

Josian Heyerdahl

The peaks above Cape Town framed this environmental scientist's nature-inspired nuptials. Photographed by WELOVEPICTURES



Guests at Vrede en Lust estate, South Africa. Right: the bride in Lace Blossom dress with bouquet by Fleur le Cordeur.





With husband James Forrest in front of the rustic gazebo.



Florist Fleur le Cordeur worked to Heyerdahl's botanical-garden-meets-farmers'-market brief.



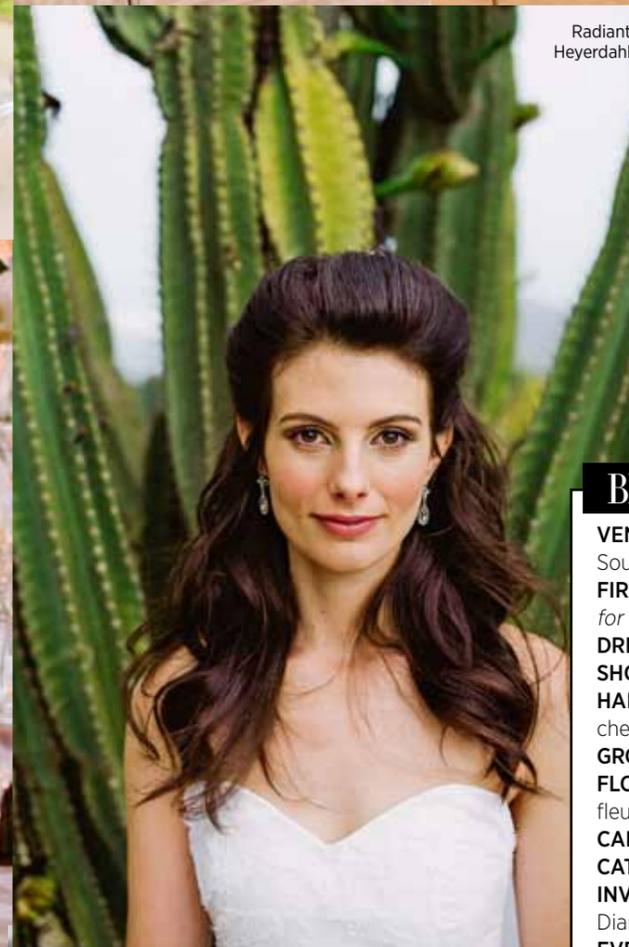
The marquee set for dinner.



Peak hour: the ceremony in front of Simonsberg mountain.



Friends Sara de Beer and Fiona Mackay.



Radiant: Heyerdahl.



BRIDE'S BLACK BOOK

VENUE: Vrede en Lust, Franschhoek, South Africa, vnl.co.za
FIRST DANCE: *My Baby Just Cares for Me* by Nina Simone
DRESS: Lace Blossom, laceblossom.co.za
SHOES: BHLDN, bhldn.com
HAIR & MAKEUP: Cheryl Parker, cherylparker.co.za
GROOM: P.Johnson suit, pjohnson.com.au
FLORIST: Heike at Fleur le Cordeur, fleurlecordeur.co.za
CAKE: Kanya Hunt, kanyahunt.co.za
CATERING: Vrede en Lust, vnl.co.za
INVITATIONS/STATIONERY: Secret Diary, secretdiary.co.za
EVENT COORDINATOR: Yolanda from Vrede en Lust, vnl.co.za
MUSIC: Processional: *Bridal Chorus* from the opera *Lohengrin* by Wagner; Recessional: *Spring from The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi; DJ Heather Nel (HoneyB), africandope.co.za
READINGS: *Sonnet XVII* by Pablo Neruda; *Now Touch the Air Softly* by William Jay Smith; *Blessings for a Marriage* by James Dillet Freeman
PHOTOGRAPHY: Welovepictures, welovepictures.co.za
VIDEO: Peter from Just Shoot Me, justshootme.co.za/weddings.html

Josian Heyerdahl is a poster child for staying true to your style on your wedding day. Botanical charm was the mood the Italian-born, South Africa-raised and Sydney-based environmental scientist envisioned for her wedding to James Forrest, and boy, did it deliver.

The granddaughter of Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl was married at Vrede en Lust, a majestic manor house in Franschhoek, near Cape Town, built in 1688. "The views are breathtaking, the wines are delicious, the accommodation is exquisite and the attention to detail is perfect. The owners are great friends of ours and they made every effort to ensure our wedding day was a dream come true," she says.

The surrounds inspired the wedding styling: edible gardens, greenhouses, antique botanical illustrations and the wild flowers of the Cape Floral Kingdom. "Growing up in Cape Town, you have such a deep appreciation for nature ... I have always been fascinated by anything botanical," says Heyerdahl, listing as references South African artist Clinton Friedman's photography (clintonfriedmancollections.com), the book *Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History*, the vegetable garden at Babylonstoren farm (babylonstoren.com) and Kirstenbosch National Botanical

Garden (nbi.org; both in Cape Town).

"I'm also really passionate about food issues; growing your own food, farmers' markets and foraging for wild food. I loved the idea of bringing all these things together as an artistic display of botanical beauty," she adds.

Heyerdahl's imagination ran wild; the indoor space was transformed, with curly-stemmed leek flowers, artichoke and eggplant flowers arranged in bell jars and vases, arrangements of bright red onions and branches of pomegranates and figs.

How does one top such fabulous styling with an even more spectacular dress? With a handmade gown by Erna and Zani from Lace Blossom. "It was such a special experience to see my dress being created with such care and attention to detail," says the bride. "Every piece of lace was individually cut and we decided together where to place them. It was the most wonderful experience."

Her most treasured moments from the day? Her auntie Liv performing the wedding ceremony: "We wrote it together over many Skype calls and it was beautiful to say those words surrounded by family and friends. I also loved the readings, sharing a moment with my mother as she gave me away, the baskets of rosemary, pomegranates and figs in front of us, the mountains and, of course, marrying James." — *Georgie Abay*



Botanical illustrations set a pastoral tone.



Flower girls Maya and Gemma Sutton.

