



Brendan and Carrie tie the knot

In traditional bridal fashion, Carrie arrived a full 30 minutes late for the ceremony, which was due to start at 4pm, although the weather stayed dry throughout the afternoon.

Carrie wore a strapless ball gown style dress with beaded flower detail and a beaded short veil. She held a beautiful bouquet of cream roses and foliage created by Suzannah's Flowers.

Her bridesmaids, Clarissa, Vera, Lara, Rute and Natasha wore bespoke full length coffee and cream coloured dresses and stoles and held simple bouquets of cream gerberas.

Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed a reception with drinks and canapés in the mature gardens overlooking the lake at the Herdade, while the happy couple had their photographs taken by professional photographer Nikkie Davis from Blush Photography.

Once all of the private and group photos were taken, guests drove across the estate to the restaurant, which was furnished in a rustic country style, for the wedding breakfast.

Guests were seated in groups, while the bride and groom took centre stage with a table all to themselves. The bride chose cars as name tag holders and gave guests a pretty bag containing a cork from the Herdade's winery

The Portugal News editor Brendan de Beer and his fiancé, **The Portugal News** journalist Carrie Marie Bratley, tied the knot in an Anglican ceremony at the Herdade dos Grous in the Alentejo on Saturday, 26 March. The ceremony, held in an outdoor gazebo above a flowing river on the country estate was conducted by Rev'd Paul Luckman from All Saints Anglican Church and included the reading 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, by Kurt Pardon, a close friend of the couple.



An informal photo of the bride and groom (Photo: Blush Photography / Nikkie Davis)

and coffee beans as favours.

Following the couvert, the menu included homemade tomato soup with a poached egg, followed by salmon on a bed of steamed vegetables, beef with potato rondelles and pear poached in red wine with ice cream.

After the meal, the groom's brother, Peter de Beer made a speech in which he congratulated Brendan on finally getting married and welcomed Carrie to the de Beer family. The bride's father also made a speech, followed by the groom who brought tears to everyone's eyes.

The rich chocolate three tiered wedding cake with fresh flower decorations was then cut and enjoyed by all with a glass of champagne before Carrie and Brendan had their first dance to Brandy Carlisle's 'I was made for you'.

The evening disco was a lively affair, with plenty of dancing and merrymaking from all the guests to classic wedding tunes such as; Come on Eileen, YMCA and It's Raining Men as well as modern tracks such as that never to be forgotten classic! Shakira's 'Waka Waka', which inspired everyone to join in a conga line through the restaurant.

The Portugal News team congratulates Brendan and Carrie and wishes them very many happy years together!