

I remember so fondly. I also want all this to be accessible to them if they themselves happen to be a South African navigating this country, by sharing my tried-and-tested tips, tricks and resources. We have such rich and unique flavors and traditions in our culture, which has been greatly influenced by our rich and unique history, and I just love having a hand in continuing this even though I'm so far from my original home.

What are some of Southern Protea's happiest moments and biggest accomplishments?

My favorite moments in this journey have been the ones where I get to share in others' celebrations. Custom cakes have been the perfect way to do so. One of my most memorable cakes was a wedding cake that I did for a South African couple here in TN. It was a rooibos-flavored cake with a beautiful protea arrangement to one side and a little African potjie topper. I just loved getting to do the set-up for this cake as everyone around me was speaking Afrikaans and their joy was infectious! Another fun moment for me was at the SAWITU weekend in Nashville. We held a Tannies Tea in Centennial Park, and I was surprised and honored to learn that my rooibos cake had received the award for best dessert! It was such a pleasure to share that with all the "Tannies" who had come from so far away to attend.

If you could choose one quote to live by, what would it be?

A verse from the Bible that has always inspired and encouraged me as I made the transition between countries and created a brand-new life here, has been Isaiah 55:12 (10 points if you can find it on my website). It gives us a beautiful picture and promise of how God works everything together, even nature itself, to encourage you on your journey home — whatever "home" might look like in the future.

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

What does the future hold for Southern Protea?

As my children grow up and become more independent, I'm excited to gradually grow Southern Protea into what I have dreamt it to be. I hope to create a space where people can enjoy this take on South African flavors and culture. I want to share South African hospitality and the traditions it encompasses and hope to have more and more tangible ways and places to do so. Until then, I'll continue to share my experience, recipes and food any way I can. Also, maybe a cookbook one day, you never know... 🌿

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