

DESTINATION

VOL.04. ISS.02.

# WEDDINGS

GUIDE

**6 EXCLUSIVE  
REAL  
WEDDINGS**

Meet our COVER GIRL,  
makeup artist Alessandra

**INSIDE** Her destination wedding  
pics and how she met hubby Paul!

Signature Weddings

SPOTLIGHT:

Hard Rock Hotels

Planning & packing **LISTS**

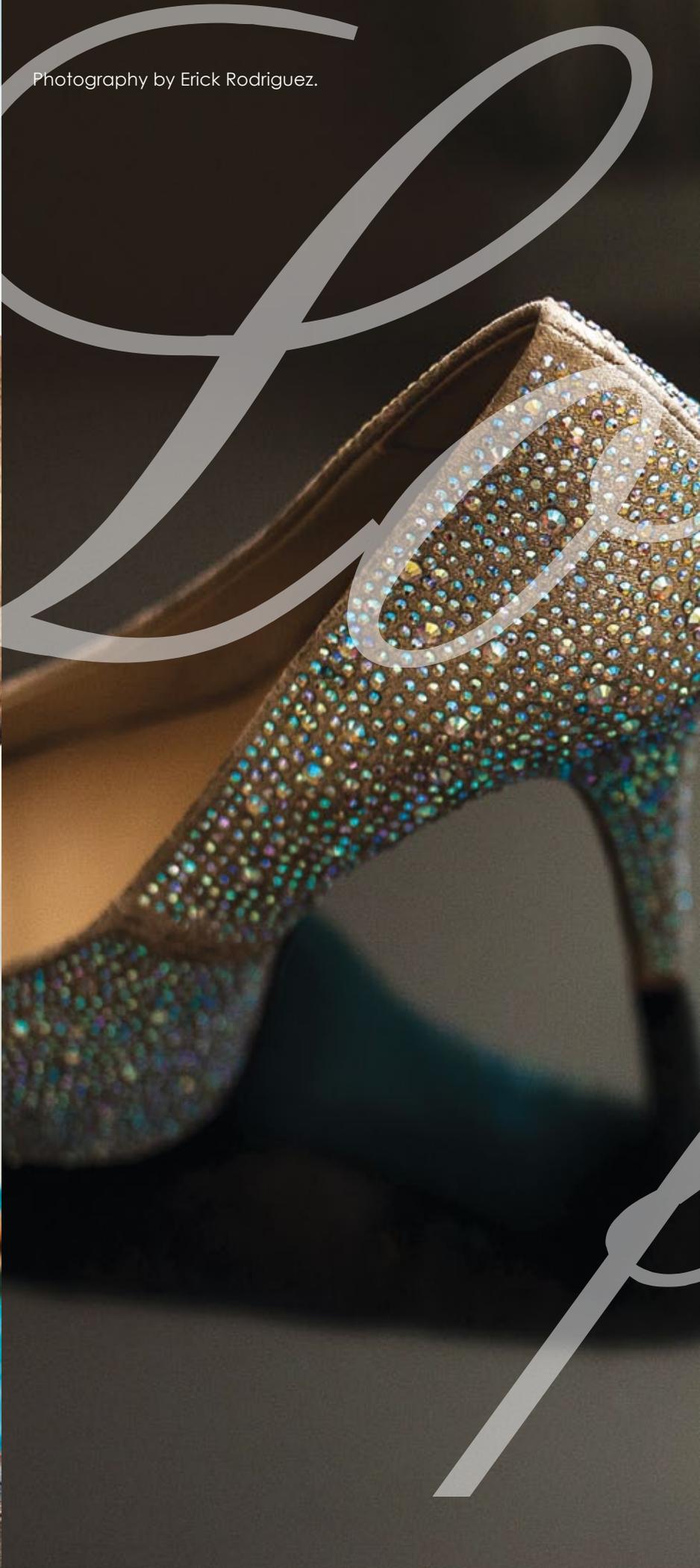
**SEXY** honeymoon beaches

## GLITZ AND GLAMOUR TAKE THE STAGE

Extravagant decor ideas, glorious gowns,  
top trends of the season and more!

Featuring advice from actual Sunwing Weddings specialists

Photography by Erick Rodriguez.



"Find light in the beautiful sea. I choose to be happy. You and I, you and I. We're like diamonds in the sky. You're a shooting star I see. A vision of ecstasy. When you hold me, I'm alive. We're like diamonds in the sky."

*-Rihanna*



# Love

Glamorous, inspiring ideas for your destination wedding

# All-In Luxury™ Weddings

We will ensure your weddings are as unique and unforgettable as our resorts. Royalton Luxury Resorts are set on the Caribbean's most beautiful beaches, and offer guests modern amenities such as our exclusive designer DreamBed™, a rain shower, bluetooth audio and USB stations, free Wi-Fi, and conveniences like 24-hour room service and unlimited, reservation-free, luxury dining across a selection of à la carte restaurants.

## Free\* wedding inclusions:

- Professional wedding coordinator (best friend, confidant and day-of organizer)
- Bride and groom room upgrade, upon availability (you check in, we do everything in our power to work our magic)
- Late check-out for bride and groom (sleep in a little, on us! Of course, this is based on availability)
- 20% discount on spa services (more reason to book your mani, pedi and bridal beauty treatments in advance)

## Free\* ceremony inclusions:

- Symbolic wedding ceremony, performed in English (we now pronounce you: Married! We suggest you add in your own vows to make it extra personal)
- Wedding ceremony location: The beach? Gazebo? It's ready for your personal touch
- Bridal bouquet (a pretty, tropical floral bunch to compliment your wedding vision)
- Boutonniere (a "matchy-matchy" buttonhole)
- Ceremony sound system (we set up an iPod-compatible system with microphone so everyone can hear those beautiful vows you've prepared)

## Free\* reception inclusions:

- Dinner reception (continue your celebration with your guests by hosting a semi-private dinner at one of our fabulous à la carte restaurants with a set menu)
- Sparkling wine (our toast to you! A glass of bubbly to celebrate your nuptials at your dinner or following your ceremony)
- Wedding cake (single-tier, pick your favourite from our flavour offerings)

A wide range of additional wedding packages and à la carte services are available to suit all tastes and budgets. Contact our wedding planners today to start planning your Royalton All-In Luxury™ Wedding. Royalton Luxury Resorts are sold exclusively through Sunwing Vacations. For more information, contact your travel agent or visit [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).

**Royalton White Sands, Montego Bay, Jamaica**

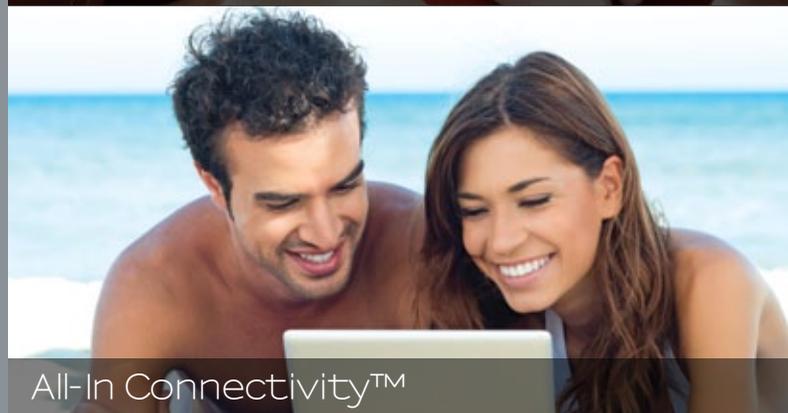
**Royalton Punta Cana Beach and Casino Resort, Dominican Republic**

**Royalton Riviera Cancun, Mexico (opening Dec. 2014)**

\*Free wedding package is based on five rooms (10 guests), staying for a minimum of seven nights.



Exclusive designer DreamBed™



All-In Connectivity™



Unlimited reservation-free dining



Free weddings



*Royalton*  
Luxury Resorts

Experience

All-In Luxury™

*Simply*  
*Enchanting*

# Royalton

Cayo Santa Maria  
Resort & Spa

**Designed to ensure you and your guests enjoy a magical day at Cuba's number one rated resort.**

Your destination wedding is a melding of two dreams beautifully made into one reality at Royalton Cayo Santa Maria. Fairytale nuptials and the perfect holiday await you. We have a devoted team of wedding specialists who have designed wedding packages with you in mind. Royalton Weddings will ensure that all the major (and minor) details that go into planning your wedding are taken care of, so that you can fully enjoy your wedding day.

Royalton Weddings are designed to ensure you and your guests enjoy an unforgettable day. Every wedding is unique and we take pride in offering free wedding planning services with a host of value-added packages to ensure that your wedding day is a magical one.

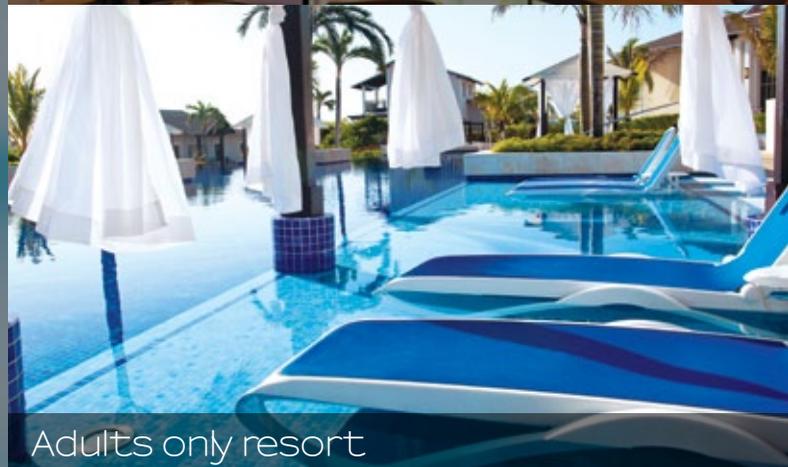
The adults only Royalton Cayo Santa Maria is available exclusively from Sunwing Vacations. For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



Luxury dining



International drinks



Adults only resort

**Wedding packages  
with you in mind**



Experience

All-In Luxury™



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# Memories

## Resorts & Spa

The perfect vacation haven for all, Memories Resorts has the ideal setting for your dream destination wedding, vow renewals, or honeymoon. With wedding packages to suit all budgets, and amenities to impress any guest, your search for the perfect venue can end now.

Our certified wedding specialists are committed to every aspect of your wedding so it is truly picture-perfect, whether it is an intimate affair or a spectacular gala event.

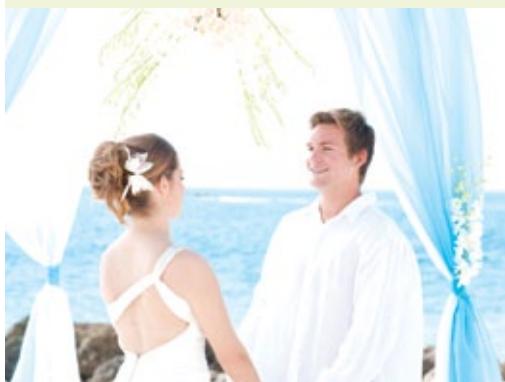
From a sunset beachfront setting to a flowery garden gazebo, choose from à la carte options to make your wedding reflect your personal tastes.

**Memories Grand Bahama Beach & Casino Resort** occupies half a mile of pristine beach just outside the colourful town of Freeport. This expansive property offers a casino, full-service health and fitness complex nearby, a unique pool built around a stone sugar mill, a splash park, and a golf course nearby with unlimited green fees included.

**Memories Splash Punta Cana Resort & Spa** offers a variety of accommodations, à la carte dining options ranging from casual to formal, various unique wedding possibilities, and the all inclusive features like access to the largest water park in the Caribbean right on site.

Memories Resorts are available exclusively from Sunwing Vacations. For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).

### Moments that will last forever





*Celebrate  
the moment*





## Celebrate the moments



### Say, "I do" in Cuba's beautiful, tropical settings.

Memories Resorts can make your destination wedding dreams a reality. From our white-sand beaches to beautiful gazebo locations, we are Cuba's most romantic destination wedding option. Our destination wedding planning services set us apart from the rest. Our team of certified destination wedding specialists is committed to providing you with the peace of mind that your wedding will be nothing short of spectacular. From simple ceremonies to elaborate affairs, it is our pleasure to help plan and design unforgettable destination weddings. We understand the importance of making your special day exceptional, and will do everything we can to ensure it is as memorable as can be.

Memories Resorts can also help you celebrate vow renewals with ceremonies that honour the time you've spent together, and the strengthened promise of forever.

Escape to captivating Cuba after you've tied the knot for your dream honeymoon. Surrounded by beautiful beaches, pristine turquoise waters, and lush surroundings, Cuba offers magical settings that provide the perfect atmosphere for romance.

Memories Resorts offers destination wedding packages, vow renewal packages, and honeymoon packages at the following resorts: Memories Paraiso Azul Beach Resort in Cayo Santa Maria, Memories Caribe Beach Resort and Memories Flamenco Beach Resort in Cayo Coco, and Memories Varadero Beach Resort in Varadero.

Celebrate your union at Memories Resorts & Spa.

Memories Resorts in Cuba are available exclusively from Sunwing Vacations. For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).

## Are you a destination wedding bride?

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Courtesy: Kleinfeld Hudson's Bay.



## Flip through the hottest gowns of the season

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# top events 2014/15

If you're looking to add cultural charm and rhythmic flare to your destination wedding, these annual events in the world's most sought-after vacation spots are sure to inspire you to start planning your destination wedding stat

### **International Gourmet Festival in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – November 2014**

Watch international and local chefs duke it out in this gourmet tournament, and feast on special menus served up in participating restaurants for the occasion.

### **The 28th Annual Havana Jazz Festival in Cuba – December 2014**

With its own unique genre of jazz, spilling onto the cobblestone streets and antique quarters, find yourself at the hottest jazz fest in the Caribbean.

### **Aruba Carnival celebration – February/March 2015**

Join in Aruba's biggest "jump-ups" of the year at the month-long celebration of Carnival.

### **Saint Lucia Annual Taste of the World International Food Festival – February 2015**

Discover various tastes from around the world at this annual event that features cuisine and culture from Europe to the Caribbean.

### **The Annual Jamaica International Ocho Rios Jazz Festival – June 2015**

Jam in Jamaica to the sounds and beats of the Ocho Rios Jazz Festival, showcasing distinguished international, as well as Jamaican and Caribbean jazz artists.

**Kick it up a notch with these extravagant ideas**

Page 74



**Make your destination wedding dreams a reality**

Page 18

# About our fall issue

With a new season upon us, summer in our history, and winter in our future, we focus on the present tense. The fall and the riches of the season are in full swing. In the midst of the luscious months of harvest and abundance, this issue will feature all the bigger and better ways to ramp up your celebrations. From glamorous gowns and extravagant decor ideas to ways you can boost your bridal look and wow your wedding guests.

Our tech tools for savvy brides and grooms covers the gamut of websites, software and apps that will help you organize and share your appointments, get your fitness routine down-pat, customize a playlist for all events, and donate your formalwear afterwards. Gorgeous gay weddings hit the beach in a big way, with delightful celebrations in Mexico at the Oasis Sens – find out more in the Sunwing Weddings spotlight on Oasis. Our trends section puts the "diva" in destination wedding, by suggesting celebrity lookalikes, fire performers, and unique entrances to add something special to your big day. The Signature Weddings special hotel spotlights include delightful pages on rock-star wedding packages offered at the Hard Rock Hotels, and a spread on the wonderful world of RIU Weddings.

In every issue, we feature a selection of Real Weddings couples who have graciously shared with us the details of their big day in destination. We also showcase the lucky winners of our Facebook Photo Contest, who recount their love stories, and what made their day so unique. We wish you a brand new season bursting with vibrant hues, extravagant affairs, and plenty of glitz and glam!

*-The Destination Weddings Guide team*



# Bonnie



**An adults only  
oasis for couples**



## *New and stylish*

**For weddings and honeymoons, opening fall 2014.**

CHIC by Royalton Punta Cana is an ideal setting for romance, whether it's a honeymoon, an anniversary, or just a quiet getaway. Stroll the pristine beach at sunset, cozy up under a palapa for two, or enjoy a candlelit dinner.

Exchanging vows in a breathtaking setting is easy with our wedding planning service. From our beachfront pergola to our sky wedding gazebos, we can accommodate a small intimate gathering or a lavish gala event.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



Artist rendering



Artist rendering

# Experience the difference with **Sunwing Weddings**

## WEDDINGS BY **SUNWING**

As the popularity of our destination weddings program continues to grow, Sunwing is proud to publish the 6th edition of our own wedding magazine. A leading Canadian tour operator, hotel operator, destination management company, and airline, we offer a wide arrangement of vacation packages to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America where destination wedding dreams begin. By exchanging vows in an exotic destination, you transform your one special day into many extraordinary days of enchantment and celebration.

Whether it is an intimate escape for just the bride and groom or a full-scale family affair, Sunwing Vacations offers value and a variety of vacation packages to suit all tastes and budgets. We partner with renowned resorts in Mexico and the Caribbean to offer the quality Canadians are looking for. Many of our hotel partners offer free wedding and vow renewal packages, as well as extras, such as complimentary room upgrades for the bride and groom, and concessions for large wedding groups. Romantic settings, premier accommodations, and on-site wedding specialists who tend to every detail, providing a truly special way to celebrate your love.

Travel on Sunwing Airlines, and enjoy our complimentary Elite in-flight service, which includes a welcome glass of champagne, choice of Hot & Fresh Bistro Meals™ or hot

snacks, wine with your meal, headsets and comfortable leather seating aboard our new Boeing 737 aircraft. Upgrade to Elite Plus to receive extra legroom, advance seat selection, priority check-in and priority boarding, as well as increased luggage allowance to 30 kg per person. At Sunwing Airlines we believe your wedding dress deserves a special class of service. With our Wedding Dress Care program, your dress will be stored in a dedicated overhead compartment during the flight. No cramming required!

To help make your wedding dream a reality, Sunwing is pleased to offer a unique and exclusive wedding planning service, Sunwing Weddings. We offer two packages to choose from; each including personalized time with a wedding consultant based in Canada, only a phone call away. Once you have booked a package, your travel agent will put you in touch with one of our destination wedding consultants. They will help you plan your wedding and organize the details directly with the resort and vendors on your behalf – saving you time and ensuring you achieve the vision of your special day.

Enjoy browsing the fall issue of the *Destination Weddings Guide*. Take inspiration from the stories and ideas in the articles to create your own dream destination wedding!

For more details on our vacation and wedding packages, as well as group travel, please contact your travel agent or visit [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



***sunwing.ca***

Book your wedding planning services today!  
**1.800.739.8876**  
weddings@sunwing.ca



A truly special way to celebrate your love.

weddings



# SMUGGLER'S COVE

resort & spa • st.lucia

## Picture-perfect in Saint Lucia

Celebrate your big day along the beaches of Saint Lucia at Smuggler's Cove Resort & Spa. Whether it is an intimate escape for just the bride and groom or a fancy family affair, this beachfront resort offers couples a selection of venue choices. Smuggler's Cove Resort & Spa is the ideal spot to organize a picture-perfect, island-style wedding with your family and friends. Your choice of two on-site wedding venues or five private reception venues, as well as four different wedding themes, honeymoon packages, and other romance packages, including vow renewals and anniversaries, cater to your unique needs and offer a truly special way to celebrate your love.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



*Orlando*

weddings

**The perfect destination for an unforgettable and romantic wedding or honeymoon**



## SAINT LUCIA

No other island in the world is so completely dedicated to couples in love. A Saint Lucia wedding, honeymoon or weekend getaway is the kind you only dream about. Only Saint Lucia offers the ultimate in luxurious accommodations for that special day, the Caribbean's best land and water activities, and an array of gourmet restaurants.

It's no wonder why Saint Lucia has won the World's Leading Honeymoon Destination Award for 2002-2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, as well as Caribbean's Leading Honeymoon Destination for 2011 and 2012. Simply put, Saint Lucia is easily one of the most romantic and beautiful islands you'll ever visit.

This Caribbean island is exotic, magical, and filled with stunning beaches – exactly the experience that couples look for in a wedding, honeymoon or dream vacation that will kick-start their lives together with.

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to Saint Lucia from Toronto and Montreal.







## Destination Weddings?

# Absolutely!

Destination weddings are magical and intimate. They allow you to spend quality time with your loved ones and wedding party. Don't stress about planning your own destination wedding, when there is a trusted planning company like Signature Weddings that can help you fulfill your vision. Signature Weddings has over 40 years of experience planning destination weddings in the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America. We will do everything in our power to ensure that your day goes as planned, including coordinating with the hotel staff to cater to every detail, no matter how large or small. Our bilingual wedding planners speak your language, will answer all your questions, take care of your special needs, and design your wedding to be as unique as your personalities.

Signature Weddings offers you access to a selection of top-tier, brand-name resorts that specialize in added-value, all inclusive stays in the world's most sought-after destinations. Exclusive inclusions are available at RIU Hotels & Resorts, Hard Rock Hotels, Palace Resorts, Velas Resorts and Karisma Hotels & Resorts. Choosing hotels with separate sections like the Riu Palace Peninsula's adults only Deluxe Villa section, will allow you the option

to spend as much (or as little) time as you wish with your wedding party. You will also have the chance to make an abundance of week-long wedding memories, since the time you will spend during your stay will become treasured vacation time you've always hoped for with your loved ones.

When booking a group wedding, receive great deals, and a host of special bride and groom bonuses! Signature Weddings has two wedding packages, the Diamond wedding package and Platinum wedding package, in addition to an exclusive RIU wedding group offer! Choose any Signature Weddings package to receive competitive group travel rates to the top wedding destinations, preferred relationships with the hotels' on-site wedding coordinators, our Wedding Dress Care program aboard Sunwing Airlines, guaranteed Signature Vacations-quality service for every client, and the best destination wedding planners in the business.

To book your wedding planning service with Signature Weddings, please contact your travel agent, call 1-800-739-8876 or email [weddings@signature.ca](mailto:weddings@signature.ca). Visit us online at [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).

*Signature*  
vacations



# Picture

The most important day of your life calls for a picture-perfect setting



**CANCUN . PUNTA CANA  
VALLARTA . RIVIERA MAYA  
AN ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE**

**Indulge your every wish**

The most important day of your life calls for a picture-perfect setting – and perfect planning. That’s the all-inclusive Hard Rock Hotel promise to you. We promise to make your wedding a joyous succession of wonderfully unforgettable moments. And to spare no effort in ensuring that every detail is attended to, leaving you free to enjoy friends, family and the romance of the occasion.

Whether you are planning intimate beachside nuptials for an audience of two, or a lavish gala affair with 100 of your closest friends and family, Signature Vacations and the all-inclusive Hard Rock Hotels in Mexico and the Dominican Republic can help make your dream a reality. You can apply your Resort Credit towards select wedding collections (see pages 12-13 in the Signature Hard Rock Hotels brochure for details). Here are a couple examples of the many available collections to choose from:

**Rocker Chic**

Rocker glam at its finest. This design features patterns and solids in black and white, accented by just the right amount of dazzling pops of color. The streamlined gazebo features an altar of black and white topped by a stunning red floral arrangement.

**Compliments of Hard Rock Hotel®**

Simple and chic, this package features white guest seating, a natural sand aisle, and a tasteful gazebo and altar, also in white. A floral arrangement on the altar provides a colourful counterpoint.

Other collections available include White Rosette, Insignia, Metallic Dunes, Seaglass, Elegant Ivory, Purple Shimmer and El Sol. For collection inclusions ask your travel agent or consult a specialist at Signature Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).

The All-Inclusive Hard Rock Hotels' Celebrity Collection offers Signature Vacations guests exclusive perks at no additional cost.



**Weddings & honeymoons at the  
All-Inclusive Hard Rock Hotels in  
Mexico and the Dominican Republic**





*Anything but cookie-cutter*  
lavish All-Inclusive Weddings

# Love Rocks.

Bringing the ultimate music vibe to life and invoking a sense of nostalgia for guests of all ages, the All-Inclusive Hard Rock Hotels have made their mark in Mexico and the Caribbean through quality guest service, tranquil surroundings, electrifying entertainment, delectable cuisine, and stunning event space. The All-Inclusive Hard Rock Hotels are shifting the sands of all-inclusive with unmatched luxury accommodations, in-room hydro spa tubs, fine dining, top-shelf drinks, 24-hour room service, authentic music memorabilia, live nightly entertainment, expansive pools with swim-up bars, and much more.

The 1,775-room Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana is situated on pristine sugar-white sands stretching 121 acres along Macao Beach in the Dominican Republic. Hard Rock's first all-inclusive hotel and casino exudes lavish offerings, including deluxe accommodations, featuring the Hard Rock's branded "Rock Star Suite," the signature Rock Spa®, 18-hole Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course, iconic music memorabilia and a larger-than-life, Vegas-style casino – the largest in the Dominican Republic, featuring ORO Nightclub. A variety of gourmet dining options are available through the resort's ten restaurants, including Simon Mansion by the famed Rock n' Roll Chef, Kerry Simon.

Exclusively designed by Getty's, an award-winning, creative and innovative team of hospitality experts, Hard Rock Hotel Cancun immediately transports guests into the edgy, rock-star vibe, featuring a signature "Welcome to the Jungle" theme. The larger-than-life, guitar-shaped driveway provides the ultimate VIP entrance.



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**VALLARTA . RIVIERA MAYA**  
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followed by the lobby's neon-lit glass staircase, sheer metallic curtains and dramatic lighting to enhance the custom rock-star memorabilia lining the walls, showcasing signature pieces from Paul McCartney, Melissa Etheridge, Shakira, Alice in Chains and more! The 12-storey beachfront hotel boasts 601 guestrooms, including ocean or lagoon views, and balconies to enjoy the cool tropical breeze.

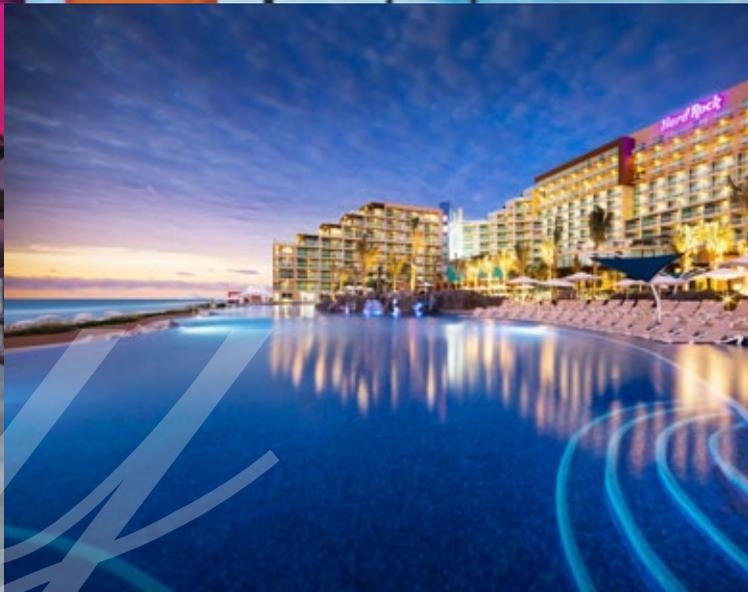
#### **Vibrant Varadero**

Recently awarded as a Conde Nast Traveler's Gold List Hotel, Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta is a gorgeous beachfront setting where tradition and modern design come together with incredible views. This 348-room Riviera Nayarit resort offers the perfect mix of adventure, relaxation and rejuvenation for guests of all ages. Breathtaking facilities and amenities include four restaurants offering tantalizing specialty cuisines, four bars with top-shelf drinks, two large outdoor swimming pools, two outdoor hydro spa tubs, a children's pool, a dive pool for scuba diving demonstrations and

lessons, a kids club, a beach volleyball court, tennis court, half-court basketball, seven-hole pitch and putt golf, fitness center, sauna and steam bath, beauty salon and nightly theme parties at the outdoor amphitheatre.

#### **The shows of Riviera Maya**

Located just off the azure waters of the Caribbean Sea, Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya offers a complete vacation for guests of all ages with both adults only and family-friendly experiences. With a combined 1,264 guestrooms, Hard Rock's ultra posh and lavishly appointed guestrooms include balcony terraces or expansive sky terrace options with picturesque views, hydro spa tubs in each room, world-class shopping and endless style. Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya is nothing short of the ultimate crowd-pleaser. Complete with multiple outdoor pools and a private zero-entry inlet, this all-inclusive escape offers five world-class restaurants, three bars and lounges, in addition to 88,915 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting and event space, ideal for elegant weddings and themed weddings. The adults only section, Heaven, includes the



Hard Rock-signature Rock Spa® with 75 treatment rooms, four restaurants and five sophisticated bars and lounges, including a premium service nightclub.

**An authority on weddings: Colin Cowie**

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Punta Cana, Hard Rock Hotel Cancun, Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta and Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya have all partnered with celebrity wedding and event designer, Colin Cowie. Colin Cowie has combined lavish style and innovation to create nine unparalleled destination wedding collections. This partnership allows all couples the opportunity to wed or renew their vows in a celebration designed by one of the world's foremost authorities on wedding planning.

Each Colin Cowie Wedding Collection includes everything needed for the ultimate love affair, so couples can rest assured that all amenities are featured and the final cost (starting at \$1,500 USD) is set upfront. Hotel wedding specialists make all bridal dreams come true when coordinating every detail of a couple's special day, overseeing package inclusions, such as ceremony location, ceremo-



**CANCUN . PUNTA CANA  
VALLARTA . RIVIERA MAYA  
AN ALL-INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE**

...a gorgeous beachfront setting where tradition and modern design come together with incredible views.



ny structure, set-up, chairs and chair covers, floral decorations, aisle runner, bridal bouquet and groom's boutonniere, in addition to the wedding cake, sparkling wine, dinner reservations at a hotel restaurant for up to 30 guests, and honeymoon options. For an additional cost, couples can also add reception tables to their package, which will accommodate up to eight guests each, and include centerpiece decorations, plates, runners, silverware, tumblers and wine glasses.

Also, in addition to the destination wedding collections available, the All-Inclusive Collection also offers an exclusive honeymoon collection inspired by Colin Cowie. These packages bring unmatched relaxation and sexy amenities to newlyweds looking for the ultimate, all-inclusive, post-wedding getaway.

Lovebirds looking to live like rock stars can indulge in the Showstopper Honeymoon Package (\$1,500 USD), boasting a honeymoon dinner for two, a 50-minute couples massage at the renowned Rock Spa®, an excursion for two\*, and VIP concierge service. This also includes in-room amenities featuring a bottle of champagne, personalized rose petal bed design upon arrival, chocolate-covered strawberries, breakfast in bed, a Kama Sutra Romance Kit, plush bathrobes, slippers, an aromatherapy fragrance menu, a rose petal-filled hydro spa tub bath, a mini-cake, two honeymoon shirts, and a special note from Colin Cowie.



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For an additional cost, couples can also add reception tables





### Headliner honeymoons

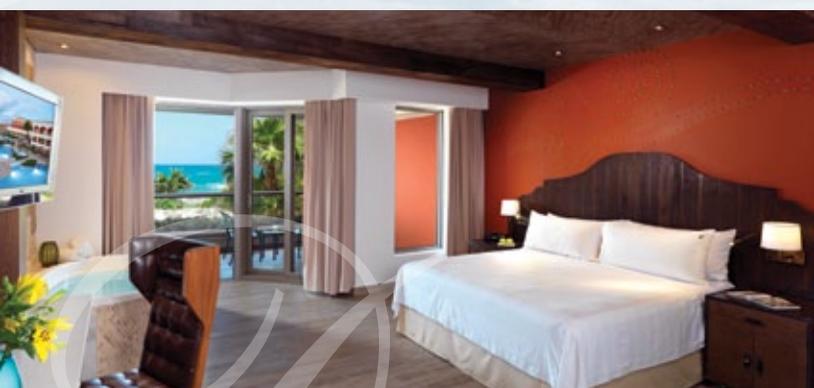
Newlyweds seeking unmatched in-room relaxation can select the Headliner Honeymoon Package (\$750 USD) which includes chocolate-covered strawberries and a personalized rose petal bed design upon arrival, sparkling wine, a honeymoon dinner for two, breakfast in bed, a Sensual chocolate body painting kit, plush bathrobes, slippers, aromatherapy, rose petal filled hydro spa tub bath, a mini-cake, two honeymoon shirts, and a special note from Colin Cowie.

The day after, "I do," couples are also offered a complete Complimentary Honeymoon Package, called With Love from the All-Inclusive Hard Rock Hotels. This package includes breakfast in bed, sparkling wine, a mini-cake, a hot tub experience, as well as a special note from Colin Cowie.

Additionally, guests who book a minimum five-night stay at any All-Inclusive Collection property within 18 months of their wedding receive two additional, complimentary nights. Vacationers that stay a minimum of three nights are also entitled to the Resort Credit, which can be used toward several amenities, including select beauty salon services, romantic and special dinner events, an upgraded wine selection, photo packages, tours, golf, and even select Colin Cowie wedding collections.

To book a honeymoon vacation experience at an All-Inclusive Collection property, visit [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com) or call your travel agent.

# Upweeds



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# Day After

The day after, "I do," couples are also offered a complete Complimentary Honeymoon Package



# Royalton

Hicacos Varadero  
Resort & Spa

## The perfect wedding

Plan the wedding of your dreams with the help of our expert wedding destination planners. If you're looking for a unique way to tie the knot while surrounded by your closest friends and family, a destination wedding in a romantic location is ideal. Exchange, "I do"s with the backdrop of a stunning tropical paradise that everyone will remember for a lifetime.

Royalton Hicacos Varadero offers an exceptional team, unparalleled service, and an impressive FREE wedding package that includes personal wedding coordinator, invitations, wedding decor, a bouquet, a boutonniere, wedding cake, chambermaid service, makeup service, a surprise serenade and much more! Contact us today to start planning your dream-come-true.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



Luxury dining



International drinks



Adults only resort

# The perfect wedding



Experience

All-In Luxury™



**Groups** **PLUS**  
Weddings

Book by Dec 16/14 for travel from Jun 1/15 to Oct 31/16 or by Apr 30/15 for travel from Nov 1/15 to Oct 31/16 to receive these early booking wedding offers for the bride and groom



Complimentary  
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COMPLIMENTARY  
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**\$500**  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
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(With a minimum of 10 rooms booked)

**\$100 PER COUPLE**  
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In addition, your destination wedding experience doesn't just start on arrival in your resort but before you leave Canada on board award-winning Sunwing Airlines, which includes:

- Priority group check-in (at select Canadian airports)
- Free excess baggage allowance: 20 kg per group of 10 passengers (must be arranged a minimum of 7 days prior to departure)
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- Wedding Dress Care Program
- Private transfers for groups of 15 or more (arriving on the same flight)\*
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FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO REQUEST A QUOTE, PLEASE EMAIL:  
[WEDDINGS@SUNWING.CA](mailto:WEDDINGS@SUNWING.CA) / [WEDDINGS@SIGNATURE.CA](mailto:WEDDINGS@SIGNATURE.CA)  
CALL 1.800.739.8876 OR CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

\*Plaza Premium lounges are available at Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver airports only.

To qualify as a group, booking must be for a minimum of 10 adults (5 rooms with double occupancy). Complimentary upgrade to Elite Plus on Sunwing Airlines is subject to availability. Plaza Premium lounges are available at Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver airports only. A Sunwing or Signature Vacations issued voucher is required to gain entrance. Lounges may have restricted hours of operation. The \$500 travel credit is non-transferrable, non-refundable, and has no cash value. Redeemable only on a pre-booked Sunwing Vacations excursion. \*Private transfers not available in Nassau, The Bahamas. Group offers are not combinable with any other promotion and may be withdrawn without notice. For full terms and conditions, please refer to our current Sunwing Vacations 2014/15 brochure. Flights are with Sunwing Airlines or Travel Service. 27 Fasken Drive, Toronto, Ont. (TICO) Reg: 2476582

# MELIÁ CUBA

## *A new beginning*

A colourful sunset frames the romantic moment when two paths become one. It's a new beginning and Meliá Hotels offers value like no one else in Cuba! Share this incredible experience with family and friends, and enjoy a free wedding package including the notary fees, wedding dinner, and room upgrade for the bride and groom! If you prefer a more intimate ceremony with very few or no guests, you may choose from either our Memorable or Luxury Wedding package.

You may also re-live the intensity of yesterday by simply renewing your vows or having a symbolic ceremony by the turquoise waters of Cuba!

With our collection of 17 wedding resorts on the island you will find the perfect hotel to immortalize this very special moment! Couples only, as well as families with children will easily find a Meliá resort that will suit their needs and budget. Let Meliá hotels, the wedding specialists in Cuba, take part in your amazing journey together! Your wedding is very important to us and we prove it every day with our dedication and organization while planning every detail. Our on-site wedding coordinators will ensure a worry-free ceremony, as well as an amazing vacation with your guests.

Meliá Cuba offers an infinite world of romance to host the perfect wedding and unforgettable honeymoon! Indulge by choosing a resort offering Royal Service and you will never want to leave. For all your celebrations of romance and love, Meliá Cuba Hotels makes sense!

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Signature Weddings by visiting [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).



MELIÁ HOTELS INTERNATIONAL  
CUBA

**An infinite world of romance**



Lazaro

A bride in a white gown stands in a room with a large chandelier. The scene is softly lit, with light streaming in from a window in the background. The bride is positioned in the center-left of the frame, her arm slightly extended. The chandelier is ornate and hangs from the ceiling. The overall atmosphere is elegant and romantic.

From the finest thread of each luscious fabric to the embroidered elegance of the train and beyond, ranging from eggshell to champagne, and all the trending tones of the season, symbolizing unity, commitment, and everlasting love, it is no wonder that everyone raves, "It's all about the dress."

Catapulting the sensational fairytale weddings into a whole new level, this year's gowns have set the tone for the entire celebration. The natural surroundings of the traditional destination weddings, from beaches to boats, cliffs, gardens, and the like, no longer dictate the bride's wedding get-up, and have now taken the back seat to frothy, free-flowing gowns, crystalline accents, and dramatic trains, hair accessories and jewellery, which have rightfully and unapologetically stolen the show.

This season's brides are selecting statement pieces that accentuate and embellish their sensational bridal attire. The romance and elegance of yesteryear may still echo in the tiny details that contribute to the overall look, but it is the embellishments, those absolutely spectacular, larger-than-life materials, jewels and appliques that contribute to the show-stopping, awe-inspiring dresses of the fall. With each embellishment, material and train, destination brides are packing these beautiful gowns up and transporting them to their destinations with ease with special wedding dress programs (find out more on page 18).

Lace is a timeless fabric that has captured the hearts of designers to this day, and is a timeless expression of the transition each bride makes from her past into her budding future. Beads and pearls are also throwback trends that have recently surged, taking to new heights, as dressmakers have dared to experiment with the volume and unconventional placement of these classy accents.

In the garden, by the sea or overlooking the ocean, this coming season, brides are preparing to dazzle and delight their wedding guests, from top to toe, with some of the most gorgeous and gregarious gowns of the year.

By Zeynep Tuck

# Galvanizing

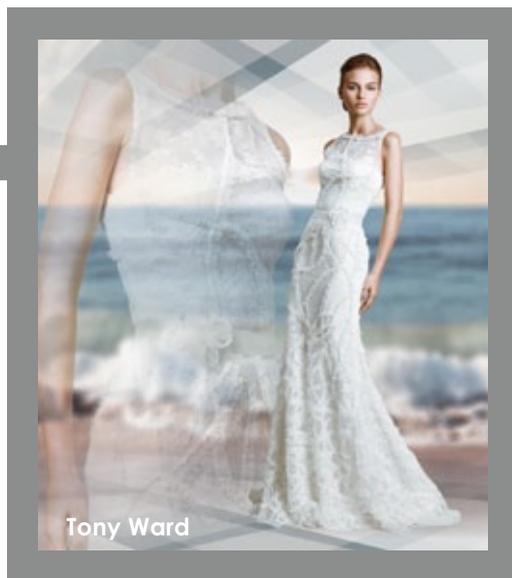
# *gowns*

of the season



#### ◀ Cue the crystal

Swarovski crystals have become a bridal gown staple, infusing bridal fashion with sparkle and shine. Teamed up with lace, these crystals bring out the razzle dazzle in classic styles, like the Chesney Sheath Gown by Maggie Sottero. With immaculate attention to detail and fitting, this designer brings the iconic styles of the past into the millennium in this lace outfit, featuring rich embroidery that dances along the classic silhouette with dramatic flair. This strapless dress with optional Swarovski crystal jacket is a confident choice for smart brides.



#### ▲ Sculpted to perfection

A Rome Fashion Week darling, and creator of gowns that attract celebrity and royal brides worldwide, designer, Tony Ward – inspired by contemporary architecture – sculpts his gowns with precision and prowess, creating A-line styles, like this Muse Gown, that radiate poise and elegance along each curve, tulle fabric and pearled design. Sweeping along the beach or across ballrooms by the water, this is a sophisticated style that speaks for itself.

#### ▶ Simple yet seductive

Wispy cap-sleeves, regal embellishments of snowfall beadwork complement the beautiful V-neck and spaghetti-strap simplicity of this Ulises Gown from Soft by Rosa Clará. This sheath dress will mimic the reflection of the sun on lapping ocean waves as you walk down the aisle toward your husband-to-be. The elegant illusion of a chapel train and Soft by Rosa Clará's ability to propel styles into haute couture with fine fabrics and luxurious embellishments is what makes this model a spotlight stealer.



*Wedding*

Rosa Clara



SAVING THE DATE

Maggie Sottero



Paloma Blanca

◀ **Accentuated fit and flare**

This second Maggie Sottero statement piece reveals how fashion forward gowns have taken the place of timeless classics. This year's lace gowns, like the Britannia Fit And Flare Gown, accented with the detachable grosgrain ribbon belt and circular Swarovski crystal brooch, are a courageous declaration of the bride's beautiful personality, her cherished history, and devotion to a joint future. This imperial gown, with its charismatic strapless neckline, chic corset back closure, and luscious train, makes it the perfect dress for your spectacular celebration.

▲ **Luxuriate in lace**

Whether it's a form-fitting style or a trumpet dress, lace will instantly infuse a bridal model with bold sophistication and charming splendour. Designers continue to profess their adoration for this age-old fabric by innovating new ways and incorporations into the bridal gown. The French Alençon Lace and Organza Trumpet Gown by Paloma Blanca is no exception, as the chapel train, side-tiered ruffle, organza skirt, lace tunic bodice, and sweetheart neck are sure to add lavish extravagance to your seaside celebration.

▼ **Serenity and sophistication**

Levitate across the alabaster sands, lush gardens or pristine marble floors of your picture-perfect wedding venue. Eve of Milady's Fit and Flare Tulle Layered Gown presents a stunning juxtaposition of sophistication and serenity to the shores of your destination. With ivory embroidery and a beaded bodice, the illusion of a dramatically low back will make this free-flowing, fit and flare tulle style a big hit on your big day. ► The second Eve of Milady dress, the Tulle Embroidered Ballgown, ups the ante with embroidery appliques beaded in gold and silver. This fancy, frothy gown features tulle throughout, providing the bride with a light-weight fabric that is confident and completely irresistible.



Eve of Milady



Eve of Milady



Lazaro

50 | Destination Wedding Guide

*St. Catherine*

A bride in a white gown stands in a room with large windows and a white chair. The bride is wearing a white gown with a tiered skirt and a lace train. The room has large windows with white curtains and a white chair with a metal armrest. The overall atmosphere is bright and elegant.

#### ◀ Frothy fanfare

Set the stage for a love story in a fantastic fairytale setting along the beaches of one of the most sought-after places in the world. Celebrate this momentous occasion with champagne tulle skirts, shimmering metallic ribbon to cinch your perfect waist, a chapel train, and stunning circular dress adorned with French Alençon lace. Horsehair pick-ups add that extravagant yet subtle detail to this epic Lazaro gown, making the Horse Hair Tiered Skirt Ball Gown a storybook model that will suit the fanciful ambiance of your big day. The season's most prodigal gowns can only be matched by the trendiest, fashion forward brides. It is how these brides carry the ball gowns, A-line dresses, fit and flares, trumpets, and simply spectacular models that offer the perfect dose of romance and whimsical charm to this momentous occasion.

These gowns and more can be found at Kleinfeld Hudson's Bay.



*Wedding Day of*

weddings

The happiest day of your life



### **Intimate spaces and joyful moments**

Natural surroundings of fascinating beauty, unforgettable scenery, settings that improve over time, and the charming magic of the Dominican Republic and Mexico are the perfect spots to relax and enjoy the happiest day of your life.

For couples planning their very special day, Princess Hotels and Resorts offers complete service for their wedding celebration, including luxury suites, heavenly surroundings, the wedding reception, top-notch accommodations, exquisite food and immaculate decorations. In addition, a team of professionals is available to look after every detail of this major event from the creation of intimate spaces to joyful moments for the lucky couple and their guests.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



## Real Weddings

Casey & Matt



Though this pair first crossed paths in the halls of their middle school, it was an online dating site that would reconnect them years later and put them on the path to forever. Casey recalls being immediately taken by Matt's playful sense of humour, while he couldn't stop staring at her stunning smile.

As they were finishing up a round of golf on their favourite course, Matt surprised Casey on the 18th green, dropping down on one knee and asking for her to be his wife. As a special surprise, both families were in on Matt's plan, hiding just feet away behind a large boulder, capturing the special moment on camera for the couple. Once Casey happily accepted, the entire clan celebrated with champagne and an elegant dinner overlooking the golf course.

### Wedded bliss

In April, Matt and Casey exchanged their vows in front of 60 of their closest friends and family members at Dreams Riviera Cancun in Mexico's stunning Riviera Maya.

## A romance rekindled





Lit to perfection,  
and decked out in  
romantic blushes,  
lavenders and  
greys

A brief downpour didn't dampen the spirits of these lovebirds, as they recall being unable to keep their eyes off each other while Casey made her way down the aisle to her groom. The gazebo provided the perfect romantic backdrop, and had Matt and Casey wiping away each other's tears of happiness as they said their "I do"s.

## Casey & Matt

Lit to perfection, and decked out in romantic blushes, lavenders and greys, the reception took place on the resort's pristine white beach, where guests were treated to a fabulous catered dinner, before taking in the couple's first official dance as husband and wife to the romantic musings of Jack Johnson's *Angel*.

The cake cutting ceremony offered the newlyweds a chance to indulge their mischievous sides, and provided one of the most unexpected moments of the evening, as Matt and Casey engaged in their first official fight as a married couple, with a playful cake smash.

Another brief downpour helped make the day all the more memorable, as guests danced the night away to an array of music chosen by the couple, while enjoying hand-rolled cigars made by an on-site cigar roller hired by the couple as a special treat for their guests.

"I had such a wonderful experience planning my wedding and I could not have imagined how perfect everything was on the day of," Casey concludes.





Another brief  
downpour  
helped make the  
day all the more  
memorable



## Get their look

**Casey's gown:** Mermaid Paloma Blanca.

**Casey's shoes:** Vera Wang.

**Matt's outfit:** Grey suit pants with a vest, suit jacket and purple tie.

**Type of rings:** Tiffany Soleste engagement ring and diamond band for the bride, and a tungsten ring for the groom.

**Jewellery:** Pearls.

**Bridesmaids dresses:** Vera Wang long blush dress with grey sash.

**Groomsmen attire:** Light grey pants with vest, white shirt, dark grey tie, and boat shoes.

**Photographer:** Adventure Photos.

**Hair:** Dreams staff.

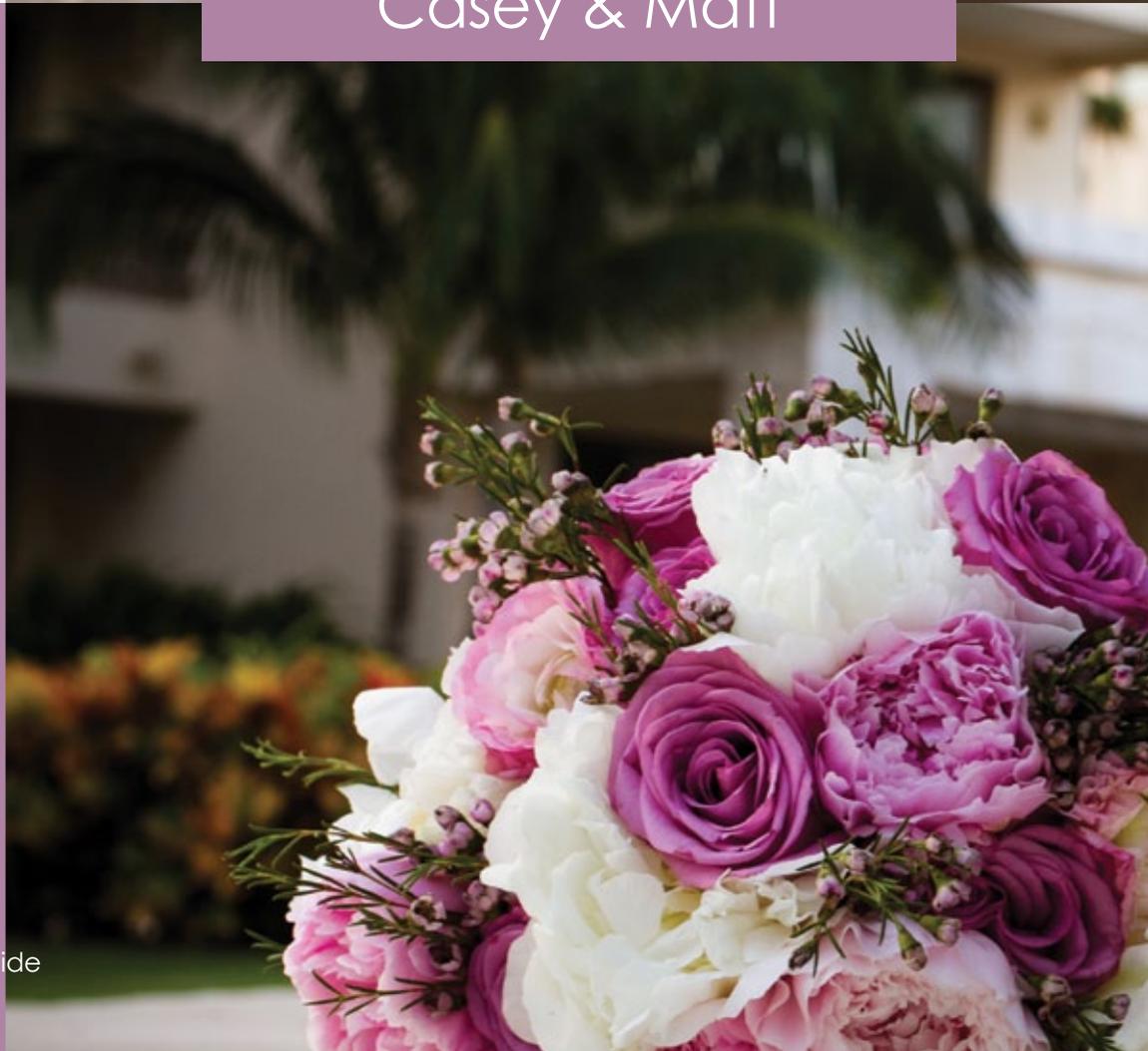
**Makeup:** Dreams staff.

**Stationery and invitations:** Minted.com.

**Catering:** Dreams Riviera Cancun.



## Casey & Matt



Hiring a wedding planner is the best thing you can do



#### Old | New | Borrowed | Blue

**Old:** Pearls.

**New:** Shoes.

**Borrowed:** Pearls and second-hand wedding dress.

**Blue:** Underwear.

#### Tips for brides and grooms

- Take it all in and don't stress!
- Hiring a wedding planner is the best thing you can do. It takes all the stress out of being a bride, and just makes it about the fun and the memories.

For attractive packages and group rates to many more resorts and destinations, contact your travel agent or visit [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca) and [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).



## The Evolution of Weddings



Hyatt Zilara and Hyatt Ziva are all inclusive resorts located in some of the most lush, breathtaking settings in Mexico and Jamaica. Here, anything is possible, because everything you need is included, from luxury accommodations and authentic gourmet dining options to world-class entertainment, locally inspired activities, and rum and tequila sommeliers.

Hyatt Zilara, adult exclusive resorts, invites guests to experience endless opportunities to live in the moment, find ultimate relaxation, and discover the joy of a carefree stay.

Hyatt Ziva offers guests of all ages the chance to uncover unexpected fun, and discovery as they try new things and bond in new ways with family, friends, and soon-to-be friends.

Say, "I do" to peerless ceremonies, receptions and honeymoons. A wedding is not just any day. It's the culmination of a courtship, and the beginning of a life to be shared. As such, it deserves to be planned by skilled experts, set among spectacular beauty, and followed by a honeymoon every bit its equal. At Hyatt Zilara and Hyatt Ziva, delivering unforgettable weddings, honeymoons and vow renewal ceremonies is the sole focus of our experienced wedding staff. Whether it's a small intimate gathering or a lavish affair, you'll feel more than welcome with our stunning facilities and idyllic settings.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



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ALL

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BEACHFRONT

SUITES

TOP SHELF

DRINKS

CABANA

BUTLER

# ENTER **to** win a romantic getaway at

Win a seven-day stay for you and your sweetheart at the adults only, Dominican Republic gem, CHIC by Royalton Punta Cana, courtesy of Sunwing Vacations and Royalton Luxury Resorts.

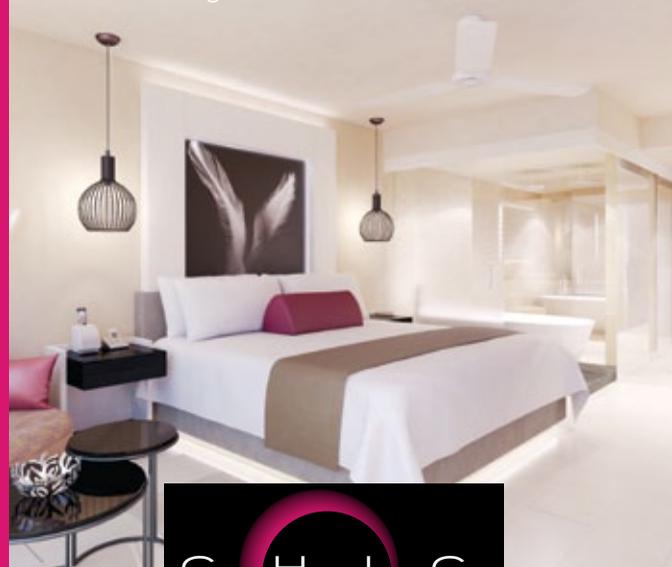
Pamper yourself in paradise at CHIC Punta Cana. This brand-new resort offers an All Exclusive™ experience where day merges into night, and guests can enjoy heavenly indulgences 24 hours a day. On the white sands of Punta Cana's coveted Uvero Alto Beach, CHIC Punta Cana serves up premium cocktails, masterfully crafted cuisine, superior entertainment, and an elegant yet relaxed ambiance. Stroll the pristine beach at sunset, cozy up under a palapa for two, or enjoy a candlelit dinner. The five-star CHIC Punta Cana resort offers the ideal setting for romance and a luxury experience you will never forget!

Draws for two seven-night vacations will take place in a six-month period. This promotion expires March 30, 2015. Winners will be contacted by email. Taxes are the responsibility of the winners. One entry per person only. Multiple entries will disqualify you from the chance to win. Contest applies to all provinces in Canada. Some travel date restrictions may apply. Full terms and conditions are available online at [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca). This promotion is limited and can be withdrawn at any time without notice.

## Enter at [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca) !

For more details, and full terms and conditions, please visit [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca). Click on the "Win a romantic getaway" banner.

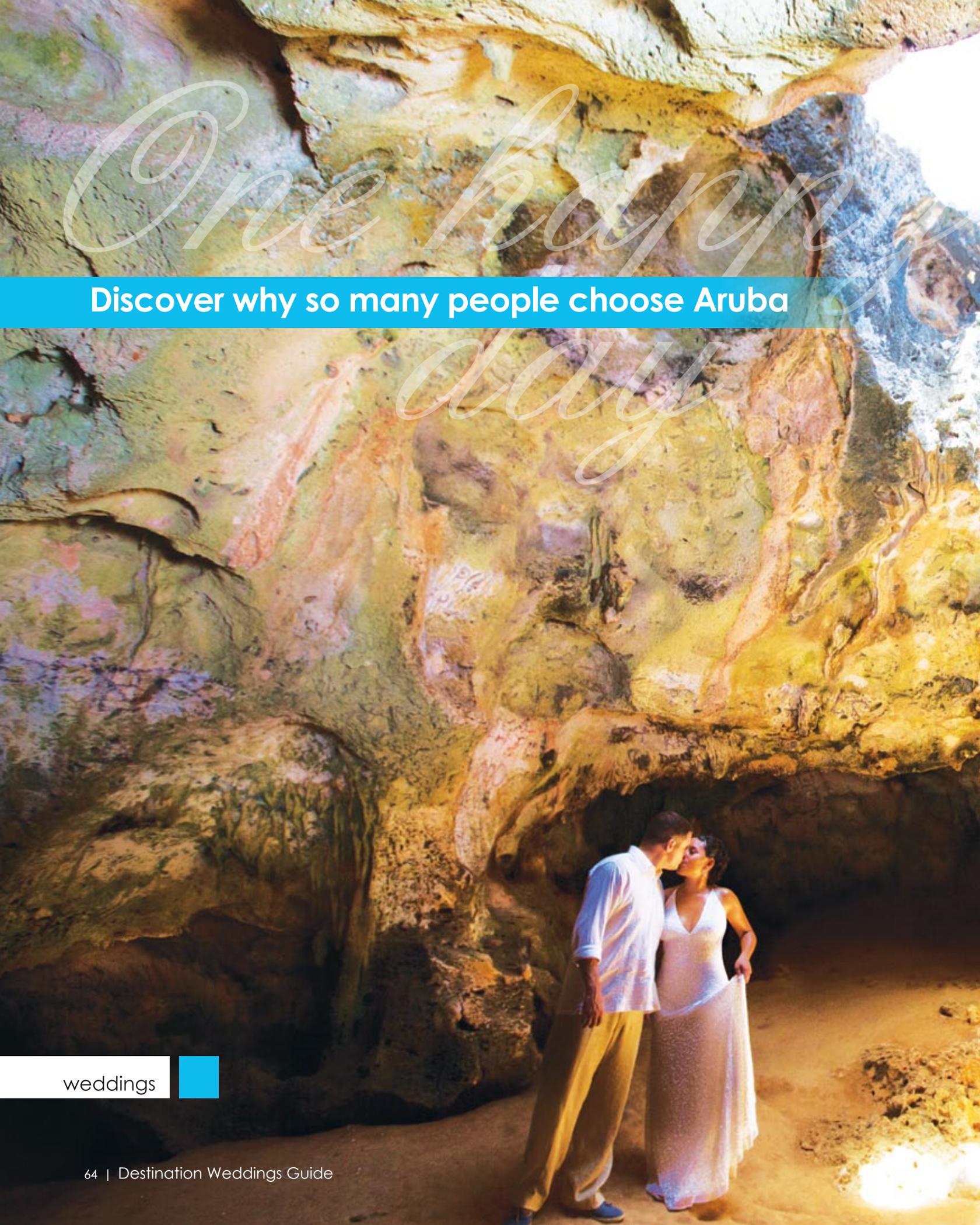
Artist rendering



Artist rendering



Artist rendering



# *One happy day*

Discover why so many people choose Aruba

weddings





## *One happy day*

Anyone who has visited Aruba can tell you, it truly is one happy island. Stunning natural beauty, cooling Caribbean trade winds, and the warmest people in the world are just a few of the reasons why so many people choose Aruba for their weddings and honeymoons.

From snorkelling to horseback rides to shopping, there are activities for every one of your guests in Aruba. The days leading up to your wedding, the bridal party can spend a relaxing afternoon at a spa, while your guests try their hands at paddle boarding. The groomsmen can play a round of golf, do some deep-sea fishing or ride dune buggies. As the sun goes down, everyone can meet up for a sunset cruise, followed by a casual dinner under the stars at a local restaurant.

You can walk down an aisle made of pristine, white sand surrounded by the crystal-clear waters of the Caribbean. You can exchange vows bathed in the glow of a spectacular Aruban sunset, and celebrate all night-long at one of our top-rated resorts.

The next morning, you can wake up to your honeymoon in paradise, with nothing left to do but relax on the beach, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Sunwing Airlines offers direct flights to Aruba from Toronto and Montreal.



# Beauty tips to transform your look for the big day

Plan for a glamorous wedding at your special destination with beauty tips that will be sure to create a memorable look - and an awestruck groom!

Fall opulence equals inspirational wedding ideas, including rich foods, bold colour palettes, and the bounty of the beauty that nature offers. Even while travelling to a far-away location, the abundance of the season can inspire wedding glamour

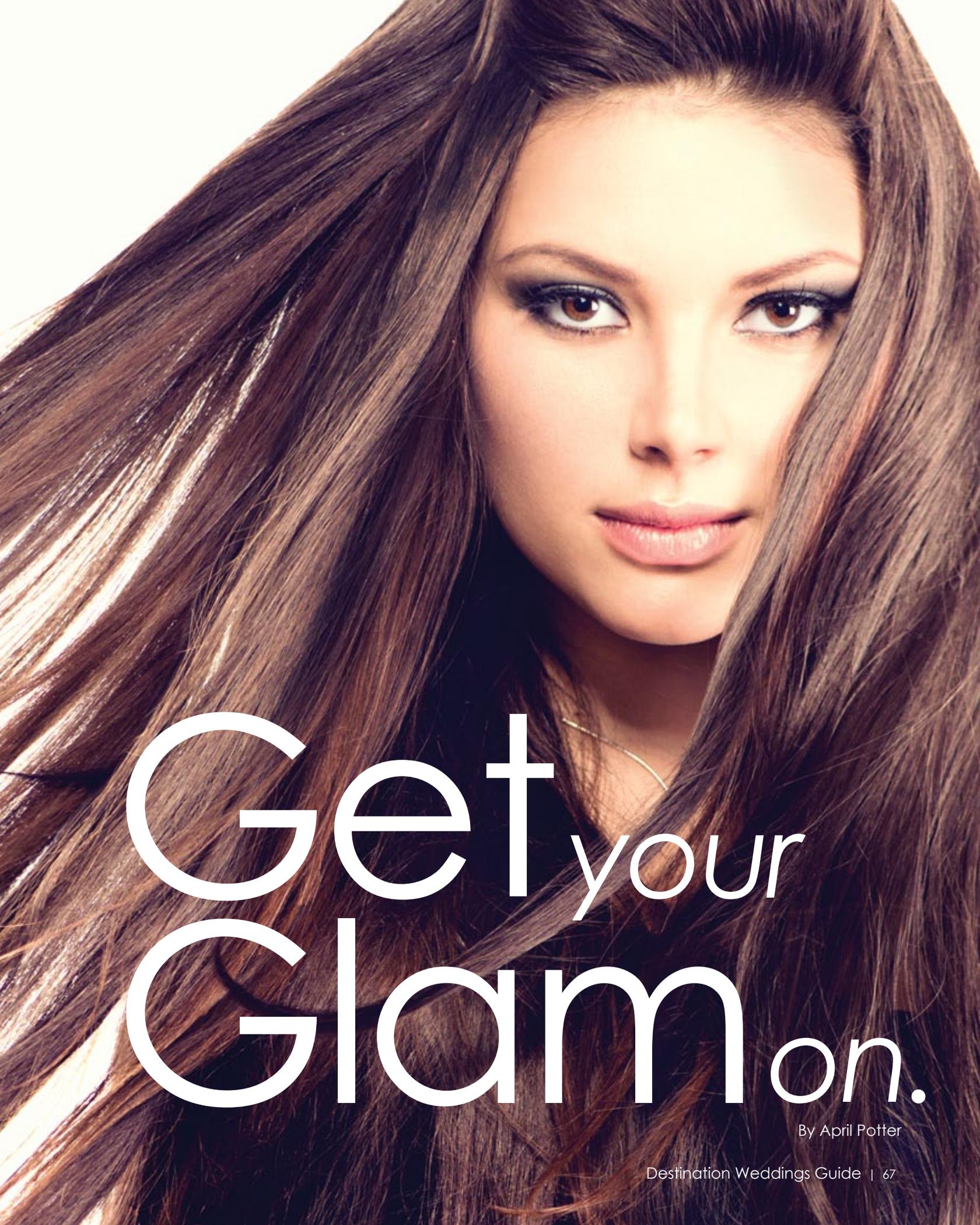
## Bigger (hair) is better

Creating an awe-inspiring do for your big will day help you make your dramatic entrance! Before your destination wedding, meet with a stylist to plan the look you will wear for your special day. Start with the colour, and ask your stylist about treatments that will fair well in the climate of your destination. Remember that your hair will be subject to conditions, such as chlorinated pools, salt water, and loads of sunshine. Your stylist will have the low-down on colorant that will withstand extreme conditions, and care products that you can pack to protect your hair. Be sure to obtain the cut and style that you want before your trip. If you are hiring a stylist at your destination to assist with an up-do, have your at-home stylist practice the look and take pictures for reference. A glamorous look typically requires volume, if your hair is lacking in volume, consider voluptuous hair extensions or a clip-on hairpiece that will be incorporated into your up-do. Many salons and beauty supply stores offer a variety of options – don't be afraid to try synthetic pieces, when worn correctly, it is almost impossible to tell the difference from your real hair



## Boost your glam

Choose extensions that will add hints of bold colour to your up-do, from fiery red accents to platinum blonde streaks



Get *your*  
Glam *on.*

By April Potter



### **Transform your skin**

Options for tanning and hair removal are abundant, making it difficult to know which method to trust. A smooth bronzed body will look fantastic in your bikini, and provide you with a gorgeous look to compliment your dress! Test your tanning method and hair removal system well in advance of your trip to ensure that you do not suffer any adverse skin reactions or unwanted redness and discoloration. The key is to choose a tanning option that will stay put in the weather conditions of your wedding destination. In extreme





heat, you will want to know that your tan will stay put, likewise when entering and exiting the pool or ocean. Consider obtaining a spray tan from a reputable salon for a complete and seamless natural look.

For unwanted hair, wax removal remains the gold standard, and you may want to visit a waxing bar to review the various waxing options and packages. Waxing bars and spas may also offer additional services that could be of interest to you, such as lash and brow tinting.



## Boost your glam

A Brazilian wax (removal of virtually all the hair in the bikini zone) may be a desirable option given the amount of time you anticipate to spend poolside – or in the bridal suite - at your destination.



### Magnificent nails

Visit a nail care professional a few weeks before your trip for a trial run, and book a second appointment closer to your departure to obtain your final wedding look. Glam nails are all the rage – artistic nail techniques such as ombre, and variations on the classic French tip, have been seen on runways and the fingertips of fashionistas this season. Jewelled accents, gel nails, acrylic and shellac patterns, no matter what you choose, will add to the overall glamour of your look.

## Boost your glam



Blue is a very haute colour – try an indigo or cerulean hue for your big day to add a little “something blue” to your look!

### Shape altering under wares

A gorgeous dress deserves a little attention to detail. Paying attention to what goes under your dress will create the most dramatic figure-flattering look. Shapewear comes in a variety of options from boosting your bustline to adding or subtracting curves in areas where you feel you need a little extra support. A full or half corset cinches your waist while amplifying your bust. Extra padding can be added to a bra or underwear to add volume to your curves, creating an hourglass look. Be sure to advise the sales associate that you will be travelling to a warmer climate and require something in a breathable fabric. Try your shapewear on with your dress before you leave to ensure that the garment is not visible under your wedding dress.



## Boost your glam

Consider visiting a lingerie or hosiery shop to browse the latest in lightweight shapers to help you tighten up any “problem” areas, such as the tummy or thighs.



Enhance the natural beauty that you are, and add a little glamour to your big day.

### Bold brides and extravagant grooms

Tattooed makeup is a permanent and dramatic body modification option that will last well beyond your wedding day. When it comes time for body art, tattooed hair follicles for the groom that simulate the look of a shorn, full head of hair can make that vanishing hairline, disappear!





# Memorable moments

SIGNATURE WEDDING COLLECTION  
BY KARISMA

## An attention to detail that is unparalleled

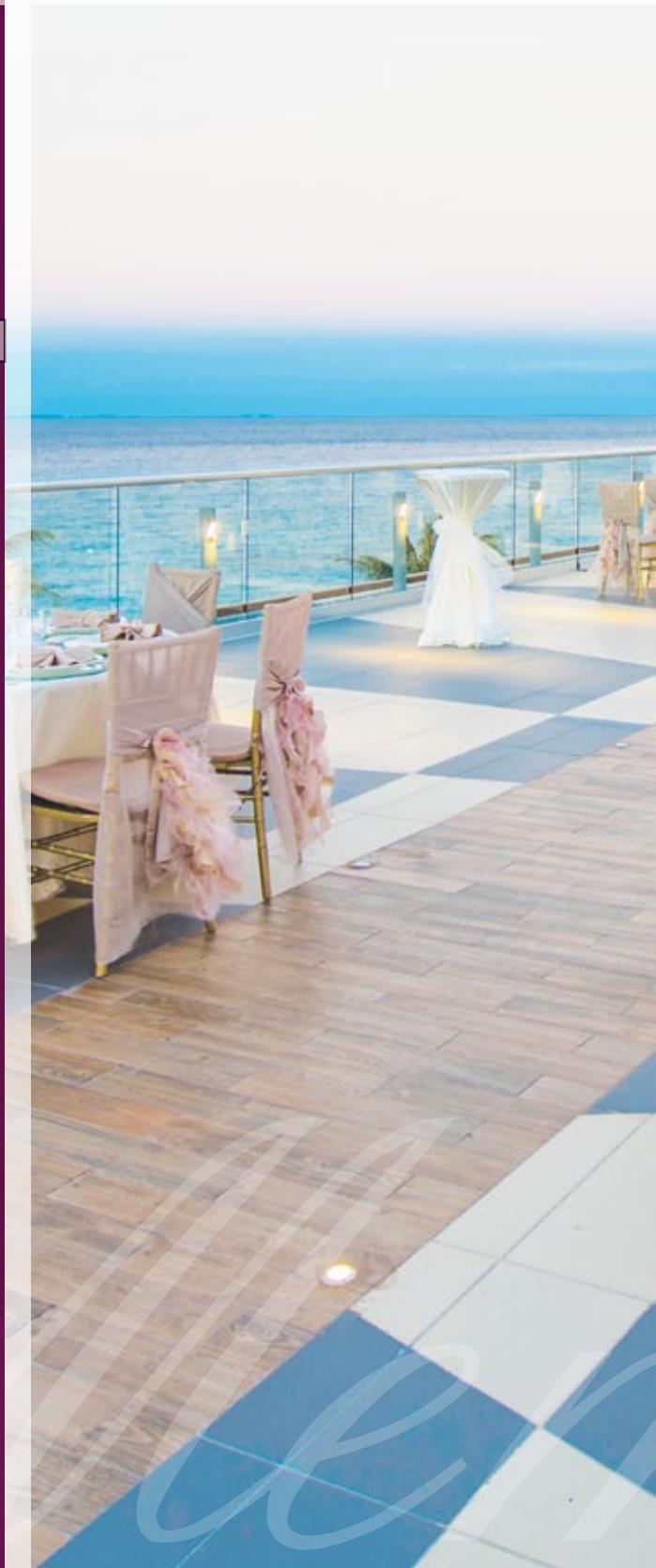
Karisma Hotels & Resorts presents a five-star, Gourmet Inclusive® experience that offers a venue for any taste. You will see your destination wedding dreams come true in a stunning tropical locale while you celebrate with those you love the most!

Explore a new standard in destination weddings with the Memorable Moments Signature Wedding Collection by Karisma. Each collection has its own distinct personality. Add your special touch, and you will find your Gourmet Inclusive® Wedding Event as unique as the two of you!

### Memorable Moments Signature Wedding Collection

The Memorable Moments Signature Wedding Collection by Karisma is influenced by designers but inspired by brides. It's a perfectly crafted recipe of high end inspiration, chic decor and Signature Accents™. Watch your vision come to life while being treated to unparalleled service, and a truly gourmet experience.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).





# Memorable Moments Signature Wedding Collection, by Karisma



# GET on *trend* this **FALL**

By Rachel Goldrick



Destination weddings don't have to be laidback, if you want to put the "wow" into your evening celebrations, here are a few ideas that will make sure your beach party sparkles

## Be a diva for a day

Arrange for some famous celebrities to mingle with the guests at cocktail hour – Marilyn Monroe and Brad Pitt lookalikes could add a fun edge to your photo booth pics, too.



*Be a Diva*



## An evening to remember

- Invite a professional performer to teach your guests some circus skills, such as juggling
- Put some giant board games on the sand as an ice breaker at the start of evening, or even just bring Twister in your luggage
- Have your own mini-Las Vegas casino set up on the sands
- Custom-make your fireworks display to match your colour scheme and blend with your wedding song
- Set up a caricature artist or arrange for a magician to mingle with your guests





Anton Oparin / Shutterstock.com.

## Apps can make a difference

You could even make your photo booth part of the visual entertainment for the night, apps like Livebooth and Eventstagram can enable you to project a live feed from your photo booth to a projector screen so your guests can see their photographic masterpieces as they are created. Or for something different, make your booth a Video Booth where guests can leave messages for you and let you know how they are enjoying the party.

## In the frame

Often the best photos of your big day are the candid ones. So, in addition to asking wedding guests to share their personal wedding photos with you, why not tempt fate and set up your own Wedding Photo Booth? As well as being a fabulous ice breaker, and providing entertainment well into the evening, photo booth shots can be a great memento from your day. Whether you wish to style it up or make it lighthearted is up to you. You could customize the background with a floral display following the theme of your centrepieces or use the same fabric as your bridesmaids' gowns for an elegant feel. Or if you want to create a more relaxed ambience, maybe think about setting up a giant chalkboard that guests could personalize with messages before each shot. You could also set up a dress-up box with everything from wigs to giant sunglasses and feather boas. Or how about ordering a giant polaroid frame with your names and wedding date printed on the border to "date stamp" each shot?



## Unique exits

How you take those first steps together as man and wife is sure to be one of the most photographed moments of your day, so it's worth taking a little time to think about how you'd like your exit from the ceremony to be celebrated by your guests. Classic confetti doesn't always lend itself to a destination wedding, especially if you're tying the knot on the beach, so why not consider some other options. Sunset ceremonies could be enhanced with a corridor of light illuminated by sparklers or glow sticks, while guests at daytime weddings could be encouraged to play castanets, blow bubbles, launch personalised paper aeroplanes or even throw mini-beach balls!



## Trash the Dress

Yes, it's the most expensive dress you'll ever wear, but few wedding gowns are handed down these days; most end up gathering dust in a wardrobe. So, why not make a statement with yours after the ceremony and create your own wall art. Many photographers have now added "trash the dress" themes to their packages. Whether you want to cool off in it going snorkelling or scuba diving, rip the hems as you saddle up for a horseback ride across the sands or get messy with a food fight or paint throwing frenzy "trash the dress" is a great way to let off steam at the end of the day, and star in some stunning photography that's sure to be a talking point long after your wedding.



del Sol photography.

# A milestone *vacation*

Neck-deep in the destination wedding planning process, it can sometimes be hard to recognize that, following this occasion, you and your sweetheart will enjoy your first vacation as husband and wife. After the hullabaloo of the wedding, the honeymoon is your opportunity to assume the laidback ambience of the beach, the pool, and the sun without any distractions. Live a little, work on your tan, enjoy some laughs over drinks, maybe a city tour or ziplining adventure, and indulge in sun-kissed moments together. This time away is what you make of it.

We've listed a few items that have recently hit the market to remind you that your much-anticipated vacation is right around the corner, and the new chapter of your lives is about to begin!



## It's in the (tea) bag

Made from Fairtrade certified cotton, this canvas tote comes in a brilliant shade of teal to complement your tropical surroundings. Embossed with the iconic logo of DavidsTea, North America's favourite tea shop, it makes a stylish addition to your beach wardrobe. Machine washable, it's roomy enough to fit your swimwear, towel and favourite beach read. Made with 22-inch reinforced handles, it's also sturdy enough to be used as a carry-on or day bag for excursions. When you return home, it makes a great shopping mate for weekends, and will act as a sunny reminder of your first days as husband and wife.

## Shield your eyes from the sun

You know you need to protect your peepers from UV exposure, as well as from the intense shine of the sun, so you might as well do it in style with these Smith Shorewood polarized women's sunglasses. The special curve and tapering of the lenses ensures distortion-free viewing from any angle. The frame is made with a plant-based material, thus reducing your eco-footprint. You can pick up a pair of these stylish shades from any MEC store nationwide or via their website.



## Capture the moment in HD

Whether you're ziplining, horseback riding, surfing, scuba diving, snorkelling or just enjoying the moment, this camera will capture your special memories like nothing else on the market. The GoPro HERO3+ is small, lightweight, rugged, versatile and capable of crystal-clear 1080p HD video or 10MP high-resolution stills. It's waterproof, and there are a variety of mount options, so that you can record the action from your point of view – wherever that may be.



## Kissable lips

This moisturizing lip balm, Baby Lips by Maybelline New York, with SPF 20, is infused with botanical cellular report concentrate extracted from the miraculous Centella Asiatica plant, giving your lips that kissable, juicy look while you spend quality time with your new hubby on the beach. This formula, with active care ingredients such as vitamin C, E and B5, delivers moisture and softness to chapped, dry lips, and provides broad spectrum protection against UVA and UVB rays.



## Reach for the sky

The Delsey Helium Sky Collection is the perfect addition to your most memorable journey together. Available in brilliant sky blue or sleek charcoal, and made from lightweight Micro Ballistec™, the range includes an attractive tote, duffel bag, 18-inch carry-on, as well as two larger cases. There are a host of useful details to make travelling hassle-free, including outside zip-up pockets for stowing last-minute items, molded ergonomic hand grips, and fully lined interiors. Find these handy travel companions at Hudson's Bay.

# tools for *tech-savvy* BRIDES and GROOMS



With the use of mobile apps, online tools, and social channels for capturing, storing and sharing the handsome memories of this momentous occasion, more techno brides and grooms are also recognizing new ways to streamline and upgrade every moment of their destination wedding from the planning stages all the way through to the big day. We've listed some of the season's handiest apps, websites and software for your consideration

## BEFORE THE BIG DAY

### The planner



Leading up to your big "I do," your days will be flooded by appointments with your stylist, dress designer, suit tailor, mani-pedi salon specialist, the list goes on. You will want to keep track of everything you need to do while keeping it synced with your network. Effectively syncing across multiple platforms, Evernote™ helps the couple-to-be share all their ideas, appointments, events, pictures, bookings and tasks surrounding their destination wedding with their wedding guests and bridal party.

### The diet

If you've been frustrated at your reflection in the mirror, scarfing down greens each day, and barely making it to the gym during your busy schedule, then you may need a bit of help with your fitness and diet routines. Help is on the way in the form of eTools and the PointsPlus™ Plan by Weight Watchers Canada™. If you attend regular meetings, a Weight Watchers eTools subscription will keep you on track with its useful mobile app that lets you track your food consumption and activity, and features interactive Cheat Sheets online, as well as charts and graphs to help check your progress. Achieving your ideal bridal body and beach-ready silhouette by eating healthy and not going on a hunger strike is now only a click away.



### The distraction



The To Do list is mounting, and you both need a relief from the anxiety and stress that can creep in over the course of planning a wedding. Apps such as Equanimity - Meditation Timer & Tracker™, Breathe2Relax™, Nature Sounds Relax and Sleep are all rated four plus stars, and they can put you in a state of calm, better equipped mentally for the next challenge. Worry Box™ is also an excellent app for chronicling and working through your concerns.

## ON THE DAY



## The video

If you are looking to amplify the “social” aspect of your very special day, and don’t want to miss a minute, whether your bridal party is having an impromptu toast to the bride and groom while you are chatting with great grandma, or little Jimmy is busting a move by his table while you are cutting the cake, rely on your friends and family to capture these moments by uploading and sharing them with you through the WeddingMix™ app. When you buy a package, all the images and videos, from the proposal all the way through to the honeymoon, can be edited into a wedding video to cherish forever.

## The playlist

Many couples cut the cost of hiring a DJ by crafting their own customized playlists for each event and moment of their wedding day. WeddingDJ™ is most specific to this event, and best allows you to customize your playlists for all the moments in and around the rehearsal dinner, welcome cocktail, wedding ceremony and reception. However, what if the mood in the room changes on the day or in the moment? For that, there is a “re-order” tab that a tech-savvy member of the bridal party can stay on top of.



## AFTER YOUR WEDDING

## The formalwear

Whether it's a bridesmaid dress, bridal accessories, or a groomsmen's turquoise tie, there are plenty of places to wear these fancy outfits after this particular event. However, if you are feeling particularly charitable, there are a few places that would gladly take these gently used items. New Circles in Toronto, The Cinderella Project in Vancouver, and a group of high school grads in Spyrfeld, Halifax, to name a few, are helping to make prom dreams come true one second-hand formal accessory and gown at a time. By donating your formalwear to these types of non-profit organizations, you are helping high school grads in low-income communities celebrate the completion of their secondary education with confidence, and some style.





**Begin your lives in paradise!**





## *Unforgettable*

A romantic seaside setting, friends and family gathered in joy and laughter, the finest in luxuries and amenities...

RIU has brought everything together to create the wedding of your dreams. With your love and devotion, our attention to detail, and the glorious natural beauty of these awesome destinations, we'll surpass all of your expectations, and make the most important day in your life perfect in every way.

We offer wedding packages for all of our incredible hotels in Mexico, The Bahamas, Jamaica, Cuba, Panama, St. Martin, Aruba and the Dominican Republic. We even offer a lovely option on the incredible Pacific coast of Costa Rica. Each location has different features and attractions, so be sure to visit our website to choose the location, highlights, and amenities that best suit your ideas and tastes.

We've created four amazing choices to fit your personal and unique lifestyle, each one is customizable.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Signature Weddings by visiting [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).





Celebrate the

# perfect wedding

At Riu Hotels & Resorts we know that every wedding is unique, so we feature a great variety of wedding destinations, which include some of the world's most beautiful beaches, places such as Aruba, Paradise Island in The Bahamas, St. Martin, Panama, Cuba, Guanacaste in Costa Rica, Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, and many locations on Mexico's Pacific coast.

Our wide array of destinations provides varied and unique settings, allowing you to choose your destination based on what you enjoy as a couple, including adventure, an animated nightlife, romantic sunsets or other desired features.

Here are just a few highlights of our stunning wedding offers and destinations to help you select just the right ambiance for your perfect celebration...

Choose sun-kissed sands for your ceremony. A destination wedding is a truly special way to celebrate your love. Organized with ease, brimming with value, and rich uniqueness, tropical ceremonies allow you to focus on each other while we take care of the details.

RIU offers three wedding packages across all hotels and resorts in the Caribbean and Mexico, as well as a free wedding package at selected resorts.



## RIU FREE WEDDING PACKAGE

For those who want a beautiful wedding without the associated costs that such an event implies, the RIU FREE wedding package is truly the perfect option. Make the most of your special day with this wonderful option.

When you get married at RIU with a free wedding package, you can rely on the fact that you will have a real wedding!

The free\* wedding package includes:

- A wedding coordinator to help plan the special day
- Decoration set-up for the ceremony location
- Bridal bouquet
- Matching boutonniere for the groom
- Music during the ceremony
- Semi-private dinner for the couple and 10 guests at one of our specialty restaurants
- Spa surprise gift
- Wedding cake for 10 guests
- Sparkling wine for 10 guests (during the main toast only)
- Special decoration in the room
- 10% discount on all spa treatments for the couple and their wedding guests

\*Some restrictions apply. Available at selected destinations only.



*Destination Weddings*

hotel spotlight

## RIU CLASSIC WEDDING PACKAGE

Our Classic Wedding package provides you with the opportunity to create a simple yet elegant wedding in paradise. Complete with a RIU wedding coordinator to thoughtfully plan your special day and all the elements necessary for an unforgettable ceremony, this package is an ideal way to start your lives together in a very romantic and intimate way.

The RIU Classic wedding package includes:

- A wedding coordinator to assist you on your special day
- Decoration and set-up for the ceremony location
- Bridal bouquet and matching boutonniere for the groom
- Music during the ceremony
- Semi-private dinner for the couple at one of our specialty restaurants
- Wedding cake
- Sparkling wine (during the main toast only)
- Surprise gift
- 10% discount on all spa treatments
- Minister/judge service
- Wedding certificate
- Witness (if required)



We invite you to contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Signature Weddings by visiting [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).

## RIU ROYAL WEDDING PACKAGE

The perfect balance between simplicity and extravagance, the Royal Wedding package provides a variety of impressive amenities. From a complimentary room upgrade to a wedding cake and sparkling wine, this package is intended to make your special day perfect in every way.

The RIU Royal Wedding package includes:

- A wedding coordinator to assist you on your special day
- Decoration and set-up for the ceremony location
- Bridal bouquet and matching boutonniere for the groom
- Music during the ceremony
- Semi-private dinner for the wedding couple and 20 guests at one of our specialty restaurants
- Wedding cake
- Sparkling wine (during the main toast only)
- Special decoration in the room
- Witnesses (if required)
- Minister/judge service
- Marriage certificate
- Complimentary room upgrade for the wedding couple subject to availability upon arrival (restrictions apply)
- RIU "t-shirts" for bride and groom
- Hotel surprise gift
- Romantic massage for bride and groom
- 10% discount on all spa treatments for the couple and their wedding guests

## RIU CAPRICE WEDDING PACKAGE

The RIU Caprice package is the most extravagant, elegant and complete option, created for those who desire an unforgettable and once-in-a-lifetime event. This package provides an endless number of extraordinary details and amenities to ensure that your dream of a fairytale wedding truly does come true.

The RIU Caprice Wedding package includes:

- A wedding coordinator to assist you on your special day
- Decoration and set-up for the ceremony location
- Bridal bouquet and matching boutonniere for the groom
- Music during the ceremony
- Semi-private dinner for the wedding couple and 40 guests at one of our specialty restaurants
- Wedding cake
- Sparkling wine (during the main toast only)
- Special decoration in the room
- Complimentary room upgrade for the wedding couple subject to availability upon arrival (Jacuzzi Suites are not included)
- RIU "t-shirts" for bride and groom, and hotel surprise gift
- Witnesses, minister/judge service and marriage certificate
- Romantic massage for bride and groom
- Hairstyle, manicure & pedicure for the bride
- 10% discount on all spa treatments for the couple and their wedding guests
- Late check-out for the wedding couple (subject to availability)
- Breakfast in bed the morning after the wedding
- Fruit with chocolate and bottle of sparkling wine
- Two bags of petals



Celebrate

# RIU Weddings



hotel spotlight



## Perfect

Your wedding and honeymoon will be among your most personal experiences. That is why AMResorts offers six sensational brands for you to choose from, where everything is included: Enjoy Endless Privileges® at Zoëtry Wellness & Spa Resorts, Unlimited-Luxury® at Secrets, Breathless, Dreams and Now Resorts & Spas, as well as Unlimited-Fun® at Sunscape Resorts & Spas. Enjoy limitless meals, snacks and top-shelf spirits, room service, daily adventures, nightly entertainment, and so much more - all without the wristband that many other resorts require.

**Suite seclusion.** Relax and retreat to rooms and suites with private terraces, and a wealth of luxurious amenities. With room and concierge services, couples can focus on what's most important - being together.

**Sensuous spas.** Lavish spas, featuring bridal suites, couples massage rooms, and full-service salons immerse you in complete relaxation before and after the wedding!

**The big day.** Elegant gazebos, stunning ballrooms, and receptions on the beach are among the romantic settings available to say, "I do" and celebrate wedded bliss.

**Unlimited options.** Each resort offers a bouquet of wedding and honeymoon packages (some of them complimentary), and additional special touches to ensure dreams become reality. And with a complimentary on-site wedding coordinator to handle all the details, no hair - or petal - will be out of place.

**On your most special of days, AMResorts vows to wow!**

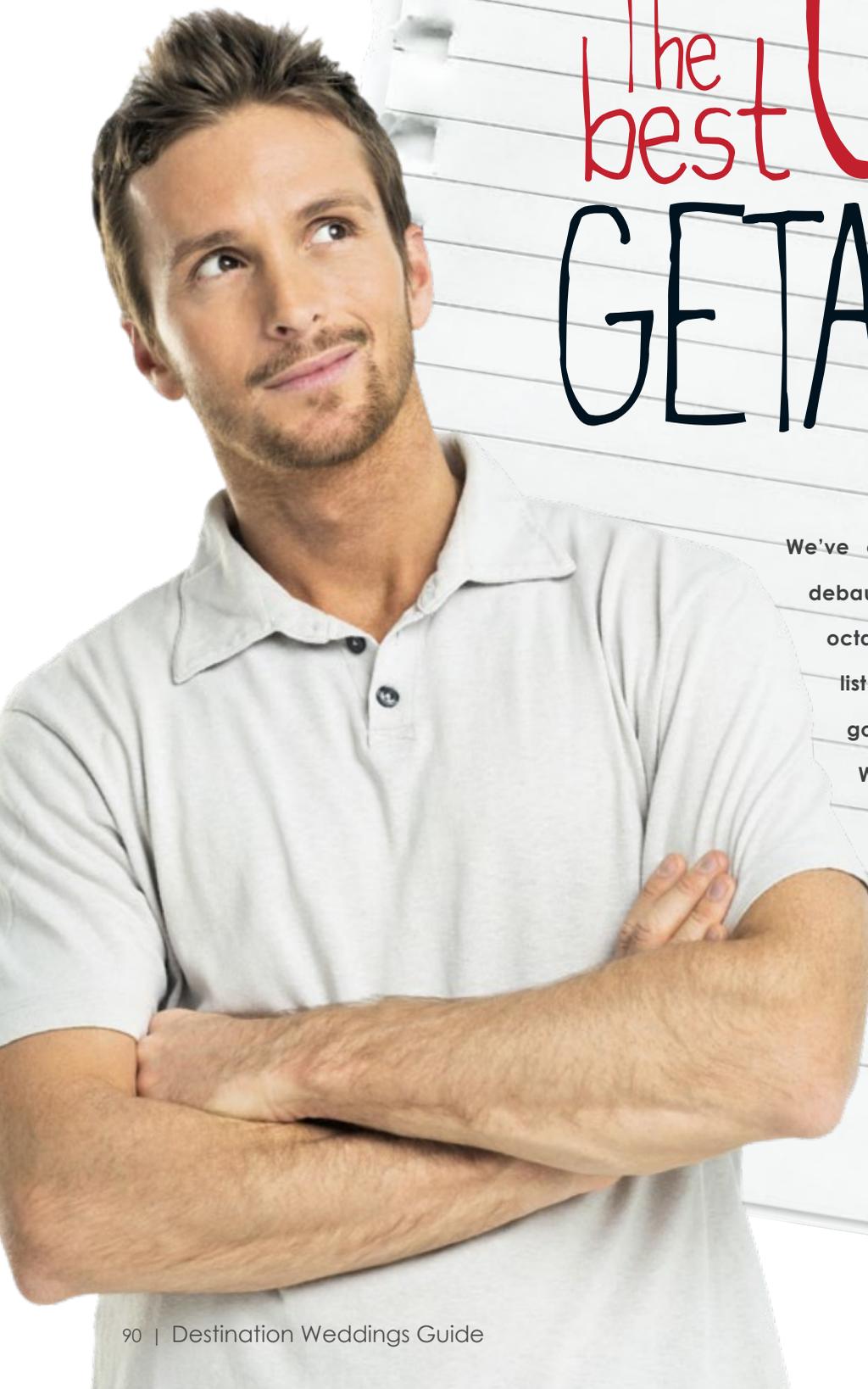
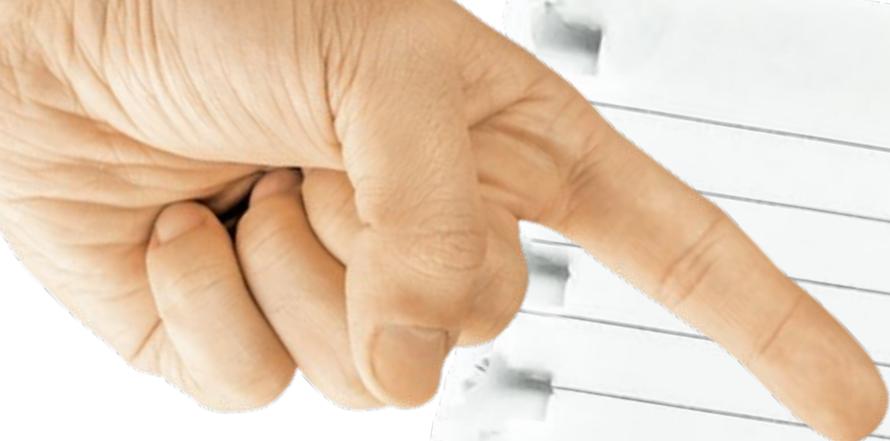
To explore more of AMResorts, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



**The perfect day**  
The perfect place

weddings





# The best GUY GETAWAYS

By Joseph William

We've cast the pre-wedding, *Hangover*-style debauchery to the side in favour of high-octane, adrenaline-surgng fun with this list of guy getaways that'll keep the party going without causing (too much) trouble. Whether it's swimming with sharks in The Bahamas or hitting the hottest clubs in Cancun, here are some great ways to shed the pre-wedding jitters, and strengthen the bro-bond



## Strengthen your bro-bond

You've checked into your bridal suite and in mere days, standing oceanside, hand-in-hand, you will declare your love to your partner for eternity. Every detail has been taken care of. You've weighed in on the seating plan, the first dance song, and the colour of the cupcake icing. Now it's time to step away and let loose with your best boys. While the ladies are getting primped and pampered at the salon or spa, and most of the guests are simply relaxing at the beach, vacate your seat at the pool bar, and experience some of these high-energy, totally thrilling, tropical activities geared at the groom's side of the bridal party.

### **Aim for the extreme**

A wedding ceremony, for many grooms, takes a fella outside of his comfort zone. Assuage any pre-wedding jitters by concentrating your unbridled energy toward a high-octane activity that'll keep your adrenaline levels soaring to the highest heights. Nothing will re-direct your focus more than swimming with sharks (no cages!) on Grand Bahama Island, deep-sea fishing in Costa Rica, scuba diving along the world's second largest barrier reef in Honduras, kiteboarding in Puerto Plata or hitting the waves with a surfing lesson in Mexico's Pacific gem, Los Cabos.

### **When in Rome**

Wherever the hot spot is that you choose for your destination wedding, there is always one thing you HAVE to do when you're there. Whether it is hopping on a tour of the Mayan ruins in Riviera Maya, ziplining atop the Costa Rican jungle or catching a cabaret show at the legendary Tropicana club in Havana, you and your boys will want to return home declaring, "Yes, we did THAT!"



# This is how we ROLL



## Rock and roll all night

The Hard Rock Hotel has a rockstar offering that will get music junkies and classic rock-heads all giddy with excitement. Have classic Fender electric guitars and bass guitars (which include models used by such rock legends as Kurt Cobain and Eric Clapton), along with amps, delivered to your room via room service. Beat heads fear not, Hard Rock can also deliver a complete DJ package, which includes a quick video lesson for the uninitiated.

## Tempt Lady Luck

Once a part of its seedy underbelly, having a wedding in Las Vegas has now become an extremely popular and an attractive option for couples looking to go the nine yards for an opulent and incredibly memorable celebration. Vegas now courts countless celebrity chefs and internationally lauded designers. It has re-branded itself as a food, glam and style capital of the world. If you find yourself staying on The Strip for your destination wedding, of course, you'll want to step out with the boys to make some sporting wagers and play some cards before your big day.

## Score a hole-in-one

A golf enthusiasts dream is to hit the links in the tropics, with warm breezes and incredible views of the ocean. Mexico is home to world-class courses designed by links legend Jack Nicklaus. Bet ten bucks per hole at his Vista Vallarta Golf Club in Puerto Vallarta, and in Riviera Maya/Cancun, hit the fairways of Nicklaus' Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort and El Manglar Golf Course.

If you're an island golfer, in Jamaica's Montego Bay, squeeze 36 holes into two days at Cinnamon Hill Golf Club, Half Moon Golf Club and White Witch Golf Course.



### Grab a game

Start your evening off at a resort sports bar then own the night at the clubs of Vegas, Puerto Vallarta, Cancun, Los Cabos, Grand Bahamas Island and St. Lucia. For instance, on Puerto Vallarta's Malecon (the seaside boardwalk), catch the game and eat some beef at Paradise Burger before heading down the strip to Mandala and Zoo nightclubs.

If you'd prefer to stick close to home, many resorts have on-site sports bars and clubs that rival the ones in the downtown cores – plus, you can't beat being within stumbling distance of your hotel room. Check ahead to see that yours offers a sports event guarantee so you won't have to worry about missing the big game, unless of course, kick-off is scheduled during your nuptials.



### Bursting with local culture

Perhaps you have perfectly timed your destination wedding to coincide with a local tradition or festivity. The calendar year in the West Indies is bursting with vibrant carnivals and fancy-free festivals. The Junkanoo in Nassau, The Bahamas on Boxing Day and New Year's Day, Reggae Sunfest in Montego Bay, Jamaica during July, and the St. Lucia Jazz Festival in April, are just a few Caribbean feasts of occasion not to be missed.

When it all comes down to it, this time away, as much as it is centred around the ceremony and vows you will make to that lucky person you'll be sharing your life with, it is also a time to enjoy some quality time catching up and hanging out with those pals that got you here.

Stay classy, fellas



## Relax and enjoy your wedding in Huatulco



## *Relax & enjoy*

Huatulco is one of Mexico's most relaxed destinations, making it the perfect spot for your special wedding day.

Located on the coast of the state of Oaxaca, at the edge of the Sierra Madre mountains, Huatulco spans 32 kilometres of Mexico's Pacific coastline. The centrepiece of Huatulco's charm is a series of nine bays, encompassing 36 beaches and numerous inlets and coves, each with its own unique setting and ecology. All are noted for their dream-like beaches of golden sand, and crystal-clear water, yet the bays remain delightfully unspoiled, sometimes accessible only by boat.

The ecological commitment of Huatulco has won the EarthCheck certification, which places it as the first sustainable tourist community in the Americas, and third place worldwide.

Huatulco's selection for resort development was helped along by its proximity to the state's capital, the magical city of Oaxaca. Its ancient archaeological sites, vibrant and colourful markets, rich colonial architecture, and fascinating native cultures make it a perfect match for Huatulco's coastal attractions. Huatulco is also the perfect gateway for exploring the villages of Puerto Escondido and Puerto Angel, two of the state's more rustic coastal gems.

Just 16 kilometres from central Huatulco is Copalita. Copalita is the only archaeological site in Oaxaca framed by the beauty of Copalita River, and magnificent views of the bays of Huatulco. Copalita sports the Sitio Copalita Museum, which is the first of its kind. Promoting sustainable areas respecting the environment while preserving memories, culture and traditions.

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to Huatulco from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal.



Blissful!  
Bonding  
at the spa

Blissful  
bonding  
at the spa

By Chris Rycall

Wedding preparations can be a stress inducer for some couples. Why not a stress reducer, instead? We've offered up a menu of couples spa treatments to help you combat stress before the big day



Your destination wedding resort's spa is the perfect location to combine the three Rs - romance, relaxation and rejuvenation. Visiting the spa together is a must-do activity before your special day. Think how much better you will feel, ready to face everything, from demanding in-laws to diva bridesmaids, head on. Treat your body and mind, and share your love for one another by getting pampered together.

**Relax.** Skilled spa staff is ready to knead, massage and create a tranquil romantic environment where your only worry is deciding what feel-good spa treatment to share with your lover.

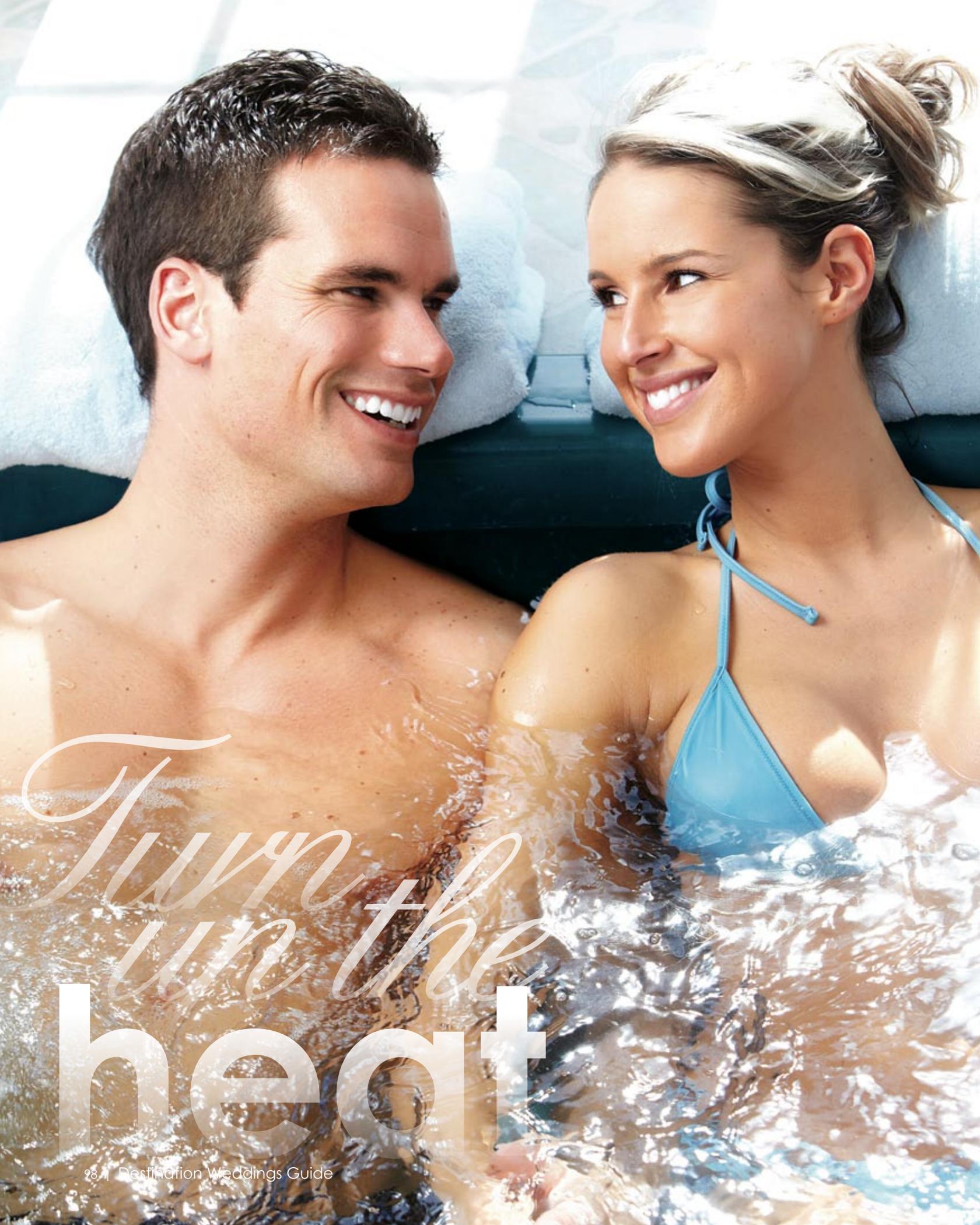
**Romance.** Lay side-by-side as you are massaged under a gazebo perched high upon a cliff overlooking the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea. Or feel the gentle strokes of your therapist while in the middle of the rainforest on a table with only each other, with serenading birds as your companions. Combine your love of the beach with the soothing touches of a massage as you feel the warmth of the sun, and therapist's hands in a private beach cabana.

**Rejuvenate.** If you prefer your treatments indoors, many spas in the Caribbean and Mexico have treatment rooms with a view – very scenic views, in fact. The pearl gem of this spectacular scenery is, of course, your sweetheart.

#### WHAT TREATMENT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Just like your wedding night, you want to make your time at the spa together as enjoyable, relaxing and, yes, romantic as possible. For the treatments and the times you prefer, it's best to book weeks before your destination wedding date.

**Man vs. woman.** No man and woman are alike, and that certainly is the case when it comes to spa treatments. You may want a lighter, more soothing aromatherapy massage with your favourite oils, like camomile or a floral scent. And he may want the therapist to provide a more intense treatment, like a deep-tissue massage, with the least amount of floral scents, and perhaps a citrus, cinnamon, vanilla or oak scent, or maybe even bacon!



*Turn*  
*up the*  
**heat**



**Turn up the heat.** Ask the spa manager what special amenities they can do for your couples massage. For example, you can arrange to have your favourite wine or champagne served before and after the treatment.

To up the ante on this romantic interlude, ask your spa manager about some of the following options:

- Does the couples treatment room have a lounging area where you can relax together and share some intimate moments?
- Is there a shower in the treatment room?
- What about a Jacuzzi tub?
- Will they allow a special treat or food to be brought in, like chocolate-covered strawberries?
- Can you play your own music on an iPod in the room?
- Ask if the therapists can do a teaching session, and show you some tips and techniques on massaging your partner – guaranteed to bring you closer together.

**Specialty treatments.** Beyond traditional massage therapies, why not try wraps infused with local fruit and plant extracts from that specific destination? In your cocoon-like state, toxins and stresses are melted away.

Or for something completely different, try a *temazcal*, a traditional Mayan purification ceremony led by a shaman.

By heading inside the dome-like structure slathered in a clay mixture. You can get closer in mind, body and spirit – but be prepared to sweat!

## romance relaxation rejuvenation

If your future hubby is a spa neophyte and may not be comfortable with going for a full body massage, why not a reflexology treatment where the therapist applies pressure to the feet with specific thumb, finger and hand techniques? This could also extend to the hands. It's a wonderful way to experience a treatment together, but this time being in a vertical not horizontal position where you can easily chat with one another.

No matter what treatment you choose, making time for the spa will relax and invigorate you and your lover in preparation for your special day.

All hands on deck. Let the pampering begin!

## Party pampering



Let's not forget the mother-of-the-bride and bridal party. It can be a stressful time for them, too. A little pampering will go a long way in insuring a smooth wedding. They will want to look their best for pictures, and who knows what kinds of YouTube videos! Facials, manis, pedis, and other aesthetic treatments, from eyelid tinting to waxing, are guaranteed to make them look radiant, beautiful and simply stress-free.



## Vibrant

Perfect weather, pristine waters, spectacular scenery, soaring architecture, and exuberant nightlife make Cuba the perfect destination to hold one of your most cherished celebrations ever! You and your guests will savour stunning tropical scenery and beaches. And with a dedicated wedding planner working tirelessly to ensure every detail of your very special day is attended to, you can focus on relaxing, enjoying your guests, and making new memories.

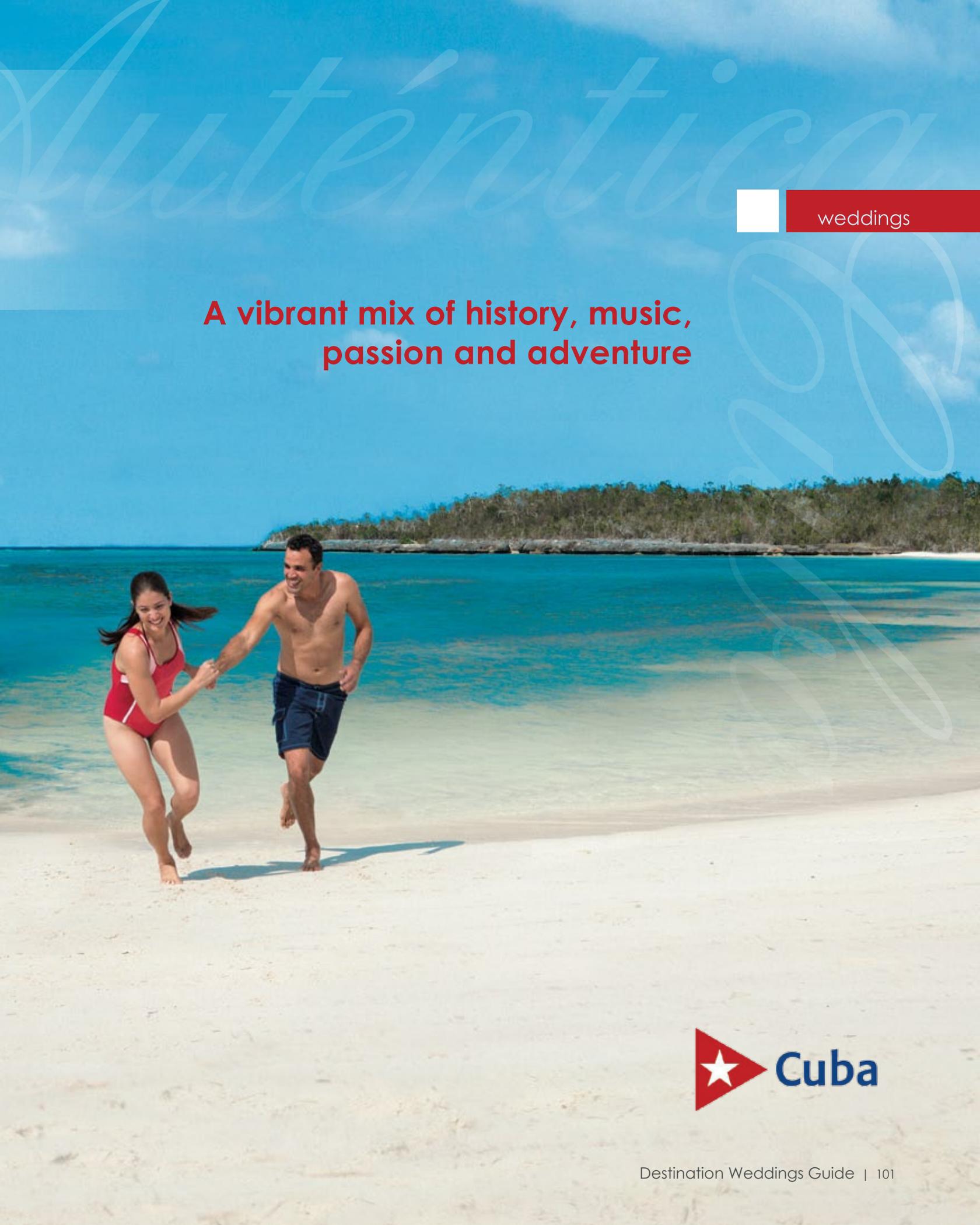
Whether you dream of an extravagant theme wedding with a lavish reception or an intimate exchange of vows at one of Cuba's delightful beaches, Cuba's wide selection of hotels will accommodate every need and every budget. Select from a variety of destinations offering unique Cuban flair, including Varadero, Cayo Santa María, Cayo Coco, Holguin and Havana.

While on your honeymoon in Cuba, visit one of this island's 70 theatres with impressive live shows, including their world-famous Tropicana shows with gorgeous, costumed dancers, and spirited live music.

The real Cuba is a vibrant mix of history, music, passion and adventure, your wedding in Cuba will be the same.

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to Varadero, Santa Clara (Cayo Santa María), Cayo Coco, Camaguey (Santa Lucía), Holguin, Manzanillo de Cuba, Santiago de Cuba, and Cayo Largo from multiple gateways across Canada.





*Authentic*



weddings

**A vibrant mix of history, music,  
passion and adventure**



# Bodacious brooch bouquets

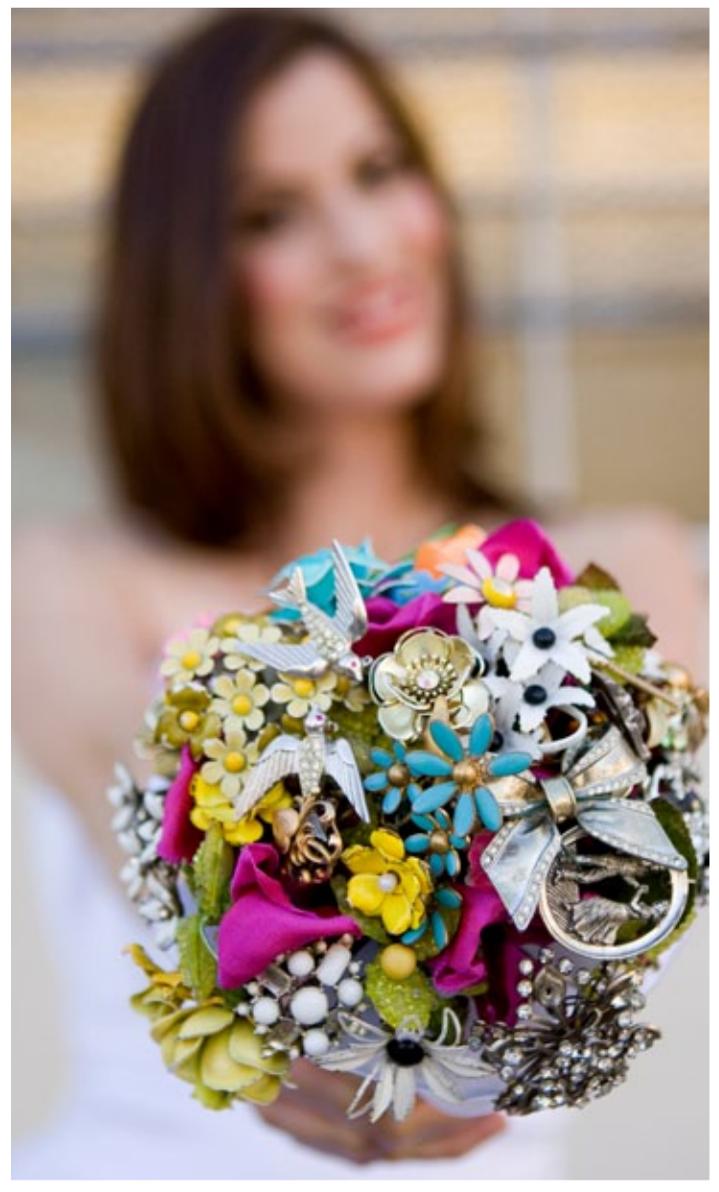


*Style*



We keep hearing from more and more brides that they want something "different" when it comes to their bouquets. Standard cala lilies or roses just aren't meeting the unique needs of said destination brides, especially when the selection on some islands is less than abundant. Although the last sentence might not make sense to some (wouldn't flowers grow wild and plentiful on the islands?), it's actually true that you'll be looking at imported flowers in many cases, especially if you have discerning taste.

Enter funky brooch bouquets! Now a popular trend, companies like Brooch Bouquets™ and Floral Fantasy™ will create a perfect alternative filled with dazzling heirlooms from your family. What an incredibly spectacular idea for your bouquet - since it has to be absolutely fabulous in every way!





Brides-to-be are asked to start collecting their favourite brooches and pieces well in advance. We suggest searching through antique and thrift stores to find a mix of stunning, stand-out pieces. You may even have been handed down a few old pieces from a grandmother or other family member that you'd like to incorporate in the bouquet to make it extra special.

Once you have your pieces ready to go, all you need to do is send them to Brooch Bouquets™ (or a company of your choosing), and they will work with you to put together a gorgeous and unique piece for your wedding day.

The best part is that you'll be able to keep this forever, and potentially pass it down to a child in the future, adding to its retro spirit.







Love is in the air in St. Martin!





## Love

Love is in the air in St. Martin!

The tiny French-Dutch island of Saint Martin is notorious for being one of the most romantic destinations in the Caribbean. Whether you're planning a destination wedding, honeymoon, anniversary celebration or just want to enjoy a romantic getaway, St. Martin offers charming adventures, and a breathtaking ambiance that will make your trip unforgettable!

Nothing beats saying your vows next to the sparkling turquoise ocean under the warm gorgeous St. Martin sun.

St. Martin is the perfect wedding destination for couples looking to tie the knot in the tropics. Whether you are planning a civil ceremony celebrated by the President of the Collectivity, a traditional church wedding or your dream honeymoon, just about anything and everything is possible on the island of St. Martin.

A paradise for lovers, St. Martin is never short of activities for couples. Have a couples massage, go horseback riding at sunset or enjoy a romantic dinner under the stars.

Day or night, love is always in the air on the "friendly island" of St. Martin.

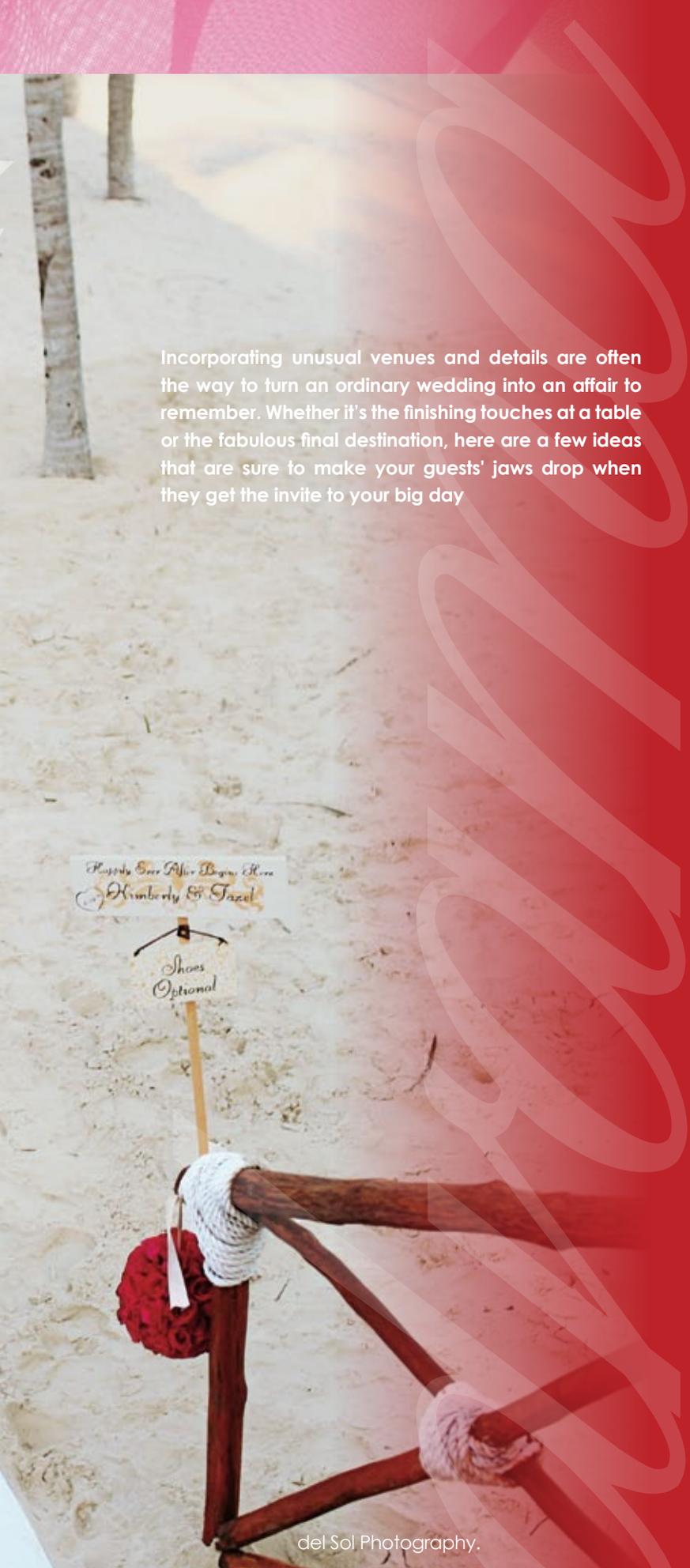




Wedding day

# WOW

By Joanne M. Brathwaite



Incorporating unusual venues and details are often the way to turn an ordinary wedding into an affair to remember. Whether it's the finishing touches at a table or the fabulous final destination, here are a few ideas that are sure to make your guests' jaws drop when they get the invite to your big day

del Sol Photography.

### **The colour of love**

Bold, vibrant hues are in vogue again – but limit choices to just one shade, as opposed to using the whole rainbow. The neutral, muted matrimonial palette of whites and creams is the perfect foil for a pop of colour. Utilize bold colours only in the major visual details: Ask your baker to create elaborate sugar flowers or embellishments in your signature hue, or the more adventurous can try a “reveal” cake, where the decorative outer details remain a classic white while the batter is dyed to match the wedding palette. At the cake-cutting portion of the reception, the cake's colourful interior is revealed to the delight of the guests.

*Tip:* To maximize the visibility of your chosen colour without overwhelming, keep everything else as neutral/monochromatic as possible.

### **Petal pushers**

Utilize unusual or rare flowers only in the major visual details: Have your florist select bloom types that mirror your palette and use them in centrepieces, bouquets and boutonnieres. Suspended flower arrangements are a really beautiful way to showcase flowers while drawing the eye upward. In the case of a beach wedding where tropical foliage and flora can be incorporated, try cascading bouquets or fresh flower ceremony arches.

*Tip:* Keep it simple. Use a cohesive overhead visual element or multiple elements in the same style to create a singular, stunning focal point.

### **In-tents**

Tented weddings lend an element of surprise. Up the dramatic ante by bringing indoor elements to an outdoor wedding. Combine the formal silks and sparkling chandeliers with natural elements – drape fabrics from branches, string together mini-chandeliers or use local foliage to create centrepieces.

*Tip:* Use your invitations as a tie-in to your venue, and a visual hint to your guests.



#### **Set the scene**

A reception that overlooks the water is a surefire crowd-pleaser. Book your ballrooms and restaurants in buildings with high floors. Beach weddings provide a beautiful surf backdrop by day and a mesmerizing moon ripples on the ocean by night. For your reception, instead of the standard open-air affair, try renting a boat or yacht to host an intimate party of your closest friends while drifting on open waters.

*Tip:* Take your reception to the next level and arrange a fireworks display that's timed perfectly with cocktail hour.



### **Drape-y drama**

Fabric draping can totally transform the atmosphere of a reception site. Not only can it mask unsightly overhead elements, it helps dampen acoustic noise in rooms with a lot of hard surfaces like marble or glass. Outdoors, a drape treatment creates an intimate atmosphere. In spaces that are naturally beautiful, draping acts as a visual enhancement, tying elements together.

*Tip:* Use textured, richly coloured fabrics, shapes and motifs to ensure a cohesively beautiful affair.

### **Please be seated**

While beautiful centrepieces are often the focal point of any table, serve up some unexpected luxury at the table with your linens and place settings. Try seat covers in dupioni silk over Tiffany chairs, or, keep your cushions white and tie big, satin ribbons in your colour scheme to each. Adorn your flatware with interestingly patterned chargers, napkins, or use mirrored chargers or sequins to add sparkle.

*Tip:* Choose one “wow” element and utilize it. Incorporating bright, shiny and unusual can be too much of a good thing.



You found The One...  
...we found The Place



weddings

## Have your dream wedding in Cancun, the premier Caribbean destination

Cancun is Mexico's premier touristic beach destination. Few places in the world offer honeymooners such exciting and accessible diversity. From ancient pyramids to modern amenities, Cancun has it all for an original, authentic, unforgettable wedding.

Cancun is the perfect setting for your destination wedding. Amazing indoor venues, seaside facilities backed by turquoise waters, easy air access from worldwide gateways, a variety of ultra-comfortable accommodations and an abundance of wedding planners (both independent and on site) make planning a memorable ceremony and reception easy as can be.

Romance and excitement are at your fingertips along the 14-mile-long peninsula that houses the Hotel Zone. Beautiful beaches — the kind that travel posters promise but seldom deliver — are right outside your door. The peninsula is bordered by the aquamarine waters and white-sand beaches of the Caribbean on one side, and the green waters of Nichupté Lagoon on the other.

Sophisticated luxury comforts, modern hotels and, a spectacular array of activities surround you. Blue waters with high clarity invite divers and snorkellers to be awestruck by the colourful reefs and marine life. A wild, tropical rainforest filled with exotic birds, reptiles and mammals begins just outside of town. You'll love it all!

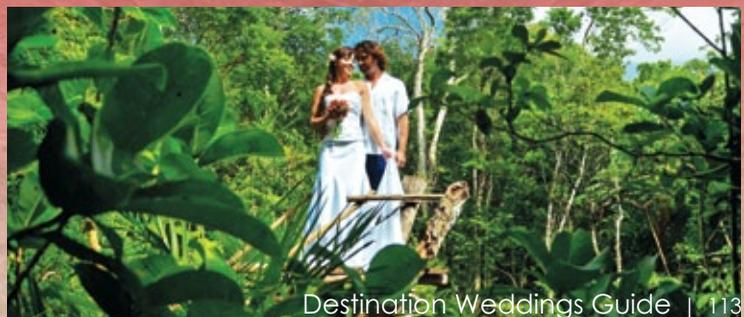
Honeymooners can also transport their mind, body and spirit to the highest level of well-being. With state-of-the-art technology, exclusive treatments, and the most specialized therapists, Cancun has become one of the top spa destinations worldwide.

History, culture, ecological reserves, nature, sporting activities, shopping, as well as Mexican and international dining are integral parts of a Cancun honeymoon. There is so much to choose from!

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to Cancun from Vancouver, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Kitchener, Toronto, Ottawa, Val-d'Or, Montreal, Quebec City, Bagotville, Saint John, Moncton, Halifax, St. John's, Cincinnati and Buffalo.

The logo for Cancun, featuring the word "cancun" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The "c"s are stylized with a circular cutout, and the "n" is a solid dark blue. The "a" is light blue, "n" is yellow, "c" is orange, "u" is green, and "n" is dark blue.

Puerto Morelos · Isla Mujeres · Holbox · Contoy

The logo for Mexico, featuring the word "MÉXICO" in a bold, uppercase, sans-serif font. The letters are multi-colored: M (red), É (orange), X (yellow), I (green), C (blue), O (dark blue). Below it, the tagline "LIVE IT TO BELIEVE IT" is written in a bold, uppercase, sans-serif font.

Shalene & Andrew



## Adventures in love

# Shalene

## Real Weddings

It was a blind date that would seal the fate of avid runners Shalene and Andrew, two dog-loving travel junkies from Toronto. Immediately taken by her love of adventure and insatiable appetite for life, Andrew knew he wanted to spend his life making her happy, while Shalene couldn't resist his hopeful, happy attitude, expert napping skills, and passion for family and friends.

### **A puzzling engagement**

When Andrew had to fly to New Jersey for work, he knew it was the ideal opportunity to have Shalene tag along so they could explore the Big Apple together. Ever the romantic, Andrew planned an elaborate "Adventure Day" for Shalene, which involved a tour of meaningful locations in NYC, while she worked to solve a puzzle, with pieces given to her along the way.

The first stop found them in Central Park, at the iconic Gapstow Bridge, where Shalene was given her first clue: A furry puzzle piece inscribed with, "'W'ander. We wander for distraction and we travel for fulfillment."

Next, it was on to chapter two of their adventure, Housing Works Bookstore, a delight for the booklover in Shalene. After a bit of browsing, Andrew gave her piece two: "'A'thlete. The reason we race isn't so much to beat each other, but to be with each other."

From there, Andrew led her to his next location, Sun's Organic Tea Shop, where they sat and sampled a variety of fragrant teas. While enjoying the botanical brews, Shalene received the third puzzle piece: "'S'leep. No day is so bad that it can't be fixed with a nap."

The fourth and final destination brought them to the Brooklyn Bridge, a haven for runners, and the perfect pit stop to hand over the finishing puzzle piece:

# Shalene & Andrew





Bella Wang Photography.

“Y’ou know when you’re in love, when you can’t fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams.”

Shalene went to work, and once solved, the puzzle formed the shape of a dog, with the letters spelling out the couple’s initials – S.W.A.Y. Andrew rewarded Shalene for her efforts with an engraved handbag containing a very special piece of jewellery: Her engagement ring. On cloud nine, the couple celebrated their love over dinner at Gaonnuri, the “world’s highest Korean restaurant.”

#### **The grand finale**

Because Andrew is a frequent flyer, the hotel staff knew him well, and were happy to help make their day even sweeter. Arriving back at the suite, Shalene was greeted by a trail of rose petals, candlelight, strawberries, chocolate fondue, and a card that read: “Congratulations Shalene & Greg.”

Ok, so maybe the hotel staff didn’t know him quite that well, but the mix-up provided the couple and their loved ones with plenty to laugh about.

“My friends still ask me, ‘Who’s Greg,’” Andrew jokes.

The whirlwind adventure came to a blissful close with one final surprise: Another furry card arrived, accompanied by a canine-themed chocolate cake. The card read, “Shalene, Will You...” and atop the cake was written “S.W.A.Y. with me?”

#### **Costa Rican romance**

February was the month that saw the couple wed in a stunning sunset ceremony at the Riu Palace Costa Rica. And though they were thousands of miles away, the Polar Vortex raging back home would provide them with the most unexpected surprise of the day. Weather issues delayed two bridesmaids, who managed to arrive only hours before the ceremony was set to begin.

Keeping the adventure alive, the couple spent their honeymoon surfing, horseback riding, canyoning, ziplining, exploring the rocky volcanoes and lush rainforests of Costa Rica.





### Tips for brides and grooms

- Relax and enjoy every moment of each day
- The key to a happy life is a happy wife

### Get their look

**Bride's gown:** Maggie Sottero.

**Groom's outfit:** SuitSupply.

**Type of rings:** Platinum Round Solitaire Diamond for the bride, and Cobalt Chrome for the groom.

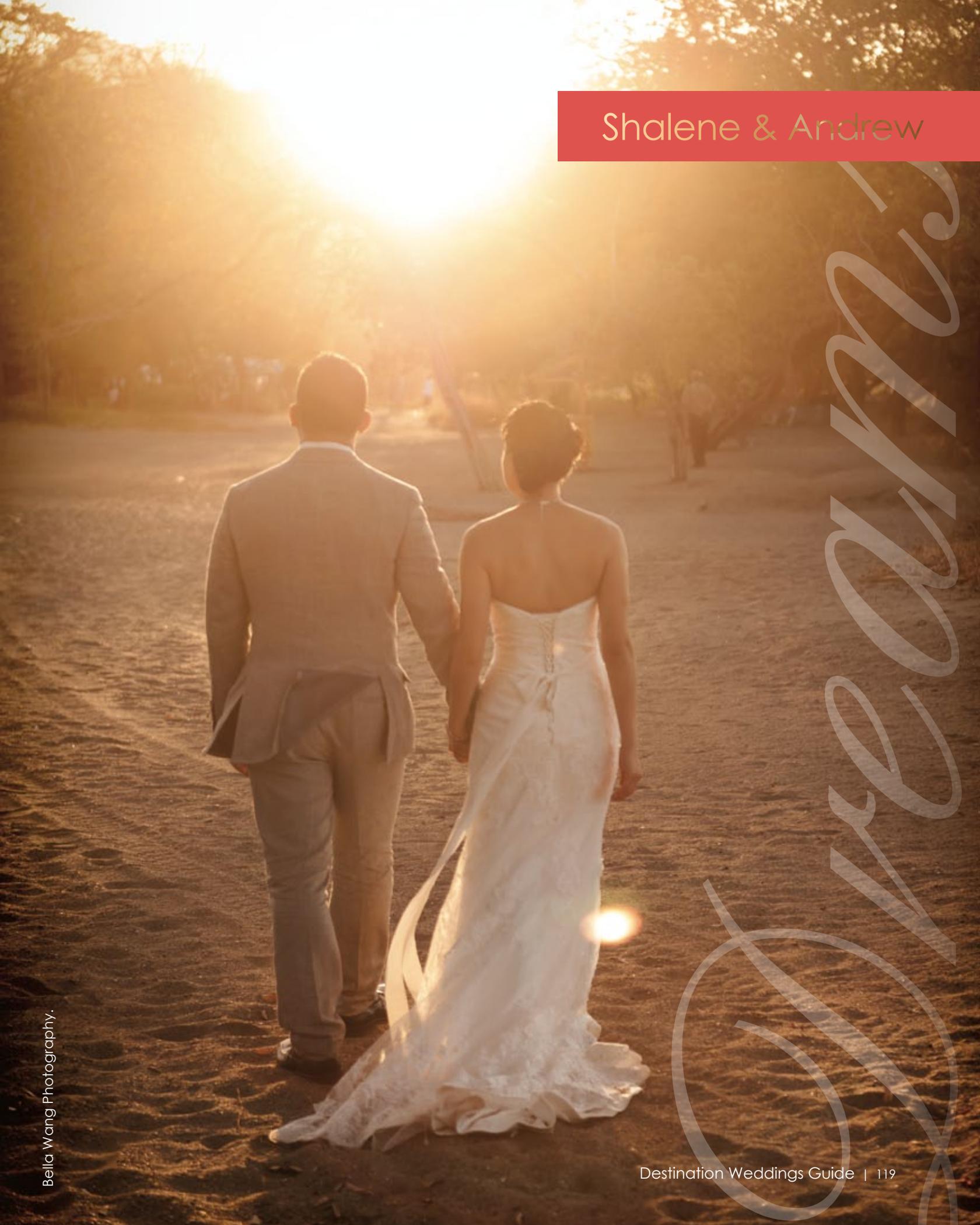
**Type of rings:** Coral and grey.

**Jewellery:** Anzie mother of pearl bracelets and earrings.



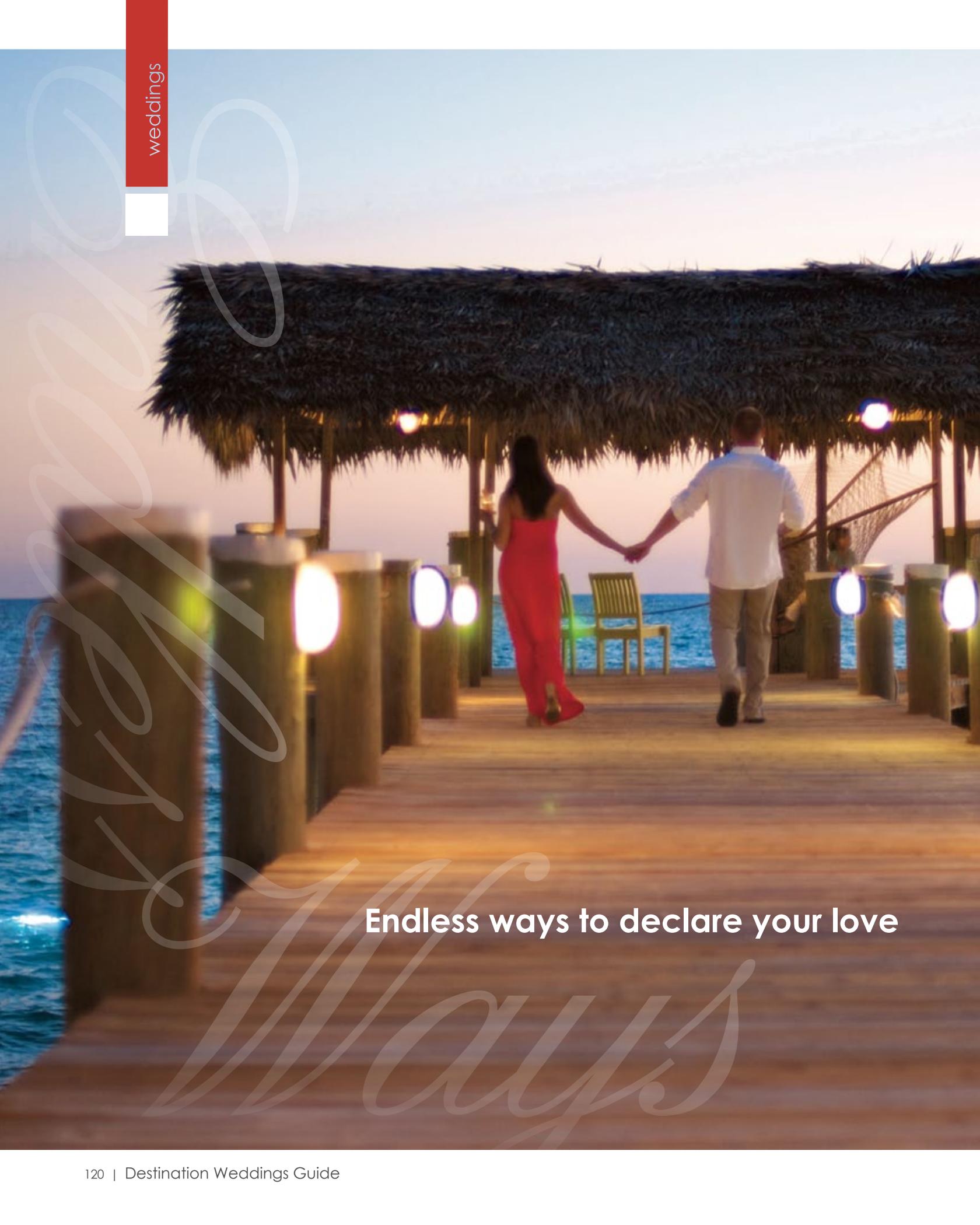
For attractive packages and group rates, book your destination wedding with Signature Weddings at [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com), or contact your travel agent.





Shalene & Andrew

*Shalene & Andrew*



Endless ways to declare your love



## *Endless Ways*

**Imagine sapphire-blue skies, turquoise water, pure white and pink-sand beaches**

Sapphire-blue skies, turquoise water, pure white and pink-sand beaches. Your perfect day should take place in the perfect setting. With more than 700 cays, reefs, beaches, parks, botanical gardens, churches and other locations, there are endless ways to declare your love for one another when planning a destination wedding in The Bahamas.

Your wedding should be as unique as your personality. With venues on so many islands, and countless types of ceremonies, we'll assist in fulfilling your every wish in order to make your special day truly memorable.

Nassau/Paradise Island offers a distinct blend of international glamour and tropical ease. Tour operators, resorts and the tourist offices are available to assist you with planning everything from a simple wedding on the beach to a lavish reception under the stars.

Your special time deserves to be celebrated in an equally special place. Many couples choose Grand Bahama Island as their wedding destination because we have our own way of performing and creating unforgettable ceremonies. You'll find a memorable mix of historic charm, modern attractions and ecological wonders perfect for starting your life together.

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to Nassau from Toronto, and Grand Bahama Island from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Halifax.



# Wedding checklist

**So you've booked your destination wedding with Signature or Sunwing, and have gotten acquainted with your Sunwing Weddings consultant. It seems like you've got months, but the big day is right around the corner!**

## 8-10 MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- Set your wedding budget. What amount do you have set aside for the wedding (not including travel)?
- Timing is everything. Check with key family and friends before you finalize the date. It's important that these people are in attendance.
- Start seeking inspiration from pictures in magazines and websites to decide on your style preferences.
- Select your attendants, both female and male. Start thinking about their attire and communicate your expectations clearly in advance.
- Decide what you are going to do with printed materials (invitations, save the dates, menus, programs, etc.).
- Go dress shopping immediately! Make appointments.
- Purchase or rent groom's suit, attire or tuxedo.
- Make sure all legal documents are ready and valid (passports, religious requirements, etc.).
- If you are having a religious wedding, book your officiant now.
- Book your photographer and confirm that your wedding location will allow outside vendors.
- Choose a wedding location, including your ceremony, cocktail and wedding reception.
- Create a health and beauty schedule for yourself (gym, facials, hair, etc.) so you're in good shape for the big day.
- Start working on your wedding website.
- Register for gifts, add these details to your website.
- Purchase wedding rings.
- Send out your Save-the-Date cards to allow guests to start making travel arrangements.



# Wedding checklist

#### 4-7 MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- Choose your flowers (bouquets, boutonnieres, chuppah, flower petals, centrepieces, etc.).
- Book your musicians (soloists, bands, DJ, etc.).
- Finalize your photographer and videographer (if you haven't already)
- Confirm the colour scheme and theme that will make your celebration unique.
- Narrow down menu selections for the reception, cocktail reception, etc.
- Narrow down bar selections for all events. Consider including a signature drink.
- Select your wedding cake, including flavours, style, icing and decor. Start searching for the perfect cake topper.
- Make sure all invitations (including programs and escort cards) are in the works.

#### 2-3 MONTHS IN ADVANCE

- Put together a wedding itinerary for your guests.
- Finalize flower selections.
- Create a list of shots you would like the photographer and videographer to capture.
- Confirm officiant, and make sure you have all documentation ready if you are having a religious ceremony.

- Finalise dinner and drink menus.
- Send out dinner selection requests to your guests (if required by hotel/restaurant).
- Update your website with any newly planned events.
- Send out invitations.
- Compile a music playlist of favourites, if you are having a DJ or iPod set list. If you're hiring live musicians, start selecting songs, as well, or send them sheet music now to learn.
- Shop for footwear (keeping in mind all events and baggage allowance).
- Shop for your "outfits" for the wedding weekend, including the rehearsal dinner, good swimwear (keep in mind tan lines for your dress), and any other necessities.
- Source and order all wedding favours and bridal party attendant gifts.
- Arrange destination excursions before and after the wedding.
- Call or email any invited guests who have not sent back their RSVPs.
- Confirm the number and names of people booking travel arrangements. Don't forget to pre-arrange seat assignment for flights to and from your wedding destination.
- Once the final guest list is confirmed, set the seating arrangement for reception tables.



# Wedding Checklist

## 1 MONTH IN ADVANCE

- Confirm all details regarding your wedding, including flowers, cake, videography, photography, musicians, and spa appointments.
- Meet with bridal party to confirm and coordinate responsibilities while in destination.
- Schedule final dress fitting with your bridal party. Make sure to bring correct shoes and undergarment for the final fit.
- Assemble wedding favours, gift baskets or bags.
- Start working on your speech (if you haven't started already).
- Start getting organized with your packing so you can always go out and get anything you still need without feeling rushed.

## 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE

- Prepare a contact information sheet: Provide a trusted friend or relative that is not going with you to your wedding with the emergency contact information sheet. This should include all of the resort's information. Once you arrive, be sure to advise this person of your room number.
- Have your hair cut and dyed.
- Do a test run of your make up so you have everything with you that you will need and so that you will be comfortable with the outcome. For wedding day makeup tips, check out page 38.
- Pick up your wedding dress and obtain a secure bag for travel.
- Make sure all documents required for your wedding are packed and ready to go. For example: Passports, travel documents, birth certificates, e-documents, etc. Make sure you carry all of these documents in your carry-on luggage. Do not check any important paperwork or valuables.



### 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE

- Make sure you have enough cash for specific vendors. It's also a good idea to put aside a few bills for tips along with "Thank You" notes.

### DAY BEFORE TRAVEL

- Reconfirm flight times at [flightsunwing.com](http://flightsunwing.com), and sign up for our flight notification service.

### DAY BEFORE THE WEDDING

- Enjoy a manicure and pedicure at the resort's spa and salon.
- Have a trial run for your hair and makeup with the stylist doing your beauty on site.
- Have your wedding dress pressed and staged for dressing (if necessary).
- The groom should give the best man the bride's wedding band.
- Drink lots of water and eat lots of fruit so that your skin will look radiant for your special day!
- Go to sleep early. A well rested bride is a happy bride!

### DAY OF THE WEDDING

- Eat breakfast.
- Get your hair and make-up done.
- Get a massage if you have time, maybe beachside if possible, to relax yourself before the big day ahead.
- Spend some quality time with your immediate family before your wedding, as well as some girl time with your bridal party.
- Get dressed.
- Relax, say "I do" and live happily ever after.
- Savour the experience! When it's over, it's back to normal life, so be mindful of how wonderful today is and how lucky you are.

### WHEN YOU RETURN HOME FROM THE WEDDING

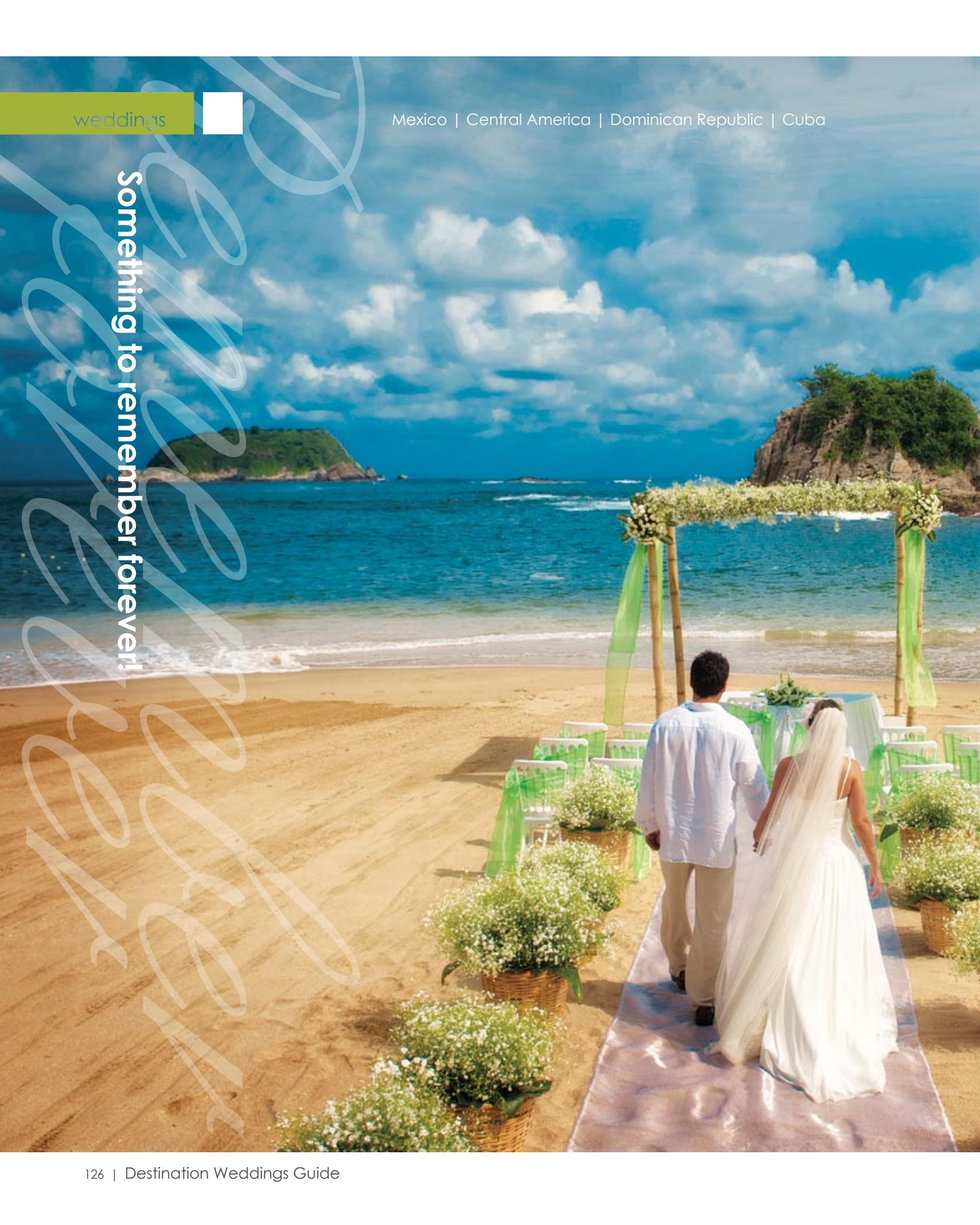
- Send "Thank You" notes to all family and friends.



weddings

Mexico | Central America | Dominican Republic | Cuba

Something to remember forever!





# Barceló

## HOTELS & RESORTS

The perfect combination of romance and luxury. With some of the most idyllic destinations, Barceló can ensure your dream wedding is a stress-free occasion, and make both the day itself, and honeymooning, unforgettable.

Our exclusive resorts can cater to your every need, and our experienced wedding planners will help you tailor your special day to be seamless and memorable!

Whether it be an intimate ceremony for two, or an event that includes the entire family, a Barceló wedding is truly unique.

Arranging the wedding of your dreams is easy with Barceló Weddings. With 19 resorts across six stunning countries, we can promise you the most perfect day in the most romantic setting.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



## Real Weddings



Alessandra and Paul's love story was as simple and sweet as any boy meets girl tale should be. However, in the months and years that ensued, their relationship became far from the usual and run-of-the-mill journey. After the two met through mutual friends, this stunning couple found themselves in Chicago, in the heart of America, where their story took a "suite" turn.

After catching a show in the windy city, they returned to their hotel suite to find the room decked out in rose petals, candles, champagne and strawberries. Romance took to new heights when Paul unexpectedly got on one knee and asked her hand in marriage.

It was her sparkling smile and smarts that attracted Paul to his bride-to-be, Alessandra, and she was taken by his optimism, kindness and his dashing good looks. The couple were united in marriage on the beaches of Riviera Maya, Mexico in an intimate gathering with their friends and family.

### **Cavalcade of love and lights**

Hues of mint green, succulents and elegant orchids adorned this tropical beach wedding, highlighted by a delicious mint green-coloured coconut lime margarita – their signature drink of the evening. Their vision of a picture-perfect location for their wedding ceremony came to life when they selected one of the Karisma Hotels & Resorts properties in Riviera Maya. The mystical and dramatic landscapes of this

Meet Alessandra, the Destination Weddings Guide cover girl. Find out more about her love story with husband, Paul, and flip through photos of their gorgeous beach wedding.

A blissful beach celebration



Cover girl  
Alessandra & Paul

region instantly appealed to them, "Mexico had a lot to offer...the resort itself was unique, and was a place that we would have chosen for ourselves if we were planning a vacation," the couple says.

As Alessandra's father walked her down the aisle, Paul and his blushing bride-to-be could hardly contain their excitement; they would remember these blissful moments forever.

Among the most memorable moments of their special day is, "The first kiss, of course," they both agree. With mini-lights illuminating the lush garden setting, the newlyweds enjoyed a special surprise treat at dinner, "a flash mob planned in secret by our guests." Their DIY touch included an iPod hooked up to a sound system they rented. Ingrid Michaelson's *Fools Rush In* saw Alessandra and Paul embrace in their first dance in the presence of their loved ones.

To show their appreciation, the couple customized beach bags with their wedding date emblazoned on them, and a verse from their wedding song. Inside these bags, guests were treated to natural-woven fans with customized tags, and tubes of bubbles that had mini-starfish affixed to the handles.

The Maldives became the show-stopping honeymoon destination for these lovebirds. As they celebrated their love by the sea, on this special day, their footsteps in the sand marked the first of many sun-kissed journeys they would take together in the coming years.





Cover girl  
Alessandra & Paul



### Get their look

**Bride's gown:** San Patrick-style, Calais.

**Bride's shoes:** Betsy Johnson Bridal Collection.

**Groom's outfit:** Custom-made Zegna suit with Gucci tie, shoes and belt.

**Type of rings:** They both have custom-made, white gold rings with diamonds (hers has white and his has black diamonds).

**Jewellery:** Anzie mother of pearl bracelets and earrings.

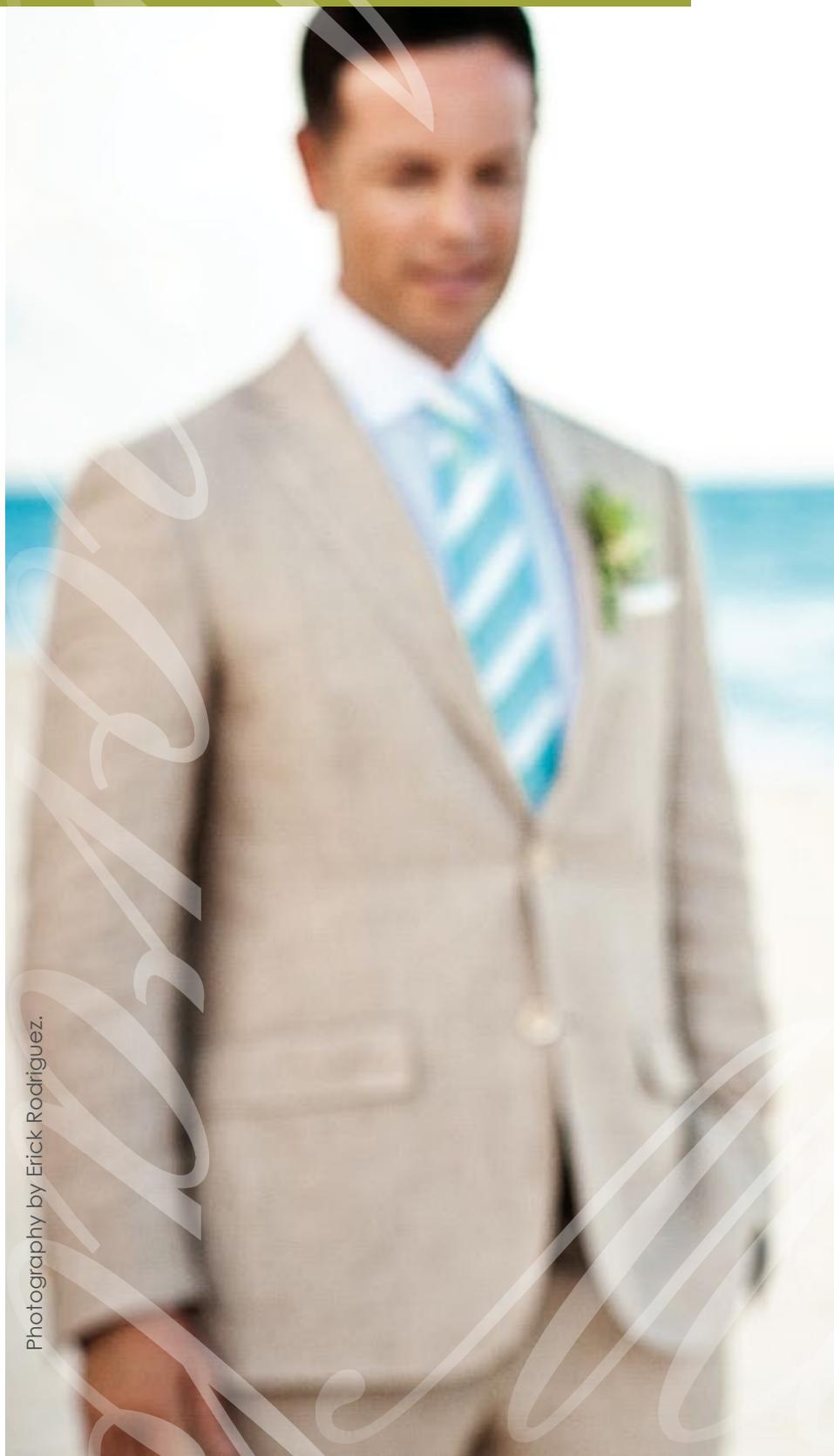
**Photographer:** Erick Rodriguez.

**Hair and makeup:** DIY - Alessandra is an accomplished makeup artist (and has been doing bridal makeup for many years).

**Stationery and invitations:** Wedding Paper Divas.

### Old | New | Borrowed | Blue

**Borrowed and blue:** At the last minute, Alessandra borrowed a friend's Tiffany bracelet that had a Tiffany Blue heart charm.



Photography by Erick Rodriguez.

## Cover girl Alessandra & Paul



Cover girl  
Alessandra & Paul



#### Tips for brides and grooms

- Ultimately, the wedding day is about the two of you as a couple, plan the wedding that makes you happy, and let the rest go
- Mistakes will be made, and not everything will go as planned, try to go with the flow and enjoy the day regardless of what happens



# MELIÃ

HOTELS & RESORTS



You have decided to set out on a never-ending journey along the road of love. In our all inclusive resorts, we invite you to discover love as you have never experienced it before, filling your days with peace, and your nights with romance, joy and warmth. Enjoy a wedding at the beach, banquets in spectacular gardens, dancing in the sand on the beach, and intimate moonlit dinners.

Meliá Hotels International offers a world of romance in which to host the wedding of your dreams, and for enjoying an unforgettable honeymoon.

Choose a selection of attractive and varied inclusions, with an array of wedding packages from complimentary to custom-made affairs that will fulfill your every wish.

Inquire about our weddings and honeymoons, and allow us to transform your most romantic journey into reality. Meliá Hotels International designs weddings *par excellence!*

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Signature Weddings by visiting [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).

## The start of a new beginning

MELIÃ HOTELS INTERNATIONAL



weddings



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future issue  
of our

DESTINATION  
**WEDDINGS**  
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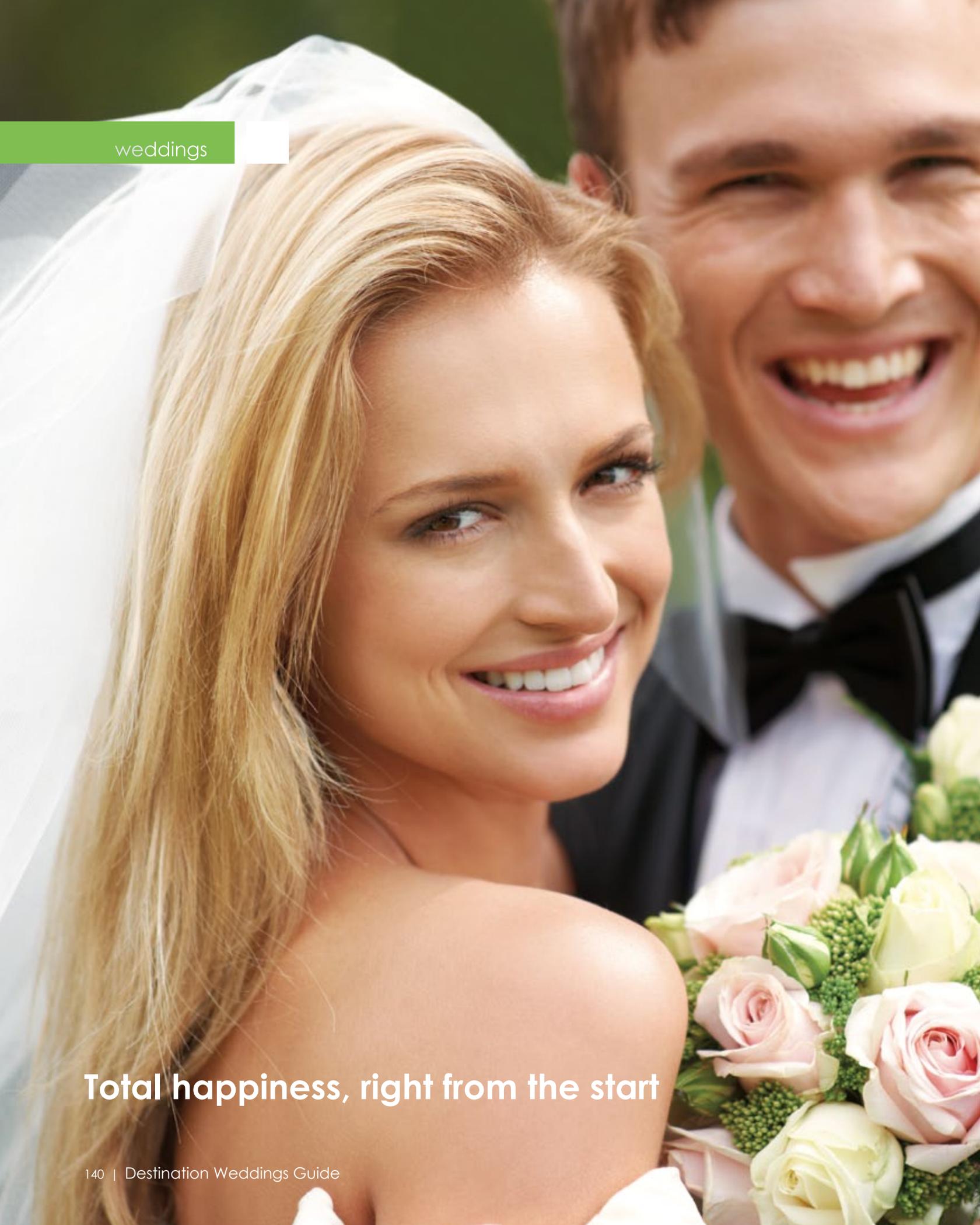
?

We're looking for one lucky reader to feature in the Real Weddings section of our next *Destination Weddings Guide*. If you believe your recent destination wedding is the stuff of fairytales, prove it by entering Sunwing Vacations' Destination Weddings Guide photo contest on Facebook. Simply upload up to 10 of your most beautiful destination wedding pictures, and tell us why you should win the coveted Real Wedding Spot. Stay tuned to the Sunwing Facebook page for more details, as well as for our terms and conditions. The contest starts November 3, 2014.

**You could WIN a trip for two to the brand new Royalton Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa**

In addition to a magazine feature, the selected winner will also be treated to a one-week vacation for two at the five-star Royalton Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa. Our wedding gift to you is courtesy of Sunwing Vacations and Royalton Luxury Resorts.





weddings

**Total happiness, right from the start**



# essential<sup>®</sup> COSTA RICA

## *Total happiness*

Costa Rica is an ideal destination to hold one of your most cherished celebrations. You and your guests can enjoy luxurious resorts with powdery beaches and stunning ocean views, gourmet dining and top-notch service from staff committed to helping you make warm memories that will last for years to come. And with a wedding planner dedicated to overseeing the details of your special day, you are free to relax and enjoy with your guests.

Every couple has dreamed of walking hand in hand along an idyllic beach, feeling the softness of the sand while the water wets their feet. Costa Rica's multicoloured beaches are waiting for you.

Your honeymoon, the beginning of a new life together will spark new romance, experiences, confidence, and memories. When you marry someone for the rest of your life, you want to choose the perfect setting to create a lifetime of memories. The smell of the wood, the texture of the sheets, the first sunset you watch as a married couple, and tranquil sounds at dawn. So, the place you choose for your honeymoon must be warm and intimate. It must have something different to give you a taste of the unforgettable experiences you're in for: A memory that will last forever.

Costa Rica is like a paradise, where you will enjoy the splendid natural surroundings and beautiful landscapes. You can spend quiet time here or, if you prefer, you will find lots of action and adventure at the beach or in exotic forests.

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to Costa Rica from Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal.



## Valerie & Thomas

The stars were aligned when this Sagittarius and Cancer began their office romance. Thomas' compassion, kindness and generosity immediately won him a spot in Valerie's heart. As Thomas crunched numbers, it was her bright smile, confidence and sense of humour that got him through the day.

The laughter of her loved ones filled the air at a BBQ that Valerie was attending during her visit to Los Angeles. She was pleasantly surprised when she saw Thomas, who had flown out to the City of Angels to propose to her.

"It was unexpected, thoughtful, and absolutely perfect," Valerie says, reminiscing.

### **Made in Mexico**

Upon the recommendation of their wedding specialist, Mexico was the picture-perfect choice for their destination wedding. In November 2013, along the idyllic shores of Playa Mujeres on the Yucatan peninsula, a party of 35 gathered to bear witness to the nuptial of Valerie and Thomas. Serenaded by an eight-piece Mariachi band against a pink sky, the couple exchanged their vows of matrimony as vivid tones of champagne, eggplant, navy and grey dotted the decor of their special day.

Set in a villa-style venue by the water, with an aromatic potpourri of black scabiosas, blue stars, berries, echeveria succulents, eucalyptus seeds, calla and picasso lillies filling the air and ambiance of this

Claudia Rodriguez Wedding Photography.

From nine to five, with love



*Thomas*

Valerie & Thomas



*Overwhelm*



Claudia Rodriguez Wedding Photography.



glorious night, Valerie and Thomas made precious memories they would cherish forever.

From the Dia de Los Muertos caketoppers that included their dog, Mia, to the miniature, personalized bottles of Don Julio tequila, and the traditional Mexican market bags filled with local snacks as welcome gifts, the couple added special touches unique to their destination. In the home-away-from-home comfort of the seaside villa, with their hands lovingly intertwined the entire night, he kept her close as they danced to their wedding song, *No One's Gonna Love You* by Band of Horses. The evening came to a blissful end, and the couple retired to their bridal suite, to be greeted by... A bat!

"Getting married in tropical Mexico has its surprises. I happened to love bats!" exclaims Valerie.

Valerie and Thomas spent their honeymoon solidifying their union by starting a family.

Old | New | Borrowed | Blue

**Old:** The bride's baptismal rosary and bible, as well as a heart-shaped pendant engraved with her dog Mia's name.

**New:** A bracelet gifted to the bride by her in-laws.

**Borrowed:** An heirloom handkerchief loaned to the bride by her mother-in-law.

**Blue:** Earrings given to the bride by her groom.

# Valerie & Thomas

## Tips for brides and grooms

- Your wedding is a celebration for you, your family and friends. It does not define who you are or what your life has in store.
- Have fun, it's a party!

## Get their look

**Bride's gown:** Monique Lhuillier.

**Bride's shoes:** Jimmy Choo.

**Groom's outfit:** Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein and Bruno Magli.

**Type of rings:** David Yurman, Two by London.

**Jewellery:** Ippolita, J.Crew.

**Bridesmaid dresses:** J.Crew Bridal.

**Groomsmen attire:** Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein.

**Photographer:** Claudia Rodriguez Wedding Photography.

**Hair and makeup:** The Beloved Hotel Spa – Veronica.

**Stationery and invitations:** Ceci New York.



Claudia Rodriguez Wedding Photography.



A dream-come-true



## Dominican Republic Has it all

### *A dream-come-true*

The second largest country in the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic is an ideal destination for weddings, honeymoons and romantic milestones. Nearly 1,600 kilometres of golden coastline dotted with pristine white-sand beaches beckon brides-to-be, while a variety of sophisticated resorts, hotels, villas and wedding venues make planning your wedding in the Dominican Republic a breeze.

For couples who dream of unique and fairytale-like engagements, weddings and honeymoons, Dominican Republic is a dream-come-true as it blends a tropical paradise with old-world charm and romance. With 25 per cent of its land and coastal areas preserved as national parks, reserves and sanctuaries, the Dominican Republic's magnificent nature, stunning sea and sand, and world-class accommodations set the scene for amazing weddings. No wonder the Dominican Republic is rapidly becoming the top Caribbean choice for weddings.

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to Punta Cana from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Sault Ste. Marie, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Bagotville, Sept-Îles, Saint John, Moncton, Halifax, Deer Lake, Gander, St. John's, Cincinnati and Buffalo; to Puerto Plata from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and Halifax; and to La Romana from Toronto.





Jolene & Eddie

Real Weddings

Katya Nova Photography.



This is the story of an art geek who fell for a sports jock. This Hollywood-style tale is a serendipitous account of two lovers who finally found one another at the ripe age of 19. Gazing at him through her art pencils and pastels, Jolene loved him from afar, secretly hoping that they would end up together someday. This teenage romance was never illustrated until one magical day when the couple finally met at the mall.

"Her confidence, passion, love and compassion," Eddie says, were what attracted him to Jolene. And she was simply smitten with his eyes, smile, sense of humour, and ability to make every moment fun and memorable.

The famed Dunn's River Falls in Ocho Rios, Jamaica set the stage for moments of cascading romance as Eddie sought the most opportune moment to propose to his Jolene - seven years after the day they met. When the couple finally reached the last waterfall at the top of the falls, "the guide brought Eddie and me to the front of the group, in front of the waterfall. I was so confused why we were heading to the front of the group, and I looked back to see some disgruntled faces as we cut the line. I looked forward again to see Eddie, DOWN ON ONE KNEE!!! I was so surprised," Jolene recalls enthusiastically. "Oh my goodness," then a, "yes, of course," was her final reply.



Silver-screen romance

*Magical*



### Dreams can come true

On June 6, 2014, in an intimate gathering, Jolene and Eddie celebrated their union with a blush and gold reception on the beaches of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Greeted by delicious mango daiquiris, 37 of their loved ones gathered at the seaside Jellyfish Restaurant to witness the couple exchange their vows of eternal love in a romantic ceremony. Jolene's graceful walk down the aisle in a stunning Pronovias gown found its place among the most memorable moments of the evening for Eddie.

"Also, the dance she performed was sexy and amazing," he remembers about her surprise Burlesque dance routine.

Jolene's most vivid and memorable moments of the night were Eddie's romantic vows, and the celebration that followed with their family and friends.

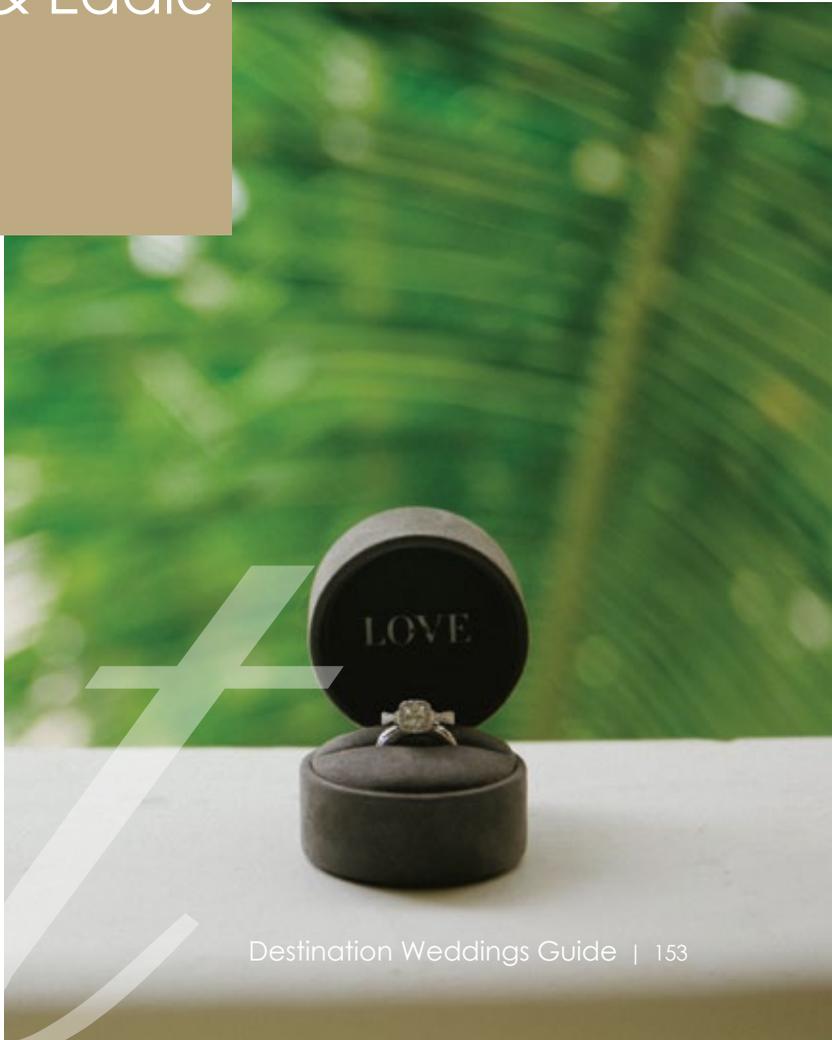
As the party lit up with spectacular decor, LED lights, and a sizzling fire dance performance, the couple snuck in snuggle time on the beach sofas while everyone was enjoying the show. After the couple married their love of sports and art, their wedding song, *Thousand Years* by Christina Perri, marked the ways in which their passions would intermingle for many years to come.

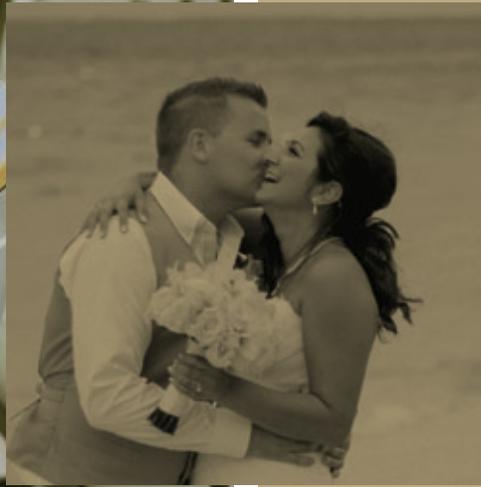
The newlyweds took off to Hawaii on a romantic honeymoon after the glow of their beautiful beachfront wedding in the Caribbean.





Jolene & Eddie





#### Get their look

**Jolene's gown:** Pronovias Ledurne 2014.

**Jolene's shoes:** Swarovski barefoot sandals and Unforgettable Moments: I-Do white satin peep-toe glitter platform pumps.

**Eddie's outfit:** Custom Suit by Tolo Clothier.

**Type of rings:** Vera Wang LOVE Collection: Women's Cushion-Cut Diamond Twist Frame and Men's Diamond Slant wedding band.

**Jewellery:** Swarovski Luminesse white pearl necklace.

**Bridesmaids dresses:** Bill Levkoff dresses.

**Groomsmen attire:** Custom suits by Tolo Clothiers.

**Photographer:** Katya Nova Photography.

**Music:** Steel Drum Band and DJ Ariel.

**Hair and makeup:** Anna Nuet Hair and Makeup.

**Wedding favors:** Personalized silk fans and personalized cigars.

## Jolene & Eddie



**Flowers:** Orchids, roses, carnations and baby's breath.

**Catering:** Jellyfish Restaurant.

**Old | New | Borrowed | Blue**

**Old:** A family photo locket and cross from the bride's baptism.

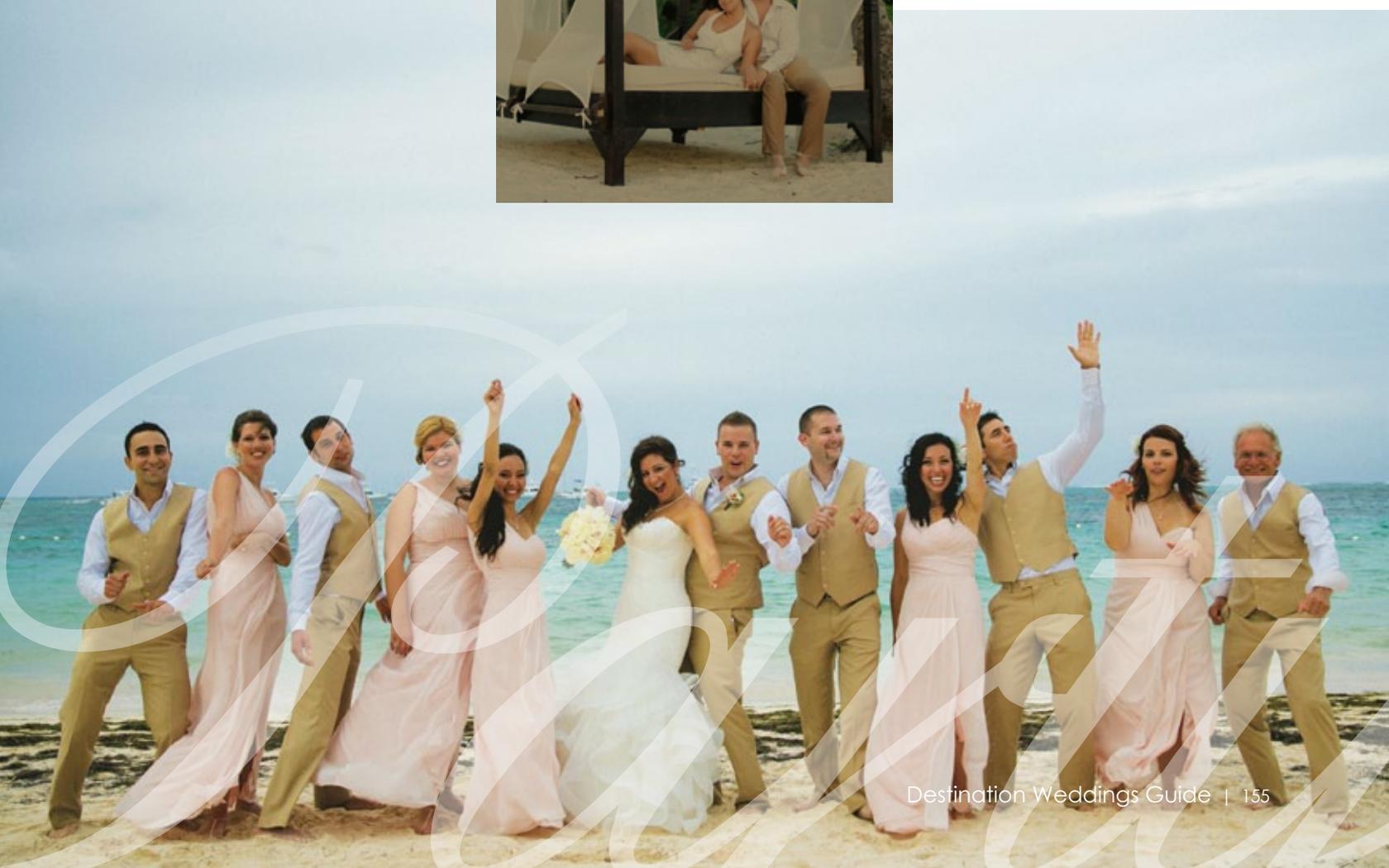
**New:** The bride's wedding gown, perfume and jewellery.

**Borrowed:** A friend's veil.

**Blue:** The blue sapphires in their wedding rings and the bride's garter.

**Tips for brides and grooms**

- Always work together as a team and never go to bed angry
- Don't sweat over the small stuff and enjoy every single moment



The star that makes love's  
dream come true

weddings

*Wedding*



**IBEROSTAR**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

*Enjoy being a star*

*Simply Enchanting*  
**Your wedding shines at  
IBEROSTAR Hotels & Resorts**

At IBEROSTAR Hotels & Resorts, you'll begin your life together in total harmony. Swaying palms and pristine shorelines set the stage for a wedding in paradise. Start with our diverse wedding packages to create the event of your dreams at any of IBEROSTAR's luxurious adults only or family friendly resorts in Mexico and the Caribbean.

Wedding coordinators take care of every detail, from an intimate affair to a celebration with the entire family, and with only one wedding per day in Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, and up to two per day in Cuba — you're ensured that the most special day of your lives receives the attention it deserves.

MEXICO · DOMINICAN REPUBLIC · JAMAICA · CUBA



For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



## Are you a destination bride?

### 1. Your idea of the “perfect” wedding can be described as:

- a) A traditional ceremony in your house of worship followed by a banquet hall shindig.
- b) Barefoot on the beach followed by a tiki-torch-lined BBQ.
- c) A beautiful location surrounded by your loved ones.

### 2. How many guests do you envision attending your ceremony?

- a) 250+... Your parents' friends, and even the dog groomer will make your invite list.
- b) 2-50... your nearest and dearest only.
- c) 50-150... Loved ones and liked ones.

### 3. Think about your invite list. Where do your guests live?

- a) Everyone lives in your hometown.
- b) Your fiancé's family is from the U.K. and Argentina, and your ex-college roommates live across the globe. Guests are going to travel no matter where your wedding is.
- c) Guests are scattered across the country, but you still have a decent hometown contingent.

### 4. How will you react if some close family and friends cannot attend your wedding?

- a) Burst into tears, get really offended, and denounce them as friends.
- b) Offer to help subsidize the cost for those who can't afford it.
- c) You will understand, but feel slightly disappointed.

### 5) How comfortable are you getting married at a place you've never seen before?

- a) Comfortable? You'll freak out if you cannot visit the venue at least five times in advance.
- b) Photos and reviews are enough to ease your mind — it's the beach after all!
- c) You're not thrilled, but with the help of a wedding consultant, you'll trust that other brides have done it in the past.

### 6) You've dreamt about having rare Pigeon Orchids in your bouquet, and serving your favourite Pinot Noir with dinner only to find out that the resort cannot accommodate either request. How do you react?

- a) Cancel your destination wedding altogether because you must, must, must have every detail (which you've dreamed about since birth) become a reality at your wedding.
- b) Compromise and choose a different flower and wine.
- c) Throw a mini-temper tantrum. Then once you've calmed down, you consider a compromise.

### 7) Are you able to relinquish some control when it comes to wedding planning?

- a) No way! You're actually comfortable identifying yourself as a bridezilla.
- b) Absolutely. You trust the professionals, and know that a destination wedding is not the same as a hometown gig.
- c) Somewhat. You're still a bit of a control freak, but know that a destination wedding will require some form of compromise on your part.



**Are you a destination bride? If you answered:**

**Mostly As:** Destination Nowhere: Although the destination wedding may seem like a great idea in theory, you're probably best suited to having a wedding at home. Perhaps you can spice up a hometown wedding by choosing a unique venue. Remember that a destination wedding requires the ability to relinquish some control of the details...Stick to your true style!

**Mostly Bs:** Destination Queen: Pack your bags, slip on your cute island flip-flops, and get excited for what will be your ideal wedding. You're the perfect type of person for a DW. Contact Sunwing Weddings today at [weddings@sunwing.ca](mailto:weddings@sunwing.ca) for a free consultation.

**Mostly Cs:** Destination Possibility: You're not 100% sure if this is your wedding style but you are definitely considering it. You love the concept but perhaps you need to speak to a professional.





# PALLADIUM HOTELS & RESORTS

## *Experience*

Imagine exchanging your vows in the world's most romantic beachfront destinations with the outstanding services and facilities of the all inclusive, five-star Palladium Resorts.

Karen Bussen, one of Manhattan's most exciting wedding designers, has created, exclusively for Grand Palladium Resorts, a series of five new Simple Stunning Wedding packages that will allow you to customize your celebration to reflect your own special style.

Celebrate that special moment on a romantic clifftop gazebo overlooking the sea, surrounded by palm trees, and lush tropical gardens specially decorated for the occasion. Our beautiful beaches offer the perfect scenery under the sun. Wedding chapels on site at Mexican resorts for a Catholic or religious ceremony.

Palladium Resorts makes the wedding of your dreams a reality.

Contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Signature Weddings for more details by visiting [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).



PALLADIUM RESORTS  
*weddings*

**KAREN BUSSEN**  
simple stunning weddings



Get the full  
Palladium Experience

*Palladium*



*The four elements*  
*of*

The four  
elements  
of fun

By Jessica V. Tauro



Excursions cover a wild selection of activities across a gamut of different terrain, spanning lush jungles to rugged deserts, coral reefs to colonial towns, and forest canopies to winding rivers. Now trending is the "Thank You" group excursions that give the happy couple an opportunity to thank their guests by treating them to an exciting, fulfilling and exhilarating experience in destination.

Check out the list of popular excursions across water, air, earth and fire, available to book through your agent, wedding specialist, website, on board Sunwing Airlines, or in destination with your designated representative.

## Water

### **Roatan, Honduras Dives**

Roatan is known for its jaw-dropping coral reef. Located near the largest barrier reef in the Caribbean Sea, this destination is a divers' paradise. From the crystal-blue waters to the bright energetic sea life, what is not to love about this Central American paradise? With an array of dive packages, as well as dive courses, you can add a little underwater excitement to your destination wedding getaway.

### **Grand Bahama Island, The Bahamas Sunset Cruise and Show**

Aboard the Bahama Mama, Freeport's largest catamaran, enjoy a three-hour cruise along the coastline. Sit back and relax with complimentary local cocktails, wine and Bahamian hors d'oeuvres while watching one of the island's magnificent sunsets. Or get ready to dance the night away under the beautiful Bahamian sky. The dance floor will come alive with a unique limbo show and authentic sounds of the Caribbean with calypso, soca, and reggae beats.

### **Jamaica Cool Runnings**

The Cool Runnings crew will take you out for an energetic catamaran cruise and Dunn's River Falls tour. You will be welcomed by a warm Jamaican-style greeting as the catamaran sets sail, and the DJ spins the best in reggae and soca music. Be camera-ready as the boat cruises passed emerald hills,

*continued on page 166*



### Say, "I do" on Grand Bahama Island

Weddings and honeymoons are a special time that you will remember for the rest of your life. They deserve to be celebrated in an equally special place, so it's no wonder so many couples choose Grand Bahama Island. Here, we have our own unique way of performing and creating matrimonial bliss. Grand Bahamians are easy-going, wonderful people who love to celebrate. Couples choose to get married and honeymoon on Grand Bahama Island because of the many ways the island brings them closer together. The beauty. The beaches. The experiences. The memories. Say, "I do." Say, "I will." Say, "I must" to Grand Bahama.

Having a destination wedding in The Bahamas not only allows you to have your wedding and honeymoon in one spot, but it's also the perfect opportunity to give your guests a vacation they will remember for years. Grand Bahama Island has a wide variety of venues for your ceremony and your reception. From intimate weddings for two – barefoot on the beach – to lavish affairs with all your closest friends and family, our island can be the perfect backdrop for the wedding of your dreams. Most venues have on-site wedding planners and coordinators that can help you with all the details of your special day, to ensure your memories last a lifetime.

Sunwing Airlines offers direct flights to Grand Bahama Island from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Halifax.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca)





Tie the knot on Grand Bahama Island

*“F&D”*

waterfalls, and historical sites to a secluded cove, which is ideal for snorkelling. After viewing the vivid colours of the sea, disembark at the famous Dunn's River Falls. Your guide will lead you up the falls and through the tropical rainforest beside the 600-foot cascading waterfalls. Afterwards, relax with an on-board cocktail as the unstoppable crew continues the entertainment with some dancing.

### **Punta Cana, Dominican Republic**

#### **Dr. Fish Ocean Spa**

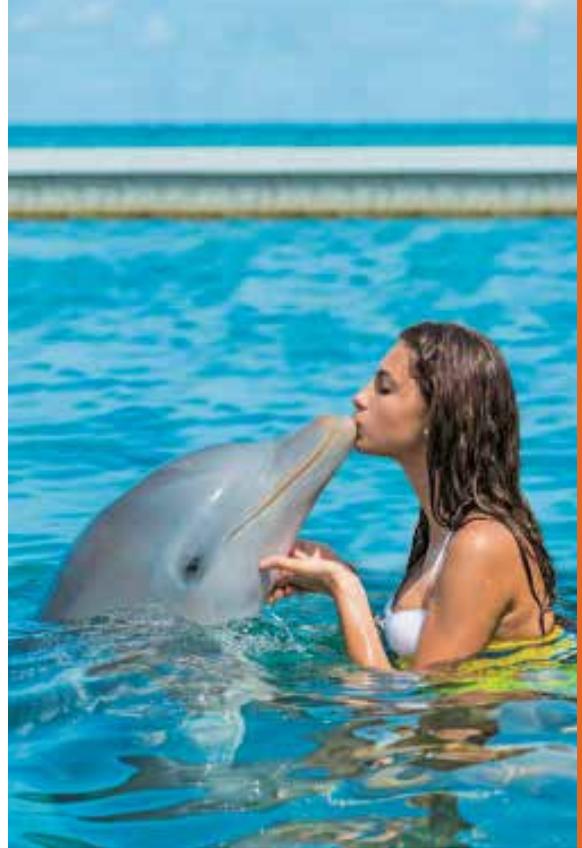
Float your stress away with the ultimate spa cruise experience. Partake in the most unique spa experience in the Dominican. Choose from a large variety of spa treatments; join in on a bio-pilates class while cruising along the coast of Bavaro for hours of pure relaxation. You will receive personal attention, along with your own private massage area, which features spectacular ocean views. Try a massage and relaxation session on a floating mattress in the natural pool, followed by our world-famous Dr. Fish treatment.



### **Liberia, Costa Rica**

#### **White Water Rafting Tenorio River**

Test your courage, and challenge your skills as our fantastic guides steer you through the Tenorio River. Located in the heart of Guanacaste, this rafting adventure starts with a stroll through the rainforest, amid an enchanting atmosphere. Also be sure to look out for various types of wildlife, as Costa Rica is well recognized for their feathery toucan friends. Challenges await you as you plunge through twists, turns and drop down 12.5 kilometres of intense rapids. Our fantastic guides will steer you through rapids and over the falls.



### **Punta Cana, Dominican Republic**

#### **Dolphin Island Park - Swim**

Join us at Dolphin Island Park to encounter sharks and stingrays, and swim with dolphins or sea lions! Immerse yourself in an underwater world with a complete program of swimming and snorkelling with dolphins. The adventure starts with a short boat ride. The main program includes instruction, a show, and a 25-minute swim with adorable dolphins or sea lions. A meeting with sharks and stingrays is an optional feature at no extra charge.

### **Cayo Santa Maria, Cuba**

#### **Havana by Plane**

Travel to Havana by plane to discover vintage American cars and colonial mansions. The Cuban capital, Havana, is the Caribbean's largest city with a personality of its own. Begin your day with a flight to the capital where you'll set off on a guided tour, including stops in Old Havana (Habana Vieja), to Baroque churches, sun-washed plazas, palaces, and museums. You'll also explore New Havana (Vedado), the city's political hub. Stroll through Revolution Square, a vast open space that's home to hulking ministry buildings and monuments to Cuba's national heroes, José Martí and Che Guevara. Also on the agenda is an optional visit to one of Havana's colourful street markets, and a complimentary lunch.

*Air*

**Los Cabos, Mexico**  
**Outdoor Adventure**

Rock-climbing, hanging bridges, the Crazy Ladder, Tarzan Swing and ziplines are all part of this exciting outdoor adventure, not to mention the impressive 98-foot rappel! Fly across open canyons and emerald-green streams on the double-safety ziplines; cross the canyons on the Commando Bridge; scale the rock face as you ascend on the specially-designed climbing walls; and race your friends on the tandem zipline. This is an adrenaline junkie's dream come true!

**Cancun/ Riviera Maya, Mexico**  
**Mayan Ruins**

Indulge in the perfect combination of culture and adventure. Enjoy a thrilling day of exploration filled with snorkelling in beautiful underwater lagoons, trekking on hidden jungle paths, rappelling into cenotes, swimming in pristine waters, and flying on breathtaking ziplines. Experience the archaeological site in Tulum, which is situated on a cliff-top overlooking the Caribbean Sea, and learn about the Mayan civilization.

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**  
**Santo Domingo City Tour**

Santo Domingo is the oldest city of the Americas. Discover the capital city of this beautiful island. This tour begins with the spectacular Los Tres Ojos (the three eyes) caves, then takes you to the colonial area to visit the house built by Columbus. You'll see sensational sights, from the Christopher Columbus Lighthouse to the historical cathedral. Soak up the atmosphere of the oldest street of the New World, Calle la Damas, and walk through a typical Dominican market where bargains are endless and bartering is fun!

**Puerto Plata, Dominica Republic**  
**ATV Buggies**

An ATV dune buggy ride is an exciting way to get off the beaten track to discover and explore the Puerto Plata countryside. Join us for an energetic and exciting drive on your own ATV dune buggy, along a beach, sugar cane fields, rivers, streams and fruit plantations, as you enjoy magnificent views, and absorb the beauty and nature of Hispaniola. Enjoy the adventure and bird's eye views while driving through muddy roads, a lush green forest and vegetation, and nearby friendly and interesting communities.



**Panama**

**Panama Canal Partial Transit**

Explore the Panama Canal, considered a wonder of modern architecture. The Panama Canal Partial Transit tour is definitely the best way to experience this modern wonder. Pass through two sets of locks (Miraflores and Pedro Miguel), where the level of water will vary between 16 and 10 metres, respectively. In addition, you will also appreciate the beauty of the local rainforest surrounding the area at the Gaillard Cut - the narrowest part of the Canal.

**Cancun/ Riviera Maya, Mexico**  
**Cancun Party Package**

When the lights go down, the music is turned up! The Cancun Nightlife Package is a "must" for party seekers. From the sounds and lights of the city, the shows at Coco Bongo, and the legends of Dady O's and Senor Frogs, this is the ultimate party package. Available in three, four and five-night intervals - you have the opportunity to choose which club to visit on any given night. And you'll qualify for open domestic bar VIP, express line by-pass and cover upon submission of your ticket.

**Punta Cana, Dominican Republic**  
**Imagine Punta Cana Nightclub**

Dance the night away at this spectacular cave-like nightclub, which features two rooms of sound and an impressive special events room. The first room is the Main Cave, which features an array of musical genres from Top 40 and beyond. The second room is the Electric Cave, which is sure to please electric dance music lovers. This sizzling room boasts one of the most powerful sound systems in Punta Cana, and with the combination of natural acoustics, this "cave" is a party haven. If you are looking to enjoy a VIP evening, you can ask for the Private Cave at an extra cost. Here you will enjoy the magical corner of the cave, where ambient music will stimulate and awaken your senses.

*Earth*

*Five*



## WE TAILOR YOUR WEDDING

planning to your beautifully  
unique story and vision

Sunwing Weddings and Signature Weddings are the premiere destination wedding planning companies specializing in stress-free destination weddings in the Caribbean and Mexico. When you book a wedding group with Sunwing or Signature Vacations, you have the option of enhancing your experience with the services of a professional wedding planner. Complementary to your hotel's on-site wedding planner, this personalized wedding specialist is your point person in Canada, who will help you plan and coordinate all the details of your wedding in advance of arriving to your destination.

You may be wondering why more and more Canadian brides and grooms are hiring personalized wedding coordinators these days, especially when the hotel already has an on-site coordinator. The professional wedding specialists at Sunwing Weddings and Signature Weddings work on your behalf directly with the hotels and wedding vendors as the personal ambassador of your "brand." We understand the needs of today's busy bride and her hubby-to-be, and have created these wedding planning services to answer to your unique and specific wedding queries, by masterfully managing the intricacies of your wedding abroad. We are here to answer your questions promptly, to make good suggestions based on our experience, and to provide peace of mind that your celebration will go off without a hitch. We also have a tight network of contacts on site to help take care of all the details for you without stress.

Sunwing Weddings and Signature Weddings are located in Canada. Our team of bilingual planners speak your language, and we will save you time by answering every one of your specific destination wedding questions. Our team consists of certified destination wedding planners and designers who will be working with you to ensure no detail is overlooked in planning your special day in the picture-perfect destination of your choice.



# MARITAL BLISS AWAITS YOU

Organized with prowess, bursting with value, and richly unique, tropical ceremonies allow you to focus on each other rather than all the tedious little arrangements, especially when you have the help of a trusted wedding specialist from Sunwing Weddings who can help incorporate all the tiny details that make this celebration as unique as your love story. From romantic receptions at the Royalton Resorts and adults only affairs at CHIC Punta Cana to some of the most intimate and quaint resorts and hotels along the water, Sunwing Weddings brings it all together in line with your dreams, worry-free.

Stress-free destination weddings spell Signature Weddings. With trained professionals working in your corner, every detail, no matter how sizeable or small, is handled with care and confidence. With lavish ceremonies and grand galas in the world's top hotels, from Hard Rock to RIU, Palace Resorts to Velas, Signature Weddings infuses your tropical wedding with all the amenities, features and bonuses to make this a truly memorable affair.

Whether you've always dreamed of a lavish gala reception with all the bells and whistles, or an intimate affair on the beach with a handful of your nearest and dearest, we can tailor-fit your celebration to your distinct tastes, needs and budget. Peruse our Diamond and Platinum wedding planning services to decide which type of service suits your unique style. We look forward to helping you plan a stress-free wedding in the sun!

To discuss our wedding planning services, and to determine whether Sunwing Weddings or Signature Weddings suits your wedding vision, please contact your travel agent, call 1-800-739-8876, or visit [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca) or [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).

## DIAMOND

This package was designed to allow you to plan your destination wedding with the help of a friendly and professional wedding coordinator who understands you and your wedding vision

Package rate: **\$499**

### The Diamond package offers the following:

- Communication of the details pertaining to your wedding vision with the hotel's wedding coordinator and other vendors on behalf of the bride and groom
- Use of our helpful budget spreadsheet and outline to plan and budget for your wedding
- Use of a month-by-month wedding planning checklist to stay on track
- Exclusive access to our preferred vendors list
- Consultation regarding legal requirements and paperwork you'll need before you arrive in destination
- Pre-screening of new wedding vendors on your behalf
- A review of vendor contracts and agreements for you
- Monthly emails from your wedding planner on the latest destination wedding trends
- Advice on popular design and colour palette ideas
- A detailed day-of wedding schedule to use and follow on site
- Hosting of your personalized, interactive wedding website (a great tool for announcing the wedding plans, sharing photos, and easily communicating with your guests)

**Start planning your special celebration with us today!**

**1.800.739.8876**  
**weddings@sunwing.ca**

# DIAMOND

*Wedding package*



**Additional wedding  
planning hours:**  
One-hour wedding  
planning session: \$99

## PLATINUM

This package offers the *crème de la crème* in personalised service! The Platinum service allows the bride and groom to enjoy a customised destination wedding from start to finish, stress-free!

Package rate: **\$999**

**The Platinum package includes all of our Diamond services, as well as the following:**

- Overall management of the entire wedding process through liaisons with all vendors on your behalf
- Five additional hours of personalized wedding planning for a total of 10 wedding planning hours
- Assistance with planning two additional events for your group (i.e. welcome cocktail party, rehearsal dinner, sunset cruise, etc.)
- Booking of all spa appointments for the bride and groom and the wedding group

**Book your wedding planning services today!**

**1.800.739.8876**  
[weddings@sunwing.ca](mailto:weddings@sunwing.ca)  
[weddings@signature.ca](mailto:weddings@signature.ca)

# PLATINUM

*Wedding package*



**Additional wedding  
planning hours:**  
One-hour wedding  
planning session: **\$99**



RELAX  
AND  
ENJOY  
THE  
MOMENT



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Today, 80% of Canadians hire a wedding planner for local weddings, and this trend is continuing with destination weddings. Why sacrifice the chance to enjoy stress-free planning just because you have chosen to marry your soulmate in a far away land? Leave all the details, tiny or mammoth, to our team of experts, and breathe easy.

Find out why so many Canadian couples have trusted their most precious day to us.

### 1) If the hotel has a wedding coordinator, why would I need to hire a wedding specialist?

Your Sunwing Weddings or Signature Weddings planner works directly on your behalf with the resort. Your personal, dedicated planner lives in Canada, and from day one of your planning, she's there to ease your stress. You won't have to wait to hear back from reps in Mexico or the Caribbean. Our wedding planners are creative and have expertise working with a wide variety of properties, venues and wedding vendors – we've done this for so many happy couples already! This service is especially designed for busy brides who need assistance, and who wish to receive the advice and services of a dedicated, professional destination wedding planner.

### 2) What are the key benefits of our services?

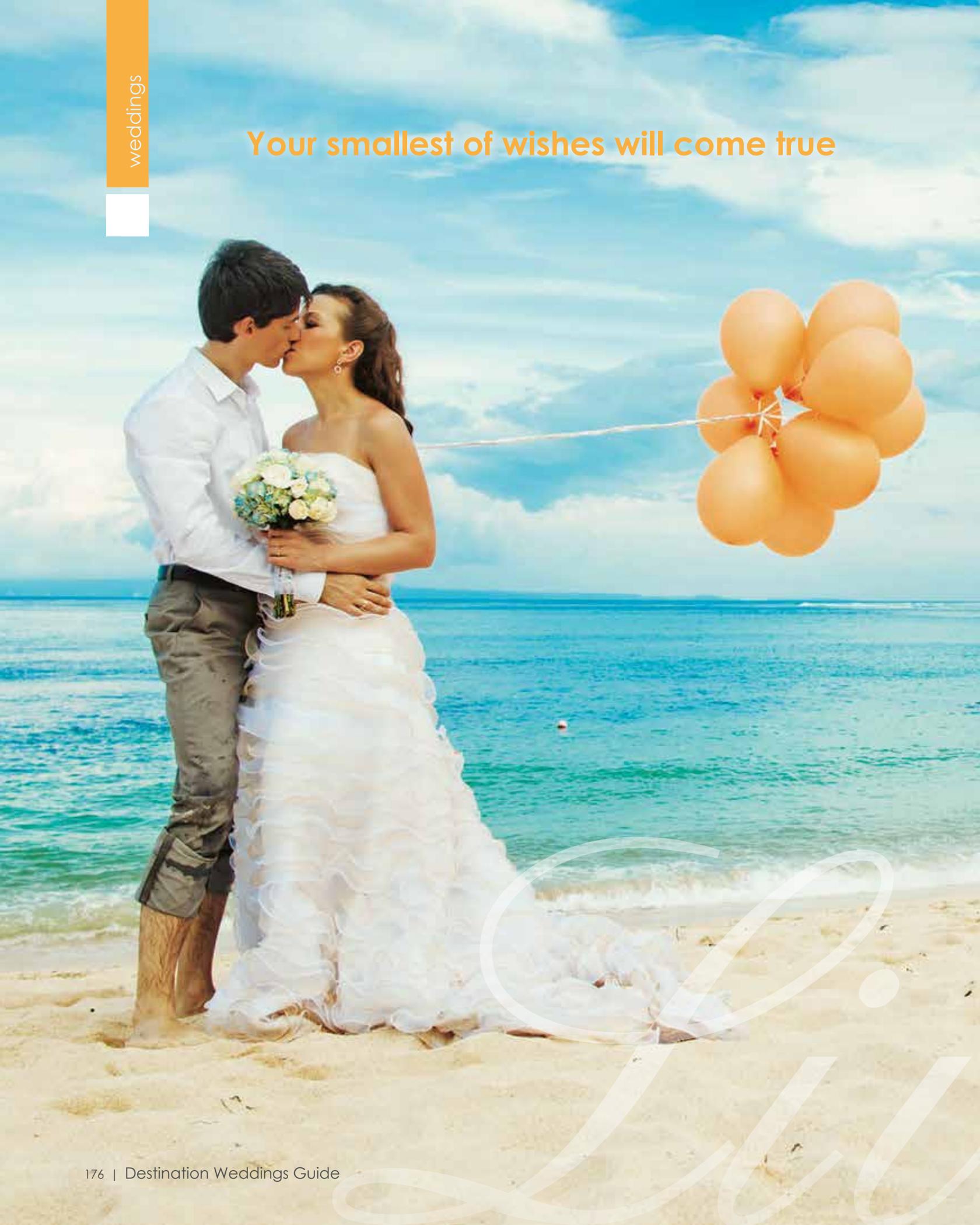
The peace of mind that you're working with a certified destination wedding specialist while planning your wedding. The confidence that your wedding planner speaks your language, understands your vision, and knows how to execute it. The assurance that your wedding questions will be answered promptly and with expert insight.

If you were getting married locally, you wouldn't think twice about hiring a wedding planner – don't second guess yourself when it comes to your destination wedding. Brides and grooms face even more challenges trying to plan a wedding halfway across the world!

### 3) What kind of experience do these planners have?

We have 30+ years of combined experience in planning destination weddings. Founded by a destination wedding bride who was having trouble planning her own wedding, the company was established on the notion that busy brides really need help. We know what it's like, we know how stressful it can be, we've heard the questions from former destination wedding brides, and we've created these services based on all of these concerns. We've designed in-demand services and packages for your destination wedding planning needs - with you in mind!

Your smallest of wishes will come true





### **Be Lovers. Live Caribbean weddings.**

If you wish to celebrate your wedding day in an exotic setting with a complete wedding service, Be Live Hotels in Punta Cana, Santo Domingo, La Romana, and the Be Live Grand Marien in Puerto Plata, are the places to go. Be Live Hotels offers you a team of professionals at your full disposal to help you with anything you may need, so that even your smallest of wishes will come true on your big day.

The luxurious Be Live Hotel Grand Punta Cana is located only 150 metres from Cabeza De Toro Beach, one of the best beaches in the Dominican Republic. The combination of luxury and beach setting guarantees a perfect wedding day for you and your wedding guests.

Specifically intended for one-of-a-kind celebrations, with a lot of character and style, and with the Caribbean Sea as the backdrop, the Be Live Hamaca Hotel will make your wedding day unique, extraordinary and unforgettable.

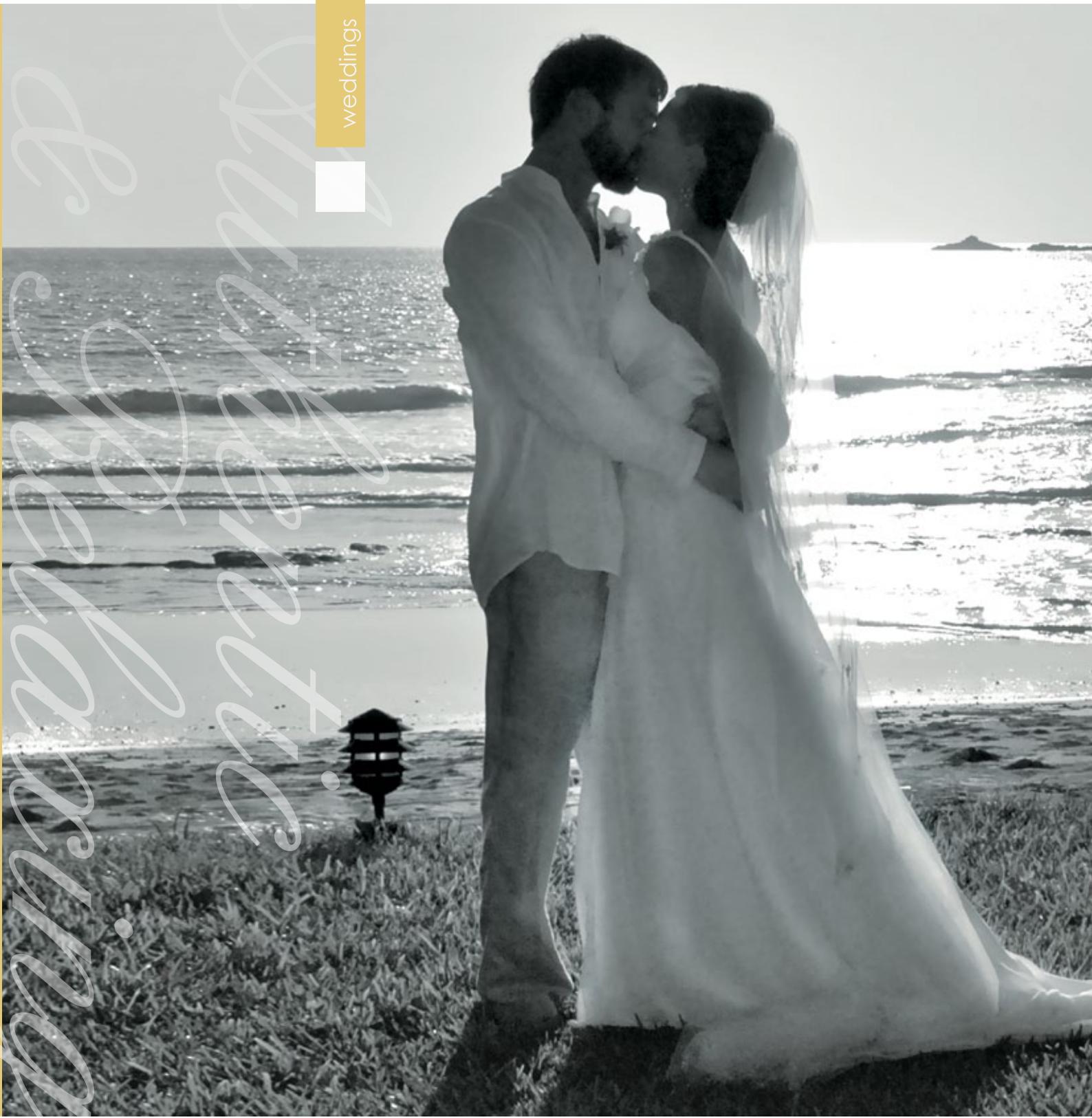
The setting, the music, the menus, the bridal suite and even the tablecloths will be absolutely perfect on your wedding day at Be Live Canoa Hotel in La Romana, where tropical palm trees and the Caribbean meet in perfect harmony.

Rest, enjoy yourself and relax at Be Live Grand Marien Hotel, where pools, gardens, terraces and the marvellous Costa Dorada Beach make for the perfect surroundings for a celebration of your romantic union.

All four properties offer a variety of packages to help you custom-design your wedding. Your wedding is complimentary when you book a minimum of three rooms for seven nights or more. Other packages include Be In Love, Be Wedding and Be Forever. To get you ready for the big day, Be Live has spa packages, such as The Perfect Bride and The Deluxe for the groom.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).

weddings





# Mazatlan

## *Authentic and relaxing*

With its Mexican character and charm, Mazatlan is a popular choice for couples who are planning to celebrate a wedding, honeymoon or romantic getaway in a tropical beach destination.

Looking for a genuine Mexican-fiesta wedding to exchange your vows? Historic Mazatlan offers the ideal backdrop of colonial buildings, Mexican flare and hospitality. Or consider the Golden Zone, where lush palm trees and miles of sandy beach create the perfect setting in which to exchange your vows, and luxury resorts, nightclubs and restaurants abound.

Mazatlan's culture and warm hospitality combined with romantic sunset cruises, walks on the Malecón, and seaside strolls provide not only a unique wedding destination – and vacation experience – but a lifetime of memories.

Nothing symbolizes eternal love as well as the endless blue skies and soft sand, beaches of Mazatlan. "Happily ever after" begins here.

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to Mazatlan from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, and Toronto.



## Christine & Shawn

**Congratulations to Christine and Shawn on winning our Destination Weddings Photo Contest from Volume 4 Issue 1.**

What started as a budding classroom romance in high school fizzled out when the summer months arrived. Fate would intervene five years later, as Christine and Shawn were re-united in a happenstance meeting at a bar.

"Since that night [at the Crocobar], we have never let each other go," the couple remembers.

When asked what attracted Christine to him, Shawn says, "I love how she is kind-hearted, always wanting to put her own feelings aside for others, and how she can be a real goof." Her glowing smile and her ability to fill a room instantly captivated him.

Christine fell head over heels for Shawn's passion for his family and friends, his fun-loving attitude, and great conversation.

"I love that he makes me feel like I'm the only person around. I love him very much," Christine confesses.

### **Coasting on cloud nine**

One fine February, with 43 of their closest friends and family, in the midst of turquoise, blue and purple, dotted with exotic white flowers and orchids, Christine and Shawn were married.

Christine remembers riding through the Caribe Club Princess Beach Resort and Spa in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic towards the beachfront ceremony in a golfcart, and having hotel guests wishing her, "Congratulations" as she passed by.

The butterflies filled her stomach as she saw her father waiting in the sand ready to walk her towards her future husband, Shawn.

## Second time's a charm

Photography by Photoshop Caribe.





Volume 4 Issue 1

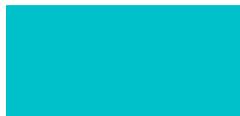
Photo Contest Winner



Christine & Shawn



Photography by Photoshop Caribe.



"What a feeling. We were alone in our own world. I will never forget this moment," Christine says.

Shawn's most memorable moment occurred when he was greeted by all the wedding guests at the ceremony location on the beach before Christine arrived – he welcomed their greetings with tears of joy.

"I tried to keep my calm, but no luck, then my beautiful wife-to-be started to walk down the aisle, and I fell in love all over again," he says.

With her brother as the pastor, Christine approached the altar and noticed that he was dressed in a long white gown (which was a table cloth from the dollar store, with a hole cut out at the top), holding a wooden, handmade crucifix – this comic relief was able to keep the bride and groom calm and relaxed while providing great entertainment for the guests.

The duo spent the following hours enjoying the company of their loved ones, swaying to their first dance, *You Smile* by Justin Bieber, and celebrating at the resort's beachfront grill.

**Old | New | Borrowed | Blue**

**Old:** A bracelet for the bride.

**New:** The bride's dress.

**Borrowed:** A bobbypin (just before heading out, given to the bride by her sister-in-law).

**Blue:** The bride's garter (white with a blue ribbon).

## Tips for brides and grooms

- Don't stress too much with planning, get the dresses, shoes and the men's clothing, and let your wedding specialist do the rest
- We also suggest a second week for the newly married couple to stay and relax, because when there are two families at the same time, there is a lot of running around. Take that second for you and your husband to relax on the beach, and have a romantic supper on the beach
- Couples that are planning a destination wedding should always check online reviews of resorts they are planning on choosing. Maybe try finding someone that has already gotten married at the resort you are interested in

## Get their look

**Bride's gown:** A simple white long dress with a small train.

**Bride's shoes:** Bare feet.

**Groom's outfit:** White linen 3/4 pants, blue turquoise dress shirt, and bare feet.

**Bridesmaids dresses:** Blue turquoise dresses.

**Photographer:** Photoshop Caribe, Gaia Bertuzzi and Jesica Mara Talento Lema.

**Hair:** DIY - The bride and her sister-in-law.

**Makeup:** DIY - The bride's sister-in-law.





Christine & Shawn

Sign up to submit your destination wedding photos in the next Destination Weddings Photo Contest on the Sunwing Facebook page for your chance to win a honeymoon in paradise. More details on page 138.



# Sarados



**SANDOS**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

*Dream*

**Dreams do come true**

Sandos Hotels & Resorts offers distinct, all inclusive destination wedding experiences that are not only characteristic of each resort but also highly personalized for each bride and groom, and their guests. Couples can choose their own wedding adventure at one of Sandos' four renowned Mexico resorts: An eco-escape at Sandos Caracol Eco Resort & Spa in Riviera Maya, a beach retreat at Sandos Playacar Beach Resort & Spa in Riviera Maya, an over-the-top luxury indulgence at Sandos Cancun Luxury Experience Resort, or a Pacific getaway at the new Sandos Finisterra Los Cabos.

With 12 new wedding packages, three designed for each resort, showcasing its unique wedding venues, Sandos offers a wide array of memorable and hassle-free wedding experiences. As an added bonus, brides and grooms that host a wedding at any of the four Mexican resorts also receive a complimentary honeymoon package. With this package, newlyweds are treated to a romantic dinner, late check-out and special room decor, among other perks. From green weddings and mystical Mayan ceremonies to glamorous seaside nuptials and garden vows.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).

**Let us be part  
of your dream**



**SANDOS**  
WEDDINGS

# Plaza *Premium* Lounge

## A first-class lounge for your first-class wedding

Escape the airport crowds and enjoy a first-class lounge on your journey to "I do."

Sunwing offers the bride and groom complimentary access to the recently revamped Plaza Premium Lounges in the Toronto, Vancouver and Edmonton airports, when they book a minimum of 11 adults into one of dozens of participating Groups Plus hotels. Pre-purchase access for the rest of your wedding guests, and start the celebration from the moment you arrive at the airport. Kick back and relax in ergonomically-designed seating as you enjoy a wide selection of fresh, hearty food and beverage choices, a variety of magazines and newspapers, Wi-Fi and TV, to name a few perks.



Edmonton



Toronto



Vancouver

To qualify for this special Groups Plus Wedding value-added service, the group booking with a minimum of 11 adults, must be made by December 16, 2014 for travel between June 1, 2015 and October 31, 2015 or by April 30, 2015 for travel between November 01, 2015 and October 31, 2016. Complimentary upgrades to Elite Plus on Sunwing Airlines is subject to availability. Plaza Premium lounges are available at the Toronto, Vancouver and Edmonton airports only. A Sunwing or Signature Vacations issued voucher is required to gain entrance. Lounges may have restricted hours of operation. Visit [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca) or [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com) for more details.

## FLY BETTER WITH SUNWING AIRLINES

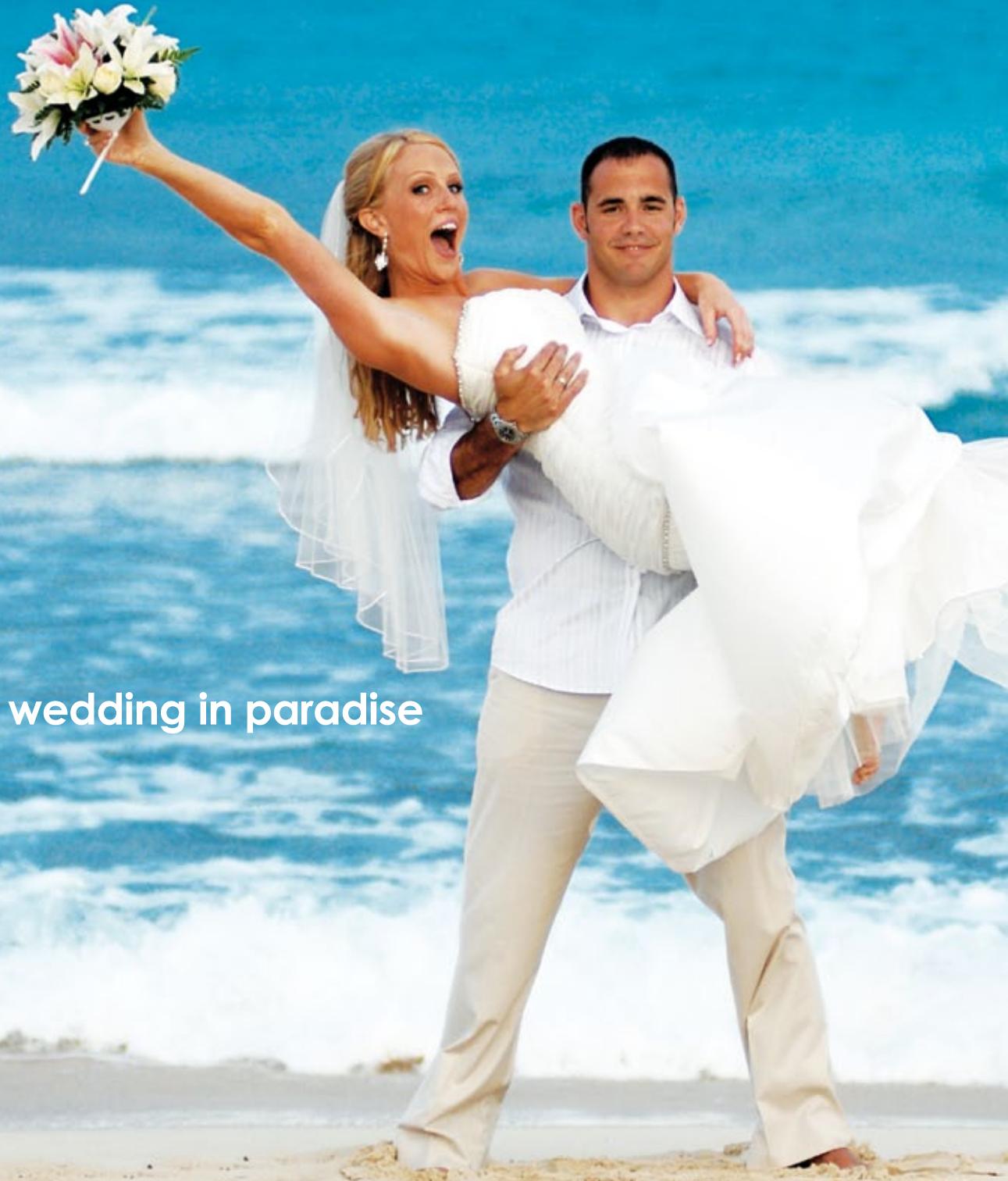
From the moment you board the plane to the minute it touches the tarmac in your destination, everything is Elite Class on Sunwing Airlines. Once you've settled into soft and comfortable leather seats, our team of highly-trained professionals will attend to your every need. Indulge in complimentary in-flight services, from Hot & Fresh Bistro meals™ with wine and non-alcoholic beverages, to in-flight audio/visual entertainment with headsets.

## OUR EXCLUSIVE WEDDING DRESS CARE PROGRAM!

All of our passengers receive Elite in-flight service, but we think your wedding dress deserves its own special class of service. We've designed a Wedding Dress Care Program to make sure your gown gets a dedicated overhead compartment. No cramming required.

*Award-winning, high frills champagne service.*





A perfect wedding in paradise



VALENTIN IMPERIAL MAYA

RIVIERA MAYA

Hotel Valentin Imperial Maya is the new definition of paradise. Our five-star, adults only (18+), all inclusive resort is set amid lavish gardens on a half-mile-long stretch of white-sand beach, setting the stage for a perfect wedding in paradise.

Inspired by grand haciendas of the past, the hotel offers unsurpassed luxury and beauty that capture the essence of a traditional Mexican wedding. Choose from packages that include a Mayan wedding ceremony, with prayers in the Mayan language, blessings, and a floral offering to the sea.

Also available are more contemporary packages, such as Moonlit Memories, Star Love, Heavenly Moments, Joyful Memories and Valentin Forever.

At Valentin Imperial Maya, we know that the perfect wedding means the difference between a good event and a perfect moment that will be remembered for the rest of your life.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).



# Shook

## Shake your moneymaker

By Regan Baird



FunkyTown Photography



The right wedding music can make all the difference in your destination wedding. Most wedding soundtracks are a mish-mash of different styles and genres in order to get music that appeals to all your wedding guests. Many brides and grooms will send out a request for tunes to their guests in order to make the mark but if you ask, many will say picking tunes that will satisfy everyone's appetite on the day is sometimes a daunting task. However, don't fret, we have narrowed down some of the hottest, rump-shaking tracks of the year from the chart-climbing artists on the planet. This top 20 list runs the gamut of the hottest hits - that'll make your grandma blush - for your destination wedding.

1. **Get Lucky – Daft Punk**
2. **Hideaway – Kiesza**
3. **Boom Clap – Charli XCX**
4. **Dark Horse – Katy Perry ft. Juicy J**
5. **Watch Out for This – Major Lazer ft. Bt. Busy Signal**
6. **Holy Grail – Jay Z ft. Justin Timberlake**
7. **Fancy – Iggy Azalea ft. Charli XCX**
8. **Problem – Ariana Grande ft. Iggy Azalea**
9. **Anaconda – Nicki Minaj**
10. **Dangerous Love – Fuse ODG ft. Sean Paul**
11. **Wiggle – Jason Derulo ft. Snoop Dogg**
12. **Turn Down for What – Lil Jon**
13. **Am I Wrong – Nico & Vinz**
14. **Dum Dee Dum – Keys N Krates**
15. **2 On- Tinashe ft. SchoolBoy Q**
16. **Shot Me Down – David Guetta ft. Skylar Grey**
17. **I'm a Freak – Enrique Iglesias ft. Pitbull**
18. **Lay Me Down - Avicii**
19. **Love Runs Out – OneRepublic**
20. **Walker – Fitz & the Tantrums**

## BONUS TRACK

**Bailando – Enrique Iglesias ft. Sean Paul, Descemer Bueno, Gente De Zona and Pitbull**

weddings

The Caribbean's hidden gem

*Hidden Gem*

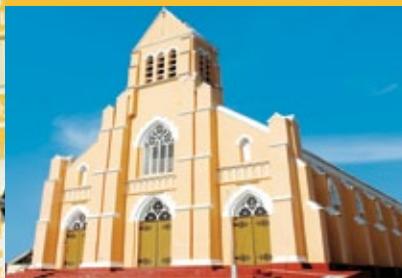
# CURACAO

## *Hidden Gem*

Picture your perfect Curaçao wedding. Captivating ocean views surround you and your beloved. Both of you are warmed by your love and the blissful Caribbean sunshine. Curaçao is acclaimed as one of the most romantic Caribbean wedding locations – and for good reason. We blend the sun, sand and surf of the islands with a delightful Dutch European charm. Curaçao is relatively undiscovered within the Caribbean, and its secrets await to be unlocked. What better way than during a blissfully unforgettable wedding and honeymoon? Explore Curaçao, the Caribbean's hidden gem!

Curaçao offers all the ingredients for the ideal wedding – a lovely climate, historical country yards, beaches shaded by coconut trees and washed with crystal-clear blue waters. Discover the perfect ambiance for your wedding – whether you desire a beach celebration, one in an 18th-century church, or at one of our renowned hotels and resorts.

Sunwing Airlines offers direct flights to Curaçao from Toronto.



Leana & Daniel

At the peak of romance



Volume 4 Issue 1

Photo Contest Winner



## Real Weddings

**Congratulations to Leana and Daniel on winning our Destination Weddings Photo Contest from Volume 4 Issue 1.**

No punch or kick could distract Leana and Daniel from each other's gaze when they met through mutual friends at a UFC event years ago. This Ukrainian-born gal and Irish-Italian-Canadian mix were intimately blended together when they became best friends, and later lovers.

"It was an interesting ride and definitely very challenging at times, but we made it," Leana recounts their journey.

Their common love of animals, especially dogs, travelling, and leading healthy lives kept their relationship strong, and Leana believes that this quote describes their partnership to a tee, "A great relationship isn't when two perfect people come together, it's when two imperfect people learn to love and treasure each other and don't give up."

On the snow-capped peak of Vancouver's Grouse Mountain, Daniel and Leana enjoyed a day of snow shoeing followed by a dinner at the renowned Observatory Restaurant overlooking Capilano Lake and the glittering lights of Vancouver.

"The most amazing view of Vancouver, the sunset, and a box on the table with my amazing custom ring that he chose. I was speechless and in tears with happiness! It felt like a dream," she remembers. It was from that day on that the couple knew they wanted to exchange their vows with a destination wedding, since Daniel's family lived all over Canada. The happy couple thought this would be the perfect way to introduce their families for the first time – and it came at an ideal time when Daniel and Leana desperately needed a vacation.

### **A joyous union**

With "message in a bottle" invitations, Daniel and Leana joined their families in a beach celebration at Paradisus Punta Cana on spectacular Bavaro Beach in the Dominican Republic.

"We were very pleased with everything [at the beachfront resort]. The destination wedding was the best idea and choice we ever made! It was so much easier on us, and it was just perfect to spend



Leana & Daniel

*Photography*



spend enough time with all our family members. It was such a special trip, we introduced our parents to each other, and we also got married by Daniel's father, as he is a minister," the couple recalls.

Being their parents' first visits to the Caribbean, the choice to spend their week along the sands of this picturesque island certainly added to the memorability of this special vacation.

Their two puppies made an appearance as cake toppers alongside their owners on a very cute cake served with bubbly pink Moët champagne. These all added unique personalized touches to this beach-side celebration.

In a glorious aqua-themed celebration to the tune of live music on the beach, this husband and wife danced the night away, starting with their first dance to Michael Bolton's *When A Man Loves A Woman*, cherishing every moment of this very special time with their family and friends.

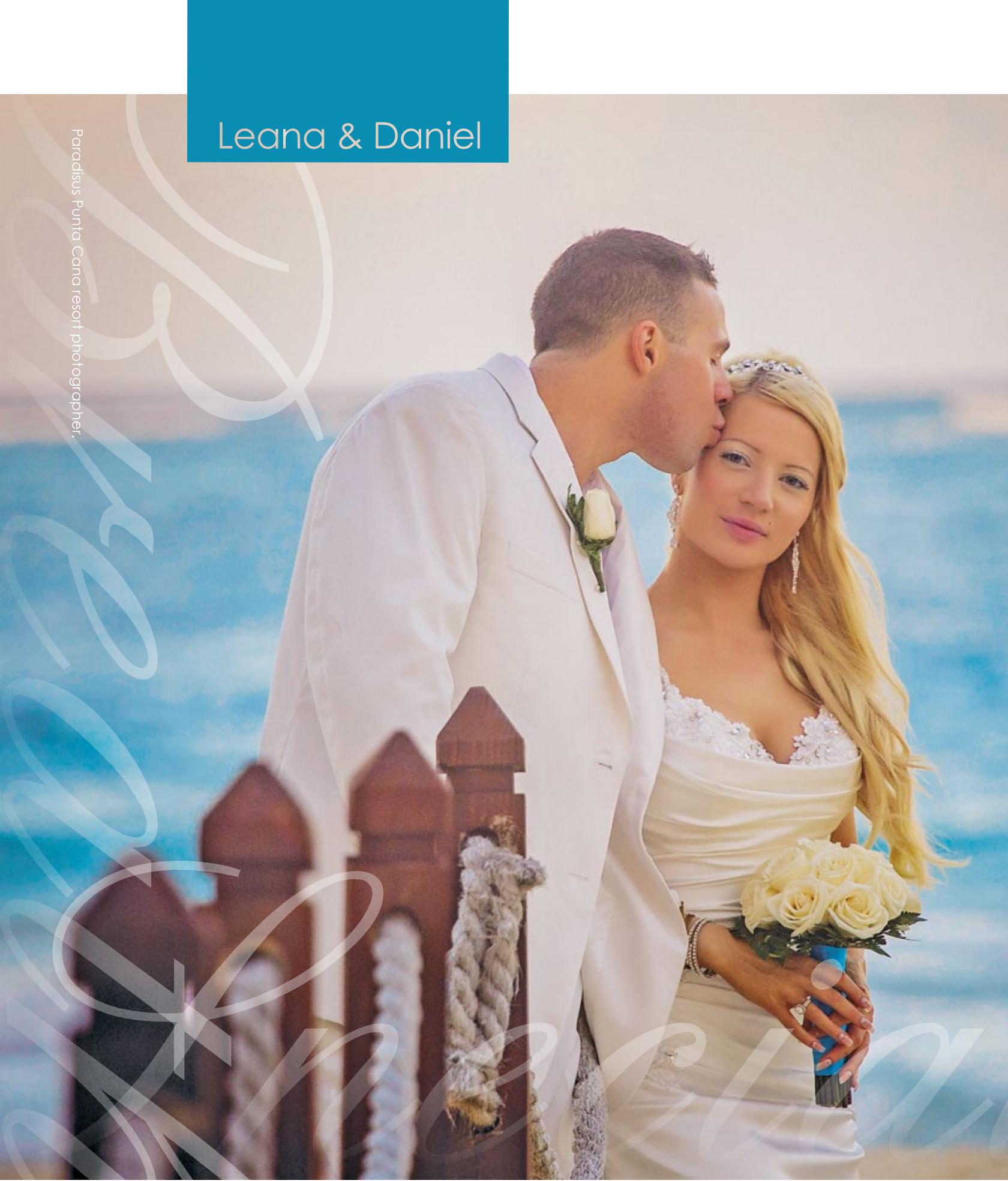
"We had so much fun, nothing but laughter and tears of joy! If we could do it again, we wouldn't change a thing. Everything was like a dream! We were thinking of a honeymoon a few months after our wedding somewhere warm, but didn't make up our minds..." they say.

As the winners of the Destination Weddings Photo Contest, Daniel and Leana will be treated to a honeymoon at Memories Grand Bahama Resort Beach & Casino Resort in The Bahamas, care of Sunwing Vacations.

"Thank you Sunwing! This is another dream-come-true! We cannot wait to spend our honeymoon at your Memories Grand Bahama resort," they rejoice.

Leana & Daniel

Paradissus Punta Cana resort photographer.



### Get their look

**Bride's gown:** Sofia Tolli.

**Bride's shoes:** Christian Dior.

**Groom's outfit:** Calvin Klein.

**Bridesmaids dresses:** Bright coloured, mix n' match styles.

**Photographer:** Paradisus Punta Cana resort photographer.

**Hair:** Luba Doukhina.

**Makeup:** DIY.



# Previa



Sign up to submit your destination wedding photos in the next Destination Weddings Photo Contest on the Sunwing Facebook page for your chance to win a honeymoon in paradise. More details on page 138.





**Old | New | Borrowed | Blue**

**Old:** The bride's antique head band jewellery.

**New:** The bride's dress.

**Borrowed:** The bride's shoes.

**Blue:** The ribbon on the bride's lingerie.

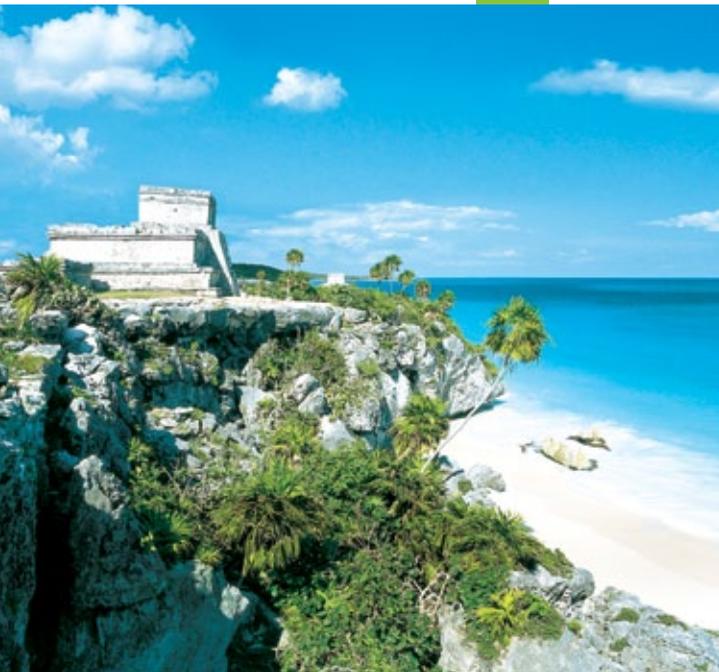
Paradisus Punta Cana resort photographer.

# Leana & Daniel



## A wide range of unique options for romance





# RIVIERA MAYA

*Paradise is Forever*

Riviera Maya offers you the perfect location for the beach wedding or honeymoon of your dreams, from a barefoot *cabaña* hotel to an extravagant all inclusive resort. The luxury, all inclusive concept here is so indulgent that you won't have to, or want to, leave the premises very often during your honeymoon.

Riviera Maya stretches for 120 km along the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, and offers several amazing and pristine areas with options for all tastes:

\* Playa Paraiso (Paradise Beach) is a little more than 30 minutes north of Playa del Carmen. Home to a serene resort, this spot is a favourite for honeymooners thanks to its spectacular white-sand beach that's surrounded by coconut trees and a lush tropical forest

\* Playa del Carmen is the region's main city. Only 67 kilometres south of Cancun airport, this cosmopolitan town offers just about every activity from lying on the beach to shopping, dining and dancing along its famous 5th Avenue

\* Playacar is just south of Playa del Carmen, and the ferry dock to Cozumel, and offers beautiful powdery, white-sand beaches

\* Akumal is a small and quiet village located about 32 kilometres south of Playa del Carmen. It is an optimal spot for those seeking relaxation in a charming atmosphere, the area is perfect for snorkelling with sea turtles, and scuba diving

\* Tulum, in the south of Riviera Maya, is an ideal spot to relax and take in the laidback atmosphere. It has a collection of smaller hotels, and the remains of the millenary Mayan culture constructed on a cliff overlooking the Caribbean Sea

Whether you choose Playa de Carmen, Akumal, Playa Paraiso, Playacar or Tulum, Riviera Maya offers the perfect and unique setting for your wedding or honeymoon.

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to Riviera Maya from Vancouver, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Kitchener, Toronto, Ottawa, Val-d'Or, Montreal, Quebec City, Bagotville, Saint John, Moncton, Halifax, St. John's, Cincinnati and Buffalo.

**México**  
LIVE IT TO BELIEVE IT



Same-sex weddings:  
A beautiful  
bond

By Chris Ryall



**Romance, scenic beauty, fun and frivolity know no bounds, and that includes destination weddings. More LGBT couples are now embracing destination weddings as countries become more progressive with their policies.**

Profess your love and devotion to one another in a warm tranquil Caribbean setting. Listen to the melodic sounds of waves rolling in from the turquoise hued waters and birds chirping gleefully as you exchange your vows with one another.

#### **PLANNING MADE EASY**

Same-sex weddings aren't distinguished from traditional weddings, but there are some elements which tend to vary. With the services of Sunwing Weddings and their team of expert planners, you can be ensured that your wedding is smooth and hassle-free.

#### **Here are some things to consider when planning your wedding:**

**Destination** – Some destinations are more conservative, and may not recognize same-sex weddings or be LGBT-friendly. Sunwing flies to many destinations which are LGBT-friendly. Curaçao along with Costa Rica are two of the most popular same-sex wedding destinations, and provide a very welcoming environment. In Mexico, Riviera Maya, Cancun, Isla Mujeres and Puerto Vallarta are the most progressive. Puerto Vallarta, and its Blue Chairs Beach, is recognized as one of the popular same-sex beaches in the world. Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic is also known to be a welcoming destination for same-sex weddings.

**Legal aspects** – Check with the wedding planner on the same-sex marriage laws and what are the legal requirements, officiate who marries you, or if you can arrange to bring your own.

As in any destination, wedding invitations, flowers, music, decorations, wedding cake, photography, reception, and the myriad of other elements are also important things to consider, however, with a destination wedding, you have so many options and special touches you can incorporate, often with more flair.

The one plus with a destination wedding is the visually stunning photography with Mother Nature's finest as your backdrop to enhance any wedding pictures or video. The Caribbean Sea, lush Costa Rican rainforest, colourful Mexican restaurants, Las Vegas glitz, Fort Lauderdale and South Beach's cool vibe, and more.

You can even have a culturally infused traditional Mayan wedding ceremony, which would hold a memorable and special meaning.

It's all about choice, and you and your guests will be happy with all the activity options they have in destination. From pampering spa treatments, themed music nights by the pool or the beach, water sports, whale watching, ziplining, dancing, hiking, visiting local cultural attractions, or just chillin' with cool drinks in hand, celebrating your beautiful marriage.

Destination weddings aren't about sexual preference – it's about celebrating with your friends and family in a picturesque, romantic, relaxed and fun-filled setting.

Just say, "I want" and your Sunwing Weddings planner will be ready to take off.





Volume 4 Issue 1

Photo Contest Winner

*Unleash*



## Force of love

Real Weddings

Alma & Gillian

Dean Sanderson Photography.

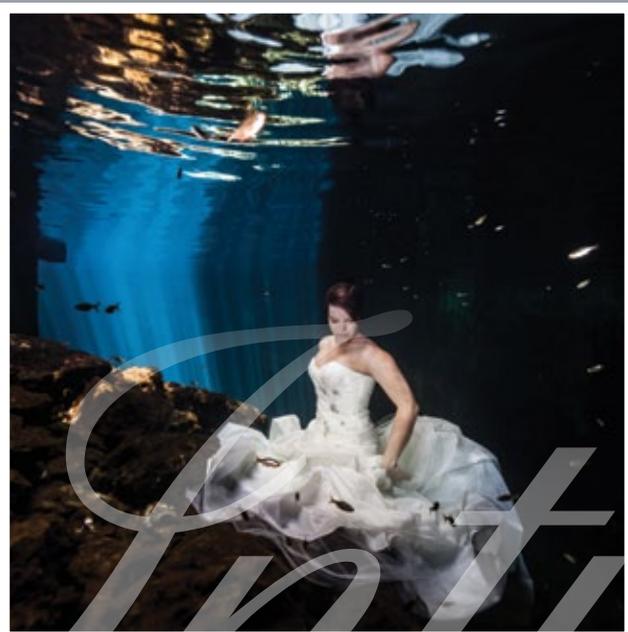
**Congratulations to Alma and Gillian on winning our Destination Weddings Photo Contest from Volume 4 Issue 1.**

It takes a special kind of person to dedicate their life to serving their country in the Armed Forces, which is exactly what makes the love between Gillian, a Canadian Forces Nurse, and Alma, a Healthcare Administration Officer with the Forces, so extraordinary.

The patriotic pair first entered each other's lives while on a routine field training course with the military. Alma was mesmerized by Gill's beauty, and admittedly couldn't stop staring, while Gill was drawn to Alma's magnetic personality, and after just one meeting, couldn't get her off her mind.

Once the engagement was official – and with only weeks to spare before their big day – the couple decided to break from tradition, and flew to Chicago to go wedding dress shopping together.

“A lot of people were surprised we bought our dresses together, but whose opinion should matter more on your wedding day than your fiancées,” they both agreed.



Dean Sanderson Photography

### Mayan magic

The month of October would be a magical time for the couple, who chose to solidify their love at a breathtaking Iberostar hotel in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico. With four of their closest friends in attendance, the couple walked barefoot down the beach, and were wed in a traditional Mayan ceremony, conducted by a shaman.

More meaningful moments were made as the couple hammed it up for the camera during their photo shoot with their photographer.

"We had so much fun taking the photos, and they turned out amazing!"

Once the photo session wrapped, it was time to celebrate. The blushing brides opted for cocktails and dinner at the resort, which provided the perfect finish to an absolutely unforgettable day.

### Get their look

**Brides' gowns:** The brides bought their gowns in Chicago.

**Brides' shoes:** Barefoot.

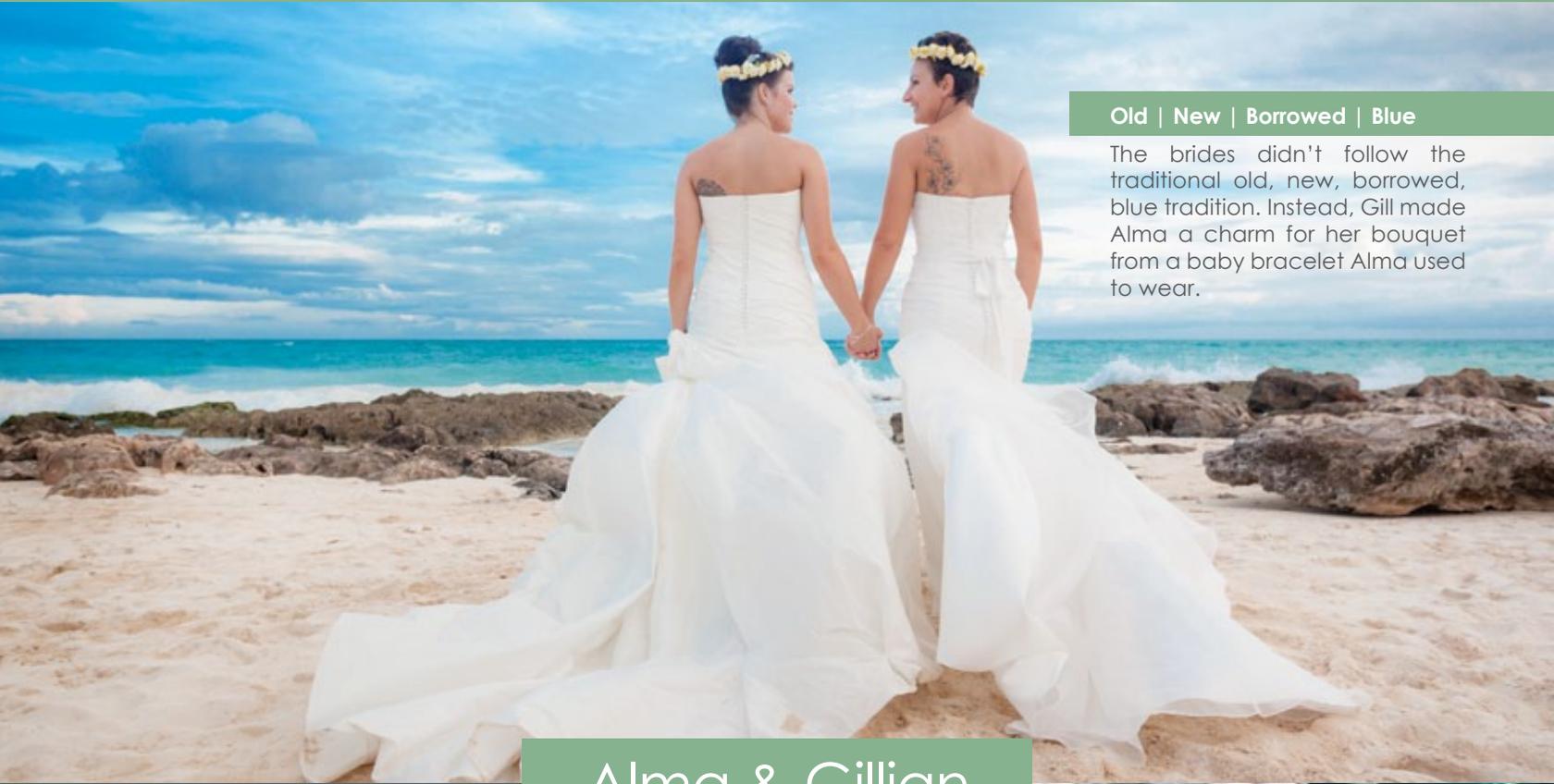
**Bridesmaids dresses:** No bridal party.

**Hair:** A local salon.

**Makeup:** DIY – The brides.

**Flowers:** White lilies.

**Photographer:** Dean Sanderson.



Old | New | Borrowed | Blue

The brides didn't follow the traditional old, new, borrowed, blue tradition. Instead, Gill made Alma a charm for her bouquet from a baby bracelet Alma used to wear.

Alma & Gillian



Sign up to submit your destination wedding photos in the next Destination Weddings Photo Contest on the Sunwing Facebook page for your chance to win a honeymoon in paradise. More details on page 138.

exclusive feature



The place where  
**love comes to stay,**  
where every wedding is a  
celebration like no other, and  
**every romance is a reason to rejoice**

exclusive  
**feature**



OASISLOVESU

**IGLTA**<sup>®</sup>  
International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association



Feel free to  
**feel**  
good

Getting married in paradise is as simple and beautiful as it looks when you choose Oasis Hotels & Resorts. We specialize in your wedding, your way. With a variety of options, from romantic to exotic, we are dedicated to making your special day unique and unforgettable. Choose your scenic setting in a garden or on the beach, add your favourite floral fantasy, your ideal set-up for celebrating with guests, and opt for either a traditional ceremony or a symbolic one.

Whether you'd like to mark the occasion with a simple toast, a Mayan feast, an intimate dinner or a family-friendly celebration, Oasis makes sure your day is perfect. The Oasis Sens celebrates love in every way, welcoming the LGBT community with open arms to rejoice in matrimonial bliss in magnificent Mexico.

Our free online-optimizer makes it easy to keep track of expenses, documents, and your guest list. You can even select from our à la carte menu to make your special day as unique and extraordinary as your love story.



Our staff is ready to take care of every detail, putting you in touch with your designated bilingual wedding experts on site in Cancun and Tulum to make the process as simple as can be. Booking is easy, and Oasis is the choice of so many happy couples because we know what's required to make your wedding legal and binding no matter who you love, and whether you would like to have a symbolic or religious ceremony. And whether you're looking for a small, intimate exchange of vows or a lavish wedding with family and friends, Oasis has a great selection of packages and upgrades to choose from.

Select from our eight different resorts and wedding destinations that cater to you. Our beautiful locations, featuring stunning beaches, lush gardens, and gorgeous seaside vistas, will definitely add to the magic of your special day. Make your wedding day unique by adding all the special touches you and your soulmate envisioned for this day. Oasis Hotels & Resorts offers a variety of floral bouquets, boutonnieres and decorations, music options, photography services, and menus as simple or as extravagant as you'd like. You can even spend a day at the spa with your favourite pals before you get hitched.

Take a look at all the options, and choose the way you want to celebrate your special day. Envision your dream wedding, fill out the form, and let's get started. Our wedding planners will bring your dream wedding to life.

Oasis Hotels & Resorts is the place where love comes to stay, where every wedding is a celebration like no other, and every romance is a reason to rejoice. In the tropical paradise of Mexico, the brilliant sunshine shimmers on the turquoise-coloured sea to create the ideal setting for a picture-perfect wedding. Casual or traditional, big or small, Oasis Resorts has everything your hearts desire, and everyone at our resorts will make sure your wedding day is the unforgettable start of a beautiful journey together.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).

Forever  
begins  
at Oasis



HOTELS & RESORTS

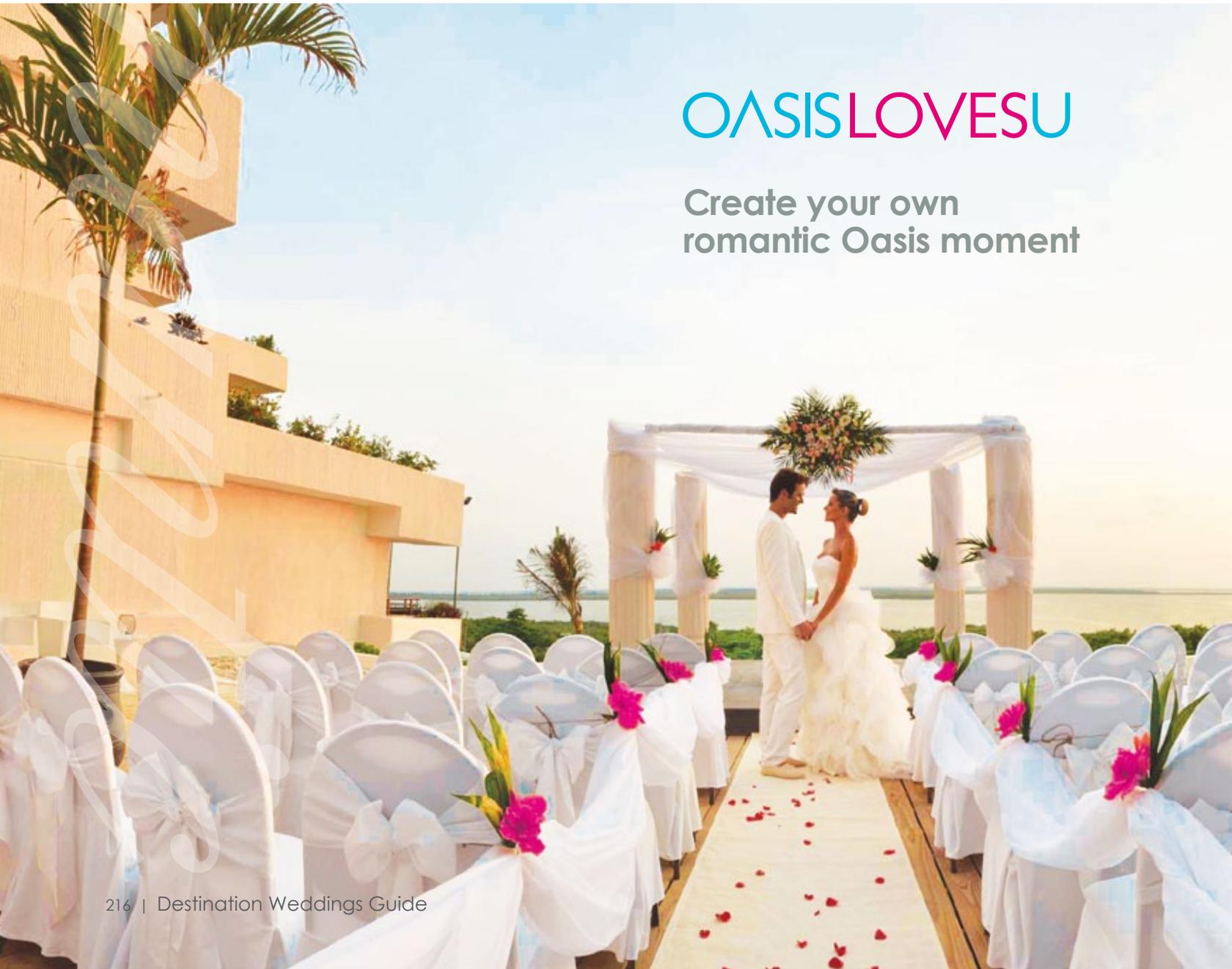
exclusive feature

weddings



OASISLOVESU

Create your own  
romantic Oasis moment





# OASIS

HOTELS & RESORTS



### Discover “happily ever after” at an Oasis

From intimate ceremonies to lavish gala celebrations, Sunwing Weddings understands the importance of this milestone in your life, and takes care of every small and sizeable detail to make your destination wedding dreams come true. Sunwing Weddings can help you plan your special day and make this extremely romantic setting - with the backdrop of the Mexican Caribbean and the natural beauty that distinguishes Cancun - part of a magical moment you'll never forget.

With a strong focus on your perfect wedding vision, your designated Sunwing Weddings specialist will assist with the planning and organizing of this special event at the Oasis, Sens or Grand hotels, and will be on-call to respond immediately to any special requirements and needs that may arise.

When you book your destination wedding at Oasis Hotels & Resorts with a minimum of 25 rooms you will receive a complimentary wedding, which includes, the service of a wedding coordinator for an on-site ceremony, an upgrade to a special room for the bride and groom, a bottle of sparkling wine in your room, bridal bouquet and boutonniere for the groom, wedding cake, sparkling wine for guests, a 10% discount on spa services, late check-out\*, and a FREE night for the couple's first anniversary (with a minimum stay of five nights).

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).

\* Based on availability. Some restrictions apply. Governmental fees may apply.



# Sexiest beaches for your sizzling honeymoon

By Regan Baird

**As you scour the 101 destinations that could possibly play host to one of the most memorable vacations of your marital life, here is a selection of some of the hottest beaches to add a bit of sizzle and sensuality to your honeymoon travel planning.**

Tantalizing, tropical drinks. Lapping, azure waters. Golden or alabaster sands. Cooling trade winds. With your wedding planning in full swing, you might find yourself sitting at your cluttered desk, thoughts drifting to scenes of a perfect, pristine beach on which to spend your honeymoon. Cue a dream sequence, as we transport you from the thick of wedding planning to the sexy beaches down south for your first holiday as husband and wife.



## Hottest beaches

If you have time to venture off your resort with your loved one, or maybe the whole wedding party, these are some of the best in the Caribbean and Mexico. Take a little trip and see...

1. Lovers' Beach, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
2. South Beach - Miami, Florida, U.S.A.
3. Cupercoy Beach, St. Maarten
4. Cayo Guillermo, Cuba
5. Seven Mile Beach, Negril, Jamaica
6. Cayo Cochin, Honduras
7. Cayo Santa Maria, Cuba

Picture a fruity beverage, soft sands and aquamarine waves, with just you and your lover on your honeymoon. We've rounded up a list of the sexiest beaches in the sizzling south to match this sensual getaway:

## 1 Lovers' Beach

### Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

This gorgeous beach is located on the Pacific coast of Mexico where the ocean and the Sea of Cortez embrace in a passionate kiss. Accessible by water taxi, the hidden cove is surrounded by spectacular rock formations, white sands, and beautiful turquoise waters. Pack a picnic lunch for two, and let this tropical wonderland melt your stresses away.



## 2 South Beach

### Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

A sexy stretch of sand frequented by bikini-clad South American hotties and buff beach babes, this is the spot to see and be seen. In addition to golden sands and azure waters, beach lovers can enjoy spectacular art deco hotels, shopping at designer stores, and dining at the many upscale establishments on Ocean Drive.

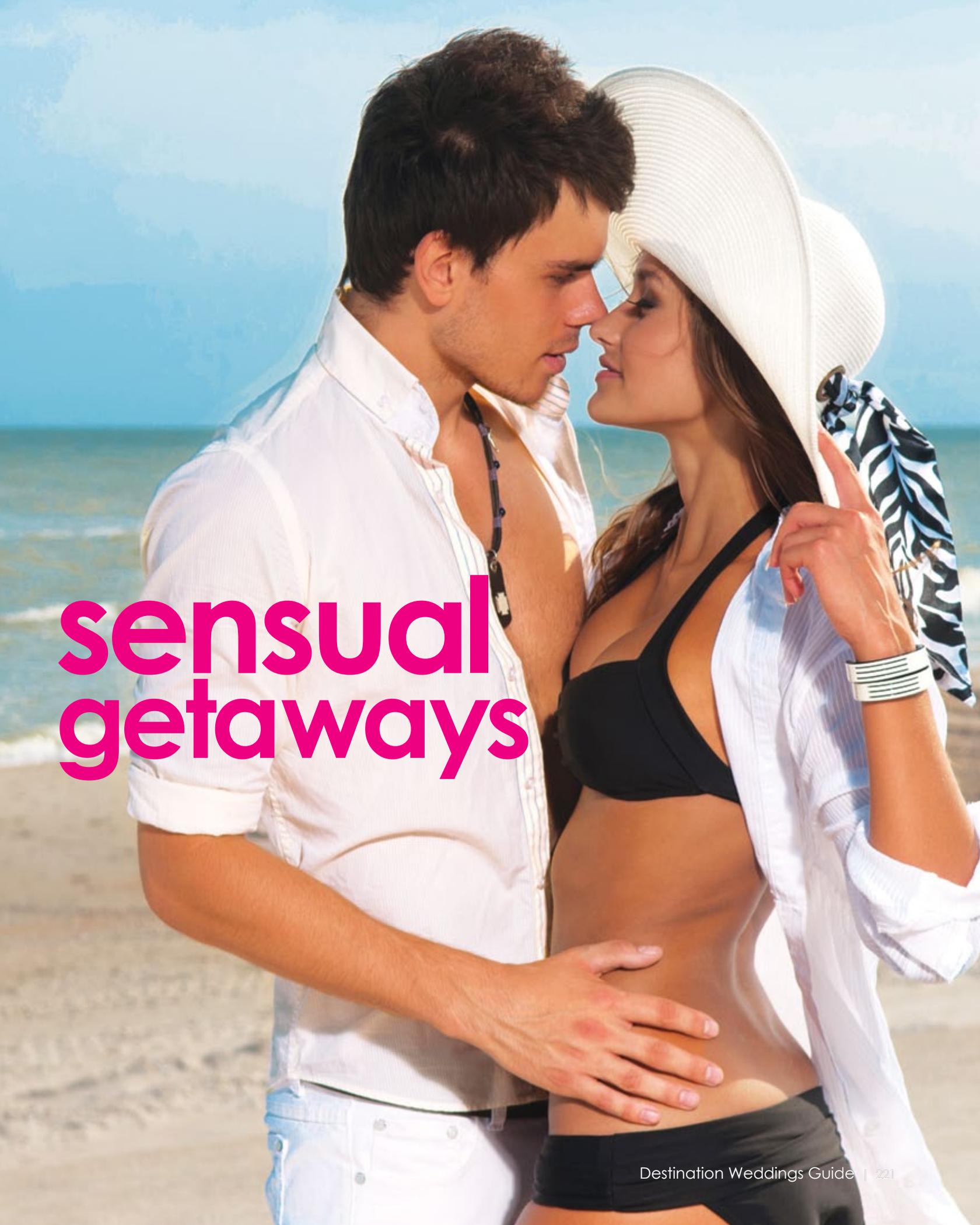


## 3 Cupercoy Beach

### St. Maarten

We may have mentioned this beach many times before, but it deserves mentioning more than once. This sensuous beach is one of 39 beaches found on the part-French, part-Dutch island of St. Maarten (St. Martin). The postcard-like platinum shore with picturesque cliffs makes this charming, clothing-optional beach a secluded haven for honeymooners.





# sensual getaways

# 4 Cayo Guillermo

**Cuba**

Many have called this the best beach in Cuba. Locals have even declared it the best beach in the world. Satin-smooth turquoise waters hugging five kilometres of fine white sands are sure to inspire sensuality in every possible way.



# 5 Seven Mile Beach

**Negril, Jamaica**

Negril's beaches are considered some of the best in the world, and Seven Mile Beach is no exception. In fact, it is consistently rated one of the top 10 beaches in the world by many travel magazines. Imagine a stretch of champagne-tinted sand reaching as far as the eye can see, couple that with aquamarine waters and swaying palm trees, and you have a lovers' paradise.



**celebrate your love**



## 6 Cayo Cochinos

Honduras

Now, this is an island setting out of the movies: A deserted powdery oasis with crystal-blue water and lots of space. There are few things in life more alluring than your own private island in which to frolic. The island is accessible by boat from La Ceiba.



## 7 Cayo Santa Maria

Cuba

Set foot on this silky-smooth beachfront, and feel the grains of sand rush through your toes. Let the waves serenade you as you soak up this incredibly photogenic beach. Take a relaxing catamaran ride, or laze the day away with your sweetheart, savouring fine Cuban cigars during your first days as a married couple.

For more ideas on how to add sizzle to your honeymoon, visit [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca) or [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).



The perfect spot for you to celebrate



weddings

# JAMAICA<sup>®</sup>

## GET ALL RIGHT

The sights, sounds and flavours of a Jamaican wedding and honeymoon are as varied and vivid as the imagination. Our immaculate white sands, sparkling waterfalls and rivers, majestic mountains, and multi-coloured gardens create magical settings in which to celebrate your special occasion. Nestled in our hills or on our beaches, we have a wide range of delightful accommodations that will nurture your romance, and exceed all your expectations.

Many of our resorts are all inclusive with packages that include your room, meals, drinks, activities, and even the wedding ceremony itself. These charming accommodations give you the chance to have a unique Jamaican wedding and honeymoon that's not confined to a property or package. It's all up to you! Fashion everything to your dreams. Work closely with a local wedding co-ordinator to ensure the ceremony is what you have always envisioned. Limited only by the scope of your imagination and budget, the possibilities are endless...

You may exchange vows at Frenchman's Cove beach in Port Antonio; at Lovers' Leap, near the South Coast's rugged edge; or on Negril's cliffs at sunset. Or you may select a secret garden in Ocho Rios, a stately old church in Kingston, or an elegant great house in Montego Bay. To think, these are merely a few of the possibilities for this memorable event.

Here in this one-love paradise, the perfect, "inn-timate" wedding and honeymoon awaits you.





*Ask the*  
**EXPERTS**

Dear Destination Wedding Specialists,

My relatives are just not sharing in the excitement of my destination wedding the way I had hoped they would. My aunt, especially, is giving me such a hard time. She doesn't like the hotel I chose, nor does she like the location, she is literally going out of her way to find everything that's wrong with our decision. Any advice on how not to take this so personally and cast the negativity aside? This is supposed to be my dream wedding in paradise. I would so much appreciate any advice you can give.

- Irina

Dear Irina,

Sorry to hear that your aunt isn't being a team player. To avoid a full-blown, reality TV show-worthy family feud, our first piece of advice to all destination wedding couples at the outset of planning is to avoid asking for anyone's opinion. I know that sounds a bit extreme, but remember, this is YOUR wedding and YOUR choice – the memories will be part of your history forever. It's not Negative Auntie Nelly's wedding. This dilemma comes into play again and again in the world of destination weddings, as everyone has different ideas of what it should and shouldn't be. The best route, in this case, is to bite your tongue and tell your aunt, politely, that while you appreciate her opinion, expertise and experience, you would also appreciate if she could just be happy for you, and accept the decision you have made. If she still can't help herself, then do your best to avoid her until the big day. No use in getting dragged down into the dumps when you should be busy planning, posting to your Pinterest board, shopping for your dress, and picking your colours. You're busy enough as is tending to all the fun stuff!

Let the negativity leave you unaffected like water off a duck's back. Stand your ground, and keep in mind that this is your time to shine and be happy. A piece of sage advice we can leave you with (and this speaks to all potential couples), is to pick a wedding location and plan that is easy for guests to attend. While your idea of a dream wedding might be more rustic, in the jungles of Costa Rica or high atop a hill, off the beaten path in Puerto Vallarta, just remember that not all of your guests will find that to be ideal for many legitimate reasons (health, ease of travel, etc.). Make it easy and it should be smooth sailing!

*continued on page 230*



*Experts*



## Breathtaking

In Cancun every day is perfect... Azure skies, warm ocean breezes and a ribbon of Caribbean shoreline extending towards the horizon.

With a variety of elegant venues, and a picture-perfect oceanfront setting, Great Parnassus Resort & Spa offers an unforgettable destination for all inclusive weddings in Cancun.

Experience these exclusive oceanfront properties, where a generous collection of all inclusive vacation packages offers the ultimate in adults only privacy and indulgence. Against a gorgeous backdrop, Golden Parnassus Resort & Spa is an extraordinary spot for weddings in Cancun. From intimate oceanfront ceremonies to gala receptions, rehearsal dinners, bridal showers and bachelor parties, our skilled wedding planners will be with you every moment – helping you design an unforgettable celebration where every detail is picture perfect.

Whether you dream of an intimate family gathering or a grand celebration for hundreds, your special day will be a one-of-a-kind affair, inspired by the breathtaking beauty of the Caribbean coast.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).





**An unforgettable celebration**



**Dear Destination Wedding Specialists,**

**I've heard of Bridezilla, but my fiancé seems to have taken on the role of Groomzilla. I'm starting to have anxiety about the upcoming wedding – it's really freaking me out. Help?**

- Alexis

Dear Alexis,

Yes, this is a more common occurrence in the bridal world these days, especially when it comes to destination weddings. Grooms are involved because there is usually more planning than just the wedding day. Boys want to make sure their "boys" are taken care of - golf day, good scotch, or even a night out (for ideas on the best bro-celebrations, flip to page 90). Since destination weddings involve more logistics and travel, grooms feel they have more expertise to bring to the table than just picking out the flowers or linen colours. Why not harness this energy and assign him a few events or tasks that are his to plan exclusively (if you trust him, of course).

This is good practice for what your married life will be like together in the future, allowing him to be part of the planning, and empowering him to make decisions that will impact the two of you is a great step toward a healthy marriage. For example, if babies are in your future, you'll appreciate having a "hands on" kind of guy this early on in the game. Don't stress, but rather embrace your Groomzilla for what, and who, he is!



**Dear Wedding Specialists,**

**I keep reading about wedding etiquette and traditions of what we “should be doing” for our wedding. Isn’t the whole point of having a destination wedding an opportunity to break the mould and bring something different to the event?**

*- Chrissy and Raj*

Dear Chrissy and Raj,

You seem to have the right attitude when it comes to your destination wedding. You are absolutely right that you are able to break away from the staunch traditions of a hometown wedding. Get creative with the meals (you likely wouldn’t have a beach BBQ at a traditional wedding), allow your guests to dress less formal (black tie in the Caribbean would be very hot and sweaty), incorporate local traditions (think local food or local favors), and leave the conventions of a hometown wedding behind.

Feel inspired to do something completely unique – ever thought about having a beach bonfire party for your reception? Feel free to express yourselves and follow your own dreams with ceremony readings and overall guest experience. The sky’s the limit!



# Ask the **EXPERTS**

# Blau

Hotels & Resorts

## *Love blossoms*

Choose Blau Hotels and Resorts and enjoy an array of fun activities and sports or simply relax on the beach while lounging on comfortable sun-beds shaded by stunning palm trees. Children will be kept entertained with fun games and activities at the Blaudi Club while the adults will be dazzled by excellent evening entertainment and spectacular shows. Blau Hotels offers great value and excellent services to leisure group travellers.

And if you are planning a destination wedding at one of the five fantastic Blau properties, we offer unique packages that will make your wedding unforgettable.

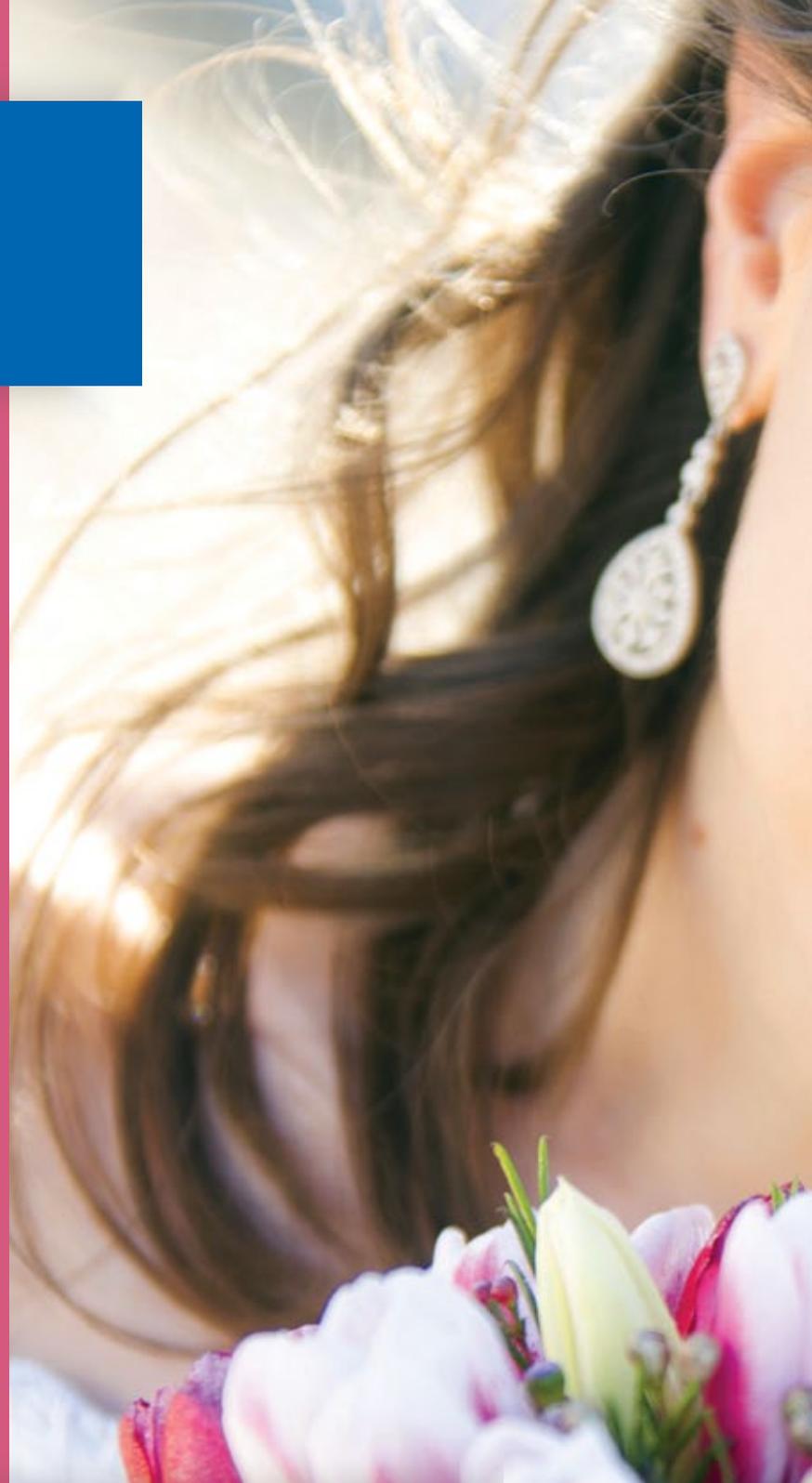
Natura Park Beach Eco Resort & Spa in Punta Cana offers a wedding and honeymoon package that will spoil the bride and groom with natural surroundings.

In Cuba, Blau offers a variety of unique properties. Blau Costa Verde Beach Resort and Blau Costa Verde Plus Beach Resort in Holguin offer wedding, honeymoon and anniversary packages. Blau Varadero Hotel offers a wedding package that includes a chambermaid in the room to help the bride on her wedding day. Blau Marina Varadero Resort and Blau Privilege Cayo Libertad offer free wedding\* and vow renewal packages.

Whether you choose an intimate wedding for two or for dozens of your closest family and friends, let your love blossom with a Blau Hotels wedding.

For more details, contact your travel agent or consult a wedding specialist at Sunwing Weddings by visiting [sunwing.ca](http://sunwing.ca).

\*Restrictions may apply.



Let your love blossom at Blau

Blossom

Jen Kavanagh Photography.



## A happy harvest of love



## Real Weddings

Heather & John

The crops of Caledon now yield more than just delicious, fresh produce, but also a relationship that has grown and flourished into a joyous labour of love. This is the story of Heather and John.

After meeting on campus while attending college in Long Island, New York, the two instantly fell in love. As they both exchanged sparkling smiles, this blue-eyed Canadian boy knew that he wanted to spend more time with this blushing brunette from New York.

One crisp winter day in February, after engaging in outdoor activities at Blue Mountain in Collingwood, Ontario, followed by a romantic dinner in the village, the pair returned to John's family chalet, where he lit a fire, and they enjoyed some wine.

"He made sure that the music was 'just right,' then suddenly dropped down on one knee and proposed. He presented me with a beautiful box and the most amazing engagement ring I have ever seen! It was the happiest surprise of my life," Heather remembers.



Heather & John

# Amorosa

## **A unique spectacle of love and life**

"We decided to choose a destination wedding because we wanted to be married without having to choose either 'home' location. Having a wedding in a warm and exotic place would provide everyone with a wonderful vacation experience during the winter season. It was perfect," the twosome explains.

The shores of Costa Rica's Guanacaste region would see this couple saying, "I do," with 70 of their closest family and friends in a soft pink and grey-tinted celebration. The duo wanted to share something new and unique with their loved ones, and the luscious landscapes and exotic culture of Costa Rica fit the bill.

On the morning of their wedding, as the aroma of white and pink roses and ginger lilies filled the air, Heather fondly recalls John's sister handing her a letter.

"I opened it just before walking down the aisle. I will remember and treasure that touching letter for the rest of my life," she says.



A destination wedding was also a wonderful vacation for everyone

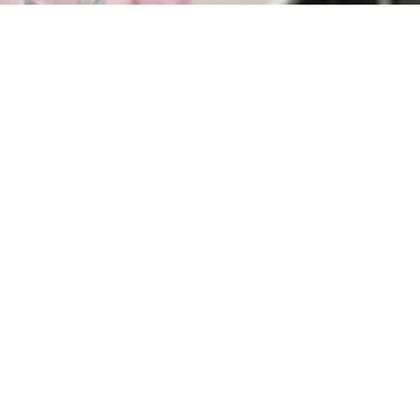
On the morning, the aroma of white and pink roses filled the air

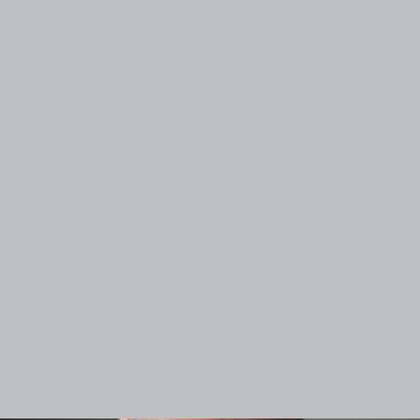


Jen Kavanagh Photography.



"We wanted to share something new and unique with our loved ones"





Many special details made this seaside celebration at the Riu Palace Costa Rica a hit



“My most memorable moment was seeing Heather walking down the aisle”



Jen Kavanagh Photography.

Every tiny to titanic detail went into making this day a true success





## Heather & John

John's most memorable moment was seeing his bride walking down the aisle to meet him in her gorgeous Kleinfeld's gown, and a spectacular wedding bouquet.

This husband and wife got a kick out of the other activities that were going on in parallel to this celebration, "The children at our wedding got together as a group and decided to have their own party. They collected and threw most of the napkins onto the dance floor. Then they rearranged all of the chairs. Apparently, fun was had by all," they chuckle.

With a stand-out wedding cake, an awe-inspiring fireworks show, and picture-perfect first dance to *A Thousand Years* by Christina Perri, this was a festivity they would never forget.

Among the special details that went into making this seaside celebration at the Riu Palace Costa Rica a hit, were the bridal party gifts that saw their leading ladies receive silver bracelets and purple silk robes, and the main men with monogrammed flasks. The other guests were treated to beach-themed wine stoppers to match the signature drink, Sea Breeze.

Every tiny to titanic detail went into making this day a true success, and the couple were thankful that they had the assistance of their Signature Weddings specialist, "An extra 'thank you' to Antoinette, who stayed in constant contact with us throughout the planning process and was incredibly helpful – and patient – each step of the way."

Heather and John, plan to take their honeymoon in Australia and the Fiji Islands.





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# Heather & John

## Get their look

**Heather's gown:** Augusta Jones from Kleinfeld's, New York.

**Heather's shoes:** Jimmy Choo.

**John's outfit:** Vera Wang.

**Type of rings:** A Tiffany engagement and wedding band for the bride, and Peoples Jewellers wedding band for the groom.

**Jewellery:** Crystal earrings from Kleinfeld.

**Bridesmaids dresses:** J. Crew.

**Groomsmen attire:** Vera Wang.

**Photographer:** Jenn Kavanagh Photography.

**Hair:** Beauty salon at Riu Palace Costa Rica.

**Makeup:** DIY – the bride.

**Stationery and invitations:** Minted.com.

## Tips for brides and grooms:

- Always communicate
- Treat each other with respect and have patience, every day

To book your destination wedding at Riu Palace Costa Rica, visit [signaturevacations.com](http://signaturevacations.com).



PLAYFUL

# ST. MAARTEN

## *Picture perfect*

### The closing scene of a love story

Every destination wedding on this island could be the closing scene of a love story made for the ages. There are so many picture-perfect settings, and so much surrounding beauty, that choosing your starting-off point in life will be harder than choosing your life's companion. No matter what your final decision, you and your guests will feel like royalty as professional planners and caterers accommodate your every need.

On the island of St. Maarten, boredom is a forbidden emotion. Here you can do what comes naturally, live in the moment, explore without limits and renew your passion for life. From the breathtaking cliffs of Cupecoy, to a beach where planes fly so close you can practically touch them, and all the hotels, restaurants, casinos, nightclubs and beaches in between. From the ordinary to the extraordinary, the possibilities are limitless.

Some of our more renowned beaches include the mile-long Mullet Bay Beach, perfect for swimming. Little Bay Beach is a favourite of snorkellers, with calm waters and excellent visibility. Dawn Beach is known for its powdery white sand. And Guana Bay Beach offers magnificent views of St. Barthelemy.

Sunwing Airlines offers flights to St. Maarten from Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.



**The closing scene of a love story**



*true*  
**GIFT REGISTRY**  
*tales*



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KitchenAid*



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Their big day was flawless, not even a kink.  
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