

## **IS THERE ANYTHING MORE ROMANTIC THAN CANDLELIGHT?**

*By Susan Maritz – Ultimate Candles*

Let's face it; there is nothing more romantic than candle light. When you picture an intimate dinner for two, what comes to mind? Do you imagine a roaring fire and a wooded Chardonnay that is chilled to perfection? Can you almost smell the giddy scent of jasmine underlying the more pronounced aroma of a delicious three course meal? If you still think something is missing; you're right. It's a room full of flickering candles – tiny flames swaying in the breeze, casting leaping shadows that mesmerise and entrance you. You might even have been proposed to in just a setting so you know how magical candles can be.

Combining candles with flowers in your décor is a surefire recipe for successfully creating a romantic and enchanted atmosphere. When consulting with your décor specialist about your use of candles, there are a few decisions that you need to consider:

- Where would you like to use candles? In the reception venue only or in the chapel as well? Are there dark pathways leading between the two that you would like to subtly light up? Are there candelabras at the venue that you would like to make use of?
- It has become a tradition for the parents of the bride and groom to come together to light a candle as a symbolic gesture of the joining of two families. Would you like to follow this tradition and if so, what kind of candles will you require?
- What size and type of candles do you prefer? Candle sizes range from small and tapered dinner candles that fit into flower arrangements to robust 2 meter high candles that stand alone.
- What colour do you want your candles to be and would you like them scented?
- Do you want to buy all your own candles to keep after the wedding or would you like to rent candles for the evening? Renting candles is a lot more cost-effective and you can be assured of the service of professionals who will set up your candles according to your stipulations. They will also remove the candles after the function so that clearing away the candles doesn't become a task for you or tired family members once the evening has ended. Some companies that rent out candles also specialise in draping so you don't have to hire two separate service providers to assist with your décor.

You can't be assured of starlight or moonlight to create an atmosphere of romance, but you can always be assured of candlelight to shine brightly on your love and keep your flame burning!