

Remember the Moment

Sean & Isabelle - Chapel & Summerhouse - 15 May 2010

Photographs by Pulanie Naude



Sean and Isabelle met when she went in search of a job, and he employed her. They became good friends and it took her two years to realise that this was the man she wanted to spend the rest of her life with. In 2007, after catching her best friend's bouquet, fate stepped in and she started getting ideas of wedlock.

At the end of 2008, Bella and Sean flew to France for Christmas, so that he could meet the rest of her family. After secretly asking her family for her hand in marriage, they headed down to Bormes-Les-Mimosas, a small village in Provence on the Mediterranean and on Christmas

Eve, under the olive tree that her grandfather had planted 28 years ago, Sean went down on one knee and declared his love.

The Venue: In the early days, we could only agree on one thing—our wish to be married! He wanted a big, fancy evening wedding in winter and my idea was a small and intimate affair—he got his way!

In France the little churches are so old that there is a feeling of holiness about them, and although Oakfield's chapel did not have the 'old stones' but it did at least have



a special tranquility and intimacy. The staff were incredibly welcoming, professional and helpful from the start. After attending a couple's workshop at Oakfield, we were sold on the venue. With the fireplaces, Sean's dream of an evening, winter wedding came true.

The Invitation: From the beginning, I was set on the invitation being an iridescent ivory board with a laser cutting of flowers and butterflies.

Decor: I wanted the décor to have the winter forest theme. I chose varying shades of fuchsia, ivory and brown. Chantelle from Cor de Rosa was intrigued by my décor ideas, and very enthusiastic about carrying the woodland theme into the venue, complete with a flowering willow branch arch and hanging crystals. The candles, vases and orchids were sourced by myself (in fact, the orchids lived in my bath tub for six weeks prior to the wedding). The table favours were handmade by myself, my mom, mom-in-law and friends and filled with sugared almonds imported from France.

The Photographer: I met Pulanie through my husband Sean, who works with her husband. We visited her at her home a few times and were always intrigued at the beautiful travel photos displayed around her home. I checked her work on the Internet and was sold. She is an amazing photographer and we were very pleased with her unique perspective and ability to capture the soul of a wedding and the essence of the couple's personalities in a very creative way. It was important for the images to reflect a relaxed atmosphere in a natural environment.