

A wedding wonderland



Simone and her flower girls Tayla McIntyre (left) and Hannah McGovan

BRIDE Simone Sneider, 26, account manager
GROOM Shane McIntyre, 28, engineer
THEIR STORY Simone and Shane met through mutual friends, then became best friends themselves. They spent a lot of time trying to find suitable partners for one another before Shane finally admitted he was in love with Simone, but was afraid of ruining their friendship. The dilemma was solved when Simone confessed that the feeling was mutual. That was five years ago.

THE PROPOSAL On the last night of a holiday to Thornybush Game Reserve near the Kruger National Park, Simone was told dinner would be served in the chalet. When she entered their chalet, it was covered in rose petals and lit with lanterns and candles. After a delicious meal, Simone gave Shane an emotional, but very definite 'Yes!'

THE BIG DAY 29 April 2006. The ceremony was held at Highway Chapel and the reception at Camp Orchards, both in Hillcrest, Durban.
ONE THING I'VE LEARNT Try to relax. Take time to focus on things around you and get a good night's rest. Each day simply gets better when you know you have each other to share it with, says Simone.



The bridesmaids' bouquets were made of variegated-pink roses entwined with crystal beading



Hannah wishes Tayla luck for her flower-girl role



Simone and her bridesmaids (from left) Samantha Moore Boyle, Shirley McIntyre and Taryn Rijkes



Simone cuddles her cherubs

Simone and Shane, who now live in KZN, previously spent three years in Cape Town. 'We enjoyed the open spaces and wine farms, and we wanted to find a place that would bring back fond memories of our time together here. Camp Orchards reminded us of a Cape- and winelands-style space,' says Simone.

Each table had a topiary tree of roses and greenery at its centre, and women guests each received a gift box containing a beaded bracelet made by Simone as a thank-you token. When it came to dinner, the main course was brought to the tables on large silver platters so that guests could serve themselves, family-style. Another special thing: Simone may have looked every bit the traditional bride, but she is a woman who does things on her own terms, and she wanted to express how much Shane means to her. So she went to a studio and had her speech recorded into the middle of their wedding song. Oh, and her wedding and engagement rings were passed from her grandmother as a gift. ▶



The bride and groom steal a kiss