

AUTUMN

By Tharien & Pieter Aukamp

Friday 20th May 2005 – Chapel & Homestead

Autumn is my favourite season and also the season in which my life became a fairy tale.

Our Autumn wedding was preceded by two Summers in the same year of 2004. I met Pieter, my husband, on a hot Summer day in the dry Free State. Pieter was very witty and I wondered if he was the man who would make me, a true forest fairy, able to laugh for the rest of my life. In May of that year, we exchanged the Free State autumn for summer in Paris, the city of Love. Nothing could possibly extinguish the light in our eyes as Pieter asks me to be his wife.

We choose autumn. The rich, vibrant colours of autumn leaves reflect our deep love for each other. We searched for a venue to reflect this season. Oakfield Farm offered this like no other, a magical forest, chandeliers, candles and glowing fires in the hearth.

Oakfield had so much to offer in terms of advice, décor, facilities and emotional support. With Karin, our co-ordinator, and Paul, our Maitre'D, we planned every detail step by step so that all concerned would know their part on the big day. With Oakfield's expertise our dreams were moulded into workable plans.

The first leaves of autumn were falling on our pathway. The Chapel nestling in the Cottonwood forest, hidden away undisturbed, and the beautiful Homestead venue set up, our fairy tale with Oakfield begins. I arrive at the Oak Bridal Suite with my personal Oakfield wedding planner under my arm. Our headwaiter and personal butler is there to assist with the retinue's luggage. I can focus on looking beautiful and enjoying every moment – everything is taken care of – I can enjoy a day that is as near to perfection as possible.

Our guests arrive and are welcomed on the lawns outside the Chapel with a complimentary welcome drink – a blessing for our Free State friends. With a painted sky, flickering candles and autumn leaves scattered down the aisle, I take my first steps towards married life.

“Vuur en Kuier” is the main theme for our wedding reception. Great log fires welcome our guests and hundreds of candles in the chandeliers create a blissful atmosphere of warmth and hospitality. Our special autumn menu that we designed with Karin's help, complete with pumpkin fritters, receives compliments all round. We all feel so much at home, the festivities continue into the early hours of the morning.

And so our autumn ends, it was a day, a month and a season to remember, but our fairy tale has just begun.

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| Dress | Kobus Dippenaar |
| Photographer | Elizabeth Olivier Kanau & Patrick Furter |
| Florist | Gideon's Flowers and Functions |
| Hair | Ane |
| Make Up | Adele Jung |
| Entertainment | Martin Lane |
| Stationery | Elsje Designs |