

big day style

colour me beautiful

Our country's top wedding planners open up their colour palettes to offer you colour inspiration to lend your reception a touch of style

Pretty in pink – it's not just girly, instead offering a sophisticated, pretty, fun and elegant theme.



Pretty in pink

'People tend to think of pink and purple as being too girly, but it's actually a very pretty, elegant and sophisticated theme. It also provides an opportunity for some fun and a breakaway from the black-and-white weddings people are opting for lately. The hanging ball of pink Mentos is used as a table number. I like to hang these from a tree for people to search for their name, remove their ball and walk off to their table with a tasty gift. I've included the purple purse as a great alternative to the traditional white clutch a bride would carry. DKNY Be Delicious Fresh Blossom smells divine and is ideal for spring or summery weddings. The crystal keyring is a table favour, but can double up as a decoration for napkins and menus. The invitation is a puzzle that is delivered in a tin and needs to be put together to be read. Bath crystals can be scooped into a box to be taken home as gifts, and they bring a wonderful aroma to the venue. Marshmallow-and-Turkish-delight sticks can be handed out for dessert while guests are dancing. Roses offer old-English charm, and purple is such a royal colour to add. I like to cover vases in material that matches the colour scheme – it adds that extra touch of modern sophistication. Mini cakes in individual portions are ideal, and they look fab with a ribbon tied around them to bring out the colour theme in the chocolate and vanilla cakes.'

Gail Kantor **Piece of Cake Weddings**
072-298-5757, pieceofcake.co.za

Contemporary chic

'Grey is the new black. It has more of an edge than boring black and crisp-and-clean white. Use an off-white colour with various dark charcoal tones, while being careful to steer clear of any Mediaeval elements. One would expect ornate silver cutlery in such a setting, but we've opted for a modern teardrop shape that softens the look, while stainless-steel chairs – that can make a wedding look like a corporate function – have made way for Perspex ghost chairs. The silver chains decorating this chair add a shiny touch – because everyone loves bling! This setting screams luxury without even

PHOTOGRAPHS ANGIE LAZARO AND CHRISTELLE BOTHA

Contemporary chic – grey is the new black... and gone is all greenery.



having to incorporate the whole floral look. By cutting out all greenery we've limited our choices. The aged proteas bring a velvety-grey texture to the mix, while the white hydrangeas and chrysanthemums liven the tone and the base filled with creeper roots brings an added element from nature. The combination of clean lines with intricate attention to detail in quirky items such as the pop-up placemat results in a look of modern romance, while a feminine touch is introduced through the use of dangling crystals. The Perspex bangles can be custom-made with the lady guests' names on as a gift, and men can take home the crystal paperweight or bottle-stop. We love having the menu printed on a napkin so that it's something everyone can keep as a reminder of the occasion.'

Aleit Swanepoel

Aleit Wedding and Function Coordination

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Alwyn Burger, **Okasie**

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Autumn hues

'Our take on autumn is young, fresh and lively. People think that such a theme should incorporate heavy golden, green and red colours, velvet-covered chairs and lots of cushions, but that can become too dark and foreboding. Instead, go for bright autumn hues of yellows and oranges. Add texture with natural, wooden elements such as the laser-cut tree that can be used as a table number, and the complementary timber panel made from deconstructed braai wood. The contrast offered by the square, white candle panel continues this innovative approach to a once-conventional theme, while the abundance of candles adds a cosy touch to autumn weddings, providing more visibility to your modern elements and filling the room with a special glow. Although this setting is minimalist and clean, it manages to incorporate an edgy retro, old-school spark. The antique tea cup, stripy napkin and curved vase convey a sense of comfort and wholesome familiarity. The atmosphere is fun, and thoughtful details such as the hanging flags and handmade gift box demonstrate a certain playfulness. Even the food mirrors the colour tones, and comfort-food dessert is served as bite-sized portions of peanut brittle and shortbread-and-chocolate fudge. You won't find the traditional vine or ivy leaves and moss at this autumn wedding – rather, a bunch of understated poppies. Besides adding to the cheerfulness of the occasion, they're less costly than the elaborate flowers usually found at a wedding.'

Hannes Loubser

Wedding Concepts

021-426-5783, weddingconcepts.co.za

Chris van Niekerk

Foci Function Concepts 021-946-4700

Green dreams

'Green weddings are all about being environmentally conscious and putting clever thought into everything pertaining to your special day. Since doing Nicole Fox's green wedding, we've been building up to be able to do absolutely everything "green", with minimal wastage. Our philosophy is to leave a footprint of love on the environment. People often have a misconception that eco-friendly weddings are not glamorous or sophisticated, but they truly can be. Green weddings don't necessarily have to be more expensive; using potted plants, such as cacti, is more economical than cut floral arrangements, and these plants can double up as guests' gifts or be reused or donated after the event. At a traditional wedding, dustbins are often filled with cut flowers at the end of the night, and that's such a waste! The natural soy candles on the table are biodegradable and non-toxic. They burn longer, so they will last all night long, and have no emissions, so they don't leave a black mark of smoke or affect the

air your guests are breathing. The Champagne flutes are made from recycled, hand-painted glass, and the beaded hearts and candelabras are made by a local bead artist at Constantia Village, so it offers employment to people who wouldn't normally have it. We like to use as many locally produced products as possible to reduce carbon emissions from items having to be transported to the venue. It also gives us the chance to support the local community. Our wedding stationery is always printed on beautiful recycled paper. The stones on the table are an affordable alternative to name places, simultaneously offering something out of the ordinary, while the aromatherapy cream can be customised to include guests' names for place settings that double up as gifts. Wines from farms such Avondale Organic Wine Farm and locally produced and organic foods make our weddings something really special.'

Kirsty Marmarellis and Beverly Brentnall

Green Weddings 021-531-4887 or 021-852-0278, greenweddings.co.za ■

Green dreams – leave a footprint of love on the environment



Autumn hues – add texture with natural, wooden elements for a young, fresh and lively atmosphere.

