



MICHELLE  
& CRAIG  
BENEY

9 DECEMBER 2006



*Michelle's dress had a thigh-high slit revealing a lace insert and sequins on the shoulder straps*



**THE BRIDE** Michelle Raw, 40, lawyer

**THE GROOM** Craig Beney, 40, chartered accountant

**THEIR STORY** Craig and Michelle met while working in the same division at a bank. When Craig moved divisions, they remained friends. It was at a wine-laced dinner with Michelle's parents that Craig realised how he felt about his friend. He says he apparently announced to them that he intended marrying their daughter and proceeded to court her subtly; she had another boyfriend at the time. When Michelle asked Craig what he wanted for Christmas, he SMSed 'you, wrapped with a red ribbon'. From then on, the courting was less subtle.

**THE PROPOSAL** They got engaged at Thornybush Game Reserve with French champagne in the bush under an African sky while lions roared in the distance.

**THE BIG DAY** 9 December 2006 at La Petite Dauphine Guestfarm in Franschhoek

**ONE THING I'VE LEARNT** 'A sense of humour is paramount,' says Michelle. Craig suggests paying attention on the day and taking time to take in everything that is happening – it all goes by so fast.



*The bouquet was predominantly made up of cream and soft pink roses*

*Instead of place cards, cards with the table number on one side and a guest's name on the other were pinned to ropes with washing pegs and hung from the ceiling*



**T**he wedding ceremony was supposed to be held in a paddock outside, but what with the wind, rain and freezing temperatures (in December), it had to be moved indoors. Their marvellous wedding planner organised a church and flowers and they phoned all the guests to tell them of the change in venue – on the day.

Michelle's parents live in the Franschhoek valley and it has wonderful memories for her. La Petite Dauphine is breathtaking, say the couple, and lent itself well to the feel of understated elegance and warmth that they were after. To this end, instead of the more formal bride's table, they had two long banquet tables for the guests. And the French champagne flowed freely.





**Above:** As neither of the couple eats fruitcake, they decided on a chocolate cake surrounded by roses and summer berries



**Above and left:** In keeping with the relaxed theme, the menu was handwritten on blackboards and food was served on large platters



**Right:** The colourful table arrangements provided splashes of colour



Crystal glasses, sterling silver and candelabra helped create the elegance Michelle and Craig wanted

### MENU HIGHLIGHTS

Canapes including lime and coconut wraps filled with chicken, mint and nuts  
 Antipasto  
 Franschoek smoked trout  
 Green asparagus and artichokes  
 Pepper-encrusted seared tuna with wild rocket

### SERVICE PROVIDERS

**VENUE** La Petite Dauphin Guest Farm ☎ 021 876 3936 **COORDINATOR** Anne at Wedding Concepts ☎ 021 426 5783 **DÉCOR** Okasie ☎ 021 887 9904 **LIGHTING** Something Different ☎ 072 231 3165 **CATERING** Out Of This Planet Catering ☎ 021 686 4609 **CAKE** Wade's Cakes ☎ 082 932 4522 **PHOTOGRAPHER** Garyth Bevan ☎ 082 898 0553 **MUSIC** Gary Deacon and the Sound Image Trio ☎ 021 782 2838 **DJ** Rene Tanguy ☎ 082 578 4888 **STAFFING AND HIRING** Urbantonic ☎ 021 706 0133 **STATIONERY** Full Circle Studios ☎ 082 681 4500, [www.fullcirclestudios.co.za](http://www.fullcirclestudios.co.za)