

A stunning soirée in black, white and silver

Abundant GLAMOUR

graeme and chanel glass

VIVID BLUE PHOTOGRAPHY



TELL US ABOUT THE THEME OF YOUR WEDDING.

I grew up dreaming of my wedding day, yet when the time came, all I wanted was a fun, simple wedding surrounded by our closest friends and family. It needed to be smart and sophisticated though, just as I'd envisioned, with touches of silver, white and black – a bit of a Coco Chanel inspiration. We chose to marry at Kleinevalleij, an excellent venue with impeccable service (and one which actually includes items such as glassware, cutlery, chairs and tables in their venue hire fee!). Our wedding ran smoothly from the get-go: Hannes Maritz from Kraak coordinated our big day and there is nothing that he missed. (If you can't afford a coordinator to plan your entire wedding, my advice is to get someone to run things on the day.) We didn't have a clue what our decor would look like; we just gave Hannes and Nadine Lucas of Theme Creations, as well as my mother, the colour scheme. The first time I saw the decor was before I walked down the aisle. I was blown away at how they had turned our hopes into a reality. I loved our seating plans too, which The Fairy Factory hung from chairs suspended from a big tree as you entered the venue.



CHANEL REMEMBERS

HOW DID YOUR GROOM PROPOSE?

I met Graeme while I was on a date with someone else! I honestly disliked him at first, but after numerous coffee dates, three months on I realised I was falling in love with my "friend". Fast-forward three years and Graeme proposed – at his surprise 40th birthday party which I had planned! My mother and Graeme colluded and, because I was so busy with his party arrangements, I never suspected a thing. So I was hit with the biggest surprise of all...



AND THE MENU?

Guests snacked on breads, cheeses and preserves on arrival. Main course was served buffet style and featured grilled fillet of beef with garlic and parsley cream; chicken escalopes stuffed with spinach, feta, olives and sundried tomatoes; and pan-fried linefish with lemon and herb crust. There was a variety of side dishes and salads as well. Our main wedding cake featured tiers of carrot cake, red velvet and chocolate, while our second wedding cake was vanilla with a crème and caramel filling. There was a candy table too, with treats such as chocolate cupcakes, petits fours, shortbread biscuits, caramel popcorn and giant meringues.



What was the highlight of the day?

The main highlight for me was becoming Graeme's wife. I really picked a gem and could not wait to say I do! Another great moment was seeing our guests go crazy at our candy buffet. Edible gifts are always a hit and a reminder of the occasion. I also loved seeing my parents so happy. My mom, dad and I are very close and it was great seeing how proud they were of us and also to see that the months of blood, sweat and tears (wedding preparation) were worth it.

Any special advice for brides-to-be?

Walking down the aisle, my dad and I spoke nonsense. I highly recommend this if you want to avoid the onset of tears the whole way down! Also, let go at the reception and don't worry about your dress getting dirty – it's part of the fun. My dress looks like it went through a tornado, but the memories of my husband and I dancing in the red sand will last a lifetime.



Little black book

- ♥ **BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES:** Leah Francisca Bridal 083 969 9896; leahfranciscabridal.co.za
- ♥ **CAKE:** Four-tier cake: Cakes by Wade 021 685 5041; cakesbywade.co.za. Three-tier cake and "love" cookies: Love at First Sight 076 172 0367; loveatfirstsight.co.za. Petits fours and cupcakes: Charly's Bakery 021 461 5181; charlysbakery.co.za. Detailed cupcakes: Sugar Cakes 021 976 3280; sugarcakes.co.za
- ♥ **COORDINATOR/WEDDING PLANNER:** Harnes Martiz and Maudré Viljoen from Kraak 072 915 2226 / 064 443 1999; kraak.co.za
- ♥ **DECOR AND FLOWERS:** Theme Creations 021 788 6385; themecreations.co.za
- ♥ **DRESS (PLUS SHOES AND FAUX FUR):** Kobus Dippenaar Atelier 021 423 7810; kobusdippenaar.com
- ♥ **ENTERTAINMENT:** Singer Ike Moriz 082 092 5792; ikemoriz.com. DJ Mark of Dream Wedding DJs 021 788 2997; dreamweddingdjs.co.za
- ♥ **FLOWER GIRL'S DRESS:** Leah Francisca Bridal 083 969 9896; leahfranciscabridal.co.za
- ♥ **FOOD:** Laura Truter Catering 082 458 4586; lauratrutercatering.co.za
- ♥ **FURNITURE, DANCE FLOOR & LIGHTING:** Goeters Decor & Furniture Hire 082 840 2928; balegoeters.co.za
- ♥ **GROOMSMEN'S OUTFITS:** Own. Shirts and ties: Woolworths 0860 022 002; woolworths.co.za
- ♥ **HAIR & MAKE-UP:** Candice Leigh Arnott 083 441 8755; candiceleigh.co.za. She was assisted on the day by Lianne Kakebeeke 084 589 9889; lianne.co.za
- ♥ **JEWELLERY AND HAIR ACCESSORIES:** Lily Blue 021 424 9679; lilyblue.co.za
- ♥ **PHOTOGRAPHER:** Vivid Blue 072 148 8332; vividblue.co.za
- ♥ **STATIONERY, CAKE TOPPER AND PAPER BOUTONNIÈRES:** The Fairy Factory 021 557 4912
- ♥ **VENUE:** Kleinvallei Wedding and Conference Estate 021 873 0075; kleinvallei.co.za [wi](#)

