

wedding



*Dream
destination
Marrying on the shores of Zanzibar*

TEXT TRACY LYNN CHERMAY PHOTOGRAPHS JOE DREYER

As the owner of Dream Destinations, a luxury honeymoon travel business, Yolande Naude knew that she would one day get married at some exotic location. When she met James Pietersen through her best friend (who used to date him previously!), she asked him to name the top five places he'd like to visit – Zanzibar was one of them. This became their dream wedding destination, after James proposed on a surprise weekend to Paternoster, with a cooler box filled with Yolande's favourite snacks.

The wedding invitations stipulated that all guests were to wear white, complementing Yolande's off-white dress of silk, chiffon and French lace, as well as James' white-linen trousers, and belt adorned with seashells. The decor was simple, leaving the island backdrop to set the scene, with local flowers making up the floral arrangements. A thin chain filled with tiny white shells and crystals hung from Yolande's bouquet to the floor.

The Stellenbosch couple was married by a Swahili priest in the ruins of an Anglican church. After the ceremony, everyone enjoyed sushi and market-style snacks prepared by chefs on the beach. Three African dhow sailing boats transported the surprised guests to a secret reception venue.

During the hour-long sail, guests enjoyed drinks and a little dance, arriving at the Mtoni Marine hotel to the sounds of African drumming and beach bonfires. The dancing continued on the white sands before guests sat down to extravagant seafood platters of slipper lobster, crab and local calamari.

From there, a local islanders' band provided the entertainment that still has Yolande reminiscing that her wedding was more like a festival.

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Photographer Joe Dreyer 082-549-9885

Venue Mtoni Marine, www.mtoni.com

Wedding dress Stiaan Louw 021-465-5499

Clockwise from top Yolande and James' 48 guests all wore white; the bride's simple yet elegant low-backed dress by Stiaan Louw; the ceremony was held in the Mbweni Ruins of Zanzibar; candles, lanterns and bonfires lit up the island

Opposite Bride and groom marry in their idyllic dream destination

