

real weddings celebration laughter tears promises love friendship happiness romance music

How Joseph proposed

It was Christmas-time in Dublin, where the couple live, and Joseph found his moment at Dee's family home where everyone was gathered for the festivities. He got her alone and popped the question at the Christmas tree! 'It was very romantic, and so special,' says Dee.

The venue

Soon after Jo proposed, the Irish couple came to South Africa on holiday and stayed in Franschhoek. They loved it so much that after they had decided against a big traditional Irish wedding in Ireland, South Africa

DEIRDRE BREEN & JOSEPH MCVEIGH

Love
is the air
everywhere you look around...





DEIRDRE'S CONTACT BOOK

Wedding planners Wedding Concepts, (021) 426 5783, www.weddingconcepts.co.za
Catering Vrede en Lust, (021) 874 1611, www.vnl.co.za
Décor & flowers Fiori de Sorrento, (021) 988 4006
Cake maker Wade's Cakes, (021) 531 5179, 082 932 4522
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Stationery Saritha Kruger, Wedding Words, 083 270 1620
Lighting Something Different 0861 CONCEPT
Hair Liz Kaplan, 082 898 9770
Make-up Anneline Black, Brushstrokes, 082 481 9150
Music Dixie Swingers: 5 Seasons Music, 0860 110 309; James Frank & The Sticky Triggers: Shout Music, 072 760 2860; DJ Preston, 083 420 7241

sprang to mind. Jo raised the issue with his father, who was very supportive, and the couple decided to go ahead. Kim Werner from Wedding Concepts sent them a few venue options and they immediately fell for Vrede en Lust in Franschhoek, which has just the intimate setting they were looking for. The couple both love good food and South Africa's capital of gourmet restaurants was winking.

The theme

Dee and Jo wanted quite a traditional wedding but with a fresh, summery feel. So the venue was decked out in elegant crispy whites and clean lines, with green foliage adding a tropical splash of colour.



love is in the air, every sigh and every sound

nice idea

For an unexpected touch, copy Deirdre and fill white bird cages with lush foliage and hang them around the reception area. You could also fill them with flowers, fairy lights or candles... provided they aren't hanging in a breeze or in a position where guests could accidentally knock into them.

[Below] The ethereal reception tent at Vrede en Lust is a permanent structure, erected to provide shade and shelter from the elements, while keeping guests close to nature and the glorious gardens with its see-through walls.

The table settings

The couple kept things classic and simple in whites and silvers: the menus, for instance, were printed in silver and white and a silver Dutchess satin sash was draped over each chair. Silverware and Hampton crystal glasses added an air of sophistication to the elegant decorations.

The flowers

Fiori de Sorrento used hydrangeas, orchids, Michaelmas daisies, avalanche roses, casablanca lilies, lisianthus and the like for the couple's white flower arrangements. For confetti, every guest was given a paper cone, embossed with the couple's monograms and filled with a good handful of white rose petals.

The cake

Tanya Hunt from Wade's Cakes made a lovely three-tiered vanilla sponge cake wrapped in white chocolate discs. It was decorated with white and green flowers.

The wedding dress

Dee wore a white dress from British designer Alice Temperley and stunning Christian Louboutin heels with their trademark bright-red soles.

Special moments

Joseph's dad himself sadly didn't make it to Franschhoek – he passed away two months before the wedding, and the wedding speeches were very moving.

Afterwards, a great celebration ensued. Food and music are important to Dee and Jo and they made sure they got the best of both. The Dixie Swingers brass band entertained guests and set the mood as everyone arrived at the reception. Later, James Frank and the Sticky Triggers added to the romantic atmosphere with their brand of big-band swing, Sophiatown jazz and Cuban arrangements, and the evening was ended by DJ Preston. Dee was on the dance floor all night! ❖

