

# Plan the Moment

Hannes & Dorette

Conservatory & Homestead - 5 December 2009

Photographs by Marita Keet



**F**or five years, Hannes and Dorette attended the same high school, but there was no connection made. Then, on a moonlit night, in the middle of the Kruger National Park, Cupid struck them simultaneously.

After attending the Bridal Expo at Oakfield Farm when the gardens were in full bloom, Dorette, whose favourite colour is pink, used the gardens as her inspiration for the romantic, vintage theme she wanted to create.

She was very fortunate that both sets of parents contributed financially which meant involvement and sharing, and of course, a bigger budget.

**Décor:** I met Erna from Café Fleur early in January at Oakfield. She was professional and well prepared with a huge variety of original ideas and options. She also knew the venue well and incorporated elements from my theme with the surroundings. As she had also done my sister's wedding in May 2009, we knew she would do a fantastic job. Originally I wanted red roses, but as the months passed I realised this wasn't me. I love hydrangeas and pastel colours—pink, purple and blue. We had a budget for what we wanted, but I must admit that we had to extend this a little. Erna did two tables for us as a mock up prior to the wedding at which we discussed everything. There were costs involved for this, but it is absolutely essential.

**Photography:** There are so many feelings evoked when you have a wedding celebration and most of the time it is love, passion, happiness and a sense of well-being. Everything is so beautiful and we needed a photographer to capture these moments. We were also confident that Marita would capture lovely images of our guests without being obtrusive. She also knew Oakfield very well which was a huge advantage. Our budget for photographs including the digital story book stayed within our budget. Our memories will live on forever.

**Stationery & Table Favours:** Delene worked from home and it was wonderful working with one individual and we loved her work. We ended up extending our budget by R500. We decided to go with edible table favours as we did not think it necessary to give our guests a gift. Each guest received a small petit-four replica of our wedding cake. Table favours were not the most important factor for us and we ended up spending around R23 per guest.



**Video:** I had time to do extensive homework in this field and viewed many samples of work in order to decide if they could do the style of video that I wanted. I wanted a more romantic style focusing on our guests rather than the modern type of video. Lucinda du Toit was our final choice. This cost us around R8 000, including the editing. We were also able to choose our own music with no costs involved.

**Bride's Dress:** I had too many ideas to fit into one wedding dress. Rina Steyn from Catherine's Collections in Pretoria made my dress. I allowed a budget of R12 000. I had the most beautiful, romantic dress incorporating elegance, style and comfort. Ruffles and ruffles of imported lace and silk, draped details, subtle crystal applications and innovative details took my dress from the ordinary to the extraordinary. All this inside my budget. Four days before the wedding I received my dress, which fitted perfectly. I also wore cherise pink peep-toe shoes just to be different! All the parents and grandparents wore hats in various shades of pinks and purples.

**Groom's Suit:** Hannes' suit was also tailor-made specifically for him by TOB's in Johannesburg. It was a special experience. He chose everything—the number of buttons, pockets, jacket inner material and he enjoyed all the attention! It was important for us that he also received as much attention to his outfit to make the day extra special.

**The Cake:** Our cake was made by Natalie from So-De-Lovely. We had a large 3-tiered vintage cake, embroidered with the finest Victorian patterns on the sides wrapped with pink ribbon around each tier and decorated with roses, hydrangeas, diamantes and our initials personalised on each small cake. This cake was used for the traditional 'cutting of the cake' and the petit-fours were at each place setting. There was a slight misunderstanding which was partly my fault as I did not insist on a mock up and tasting



before the wedding. The large and small cakes cost us around R10 000.

**Music:** Luckily Hannes and I agree on the same music so this was easy. I wanted more of a classical nature for the ceremony to set the mood, evoke emotion and create atmosphere. Eddie Davey from Musica Festiva charged us R8 950 which included the music at the ceremony and during the cocktail hour afterwards. One of our good friends, Ruan Zaaiman is a DJ and he gave us the music at our reception as our wedding gift, so this cost us nothing, but we did pay for his accommodation as a special way of saying thank you. He read the crowd well and took the music where it needed to go for everyone to have a good time and the music continued until 02h00.

**Make Up & Hair:** My photographer, Marita also did my hair and make up. I use natural make up and she understood this perfectly and I loved what she did. My hair and make up trial (which was an additional cost) took a whole day as we laughed, ate and had a dress fitting to complete the picture—we then also had a photoshoot to make sure the make up looked good on the photos. The hair and make up on my wedding day was approximately R1 200.

**Menu:** We chose Oakfield Farm’s Premier Chef’s Choice buffet menu at R316 per person. Due to the fact that we were Afrikaans, we wanted to adapt the menu to a more traditional menu with the likes of Pampoenpastei etc with extra care given to the preparation of the different meats. Our desserts on the otherhand, were very sophisticated. You need to know your guests, but allow the Chef to make the final touches. We were very happy with the quality of food and the service, in particular, to our personal waiters who were fantastic.

The cost of the menu included the venue hire, so the only extras at Oakfield was the wedding package.

**The Bar:** Our budget was R20 000 (R91 per person) which included the pre-drinks, cocktails, wine and champagne for the toasts and the first few rounds after which we had a cash bar.

**Honeymoon:** We had the most wonderful two weeks in Madagascar on a very small, tropical island—just us—need I say more?

**Additional tips from us to other brides and grooms:**

- Be very specific in your desires. Do not assume that you and your specialists understand each other. During your meeting with your specialists, show visual examples of what you like and ask them for pictures of their previous work. Request and insist on a mock up for everything! Rather pay the costs than get an unexpected surprise.
- Involve both families as much as you can and discuss the finances with both of them upfront.
- Don’t be scared to try new ideas as you are limited only by your imagination!
- Enjoy every moment of the planning—those are part of the memories.
- Spoil your guests with thoughtful touches such as fragrances in the bathrooms—your guests will appreciate it.

VENUE COSTS – 220 GUESTS	Total	Cost/Guest
Wedding Venue Hire	Incl	Incl
Menu	R79 253	R360
Beverages – open bar	R22 800	R104
Honeymoon Suite	R1 600	Incl
Bridal Dressing Room	R900	Incl
Horse & Carriage	R600	Incl
<b>VENUE SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>R108 095</b>	<b>R491pp</b>
Décor – Café Fleur	R21 000	R95
Make Up & Hair – Marita	R1 200	R5
Live Music – Eddie Davey	R8 950	R41
DJ – Ruan Zaaiman (Friend)	N/C	N/C
Minister	R1 000	R5
Photographs – Marita Keet	R15 000	R68
Stationery & Gifts – Delene	R21 600	R98
Suits – TOBs	R4 000	R18
Video – Lucinda Du Toit	R8 000	R36
Wedding Cake – So-De-Lovely	R10 000	R45
Wedding Dress – Rina Steyn	R12 000	R55
<b>SPECIALIST SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>R102 750</b>	<b>R467,05pp</b>