



Enchanted garden

Eva & Richard's civil ceremony and reception at Hawksmoor House, near Stellenbosch, South Africa

The inspiration... We fell in love with South Africa during holidays we'd enjoyed there together, and couldn't think of anywhere else we would rather get married. Our civil ceremony was conducted in the grounds of Hawksmoor House in front of 25 close friends and family, while the intimate meal took place inside the venue's stylish dining room with its period details and chandeliers.

The overall look was elegant but relaxed at the same time, which was exactly the feel we wanted to create.

The look... My cream dress was long and flowing, and was decorated with little pearls around the neckline, giving it a gorgeous, classic look. I loved it because even though it was such a simple design, it was incredibly unusual. Richard wore a bespoke suit, and my bridesmaids wore stylish lilac shift dresses. I carried a classic bouquet of cream roses, which went perfectly with the style of my dress, and I wore a cream rose in my hair.

The details... We decided against a traditional wedding cake, as we thought it would be too heavy for guests to enjoy in the heat of the African sun, and instead chose cupcakes that were more in keeping with the relaxed style of our day. A live band played chilled out, Ibiza-style music during our drinks reception, which tied in perfectly with the informal atmosphere. For favours, we gave the ladies cream pashminas, while the men each received a cigar.

My favourite moment... Exchanging our personal vows in front of our friends and family, who had travelled such a long way to celebrate our wedding day, meant so much to both of us. **W**





“The ceremony area on the lawn of Hawksmoor House looked beautiful, with a confetti-strewn aisle and a white pagoda dressed with flowers”



How to... Use single blooms to make a floral statement

Instead of using large, elaborate arrangements, we decorated the venue with lots of small displays using soft, pastel shades of pink and green...

For our reception, we used different-shaped vases placed at regular intervals down the length of our one, long table, which contained an informal mixture of hydrangeas, roses, lisianthus, dahlias, lilies and Irish bells, while others held single hydrangea heads or roses, which looked so pretty.

We also used single roses to decorate the ceremony pagoda...

which meant we didn't have to fork out for huge floral arches or pedestal displays, and the effect was just as striking. Pastel-coloured rose petals were sprinkled down the aisle to make the ceremony area more colourful.

Our florist also suggested using one variety of flower in the bridal bouquets...

to create an understated yet chic look. My bridesmaids carried small posies of ivory 'Avalanche' roses, and I carried a slightly larger arrangement of ivory and soft pink roses.



Eva's address book

Photographer: Jean-Pierre Uys (www.jeanpierrephotography.co.za)

Wedding planner: Wedding Concepts (www.weddingconcepts.co.za)

Flowers: Lush (lushcapetown@yahoo.com)

Venue: Hawksmoor House (www.hawksmoor.co.za)

Cupcakes: Cakes by Wade (www.wadescakes.co.za)

Dress: Alfred Angelo (01908 262626, www.alfredangelo.com)

Bridesmaid dresses: Zara (www.zara.com)

Groomswear: Roderick Charles (020 7588 2050, www.roderickcharles.com)