



Love is in the air

PLANNING A WEDDING IN 2016?
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SUGGESTS EIGHT OF THE BEST
VENUES IN THE COUNTRY.

TINTSWALO ATLANTIC

In terms of special venues, you don't get much more exclusive than this shore-side luxury lodge at the base of Chapman's Peak outside Cape Town. After it burnt down during the catastrophic fires of March 2015, Tintswalo Atlantic reopened just eight months later, and hosted a wedding the very first weekend. Renowned as one of the most romantic locations in Cape Town, the lodge offers five unique venues to conduct your ceremony as well as the option to book exclusive use of the entire property, including all 10 luxury island suites and the two-bedroomed presidential villa.

www.tintswalo.com

MORELL'S BOUTIQUE ESTATE

Located in Northcliff in Johannesburg, Morell's Boutique Estate is the ideal location for a vintage or French-inspired wedding. Decor throughout the estate reflects that of a bygone era – classical allure meets Provençal, with the most exquisite gardens full of lavender and roses. Different venues are available: La Maison incorporates the piano room and chapel with a grand garden; Le Grange offers a larger function area with an outdoor bistro; and La Chambre is styled as a Parisian tearoom. The opulent finishes and five-star service make it the perfect setting for an elegant wedding.

www.morells.co.za



ALLÉE BLEUE

Situated near Franschhoek in the heart of the Cape winelands, Allée Bleue offers enchanting panoramic views of the area. Surrounded by vineyards and picturesque gardens, the venue can host anything from an intimate wedding for 20 guests to an opulent affair for 350 in Le Grand Hall. Food and wine are top priority on the estate. Choose from a formal three-course meal to a more laid-back gourmet picnic on the lawn under the shade of the trees. It's your special day, and they will treat it as such, down to the very last detail. www.alleebleue.co.za

CRYSTAL BARN

Crystal Barn in Fort Nottingham in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands is unlike any other wedding venue. It's quirky and romantic, with grand Indian doors, ancient carved columns and windows, and 22 incredible vintage crystal chandeliers. The covered wooden deck looks out over a magnificent lake and the barn is full of old-world character with its corrugated iron walls and exposed brick features. Long banquet-style tables offer plenty of space for friends and family to enjoy and celebrate a union in this exquisite setting.

www.crystalbarn.co.za

SHANGRI-LA COUNTRY HOTEL AND SPA

Set in the verdant countryside between Bela Bela and Modimolle in Limpopo, Shangri-La Country Hotel and Spa lives up to its name as a romantic and secluded wedding venue. The 60-seater chapel is set in a fairy-tale garden and, with a variety of reception areas plus on-site accommodation, the venue really offers the whole package. The hotel takes care of every aspect – from food and decor to a red carpet beneath a canopy of jacaranda trees. Bride and groom can honeymoon (or spend the night) in the presidential suite, complete with private Jacuzzi. www.shangri-la.co.za

GONDWANA GAME RESERVE

For those looking for a wedding in the bush, Gondwana Game Reserve will live up to their wildest dreams. Set at the base of the Langeberg Mountains on the Garden Route and covering 11 000ha, Gondwana is the only fynbos reserve in the world that is home to the Big Five. Apart from that, the fact that the surrounding nature is completely awe-inspiring makes this an idyllic setting for the big day. With various venue options and luxury accommodation, it's optimally located to serve dual purpose as a wedding venue and honeymoon destination.

www.gondwanagr.co.za