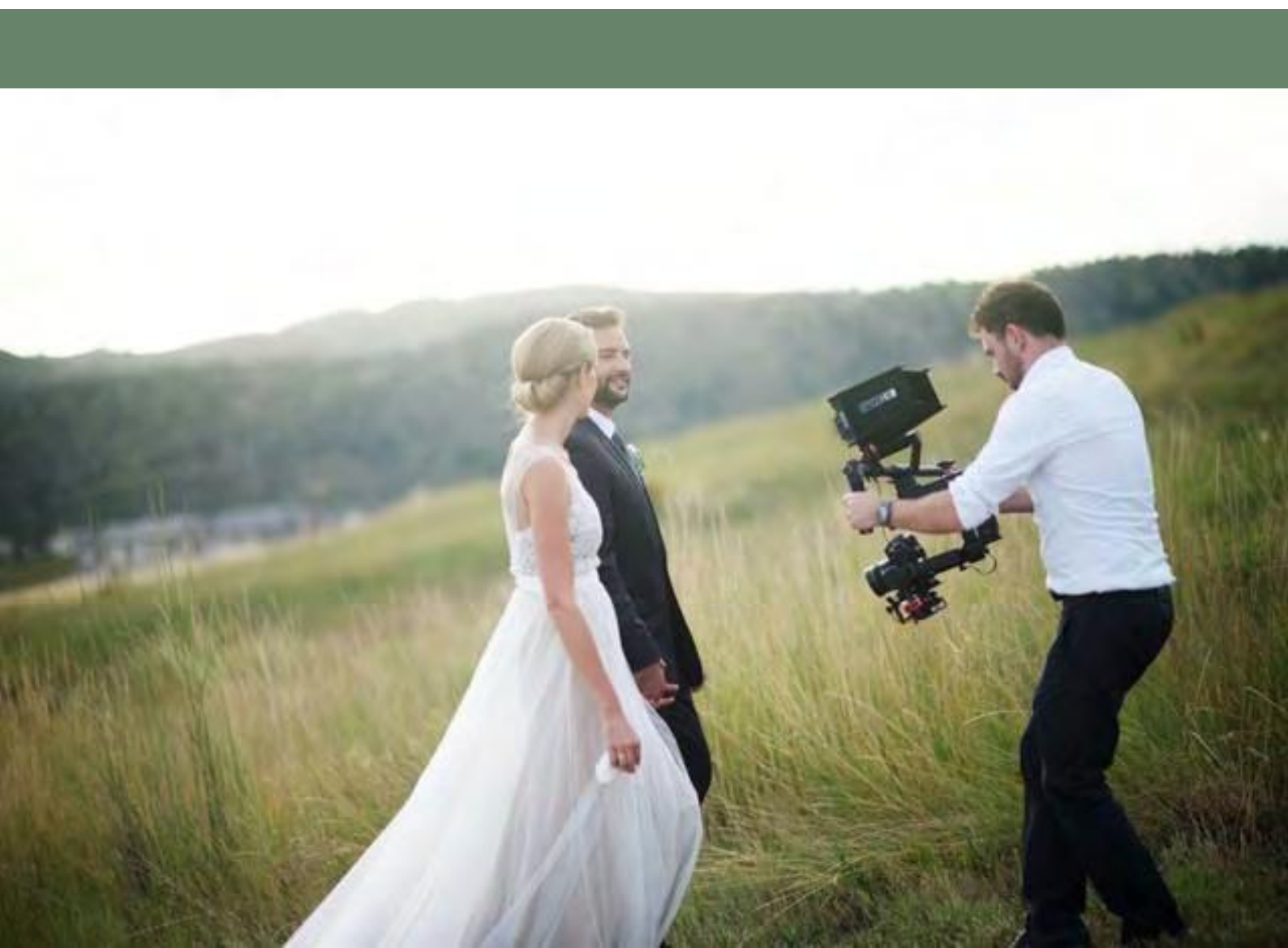
Conclusion

10. You Can Relive It Together, Forever

Perhaps the greatest reason to have a wedding video is that it gives you the ability to experience your day over and over again. Whether it's your first anniversary or your 50th, you can sit down with your spouse and relive the day that started your married life together. Every laugh, every dance, every emotional moment is there for you to cherish for years to come.

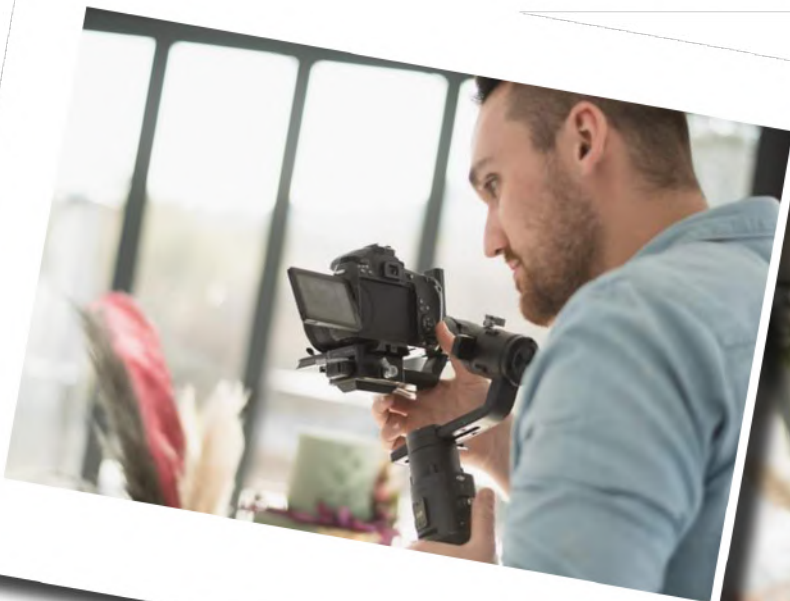
Conclusion

Your wedding day is a once-in-a-lifetime event, and capturing it on video allows you to hold onto the memories in a vivid, tangible way. A wedding video is more than just a recording—it's a living memory, complete with sights, sounds, and emotions, that you can revisit anytime you want. Investing in a videographer ensures that the love and joy of your special day are preserved for you and your loved ones, forever.





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HONEYMOON

MAURITIUS & SEYCHELLES



Why Mauritius and Seychelles are the Perfect Honeymoon Destinations

When it comes to choosing a honeymoon destination, most couples seek a perfect blend of romance, relaxation, and adventure. Both Mauritius and Seychelles offer just that, making them ideal honeymoon destinations. Nestled in the heart of the Indian Ocean, these tropical islands are famous for their stunning landscapes, luxurious resorts, and unique cultures. Below, we explore why honeymooning in Mauritius and Seychelles is an unforgettable experience.

1. UNMATCHED NATURAL BEAUTY

Both Mauritius and Seychelles are world-renowned for their stunning natural beauty, with lush tropical landscapes, pristine beaches, and crystal-clear waters. Imagine strolling hand-in-hand on soft, white sandy beaches, with the turquoise ocean stretching endlessly into the horizon. The backdrop of lush mountains and swaying palm trees only enhances the romantic atmosphere.

In Mauritius, the iconic Le Morne Brabant mountain, verdant botanical gardens, and cascading Chamarel Waterfalls provide breathtaking scenery for romantic moments. Seychelles, on the other hand, offers some of the world's most beautiful beaches, such as Anse Source d'Argent on La Digue Island, framed by unique granite rock formations and emerald waters.

2. LUXURIOUS AND PRIVATE ACCOMMODATIONS

Honeymooners can indulge in some of the most luxurious resorts, where privacy and exclusivity are paramount. Both destinations boast world-class hotels and boutique resorts offering private villas, beachfront suites, and overwater bungalows. Many accommodations provide honeymoon packages that include spa treatments, candlelit dinners, and special romantic surprises.

In Mauritius, couples can choose from five-star resorts like The Oberoi or Four Seasons, where infinity pools, private beaches, and lavish spa services are the norm. In Seychelles, resorts such as the Six Senses Zil Pasyon and Four Seasons Seychelles offer seclusion and opulence, with incredible ocean views and luxurious amenities designed for couples seeking the ultimate romantic escape.

3. ADVENTURE AND ACTIVITIES FOR EVERY COUPLE

For couples who want a mix of adventure and relaxation, both Mauritius and Seychelles offer a wide array of activities to suit all preferences.

Mauritius is a haven for water sports enthusiasts, offering snorkelling, diving, and kite surfing along its coral reefs. Couples can also explore the island's natural wonders, such as hiking to the top of Le Morne Brabant for panoramic views or visiting the colourful Seven-Coloured Earth in Chamarel.

Seychelles, with its protected marine reserves, is perfect for couples who enjoy scuba diving and snorkelling, where they can explore vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life. Island-hopping, boat cruises, and scenic nature trails through the Morne Seychellois National Park are also popular activities.

4. CULTURAL RICHNESS AND CULINARY DELIGHTS

Mauritius and Seychelles offer a unique cultural experience, with influences from Africa, India, China, and Europe. This rich cultural blend is reflected in the islands' festivals, architecture, and, most importantly, their cuisine.

In Mauritius, couples can enjoy a fusion of flavors, from spicy curries to fresh seafood and tropical fruits. Traditional Mauritian dishes, such as dholl puri and rougaille, are must-tries for food lovers. Seychelles cuisine is heavily influenced by Creole traditions, with mouthwatering dishes like grilled fish, coconut curry, and tropical fruit desserts.

A honeymoon on these islands is not just about relaxation but also a journey into vibrant cultures that enhance the experience.

5. ROMANTIC SUNSETS AND CRUISES

Few things are more romantic than watching a sunset with your loved one, and Mauritius and Seychelles offer some of the most breathtaking sunset views. Picture yourself on a sunset cruise, with the sky awash in hues of pink and orange, while the gentle sound of the waves adds to the peaceful ambiance.

In Mauritius, you can embark on a catamaran cruise along the island's stunning coastlines, while in Seychelles, a private boat cruise between the islands of Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue offers a magical way to end the day.

6. IDEAL WEATHER ALL YEAR ROUND

Both Mauritius and Seychelles boast pleasant, tropical climates throughout the year, making them ideal honeymoon destinations, regardless of the season. The temperature usually hovers between 24°C and 30°C (75°F to 86°F), perfect for beach activities, exploring nature, or simply unwinding in your resort. Even during the rainy season, the islands experience only brief showers that quickly give way to sunshine.

7. EXCLUSIVE AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

For those seeking once-in-a-lifetime experiences, Mauritius and Seychelles deliver. Imagine swimming with dolphins in Mauritius or taking a helicopter ride over the lush islands of Seychelles for a bird's-eye view of the archipelago. Private beach

picnics, couples' spa treatments, and stargazing on the beach can be arranged for newlyweds looking to create lasting memories.

CONCLUSION: A DREAM HONEYMOON AWAITS

Mauritius and Seychelles combine natural beauty, luxury, and adventure, making them the perfect destinations for a dream honeymoon. Whether you're looking to relax on secluded beaches, embark on adventurous excursions, or immerse yourself in rich cultures, these Indian Ocean paradises will offer everything you need to begin your married life in the most magical way possible. With their idyllic scenery, warm hospitality, and romantic ambiance, Mauritius and Seychelles promise an unforgettable honeymoon that will be cherished for a lifetime.





A photograph of a stone wall with a classical statue of a bull on a pedestal. A white wedding dress is visible in the bottom right corner. The text "REAL LIVE WEDDINGS" is overlaid in the center.

REAL LIVE WEDDINGS





JAMES AND LISA

Love, happiness & tequila!

Venue: Belle Balance Bush Hideout
Photographer: Film and Fig



1. How did you and your hubby meet and how did he propose?

James and I first met at a bar in Plettenberg Bay called Flashbacks when I was 19, and he was 22. He couldn't seem to remember my name, so I told him he couldn't buy me a drink until he got it right. He stuck by me all night, and after a few tries, he finally got it! We shared a drink and, by the end of the night, a kiss, and well, the rest is history. Seven years later, during a trip to Mykonos, Greece, he completely surprised me by proposing. We had gone out to see the famous windmills, and despite the strong wind messing up my hair and makeup, James insisted we stay. He led me out to the rocks overlooking the ocean, got down on one knee, and proposed. He'd even arranged for a local photographer to capture the moment! It was truly one of the best moments of my life.

2. What made you fall in love with your wedding venue?

The venue, Belle Balance had the most magical feeling about it. From the decor, to the small touches, to the amazing staff. We felt at home straight away and both James and I absolutely fell in love with the thought of having our wedding there. I had always dreamt of a bush wedding or a wedding in Plettenberg Bay (where we first met) and with this venue we got both. The accommodation, grounds and different areas around the property, made it a spectacular place to have our ceremony, canapes and reception. I couldn't recommend this venue more. We will be back for our first anniversary.

3. What word would you use to describe your wedding?

Love, happiness, and tequila! The whole day was filled with so much love from our family and friends. You could feel the happiness radiating from everyone, and I don't think James or I stopped smiling even once. The margaritas served with the canapes were a huge hit, and we had a hidden tequila bar that was a fun surprise for our guests too.

4. Briefly describe your relationship and/or differences or similarities with your now-husband?

James and I are best friends; we genuinely have so much fun together. Although our personalities are quite different, these differences balance each other in the best way. We both value family deeply and share similar views on life. James has encouraged me to be more adventurous, while I've taught him to relax and not take things too seriously. Our love grew even stronger when we welcomed our baby boy, Thomas, who is the perfect mix of sweet and sassy.

5. How did you set the tone for your wedding? Is Stationery and/or any different wedding announcement ideas?

Our wedding website helped set the tone. We made it personal, laid-back, and heartfelt. We also had a rehearsal dinner the night before, which really set the tone for a fun, love-filled weekend!

6. Did you have a theme or vision/style for your wedding day and how did you make this a reality?

Yes! I had been envisioning my wedding long before James proposed. Pinterest was my best friend for inspiration. I wanted the atmosphere to be semi-formal but relaxed, so guests could dress up and still feel comfortable. Everyone wore neutral tones that perfectly complemented the venue and the flowers I chose.

7. Please discuss your choice of flowers and décor etc?

I always knew I wanted neutral colours, and luckily, my wedding planner understood my vision perfectly. I'm not particularly into big floral arrangements, so my planner took my ideas and added her own special touches. The result was better than I ever could've imagined!

8. Tell us how you achieved your wedding look? Is wedding gown, shoes, jewellery, accessories, hair and makeup etc?

I had always envisioned wearing my hair down, so I chose a dress that complemented that style. My dress wasn't what I initially had in mind, but once I tried it on, I fell instantly in love. I kept my jewellery simple and elegant, opting for no necklace. My hairstylist nailed the look I wanted, and my makeup artist gave me the perfect bronzed glow. Altogether, it was exactly the look I dreamed of—classy, simple, and beautiful.

9. If there was anything different/fun/special about your wedding cake, music/entertainment, flower girls and groom and groomsmen?

We had a saxophonist on the day which added so much life to the party, and made everyone get up and dance. We also put a shot of Jagermeister under each guest's chair and before we said I do we toasted and had a cheers moment with all our guests, which was fun and unexpected for our guests. Another awesome thing we did was, there was a bit of a walk to the reception, so to break the walk up we set up a tequila bar and everyone raved about it afterwards.

10. Did you have any special and fun ideas for your wedding favours?

Instead of traditional favours, I wrote a personal note to each guest on the back of their menu, letting them know how much they meant to us. It was simple but heartfelt, and our guests really appreciated the gesture.

11. Were there any surprises and/or anything that went terribly wrong or perfectly right on your wedding day?

Just as I was about to walk down the aisle, the skies opened up and it started pouring! We had to move the ceremony indoors to the Boma, where the canapes were originally set up. But it ended up being the best thing that could've happened, all our guests found a seat and the ceremony ended up being so much more personal and relaxed, which was so in line with our vibe.

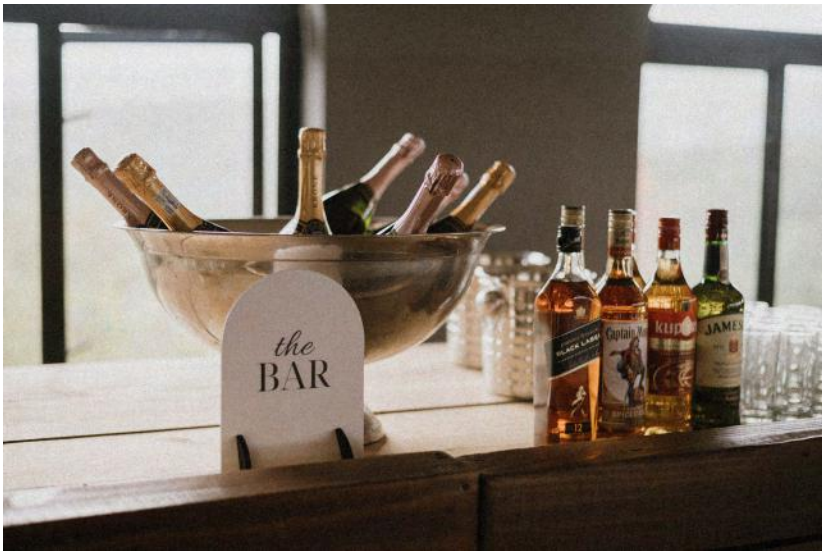
12. Briefly list or describe your wedding highlights?

One of the highlights was having my brother officiate the wedding. It made the ceremony incredibly special and personal. The speeches were heartfelt and thoughtful, and once the dancing started, it turned into one big celebration with all our loved ones.

13. Please share any of your most unique wedding ideas and advice with our readers?

Decide early on what's most important to you and allocate your budget accordingly. Hiring a good photographer is crucial because those photos will last a lifetime. Also, having an organized and efficient wedding planner was a lifesaver. And my biggest piece of advice: don't sweat the small stuff on the day. Whatever happens, just roll with it and soak up every moment. You only get to do it once!







GARETH & VICTORIA

Overflowing love & happiness!





Venue: Belle Balance Bush Hideout
Photographer: Kate Maclean Photography

1. How did you and your hubby meet and how did he propose?

We met during a weekend getaway at a friend's farm. I hitched a ride with Gareth, and after chatting non-stop for five hours, the connection was undeniable. For the proposal, we were on our way to Mtwalume to join his family for a long weekend. After passing Harrismith, Gareth took an unexpected turn, and we ended up at the Drakensberg for a surprise night at Berg House Cottages. Despite the hurricane winds, we hiked up to watch the sunset, and when I turned around, there he was on one knee. The celebrations began right then and there!

2. What made you fall in love with your wedding venue?

Gareth and I have always cherished the outdoors and love spending time in nature, so finding a venue that reflected this was key. I grew up in Plettenberg Bay, a place very close to my heart, and when we visited Belle Balance Bush Hideout, we immediately fell in love. The venue perfectly captures Plett's charm while highlighting our love for nature. It felt like the ideal representation of who we are as a couple.

3. What word/s would you use to describe your wedding?

Overflowing, happiness!

4. Briefly describe your relationship and/or differences or similarities with your now-husband?

Gareth is the kindest person I know, always bringing fun and adventure into our lives, while I'm more practical and grounded. We balance each other out. Our relationship is light-hearted, and we don't take things too seriously, which keeps things fun. We love exploring and are united in our desire to always find joy in the little things. I feel incredibly lucky to have a strong, dependable partner for both the good times and the challenging ones.

5. How did you set the tone for your wedding? Is stationery and/or any different wedding announcement ideas?

We aimed to create a simple and relaxed atmosphere for our wedding, allowing the natural beauty of Belle Balance to really shine. We wanted the venue to speak for itself without overshadowing its charm. For our stationery, we incorporated a special theme reflecting our love for birding, featuring our favourite birds from memorable trips and twitching adventures. With Drea Maree's incredible talent, she helped us bring this theme to life in both our stationery and decor, adding a personal touch that felt true to us.

6. Did you have a theme or vision/style for your wedding day? (and how did you make this a reality)?

Our vision was a neutral, natural, bush-inspired aesthetic that complemented the surroundings of Belle Balance Bush Hideout. We chose a palette of whites and soft beige tones, and incorporated plenty of linen, which I love. To enhance the natural feel, we used a lot of fynbos and added romantic touches with candles on every table. The overall design was simple but intentional, perfectly reflecting our love for nature.

7. Please discuss your choice of flowers and décor, etc.

We took a minimalist approach to the flowers and décor, allowing the venue's natural beauty to shine. My bridesmaids and I had wild, loosely arranged bouquets from Julie at Pippa's, which were absolutely perfect. Drea created beautiful stationery and linens for us, but beyond that, we let the scenery speak for itself. Ultimately, we trusted in the venue's inherent charm—its incredible scenery meant that we didn't need to add much else.

8. Tell us how you achieved your wedding look? Is wedding gown, shoes, jewellery, accessories, hair and makeup etc?

I stayed true to a soft, neutral theme for everything. My wedding dress was a tulle creation in a light blush pink—romantic and exactly what I had dreamed of. I started with heels for the ceremony but quickly swapped them for sneakers for comfort. I wore my hair down, as I always do, and kept my makeup natural and glowy. I wanted to feel like myself but elevated.

9. If there was anything different/fun/special about your wedding cake, music/entertainment, flower girls and groom and groomsmen, please detail it here:

The groomsmen started the day with Amarula coffees on a game drive—one of our favourite pastimes—while we girls had a special sunrise moment reading books my mom had written for us before she passed away. It was sentimental and filled with emotion.

10. Did you have any special and fun ideas for your wedding favours

Instead of traditional wedding favours, we had pink tulle ribbons for our guests to wear on their wrists in honour of my mom, who was celebrating with us from heaven.









11. Were there any surprises and/or anything that went terribly wrong or perfectly right on your wedding day?

Gareth surprised me with a dream wedding band, which I only discovered during the ceremony when it was time to exchange rings! One of my closest friends also gifted me a stunning tulle party dress for the reception—it was a game changer for dancing! And a friend hid sparklers under our placemats for an extra-special surprise moment during the reception.

12. Briefly list or describe your wedding highlights?

There were so many. One special moment was gathering with my bridesmaids for a gratitude circle before walking down the aisle. Our photo shoot was another highlight, giving Gareth and me a quiet moment to soak it all in. Our first dance to “Hakuna Matata” was pure happiness. The biggest highlight, though, was having all our favourite people in one room, celebrating with us.

13. In a short paragraph, please describe what was special and or unique about your wedding?

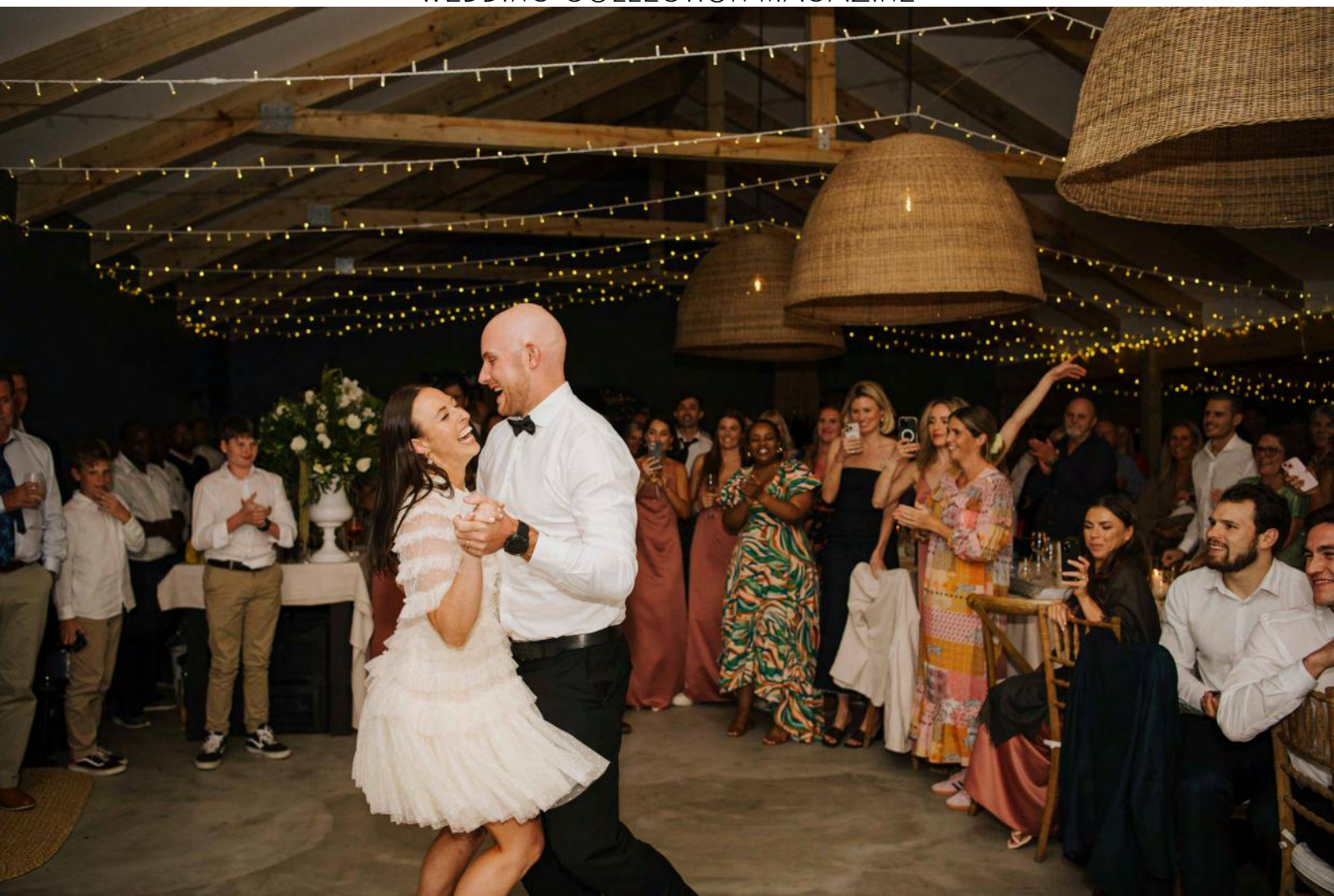
Everyone probably thinks this about their wedding, but there was this overwhelming, overflowing feeling of love. Just so much joy and happiness and to have our favourite people in the world with us to celebrate our special day was just so special. In terms of uniqueness, I think our venue was just out of this world. Our ceremony with a backdrop of the incredible mountains and gorge, the beautiful ambience of where we had canapes, and the view from the reception was also just unparalleled.

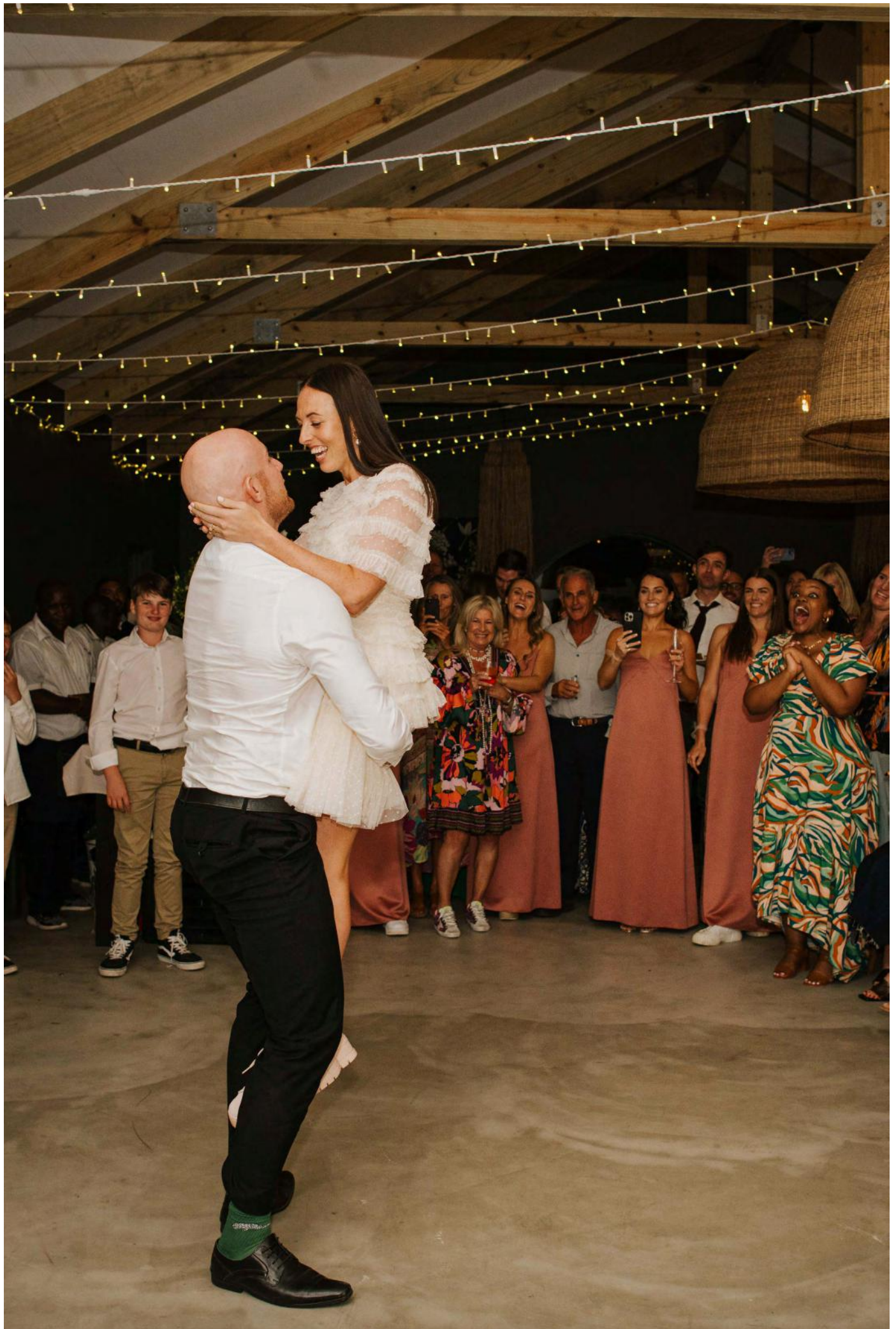
14. Please share any of your most unique wedding ideas and advice with our readers.

Keep it simple and remember what the day is truly about. It's not about the fuss, but about celebrating your love with the people who matter most. Be present, take mental pictures, and savour the moments because the day goes by in a blur. We're so thankful for our photos and videos, which will let us relive it for years to come.











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