

the **BLOGGER'S** wish list

Gaby Frescura from Southbound Bride gives us the inside scoop on her 10 most covetable trends.

What you should know about me: I've lived in New York, Milan and London, but South Africa always has my heart! My family, friends and godsons mean the world to me. I cry like an Oscar winner when watching animal movies, swear like an Italian when watching rugby, and think being in love should feel the way a Sinatra number sounds.

Things I love: Long tables, good food and wine (there's that Italian side coming out again!), beach ceremonies, inventive flower arrangements, details that tell a couple's story, letterpress, signature cocktails, sparkly dresses, anything by Tiffany & Co or Vera Wang.

Things I loathe: Chair covers and ties, horrible carpets, gerberas, spot colour in photos, ugly shoes, photographs of perfume, bridezillas.

Advice for brides-to-be: Hire a great photographer – it's worth every cent! • Trust your service providers to do what they do best. • Don't

forget to involve the groom. • On the day, make time to take a step back and take it all in.

PHOTOGRAPHS: WWW.MONICADART.COM, RENSCHE MARI, JULIE WILHITE, MOIRA WEST, VIVID BLUE, YOLANDE SNYDERS, CHANELLE SEGERIUS BRUCE/INVITATION GALLERY, VERONIQUE PHOTOGRAPHY, CHERYL MCEWAN, ANEL VAN DER MERWE AND SUPPLIED



10 Wedding details I love right now

- Blushing brides** I love all proteas, but recently these have become my favourite. I love how these flowers are really taking the wedding scene by storm – at home and abroad.
- Prints charming** Prints are huge news this season, from chevron, stripes and polka dots to florals and more intricate designs. I love seeing homegrown prints on tables, such as beautiful shwe-shwe, or those by Skinny laMinx or Design Team.
- Some sparkle** There's nothing more glam than a glittery accent piece, whether it's a pair of shoes or a bridesmaid's dress.
- Statement necklaces** This is such a stylish look. This design by Jade Jewellery and Design Exclusive, incorporating freshwater pearls and a cameo carved from bone, had sentimental value for the bride.
- Personalised hangers** Don't forget those wedding dress photos! I especially love these wire hangers by The Desert Rose Project.
- The Invitation Gallery** I love beautiful stationery, but bespoke invites can get expensive. A great option is The Invitation Gallery, which has dozens of current designs that can be customised.
- Ombé** From flowers to bridesmaids' dresses, the wedding industry has really embraced this trend (from the French term describing graduated colour). This gorgeous ruffled ombé cake is by Nelle Cakes.
- Illusion backs** Brides everywhere are falling in love with romantic lace-backed dresses. They never fail to make a statement! Pictured here is a design called Elizabeth by the talented Elbeth Gillis.
- Boer & Brit wines** Not only is this range delicious, it also comes in gorgeous packaging. And I love the uniquely South African names!
- The Irreverent A-Z Wedding Guide: South Africa** What a fun read, full of great advice and hilarious stories! It's a great way to get started with wedding planning without taking it all too seriously.