

Top 10 Wedding Planners

as chosen by Wedding Collection

Apple Annies

Eastern Cape



All too often wedding coordinators push brides to think bigger is better, only so thousands of rands can be spent on flowers, décor and food, even when they know the couple cannot afford it. Annelize from Apple Annie's, who specialises in full wedding coordination, is dead against this and says her client's needs always come first. "I always work within their budget without compromising on making the wedding unforgettable," she says.

Apple Annie's is the event coordination division of Creative Hire in Port Elizabeth. So what sets Annelize apart from her competitors? Her direct relationships with various service providers, from her photographer Shaun Rust, to her confectioner Werner and Sharief her sound engineer.

Annelize also hired a full time floral specialist, thus cutting the costs of buying floral decorations from a third party. "I deal directly with suppliers to save significantly on mark-up costs. I believe that 100% trust should exist between myself and my service providers as it will also have a positive effect on the bridal couple. This assures me of quality work and on-time delivery. I am very open and honest with my clients and will not agree to something if I feel it will backfire on the success of the day," says Annelize.

Annelize has a passion for weddings with a difference, and it shows. She recently arranged a function for 2000 guests under the Humewood Bridge on the main beach in Port Elizabeth. "There was a perfect full moon with the waves breaking a couple of metres from where the guests were seated. The 3000m2 area was draped and the different colours of lighting thrown against the draping created an incredible African feel."

Once a client's dream of a beach wedding was ruined because of bad weather, but Annelize took it in her stride and transformed a marquee into a beach with real sea sand driven in to create the effect. Annelize also created an 'Out of Africa' theme for a bush wedding, complete with umbrellas, binoculars, chairs and blankets. Even hippos were lured to a waterhole with the smell of canapés while guests enjoyed champagne and oysters from the safety of the deck. Annelize's ideas are always original. She once received a brief to coordinate a fun weekend wedding in the bush. The itinerary was kept a secret and the bridal party was treated to surprise game drives, massages, traditional African Dancers, fly fishing, an exotic 11-course wedding dinner and a hot air balloon for the bridal couple.

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