

Heirloom ROMANCE



Ronelle remembers

Johan invited me for a walk along the beach at Gordon's Bay one Sunday afternoon. Gordon's Bay has a special place in my heart as my family and I have been going there for Christmas and Easter holidays ever since I was born. When we reached the spot where Johan and I had our first kiss, he went down on his knees and asked me to marry him.

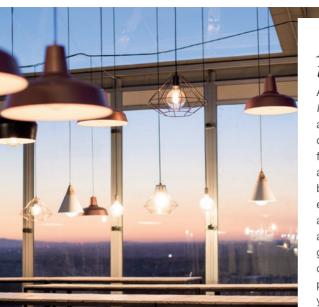






Tell us about your wedding

Some years ago my dad bought Hoogstede, a farm just outside Paarl that belonged to my mom's parents. Because of its close proximity to town we decided to turn the old shed into a wedding and events venue. I am part of the fifth generation of the Du Toit family (my mother's maiden name) to be involved with this historic farm. We approached Hannes Maritz of Kraak Wedding and Event Coordination to assist us with the arrangements in renovating the shed. It was very special to us that our own wedding was to be the first in my grandfather and great-grandfather's old shed. Although Hannes discussed everything with us beforehand, it was wonderful to be able to leave the arrangements for the decor and flowers in his very capable hands. The theme had to find a delicate balance between rustic and sophisticated. Alwijn of Blomboy florists draped the most gorgeous flowers down the walls and the tables were set with Delft crockery. The uniqueness of the venue itself and the unusual decor and flower decorations gave our wedding a very special ambience, one that was quite different to the wedding receptions that I had become used to.



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Highlight of the day?

All my friends know that *The Sound Of Music* is a great favourite of mine, so Johan and I, along with a few friends, opened the dance floor with the Landler, an Austrian folk dance. We started practising for this at a dance academy a couple of weeks before the wedding. It was great fun and an excellent opportunity for our bridesmaids and groomsmen to get to know one another before the wedding. It also put the guests in the right frame of mind to join us on the dance floor. The variety of music provided by Newton and Co appealed to young and old alike.

Any special advice?

My advice to future brides would be to enjoy the whole run-up to the wedding. This you can only do if you leave the arrangements in the hands of professionals with whom you establish a good rapport. Make sure that you are happy with your wedding dress! So many brides have told me that they weren't happy with their dresses. I must compliment Elizabeth Stockenstrom for a dress that I loved and in which I felt comfortable.



LOVE STORIES



Little black book

- BRIDESMAID'S DRESSES: Jacoba Clothing, 021 461 1913, jacobaclothing.co.za
- CAKE: The Birdcage Tea Bar, 021 882 9790, birdcageteabar.com
- COORDINATOR: Kraak Wedding and Event Coordination, 072 915 2226, kraak.co.za
- DRESS: Elizabeth Stockenstrom, 021 914 7940,
- elizabethweddinggowns.co.za
- FLOWERS: Blomboy, 082 581 2574, blomboy.com
- FOOD: Malita Joubert Catering, 083 227 1950
- GROOM'S OUTFIT: TM Lewin, edgars.co.za
- GROOMSMEN'S OUTFITS: Euro Suit, eurosuit.co.za
- HAIR AND MAKE-UP: Yolandé du Toit, yolande.co.za
- PHOTOGRAPHER: Adéle Kloppers, 082 823 5371, adelekloppers.co.za
- STATIONERY: Lezanne's Designs, 082 070 6652, lezannesdesigns.co.za
 VENUE: Hoogstede, 073 172 3180,

hoogstede.co.za wi