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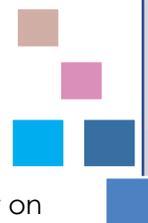
You most likely know what your birthstone is, but did you know that you also have a flower that is associated with your birth month?

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Describe a typical day in the life of Lara Trump. Behind the scenes at this one of a kind photo shoot at Mar-a-Lago.

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You're not a basic bride, so girls, don't let your groom be anything but extraordinary on the big day either!





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The "Beauty and the Beast" Issue



Letter From The Editor:

How apropos to have Belle as our editor's picture. In the original story published in 1740, the only wish she asked from her father was that when he returned from his journey he would bring her a rose. The Spring/Summer issue of Florida Bride Magazine ushers in the season of the rose.

We are so excited to have tv host, author, lifestyle guru, wedding planner extraordinaire, and party planner to the stars Colin Cowie featured on the cover! He has traveled 12 million miles and visited approximately 100 countries! With over 20 years of experience he has created magical memories on a global scale. Read the full interview I had with Colin where he shares his professional expertise with our brides-to-be on fashion and decoration. Learn about his approach to the 5 senses, and walk along with him from conceptual design to creating lasting memories. He brings his inspiration and excitement to the pages of Florida Bride Magazine.

We are so happy to showcase the new Randy Fenoli Bridal Collection in our Runway section. I was excited to be present at Kleinfeld Bridal for the unveiling April 20th. Randy wowed the crowd with his collection of 25 fashion forward dresses offering a style for every bride. He believes that if a bride feels beautiful she will stand taller, smile wider and walk with confidence.

Countless brides fret over what color theme they should choose for their wedding. There are so many beautiful shades to consider, but our Florida Bride staff has chosen our pick for the season, and it is Cerulean Blue. The first recorded use of cerulean as a color name was in 1590. You remember The Devil Wears Prada where Miranda Priestly says "that sweater is not just blue, it's not turquoise, it's not lapis, it's actually cerulean." Yes, that cerulean blue! Please visit the wonderful wedding professionals that fill these pages. Their expertise will help create a magical day for you! What are you waiting for?

Grace Crompton
 Managing Editor
 Florida Bride Magazine

We're so social

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Contributors

The following professionals have contributed their talent to bring you the wonderful pictorials inside this issue. For consideration in becoming a contributor please email: info@florida-bride.com

MAR JENNINGS

Emmy-nominated TV Host, Lifestyle Expert and best selling author Mar Jennings, is a master at creating a casual luxury lifestyle made simple and SMART.



COLIN COWIE

The party planner of choice for celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, Tom Cruise, Jennifer Lopez, and Oprah Winfrey, what sets Colin apart is his experiential approach to design.



RANDY FENOLI

As the most trusted source in the Bridal Industry, Randy Fenoli is proud to announce the launch of his namesake Bridal collection, Randy Fenoli Bridal.



ANA VENTO

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GEORGINA CHAPMAN

British born Georgina Chapman has built Marchesa, a fashion empire defined by elegant eveningwear and one of a kind couture designs.



RON BEN-ISRAEL

Ron's wedding creations are consistently featured in national periodicals, Florida Bride Magazine and New York Magazine.



ESTELLE DELPINO

Estelle's photographic artistry is at the heart of the 40's and 50's pinup style. She Creates memorable vintage styles through exquisite and beautiful imagery.



OSCAR LOPEZ

Lifetime's Project Runway Under the Gunn winner Oscar Lopez. "The most important thing is to stay true to the person that you are."



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Martin Fischer
Sales Representative

Kristen Rocco
Staff Writer

Ana Vento
Planning Consultant

Mar Jennings
Lifestyle Editor

Oscar Lopez
Fashion Consultant

Estelle Delpino
Photo Editor

David Beyrent
Art & Production Director

Randy Fenoli
Style Director

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THE DEVIL WEARS CERULEAN

This... STUFF? Oh. Okay. I see. You think this has nothing to do with you. You go to your closet and you select... I don't know... that blue sweater, for instance because you're trying to tell the world that you take yourself too seriously to care about what you put on your back. But what you don't know is that that sweater is not just blue, it's not turquoise. It's not lapis. It's actually CERULEAN.

CERULEAN BLUE



And you're also blithely unaware of the fact that in 2002, Oscar de la Renta did a collection of cerulean gowns. And then I think it was Yves Saint Laurent... wasn't it who showed cerulean military jackets? And then cerulean quickly showed up in the collections of eight different designers. And then it filtered down through the department stores and then trickled on down into some Casual Corner where you, no doubt, fished it out of some clearance bin. However, that blue represents millions of dollars and countless jobs and it's sort of comical how you think that you've made a choice that exempts you from the fashion industry when, in fact, you're wearing the sweater that was selected for you by the people in this room from a pile of STUFF!



1. Cerulean is a cool, calming color. Its shades send out feelings of calmness, tranquility, truthfulness, nobleness, and faithfulness. Add it into your shoes, your bouquet and just a touch on the wedding cake.



2. Cerulean has always been a popular wedding color, it looks stunning when paired with ivory or yellow, but also as the primary color for your wedding scheme. When choosing colors to compliment Cerulean you could start with your favorite color, the color of a certain flower you must have at your wedding or even what colors suit your grooms and bridesmaids skin tones.



quick tip!
Red with cerulean will give a vibrant pop of color!



your seasonal palette



3. Decor is a fabulous way to make a wedding have everybody saying 'wow'. The perfect decor should feature throughout your day. From cerulean wedding flowers and confetti to the cerulean chair covers, ribbons and candles coupled with gold napkins, table cloths and centerpieces can really make a wedding inviting.



4. Cerulean is also a favorite color of beach-bound brides everywhere. Don't be afraid to pair cerulean with eye-popping colors like fuchsia or coral, aubergine or pale yellow. For flowers, start with white or fuchsia orchids and super-fluffy peonies. Want to go a little wilder? How about coral roses and Pincushion Proteas, or fuchsia gloriosas.

5. Let's not forget how sharp the guys will look in light grey tuxes with cerulean blue ties. Look into those charcoal tuxedos too, which make a visually eye-popping match with cerulean vests to match those bridesmaids dresses.



“ It's not just blue, it's not Turquoise. It's not lapis. It's actually CERULEAN ”

quick tip!
Cerulean pairs well with yellow or gold tones!



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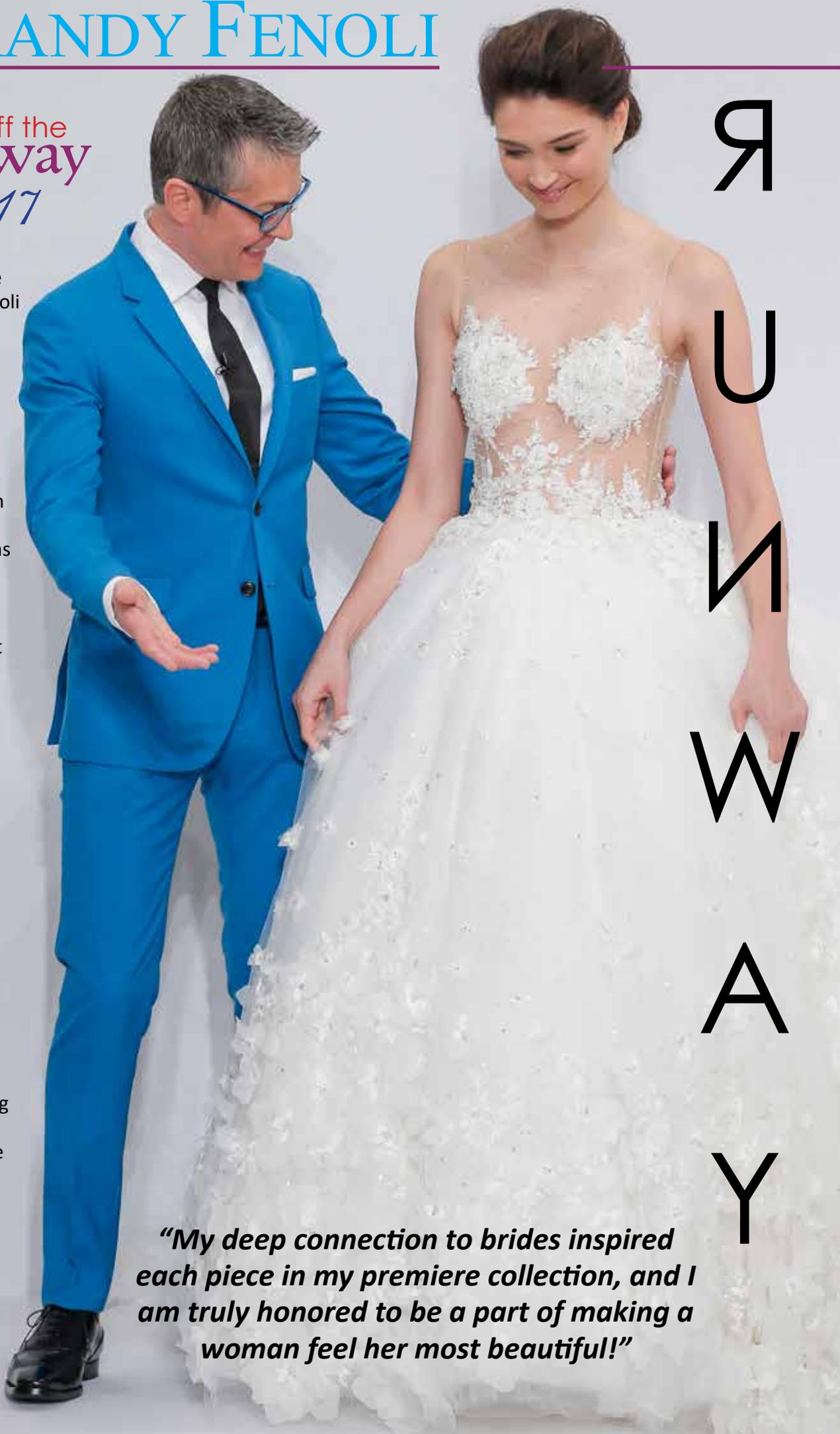
Oh! So... RANDY FENOLI

R Hot off the
Runway
2017

April 20th 2017 — As the most trusted source in the Bridal Industry, Randy Fenoli is proud to announce the launch of his namesake Bridal collection, Randy Fenoli Bridal.

Randy Fenoli revealed his 25-piece bridal collection with an official runway show at Kleinfeld Bridal on Thursday April 20th and Florida Bride Magazine was there. The collection will retail from \$1,500- \$3,000 including luxe details such as tonal beading, fluid soft layering and a touch of glamour. Once the much anticipated Randy Fenoli runway show wraps up, the full collection will be available the day after for scheduled bridal appointments giving brides-to-be the option to order directly from the runway.

This is not Randy's first time designing wedding dresses as he actually started his career as a Bridal designer and went on to have five successful reality TV Shows furthering his expertise in the bridal world. Randy is passionate about finding the perfect dress for every bride and no one can do it better than him, so now women around the country and the world will have the opportunity to purchase a dress meticulously designed and crafted by him.



R

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“My deep connection to brides inspired each piece in my premiere collection, and I am truly honored to be a part of making a woman feel her most beautiful!”

R
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Y



The WIZARD of OZ

THE STYLING

The hair styling took the old braids Dorothy had into a new era with the fun fishtail braid look on our model for "Dorothy", and glam big curls for "Glinda" which were just beautiful. The make-up by Michelle Clark also represented the look of the style shoot and kept "Dorothy" sweet and "Glinda" glam.

THE DETAILS

My goodness, you all are in for a treat! This Wizard of Oz wedding sure does get us excited for great wedding inspiration! Created by Viva L'Event NC and photographed by Live View Studios, we are excited for you all to take a trip down the yellow brick road with us...

THE DRESS

The glitz and glamour of couture bridal gowns from Romona Keveza Bridal Couture Collection made the "Dorothy" model beautiful in a pale blue gown, and our "Glinda the Good Witch" model was stunning in the beautiful ivory/gold gown.

THE TABLESCAPE

I wanted to keep to the true emerald and golds with the table setting that brings the glitz and glamour to life with amazing linens and place settings by CE Rentals. It was all accented by the colorful menu cards, with a place setting for four. The flowers were all created by Viva L'Event NC, including the table centerpiece which was kept elegant and simple, and the two bouquets – one representing the sweet “Dorothy” with a traditional blue gingham wrap and pops of color, and in the center of the bouquet, the bamboo, which represents the “Emerald City”. The other was an all white bouquet wrapped in a gold chevron ribbon for the glam “Glinda”.

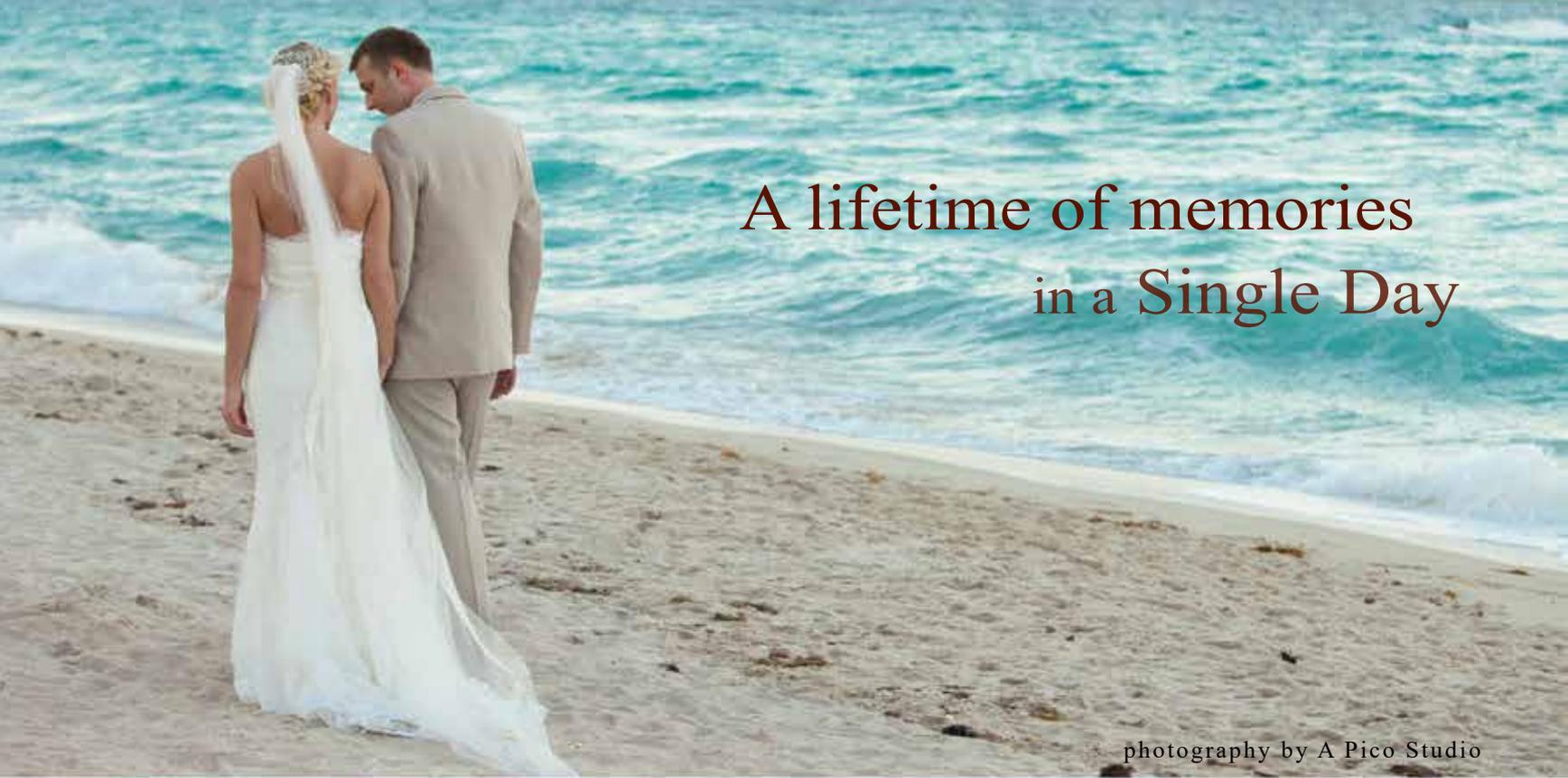


INSPIRATION

We love it when brides can find inspiration in new things, and we just LOVE the ways that they brought the movie into this shoot! How perfect is that emerald green sequin table linen?! Toto- oh my... the absolute best!

THE CAKE

The whimsical, amazing cake made by Edible Art showcased each of the characters from the original film with the Emerald City on top and the yellow brick road down the side. All the unique stationary were created by Opus 1. Look at these custom menu cards how amazing is that?



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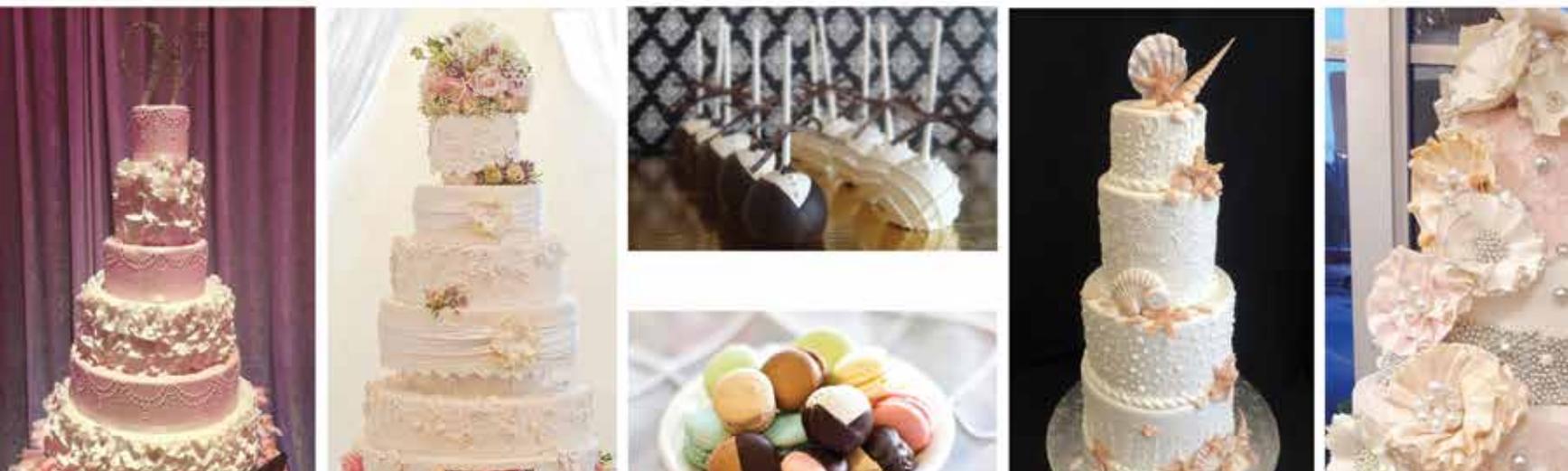
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New York Bridal Fashion week was off to a great start and Florida Bride Magazine was there to bring you all the latest runway styles. The BERTA collection was shown at the Plaza Hotel in New York City and it certainly did not disappoint. The breathtaking designs walked the runway with elegance and style and let's not forget the bling.

The BERTA fashion house is fast becoming a power house in the international fashion world. Ever since penetrating to the international market in 2013, BERTA has become a household brand-name in record speed. On the social media BERTA is a worldwide phenomenon, with an accumulated followers count of over 2 million.

Over 1.2 million on Instagram alone. The one and only reason for this incredible success story is the product itself. BERTA completely disrupted the fashion industry, by presenting a couture level of quality, in retail prices that are closer to those of mass production brands. The BERTA dresses are so unique and distinguished from anything else out there, that the fashion industry couldn't stay indifferent. And the reactions were phenomenal, driven by the love of the crowd on social media, BERTA has become the most popular and sought-after brand in the bridal industry and one of the hottest names in the ready-to-wear scene.





over theThreshold
by lifestyle editor Mar Jennings

DIY

summer romantic picnics

Summer is the perfect time to embrace all that Mother Nature has to offer, and a picnic is just the way to relax and take in all that is good, beautiful and most importantly, free. In any economy and whether you enjoy it alone or with a friend, a picnic can be perfectly MARvelous and tasteful with minimal expense. Apparently, it's up to me to shed some well-deserved attention on this subject.

The Menu:

In planning the menu, it's a good idea to start with foods that can be made ahead of time and served either cold or at room temperature. Standards include good ole' fried chicken, potato salad, and coleslaw. But how boring is this? Let's think outside the box and get creative with the meal. Fabulous sandwiches, the ultimate outdoor convenience food, need never be dull. Experiment with fillings and vary the bread—try sourdough, black rye, or poppy seed. For example, how about a French baguette with mushroom stuffed tenderloin of beef or grilled vegetables with pesto and cheese enclosed in a hollowed-out loaf of Italian bread. Lobster, the perfect romantic picnic treat can be served in a variety of ways. And who doesn't love a lobster roll? Cold soups, although not a traditional picnic food, are easy to transport and serve. In anticipation of hot summer afternoons, salads always have a place in the classic picnic basket.

quick
tip!

Always check the
weather forecast
before planning!





summer romantic picnics

by lifestyle editor Mar Jennings

A One-On-One Picnic

This could very well be the easiest and the most rewarding picnic of all when you connect with nature and embrace your life's blessings. Here one can reflect overlooking inspiring beauty. I love to keep a beach chair and blanket in the trunk of my car from April to November for a spontaneous picnic.

At a moments notice, I can rifle through my refrigerator, grab a snack and be on my way. Or if I'm out I can quickly pick-up a salad and head for the beach. If you're not hungry, forgo the meal and grab a newspaper. Sometimes all you need is some one-on-one time with yourself to stimulate your senses and recharge the soul.

Romantic Picnics

When the weather's right and you've had your fill of table service, there is nothing quite like eating al fresco on a grassy patch or park bench with the one you love. Romantic picnics should come from the heart and require special attention to detail. A sunset picnic at the beach with candles can inspire your lover. Less is more here and it's all about the company, the food, and the presentation. Take the time to select your favorite romantic foods. Mine include fresh strawberries, shrimp, and yummy cheeses. Lobster salad and caviar are also wonderful romantic treats, easy to pack and takes the classic romantic picnic to a whole new level. Then, for the final touch of elegance, present a pretty dish of orange slices or strawberries dipped in dark chocolate, with champagne of course.

For this romantic occasion, I see no reason why one shouldn't eat from proper plates, drink from proper glasses and eat with proper flatware. I like to use a crisply laundered blanket and cloth table napkins. When it's just the two of you, the menu can be as simple or elaborate as you like. Cut flowers or foliage from the garden tied onto napkins with raffia or garden string, add color and interest. I personally enjoy an appetizer picnic in the garden as a prelude to a dinner reservation. Candles and rose petals can lead you to this special place in the garden. This creates the perfect setting for love and romance. In the garden, I can set the stage for that special someone. Today's modern picnic can be as simple as a bottle of wine or champagne and two glasses shared at the beach or in the garden.

The Perfect Basket

This is a personal choice. Some people prefer baskets and others coolers. But this really depends on the time of year. In the dog days of summer, food should be kept on ice and a cooler is preferable. On beautiful spring and fall days, any basket will do. Seek out interesting baskets that can have multiple uses. Tag and garage sales are great for discovering the perfect picnic basket. I use a vintage suitcase that is unique, and it allows me to be well-organized.

And there you have it.

DO REMEMBER:

First and foremost, check the weather forecast

A bag for any and all trash to take with you when you are done

A bottle opener or corkscrew

Umbrella, sunscreen, and insect repellent



You Dream It... We Create It!



Nicollette & Brent Hagey
October 15, 2016
Photo by Adam Opitz Photography

“ I couldn't have imagined not having Ana by my side for our wedding day. From early morning until the last guest left, she made sure that absolutely everything from the small details, to the vendors, and everything in between ran smooth and we are forever grateful!”

Jen & Craig Hammitt
Wedding February 4, 2017



Jacquie & Brian Dittman
December 10, 2016
Photo by Flavio and Rosina's Studio



Jen & Craig Hammitt
February 4, 2017
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Choosing the right luggage for

From Travel Editor Terese Ternullo - Hibiscus Travel

your *Honeymoon*

Almost all travelers have a Nightmare Luggage story. You spent a lot of money on a fancy brand-name bag that broke on the first leg of the trip. Or you skimped on the spending and got exactly what you paid for. Or the bag that you thought would be comfortable and versatile turned out to be neither as you dragged it over the cobblestones of Florence or humped it on aching shoulders through the crowded, narrow streets of Kathmandu. Choosing the wrong luggage can waste precious travel time and energy and can cause a lot of aches and pains. Choosing the right luggage will free you up to enjoy your trip without any unnecessary aggravation. To help you pick the best possible bag for your next adventure — here are five simple questions you can ask yourself to help you decide which type of bag is best for you.



What are the baggage restrictions and limits of all the airlines? Some countries have more restrictive guidelines that are more stringently enforced. Smaller airlines in Europe, for example, require smaller and lighter bags than in the US. Make sure you know what the requirements will be so you don't get stuck having to pay hefty fines or finding new luggage at the last minute. I am always happy to answer your questions regarding airline baggage restrictions and will advise you on the requirements of all the airlines you will be flying with.

Am I an over-packer or a shopper? If you know that you tend to bring more than you need and buy when you get there, opt for an expandable bag as your carry-on, and slip in an empty, durable nylon bag to bring back new things with you. (Note: be prepared to pay any additional fees that might apply for additional bags, or if your bag becomes too large/heavy as a result of over-packing!)

How much attention do I want my luggage to get? Yes, sometimes it's tempting to get the stand-out, fashion-forward luggage set in fuchsia — but if you're heading to a destination that's known for theft, sometimes the better option is to pick a suitcase that blends in with the crowd. There are always things you can do to help with identification — a colorful ribbon, a sticker, a unique tag — but if you don't want your luggage to be a target for opportunistic thieves, just opt to keep it simple.

How much transferring will I be doing on this trip? Are you heading to one main location that will be your "home base" of travel operations? Or will you be constantly on the move from city to city, hopping trains, getting taxis, taking buses? Will someone be available to help you lift your bags if you need assistance (partner, children, tour assistant), or will you be the one fully responsible for handling your luggage at all times? The more you'll be moving and hefting, the more you should aim for simple, lightweight, durable, and versatile. Pack only the essentials, and look for bags that offer more than one transport method — for example, a carry-on with hidden pull-out straps and can be transformed into a comfy backpack for hands-free movement.

Does my luggage match the type and terrain of the trip I'm taking? Wheeled suitcases are great — if you have lots of flat floors and smooth sidewalks along which to roll them. But after two days of lugging a heavy suitcase through bumpy streets, broken sidewalks, dirt paths, or up endless flights of stairs in old, gorgeous elevator-less buildings, you'll be praying to the luggage gods for a simple backpack with padded shoulder straps.

The last thing you want to be focused on while you're on the trip of a lifetime is some annoying, avoidable luggage irritation. With a little investigating and preparation before you pack up and head out, you can make sure your luggage fits seamlessly into your travel plans.



quick tip!
Try not to overpack and opt for luggage with wheels!

Creative ways to **DIY** ASK YOUR BRIDESMAIDS

You're Engaged and now you want to share it with everyone! One of the first things you are going to be thinking of is who is going to be in your bridal party. You and your fiancé are going to have to think about how many bridesmaids and groomsmen you want. When you finally have chosen, you could simply call them and ask, but there are so many adorable ways to DIY the question "Will you be my Bridesmaid" that are fun and creative. You can invite them individually or throw a lunch party with all of them together. This is also a great time to talk with them about their dresses while sharing cocktails. We have a few suggestions you may want to consider that are right on trend:

MACARONS:

Personalize the top of the macarons and place in a nice gift box. Add a bottle of wine to compliment.



JEWELRY:

Necklaces, bracelets or earrings are always a favorite, and if you choose one style can also be worn on the day of the wedding.



WINE LABELS:

Personalize the label with "Will you be my Bridesmaid?"

FORTUNE COOKIE:

Write a message inside of a fortune cookie



BALLOONS:

Sure to place a smile on their face. The outside of the balloon reads "I can't do it without you".



BOX OF GOODIES:

filled with their favorite nail polish, lipstick and eyeshadow. Also add some of their favorite treats and some photos.

CANDLES:

Give them their favorite scent in a candle and write a special message on the box.



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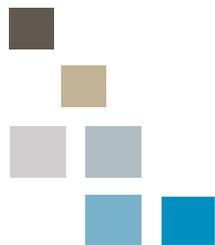
The Colors of Aqueous

Today we are beyond excited to share a special inspiration with all of you to celebrate the release of our newest lookbook, Aqueous! Full of inspiration to leave you dreaming, this lookbook was inspired by the actual watercolors of one of our designers! With delicate patterns and modern notions inter-twining in the layers of paint, this collection is whimsical yet elegant – a perfect combination for most any wedding (as is the fact that it comes in 5 different colors!!) So get ready to feast your eyes on some seriously amazing inspirations – enjoy!

Elegant & Whimsical

The Inspiration:

Of course, with this lookbook inspired by the stationery line of the same name, you'll find the pages dripping with ideas to use each of the amazing elements that make up this collection



Easy to Create!

With a little food coloring or even left as it lies, this ceremony idea is beautiful, meaningful and adds that extra special touch to your ceremony. Plus, you can adapt this idea to incorporate anyone else at your wedding that you'd like to include – all you need are some more vases! Simple, right?!?



A Water Ceremony?

If water is playing a role in your wedding design, then we've got a great idea for you – incorporate it into your ceremony!! Using the same vessels as the classic sand ceremony, put a twist on tradition by using water instead.



Accessories



Favor Mix

And of course, no wedding would be complete without some good treats! From favors to cocktails, the hues of the Aqueous collection pair perfectly with so many of our other products!



A Little Fun

Another great idea to thrill your guests? Why not let them (and yourselves!) ham it up with our range of Single-Use Cameras!





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Simply Summer

Cocktails...



RASBERRY LEMONADE



What You Need:

4 cups fresh lemon juice, 3 cups sugar, 1 bag frozen raspberries, ice cubes, for serving.

How to Make It:

Squeeze the lemons and pour the juice into a pitcher. Mix together the sugar with 3 cups water and stir to dissolve to make a syrup.

Add the syrup to the lemon juice and top it up with 8 cups water. Taste to make sure it's sweet enough for you, and then add the raspberries. Mix the lemonade together and let chill in the fridge.

MOJITO

LIMEADE

What You Need:

1/2 cup fresh mint leaves plus sprigs for garnish, 2 limes cut into wedges, plus more for garnish, 2 cups crushed ice plus more for serving, 1 cup Lime-Mint Syrup, 1 liter white rum, 1/2 cup fresh lime juice, club soda.



How to Make It:

Muddle the mint leaves and lime wedges with 2 cups crushed ice in the bottom of a large pitcher. Add Lime-Mint Syrup, rum, lime juice, and more ice. Top off with club soda to taste.

WHITE SANGRIA



What You Need:

3 tablespoons sugar, 3 shots Calvados or other apple liquor, 1 lime sliced, 1 lemon sliced, 2 ripe peaches cut into wedges, 3 ripe green apples seeded and cut into wedges, 1 bottle white Rioja Spanish wine or other dry white wine, 1 pint raspberries.

How to Make It:

Combine sugar, Calvados, lime, lemon, peaches and apples in a large pitcher. Cover with 1 bottle of Rioja wine and chill sangria several hours.

GINGER PEACH COOLER



What You Need:

Three 12-ounce bottles chilled beer, light or mild, 3 cups (24 ounces) chilled peach nectar, such as bottled R.W. Knudsen brand or canned peach nectar, 2 fresh peaches pitted and cut into wedges, or 5-ounces frozen peach slices thawed, 3/4 cup.

How to Make It:

Place 1/2 cup water, the sugar and ginger in a small saucepan. Bring the syrup to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat and simmer until the sugar dissolves, about 5 minutes.

LEMONGRASS PINA COLADA



What You Need:

1 stalk lemongrass, 3/4 cup peeled and sliced fresh ginger, 1/2 cup sugar, ice, 2 cups pineapple juice chilled, 1 cup coconut milk, 1 cup white rum chilled, pinch kosher salt.

How to Make It:

With the back of a heavy chef's knife, bruise the

lemongrass stalk to expose the inside fibers and cut it into 1-inch lengths. Combine the lemongrass pieces, ginger, sugar and 1/2 cup water in a small saucepan. Bring to a simmer and cook a few minutes until the sugar dissolves. Remove from the heat and steep for 20 minutes.

WATERMELON MAI TAI



What You Need:

1/2 cup cubed watermelon, seedless or seeds removed, 3 tablespoons light rum, 2 tablespoons St. Germaine liqueur, 1 lime, juiced (about 1 tablespoon), plus 1 wedge for garnish, 1 tablespoon superfine sugar, ice, for serving.

How to Make It:

Place the watermelon, rum, St. Germaine liqueur, lime juice and superfine sugar in the pitcher of a blender and blend on high until well blended. Pour into a double old-fashioned glass filled with ice. Garnish with a lime wedge and enjoy.

Red Chile

Guava Margarita



This tropical, spicy margarita was created at Public in New York City, but it's a fitting way to beat the heat any time the mercury's rising.

What to buy: Guava nectar is available in health food stores and Latin groceries. You can also get it online.

Game plan: The "Red Chile" in this drink's name comes from homemade Chile-Infused Tequila. Be sure you make it a couple of days in advance to get that spicy kick this cocktail deserves.

Combine tequila, Triple Sec, guava nectar, orange juice and lime juice in a pitcher, and reserve in the refrigerator until ready to use.

To serve, rim a rocks glass with salt by rubbing a lime wedge around the outside and then dipping the glass in salt. Fill the glass with ice, add the margarita mixture and garnish with a skewered chile pepper (if using).

Unique seating cards TO GREET YOUR GUESTS

Your guests will be looking for their seats, and you're looking for innovative escort card ideas to guide them there. The search ends here, with these crazy-creative escort card ideas and displays that make seating assignments both mind-blowingly surprising and simple. You won't even believe the items real couples have used to direct their guests—from fruits, to stones, to repurposed lawn décor, there's an object or design appropriate for any sort of wedding. Whimsical, eclectic, and one-of-a-kind bride and grooms, beware—you'll have a tough time choosing between these incredible options.



Vino Table Numbers

Drink Flag Seating Cards

A flag motif appeared throughout this seasons weddings—these Cheree Berry Paper escort cards (calligraphed by Arney Walker and placed in Champagne flutes) were just one iteration. Your guests will love finding their names and table numbers and getting a complimentary glass of champagne to take to their seats. Perfect for making sure all your guests have that champagne ready for your toast.



Flag your reception tables and provide the first round of drinks with these DIY wine bottle tags.

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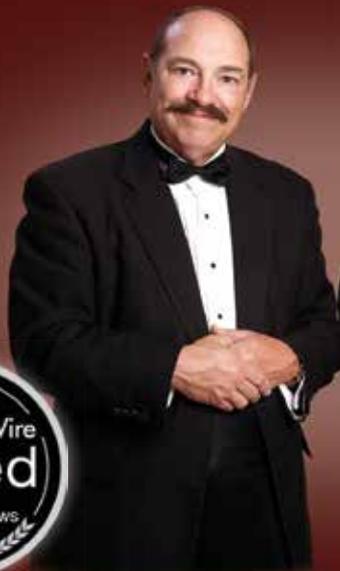


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FLORID BRIDE MAGAZINE'S



TOP CHEF

Guy Fieri - Cin-ful Peach Cobbler



Ingredients:

1 stick unsalted butter, room temperature, cut into 8 pieces, vanilla ice cream or whipped cream for serving.

For Peach Filling:

1/4 cup brown sugar, 1/4 cup white sugar, 1/2 cup all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 10 cups frozen peaches thawed, about 3 pounds prepared, 1 teaspoon cornstarch, dissolved in 1 tablespoon water, 1 lemon juiced, 1 teaspoon butter

For Crumb Topping:

3/4 cup brown sugar, 1/4 cup sugar, 3/4 cup all-purpose flour, 3/4 cup oats, 1/4 cup slivered almonds, 1/2 cup dried cranberries, 1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon salt

Preparation:

Special equipment: 12 by 8-inch oval stoneware dish or 13 by 9-inch rectangular glass or stoneware dish.

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. To make the peach filling: In a large bowl stir together sugars, flour, cinnamon and salt. Add peaches and gently toss to coat. Mix together cornstarch slurry and lemon juice and stir into peaches to incorporate. Butter a 12 by 8-inch oval dish and add peach mixture. To make the crumb topping: In a medium bowl combine dry ingredients, add in butter pieces and combine with hands until crumbly. Top peaches with half of the crumb topping. Place in oven and immediately reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Bake uncovered for 30 minutes, then add remainder of the crumb topping. Reduce heat to 325 degrees F and bake until golden and bubbling, another 45 minutes. Remove from oven and let sit for 15 minutes before serving. Serve with vanilla ice cream or fresh whipped cream.



Simple

Summer Salads

The BLT Salad

Few things taste better than a BLT, and this delicious salad takes it off the toast and makes it easy to share. That doesn't mean you don't get some delicious crunch here though—you'll still enjoy two delicious treats in this regard.

Bake the croutons and bacon together on the same baking sheet. This rustic salad only takes 20 minutes to whip up and, trust us, the results are well worth the effort. You might be tempted to go for the store-bought stuff, but homemade buttermilk dressing will really kick this salad up a notch. The assortment of fresh tomatoes means you can keep this salad truly local and seasonal.



for the love of food...

The Tables have turned..

Organizing your tables just got easier with these tips:

There are several choices when it comes to deciding where the bride and groom will be seated. You can choose a sweetheart table so it is just the two of you at the table, or you can choose to sit with the bridal party. It is completely up to you. Traditionally, the groom sits to the righthand side of the bride; the bride's mother sits next to the groom, with the groom's father next to her; the father-of-the-bride sits next to the bride, and the groom's mother sits next to him. Whew! Though, modern brides have parents sitting at their own tables with their closest family and friends and just have the bridal party sit with them.

Parents:

Just in case your parents happen to be divorced, that is something you will need to consider. Divorced parents of the bride and groom should be able to put any bad feelings aside on your wedding day, but if they can't, where are you going to seat them? You don't want any unexpected situations on your special day.

Bridal Party:

If you are including the bridal party at your table the Maid of Honor/ Matron of Honor and Best Man would sit closest to the bride and groom. Their spouses or partners would not sit with them. Otherwise, have separate tables for your bridal party so they can sit with their spouses or partners.



Your guests:

You know them best, so make sure they get seated around others that they would get along with. Don't stress over it, I am sure they will figure it out.



Childrens Tables:

You need to take into consideration the younger guests, and make sure they also have a pleasant experience.

Make a special area that is complete with games, toys and coloring books to keep them enjoying themselves. If only a few children will be there keep them with their parents.

Trying to Keep the Peace:

You can't always know who is happy or not with the other, so have your relatives and friends keep you in the loop of any apparent feuds that are about to erupt. We don't want any Hatfield and McCoy situations about to surface. Remember, you can't please everyone so Enjoy your Day!



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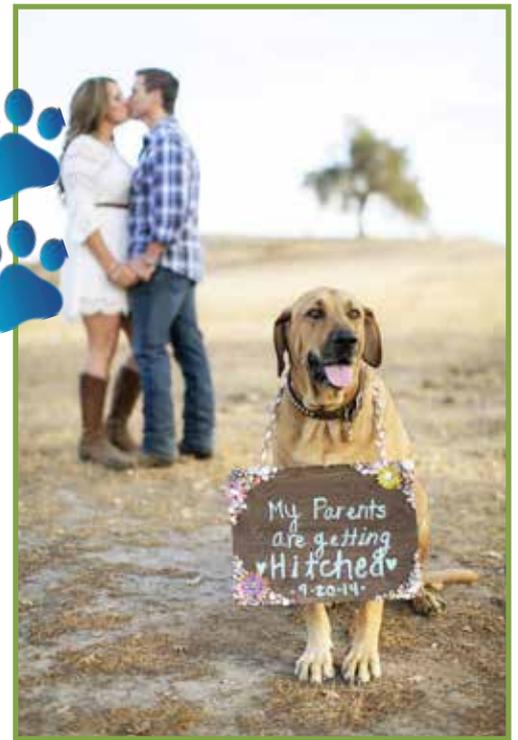
Dog-gone it! a brief Paws in your Wedding plans

Dogs, are a Man's Best Friend, and in this case A Woman's, too!

An upswing in having pets at weddings has been happening over the last few years. Couples love to dress their dogs up in full bridal attire and have them walk up the aisle.

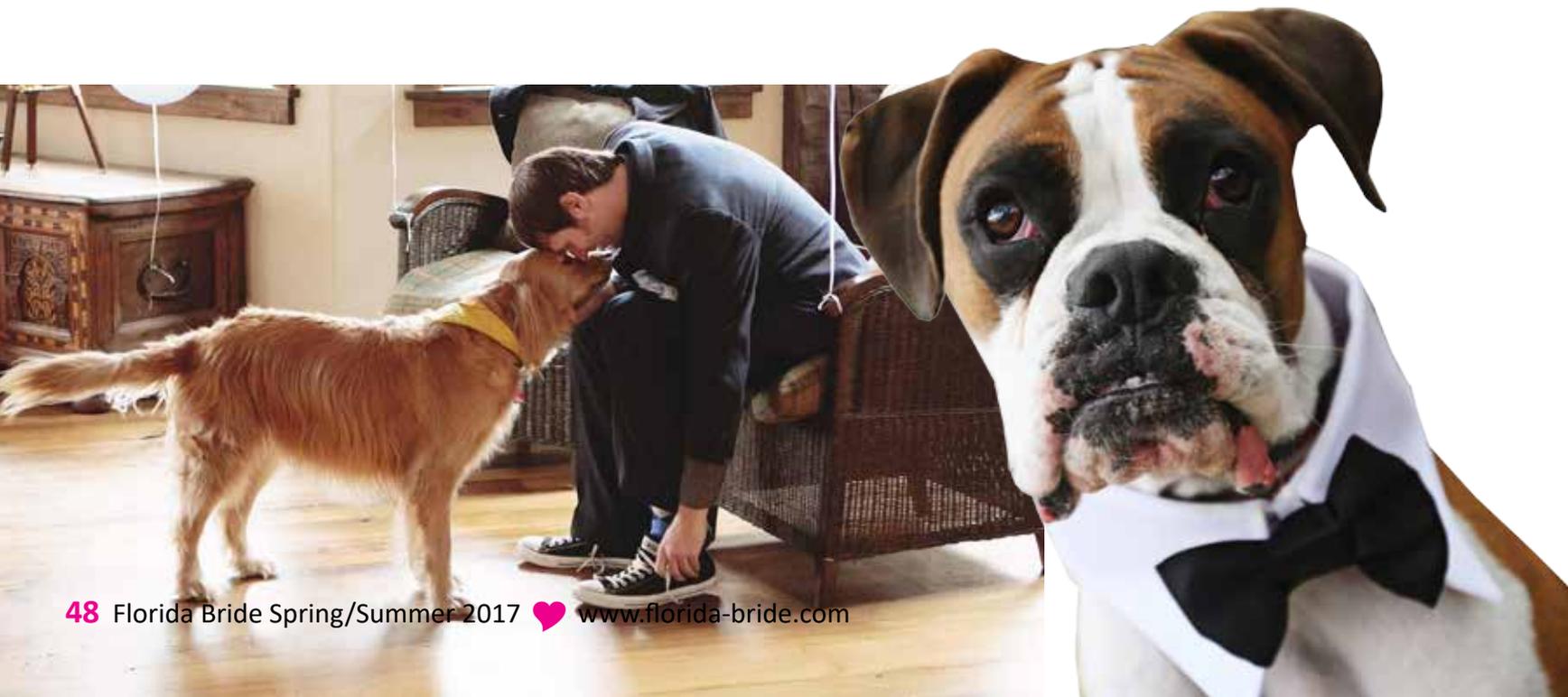
It makes sense to bring your dog to your wedding, they are a part of your life. Some caution does need to be observed however, you don't want your dog running all over the dance floor at the reception, so most couples usually have them at the ceremony and a family member or friend takes them home after.

If you are looking to have a less formal and more relaxing note to your wedding day, then incorporating your pet will certainly do that. Pets always bring a smile to your guests faces and infuses a more casual note to it.



Beach and outdoor weddings are a perfect choice if you want your dog to be included, there's plenty of space so it doesn't feel restricted to your pet. Once your dog walks up the aisle a family member or friend usually will take it to their seat until the end of the ceremony. Make sure that your pet has met that person before your Big Day so they are familiar with them, and give them a bag of treats to give to your pet during the ceremony to keep it happy. Also, if the weather is going to be warm you won't want to have your pet outside too long. Remember, pets can steal the show and it is your wedding day, so if you feel your pet will distract you or your guests then it's probably best to hire a dog sitter for it, and bring it a special treat when you get back.

If you do want to incorporate your pet in your wedding details, but feel that it may be too hectic for you to think about on your wedding day perhaps incorporating them into your Save the Dates or Engagement photo shoot would work better.



YOU'RE ENGAGED!

he popped the question and you said yes!
so what if the ring was not what you
imagined!



So, your guy popped the big question and you said Yes but, when you see the ring it's really NOT what you had imagined! Nowadays, couples usually talk about the choices and styles, however if your new fiancé took the initiative to go out and pick it out himself, of course you are going to receive it graciously.

Remember, he must have racked his brain over this choice, and the main thing is you are now engaged to the person you love. You want to remember this day as being one of the happiest of your life, so no complaining. If after some time goes by, and you want to give him some hints that you may want a change some of the following tips could be helpful. First of all, be honest with him. Tell him the things you like about the ring first, and then subtly let him know the changes you prefer. If the changes are minor speak with a jeweler and ask for their advice on how the design may be altered. As long as the ring is a new ring, and not one that has been passed down from generation to generation you should be able to achieve your goal. If however, it is an heirloom then it is probably best to accept it, and later on in your marriage on an anniversary, suggest that you now receive one of your own. You are the one that will be wearing your engagement ring for the rest of your marriage, so looking at it every day should make you happy. You just don't want any hurt feelings along the way, so use your feminine wiles and all will work out for the best. When thinking of your engagement ring most would concentrate on the stone in the middle. That sounds natural, however we shouldn't lose track of the setting. It definitely does affect the rings style. Some grooms have even used temporary settings to propose and let their brides make her choice after.



Test your personality and style with some of these ideas from past style icons.

The Solitaire and Prongs:
Your classic and timeless style fits right along with Audrey Hepburn. A Pave Band may also be to your liking. It has a bit more bling to it, but is similar to the solitaire.



Halo: If you love being surrounded by your family and friends, then the halo setting is right for you. It features a center gemstone completely encircled by smaller accent diamonds for a dazzling look, like ice goddess Grace Kelly.



The Bezel Setting: A very down to earth, strong female like Joan Crawford. No need for all the frills, you are very confident in who you are.



quick tip!
Remember it was his choice!

Ring in the Wedding!



The trend these days is for couples to ring-shop together, but if you're more of a traditionalist and looking to surprise her with a ring she'll love, be sure to do some reconnaissance. You can ask her best friend or sibling for help -- and swear them to secrecy.

If you're set on not telling anyone, pay attention to the jewelry she wears. Is she more of a platinum/silver girl than a yellow-gold one? Does she gravitate to vintage jewels as opposed to simple, classic pieces? Watch her for a couple of weeks and take mental notes to size up her style.

A Diamond is Forever.....

Marquise Diamond – It's origin dates to the 18th century, it features 56 facets and an elliptical shape with pointed ends. Also referred to as "navette" diamonds, meaning "little ship" in French, because of its' boat-like shape.

Cushion Cut Diamond - Although the cushion cut may seem modern and new, the origin of this brilliant and beautiful diamond traces back to the 19th century. Many celebrities rock a cushion cut diamond engagement ring, including Ashley Tisdale, Kelly Rowland and Naya Rivera. One of the most famous cushion cut diamonds is the Hope Diamond.

Edwardian Ring – Diamond rings of this era are beyond compare in unique and exquisite details, style and sheer delicacy of design.

Art Deco - 1920's style Characterized by sharp chic geometric lines, one of a kind Art Deco rings offer eye catching vintage beauty.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the price of diamonds collapsed. Market research indicated that engagement rings were going out of style with the younger generation. They couldn't have been more wrong! In 1938, the diamond cartel De Beers began a marketing campaign that would have a major impact on engagement rings. One of the first elements was to educate the public about the 4 Cs (cut, carats, color, and clarity). In 1947 the slogan "a diamond is forever" was introduced and all of us know that term now.

Colorful Gemstones were seen in the 50's when John F. Kennedy presented to his then fiancée and soon to be Jackie Kennedy a Van Cleef & Arpels 2.84 carat emerald and a 2.88 carat diamond with baguette cut diamond accents.

Princess Diana 80's engagement ring consisted of 14 solitaire diamonds surrounding a 12-carat oval blue Ceylon sapphire set in 18-karat white gold created by jeweler Garrard. Some say Diana selected it because it reminded her of her mother's engagement ring. When Prince William proposed to Catherine Middleton in the fall of 2010 he gave her the ring.

The introduction of the 3 stone ring commemorates your journey together. Also, referred to as a trinity ring or trilogy ring, it represents your past, present and wonderful future together.



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COLIN COWIE

The Man behind the Magic

Born in Zambia and raised in South Africa, he is an avid supporter of several charities focused on children's education and health. The party planner of choice for celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, Tom Cruise, Jennifer Lopez, Oprah Winfrey and Kim Kardashian, what sets Colin apart is his experiential approach to design; what you smell, touch, taste, feel and hear are carefully orchestrated to create the ultimate experience for Colin's clients.

“Trends come and go, but good style always prevails.”



COLIN COWIE

- Q** I'm sure you have many wonderful memories of the events you have planned, however is there one that stands out from the others?
- A** It's always the next one! Having worked for so many brides over the years, each think's that theirs is the most beautiful wedding. So, I always say the most beautiful wedding that stands out from the others...is the next one.
- Q** What has been your favorite trend of 2017 so far?
- A** I would say from an electronic point of view thinking forward, creating custom emoji's for the bride and groom. That's kind of a fun one. We are bringing in less flowers, and instead creating an architectural feeling to the room by using a lot of greenery. We are also seeing more color in the bridesmaids dresses which is lovely and refreshing.

Q Are you currently working on any new projects you would like to talk about?

A Always, I'm working on a collection of men's engagement and wedding rings for Blue Nile. You're going to love the new collection. It's nice to do something for men in such a meaningful way. I love what I've done for the women's collection, but this is new and exciting.

Q What's your prediction for future décor style trends?

A Technology has come such a long, long way. The things we get to do with lighting right now are phenomenal. These lights come onto the dance floor as you dance. We have hi-def screens that surround the whole room. You can be in the ocean one minute, Rome the next and then Versailles for dessert. It's amazing, the technology, the ability to project things today is phenomenal and cake mapping is a work of art, the things you can do. Another thing we are doing, and placing a big focus on, is hanging things above the dance floor. It seems that most of our décor now is hanging. You can make things more interesting by bringing in hard surfaces, lacquered tables, wooden tables and farmhouse tables. We are no longer relying on the rental table with a tablecloth. I think our work is starting to look a lot more residential and less banquet making it more real. I always like to create a wardrobe for the room. If I'm doing long tables, round tables and square tables, maybe I do linen on the round tables, maybe the long and square tables don't require linen. Perhaps just a runner down the long table or a mirrored runner to add interest, and also to get more texture into the room.

Q Are you planning on writing any more books, and if so what would it's topic be?

A At the moment, I'm writing 2 more books. The first one doesn't have a title yet, but it's a retrospective of all my fabulous work. It's something I have been wanting to do for a long time. It's about weddings, parties and celebrations, it's a really great book!





Q Currently you are hosting a show called “Life as it should be” on Thursdays at 8:00 AM. Do you have any plans for future TV shows?

A Yes, it will be creative, have new content and we will be having fun. It will be about living life to the fullest, and inspire and teach people to live a better life. It will not only have wedding content, it is about lifestyle as well. Future episodes will be focused primarily on Luxury. I’m really focusing big on everything Luxury.

Q Are there any tips you would like to share with our Florida Bride readers about planning their wedding day?

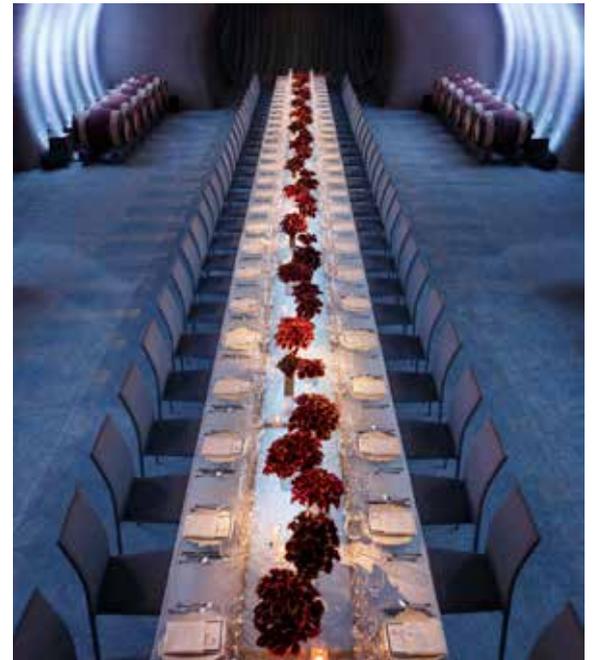
A Well, one thing about working in Florida is you always need a backup plan for the weather. You always have to make a Plan B. Absolutely.

Q I understand you have launched your own magazines.

A Yes, we put out one magazine a year. We’ve done them on weddings, catering, and the next one is on our new business called FOOD INC. It’s an acronym of Food of overwhelming distinction. It will have amazing ideas from top chefs. We get to take ideas from the best chefs in the country and provide the most extraordinary food, we are very excited about it.

Q I am sure that our Florida Brides would love to hear about the 5 senses you speak about. Smell, touch, taste, see and hear. Can you elaborate on those for them?

A Yes, because if you look at my work and I will give you our new website which was launched a month ago, you will see that no 2 jobs ever look the same. What you will see is a tremendous attention to detail. It’s a fun business, and it’s a fun approach to take because I think that every bride, and every groom are their own DNA. So, I start with that and that way I can understand what they like, what they don’t like, what their favorite colors are, what favorite food do they like, where do they go on vacation, what type of style are they. It helps to give me a window into their world, because if you start with their DNA and build on it that will appeal to all their senses. What you smell, touch, taste, see and hear is how I tell their story. It’s much more personal that way, it’s the foods that they like, the sounds that they like, the music they like, and the fragrance that they like. I also use from their point of view, and my point of view any lighting which is always changing from time to time, and I always make it exciting and interesting. Volume levels are always changing from the time you walk into the



room, which is when the volume is louder and then when you sit down to dinner the volume is lowered and you can hear everyone speaking. Then when it gets to dance time again, we lift up the volume so everyone has a good time. It’s more elegant and well thought out, it has a beginning, a middle and an end.





Q From the time you first began planning weddings to now, what is the biggest difference you've seen?

A OMG darling, you don't have enough time for me to tell you! I've been around long enough, when there was more polyester on the tabletops than on the credit cards. You could only rent basic colors, and the only choices in chairs was either folding or chivari. There was a white plate and a white plate with a golden rim. Our industry has come such a far way and to be honest, having worked and continue to be working around the world, by far we are the best equipped in the world to produce weddings. Our selection of vendors, (I never use the word vendors) because vendors park cars and sell hot dogs. Creative partners are amazing. There are some of the best creative partners in the business. It is a very competitive business, but I have to say the work globally has sort of become somewhat homogenized. There was a time when you went from one country to another country and things were unique to that country. I kind of feel like everybody's copying the same thing now, inspired by the same pinterest boards. I see something and I put my version into it, and the bride & groom put their version into it and it becomes unique.

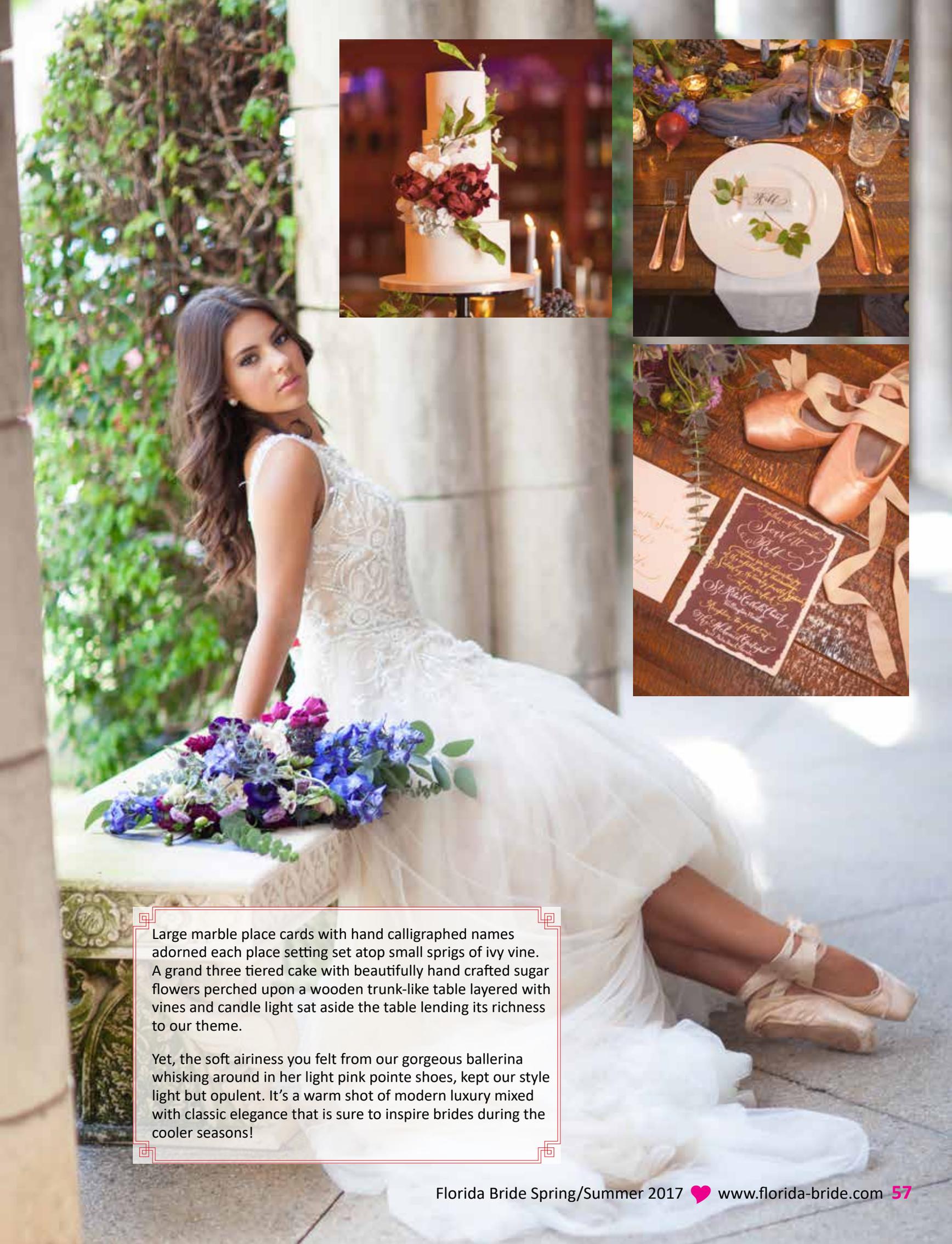


“ What you smell, touch, taste, feel and hear are carefully orchestrated to create the ultimate experience... ”

"La Belle Ballerin"

The beautiful ballerina. In our case, our inspiration was a beautiful French ballerina. Mixing the richness of our venue with its long wooden tables, metal ceiling tiles, and hanging goblet lights, with the delicate idealism of ballet created an enchanting shoot that will excite your senses. You can feel the warmth and almost taste and smell the fresh berries and florals that covered the tablescape.

Photographer: Krystal Zaskey Photography
Restaurant: ALCHEMIST
Dress Store: Bacio Bacio Bridal
Calligrapher: Carla Hagan Designs
Invitation Designer: Carla Hagan Designs
Makeup Artist: G S Makeup Artistry
Floral Designer: simply flowers
Planner: Unbridled Wedding Event Planning



Large marble place cards with hand calligraphed names adorned each place setting set atop small sprigs of ivy vine. A grand three tiered cake with beautifully hand crafted sugar flowers perched upon a wooden trunk-like table layered with vines and candle light sat aside the table lending its richness to our theme.

Yet, the soft airiness you felt from our gorgeous ballerina whisking around in her light pink pointe shoes, kept our style light but opulent. It's a warm shot of modern luxury mixed with classic elegance that is sure to inspire brides during the cooler seasons!





This styled shoot is full of dripping foliage and florals. Hints of gems and ivory blush in her dress, and a petite crown fit for a princess in a historic green area with a beautiful old Castle Fort as a backdrop, and a beautiful sun set. The theme resembled European style and earthiness. This was shot in film and digital. Vibrant in color, with soft whites. Enjoy!



Photographer: Jessica Bellinger Photography
Makeup Artist: Amanda Hopcraft Makeup Artist
Cake Designer: Bakers Cottage Cakes
Calligrapher: Carousel Atelier
Other Location: Castillo De San Marcos
DIY Designer: Julia B Jewelry
Heirlooms and extras: JuliaBJewelry

Floral Designer: Julie Miner Events
Event Designer: KL Weddings & Events
Dress Store: L.A. Bridal Boutique
Apparel: Madame Lace
Equipment Rentals: Mimosas & Moonshine
Event Designer: sassy a la mode
Etsy Designer: Weft & Whimsy



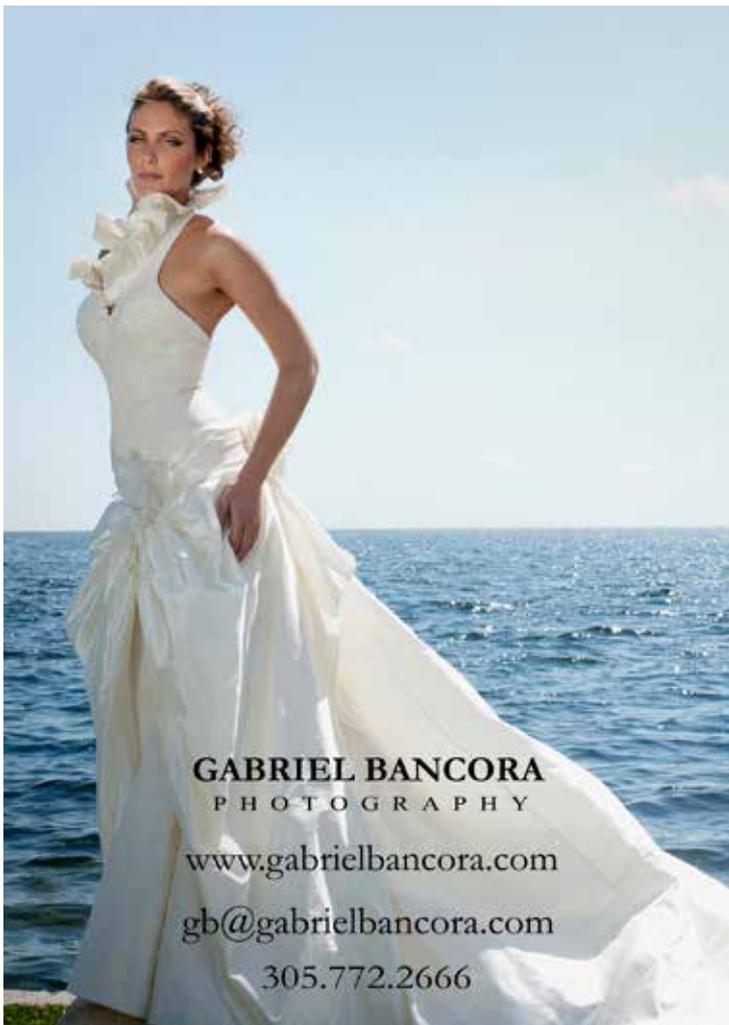
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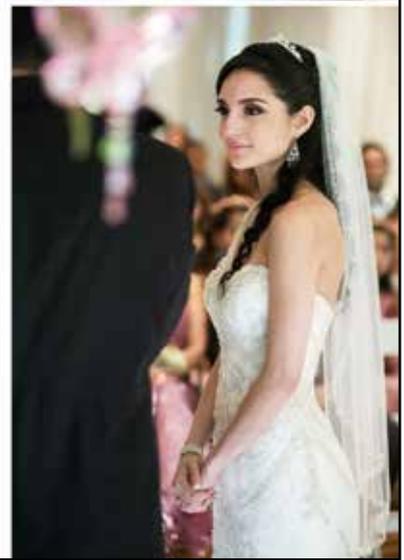
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DETAILS

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Linens and Coverings: Eventiste Rentals

Floral Designer: Miami Centerpieces

Event Designer: Susie Life Events

Invitation Designer: The Invitation Stand

Bakery: The Sweet House Desserts

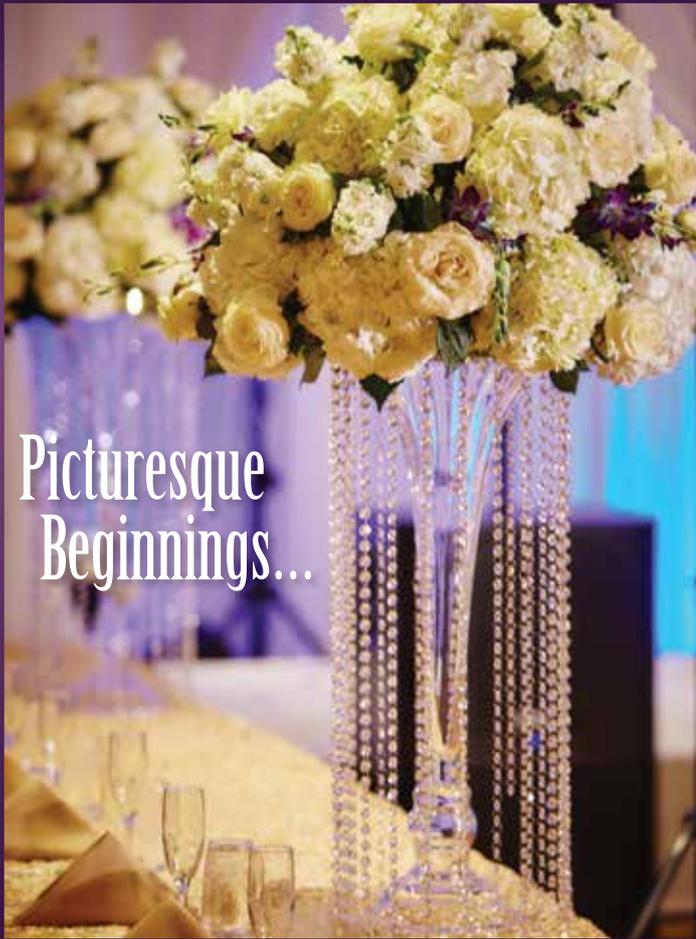
Location: Wolf Lake Park

Blushing Bride

Runway
Trends 2017



Off-the-shoulder wedding dresses, ruffled skirts, blush wedding dresses, and plunging necklines dominated the bridal trends on the Fall 2017 runways. Last season, we noticed a proliferation of open backs framed with lace. It was a simply stunning keyhole style that was re-imagined in this season's new collections, with fashion houses taking embellished back views to the next level. We were dazzled by backs featuring illusion netting, tulle flowers, sparkly beading, decadent appliqués and more.



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You most likely know what your birthstone is, but did you know that you also have a flower that is associated with your birth month? If you don't you aren't alone, so we put together a list of birth flowers for you. You may want to incorporate these flowers into your bridal bouquet or centerpieces at your reception to add a personal touch, or give them to someone special as a relevant gift on their birthday or special occasion. Who doesn't love to receive flowers?

January

Carnation or Snowdrop: January can be a cold month especially for those living up north. You wouldn't think of flowers blooming in such conditions, but leave it to mother nature to surprise us! The Carnation or Snowdrop is the flower associated with Capricorn and symbolizes love, fascination and distinction. Carnation also known as Gillyflower, comes in a variety of colors from pink to purple-red.



February

Violet: The flower for Aquarius is Violet or Iris. This flower symbolizes faithfulness, humility and chastity. Gifting violets in the Victorian era conveyed the message 'I'll always be true'. The flower is found in shades of blue, mauve as well as yellow and cream. The other February flower is the primrose, which lets someone know you can't live without them.

March

Daffodil: When you spot the daffodil blooming, spring is just around the corner. It is also known as a Jonquil or Narcissus. The colors of the bloom include white, yellow and orange. When sending these flowers as a gift the special message conveys a hidden meaning of friendship, happiness, rebirth, respect and regard.



April

Daisy or Sweet Pea: Aries is associated with the Daisy or Sweet Pea which bloom in a wide range of soft colors as well as two tone colors. The message it conveys is of innocence, and symbolizes pleasure or good-bye as the fire sign you are. There are five common varieties. In the Victorian era, these flowers formed a part of the bouquet which was sent to someone to convey gratefulness.

May

Lily of the Valley: Taurus is associated with the Lily of the Valley, generally white in color. You like steady, sensuous pleasures in life. The flower conveys chastity, sweetness and humility. It is sweet in scent and rare, but is also a highly poisonous woodland plant. It signifies a return to happiness. In the Victorian era, it was gifted to convey the romantic message 'you have made my life complete'. A wonderful message for couples to share.



June

Rose: The Rose or Honeysuckle is the flower of Gemini. You're all about making the people around you feel secure and nurtured. Though roses are available in many colors from red to pink to white to yellow, all have their own special meanings, the underlying message they convey is one of love and passion. The meanings can vary from Love, Passion, Beauty and Perfection. The meaning depends upon the color. For example, Red says love and romance, White symbolizes innocence, purity, and remembrance.



July

Tulip: The Larkspur, Tulip, or Water Lily is the flower for Cancer which conveys Levity and Lightness. It is naturally beautiful with gentle hues and a refreshing fragrance. The meaning of the flower depends on its color. Pink denotes contrariness, White expresses a happy nature and a first love is usually symbolized by Purple.

August

Gladiolus: The flower for Leo is the Gladiolus or Poppy. It is a long lasting flower bloom which comes in a variety of colors such as red, pink, white, yellow and orange. The Gladiolus stands for sincerity, moral integrity, remembrance, infatuation and symbolizes strength of character like the lion it is. Leos bring a positive energy and vitality everywhere they go.



September



Aster: The Aster or Morning Glory flower is associated with Virgo. It is found in a number of colors including pink, red, white, lilac and mauve. It resembles a star and is derived from the Greek word for star. The flower symbolizes love, faith and wisdom.

October

Calendula: The Calendula or Marigold or Cosmos is the flower associated with Libra. It is orange in color and stands for Contentment, Excellence, Loveliness, Good Luck, Grace, Gratitude, Joy, Love of Nature, Comfort, and True Love, hopeless romantic that you are.



November



Chrysanthemum: The Chrysanthemum, which stands for cheerfulness, compassion, friendship, joy and love is associated with Scorpio who are the most passionate sign associated with the zodiac. Chrysanthemums have different meanings. Red is for Love, White means innocence, and Yellow denotes unrequited love. According to Feng Shui, Chrysanthemums brings happiness and laughter in the house.

December

Orchid: The Holly, Poinsettia, Narcissus or Orchid is owned by fun loving Sagittarius. These flowers symbolize sweetness, good cheer and success. The Poinsettia comes in three distinct colors Red, White and Pink. "You Are The Special One" is the message this flower represents.



“ If I had a flower every time I thought of you, I could walk in my garden forever ”

British poet laureate Alfred Lord Tennyson



Incorporate your

Love Story on Your Wedding Day

By Staff Writer: Kristen Rocco

When I was planning my own Florida wedding back in 2013, it never occurred to me to incorporate my love story into my wedding day. I was focused on coordinating a grand affair featuring gorgeous florals and delicious food with a photographer who would take jaw-dropping photos, and before long I forgot about putting the “us” into our special day. Your love story is all those moments, big and small, over the span of your relationship that created the foundation of your love for each other. If I could do it over I would have thought harder about how to infuse my love story into my special day.

A few years after my wedding, I caught a glimpse of my beautiful wedding photos and it hit me that those photos only told a small fraction of our tale, leading me to where I am today. Now I help engaged couples personalize their weddings with their love stories, and I have uncovered countless unique and memorable ways that you can easily share your love story on your wedding day.

Here are four ideas to help you get started:

*“The greatest love stories
Live within pages...”*

Write your own wedding vows

Writing your own wedding vows is hands down the best way to personalize your wedding ceremony. It gives you the chance to express in your own words and straight from your heart why your partner is the one you want to spend the rest of your life with. Through your vows, you have the opportunity to share a part of your love story, reflecting on what’s special about your unique relationship as well as your personal feelings about the person you have fallen head over heels in love with. You can share how you met each other or when you knew he was the one, or why you adore your soon-to-be spouse for example. Your wedding guests are given an inside glimpse at your love for one another as well as each person’s individual personality that contribute to making you a beautiful team. A personal wedding vows exchange adds meaning to the rest of the celebration, and creates a lasting memory and wedding day keepsake that you will remember and hold onto for the rest of your lives.

Build a timeline of your significant relationship milestones

When did you meet? When was your first kiss? When did you know he was the one? What was your first big relationship moment? What traveling have you done as a couple? These are all great questions to answer that can help you build out a timeline of your relationship to showcase at your wedding. Write a description about each of your relationship milestones and pair it with a picture of the moment if you have one. Viola! Your wedding guests will gush over your favorite memories that brought you closer to saying, “I do.”

Create a display that represents a piece of your love story

Attending a fair share of weddings and bridal events myself, I have seen some ultra cool ways that couples depict their love story in elements of the wedding ceremony and reception. Think about some of your collective interests and hobbies and find fun ways to include those into your wedding day.

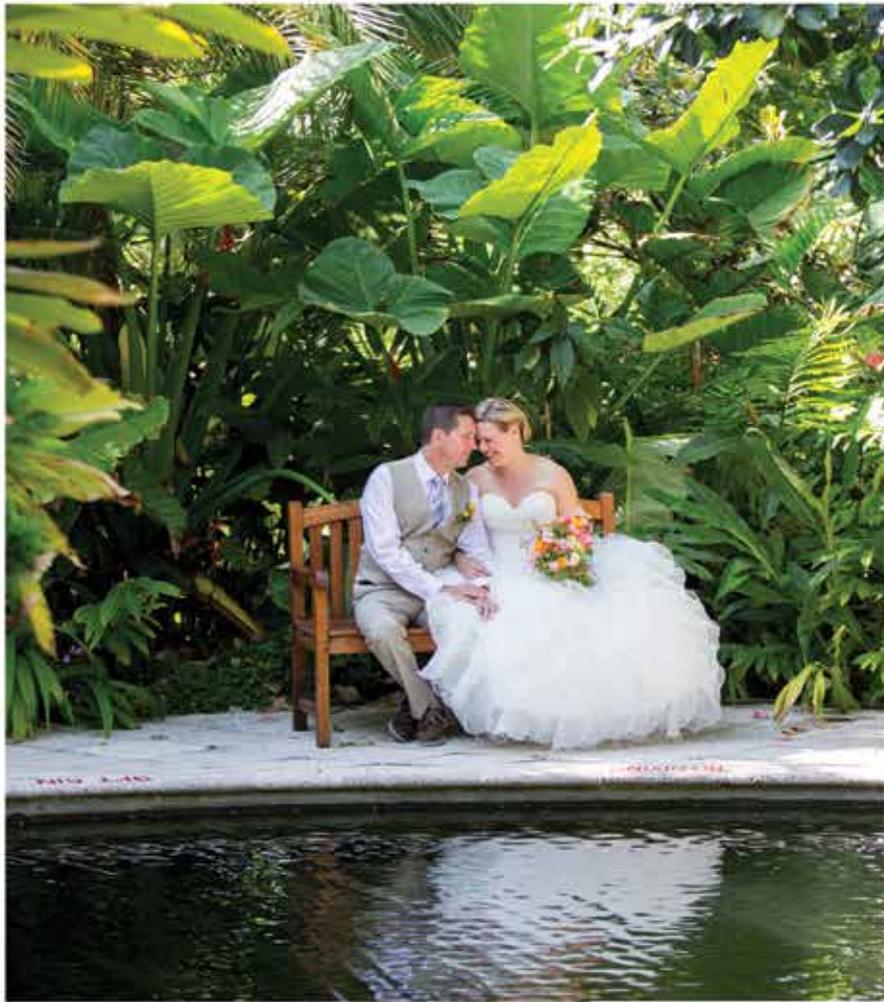
A fan of donuts? There’s a truck for that. Moved around the country together? Map it. Have a few favorite things? Put them in your guests’ welcome bag. The ideas are endless. Let your creativity shine and inspire your celebration by taking a page out of your own personal love story!

Document your love story and turn it into a beautiful keepsake to display on your wedding day

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but your specific thoughts about how you felt when you first met your fiancé, what made you fall in love and why you want to spend the rest of your life with him can’t be conveyed in a photograph. These feelings can only be communicated in words. A fun way to get outside of the daily minutia of wedding planning is to sit down together and recount your love story. Take notes of what happened, when, and how you felt during those moments. It will not only deepen your connection because you will get to relive some of the most special times of your lives, but you will also have the words of your love story which you can produce at your wedding in several ways.

Print your love story on your ceremony programs so your guests can learn the details of your romance as they await your entrance. Display it at your reception on your guest book table. Read it at the rehearsal dinner and set the tone for your wedding weekend. Writing is a beautiful art. Your guests will love reading about why you two are meant to be.

Kristen Rocco is the professional love storyteller and wedding writer of Love Notery. Putting her professional background as an interviewer and writer to work, she created Love Notery to help engaged couples capture their love stories in the beautiful words they deserve to enjoy on their wedding day and treasure as a wedding heirloom for generations. Find her and a collection of real-life love stories at www.lovenotery.com.



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Keeping your *Guests* comfortable

Yes, your wedding day is supposed to be all about the two of you! You have spent a lot of time and thought into each detail plus you want to make sure your guests are comfortable and happy.

If you are having a Beach wedding you may want to setup some items on the beach for the comfort of your guests. Items like bottled water, sunscreen, sunglasses, flip-flops, fans, parasols or umbrellas. These items are inexpensive and your guests will appreciate a cloth or brush for cleaning the sand off their feet. Though not required your guests will remember the thought you put into their comfort.

Welcome bags can include different items depending on where your wedding is being held.

If your wedding is a garden theme:

Blankets or pashminas would be a nice touch just in case there's a bit of a chill in the air.

Again welcome bags with water, snacks, tissues and bug spray. For out of town guests supplying information on what is in the area for them to do is helpful.



Give good directions for out of town guests. You don't want them to get lost and be late for your wedding. Placing baskets in restrooms is also a nice touch. Items to place in them can include: mouthwash, feminine hygiene products, safety pins, hairspray, combs, hangover cures and floss.

A new and fun trend in welcome bags has emerged. It's called Deconstruction Welcome Bags. What's that, your asking?

Setup a table with snacks, drinks, sweet treats, etc. and let your guests choose what to place in their own bag. It keeps them busy, and they enjoy it.

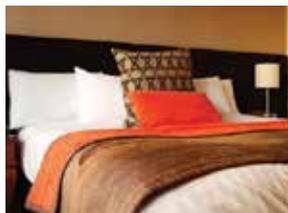




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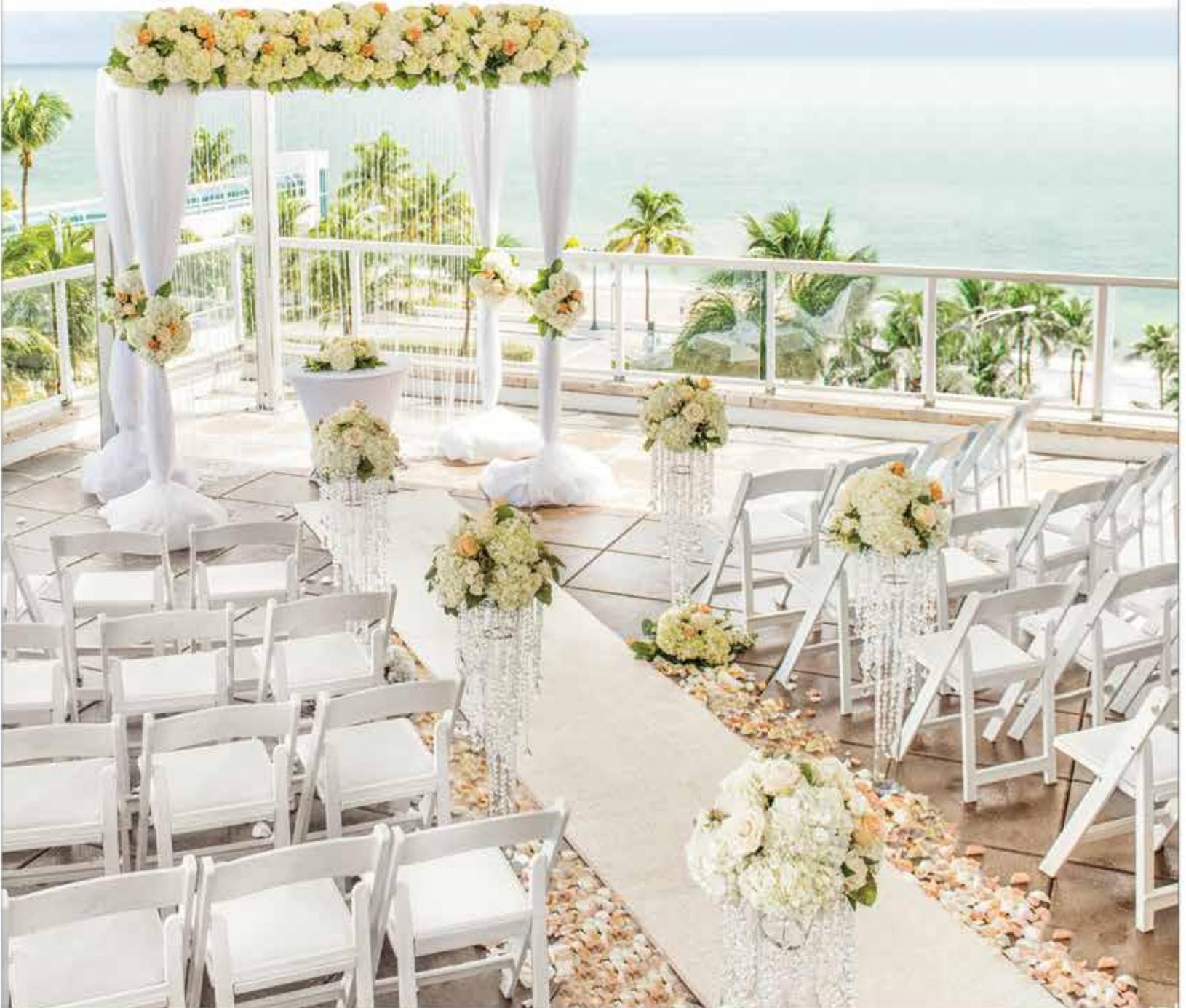


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Disney
**BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST**

In this classic version of Beauty and the Beast, a merchant asks his daughters what he may bring them from his travels; the elder two daughters ask for jewelry, but the youngest, Belle, asks for a rose...

This "Beauty and the Beast"-themed wedding shoot will have fans falling in love with the classic tale all over again.



Disney BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

This Enchanting wedding shoot will inspire Belle-themed brides...

The whimsical scene, shot at Pala Mesa Resort in Fallbrook, California, was created to inspire the inner Belle bride in everyone. "I was inspired to do a 'Beauty and the Beast' wedding shoot when I got married years ago," photographer Raelyn Elizabeth told Florida Bride. "I looked for a princess wedding dress and was so excited to find one that reminded me of Belle."

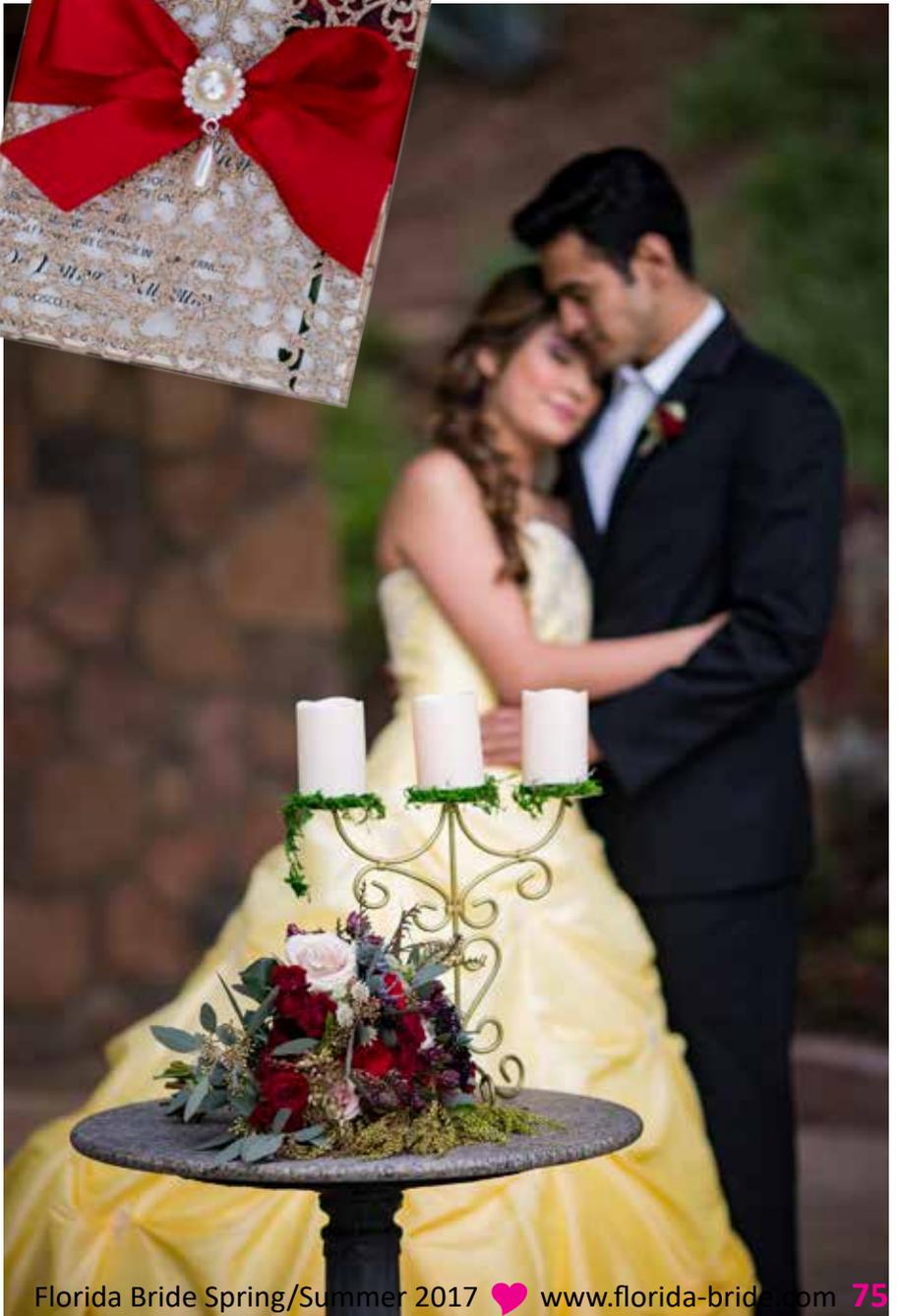


All of the fairy tale's classic characters and symbols were included in the shoot, from Lumiere the candelabra to Chip the teacup and Mrs. Potts the tea pot.

No enchanting detail was left out of this magical faux ceremony, from Belle's famous yellow dress to teacups and books. The gown used in the photo shoot, representing Belle's yellow dress, is Elizabeth's very own wedding gown that she dyed yellow.



But pulling off such an extravagant, detail oriented Disney-themed shoot is no easy feat. Elizabeth worked with a magical team of talented vendors, including wedding designer and event planners Tiffany Baldwin and Stacy Everett, florist Alicia Yokota, baker and cake artist Perla R Guerrero, stationery designer Adriana Tacu, hair and makeup artist Domenica Prestininzi, jewelry designer Nicolina Alves, custom sign designer Sandee Fosberg and models KaitLynn Markley as Belle and Fabian Lopez as the Beast.



Yours won't be just another cookie-cutter wedding -- here are our top ideas to make your wedding a standout celebration.

A Luxe Reception Lounge

Give guests a place to mingle between dance breaks by creating a lounge area at your reception. Fill the space with couches or chairs and plenty of pillows to sink into. It's the perfect way to keep everyone in on the party even when they're resting. Really want to wow 'em? Close off the area with curtains to create a VIP vibe.



A First-Dance Confetti Drop

Your first dance will be one of the highlights of your wedding, so add this extra-special touch to up the entertainment factor. If your song is slow and romantic, have fresh flower petals instead of confetti dropped from the ceiling. Your rental company and florist can work together to make this happen.

A Bubbly Bar

Make toast time delicious by letting guests customize their champagne. Dishes full of fruit purees, lavender sprigs, citrus twists and flavored ice cubes that can be spooned into glasses of bubbly will make the toast that much more fun.



Standout Escort Cards

Instead of a paper card that'll get lost or thrown away, upgrade your escort cards to something worth keeping (or eating!). Try personalized cakes with guests' names and table numbers written on them in icing (or on a cute tag), or engraved martini glasses that double as favors.

Your *Perfect Day* begins here...



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ever wondered how makeup artists achieve that flawless look on their clients?



Color Correctness

Have you ever wondered how makeup artists achieve that flawless look on their clients?

We see them on Instagram all the time putting on cream colors like green and orange and purple on their faces, and yet once they have blended the colors end up with a flawless complexion. It's called color correcting. Currently it is a hot trend, but very confusing to us who are not professional makeup artists. To clarify how to use these different shades we have done a bit of investigating for you.



First: A traditional concealer, the one we have to blot on a pimple, are actually made to brighten our skin. Whereas, color correctors camouflages discoloration. So, instead of covering a dark spot or pimple you would place a green or orange color corrector on it!

A good rule of thumb is to look at a color wheel. When you see two colors across from one another they are complement colors and cancel each other out. Therefore, if you have a very red pimple you would use a green corrector which is a complementing hue and it would neutralize the pink tones that are in the pimple.

Secondly: Finding the right mixture is a must when it comes to a multihued method.

Liquids tend to be more subtle and pasty looking. So, if you are placing it on a large area go with a liquid. For small areas like blemishes or under your eyes go with a thicker cream formula.

Here are some tips and tricks for you to follow:

Yellow is a good choice for Fair to Tan complexions, especially for redness or blemishes and the nose area. It is considered the most popular corrector because of its versatile nature and red-blurring power. Lighter skin individuals whose dark spots tend to appear purple will love how it can even their tone.

Green works great on Fair to Medium complexions that have red undertones. It is used to combat redness from breakouts and rosacea. You want it to neutralize the discolorations so use a product that is sheer and not too opaque. A lightweight, pearlescent formula is very versatile and will create a smooth finish.

Orange/Red is perfect for extreme dark circles and works best on Tan to deep complexions with blue undertones. It was inspired by a popular vlogger technique using red lipstick on undereye circles. Instead dab a rich orange-red cream on the dark circles and it will cancel the deep blue and purple shadows.

Now that you know the inside scoop, you can have that flawless complexion too!



9 tips to make you look photogenic



1. Apply your eye makeup first so stray eyeshadow doesn't mess up your foundation.

2. Line the upper inner rim of your eye with a waterproof eye liner to make lashes look fuller.

3. Add lots of mascara to open the eye and draw focus to it.

4. For that flawless look try a slightly sheer foundation, but provides coverage.

5. Put foundation on your ears so they don't look a different color than your face.

6. Don't highlight the inner "V" corners of your eyes, instead use concealer in that area to brighten your eyes.

7. Contour your face with a blush brush to add angles applying bronzer along the hairline, temples, under cheekbones and underside of your jawline.

8. Add blush for subtle dimension - especially if you're not a fan of bronzer.

9. Fill in those brows to give the appearance of them being fuller and longer.



MAKE YOUR PORES *Look Smaller...*

LOOKING GREAT



Easy ways to small pores!

Have you ever wondered if it is possible to totally erase your pores? Well its not! And don't you think its too synthetic, if you do not have pores? Well if you really hate it. You can at least make them appear smaller. Let us tell you how to accomplish just that.

Many of us have a hard time trying to make our pores appear smaller. About 47% of women in the United States would love to be able to it. We first need to begin by educating ourselves on what causes our pores to look larger. These culprits are among the causes: Sun exposure, Oil, Dirt and then we can always blame our parents for our genetics!

We have done our research and came up with some tips to help downsize those pores:

Oil Absorption: Try using a toner to absorb oil. You don't want to over dry your skin either. Toners help to absorb oil while cleaning and tightening pores, this makes it difficult for debris to penetrate the skin.

Improve Your Skin Care Regimen: Experiment with a pore vanishing cream. It minimizes the look of pores and over time shrinks the pores size.

Home Remedies: Use a small amount of brown sugar and mix it with apple cider vinegar and water. Place the combination over your skin and gently exfoliate. This will help clean your pores.



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Georgina Chapman with Florida Bride Editor Grace Crompton

ROOTED IN THE SERENE

yet vibrant beauty of the majestic garden

British born Georgina Chapman has built a fashion empire defined by elegant eveningwear and one of a kind couture designs. With the extravagant and eccentric fashion icon and Italian heiress as their muse, Georgina's beautifully crafted runway collections and accessories line fuse exquisite detailing with supreme femininity. Coveted not only by celebrities, but by women of all ages, Marchesa continues to be the centerpiece of iconic red carpet moments and high end fashion alike. Based in New York, the Marchesa collections are presently available world- wide. Now with the launch of their premiere fragrance, there is a new and enticing way to experience the luxury of Marchesa.

The Marchesa Spring 2018 collection premiered at New York Bridal Fashion Week and our Editor Grace Crompton was there to bring you all the fabulous new looks.

We take you behind the scenes of this on of a kind runway presentation. Marchesa Bridal Spring 2018 collection is a promenade along the leafy hedge-lined pathways of Castle Howard, a prominent brick-walled garden in England. A paradise of intoxicating florals, the collection is rooted in the serene, yet vibrant beauty of the majestic garden.



"Georgina puts on the final touches before the show."

Enchanting ruffle bows and feathered flower details embellish open-back gowns and dropped-waist bodices. Silver beaded threadwork and 3D pearl embroidery are layered over romantic Chantilly lace underlay and delicate illusion tulle. Engineered corded lace and shirred tulle ruffles add texture to off-the-shoulder gowns and cocktail dresses. Strapless fit-and-flare gowns are crafted in silk faille and stretch crepe while ball gowns are draped in taffeta and feature constructed lace bodices. Classic silhouettes take new form with bell sleeves and detachable embroidered tulle capes and overskirts.





The Art of Engagement

MARION & JACOB



It all started in the 6th grade, Jacob would tease me as a way of childish flirting, but I could have never imagined it would end up with us having a wedding date rapidly approaching! We spent 6 years in grade school growing up together, before I transferred to a new school.

Fast forward to college, Jacob and I remained close friends and always made it a point to see each other during the holidays. We lost touch for a few years and in 2012 we rekindled a flame between us that never seemed to die down. I knew at this point that he was the man I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. On October 2015 Jacob proposed to me in an unconventional way I never saw coming.....The day started out as a complete bummer. I planned to watch a U of L football game with some of my best friends, until one after another they oddly started to cancel on me. Little did I know Jacob was behind the scenes frantically calling, Facebook messaging and texting my friends to NOT show up to the game!



Jacob had gone to the gym earlier in the day and when he arrived home he could see that I was upset about my friends bailing on me. He threw a crazy suggestion out there that maybe we should try a helicopter tour (something we had not done in the past).

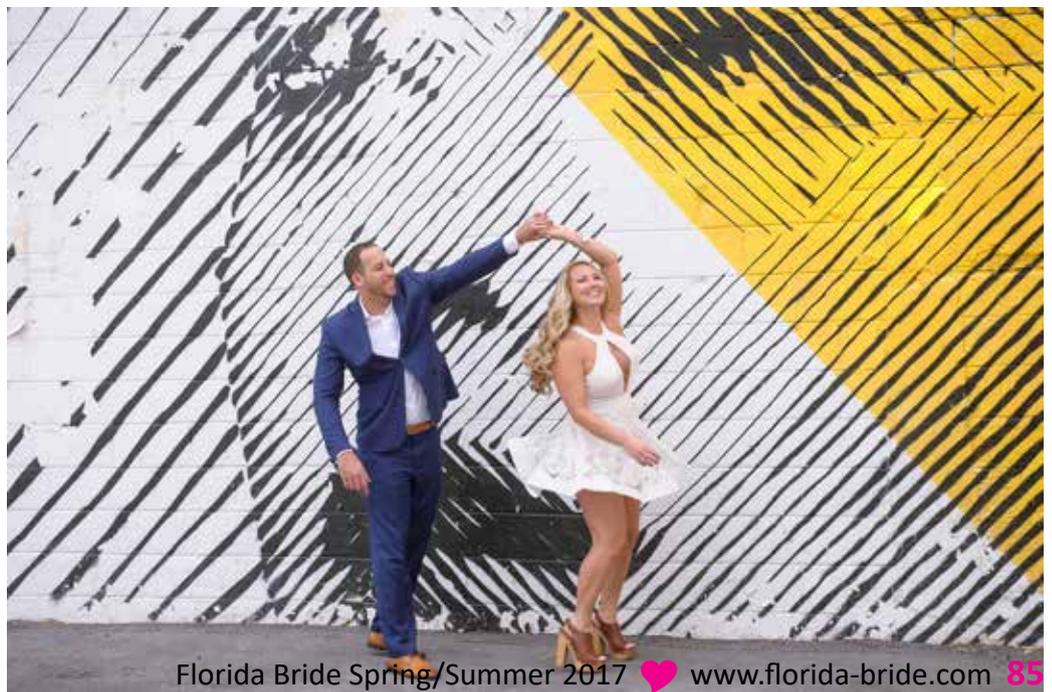
At this point Jacob had already spent nearly two weeks creating a 40 foot banner that was all part of his plan. Our families were working behind the scenes to create our special day. We both got ready and headed down to Miami.



Our tour lead us to the haulover inlet, where Jacobs brother Michael laid out the "WILL YOU MARRY ME!," banner. I was so confused and caught off guard I did not realize this was all done for me. As I quickly turned to my left Jacob had the ring in hand and a huge smile all awaiting my response. Which was "YES!" Of course!



And now we are planning & envisioning our wedding day to be a gathering of our closest family and friends who will be joining us under a canopy of trees and twinkly lights with a romantic vintage feel at The Women's Club of Coconut Grove.



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Lara TRUMP

Lara Yunaska Trump is married to Eric Trump, the son of United States President Donald Trump. She currently lives in New York City, NY, with her husband, Eric Trump, and their miniature Beagle, Charlie. The photo shoot was held at Mar-a-Lago and Lara is wearing designs from Project Runway's Under the Gunn winner Oscar Lopez.



A woman with blonde hair styled in an updo is posing in a long, gold sequined gown. She is standing in a room with white walls and gold decorative elements, including a large white column with gold accents. The gown has a long train and is covered in gold sequins and lace. She is looking over her shoulder towards the camera.

She is a native of Wilmington, North Carolina and graduated North Carolina State University with degrees in Communications and French. Later, she went overseas to study at the Universite Catholique de Lille, France.

Lara formerly worked as an Associate Producer for the CBS television news program, Inside Edition. In 2007, she moved to New York City to attend The French Culinary Institute where she earned a degree in Pastry Arts. As a former personal trainer, Lara remains an avid nutrition & fitness enthusiast and regularly runs full & half marathons for various charities, including the New York City Marathon for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Describe a typical day in the life of Lara Trump.

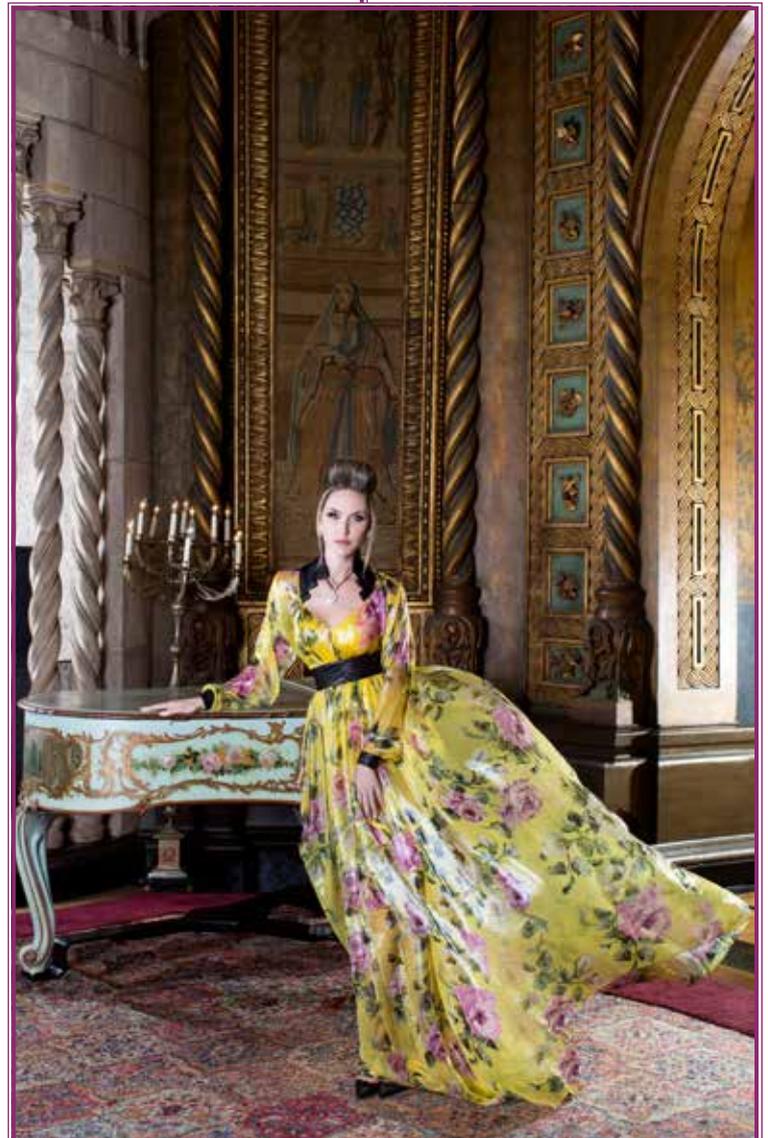
These days, nothing is really "typical"! I took two months off of my job as a producer at Inside Edition to campaign for my father-in-law. Unfortunately for our two dogs, my husband Eric and I are on the road ALL THE TIME! There are a few things that are musts for me, one of them is exercise. When I was on the campaign trail, I tried to make time (even if it's waking up ridiculously early) to move my body. It was the one constant that I needed to really keep myself centered and feeling energized on the campaign trail. I try to start off my day, wherever I am, with exercise.

Do you spend much time in South Florida?

Yes! My husband and I are down in Florida all the time! We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to escape the cold on weekends in the winter and, we love Florida so much that we actually got married at The Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach. Florida is truly a second home to the Trump family.

Who are your favorite designers?

When I first saw designs by Oscar Lopez, I fell in love. He really has a classy, unique style that immediately drew me to him. As a whole, I don't base my style on specific designers, just what I feel best in. I'm really inspired by the beautiful lace of Marchesa, the simple elegance of Diane von Furstenberg, the unique layering of Self Portrait and the embellishment of Valentino.



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Real Weddings

Classical Elegance

Jenna & Adam are quick to laugh and so bubbly with love for one another. These two and their classically elegant wedding were a breath of fresh air! The couple chose PGA National Resort & Spa for the perfect setting for their I Do's. Their wedding day was so beautiful and full of love.



the details

Photographer: Palm Beach Photography, Inc.
Cinema and Video: Black Label Wedding Films
Band: Gypsy Lane Band
Floral Designer: J Morgan Flowers
Cake Designer: Johnsons Custom Cakes
Tuxedo and Mens Attire: Men's Wearhouse
Reception Venue: PGA National Resort & Spa
Officiant: Rabbi Marc Labowitz
Dress Designer: Zola Keller

Jenna & Adam

PGA National Resort & Spa

Jenna looked stunning in her Zola Keller gown and Adam's first look of his lovely bride will make your heart drop. While the day floated by filled with laughter and joy, Jenna & Adam ended the evening with a private moment by the pool. Cheers to your happily ever after!



Extraordinary Wedding Style

Unique wedding ideas

When wedding planning, you often see the same ideas, themes and styles over and over again. If you are looking for something unique for your wedding reception, we have the answers. Check out our favorites for some extraordinary wedding ideas.



#1 Vintage-Chic Inspired



A very clever romance-inspired vintage chic wedding idea: A decorative display in keeping with the “love in words” wedding theme is created using props that include an old pink vintage typewriter into which the wedding invitation itself is displayed. The display is placed on a table just within the entrance of the reception room to give guests their first taste of the theme for the evening.

The theme is centered on love communicated through the written word in poetry and music, so old sheet music, framed poems, and books of poetry are also worked into the pretty display. A great example of how wedding decor can be individualized and personalized with the use of just a little imagination and creativity! Use these ideas to inspire you to see what one of a kind ideas you can come up with for your wedding!

#2 Rocks for Guests to Sign!

Want to do something different for the sign-in table at your wedding reception? Here's a really unique and creative idea for an alternative to the traditional guest book. Have guests sign rocks. Yes, rocks. In the weeks before the wedding, spend an afternoon with your fiancé to go rock hunting. Pack a picnic lunch and make a memory out of it. This makes your “guest book” all the more extra special – as the years go by, not only will the rocks remind you of your wedding, but they'll remind you of that lovely afternoon you spent together, hand-picking each rock, one by one. Look for rocks that have a flattened surface that will make it easy for guests to write on.

Then at the wedding reception, have a helper lay out all the rocks on the “guest book” table at the entry way to the reception, or place the rocks in a basket (or a combination of the two). As guests enter the reception, they select a rock for themselves, and sign it using a felt tip marker. Make sure you have numerous felt tips on hand in case a guest accidentally walks away with one, and also because rocks are somewhat porous, so a lot of ink will get absorbed into the rock as guests are signing, and the felt tip markers can wear out more quickly than usual.

If the rocks are large enough, guests may also have room to write a short message of well wishes to you. Have a second basket on hand for guests to put their signed rock into.

After the wedding, you can display the rocks in your home in a large, clear glass cylinder vase, or in a large basket. What a wonderful way to capture the energy of your wedding day in a lasting way. It's a really meaningful keepsake of your wedding that you'll still be enjoying years into the future.



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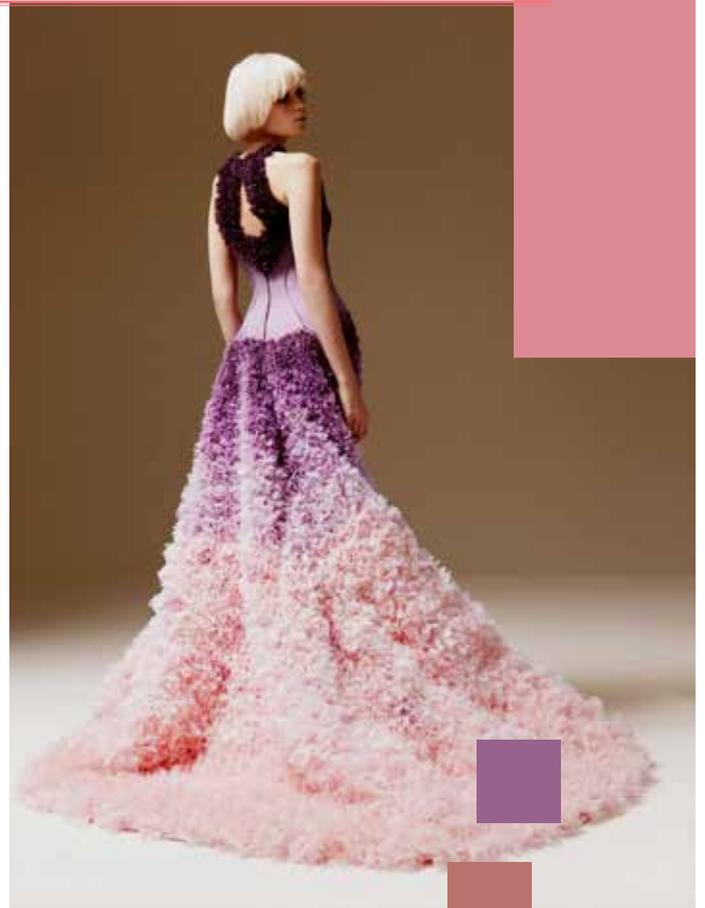
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Dresses *to Dye for...*



Not every bride imagines a white wedding for her big day. While tradition is all well and good, we definitely live in a day and age where the “normal” route is not the only one to take. In fact, doing something unique and one-of-a-kind is widely considered the way to go, especially for your special day! We’ve been seeing funky wedding trends with unusual wedding cakes and unique, outdoor wedding venues. But this new wedding trend trumps them all.

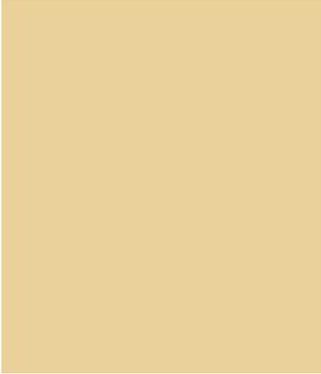
The newest fad? Dip-dyed wedding dresses. You might only know the term “dip-dyed” in the context of furniture, but it’s essentially the same idea – only with wedding dresses. And the results are absolutely stunning. Most brides have been achieving the look by airbrushing or sending their dress off to be dyed. The end result is an ombre-like effect with some really gorgeous, romantic colors. This is one creative way to give your dress the pop you’ve been searching for.



People are really playing with this trend in some cool ways! Try a layered dress that doesn't just play with one color, but actually layers a few different ones. It can look like an indigo sunset.



Rather than colors on the visible outside of the dress, some brides choose to have the underlayer of their dress dyed! This is a fun way to personalize your dress without completely changing the traditional, white look and it would make for some amazing wedding photos, too!



quick tip!
Use a color to match your bouquet!

New York Fashion Week:

Men's Spring 2017 Street Style Takes Manhattan

As New York Fashion Week Men kicks off for the Spring/Summer 2017 edition, fashion week's requisite well-heeled observers have flooded out into the streets to bask in the sun. This means plenty of cool, breezy silhouettes, sunglasses galore, and a blend of street-ready sneakers, bombers, and cuffed trousers and dapper, polished suiting and blazers. Male models may rule the runways of the Spring 2017 shows (though designers like Tim Coppens are still calling the menswear/womenswear dichotomy into question, casting female models in his most recent show), but on the streets, it's anyone's game.



On Track

This season's sporty vibe continued with a modern update on the classic tracksuit. Tommy Hilfiger, Todd Snyder and Stampd's Chris Stamp offered retro styles that brought to mind Wes Anderson's *The Royal Tenebaums*. Chas Tenenbaum would be proud.



Think Pink

"We saw a lot of pastel fresh colors for guys, specifically dusty pink," said Sam Lobban, buying manager for Mr. Porter, at the e-commerce site's block party during NYFW:M. Indeed, a handful of collections — Rochambeau, John Elliott and Brett Johnson included — showcased at least one rosy look. Here's to giving Brad Pitt's 2009 Cannes suit a run for its money.



Dude, Just Relax

Comfort continues to be a priority. "In terms of trousers, I'm seeing a more relaxed chino, a wider leg chino, which is much easier to wear in the summer," added Dan Rookwood, the US editor of Mr. Porter. Not only did the baggy trouser trend from the Paris runways dominate NYFW:M, cuffed bottoms (as seen at Nick Graham, which was attended by Bill Nye) and drawstring pants (spotted at Brett Johnson) were also a fashion hit.

Stripes on Stripes

Stripes are coming in a variety of sizes and colors this season, as Tommy Hilfiger and Michael Kors give the shape an Americana twist. Stampd also put its stamp of approval (get it?) on stripes with a matching hoodie and above-the-knee shorts.

The spring trends are in from New York Fashion Week's Spring 2017 shows, and we've got a good idea of what we'll be wearing in the coming season—once we finally come out the other side of the cold weather, that is. While many brands experimented with a “see-now-buy-now” format this season—Tom Ford, Thakoon, Rebecca Minkoff, and Ralph Lauren among them—the vast majority still did things the old-fashioned way, giving us a chance to preview their wares six months before they land in stores. Some of the trends that dominated 2016—off-the-shoulder styles, Vetements-style hoodies—are still kicking. That said, there will still be plenty of bare clavicles, thanks to slouchy, one-shoulder pieces and a wave of skimpy bra tops, and athleisure's influence still reigned at brands with sportswear in their DNA, such as DKNY, Lacoste, and Alexander Wang.



Super Stripes

Bold, bright, and brilliantly textured, spring's stripes are a jolt of energy in a sea of classic Bretons. And while they came in all shades of the rainbow this season, our favorites were those that featured graphic primary colors anchored down with some polished black (naturally, Rosie Assoulin's sequin shirtdress was another standout of the week).

Garden Party

I know, I know: groundbreaking. But in all seriousness, the season's florals felt fresh in their unabashed femininity, blooming up and down long, tiered skirts, ruffled jumpsuits, and voluminous sleeves.



Bra Tops

For those with ample confidence (and not-so-ample cleavage), there will be endless opportunities next spring to take the crop-top trend to its logical conclusion and skip the “top” part all together. Lingerie-like pieces were paired with evening skirts, cropped jeans, slinky suits, and more at shows as varied as Alexander Wang, Tory Burch, and Oscar de la Renta. With a few months yet till they hit the shelves, we at least have plenty of time to start working on our abs in preparation.



Updated Oxfords

The classic striped button-down has been turned on its head (sometimes quite literally) this season, with designers adding flounces, slashing shoulders, and super-sizing the silhouette, stripping it of

Shades of Blue

One of the easiest colors to wear was also one of the most popular across the board this season—which should come as



some relief to those in need of a break from black and white, but aren't quite ready to heed designers' calls for orange as a new neutral. From the palest seafoam to the richest cerulean, blues are a tune everyone can sing.



any stale, corporate connotations in the process. It's a look that pays homage to tradition, but shows you're not too concerned with playing by the rules.

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Vela Burke

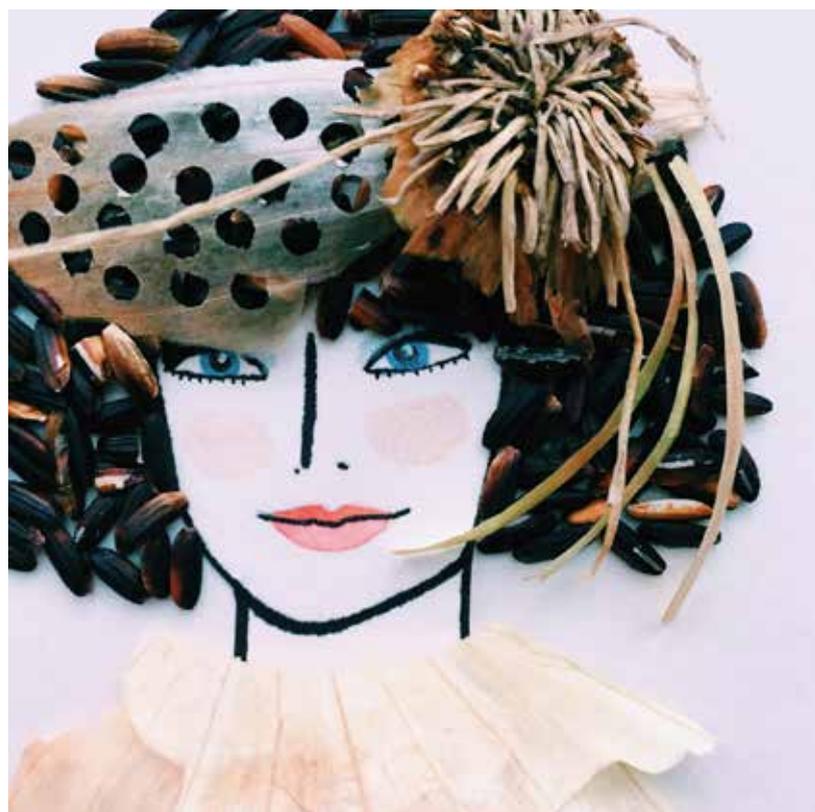
artfully delicious



Vela Burke is a graphic illustrator who got her start at the tender age of four selling her artwork outside her mother's store in Barcelona. Thousands of hours spent drawing, landed her in art school, where she fell in love with design. Vela has illustrated, designed and branded numerous successful licensed product lines including greeting cards, party goods and seasonal decor. She currently lives in Brooklyn Heights, NY with her singer-songwriter husband, and budding artist daughter, and spends her free time biking, rollerblading and searching the world over for the perfect lemonade.

What inspired you to do food portraits?

I made my first Bite Size Portrait on March 23, 2016. I had been suffering from analysis paralysis with my art, and as I was making dinner (again), something just snapped. I basically said "that's it, I'm making a piece of art with these ingredients in front of me right now." After that, something opened up. I just happen to love cooking, and becoming a Mom (7 years ago) really made me a home chef. I started thinking about how much I've interacted with food over the last 7 years, and was surprised I hadn't thought of this sooner. I am passionate about eating well, home cooking, and family dinner. In hindsight, if I had to sum up my project, I would say it's a celebration of this Michael Pollan quote towards the end of 'Cooked' (documentary, Netflix), in celebration of cooking "For is there any practice less selfish, any labor less alienated, any time less wasted, than preparing something delicious and nourishing for people you love?"



What was your process like day-to-day?

Being 7 years into Motherhood, I am a meal planner. I came to be one out of necessity. A toddler is not interested in going to Trader Joe's everyday. So I make my meal plan on Sunday, and shop on Monday with just a couple of stops during the week for fresh ingredients. I tried to plan for unique, interesting ingredients. Ones that had artistic potential. Then I just ate as usual, noticing if my current meal might be the most interesting of the day. After eating, or during if I was really inspired, I'd start to play with the ingredients. If you cut shallots just so, you get the cutest bob, red lentils make the prettiest red hair, and onion skin turns into veils. It was so much fun. I'd play with the ingredients, until I could feel something starting to take shape. The ingredients would take on a life of their own.

What was your inspiration?

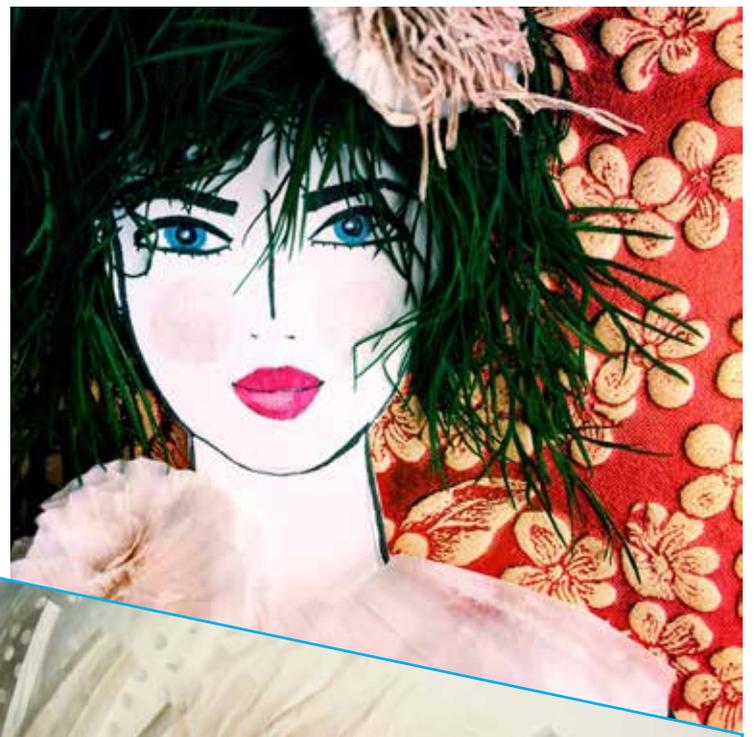
It all started with a dinner of split pea soup, salad, and garlic bread. I was about a week in, when I realized I had a problem. While I have a healthy diet, I am a creature of habit, and can eat the same thing every day. I've been known to eat oatmeal for breakfast for 6 months straight! This project wasn't going to be very interesting with that meal plan. It forced me out of my natural inclination to eat the same things. I had to become a more adventurous eater. I would have never tried Dragon Fruit before, and it was delicious! Soon I was shopping for variety, and for aesthetics. Whole Foods is beautiful, but the produce aisle takes on a whole new glow when the shallots look like shirts, and the dill looks like hair.

What were some of your favorite ingredients to work with

I love working with skins; onion, garlic, shallots, etc. The skin is so delicate, and lovely. It can become anything from hair, a billowy shirt to an onion rose (my favorite!) One day I took out a hole punch and created a lace veil out of white onion skin for one of the Bite Size Portraits.

What other materials did you use?

I started off with my daughters watercolors and jelly rolls (glittery pens). They were in front of me, so I just grabbed them. After the first couple of weeks, I bought myself a sketchbook, pencils and pens to create the faces. But my main materials were the food, knives, kitchen scissors and cutting board.



Learn more about Bite Size Portraits

Q&A about Vela Burke's

'Bite Size Portraits' (@brooklynblueday)

"The ingredients would take on a life of their own!"



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A little Wedding Day Training

Wedding Dress Trains

Wedding dress trains can add a touch of elegance and be a dramatic accent to any wedding dress. Determining which style works best can be daunting as there are many types to choose from. Some details to take into consideration when deciding on a train are the location and wedding style (traditional, extravagant, simple, etc.). Below are examples from Alexandra Grecco, Tara Lauren, Julie Vino, and Moonlight Bridal of some of the most popular styles.

1

SWEEP TRAIN

The sweep train is a great choice for an outdoor or casual wedding or for indoor brides who want a simpler look. This is the shortest of the wedding dress trains and brushes about six inches along the floor. Plus, if you opt for a sweep train, you don't have to worry about a bustle either!



Alexandra Grecco



Tara Lauren

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possible way

2

WATTEAU TRAIN

The Watteau train would be ideal for a destination or outdoor wedding. This train attaches to the top of the dress at the shoulders or upper-back and gives gowns a more dramatic look. This is another hassle-free train as the bride can remove it after the ceremony for the reception.



Alexandra Grecco



Julie Vino



Morilee

3

CHAPEL TRAIN

The chapel train is the most popular type of train. It is a nice middle ground for brides who want to keep it simple while still making a statement. This one extends about five feet from the waist.



Moonlight Bridal

4

CATHEDRAL TRAIN

A cathedral train is ideal for the bride who wants all eyes on her at an indoor, formal wedding. While this train is stunning, it measures about six or seven feet behind the waist and will require some assistance. Your bridesmaids can help with keeping the train in order during pictures and the ceremony and bustling.

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Julie Vino



Julie Vino



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Trends that will be Huge... in 2017!

Planning a 2017 wedding? Some of our favorite wedding experts have given us a sneak peek at what wedding trends are on the rise. Here's what's going to be trendy with weddings in the coming year.

A Color Comeback

Color is making a comeback, versus all-white weddings. We're seeing less floral and more props as well as hanging centerpieces and more lighting patterns in abundance.



Destinations

While tropical paradises like Florida and the Bahamas still top the list of hot spots to tie the knot, we've seen Iceland, Canada and Italy emerge as popular locales.



Garden Florals

With florals, we're going to keep seeing garlands, as well as organic bouquets and centerpieces.



Vertical Impact

When it comes to wedding decor, couples are looking up for inspiration. They are taking advantage of the vertical space above guest tables.



Guests

Couples are looking for ways to engage their guests throughout the wedding day. Interactive food stations and lawn games are great.



Elaborate Entrances

We are seeing a rise in elaborate entrances and we expect to see this trend continue into the New Year. This includes over-the-top décor as guests make their way to the event, as well as incorporating unique entertainment (think fire starters!) that grabs guests' attention.



Dynamic Desserts

There will always be a place for the traditional wedding cake, but more couples are embracing alternatives such as doughnuts, cookies and even cheese.



Techy Wedding

We've also seen more couples live-streaming their ceremony as more hotels are offering it in their wedding packages.



Adorable and oh so precious!

flower girls...

Today the flower girl, or even flower girls if your so inclined, are a precious addition to any wedding party. So adorable in their gowns as they walk down the aisle, the question becomes how did these cuties become such an entrenched wedding tradition? And, while we would be tempted to say that it's because we all can't wait to pick out their sweet little dresses and accessories, the flower girls origin can actually be traced back through the centuries!



The meanings and duties of the flower girl have really remained fairly stable throughout the passing ages and even into modern times — a great feat considering how much many of our other wedding traditions have changed! Always a representation of the beauty and joy of youth, the flower girl is a beacon of whimsy.

The petals she scatters are viewed as a symbol of fertility, giving the couple luck. In the past herbs were scattered as a way to ward off evil (our ancestors sure were worried about the evil spirits at a wedding!) but the main idea of the transformation of the bride from childhood, as represented by the flower girl, was and still is a major focus.

And, while we might not have as much of a symbolic take on today's flower girls we agree with many that the ancient metaphors are still holding strong plus did we mention how darling they are?

Now that you know the history of these little cuties, its' time to start thinking about their accessories! Some of our favorites are:



5 Ways to stay **HAPPY** in your relationship

Ever wondered why some couples stay in a long healthy relationship and others just drift away? It seems that couples who are successful have learned how to maintain habits to keep their love alive. It isn't a given that you're naturally going to keep that spark alive, so figuring out how to keep passion in your relationship is important. Build habits in your everyday schedule to become happily ever after.

Physical attraction – what brought you together in the first place is something you don't want to let go. Take care of yourself and if you see your mate dwindling on that aspect take them shopping or pick up some nice items for them. Whether it be clothing or cologne. Keep them and yourself in style.

1



Finding Time for one another – when you first met there were probably flowers and chocolates, lots of talking – that usually decreases as you get to know each other more, but that doesn't mean the intimacy has to. At unexpected times of the day find those special moments to look deep into each other's eyes & say tender words of love to one another.

2

Arguing – yes, you heard that right. Learning what and not what to say can make or break a relationship. You are going to have disagreements, but it doesn't mean you have to go to war to get your way. Words can be so hurtful, watch what you say! You can't take them back no matter how much apologizing you do. Play fair and get your point across, but don't hurt each other's feelings doing it. Never, ever let it get personal.

3



Telling your partner how special they are to you – Mutual admiration and respect will remind you why you fell in love with them in the first place. Pay attention to them and let them know just how important they are in your life. Research shows that you always desire to be with someone who thinks you are fantastic!

4



Doing things together – Just because you each have different things you like to do does not mean you are not interested in each other anymore. If there are mutual hobbies that both of you like to do even better, biking, scuba, golfing can all be mutually fulfilling and bring closeness to your relationship.

Remember you are still individuals and just like the author Kahlil Gibran said in the book "The Prophet"

Stand together yet not too near together: For the pillars of the temple stand apart, and the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

5





Your Top 30

It's Your Wedding Day, how exciting! It's a feeling like no other. There's so much to do, everyone will be there soon and all of your pre-wedding festivities are about to begin with all of your closest family and friends. It's times like this when memories surround you, and a great music playlist helps you feel the love. Here's a list of songs that will help get the party started:



1. "Happy," Pharrell Williams
2. "I Gotta Feeling," The Black Eyed Peas
3. "I Do," Colbie Caillat
4. "Dancing in the Moonlight," Toploader
5. "Rude," Magic!
6. "All My Life," K-Ci & JoJo
7. "Drunk in Love," Beyoncé and Jay Z
8. "Dreams," The Cranberries
9. "I Love It," Icona Pop featuring Charli XCX
10. "What a Feeling," Peter Lus featuring Dominico
11. "Just You and I," Ricky Blaze
12. "We Found Love," Rihanna featuring Calvin Harris
13. "Everybody in Love," JSL
14. "Stuck Like Glue," Sugarland
15. "Teenage Dream," Katy Perry
16. "Mine," Taylor Swift
17. "Feel So Close," Calvin Harris
18. "Best Day of My Life," American Authors
19. "All of Me," John Legend
20. "Love and Marriage," Frank Sinatra
21. "Everything," Michael Bublé
22. "(You Drive Me) Crazy," Britney Spears
23. "Kiss Me," Sixpence None the Richer
24. "Wishin' & Hopin'," Dusty Springfield
25. "Kiss You," One Direction
26. "More Than Anyone," Gavin DeGraw
27. "Friday I'm in Love," The Cure
28. "Ten Feet Tall," Afrojack
29. "Chapel of Love," The Dixie Cups
30. "Marry You," Bruno Mars

Grooms Corner

Make your Groom's suit *Pop!*

You're not a basic bride, so girls, don't let your groom be anything but extraordinary on the big day either! Memories may fade, but pictures last forever, and you'll both want to look back on those images one day thinking, "Wow, we looked good, didn't we?" From finding the perfect fit to making all the little details count, here are some foolproof ways to ensure your groom's wedding suit pops.

Kick the neckwear up a notch

Whether you're having a fancy black tie affair in a five-star hotel or an intimate bohemian wedding in an enchanted forest, a dapper bow tie that stands out from the crowd is a must. Don't be afraid to play around with patterns and color, especially if you're keeping the rest of your look fairly simple.



Make every detail count

Because it's all in the details! Accent his look with a lapel pin or a pocket square for a subtle compliment to his suit or tux.

Don't hang the groomsmen out to dry

They're a direct representation of your groom so you'll want to make sure they're dressed accordingly. For this reason, a black tux, navy or grey suit are traditional staples in every man's wardrobe. Selecting one of these classic styles for the groomsmen to wear on the wedding day could potentially save them some dough or give them a good reason to make a stylish purchase with the future in mind.



Put his feet first

Your groom should splurge on a nice pair of shoes for the big day. Unlike you, he'll actually be able to wear them again (to work) and get his money's worth. Plus, they're not only crucial to his wedding look, but his overall comfort throughout the evening as well. While playful socks are fun peeking out in a few photos, stick to the classics when it comes to wedding footwear and let the shoe's elegant details speak for themselves.



Mistakes Grooms Always Make



AND HOW TO AVOID THEM...



So, after your engagement has set in and before it's time to walk down the aisle, take a look at these common mistakes grooms find themselves making and vow, right here, right now, to not make them before, during, and even after your starring moment as the groom during your wedding.

Not Sticking to the Budget

When the wedding planning kicks off, you and your fiancée will be tempted to say yes to everything, too fast and too soon. Take a step back before signing vendor contracts and selecting a venue to come up with a budget and pinky promise each other you'll stick to it.

Skipping Meetings with Your Wedding Vendors

Accompany your fiancée to meetings with your vendors like the DJ, florist, caterer... You get the picture. These are the vendors you'll shell out the most cash for, so it's important to attend these meetings and give your two cents.

Ghosting on the Wedding Planning

While your fiancée might be lost in a sea of Pinterest boards and wedding-planning magazines, that doesn't mean you should be a ghost during the whole process. Offer to look through her idea books and Excel spreadsheets every so often to stay in the loop.

Forgetting to Tip Your Wedding Vendors

When you're creating your wedding budget, plan ahead for vendor tips and extra incidentals that may pop up along the way. Keeping aside a couple hundred dollars now will help ensure that there are no financial surprises later on.

Saying "I Don't Care."

Remember this phrase because it is truly one of the worst things you can say during the wedding-planning process! Even if you find yourself indifferent about a certain detail, make an effort to really look at the options and have an opinion either way.

Not Coordinating with Family Members

If you have an eager mother or aunt who wants to get involved with the planning, be sure to act as her liaison, making sure she gets in touch with your fiancée and is kept in the loop. You know the phrase "too many cooks in the kitchen?" The same goes for wedding planning and too many in-laws.

Waiting Until the Last Minute to Get Involved

Stay involved along the entire planning process. That way, you won't find yourself waking up the week before your own wedding wondering what the venue will look like, or what time you're supposed to show up.

Forgetting to Get Groomsmen Gifts

While being a groomsman is a fun job, it's also a little bit of a time commitment for your friends. Be sure to thank them with a fun gift on the day of the wedding, like a pair of socks, cuff links, or a wallet.

Too Many Surprises

While some surprises can be exciting and fun, keep them to a minimum during the wedding-planning process. It's better to openly communicate with your fiancée about what you want than just going ahead and doing it.





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Starting off on the right foot!

In addition to the numerous roles shoes play in many marriage ceremonies, women all over the world have found creative ways to make their wedding slippers an important part of the reception as well. Some customs might seem a bit quirky to the uninitiated, but these playful reception rituals are often among the most memorable.



In Germany, tradition holds that a bride must purchase her hochzeitschuhe (wedding shoes) from the thousands of pfennig (pennies) she collects between getting engaged and married to prove her ability to be financially responsible throughout the marriage.

To bless the union, the bride's mother tucks a fresh sprig of dill and sprinkles a dash of salt into her daughter's right shoe before she walks down the aisle.



Selecting the next Bride

Before the invention of the bridal bouquet toss, newlywed British women flung a shoe to bridesmaids for fate to foretell which friend would be planning the following wedding. Modern Greek and Turkish bridesmaids and flower girls write their names on the bottom of the bride's shoe.

Legend holds that the first name to rub off is the next lucky person to get married. Attendants go to great lengths to ensure their name is the last standing, avoiding spots that frequently wear fast and inscribing large letters in thick permanent markers.

Bidding Farewell

Although Western brides would cringe at the thought of defacing their cherished Minola or Jimmy Choo wedding shoes, many cultures tie footwear to the bumper of a car as a token of good luck to send the newlywed couple on their way.

Sources believe this tradition originated with the ancient Egyptians, Hebrews and Assyrians, who gently threw old shoes at the couple as they left the reception.

In America, the tattered shoes are often replaced with tin cans to distract any mischievous spirits who may want to interrupt the honeymoon.

Starting on the right foot

Several cultures, including Hungarian, German and Portuguese, utilize the bride's shoes to capture the coins and bills guests donate during the traditional wedding money dance.

The loose change is meant to help the couple start a nest egg or finance their honeymoon.



Through the looking glass

Photographer: Alice's Art Gallery

As you fall down the rabbit hole with me you'll find Alice passionately in love with her Mad Hatter in a world of lush bright colors meshed with vintage accents in this Wonderland Wedding. Before her new journey begins Alice gets ready with a little help from the looking glass. Royal invitations to include the White Rabbit: our Maid of Honor, and the Mouse: our Best Man. Don't be late, the Tea Party includes hookah and singing with the flowers all throughout the golden afternoon...





the pros:

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- Cake Designer: Bliss Pastry
- Event Venue: Bridle oaks Barn
- Makeup Artist: Laura Reynolds Artistry
- Other: Marketplace at Rivertown
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TIPS ON HOW TO GET YOU “JACKED UP”

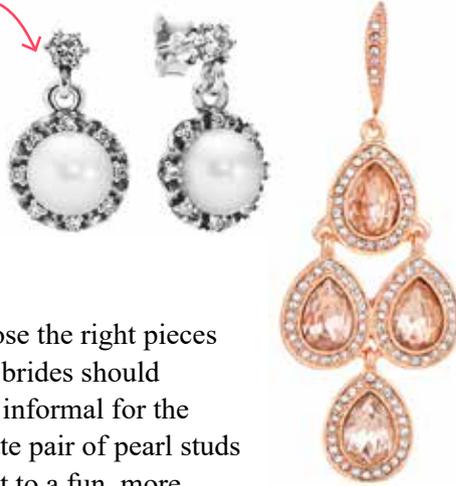
I get a lot of questions from y’all on how to get “Jacked up” for your wedding day. So here are a few pointers you gals can take with you and use for the big day. Let’s get started:

Monte Durham

Earrings

You must be careful when it comes to your jewelry. A headpiece that’s too gaudy or the wrong earrings can throw your **WHOLE LOOK OFF**.

The key is to be dainty and choose the right pieces for the right time. Traditionally, brides should go formal for the ceremony and informal for the reception. Choose a more delicate pair of pearl studs for the ceremony and change out to a fun, more casual chandelier pair during the reception. The ceremony is rather structured, while the reception is informal and you want your look to match both.



Necklaces

This category is usually optional depending on your dress style. It’s important to consider your neckline when choosing a necklace. High-neck line dresses can typically do without a necklace.



Remember, you are the focus—so too many jewelry pieces is a **NO!** A sweetheart or low-cut neckline are better for necklaces. You can choose between a nice pendant or simple strand of pearls that will accentuate the dress. Be sure to coordinate with your earrings. These pieces should work together in your favor.

Shoes



Brides... There is a formula when choosing the right bridal shoes: Beauty + Comfort = Success! Know your limits! You will be on your feet for the entire ceremony, during pictures, and greeting guests. Be sure you can walk and balance properly in your shoes! The too-high stiletto can be disastrous. Instead, take some factors into account, such as your venue. If your wedding is outside, choose a nice bridal wedge. Your heel won’t sink into the ground and a wedge is easier to maneuver on rough or unpredictable surfaces. If your wedding is inside, a stiletto or soft heel is fine, just be sure to practice or break them in before the big day. Practice makes perfect!!

It can be hard choosing a veil that’s just right for your dress. I love veils! I think they’re elegant and add a classic traditional factor to your wedding look. Often, brides tend to get stuck with questions like, “Should I choose a long veil or a short one?” Short veils are designed to wrap around you and accentuate your face or features. Long veils are made to blow in the wind or drape. Consider your hairstyle when choosing the veil and be sure to do hair trials with your stylist! This is very important!!

So there you have it brides! And remember to have fun with your accessories. You can wear sentimental pieces, such as your mother’s veil or grandmother’s pearls. Brides will even choose blue shoes or garters. Get creative with your vision. Now get out there and make me proud!!

Veils





the 5 biggest mistakes brides make

When Shopping for a Wedding Dress

As a bridal consultant and fashion director on TLC's "Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta," Monte Durham has seen a lot of brides, a lot of wedding dresses and a lot of shopping mistakes.

To help brides make the most of their wedding-dress shopping experience, Monte shared the five biggest mistakes women make when trying on all those gowns.

Mistake #1: Wearing the wrong bra.

"Make sure you have the proper undergarments on," Monte says. "Most bridal salons will have them for you... but if you bring your own, you'll be more comfortable in them and... as you try [the dresses] on and zip them up, you won't be worried about adjusting yourself into the other undergarments."

Mistake #2: Wearing the wrong hairstyle.

You might not think much about your hair when you're wedding-dress shopping, but Monte says it's important to intentionally choose a hairstyle you're comfortable with. "If you wear your hair down, have it down so we can see how the dress [looks with it]," he says. "And we can show you that if you pick a dress that has an interesting back, maybe you'll want to put your hair up."

Mistake #3: Not bringing the right shoes.

While Monte doesn't expect brides to bring in their exact wedding-day shoes, he does stress the importance of wearing a similar heel height to the one you're planning to wear. "All gowns are made in different lengths from the waist, whether it's an empire, fit-and-flare or a ball gown," he explains. "So wear the heel height that's most comfortable for you and... that you're going to wear on your wedding day."

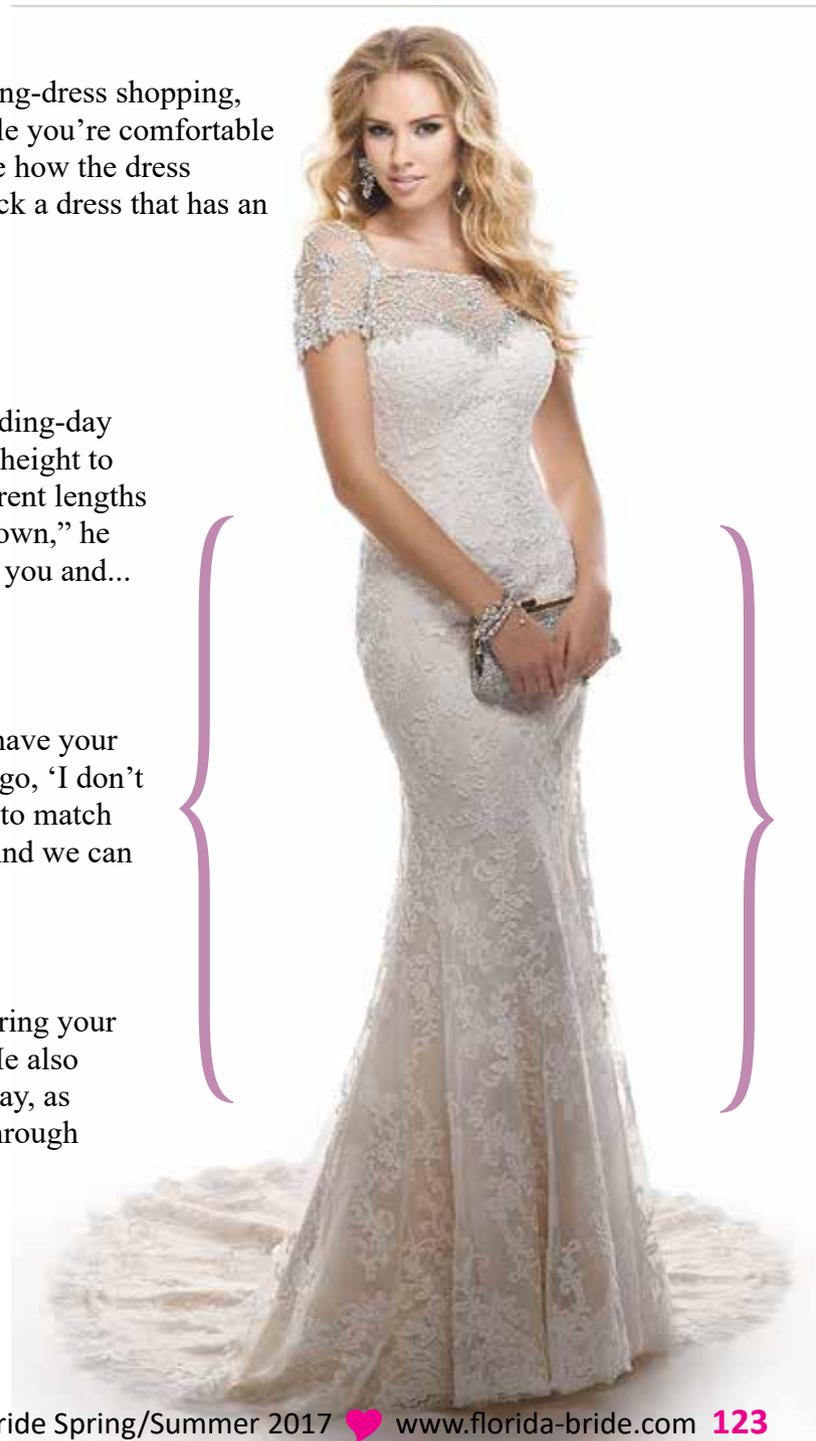
Mistake #4: Not trying on the right accessories.

From the veil to the jewelry, if you've got it, bring it. "If you have your mother's veil, bring it with you!" Monte says. "So many girls go, 'I don't know if it's going to match the lace. I don't know if it's going to match the satin.' If you have an heirloom piece... bring it with you. And we can also make sure that it matches."

Mistake #5: Bringing along the wrong person.

"Be mindful of who you bring shopping," Monte cautions. "Bring your best friend or your mom, but leave those opinions at home." He also advises brides to try shopping for a wedding dress on a weekday, as consultants can often spend more time with you on Monday through Friday than they can on the weekends.

Happy shopping!





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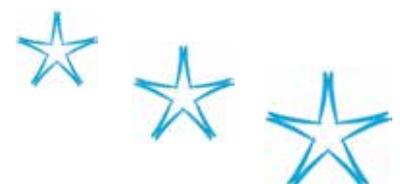
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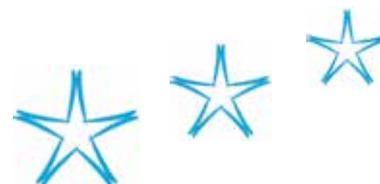
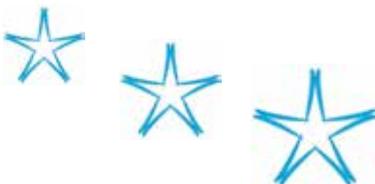
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