

## **FLOWER POWER – HOW TO HARNESS IT ON THE DAY**

*Interview with Dot Tudhope*

Building your own wedding venue for the big day in order to ensure that it is unique isn't practical or affordable, but you can make a venue entirely your own through your choice of décor. You can imprint your own personal style on every aspect of the day through your choice and utilisation of flowers, making your own wedding as distinctive and original as you always dreamed it would be. This comes through distinctly in Flower Meadow's motto:

*"Your Wedding, Your Ideas, Our Inspiration"*

In order to make informed decisions, there are various considerations that need to be taken into account:

- Season – setting your heart on flowers that will not be in season when you get married can only lead to disappointment unless you have a large décor budget. Tulips for a December wedding can be imported from Amsterdam, but you'll have to be prepared to pay for the entire consignment of flowers instead of just the number you require. It's advisable to either consider flowers that are available through the year, like roses and gerberas, or to be aware of which flowers will be in season when you get married. Use a florist who buys their flowers on the night before the wedding or on the day to ensure their freshness – especially in Summer when flowers are most likely to wilt.
- Colour – knowing what your colour scheme is will also allow you to filter your options in terms of which flowers you'll be able to use. Always keep your venue's colour scheme (evident in paint colours and chair upholstery) in mind so that your own choices don't clash with the existing ones. If you know what colours you want to use but aren't sure which flowers are available in those colours, ask your florist. This is especially helpful in order to prevent misunderstandings of which particular shade of colour you want. Hot pink is very different to light pink and you wouldn't want your florist getting it wrong on the day.
- Where you want to make use of flowers – in order for your florist to purchase the right number of flowers, they need to know where you plan to use the flowers and in what kind of arrangements. Consider the number of corsages you will need (for both men and women), how many bouquets are required and who will be carrying them, how many arrangements you require in the church and where they can be used in the reception after the ceremony, as well as the number of centrepieces required and the style of arrangement you have in mind. Certain centrepieces require a very large number of flowers while others might employ fillers or other decorations. Do not forget about placing flowers in the bathrooms as well as in the honeymoon suite. Don't forget to let your florist know if you require flower petals for confetti or for decoration elsewhere.

Select a florist who is experienced and knowledgeable so that they can guide you in making informed decisions while offering you a personalised service which caters to all your needs.