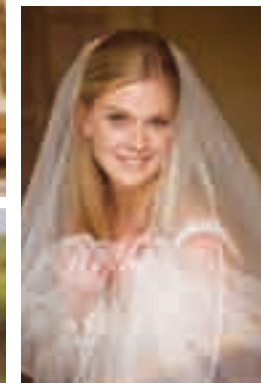




Alexandra & Alexander Drew



VENUE Cleopatra's Mountain Farmhouse,
Drakensberg
 DÉCOR STYLE Country chic
 DATE 7 January 2010
 GUESTS 50
 HOME Currys Post, KwaZulu-Natal Midlands



Alexandra Blackburn met Alexander

Drew (both now 27) at The Nottingham Road Pub in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, and he proposed at Mkuze Falls Game Reserve when on a family holiday. “He and I went on a bush walk and got to an amazing river bed - where he got down on one knee and asked me to marry him. Of course, with much excitement, I said ‘yes’ - and I thought we were headed back to camp. When I turned the corner, there was the most beautiful table laid with champagne and canapés, and shortly thereafter (shouting and screaming) my family arrived a Land Rover! What a magical moment!”

The family was totally involved in the wedding too! Alex and her mother Debbie did all of the coordination. Debbie is in the hospitality industry as owner of Cranford Country Lodge in Currys Post in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands (where the couple now live in a lovely stone and thatch house that Alexandra’s parents built). “My mother was absolutely amazing and we both worked together with the help of family and friends to put this magical day together. I don’t know what I’d do without my mum!”

Alexandra’s dress was by Belles of Hilton (imported from Italy). “As well as helping with my wedding, my grandmother bought this amazing dress for me - which was so comfortable to wear and really stunning!”

Alexandra says their whole day was completely magical. “It was full of excitement, love and happiness and everything was beyond our expectations. We really enjoyed the Cleopatra’s raft that ferried us around the dam and brought us to the front of the dining room where everyone was watching us through the glass windows and standing on the deck waving to us. Allan played ‘It’s a beautiful day’ by U2 and it was the most incredible feeling.

“The church service directed by Richard Sturdee



was also very special, walking down the aisle with my father by my side and looking at my man at the end of the aisle was a feeling that I will never forget. It was pure happiness and excitement for what was about to happen and knowing that after this day I get to spend the rest of my life with the most incredible man by my side.”

Flowers that they used were all sorts of roses: “We had a lovely variety - coffee, white, cream and pink roses, with lavender, lace and hypericum. Michele Priestman created the most beautiful bouquets for me and my four bridesmaids. She was brilliant and we love her so much.” Their wedding cake was layers of imported cheeses, figs, nuts, ginger, fruit and praline – “Utterly yummy!”

A string quartet played while guests arrived from the chapel and drank French champagne (Moët) and ate canapés. They played through dinner and then Allan McCabe, the DJ and a good friend, kicked in with the dancing music after dinner.

Everyone enjoyed a gastronomic six-course extravaganza, which included smoked Kamberg trout, oven-roasted tomato soup with a bite, oak-smoked carpaccio of springbok and flame-seared fillet of Angus beef.

PHOTOGRAPHER David Reese
 DRESS DESIGNER Belles of Hilton (imported from Italy)
 FLOWERS Michele Priestman