WEDDING
Collection
ISSUE 33
Naturally Radiant
Bridal Beauty
Elegant Spaces
Inspired Styling
Sunlight, Soft Blues
& Timeless Romance
VICTORIA FALLS
HONEYMOON FEATURE
Love Stories That
Feel Like Summer

ISSUE 33

EDITO

There is an effortless allure to French style — a quiet confidence that doesn't demand attention, yet captivates completely. It is in the undone elegance, the soft interplay of colour and light, and the art of making the extraordinary feel beautifully simple.

For this issue, ***Bleu et Soleil***, we draw inspiration from the romance of the French countryside and the golden warmth of sun-drenched celebrations. This theme is a love letter to long-table lunches under open skies, delicate textures dancing in a summer breeze, and a palette of soft blues kissed by sunlight.

Many thanks to the professionals who made our photo shoot possible in particular Jayde from One Second One Shot.

In this edition, we explore how classic influences can be reimagined for the modern bride. From effortlessly chic gowns to refined beauty, artisanal cakes, and thoughtfully curated décor, each element has been selected to embody a sense of relaxed sophistication.

Our venue features transport you to spaces where nature and elegance meet — from tranquil bush escapes to café-inspired settings and the timeless beauty of Victoria Falls. Alongside this, our trusted creatives share their expertise in capturing and crafting weddings that feel both intimate and unforgettable.

And, as always, we celebrate love in its truest form through our real weddings — stories that remind us that beyond every detail and decision, it is connection that lies at the heart of it all.

As you turn these pages, may you find inspiration in the beauty of simplicity, the warmth of sunlight, and the charm of a wedding that feels effortlessly, unmistakably yours.

With love and blessings,
Maggie

OR'S NOTE

Gown: Atari Bridal House
Model: Zandile Fazillah Masia
Makeup: by Geogi
Photogaphy: One second one shot
Furniture: Inspire

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l style.

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ON THE COVER:
Gown: Biji La Maison
Photography: Picture Us

her
VOWS

2026
Matric Dance
& Wedding
Expo
MAY 2–3, 2026
Saturday 10:00–19:00
Sunday 09:00–16:00
PRISON BREAK MARKET
10 MACMILLAN RD, GLENFERNESS AH,
JOHANNESBURG, 2191
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Matric Dance & Wedding Expo 2026

SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS

The Matric Dance & Wedding Expo is a lively planning experience created for both Grade 12 learners preparing for their matric dance and engaged couples beginning their wedding journey. It brings together leading dress designers, makeup artists, photographers, venues, décor specialists, stylists and event professionals in one inspiring space, making it easy to explore ideas, compare suppliers and plan with confidence. Whether you are choosing your matric dance look or searching for trusted wedding vendors, the Expo offers inspiration, expert advice and exciting giveaways like a R5,000 matric makeover, creating a relaxed and enjoyable environment where celebrations truly begin.

5 REASONS
TO EXHIBIT AT THIS EXPO

1. Showcase your business to a targeted audience ready to book
2. Engage directly with brides and matric learners in the planning phase
3. Build trust and personal connections that convert into bookings
4. Increase brand visibility through pre-event and on-site marketing
5. Position your business alongside top industry suppliers

PRISON BREAK MARKET
10 MACMILLAN RD, GLENFERNESS AH,
JOHANNESBURG, 2191

A SMART INVESTMENT FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

Our open stand scheme has been priced competitively to give exhibitors the flexibility to invest more into what truly sets them apart — their exhibit presentation, styling and marketing materials — while making the Expo accessible and worthwhile for visitors planning their matric dance or wedding. The result is a beautifully curated event where both suppliers and guests enjoy a focused, high-quality experience.

Important to note:

- **Limited exhibitor stands available**
- **Limited spaces per category to ensure exclusivity and variety**
- **Visitor tickets are now open and booking steadily**

This is your opportunity to secure your stand or your visit and be part of an inspiring planning environment where matric learners, brides and couples are actively looking for ideas, suppliers and trusted venues.

c: 063 801 4418 e: maggie@wedding-collection.co.za w: www.wedding-collection.co.za

GOWNS

Atari's
HOUSE OF
BRIDALS

Bride & Co celebrates 20 years launching "Threads of Heritage"– Bring Cultural Storytelling Into Modern Bridal Design

Johannesburg, South Africa – As Bride & Co celebrates its 20th anniversary, the brand has introduced Threads of Heritage, a new bridal service designed to honour culture, identity and individuality through personalised bridal design.

The service allows brides to select any gown from the Bride & Co collection and customise it with heritage-inspired fabrics, beadwork and detailing that reflect their cultural roots. By incorporating traditional South African textiles, colours and adornment into contemporary bridal silhouettes, the initiative aims to create gowns that merge modern elegance with cultural pride.

More than simply selecting a wedding dress, Threads of Heritage offers brides a personalised design experience that places representation and cultural storytelling at the centre of the bridal journey.

A personalised bridal experience

Through Threads of Heritage, brides begin by selecting a gown from the Bride & Co collection alongside heritage fabrics or patterns that represent their culture and personal story. During the consultation process, Bride & Co's alterations team works closely with each bride to determine how these elements will be incorporated into the design.

Heritage details can be integrated into sleeves, trains, veils or statement panels, allowing brides to honour tradition while maintaining the elegance of modern bridal design.

Celebrating heritage as a couple

The concept also extends beyond the bride. Grooms purchasing suits from Eurosuit can incorporate coordinating heritage-inspired details such as lapel accents, pocket squares or bow ties, creating a cohesive look that reflects the cultural identity of both partners.

"Weddings are deeply personal and often rooted in tradition," says Marketing Manager, Premika Jarbandhan. "Threads of Heritage was created to give brides the opportunity to honour their culture while still embracing a contemporary bridal aesthetic."

Where modern bridal meets cultural heritage

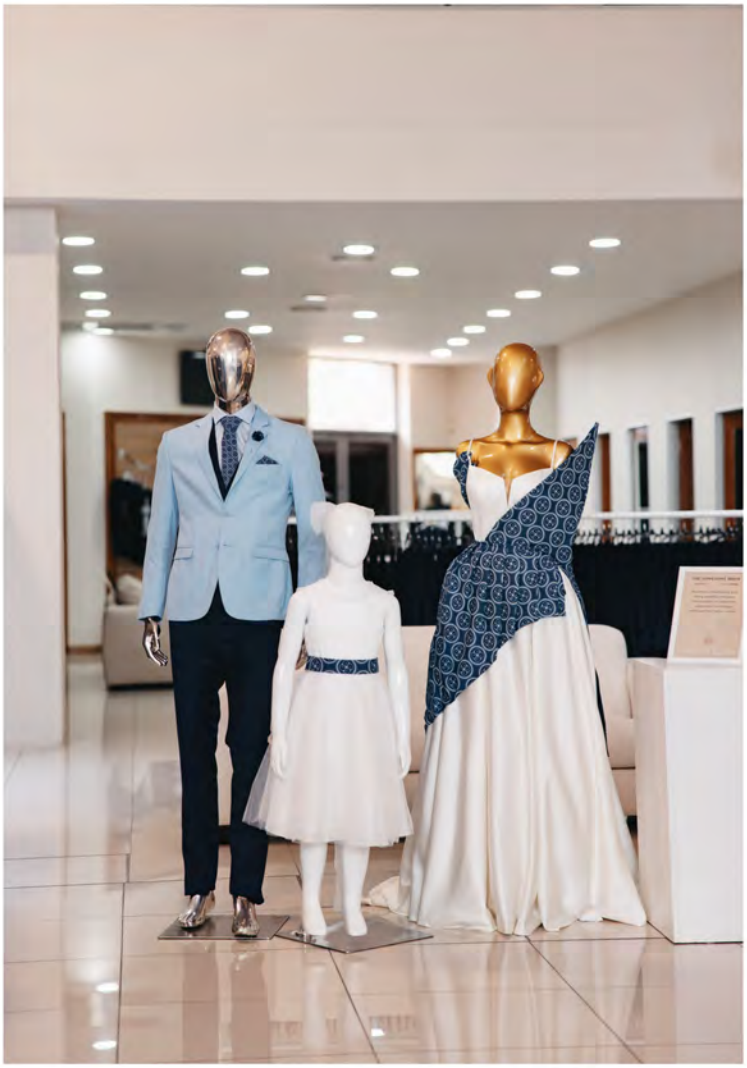
Across South Africa, traditions of love, marriage and womanhood are expressed through fabric, colour and adornment. Threads of Heritage translates these traditions into modern bridal design, offering brides an opportunity to celebrate their heritage in a way that feels both authentic and elegant.

The result is a gown that reflects not only personal style, but also cultural identity and story.

About Bride & Co

For more than 20 years, Bride & Co has been committed to delivering accessible and memorable bridal experiences to brides across South Africa. With the launch of Threads of Heritage, the brand continues to evolve its offering by celebrating cultural diversity and creating space for brides to express their heritage through bridal fashion.

WELCOME TO THE
THREADS OF HERITAGE
BRIDE&CO



"The bridal
gown is
one of
the most
important
dresses in
a woman's
life"

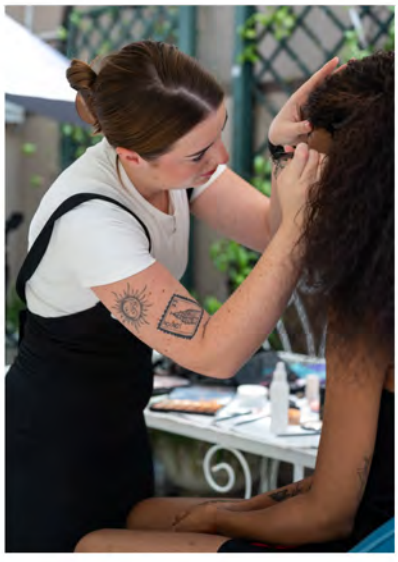
BRIDE&CO

BEAUTY

Georgia Davis
MUA

TikTok

For Looks that last forever!



NATURALY, THE BRIDE

Soft, radiant, and naturally refined — beauty inspired by sun-kissed skin and effortless grace.

There is a quiet confidence in beauty that doesn't try too hard — a glow that feels lived-in, touched by light, and effortlessly refined. This feature embraces a modern approach to bridal beauty, where less becomes infinitely more, and every detail is designed to enhance rather than transform.

Inspired by sun-kissed skin and the softness of natural light, this look celebrates luminosity in its purest form. Think sheer, dewy complexions that allow freckles, texture, and individuality to shine through. Skin is nurtured, not masked — with lightweight foundations, subtle highlighting, and a focus on hydration that creates that coveted "lit-from-within" radiance.

Eyes are delicately defined, with warm, neutral tones that echo the hues of golden hour. Softly blended shadows, feathered brows, and barely-there liner create depth without overpowering. Lashes remain fluttery and natural, enhancing the gaze with a gentle, romantic touch rather than dramatic intensity.

The lips follow suit — hydrated, soft, and kissed with tones of blush, peach, and muted rose. The finish is effortless, as though the colour belongs there naturally, complementing the overall harmony of the look.
Hair moves with the same intention — fluid, touchable, and organic. Whether worn in loose waves, a relaxed updo, or softly pulled back from the face, the focus is on texture and movement. Nothing feels rigid or overly styled; instead, it reflects a bride who is completely at ease in her own skin.

This beauty story is not about perfection — it is about presence. It's about embracing a version of yourself that feels authentic, elevated, and timeless. In a world that often leans toward excess, there is something undeniably powerful in choosing softness, in choosing light, and in letting your natural beauty take centre stage.

Effortless Radiance: 5 Bridal Beauty

There is something undeniably powerful about a bride who looks like herself — just elevated. Natural bridal beauty is not about minimal effort, but rather intentional refinement. It's a carefully considered balance of skin, tone, and texture that enhances without overpowering, allowing your confidence to take centre stage.

Here, we distill five essential tips to achieving that soft, luminous bridal finish.

1. Begin with Skin — Your Ultimate Canvas

The most beautiful makeup starts long before the wedding day. Healthy, well-prepped skin allows products to sit seamlessly and glow from within. Hydration, gentle exfoliation, and a consistent skincare routine are key to achieving that lit-from-within radiance.

A natural look relies less on coverage and more on skin quality — think fresh, smooth, and quietly luminous.

2. Choose a Foundation That Looks Like Skin

Forget heavy, mask-like finishes. The goal is complexion perfection that still feels like you. Opt for lightweight or buildable formulas that even out tone while letting your natural skin show through.

A dewy or satin finish works beautifully for bridal, creating that soft-focus glow that translates effortlessly both in person and on camera.

3. Keep Eyes Soft and Thoughtfully Defined

Eyes should enhance, not dominate. Neutral tones, soft blending, and subtle definition create a timeless look that won't date in photographs.

A whisper of liner or softly defined lashes adds depth without heaviness, while well-groomed brows frame the face and bring everything together with quiet sophistication.

4. Add Warmth with a Sun-Kissed Flush

Natural bridal beauty is never flat. A touch of bronzer and blush brings life back into the skin, mimicking the warmth of sunlight.

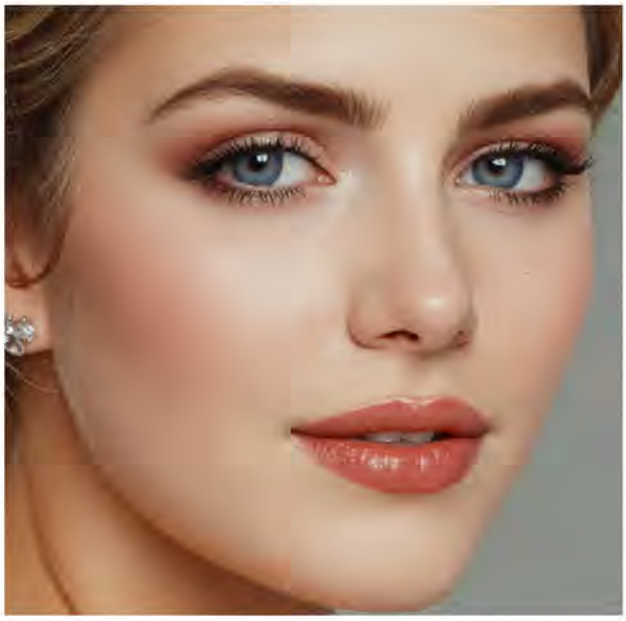
Soft peach, rose, or terracotta tones can be layered gently to create dimension — the effect should feel effortless, like a natural glow rather than obvious contour.

5. Stay True to Yourself

Above all, your wedding makeup should feel like an extension of who you are. The most successful bridal looks are those that enhance your natural features rather than transform them.

When you feel comfortable and authentic, it translates into confidence — and that is what truly photographs beautifully.

Secrets for a Naturally Refined Look



CAKES

STEEP BAKES

WHERE SWEET IDEAS COME TO LIFE

WHO WE ARE:

Steep Bakes is a boutique home bakery in Pretoria East, specialising in bespoke buttercream wedding cakes, cupcakes, and fondant-decorated cookies. Founded by Ilandri, a passionate baker with a background in hospitality and small-business management, Steep Bakes blends artistry and flavour to create elegant centrepieces for modern & rustic weddings.

Steep Bakes also specialises in themed cupcakes & cookies, adding to every couple's vision by providing delicious & stunning treats and thank you favours for each wedding guest. With a focus on quality and personalised service, Steep Bakes is a trusted choice for couples seeking beautiful, memorable sweet creations for their special day.

What we offer for your special day:

- Wedding Cakes
- Cupcakes
- Fondant Cookies

See here for our affordable 2026 wedding packages! https://www.steepbakes.com/wedding-packages)

Mr
Mrs

Steep
Bakes

Steep

Steep
Bakes

Bride
TO BE
Bride
TO BE

Delicate Designs: A Love Letter to French Patisserie

There is something undeniably enchanting about the world of French patisserie — a place where artistry meets indulgence, and every detail is crafted with intention. Inspired by this timeless elegance, a new wave of design is emerging, one that borrows from the soft hues, intricate textures, and refined beauty of these edible masterpieces.

Imagine the gentle blush of a perfectly baked macaron, the creamy ivory of whipped chantilly, or the glossy sheen of a caramel glaze catching the light. These elements translate effortlessly into design, creating a visual language that is both delicate and luxurious. It's not just about aesthetics — it's about evoking a feeling. A sense of quiet sophistication, of romance, of slowing down to savour life's finer moments.

Much like the careful layering of a mille-feuille, these designs embrace depth and dimension. Soft fabrics cascade like folds of buttercream, while subtle embellishments mirror the precision of piped icing. There is a lightness to it all — never overwhelming, always balanced — where restraint becomes the ultimate expression of refinement.

Colour plays a pivotal role in this narrative. Think muted pastels, warm neutrals, and the occasional gilded accent — reminiscent of a patisserie window display in Paris. These tones create a dreamy palette that feels both modern and timeless, effortlessly bridging the gap between tradition and contemporary style.

Texture, too, becomes a storytelling element. Silks and tulles echo the airy quality of a soufflé, while delicate lacework mimics the intricate detailing of handcrafted pastries. Even the smallest touches — a subtle shimmer, a perfectly placed detail — contribute to a sense of curated perfection.

At its heart, this inspiration is about more than just beauty. It's about experience. Just as a beautifully crafted dessert invites you to pause and indulge, these designs encourage a moment of appreciation — a celebration of craftsmanship, creativity, and the joy found in life's delicate details.

In this world, elegance and flavour intertwine seamlessly, reminding us that the most memorable creations are those that engage all the senses. A feast for the eyes, much like its culinary muse, this aesthetic is soft yet striking, understated yet unforgettable — a true testament to the art of refined design.

FURNITURE
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DECOR

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RENTALS
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Wedding Décor Made Simple — Hov

When planning your wedding, décor can quickly become one of the most overwhelming elements. Pinterest boards fill up, trends come and go, and suddenly you're faced with endless choices — from colours and flowers to furniture and lighting.

But here's the truth: wedding décor isn't about following trends or impressing guests. It's about creating a space that feels like you — comfortable, beautiful, and meaningful.

- **Start With the Feeling, Not the Details**

Before choosing a single flower or linen, ask yourselves one simple question:
How do we want our wedding to feel?
Do you picture something:
Romantic and soft?
Modern and minimal?
Warm and relaxed?
When you focus on the feeling first, every decision that follows becomes easier — and your wedding will feel cohesive without trying too hard.

- **Choose a Colour Palette You Love (and Stick to It)**

One of the biggest mistakes couples make is trying to incorporate too many ideas. A simple, well-chosen colour palette can elevate your entire wedding.
Choose 2–4 colours and let them guide everything:
Flowers
Table settings
Stationery
Bridal party details
This creates a sense of harmony that photographs beautifully and feels effortlessly put together.

- **Focus on the Spaces That Matter Most**

You don't need to decorate everything. Instead, prioritise the areas where you and your guests will spend the most time:
The ceremony space
Reception tables
The dance floor
These are the moments and spaces that will be remembered — and photographed — the most.

- **Lighting Changes Everything**

If there's one element worth investing in, it's lighting. It has the power to completely transform a space.
Think:
Candles for intimacy
Warm ambient lighting for atmosphere
Soft fairy lights or festoon lighting for a romantic glow
Good lighting makes everything — from your flowers to your photos — look better.

v to Create a Day That Feels Like You

- **Keep Your Guests in Mind**

Beautiful décor is not just about how it looks, but how it feels to experience.
Consider comfort and flow:
Is there enough space to move around?
Are tables easy to navigate?
Is there a place for guests to relax?
Lounge areas, thoughtful seating, and well-planned layouts make your wedding feel welcoming rather than overwhelming.

- **Add Personal Touches (Without Overdoing It)**

The most memorable weddings always include small, meaningful details:
A favourite quote
A custom monogram
Photos or elements that reflect your story
These touches don't need to be elaborate — in fact, simplicity often has the most impact.

- **Trust Your Suppliers**

Once you've chosen your décor team, trust their expertise. They understand what works in your venue, what photographs well, and how to bring your vision to life.
Trying to control every detail can take away from your enjoyment. Instead, allow your suppliers to guide you — that's what they're there for.

- **Less Really Is More**

It's easy to feel like you need to fill every space, but often the most elegant weddings are the most understated.
A few well-chosen elements — beautiful florals, thoughtful lighting, and intentional details — will always feel more refined than over-decorating.

- **Remember What It's Really About**

At the end of the day, your guests won't remember every napkin fold or centrepiece detail. They will remember how your wedding felt — the atmosphere, the joy, and the love that filled the space.
And when your décor reflects who you are, that feeling comes naturally.

nooma
nooma
nooma

Bell &

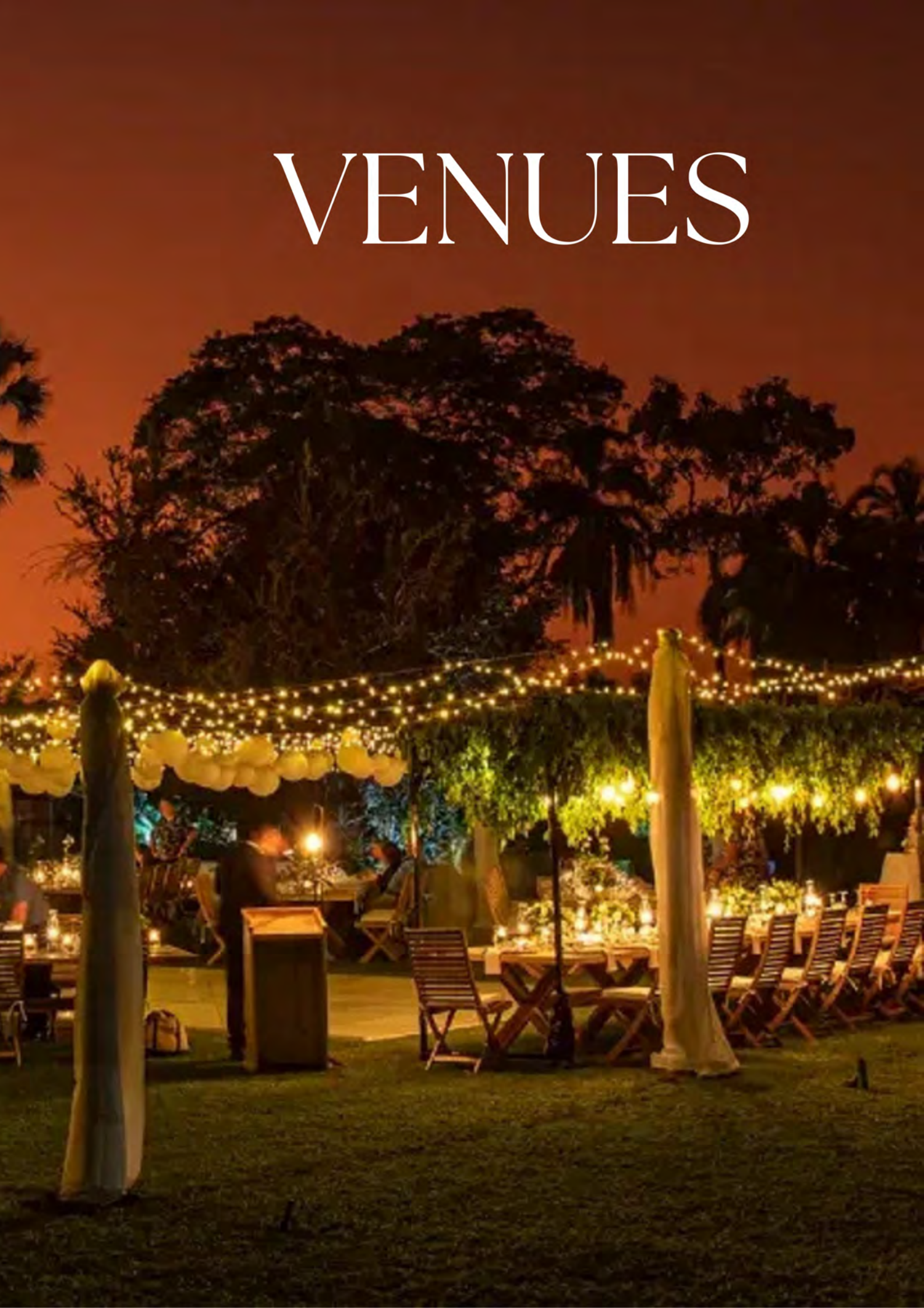
YOU ARE
OUTRAGEOUSLY
LOVED JOHN
MILKLAB
nooma
Roasted Coffee

OUTRAGEOUSLY
LOVED JOHN 3:16
nooma
menu
LZ 44

nooma
Coffee

nooma
Coffee
a flavor for every moment

VENUES



BABOHI LODGE

A Honeymoon Setting Defined by Privacy and Place

BABOHI Lodge offers a quietly considered honeymoon escape for couples seeking privacy, space and a slower pace. Set within the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve and part of QWABI Private Game Reserve, this adults-only safari lodge is surrounded by a water-rich landscape of open plains, rock formations and minimal development, creating an immediate sense of distance and calm.

Accommodation is deliberately limited and generously spaced, ranging from Deluxe and Premium Rooms to expansive Suites and a Presidential Suite. Interiors favour natural materials, muted tones and clean design, complemented by private decks and outdoor elements, including private pools. Shared spaces such as the infinity pool, spa and gym are designed to enhance the stay without distracting from time spent together.

A Suggested Honeymoon Stay

A honeymoon at BABOHI unfolds gently. Arrival is unhurried, often marked by a complimentary upgrade, followed by a relaxed evening and romantic turndown. The next day begins with a morning game drive and brunch, before an open afternoon at leisure - whether at the spa, by the pool or simply enjoying the privacy of the suite. An afternoon drive and intimate dinner close the day without formality. On departure, couples may choose a final game drive or a quiet breakfast, extending the sense of calm to the very end.

The year-round Honeymoon Package includes a minimum two-night, full-board stay with two daily game drives, romantic turndown touches, a 45-minute couples' spa treatment, a signature make-your-own cocktail kit on arrival, and a complimentary room upgrade (subject to availability).

From R17,950 per couple per night | Minimum two-night stay | Valid year-round (Mon–Sun).
Bookings & Enquiries | reservations@newmarkhotels.com | +27 21 4275901
Terms and conditions apply. Excludes transfers and conservation levy.

AWABI

QWABI

PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

LETAMO BABOHI

BY

NEWMARK

A BEGINNING, *SET IN NATURE*

At **QWABI Private Game Reserve,** weddings unfold at an unhurried pace, shaped by wide-open landscapes, quiet moments, and time spent together. Set within a vast private Big Five reserve in the Waterberg, QWABI offers space, privacy, and a sense of occasion that feels entirely its own.

With two lodges set within the reserve, the venue lends itself naturally to relaxed celebrations, where guests settle into the rhythm of the bush and the wedding experience extends beyond a single day.

QWABI's on-site team is there to support the couple and their guests throughout the stay, while the reserve itself provides the backdrop for a wedding shaped by personal choices, meaningful moments, and the landscape it belongs to.

Experience Authentic

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THE MUSTARD SEED

THE MUSTARD SEED VENUE

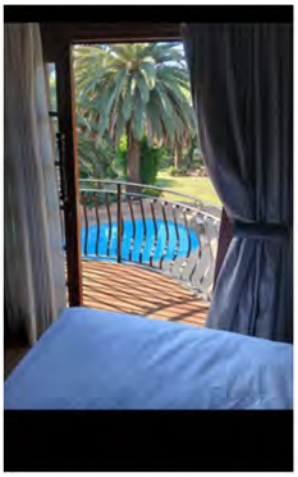
The perfect place to say "I DO"

Celebrate your love story at The Mustard Seed Venue – a charming destination where timeless elegance meets modern romance. With its warm atmosphere and beautiful surroundings, it offers the perfect backdrop for heartfelt ceremonies, stylish receptions, and unforgettable celebrations with the people you love most.

As a division of R & S Equipment Hire, every detail is thoughtfully taken care of. From quality tables and chairs to décor and event essentials, everything needed to transform your vision into a beautifully styled wedding day is right at your fingertips.

Passionate about creating seamless celebrations, the team is dedicated to ensuring that every moment feels effortless, allowing you to focus on what truly matters – celebrating your love and creating memories that will last a lifetime.
The Mustard Seed Venue – where beautiful beginnings and unforgettable wedding days come together.

TikTok



PHOTOGRAPH

One Second One Shot
PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

It's more than just a wedding day it's an investment. My approach is rooted in photojournalism, infused with fashion-inspired elegance and a touch of fine art flair. Inspired by the fast-paced world of fashion and the artistry of love, I document your day as it naturally unfolds with prestige, intention, and innovation. I devote myself fully to each bride, capturing your story in its entirety. I guide and pose when needed, offering gentle prompts that create effortless, natural moments blending candid emotion with those timeless, editorial-worthy images every couple deserves.

The Intimate

WWW.ONESECONDONESHOT.CO.ZA

Your Wedding Photography Guide

When the flowers have faded and the music has quieted, your photographs are what remain. They are the one part of your wedding that becomes more valuable with time — which is why choosing the right approach to photography is one of the most important decisions you'll make.

For many couples, the process can feel overwhelming. Styles, packages, timelines — it's easy to get caught up in the details. But at its heart, great wedding photography is simple: it's about capturing your day honestly, beautifully, and without distraction.

Choose a Photographer You Feel Comfortable With

More than anything else, connection matters. You will spend most of your wedding day with your photographer by your side, so it's important to choose someone who makes you feel at ease.
When you're comfortable, it shows. The smiles are natural, the moments feel effortless, and the images reflect who you truly are — not a posed version of yourselves.

Understand the Style You Love

Before booking, take time to explore different photography styles. Do you love:

- Soft, romantic and timeless imagery?
- Natural, candid storytelling?
- Or something more bold and editorial?

There's no right or wrong — but consistency is key. Make sure your photographer's portfolio reflects the look and feel you want for your own wedding.

Plan Your Timeline Around Light

Lighting plays a bigger role than most couples realise. The most beautiful images are often captured during golden hour — just before sunset — when the light is soft, warm, and flattering.
Work with your photographer to build a timeline that allows for:

- A relaxed getting-ready period
- Enough time for couple portraits
- A few quiet moments away from guests

These are often the images couples treasure most.

Trust the Process on the Day

It's natural to feel a little nervous in front of the camera, but the best thing you can do is let go. Trust your photographer to guide you when needed — and to step back when moments unfold naturally.
Some of the most meaningful photographs are the ones you don't even realise are being taken:

- A glance across the room
- A tear during the ceremony
- Laughter with your closest friends

These are the moments that tell your story.

— What Truly Matters on the Day

Don’t Forget the Details

While the big moments matter, the smaller details are just as important. Your dress, stationery, rings, and décor have all been chosen with care — and deserve to be remembered.

Set aside a box or area with these items ready for your photographer. It ensures nothing is missed and saves valuable time on the day.

Be Present

It sounds simple, but it’s often overlooked. The more present you are, the more meaningful your photographs will be.

Put the timeline aside for a moment. Soak it all in. Laugh, cry, celebrate — fully.

Because in the end, the most beautiful wedding photographs are not the most perfect ones. They are the ones that take you back — instantly — to how it all felt.

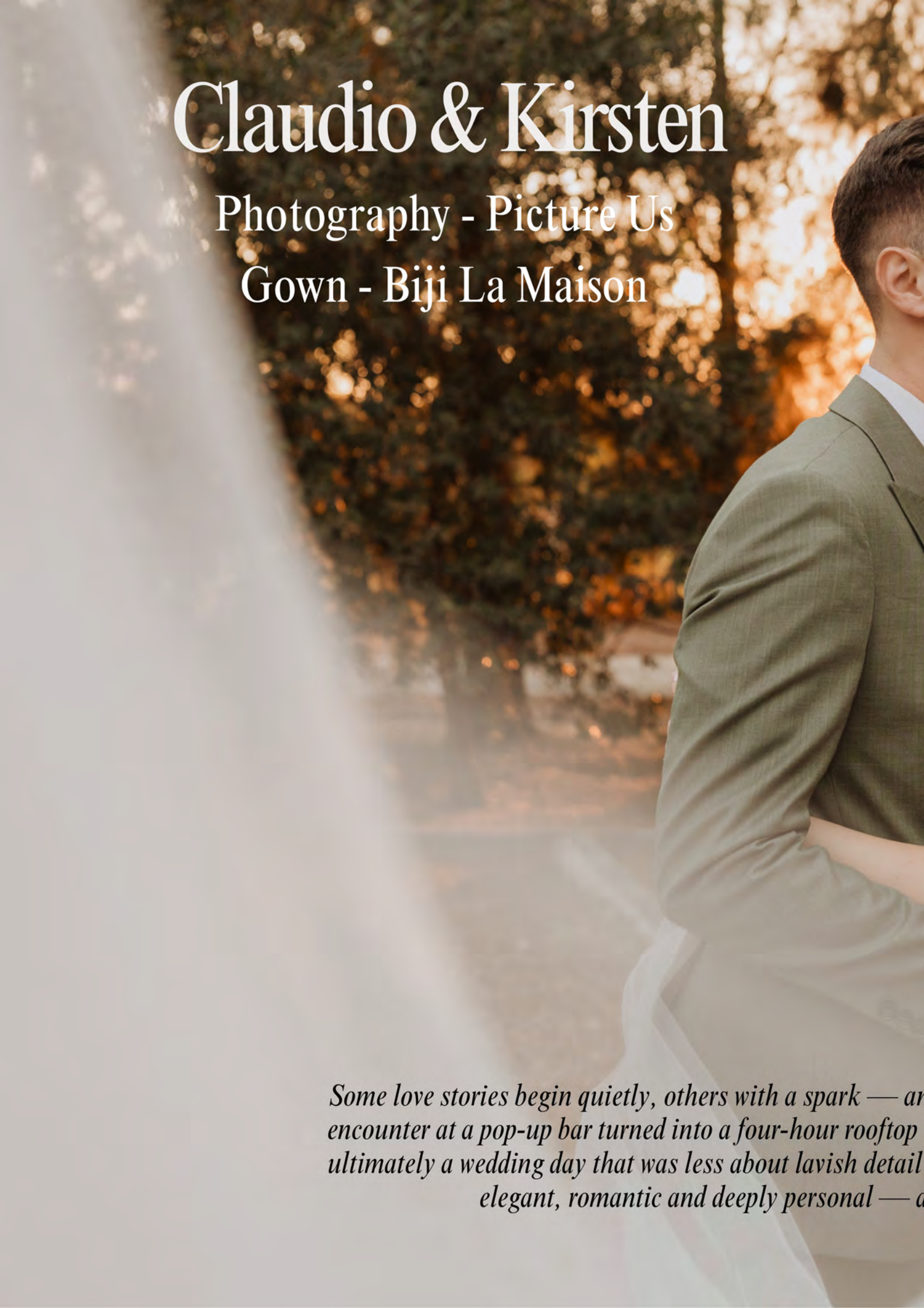
PURE A

REAL WEDDINGS

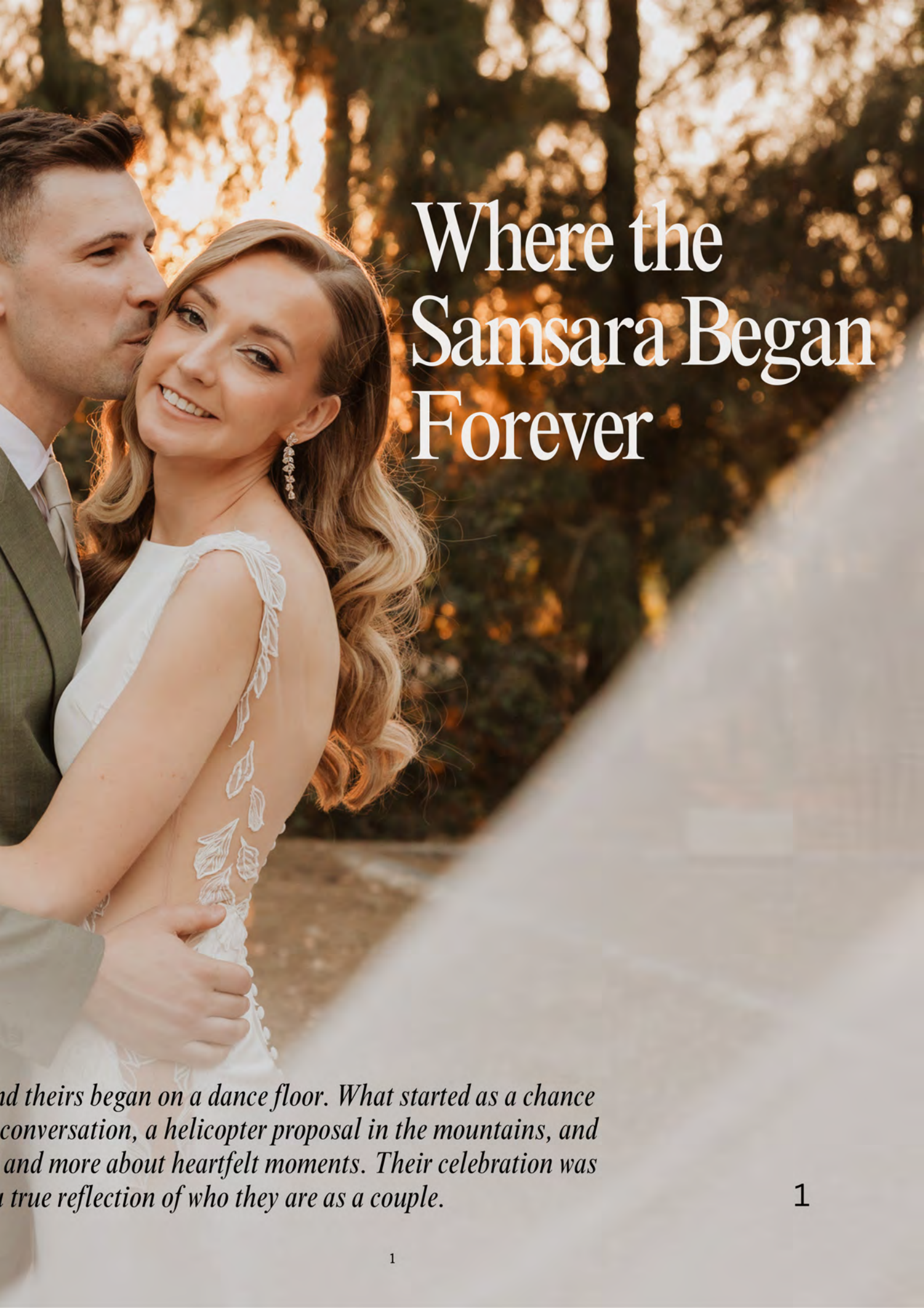
Claudio & Kirsten

Photography - Picture Us

Gown - Biji La Maison



Some love stories begin quietly, others with a spark — ar
encounter at a pop-up bar turned into a four-hour rooftop
ultimately a wedding day that was less about lavish detail
elegant, romantic and deeply personal — a



Where the Samsara Began Forever

nd theirs began on a dance floor. What started as a chance conversation, a helicopter proposal in the mountains, and and more about heartfelt moments. Their celebration was true reflection of who they are as a couple.

1

Claudio's proposal was nothing short of breathtaking. He whisked her away to the Drakensberg for a helicopter ride high above the mountains.

After landing on a secluded mountaintop for a romantic picnic, surrounded by panoramic views, he got down on one knee. With the mountains as their witness, she said yes.

When it came to choosing their wedding venue, they fell in love with everything about it — the charming chapel, the beautiful gardens, and the grand reception hall with its ceiling draped in fairy lights. It felt magical yet warm, the perfect setting for the kind of day they envisioned.

Their relationship, they say, has always been easy. While many describe marriage as hard work, their experience has been one of natural understanding and deep appreciation for one another. That sense of ease carried into their wedding planning.

They set the tone early by sending out save-the-dates a year in advance to ensure as many loved ones as possible could attend.

Keeping things modern and simple, all invitations were electronic. A short video announcement introduced the celebration, and the formal invitations were managed through The Knot, making the process seamless and stress-free.

Rather than choosing a specific theme, they focused on how they wanted the day to feel. Their vision was simple yet elegant, romantic and heartfelt. They believed that years from now, guests wouldn't remember the exact table décor — but they would remember the love, the laughter and the joy of dancing together.

Décor followed a soft neutral palette of creams, whites and greens, creating a romantic and timeless atmosphere. Imported green hydrangeas from Kenya stole the show, complemented by delicate Queen Anne's lace and an abundance of candlelight. Cream linens added warmth, while subtle green accents appeared in the stationery.

Danica from Selah brought everything together flawlessly, allowing the couple to relax and fully enjoy their day.

The bride's gown was especially meaningful. Designed and handcrafted by her aunt, it featured a classic boat neckline with a striking open back.

Subtle cut-outs extended down the sides, creating an unexpected contrast between understated elegance at the front and dramatic detail at the back.

She kept her accessories simple so nothing distracted from the dress. Her hair, styled in side-swept Hollywood curls, and soft, glowing makeup completed a look that felt entirely her own.

One of the most unique elements of the day was a live watercolour artist who painted guest portraits — both an interactive experience and a treasured keepsake.

her
vows

Their wedding cake was a long vanilla chiffon masterpiece created by Miriam from Sugarcube — so delicious the bride admits she enjoyed five slices. Guests were also treated to a coffee tuk-tuk by Nooma Coffee during canapés, a must-have detail for the coffee-loving bride.

Later in the evening, she surprised guests by changing into a second dress — a fun, party-ready look that set the tone for a lively night on the dance floor.

For the bride, the highlight of the day was walking down the aisle, her eyes fixed on Claudio the entire way. For him, it was the ceremony itself — finally getting to marry the love of his life.

True to who they are, the wedding reflected their personalities: simple, sincere and meaningful. They opened the dance floor with the Samsara, a nod to the night they first met. Personalised vows made the ceremony deeply emotional, and every detail — from the handmade gown to the live portraits — felt intentional and heartfelt.

Their advice to future couples? Over-plan and over-communicate. Never assume vendors know exactly what you want — be clear and detailed. Most importantly, delegate. Entrusting family and bridal party members with specific responsibilities allowed them to relax and fully immerse themselves in what truly mattered: celebrating their love.

For them, it was more than a wedding — it was a dream come true and a day they will cherish forever.

ALDO
his

A Modern Beachside Cel

What began as a chance meeting while volunteering as youth leaders eventually turned into a beautiful love story that led to a memorable seaside celebration. Although the couple had known of each other for some time, they had never properly met until one unforgettable moment. The bride recalls noticing him walking in one day, looking effortlessly cool with his aviator sunglasses and windswept hair — a moment she still describes as something straight out of a movie.

ebration in Yzerfontein

Jaydé & Henno

Photography -Lauren Pretorius

The proposal came during a holiday in Jeffreys Bay, a place already special to the couple.

The bride had arranged their annual beach photoshoot while they were there, unaware that her partner had secretly contacted the photographer beforehand to share his plan.

As the waves rolled in and the camera captured the moment, he got down on one knee and asked her to marry him. Completely surprised, she said yes — grateful that such a special moment was beautifully captured on camera.

When it came time to plan their wedding, the couple knew they wanted something relaxed and meaningful rather than overly traditional.

They fell in love with their venue in Yzerfontein, drawn to its white sandy beaches and charming beach houses.

What made the location even more special was that all their guests could stay together for the weekend, turning the wedding into a full destination celebration rather than just a single day.

The couple describes their wedding as unique, simplistic, and a true celebration of love. Their personalities balance each other well — the groom being more logical while the bride embraces creativity — and this blend naturally influenced the style of their wedding.

Instead of formal invitations, they opted for a wedding website where guests could find all the important information for the destination event. Stationery was kept minimal, but one personal touch stood out. The couple's beloved dog, who is a central part of their lives, was illustrated on the napkins with the playful words "I do too."

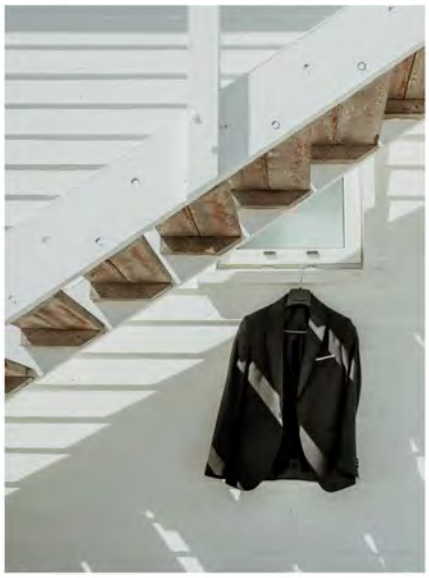
The vision for the wedding was clear from the beginning: modern minimalism with a relaxed beach atmosphere. The focus was not on elaborate décor but rather on celebrating with their closest family and friends over an entire weekend.

In keeping with the minimalist aesthetic, the couple chose not to use flowers at all. Instead, long family-style tables were decorated with an abundance of candles, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere as the sun set over the ocean.

The bride's wedding look was both striking and deeply personal. While many brides dream of traditional white gowns, she knew from the beginning that she felt most comfortable in black. Although she kept an open mind while dress shopping, she ultimately followed her instincts and chose a black wedding gown from The Wedding Boutique in Johannesburg.

With the help of stylist Kelsey, the process became an unforgettable experience. Her jewellery was simple and meaningful — a necklace gifted by her mother paired with understated earrings that perfectly complemented the minimalist theme.

The groom also wanted something timeless but slightly different. With guidance from JP at ZedMen, he selected a classic tuxedo paired with loafers that perfectly suited the relaxed beach setting. Guests were given a colour palette and dress code that helped bring the couple's vision to life while maintaining the clean, modern aesthetic.



True to their relaxed approach, the couple skipped the traditional elaborate wedding cake and instead chose the bride's favourite cake from Woolworths.

To make it special, they added Polaroid photos of themselves taken on the day as cake toppers, along with a small Lego figure representing their beloved dog.

Instead of wedding favours, the couple placed disposable cameras around the venue so guests could capture the day from their own perspective. The result was a collection of candid, joyful memories that perfectly reflected the atmosphere of the celebration.

Despite a few small hiccups, the day felt perfect to the couple. During their first dance, the bride's dress caught on her shoes and they nearly fell — but instead of worrying, they simply laughed and carried on dancing. It quickly became one of their favourite moments of the evening.

There were countless highlights throughout the weekend: the beautiful beach setting, homemade canapés prepared by the couple themselves early that morning, and the simple pleasure of sharing ice cream and champagne with loved ones.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the celebration was how personal it was. The couple woke up at 5 a.m. on the morning of the wedding to prepare their own canapés together — a quiet and special moment before the day began.

Their dog was present for the entire weekend and even walked down the aisle with the groom. They also created their own confetti and selected songs that truly reflected their personalities rather than following tradition.

When reflecting on their wedding, the couple says what made it most special was the time spent together with their loved ones.

Hosting a destination wedding meant they could enjoy an entire weekend celebrating, rather than just a few hours.

Their advice for future couples is simple: stay true to who you are.

It can be easy to get caught up in trends or outside opinions during the planning process, but ultimately the wedding should reflect the couple themselves. By focusing on what mattered most to them — love, simplicity, and shared experiences — they created a celebration that was truly unforgettable.

HELP US CAPTURE
THE DAY

I do, Too
LOVE, PIPPA

ONEYMOONS

Victoria Falls:

Where Luxury Meets the Wild

A hosted media experience to one of Africa's most spectacular destinations!

Few places in the world stir the senses quite like Victoria Falls. Known locally as Mosi-oa-Tunya — “The Smoke That Thunders” — this immense curtain of cascading water is one of Africa’s most iconic natural wonders and an unforgettable destination for travellers seeking both adventure and luxury.

In November 2025, we had the privilege of experiencing this remarkable destination during a hosted media trip arranged by the Victoria Falls Safari Collection, with flights generously sponsored by Fastjet. From the moment we departed Johannesburg, it was clear that this journey would showcase the very best of Victoria Falls — from breathtaking landscapes to authentic cultural experiences.

A Lodge with a Front-Row Seat to the Wild

VICTORIA FALLS
SAFARI LODGE

Our home for the visit was the iconic Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, perched on a plateau overlooking a natural waterhole that attracts an astonishing variety of wildlife.

From the lodge's expansive viewing deck, guests can often watch elephants, buffalo, kudu and an array of birdlife gathering to drink — sometimes just metres away. The lodge effortlessly blends comfort and elegance with the untamed beauty of the African bush, creating an experience that feels both luxurious and deeply connected to nature.

Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, a stunning thatch and timber structure, resembles an expansive open-plan tree house. It offers breathtaking views over a wildlife-rich waterhole from its central area, which includes the award-winning MaKuwa-Kuwa Restaurant, Buffalo Bar, Vulture Deck, a two-tiered swimming pool, and a fitness center. For three decades, this iconic A-frame has hosted anniversary dinners, vibrant celebrations, and unforgettable sunsets, making it a landmark in Victoria Falls.

The hotel offers three room types: Lodge Standard Room, Lodge Waterhole Facing Room, and Lodge Waterhole Facing Suite. Each room is spacious and bright, featuring glass sliding doors opening onto private balconies with stunning bushveld views, most overlooking the central waterhole for prime wildlife observation.

Sunset on the Zambezi

Another unforgettable highlight was a luxurious sunset cruise hosted by Pure Africa on the legendary Zambezi River.

As the boat drifted gently along the river, guests enjoyed drinks and canapés while watching the African sun slowly sink beneath the horizon. Along the riverbanks, hippos surfaced in the golden light while elephants could be seen moving through the bush in the distance.

It was a moment of complete tranquility — the kind of experience that captures the romance and magic of Africa perfectly.

Pure Africa services include full destination and wedding coordination, designing multi-day itineraries, booking accommodation, coordinating transfers and arranging activities.

They can help with everything from perfectly paired culinary delights and a fine assortment of our branded wines and beverages to sourcing the best hairdresser and photographer in town. All you do is relish the moment.

If a wedding is not on your mind, Pure Africa welcomes vowel renewals, intimate elopements and other celebrations of devotion, no matter how lavish, grand, informal or discreet they might be.

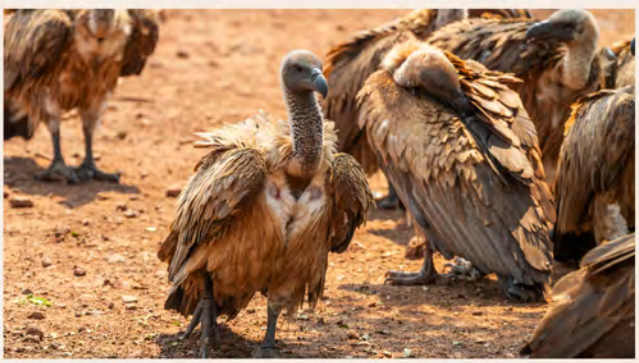
Conservation in Action: The Vulture Culture Experience

One of the most memorable moments of the trip was witnessing the famous Vulture Culture experience hosted at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge. Each afternoon, a feeding session attracts dozens — sometimes hundreds — of vultures swooping down from the skies in an incredible display.

Beyond the spectacle, the initiative highlights the vital role these often misunderstood birds play in maintaining the health of the ecosystem. Vultures act as nature's clean-up crew, rapidly disposing of animal carcasses and preventing the spread of disease in the wild.

Across Africa, however, vulture populations are under serious threat due to poisoning, habitat loss and illegal wildlife trade. The programme at the lodge raises awareness about their importance while supporting conservation efforts to protect these essential scavengers.

Watching the sky fill with circling vultures before they gracefully descended to feed was both fascinating and deeply educational — a powerful reminder of how delicate and interconnected nature truly is.



An Evening of Culture at The Boma

One evening we were treated to a lively and unforgettable cultural experience at The Boma – Dinner & Drum Show.

From the moment we arrived, the atmosphere was vibrant and welcoming. Guests were invited to embrace the spirit of the evening by dressing in traditional chitenge robes and having their faces painted, adding to the festive energy of the night.

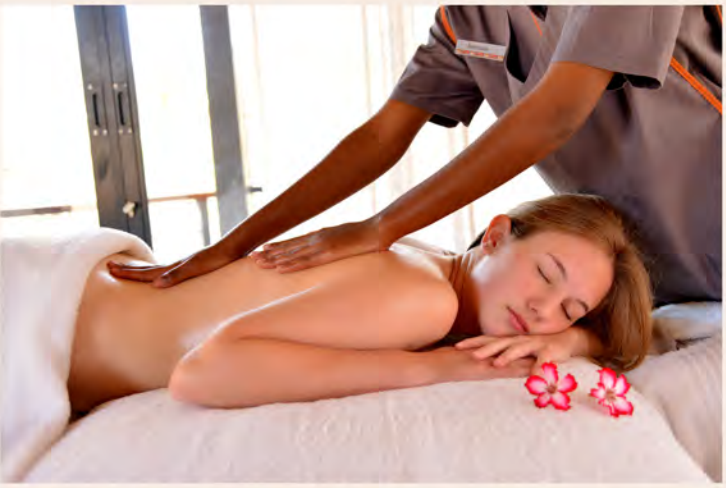
The Boma is famous for its vast buffet showcasing authentic Zimbabwean cuisine, and the menu offered an incredible variety of traditional dishes alongside more familiar favourites. From rich stews and freshly prepared meats to local delicacies, it was a true celebration of the region's culinary heritage.

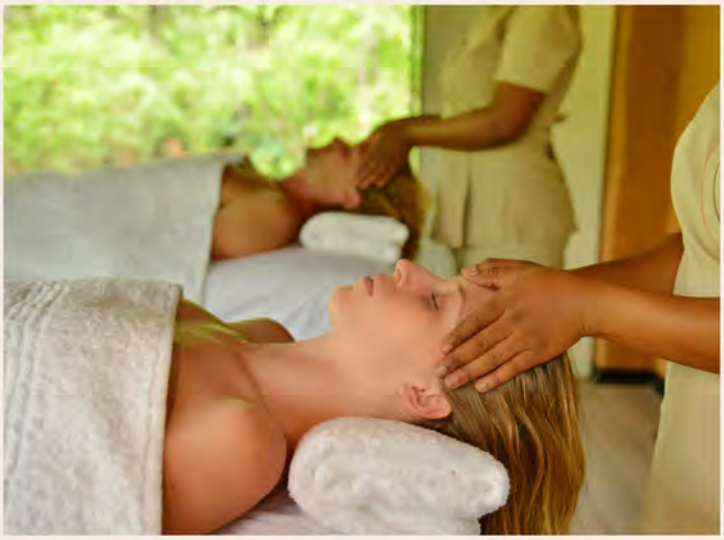
The evening unfolded with energetic dancing, drumming and live entertainment, creating a joyful and interactive experience where guests were encouraged to join in the rhythm of Africa. Laughter, music and the beating of drums filled the air, making it one of the most memorable highlights of the trip.

THE BOMA

Time to Rejuvenate

After days filled with exploration and adventure, we also enjoyed a relaxing treatment at the Victoria Falls Safari Spa. Surrounded by the peaceful sounds of the bush, the spa offers a sanctuary where guests can unwind and recharge while enjoying luxurious wellness treatments.
It provided the perfect moment of calm before returning to the lodge to watch wildlife gather at the waterhole as the sun set over the African landscape.





An Unforgettable African Escape

This carefully curated media experience offered far more than simply visiting a world-famous destination. It revealed the many layers that make Victoria Falls truly special — from extraordinary landscapes and luxury hospitality to vibrant cultural experiences and important conservation initiatives.

Thanks to the warm hospitality of the Victoria Falls Safari Collection and the seamless travel provided by Fastjet, the journey was as memorable as the destination itself.

For travellers seeking an African escape that blends adventure, culture, wildlife and luxury, Victoria Falls remains one of the continent's most remarkable destinations.

Safari Club

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ISSUE 34