



# Enjoy the Moment

Craig & Emma - Summerhouse & Chapel - 9 April 2010  
Photographs by Sonja Hilton



**A**s Craig and Emma's parents were friends, they knew each other as children until their parents lost touch. Years later their friendship was rekindled until after an on-again, off-again relationship not helped by living in different countries for a time. Much to everyone's delight, Craig proposed to Emma on a blanket strewn with candles and rose petals around a roaring fire on the third anniversary of their relationship.

**The Venue:** We had six months to plan our wedding as we had decided that April would be a good month for our family members to come out from overseas. We looked at loads of venues before our wedding and compared them in terms of cost, including all possible extras. We loved Oakfield, and the Summerhouse appealed to us. Opening on to the gardens the venue gave us a feeling of being in a beautiful marquee. Due to the efficiency of Oakfield Farm, our choice of specialists were all managed without a hitch.

**Décor:** We had an idea of colours and the flowers that we wanted, but no idea of costs, so we got comparative

quotes making sure that everything was included to help us decide which items we could afford and which to leave out. Flower Creations were a great help and we were happy with their final quote of R11 300. We had a décor mock-up which sold us on a couple of ideas that Flower Creations suggested. There was a minimal fee which was reduced when we confirmed our booking.

**Photography:** We looked at a number of photographer's portfolios on-line and narrowed down on the style of photography that we liked. We contacted Adam Hilton who was not available but suggested his wife Sonja. Again, we did not have a set budget, but looked at the various packages offered and worked out what we wanted in terms of the value we would receive. We considered the basic package including the option of a story book or Italian leather-bound album. We chose the album, as we could always have the story book made up later.

**Stationery & Table Favours:** We had been to a number of weddings where we had received an invitation, put it in a drawer never to be looked at again until the wedding day. We didn't want to spend a lot of money on this as we felt this money could be spent elsewhere. Using Craig's design expertise and my advertising connections we made our own invitations, menus and wine lists for



less than R1000. We passed up on table favours as once again, we felt this money could be spent elsewhere and I found that these left no lasting memories for me at the weddings that I had attended.

**Videographer:** A friend of Craig's, Zia Gilroy does wedding videos in her spare time, so she was happy to do it for us at no charge. She was also happy to add our choice of music to accompany the video.

**The Dress:** I knew the style that I liked, but once I started trying on dresses, I soon realised my 'dream' style did not suit me. To cut the cost and space in my limited wardrobe, I rented a dress from Perfect Bridal. My budget of R6 000 was eventually R4 400 for a strapless dress with a beaded bodice, roused waistline, full skirt and a bit of beading on the front and on the train. The cost included the hire of the veil, petticoat, tiara and jewellery. I collected it the day before the wedding and after some last minute alterations, I was very happy with the fit, the cost and the service. My bridesmaids dresses were made by Tammy Richmond and I loved what she did with them, so much so that part of me wished that she had also made mine!

**The Suit:** Craig hired his suit for R600 which included the shirt, pants, waistcoat, cravat, cufflinks and jacket from Absolute Tux Hire.

**The Cake:** The cake was a 3 tier cake—the bottom carrot cake, the middle mocca chocolate and the top layer lemon iced with chocolate ganache with a white chocolate collar, decorated with purple ribbons and our themed flowers of lilies, white roses and purple lissianthus. Pat Blackburn from What's Cookin' made it for R1 500—definitely value for money.

**The Music:** We both agreed on a disco. We took the platinum package from Soundworx at a cost of R3 750 which included the music in the Chapel, 10 hours in all. Our first dance was to David Grey's *This Year's Love* and we made the most of it!

**Make Up & Hair:** I usually wear a bit of make-up such as a light foundation, mascara and eyeliner. I paid R3 000 which included the trial, hair and make up for myself, my two bridesmaids and my mother. My hair and make-up artist, Enrique Fourie also brought champagne, flowers and chocolate on the day and included a new





Mac powder compact, lipstick and lip gloss for my bridesmaids with strict instructions that they had to keep doing touch-ups! I was very pleased on my wedding day.

**Menu:** We chose Oakfield's Chef's Choice Summer Menu at a cost of R295 per head. It included plated starters, a buffet main course and dessert. Our guests had a great time and were impressed with how beautiful everything was and how smoothly it had all flowed and commented afterwards on the fantastic food and excellent service. Our waitress, Glenda and our Maitre'd, Gerald were also amazing, always there when we needed them. We chose Oakfield's wedding package which included a host of special touches such as welcome drinks, horse and carriage, the beautiful dressing room, luxurious bridal suite and a lot of inclusive décor options.

**The Bar:** We set a limit of R8500 on the bar which covered the cocktails, toasts, wine, beer, cold drinks and ciders. Spirits were cash. We did not put wine on the tables, but we put a wine list on each table and guests could order as they needed. When the limit was reached, we only added an additional R2 000, only R95 per person!

**Honeymoon:** We went to Mauritius for a week and felt that this was definitely value for money!

#### Notes to other Brides & Grooms

- Decide which aspect of your wedding is most important to you and spend more money on those aspects and save on other areas which aren't as important—everyone has different priorities.
- Shop around and get comparative quotes.



VENUE COSTS – 110 GUESTS	Total	Cost/Guest
Wedding Venue Hire	Incl	Incl
Menu	R36 993	R336
Beverages – open bar	R10 500	R95
Honeymoon Suite	Incl	Incl
Bridal Dressing Room	Incl	Incl
Horse & Carriage	Incl	Incl
<b>VENUE SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>R47 493</b>	<b>R431pp</b>
Décor – Flower Creations	R11 300	R0
Make Up & Hair – Enrique Fourie	R3 000	R103
DJ – Soundworx	R3 750	R27
Photographs – Sonja Hilton	R14 000	R75
Stationery & Gifts	R1 080	R127
Suits – Absolute Tux Hire	R600	R10
Video – Zia Gilroy	R0	R5
Wedding Cake – Pat Blackburn	R1 500	
Wedding Dress – Perfect Bridal	R4 400	R14
<b>SPECIALIST SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>R39 630</b>	<b>R360pp</b>