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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

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friends)

**HOW TO
PLAN A
WORRY-FREE
WEDDING**

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**101
BUDGET
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A woman with long, wavy blonde hair and blue eyes is wearing a white, off-the-shoulder lace wedding dress. She is standing in front of a window with white curtains, looking towards the camera. The lighting is soft and natural, coming from the window.

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A woman with long, wavy brown hair and blue eyes is the central figure. She is wearing a white, sleeveless lace wedding dress with a deep V-neckline. She is standing outdoors, leaning against a tree trunk. The tree is covered in green leaves and white roses. The background is a soft-focus green landscape. The overall mood is romantic and elegant.

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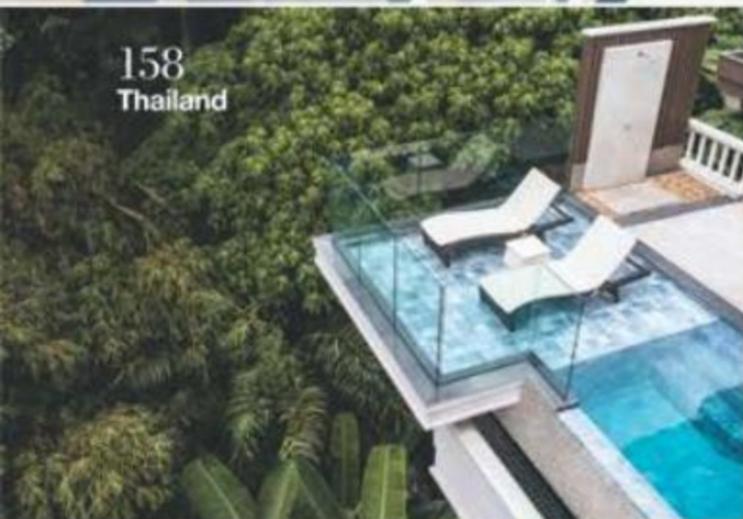
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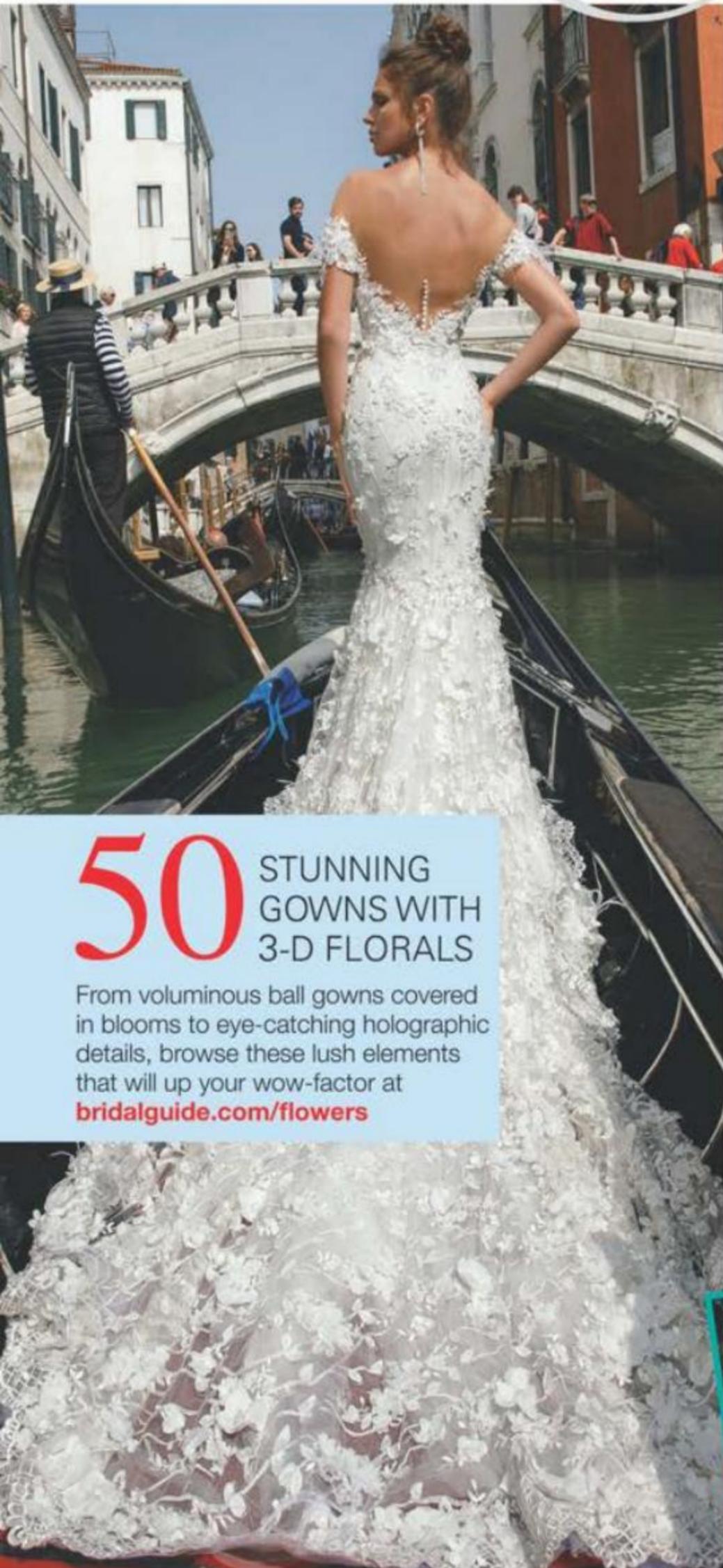
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BEAUTY NOTE

► Get bright-eyed and bridal beautiful with this soft palette of flirty rose and coral tones. Apply (1) Charlotte Tillbury Hollywood Lips in Dolly Bird for a gorgeous pale-pink pout that will last you through the night. To get a youthful flush, swirl (2) Anastasia Beverly Hills Blush Trio in Pool Party outward along cheekbones; mix the three

shades for your desired hue and a believably natural finish. Then, get long, look-at-me lashes with (3) Le Volume de Chanel in 10 Noir for a pop of drama. Finish by dusting (4) Too Faced Born This Way Setting Powder over skin; the lightweight formula will act as a translucent veil for stay-put makeup and set your overall look flawlessly.



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wedding Q & A



Straight talk, smart solutions
by **Diane Forden**, Editor in Chief



DOUBLE DUTY

Q. I'm having a matron of honor and a maid of honor. Which one should be paired with the best man for the recessional and first dance?

Madison, Wisconsin

A. For the recessional, the maid and matron of honor can walk down the aisle together or the best man can escort both women, one on each arm. There's no hard and fast rule about the first dance—you can have the maid of honor dance with the best man while the matron of honor dances with a groomsman or vice versa. It's up to you and your fiancé to decide what you'd like to do.

COCKTAIL TIME

Q. My fiancé and I are having about 85 guests and many are from out of town. Is it OK to plan a cocktail and dessert reception? Or should we provide a full meal?

Washington, D.C.

A. It's perfectly fine to have a cocktail-party reception: It's fun, elegant and an affordable alternative to the traditional sit-down dinner. I wouldn't worry about not having enough food to feed your guests. I've been to many weddings where the cocktail-hour fare was outstanding. It's all about offering fabulous, abundant food at stations as well as having passed hors d'oeuvres. Think pasta bar or a Tuscan table filled with Italian breads and an array of cheese and olives. Offer crowd-pleasing comfort foods like mac 'n cheese, fries with a variety of toppings, sliders and mini grilled cheese sandwiches along with shot glasses of soup. If your budget

allows, you can have a sushi station or seafood bar. Speak with your caterer about food options and be sure to indicate on your invitation that the event is for cocktails and dessert so your guests won't be expecting a full-course meal.

WHO CALLS?

Q. My son just got engaged and his fiancé's family (whom we've never met) lives across the country. What is the proper etiquette? Should I call them? *New Haven, Connecticut*

A. Definitely give them a call. Traditionally, the groom's mom phones the bride's mother to relay congratulations and extend an invitation to meet. Considering the distance between your two families you'll probably need to plan a get-together at a later time. Either way, she will appreciate your call.

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Q. We are having a very small wedding. How do we announce our wedding to those family members who won't be invited without upsetting them? *Cleveland, Ohio*

A. There's no need to send out a formal wedding announcement until after you're married. But if you're worried that some may see your engagement news on Facebook and assume they're invited then you and your fiancé—and both sets of parents—should let extended family members know as soon as possible that yours will be a very small wedding. They may be disappointed but will respect

your wishes and appreciate the heads up.

THE EX FACTOR

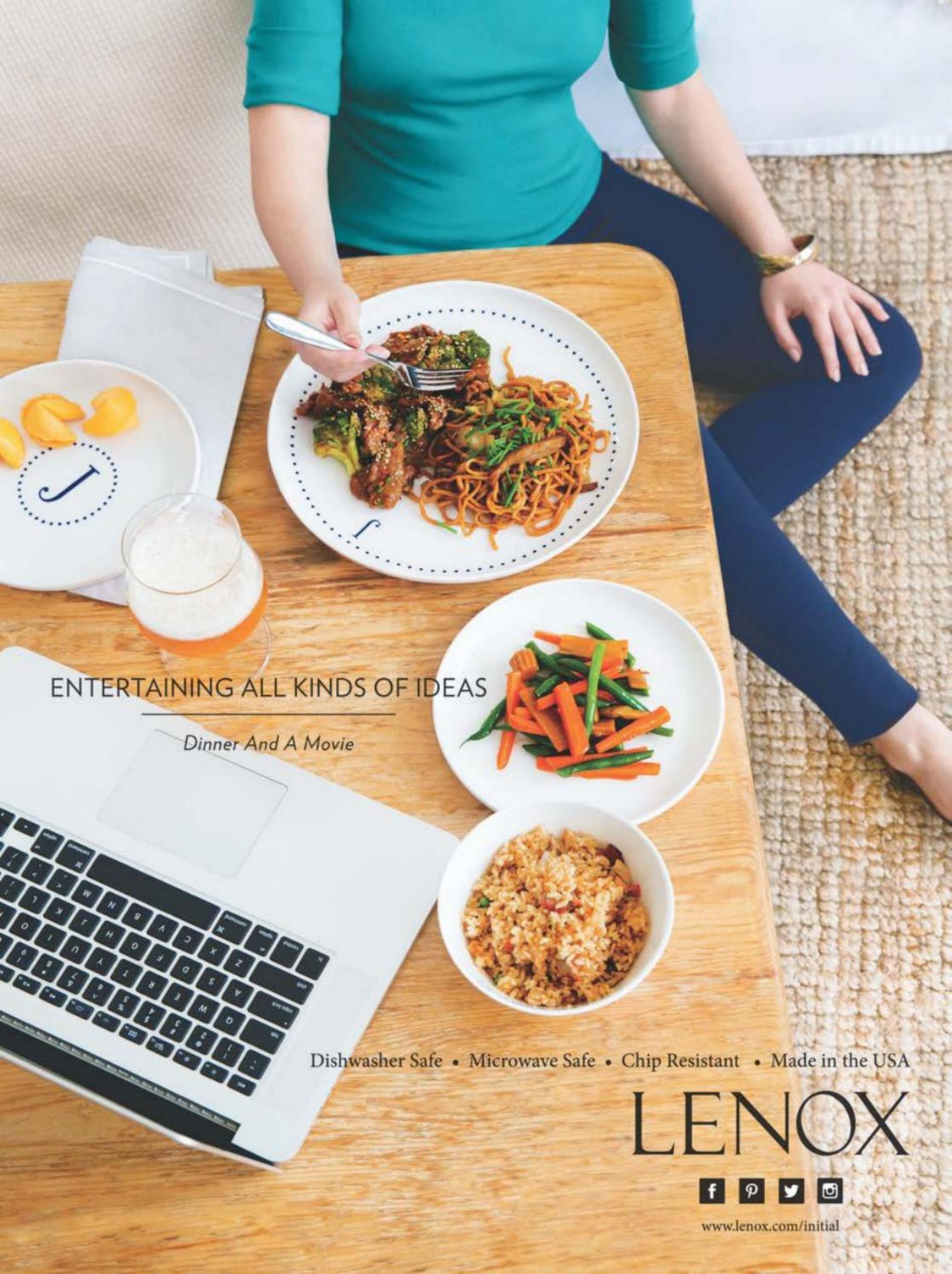
Q. My fiancé and I have a good relationship with my ex-wife. Is it OK to invite her—and our little girl—to the wedding?

Santa Fe, New Mexico

A. As a rule, it's recommended that ex-spouses *not* be invited to the wedding, even if you have an amicable relationship. Your child may be confused by her mother's presence at your nuptials. Guests, too, may feel a bit uncomfortable and not know quite what to say to your ex (the focus is now on her instead of on you and your new wife.) Also, your ex may find it emotionally difficult to witness your re-marriage, no matter how well she and your fiancé get along.

If you still feel strongly about extending an invitation to your ex, make sure your future wife is absolutely fine with it. If she indicates even the slightest bit of hesitation or doubt then just have your daughter come to the wedding.

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COLOR CUES



The star of WETV's "David Tutera's CELEBrations" shares the secrets to creating the perfect wedding palette.

EVER SINCE YOU ANNOUNCED YOUR engagement, you've probably been repeatedly asked this question: "What is your color scheme?" It is important, and it's also one of the first questions I ask when I meet a bride. Color is actually an extension of *you*, as a bride, and the hues you choose will affect everything—from the ink and paper choices of your invitations to your bridesmaids' dresses to your bouquets and floral centerpieces to your tablecloths, your specialty cocktails and even your favors. And oh, yes, the cake!

OMG! This is a huge decision. So let's step back a minute and think about color in everyday life. Color can create a mood and affect the energy of a space. When you paint a room in your home, the choice of color will evoke a feeling. Yellow is happy and exciting, and it makes me think of the morning sun, so I love it for a kitchen. Red is associated with passion and adventure, while blue is calming and peaceful. For some people that may be too much, but for me different colors create different experiences—and isn't that what life is all about?

So color is a very personal choice, but when I ask brides



DAVID'S RULE: COLOR CREATES THE MOOD OF YOUR WEDDING CELEBRATION AND IT WILL STRONGLY AFFECT THE ENERGY OF THE SPACE.

about their color schemes, most tell me that they want all white or shades of pink. Now these are safe, but less daring than I'd like. My advice is, add personality—*your* personality—by choosing a splash of color. Together, consider your favorite colors as well as your season and style. What do certain colors mean to each of you? (The pink of the peonies in your mom's spring garden? The blue of the summer sky at the beach?) Now purchase inexpensive paints, brushes and paper and start splattering. Be a little crazy, a little Jackson Pollock! Or pick up paint chips at your local home improvement store, and play with different combinations. You might be surprised by what you both like.

SHADES OF THE SEASONS

I try to avoid color schemes that are too predictable. For example, a fall wedding that's orange and brown makes me think of Halloween and pumpkins. "Harvest" colors are too clichéd; you don't want your wedding to be too "themey." Instead, consider taupe or burgundy with copper and a hint of lavender. Fall is perfect for being fashion forward with unique colors.

SPRING: Spring colors are usually all about pastels, but change it up a bit by adding deep splashes of plum or coral.

SUMMER: Go for bold yellows, purples, reds and blues. Or select different shades of a color: Coral, salmon and a deep burnt orange would be stunning.

WINTER: All-white is gorgeous, but add a splash of lavender for warmth. Or go for a metallic, like pewter, silver, copper, bronze or gold, for depth and richness.

Your wedding is a blank canvas just waiting for you to paint it in your special colors. Have fun creating a masterpiece! ■



Bold pops of pink and fuchsia add a dash of daring to a palette of warm golden hues



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MODERN ALLURE

Elegant seduction inspired designer Julia Zhang's **Calla Blanche** collection of ultra-fitted, boldly detailed gowns.



How would you describe the design aesthetic of your new collection? It's very trend-driven for the contemporary bride. We have a lot of deep V-necklines paired with dramatically ruched skirts and exquisite beading. I wanted a look of sexy couture, so our collection has an upscale, sensual feel that's made to be wearable

and affordable for the modern woman.

How would you like a bride to feel when she is wearing one of your designs? I'd like a bride to feel beautiful, as if she were destined to wear one

of my gowns. When her children or grandchildren

look at her wedding pictures in 10 or 20 years, I want them to still feel the beauty of the dress.

What are some of the biggest trends you are seeing now in bridal fashion?

Nude illusion detailing is really having a moment. Deep V-necklines and 3-D floral designs are also prominent right now. Many brides are embracing these designs over traditional gowns.

What advice would you give to brides who are searching for the perfect accessories and gown?

I think the best accessory is one that has a story behind it. Borrowing a treasured piece of jewelry from your mother or grandmother is an easy way to add

sentiment and enhance your look. As for the gown, choose a style that suits your personality. And don't be afraid of fitted silhouettes.

— Kate Watson

TAKE THE PLUNGE

ABOVE: Shimmering tulle sheath with beaded deep V-neckline, about \$2,009. LEFT: Lace ballgown with open back and cap sleeves, about \$2,960.

DARE TO BARE

TOP LEFT: Shimmering tulle gown with beaded straps and cutout back, about \$2,150. ABOVE: Silk off-the-shoulder gown with A-line skirt, about \$1,950.

Sleeveless lace gown with beaded appliques and cutout back, about \$2,540.

Beaded lace-bodice sheath with cap sleeves and illusion V-neckline, about \$1,880.

“It's not about going with the latest trends; it's about how the dress makes you feel on your special day.”



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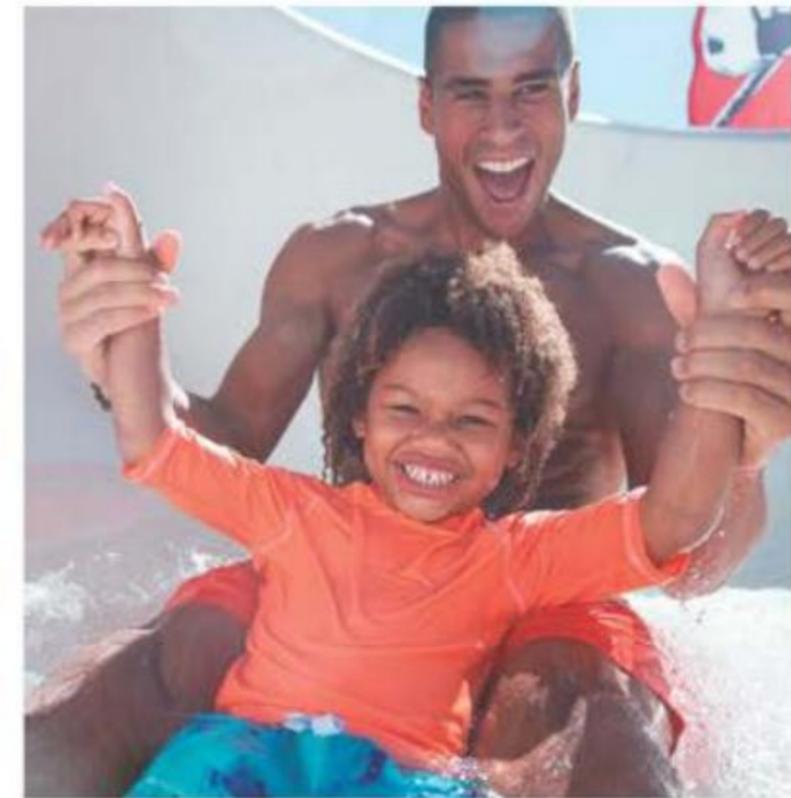
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by Kayla Hayes

► Silk romper by Naked Princess.



▲ Vintage ring at Trumpet & Horn.



► Acrylic clutch by Edie Parker.



► Cake topper by The Roc Shop.



► Cake by Stevi Aubele at Hey There, Cupcake!

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JUSTIN ALEXANDER SIGNATURE



NAEEM KHAN



SACHIN & BABI



▼ Crystal earrings by Chloe + Isabel.



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▼ Deco invite by Paperless Post.



▼ Heel by Emmy London.

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF DESIGNERS TOM RALNER, THEIA, JUSTIN ALEXANDER SIGNATURE, NAEEM KHAN. (CAKE) MELISSA BIADOR PHOTOGRAPHY

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▶ Glitter clutch by Kate Spade New York.

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▶ Taupe and gold floral cake by Sky's the Limit Bridal Sweets.

▶ Gold heel by Nine West

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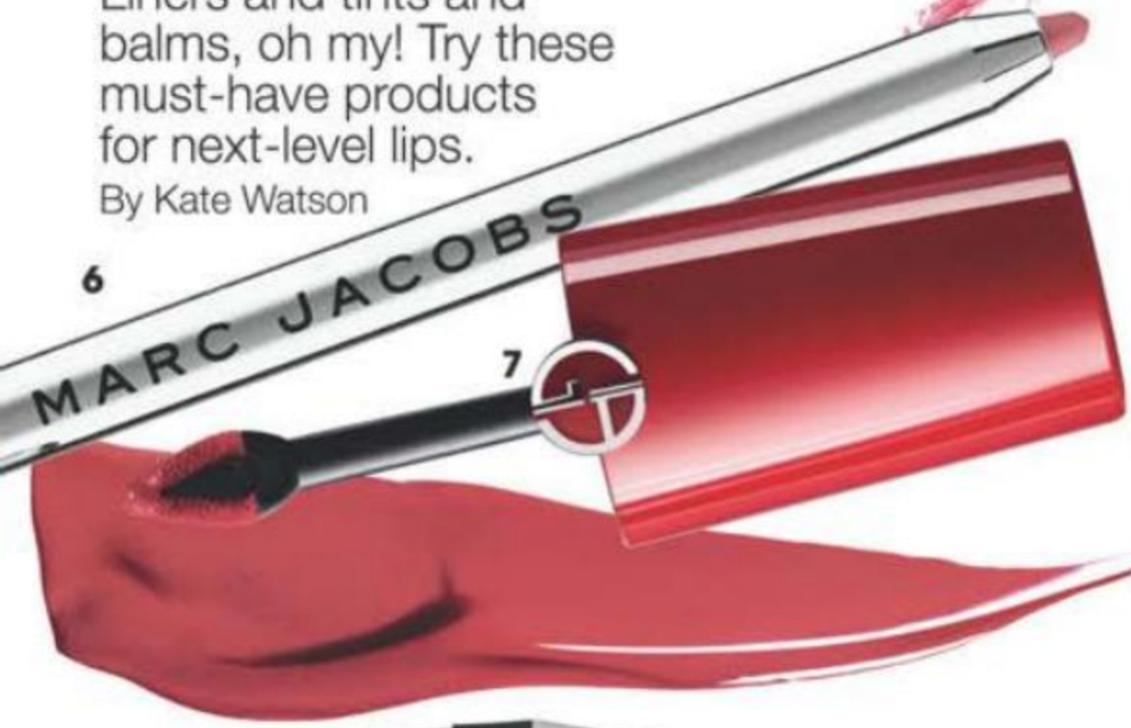
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READY, SET, POUT!

Liners and tints and balms, oh my! Try these must-have products for next-level lips.

By Kate Watson



- 1 FLAT FINISH**
Apply Lancôme Matte Shaker High Pigment Liquid Lipstick for a chic, muted punch of color. Its unique sponge ensures ease of application and smudge-proof wear.
- 2 BALM OUT**
Trade in your lip balm for Elizabeth Arden Sheer Kiss Lip Oil for ultimate hydration and a subtle sheen. Added bonus: This formula has anti-aging properties to protect your pout.
- 3 STAYING POWER**
For a glamorous, kiss-proof finish, use Dior Addict Lip Tattoo to lock in a natural looking color that stains lips without feeling chalky. Wear alone or layer with gloss for extra shimmer and fullness.
- 4 SHINE BRIGHT**
Catrice Aqua Ink-In-Gloss lets you have it all: This gorgeous formula not only leaves your lips supple like a traditional gloss, it also includes a lightweight stain for stay-put, all-day coverage.
- 5 SUBTLE SHADE**
Add sheer color and shine with Yves Saint Laurent Volupté Tint-in-Balm, a dual formula with buildable coverage that easily glides on bare lips or over lipstick for added sparkle.
- 6 A FINE LINE**
Fake fuller lips by tracing the outer edges with Marc Jacobs Beauty Poutliner Longwear Lip Liner Pencil. Continue to fill in the rest of your pout for stay-put color or as a budge-free base before applying lipstick.
- 7 THE NEW NORMAL**
Swap your conventional lipstick for Giorgio Armani Lip Magnet Liquid Lipstick. It's thinner and more highly pigmented, meaning barely there, long-lasting coverage.
- 8 PRIME TIME**
Prep right up with Urban Decay Ultimate Ozone Multipurpose Primer Pencil, a clear gel-like formula that primes lips before adding more product or lines outer edges to prevent color from feathering.

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1 THE HIGHLIGHT The versatile Anastasia Beverly Hills Pro Pencil can be used to highlight beneath or around the arch to accentuate brows.

This pencil comes in three matte shades to create a natural finish and soft lift.

2 GROW THE DISTANCE Promote hair growth with Shiseido Full Lash and Brow Serum made with arginine, an ingredient that enhances brow density. Apply twice daily to stimulate hair follicles.

3 ALL IN THE DETAILS For more intense color, Jackie Gomez, director of the Make Up For Ever Academy, recommends Make Up For Ever Brow Liner to precisely fill in brows using tiny strokes.

4 SUBTLE EFFECT Jared Bailey, Benefit's global brow expert, swears by Benefit Foolproof Brow Powder for a soft, understated look that's easily buildable.

5 PERFECT PRECISION Sephora Collection Retractable Waterproof Brow Pencil's slanted edge gives you absolute control to accurately fill sparse areas or outline arches without looking overdone.

6 MAJOR SHAPE Tarte Amazonian Clay Waterproof Brow Mousse will take brows from wimpy to wow with just a few strokes of this smooth formula.

7 ULTIMATE FINISH Add volume with Laura Mercier Brow Dimension Fiber-Infused Colour Gel made to lightly enhance and sculpt brows with ease.

This serum's soft, flocked tip makes for smooth application with extra hydrating benefits.

7 This gel's mascara-like wand allows you to effortlessly groom and darken arches simultaneously.

6 This creamy product latches onto brow hairs from root to tip for unwavering, all-day wear.

5 This pencil comes in nine, easy-to-match shades and features a wingtip comb to brush brows into place.

4 Bailey suggests using the lighter shade on your inner brows and continuing outward along arches with the darker powder for a believable look.

3 Use this liner's ultra-fine-tip applicator to mimic individual hairs in less dense parts of your brows for a fuller look.



PHOTOGRAPHY: (MODEL) JENNIFER ROBBINS (STILL LIFE) COURTESY OF DESIGNERS



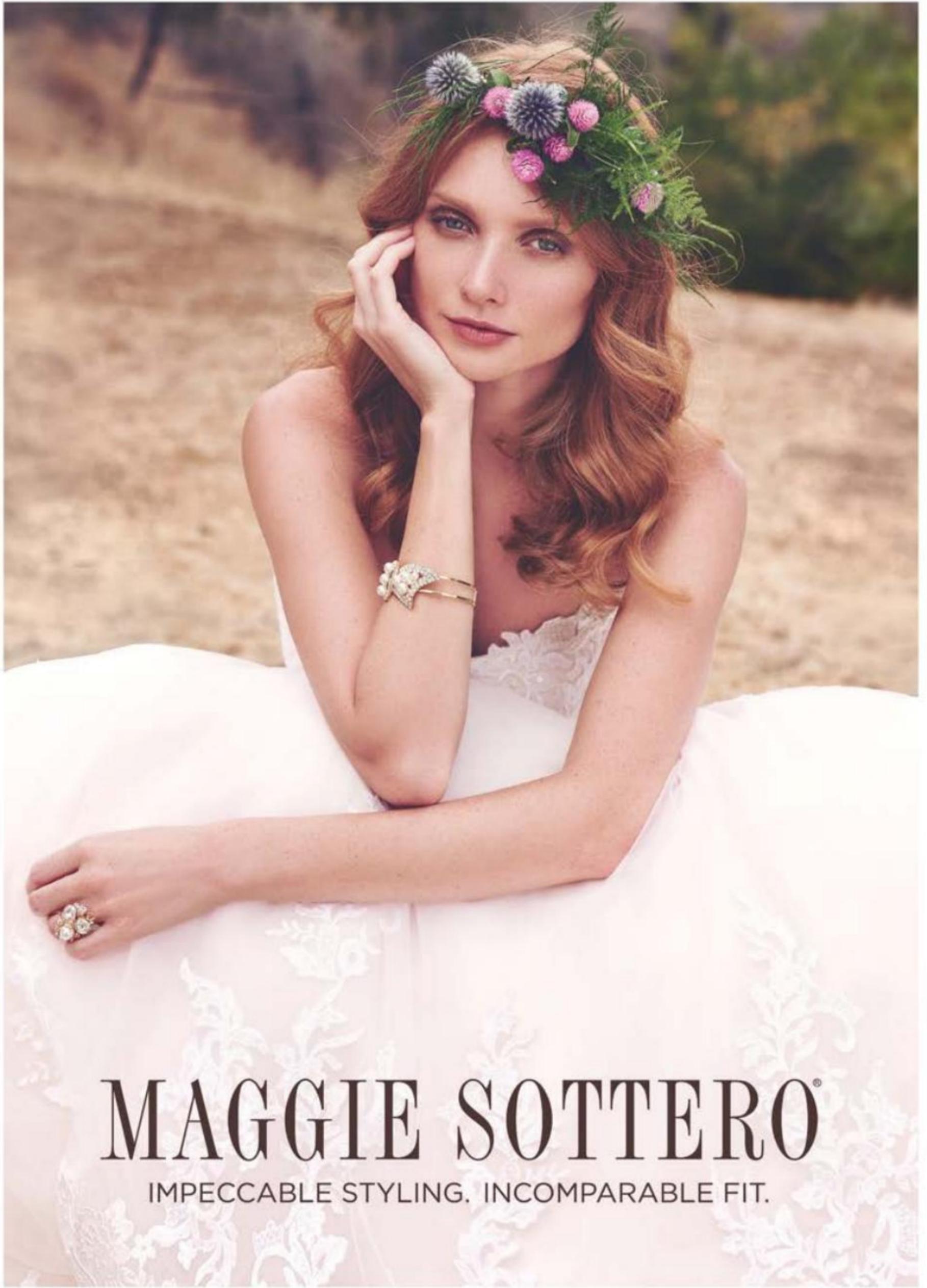
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A scenic landscape featuring a grassy field in the foreground, scattered with large, dark rocks covered in green moss. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear, light sky. The overall tone is natural and serene.

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GLOW FOR IT!

Author and beauty superstar **Bobbi Brown** shares her five top tips for brides.

1 Bobbi says, "Healthy food is life food—and ultimately beauty food."

The cornerstone of beauty foods are fresh vegetables and fruits that provide your fuel, good fats like omega-3s (abundant in walnuts and flaxseed oil) for skin and health, and lean proteins (think halibut, grass-fed beef, lentils) that provide energy. Not only can the right foods increase your energy, prevent disease, and keep you healthy, they can also make you look great. By eating a diet balanced in these types of nutrient-rich foods most of the time, you will feel and look better. Instead of thinking "diet," think about food as healthy fuel. Get rid of processed foods, salt, soda, sugar and white flour. Try and incorporate beauty foods such as apple cider vinegar, berries, flaxseed and chia seeds, hydrating foods, green powders, organic whey powder, vegetables, water, lemons, peppermint and coconut oil to keep your energy high and your skin looking great.

2 "If you want to get in shape, you've never had more options."

If you are looking to lose some weight quickly in time for the big day, try HIIT (high-intensity interval training), which features short bursts of high-intensity work followed by brief periods of rest. Try yoga to build strength, tone your body, and provide some "Zen" time. The practice will allow you to breath and stay focused. Want to look perfect during your first dance? Try posture-enhancing regimes such as barre, which will also leave you looking leaner than ever. To get and stay fit, you need to be consistent. Keep motivated and keep moving via fitness apps and trackers. Enlist a friend or two: Working out with friends not only makes it more fun but keeps you accountable as well.

3 "There is a direct link between stress and beauty."

Stress shows up on your face, in your eyes, on your hair and on your skin in a whole host of issues, from acne to dark circles. Some things that work to calm me down when I'm feeling anxious are taking an Epsom salt bath, getting a massage, reading a book, using essential oils, or maybe turning on the TV and watching a mindless show. It's all about recharging. Taking time to restore will ultimately make you more energized and productive.

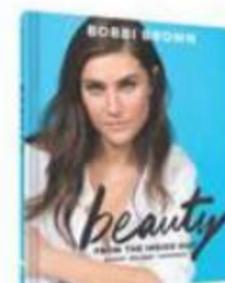
4 "What's most beautiful to me is healthy skin."

If you want healthy, glowing, radiant skin my advice is simple: Drink enough water, exercise to break a sweat, get enough sleep and eat mostly beauty foods. As health and beauty are linked, when you have a skin issue, a nutritionist can be just as helpful as a dermatologist. Your skin isn't the same every day. It varies and your skincare should, too. Be open and customize based on your personal skin needs. Try layering different hydrating products one by one, taking a minute to let each one sink in, plumping with a hydrating cream, smoothing with a lotion, calming with a cream. Products can work in tandem to create beautiful skin. My best

advice: Simplify your skincare routine, sort through the hype, use the best ingredients, and discover healthy skin. Powerful skincare ingredients that can actually transform skin are: growth factors, peptides, hyaluronic acid, hydroxy acids, natural oils, retinol, Vitamin C and Vitamin B3.

5 "On her wedding day, every bride should look like herself at her most beautiful."

You want to look like yourself, at your best, on your wedding day so enhance your favorite features. Make sure to use long-wear eye products in case there are tears (especially eyeliner and mascara to make your eyes stand out!). Use a yellow-toned foundation that blends seamlessly into your skin. Apply a sheer powder, especially onto your T-zone, so you don't look shiny in pictures. A pretty, pink cheek will always stand the test of time (stay away from trendy makeup looks like contouring and strobing!). Finally, have fun! ■



Find more tips in *Beauty from the Inside Out*, text © Bobbi Brown, Chronicle Books, 2017

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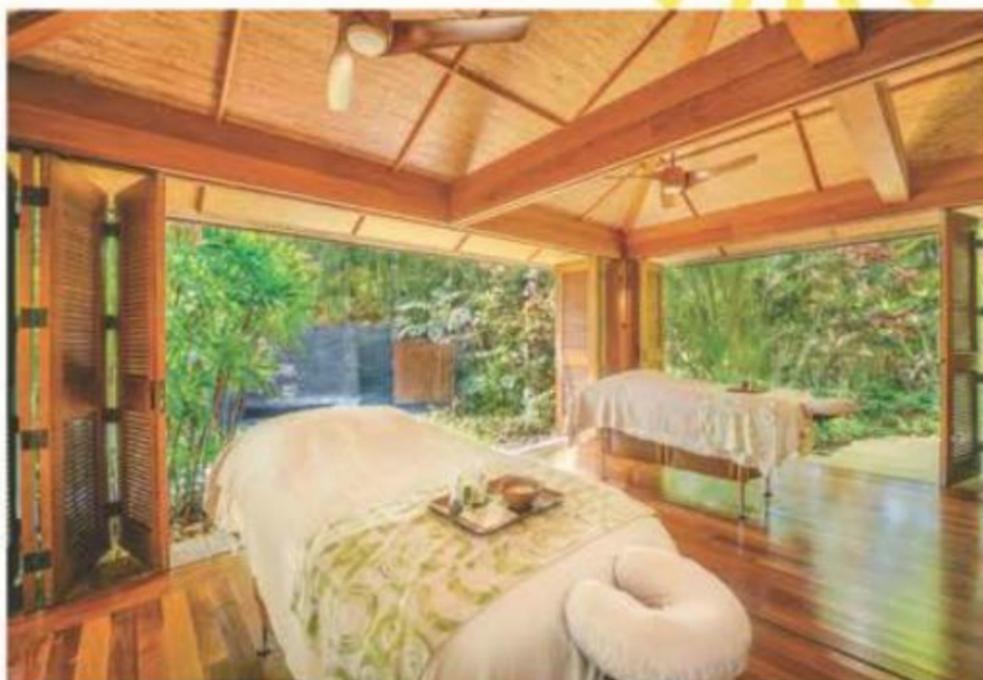
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Falling in ALOHA

Tropical luxe is tempered with laid-back boho vibes in this colorful celebration on the island of Oahu.





“It was a February wedding, so we looked to darker tones, mixing deep, moody colors with yellows and pinks for the perfect tropical winter palette.”
—Louise Moriarty, Love Letter Weddings



1. The centerpieces were a mix of king protea, antheriums, monstera, eucalyptus, ferns, and roses. 2. The ceremony featured a “floating” arch, with the aisle strewn with foraged rose petals. 3. The two-tiered coconut cake with passionfruit filling

by A Cake Life was trimmed with fresh flowers. 4. Love Letter Weddings created the hand-painted monstera leaf escort cards displayed on macramé panels from Roam Rentals. 5. A basket holds packets of petals for guests to toss.

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1. The sweetheart table was anchored by a pair of vintage peacock chairs. 2. The welcoming bar area. 3. The groom's father performed a traditional Hawaiian salt ceremony. 4. Monstera, roses and pincushion adorn a chair. 5. An haute hippie mix of bamboo and teak chairs, Persian rugs, accent cushions and a Moroccan leather pouf.

Florals, design and planning: Louise Moriarty, owner, creative director, Love Letter Weddings
Venue: Wairimea Valley, Oahu, Hawaii
Catering: Ke Nui Kitchen Wairimea Valley
Cake: A Cake Life
Rentals: Maison de Ware, EventAccents, Roam Rentals, Accel Rentals

“The idea was a tropical theme with a twist. We nailed it with the flowers, the amazing lounge and the fun table settings. Being a part of epic days like this one make my heart full.”

—Louise Moriarty



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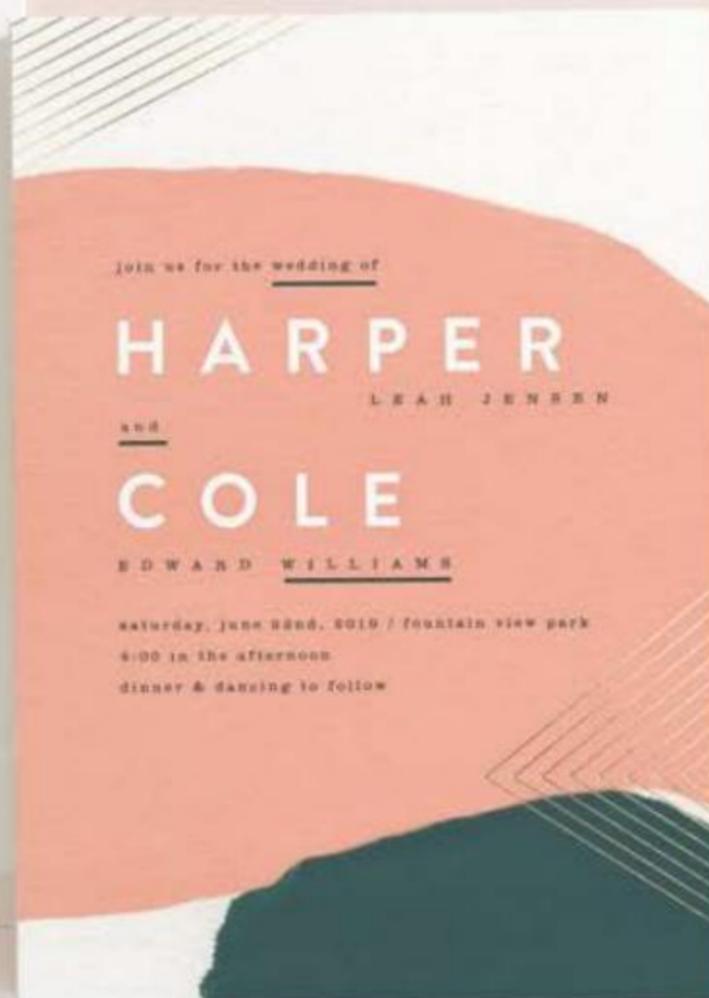
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Clockwise from top left: "Creme Brulee" by Chocomociano, Ravenna, IT; "Wheat Field" by Kuzuo Kern, Avon, OH; "Artful Oneness" by Moglea, Audubon, IA; "Our Something Blue" by AK Graphics, Pullman, WA; "Lovely Beginning" by Oscar and Emma, Columbus, OH; "Lustrous" by Kayci Emery, Medford, NJ; "Effervescent" by Kristie Kern, Akron, OH; Custom monogram for "Peony" by Cass Loh, Kuala Lumpur, MY.



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PINK POWER

Pay it forward with these pretty-in-pink gift ideas—each aligned with breast-cancer awareness



▶ Clinique Dramatically Different Moisturizing Lotion +. clinique.com



▶ Smashbox Photo Finish Foundation Primer Radiance, smashbox.com



◀ Coach Delancey Watch, macys.com

▶ Lands' End CashTouch plaid scarf and Color on Color open top tote, landsend.com



◀ Lee earrings by Kendra Scott, kendrascott.com



▶ Alex and Ani Charity by Design Spiral Sun bangles, alexandani.com



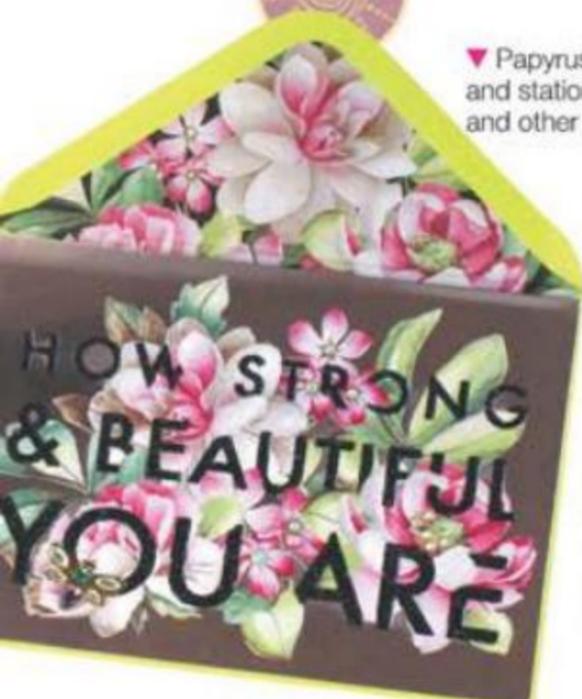
▼ Papyrus BCRF cards and stationery, at Papyrus and other retailers

▶ Proven Winners Colorchoice Invincibelle Spirit II hydrangea, at garden centers nationwide

▶ Dooney & Bourke Pink Ribbon Signature Umbrella, dooney.com



▶ Cuisinart Smart Stick immersion blender, cuisinart.com



▶ Shiseido Rouge Rouge lipstick, shiseido.com



▶ California Costume Collections Canines for a Cure BCRF Line, at party and pet specialty stores

▶ Kiehl's Butterstick Lip Treatment Duo, kiehls.com



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Love Stories

WHAT LEADS ONE WEDDING TO BECOME A PLANNER'S FAVORITE? START WITH GOOD FRIENDS, GREAT FOOD AND A DREAMY SETTING. HERE, THREE TOP DESIGN PROS GIVE US A PEEK AT THEIR MOST MEMORABLE CELEBRATIONS.

BY DEBRA WITT



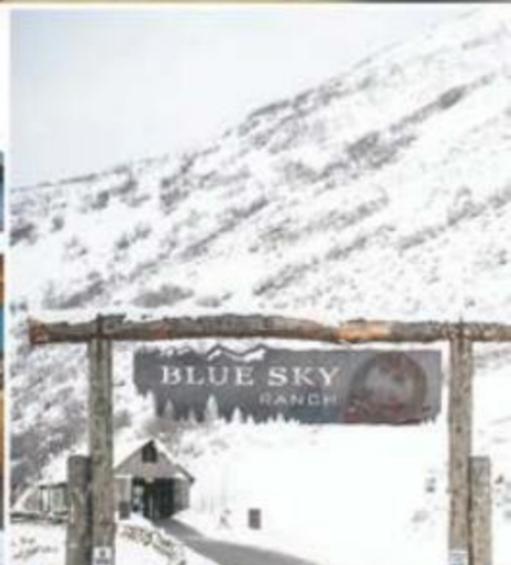
Long, blue-glazed farm tables were left uncovered.



SNOWY BLISS

People flock to Utah in the winter to ski. What they don't typically want to do there this time of year is get married. So when designer Michelle Cousins, founder of Michelle Leo Events, got a call from a couple saying they wanted a black-tie wedding at the Blue Sky Ranch near Park City in January, "I was stoked!" she says. "I knew that a blanket of white snow would be our backdrop, so I let that be the inspiration for all of the decor." The focal point of the destination resort is a smoky blue barn, off of which is a grand patio that provides sweeping views of the mountains and canyon below. Cousins chose that spot to set up a heated tent for the ceremony and cocktail hour. The nearly 200 guests arrived by chartered buses and were greeted with mugs of hot cider.

After the vows and cocktails, everyone moved inside the barn for dinner and dancing. Here, Cousins used a mix of table shapes and sizes for visual interest. Long farm tables were left bare, while the round tables were dressed in navy and cream—and the cake table stood out on a white sequined overlay. Rose gold flatware, copper chargers, flickering candles and soft bistro lighting cast a warm glow throughout. At one end of the barn, a wall dotted with unique mason jar lights was the perfect backdrop for the live band. "The couple wanted to show their guests the best of Utah," says Cousins. "I think this wedding did that—and more." ➔



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A light snow fell as the couples said I Do; fresh roses atop tiers of buttercream perfection; handwritten escort cards and menus were both elegant and rustic; a wintery welcome to Utah for guests; the wedding party's blue-hued attire gave a nod to the surroundings; bridal beauty; a hint of dark blue in the bouquet's anemones picks up the wedding's accent color.

PHOTOGRAPHY: GIDEON PHOTOGRAPHY



FRIENDS FIRST

It's one thing to share your wedding plans with friends, quite another to hand over the creative reins to your BFF. But that's exactly what happened when Katie Werkin's friend Kristen, got engaged. "Believe it or not," says Werkin, who is the Columbus, Ohio-based designer with Chancey Charm Weddings, "we bonded watching 'Father of the Bride 1 & 2' while my husband and her then-boyfriend pulled all-nighters at

the hospital where they work!" Given their taste in movies, it's no surprise that Kristen's only directive was that she wanted a ballroom wedding that felt timeless and elegant. Werkin's first step was to enlist the floral design team at HeatherLily, in Cleveland, who are known for show-stopping "field-to-vase" arrangements. They fashioned gold-toned vessels that towered over several tables and were brimming with fragrant, blush-toned blooms and cascading greenery. "When guests entered, it smelled like they were walking into a garden." Shimmery gold touches were everywhere—from the bamboo chairs to the table settings and sequined linens. Later in the evening, guests were treated to scoops of Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream (a Columbus treasure) and bubble tea (the groom's favorite sweet). After the last dance, guests pulled out fanciful ribbon wands to give the couple an Oscar-worthy send off. "Every wedding I do is special in its own way," says Werkin, "but being able to pull off the wedding of her dreams for my friend is something I'll always treasure."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The grand setting called for tall centerpieces; a classic buttercream cake adorned with fresh flowers; candles cast a warm, intimate glow; fragrant flowers set the stage; local goodies welcomed guests; elegance ruled the tables; in-season peonies in the bride's bouquet; little lovelies.



PHOTOGRAPHY: HENRY PHOTOGRAPHY



NATURE CALLS



When a down-to-earth but world-traveling couple called the design team Alison & Bryan to help them plan a wedding celebration that felt like a dinner party, little did they know they'd met their match. "The four of us were meant to meet," says Alison Laesser-Keck, who founded the company with her husband, Bryan. "Their tastes were

our tastes." The couple's wish list, in order: Good food. Natural environment. Relaxed, approachable atmosphere. Make guests feel special. "That was all they said to us before giving us full creative freedom," says Laesser-Keck, who splits her time between Santa Barbara, California and southeast Michigan, where this celebration took place. For the summer affair, they rented out a bucolic horse farm that doesn't typically host events. Because the couple were self-described foodies, the design duo didn't scrimp on the farm-to-table fare that was served family style. "We designed the tablescape to make the food the star." Tucked among the centerpieces, for example, were fresh peaches, herbs and heads of cabbage. Each table held several raised wooden planks to hold the serving platters that guests would pass. "We hand-tied several tree branches to each tent pole so that guests would feel like they were dining al fresco. Candles and bistro lights were also hung from the branches and across the ceiling and lit when the sun set. It felt like we were somewhere in the French countryside." ■



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A just-picked boutonniere; branches tied to tent poles lent an al fresco flair; dinner was served family style; one tent for both dinner and drinks gave the space an intimate vibe; horses were welcome guests; cocktail hour featured local brews and wines; the menu was screen printed onto the napkins; food and flowers mixed in the centerpieces.





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GUEST LIST BASICS

There's no planning aspect more fraught than deciding who to invite—and who to leave out.

Here, ways to make the process relatively pain-free.

Compiling a guest list seems daunting. Where do I start? First, think about the style of wedding you envision. “Ask yourself: ‘Do I want a 300-person bash, an intimate dinner or a destination wedding?’” suggests Christine Paul of Christine Paul Events in New York City. Or, if you're considering a particular venue, figure out how many guests you can comfortably accommodate. Start your list with close friends and family, then continue to add until you've reached the ideal number for the space you've booked.

My parents would like to ask some people. Do I have a say over their choices?

Sure you do. But first give them a number to aim for. Paul suggests allotting 25% of the guest list to the bride's parents, 25% to the groom's parents and 50% to the couple themselves. This keeps parents from taking over—after all, it's your wedding. You definitely can question some of their choices, too. “Have a heart-to-heart conversation with your parents should issues arise,” says Sherri Williams of Williams-Sossen Events, which has locations in Philadelphia and New York City. But if the 'rents are paying for the wedding, try to be as tolerant as possible.

My list is too long! How do I make cuts? “Take a look at the friends you're inviting,” says Williams. “How important are they to you?” Another tip: “Try dividing the list into the people you can't imagine not having and those who could decline and you wouldn't mind,” says Paul. Celebrity planner Mindy

less unless they are living with a partner. If you have extra room, assess: Are some in ongoing relationships? Then it makes sense to invite the partner. Or, if all your work friends are married except one, she'll feel more comfortable if she can bring a date.

Is it appropriate to invite an ex? My ex and I have become friendly and I don't know what I should do. If you feel at all uncertain, don't. Your wedding day should be about you and your fiancé. “It's only appropriate to invite an ex if you and your fiancé agree it's okay, and you decide together where he should sit,” says Williams. And if you and your ex have children, having him at the wedding could be confusing to the kids.

HINT: If your parents are paying for the wedding, you can still edit their guest list, but you can't be overly picky.

Speaking of kids, what are some guidelines on including them—or not? Taking children off the list can be a good way to cut down on the head count. But if you or your fiancé have children, do consider a child-friendly fête.

How do we figure out how many guests will send regrets? Weiss's rule of thumb is to invite

10% over your capacity. In other words, if you're planning on 200 guests, you can safely send invitations to 220, since 20 people will likely decline. If you're having a destination wedding, or if over 50% of your prospective guests will need to fly in, you can estimate that 20% of your invitees will send regrets, and up your guest list count accordingly.

A few guests haven't replied by my RSVP date. What should I do? Have a friend or family member contact them to find out if they're attending. “Never assume someone isn't coming,” says Williams. Guests often forget to pop the response card in the mail, and you don't want to be surprised when they show up on the big day. ■

Weiss takes it a step further, suggesting three categories of prospective guests: the “absolutely essentials,” the “almost absolutely essentials” and the “it would be nice” or “do we have-tos.” Also, look for groups of people you can eliminate: The pals from your yoga class probably won't be offended if they're not invited. You may decide to have an “A-list” of people who'll get invitations right away and a “B-list” of those who are invited as others decline. Be sure to ask A-listers to RSVP well in advance so B-listers don't feel they're last-minute invites.

I'm including a lot of single friends, and I'll go over budget if I let them all bring dates. How do I decide who gets to bring a guest? “You never have to

invite your single friends with dates,” says Paul. “But it's always nice.” Consider having all your single friends come date-

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WRAP STARS



Danny Seo, lifestyle expert, author and host of NBC TV's "Naturally, Danny Seo" shares a few of his favorite DIY ideas.



Pre-wedding DIY projects and gifts need not be labor intensive, time-consuming or stressful. Here, some easy ways to upcycle old things into new, beautifully wrapped treasures.



Festive Bottles Wrap a bottle of wine in a jiffy, with newspaper. Roll a bottle lengthwise along a sheet of newspaper. The bottom of the bottle should line up to the edge of the newspaper. Use tape to hold it in place. Then use sharp scissors to cut 1" strips from the top of the newspaper to the top of the bottle. Use the blade of the scissor to make pretty curls. Give as a gift or use as fun table toppers at a literary-themed or rustic-chic celebration.

MEMORY BALLS

Save all the pretty bits and pieces of ribbon from your bridal shower and wedding gifts to create memory balls like these. Use large foam balls from the craft store and pin the ribbon pieces all over. Stamp a date on one ribbon to mark the occasion. Fill a bowl or basket in your new home with these treasured keepsakes and continue creating memory balls throughout your married life to note other special occasions like birthdays, baby showers, holidays and anniversaries.



Sparkling Jewelry Box Upcycle a pretty candy box into a sweeter surprise by filling it with vintage jewelry. Place colorful tissue paper into each compartment and top with rings, charms, bracelets and more: It's a perfect gift for your fashionista bridesmaid!



GLOBAL TREAT Friends will appreciate a health-conscious treat like this organic exotic fruit basket. Simply take an old tabletop globe (easily found at antiques stores and flea markets) and pry the two halves apart at the equator; a blunt butter knife will help do the trick. Then fill with a selection of fresh fruit and tie together with clear, biodegradable cellophane.

Flowering Gift Topper Silk flowers look more impressive when you strip off the plastic leaves. Simply pull the leaves off and group like-color flowers together. Then use florist tape to create a mini bouquet. Use sharp scissors to snip the excess stems and attach the flowers to the top of your gift with grosgrain ribbon.

★ Look for **Naturally, Danny Seo** magazine on newsstands nationwide.



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101 BUDGET TIPS

YOU'LL THANK US FOR THESE BRILLIANT WAYS TO SAVE ON EVERYTHING FROM DRINKS TO DESSERT, FLOWERS TO PHOTOGRAPHY—AND MUCH MORE.



SET YOUR SITES

1 Create a comparison chart to track what is included in the price for each venue you're considering. One company may not include linens and the cake, for example, while another company does.

2 Many public spaces like parks or the local village green may be available to rent at a low fee. However, if the space is not equipped to handle events, you'll have to rent everything from napkins to tables and chairs. Make sure you come out ahead.

3 Choose an unusual venue, such as an aquarium, a zoo, a gallery or a historical site. Site fees are not high and you'll save on decor because the venue already supplies ambience. But the same caveat goes as for public spaces: Figure in what you'll have to spend on rentals.

4 Hold your ceremony and reception in the same place. You'll save yourselves multiple site fees as well as transportation from one location to the other.

5 If you belong to a community organization or to the military, you may have access, at low cost, to a venue belonging to them.



6 Depending on your venue, you may not need to decorate extensively. If you marry outdoors at a winery, for example, there's not much you'll need to add to the gorgeous vineyard backdrop.

7 Rent a vacation home. Even if the owners charge you a week's worth of rent for the day, it may still be equal

to or less than renting a traditional reception venue.

8 Don't forget your alma mater—these usually rent for a few hundred dollars.

9 If a family member has a scenic property, find out if you can hold your wedding there. One couple held their wedding on the Wyoming ranch where the groom had grown up. Unique and cost-conscious!

10 If you're a city-dweller, leave town for your wedding. One Boston bride saved more than \$50 per person by holding her wedding in Burlington, Vermont.

11 For a garden wedding, look into renting a historic mansion; many of these have gardens that are included in the deal. You may find, as did one couple, that the mansion they rented had no time

limit, and the fee was less than half a hall rental.

12 Look for reception packages. Holding your event at a venue that provides catering and food-service items will save on extra rentals.

13 Save on your rehearsal dinner site by throwing a backyard barbecue or a picnic in a local park, both of which can cost considerably less than a dinner in a restaurant.

14 Accept a post-wedding brunch at a relative's home as a wedding gift. You may find that in lieu of a gift, a friend or relative will be thrilled to host this event in his or her home.

15 Trim the length of your reception. Even doing three hours instead of four or five will save you money. Trust us, everyone will enjoy themselves just as much.

16 Determine early on what you can (and cannot) spend and stick to it. One rule of thumb: Food, beverage and venue should come to half of your budget.

17 Most venues charge more for Saturday night, so go for a reception on a Thursday, Friday or Sunday night instead.

18 Consider the season—you're likely to get a better price for a venue in January than you would for the same spot in June.

19 Because the guest list will be smaller a destination wedding may cost less than a traditional event held in your hometown.

20 Check into bed and breakfast venues in your area and place firm limits on your guest list.

21 When deciding between an indoor or outdoor space, figure in the cost of a tent rental: If it rains, a tent is worth every penny.

DRINK UP

22 Forget the full bar. Instead, serve beer and wine (both red and white) with one or two signature cocktails that you've personalized with a cute name and your wedding colors.

23 If you're holding your event near a vineyard or microbrewery, buy your wines and beers from them. Keeping to local products gives a special touch (and it's cheaper).

24 Don't forget to have some inexpensive (nonalcoholic) drinks on hand. Consider fresh lemonade in tall, sugar-rimmed glasses for a warm-weather wedding or sparkling water with wedges of orange, lemon or lime.

25 Top shelf isn't a high priority. Choose mid-shelf liquors for significant savings (guests usually can't tell the difference). Another way to approach this: If the best brands are important to you, indulge your guests with just a few choices of these but close the bar early and offer just wine and beer as the party winds down.

26 For an added festive touch, dress up your signature drinks with garnishes, like orange slices or mini fruit kebabs on toothpicks. Garnishes are usually provided free of charge by the venue or caterer, but give the appearance that you've spent more.

27 Eliminate shots or any drinks that make use of a number of liquors—these all raise your bar tab and aren't necessary



for guests to have fun.

28 If you're stocking your own bar, do your homework. Check winespectator.com for less-expensive wine vintages. Corkage fees (a charge for opening bottles of wine or liquor) may be up to \$10 a bottle or even more. Try to negotiate these out of your contract.

29 Close the open bar an hour early and offer coffee. You'll save hundreds of dollars; even better, guests will have a chance to sober up before they head out to the road.

30 Make sure the wait staff knows absolutely not to pre-open bottles or clear away glasses from tables that aren't empty.

31 Speaking of coffee, forgo a coffee bar offering expensive liqueurs with java and instead treat guests to a rich brew with flavored syrups. Or serve espresso before sending everyone home.



MUSIC NOTES

32 Want a live band? Hire talented students from a local music school to perform at the ceremony. Ask to hear them play—they may be just as good as professionals, and charge you less. And stay local: If a band has to travel for more than an hour, your costs will increase.

33 If you're deciding whether to go with a five-piece band or a DJ, you'll save at least half by choosing the DJ. Or, why not be your own DJ? Create customized playlists for the ceremony and the reception on your phone or laptop, hook up to rented speakers and enjoy!

34 Negotiate a deal that you like. The closer you are to the wedding date (six months or less), the likelier it is that the band leader will work on your terms. Find out if one or two musicians can perform for the ceremony or cocktail hour as well.

35 If your band offers a singer who also plays an instrument, you'll save money. And remember: You don't need more than one of each instrument—one saxophone will do as well as two or three. →

CAKES & DESSERTS

36 The traditional wedding cake is usually covered with fondant, but keep in mind that it's expensive because it requires extra labor to make.

You may want to go with buttercream instead. One caveat: For an outdoor wedding, go with fondant since buttercream or cream cheese will melt in the sun.

37 Consider cupcakes. These save money because they require much less intricate decoration.

38 Have a small cake for the cake-cutting ceremony and supplement it with a sheet cake, served from the kitchen.

39 Go with fresh flowers. The amount of labor that goes into creating flowers out of sugar ups the price of the cake.

40 Consider your humble local grocery store. One bride's supermarket bakery made her an elegant confection, based on a magazine photo, for less than \$200.



41 If you like fruit fillings, think seasonal. Strawberries can cost triple the price out of season so consult with your baker to stay on budget.

42 The baker may calculate the price by averaging the cost of different flavors, so plan carefully. If you have the most expensive flavor on the bottom layer (the biggest), it will cost more.

43 Traditionally, couples save the cake's top layer to share on their first anniversary. If you and your fiancé don't think you'll be ready to dig in, forgo that extra layer and save some dough.

44 Have a dessert buffet featuring pastries and other sweets and save money by having only a small cake for your cake cutting.

45 The cheesecake option can be a boon because it costs less. Arrange the cheesecakes on pedestals of varying heights—they will resemble tiers—and offer sauces, such as chocolate and kiwi.

keep in mind that people eat with their eyes first, and if you display food beautifully, as on small tapas-style plates, guests won't notice or care if the fare is quite simple.

52 Crudites don't actually have to be crude just because you're on a budget. Serve artichoke hearts, broccoli florets and radishes cut in shapes—instead of carrot sticks and celery.

53 Comparison shop for cocktail-party seafood. Shellfish like calamari and mussels are usually half the price of shrimp cocktail. Your caterer should be able to offer guidance about other lower-cost selections.

54 Instead of traditional cocktail party fare, go for comfort food like macaroni and cheese in martini glasses, mini grilled cheese bites and tiny crab cakes. (Hint: These low-cost goodies are huge crowd-pleasers!)

55 Theme stations are always popular, and a fajita or Thai station are not budget-busters. Consider pyramids of basmati and jasmine rice, egg noodles and condiments. Other options: a mashed potato bar where guests can top spuds with bacon and sour cream, or a panini bar that serves grilled sandwiches.

56 How about a pierogi bar? These potato-stuffed morsels of dough, served with cheese or spinach

FABULOUS FOOD

46 At the cocktail hour save costs by hand passing pricier appetizers like shrimp, scallops or other seafood items. When guests self-serve, they usually consume 40 percent more.

47 Have a lunch or an afternoon tea reception instead of a sit-down dinner. Guests tend to drink less during the day, so you'll save on liquor costs.

48 If you prefer an evening reception, but still want to stick to a budget, consider a desserts-only reception. Specify on the invitation that you will be serving desserts, so that guests don't expect a full meal. Offer a delicious array of sweets: pastries, pies, mousses and a dramatic flaming treat like Bananas

Foster. To accompany, serve champagne or prosecco and specialty coffees and teas.

49 Another increasingly popular choice is the cocktail party reception. Event planner Harriette Rose Katz notes that you'll save thousands on food and decorations; after all, you can forgo big floral arrangements for your tables and adorn small cocktail tables with candles and modest bunches of blooms. Hand-pass hors d'oeuvres like mini hot dogs, grilled cheese sandwiches and mini quiches. On a multi-tiered table offer finger foods like Italian breads, olives, artichoke hearts and cheeses (at room temperature), finger fruits and salads.

50 Consider a chic winetasting recep-

tion. Guests can sample from an array of small dishes at food stations, each matched with a special wine. Printed cards can explain the pairing.

51 Go for a rich look at a low cost: Caterers often suggest putting out lots of lush salads and grilled vegetables in unusual platters, like colorful bowls and big woks, for a great presentation. Also



and a sauce, are a terrific variation on low-cost comfort food.

57 A perfect (and inexpensive) appetizer option for a cool-weather wedding: Serve miniature cups of soup like clam chowder or acorn squash. In warm weather, consider mini cups of cold soup like gazpacho.

58 Two kinds of stations to skip: first, the raw bar, which will be quite expensive; second: a carving station. Prime rib, ham and pork loin are too heavy—and costly—for cocktail hour fare.

59 After nibbling on appetizers, your guests will not need a five-course dinner. Three will do—salad, an entrée and dessert.

60 Use a delicious sauce on a simple pasta or chicken dish to up the wow factor. Ask your caterer for low-cost recommendations.

61 A sophisticated salad course—like spring greens—can elegantly offset a less costly entrée.

62 Forgo the filet. Your caterer can show you price options for different cuts of lamb and pork as well as beef. Braised boneless short ribs are a great choice.

63 For savings of up to 20 percent, consider family-style dishes: think big bowls of pasta or platters of sliced meat that guests can pass around the table.

64 Add interest to pasta—a good budget choice—by considering more unusual varieties, like mushroom ravioli or spinach and cheese tortellini.

65 Beware the buffet option. It won't necessarily cost less than a sit-down dinner because you have to supply more food than you would for a plated meal. Do a cost comparison before you

make a decision.

66 Cut out the bubbly; guests can toast with whatever they're drinking.

67 Serve a duet plate for every guest. For example, you might serve a plate of beef medallions and grilled shrimp or crab cakes. You'll save on the amount of food you offer—and on costs.

68 Before deciding on a seafood entrée, find out from the caterer what will be in season at the time of your wedding: A seasonal choice will save you hundreds of dollars.

69 Have your caterer patronize local farms for produce; it's fresher, better-tasting and more cost-effective.

70 Consider a vegetarian entrée option. These are usually less expensive, and guests might appreciate it for the novelty!

71 For side dishes, consider risotto instead of potatoes for something inexpensive and a bit unusual.

72 Presentation is key. A simple meal will seem special when you consider the visuals. Brightly hued vegetables on low-cost chicken can make all the difference.

73 Consider a modified DIY approach: One groom's cousin baked enchiladas, and the couple ordered more food from local Mexican outposts. Hint: Don't make the wedding meal yourselves—that's too DIY for your own sanity!

74 To feed your photographer and musicians, offer lower-cost food—this may cost 60 percent less per person.

75 If children will be attending, choose a caterer who offers free or half-priced meals for kids.

TRANSPORTATION

76 Instead of renting a limo, go with a less costly option like a party van from a local car-rental company. Whether you decide to book a limo or a van or any other sort of transportation, do this at least six months in advance of the wedding in order to get the best deal.

77 Ask about any special wedding packages a car-rental company may have. A typical one may offer three hours of service, a bottle of champagne and a tuxedo-bedecked driver for about \$300 (depending on your location).

78 Remember that white limos will always cost you more than black or silver ones.

79 Don't have the car that brings you to the ceremony wait for you all day—hourly rates will add up quickly. Have a different car pick you up later, after the reception.



INVITATIONS

80 If you, your fiancé or your friends are DIY-ers, consider creating your own invites by hand or high-quality printer. Your crafts store will have invitation and program kits—you can really get some unique effects this way.

81 Don't pay extra to have your invitations assembled; just get the bridal party together and set up an assembly line. If you have a friend who happens to be a terrific calligrapher, have her address your invitations as her gift to you—rather than paying someone else to do so.

82 Calligraphic fonts that look like the real thing are readily available. Free font sources: searchfreefonts.com, highfonts.com, dafont.com.

83 Choose basic black ink for your invitations and other stationery. Prices go up if you choose colored inks or a deluxe foil-stamp process. Also, colored paper and unconventional shapes tend to be more expensive than white or ecru or the standard square or rectangle.

84 Order your thank-you notes when you order your invitations. Some stationers give bulk discounts. →



FLOWERS & DECOR

85 **Have artistic friends** pitch in on your wedding. A friend who's got a penchant for flowers can handle your table arrangements and floral details. Another way to go: Hire a florist to do just one arrangement and then have your friends and family copy it for all the tables.

86 **Potted plants make attractive table decor**—and cost considerably less than floral arrangements do. Make the most of greenery in other ways; put plenty of it in your centerpieces to save money on flowers. Potted blooms are also a less expensive choice; check at your local nursery. Another option: Incorporate locally grown flowers and grasses into your arrangements.

87 **Buy flowers wholesale in** a local market or online, and pay a florist to do simple centerpieces. Want to keep things really easy? Do one look in abundance and make an impact. Place tons of branches, like curly willow or dogwood, in urns or tall glass vases from the dollar store; for a bit more flair, hang LED tea lights from them with ribbons in your wedding colors.

88 **Try groupings of the same flower** in different hues for an affordably stylish look. Cluster vases of different sizes in interesting configurations on tables.

89 **Use fruits and vegetables to fill out arrangements;** this way, you can create a sense of colorful abundance without excessive cost. As Melissa Paul, a wedding planner with Evantine

Design in Philadelphia, points out: "It's less expensive to buy an apple than an orchid!"

90 **Sure, peonies may be your favorite flower,** but if you're tying the knot in winter, these springtime beauties will cost you a pretty penny. A good florist should be able to suggest in-season blooms that get the look and feel of your out-of-season favorites. Be sure to do your research on flowers (go to bridalguides.com/flowersbyseason to learn what blooms will be in season at the time of your wedding).

91 **If your wedding day happens to fall on Easter, Mother's Day or Valentine's Day,** you may pay more for your flowers. On the other hand, scheduling a wedding around a holiday can work in your favor: Your reception spot may already be decked out—saving you a small fortune!

92 **Less is more.** The more elaborate the arrangements, the higher your bill. For simple elegance, consider a few roses, tulips or even orchids submerged in water. A cluster of rose petals floating in water in clear bowls are pleasing to look at, too.

93 **Be sure to use all kinds of candles** to good advantage: Place flickering votives, pillar candles or tapers between floral arrangements and create a stylish look on a mere shoestring.

94 **Keep ceremony flowers simple** by only placing arrangements near the spot where you'll be exchanging vows, not on every aisle seat or pew.



95 **Must you place flowers on tables?**

Of course not. Pick one focal point—perhaps the entrance or the front corners of the room—and place just one gorgeous arrangement there.

96 **Adorn plain white tablecloths** by layering organza or tulle on top (which costs just a few dollars a yard). Or you may want to forgo the linens entirely and cover your tables with mirrors or frosted glass. The finished look will be

artfully glitzy, yet the cost of this dazzling display is surprisingly modest. Rent colored or textured chargers (choose bamboo or rattan) to add a simple but distinctive detail to each place setting.

97 **Forgo expensive silver vases** in favor of clear glass. Or shop local flea markets for vintage containers of different but complementary designs for your table—you'll achieve a unique and stylish look at small cost.

PICTURE PERFECT

98 **If a photographer you love is out of range of your budget,** find out if you can wait till after the wedding to order proofs or albums. That way, you can put some of your gift money to good use.

99 **Point and shoot videography is the least expensive option (around \$1,000).** For this fee, you'll get nuts-and-bolts footage of your wedding. Tell the videographer to avoid gimmicky graphics and not to ask guests "to say a few words" to the camera (if you find this tacky). With plain "point and shoot," the best treatment is simple and classic.

100 **The most surefire way of finding a photographer and videographer who are right for you** is to get recommendations from friends and family. However, be sure to carefully consider the work of many pros before making a decision about whom to hire—and always keep in mind that the most expensive choice is not necessarily the best.

101 **Photography is no place to skimp. Your photos are the tangible mementoes of your wedding day**—but if you do know someone who is just getting started, you may get a more affordable deal. A caveat: Make sure the work is top quality. Ask for references from former brides and grooms who have used the pro's services. ■

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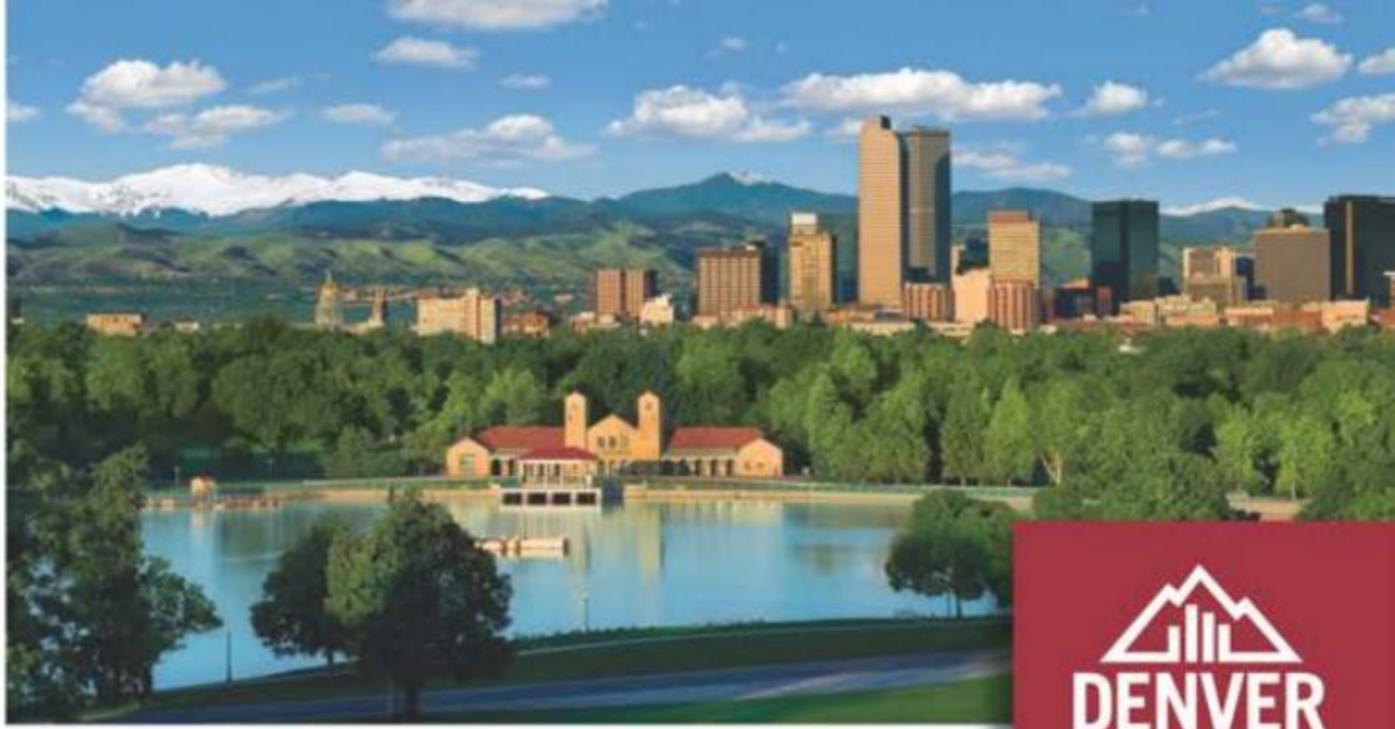
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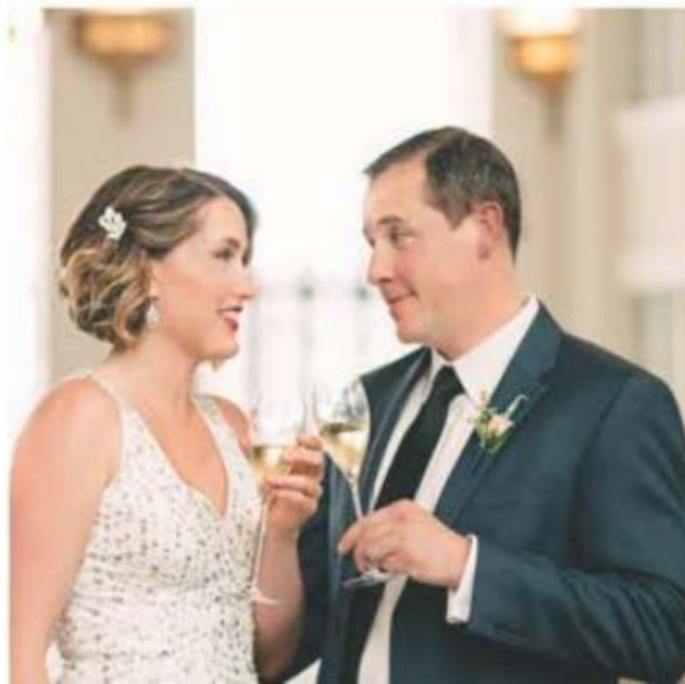
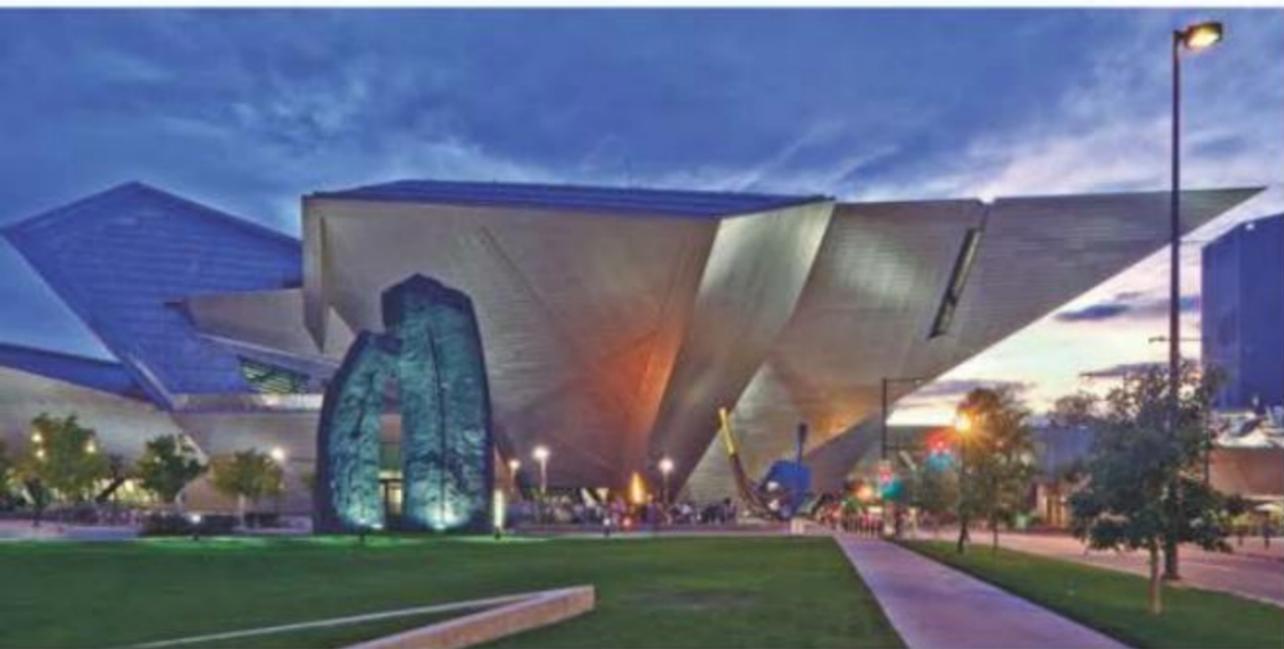



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UNDER CONTROL

WORRIED SOMETHING MIGHT GO WRONG AT YOUR WEDDING? STAY ABOVE THE FRAY WITH THESE SAVE-THE-DAY TIPS. BY ELENA MAUER

Sure, you've envisioned your wedding day as the picture of perfection, but you can't help but think that with so many details—and people—involved, something is bound to go wrong. "Obviously some things are out of your hands," says Marcy Blum, an event planner in New York City. "But you can make some pretty good calls to help avert disaster." Consider these "what if" tactics as you plan, so you can enjoy your big day even more.

SET A SCHEDULE

- Planning the big-day itinerary can be a tedious task, but it's key that everyone in the wedding party is on the same page as to when they need to be where. "Print up a full wedding-day schedule, email it to all your attendants and request a reply receipt," suggests Blum. "Appoint one usher and one bridesmaid—or put your wedding planner in charge—to ensure that everyone is rounded up at each point in the schedule."
- "Organize a limo or bus for your wedding party," says Amy Nichols of Amy Nichols Special Events in San Francisco.

- "Make sure all the bridesmaids are finished getting their hair and makeup done 30 minutes before you all need to leave for the ceremony."
- Be sure to triple-confirm your vendors. If you're working with a wedding planner, she'll take care of this for you. If not, appoint a responsible friend or family member to take charge in case someone is MIA on the wedding day. "Have a master vendor schedule with all of the load-in and out times as well as contact numbers on it," says Blum. "Call the day before to confirm addresses, routes and pick-up times."

A detailed photo shot list that includes who needs to be where (and when) is the first step to great picture results.

WEATHER THE ELEMENTS

- You've always heard that it's necessary to have a Plan B for an outdoor wedding in case of bad weather—even if you're marrying somewhere that's almost always sunny and warm, like Southern California. This could mean setting up a tent (with walls) on the grounds of your venue or even moving the entire shindig indoors. Just make sure you have a plan in place that will work on your wedding day. Equally important: the food-prep area. "Keep in mind that if your kitchen is outdoors, you'll need to have a tent or a place to move the kitchen if it rains," says Nichols.
- Rain isn't the only bad-weather possibility. Wind can wreak havoc on weddings, too, making guests feel uncomfortable and cold. Consider a tent to block the gusts, or adding portable heaters to your list of rentals to keep guests warm.
- And there's a flip side: the weather can be too hot, so think about ways to ensure your guests don't swelter at your outdoor wedding. Some ideas include setting up seating in shaded areas, offering bottled water, using portable fans and passing out parasols for guests who might be sitting in the sun.

POWER UP

- There are plenty of horror stories about power outages and blown fuses at weddings, so how can you make sure the party stays lit and the music stays on, no matter how many amps the band plugs in? First, know your venue. "This usually isn't a problem in most modern hotels," says Nichols. "But it could be in an older or historic property or at an outdoor venue."
- If you're concerned about the power capabilities at your space, be sure to ask the staff whether or not they recommend renting a generator, just in case you end up using more power than the venue can provide. Also, examine the outlets: Simple two-pronged outlets are a sure sign you may need special connectors or even a generator.

GET PERFECT PICTURES

Sure, you want great wedding photos you will cherish after your big day, but you also want to have time to enjoy the day and not spend most of it standing around posing.

Lisa Lefkowitz, a photographer in San Francisco, says it's important to devise a plan. Make a list of your must-have portraits: like you with your groom, of course, and with your wedding party and immediate families, and note how much time should be spent on each. Then discuss the shots with your photographer. "If it seems unrealistic time-wise, you should edit down the number of shots, or shift things around," says Lefkowitz. "It might be preferable to have formal shots taken before the ceremony, so then after you're married, you can go straight to celebrating with your guests."

Also be sure everyone who's in a must-have photo is where they need to be at the right time—make sure your VIP wedding-party members' schedules include photography details, and put someone in charge of guest-wrangling when it's time.

When it comes to capturing all the those special details, it's key to have a list of the still-life shots you want: the cake, the centerpiece, your wedding gown on the hanger, place cards, bouquets and more. "Some things, like escort cards, are time sensitive, so it's good to know when they'll be placed, so the photographer can get to them before the guests do," says Lefkowitz. →

CONTROL THE CROWD

We've all been to a wedding where someone over-imbibes and starts acting out—at full volume. Don't want this to happen at your bash? **Make a plan that reduces the likelihood of guests drinking too much alcohol**—or doing it too quickly.

- Keep in mind that having a ceremony midmorning followed by an evening reception invites guests to spend their downtime drinking. **"Instead, schedule the ceremony and reception as close together as possible,"** says Blum. "Five hours total for a wedding ceremony and

reception is appropriate. More time than that, or time in between the ceremony and reception will result in guests over-indulging." Don't linger over drinks, adds Nichols. "Keep your cocktail hour to exactly that, an hour! Seventy-five minutes max." No matter the time span, be sure to include plenty of hors d'oeuvres to keep people from drinking on an empty stomach.

- There are other tricks that can prevent guests from being over-served, too. **"Guests should never be allowed to serve themselves alcohol at a wedding,"** says

Nichols. "You also should never just put bottles of wine on a table. Instead, have wait staff or bartenders pour drinks for them, and tell them to stop serving anyone who seems inebriated."

- When it comes to the wedding toasts, lay down some ground rules for your speakers. **"Put a time limit on the speeches, so your friends get the nice stuff out and end there!"** says Blum. Nichols recommends being direct. "Tell people that your family and your fiancé's family don't need to know about your crazy college days."

Be sure your wedding-day supply kit includes snacks and drinks (we're talking water, not champagne).

KEEP FLOWERS FRESH

The good news about flowers is that you don't have to take a class in floral design and preservation to make sure they look great all day. The experts say it's easy, as long as you hire a professional floral designer. "If they're reputable, they'll use fresh flowers," says Blum.

"If it is a very hot day or your reception tables are in direct sunlight, it's a good idea to have the staff wait to place your centerpieces on the tables until right before your guests sit down," says Nichols. "If flowers are outside for a few hours they can easily wilt in hot, midday sun on a 90-plus degree day."

Your florist will probably tell you to keep arrangements and bouquets in water, but to take your personal bouquet out of the water at a specific time prior to your walk down the aisle. Pat the stems lightly with a towel, so water doesn't drip down the front of your gown.

AVOID CAKE CATASTROPHES

- If visions of a fallen wedding cake are dancing in your head, rest assured that an **experienced baker will know how to get the cake to your reception site** without a slip up (and will likely bring along extra icing to do any necessary touch-ups upon arrival).
- If you're having a summer wedding, however, remember that some cake coverings—like buttercream frosting and fresh whipped cream—might not hold up to the heat. In that case, opt for fondant, which is sturdier. **"Don't display your cake in direct sunlight,"** says Nichols. "Have it in a cool, shaded area if you have to have it outside, and put it out right before guests arrive. Definitely let your baker know if you're planning an outdoor reception."

When it comes to toasts, make sure only specific people can take the floor, so there's no "passing the mike around."

MIND THE DETAILS

- One day-of disaster that you might not have thought of yet, but is pretty common? Feeling light-headed or even fainting. **Brides, grooms and wedding-party members can get so distracted by the festivities that they forget to eat!** Be sure your wedding-day supply kit includes plenty of snacks and drinks (we're talking mineral water, not champagne).
- Oh, and one last rule: **"Never separate yourself from your dress,"** says Nichols. "One bride recently had her sister-in-law bring her dress to the venue, but the sister-in-law was over an hour late getting there. It wouldn't have been an issue if the bride had her dress! Ditto for flying. Carry the dress on board." ■



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HOME BUYING 101

Advice from Silverton Mortgage Specialists' **Susan Pryor** on buying your first house together.



It's the ultimate dream: a home of one's own. But where to start? Here, some basics for you and your partner to keep in mind.

ARE YOU READY?

Buying a home can make sense if you plan to stay in the same geographic area for a minimum of three to five years. Interest rates are still relatively low and prices remain reasonable in most markets. Owning a home allows you to put down roots in your community, to feel more grounded and connected with your surroundings—and to build your net worth. But be aware of the never-ending expenses associated with owning a home, such as property upkeep and repairs when necessary (plumber, electrician, etc.).

HINT:
Are you ready to take on the tasks that come with home ownership or are the upkeep expenses more daunting than it's worth?

WHAT ARE THE FIRST STEPS?

Before you begin to look at homes, determine what you'll be able to afford. A general rule of thumb is to ensure that your mortgage payment will be less than one-third of your gross monthly income. For example, if your combined annual salary is \$60,000, you would want your total monthly payment (not just principal and interest but also insurance and real-estate taxes) to be less than \$1,600. A strong credit score is also essential. Beyond this formula, a loan officer can help walk you through the process, informing you of any additional costs and fees (such as attorney and appraisal fees). As well, she can tell you if you're eligible for various grants and programs such as VA loans for military personnel.

PRE-QUALIFICATION VS. PRE-APPROVAL

With pre-qualification, the lender will verbally ask for information on your income, assets, debts, and how much you plan to spend on your down payment. From that information, they will derive an estimate of what you might be able to afford. There is typically no cost involved with a pre-qualification, and neither you nor the lender enters into any sort of commitment. Pre-approvals are a bit more calculated and accurate, but will cost some money for the additional work and applications required. Rather than accepting your word as the final source on your financial background, the lender will use documentation of your income, assets and debts, along with running a credit check. After verification of all of this information, the lender will give you a tentative commitment to lend up to a certain amount, based on the financial information acquired.

WHAT ARE SOME KEY BENEFITS?

Home ownership builds wealth over the long term, and as such can be a powerful financial tool. Over time, you can expect your home's value to appreciate, or increase, around three percent

annually. Let's say you put 10 percent down on a \$200,000 home (\$20,000). After one year, a three-percent increase would yield a \$6,000 gain, growing your initial investment of \$20,000 to \$26,000. If you sell

the home after a few years, that investment may have grown even more. However, recent years have taught us that even real estate is not guaranteed to increase every year, though financial experts generally agree that real estate is a great investment right now. As well, the interest and taxes you pay on your home are deductible if you file an itemized tax return—which is always a good thing!

WHAT OTHER ISSUES SHOULD WE CONSIDER?

It is essential to know whether you can handle the responsibilities of home ownership as you begin your lives together. Some newlyweds have only lived in their parents' homes or leased properties, such as apartments or rented homes. In those settings, the responsibilities of maintenance often belong to someone else, perhaps Dad or your property manager. Discuss with your partner whether you would enjoy having a home that you can decorate and make your own, or if tasks like fixing those leaky gutters or handling the cost of, say, a new water heater are more daunting than home ownership is worth for you at this point in your lives. If the latter is the case, it's best to keep renting until you're able to save more and are comfortable with all the responsibilities and expenses that home ownership entails.

As you embark on your new married life together, you will want to consider the benefits of home ownership as a solid *long-term* investment. Consult with a professional to know your best financial options and make sure you're prepared for the myriad responsibilities—and joys—of a home of your own.

Susan Pryor is a branch manager at Silverton Mortgage Specialists in Atlanta and host of Real Estate Radio Atlanta 106.7 FM.

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COUNTDOWN CALENDAR



12 MONTHS

- Announce your engagement
- Choose a wedding theme and style
- Work out a basic budget; research reception venues
- Determine number of guests
- Look through magazines for attire ideas
- Meet potential wedding consultants; obtain bids
- Research wedding pros (photographers, videographers, reception bands or DJs, ceremony musicians). Set up appointments, and review portfolios, reels and recordings

11 MONTHS

- Select a wedding consultant and meet to discuss details
- Determine theme/decorations for your reception
- Meet with several caterers; arrange for tastings
- Select and book a caterer
- Reserve musicians/DJ for reception
- Determine ceremony musicians and make musical selections
- Book wedding videographer and photographer; make a list of photos, such as ceremony and reception shots
- Research and interview florists
- Select and reserve your ceremony venue and schedule a rehearsal time
- Choose reception venue; negotiate contract; leave a deposit
- Secure parking and/or transportation for your guests at the reception location
- Visit local bridal stores to browse their selection of gowns
- Choose your wedding-party members and ask them to participate in your celebration
- Meet with your officiant to discuss the ceremony
- Determine your honeymoon budget
- Mail save-the-date notices for a destination wedding

10 MONTHS

- Select and order your wedding gown
- If your ceremony or reception will be held in a park or recreational area, obtain necessary permits
- Discuss attendants' duties with your maid of honor and bridesmaids

9 MONTHS

- Register for gifts
- Coordinate with vendors to incorporate your theme/style into all aspects of your wedding
- Decide on the food and liquor to be served at your reception
- Prepare a playlist of wedding-reception musical selections

- Select and order your headpiece, veil, gloves and shoes
- Confirm orders of and delivery dates for your wedding attire
- Research airline, hotel and rental-car reservations for guests

8 MONTHS

- Go to first gown fitting; invite your maid of honor to attend
- Choose and order bridesmaid dresses and accessories
- Research a variety of wedding ring styles
- Select florist; discuss wedding theme and style

7 MONTHS

- Review and finalize your wedding details with consultant
- Notify bridesmaids about dress fittings
- Discuss attire with groomsmen and make referrals to local formalwear store
- Select attire for flower girl and/or ring bearer
- Determine the design, wording, font and paper stock for your wedding invitations, stationery, table cards and thank-you notes; finalize order
- Arrange a printer or hire a calligrapher for table cards
- Determine order of ceremony events and choose appropriate wording for your programs
- Negotiate rates and book a block of hotel rooms for guests
- Select and order your wedding rings
- Purchase bridal accessories: jewelry, lingerie and so on
- Choose and order something fun for guests to throw after your ceremony (rose petals or confetti)

6 MONTHS

- Review and approve proofs of invitations and stationery
- Discuss the type of honeymoon you want, start reading up on potential destinations and consult a travel agent for ideas and suggestions.

5 MONTHS

- Order table cards; place print order for programs
- Finalize choice of honeymoon destination
- Taste a variety of wedding cakes and select a baker; place cake order and arrange for delivery
- Make reservations for rehearsal dinner and select your menu

4 MONTHS

- Determine method of addressing invitations and hire a calligrapher, if applicable
- Print labels, and hand-address—or have a calligrapher address—invitations
- Choose your wedding vows
- Have groom try on tuxedos
- Purchase or rent groom's wedding accessories
- Make honeymoon reservations and place all deposits

3 MONTHS

- Review and approve wedding announcement and printed program proofs
- Book venue or secure reservations for post-wedding brunch
- Discuss bachelorette party plans with your attendants
- Plan your bridesmaids' luncheon or dinner
- Make appointment with stylist to discuss your wedding hairstyle
- Create hotel information cards and maps to include with your invitations

2 MONTHS

- Secure a wedding-day dressing room for your bridesmaids
- Weigh, purchase postage for and mail invitations
- Go to final gown fitting; arrange for pickup or delivery
- Have groom's formalwear fitted
- If you plan to have a prenuptial agreement, meet with your attorney to discuss it
- Purchase attendants' gifts
- Arrange transportation for bride and groom from the ceremony site to the reception

6 WEEKS

- Send rehearsal dinner invitations
- Write thank-you notes as you receive gifts
- Confirm music selections (playlist) with musicians and/or DJ
- Select menu for post-wedding brunch
- Purchase a gift for your fiancé
- Shop for wedding favors
- Purchase honeymoon clothing, luggage and accessories

- Go in for a dry run with your hairstylist and schedule a day-of-wedding hair appointment

4 WEEKS

- Confirm floral order and arrange for delivery times
- Meet with ushers and assign duties
- Discuss the details of your ceremony with your officiant
- Determine the placement or distribution of programs at the ceremony venue
- Arrange for preparation, storage and break areas for musicians/DJ at the reception venue
- Determine seating arrangements for guests
- Go in for a dry run with a professional makeup artist and schedule a day-of-wedding appointment
- Schedule a manicure/pedicure for the day before your wedding
- Finalize details with photographer and videographer
- Finalize honeymoon plans and confirm all reservations
- Arrange for transportation to and from the airport
- Post announcement and photo on your website
- Arrange for table card setup at reception venue
- Schedule pickup/return of groom's formalwear

3 WEEKS

- Finalize list of reception guests
- Give the final headcount to the caterer and review details
- Arrange for delivery of flowers and other decorations on the big day
- Call anyone who has not responded to his or her invitation

1 WEEK

- Confirm your honeymoon travel arrangements
- Start packing for your honeymoon
- Pick up your wedding dress

WEDDING DAY

- Eat a good breakfast
- Attend hairstyle appointment
- Give yourself plenty of time to get ready
- Relax and enjoy yourself!

POST-WEDDING: 3 DAYS

- Arrange for transport of gifts
- Have family or friends mail wedding announcements

AFTER THE HONEYMOON

- Take wedding gown and veil to a dry cleaner who specializes in gown preservation
- Submit name-change forms for driver's license, passport, Social Security card, state and federal tax boards, banks, credit cards and so on

Adapted from Bridal Guide's How to Plan the Perfect Wedding...Without Going Broke, *by Diane Forden (Warner Books).*



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FASHION

& STYLE GUIDE

Lace appliquéd, long-sleeve gown with pleated A-line skirt, V-neckline and illusion back detailing, price upon request, by Calla Blanche. Headpiece by Sara Foldenauer.

Photographed at Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center in New York City. For more info, go to wavehill.org.

NATURAL WONDER

Be a botanical beauty in enchanting, floral-inspired gowns handpicked to have you blooming on the big day. Get the latest trends fresh from the runway and plan on looking your best with our essential beauty countdown.

PHOTOGRAPHY: LISA LOFTUS. HAIR: MAGGIE CONNOLLY USING BUMBLE AND BUMBLE & GHD HAIR. MAKEUP: KATERI GIEHL. AT UTOPIA USING MAC COSMETICS. PROPS: SARA FOLDENAUER, SETS BY SARA AT RAY BROWN PRO.

the secret garden

These aren't your garden-variety gowns: Lush textures and ethereal silhouettes bursting with ultra-feminine blooms will have you falling in love all over again.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LISA LOFTUS

SPRING AWAKENING

Beaded lace and embroidered tulle gown with floral appliques, about \$4,295, by Eve of Milady Boutique. Headband by David's Bridal. Earrings and ring by Kate Spade New York. Bracelet by Fervor Montréal. Ring by Laura Preshong. Belt by Cheryl King Couture.



FIELD OF DREAMS

Embroidered floral appliquéd gown with illusion bodice and sweep train, price upon request, by Atelier Pronovias. Baby's breath (in hair) from The Bouqs Company. Flower by Sara Foldenauer. Ring by Laura Preshong.



A full-page photograph of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair and bangs, wearing a white lace wedding dress. She is wearing a headpiece made of greenery and dried flowers. She is holding a round bouquet of boxwood in her right hand. The background is a lush green garden with a large boxwood bush on the right.

**AVANT
GARDEN**

Cap sleeve lace sheath with illusion V-neckline and back, price upon request, by Casablanca Bridal. Headpiece by Sara Foldenauer. Earrings by Jennifer Behr. Belt by Cheryl King Couture.



INTO THE WOODS

Tulle and organza A-line gown detailed with silk organza flowers, crystals and a silk satin ribbon waistline, about \$3,995, by Yumi Katsura. Headpiece by Maria Elena Headpieces. Bracelet by Fervor Montréal.

SWEET SEDUCTION

Tulle ballgown with
ruched bodice and
three-dimensional
organza petals on
skirt, about \$4,220,
by Jim Hjelm by
Hayley Paige. Head-
piece by Maria Elena
Headpieces. Stacking
rings by Chloé +
Isabel. Bracelets by
Fervor Montréal.
Ring by David
Yurman. Flowers
by L'Atelier Rouge.





*Nature-inspired
accents echoed in
layers of tulle
and silk evoke
fairy-tale wonder.*

FREE SPIRIT

Silk and tulle ballgown
with silk flowers
on asymmetrically
tiered skirt, about
\$3,078, by Justin
Alexander Signature.
Necklace by Maria
Elena Headpieces.





BELLE FLEUR

Tulle A-line gown with deep-V neckline and long lace sleeves, price upon request, Calla Blanche. Crown by Boutique du Voile.

Get garden-gorgeous with easy-breezy locks and a neutral palette to complement any outdoor affair: Pair soft, brushed-out beach waves with a subtle smoky eye, natural lip and touch of rose on your cheeks.

**ENTRANCE
MAKER**

Lace and tulle A-line gown with flower appliqués, crystals and detachable diamanté beaded belt, about \$2,198, by Randy Fenoli. Baby's breath (in hair) from The Bouqs Company. Earrings by Maria Elena Headpieces. Bracelet by Chloe + Isabel.





FULL BLOOM

Gown with bodice of French Alençon floral lace on netting, illusion shoulder straps and layered tulle skirt, about \$1,400, by Chic Nostalgia. Headpiece by Tadashi Shoji.

Photographed at Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center in New York, New York. With its celebrated grounds and scenic views, the 28-acre estate offers a romantic setting for an unforgettable wedding. Exchange vows under the lushly planted Pergola overlooking the Hudson River, celebrate your first dance in historic Armor Hall at Wave Hill House and photograph the bridal party at the Aquatic Garden. Armor Hall welcomes up to 130 guests with room for a small band and dance floor. For more info, go to wavehill.org.

WILD FLOWER

Fit and flare gown with all-over three-dimensional silk flowers, about \$3,880, by Oleg Cassini. Bracelet by Monica Vinader. Belt by David's Bridal. Headpiece and large flower by Sara Foldenauer.

Fashion Editor:
Kayla Hayes

Art Director:
Mary Cate Godfrey

Prop Stylist:
Sara Foldenauer,
Sets by Sara



Gown by Kitty Chen.
Sunglasses by Stella
& Dot. Earrings by
Carolee. Set of
crossover rings by
Swarovski. Solitaire
ring by Ritani. Journal
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Your wedding is a month
away. Here, **beauty experts**
chime in on how to look and
feel your best on the big day.
by Kayla Hayes

#busy bride

Countdown to I Do



* Have more than one makeup trial.

4 WEEKS TO GO

- **MEET WITH YOUR MAKEUP ARTIST:** She was booked 6-8 months ago but it's time to get better acquainted so you feel really comfortable with her, says Ashlee Glazer, director of makeup artistry for Pucker. Having more than one trial is important—make sure you factor this into the original agreement. "Bridal showers and rehearsal dinners are great opportunities to test your wedding look."
- **REJUVENATE YOUR SKIN:** To ensure your skin is looking its best Dr. Bradley S. Bloom, New York board-certified dermatologist, suggests two PICO Genesis laser treatments at four and two weeks before the wedding. **PICO Genesis** is about a 15-minute treatment with minimal downtime that removes uneven sun pigmentation and damage for a brighter complexion.

3 WEEKS TO GO

- **SWEAT IT OUT:** Be sure to stick to your routine in the weeks before the wedding. "Daily exercise is important: It not only tones your body and boosts your confidence, but it also helps flush toxins, improve circulation and relieve stress," says Kimberly Snyder, nutritionist and *New York Times* best-selling author of the *Beauty Detox* series and *Radical Beauty*.
- **TEST OUT THE TAN:** "Before your big day you should do a trial run for every service (hair, makeup and skincare)," says Marlena Orlowska, makeup artist at Paul Labrecque Salon and Spa. If you want the look of a tan, that also includes your bronzing treatment. Consult with your artist about how tan you want to be and the timing of your wedding. Do a trial and see if the application is too light or dark.

2 WEEKS TO GO

- **CLEAN UP YOUR BROWS:** It's best to get those brows in shape two weeks prior and then touch up a couple days before the ceremony to ensure less irritation, says Melanie Coba, European Wax Center's national brand ambassador.
- **CUT OUT DAIRY AND PROCESSED FOODS:** These can cause bloating and digestive issues, while refined sugars accelerate aging, free-radical damage and stiffening of collagen, Snyder says.
- **TRADE IN BEER FOR WINE:** Cut back on dehydrating and vitamin-depleting alcohol, Snyder suggests. If celebrating, stick to red wine. Reds tend to be high in antioxidants, not as hard on the liver as other alcohols and don't induce bloating.

10am Brows ✓

1 WEEK TO GO

- **HAVE YOUR LAST FACIAL:** "Stay away from 'trending' facials," says Alicia Yoon, licensed esthetician, CEO and founder of Peach & Lily. "Consult with your esthetician in advance so she can determine a treatment specifically tailored to your needs. Stick to super-hydrating and soothing spa facials from a professional salon or use at-home products like the **K-Beauty Bridal Radiance Regiment** to avoid irritation."
- **BOOK AN EXFOLIATING FACE AND BODY SCRUB:** Sloughing off dead skin will not only aid in getting an even spray tan and smoother wax results, but also allows for better makeup application.
- **WHITEN YOUR TEETH:** For a brighter smile, Dr. Bijan Gohari, DMD prosthodontist, suggests using **Supersmile 6 Minutes To A Whiter Smile Kit** twice a day.



* Sheet masks lock in moisture for soft, hydrated skin.

2 DAYS TO GO

- **SCHEDULE YOUR EYEBROW AND BIKINI WAX:** If opting to remove any unwanted hair on your face or body, go two to three days before so any post-treatment redness disappears, Coba suggests.
- **GET GLOSSY:** "For optimal color get a gloss treatment as close to the big day as you can," says Bb.colorist Robert Mefford, "It's the best way to have your hair color looking picture-perfect."
- **GET GLOWING:** Spray tans offer a healthy glow without compromising your skin's well-being. Go two days before to ensure your faux glow has time to develop.
- **RINSE OFF:** Wait eight to ten hours before showering post appointment.

* 3pm spray tan

1 DAY TO GO

- **GET YOUR FINAL MANICURE AND PEDICURE:** Glazer suggests a gel polish, which will last through the honeymoon. Try **LeChat Perfect Match** set, which comes with a gel polish and perfectly matched lacquer for touch ups and has a range of over 200 shades to choose from.
- **DON'T STRESS:** Last minute breakout? Yoon suggests **Peach Slice Acne Spot Dots**, which can help reduce blemishes within hours and can be worn under makeup, as they are transparent.
- **KEEP CALM:** "Drink lots of water to keep inflammation at bay," says Yoon. "Before snoozing, use a sheet mask like **Peach Slices Aqua Glow Masks**." Take the time to Zen out before bed and turn down your big-day nerves. Be sure to get quality beauty sleep by heading to bed early.

DAY OF

- **START SMART WITH A LIGHT, HEALTHY BREAKFAST:** To begin the day, Snyder suggests drinking hot water with lemon and her signature **Glowing Green Smoothie**, which includes spinach, apples and bananas. Eat lighter foods, such as fruits, first and then follow with heavier proteins and starches—"following this principle will reduce bloating on the big day."
- **ALLOW FOR AT LEAST 3 HOURS TO GET READY:** Avoid being stressed and pressed for time—you'll want to enjoy every moment. Wear a robe or button-down shirt that can be easily removed after your hair and makeup are done.
- **ENJOY!**

♡ Wedding Day ♡♡

RUNWAY REPORT

Voluminous ballgowns and elegant lace dresses graced the runways while playful details offered all-eyes-on-you embellishments.



FRANCESCA MIRANDA

LEANNE MARSHALL

GEMY MAALOUF

MIRA ZWILLINGER

SACHIN & BABI

MONIQUE LHUILLIER

INES DI SANTO

ARM CANDY

Long lace sleeves lend an ultra-chic vibe to every gown style.

BOW-ED OVER

The iconic detail gets a style upgrade on shoulders, waists and backs.



ISABELLE ARMSTRONG



MARCHESA



ROSA CLARÁ TWO



RIVINI



LILLIAN WEST

RANDY FENOLI

PETER LANGNER

HAYLEY PAIGE

YOLANCRIS

MARCHESA

OSCAR DE LA RENTA

BIG LOVE

Ballgowns with luxe, layered skirts guarantee a grand entrance.

FRINGE FEST

Add a little swing to your step with flirty fringe details.



JENNY PACKHAM



MARCHESA NOTTE



SOTTERO & MIDGLEY



NAEEM KHAN

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF DESIGNERS. TOM RAUNER: MARCHESA NOTTE, NAEEM KHAN



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Sunday, October 1, 2017 • 12:00 pm
Sunday, January 28, 2018 • 12:00 pm
GRAND HYATT ATLANTA IN BUCKHEAD

BALTIMORE

Tuesday, October 17, 2017 • 5:30 pm
Saturday, January 6, 2018 • 12:00 pm
MARTIN'S VALLEY MANSION

BOSTON

Sunday, September 24, 2017 • 12:00 pm
Sunday, January 21, 2018 • 12:00 pm
THE WESTIN BOSTON WATERFRONT

DALLAS

Sunday, November 12, 2017 • 12:00 pm
FAIRMONT DALLAS
Sunday, March 4, 2018 • 12:00 pm
HYATT REGENCY DALLAS

DENVER

Sunday, November 5, 2017 • 12:00 pm
DENVER MARRIOTT CITY CENTER

FT. LAUDERDALE

Sunday, October 22, 2017 • 12:00 pm
Sunday, February 11, 2018 • 12:00 pm
BONAVENTURE RESORT AND SPA

HOUSTON

Saturday, November 11, 2017 • 12:00 pm
HYATT REGENCY HOUSTON

LOS ANGELES

Sunday, March 18, 2018 • 12:00 pm
THE L.A. HOTEL DOWNTOWN

MIAMI

Sunday, February 4, 2018 • 12:00 pm
CONRAD HOTEL MIAMI

NEW YORK CITY

Thursday, September 28, 2017 • 5:30 pm
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 • 5:30 pm
NEW YORK MARRIOTT MARQUIS

ORLANDO

Sunday, February 18, 2018 • 12:00 pm
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD

PHILADELPHIA

Sunday, October 8, 2017 • 12:00 pm
Sunday, January 14, 2018 • 12:00 pm
SHERATON PHILADELPHIA CITY CENTER

PHOENIX

Sunday, October 29, 2017 • 12:00 pm
Sunday, March 11, 2018 • 12:00 pm
PHOENIX CONVENTION CENTER

SAN JOSE

Sunday, November 19, 2017 • 12:00 pm
Sunday, March 25, 2018 • 12:00 pm
FAIRMONT HOTEL SAN JOSE

WASHINGTON, DC

Sunday, October 15, 2017 • 12:00 pm
HILTON ALEXANDRIA HOTEL
Sunday, January 7, 2018 • 12:00 pm
HYATT REGENCY WASHINGTON ON CAPITOL HILL

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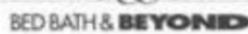


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Dream Day

Janesa and Kyson found their happily ever after in a wedding steeped in storybook charm.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PEPPER NIX PHOTOGRAPHY



The newlyweds share a private moment together outside their temple.



Bedecked in sequins and flowers, the bride's adorable niece strikes a pose for the camera.



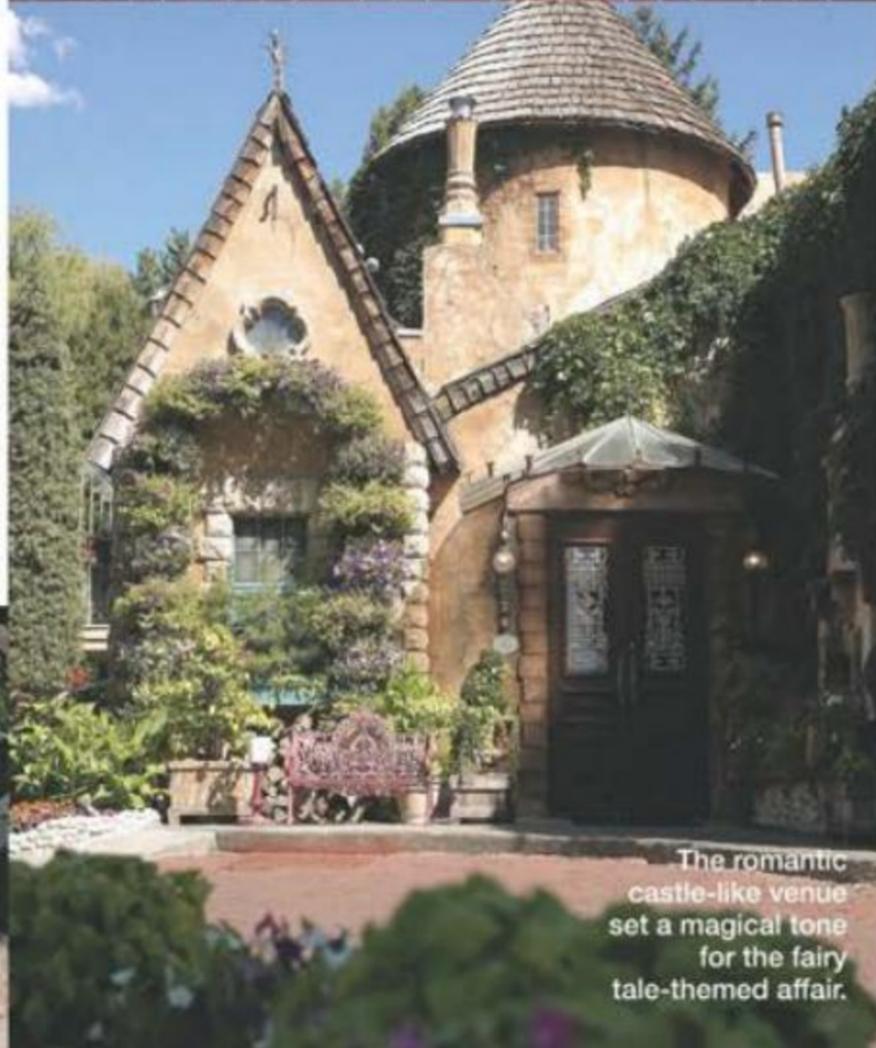
The four-tiered cake included poppy seed, red velvet, almond cake and pink champagne flavors.

JANESA ALLRED & KYSON ABPLANALP
RECEPTION LOCATION: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
NUMBER OF GUESTS: 300

While exploring one of Janesa's favorite places to visit, Kyson popped the question in front of the Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland. The magic continued as the couple agreed upon a fairy tale-themed wedding with vintage, Parisian-inspired decor in ivory, blush and champagne tones. "I wanted to feel like Cinderella," Janesa said, "and I couldn't have felt more like a princess without the help of our wedding planner." Michelle Cousins of Michelle Leo Events designed and planned the intimate ceremony held at the couple's cherished Salt Lake City Temple. Their spectacular reception followed at La Caille, an elegant 20-acre estate outside of Salt Lake City. The French chateau-styled venue had an expansive glass pavilion where guests gathered in what resembled an enchanting forest. Soft, natural light and towering greenery filled the exceptionally grand room as family and friends celebrated and enjoyed the live band. Guests were delighted by the newlyweds' unexpected choice for their first dance: a rock rendition of the song "Never Stop" by Safetysuit. To end the night in royal fashion, a vintage Rolls-Royce whisked the bride and groom away through a twinkling sparkler send-off. "We had a true fairy tale of a wedding!" Janesa said. — *Kate Watson*



Bridesmaids exchanged smiles with the bride while dazzling in shimmering tulle dresses.



The romantic castle-like venue set a magical tone for the fairy tale-themed affair.



Pink French hat boxes of varying heights displayed wedding favors for family and friends.



1. Billowing cream drapery and opulent detailing enhanced the reception's wow-factor. 2. The cream and gold cake featured alternating patterns of ruffles, ribbons and quilted diamonds. 3. Luxe crystal chandeliers sparkled throughout the airy event space. 4. Gilded chiavari chairs wrapped with decorative blush fabric made for sweet seating. 5. Bouquets of hydrangeas, garden roses and eucalyptus flourished throughout the reception.



Cake:
CARRIES CAKES
Dress:
DEBBIE ISAACSON
Floral:
URBAN CHATEAU FLORAL
Makeup:
KRISTEN PACKARD
Hair:
GRETTA COSTIN



1. Dinner was served on gold textured plates with light rose-colored table napkins. 2. The happy couple embrace before a canopy of blooms. 3. Small, old-world frames displayed table numbers while the tall acrylic vases of roses and hydrangeas gave a modern touch. 4. Mirrored platters showcased fruity refreshments for guests to sip on. 5. Dusty Miller, peonies and wax flowers bloomed on cocktail tables as decorative centerpieces. 6. Ribbon-tied packages of macarons were offered as light bites to share the love. 7. Guests lounged on rococo seating accented with chic cushions.



Personal Touches

- The hand-painted cake topper was modeled after the Disneyland castle to commemorate where the newlyweds became engaged.
- Birdcages were used to collect guests' wedding cards, a twist on Janesa's nickname "J Bird."
- The bride carefully selected Alex and Ani bracelets as thoughtful gifts for her bridesmaids to wear on the big day.
- First-look photos were taken several weeks before the ceremony so they could be displayed throughout the reception venue.

COVER STYLE

Page 40

Adrianna Papell Platinum; adriannapapellplatinum.com. **Anastasia Beverly Hills;** anastasiabeverlyhills.com. **Chanel;** chanel.com. **Charlotte Tilbury;** charlottetilbury.com. **Chloe + Isabel;** chloeandisabel.com. **David Tutera Embellish;** davidtuteraembellish.com. **L'Atelier Rouge;** latelierrouge.com. **Sorrelli;** sorrelli.com. **Tacori;** tacori.com. **Too Faced;** toofaced.com.

DESIGNER PROFILE

Page 46

Calla Blanche; callablanche.com.

JAZZ BABY

Page 50

Adrianna Papell Platinum; adriannapapellplatinum.com. **Chloe + Isabel;** chloeandisabel.com. **Edie Parker;** edie-parker.com. **Emmy London;** emmylondon.com. **Hey There, Cupcake!**; heythere-cupcake.com. **Justin Alexander Signature;** justinalexanderbridal.com. **Naeem Khan;** naeemkhan.com. **Naked Princess;** nakedprincess.com. **Paperless Post;** paperlesspost.com. **Sachin & Babi;** sachinandbabi.com. **The Roc Shop;** etsy.com/shop/TheRocShop. **Theia;** theiacouture.com. **Trumpet & Horn;** trumpetandhorn.com.

GILDED AGE

Page 52

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Lazaro; jlmcouture.com. **Nicola Feuillatte Champagne;** findusawine.com. **Nine West;** ninewest.com. **Oscar de la Renta;** oscardearenta.com. **Sky's the Limit Bridal Sweets;** stlbridalsweets.com. **Tara Keely;** jlmcouture.com.

OUT WEST

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After Six Bridesmaids; dessy.com. **Durango;** durangoboots.com. **Elizabeth Bower;** elizabethbower.com. **Isabelle Armstrong;** isabellearmstrongny.com. **Jennifer Behr;** jenniferbehr.com. **Jenny Packham;** jennypackham.com. **Parfait;** kohls.com. **Temperley Bridal;** temperleylondon.com. **That Little Cake Place;** thatlittlecakeplace.com. **The Balvenie;** us.thebalvenie.com. **Wedding Paper Divas;** weddingpaperdivas.com. **White by Vera Wang;** davidsbridal.com.

ALL THAT GLITTERS

Page 58

Bel Viaggio; belviaggiodesigns.com. **Brilliant Earth;** brilliantearth.com. **Christopher Designs Inc.;** christopherdesigns.com. **David Yurman;** davidyurman.com. **De Beers;** debeers.com. **evelynH.;** evelynh.com. **Hearts On Fire;** heartsonfire.com.

READY, SET, POUT!

Page 62

Catrice; catricecosmetics.com. **Dior;** dior.com. **Elizabeth Arden;** elizabetharden.com. **Giorgio Armani;** giorgioarmanibeauty-usa.com. **Lancôme;** lancome-usa.com. **Marc Jacobs Beauty;** marcjacobsbeauty.com. **Urban Decay;** urbandecay.com.

YSL Beauty; yslbeautyus.com.

VOW TO BROW

Page 64

Anastasia Beverly Hills; anastasiabeverlyhills.com. **Benefit Cosmetics;** benefitcosmetics.com. **Laura Mercier;** lauramercier.com. **Make Up For Ever;** makeupforever.com. **Sephora Collection;** sephora.com. **Shiseido;** shiseido.com. **Tarte;** tartecosmetics.com.

FASHION FRONTIS

Page 121

Calla Blanche; callablanche.com. **Sara Foldenauer;** setsbysara.com.

THE SECRET GARDEN

Page 122 to 133

Atelier Pronovias; pronovias.com. **Boutique de Voile;** boutiquedevoile.com. **Calla Blanche;** callablanche.com. **Casablanca Bridal;** casablancabridal.com. **Cheryl King Couture;** cherylkingcouture.com. **Chic Nostalgia;** chicnostalgiabridal.com. **Chloe + Isabel;** chloeandisabel.com. **David's Bridal;** davidsbridal.com. **David Yurman;** davidyurman.com. **Eve of Milady Boutique;** eveofmiladybridals.com. **Fervor Montréal;** fervor-montreal.com. **Jim Hjelm by Hayley Paige;** jlmcouture.com. **Justin Alexander Signature;** justinalexander.com. **Kate Spade New York;** katespade.com. **L'Atelier Rouge;** latelierrouge.com. **Laura Preshong;** laurapreshong.com. **Maria Elena;** mariaelenaheadpieces.com. **Monica Vinader;** monicavinader.com. **Oleg Cassini;** davidsbridal.com. **Randy Fenoli;** randyfenolib-

ridal.com. **Sara Foldenauer;** setsbysara.com. **Tadashi Shoji;** tadashishoji.com. **The Bouqs Co.;** bouqs.com. **Yumi Katsura;** yumikatsuracouture.com.

BEAUTY COUNTDOWN

Page 134 and 135

Bb.; bumbleandbumble.com. **European Wax Center;** waxcenter.com. **Kimberly Snyder;** kimberlysnyder.com. **LeChat Nails;** lechatnails.com. **Paul Labrecque Salon & Spa;** paullabrecque.com. **Peach & Lily;** peachandlily.com. **PICO Genesis;** picogenesis.com. **Pucker;** puckermakeup.com. **Supersmile;** supersmile.com.

RUNWAY REPORT

Page 136 and 137

Francesca Miranda; francescamiranda.com. **Gemy Maalouf;** gemymaalouf.com. **Hayley Paige;** jlmcouture.com. **Ines de Santo;** inesdisanto.com. **Isabelle Armstrong;** isabellearmstrongny.com. **Jenny Packham;** jennypackham.com. **Leanne Marshall;** leannemarshall.com. **Lillian West;** lillianwest.com. **Marchesa;** marchesa.com. **Marchesa NOTTE;** marchesa.com. **Mira Zwillinger;** mirazwillinger.com. **Monique Lhuillier;** moniquelhuillier.com. **Naeem Khan;** naeemkhan.com. **Oscar de la Renta;** oscardearenta.com. **Peter Langner;** peterlangner.com. **Randy Fenoli;** randyfenolibridal.com. **Rivini;** rivini.com. **Rosa Clará;** rosaclarabridal.com. **Sachin & Babi;** sachinandbabi.com. **Sottero & Midgley;** maggiesottero.com. **Yolancris;** yolancris.com. ■

HONEYMOON & DESTINATION WEDDING GUIDE

Tropical Delights

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RESORT ROUNDUP

Tree is all trimmed at the Highline Hotel.



The cozy NYC hotel.



The Highline Hotel lobby.

THE HIGHLINE HOTEL

'Twas the year 1823 when *A Visit from St. Nicholas* was first published. The author, Clement Clarke Moore, an Episcopal theologian and heir to a sprawling Manhattan estate, helmed the construction of a seminary complex that now encompasses Chelsea's chic **Highline Hotel**. Behind the original brick facade, guests repose in 60 eclectic rooms that feature period art and antiques. Common areas include an Intelligentsia Coffee counter and a garden champagne bar. Of particular note is the Refectory, a spectacular cathedral-like hall complete with stained-glass windows, wood-paneled walls and a sculpture of the man who created the international image of today's Santa Claus—Mr. Moore himself (room rates start at \$399 a night; thehighlinehotel.com).

'TIS THE SEASON

Celebrate holiday cheer in luxe style at these posh properties. by Jenna Mahoney



Bellagio.

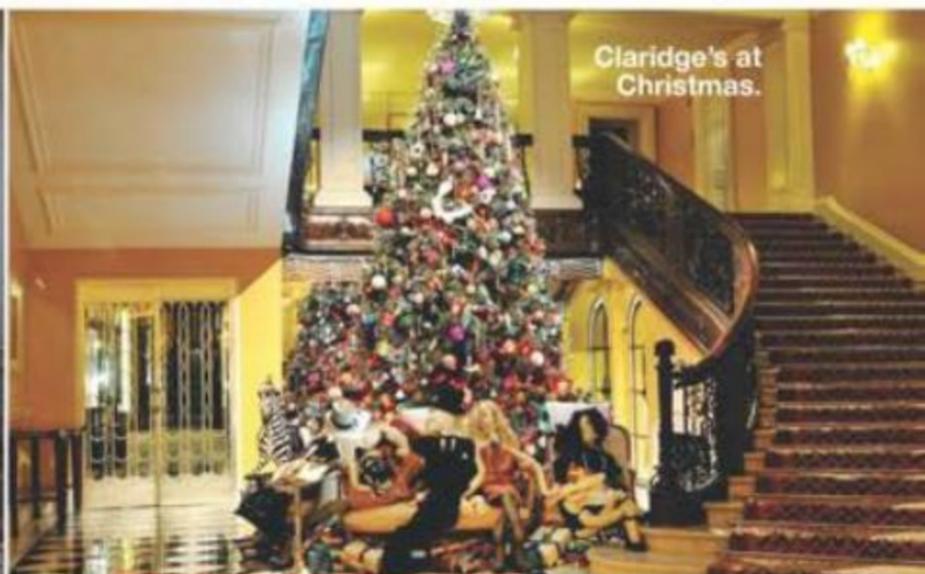
BELLAGIO

The dancing fountains that front this hotel on the famed Strip are so well known they are essentially emblematic of a Las Vegas visit. During the holiday season, the waters move and sway to a collection of popular Christmas carols every 15 minutes. (The *Carol of the Bells* performance is especially fun.) Inside, the hotel is a holiday spectacular, with larger-than-life decorations showcased throughout.

Vegas wedding fun fact: The Bellagio has a package that includes a dancing fountain finale. Couples choose the song (room rates start at \$143 a night; bellagio.com)



Festive scene at Claridge's.



Claridge's at Christmas.

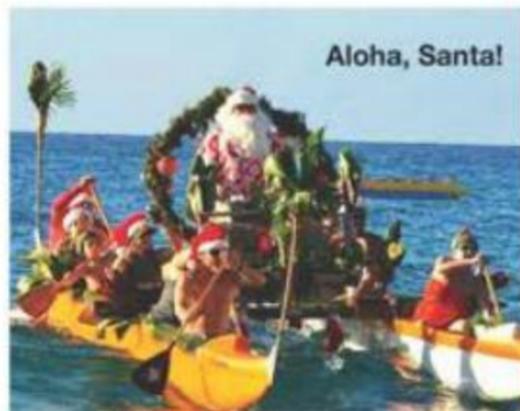


A grand guest room.

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL

The tony London hotel **Claridge's** is synonymous with Christmas. Every year, the 190-room Mayfair hideaway partners with an international designer to decorate the towering Christmas tree in the historic Art Deco lobby. Past tree-trimmers have included Burberry, Diane von Furstenburg (who also designed some guest rooms), Alber Elbaz, formerly of Lanvin, and Apple—yes, the tech company. During the season, the more than 200-year-old hotel also welcomes a choir singing Christmas music at tea time, and dramatically decks the halls and facade that dates to 1898 (room rates start at about \$767 a night; claridges.co.uk).

designer. During the season, the more than 200-year-old hotel also welcomes a choir singing Christmas music at tea time, and dramatically decks the halls and facade that dates to 1898 (room rates start at about \$767 a night; claridges.co.uk).



Aloha, Santa!

ANDAZ MAUI AT WAILEA RESORT Just hear those sleigh bells ringing—well, not exactly. At this mod 290-room resort on Maui, Santa makes a visit via a traditional Hawaiian outrigger canoe. The *Mele Kalikimaka* (Merry Christmas) ritual features the vacay-mode Santa Claus posing for guest selfies. There is also a special Christmas Day brunch and fireside s'mores. Try your hand at steering an outrigger canoe: Daily guided sessions explain the history of the boat, and include basic techniques and a 25-minute paddle. Other resort activities include stand-up paddleboarding, sunrise and sunset yoga classes and, of course, surfing (room rates start at \$242 a night; maui.andaz.hyatt.com).

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TIP:

It's common for city hotels that cater to businessmen to offer complimentary 30-minute leg-and-foot massages upon arrival. Ask when booking.

swell in-flight), and consider traveling with your own blanket. Toms shoes are the perfect up-in-the-air solution: They're lightweight slip-ons that are stylish no matter the situation. A classic White & Warren cashmere travel wrap can be fashioned into a blanket, shawl or scarf.

GET MOVING

Those cartoon exercise videos aren't just for entertainment—they also provide good tips for getting the blood moving. Take a few minutes every three hours or so to move around. The increased blood flow may help conquer some symptoms

Beat the Clock

Combat jet lag with these **easy-to-do-anywhere** tips.

by Jenna Mahoney

It should really be called jet drag, because that's exactly what jet lag is—a big travel downer. Caused by jumping time zones, the typical symptoms, including sleepiness, headaches, lethargy and—in extreme cases—nausea, combined with the feeling that you are the only person in outer space, can put quite a damper on your happily-ever-after vacation. Here's how to keep time on your side.

GET ON SCHEDULE

Before boarding, set your watch to the local time of your destination. In flight, aim to sleep in accordance with that time zone. If you've got an easily adjustable schedule before your vacation, try this trick: Alter your bedtime. If you are headed west, hit the hay an hour later for about as many days as time zones you skip. Traveling east? Turn out the lights a little earlier than usual.

EAT RIGHT

Long-haul international airlines will serve a main meal about an hour after take-off. Eat it only if you're not changing time zones, since you want to keep your body clock in sync with your destination. For example, skip dinner if you take off at 10 p.m. and it's 2 a.m. in Italy, your final des-

ination. Salt is another reason to avoid eating supper. Pre-packaged foods, such as those served on planes, tend to be sky high in sodium, which can cause bloat, a physical discomfort associated with jet lag. Can't say no? Go for the pasta; some experts suggest that carb-dense foods can make it easier to sleep. Often just before landing, another meal is served. Opt for a protein-rich selection, as opposed to a carb-packed one, which can cause a flux in energy levels.

AVOID ALCOHOL

Nothing can tinker with your body clock the way alcohol does. What's more, since it's dehydrating, booze can intensify jet-lag symptoms. And while you're at it, skip drinking caffeine, too. If you must enjoy a cup of tea, bring your own herbal tea bag and ask the flight attendant to heat up some bottled water.

UPGRADE

Wouldn't you prefer to snooze lying down? Book a business- or first-class ticket; some premier sections have private cabins with beds, while many business sections on international flights offer seats that fully recline. No matter where you sit, wear shoes that don't constrict your feet or ankles (areas that can

BUFFER YOURSELVES

If your schedule (and wallet) allow, add bumper days to your itinerary. With a full day to acclimate to the time change, you won't have to lose out on any of the activities you've planned.

DRINK UP

Allowing yourself to become dehydrated is a big no-no. Dizziness, anxiousness and even back pain can be a result of being both dehydrated and jet lagged. Before your trip, aim to drink a liter of water each day for two weeks. Have as much water as possible both in the air and post-landing. No matter your class, flight crews often offer water and juice at regular intervals over long hauls. If you don't see them in the cabin, go to the galley, where water stations are usually set up. And don't drink the tap water—it's not filtered at best and completely non-potable at worst.

SEE THE LIGHT

Research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that exposure to sunlight can increase vitamin D levels and decrease jet lag. So take a walk if it's still light when you land. It'll feel good to move around a bit and it will also help you adapt to the local time. Eat a small, balanced meal and consider getting a massage. Not only does massage help lessen bloating it can also encourage blood flow to alleviate jet-lag symptoms. ■



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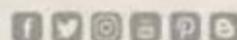
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PHOTOGRAPHY: (FROM TOP) CAMELISIA CRAMER PHOTOGRAPHY, BUTTERMILK FALLS INN; (2) MARK MEYER

Farm Stays

In every issue, we scout a spot that's perfect for tying the knot away from home. by Becca Hensley

Who needs a tuxedo? When what you crave for your wedding day is a bucolic world where donkeys bray, red barns shine in the sun, and acres of green roll out to the echo of a cock-a-doodle-do (or two), these three farmyard havens will do you right. Each offers a taste of the simple life—and outstanding grown-on-property eats—with sophisticated touches to enhance your big-day celebration.

FARM STAY INN AT BLACKBIRD FARM, ANDERSON VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

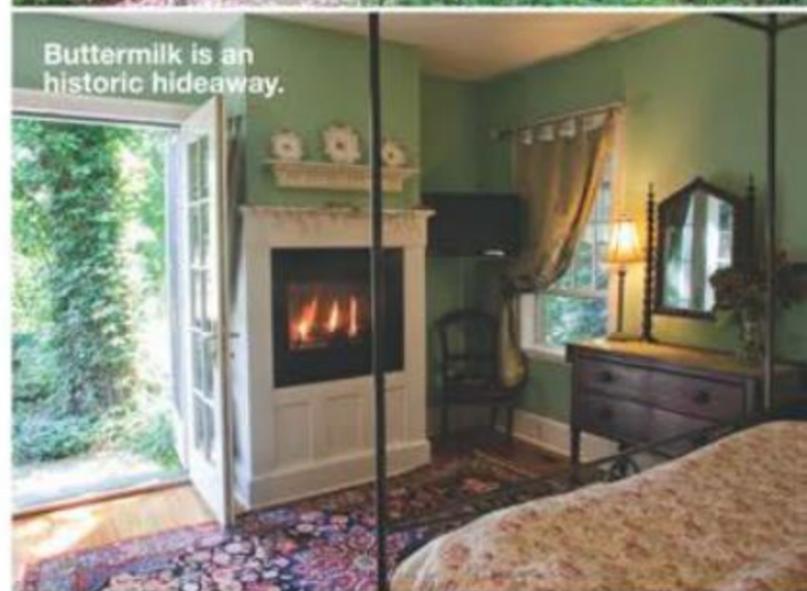
Here in a postcard country setting, two hours north of San Francisco, **Blackbird Farm**, a nonprofit, sustainable estate, occupies a ridge near vineyards, hemmed with apple orchards and groves of ancient Redwoods. With organic plots, home to a variety of livestock (friendly donkeys, sheep, chickens and more), the farm welcomes students to its gardens, creamery and kitchen to learn harvesting techniques, cheese and jam making and fruit preserving. Marry surrounded by traditional farm buildings and a meadow full of roaming horses beside Highland Lake. Or opt for a celebration in the rough-hewn equine barn, which features hardwood floors, exposed rafters and a redwood bar built from a fallen tree found on property. Stay the night in classic cabins, or at the farm's dedicated, dressed-up Bridal Suite, complete with outdoor shower and jetted tub (weekend wedding packages start at \$14,000 and include exclusive property use, set-up, clean-up for rehearsal dinner, ceremony and reception, an on-site event manager and accommodations for the couple and up to 20 guests and breakfast; farmstayinn.com).

BUTTERMILK FALLS INN & SPA, THE HUDSON VALLEY, NEW YORK

New York state's historic Hudson Valley has a storybook quality. It is an expanse of verdant farmland, replete with mooing cows, chubby pigs, red-painted sheds, glistening lakes and legendary gardens, all set just hours from the Big Apple. Wed at **Buttermilk Falls Inn & Spa**, a pastoral, 75-acre spate of land, →



Buttermilk Farms Inn & Spa.

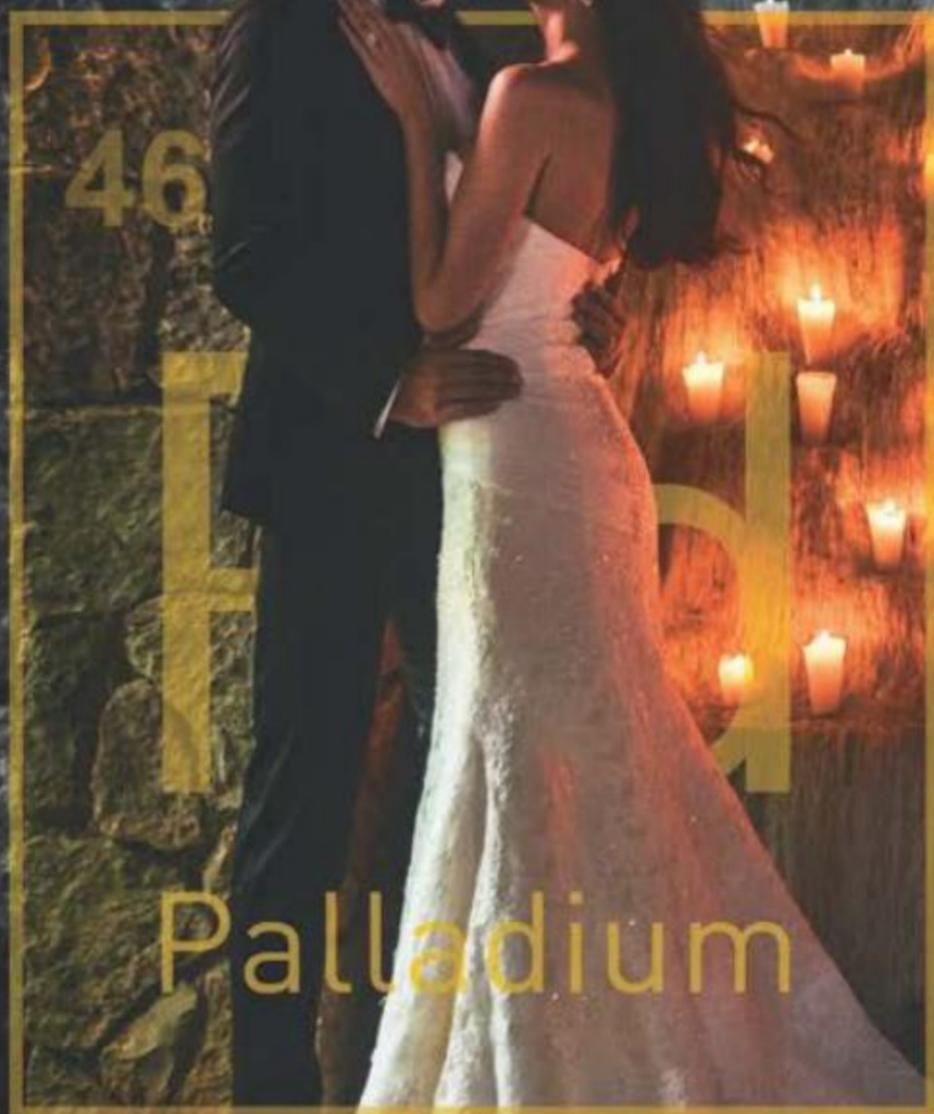


Buttermilk is an historic hideaway.



Contigo Ranch in Texas.

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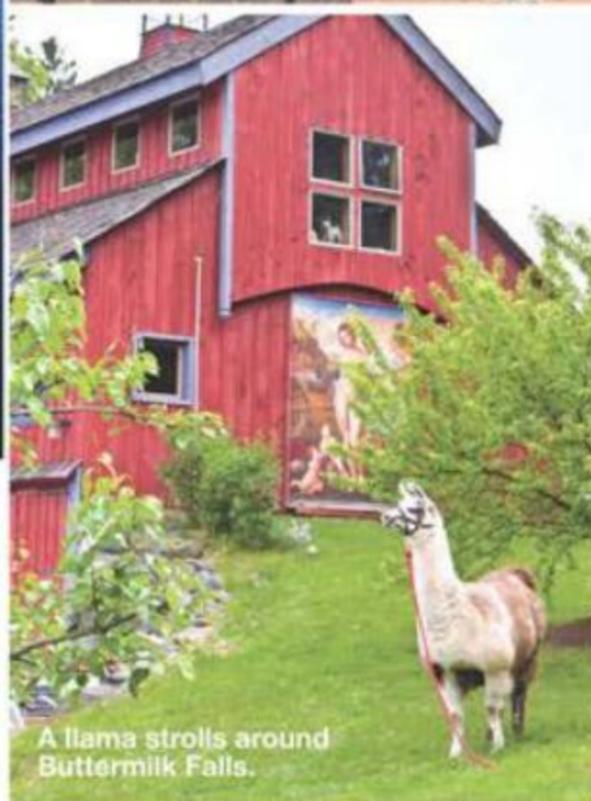
Highland Lake on Blackbird Farm.

where you can gather your own eggs from heritage chickens, cavort with resident llamas or relax in the on-site spa. With the Catskills in view, enjoy an al fresco welcome dinner on a sweeping terrace; or dine indoors in the characteristic inn. For the ceremony, take over the lawn adjacent to Swan Pond or huddle in the gazebo. Receptions in the rustic-chic barn won't soon be forgotten, with menus featuring seasonal food from local farmers and Buttermilk's own bounty. Repose in the romantic Juniper Suite, a haven with fireplace, deck and whirlpool bath (wedding packages start at \$7,000 for 10 guests and include ceremony site fees, an officiant and reception, two nights accommodations and breakfast and afternoon tea; buttermilkfallsinn.com).

CONTIGO RANCH, TEXAS HILL COUNTRY

They say nearly everybody has a ranch in Texas. But **Contigo Ranch** is not your granddaddy's barnyard. Owned by the Lone Star state's esteemed Edgerton Family, this Hill Country slip of fertile land, a working cattle ranch located amid peach and pecan orchards, wedged between the state's best wineries and just a holler from the antique stores of Fredericksburg, gives city slickers the opportunity to exchange vows with a Texas drawl. Choose from three picture-perfect wedding ceremony sites: the noble Overlook on the Hill, The Grove of Oaks near Contigo's Ranch Hall or beneath the undulating, umbrella branches of the ranch's 300-year-old oak tree, which anchors the rolling lawn. Do the Cotton Eyed Joe into the wee hours, stomping across The Ranch Hall's 3,400 square feet of entertainment space, a venue encompassed by a twinkling, light-festooned patio. Opened to the public in June, Contigo Ranch, which includes a handful of comfortable overnight cabins, was refurbished by Austin's Design Hound group with cowpoke elegant touches. It's farm sourced, Texas-style fare hails from Austin-based Contigo Catering, also part of the Edgerton family (wedding packages start at \$6,300 for 150 people and include site fees, ceremony and reception set-up, clean-up and basic decor and an on-site, day-of event coordinator; contigoranch.com). ■

Contigo Ranch in Texas.



A llama strolls around Buttermilk Falls.

A guest room at Contigo Ranch.



Celebrating at Blackbird Farm.

LEGALLY WEDDED

All three states require licenses to marry. They are available at city or town clerk offices throughout each state. Applicants must appear in person with proof of age, and if applicable a divorce decree or death certificate. New York and Texas have a waiting period of 24 and 72 hours, respectively. There is none in California. Licenses are valid for 90 days in California and Texas; 30 in New York.



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MADRID

Our travel editor discovers what's new in Spain's capital city. by Jenna Mahoney

When Isabel and Ferdinand, the *reyes católicos* (the Catholic royals), united Spain after the Inquisition, they chose Madrid as the country's capital. The reason was based purely on math—the leafy expanse bisected by the Manzanares River is the geographic central point of the Iberian peninsula. Today, the city is truly Spain's hub—home of the government, the royal family, finance and two powerhouse fútbol teams. After decades in the shadow of avant garde Barcelona, the capital has regained international appeal and is flourishing with offerings. Here, the hip new amenities and old-school favorites I visited on my latest jaunt.

• NEW ROYALS

These days, the medieval city of Madrid vibrates with a youthful energy. Maybe it should be called the “Felipe V vibe” in response to the young king who rose to power recently after his ailing father abdicated. It may also be thanks to the buzzy openings of hotels that artfully blend classic architecture and emblematic Spanish hospitality with high tech, high style, and elevated approaches to gastronomy. The hallmark of this movement is the **Gran Melia Palacio de Los Duques**, a 180-room, art-filled hideaway tucked into a 19th-century noble home and 13th-century monastery. Amenities include a wine bar, a central courtyard, a cool roof deck and an intimate spa. The hotel is also home to one of the city's must-score-a-table hotspots—Dos Cielos Madrid by the Torres Brothers. Book into a Red Level room and have access to the club lounge, which offers refreshments and snacks throughout the day (room rates start at about \$390 a night; melia.com).

• THE NEW GUARD

Having hosted a glittering array of guests since 1910 (Ernest Hemingway, Ava Gardner, Prince Rainer and Princess Grace, who honeymooned here), the stately 167-room **The Ritz, Madrid** is →



PUTTING ON
The Hotel Ritz Madrid was built to welcome visiting royals.

RED LEVEL
The VIP lounge at Gran Melia Palacio de los Duques.



THE PRADO
One of the museum's most famous works.

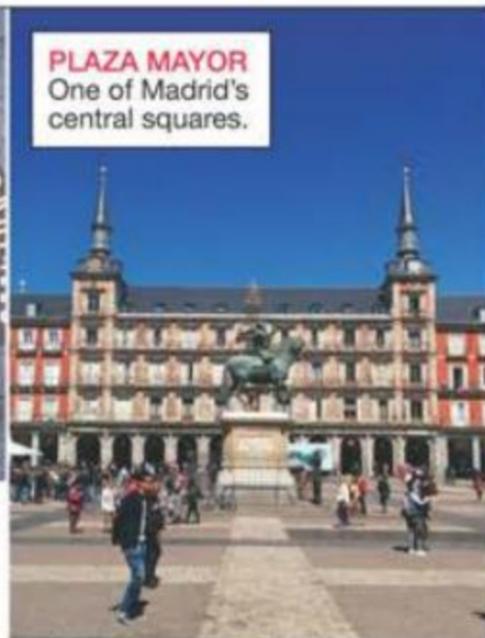


ALMUDENA
Current King Felipe V married his commoner wife here.



TRAVEL TIP: Take a day trip to *El Escorial*, the former summer palace. The expansive site encompasses an art museum, artifacts and a crypt that houses all the kings and queens since Spain unified.

PLAZA MAYOR
One of Madrid's central squares.



PUERTA DEL SOL
It is said that all roads in Spain start at this point.



BAR ANDALÚ
Olé! The old-school bar is a local favorite.



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the capital's most storied hotel. The imposing retreat stands on the tree-lined Castellana, Madrid's main boulevard, and overlooks the internationally acclaimed Prado Museum. The hotel's interior showcases a collection of priceless antique pieces displayed in common areas and in the sumptuous—and oversize—rooms. Recently the hotel became part of the Mandarin Oriental Hotels family. While the revered offerings—high tea and champagne bar—are still highlighted, the Asian hotel group's impeccable—and detailed—service is a golden standout (room rates start at about \$343 a night; mandarinoriental.com).

• **HIP TO BE SQUARE**

Lined with restaurants with seating that spills into its center, Plaza Ana, a small square near the central Puerta del Sol, is the postcard-perfect European setting. Choose to sit at any one and you'll be surrounded by local hipsters, young families and businessmen at lunch. Dishes are served family-style with the most *madri-leño* (typical of the region) of them being *padrón* peppers, *huevos rotos* (fried eggs with french fries) and *orjea la plancha* (pig ear). Stroll along the warren of cobblestone streets that branch off from the plaza in the *barrio letras* and you'll see the homes of some of the most famous authors of Spain—Lope de Vega, Cervantes, Quevedo—standing next to stylish boutiques, coffee shops and old-school artisan workshops.

• **CLASSIC GIRLS**

Sure, the new sensations are worth the exploration, but Madrid's marquee attractions, most of which date to the Spanish Golden Age, also beckon. The Prado is a can't miss. Named for the meadow that once surrounded the building, the museum boasts one of the world's most important collections. There are works by Goya, el Greco, Valázquez, and Rubens. There's also El Buen Retiro, Madrid's equivalent to Central Park, an expanse that served as a garden for the monarchy before becoming a public space in the 1900s. There's also the baroque Almudena Cathedral. Positioned in front of the Royal Palace, the church, which wasn't consecrated until 1993, is an impressive architectural site with soaring arches and cupolas.

• **FOLKLORICO**

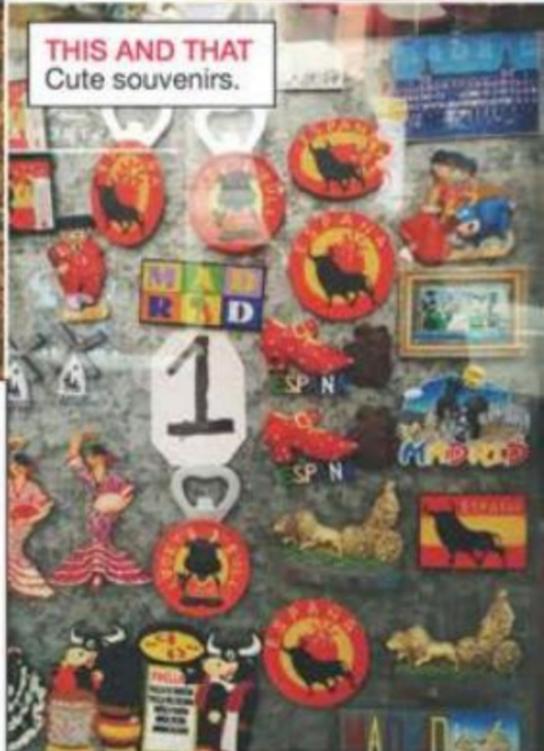
If you picture flamenco, bulls and tapas, when you hear "Spain," a few hours at the Plaza Mayor won't disappoint. The square is emblematic for its painted facades and sidewalk cafes. El Bar Andalú is an homage to the southern region, with walls covered in bullfighting memorabilia. Stand at the bar and you'll get a tapa with each drink order. They typically start with small snacks—peanuts or olives—and build to slices of manchego and mini *jamón serrano* (prosciutto-like ham) sandwiches. ■



LIVE LIKE ROYALTY
A Prado-facing suite at Hotel Ritz, Madrid.



PAELLA
Note: The rice dish is only eaten at lunch.



THIS AND THAT
Cute souvenirs.

TRAVEL TIP: *Family is very important in Spain. There's a saying "el domingo es para la familia." (Sunday is for family.) Many small shops and family-run restaurants are closed on Sundays. Make sure to check.*



NEW SCHOOL
Modern interpretations of classic Spanish works decorate the hotel.



THE RITZ
An antique-filled sumptuous scene.



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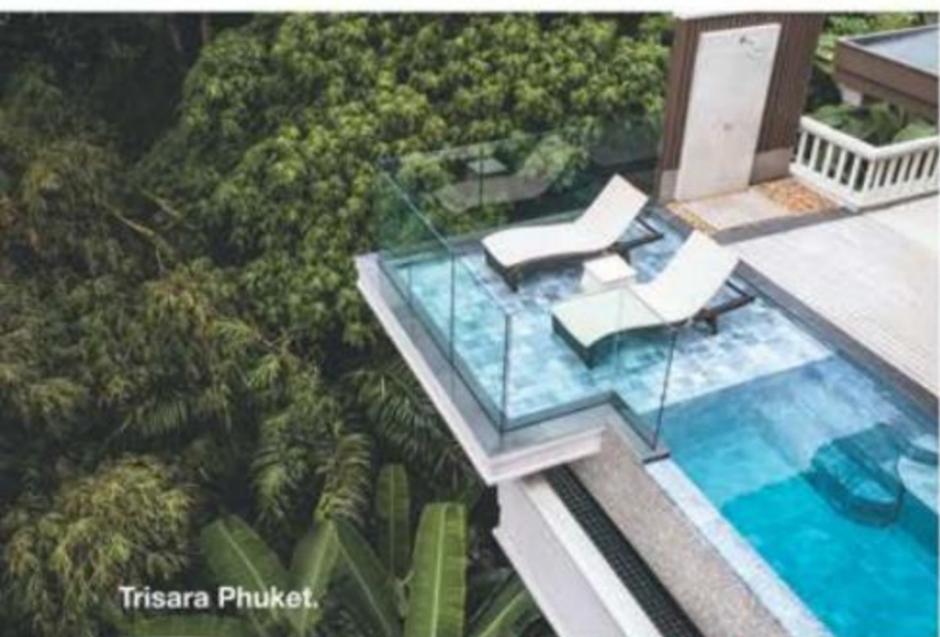
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THAILAND

Replete with adventures, bustling cities and untouched coastline, **Thailand amazes**. It's nearly otherworldly, thanks to glittering Buddhist temples, **towering limestone formations**, white-sand beaches, cat cafes, **humming night markets**, lush jungles, **wellness sanctuaries**, animal awesomeness, cross-dressing cabaret acts, **lantern festivals** and seemingly always smiling citizens.—*Carrie Bell*



Trisara Phuket.



TRIPLE PLAY

At Jara Spa, the renovated and retooled expansive retreat at Phuket's lavish hillside and beachfront 39-villa Trisara Phuket resort, the massage experience is super sized. The signature Royal Massage employs three

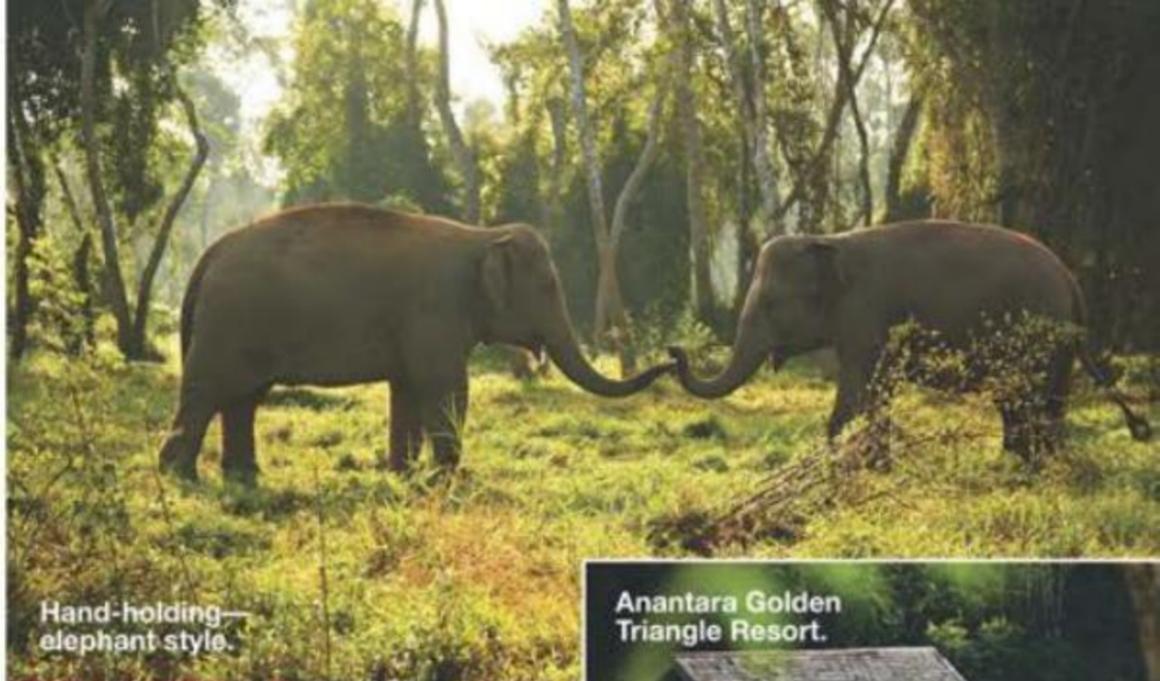
therapists, traditional herbal compresses and acupressure simultaneously. All treatments at Jara are based on a holistic five-pillar philosophy inspired by the century-old Ficus tree looming just outside.

BANGKOK BUZZ

Experience all the capital offers. Taste-test regional specialties at street vendors and locals-approved restaurants on Expique's after-dark tuk tuk tour, which can be adjusted to your level of culinary curiosity. Scorpion-on-a-stick, anyone? Participate in Tak Bart, a sunrise ritual in which the Anantara Siam Hotel presents edible alms to a monk whose gratitude comes in the form of good-fortune blessings. And tour some of the more than 400 vibrant wats (temples) including Wat Pho (with the Reclining Buddha statue) and Sukhothai Traimit.



Dig in!



Hand-holding—elephant style.

TRUNK SHOW

To pal around with a pachyderm, head north to where the Mekong and Ruak rivers meet, separating Thailand, Myanmar and Laos. The refined rustic **Anantara Golden Triangle Resort** sits next to the ethical elephant camp it funds. The *mahout* (trainer) apprentice-for-a-day experience includes a slow trek through the sprawling property, which is home to more than 20 elephants, most of which have been rescued. Take a river bath while you're still sitting on the mammoth animal, and don't miss a breakfast meet-and-greet with a tusked toddler (room rates start at \$945 a night; anantara.com).

Anantara Golden Triangle Resort.



Four Seasons Resort Koh Samui.



KNOCK OUT Practiced since ancient times, Muay Thai is a mix of martial arts and boxing that has become a beloved national pastime and integral part of the cultural heritage. Learn the art of eight limbs alfresco from a champion at **Four Seasons Koh Samui** in a ring that boasts a 180-degree view of palm trees and turquoise waters from its hilltop perch (room rates start at \$375 a night; fourseasons.com).

Become one with the (is)land with an agritourism experience at **Six Senses Samui's Farm on the Hill**. Home to 15 goats and 80 chickens, visitors can harvest ingredients, **collect eggs, sip fresh juice** or feed the animals.

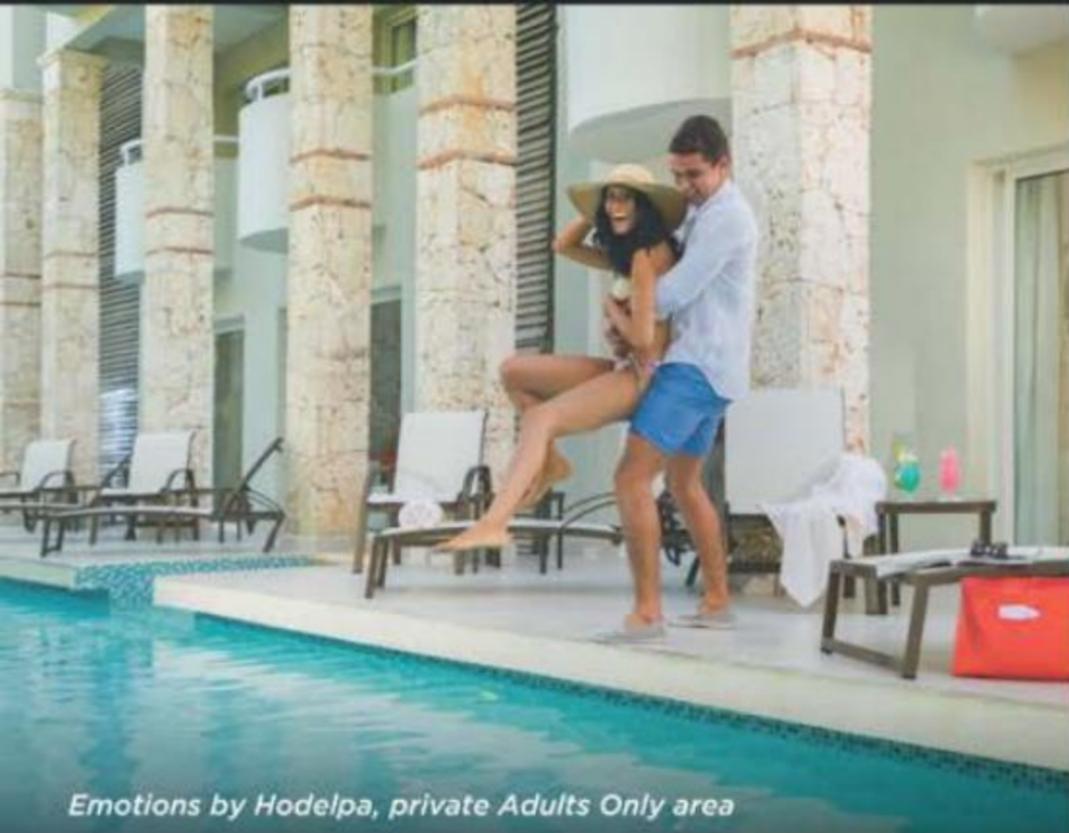
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BAROS MALDIVES

Stay in one of the 75 villas perched in a turquoise lagoon in the Indian Ocean and you may never want to come to shore, let alone come home. Sign up for the resort's Reef Rehabilitation Program and nurture sea life. With an escorted swim to the house reef, you'll collect coral fragments and attach them to a coral frame. The marine nursery is home to damselfish, blennies, octopus and the awesomely named Oriental sweetlips.

ST. REGIS BORA BORA

Guests at one of the 89 beach or over-water villas set on a limpid blue lagoon at this heavenly resort in French Polynesia get closer access to the crystal-clear waters by taking part in the resort's Coral Management Program. After a guided tour from the resident marine biologist, honeymooners can become godparents to a baby coral and plant a coral cutting. Myriad colorful juvenile fish shelter in the protected marine area.

WILDERNESS SAFARIS DESERT RHINO CAMP

This Namibian camp of just eight luxe tents is set in a dramatic landscape that is home to Africa's biggest free-roaming population of black rhinos, which are in danger from poachers. Guests work with the Save the Rhino Trust to help trackers record the location of the rhino, following the animals in game drive vehicles or on foot.

FOUR SEASONS RESORT MAUI AT WAILEA

All of the resort's 380 rooms have gorgeous views of the Wailea Beach's golden sands and those amazing Maui sunsets. This Hawaiian paradise offers guests multiple voluntourism opportunities, from home building for Habitat for Humanity to weeding at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. At the ancient Ko'ie'ie Fishpond, guests participate in ongoing restoration work, replacing boulders in the 1,100 foot rock wall that dates to the 15th century, an important cultural locale for Hawaiian Islanders.

SANDALS RESORTS

Stay at any one of the group's 15 all-inclusive Caribbean properties and volunteer in the local community during a Reading Road Trip. Every week when school is in session, volunteers read books to local students. ■

PHOTOGRAPHY: ST. REGIS BORA BORA



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SOMETHING FOR
EVERY COUPLE.

BY JILL FERGUS



Charming Pink Sands
on Harbour Island.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PINK SANDS RESORT

An Instagram-perfect perch
at private Kamalame Cay.



“It’s better in the Bahamas,” is the longtime tagline of this Caribbean island nation. And it’s true. No matter what style of tropical getaway you prefer—super sophisticated; activities à go-go; all day and night dance parties—there’s a specific island in this archipelago of more than 700 for you. Whatever pristine expanse—or spits of sand—you choose you’ll enjoy sublime and often footprint-free beaches and some of the clearest water on the planet—and a singular honeymoon experience.

CHIC BEACH HARBOUR ISLAND

Harbour Island, with its pastel-colored houses and high-end boutiques, attracts a posh crowd. After strolling the pristine pink sand beaches and hiring a boat to take you to the island’s best snorkeling spots, explore pretty little Dunmore Town. You’ll find quaint churches, family-owned conch shacks and bakeries and

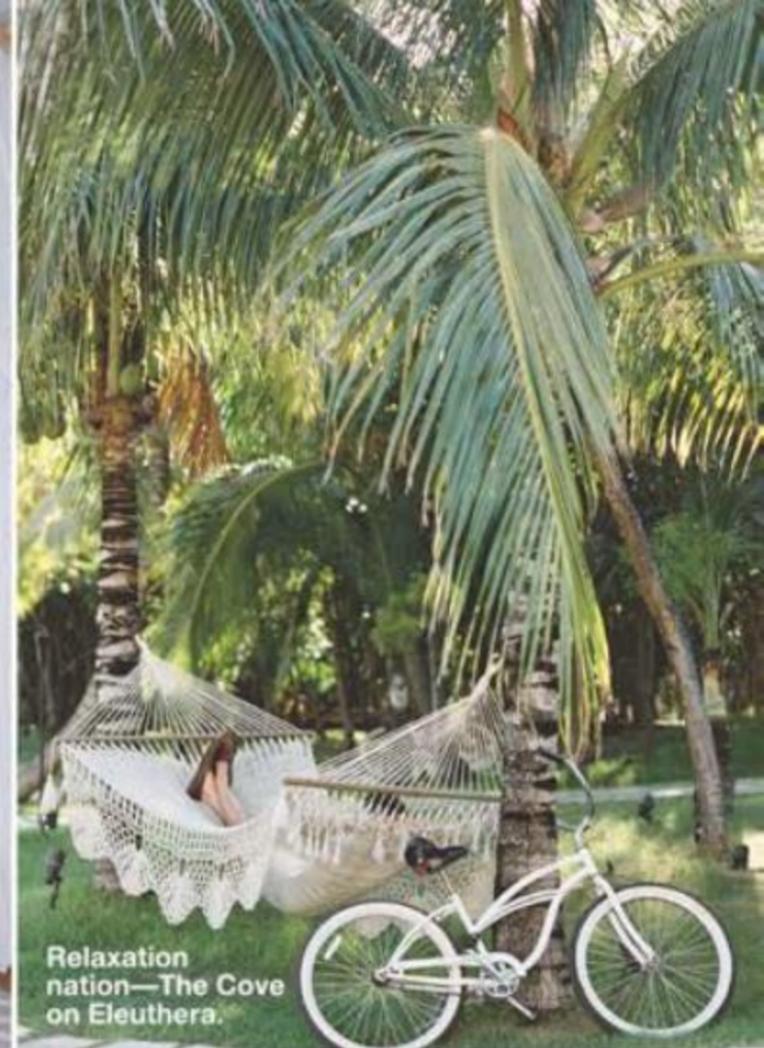
stylish clothing boutiques like the Sugar Mill, owned by British designer and longtime Harbour Island resident India Hicks.

WHERE TO EAT: Dress in your best beach-chic kaftan when lunching at Sip Sip, a casual oceanside hotspot with great people watching. The most romantic dining room on the island is located within The Landing, a ritzy boutique hotel. Favorite dishes include grilled lobster, beef tenderloin and chili salt squid.

WHERE TO STAY: **Pink Sands** has 25 pastel-colored cottages and lush grounds that feature hibiscus and bougainvillea and swaying coconut palms. After a day lolling on beach (the sand really does have a pink hue!), sip a fruity and spirited Goombay Smash cocktail on the deck of the Blue Bar before dining at Malcolm 51, which showcases fresh-caught seafood (room rates start at \$579 a night; pinksandsresort.com). →



The suite life at Kamalame Cay.



Relaxation nation—The Cove on Eleuthera.



Kamalame Cay is the epitome of breezy laid-back chic.

PRIVATE PARADISE KAMALAME CAY

For pure—and posh—escapism, there's Kamalame Cay, a 96-acre private island resort off Andros, the Bahamas' largest island. Blissful days include a lobster picnic on a secluded stretch of beach reached via golf cart (each room comes with one), napping on a beachside hammock, kayaking along the shore and in-

NASSAU IS THE NATION'S CAPITAL ISLAND. INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS LAND HERE. MOST **OUT ISLANDS** ARE SERVICED BY **BAHAMAS AIR**. SOME CARRIERS FLY FROM FLORIDA TO **SMALLER BAHAMIAN ISLANDS**.

dulging in a hot-stone massage in the fabulous over-the-water bungalow spa. Staff can arrange sunset cocktail cruises and fishing and diving excursions to the more inhabited Andros.

WHERE TO EAT: Meals are served in the island's Great House and include conch salad and seared ahi tuna for lunch and pork belly with coconut rice and stone crab fettuccine for dinner. The impressive wine list features bottles from Burgundy, Bordeaux and Sonoma. For a more casual meal, there's nightly barbecue served at the thatched-roof Tiki Bar.

WHERE TO STAY: **Kamalame Cay** boasts 19 rooms, cottages and suites. A romantic option is the one-bedroom Cottage Suite, with tiled floors and French doors that lead to wraparound balconies, perfect for sunset watching (room rates start at \$275 a night; kamalame.com).



Pink Sands.

SWEPT AWAY ELEUTHERA

Mention Eleuthera and you'll likely get a few blank stares, as this low-key Bahamian island is not on most people's radars—and that, of course, is what makes it so appealing. Visitors have white-sand beauties like Rainbow and Ten Bay beaches all to themselves. There are also natural attractions like Glass Window Bridge to discover. Although there isn't much of a nightlife scene, everyone (including Lenny Kravitz who owns a home here) gathers at Elvina's, a ramshackle bar and grill with live music, Cajun dishes and ice-cold Kalik beer.

WHERE TO EAT: Tippy's, with delicious seafood dishes like conch fritters, coconut shrimp and Bahamian stone crabs, is an island favorite. There's also an inex-



Atlantis is the Bahamas marquee resort.



Make a splash at Sandals Emerald Bay.



The awesome fairway at Sandals Emerald Bay.

pensive Friday night fish fry in Governor's Harbour, which attracts a local crowd.

WHERE TO STAY: The Cove has charming cottages and villas overlooking two crescent-shaped beaches. Enjoy soothing spa treatments and snorkeling in the aquamarine waters. A private champagne dinner on the sand with a bonfire is a romantic must-do (room rates start at \$379 a night; thecoveeleuthera.com).

GLITZY NIGHTLIFE NASSAU

If you like to boogie down after a day of lounging with an umbrella drink on gorgeous beaches like Cable and Cabbage, then capital Nassau—and adjacent Paradise Island—are your ports of call. Watch the sunset, rum punch in hand, in casual bars like the Green Parrot. After dinner, hit the bustling casino in the Atlantis resort for blackjack and roulette. Later it's off to Atlantis' Aura, a swanky nightclub, while nearby Senor Frog's has a fun and young party vibe—don't be surprised if you end up on a conga line.

WHERE TO EAT: Sea Glass at the Cove Atlantis is a see-and-be-seen spot for tapas and cocktails. The enormous property also encompasses an outpost of sushi powerhouse Nobu. Or savor wagyu short ribs and Bahamian lobster at Seafire Steakhouse.

WHERE TO STAY: The Cove Atlantis is

a stylish all-suite hotel within the massive pink-hued Atlantis complex. Modern-chic rooms come with ocean-facing balconies and there's an adults-only pool, complete with sexy daybeds, butler-serviced cabanas, international DJs, outdoor gaming tables and an all-day happy hour vibe (room rates start at \$400 a night; atlantisbahamas.com).

ADVENTURES TO GO EXUMAS

The Exumas, a little-known Bahamian archipelago, has plenty to keep active types busy. At the beautiful Sandals Emerald Bay on Great Exuma, spend your days on the water windsurfing, kayaking and sailing. The resort's all-inclusive tariff offers unlimited scuba diving to the Exumas' untouched coral reefs and wrecks. On land, there's a Greg Norman-designed golf course and loads of organized activities. For a truly unique experience, book a snorkeling cruise to uninhabited cays, where you are sure to spy the local swimming pigs. Don't forget to relax—the resort's spa is an emporium of pampering.

WHERE TO EAT: At the resort, ditch the flip-flops, because the floor at Barefoot by the Sea, with dishes like conch chowder and blackened wahoo, is just powder-soft sand. For a more elegant setting, there's La Parisienne for French

Fresh caught at Kamalame Cay.



The Cove on Eleuthera at night.



cuisine, and late night, have a pint in The Drunken Duck, an English-style pub with darts and a pool table.

WHERE TO STAY: The all-inclusive Sandals Emerald Bay is set on a pretty mile-long stretch of beach on Emerald Bay and has 249 suites, many with sea views. For the ultimate in pampering, book the bi-level Love Nest Suite with a private pool and butler service (room rates start at \$269 per person, per night and are all inclusive; sandals.com). ■



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OVER THE MOON

Go beyond the typical trip of a lifetime with these celebratory vacations.

Consider the honeymoon: It celebrates the sweetness of the union of matrimony. And in past eras it also spoke to fertility itself—the moon and its goddess ruled such things in ancient cultures, after all. Today, while the classic notion of the honeymoon continues, there are some trendy twists. Here, some of the latest vacation terms and where to find the perfect package.

ENGAGEMENTMOON There's something to note about all these moons—their names pretty much reflect each concept. Such is the case with the engagementmoon, a getaway to celebrate a betrothal and an extra-special way to pop the question. The Caribbean resort group Sandals has dedicated engagement concierges to make sure it all goes off without a hitch. Complimentary to guests, the service is customizable.

MINIMOON With today's weddings stretching across days as opposed to hours, these quickie getaways are more popular than ever. Although short on time, they're generally long on luxury. Most minimoons take place within driving distance of the wedding or home, offering the max amount of romance time possible. Book the Ultimate Mayflower Spa Experience at the Mayflower Grace in bucolic Connecticut and not only will you repose in luxe splendor, you'll also

receive exclusive, after-hours access to the spa and a romantic dinner.

FAMILYMOON Fact: More and more couples are coming to marriage with children. And a familymoon is the perfect opportunity for blended unions to connect with each other. The family-friendly Club Med Sandpiper Bay in Florida boasts amenities for every age group, from kids' clubs and teen hang-outs to a pretty beach, excellent spa and numerous bars.

BUDDYMOON We can thank the tabloid media's favorite *Friend* for this latest trend. Following their super-secret backyard union, Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux jetted off with a group of their besties. Book into one of the five-bedroom Residences at Grace Bay Club in Turks & Caicos and live like an A-lister with your pals. Enjoy a private pool, personal concierge and chef, complimentary bar and more on the shores of one of the world's most beautiful beaches.

BABYMOON Considered the last hurrah before 18- to life, this getaway happens before the impending birth of a child. Buttermilk Falls Inn caters to parents-to-be with a special package that includes a prenatal massage, energizing fresh-pressed juice and a two-night stay, among other goodies. Just lounging around the organic farm is a treat. ■

A bride and groom are shown in a romantic embrace, kissing. The bride is wearing a white wedding dress with a long veil, and the groom is in a dark suit. They are standing on a green lawn in a lush tropical garden filled with palm trees and other greenery. In the background, a modern white building with balconies is visible through the trees. The overall atmosphere is elegant and romantic.

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MEXICO

NUUEVO BREWS

TEQUILA MAY GET ALL THE PRESS, BUT SOUTH OF THE BORDER SIZZLES WITH A NEW WINE AND BEER SCENE. HERE'S WHERE TO TIPPLE.

BY KAREN GARDINER

The hip Andaz Mayakoba Resort has a robust wine and beer program.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDAZ MAYAKOBA RESORTS/STYLING: ANA MAYA



Mexico and margaritas go together like tacos and Tuesdays and the sea and sand. And chances are your Mexican honeymoon plans include a toast or two with a chilled tequila served poolside. These days, however, there's more to Mexico's festive happy hours than shooters. That's thanks in large part to the country's robust culinary offerings, where flavors take on the nuances of their region of provenance. And Mexico has also come to excel at other spirited beverages including beer and wine. From the resort-filled beaches of Riviera Maya to the off-the-beaten track valley of Parras, here's where to get a taste of the emerging wine and beer scene south of the border. Cheers to that!

BEER

Mexican *cerveza* is so much more than a bottle of cold Corona with a squeeze of lime or even "the most interesting man in the world." The craft-brewing scene has been steadily building here since a 2013 law was passed allowing Mexican bars to sell small-batch brews. The labels are only just starting to trickle onto U.S. shelves, so all the better to sample them at their source.

Riviera Maya

The popular Caribbean resort region is home to a burgeoning craft-beer scene. Sample a few brews you'd be unlikely to find outside of the country at Club de la Cerveza in Playa del Carmen, which is helmed by a passionate and knowledgeable beer enthusiast. Look out for beers by Mundo Maya Brewing Company, the region's first microbrewery, and Cerveza Akumal, noted for its fresh and hoppy American Pale Ale. Nearby, the brewery/bar Carmen Brewing Company is worth a visit for a closer look at the brewing process before sampling some beer along with tasty bar snacks. →

MEXICO



A guest room at Andaz Mayakoba.



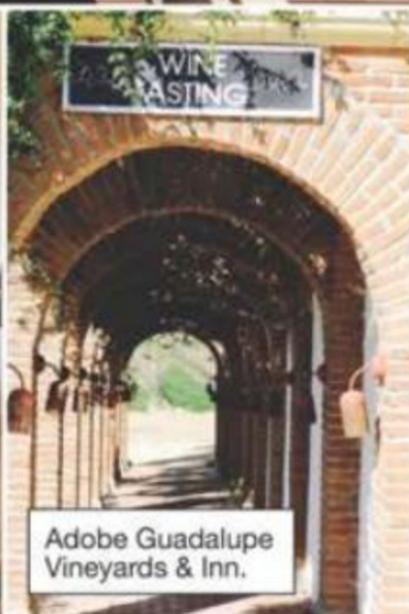
Happy hour aboard a boat at Andaz Mayakoba.



Kick back in the Mexican Caribbean.



Rustic meets luxe at Rancho Pescadero.



Adobe Guadalupe Vineyards & Inn.

Todos Santos

Lots of breweries have recently sprung up across the Baja peninsula. When Baja Brewing Company opened in 2007, it was the first of its kind in the state of Baja California Sur and soon earned rave reviews for its smooth Cabotella Mexican Ale. In the Los Cabos area, check out the handcrafted brews and beer garden of Rámuri Cerveceria. In Todos Santos, a *Pueblo Mágico* ("Magical Town," a place recognized by the Mexican government as offering cultural riches and a unique experience), visit the town's first craft beer brew pub and tap room at Todos Santos Brewing.

WHERE TO STAY: Set on 15 oceanfront acres between the Pacific and the Sierra Laguna mountains, Todos Santos' **Rancho Pescadero** offers an intimate hideaway on a pristine beach. The 28 suites exude boho Baja chic and feature palapa-covered patios. Stretch in the yoga studio, chill in the spa and, if you've had your fill of beer, sample the hotel's own oak cask-aged tequila at the bar (room rates start at \$330 a night; ranchopescadero.com).

WINE

Though it may seem like a recent revelation, Mexico's wine production stretches back to the early 16th century. Translation: That means Mexico is the oldest wine-producing nation

in the Americas. Spanish colonists were planting grapes in the country's high and dry regions decades before Chile and Argentina vintners got underway. While there have been setbacks—fearful of competition, the Spanish colonists once banned wine production in Mexico—the wine scene is back and it is booming.

Valle de Guadalupe

Fertile soil and a warm climate has made the Valle de Guadalupe—Mexico's wine country, just 70 miles south of the

WHERE TO STAY: Nestled amongst lush vegetation and tranquil lagoons, **Andaz Mayakoba** is idyllically set on the Caribbean beachfront about 20 minutes north of Playa del Carmen in the mangrove-dense resort complex of the same name. The Andaz's 214 hip guestrooms offer tropical vistas, and tastings of local craft beers are complimentary. Other resort activities include golf, tennis and kayaking and biking across the jungly expanse, in addition to lounging on the white sand beach that fronts the crystalline sea (room rates start at \$320 a night; mayakoba.andaz.hyatt.com).

The golden sands of Todos Santos.



FUN FACT: FERMENTED DRINKS HAVE BEEN CRAFTED IN MEXICO SINCE BEFORE THE SPANISH CONQUEST. THERE'S **POZOL**, MADE OF CORN AND COCOA BEANS. AND **TESGUINO** IS A BLEND OF FERMENTED CORN.

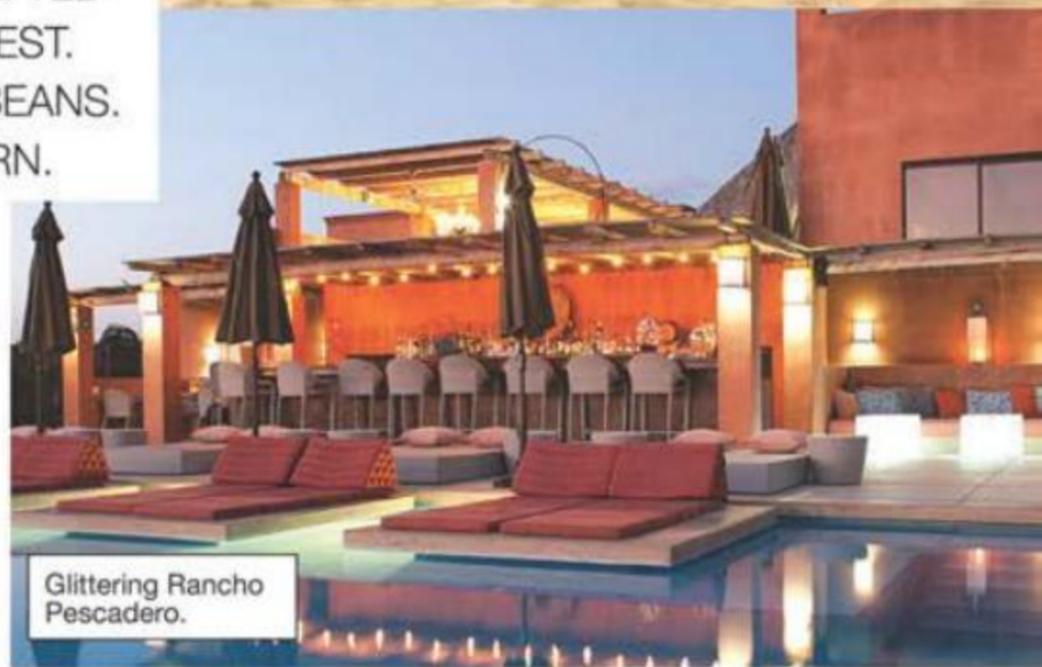
Arizona and California borders—a serious player in the wine-producing world. With around 100 *bodegas* (wineries), there is no shortage of stops that offer tastings along the picturesque *la ruta del vino* (wine route) that stretches from the border to the cosmopolitan city of Ensenada. Pick up maps of the route from most wineries and hotels. Sip a local wine while taking in serene valley views at Finca Altozano, admire sleek architecture and learn about the winemaking process on a guided tour of Decantos Vinícola. Finca La Carrodilla has the distinction of being the first certified organic winery in the region. And Bodegas de Santo Tomás, which has been in operation since 1888, is widely recognized as Baja's oldest winery.

WHERE TO STAY: Many hotels in the area boast their own vines, including the charming **Adobe Guadalupe Vineyards & Inn**. Each of the six rooms (and the produced-on-site wines) is named for an angel. Relax with a glass of wine in the tasting room or high-ceilinged living room, have lunch at the on-site food truck or explore the property on a ride with one of the inn's resident horses (room rates start at \$275 a night and include breakfast; adobeguadalupe.com).

Valle de Parras

The verdant valley of Parras in the north Mexican desert, less than three hours west of Monterrey, is home to the oldest winery in the Americas. Casa Madero was founded in 1597 by the conquistador Don Lorenzo Garcia. The wine scene here is decidedly low-key, with around a dozen wineries. Visit the historic hacienda of Casa Madero, whose elegant white walls display the classic architectural style of northern Mexico, to sample crisp chardonnay and smooth merlot.

WHERE TO STAY: If not staying at Casa Madero, stay in the town center of Parras de la Fuente (Grapevines of the Fountain), a charming little town and designated Pueblo Mágico. Housed in a converted bank, the boutique **La Casona del Banco** offers 24 charming guest rooms decorated in a mixture of vintage and modern styles (room rates start at \$147 a night; lacasonadelbanco.com). ■



Glittering Rancho Pescadero.



An individually appointed room at La Casona del Banco.



La Casona del Banco.

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U.S. Virgin Islands

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KELLY GREER PHOTOGRAPHY

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mexico

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No wedding or honeymoon is complete without a visit to the Secrets Spa by Pevonia, where the senses are treated to a combination of world-class hydrotherapy and indigenous treatments. Secrets Resorts & Spas amorous locations make wedding, honeymoon, and anniversary dreams come true.



COMPLIMENTARY SECRETS ETERNITY HONEYMOON PACKAGE

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- Choice of specialty spa treatments
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Whether you've come for your destination wedding, honeymoon, or both, these magnificent resorts cater to romance, fun, and relaxation. Be surrounded by the ultimate in comfort with exquisite suites filled with modern amenities as you take in views overlooking the majestic ocean, shimmering pools, or the lush manicured gardens.

Choose from three luxurious wedding packages, fully equipped with all the details needed for the perfect wedding. Looking for little extras to make your wedding truly unique? Your dedicated on-site wedding coordinator will help with all the special touches!

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COMPLIMENTARY DREAMS WEDDING IN PARADISE PACKAGE

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NOW Resorts & Spas



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Spacious suites, stellar amenities, and 24-hour room and concierge service, combined with premium cocktails, gourmet delicacies, and a vast array of daily activities and nightly entertainment will delight your guests of all ages.

Couples can stretch out on the sun-soaked sand without a care in the world knowing that the complimentary on-site wedding planner is taking care of all the ceremony and reception details. Choose from three expertly designed wedding packages or customize a package to your exact specifications. This is your wedding and it will be just as you envision—perfect!



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- Preparation of the couple's wedding day attire
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- Service of a Judge or Minister
- One floral centerpiece for the reception table
- Choice of guitarist or saxophonist at the ceremony
- Wedding cake and sparkling wine toast
- Private cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres
- Private dinner reception
- Photo package and videographer
- Breakfast in bed with mimosas the morning after the ceremony
- Swedish couple's massage
- Romantic dinner on the beach

*Up to 25 guests

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VICEROY Riviera Maya



A stylish setting for exclusive honeymoons and destination weddings, **Viceroy Riviera Maya** captures the magic and romance of the Mexican Caribbean with unparalleled luxury and sophisticated service. The chic, adults-only resort is a serene hideaway of 41 elegantly appointed villas that merge every indulgent amenity with dramatic sea and jungle experiences. Set on a sugary-white-sand beach lapped by turquoise waters, immersed in a lush jungle ambiance and surrounded by stars, sand and sea, it's the perfect place to celebrate romance.

An imaginative array of special services and beautiful facilities gives this intimate resort its reputation as the most romantic retreat on the Riviera Maya. Every exquisite villa features a private plunge pool. The Maya-themed spa offers sensual treatments for couples. Dining is delectable, with cuisine that caters to sophisticated palates, from the incomparable La Marea restaurant to the beachfront Coral Grill.

Viceroy Riviera Maya's dedicated staff is extraordinarily skilled at planning picture-perfect weddings, catering to the exacting needs of couples and wedding planners alike. From private Maya-themed ceremonies officiated by an authentic shaman to beachfront vows celebrated in sophisticated style, there is a setting that is ideally suited to every individual desire. The result is a memorable experience in an unparalleled setting, exquisite in every detail.



ANDAZ MAYAKOBA Resort Riviera Maya



From the beach, to the lagoon area, to the ballroom, **Andaz Mayakoba Resort Riviera Maya** offers several idyllic wedding venues for both ceremonies and receptions.

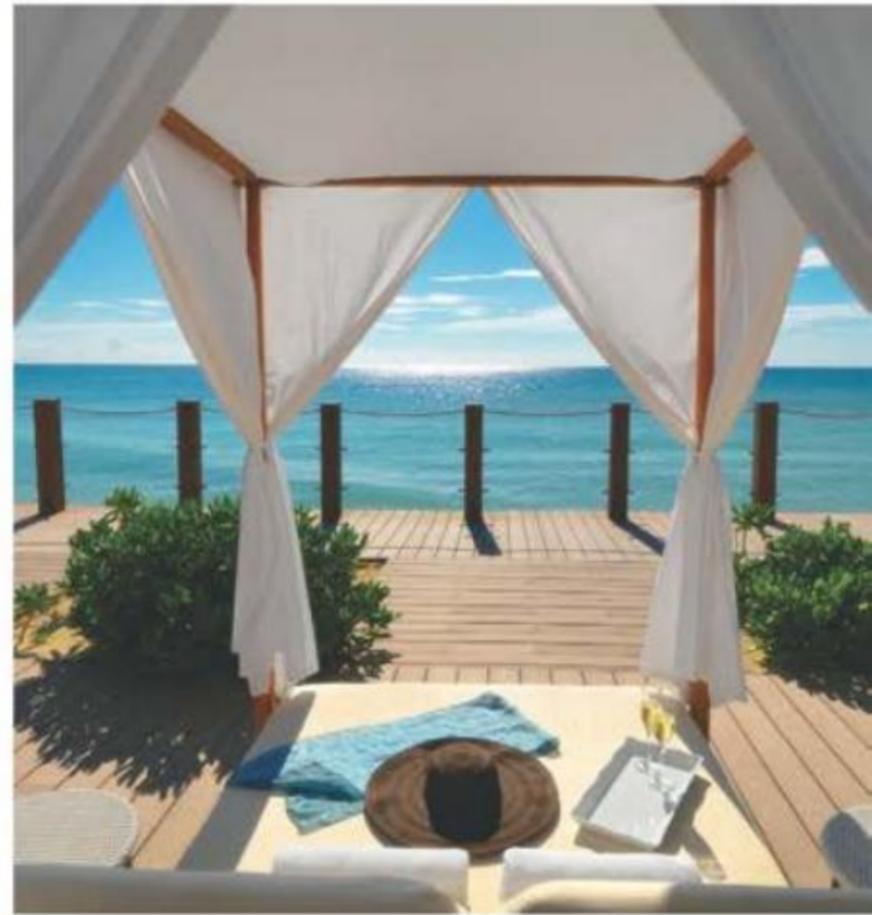
Dedicated Andaz wedding consultants can handle all the details and logistics, including hassle-free event planning, allowing couples to remain completely stress-free leading up to the big day. Experienced planners can take care of every aspect of the wedding, from floral design

to furniture selection and decor, to lighting, live entertainment and fireworks. The Andaz team can also arrange all group room reservations, spa appointments, transportation, special amenities for guests and any events outside of the ceremony itself.

Whether opting for a traditional Mexican wedding, a more contemporary celebration or a culturally infused approach, the wedding consultants at Andaz will make the process seamless...and fun!



OCEAN by H10 Hotels



Now that you're getting married, you'll want the reassurance that your special day will be nothing less than perfect. **Ocean by H10 Hotels** is the ideal option to host your perfect day. Whether you're planning an all-out celebration with family and friends, or an intimate ceremony for you and your beloved on the dreamy beaches of the Caribbean or in a tropical garden setting, these oceanfront resorts provide the ideal backdrop for your destination wedding and honeymoon.

Select from three stunning choices. Ocean Maya Royale, the adults-only resort, is the perfect retreat for honeymooners and like-minded guests looking for the ultimate relaxing getaway—with venues on the beach, dockside, among tropical gardens, or on a waterfall terrace. Ocean Coral & Turquesa is an all-inclusive resort with an enchanting location to say "I do" overlooking the Caribbean Sea. And, Ocean Riviera Paradise, their newest all-inclusive property, is divided into four sections, with amenities to please guests of all ages.

A destination wedding and honeymoon at any of these all-inclusive Caribbean resorts may be the most beautiful, stress-free remembrance for years to come. You'll enjoy five-star accommodations along with value-packed amenities that can be customized to make your wedding day your "Perfect Day."



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pin this:

one-pot chili *p. 34*

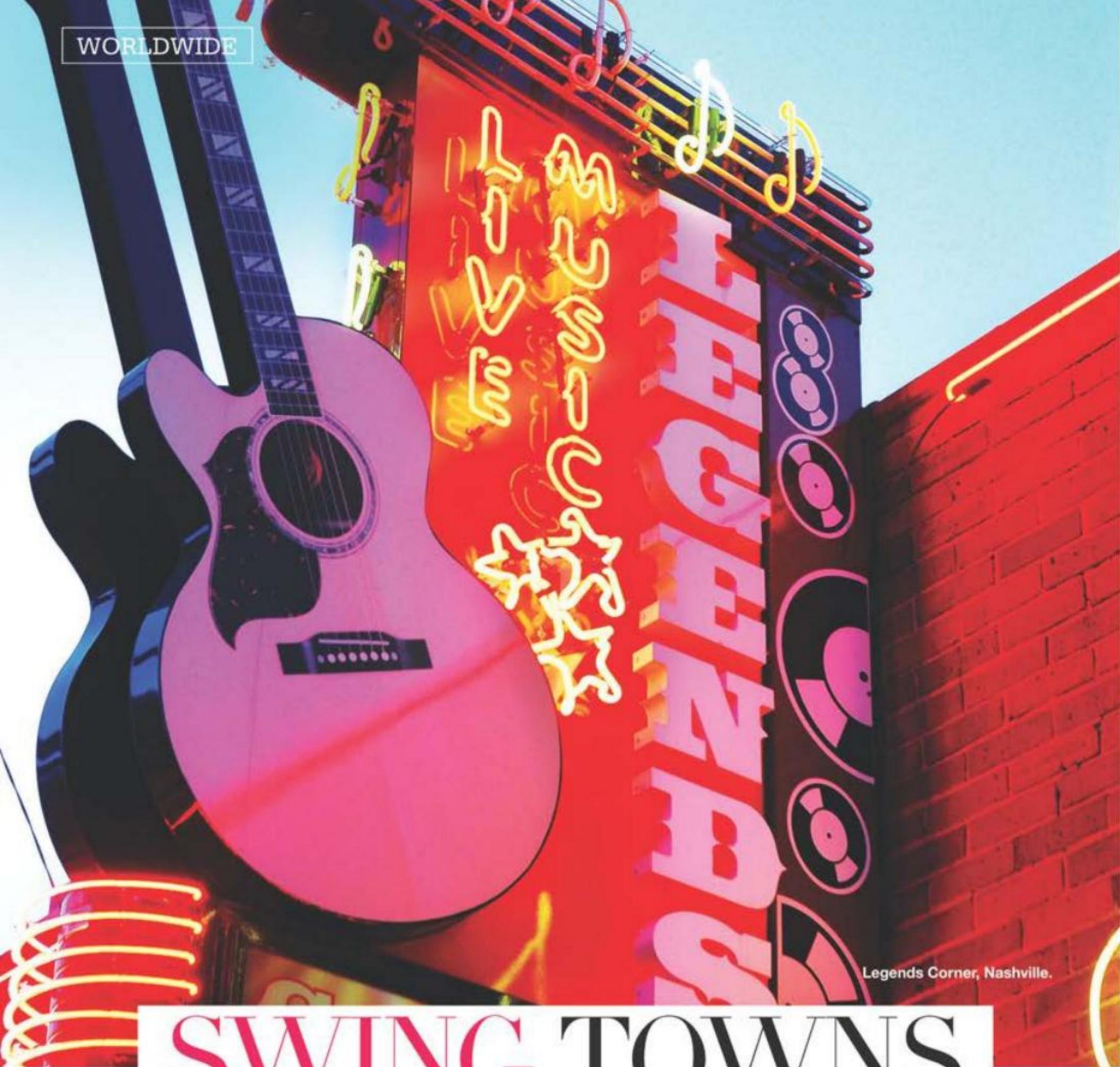
cauliflower popovers *p. 48*

yesss! maple glazed everything *p. 94*

SEX, DRUGS & TOFU?

INSIDE THE \$141 BILLION
NATURAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY *page 86*

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Legends Corner, Nashville.

SWING TOWNS

GROOVE TO THE BEAT AT THESE INTERNATIONAL CITIES KNOWN FOR THEIR HOT MUSIC SCENES.

BY KAREN GARDINER

Madonna once said: "Music makes the people come together." Shakespeare suggested it was the "food of love," and Tolstoy called it "the shorthand of emotion." There's no doubt that music and romance just fit together. Whether a tune brings back memories of a concert or club date, or it's simply become "your song" for no reasons now forgotten, music has the uncanny knack of stirring up passions. Rock, classical, reggae, country or folk, whatever your preferred genre, there's an awesome city destination for you. We took a tour of some of the world's most

vibrant—and singing—cities. Here, some picks that offer a romantic beat along with cool cultural experiences.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

AKA "Music City," Tennessee's capital is the heart of the country music industry. The southern metropolis is home to countless songwriters and 150 live music venues where you can hear everything from foot-stomping renditions of country classics to the delightful sounds of a slide guitar at a bluegrass jam. The most iconic venues are Ryman Auditorium (AKA →



An intimate concert at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie.

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Rockin' at the Barrowlands Ballroom in Glasgow.



Hamburg's new Elbphilharmonie.

MENDELSSOHN'S UBER-CLASSIC "WEDDING MARCH." WAS FIRST PLAYED AT THE MARRIAGE OF QUEEN VICTORIA AND PRINCE ALBERT. THE QUEEN ALSO POPULARIZED WHITE DRESSES FOR CEREMONIES.

'The Mother Church of Country Music') and the Grand Ole Opry. The soul of the country scene, the latter has welcomed performances by everyone from Patsy Cline and Hank Williams to Garth Brooks and the Dixie Chicks. Make time to explore some of the smaller but no less alluring venues. Catch a show by up-and-coming songwriters "in the round" at the intimate Bluebird Cafe. And groove to the country's best bluegrass and roots at the friendly and unpretentious Station Inn.

WHERE TO STAY: The hip and contemporary **Thompson Nashville** is located in the vibrant Gulch neighborhood, just down the block from Station Inn. Each of the 224 sleek rooms feature floor-to-ceiling windows with views of downtown. The lobby library is stocked with vinyl from nearby Third Man Records. Head up to the 12th-floor roof terrace for al fresco cocktails before dining at the Marsh House, the hotel's seafood-focused restaurant (room rates start at \$379 a night; thompsonhotels.com).



The iconic Grand Ole Opry.

HAMBURG, GERMANY

Hamburg, the city where The Beatles got their big break, has long been known as a great music city. Now, though, the metropolis where Brahms and Mendelssohn were born and Telemann, Mahler and C. P. E. Bach worked can also claim ownership of one of the most remarkable concert halls in the world. The Elbphilharmonie, home of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, opened in January 2017, earning quick comparisons with the Sydney Opera House. The sparkling ship-like building—the design is a nod to Hamburg's illustrious maritime history—sits atop a redbrick warehouse and contains two concert halls and an observation deck offering sweeping views across the harbor area. In the Grand Hall, where the acoustics are excellent and no seat is farther than 100 feet from the musicians, couples can share a love seat to watch concerts by the city's resident ensembles as well as visiting international orchestras.

WHERE TO STAY: A 15-minute walk from the Elbphilharmonie, **Sir Nikolai** sits on the storied Nikolaifleet canal in Hamburg's Old Town, next to the 13th-century St. Catherine Church. The hideaway's 94 guest rooms exude a youthful but elegant ambience, many with views over the city's waterways. Curated art and artisanal pieces are spread through the polished interiors, and the IZAKAYA restaurant serves Japanese-Peruvian cuisine in a sleek setting with two sun terraces (room rates start at \$205 a night; sirhotels.com).



A suite at Corinthia Hotel Lisbon.

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

The musical contributions of such acts as Simple Minds, Franz Ferdinand, Primal Scream and Chvrches have helped to make Glasgow one of the most musical cities in the U.K. and earned it designation as a UNESCO City of Music. You can pick from more than 130 events held across the city's many music venues every week. Highlights include tiny King Tut's Wah Wah Hut (where, famously, Oasis were discovered), the 1930s era dancehall Bar-



A musical street scene in Hamburg.

The Bob Marley Museum.



rowlands Ballroom in the East End, the converted church Óran Mòr in the West End and the huge riverside SSE Hydro arena, Scotland's largest music venue. Romantic bonus: You can soak up the reinvigorating fresh air and serene views of Loch Lomond National Park, located less than an hour from the city center.

WHERE TO STAY: Set within a five-minute walk of two of Glasgow's greatest indie rock institutions, King Tut's Wah Wah Hut and Nice N Sleazy, as well as the more mainstream O2 ABC Glasgow, the black-clad, industrial looking **Dakota Deluxe Glasgow** is a great choice for visiting music fans. The grey tones and floor-to-ceiling windows of the 83 rooms evoke a rock 'n' roll vibe while the basement grill offers an intimate dining experience (room rates start at \$180 a night; dakotahotels.co.uk).

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Melancholic and irresistibly moody, the traditional Portuguese folk musical genre of *fado* is performed with guitars, mandolins and throaty voices. It is best heard—accompanied by *petisco* (Portuguese-style tapas)—at one of Lisbon's many intimate fado clubs in the Alfama, Bairro Alto and Mouraria neighborhoods. Singular Trips, run by local Lisboans, offers an evening walking and tasting tour in the neighborhood of your choice. The interactive excursion includes a menu built to your own preferences and a guide who explains the historical and cultural intricacies of this unique musical genre, inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists.

WHERE TO STAY: The **Corinthia Hotel Lisbon** offers bird's-eye city views from its 518 guest rooms, each one spacious and elegantly decorated in muted colors. Located in the northwest section of the city, the hotel looks onto the 18th-century Águas Livres Aqueduct, one of Lisbon's most impressive architectural features, and Monsato Forest Park. Traditional Portuguese dishes are served at Tipico restaurant; the Tempus Bar serves perhaps the best *portonic* (white port with tonic) in the city (room rates start at \$197 a night and include breakfast; corinthia.com).

MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

"One love" is as synonymous with this Caribbean island as are rum punch and beautiful beaches. A reggae aficionado must-visit on the island includes Bob Marley's 19th-century home-turned-museum in Kingston, where his personal possessions are on display. Ask your concierge about tours of Nine Mile, Marley's birthplace, and the famed Trench Town, which he immortalized on record. Jamaica's biggest, and possibly the world's greatest, reggae festival, Reggae Sumfest was first held in Montego Bay, Jamaica in 1993 and has since hosted the likes of Damian Marley, Bunny Wailer, Rihanna and Alicia Keys. Each year the festival kicks off on the third Sunday of July with a lively beach party. Pack accordingly for Tuesday's all-white party, then get ready to get down at Dancehall Night on Thursday and International Nights on Friday and Saturday.

WHERE TO STAY: After dancing the night away at Sumfest, get away from the bustle at the beachfront, 537-suite **Grand Palladium Resort & Spa**. Repose at the spa or in the resort's five pools; choose from 10 restaurants, or just keep the good vibes (and rum) flowing in any of the 16 bars (room rates start at \$261 per person, per night and are all inclusive; palladiumhotelgroup.com). ■



Get strummin' in Nashville.



The hip Sir Nikolai.



Glittering Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (FROM TOP) BOB MARLEY MUSEUM; NASHVILLE CONVENTION & VISITORS CORP.; IR NIKOLAI; GRAND PALLADIUM JAMAICA RESORT & SPA

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- 105. Bill Levkoff
- 106. Christina Wu Brides
- 107. Christina Wu Celebration
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- 109. David Tutera for Mon Cheri
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- 117. Moonlight
- 118. Private Label by G
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- 122. Sophia Tolli
- 123. Sottero and Midgley
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- 125. ti adora by Alvina Valenta
- 126. DoubleTree by Hilton Tarrytown

YOUR HOME

991. All info for this category

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YOUR HONEYMOON/DESTINATION WEDDING

992. All info for the Caribbean and Mexico

993. All info for the United States

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- 143. Palladium Hotels & Resorts
- 144. Breathless Punta Cana Resort & Spa
- 145. Dreams Resorts & Spas
- 146. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana
- 147. Now Resorts & Spas
- 148. Sublime Samana Hotel & Residences
- 149. Zoetry Wellness & Spa Resorts
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- 151. Couples Resorts
- 152. Melia Braco Village
- 153. Sandals Resorts
- 154. Sunset at the Palms, Negril
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- 160. Los Cabos CVB
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- 165. Zoetry Wellness & Spa Resorts
- 166. Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa
- 167. Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa
- 168. Saint Lucia
- 169. Sandals Resorts
- 170. The Sands at Grace Bay
- 171. The Buccaneer
- 172. Visit Denver, The Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 173. The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel
- 174. Emerald Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 175. The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club
- 176. The Seagate Hotel & Spa
- 177. North Carolina's Crystal Coast
- 178. Angel's View Wedding Chapel
- 179. Aunt Bug's Cabin Rentals
- 180. Fireside Chalets
- 181. Gatlinburg
- 182. Hearthside Cabin Rentals / Chapel at the Preserve
- 183. Hidden Mountain
- 184. Sevierville Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 185. Smoky Mountain Wedding Association
- 186. The Great State of Texas

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Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____ Wedding Date _____

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Pelican Grand
BEACH RESORT
pelicanbeach.com

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YOUR WEDDING

990. Send all information for planning my wedding in these categories: gowns/formalwear/accessories and ceremony/reception.

GOWNS/FORMALWEAR/ACCESSORIES

100. **1 Wedding by Mary's Bridal** Want to see more of Mary's gorgeous designs? Receive two booklets totaling over 100 pages featuring Mary's stunning bridal gowns and maids/MOB gowns. We are celebrating over 30 years of being your number one bridal authority. Please send \$2 to Mary's Bridal, P.O. Box 1588, Stafford, TX 77497. marysbridal.com

101. **Adrianna Papell Platinum** On your wedding day only Platinum will do. This all-new bridal collection marries the elegance, sophistication, and exclusivity of Adrianna Papell with the reputation of the House of Wu. Visit adriannapapellplatinum.com to view the collection.

102. **Allure Bridals** Founded in 2000, Allure has been a leader in the bridal industry for their innova-

tive designs and quality craftsmanship. With an extensive selection of styles, brides are sure to find their dream gown for their wedding day. allurebridals.com

103. **Bari Jay** Sophisticated and stylish gowns designed to complement all silhouettes. These exceptional and clever dresses give every bride the opportunity to express her own unique style. Exceptionally made fashion forward bridesmaid dresses at affordable prices. barijay.com

104. **Bealls, Goody's, Palais Royal, Peebles, Stage** From formal weddings to a more casual event, we offer traditional and contemporary tuxedos and accessories that are the perfect fit for your special day. stagestoresinc.com/tuxedo/rentals.php

105. **Bill Levkoff** has been dressing bridesmaids for more than 70 years. Dresses range from the traditional to the contemporary and are available in an array of beautiful colors and fabrics. Perfect for weddings as well as other occasions. Visit billlevkoff.com to view the entire collection.

106. **Christina Wu Brides** dresses the dreams of stylish brides with wedding gowns that are crafted

to perfection with decadent beading and luxurious fabrics. Find your authorized retailer at houseofwu.com/storelocator.

107. **Christina Wu Celebration** features an eclectic variety of designs that are fashion-forward, adorned with feminine details, and effortlessly wearable from day to night. Find your authorized retailer at houseofwu.com/storelocator.

108. **David's Bridal Special Offers** Receive invitations to sale events and discount offers. DavidsBridal.com

109. **David Tutera for Mon Cheri** is a truly glamorous and unique collection that captures the personality of every bride on her wedding day. This collection offers today's stylish brides with high quality fabrics, Swarovski crystals, and an impeccable fit at an affordable price. davidtuteraformoncheri.com

110. **Eddy K** Designed in Milan, Italy, and manufactured with the finest fabrics, laces and materials. Eddy K embraces the bride's vision of her wedding day and brings it to life with wedding gowns that fulfill any bride's fantasy. eddyk.com

Your LITTLE WHITE BOOK

111. **Ellis Bridals** Award winning contemporary wedding dresses inspired by a 100+ year history. The signature of Ellis Bridals is its dedication to handcrafted embellishments and form-fitting silhouettes that give any bride an enviable shape. ellisbridals.co.uk

112. **Justin Alexander** Inspired by vintage fashions from the 1950s and 1960s, Justin Alexander embodies a sophisticated and timeless feel. The collection is designed and produced with rich fabrications and handcrafted details to create an effortless elegance with a touch of old Hollywood glamour. justinalexander.com

113. **Justin Alexander Signature** is a trend-driven collection for a modern bride who wants to express her lavish sense of style. The collection features opulent beadwork, metallic fabrics, ornate details and sexy silhouettes, and is perfect for a confident bride. justinalexander.com/signature

114. **Lillian West** The Lillian West collection evokes a whimsical feeling of impeccable designs in soft fabrications with delicate beading and necklines. With effortless A-lines, celestial fit and flares, airy ballgowns, and soft slip dresses, Lillian West is the perfect blend of romance and elegance with a laid-back approach. lillianwest.com

115. **Lovelle by Lazaro** lives up to the elegance and opulence for which designer Lazaro Perez is known. The collection presents affordable luxury for contemporary and traditional brides alike, offering impeccable styling, chic silhouettes, and exquisite beading. lovellebylazaro.com

116. **Maggie Sottero Designs** is one of the most recognized and sought after bridal gown manufacturers in the world. Established in 1997, Maggie Sottero redefines couture bridal fashion with its commitment to impeccable styling and incomparable fit at an affordable price. maggiesottero.com

117. **Moonlight** For 30 years Moonlight has been one of the most prestigious names in bridal, creating a brand that is synonymous with romance. With every dress, we set out to create an experience that every bride dreams about. moonlightbridal.com

118. **Private Label by G** At Private Label each gown is designed with exquisite hand detailing, quality and value. Catalog available. privatelabelbyg.com

119. **Pronovias Fashion Group** The White One Collection is perfect for a woman who wants a fresh, modern and versatile design to feel unique on her special day. sanpatrick.com

120. **Rosa Clara** is fashion and luxury combined in a collection for the most demanding bride. We work with the highest quality fabrics to create unique, trend-setting dresses that are 100% Spanish-designed and manufactured. rosaclarabridal.com

121. **Sincerity Bridal** is designed for the charismatic and classic bride who wants the perfect princess dress fit for a fairy-tale wedding. Ballgowns are a staple in the collection, and are complemented by styles with beautiful details, such as illusion backs, that add a graceful romance to the line. sinceritybridal.com

122. **Sophia Tolli** wedding dresses feature both classic and couture designs. Sophia's signature draping and corset backs provide an impeccable fit. This collection has two distinct feelings—soft romanticism

and traditional bridal drama with an exceptional fit and cut. sophiatolli.com

123. **Sottero and Midgley** From the design studio of award-winning Maggie Sottero, the stunning fashion label Sottero and Midgley was born. As unique as the bride who wears it, Sottero and Midgley offers sophisticated brides an affordable couture experience of the highest quality in fashion-forward designs. sotteroandmidgley.com

124. **Tara Keely** Designed by Lazaro Perez, the Tara Keely collection combines classic glamour with modern sophistication. Always chic and versatile, Tara Keely offers everything from a hint of sparkle to the refined elegance of lace for gowns that are graceful and enchanting. tarakeely.com

125. **ti adora by Alvina Valenta** Designer Jessica Williams has crafted a collection of dreamy dresses that blend soft, vintage romance with the fresh, modern soul of today's bohemian bride. tiadorabridal.com

CEREMONY/RECEPTION

126. **DoubleTree by Hilton Tarrytown** Exchange vows alfresco under a sprawling willow tree. The lush courtyard provides photo opportunities in a parklike setting. The traditional Westchester Ballroom includes crystal chandeliers. For larger functions, consider the contemporary Grand Ballroom featuring floor-to-ceiling windows, a covered terrace and stone fireplace. tarrytown.doubletree.com

YOUR HOME

991. Send all information for china/crystal/giftware.

CHINA/CRYSTAL/GIFTWARE

127. **Caskata Artisanal Home** Unique. Contemporary. Classic. Caskata tableware is casual yet sophisticated with designs ranging from boldly graphic to subtly elegant. Insignia C by Caskata features luxury bone china embellished with precious metals. The finest porcelain and bone china, made in the USA. caskata.com

128. **Denby USA Limited** Designed for living, built to last. Denby prides itself on the strength and exceptional quality of their stoneware, which has been produced in England for 200 years. With handcrafted designs to last through the years, find your ideal dinnerware match for any occasion. For a free catalog or to create a gift registry, visit denbyusa.com or call 1-800-DENBY-4U.

129. **Elleffe Design** offers serveware featuring the perfect fusion of elegant, modern Italian design, innovative techniques, and impeccable craftsmanship. Elleffe specializes in fine 18/10 stainless steel home décor with a unique and expressive aesthetic, transforming industrial eco-friendly designs into warm functional pieces of art. elleffedesignnorthamerica.com

130. **Homer Laughlin Fiesta Dinnerware** An American icon, sustainably made in West Virginia. Retro-style dinnerware, still today the most durable, collected and bridal registered casual brand, carrying a five-year chip replacement warranty. Learn more by requesting a Fiesta product package. hlcddinnerware.com

131. **Iittala** What started in 1881 as a glass factory in Iittala, Finland, today celebrates generations of essential objects that are made to enrich everyday lives.

We believe objects should be distinctive, mixable and multi-functional, with lasting design that inspires individual use and expression that will never be thrown away. iittala.com

132. **Lenox** offers exquisite choices for today's brides, from fine bone china to casual dinnerware to extensive collections of stemware and flatware, along with a wide variety of wedding collectibles. Experience the incredible array of options by visiting lenox.com/dining.

133. **Noritake** For over 100 years Noritake has been a leader in designing and manufacturing high-quality tableware. Choose from an extensive array of designs and styles. noritakechina.com

134. **Oneida** is the leading brand in fine flatware and has been setting America's tables for over 130 years. Oneida offers a wide variety of classic, modern and decorative patterns—something for everyone's design taste. oneida.com

135. **Orrefors / Kosta Boda** Bring a touch of the Nordic lifestyle into your home with the affordable luxury of the timeless, yet evolutionary crystal designs from Orrefors and vibrant, bold and innovative glassware from Kosta Boda. For additional information, visit orrefors.us and kostaboda.us, or call 1-800-351-9842.

136. **Rolf Glass** is an American glass cutting and engraving manufacturer and a leader in quality giftware and personalized gifts. Rolf Glass is well known for unique, original, distinctive images and timeless icons on quality crystal and glassware. shoprolfglass.com

137. **Royal Copenhagen** Founded in 1775, Royal Copenhagen is one of the world's oldest companies. For 240 years our porcelain products have been made with the deepest respect for tradition and highest standards of craftsmanship. Royal Copenhagen is known worldwide for its Danish heritage and classic blue and white porcelain, made entirely by hand. royalcopenhagen.us

138. **Royal Limoges** is the oldest existing porcelain factory in Limoges. A two-century-old tradition, together with the most advanced technology, enables Royal Limoges to remain one of the few family owned companies. biacordonbleu.bridgcatalog.com

139. **Tabletops Unlimited Mitterteich** has delighted Europeans since 1887 with the finest, purest, strongest tableware. Merging old world traditions with modern styles, our exquisite dinnerware and serveware is preferred by Europe's top restaurants, hotels and resorts, as well as sophisticated brides and homemakers. Available in six breathtaking collections. ttucorp.com

YOUR HONEYMOON/ DESTINATION WEDDING

992. Send all information for planning my honeymoon to the Caribbean or Mexico.

993. Send all information for planning my honeymoon to the United States.

ANTIGUA

140. **Sandals Grande Antigua** Set on Dickenson Bay, the best of Antigua's 365 beaches, Sandals

Grande Antigua is an oasis in the midst of an unspoiled paradise. Filled with the authentic charm of the islands in its lush garden oasis known as The Caribbean Village and resplendent with European grandeur amidst its palatial retreat known as The Mediterranean Village. 1-877-SANDALS. sandals.com

BAHAMAS

141. **Sandals Resorts** Endless crystal turquoise water beguiles the senses and invites you to explore vibrant coral reefs beneath its surface in this quintessential island paradise. Sandals Royal Bahamian, located in colonial Nassau, and Sandals Emerald Bay in the Exumas, is your own exotic private escape, so easy to get so close to home. 1-877-SANDALS. sandals.com

BELIZE

142. **St. George's Caye Resort** A romantic island retreat away from crowds with overwater cabanas and endless views of the Caribbean. Wake up to coffee, tea or juice on your private veranda, relax on the beach or at the pool, dive/snorkel the reef, or share a jungle adventure. BelizelandParadise.com

CARIBBEAN

143. **Palladium Hotels & Resorts** Luxury four- and five-star hotels and resorts with direct access to extensive golden beaches. Located in spectacular destinations in Mexico (Mayan and Nayarit Rivas), the Caribbean (Punta Cana and Montego Bay), Brazil (Bahia) and Spain (Ibiza). All resorts offer unforgettable experiences for destination weddings and honeymoons. Call 1-800-961-7661. PalladiumWeddings.com

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

144. **Breathless Punta Cana Resort & Spa** is a chic and modern experience for sophisticated singles, couples and friends. Guests indulge in Unlimited-Luxury® where everything is included: gourmet dining venues, bars and lounges serving top-shelf drinks, and spirited and leisurely pastimes focused on a vibrant social lifestyle. It's the perfect backdrop for your special event. breathlessresorts.com

145. **Dreams Resorts & Spas** Unparalleled tropical settings with Unlimited-Luxury® where everything is included: suites with stunning views, 24-hour room service, mini-bars, daytime activities, nightly entertainment, gourmet dining options and bars serving premium brands. dreamsresorts.com

146. **Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana** is a dream come true for weddings and honeymoons that are anything but predictable. This Hard Rock Hotel provides a setting that blends lace and petals with cool and contemporary, and brings new meaning to celebrating your love, love, love. hardrockhotelpunta cana.com/weddings

147. **Now Resorts & Spas** Experience the finest in Unlimited-Luxury®. Play alongside sparkling seas and bask on warm sun-drenched beaches where play and party are just steps from peace and quiet. nowresorts.com

148. **Sublime Samana Hotel & Residences** Declare your love on the coast of the Samana Peninsula where the mountains and sea serve as the perfect backdrop. The staff at Sublime Samana is committed to provid-

ing topmost service to make your dream wedding and honeymoon a reality. sublimesamana.com/weddings

149. **Zoetry Wellness & Spa Resorts** An entirely new kind of resort where the definition of wellness goes far beyond good health and nutrition. Experience luxurious accommodations, healthy gourmet cuisine, and the opportunity to participate in cultural, artistic and educational experiences. zoetryresorts.com

JAMAICA

150. **Beaches Resorts** provide the ultimate setting to celebrate with family and friends—an idyllic paradise where all your wedding and honeymoon dreams can come true. Beaches Negril, Beaches Sandy Bay and Beaches Boscobel. 1-888-BEACHES. beaches.com

151. **Couples Resorts** No kids, no singles, and no distractions. Couples Resorts offer an all-inclusive experience tailor-made for romance. With gorgeous backdrops set on the beach, in the gardens or on a private island, Couples Resorts is perfect for your most meaningful celebrations. couples.com

152. **Melia Braco Village** An all-inclusive 5-star boutique resort with unique colonial-style architecture and lush gardens nestled on a secluded white sand beach on Jamaica's north coast. Various wedding packages to choose from or design your own with the assistance of a Romance Specialist. melia.com

153. **Sandals Resorts** Where the reggae vibe and your luxury-included vacation merge seamlessly. Stay in Montego Bay at the Sandals Carlyle, Sandals Montego Bay or Sandals Royal Caribbean; Sandals Negril, located on a seven mile stretch of pristine beach; Sandals Ochi, nestled between lush gardens and majestic mountains; and Sandals Whitehouse, located on Jamaica's south coast. Call 1-877-SANDALS. sandals.com

154. **Sunset at the Palms, Negril** Choose from a selection of wedding packages for a ceremony by the water at our private beach club or in the lush gardens amongst flowers. The sensory magic of Sunset at the Palms, there's nothing like it anywhere. 1-877-734-3282. thepalmsjamaica.com

MEXICO

155. **Barceló Hotel Group** Let Barceló Hotel Group bring your dreams of the perfect destination wedding come to life. An onsite wedding coordinator at the all-inclusive beachfront resort of your choice will handle all the details while you prepare for your special day. barceloweddings.com

156. **Crown Paradise Club Cancun** For those who choose Cancun to get married and want to enjoy a perfect and intimate celebration, Crown Paradise Club has created a special collection of wedding packages that will help you design a wonderful setting for the wedding of your dreams. crownparadise.com

157. **Dreams Resorts & Spas** Unparalleled tropical settings with Unlimited-Luxury® where everything is included: suites with stunning views, 24-hour room service, mini-bars, daytime activities, nightly entertainment, gourmet dining options, and bars serving premium brands. dreamsresorts.com

158. **Excellence Resorts** Get married in an adults-only paradise. Let us work with you to personalize your ceremony and reception with options you never

imagined. Choose from three deluxe wedding packages designed for a perfect Caribbean wedding. 1-866-540-2585. excellenceresorts.com

159. **Hyatt Zilara and Hyatt Ziva** We offer incredible wedding venues at distinctive properties in the world's most celebrated beachfront locations, such as Cancun, Los Cabos, Montego Bay and Puerto Vallarta. We've created a variety of wedding packages, or you can customize nearly every detail for your dream wedding. Call 1-800-446-1289. allinclusive.hyatt.com

160. **Los Cabos CVB** Couples looking for the perfect place to get married and/or have their honeymoon need not look farther than the intimate and breathtaking location of Los Cabos. Warm breezes, star-filled nights, and endless beauty are the perfect combination for lovebirds seeking a memorable experience. visitloscabos.travel

161. **Now Resorts & Spas** Experience the finest in Unlimited-Luxury®. Play alongside sparkling seas and bask on warm sun-drenched beaches where play and party are just steps from peace and quiet. nowresorts.com

162. **Palace Resorts** is the perfect place to celebrate the beginning of your life together. With dozens of awe-inspiring locations and a selection of nine unique wedding collections, your once-in-a-lifetime will be one-of-a-kind. Call 1-866-932-3609. weddings.palaceresorts.com

163. **Paradisus Resorts** Focus on each other with Sol Melia's all-inclusive four- and five-star luxury hotels and resorts offering the finest free weddings and wedding and honeymoon packages in the most beautiful surroundings. Leave the stress to us while you relax in paradise. solmelia.com

164. **Royalton Luxury Resorts** offer an upscale vacation experience designed for discerning travelers. These next-generation All-In Luxury® resorts feature reservation-free dining, All-In Connectivity™ with free WiFi for all devices, elegant accommodations, and unlimited attention to detail. royaltonresorts.com

165. **Zoetry Wellness & Spa Resorts** An entirely new kind of resort where the definition of wellness goes far beyond good health and nutrition. Experience luxurious accommodations, healthy gourmet cuisine, and the opportunity to participate in cultural, artistic and educational experiences. zoetryresorts.com

ST. LUCIA

166. **Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa** Escape to Bay Gardens Beach Resort & Spa, the Caribbean's top honeymoon and wedding destination. Our four-star luxury beachfront property makes the perfect backdrop for the stress-free tropical wedding you've always dreamed of. baygardensresorts.com

167. **Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa** Begin your love journey on the legendary island of Saint Lucia, an award-winning destination for weddings and honeymoons. Discover the all-inclusive Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa where stress-free wedding packages and picturesque settings combine for a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. cbayresort.com

168. **Saint Lucia** Lauded by the World Travel Awards as the World's Leading Honeymoon Destination nine times, Saint Lucia boasts some of the finest wedding

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and honeymoon settings imaginable, giving you a lifetime of cherished memories. stlucia.org

169. **Sandals Resorts** St. Lucia truly is a tropical paradise beyond compare. Stay at one of our resorts and play at three: Sandals Halcyon, Sandals Grande St. Lucian and Sandals Regency La Toc Golf Resort and Spa. 1-877-SANDALS. sandals.com

TURKS & CAICOS

170. **The Sands at Grace Bay** is an oceanfront, all-suite resort on Providenciales. Surrounded by lush gardens and free-form pools, all 114 suites feature expansive views and range from studios to three-bedroom units. thesandstc.com

US VIRGIN ISLANDS

171. **The Buccaneer** Gracious. Elegant. Legendary. The historic Buccaneer offers 138 exquisite accommodations in a luxurious country club setting. The 340-acre self-contained resort features three beaches, golf, tennis, watersports, spa, kids camp, and fine dining. Family owned and operated. 1-800-255-3881. thebuccaneer.com

UNITED STATES

COLORADO

172. **Visit Denver, The Convention & Visitors Bureau** Denver is the Mile High City! From Rocky Mountain settings to historic locations, mansions, gardens and parks, let us help you find the right hotels, reception sites, unique wedding venues and restaurants. For FREE wedding planning assistance call 1-800-880-9059. visitdenver.com/weddings

FLORIDA

173. **The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel** Find your island. Discover The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel through the guidebook from *Lonely Planet*. It's full of information on what to do and see, plus tips on the top places to explore. Best of all, it's free. FortMyers-Sanibel.com

174. **Emerald Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau** Call us romantics, but here at the Emerald Coast we love a good wedding and look forward to helping make your vision a reality. If you can dream it, we can make it happen. emeraldcoastfl.com/weddings

175. **The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club** Capture the romance of your journey and future together in paradise. Known as the Paradise Coast, Naples is the perfect destination for your tropical-inspired wedding. We offer a variety of indoor/outdoor venues for your ceremony, reception, rehearsal dinner and more. naplesbeachhotel.com

176. **The Seagate Hotel & Spa** Whether you prefer golf course views at our country club, an oceanfront setting at our private beach club, or the city-sophisticated ambience of our boutique hotel, we'll make sure your special day is just as you always dreamed. Call 1-855-927-5567. weddingsattheseagate.com

NORTH CAROLINA

177. **North Carolina's Crystal Coast** Laid-back luxury lives at the Crystal Coast, beckoning newlyweds to start their lives as Mr. and Mrs. along North Carolina's Southern Outer Banks. To find out every-

thing the Crystal Coast has to offer for destination weddings and honeymoons, visit crystalcoastnc.org.

TENNESSEE

178. **Angel's View Wedding Chapel** Want that beautiful stress-free wedding? Call Angel's View Wedding Chapel. Surrounded by majestic mountains, it's the perfect place to say "I do." Featuring a chapel with an ordained minister, reception hall with catering, plus a salon and day spa. Call 1-800-758-6604 to speak with a wedding coordinator. angelsviewweddingchapel.com

179. **Aunt Bug's Cabin Rentals** Whether you are looking for a Gatlinburg honeymoon cabin with spectacular mountain views or a cabin on the Little Pigeon River, Aunt Bug's offers premium Smoky Mountain cabins to suit your family's needs and your vacation budget. Some are even pet friendly. PigeonForgeHoneymoon.com

180. **Fireside Chalets** Choose your Pigeon Forge honeymoon cabin. Enjoy one- to seven-bedroom cabins and chalets. Some feature whirlpool, hot tub, pool table, and mountain and river views. Call 1-877-774-4121. Gift certificates available for a gift of memories that will last a lifetime. Join us on Facebook. firesidechalets.com

181. **Gatlinburg** Hearing wedding bells? The mountains are calling. Gatlinburg is your destination for the ultimate romantic getaway. Whether you're looking for an outdoor wedding, a chapel wedding, or a barn wedding, Gatlinburg has everything you need to make your special day unforgettable. gatlinburg.com

182. **Hearthside Cabin Rentals / Chapel at the Preserve** Hearthside at the Preserve offers complete wedding services with breathtaking views and an "I do" experience you will never forget. We offer wedding packages for 2 to 150 people with a beautiful chapel and reception locations. yoursmokymountainwedding.com

183. **Hidden Mountain** is the ideal place for a fairy tale wedding or anniversary celebration. We offer The Lodge with room for 200 guests, The Tin Roof Vintage Country House, and a hillside gazebo—all picture-book spots for ceremonies. Call today, 1-800-943-9359. hiddenmountain.com

184. **Sevierville Convention & Visitors Bureau** Discover enchanting wedding venues, breathtaking mountain backdrops, and great activities to entertain your whole wedding party in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. Call 1-888-738-4378 or go to VisitSevierville.com.

185. **Smoky Mountain Wedding Association** The beautiful Great Smoky Mountains is the perfect setting for a romantic wedding. Known as The Wedding Capital of the South, Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, and Sevierville offer many lovely and affordable wedding chapels, venues, and services. smokymountainweddingassociation.com

TEXAS

186. **The Great State of Texas** Find your #TexasToDo. Texas has it all. Unique flavor. Breathtaking scenery. Chances to play cowboy or art critic. Explore like a local with our #TexasToDo Films and #TexasToDo Gallery at TravelTexas.com.

BRIDAL GUIDE YOUR LITTLE WHITE BOOK SWEEPSTAKES OFFICIAL RULES (NO PURCHASE NECESSARY)

Sponsored by Bridal Guide, New York, NY. Entries must be received by November 20, 2017.

1. The Sweepstakes is open to any legal resident of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia who is 18 years or older except where prohibited by law. Employees of Bridal Guide, RFP Corp., Pelican Grand Beach Resort and any and all of their related companies and corporate suppliers are not eligible. Sweepstakes void where prohibited by law. All federal, state and local laws apply. Winners agree to publication and/or display of their name, likeness and entry form to be made at the discretion of Bridal Guide without further compensation. Participants are subject to official rules.

2. The Sweepstakes runs from 12:01 PM Eastern Time on September 19, 2017 through 11:59 AM Eastern Time on November 20, 2017. To enter, complete the order form at bridalguide.com/getinfo, or complete the order form in the November/December 2017 issue of Bridal Guide magazine, or print your name, street address, daytime telephone number, mobile phone number, email, wedding date and the letters "Pelican Grand N/D 2017" on a 3" x 5" plain index card and mail to: Bridal Guide, P.O. Box 413050, Naples, FL 34101-3050. Only one entry per household. Entries must be received by November 20, 2017 and become the property of Bridal Guide, who assumes no responsibility for illegible, late, misdirected or lost entries.

3. One Grand Prize winner will be selected in a random drawing the week of December 11, 2017, under the supervision of Bridal Guide, whose sole decision will be final. By accepting the prize, winner and travel companion agree to release Bridal Guide, RFP Corp., Pelican Grand Beach Resort and their affiliates, agents and employees from any and all liability, claims, injuries, actions or proceedings arising out of and/or sustained in connection with use, acceptance or possession of prize. Winner will be notified by email and will be required to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility, which must be returned within 14 days of notification, or prize will be forfeited and an alternate winner may be chosen. Return of prize notification as undeliverable will result in disqualification and an alternate winner may be selected. A copy of the Bridal Guide Affidavit of Eligibility may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope (VT residents may omit postage) to Affidavit of Eligibility, Bridal Guide Your Little White Book Sweepstakes, Dept. PELICAN ND17, 228 East 45 Street, New York, NY 10017. The number of eligible entries received will determine odds of winning. Limit one prize per family or household. If through a printing, production or other error more winners are notified than the rules state, the actual number of such winners, per the rules, will be selected in a random drawing from among those notified. Bridal Guide, RFP Corp., and Pelican Grand Beach Resort make no warranties with regard to any prize. Prize is nontransferable by winner, has no cash value, and cannot be redeemed for cash. There are no substitutions for prize or changes to available dates.

4. Grand Prize: Five-night oceanfront suite accommodations at Pelican Grand Beach Resort in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, "Toes in the Sand" dinner at OCEAN2000 (\$200), one couples massage at PURE Spa, welcome amenity complete with wine and cheese, and airport transfers. Estimated ARV \$2,500.

5. The Grand Prize winner will be responsible for the following: Roundtrip airfare, airport transfers, airport taxes, any and all local, state and/or federal taxes, ground transportation, rental car, gas, insurance, food and beverages, gratuities and any expenses not specified as part of the prize. Amendments to confirmed travel arrangements may result in forfeiture of trip or administrative fees.

6. The winners may travel through June 20, 2019. Reservation is subject to availability. Blackout dates include but are not limited to Christmas/New Years (Dec. 22, 2017-Jan. 2, 2018 and Dec. 22, 2018-Jan. 2, 2019), Easter Weekend (March 30-April 2, 2018 and April 19-22, 2019), Memorial Day weekend (May 25-28, 2018 and May 24-27, 2019), Independence Day Week (July 1-8, 2018), Labor Day weekend (Sept. 1-4, 2018), Boat Show (Oct. 30-Nov. 4, 2018), and Thanksgiving (Nov. 21-26, 2018). Winner will be issued an IRS 1099 form for prize.

7. Entrants agree that by entering the Promotion, they agree to add their contact information to the Bridal Guide and Pelican Grand Beach Resort mailing lists, subject to Entrant's right to thereafter opt out or unsubscribe to such lists at any time.

8. The name of the winner may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope after December 11, 2017 to Bridal Guide Your Little White Book WINNER, 228 East 45 Street, Dept. PELICAN ND17, New York, NY 10017. Requests for winner must be received by January 31, 2018.

BRIDAL GUIDE *insider*

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GET INFO AND ENTER TO WIN



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STAR RESORT



1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) 1 HOTEL BROOKLYN BRIDGE (4); SYLVAIN GABOURY/PATRICK MCULLAN/GETTY IMAGES



DOMINO KIRKE & PENN BADGELY

Brooklyn

Want to marry where the celebs do? In each issue, we take a peek at a star-studded hideaway.

In the past decade the New York City borough of Brooklyn has ripped the crown of cool right off the island of Manhattan. And in a moment of real life mimicking art, two uber hipsters, **Penn Badgley** (you may know him as OG arty BKLYN loft dweller Dan Humphreys on *Gossip Girl*) and **Domino Kirke** (a musician, birth worker and member of the real-life *Girls* gang), recently swapped vows at Brooklyn City Hall before toasting to their union with an intimate group of family and friends.

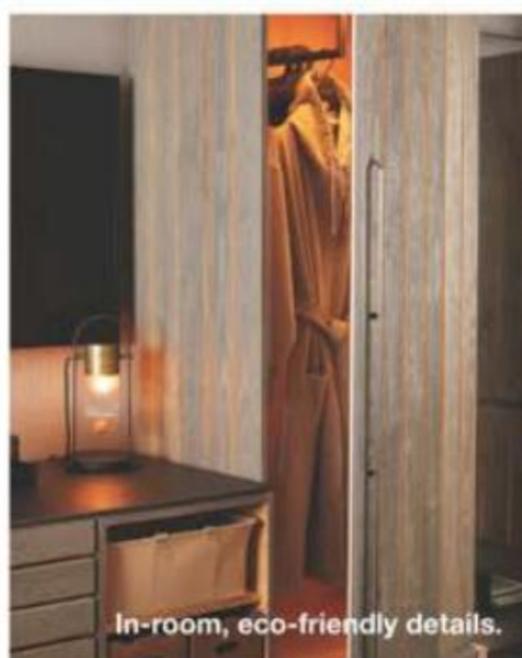
At the eco-friendly **1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge**, couples who have a civil union can be whisked to and from the courthouse in the house Tesla. Or they can choose to stroll down the borough's storied Promenade with its epic NYC views to the hotel, which is positioned beneath the walkway at the foot of sprawling Brooklyn Bridge Park. In addition to its earth-friendly amenities and design—woods are reclaimed, there's an oversized living wall in the lobby and all the water is triple filtered—the jaw-dropping views are this posh property's marquee attractions. Each of the 194 guest rooms flaunts cinematic vistas of New York's most emblematic sites—the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State Building and the newer Freedom Tower. For a 360-degree view, head to the roof deck, which has a bar featuring bespoke cocktails, a cool fire pit for chilly nights, hot plunge pool for steamy days and plenty of perches for complete privacy. At the 10th-floor lounge, light bites are served alongside inventive cocktails. As is customary in Brooklyn and in keeping with the sustainable vibe, most of the food is local and it's always seasonal. And the hotel's intimate spa highlights a holistic approach to restorative wellness (room rates start at \$350 a night; 1hotels.com) —*Jenna Mahoney*



The rooftop plunge pool.



A standard room.



In-room, eco-friendly details.



The green hotel's lobby reaches new heights.

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