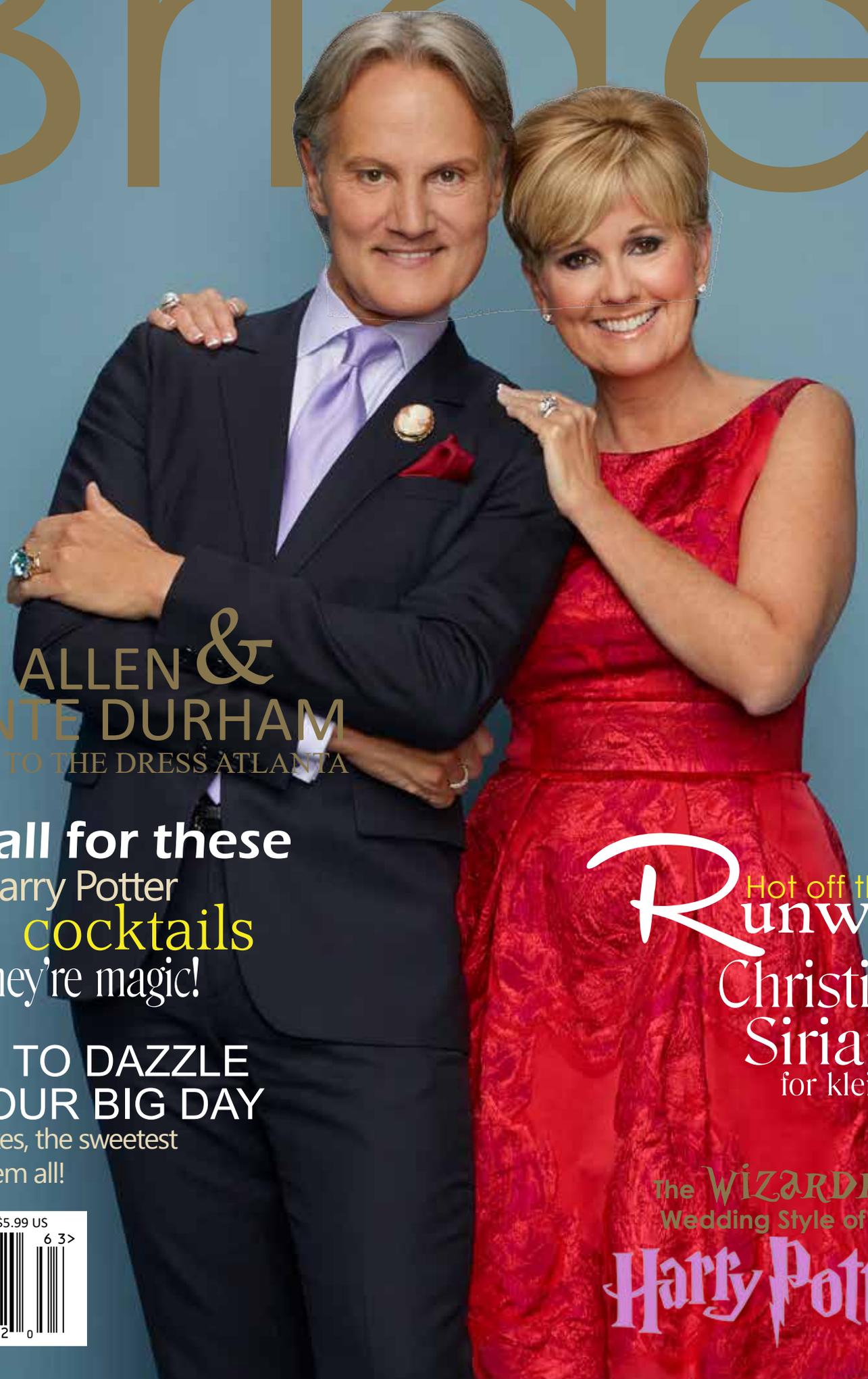


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Fall/Winter 2016



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Whether he is waiting at the altar, greeting guests, or taking off the garter, the groom is expected to be dressed to impress.





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editor's letter



The "Expecto Patronum" Issue

Letter From The Editor:

Fall and Winter are on their way, I can smell the cinnamon and pumpkin now!

We are happy to announce that Florida Bride Magazine will be on the newsstands, and you will be able to pick up your Fall/Winter issue there soon to begin planning your wedding day! Our issue includes the history of the bridal registry which is a great place for you to start thinking about your wish list.

We are so proud to have Lori Allen and Monte Durham grace our Fall/Winter issue. Lori is well known for the TLC show "Say Yes to the Dress Atlanta" where she helps brides find their perfect dress. In our interview with Lori, she shares some very knowledgeable and insightful tips to help you find your perfect dress, too!

Our Harry Potter wedding is such fun, and shows how a couple can incorporate their own style and taste into their wedding day. The Editor's Letter photo shows me with the Harry Potter Patronus Charm, a silvery-white animal shape. The animal which I choose to be my Patronus is the Deer. This ancient and mysterious charm conjures a magical guardian, a projection of all your most positive feelings. I also want to welcome my baby grandson into our family! Can't wait to share so many of your first things in life, sweet grandchild of mine.

There will be a lot of engagements that happen between now and our Spring/Summer issue and we love being a part of your excitement! The professionals in these pages have spent countless hours helping couples plan their perfect day so be sure to seek them out. Hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and Congratulations to all of the newly engaged couples! There are wonderful new trends to share with you from the professionals inside these pages!

Grace Crompton
Managing Editor
Florida Bride Magazine



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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.



CHRISTIAN SIRIANO

With fashion designing being his passion from the very beginning, Siriano started designing clothes as soon as he turned thirteen and has never looked back ever since.



DAVID TUTERA

Leading Wedding & Entertaining Expert, David Tutera is hailed as an artistic visionary whose ability, uniquely creative talents and reputation have made him a success in the lifestyle arena.



ANA VENTO

Ana's extraordinary drive, attention to detail and ability to think out of the box, has earned her the respect from her clients. She takes pride in providing luxurious event planning.



NICK VARREOS

Fashion designer Nick Verreos launched his High-end Designer label NIKOLAKI in 2001 along with his partner David Paul, and has dressed celebrities including Heidi Klum, Katy Perry, Carrie Underwood and Beyoncé



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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Published and printed in the USA

Winter Wonderland inspiration



While everyone is busy getting winter jackets and snow boots ready, those of you who've planned a destination wedding are busy packing your extra sunscreen, bikinis and flip flops. We think it's *trè chic* to plan a sun-splashed destination wedding in the middle of the cold winter months.



1. First, you need a stunning beach backdrop for your guests to fawn over. Believe it or not, finding a spectacular beach location is the easy part! Jamaica, The Bahamas, St Lucia, or Antigua... or right here in sunny Florida take your pick!



2. Second, you need that signature drink. May we suggest champagne flutes with floating cranberry garnish. Add a dash of cranberry syrup to your glass for that perfect holiday flavor!



3. Third, you need wedding colors to coordinate the winter-on-the-beach look. We suggest a palette of seafoam, seaglass and soft sand for a soft, yet glowing palette. Add a few sprinkles of white for winter beauty. Don't forget the cranberries for the deep contrast.

quick tip!

Use pinecones & cranberries for your topper!

your seasonal style

4.

You need a wintery gown to give a December feel, but light and airy to keep an island look. We suggest taking a look at Abed Mahfouz. His Spring-Summer collection offered up spectacular winter themed wedding gowns that we think would be perfect for a winter beach wedding. The mix of soft winter blue tulle and designer details that look like mini icicles definitely suggest winter everywhere!



quick tip!
Starfish seating cards painted as Santa's!



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exclusively.. Christian Siriano for Kleinfeld

Youngest winner of fashion design show, Project Runway, Christian Siriano was born on November 18, 1985. Born and raised in Maryland, Siriano studied fashion design at the Baltimore School for the Arts. With fashion designing being his passion from the very beginning, Siriano started designing clothes as soon as he turned thirteen and has never looked back ever since.

This is some seriously exciting news for all of you brides to be out there! One of our favorite designers, Christian Siriano has teamed up with the legendary Kleinfeld to design a stunning bridal collection. We are so excited about this collaboration, now you can look like a celeb at your wedding.

Kleinfeld and Christian joined forces to create an exclusive bridal collection, which is “inspired by custom gowns created for past celebrity clientele and red carpet eveningwear” — that is like music to our ears!



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If You're Not Obsessed With This Magical Harry Potter-Inspired Wedding, You're Definitely a Muggle. Grab your wand and broom you're about to be transported to Hogwarts.

THE BOUQUET

All the flowers were handmade by the bride using Harry Potter book pages, that included the bouquets, button holes, flowers for the bridesmaids' hair and flowers for the cake

THE CAKE

The cake should feature a blend of gold and ivory complete with flowers made from the pages of the Harry Potter book series. The cake topper was styled as vintage books each with the Bride and Grooms name.

HOW CAN I INCORPORATE HARRY POTTER INTO MY STYLE?

FOOD & FAVORS

Each guest should receive a wand upon arrival, and the bride carries a bouquet of "flowers" made from pages of the J.K. Rowling series. Place-settings came with Golden Snitches and guests drink concoctions from potion bottles.



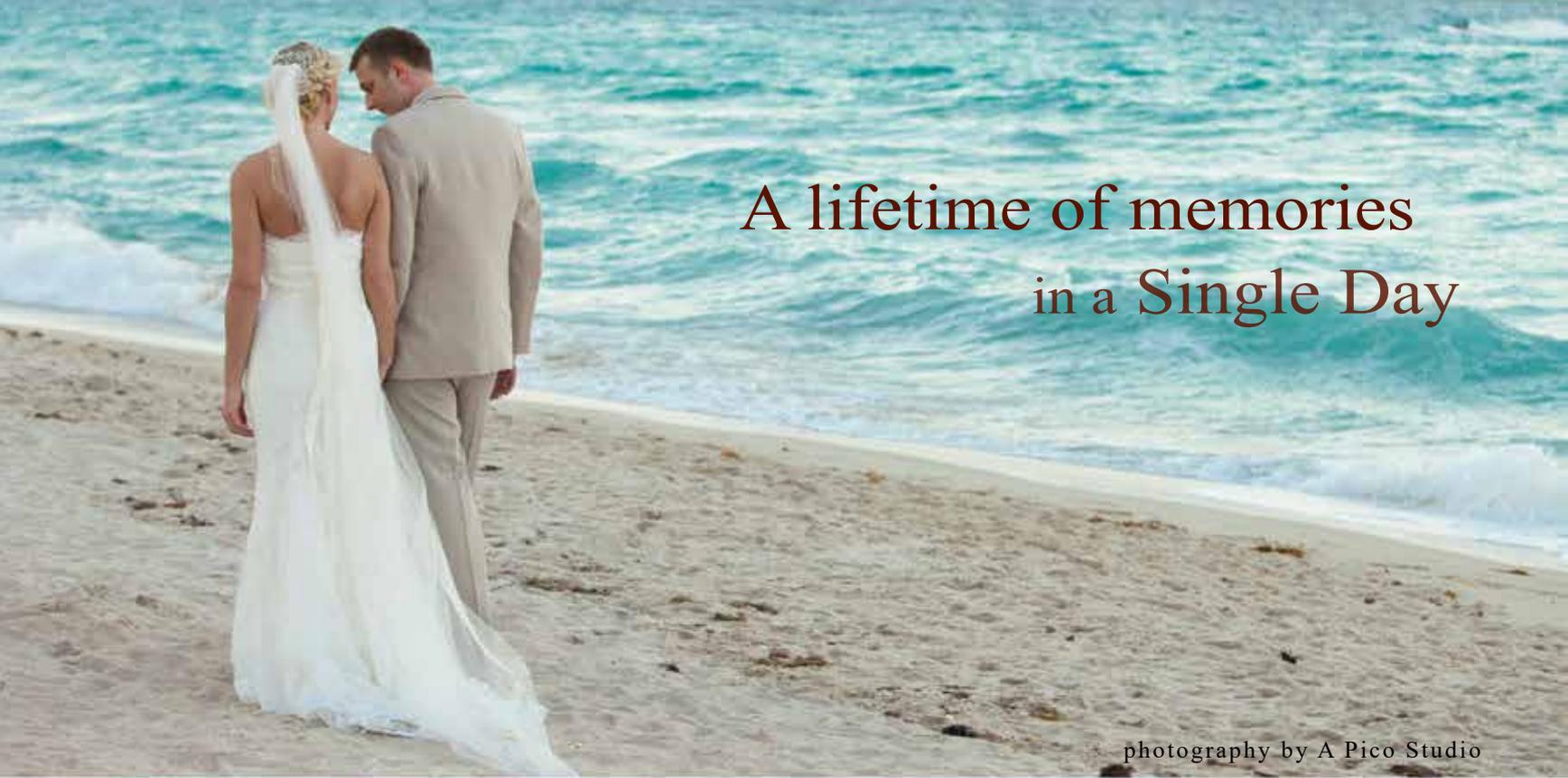
THE DECOR

The Bride and Groom sifted through discount stores and second-hand shops every weekend for three months looking for Harry Potter paraphernalia. She stayed up till 3am most nights putting wings on Ferrero Rochers and searching eBay for trinkets. She even had the bridesmaids over to cut up the 20 copies of the books she bought to make the bouquets.

GROOMS ATTIRE

The Groomsmen wore midnight blue suits with purple ties and pocket squares. Their boutonnières were flowers made from the pages of the Harry Potter book series and accented with a single purple flower.





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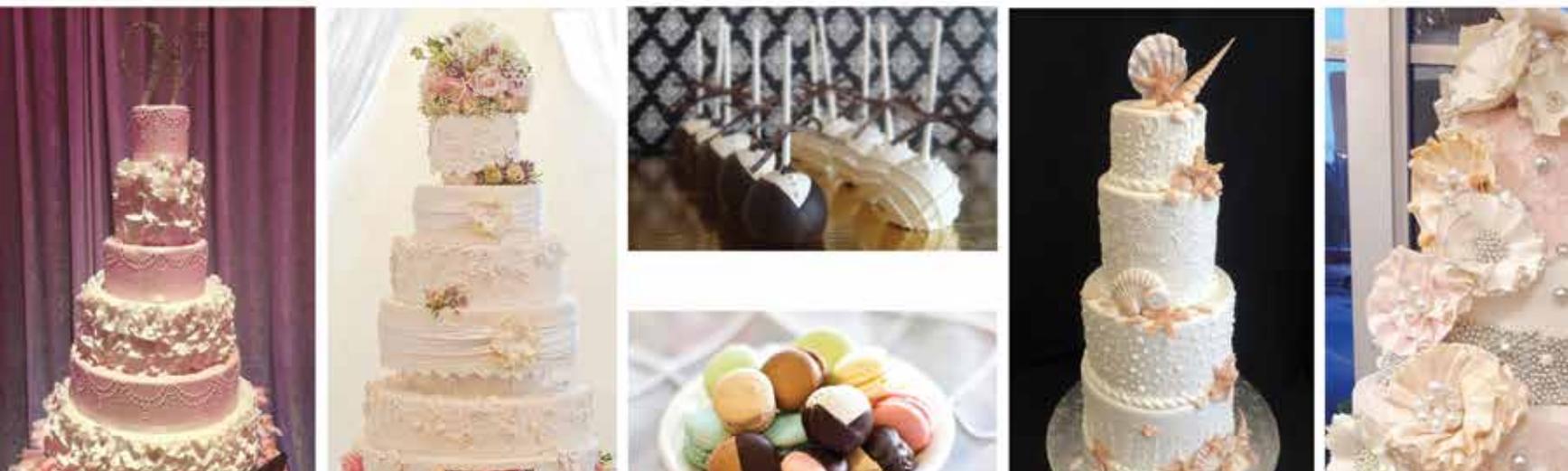
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Diana and Josue Escobar
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Teresa &
Charlie Luther
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January 15, 2016



Ana Vento, President

“Ana Vento and her team were absolutely amazing! She understood our vision and guided us to make our wedding day better than we ever could have imagined. She is very positive, professional, and passionate about what she does. Craig and I were lucky to work with someone like her and are forever grateful! Ana will forever be considered a friend and part of our family for years to come”

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DIY: Special, Simple and smart Holiday Door Wreath

Nothing says warmth and good cheer are just a knock away than a beautiful, customized wreath on your front door. Anyone can purchase a standard wreath with a pre-made red bow, but Casual Luxury principles apply here. It's all in the details. Why not amp up your holiday wreath this year with something more interesting, more MARvelous? You don't have to shell out the gobs of extra cash to have a garden center create a masterpiece.

You can do it yourself. It only takes a little extra thought, a few festive notions and a standard, undecorated 19-inch evergreen wreath. Each year, I challenge myself to do something resourceful, unexpected, and unique for my holiday door wreath. Over the years, I have discovered endless options for creativity. Plus, it really is so much fun. I always start the process the same way. First, purchase a plain, inexpensive, 19-inch wreath. You can usually find one for under \$20. Then the creativity begins. I use many items that I already have from my garden—a favorite design principle of mine. Next, I scavenge my yard for items that will create layers of interest like holly sprigs, magnolia leaves, pinecones, nuts, bayberry, colorful leaves and branches, dried grasses, moss and other evergreens.

What You Will Need:

One standard evergreen wreath (or do what I do, and combine 2 together to create a single generous size.) Evergreen clippings. If you do not have any to choose from in your garden, ask your neighbors for a few clippings, and all nurseries have a wide array of evergreens for the holidays. Spool wire and any additional decorations you like. I have used various holiday ornaments, ribbons and bows, pinecones and more. Make sure to put your own personality into your wreath.

Building Your Wreath:

Place the 2 wreaths together back to back. Use 2 lengths of wire about 8 inches to secure the two wreaths together. I secure the wreaths at the top and bottom—or at 12 and 6 o'clock. Decide which will be the back and loop the wire around and tighten like a bread twist-tie. Turn your glorious wreath over, and assess it from the front. If you feel your wreath is full and fabulous enough, begin adding the decorations you have selected.

Want To Add More Greenery:

Attach wire still connected to the spool at 12 o'clock, and then begin to wrap it around the circumference of the wreath, moving either clockwise or counter clockwise. This creates places to insert additional cuttings and greenery. Keep wrapping with wire to secure them all, making sure each cutting lays in the same direction and the one prior. This method hides the woody stems and looks neat as one overlaps the next. When you get back to 12 o'clock, cut the wire and secure it by twisting it around the start of your wire. Tuck all ends and wires in so all the wire and cutting ends are out of sight.

At this point, you can add even more clippings to fill out your wreath by simply inserting them into the now amply-appointed wreath. For an additional personal touch, find interesting, contrasting ribbon that will really pop next to the greenery. I love wire-edged ribbon, because it holds its shape and can create a whimsical design. When creating a ribbon bow, use multiple layers or ribbon for a bold punch.

This is a truly fun and festive project. Why not invite friends over before the holidays and make a party out of the process. Everyone can inspire each other while enjoying time together prior to the holidays—and each guest will leave with a holiday decoration they'll never forget.

Whatever you choose, do encourage yourself to take your holiday décor to the next level, get creative, and most importantly—have fun. Each year, you will learn what you like and what works best for your home. When you're done, sit back and enjoy the compliments and extra special customized holiday wreath.





Mirror... Mirror... on the table?

by lifestyle editor Mar Jennings

I'm all about rethinking the traditional ways of doing things. I call it a modern way of life and I make sure there are no rules to inhibit my creativity. I'm open-minded and I consider fresh new ideas that bring back the past in new creative ways. That said, here is a great way to create some reflection, conversation and illumination to something as traditional as a mirror. It's an easy project and you probably have everything you need in your home. Once you try this you will never look at a mirror quite the same again.

Already have a mirror you want to use in mind? So let's break down the steps to some simple facts to know. Take any mirror and remove hooks from the back, allowing it to lie flat on any surface. Clean and wipe all surfaces assuring nothing chips or peels.

Ideas for food presentation:

Use smaller mirrors in lieu of trays for your next party. Place larger mirrors on dining table or coffee table and cover with assorted cheeses, crackers and other delicious appetizers. Add height by placing candlesticks or candelabra in the center for drama and interest. The best mirrors to use for food are the easiest to clean—meaning no elaborate frames. Straight edge frames are the best, and those with no frames are easiest of all.

Step it up: During a party, in lieu of name cards for your hors d'oeuvres, write the item names right on each mirror (Camembert, Figs with Prosciutto, Mini-Quiche Lorraine, Shortbread, etc). Tip: Use unscented organic soap to write with—it won't conflict with the food scent and is safe next to the food, and washes off easier than something wax-based like a crayon.

As an accent piece:

A perfect place to display your plants. Tip: Avoid decorative pots since they will conflict with the mirror—the idea is to use the reflective quality of the mirror to create the design, not get it from the pots. I recommend simple terracotta pots, even better if you have moss-covered cache-pots. Having reflection offers more light and more better-looking plants. A collection in various heights makes the best table décor. Natural green with a punch of the unexpected.

A place to put all our collectables. What a great way to show off a collection of glass or figurines. Tip: mix things up—don't just use all glass or all figurines unless they are of various colors.

As a bar area. Placing your glasses, bottles and serving accessories in a mirror defines the surface of any side table as a bar—if not all the time then during parties—and makes for a better focal point.

A place to add all your perfume bottles. Mirrored trays are a traditional way to showcase fine fragrances, but repurposing your own mirror steps it up and makes it your own. This is a wonderful way to show your collection of fragrances or beauty products—or jewelry. If your mirror has a border, fill with reflective ornaments and/or candles for an amazing flickering display. Festive, decorative and fabulous for the holidays. As if this is not enough ideas for you to consider one can always refer back to a traditional mirror on the wall but first ask yourself “mirror mirror on the wall, who's the most creative of all?” The answer won't be Snow White.





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The Ultimate Mother-of-the-Bride Checklist



The mother of the bride traditionally plays a big role in the wedding, especially if she's hosting. Guests will come to you before, during, and after the "I dos" for information and help. Consider yourself a manager with a slew of responsibilities, including those listed below.

Have a meet-and-greet with the groom's parents

If you've never met your future son-in-law's parents, take the lead and plan a get-together with them (as long as it's feasible from a travel point of view). It doesn't have to be a formal dinner—cocktails or even getting together for coffee would work. The point is to get to know one another before the wedding so you're not complete strangers on the day your children wed.

Go dress shopping with the bride

You should be one of the select few who gets to see the bride in variations of tulle and silk-satins, or whatever she chooses to wear. It'll be an emotional time for you, and you'll know when she's found the right dress.

Stand in for the bride as the vendor go-to person

This often happens if the bride is getting married in her hometown, where you still live but she doesn't. You should be prepared to answer any questions posed by the caterer, baker, florist, etc., if they can't reach your daughter.

Let the groom's mom know what color dress you'll be wearing

This is to prevent a fashion disaster where both moms walk down the aisle wearing magenta gowns with short sleeves and silver belts. Awkward! Your dresses' length and formality should match, though, so one of you doesn't show up in a short cotton dress and the other in a lace gown.

Support the bride's decisions

Unless she wants to get married underwater and expects her 100 guests to get certified in scuba-diving, the bride should be the decider. Of course, if you're picking up the floral bill and hate yellow roses, which the bride was planning for the centerpieces, there's going to be some serious discussion going on. Try to compromise—maybe the bride could indulge in her favorite flower by having an all-yellow roses bouquet.

Help the bridal-shower host

If you follow tradition, you're not supposed to host the shower, since the party's purpose is to bring the bride gifts (the idea was that it would be tacky for you to essentially be saying, "Bring my daughter nice gifts, people!"). But times have changed, and it's becoming more acceptable for the mother of the bride or a relative of the bride to be involved in hosting duties. You can offer to help with making decorations, food, or favor bags, or contribute to the shower without being named on the invitation.



quick tip!

Be supportive of the Brides decisions!

Nice day for a... pink wedding? Sure, white is timeless and elegant, but perhaps not the best fit for the edgy, modern bride who wants nothing more than to shirk tradition and stand out from the pack. More and more, bridal salons are stocking their racks with gowns in shades of blush pink, dusty blue and beyond, which is why we're predicting a departure from the traditional white wedding gown in the coming year. Don't be afraid to show your true colors!

Personal Style:

Accessories have long served as a great way to add a bit of personality without disturbing the balance of a classic wedding tux. But while socks, cufflinks and pocket squares have been the gold standard for showing off a groom's personal style, there's a new player in town the lapel pin.

Beachy Bohemian:

will be big in the coming year, thanks to the trendy Raw Coast color palette (more on that later). Think relaxed, flowing lace, drapery fabric off-the-shoulder details and high-low styles. Additionally, expect to see crown braids take the place of those ubiquitous flower crowns.



For the Guys:

We predict that a few fashion-forward guys will opt for the wardrobe change in 2017. While a classic dark tuxedo is ideal for the ceremony, guys can let loose for the reception, incorporating a more casual cream jacket or an on-trend pop of color,

Florals:

The next big thing in wedding florals? No florals at all. Instead, we'll see simple arrangements of leaves, branches or palms lots of greenery with minimalist vibes. For a more dramatic effect, consider incorporating a canopy of greenery that hangs high above guests' heads.



Food Pairing:

As we become more thoughtful about our food, next year will see food pairings creep into weddings everywhere. A cute cocktail hour idea? Pair small bites with similarly themed cocktails, like mini tacos with spicy margaritas, caviar bites with icy cold vodka.

Matchy Matchy:

is officially out, with the mismatched bridesmaids trend continuing to pick up steam. For a visual contrast that surprises and delights, choose an array of shades in the same color family to complement the chosen décor, or a mix of textures in similar tones.



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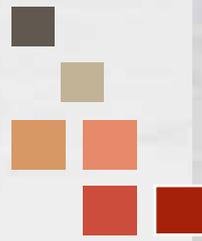
L Wedding
Lookbook



Happy Harvest:

It seems like just the other day that we were kicking off the start of summer with our summer party essentials post {see it here if you missed it the first time around}, but somehow almost three months have passed since and we are on the verge of welcoming the fall season. Whether you're holding on to the last days of summer, kicking and screaming and refusing to let them go, or you're ready to turn in your flip flops for knee highs and warm sweaters, there's no denying that autumn brings with it a bounty of lovely that's hard to resist. We're somewhere between gutted and gleeful to be greeting the seasonal change, and we're softening the blow by playing with some of our favorite fall comforts, all as pretty as they are delicious. Here's our take on all you need to create your own happy harvest.

Sip, Taste Savour



Best of the Season:

Nothing says fall like a crisp juicy apple. Serve them up in style as your signature sipper, complete with an authentic drink dispenser and personalized glassware, for the ultimate seasonally inspired treat.



Polished Copper Curved Tankard

Warm tactile curved copper colored Moscow mule mug can be either a gift or make a decor statement. Metallic accents make a great accessory to a drinks table.



Decorative Apothecary Style Clear Glass Beverage Dispenser

Serve guests their apple cider drinks in style with a decorative Apothecary style dispenser. Perfect for cocktail hour or at your reception, its impressive presence is sure to make a statement no matter where you display it. Use it again and again for parties at home after your wedding.



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These multi-functional tags work great on guest favors, as place cards or to say a sweet thank you on paper favor bags. Their versatile design can be easily implemented into a number of wedding themes and styles.

Favor Mix

Add a flair with these cork mini favor bottles, mini mason jars and burlap sachet bags. Fill with spices and honey for that added touch. Don't forget the dried apple slices!



Something Sweet Diecut Sticker

Intricate hand drawn illustrations with lavish details results in a design that is chic with a hint vintage flair.



Flavors:

Add apple slices and a cinnamon stick for that added punch that will leave your guests talking.

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The
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What You Need:

½ oz brandy, ½ oz Kahlua, ¼ oz butterscotch schnapps, ½ oz half & half cream, garnish wafer stick.

How to Make It:

Fill martini glass with cold water & place in freezer for 2 min. to chill. Add brandy, Kahlua, butterscotch schnapps & cream to shaker and shake. Pour into glass, garnish with wafer stick.

The
RON WEASLEY



What You Need:

1 ½ oz vodka, ½ oz peach schnapps, dash grenadine, lemonade, half a pitted peach, lemon slice, maraschino cherry.

How to Make It:

Cut peach in slices, add vodka, schnapps & grenadine to glass with ice & peaches. Fill remainder with lemonade and garnish with peach slice, lemon slice & maraschino cherry.

The
HERMIONE



What You Need:

1 ½ oz gin, ¾ oz apricot brandy, ¾ oz sweet vermouth, 1 tsp grenadine, ¼ tsp lemon juice, 1 tbsp sugar, 2 cherries.

How to Make It:

Fill martini glass with cold water & place in freezer for 2 min to chill. Add gin, brandy, vermouth, grenadine & lemon juice to shaker and shake. Rim glass with sugar, pour content into glass and garnish with cherries.

The
HUFFLEPUFF



What You Need:

1 oz pineapple juice, 1 oz orange juice, 1 oz rum, 1 oz ginger ale, ¾ oz banana schnapps, cherry & lemon slice.

How to Make It:

Mix pineapple & orange juices with the rum & banana schnapps. Add ice & top with ginger ale, garnish with cherry & lemon slice.

The
VOLDEMORT



What You Need:

1 oz tequila, 1/3 oz tabasco sauce, 1 jalapeno pepper.

How to Make It:

Muddle jalapeno pepper & tabasco sauce. Strain into shot glass, add tequila & garnish with thin slice of jalapeno.

The
GRYFFINDOR



What You Need:

1 oz light rum, ¼ oz brandy, ¼ oz lemon juice, 4 fresh raspberries, 2 tsp raspberry syrup, lemon peel for garnish.

How to Make It:

Muddle raspberries in shaker. Add rum, brandy, lemon juice, raspberry syrup & ice, shake, pour into martini glass.

Signature

Wedding Drinks: Winter Cocktails



Planning a winter event? Whether you're having a holiday party, hosting a bridal shower or getting married... these winter cocktails may come in handy! Whatever the occasion, it's always a nice surprise to offer your guests a noteworthy treat. In this case, a signature cocktail! The Seasonal Skinny Cocktail: Cranberry & Vanilla would be a wonderful signature drink to offer guests during cocktail hour if your wedding is around the holidays!

This Hot White Chocolate with Rum would also be a nice fit for a wedding in the holiday season! This could be served at the end of the night along with dessert options!

The Winter Solstice Cocktail is clean and crisp, perfect for winter! Many winter drinks are warm or on the heavy side. If you're looking for a lighter option, this is a good choice!

Sometimes the garnish you use for your drinks can tie them in with the season. How cute is this Gingerbread Man cocktail!? These are perfect if you're looking for a playful spin on your signature drink.



While many of these are perfect for a red color scheme, there are plenty recipes out there in other colors too! For example, why not try something blue? The Coco Snowball would be a great addition to a winter wedding!

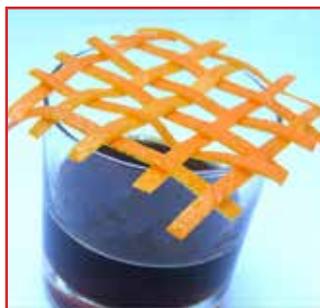
Unique Garnishes FOR A WOW-FACTOR COCKTAIL

When it comes to cocktails, the garnish is much more than unnecessary flourish. Where dexterous mixologists are involved, the garnish is as much a part of the drink as the liquor, the bitters, and the infusions, not to mention it lends that show-stopping pop upon presentation. From gold-painted mint leaves to avian-inspired orange peels, here are some of the most awe-inducing garnishes.



Pomegranate in an Ice Bowl

For the Mezcal Mule at Lolo in San Francisco, David Gallardo and Luis Vasquez crush ice in a cloth bag, then pat it into a bowl shape by hand. The bowl goes on top of the drink and is filled with pomegranate seeds.



Orange Lattice

Rick Stutz of Kaiser Penguin makes this woven lattice to top off a Fernet Old Fashioned. Here's how he does it. First, using a vegetable peeler, remove the peel from an orange, all the way around to make a long strip. Remove any pith with a pairing knife. Cut zest into strips that are two inches long and 1/8" wide. Weave together



All Natural

Chive blossoms make a pretty substitute for a standard cocktail onion in this drink from Beth Evans-Ramos of Mama Knows Her Cocktails.



Disco Daiquiri

At Golden Cadillac in NYC, Don Lee's overproof rum, lime, and sugar combo is garnished with a mini disco ball—Cocktail Kingdom manufactures them for the bar, 10,000 at a time.

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Sautéed Scallops & Shrimp with Corn Risotto



Ingredients:

3 Scallops, 3 Shrimp, ½ Tsp Salt, ¼ Tsp Pepper, 4 oz. Corn Risotto, 1 oz. Heavy Cream, ¼ oz. Parmesan Cheese, 2 Asparagus cut on a bias, 2 oz. Lemon Sauce, 1 Tbsp Finely Chopped Parsley (For Garnish), 1 Tbsp Fried Leeks sliced 1/8", 3 Fried Leeks sliced 1/8", ¼ oz. Micro Cilantro.

Corn Risotto:

1 Cup Arborio Rice, 2 Tsp Yellow Onion diced into small pieces, 1 Clove Garlic minced, ½ Cup Frozen Corn, 2 Cups Vegetable Stock, ½ Cup White Wine, ½ Cup Heavy Cream, Salt & Pepper to Taste, 1 Tsp Parmesan Cheese.

Lemon Sauce:

1 Shallot Sliced, 1 Clove Fresh Garlic, Roughly Chopped, ½ Cup White Wine, 1 Cup Heavy Cream, Juice of 1 Lemon & the Zest, 1 Tsp White Vinegar, 1 Tsp White Sugar, Salt & Pepper to Taste, ½ Tsp Cornstarch & Water to make a Slurry.

Scallops & Shrimp

Pat the scallops dry and thoroughly season both sides with salt and pepper. Place a sauté pan on medium heat. add oil, allow the oil to get hot but not smoke. Carefully add scallops one at a time with some space in between each one and cook scallops for 3 minutes on each side or until they have an even golden color. Remove the scallops and let rest. Cook the shrimp in the same pan for 1 to 2 minutes on each side careful not to burn. Place the corn risotto in a sauté pan with parmesan cheese and heavy cream to warm up. Arrange plate with the corn risotto mounded high in the middle of the plate. Place the scallops and shrimp around the corn risotto. Ladle the lemon sauce over the shrimp and scallops around the risotto. Garnish the plate with chopped parsley. Place the fried leeks on top of the risotto. Finish with micro cilantro on top of the fried leeks.

Corn Risotto

In a large sauce pan on high heat, add the Oil. Place Onion in the pan and cook until caramelized (approximately 2 minutes). Add the Arborio Rice and stir. Deglaze with White Wine and stir again. Lower heat to medium high. As the Risotto is getting dry, add the Vegetable Stock a little at a time and keep adding until finished while constantly stirring so the Risotto doesn't stick to the pan. Add the Heavy Cream & Frozen Corn. Add Salt & Pepper to taste. Turn off the heat and transfer to a sheet pan to cool making sure to spread the Risotto throughout the pan.

Lemon Sauce

In a medium sauce pan on high heat, add all ingredients except the Heavy Cream. When the when is reduced by ½ add the Heavy Cream. When reduced by ½, add the Slurry, stir and make sure the sauce coats the back of the spoon. Adjust seasoning and turn off the heat and strain the sauce.



for the love of food...

Pop Up Weddings!!!



Sounds like fun, doesn't it? I know, things are just popping up everywhere lately, but this is a new trend which is growing in popularity. Let's see if it's right for you.

Consider the facts. Knowing them will help you decide if it is right for you.

First, think about what your priorities are for your wedding day.

A Pop-Up wedding is usually organized by a specialized company. They help find the location, photographer, videographer, officiate, ceremony décor and a bouquet if you like.

It is considered a quaint wedding, as small as the bride and groom or as large as 25 guests. Usually only the couple's family and closest friends attend. Normally there is the ceremony, photos and video after, and a dinner and champagne toast to follow at a nice restaurant. Some couples even bring a small cake for a casual party. No reception is provided. It is a definite step-up from the standard elopement or courthouse wedding.

Things to ask yourself to see if it is right for you: Would you rather spend your money on a lavish honeymoon and have an intimate ceremony? Are you big into planning or is it too stressful, and you would rather have a company help put it together for you? You prefer not to have a long engagement and want to marry quickly.

You have an extremely busy schedule and don't have time to plan a wedding, be overwhelmed by the guest list and worry about what everyone else wants.

You are thinking about just going to the courthouse, but know that is not how you picture your wedding day and want that Special Day captured by your photographer and videographer.

Pop-Up weddings are not for everyone, but if you agree with most of the items above then a Pop-Up wedding is for you!



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Ghosts of Weddings Past

Once upon a time a long, long time ago a bride would open her wedding diary. A white cloth book to detail her wedding day. Pages would include how they met, when they were engaged and the announcement posted in the newspaper.

Most weddings were held at the couple's homes, many with just the family and witnesses attending, and they were performed during the week. Saturday weddings were thought of as being terribly unfashionable! Things really have changed with most weddings nowadays being performed on a Saturday. Actually Mondays were considered for wealth, Tuesdays for health and Wednesday the best day of all. The tradition of having a weekend wedding is a recent one.

Weddings that were held at "High Noon", sounds like an old western movie, were considered to be fashionable. Ones held at lunchtime took more effort than later in the day.

Today's bride wouldn't consider not having a reception, but back then they were optional.

Receiving lines are another thing that has faded away. There use to be books teaching you how a receiving line should be organized. Some of you reading this article may even be asking, what is a receiving line?

After the ceremony, the bride and groom and their bridal party including their parents would line up and thank each guest for attending their wedding. Nowadays, with the tight timeline of taking photos and getting to your reception that has gone to the wayside.

The elaborate receptions of today do not reflect those of the past. Receptions were quaint then limited to mostly a cake, probably homemade and punch. Newspapers did cover the wedding and the writers were quite detailed on the looks of the event.

These were the original DIY weddings and parents did not always pay.

Couples today enjoy spending their money on their rings, reception and honeymoon. Yester years rings were simple gold bands and their money went towards their new home together.

TODAY'S BRIDE WOULDN'T
CONSIDER NOT HAVING A
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THEY WERE OPTIONAL.



BRIDES you're go to friends for Your Wedding Day! MAIDS Bring em on!!

One of the best parts of planning your wedding is choosing who will be in your bridal party.

Normally these ladies are your closest confidants and family members. It is considered an honor to be asked to be in the bridal party, but in some cases it can be time-consuming and a financial burden. Consider each one's situation and talk to them to make sure that they will be able to take on any tasks you may need them to perform. If they are unable to fill your expectations don't make them feel left out, you still want them to be your friend and let them know you appreciate their openness. You don't want to lose any friendships. Realize there are limitations in their lives. We have put together some ideas to help you in your decision making with your bridesmaids.

Offer them ideas for their choice of dresses. Let them know your color theme and if you would prefer they wear long or short dresses. Do you want them all to be in the same style of dress, same color of dress or would you like to let them choose their own? The cost of the dress can be a factor for some so take that into consideration. Do try to give them direction because as we all know there are those that just can't make up their mind.

Let them know that you are excited that they are going to be an intricate part of your wedding day and you love to have them sharing in it. After all, they get to see your dress before everyone else does!

Listen to what is happening in lives also, we know you're every waking moment is consumed with your wedding plans, but they also have things going on in theirs.

Bridesmaids and Maid of Honors are expected to plan your bridal shower and bachelorette party, but anything else they do deserves a thank you. Any help addressing envelopes or putting together party favors is always welcome.

Realize that they can't always be everywhere such as your trial make-up and hair appointments, dress fittings, etc. due to their own schedules.

Keep them in the Loop. You need to make sure that each one of them knows when their dresses need to be ordered, and what time and location the rehearsal is scheduled for. Make sure they know that they are a special part of your wedding day, and don't belittle them for not performing a task. Giving each of them a nice gift will let them know how much you appreciate that they are there for you, and include them in a section of your program or website.



quick tip!

Assign each maid a task so things will go smooth!

How to Get the Best Detail Pictures on Your Wedding Day

BRIDAL PREP

Some of the most interesting photos I get are during bridal prep when the bride is anxiously awaiting her walk up the aisle. All the girls are having a lot of fun getting ready. I have put together some helpful hints that I think will get the details you are looking for in your bridal prep photos, plus they are very helpful for your photographer who is looking for those creative moments.

The Rings, detail shots are some of the favorite things photographers love on a wedding day! We notice the time and thought a bride has put into choosing just the right accessories and jewelry she will wear for her walk up the aisle. Here are some helpful hints:

Separate and place in a special place in your bridal suite all of the detail items you want photographed. That way on the day of the wedding you will know where everything is and won't have to be looking all over the place for them. If you have any decorations left from your bridal shower such as lace, ribbons, tablecloths, flowers, favors or plants they can be used to stage details into the photos, and incorporate your wedding colors and style. Let your florist know what time the photographer will be arriving for bridal preparation so they will have your bouquet in your room. Ask them if they have any leftover flowers that they didn't use in your bouquets to add a pop of color to your details shots!

Have both rings in the room (bride and grooms) so the photographer can get shots of them. Designate someone to take your ring to the groom, after the photos are taken of them, so he has it for the wedding ceremony. Here is a list to help you have everything on hand: Wedding Gown, Veil, Garter, Shoes, Bride and Groom rings, Jewelry, Bouquet, Invitation, Programs and Vows.

Can't wait to see you on your wedding day!



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LORI ALLEN & MONTE DURHAM

For nearly three decades, Lori Allen has been getting women prepared for one of the most important days of their lives, their wedding day.

“My favorite part about doing this, is helping a girl who may be insecure about getting in that wedding dress,” said Allen. “It’s like putting those puzzle pieces together and making sure they find that perfect dress.”

Allen has always had a passion to help women feel confident on their special day. In 1980 she opened up a 25,000-square-foot, three-story space along Sandy Springs Circle in Atlanta, housing designer brands and private label merchandise. Lori has appeared on the popular reality show Say Yes To The Dress - Atlanta. Even with her reality star fame, she stays very humble. “It wasn’t always easy,” said Allen. “I wasn’t always successful, there were days no one would come into the shop.” Allen has faced challenges dealing with Bridezillas in her career. “Bridezillas are actually the insecure ones who need approval,” she said.

Lori Allen, president of Bridals by Lori in Atlanta – home to “Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta,” and Monte Durham, fashion director for “Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta,” share their thoughts on what to expect in the coming year. From romantic lace to modern silhouettes, there is a gown that will help you feel like you on your wedding day.

“My favorite part about doing this, is helping a girl who may be insecure about getting in that wedding dress”



The Back Matters

While most brides put their best face forward, your back can also draw a lot of attention. “Most gowns have major back interest, from lace to light beading in patterns of vines with lace and buttons,” Durham said. Designers also are making brides’ backs more visible. The lower the back the better, Allen said.

Scooped Necklines

Going forward, Allen said, the fronts of wedding gowns are getting more conservative, with fewer deep sweetheart necklines. Instead, Durham said, scooped, jewel and V necklines were prevalent in every designer’s upcoming collections. Even so, it may take brides a little time to catch up to this trend. “Strapless sweetheart is still brides’ number one choice,” Durham said.

Sleeves & Straps

While strapless wedding gowns have been all the rage for several years now, designers are expanding their lines to include a little more variety. “Sleeves and straps are becoming more and more popular,” Allen said. “Strapless is waning.” These sleeves include cap sleeves, one-shouldered tops and even full-length sleeves. Straps range from wispy spaghetti to wide, tank-style styles

Flowy Fabrics

Soft, flowy fabrics are reigning on wedding dress skirts, said Allen. They are gathered at the natural waist with a sweep of a train, Durham added. “There’s still structure in silk and satin with longer trains, however, a more organic feel was on every runway.”

Dropped Waist

Designers are moving away from a natural waistline in favor of gowns with a dropped waistline. “Natural waist has ruled, but this season we saw some dropped waistlines again,” Allen said. Dropped-waist designs were seen with a variety of necklines as well, including V-necks, spaghetti straps and, of course, strapless.

Color Splash

Although a white wedding dress traditionally is the top choice for most brides, it is starting to see more of a challenge from non-white hues. “Color is coming, whether it is a blush, blue or silver, color is coming back,” Allen said. “Some designers also featured red and black.”

In a move toward adding extra dimension to their upcoming collections, many wedding gown designers incorporated some extra touches to their dresses. “Accessories, belts and light beading were mostly seen on the bodice of the gowns,” Durham said. “Belts lead the trend in this category.” Those belts ranged from simple ribbons to more elaborate pieces featuring a lot of bling.



SAY YES TO THE DRESS ATLANTA

LORI ALLEN

By: Grace Crompton - Managing Editor

*Southern
Wedding Belles*



Lori Allen is the owner of Bridals by Lori. She says that her favorite brides are “Brides who are harder to fit because I love to teach them about fit and what looks good on them -- then find them the perfect dress. I like a challenge.” Bridals By Lori is the largest full service bridal salon in the nation located in the affluent Sandy Springs community of Atlanta, Georgia. The 25,000 square foot, three story space houses the best of the bridal industry in a chic, metropolitan feeling setting. Set up like a department store, the nearly 30-year-old salon services today’s bride with an efficient shopping experience and unparalleled selection showcasing well-known designer brands and private label merchandise.

Q First of all I want to tell you how much I love the show “Say Yes to the Dress” Atlanta. Can you tell us how it came to be?

A TLC was looking to expand “The Say Yes to the Dress” show since it was only in New York. They contacted us about doing a fizzle reel and came down to meet us. Monte was my sales rep at that time for Rivini and I asked him if he would come. We always had that sort of banter between us. TLC was filming at other locations also, but we were the ones that got chosen!

Q You and Monte make such a great team on the show. How long have you known each other and where did you meet?

A We met in a showroom about 16 years ago and I just knew right away that we would be great friends. I feel like we are kindred spirits and have a lot in common.

Q You opened your shop only 2 weeks after graduating college. What was your motivation to have a bridal shop so early in life?

A I have always been driven and like to have a goal. I knew before going to college that I wanted to have my own business. My dad said that I need to get a business degree, so I did. My aunt June had 3 bridal shops called June’s Brides when I was growing up, so I wasn’t a stranger to bridal. I also worked in a few bridal shops, after I graduated college I got my first shop. It was 1,000 square feet, but after a lot of hard work and determination it has now grown to a 25,000 square foot shop!

Q It must have been a wonderful experience for you to be a part of your children’s weddings. What were some of the challenges you faced at your own children’s weddings?

A My children grew up in bridal. I understand the stress, I’ve been the Mother of the Bride and The Mother of the Groom. Most people think that the Mother of the Groom is suppose to be quiet and wear beige. Well, I look awful in beige and I can’t keep my mouth shut! With my daughter Molly’s wedding, she wanted a very formal wedding in a church. Her wedding was on the season finale of Platinum Weddings. My challenge at her wedding was I had never done it before. She’s a Virgo and very organized and Monte was there telling everyone what to do. We held the reception at the Ritz Carlton in Atlanta. With my son Corey’s wedding it was totally different. His bride Becky is so laid back and I love her mother. They listened to what I said, but you definitely wear a different hat as the Mother of the Groom.

Q The show has received many awards and I’m sure it will receive many more. Do you see any changes happening in the format and what can we expect to see in upcoming shows?

A When we can give back is my favorite part of being in the bridal industry. I think TLC may be thinking about updating the show by tweeking and adjusting it a bit. People love the show so much and it is extremely popular overseas. I receive hundreds of emails every month.

SAY YES TO THE DRESS ATLANTA



Q We know several years ago you went through a very difficult time when you discovered that you had Breast Cancer. You have been an inspiration to breast cancer survivors and an advocate for health and wellness ever since. Is there anything that you would like to say to our readers that may be going through what you did then?

A I do breast cancer speeches all over the country now because of my experience and what I went through. We have no history of breast cancer in our family. I wasn't even going to go for my mammogram that year because I had so many things on my plate. The nurse at the doctor's office kept calling me and I set the appointment and went. Then I received the phone call that would change my life! It was not an easy road, you think to yourself "why me"? My daughter said to me, I know why mom. It's because you have such a large women's audience. I went to TLC with the idea of filming a show following what I was going through

and I have to give them credit. They said if you are comfortable with it we will do it, and they started following me to my appointments and filming them. Because of the show it saved lives and made cancer a little more approachable. If I can get through it anyone can. Remember, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. When I went for my mammogram they asked me if I wanted to get the 3D imaging because it would cost \$80 more, and I said yes. It was that 3D imaging that caught it so fast. I would say to any woman who hasn't had cancer yet, go get your mammogram. Your priorities change after going through something like I did. You realize that you only have 1 day, this day, so your priorities change. We even beat Oprah out on getting an award for the show!

Q If the show were to end (and I hope it doesn't) what would you say is the best memory you would have from it?

A The best part of doing the show is being able to be with my best friend (Monte). We have had so much fun together. We've laughed and cried together. It can get so emotional at times. We film a hundred brides in a season, and we don't know anything about them prior to that. One of my favorites was a couple who were engaged and then the bride found out her fiancé had ALS, and we had to be strong for them. Some days are hard.

Q The one thing I wouldn't ever do is bring my groom to choose my dress, but I've seen some brides on your show do just that. What are your thoughts about a bride bringing her future husband to help choose her dress?

A I have a saying "No Foxes in the Hen House"! I do not want them upstairs unless of course the bride doesn't have anyone else with her. If he is just being nosy and just wants to be up there, no. I say that because you can't get that one special moment when he sees her for the first time walking up the aisle on their wedding. I have a location in my shop where the guys can go and watch football games to keep them busy while the bride is shopping for her gown.

Q You have a separate floor at your shop for the bridesmaid's dresses, and I understand there can be a lot of commotion there. What are some tips you could pass along to the bridesmaids that would help them in choosing their dress?

A You see so many different styles going on now for bridesmaid's dresses. I would say to them to remember it is still an honor to be asked to be a part of the bridal party and to remember that they will have their day sometime. This is the bride's time. Remember that trends are trends and that if one bridesmaid wears a strapless gown and another a different style that is a bit distracting, and you want the attention on the bride on her wedding day. Just remember the words Timeless and Classic and not Trends. They will come and go. If you stay with Timeless and Classic you can't go wrong.

Q Of course, a wedding is all about the bride and that special moment when everyone sees her walking up the aisle in her beautiful gown. At what moment does she realize the gown she has tried on at your store is magical?

A I see it everyday! It's a connection. She will put on the dress, get blotchy, her eyes fill with tears and she starts to giggle. Then Monte and I "jack her up", that's what we call it when we put on her veil, she just knows that's her dress. She doesn't want to get out of it. When you connect with a dress that's the one for you!

Q Who are some of your favorite designers?

A Rivini, I love their contemporary twist. Lazaro, every season comes out with a killer design. Matthew Christopher has it down with the fit of the gown.

“I love to teach them about fit and what looks good on them”

*Southern
Wedding Belle*

Rebecca
Cory &





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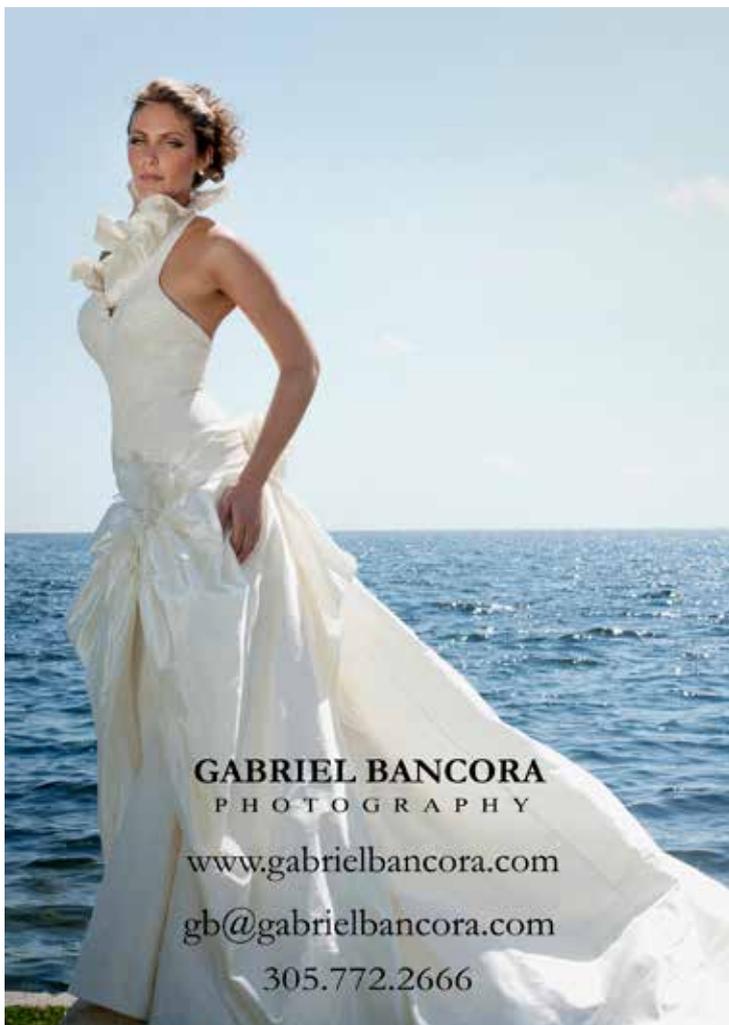


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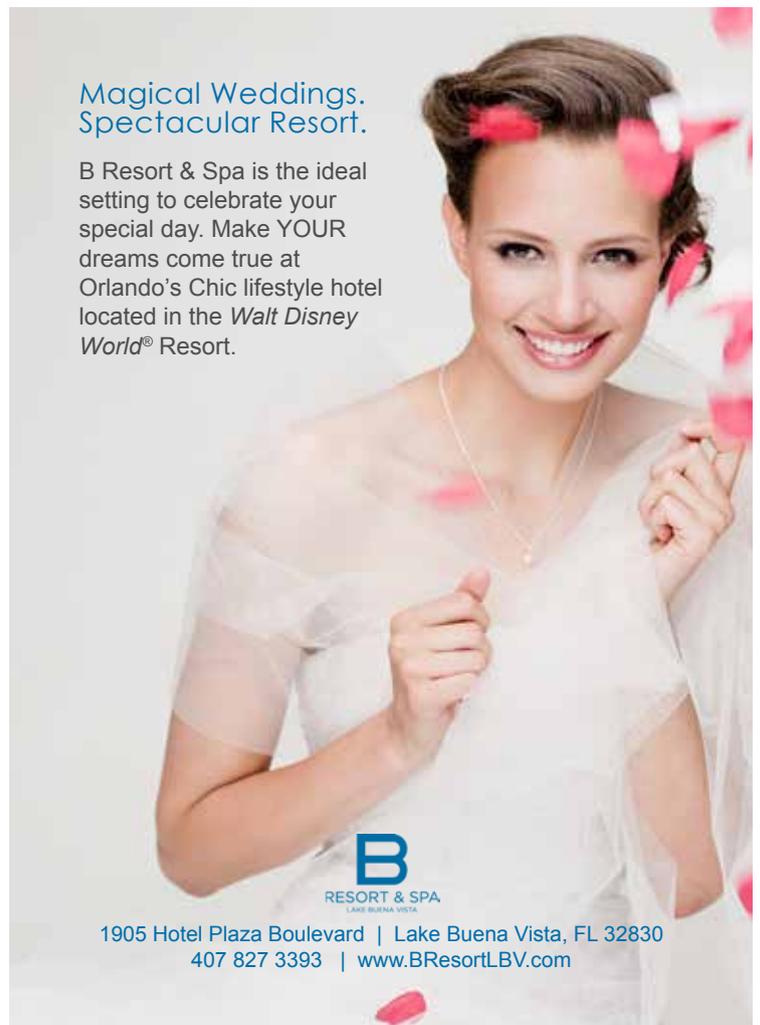
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Seaside BLISS

TINA & MICHAEL



The bride and groom met on a dating website and followed up with meeting in person. From that moment on they were completely inseparable! After two short weeks, the groom got down on one knee and proposed next to the bride's backyard pool on a picturesque South Florida evening.

Living in South Florida, the couple decided to utilize the natural beauty of their surroundings: namely, the beach and vibrant coastal colors and atmosphere. It was a shore thing! The entire wedding day was a magical seaside event; however, their first dance as a married couple was truly a highlight of the evening.

DETAILS

Venue: Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa
Gown: Sophia Tolli
Shoes: Lucky Brand
Bridesmaid Gowns: Custom from Renzrags
Groom's Attire: Island Importer
Invitations: Wedding Paper Divas
Cake: Johnson's Custom Cakes
Photography: A Seaside Wedding
Cinematography: A Seaside Wedding
Entertainment: A Seaside Wedding
Floral Design: Orange Blossoms Florals
Hair: Studio 10
Makeup Artist: Janneth Fernandez

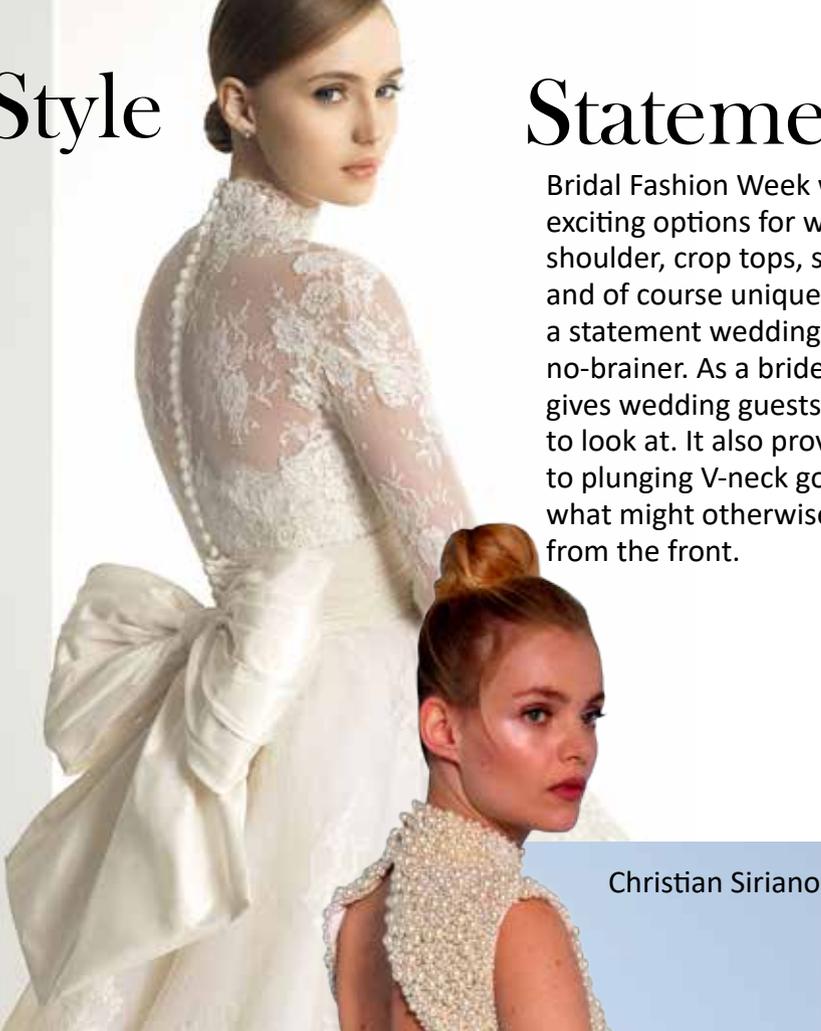


The bride wore a white Sophia Tolli strapless sweetheart bodice ball gown with a corset back. The bodice of the gown was made with Australian crystal and the bottom consisted of jeweled crystal tulle. She carried a bouquet of fuchsia orchids and calla lilies that were adorned with crystal starfish. The Groom wore a white linen suit accompanied with a white satin tie and a fuchsia orchid starfish boutonniere. The maid of honor and bridesmaid's wore long flowy chiffon turquoise gowns that consisted of a strapless sweetheart bodice and a corset back. They carried bouquets of fuchsia calla lilies. The best man and groomsmen wore tan linen suits accompanied with fuchsia satin ties and turquoise calla lily starfish boutonnieres.

Style

Statement Backs

Bridal Fashion Week will offer up countless exciting options for wedding dresses: Off-the-shoulder, crop tops, slinky sheath silhouettes and of course unique backs. The idea behind a statement wedding dress back seems like a no-brainer. As a bride walks down the aisle, it gives wedding guests something of a surprise to look at. It also provides a divine counterpart to plunging V-neck gowns and adds intrigue to what might otherwise be an understated design from the front.



Jesus Peiro



Christian Siriano



Christian Siriano



Pnina Tornai

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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6 beautiful TABLESCAPES

Rustic Chic

If you're thinking of having a winter wedding and wanting to get away from the traditional red and green, try a woodland approach. The table has a rustic feel with a burlap table runner and chair sashes; however, the silver vases, silver rimmed plates and the two silver infinity chairs at the ends of the table, gives this tablescape a refined appearance. The birch paper straws, birch table number holder, votive wraps, and antler place card holders embrace the natural elements.



Rustic Elegance

This extra long banquet table was decorated with a jute and burlap inspired linen. The color and texture contrasted beautifully with elegant fruitwood chivaris and apple green satin cushions. The entire table was beautifully decorated with inexpensive heirlooms and vintage inspired items that can be found around many homes, flea markets and antique shops. Flowers were used as accents, rather than the focal point allowing the feel of the tablescape to come through.

Romantic vintage

Ivory and pastels are often used as the base colors with pops of brighter color for interest. In this case, pink, ivory and silver have a classic feel that is perfect for a vintage tablescape. We love the floral silver water decanters used as centerpieces. The great thing about vintage tables is that you can use all of the mismatched dishes, lace table cloths and silverware that you have either inherited or collected over the years for that eclectic feel.





Southern Chic

This natural southern tablescape was inspired by the southern fundamental elements of burlap, mason jars and lace but combined with a simple natural essence. If you're thinking of having a southern style outdoor wedding, you might want to consider adding such a style for a unique twist on the standard southern blueprint. Instead of using the traditional hydrangea for the centerpiece flower, try using an assortment of greenery to give a full and effortless look of beauty.

Rustic Fall

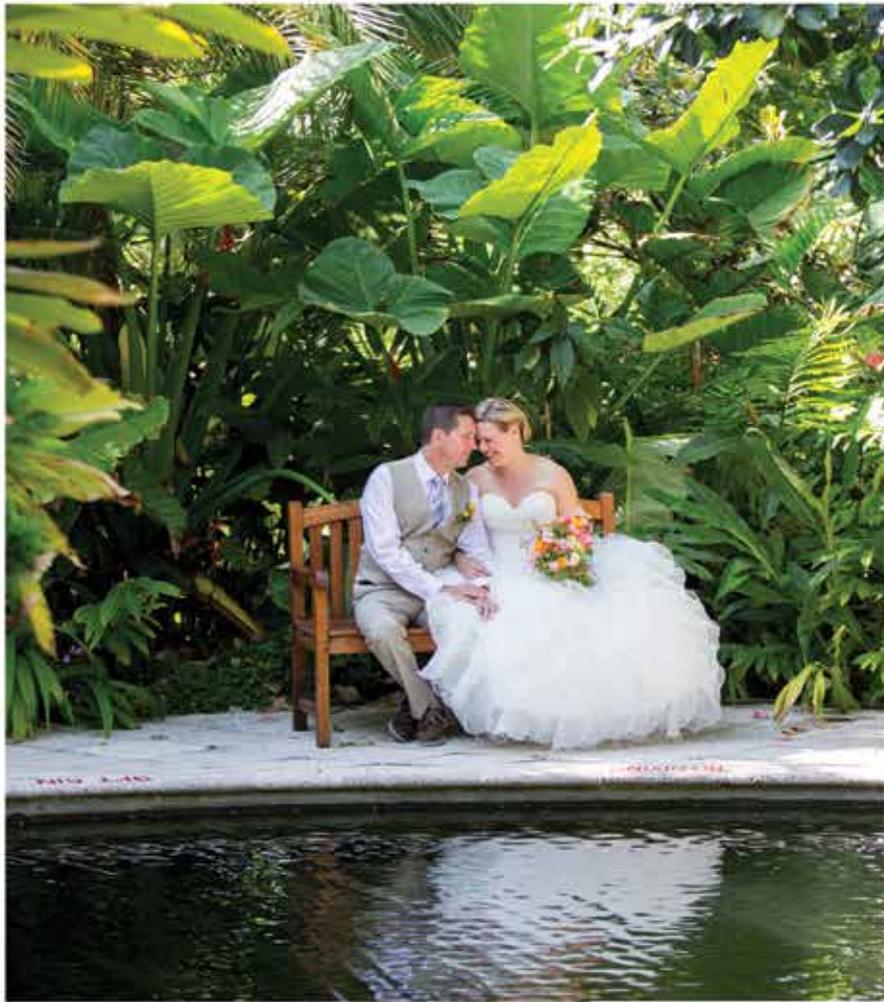
We love this sophisticated autumn touch. The colors incorporated into the table decor included a maple sugar caramel, taupe and warm white with hints of wood. Use gourds in orange and white for that great Fall feel and look. White plates with gold chargers accent the wood box centerpiece with Fall florals and leaves as a base. Add candles in these tall glass vases for that added natural light effect.



Color Splash

This great outdoor tablescape combines a white tablecloth with pastel pink runner. Wooden chivari chairs add a great contrast to the pastels. Use gold round vases with pastel florals.

Add a single bright color for that pop and color splash. Bronze frosted glass plates and framed table numbers complete the look. We love the small hanging lanterns in red and gold.



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Rock Your

Bridal registry



The Bridal Registry has become a part of the wedding planning process. It provides engaged couples a location where friends and family can find a list of their gift preferences.

Couples select items from the store which is then made available to their guests to purchase as a gift for the couple. Once the gift has been purchased the merchant updates the gift registry.

This process also helps prevent duplicate gifts or unwanted gifts since a lot of couples nowadays may already have items like towels and bedding.

The bridal registry idea was invented by Marshall Field's in 1927, and became very popular with department stores after that allowing guests and family to know which set of china, silverware or crystal they would prefer. Target stores pioneered an electronic self-service gift registry in 1993. In the 21st century the traditional thought of a bridal registry evolved and as of 2015 specialized versions like honeymoon registries, baby registries and house registries came about.



Currently, there are universal registries that allow couples to place items from different stores on their registry. In the United Kingdom bridal registries are known as Wedding Lists and couples send a copy of it inside of their wedding invitations. Over the past few year's bridal registries have become very popular in Europe. An increasing amount of Europeans work or study abroad and tend to have international guests attending their wedding. European registry services account for this by being multi-lingual. Trends now allow couples to add almost anything to their wish list. You may be wondering how many stores you should register with. Well, you can register at more than one store, and no,

you won't seem greedy if you do. Just make sure your bridal party and parents know exactly where you registered to get the word out (remember, here in the U.S. word of mouth is the only appropriate way to inform guests where you've registered).

Also, please remember if you spread your registries too thin, you may find yourself with very few items from each store. Otherwise, your idea is fine and why shouldn't you register for things you really want?



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tip!**

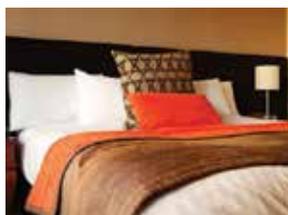
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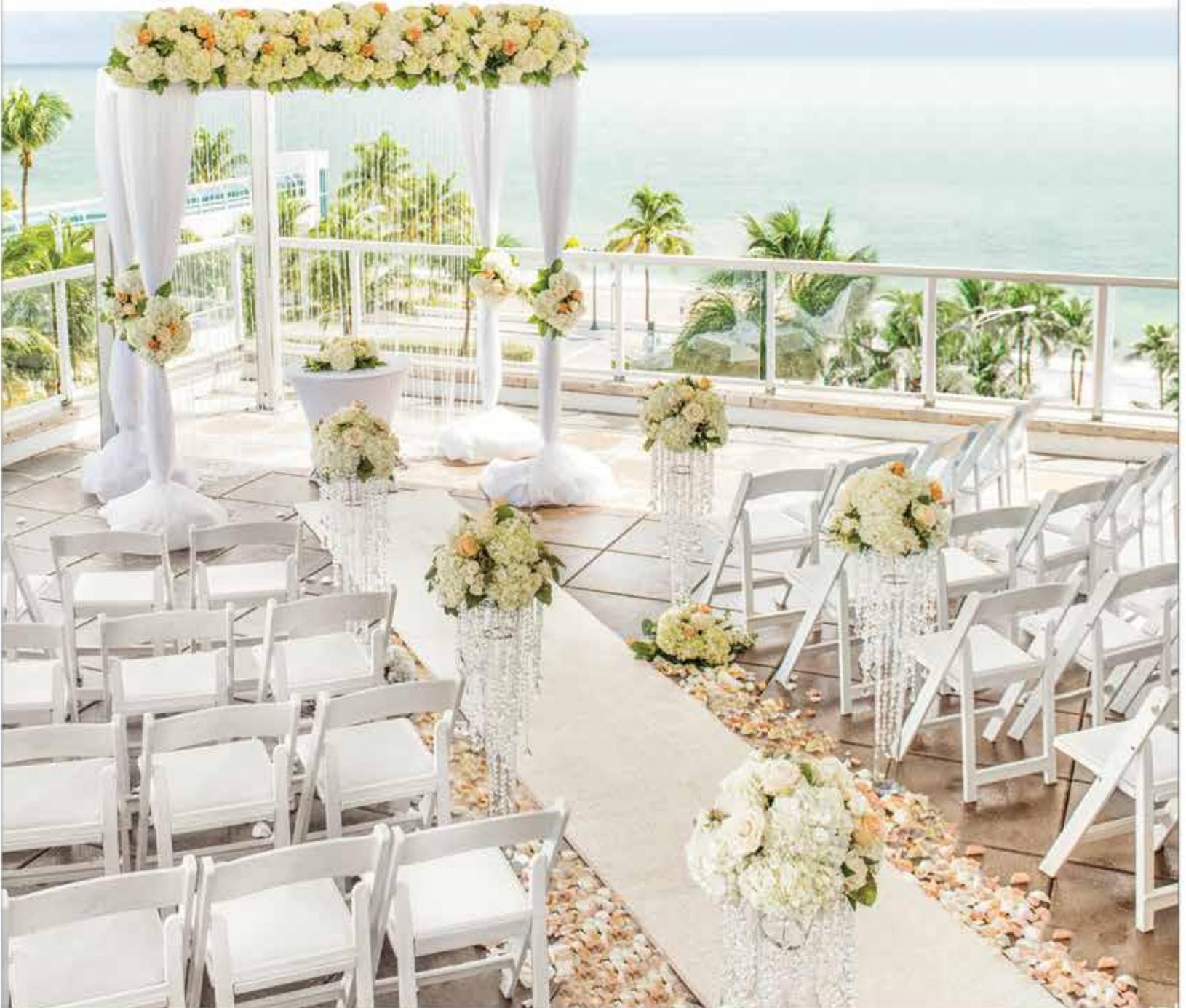


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Harry Potter

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Bride Cassie and Groom Lewis lived out their dreams when they had a "Harry Potter"-themed wedding spectacular enough to make even the gloomiest Slytherin smile.

Harry Potter

Positively Spellbinding

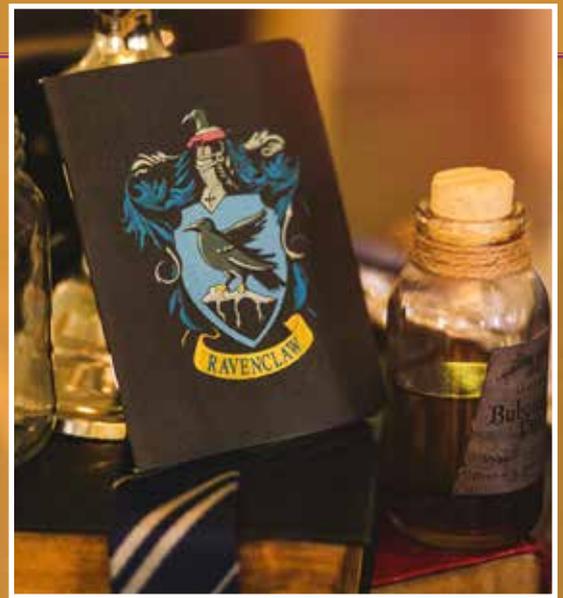
Photography By: Kelly Clarke Photography

Cassie and Lewis

All the flowers were handmade by the Bride using Harry Potter book pages, that included the bouquets, button holes, flowers for the bridesmaids' hair and flowers for the cake.

Our day turned out better than we could have ever expected. I can't explain the feeling of seeing all your hard work and planning finally come to life and being able to share that with your family and friends. It felt that bit more personal because we made almost everything ourselves and spent months making all the bits and pieces. We had a very clear vision of how we wanted it to look on the day, we wanted it to look quirky and cool and not like a child's birthday party (which can be a struggle with themed weddings). We tried to pay attention to the smallest details that most of the guests wouldn't even have noticed but we knew were there, for example, we had love heart confetti on the tables cut from the books and we made sure that every heart had a specific name or word on it. It really was a magical day and we are so proud of what we achieved and I hope that we inspire other couples to follow their heart and have whatever kind of wedding day they want, theme or not.





FROM THE BRIDE

What was the best part of the wedding day?

Cassie: Seeing how emotional Lewis was when I walked in and also seeing our room dressed for the first time and seeing how all our hard work had come together.

Lewis: Seeing Cassie for the first time as she came down the aisle, I only just about kept it together!



THE DETAILS

Videographer: Alex Miller- Viaduct Video

Flowers: Cassie's Creations

Cake: Debbie Bennett

Dress: Fairytale brides

Venue dressing Chair covers and up lights- The Venue Stylist.

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“To Makeup or Not to Makeup” That is the Question?



15 time Grammy winner Alicia Keys has brought a lot of attention to being makeup free.

In a letter published in May she wrote: Every time I left the house, I would be worried if I didn't put on makeup: What if someone wanted a picture?? What if they POSTED it??? These were the insecure, superficial, but honest thoughts I was thinking. And all of it, one way or another, was based too much on what other people thought of me. Since writing that letter she has received a lot of comments from fans, some of them praising her no makeup movement and some against it.

She states she is not anti-makeup, but that she is enjoying the freedom of not having to place it on every time she walks out the door. Keys recently did a natural photoshoot for her new album and said that she felt the strongest, most empowered, most free, and most honestly beautiful than she had ever felt.

Recently she appeared on the Today Show with no makeup and the hosts of the show decided to join her and wiped the makeup off their face while they were on-air. We all know that beauty is both internal and external, and she may have started a movement.

You have to feel good about yourself. This Girl on Fire has inspired many women, especially since the VMA's. Let's face it...it must take a lot of self-confidence to show up at an event like that makeup free.

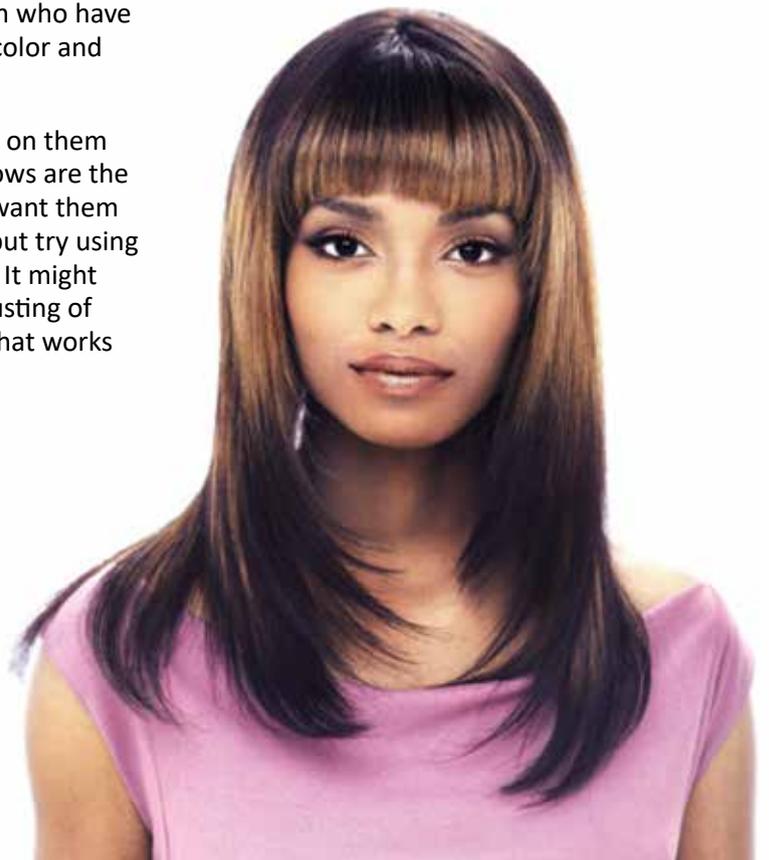
I don't know if I would have that courage, would you? Maybe we could try it a little bit at a time or we could begin by using some makeup tips to achieve a natural look. Here are some ways to make your everyday makeup appear natural and chic.

The majority of women want to have that girl next door, natural look. Some women try to achieve the natural look with only a bit of blush or by using a tinted moisturizer which also provides SPF coverage, instead of foundation which can often clog up your pores. By matching tinted moisturizer to your skin color it gives the illusion of flawless skin since it is almost invisible. Mineral makeup works as well. To complete the look, contour your cheekbones with a light bronzer.

Clear mascara is another way to get that natural look. If you have dark eyelashes and just want to make them stand out more it is a perfect fit. Women who have light lashes should use a light brown to give your lashes just a bit of color and still look natural.

We all know that eyebrows define your face and simply placing color on them and shaping them can give you a whole different appearance. Eyebrows are the first thing most people notice about someone's face, and you don't want them to notice a poorly drawn on eyebrow. This may take a little practice but try using eyeshadow instead of an eye pencil to get a perfect arch and shade. It might take some practice because less is more and all you need is a light dusting of eyeshadow to provide the coverage you need. Find the best shade that works with your hair color.

A nude lip pencil and gloss lipstick will complete your natural look. Now, the definition of a nude color is different from one person to the other because it is a shade that matches your own lip shade. Some of us have a more of a pink lip than others. The benefit of having a nude lip color is you can wear it with any outfit you have. Trying a natural look is a wonderful way to look beautiful and it will always be in style. So, No makeup or Natural Makeup, it's all up to you!



You look Flawless!!! Fall Skincare



We all want to achieve that soft porcelain-like model skin, but the truth is our pores are what they are. It's all in our genetic makeup, but don't get upset with mom or dad just yet. We want to keep the family happy so we have put together some tips for making your pores appear to look smaller.

cleansing...

Get rid of any excess oil that has taken residence in those pores. By keeping your skin clean, and I know that's not always easy with your busy schedule, but do try your best. This will make your pores look smaller and use noncomedogenic moisturizers and makeup. Wash your face in the evening with a gentle cleanser to avoid clogging your pores, and make sure that after you do your work out you wash your face so the sweat doesn't carry cosmetics into your pore openings.



exfoliate...

Exfoliate dead skin cells a couple times a week. Exfoliating masks containing glycolic and salicylic acids work great to clear out pores and also to tighten them.

toners...

Using toners with a neutral pH may help to give your skin a tighter-looking appearance.

sunscreen...

Ultraviolet light can degrade elastin and collagen in the skin thus impairing the pore's ability to remain tightly shut and causing laxity leading to enlargement. A sunscreen with a minimum SPF 30 can help prevent saggy enlargement of pores from sun damage.

retinoids...

The product I have been using for years is a retinoid. They may take some time to get use to, but the benefit is marvelous! It increases exfoliation so dead skin cells don't clog pores, and stimulates healthy collagen production which helps to support the pore structure.

makeup...

Begin with a primer to even out your skin tone, and keep foundation from soaking into your pores. Once the primer dries, apply a cream foundation. Cream foundation conceals pores a bit better than liquid ones do. Last but not least, dust your face with a loose translucent powder to reduce shine.



NEW!

Fall 2016 Makeup Trends Snow Globe Nails?

Who doesn't Love a Snow Globe. Children are fascinated watching the snow drifting down then shaking it so it does it again, and adults always take a second look when they see one. Nail art has picked up on that wonderful fascination and we adore it. When I first heard of snow globe nail art I didn't quite understand what they meant.



I thought maybe they drew a picture of one on your nails and perhaps even added glitter, but no that was not the case. They are actually Snow Globes placed on your nails, go figure!

Here are some pictures of what they look like:

What great timing and fun trend for us to try for the holidays!

THE CURL IS BACK *Perms are in again Girls!*

As someone who has long wavy hair and have been straightening it for years I am personally intrigued with this new look! I have even heard the guys are getting in on the trend, hurray guys!



These are not the frizzy perms of the past you have nightmares about. Today's stylists have a new understanding of waves and here in Florida we ladies know all too well how the humidity can affect our hair. I actually feel we have been missing our girly bouncy waves that are perfect for the beach. Less maintenance sounds good to me and who doesn't like those flirty, tousled waves.

Keep in mind that the size of the rod does count, and will be the decision factor of the look of your perm. Using a larger rod gives you a softer, more tousled look to your hair. Make sure you speak with your stylist to assure you get the look you want. Take pictures to let them know the look you want to achieve. It will ensure you get exactly the type of curls you want. Your stylist will help you find the look that is best suited for you, and what works best for your hair type.

Let's celebrate ladies, and join in on this movement to appreciate what we were born with!

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PASSION *for* FASHION

Growing up in South America, the child of a Greek-American Diplomat Father and stylish Panamanian Mother, Nick has always been inspired by his heritage. Whether it be Grecian Goddess draping or bold and beautiful prints, he infuses his design aesthetic into every piece of the NV Nick Verreos Collection. So, here are my DOs and DON'Ts for style like that every day and what I've learned about living a happy life.

Known for his draping technique, Nick adds figure flattering details into all of his designs, allowing every woman to have her own personal "red carpet" moment. Whether it is a draped bodice, asymmetrical hemline or thoughtfully constructed seaming; making women feel and look great is Nick's primary objective for the NV collection. "Whether you are having a girl's night out or even going on a job interview, these dresses are meant to give you an ego boost. I guarantee they'll make you feel confident, stylish, a little glam and maybe even sexy!" explains Nick.

Fashion designer Nick Verreos launched his High-end Designer label NIKOLAKI in 2001 along with his partner David Paul, and has dressed celebrities including Heidi Klum, Katy Perry, Carrie Underwood and Beyoncé and has showcased his collections at Fashion Weeks across the world. As a TV personality, Nick received national and international attention after appearing on Project Runway and most recently, he was the Winning Mentor of Project Runway: Under the Gunn. He has enjoyed great success as a red carpet fashion expert and correspondent for E! Entertainment, Style Network, NBC and CNN International. Nick has been a regular panelist on TV Guide Network's Fashion Wrap for the Golden Globes, Grammys, SAG Awards, Primetime Emmys and has been a LIVE Red Carpet Correspondent for the Academy Awards.

NICK RECOMMENDS.

Verreos recommends that everyone get a Moto jacket to enhance their fall fashion closet. "The Moto jacket is very on trend for fall and can come in many different styles. It's a great way to update your wardrobe. It can be your way of transitioning into fall."

MUST HAVE FOR FALL.

Another must-have for fall are booties. They are your go-to shoes this season. "Booties, that's very into fall. If you don't have a pair, get a pair. If you're petite and fear it cutting off your legs,

you can get a nude pair and it will continue the leg. It's another great way of moving into fall. Also, it's all about metallics - gold, copper, silver. Having details like that in a pair of jeans or your top is a great way to transition."

HOT WEATHER.

As for our hot Florida weather, we asked Verreos what were some great fall pieces for someone in a warmer climate. "I live in Los Angeles and it's 85 degrees, I'm all about items and pieces. A poncho or a wrap can easily give you that fall look without feeling uncomfortable."



ON A BUDGET?

On a budget? Verreos is all about mixing high and low pieces. "I love doing the high and low. For some of the basics like jeans or a knit top, it's okay to go low. For a shift dress aka "The Anchor Woman Dress" spend the money. Sometimes you have to upgrade. Once you get into college and/or looking for jobs you should definitely think about upgrading your wardrobe.

ANOTHER GREAT TIP.

Another great tip is to personalize what you see on the runway to your style. "Take little items from the runway and make it your own. A lot of people think that you have to copy the looks straight off the runway. That isn't the case. The looks you see are an inspiration that you can take and make your own. That will make you happy with fashion."



TAILORED JACKET.

Verreos also recommends investing in a tailored jacket. "If you're in a creative field, try going outside the box with a funky jacket. It screams, 'I'm business, but I can also be cool and trendy.'"

CONFIDENCE.

One must be confident in fashion. Verreos says, "Own your look and realize how you dress and how you present yourself. Someone can tell who you are based on what you wear. There's nothing more stylish than someone who owns his or her look. Don't be afraid of being individual."

“ Take inspiration from the Runway and make it your own. That will make you happy with fashion ”

Dream Style

SHAY & ROB

Photographer: Kristen Weaver Photography

Since I had only met Rob and Shay via Skype, I'll never forget walking in to the girl's hotel room and telling Shay she was so much smaller in person! She's basically awesomely pint-sized with a huge heart! With so many amazing things about Rob and Shailene's gorgeous Tampa wedding, I'd have to say that the highlight was all of the amazing music and partying! Rob and Shay have an intense love for entertainment, and Rob pulled out all the stops to make Shay's day beyond



incredible.

The night had so many special performances – but Shay was beyond surprised when Rob asked the amazing Johnny Keyser, Shay's favorite American Idol contestant, to perform the song for their first dance! But the surprises didn't end – because Rob and his "dance crew" busted out a pop-performance for the ladies (who were basically freaking out)! The entire night was such a fantastic time, and Krista, Stacy and I loved celebrating with them for every sweet moment!





The Details
Photographer: Kristen Weaver Photography
Event Planner: Days Remembered by ND
DJ: DKN-terainment LLC
Floral Designer: FH Weddings & Events
Cinema and Video: Lucky Lemon Films
Invitation Designer: Paper Presentation
Dress Store: Solutions Bridal Designer House
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Whirlwind Romance

Janessa and Steve had a whirlwind romance! Their engagement was only 6 months after they met but they knew it was love right away! Janessa told us she wanted her wedding to be over the top and to sparkle from every direction! With that in mind we decided to drape the entire ballroom in white satin covered by thousands of crystals...literally everything dripped with sparkle! The walls, the napkins, the chairs, the chargers and of course the floral!! Though the ceremony had to be moved indoors due to weather, the drape and gorgeous 6' chandelier over the altar created an intimate, romantic setting for the 2 of them to say their vows! It was definitely the wedding of the century!!!!



the details

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- Musicians: Beautiful Music & Paint It Black Quartet
- Event Planner: Blush by Brandee Gaar
- Musicians: C'Nergy Band
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Outdoor Serenity

from the bride

Photographer: Life Long Studios

Trevor and I met at UF while I was completing my Masters of Engineering degree and Trevor was starting dental school. After my master's I took a job in Virginia and Trevor still had 2 more years of dental school. After finishing my 1 year obligation with the job in Virginia I came to Tampa, where I knew Trevor would end up joining a dental practice. One week before his graduation from dental school he proposed on a dinner cruise. Our color palette is rose and navy (with hints of green). Inspired by flowers like I liked (peonies, garden roses, stock, wax flowers...soft and beautiful) and the color for the barn. I didn't really choose a color palette...it happened more organically when we started looking at bridesmaids dresses, flowers, suits, the color of the barn, and the outdoors.



the details

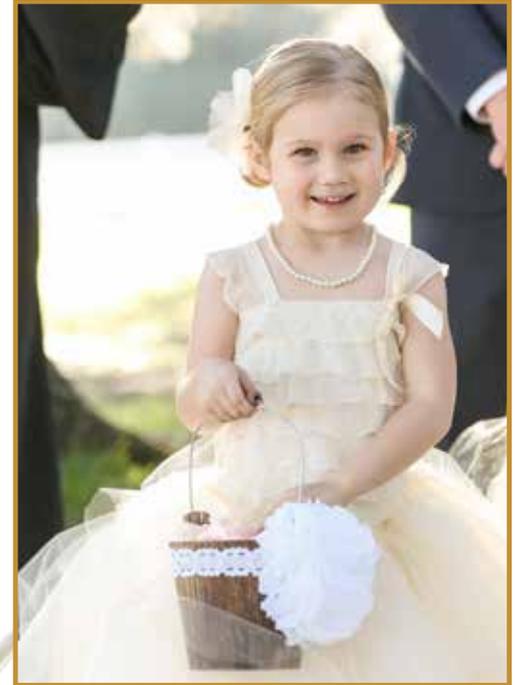
Photographer: Life Long Studios
Caterer: 4 Rivers Smokehouse
DJ: Grant Hemond & Associates
Reception Venue: The Lange Farm
Ceremony Location: The Lange Farm

Katherine & Trevor

Lange Farm, Florida



Trevor and I are from small Florida towns (Plant City and Umatilla, respectively). Growing up in rural areas and our love for the outdoors made the Lange Farm an easy choice for us...with the added benefit of his parents living in Dade City.



Flowers were all created by the Mother of the Grooms friend. Food was provided by 4Rivers (a place Trevor and I enjoy immensely) to keep in line with a relaxed/comfortable outdoor feel of the wedding.

Uncle T,
Last Chance to RUN!



Okay, so you wear glasses!



how will it affect your makeup?

With all of the fashionable designer frames available today there is no reason you still can't look gorg. You may be feeling a bit confused as to how to wear your makeup correctly when wearing them to avoid that geek appearance. Well, fret no more, we have put together some tips to wearing makeup correctly with your glasses and also some tips to avoid.

Tip #1

Avoid the smokey eye look while wearing glasses and save it for when you have contacts on, if you wear them. Dark shadow under glasses make eyes appear too dark. Choose instead to wear a light highlighting shadow on your lid. To add dimension and some drama, try a medium shade in the crease of your eye and be sure to blend it in.

Tip #2

Matching your eyeglass frames to your liner tends to make your eyes appear to blend in and not stand out. Choose a liner that's a shade or two lighter than your frames are. With brown frames for instance, try a taupe or bronze liner, and with black frames experiment with navy, gray or silver liner.

Tip #3

Do not apply mascara onto your bottom lashes. It can cast a shadow onto an already dark area on your face and make you appear tired.

Tip #4

I know we're talking about your eyes, but you also need to pay attention to your skin. Try a lightweight foundation so your eyes have the spotlight on them.

Tip #5

Under eye circles are a real problem for a lot of us who wear glasses. Using the right concealer will make a huge difference. Try a yellow shade to fight red or dark discoloration.

Tip #6

Thick or Thin??? Ever wonder what thickness you should apply your eyeliner? Rule of thumb says Thin eyeliner for thin frames and Thick eyeliner for thick frames to avoid over-exaggerating your eyes in a not so good way.



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Sweet Gems

GEODE WEDDING CAKES

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Geode wedding cakes that are almost too beautiful to eat!

Geodes are those hollow rocks filled with sparkling crystals and minerals. You know, the ones used to make jewelry, decorate homes and even heal ailments. But recently, they're taking the wedding world by storm specifically in cake designs using rock candy. Here, are some geode cakes we're kind of obsessed with.

Traditional wedding cakes have been served up with serious style in recent years and the newest trend taking the internet by storm is the geode cake.

These stunning geode cakes were created by Jennifer Johnson of Johnson's custom cakes, Rachel Morris of Three Tiers for Cake and Darci Weil of Kake in Alberta. The inspiration comes from a variety of geodes. The edible geode is made from a combination of granulated sugar and rock candy and then crafted with multicolored modeling chocolate, hand-painting and gold leaf.



Darci Weil of Kake in Alberta



Johnson's Custom Cakes
Kenneth Smith Photography



Starting your
marriage on
the rocks!



Rachael Morris is a cake artist who specializes in doing unique, gravity-defying showstoppers and couture wedding cakes in the Lake Norman and greater Charlotte area. Rachael's 5 children were her original cake customers, providing a continuous source of inspiration and challenge to her skills, which she honed by taking a few professional classes and scouring the Internet for tutorials and tips. The online cake community has been a continuous source of support and collaboration for Rachael Morris, offering her a space where she can share her knowledge and allow her creativity to percolate.





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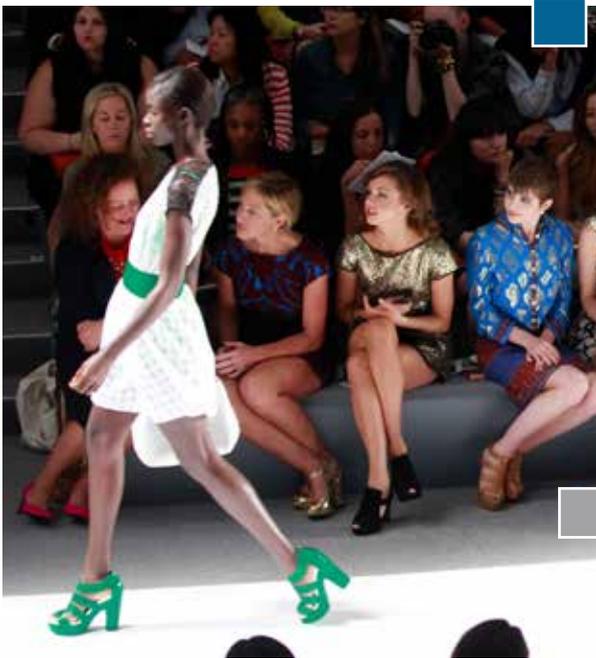


THE BEST TRENDS From New York TO KNOW (& Try) Fashion Week

Runways are full of new trends. But each year, it gets harder and harder to sift through them all. Our favorite fast fashion houses are restocking shelves nearly every week and more and more brands are adopting a “see now, buy now” mentality, meaning tons of runway pieces will be available ASAP. With that type of landscape, it can feel like you’re running in a hamster wheel trying to follow what’s trending. But not all is lost. The climate may be changing, but that doesn’t mean you can’t keep up.

Allover Sequins

Though many don’t typically consider sequined pieces to be edgy, this season, designers utilized the sparkling embellishments in an innovative, cool way, making shiny body silhouettes something to consider for upcoming soirees.



Cake-Topper Ruffles

Though we’re used to maxi-dresses with sleek, simple silhouettes, if this season’s runways are any indication, it’s clear that the new way to go long is with dimension and texture or, more specifically, cascading frills.

That Doesn’t Go Together...?

A number of looks came down the catwalk sparking the same thought: Well, that doesn’t really match. Instead of that being a negative thing, mismatched outfits were entirely intentional. Forget your corresponding hues and get ready to clash and look gorgeous while doing it.



THE BEST TRENDS

From New York Fashion Week

TO KNOW (& Try)

Panel Play

Last Fashion Week, we were introduced to garments that had a hodgepodge feel to them. This season, we're getting the same mixed effect, but the look has gotten a bit more streamlined. Rather than a plethora of different fabrics affixed randomly to one garment, designers are using panels of the same shade or combining two large pieces of fabric to add volume and intrigue to their pieces.

Sheer Modesty

This one is all about contrast. Silhouettes that would normally give full coverage were revamped with sheer materials. Whether these "modest" see-through designs are paired matching knickers underneath (à la Coach), a slip, or nothing at all, we're loving it.



Vitamin C

We typically associate the color orange with fall (pumpkins, Fall leaves etc.), but the bright hue hit the spring runways hard. Coming in a slew of different shades, from electric at Rosie Assoulin to more muted and subtle at Sies Marjan, this color is proving to be worth our time.

Head-To-Toe Pinstripes

Pinstripes are nothing new, but head-to-toe pinstripes with baggy silhouettes and interesting necklines mean business. It's almost like workwear met sleepwear and they decided to collaborate.

Layered Pants

Though layered bottoms have been a street style staple for a minute now, we were surprised and excited to see them at the center of attention on the catwalk. Lately, our trend reports have always included pairing multiple pieces together it's one of the easiest ways to make a garment feel new again so whether in the waistband or the pant legs, we can't wait to see the full form with this one.





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Salvatore Principe

The Boca-based, self-made artist and business man always wanted to create a brand of mass produced, yet undoubtedly unique, works of art. He moved to Boca Raton twenty-three years ago chasing this muse. At the time, the New York native was working at the famed Studio 54. Art world luminaries like Warhol and Halston were regulars. The music was loud, the ideas flowed, and the air was thick with talk of a creative revolution. Still, Salvatore felt lost, incomplete. Hedonism surrounded him. People were getting lost in the party, forgetting their passions. Salvatore didn't want to fall victim to the same fate as his friends.

His Heart & Mother

Salvatore's family supported his decision and, to this day, he's beyond grateful for their love and dedication to his dream. He's grateful for his father for teaching him to persevere and giving him the greatest gift of all, his mother. His biggest inspiration was his mother. Sadly, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer right around the time he decided to devote his life to art. She began to get sicker and Salvatore's heart began to break.



This isn't a sad story though. See, within six months, Salvatore's mom saw one of his first commissioned works in the windows at New York Bergdorf Goodman's. He's beyond grateful his mother was able to see the first of a long line of famous works. Salvatore's most recognizable works are his heart paintings. They've been shown in galleries around the world. Locally, they've made appearances throughout iconic department stores like Bloomingdales and Neiman Marcus.

The Artistic Process

Salvatore's inspiration is fluid – it comes and goes in waves. He's trained himself to paint, even when he doesn't want to. Especially when he doesn't want to! He describes getting to this place of inspiration within minutes of starting a piece. Although not always inspired, Salvatore's always peaceful and happy while working.

Painting, to Salvatore, is nothing short of a meditative process. He's inspired by nothing and everything. A conversation sparks a new idea. He glances at something and feels excited.

He looks at the world through an artistic lens. He's more intrigued with the form of a work than the finish. Salvatore starts several pieces at once and works on them periodically. Some pieces sit in his space for a year, while he finishes others in days.





*“Salvatore’s inspiration is fluid
it comes and goes in waves.”*

Where Can You See Salvatore?

Salvatore’s work is currently being shown in the Eleven
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Top Mistakes Brides Make When Planning Their Wedding

We are surrounded by the most beautiful couples and weddings all year long, and after many years in the business we've learned a few things along the way! This top list is a must read and a must share for brides who are beginning to plan their wedding.

1

Announcing the engagement too soon

Technology and social media make it very tempting to spill the beans early on, but it might be a good idea to resist the urge. Telling your close friends and family in person and seeing each of their reactions can be the most exciting part. Not only is it more fun for you and your husband-to-be, but your inner circle will really appreciate that you took the time to tell them personally.



2

Choosing the venue before considering your guest list

In the excitement of the initial wedding planning, it is easy to forget some of the finer details. Remember that your venue has to fit your circle of friends and family that will be celebrating with you. Jot down a rough list of names you are considering inviting. That will give you a rough idea of the size of venue you will require.



3

Choosing bridesmaids

There are many reasons why as a bride you may choose certain people to be a part of your big day.

Make sure that you pick yours for the right reasons. Logic like, "She asked me to be a part of her wedding first" or "I just don't want to hurt her feelings by not asking her" might cause you some regret down the road. Do what makes you happy first and foremost.

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4

Forgetting to leave wiggle room in your budget

Try as you might, it can be hard to stay true to your budget. Hidden costs and last minute things are very likely to sneak up on you. Leave a miscellaneous costs column in your budget for some of these details. This way you can make sure all your vendors are paid on time and you won't be filled with that dreadful feeling in your stomach wondering how you will ever pay for it all.

5

Failing to loop everyone in

Your bridal party and parents are going to play a big part in how smoothly or how chaotic your wedding weekend goes. If you fill them in on any important changes, locations and information, you will save yourself the headache. Jot down a few of the important details and send a document to everyone a few weeks before the wedding. Include addresses, phone numbers and important point people. This will ensure everyone gets to where they need to be, when they need to be there and that any important jobs you have assigned are clear.

6

Forgetting to schedule time to visit with guests

Your wedding day is going to be a busy one, but it is important to set some time aside for a receiving line or to visit each table. Even a short visit will mean a lot to your guests. After all, they did come to celebrate with you!

7

Forgetting to eat

With all the butterflies and excitement, food and water are likely to be the last thing on your mind.



But make sure you force yourself to have a few light snacks throughout the morning. Also consider having a few snack platters prepared for your bridal party after the ceremony.

It is easy to get caught up in the fun and photos, but the afternoon will be much more enjoyable if everyone is well fed and happy.





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Festive Ideas For a Cozy... Holiday Wedding!

It's the most wonderful time of the year for weddings, that is! We've compiled a list of essential ingredients for a very merry Christmas wedding. Here are some charming ideas to get you and your guests in the holiday spirit.



Candlelite

Get that perfect holiday look at your ceremony with different sizes of floating candles scattered around your ceremony area.



Pinecone Bouquet

Using pinecones is a wonderful way to reflect the season. Add some pine branches, wheat, or flowers carved from birch to fill out the bouquet.



Cake Topper

No wedding cake is complete without a little decoration. Cascade Pine Cones on a simple fondant cake.



Holiday Shot

Get that perfect photo with the holiday lights as your backdrop.



All White

A combination of a little of this and a little of that makes for a winter white bouquet that really looks amazing.



Winter Table

Making sure you have that perfect winter themed centerpiece can be a difficult decision. May we suggest your Wedding centerpiece to contain privet berries, pine boughs, pine cones, roses, peonies, tuberose, and parrot tulips. Your guests will be truly excited.

Festive Groom

Let's not forget the man in your life. After all he has to look festive too. Try this perfect Christmas Pine Cone Boutonniere made with a Small-Medium Pine Cone (about 2.5" to 3" tall), Christmas Greens and Small Red Berrie Sprays.



Holiday Bouquet

When it comes to bridal bouquets, round posies are trending over the longer shower-style bouquets. Tightly packaged tulips or roses look amazing at Christmas time and make a real impact in your photos.

Mini Appetizers

Cocktail Hour

The best part of any wedding is the cocktail hour. It's after the ceremony but before the dinner, so it's the first time that all the guests mingle. Plus, the drinks are flowing and there are plenty of delicious hors d'oeuvres to nibble on. If you're planning your wedding and are looking for inspiration when it comes to the appetizer hour, we've got you covered.



The Trend

The mini food trend is super hot right now! I mean... everything is cuter and way more fun in miniature. You can also offer guests a variety of different foods... think appetizers, entrees and desserts...without breaking the bank. Plus, your guests can easily pop bite sized foods into their mouths... without making a mess of themselves or your wedding venue.



*You Dream It...
We Create It!*



Nicollette & Brent Hagey
October 15, 2016
Photo by Adam Opris 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



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



Jen & Craig Hammitt
February 4, 2017
Photo by Travis Harris Photography

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WEDDING TRADITIONS

and where they came from

You have likely attended a wedding or two and have seen all of the traditions, but have you ever wondered where they came from? Why is the bride requiring something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue? Why does the groom toss the garter into a crowd of men, and why is a wedding cake so important? Nearly every aspect of a wedding has some sort of significance behind it, and we have been busy finding the origins behind some of the most popular wedding traditions to help give you a little perspective.

The Bridesmaids

The tradition of bridesmaids have a similar past rooted in superstition. In the past, a bride's attendants dressed similar to the bride to confuse and distract evil spirits trying to spoil the bride's happiness.

The Bouquet

The custom of flower bouquets has its origin in ancient times. Women carried aromatic bunches of garlic, herbs and spices to ward off evil spirits. It was also believed to be preventive measure in contracting the plague. In modern days it is generally accepted that the bride chooses a flower arrangement that she likes or matches her wedding theme.



The Best Man

The "best" in best man once referred to the quality of a man's swordsmanship. When weddings were used as a business transaction rather than a union of love, the groom needed a good swordsman to help either retrieve a run-away bride or fend off a bride's angry family that may not approve of the union.

The Ring Bearer & Pillow

The ring bearer's pillow symbolizes the promises of the dreams you have while sleeping, coming true. A small child is typically asked to carry the pillow which symbolizes innocence, the future and new beginnings.



Grooms Corner



Whether he is waiting at the altar, greeting guests, or taking off the garter, the groom is expected to be dressed to impress. For you special guys out there, we have collected some of the top 2017 wedding fashion trends. We also sought out representatives from national designers Brooks Brothers and Allure Men by Allure Bridals to hand-select photos of popular styles. So go get your bride-to-be and let's research your wardrobe together.

Mismatched pieces:

"The one colored or plain colored pieces have been replaced with mismatched alternatives like waistcoats for a three-piece style suit in a different color from the trousers and jacket." The groom also can try a patterned shirt with tweed. Or perhaps either a quirky patterned tie or print bow tie?

New colors:

Grooms are choosing marsala, brown, or burgundy for formalwear in lieu of the standard black, navy blue, or gray. According to Fiyin, this can be a patterned mix-up or a one color, two-piece ensemble.



Accent colors:

The guys are wearing brilliant accent colors to spruce up their looks. "These colors are displayed in pocket squares, lapels, button hole flowers, even socks."

Mix and match the crew:

"The stand out groom now chooses a complete or partially different look from his best man and his buddies. We now have grooms that wear a different color suit, or the only one to wear a jacket or even a different vest." With the mix and match style, the guys can contrast with textures, colors, patterns, and so on.

Suspenders for everyone!

According to Fiyin, suspenders have made a comeback. The guys can choose patterns or bright colors, or add a personal touch with monograms.





TUX Online or Instore that is the question

By Susan Damon The Tux Shop of Palm Beach

Dressed & Ready to Impress

The tux rental industry is not only for “black tie” anymore. Tuxedo stores are offering suit rentals and partial rentals to keep up with the organic looks showcased on so many sites.

The looks seen online, inform the brides and grooms prior to their in store shopping experience. The million dollar question up for answering; online vs. brick mortar?

The first trend most noticeable for my store, The Tux Shop, located in Palm beach Gardens, Florida is competing with online tux rental warehouses. The internet has birthed a groomsman’s expression, “it’s only for a few hours”. The brick & mortar has birthed a groomsman dressed and ready to impress.

Most consumers do not purchase tailored clothing correctly and require quite a few alterations to make it fit. This is a similar problem found in the tuxedo online business. Consumers are asked to take a measurement or two instructed by a video tutorial and then their rental will be shipped directly to their door with a return shipping label included. No trips to pick up or return a rental. Not bad? Fair pricing. However, that’s where the service stops. No additional amenities. Brick and mortar stores see their relevance today. No longer are goods selling goods (like online) but people are selling goods. In this statement, I replace selling with renting to increase the relevancy. The Tux Shop is giving the end user an experience with expert experience! Not only will a groom and his party have a face to face sale, but a seamstress to make the fit happen, priceless.

Trends from the consumer’s side (now we know the stores trends) is taking on an organic vibe. Bespoke clothing for a groom to have as a keepsake or to have as a superior item is becoming the new “must!” The past number of years the industry offered a more relaxed or casual feel. Today’s trend is either casual or “black tie” and almost nothing in between. We are seeing from the best of the best and on every red carpet colorful dinner jackets. These “full of personality” coat styles are raising the interest for men to dress. You can’t wear a dinner jacket to a casual outdoor wedding, you can wear a blue, grey or khaki suit though. There’s the perfect example, casual or tux, and nothing in between. The third trend shared is that of the manufacturer/designer. The colors are fun and they’re not just the tie treatment but the whole look! They are also offering the clothes in such fabric friendly materials. Luxe microfibers are not only soft to the touch but are easier and cooler to wear. Finally, not your father’s tux days!





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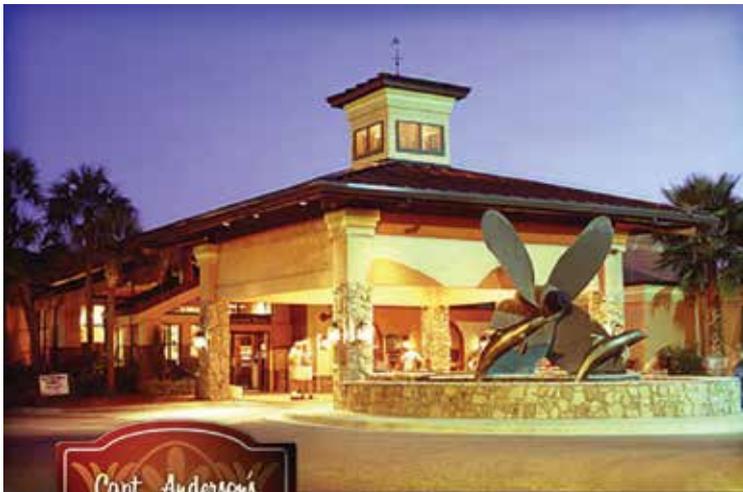
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Johannah is a NYC based professional makeup artist. She works on a wide variety of projects including editorial photo shoots, NYFW runway, magazine publications, events, weddings and personal clients.

She also enjoys working on her creative makeup art, of which is featured on her Instagram @beyou.byjoh. She recently featured a few lip art looks that resemble geodes and crystals and the positive response has been wonderful! "I have had a lot of questions on how the lips are created."



"The crystals are a glitter mixture. I mixed together a liquid lip or a cream color and mixed in the crystals and some lip gloss. I then pressed it onto my lips with a small, flat brush. I finished with some extra glitter on top." says Johannah



To create the gold or silver outline, I used a metallic pigment and clear gloss. It mixes to the most beautiful "molten gold". I then used a thin lip brush to apply the "metal" outline.



These lip creations are in the name of art, not very practical for the every day. But for a special photo shoot representing your wedding day and wedding style, it would make an amazing feature to your wedding album!



"It's not about covering up or hiding or being something you're not - it's about having a few good tools and a little direction to unveil the best parts of you. The best parts you never knew you had."

Photos By - Johannah Adams, Instagram @beyou.byjoh and website www.beyoubyjoh.com

A Southern Elopement

Photographer: Rudy+Marta Photography

the concept:

“The Withers-Maguire House is so charming, I had to come up with a theme to fit. After a brainstorming session, “A Southern Elopement” was born. The idea behind it all was to take two different states on complete opposite ends of our country, in this case Washington and Massachusetts, and blend them together to come up with the look for our Florida-base elopement. During my meeting with Cheryl’s Distinctive Creations, we tossed around ideas of evergreen, birchwood, driftwood, sand, shells, aqua, coral and neutral colors. I wanted something that meshed the beautiful evergreen forests of Washington with the sandy beaches of Cape Cod.

After that meeting, the look of our shoot was born. The backstory to our theme goes a little something like this: “Our bride and groom had been in a long distance relationship for some time now.



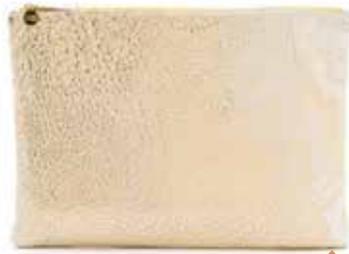
Our groom lived in Washington and our bride lived in Cape Cod, MA. Feeling as though they could no longer be apart, they decided to pack their bags and elope to Florida. They wanted to incorporate little bits and pieces of their home into the details of their wedding day. They did this by including craft beer and wines, made in both Washington and Massachusetts, creating a guest book perfectly designed to show where their love began and through added touches in their floral and decor." The Withers-Maguire House was the perfect location to show their story.



What to Wear, What to Wear



Beach weddings are beautiful and light hearted, but when it comes to your guest list a lot of them are coming from out of town and have never attended a beach wedding. I see women wearing high heels and staring at the sand thinking "what do I do now?" Figuring out what to wear to a destination wedding can become a challenge, so we put together a dress code for a beach wedding that you may want to pass on to your out of town guests.



Casual Flow

Keep the dress simple and flowing with light material to keep you cool.

Clutch

Carry a clutch with only the essentials.

Shades

Sunglasses are an essential part of your attire

Accessories

Accessorize with beach themed earrings and a light chain bracelet.

A Pretty Print Dress with a bit of color adds to the theme of the day. The Little Black Dress is always a go to for any event. Long, flowing dresses are also a great choice. All are perfectly appropriate for a beach wedding. Just be prepared to kick off your high heel shoes when you reach the sand, or wear a pair of adorable sandals to the ceremony and switch off to your heels at the reception. Sandals are cute and very functional. Why not take advantage of wearing adorable jewelry for your feet, both sexy and fun!

Pretty in Print

A nice airy print dress is perfect for the beach. Let's not forget the floppy hat.



Beach Wedding



Sandals

Go for comfort and kick off those heels.

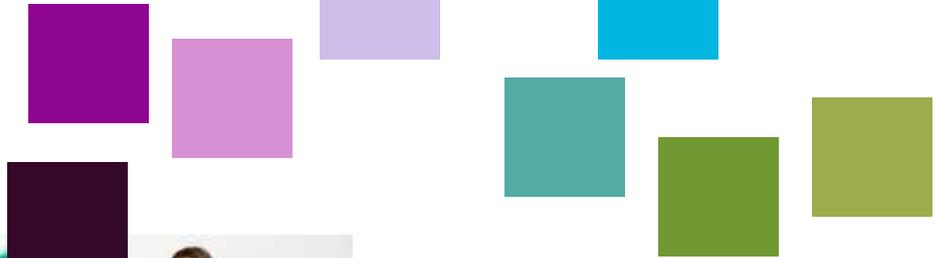


Choosing your *Wedding* Color Themes

Color Themes

Choosing a color theme for your wedding can really get you stressed out, especially with so many wonderful color choices that are currently available. However, it is one of the first things you have to figure out since your theme and colors will begin with the invitations you send to your guests. Here are a few things to consider when making your color choice. Are they going to be a secondary color or a primary portion of all of your décor? If you have a favorite flower that you know you want in your bouquet play off that color theme.

Do you want to incorporate the season of the year with the colors you choose? For example, an icy blue for the winter months, burnt orange for fall or a bright flowery shade for spring and summer?



Consider the location of the wedding and what colors will blend well with it. Turquoise works well for a beach wedding, while rusty shades go perfectly with a rustic one. Think about your surroundings and what feels right with it.

Is your wedding going to be an intimate gathering with family and friends and you would prefer to have a calm atmosphere to it, or do you have a large guest list and want to have a lot of color to stand out?

Remember to always check out the Color Wheel to see what colors work with each other and which ones don't, and look to ideas from magazines and real weddings. If you have a favorite color already then that should be an easy choice.

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